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PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Altona's Gallery in the Park hosted another session of its Summer Music Night programming Aug. 21 featuring the musical stylings of folk trio Casati.

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# Falk Fehr Fdn. presents \$60K to local charities

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Falk Fehr Foundation in partnership with the Winkler Community Foundation presented the proceeds from the 2025 Hockey Champions Charity Golf Tournament to three worthy non-profits Friday morning. The June fundraiser raised a whopping \$60,000, allowing for the donation of \$30,000 to Genesis House and \$15,000 each to the Central Station Community Centre and Chance 2 Grow.

"It's tough to pick the charities every year," reflected the foundation's Eric Fehr. "We've done this for a lot of years now and we're trying to continue going through the community, make sure everybody gets a chance, but these three really jumped out at us."

"Central Station does a lot of work in the community—it's not really just one thing, it's everything," Fehr said of the community centre, which offers a broad range of programs designed

to foster community and provide a helping hand to vulnerable populations.

"Chance 2 Grow is an opportunity for our foundation to support kids having a chance to play sports," he continued.

Run by the Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation, Chance 2 Grow pays registration fees and helps with equipment and supplies so kids in need of financial support can take part in sports and recreation programming.

"That's obviously where we started out, playing sports, and we want to make sure everybody has a chance," Fehr said of himself and foundation co-founder and fellow former NHL player Justin Falk. "It doesn't matter where you come from, the ability to play, it's important. We think it gives you good leadership skills and just helps you prepare for life moving forward."

"And then obviously Genesis House does a lot of work in the community,"



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Myra Peters of the Winkler Community Foundation, Ang Braun from Genesis House, and Marlin Froese, Eric Fehr, Corey Derksen, and Justin Falk from the Falk Fehr Foundation with the \$30,000 the agency was able to present to the women's shelter last week.

he said of the shelter for the victims of domestic violence, which is in the midst of building a 25-unit transitional housing complex for abused women and their children.

"I think it's probably more of a behind-the-scenes charity," Fehr observed. "We wanted to raise some awareness to what they're doing and their transitional home project, where

they're giving [women] a safe space to live."

These donations are only made possible thanks to the support of all the golfers who come out to take part in the tournament each year—over 160 at this most recent one.

Continued on page 7



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# MITT hosts open house for new program in Morden

By Ashleigh Viveiros

An open house last week gave area residents their first peek at the new network and systems administrator diploma program being offered in Morden by the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT).

The program launching this fall will operate in space in a newly-renovated part of Boundary Trails Place.

"It's a beautiful space, as you can see. It's been about a year to get here," shared MITT program manager Jared Miskimmin. "When we first took a tour of this place, it was completely gutted. So there was absolutely nothing in here, and it was transformed mostly with the help of the City of Morden to generate the space that you see here today."

They already have 11 students signed up, and they're raring to go.

"I think a lot of people are just really excited about the opportunity that there's a post-secondary offering here in Morden where they don't have to drive into the city," Miskimmin said.

"One of the big things that they're excited about is that they can do their education right here in their own backyard."

Graduates of the 16-month program will enter the workforce with the skills they need for careers in IT infrastructure design and support. In addition to plenty of hands-on learning, the program also includes a 15-week practicum where students will be placed in Morden-Winkler area businesses.

"Companies like Valley Fiber have agreed to work with us, and we're hoping to send students there to have their on-the-job experience," Miskimmin said.

Heading up the program is instructor Victor Chavez, who says students will hit the ground running when classes begin in early September.

"First, they're going to start with the IT fundamentals, network fundamentals, and then we move to programming. We're going to do switching, networking, all the routing."

Students will have the opportuni-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

MITT invited registered students like Saif Qureshi (far right) and potential students down to their new space in Boundary Trails Place last week to learn more about the network and systems administrator program starting up this fall.

ty to train with a variety of different cutting-edge devices, Chavez noted, learning how to work both on their own and as part of a larger IT team.

"And then when they finish that, they go to their practicum," he said. "We have connections with the companies ... connections for [IT] networking, for security, and also some of those positions are for help desks, but they're going to use all the content in this program in those positions."

It was at the request of local businesses that this program came to Morden in the first place, shared Jason Dyck, the community's economic development officer. The City of Morden did a community roundtable a few years ago that identified the growing need for IT professionals across the region. City council then put out a call for potential post-secondary programs to meet that demand.

Continued on page 8



## RURAL ROAD SAFETY DURING HARVEST SEASON

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# Clinic unveils tribute wall to honour Dr. C.W. Wiebe

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A hundred years ago this month, a young Mennonite physician began his practice in Winkler.

Dr. Cornelius W. Wiebe would go on to transform the medical landscape in the community, spearheading the construction of and later expansions to Winkler's first hospital, tirelessly advocating for improvements and education in both public and personal health, and delivering over 6,000 babies before his retirement in 1978 after 53 years as a beloved small-town doctor.

Last week, the medical centre in downtown Winkler that bears Wiebe's name celebrated the ongoing impact he had with the unveiling of a tribute wall detailing the highlights of a lifetime of service.

"It's an opportunity to honour the legacy of the man whose dedication to caring has helped really shape the community, and whose work formed the foundation of what our physicians and healthcare professionals today really rest upon in providing healthcare today," said Karen-Denise Cyr, executive director of the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre.

In his remarks, Mayor Henry Siemens reflected on the enduring legacy of Dr. Wiebe.

"There are maybe a handful of peo-

ple who were truly involved and truly critical to creating Winkler as it is today. Dr. Wiebe was one of them," he said. "His care, his concern, his passion for community allowed Winkler to grow the way that it has, because without good health care, no community could grow ... Winkler today would not be possible without Dr. Wiebe and this clinic."

Siemens asked the assembled crowd to raise their hands if they were a "Dr. Wiebe baby." Those that did represented multiple generations, making it clear just "how many years he served to be able to deliver babies over all those years and to help this community become what it is."

Dr. Nichelle Desilets, president of Doctors Manitoba, shared how Wiebe once headed up the Manitoba Medical Association, which later became Doctors Manitoba.

"Dr. Wiebe was a tremendously accomplished physician, public health advocate, and champion of community health. A true inspiration to all of us who work in Manitoba's rural family medicine community."

"What strikes me as most inspiring is how he cared for his community on a daily basis," Desilets said. "He knew that seemingly small acts of kindness made big, life-changing differences, whether he was rushing to a patient's home to deliver triplets be-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre unveiled a tribute wall in honour of its namesake last week, with photos and informational panels detailing the accomplished doctor's career and enduring impact in Winkler. Right: Dr. Wiebe at various points in his 53-year medical career. He died in 1999 at the age of 106.



cause they couldn't get to the hospital or accepting food as payment for services because his patients could not afford care.

"And I must say, as someone who is passionate about providing maternity care to patients close to their home, to deliver 100 babies a year without a hospital in the middle of the Depression is quite a feat, to say the least."

"He continually pushed for better education and facilities for colleagues and patients, unwavering in his duty to provide the highest level of care to those who needed him," continued Desilets. "It's evident that Dr. Wiebe's legacy of service, generosity and hard work lives on in this medical community."

Three longtime members of that medical community—Dr. Don Klassen, Dr. V.C. Jacob, and Dr. Cornelius Woelk—stepped up next to share their memories of working with Dr. Wiebe.

Woelk began his practice in Winkler after Wiebe had already officially retired—but that didn't mean the elder physician wasn't still a familiar face at the medical clinic. Woelk recalled running into him one day in the hallway.

"He pulled out a magazine, a medical journal, and said, 'I want you to read this article ... and then I want you to come to my place for tea.'"

The article detailed making use of a patient's immune system to battle cancer, today known as immunotherapy—something that was still a few years away from becoming a standard treatment practise.

Woelk recalled thinking it was an idea that was on the edge at the time, but he found the resulting conversation with Wiebe to be enlightening.

"Given what he was reading, he had a real sense of curiosity, and he was thinking about the future, he was open to change."

Klassen's time as a physician in Winkler overlapped with Dr. Wiebe's by three months. It was a privilege to work with him, he shared, and he has tried to honour Wiebe's legacy in the years since.

"I have been kind of one of the guys who carried the ball that Dr. Wiebe handed off to us and have tried to move it along," Klassen said. "I take that as a real privilege."

Klassen reflected on Dr. Wiebe's commitment to improving pre- and post-natal care for mothers.

"He noted that infection—sepsis—and bleeding were two of the major causes of maternal mortality ... he thought he would do something about that," he said. "There was no hospital; he did his own deliveries. So he got the idea that some pre-natal care

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Drs. Don Klassen, V.C. Chandy, and Cornelius Woelk shared memories of Dr. C.W. Wiebe at the ceremony honouring the 100th anniversary of his practice.





Left: Dr. C.W. Wiebe's office chair, desk, medical bag, and prescription pad were on display at the clinic that bears his name last week. Right: Dr. Tanja Borchers and clinic executive director Karen-Denise Cyr cut the ribbon on the new tribute wall.

PHOTOS BY  
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/  
VOICE



## > TRIBUTE WALL, FROM PG. 4

was really quite a good idea. Finding the ladies who had high blood pressure and the other things that needed to be tended to before they delivered and had seizures in the post-partum period, those were important to him."

Wiebe also led the charge in getting people vaccinated against preventable diseases as more and more vaccines became available in the mid-20th century.

"He saw people who died of tetanus and diphtheria, and then the whole polio epidemic of the early '50s," Klassen said. "So he saw all of those infections and said, 'I want to see if I can do something about that.' And he did."

As the public health officer for Winkler, Dr. Wiebe laboured tirelessly to convince area residents to get immunized, working with local educators to get the word out about the benefits of vaccines.

Jacob, who began his own practice in Winkler in the 1960s, credited Dr. Wiebe with bringing quality medical

care closer to home for generations of Winklerites.

"Dr. Wiebe was progressive, energetic, and practical," he said. "He was pursuing his goals that benefited the local community."

He recalled the time that Wiebe, knowing the Winkler hospital needed more beds, took his case to the government, convincing officials to expand the community's health district area to include more of the surrounding area and make a larger hospital a reality.

He was also instrumental in the construction of the Valley Rehab Centre (today known as Gateway Resources) for people with intellectual disabilities, Jacob shared, "reflecting his deep commitment to the well-being of all people."

"Dr. Wiebe was not just a physician—he was a builder with great vision," Jacob said. "His legacy leaves all the institutions he helped to build,

the lives he touched, and the enduring sense of community spirit he inspired."

## A LABOUR OF LOVE

The tribute wall was a labour of love for clinic staff, who poured through historical documents for the details of Wiebe's life.

The book *Cornelius W. Wiebe: A Beloved Physician* by Mavis Reimer formed the foundation of much of that research, shared Cyr, and speakers at the event last week were presented with copies of that book signed by Dr. Wiebe himself in thanks.

Also lending a helping hand were volunteers with the Winkler Heritage Society, which provided a number of artifacts from Dr. Wiebe's life for the clinic to display, Al Thorleifson, curator of the Pembina Manitou Archive, who reviewed the timeline storyboards for accuracy, and Image Promotions, who installed the display.

After cutting the ribbon on the tribute wall alongside Dr. Tanja Borchers, clinic president, Cyr reflected on how Dr. Wiebe's legacy lives on in the medical centre today.

"It was a passion project to celebrate him, but also to be a reflection on how

much healthcare is important to the community even today," she said of the display. "We're really proud about not just that legacy, but also the work that we are doing today and what's to come."

The clinic currently has around 40 physicians on staff. Seven new doctors are slated to join the practice this fall.

"We're always recruiting," Cyr said, adding that she believes they're getting to a point where they're "starting to turn the tide ... and carve away at the list of people who are currently without a family physician in this area."

"We know that the physicians who are coming to us in the next few weeks and months are extremely hardworking, really eager to provide as much care as possible," she said, sharing hopes that they'll finally be able to expand the Urgent Care hours into the evenings someday soon.

Plans are also in the works for additional renovations and upgrades to the clinic building, which in recent years has expanded into multiple newly available spaces in the ALG Professional Centre. Further details of that project are expected to be released soon.

# Driver in fatal 2024 crash arrested in Toronto

By Voice staff

The truck driver wanted in connection with a collision that took the life of an Altona area woman and her eight-year-old daughter has been arrested.

RCMP reported last week that Navjeet Singh was detained by Peel Regional Police and Canada Border Services Agency at Toronto's Pearson International Airport on Aug. 21.

Singh arrived in Canada on an Ethiopian Airlines flight following a nine-

month Canada-wide warrant for his arrest.

On Nov. 14, 2024, Pembina Valley RCMP responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Provincial Road 201 and Provincial Road 306 west of Altona.

A semi-trailer travelling eastbound failed to stop at the intersection with PR 306 and collided with a southbound SUV.

The 35-year-old female SUV driver, Sara Unger, was pronounced dead on scene. Her daughter, Alexa, later died

at hospital.

On Nov. 20, RCMP charged Singh, 25, of Brampton, Ontario, with two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death as well as obstructing a peace officer and issued a nationwide warrant for his arrest.

Since his arrest last week, Singh has been escorted back to Manitoba by RCMP and remanded in custody.

"This investigation was a combined effort and could not have been accomplished without the hard work

of multiple policing organizations," said Pembina Valley RCMP Corporal Jamie Sokolosky. "From the CBSA to Peel Regional Police, and Manitoba Motor Carrier Enforcement—their assistance was vital."

"This has been an extremely tough time for the family. We thank everyone who put their concerns and comments out there," Sokolosky said. "We all came together to ensure this apprehension was successful."



# The Voice



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# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## The view from the fence

**M**y name is Peter Cantelon and my perspectives and beliefs fluctuate almost by the second. My best friend once called me "fence sitting Pete" and was not meaning it as a term of endearment.

The older I get the less certain I get ... about anything.

The Greek philosopher Plato relates a story in his *Apology* about Socrates and how the Oracle at Delphi had declared him the wisest man alive. This puzzled Socrates because he felt he knew nothing.

The moral of the story is the older we get the less wise we are. I wish this would comfort me, but it does not. I am no Socrates.

What I am is a guy who observes the world (or at least the shadows of the world painted on his cave wall) and then waxes eloquent with opinions from the sanctity and safety of this column. Sometimes I seek to get a cheap laugh and keep things light, other times I offer my observations on world happenings in a more serious tone.

It's important to understand these are simply my observations, from the limited perspective I have been given, through the myriads of lenses placed before my eyes by a lifetime of hap-

penings. They are incomplete and wildly biased.

Through it all one thing has remained: every time I land upon a certainty, I immediately begin to doubt that certainty. Every time I think I have found the truth it slips from my grasp like a wet frog into water.

As Pilate once wisely asked: "Quid est veritas?" What is truth?

This is the question that most commonly nags at me no matter what I am writing. I have found various answers and some of you will be tempted to write in your own ... it's okay, you don't need to; I know the answer Pilate received.

One thing I know is that I fear certainty. When I encounter a person who is certain, about anything, I tend to run in the other direction (sometimes screaming). I think I am suspicious of such certainty, and possibly a little envious ... as if the mind has become concrete and change is no longer required or allowed.

Overall, this condition I find myself afflicted with leaves me almost always staunchly on the fence with issues. Too many questions begin to pop into my head about things, most of which cannot be answered.

The truly wise person, when in such

a circumstance, becomes quiet and contemplative. I tend in the other direction and never shut up. I think I would be a good fool in Shakespeare's plays.

Perhaps this is the sign of a good columnist. It's certainly the sign of a verbose columnist. I appreciate that you, reader, have not abandoned me entirely. It's nice to have a listening ear or two (or several thousand).

I appreciate reading the occasional letter that trickles in. I don't care if you agree with me or not (I think that has been clear). I do care that you have engaged with the content and are willing to speak or even shout back. I think we need a diversity of perspectives, this is, in part, what makes and strengthens community.

I for one would not want to live in a town with 10,000 other copies of me. How terribly insufferable that would be.

I'm content to sit here on my fence shouting at the world and greet the odd passerby or even shield myself from a few rocks.

Cheers, and keep throwing.

## Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklormordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklormordenvoice.ca).

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

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





PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Chance 2 Grow's Sara Martens (left) and Central Station's Anita Wiebe (right) accept \$15,000 from Falk Fehr Foundation reps last week.

## > FALK FEHR FOUNDATION, FROM PG. 2

"We continue to push the limits of how many people we can enter in this tournament," Fehr laughed. "It's very hard to say no, especially with the excitement around the event, and obviously the goal to raise as much money as we can."

"We've had unbelievable support with the golf tournament," he said. "The fact that they continue to choose our tournament, we feel very blessed."

Feeling blessed as well were this year's funding recipients, who send thanks out to both the Falk Fehr Foundation and all the golfers.

"We're just so grateful for the way that they continue to support the city of Winkler and the organizations that serve the city," noted Anita Wiebe, executive director of Central Station.

"We're going to continue to help support the community in any way we can," she added of what the funds

are earmarked for. "We've seen a significant rise in the homeless population here in Winkler, and so I'm just trying to figure out how we can best support folks who don't have the resources that they need."

"For us, this type of donation on the [transitional housing] project that we're working on is significant and it shows community support, and that is what other funders are looking for," noted Ang Braun, executive director of Genesis House.

Sara Martens, community support coordinator for Chance 2 Grow, noted the \$15,000 they received will help a lot of kids. Last year the program received 134 applications for every kind of sport and also things like music lessons and art classes. Activities some families could "otherwise not afford to do."

The donation "will be a huge help," she said. "I'm very, very thankful to Falk Fehr for doing this for us."

# Tabor Home residents enjoy their own Corn & Apple events

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Tabor Home residents got in on the fun of the Morden Corn and Apple Festival in their own way last week.

The personal care home brought the festival to them with five days of activities, including a farm animal petting zoo, community bingo, a classic car show, social cabaret, and a multi-activity carnival to wrap things up.

At the Wednesday morning car show, recreation manager Dea Baker shared that the goal is simply to get residents out enjoying some of the things they might have loved about festival weekend in years past.

"The purpose is just to gather that likemindness together and chat about the things you love," she said as members of the Border Hills Car Club showed off their classic cars.

As residents were wheeled out to see the various models of vehicles lined up for them in the parking lot, the owner of a vintage fire truck honked its distinctive "ahooga" horn, much to everyone's delight.

"This is the highlight of the day," Baker said. "To actually get the chance

to speak with the people who brought these cars back to life—[the residents are] getting out there, they're talking to people. It's not just a show, it's more of a conversation."

Malcolm Doney of the Border Hills Car Club said the group jumped at the opportunity to bring their wheels to Tabor for the morning.

"It's a chance to give back," he said, noting they've been involved in similar shows at Tabor and Homestead South in the past. "We brought some of this stuff back from the brink, so it's a chance to share it with them, share the memories."

All of the week's activities were well-received by residents and visiting family members alike.

"Yesterday was community bingo, where everybody gets together and plays," Baker said, sharing that it "was a huge hit."

As was the Monday petting zoo, where residents, some of them former farmers, got to get up close to a variety of livestock.

"It was such a highlight because we actually could bring the residents



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS AND LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Residents of Tabor Home got in on the Corn & Apple Festival fun with a week of daily special events, including a car show (above) and carnival games (at right).



Continued on page 9



# PVLIP looking for “welcomers” for photo project

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) has put a call out for “welcomers” in communities across the region.

The agency has launched its second annual “I’m a Welcomer” campaign, inviting municipal councils, businesses, service groups, and individuals to pose with a giant selfie frame for photos that will be shared on social media during Welcoming Week Sept. 12-21.

Welcoming Week is a national initiative that celebrates the work in communities to become welcoming places for all, including immigrants. It provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to showcase their values through events and initiatives that foster connections and collaboration between immigrants and non-immigrants.

For PVLIP, a big part of the week is providing a visible platform for communities to let newcomers of all stripes know they are most certainly welcome here.

“Let’s show them that we appreciate their choice to move here, to become a part of our communities,” said PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton-Saïndon.

“We obviously take a newcomer perspective with it, but this really includes a broad section of people. Regardless of where you come from, we appreciate you living here, working here, participating in our community.”

By posing with the “I’m a Welcomer” photo frame, participants are showing that “they support being welcoming, they support being inclusive,” Burton-Saïndon explained, noting participants will also be given decals they can place on their windows or doors to further get out the message that everyone belongs in our communities.

Last year’s campaign saw 90 photos taken featuring 271 people representing 38 different organizations. The social media posts got thousands of views and reposts.

“It’s such a fun thing, so it was very positive and very well-received and a fun way to connect with others,” Burton-Saïndon said. “It really was a very heartwarming experience.”

You can take part in this year’s campaign in a couple of ways: PVLIP reps can come to you with the giant selfie frame to snap a photo live or you can send them a photo of yourself or your



**PVLIP PHOTO**

Hesti Steenkamp, PVLIP program support worker, with the “I’m a Welcomer” frame the agency is taking on the road again this summer in the lead up to Welcoming Week next month.

group and they’ll digitally put you inside the frame.

“Whatever’s easiest for people—we want to make it accessible for everyone,” Burton-Saïndon said.

To connect with PVLIP for this campaign, email [info@pvlip.ca](mailto:info@pvlip.ca) or find them on Facebook or Instagram or at [pvlip.ca](http://pvlip.ca).



**Instructor Victor Chavez with some of the high-tech equipment students will be well-acquainted with by the end of the program.**

**PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE**

## > MITT PROGRAM, FROM PG. 3

“This is something that city council has strongly backed and, with support from Mayor [Nancy] Penner and the administration, we have a strategic focus on supporting skill and talent development in our area,” Dyck said. “We want to see our youth stay in the Pembina Valley and not be forced to go to urban centres for their education when they would love to live and raise their families here.”

“Ultimately this program was selected because of the employable skill sets that it teaches and the jobs that are behind it,” he explained, noting it’s in line with other programs recently brought to the area due to demand, including Assiniboine Community College’s licensed practical nursing and certified childcare assistant programs. “This is really the cherry on top. It’s one that we hope to see offered year

presence of post-secondary options in the region, retain our youth, and support our employers.”

For Saif Qureshi, the close-to-home nature of the program was a big draw.

“I’ve always wanted to learn more about technology and get a sense of how technology works in detail, in depth,” he said. “The biggest challenge I had was having to go to Winnipeg for that.”

The Mordenite currently works in tech support for Valley Fiber. He’s eager to upgrade his skills and improve his career prospects.

“I really want to increase [those skills] much, much more,” he said. “Learn how to help startups or small businesses or even bigger businesses with their technology.”

For more details about MITT’s network and systems administrator diploma program, head to [MITT.ca/network-admin-morden/](http://MITT.ca/network-admin-morden/).

**“WE WANT TO SEE OUR YOUTH STAY IN THE PEMBINA VALLEY AND NOT BE FORCED TO GO TO URBAN CENTRES FOR THEIR EDUCATION WHEN THEY WOULD LOVE TO LIVE AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES HERE.”**

after year and hopefully grow the



# Volunteers looking to restore Dunston church

By Lorne Stelmach

A historic small church outside of Morden now has protection, and the work will soon begin to fix up the building.

Community volunteers got the RM of Thompson to declare the Dunston United Church a municipal heritage site, and they are now working to establish a committee to oversee the property and take on some needed improvements.

"We've realized we are going to need a bunch more repairs done on the church, and we knew it was beyond the funding that we could come up with," said Grant Spencer.

"This is going to allow us to apply for government grants that will help cover the cost," he said. "We've gotten quotes, and we know this is going to be an expensive job ... this is just the start with getting funding."

"We want to have a public meeting so that we can talk about what the future is for the Dunston community."

In 1895, after the Nelson Methodist Church had moved to Morden, a new Methodist Church was built on the John Duncan farm. The land was later sold to the church for \$1 in 1905.

The area that was once Nelson and in the stages of changing to Nelsonville moved to follow the railroad to Morden. The community name was then changed to Dunston after the Duncan and Stevenson families. In 1925, the church became the Dunston United Church.

The Dunston Church is still home to an annual community picnic that

has been going on for over 80 years. It also still serves as a venue for family celebrations such as weddings and anniversaries.

Spencer noted how the church's ladies auxiliary was very active in the past with making quilts and serving lunches at funerals and visiting care homes, while the mens group would form work bees to perform needed repairs.

The community has done a good job of keeping the building maintained with a new cedar shingle roof and exterior paint jobs, but significant work—including a new foundation—is needed.

The field stone and concrete foundation is crumbling, and the building must be moved so the fieldstone can be replaced and a new foundation installed that meets current code requirements.

As well, the old paint will have to be scraped off by hand in preparation for a new paint job.

"Now with having to redo the foundation, this could easily be here for another 100 years," said Spencer. "You have to keep up with all of these things, and sometimes it more expensive than other times."

Spencer said the site is important to many people in the community, as there are many families that have a history here and have deep connections to the church.

"My family had farmed here for about 125 years," he noted. "The Boulton family I think had been here since something like 1872. There's some re-



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers are working to fix up the Dunston United Church building, which has been declared a municipal heritage site. The building, located northwest of Morden, has been a community gathering space for over a century.

ally deep family roots all around here ... and there's lots of history here in the area.

"We have a regular following. Our Dunston picnics every year have anywhere from 80 to 120 people who come and do a potluck lunch and play games," he noted. "It gets everybody together. It's nice to have the community all together."

"There's lots of people who have come and gone through here ... and there's lots of memories around this community. It's just a great place for people to meet and stop in."

A public meeting is planned for Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Dunston Church, which is located a quarter mile north of the Nelsonville cairn at Road 18N and Road 32.

"We hope to get people to come to the meeting so that we can show and explain to them what needs to be done to keep this functioning as a heritage site and keep the status of the building," said Spencer. "We need funding. We definitely ways to come up with funds for it. We're looking for input from people."

## > TABOR HOME, FROM PG. 7

right out and they could touch the animals, the dogs sat in their laps, the horses came right up and nuzzled to them, the calf was playful," Baker said. "It was just a real pleasure to see people light up over something so simple."

Events like these help create a greater sense of community at Tabor, especially between people who might otherwise spend much of

their time in their respective wings of the facility.

"This is the whole group coming together, the whole community," Baker said, noting they're able to seat people with similar former careers or interests together for rich conversations. "It gives our staff an opportunity to find more reasons to bring people together socially."

Among the popular carnival games Friday was a life-sized Golden Apple Jackpot operated with the help of Tabor Home staff.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE









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## Five important things to consider when choosing a school backpack

The new school year is fast approaching! It's time to think about buying school supplies for your child. Do they need a new backpack this year? Making an informed choice will ensure they feel comfortable wearing it and can help prevent back problems. Here are five crucial elements to consider, along with some expert advice for safe use.

1. Dimensions. Choose a backpack that fits your child. The backpack should extend from the base of their neck to the small of their back with-

out protruding beyond their shoulder. A backpack that's too large can negatively impact your child's posture and balance over time.

2. Straps. Look for straps that are at least five centimetres wide and adjustable to ensure better weight distribution and increased comfort. Consider a backpack with additional chest and hip straps to stabilize the bag and promote proper posture.

3. Compartments. Select a backpack with multiple easy-to-use compartments. It will help distribute the weight of school supplies, such as pencils and textbooks.

4. Material and padding. Opt for a backpack made from durable canvas with a lightly padded back for added comfort. Ensure the shoulder straps are thick to prevent painful pressure points.

5. Visibility. Prioritize safety by choosing a backpack with reflective elements. These features will increase your child's visibility when they're on the move, especially during the early mornings or late afternoons in the winter months.

Visit your local shops to find the ideal backpack for the upcoming school year.



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# PTM Reunion Days returns Sept. 5-6

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum will again be welcoming people next weekend to enjoy its annual Reunion Days.

The activities Friday, Sept. 5 and Saturday, Sept. 6 offer a good chance for people to get a taste of "life in the past lane" at the heritage museum on the highway between Morden and Winkler.

"This is our biggest event," said board chairperson Marlene Loewen, noting it is a prime opportunity for them to promote all that the museum offers and to build more support.

"Even during a regular day, we'll often have people drop in and say they've never been here before although they've lived in the area all their life," she said. "It's always really nice to see those people, and we would like to see more of them."

A large part of the appeal is plenty of good food and just the overall atmosphere of the pioneer village.

The entire museum comes alive with tons of great old-fashioned fun like threshing, sawmill, blacksmith, rope making, and spinning demos, antique tractor parades, and children's activities such as the barrel train rides and hands-on interactive stations like corn grinding.

All the buildings are open, including the 4,000 sq. ft. Brimberly Village displays and the general store with ice cream and treats available for purchase. Lunch is also available for purchase in the dining hall, and there is entertain-

ment and music in the evenings.

"The threshing demonstration is a big part of our regular routine, but this year we're also having some higher-end entertainment," said Loewen, noting that providing the music for line dancing and old-time dancing will be The Quonset Brothers Friday at 7:30 p.m. and The Fugitives Saturday from 4-8 p.m. "Those are both new to us ... as long as I've been there at least."

"We're doing the tractor pull again on Saturday night," she added. "And of course we're going to have some amazing food again."

Loewen noted they are grateful for the support of the many volunteers who get involved and make it happen each year.

"It takes a lot of time and volunteers," she said, "and we are always looking for more volunteers."

"THIS IS OUR BIGGEST EVENT."



Experience "life in the past lane" at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum's annual Reunion Days next weekend.

VOICE FILE PHOTO

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**Guest Speakers**

Membership is not required for attendance.

**Please RSVP to [Christine.bergen@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Christine.bergen@gov.mb.ca)  
or 204-856-7154 by September 2, 2025.**

*If you are unable to attend the meeting, but wish to view the  
2024-2025 Annual Report, it will be available on our website  
at <http://cfsocentral.mb.ca> after September 10, 2025.*



# getinformed



PHOTO BY PAM FEDACK/VOICE

From left: Sarah Dyck, Angela Best, Deserez Krentz, and Rebecca Wiens with their daughters Avaline, Elodie and Vienna. The group are spearheading efforts to create a new fall festival in Altona.

## Autumn in Altona

### Planting the seeds of a new tradition

By Pam Fedack

In Altona, the change of seasons may soon bring more than falling leaves.

A new community celebration, called Autumn in Altona, is being nurtured by resident Deserez Krentz and a small committee of volunteers who want to capture the spirit of fall in a way that reflects the heart of the town.

For Krentz, the idea is simple but powerful.

"It isn't just a celebration of pumpkins and pie," she said. "It's really a celebration of our people, our stories, our families, and that small-town spirit. We want to give everyone an opportunity to come together in the fall and make memories."

Krentz grew up in Ontario, where the fall season stretched longer than the quick transition Manitobans experience. She was struck by how short the season feels here, with summer ending abruptly and winter following close behind. That, she says, makes it even more important to embrace the

time while it lasts.

"Even though it's a short period, we want to really celebrate it. It's about starting a tradition that makes the most of the season we have."

Autumn also connects deeply with the farming community that surrounds Altona. The harvest, the crisp air, the smell of baking—all of it adds to a sense of gratitude and renewal. Krentz hopes Autumn in Altona will grow into a festival that honours both the land and the people who call it home.

The committee knows they cannot create a full festival overnight. This year, the focus is on introducing the concept through small but meaningful initiatives.

An online Scarecrow Contest will invite families, schools, and businesses to craft their most creative displays, with the town voting for their favourites.

Another highlight will be a Costume Trade Day, held in partnership with The Community Exchange. Families can drop off gently used costumes on Tuesday, Oct. 7, during the evening donation window, then return the following morning, Oct. 8, when the doors open at 10 a.m. to browse

for free costumes. Any leftovers will be donated to local thrift shops, ensuring nothing goes to waste.

Meanwhile, a logo design contest will engage local students in shaping the event's identity. Running until May 2026, the contest will give youth a chance to leave a lasting mark on the festival's future.

"We thought it would be a really fun way to get kids excited and involved," Krentz said.

Continued on page 24



### REMINDER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## You're Invited

### to share your views about the rate application filed by Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2026 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

For further details, please contact MPI at [inquiries@mpi.mb.ca](mailto:inquiries@mpi.mb.ca) or visit the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link:  
<http://www.pubmanitoba.ca/v1/live-stream.html>

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll-free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **September 30, 2025**.

For more information, visit [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca)

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# Multicultural potluck brings the community together

By Sean Conway

The multicultural potluck held at Stage Coach Park on Boyne Avenue in Morris was a go on Wednesday.

Organizers put out the tables, spread the meal fixings, and started the barbecue as dark clouds from the north threatened to deliver another postponement.

Regional Connections Immigrant Services hosted the potluck. It was an event designed to give newcomers the opportunity to connect and integrate into the community.

"At Regional Connections, we support newcomers who come from all over the world, bringing with them their skills and experience, which in turn strengthens and grows our communities," explained settlement worker Destiny Klassen. "We are happy to organize community connection events in these communities to provide newcomers the opportunity to connect and integrate into the community. We want immigrants to know that they are welcome."

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership also joined the party to welcome newcomers to the region. They brought along a picture frame prop to capture photos ahead of the national Welcome Week campaign next month.

"What makes someone feel welcome

**"WE WANT IMMIGRANTS TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE WELCOME."**

in a community? We try to understand what that means for people from other cultures," explained PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton-Saindon. "Events like this connect cultures and communities."

Chavda Nitya was in attendance to get to know others in the community. "We are from India," Nitya said. "My parents moved to Canada for education for me and my brother. We came this evening to meet people."

"Canada is friendly. We have been here for three years. Regional Connections helped my dad find a job. We hope to network with other people and meet new immigrants to learn their stories."

The Morris Bigway hot dog cart was on site roasting jumbo hot dogs and distributing cold drinks. As people joined the event, they brought with them their choice of meal for a potluck call. Several dumpling-filled savory dishes and sauces were on offer to sample.



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

From left: Chavda Nitya, Chavda Viralkumar, Khyshpreet Jhinger, and Chavda Varsha at Regional Connections' Multicultural Potluck in Morris last week.

Joan van der Linke was also on hand with Miss Daisy, her canopied covered trishaw cycle, and some fresh bread as door prizes.

Besides food and trishaw rides, there was volleyball and other games. Music from different cultures played on the sound system while people

mingled.

"Tonight we saw more than 60 people from many different countries come together for food, fun, and connection," said Klassen, thanking all the evening's sponsors for their support and everyone for coming out.

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PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

On hand for the evening was PVLIP, which brought along its giant "I'm a Welcomer" photo frame. They're collecting photos of people posing with the frame ahead of Welcoming Week next month.



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# Another stellar Corn & Apple Festival is in the books

Morden celebrated in a big way last weekend with the 58th annual Corn & Apple Festival. Clockwise from top left: Chad Brownlee's country music was a hit on the main stage Friday night; fun and games on the crowded midway; street buskers provided the weekend's soundtrack up and down Stephen St.; Morden Fire Department's vintage wheels in the Saturday morning parade; Owen and Lyla Sibbald were all smiles on this Wonder Shows ride; kicking up their heels on the dance floor at the Cottonwood stage.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT AND LORNE STELMACH/VOICE







Clockwise from above: Volunteers man the corn cooking station, which handed out thousands of free cobs through the weekend; arts and crafts at the Pembina Hills gallery; Morden Elks served up tasty BBQ; the sport court at the Youth Stage; Big Shiny '90s on stage Saturday night; classic cars on display in Morden Park Sunday; praise and worship as part of the Morden Christian Programs Committee's Sunday stage lineup.

PHOTOS BY  
LORNE STELMACH AND  
RICK HIEBERT/  
VOICE





# arts&culture

## Harwood-Jones pens children's book set in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Troy Harwood-Jones makes his living in the law, but it is writing that is his passion, and he now has eight novels to his credit.

His stories cover a range of fantasy and fantasy-adjacent genres from middle-grade adventures to adult epics, and his latest work pays tribute to Morden.

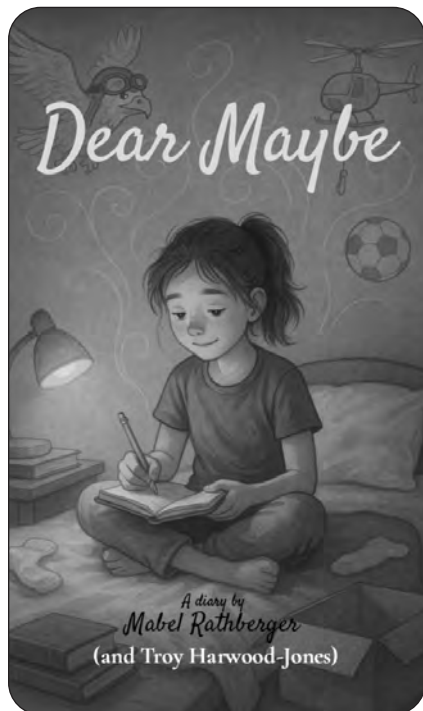
The connection to his work as an owner, partner, and vice-president of PKF Lawyers is that he oversees the offices in Morden, Winkler, and Carman, so he has a vested interest in the region.

"I come down to Carman, Morden, and Winkler on a monthly basis ... and I started to learn more about the local communities, of course, and I've taken an interest," he said, noting the firm also aims to support local causes and organizations.

He sees his writing as blending humour, high-stakes action, and emotional depth but also often with a streak of the absurd. And he likes to tackle a variety of genres.

"I do like to have a new challenge," Harwood-Jones said. "My go-to genre is fantasy because I enjoy the creative outlet of imagining it."

His latest book, *Dear Maybe*, is about



11-year-old Mabel, who writes a diary as she copes with suddenly moving from Winnipeg to Morden with her mom. Harwood-Jones wrote it for his daughter to inspire her to read.

Mabel's adventures allowed him to showcase some of the highlights of Morden.

"I've started to like what I see, and one of the things about Morden is that it's a very charming community,



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Troy Harwood-Jones' new book, *Dear Maybe*, takes place in Morden.

and it's a very supportive community, and it sort of is infectious," Harwood-Jones said.

A number of locations in the community come into play in the story.

"There's a number of things in the book that people will recognize," Harwood-Jones said, citing the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre as one example, but also Maple Leaf School, the Kenmor Theatre, and even Coffee

Culture. "To a certain extent, I do describe it as my love letter to the town because what I started to do was to think about the things that are great about Morden in particular."

Harwood-Jones sees himself as always having been drawn to artistic endeavours, including as a musician and songwriter in addition to his literary pursuits.

"When I was a child, my father read to me sitting on his lap, and he read *The Hobbit* to me," he recalled. "So most of my writing has a sort of fantastical element to it."

"I've always been a creative type. There's a lot of refugee artists who end up in the law because they need to make a living, and being an artist is a very hard life.

"In my heart, I'm still a creative person, and I'm artsy, not sciencey, and I need a creative outlet," Harwood-Jones said.

"It's a very difficult career choice to pursue life as an artist, and hats off to the people who have the strength and the passion and are willing to live on a shoestring budget," he added. "I can write for the pleasure of writing."

You can find out more about Harwood-Jones' books online at [harwoodjones.com](http://harwoodjones.com).

## Doc Walker takes the stage at Winkler concert hall Sept. 6

By Lorne Stelmach

Music has been a big part of life for Chris Thorsteinson since the age of 12 when he was first part of a band.

Now, his band Doc Walker is marking 25 years of making music, and he doesn't see it ending any time soon as the group hits the road this fall, including a Sept. 6 stop in Winkler at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall.

"I think it's just always the quest to make better music and give more music to the fans," said Thorsteinson, who leads Doc Walker alongside fellow singer and guitarist Dave Wasyliw.

"We've looked back and reminisced about the last 25 years of recording ... and we always learn from every recording, and we still have the hunger to make more music," he said. "I think if you lose that as a band, you

can kind of just go through the motions ... but we're always writing, and we're heading into the studio in a couple weeks."

Back at the start of the 1990s, a country band from the town of Westbourne appeared on the scene fronted by Thorsteinson, and they began building a reputation playing weddings, parties, and other celebrations.

In 1994, Thorsteinson recruited his childhood friend Wasyliw and the pair quickly established a formidable songwriting partnership that over the decades has resulted in numerous awards and accolades.

Now, with over 20 top 10 singles under their belts, Doc Walker is one of the most recognized Canadian country acts of the past 20 years. The group has received multiple Canadian Country Music Awards including fans' choice, group or duo of the year, CMT video of the year, single of the

"WE ALWAYS LEARN FROM EVERY RECORDING, AND WE STILL HAVE THE HUNGER TO MAKE MORE MUSIC."

year, and country music program or special of the year. In addition, Doc Walker has been nominated for several Juno awards for country album of the year, including a win in 2009 for the album *Beautiful Life*.

Thorsteinson said they keep creating and finding new outlets, such as having recently written a new song with Charlie Major while touring with him and George Canyon.

"We're really excited about it because Charlie doesn't generally write with a lot of people," said Thorsteinson, who noted they have also done a range of cover tunes that run the

gamut from Waylon Jennings to Del Amitri and even Genesis. "We've always tried to not keep doing the same things ... don't deviate from the path too much, but keep doing new stuff."

He likened his partnership with Wasyliw to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band song "Partners, Brothers and Friends." Their musical inspirations, he shares, come from a variety of sources.

"It's always evolving," Thorsteinson said. "When we first started, a lot of our inspiration came from Waylon

Continued on page 17



## > DOC WALKER, FROM PG. 16

and The Eagles and CCR. That was kind of what we were listening to at the time.

"I think any band kind of reflects what their taste in music is at the time ... but over 30 years, it has changed," he continued. "Dave started as a rock and roll guy, loving ACDC and Iron Maiden ... then he went through a phase where he was listening to a ton of Johnny Cash and Lyle Lovett ... you can see his writing style has changed ... and I started listening to more rock stuff and pop stuff."

"When you're drawing inspiration from what you happen to be listening to at the time, that's how bands evolve," said Thorsteinson, who shared that a lot of his ideas come when he is on the road driving.

He noted the band always loves performing in smaller centres like Winkler.

"We do a lot of small-town shows. We go to community halls and places like that," he said. "For us, it's pretty

special to go and do a little town.

"I think there's a lot less venues in Canada to play than there used to be before COVID," suggested Thorsteinson, who added that it is especially nice when they can be supporting something like a local fundraising project.

"It's kind of trying to find a way to keep the steering wheel in your hands ... it's something I just love to do."

He doesn't see the journey ending any time soon for Doc Walker.

"It's what we've always wanted to do, and I think the hunger is still there, and it's even getting more so," he said. "It just feels like we still have so much more to say. We're not at a stage of quitting any time soon. If anything, I think we may still be coming into some of our best music because we're a little bit more seasoned, a bit more experienced."

For ticket information, head to [winklerconcerthall.ca](http://winklerconcerthall.ca).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Chris Thorsteinson (left) and Dave Wasyliv of Doc Walker bring their concert tour to Winkler's P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall next week.

# See what's out there at the Pembina Valley Expo

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new expo aims to give families a chance to see what's all on offer in the area this fall and winter when it comes to recreational programming.

The Pembina Valley Expo takes place at St. Paul's United Church in Morden (353 Thornhill St.) on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 4-8 p.m.

"The Pembina Valley is full of incredible programs and people who care about kids and families," said organizer Danselle Neufeld. "This event gives everyone a chance to connect, ask questions, and maybe even discover something new for their family this fall."

Attendees will have the chance to meet face-to-face with local groups,

explore opportunities, and discover new ways to get involved, Neufeld said.

Setting up booths at the expo will be the Morden Achievers 4-H, Small Wonders Nursery School, Regional Connections, Valleyfield Music Studio, Two Peaks Consulting, Danceworks, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley, first aid and babysit-

ting course leaders, Ukrainian United School, and more.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

For more details, including additional information about the participating community service organizations and programs, head to [pvfamilyexpo.ca](http://pvfamilyexpo.ca).

# Lake Minnewasta algae control system likely to be installed next year

## Project awaiting final provincial approval

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is poised to move ahead next year with a plan

to further help address the health of Lake Minnewasta.

The city had awarded the work for an ultrasonic algae control system at the lake in 2024, but the installation could not happen last fall due to a delay in regulatory clearances.

It is approximately a \$500,000 project with about 50 per cent being funded by Manitoba Water Services Board.

"The ultrasonic algae control system inhibits the capacity of the algae to float to the surface, thus depriving it the sunlight needed to grow and multiply," explained deputy city manager Santokh Randhawa.

The system will be supplied and installed by LG Sonic through a local vendor, Clean Water Pro.

Randhawa noted the system is not licensed for operation in the natural water bodies of Canada, although it is being used widely in USA and other European countries. However, there has been a research authorization granted for its use in Morden, and final licensing of the system will be contingent on the outcome of the monitoring and testing program.

"The province is also reviewing the system and has not yet provided their final authorization," noted Randhawa. "We are waiting on LG Sonic finalizing the monitoring plan and the province and PMRA [Pest Management Regulatory Authority] approv-

ing the same before the system can be installed. Most likely the system will be installed in April 2026, subject to required approvals.

Meanwhile, the city has also continued to work to address concerns around the odour and taste of the water. Seasonal changes in temperature and algae blooms in the lake can cause it to have an earthy or musty smell and taste when it comes out of the taps.

The city has stressed there is no cause for concern that the water is unsafe to drink, as it is tested regularly and meets all drinking water quality standards regulations.

The City of Morden with the assistance of the Manitoba Water Services Board has also approved the construction of a new standpipe which will include an air stripping system to reduce THM levels in the water and also help reduce its odour.

*The* **Voice**  
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# sports & recreation



## That's a wrap on the racing season

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Dead Horse Creek Speedway outside Morden held its Proven Seed King of the Corn races last weekend to wrap up the summer. Above: Ricky Weiss led the pack in this Late Models class race Saturday night. Right: Gary Feeleus in car #56 was setting the pace in this Stocks class race.



## Brian Kendrick in the CWE ring this Saturday

By Lorne Stelmach

Brian Kendrick was once at the top of the heap in the world of professional wrestling.

He was best known for his tenure in the early 2000s with the World Wrestling Federation, which later became World Wrestling Entertainment. During his time there, he was part of a duo that won the world tag team championship.

He would leave WWE in 2009, but he went on to also be involved with Ring of Honor, Total Nonstop Action Wrestling, New Japan Pro-Wrestling and Pro Wrestling Zero1, and he now comes to Morden Saturday, Aug. 30 under the banner of Canadian Wrestling's Elite.

Now still just 46 years of age, Kendrick has already had quite a career and has wrestled all over the world, so one might wonder what keeps him going.

"One is that you dig yourself into such a hole that you have no resume for anything else ... so there is the necessity of it," he said.

"But two, it's the only place I find a purpose. When I'm doing these wrestling shows or helping out young wrestlers, interacting with the audience after a show, I feel joy. I can feel the joy off of them. We're all having a good time, and it's the only place

I feel that when I'm wrestling or around wrestling."

Kendrick is making his CWE debut as part of the its annual Cruel Summer Tour. In addition to Kendrick, the lineup includes CWE champion 'Chizzled' Chad Daniels, CWE central Canadian champion 'The Crazy MoFo' CAMikaze, seven-time CWE champion 'Hotshot' Danny Duggan, 'Lion Warrior' Bobby Sharp, Ronnie Attitude, 'The Headline' Shaun Martens, 'The Rebel' Bobby Collins, 'Red Hot' Sammy Peppers and a special eight-man tag team elimination match.

What drew Kendrick to wrestling was how there is a level of athleticism involved, but it is also entertainment. He vividly recalls the moment as a kid when he realized this was what he wanted to do with his life.

"So about 36 years ago or so, I saw the Ultimate Warrior run down to the ring to face Hulk Hogan, and this was Wrestlemania 6 in Toronto," he said. "The Ultimate Warrior looked like Conan the Barbarian but with face paint and tassels ... and I thought that's what I wanted to do."

"I'm a smaller guy, but as a little boy, I wanted to be that super hero, and he was tangible, something real, not just a cartoon, and I was hooked ever since."

Kendrick absolutely doesn't mind being involved with a smaller circuit like the CWE.

"This is what I do now," he said, noting how he was recently in St. John's, Newfoundland as well as places like Rochester, New York and New Orleans and then Australia.

"It's not glamorous, and there's not big money in it," he said. "I get to see the world, and I get to smaller cities and towns, and I get to be with so many people everywhere."

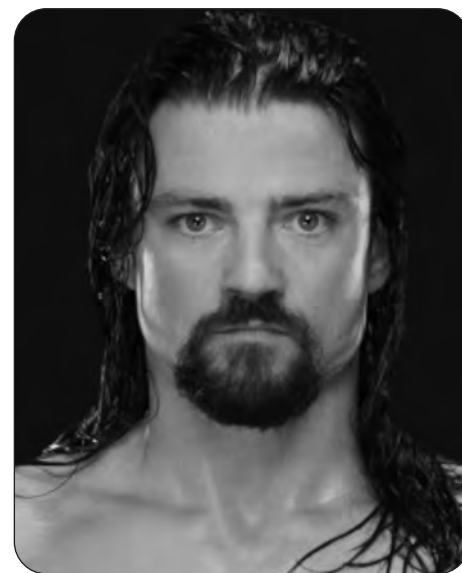
On this tour, he will be going to some bigger cities like Winnipeg and Edmonton but then many smaller centres as well like Morden.

"It's getting to see the real world, and I like it because it's interesting ... I get a taste and then I go back home," he said, noting Venice, California is home for him now.

Retirement isn't on his radar anytime soon.

"I don't have plans for anything else, but I don't have plans to do this forever either," he said. "I'm just trying to enjoy it and see where it takes me ... we'll see what's next for me, but I don't know what it will be."

The evening in Morden begins at the Access Event Centre with VIP doors opening at 6 p.m. and then for the general public at 6:30 p.m. The wrestling action starts at 7 p.m.



Brian Kendrick

Tickets for VIP first access are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door, and general admission is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Giant Tiger or online at [cwetickets.com](http://cwetickets.com).

Kendrick encourages people to come out for a lively, action-packed evening of entertainment.

"The great thing about pro wrestling is that it's interactive. You can yell and scream at the wrestlers, and the wrestlers will yell and scream right back at you," he said. "It makes it even more interactive."

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



# Fast earns 3-0 shutout for Storm vs. UDM



Left: UDM's Mervin Defoe tries to stop the Winkler Storm's Kevin Neufeld from heading the ball towards the goal in Saturday's game. Right: Winkler's Emil Rode comes close to scoring on UDM keeper Damion Scott.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm added another one to the win column last weekend. Saturday night they blanked the visiting UDM 3-0 at home. Emil Rhode

fired home two goals for Winkler while Tobias Morasch added a single. Samuel Fast got the shutout in net. With that, Winkler's record for the summer is 6-4-2, which as of Monday had them in fifth place behind North-

ern United, Grand Park SC, SWB, and UDM. Only the top six teams in the 10-team division will compete in the playoffs starting Sept. 22. The Storm are on the road this and

next week, playing in Winnipeg against Winnipeg FC Aug. 26 and versus Bonivital2 Sept. 2. They're back on home turf on Sunday, Sept. 7 when they host Lucania United FC2.

## Sr. Aces returning to SEMHL after Hockey Manitoba ruling

By Kieran Reimer

The Ste. Anne Senior Aces have gotten their wish. Last week, the Aces and team president and head coach Kevin Lansard announced on Instagram that Hockey Manitoba ruled in favour of their appeal regarding the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League's decision to remove them from the league. The Aces were informed they had been removed from the SEMHL at a

league meeting on May 4 at Carman Golf Course, following an alleged vote by multiple member teams. "This was a long process, and we are extremely grateful that Hockey Manitoba has recognized our position and confirmed that the league's actions were not in line with proper governance," Lansard said in the statement. "This ruling allows us to continue competing in the SEMHL, where we rightfully belong. From the beginning, our goal has been to build

a respectful, competitive team that represents our players, our community and our fans with pride. Today's ruling reaffirms those values and gives our players and supporters the clarity they deserve." Now back in the league, the Aces will enter the 2025-26 season looking to defend their title as champions. The Aces have captured the championship in all three seasons they've competed in the league. In that three-year span, they have

finished first in the regular season twice, posting a combined 31-5 record over the past two campaigns. The Carman Beavers, Ile des Chênes Northstars, Morden Bombers, Notre Dame Hawks, Portage Islanders, Red River Wild, Springfield Winterhawks, Warren Merces and Winkler Royals made up the other nine clubs that competed in the 10-team league in 2024-25.

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## TENDER

# JANITORIAL TENDER

## Access Credit Union Winkler

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- Gather and dispose of all garbage and recycling
- Dust and clean offices, staff room and public area
- Clean and sanitize washrooms
- Other cleaning requirements as necessary

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before Sept 12, 2025, before 4:30 p.m.

Tender information can be obtained by emailing [vickie.addison@accesscu.ca](mailto:vickie.addison@accesscu.ca).

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Access Credit Union

PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre

Winkler, MB R6W 4B4

Email: [vickie.addison@accesscu.ca](mailto:vickie.addison@accesscu.ca)



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### TOWN OF ALTONA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2026 BOARD OF REVISION

The 2025 Real Property, Personal Property and Business Property Assessment Rolls have been deposited in the Office of the Clerk at 111 Centre Avenue East (Town of Altona Civic Centre) and will be open for inspection by any person(s) during regular office hours.

The Board of Revision will sit at the Council Chambers of the Town of Altona located at 111 Centre Avenue East in Altona on Tuesday, **October 14th, 2025** at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of revising the Assessment Rolls of the Town of Altona.

Complaints against any of the above noted assessments must be received by the Secretary of the Board by Monday, **September 29th, 2025** and may be made as follows:

### Application for revision

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to the following matters:

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property;
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

### Application requirements

- 43(1) An application for revision must
  - be made in writing;
  - set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
  - set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42(1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
  - be filed by
    - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
    - serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board (no later than **September 29th, 2025**) as indicated in the public notice.

Dated at Altona, in Manitoba, this 28th day of August, 2025, A.D.

Town of Altona

Box 1630,

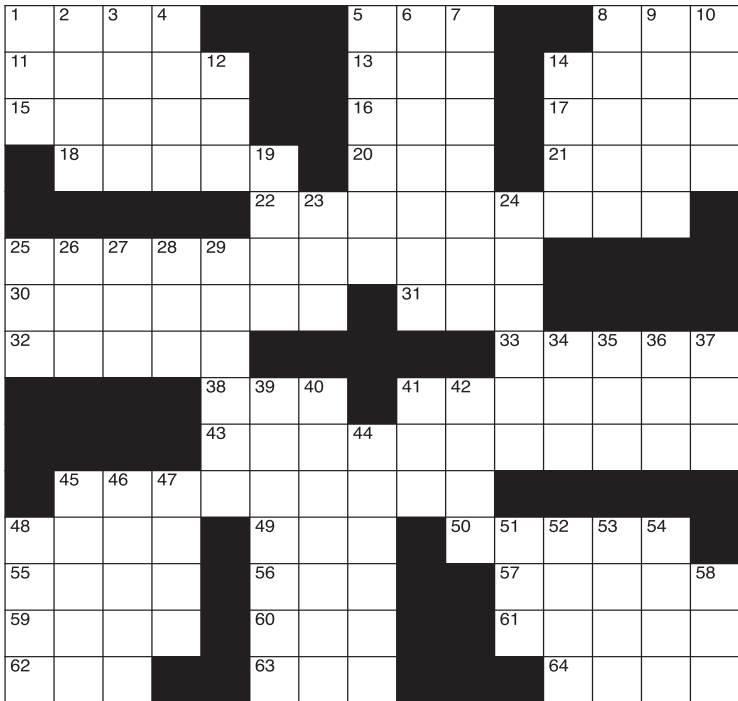
Altona, Manitoba ROG OBO

Terry Fehr, Secretary

Board of Revision for the Town of Altona



take a break > GAMES



- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Taxis
  - 5. Space Systems Command
  - 8. Plant seed by scattering
  - 11. Alliances
  - 13. Fiddler crabs
  - 14. Heroic tale
  - 15. Yemen capital
  - 16. Misleading gesture
  - 17. Cain and \_\_\_\_\_
  - 18. Simple shoe
  - 20. Hundredweight
  - 21. Children's toy in the

- snow
- 22. Gets rid of
  - 25. Free of deceit
  - 30. Performed a dance
  - 31. Chinese philosophical principle
  - 32. Exaggerated
  - 33. Refrain from inflicting
  - 38. A doctrine
  - 41. Can be subdued
  - 43. A place to bathe
  - 45. Land used for pasture
  - 48. Curved piece of iron
  - 49. Automobile
  - 50. Fencing sword

- 55. Breezes through
- 56. Child
- 57. NBA legend Iverson
- 59. Horsley and Iacocca are two
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. U.S. leader during much of WW2
- 63. Lair
- 64. Fibrous material

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CLUES DOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION  
SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MONTCALM

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **25th day of September, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at Rural Municipality of Montcalm, 46 - First Street East, Letellier, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
42850	LOT 1 PLAN 37798 WLTO IN SW 1/4 8-3-1 EPM - 1033 PTH 14 E	L -\$153,200 B -\$50,700	\$59,252.97
147700	LOT 16 BLOCK 2 PLAN 12645 WLTO EXC SLY 5 FEET PERP IN RL 235 AND 237 PARISH OF STE AGATHE - 104 RUE CARON ST, ST JEAN BAPTISTE	L -\$19,600 B -\$129,000	\$7,350.34

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MONTCALM as follows:
  - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - iii) A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025.

Managed by:



Jolene Bird  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF MONTCALM  
Phone: (204) 737-2271  
Fax: (204) 737-2326

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION  
SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES  
CITY OF MORDEN

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 24th day of September, 2025, at the hour of 02:00 PM, at City of Morden Council Chambers, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
14250	LOT 74 SP PLAN 23598 MLTO IN S 1/2 8-3-5 WPM - LOT 74 BLOCK PLAN 23598	L -\$800	\$5,581.96

Roll 14250: This property is land locked. Obtaining access is the purchaser's sole responsibility.

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the CITY OF MORDEN as follows:
  - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - iii) A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025.

Managed by:



Nicole Reidle  
City Manager  
CITY OF MORDEN  
Phone: (204) 822-4434  
Fax: (204) 822-6494



PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF STANLEY  
PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 10/25 -  
BY-LAW NO. 10-25 VILLAGE LOW-PRESSURE SEWER  
CONNECTIONS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chambers on the **18th day of September 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to present the following local improvement plan:

*Local Improvement Plan No. 10/25 will provide the spending, borrowing authority and imposition of taxes for installation of, and connection to, a low-pressure waste water system as a local improvement within the R.M. of Stanley. **Potential taxpayers will be those benefiting properties within the villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld who have confirmed their commitment to connect to the system.***

*The proposed local improvement tax is calculated on a 'per parcel (benefiting property)' basis with each benefiting property contributing \$9300.00. The local improvement tax can be prepaid in full to the municipality or alternatively paid via an annual levy on the property taxes of the benefiting property over a 20-year period plus the estimated interest rate of 5.325% per year.*

*The \$9,300 local improvement tax does not include the final connection from the curb stop at the street to the house tank/pump. That cost will be confirmed based on each actual property connecting at that time.*

**Potential taxpayers** wishing to object to the local improvement plan may file a notice of objection by email, mail or in person, with the Chief Administrative Officer at 1-23111 PTH 14. All objections must be filed prior to the public hearing and must include name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and state the grounds of objection as per Section 319(1) *The Municipal Act*.

Copies of the local improvement plan are available at the municipal office at 1-23111 PTH 14 and on the municipal website at [www.rmofstanley.ca](http://www.rmofstanley.ca). Feel free to call the RM Office for additional information at 204-325-4101.

Dated at the RM of Stanley this 28th day of August 2025 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of *The Municipal Act*.

Terry Penner, Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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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!

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8. Pitch black
9. S-shaped lines
10. Statistical test
12. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
14. Graduation garb
19. A way to record
23. Not good
24. Weather events
25. A pituitary hormone
26. Jamie Foxx film
27. Rocker's accessory
28. One point east (clockwise) of due north
29. One who obtains pleasure from another's pain
34. Consume
35. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Sick
37. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
39. Removed the husk
40. Mass of rocks and sediment
41. Two-year-old sheep
42. Area units
44. Prison overseer
45. Walked
46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier
47. Tax
48. 50 percent
51. Swiss river
52. Tattle
53. Actor Idris
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Egg of a louse

REPORTER

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? The Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer who lives in the area 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.

- Qualifications:**
- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or English degree.
  - 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 Canadian Press Style

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to: Lana Meier Email: [news@carmanstandard.ca](mailto:news@carmanstandard.ca)

The Carman-Dufferin  
STANDARD

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

T	S	A	B		N	E	D		H	F	I
I	B	A	B		N	E			S	E	E
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V	G	V	S	V	O	N		S	C	O	T
W	O	S		C	S	S		S	B	V	C

Crossword Answer



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## OBITUARY



### Donna (Marlene) Daher (nee Dyck)

Peacefully, after a lengthy illness, it is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Marlene Daher on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Stonewall and District Health Centre, at the age of 81 years.

Mom was a resident of Stonewall, MB and formerly of Morden, MB.

Surviving to mourn her loss is her beloved husband Robert of 57 years; son Karl (Tanya); grandchildren Sarah and Robert.

Mom was predeceased by her parents Jacob and Dorothy Dyck. Mom had a love of gardening, but a greater love for her family, nothing made her happier than preparing a special meal during the holidays for the family to enjoy on her beloved "Old Country Rose" dinnerware.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the MacKenzie Funeral Chapel, Stonewall. Rev. Shaun Manning officiated, with interment at the Stonewall Cemetery.

Thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff at the Stonewall and District Health Centre, Betel Home Selkirk and Selkirk Regional Health Centre for their care and compassion over the past year.

In lieu of flowers, if friends so desire, memorial donation may be made to the Interlake Eastern Health Foundation or a charity of your choice.

John 14: 2-3

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME STONEWALL  
(204) 467-2525 • [info@mackenziefh.com](mailto:info@mackenziefh.com)



## OBITUARY



### Elnore (Ella) Neufeld (nee Klassen)

Elnore (Ella) Neufeld (nee Klassen) was born September 13, 1924, to David J. and Katharina (Nickel) Klassen in Rosenfeld, Manitoba. She was the fourth of 12 children born to her parents.

When she was seven, she invited Jesus into her life. Ella attended MCI in Gretna for high school, graduating in June 1943. This was also the year she was baptized in the Winkler Bergthaler Church.

Ella made the decision to become a teacher with the encouragement of her Grandpa Nickel. She attended Normal School/Teachers' College in Winnipeg in the fall of 1944 and began teaching in Kane, MB, for the 1946-1947 school year. In 1948, she took a teaching position at Blumenfeld MB. This is where she met the handsome Jake E. Neufeld, and sparks ignited between them as soon as they met.

Their romance blossomed, and they were married on September 4, 1949 in the Winkler Bergthaler Church. Jake decided to become a teacher after a life-changing fall from a roof while working to build his home heating and plumbing business in Winkler.

During these early years, they were blessed with two daughters, Gay Lynn (1953) and Lori Fay (1956). Jake and Ella taught in a variety of schools ranging from Pine Dock, MB (1959-1960) to their last assignment with the Conference of Mennonites at the Steinreich Mexico boarding school (1975-1978).

Upon their return to Winkler from Mexico, Ella continued teaching. She headed up the special needs area at the Winkler Elementary School, retiring after eight years there (1979-1987). In all, she was a much-appreciated educator for more than 40 years.

Ella and Jake were active in the Winkler Bergthaler Church as deacons and Sunday School teachers. She was involved in a wide variety of local community work, especially the MCC Thrift Store in her later years. As she said, "There was never a dull moment in our life- it was always kept upbeat by Jake's inspirational spirit." Ella dearly anticipated the day of their reunion in heaven.

They enjoyed living in a house Jake designed and built for them on 10th St. in Winkler in 1978 till his passing on June 4, 1998, after 49 years of married life. During this time, Anne Marie LaPointe came to live with them. Anne Marie's 35-year presence in their life was a special gift for Ella, especially after Jake's passing.

Ella was predeceased by her husband Jake, three sisters, five brothers, and 13 in-laws.

She is survived by daughters Gay Lynn Voth (Rick) and their children, Shana (Chris), Krista (Jeremy), and Tamara, and five grandchildren: Charlie, Elias, Oliver, Brigitte and Lucia; and Lori Dueck (Dale) and their children: Erin (Sam), Leann (Eric) and Cameron (Alex), and four grandchildren: Joy, Amelia, Elliott and Rory. She is also survived by foster daughter Anne Marie LaPointe, three siblings and three in-laws, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Ella will be remembered lovingly by her family for her consistent, thoughtful prayers for each family member, including her siblings and their families. She loved her family very much and through the years would always welcome each visit with enthusiasm, wise words, special gifts and great food.

As Ella has said: God has blessed my life richly, and this is definitely a time to celebrate.

A Memorial will take place on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gateway Resources Inc., Box 1448, Winkler, MB R6W 4B4.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## COMING EVENTS/OPEN HOUSE

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# getinformed

## Chefs squaring off in support of humane soc.

By Lorne Stelmach

A barbecue competition playing off the Morden and Winkler rivalry will be to the benefit of the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

Dubbed Friendly Flames, the Highway 3.14 barbecue competition sponsored by Rendezvous and set for Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Suncatch Plaza in Morden will pit a chef from Winkler against one from Morden.

Chefs Ryan Wiebe from Morden and Colin Fehr from Winkler will compete to see who gets the most votes for the best ribs. Wiebe's sauce will use Rendezvous brews while Fehr's sauce will use Blumstein brews.

"It's a new event to kind of refresh what we do," said humane society fundraising chairperson Caitlin Parr. "It's just a fun Morden and Winkler competition, and people will have the opportunity to vote on which they think was the best, and we will have a judging panel too."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chefs Colin Fehr (left) and Ryan Wiebe are squaring off in a barbecuing competition in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society Sept. 6.

The evening will go from 4-8 p.m., and there will be live music with per-

formances by Talladega Greg, Ditch, and Faces for Radio

"It should be a really fun evening. We're really looking forward to it," said Parr. "We have lots of great local support for it. We're hoping people get excited about it."

The humane society is always looking for ideas for fundraising, as it is of primary importance to the organization.

"It's huge for us, and everyone has been outrageously supportive and helpful throughout the whole planning process, and it's great to collaborate with them," Parr said. "Our fundraisers are our number one revenue stream to help keep our doors open and help us to help out the community."

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for kids. Book yours online at [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca) or by stopping by the Morden animal shelter or Rendezvous.

### > AUTUMN IN ALTONA, FROM PG. 12

Next year will mark the first pilot festival, which will likely be a one-day event. The goal is to keep it manageable while still offering a rich experience. Families can expect free activities, opportunities for children to play and explore, and plenty of seasonal touches that reflect the warmth of the community.

The committee envisions the pilot as a springboard, showing residents what is possible while building support for future growth. If the festival

is well received, it will return annually, expanding bit by bit.

Krentz doesn't hide her excitement when she speaks about the long-term dream. In five years, she hopes Autumn in Altona could grow into a three-day country fair, with carnival rides, a haunted barn, live entertainment, and countless activities for all ages.

"I'd love for it to be something that brings together not just Altona, but the surrounding communities too,"

she said. "It's about celebrating autumn, our families, our stories, and that small-town spirit."

From the very beginning, the idea has been met with enthusiasm. Krentz recalls emailing the Town of Altona to share her vision, only to receive a reply within the hour. Soon she was meeting with town officials, who encouraged her to start small and build gradually.

"They loved the idea," she said. "They gave us guidance on grants, on who to connect with, and even advice from people who have

planned other festivals, like the Sunflower Festival."

The support has given Krentz and her committee confidence to keep moving forward. Each of the six members brings different strengths—from organizing meetings to handling social media—and all share the same passion for building something meaningful.

"I really believe in our team," Krentz said. "Everyone has a real passion for this, and I think that makes all the difference."

What started as one person's idea is quickly becoming a community effort. With a year of contests and exchanges planned, followed by the pilot festival in 2026, Autumn in Altona is well on its way to becoming a tradition.

As the leaves begin to turn, Krentz is hopeful that the community will turn with them, embracing a new season not only of cooler days and colourful trees, but of gathering, creativity, and celebration.

"I don't see us failing," she said with a smile. "I think this has the potential to become something really special for Altona."

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

Do you have a suggestion  
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Is there someone you would like  
to see recognized in the newspaper  
for their accomplishments  
- athletic, academic  
or community service.