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Elbow grease

Volunteers worked up a sweat during the sawing demonstration at Neuberghal Saturday, one of the many activities on offer during Darg Days. For more, see Pg. 13.
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Threads of friendship

The Heirloom Quilters' timeless craft and community spirit

By Lori Penner

For over three decades, a group of local women has gathered to partake in a practice that dates back hundreds of generations. Through the years, they've created countless blankets and built friendships with a common goal: to make quilts.

They call themselves the Heirloom Quilters and their love of quilting is the thread that binds them together.

The group meets biweekly in Altona, taking breaks over holidays and summertime. Each member brings her own unique style and story and has found understanding and friendship along the way.

"Some of us are just starting out, and some are seasoned veterans," says Lori Hiebert, who joined in 1994.

Helen Dueck was part of the original group.

"It all began with a retreat at Elim Bible School in Altona. We were making log cabin quilts, and we really enjoyed ourselves," she recalls. "We decided to get together on a regular basis, and here we are, more than 30 years later."

Sadly, they've lost a few members along the way, but their common love of the art is as comforting as the quilts they create. Products vary, from traditional quilts, to place mats, potholders, and wall hangings. The possibilities are endless—if you can conceive of it, you can pretty much quilt it.

Sessions include a show and tell,

where members can share their current project and talk about the challenges and pride that it brought them.

"As a rule, we all work on our own thing, and we talk as we work," Hiebert says. "But there's never any pressure. This is our time."

They've hosted numerous shows over the years. Their purpose has extended beyond their craft, and their philanthropic efforts are evident all over the community and the region. Genesis House in Winkler is a regular recipient, where each woman at the shelter receives a quilt for comfort. They've also donated quilts to Katie Cares for families struggling with cancer.

Eastview Place in Altona has received numerous memory quilts, to support patients with Alzheimer's. Businesses and facilities such as Friesens Corp. and the Millennium Exhibition Centre have also been recipients, and their quilts are a cheery addition to the hallways at Gardens on Tenth. Their quilt raffles have raised funds for numerous causes.

This is all beyond the countless creations that have been gifted to family and friends. None of the ladies has kept track of how many quilts they've created over the years.

"I have made wedding quilts for nieces and nephews on both sides of my family, and all their children got baby quilts, so that's 23 kids. There are also friends' babies. As my great-

nieces graduate, they'll get full size quilts of their choosing," says Hiebert.

One member quips, "I told myself five is the limit this year, so I can sew other things instead."

As the saying goes, you always find time for the things you love. This rings true for the Heirloom Quilters.

"People tell me I must be a patient person, but it's not patience, it's impatience. We can't just sit and do nothing.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Members of the Heirloom Quilters wrapped up in their work. Back row, from left: Cecile Winter, Linda Steinert, Joyce Redhead, Tena Giesbrecht, Carol Schroeder, Kathy Dyck, Esther Pappel. Front row: Sharon Friesen, Helen Dueck, Lynda Hiebert, and Lori Hiebert.

I always have a little handwork close by, whether it's waiting at appointments or watching TV," Hiebert says. "There's something therapeutic about it, and studies show that quilting keeps your brain sharp, as well. Following a knitting pattern is like learning a different language."

Styles vary wildly in this group. Sharon Friesen loves to create memory quilts for people who have lost loved ones.

"I must have made at least 30 of them over the years, out of people's T-shirts. The biggest one I ever made was from 90 shirts. How do you put a value on that?"

Cecile Winter chuckles, "I always tell myself, this is my last quilt of the year, but we all know that's a lie."

Tena Giesbrecht always has three on the go, in case she gets bored. Her biggest nightmare, she says, was when her sewing machine stopped working.

Hiebert does offer some advice for those who want to start quilting.

"Start small. Join us and give it a try. See if it's for you. The danger for the novice quilter is the cost. Good quality fabric isn't cheap. I have spent up to \$500 on a quilt. And without motivation, you might have a huge investment sitting in your closet."

But every member says it was worth every penny for the satisfaction it brought them.

"It's very meditative. I fall back in love with every stitch, and I sew in the good thoughts," Hiebert says.

They emphasize the camaraderie, knowledge, and motivation they've gained by being a part of the group.

And so, every other Thursday, the Heirloom Quilters continue to gather, their bond growing stronger, one patch at a time.

New members are always welcome. Membership is \$40 for the season, which runs until May 29. Feel free to drop in. They gather at the South Park MB Church on the first and third Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Lori Hiebert at 204-324-5952, or Sharon Friesen at 204-216-1944.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Lori Hiebert with a current work in progress, with each patch reflecting every week of the year.

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Genesis House shares transitional housing dreams

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The past year was one of challenges and tragedy, but the Genesis House shelter for the survivors of domestic violence is looking ahead with optimism thanks to several major projects that will have a huge impact in the years ahead.

The agency held its annual general meeting in Winkler Sept. 17.

“It has been a difficult year to work at our shelter,” shared executive director Ang Braun in her report. “The murders in Carman of a young woman and her three children, as well as her niece, were shocking and tragic. While we are very aware that domestic violence happens in every community, this truly hit close to home.”

The need for Genesis House’s residential services continued to grow in

2023-2024. Seventy-six women stayed a total of 1,213 bed nights—up from 64 women and 1,191 nights the year before.

The shelter also provided safe haven for one man for a total of 35 nights (up from zero the year before) and 82 children for 1,216 nights (the year before it was 50 children and 1,353 bed nights).

The shelter is often operating at capacity, Braun said.

“Every shelter across this province has been busy. Any place you try to find a bed, it is hard. In my whole time with Genesis House, I can’t remember a time like now where we have people that phone in tears and we have to say we’re full and everyone is full and we don’t know how to help you.”

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Genesis House outgoing board chair Karen Tjaden (left) and executive director Ang Braun with the concept drawings for the transitional housing complex the agency intends to build in Winkler.

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Heavy rains cause damage across the region

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Stanley was grappling last week with the impact of significant flooding damage following days of heavy rainfall.

The weather that delivered as much as seven to eight inches of rain in some areas in a 24-hour period was a record-breaking deluge and exposed some of the limitations of the area's current drainage infrastructure.

It was a situation that the existing drainage systems were not designed to handle, said Reeve Ike Friesen. The rapid accumulation of rainwater led to isolated flooding, mostly in the eastern region of the municipality, affecting homes, roads, and agricultural lands.

"Our infrastructure is facing a challenge of an unprecedented scale," said Friesen. "The volume of rain we've received in such a short time has severely strained our drainage systems. We are actively working to assess the damage and provide support to those affected."

"We were doing our best in helping

alleviate any pressure that's going to homes and trying to avoid flooding in the areas," he said. "We had pumps running to help alleviate some of the flooding in some of the areas, but there's areas of course that either had been washed out or were flooded, so we wanted people to be cautious."

"In the villages, of course, where the water starts to settle, that's where we had some flooding. We had water in some basements, which is very unfortunate, and we did some sandbagging to try to help people out."

Friesen noted public works crews were working diligently to mitigate the impact of the flooding, and efforts were aiming to clear blocked drainage pathways, manage standing water, and provide relief to affected residents.

Meanwhile, the cities of Winkler and Morden were also dealing with the impact of the heavy rainfall. A social media post by the City of Winkler noted some areas of the city had seen up to 120 mm of rain within 24 hours, so it was asking residents to do their part to minimize the risk of sewer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Breezy Way Farm in the RM of Stanley shared this photo of a washed out road due to the heavy rains last week.

backup last week.

"Conserve water as much as possible to allow our pump stations to keep up," the city stated in the wake of the rains. "Be sure your sump pump is discharging outside and away from your home and not into your home's sanitary drain. Discharging into the

city's sewer system can quickly overwhelm the sanitary system and increase risk of sewage backup in your home.

"Be sure your downspouts are directing water away from buildings. Be sure to remove any debris that might be blocking drainage or water flows."

> GENESIS HOUSE, FROM PG. 3

But shelter staff are creative and resourceful, Braun stressed, and they are finding ways to help those in need, even as they cope with ongoing space challenges.

While emergency shelter is a huge part of the work of Genesis House, there's another piece of the puzzle they intend to get into place.

Since it opened its doors 40 years ago, helping women find affordable housing has been a major obstacle to them leaving behind an abusive partner.

"Having a safe place to land and heal while you gain your strength and build your support system can be the world of difference," Braun said. "[It's] a real chance to start over in a good way."

The housing crisis has made things worse for the survivors of abuse in southern Manitoba, and Genesis House's lone transitional house simply is no longer enough.

"Housing is worse now than it has ever been," Braun said. "Even if some of the women we see come with resources, they have the money, they still cannot find a place."

After years of discussing the issue, Genesis House has decided to step up and do something about it.

"We've been talking about housing for so long, but nobody was coming [to save the day]," Braun said. "So it was time to start figuring out how we were going to do this on our own."

The agency intends to build a 25-unit transitional housing facility in Winkler. These units will be offered at a subsidized rate, giving women the chance to get back on their feet until they can secure more permanent housing.

The facility will also provide support services and

resources to help tenants develop the skills they need to find or maintain employment, get established financially, become self-sufficient, and begin to cope with their trauma.

Genesis House has already purchased land for this project and commissioned building drawings. Now they've set their sights on raising the

millions needed to make it a reality.

"I've been trying to hold myself back from dreaming too much about the actual programming because we don't have the money [yet]," Braun said. "We'll need some time."

Continued on page 5

RURAL BUDS
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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Board members at the Genesis House annual general meeting in Winkler last week want to get the message out about the importance of supporting the survivors of domestic violence.

get informed

Canada Post supports YFC project to the tune of \$15K

By Lorne Stelmach

A Youth For Christ (YFC) project in Morden received a big financial boost last week from Canada Post.

A \$15,000 grant from the Canada Post Foundation will make it possible for YFC to move forward with the installation of a full-size basketball court as part of a backyard improvement project at The Warehouse in Morden.

"This backyard project is going to be a really great part of our programming," said Ryan Smith, executive director of YFC in Morden and Pilot Mound. "We're going to be able to build a full court basketball court in the backyard, a gazebo, and the funds from Canada Post Community Foundation are going to be central in being able to build that basketball court."

"It's a great initiative for us to get behind ... a great initiative to bring kids in to have a safe spot to play sports

and just to get together and learn and grow," said Kris Hansen, southeast area manager for Canada Post.

Hansen noted the foundation receives hundreds of applications, which go to a review committee. The emphasis is very much on supporting things at a grassroots level.

In this past year, there were 106 projects receiving a portion of \$1.3 million overall, and there were three within his area of southeast Manitoba, a region which he noted is among the top five nationally in terms of what is raised to support the foundation.

They hold a variety of projects to raise funds—everything from book sales and barbecues to a raffle of a travel trailer.

"We take great pride in doing this for our community," Hansen said. "We have fundraising all year round. It doesn't stop."

"Since 2012, the foundation has raised about \$15 million across Can-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Staff at the Morden Canada Post office presented Youth for Christ with a donation of \$15,000 last week to help the youth centre build a full-size basketball court in its back yard.

ada, so it's something again that we really take pride in."

As an organization that works with over 130 vulnerable and at-risk youth, YFC very much relies on this kind of support, noted Smith.

"We work with youth from all different sorts of backgrounds and perspectives, and a big challenge that we're

constantly facing is youth struggling with mental health, anxiety, and one of the big things that we've really seen is when kids have healthy bodies and they are able to grow in areas of their life ... that they have healthy minds ... that's a big part of what we want to contribute to the community."

> GENESIS HOUSE, FROM PG. 4

Closer at hand, the shelter has received grant funding to launch a new sexual assault intervention program.

"What we know about sexual assault in our area is right now it looks like it doesn't happen, because nobody comes forward, because it's way too complicated," Braun said.

Victims who report a sexual assault are transported into Winnipeg to see a specialist, often in a police vehicle, which can be an overwhelming experience and add to the shame many already feel.

"What we're going to be looking at is using Genesis House as a soft and safe landing place for people that have been sexually assaulted, where we will then help them move through the system," Braun explained, noting they'll be partnering with Klinik Community Health in Winnipeg and offering to escort victims into the city. "We will help them move through that system, where they can choose whether police will be involved or not and we will be able to provide some support through that."

LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Last week's AGM saw board chair Karen Tjaden step down from her role after six years with the

agency.

She's proud of what's been accomplished in that time, but acknowledges there's more work to be done.

The purchase of land for the transitional housing project stands out as a highlight of the past year, she shared.

"I'm really proud of the work that we did together under pressure, because we didn't have a lot of time to decide that we wanted to buy," Tjaden said. "But we were able to decide together that that was the right way to proceed, that we had a vision."

The board bid farewell to a number of other members who reached the end of their terms, and welcomed three new ones. There's still two empty spots to be filled. Contact Genesis House (find them online at genesishouseshelter.ca) if you're interested in getting involved.

Tjaden sends kudos to the shelter staff who keep the place running so smoothly day in and day out, and to the community for its ongoing support.

"We are extremely grateful for the dedicated staff and volunteers," she said in her report, voicing thanks as well "to our growing and generous community support from individuals, business, other social agencies, and all levels of government."

That support allows the agency "to continue to create new programs and explore new opportunities to address the reality of gender-based violence and some of its root causes. Thank you for being an active participant in the work of Genesis House and helping to create safer, healthier communities."

Financially, the agency ended the year with a surplus of just over \$291,000. Revenue of \$1.3 million consisted mainly of grants, including \$872,701 from the provincial government. Fundraising and donations were at \$224,352 for the year, which is up over \$10,000 from the year before.

Guest speakers at the AGM included former Winklerite Eileen Kroeker, one of the founders of Riverwood House in Winnipeg, who shared how she and husband Don spearheaded fundraising efforts for that transitional housing project and sharing advice and encouragement as Genesis House embarks on its own similar project.

Kirsten Bernas, director of policy advocacy at West Central Women's Resource Centre, also spoke about the affordable housing crisis and its impact across the province and the lobbying work her agency is doing to try and address the growing needs.

The **Voice**

getheard
EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



The travel bug bites again

We are on the eve of travelling again.

This time to London, England, where we will vacation and I will have the honour of officiating my son's marriage to a wonderful woman.

I have always loved travelling. Growing up in the circumstances I did, travelling was not really something that seemed in my future.

The very first flight I was ever on was for air cadets when I was 16 and it was to Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in Alberta for a six-week senior leadership course.

After that, I was 20 years old, and it was a flight to Alberta (again) for a ski trip with friends.

It was around the age of 25 when I finally flew to another country (Mexico) for vacation.

After moving into the technology industry, I began to travel a lot for work. In the space of ten years, I managed to get to 15 countries numerous times each for business.

Travelling for work is not the same as travelling for pleasure. You get on the plane, you get off the plane, you get in a cab, you go to a hotel, you get back in a cab, you go to the local conference of offices, you work, you get back in the cab, go to the airport and fly out.

Not as glamorous as some would think.



By Peter Cantelon

For instance ... this will be my sixth trip to England, but it will be the first vacation there. All of the previous trips were for work.

I wish I had had the presence of mind on the former work trips to stop and take a few moments to simply enjoy where I was. I mean, don't get me wrong, I did try ... just not very hard.

If you have the privilege to be able to travel, I would encourage it. The opportunity to see different people, witness different cultures, eat different foods and experience a different history is eye-opening and can lend valuable perspective.

For many reasons, not everyone can simply hop on a plane and head to a different part of the world for a vacation. Still, there are opportunities that are more manageable.

For instance, simply getting into a car and driving to North Dakota in the United States offers an opportunity to experience a different culture. More different than you may realize. There are different people groups, opinions, even accents.

One of the best things about travel is coming home again. You come home appreciating many things

we often take for granted about our home country and community. You also come home with some interesting ideas about things that could happen in your community and can find yourself suddenly advocating for them.

When I travel, I take pictures. While this may seem obvious, I should be clear that when I say I take pictures I mean I take a LOT of pictures. A typical week away garners more than 400 photos. I take so many photos that my wife has stopped taking them under the thinking of "why bother." I realize it's a problem, but I think it's a good one.

I like to be able to relive the experience and photography really helps with this. It's probably the journalistic imperative to document everything that drives this.

Again, I know travel is a privilege. I hope everyone who reads this gets the chance to travel at least once either for work or for fun (or both). It will change you.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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“There are hundreds of resources out there”

Immigrant Business Expo held in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

A day-long conference with a focus on immigrant entrepreneurs heard from a local business owner who has thrived since coming to Canada 25 years ago.

Zahid Zehri, a successful pharmacist in Winkler, was the keynote speaker at the Immigrant Business Expo Southern Manitoba Friday in Morden.

The expo connected participants with community services and supports to help newcomers start or grow their own small businesses. It featured a number of workshops, panel discussions, and a marketplace featuring immigrant-service organizations and business service providers as well as booths from immigrant entrepreneurs.

The event sponsored by the Manitoba Immigrant Employment Council, Regional Connections, and New Horizons Media heard Zehri touch on his personal experiences but also on the importance of immigration.

“Immigration is a bloodline for Canada ... the power of immigration is huge ... the power of immigration means opportunity,” said Zehri, who also commented on still being known as an immigrant even after living in Canada for over two decades “It’s not a bad thing ... as a human, by default, we are immigrants ... I’m a proud Canadian immigrant.”

Zehri illustrated part of his presentation’s points with a small tree seedling, reflecting on not only the range of benefits of that plant when it thrives and grows but also all that is needed to help it succeed, just as it is with immigrants.

“They have a wish to grow ... everyone who is coming even with the little branch, little investment, skills and experiences.”

Back when he first came to Canada, though, there weren’t as many supports and resources available as there are now.

Zehri recalled going for an interview with Shoppers Drug Mart in Toronto early on and feeling positive about it, only to be told that he had no “Canadian” experience—but how could he get that experience if he wasn’t given a chance?

“I wanted to be myself in this person’s position,” he said. “One day, I want to be a pharmacist owner so that I can help the people when they come to me ... I’m going to help them.”

Eight years later, he got that opportunity in Winkler.

Zehri went on to emphasize the importance of mentoring and coaching for immigrants.

“I know if you don’t have the right directions, if you don’t have the people who can support you, you can’t do it, so the mentoring and coaching is very important,” he said.

“If the Canadian immigrant entrepreneurs, if they get the best mentoring and coaching, support, and help from the community ... it’s going to help a lot to grow ... mentoring and coaching are the essential parts to initiate, to establish and to grow a business in the community,” Zehri said. “It’s really important when we come that we get the right directions.”

He closed with words of encouragement for immigrants to seek out the help that they need to make their journey successful.

“If you don’t ask, you don’t get help ... it took time for me to understand. It took years and years,” said Zehri.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Zahid Zehri shared his story at the Immigrant Business Expo in Morden last Friday.

“This exploration comes with the courage, and the courage comes with the passion, and if you don’t have this passion, you can’t get those resources ... there are hundreds of resources out there available to help you.”

Winkler Flyers, firefighters to square off for Central Stn.

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Fire Department and the Winkler Flyers will again be putting their skills to the test in support of the Central Station Community Centre this fall.

The Fire Versus Ice fundraiser set for Oct. 4 starting at 3:30 p.m. will see the junior hockey team and local firefighters locked on the roof of the community centre for a skills competition.

This event is not just about friendly rivalry but more importantly about coming together as a community to support vital local services, as it will directly benefit the programs offered at Central Station, said marketing director Krista Rempel.

“We really look at how we can engage the community at every single level,” said Rempel, who estimated they would be aiming to perhaps bring in around \$40,000 in donations that day.

“The community is everything to us. We serve the community, we bond with the community, and we are one

with the community ... our whole mission is to create a place where people can thrive spiritually, emotionally and physically.”

She noted there was a similar event involving the Winkler Flyers in 2021 to raise funds towards the then-new Central Station location.

“The event was a huge success, and it was super fun,” said Rempel. “We got to partner with the Winkler Flyers, who are super community-minded, and it was such a fun fundraising event that we have had lots of inquiries about whether or not we were going to do something like that again.”

“We kind of just wanted to change it up just slightly, so we invited the fire department, who are also community-minded as well.”

The Flyers are ready and willing to get involved, said Shane Neufeld, director of marketing and game day operations for the team.

“The community is a huge part ... we really want to be part of the community,” he said. “The boys are more than willing to help out in any way

that they can, and that is a huge thing for the new coach. He is a big part of that as well.

“It’s a highlight of their year,” said Neufeld. “This is one event that they love doing. They had so much fun doing it last time, so why not do it again?”

It is especially meaningful to support something like Central Station, he added.

“They’re a big part of the community, and it’s a great way to give back to everybody.”

As well, it will be a nice break for the team before they get into the long haul of the season ahead.

“They’ve gone through a lot in the last couple of weeks, so it’s also a good way for them to unwind and just bond together as a team and get to know the community.”

Tim Guenter, who is not only on the fire department but also a Central Station board member, said they love to get “involved in the community in a non-emergency setting.

“Winkler fire department has a big

heart for Central Station and our Winkler Flyers,” he said. “The Winkler Flyers beat us last year in the Flyers versus Fire hockey game. Let’s see if they can beat us in the hose rolls at Central Station on the roof.”

The community is invited to come out and watch Friday, Oct. 4 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Central Station (545 Main St.)

You can support the cause by making a donation in person or online (winklercentralstation.ca). When you donate, you get to decide which team you want to support: the Flyers or the firefighters.

The afternoon will also feature a drive-thru taco supper, with all proceeds going to Central Station. Tacos in a bag will be available by donation. There will also be a coffee truck and mini donuts on-site for purchase.

For even more fun, shoutouts on social media from your favourite Winkler Flyer will also be available for purchase that day.

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

Winkler Wizzards coach honoured with Active for Life Award

By Lorne Stelmach

A local Special Olympics coach and leader with the Winkler Wizzards has received provincial recognition for her volunteer commitment.

Michelle Goertzen was recently presented with the Active for Life Award, which recognizes coaches who inspire athletes to achieve health and fitness for life.

A dedicated Special Olympics coach since 2013, she was heralded as a shining example of this commitment, but Goertzen said she gets as much or perhaps even more out of it than the athletes.

"It's a lot of fun. The enjoyment for me is in seeing people succeed," she said. "It's such a rewarding experience. I never thought in my lifetime I would be able to do stuff like this ... after a few years now, it just comes naturally. You are able to come up with stuff and just enjoy the smiles."

She was recognized for volunteering in a number of areas including track and field, snowshoeing, bowling, bocce, and softball. As a coach, Goertzen provides athletes with invaluable opportunities and teaches essential skills for each sport.

"Michelle's leadership is evident in

the trust she earns from athletes and caregivers, her open communication and her support for volunteers," said a citation from Special Olympics. "She integrates new technology to streamline registration and scheduling, and she ensures athletes, regardless of their long term development stage, improve their skills and compete confidently.

"Her enthusiasm and focus on effort over victories fosters a positive environment. Michelle's dedication includes travelling extensively for events and pursuing leadership training, further enhancing her impactful coaching.

"Michelle's dedication and passion make her a deserving recipient of the Active for Life Award, recognizing her exceptional contribution to promoting health, fitness and joy in sport."

Goertzen got involved with Special Olympics 11 years ago as a result of her daughter participating as an athlete.

"She started, and I watched, and I thought, well, this could be a fun thing to do ... and for her, as a child, there was nothing for her to keep up with," she said. "She was 14 when she became an athlete, and I thought this



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Special Olympics coach Michelle Goertzen (rear, centre) with some of her fellow coaches and athletes with the Winkler Wizzards team.

is pretty cool, so I took the course to be a coach."

Goertzen said it has been a rewarding experience, and she sees herself remaining involved in the years ahead.

"You get involved with a lot more people, a lot more athletes, and you see their determination ... and it's just

the relationships that you make ... being a mentor and being a friend, it's just been a great experience.

"This is why we do what we do, so that they can have these kinds of opportunities," said Goertzen. "This is a big honour ... I do put as much as I can into it, so it is pretty cool."

Special Olympics looking for volunteer coaches

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Wizzards are always looking for more volunteers to get involved with the local Special Olympics program.

More volunteer coaches are needed for a variety of sports. No expertise is required—just a desire to help athletes do their best, said Glen Wieler, who has been involved now for about 35 years.

"It can be as little as an hour, hour and a half a week coaching," he said. "Over the years I've done all kinds of different sports and different roles, from coaching to volunteering to appreciating it."

"We're always looking for newer

or younger coaches," Wieler noted. "We've got a lot of younger athletes coming up ... a lot of our athletes have been there since day one, so we're kind of rolling into more senior type programs, and with the younger athletes ... we're trying some more energetic sports. We're going to try floor ball this fall.

"It would be good to have a few more volunteers help out," he said. "There's always a need, like with our track program. We're trying to get that going again. Last year, I don't think we had people in track because we just couldn't find the volunteers. That would be another opportunity for someone ... we have lots of re-

sources; nobody needs to do anything on their own."

Volunteering can come with opportunities to coach at national and international events. Local snowshoe athlete Janell Brown is headed to Italy next winter for the Special Olympics World Winter Games

"There's opportunities for coaching and athletes to travel the world through Special Olympics," Wieler said.

The Wizzards generally meet Monday nights at Winkler Elementary School from 6:30-9 p.m.

"I would say come out," Wieler urged. "Come out and watch, see what we do and if you think that's

something that interests you."

Fellow volunteer Michelle Goertzen, who was recently presented with the Active for Life Award for her coaching efforts (see story above), agreed there is always a need for more volunteers.

"We still have programs that are not running," she said. "We are always looking for coaches to start up new programs and get more programs in our area.

"We have the greatest coaches, the greatest teams. If anybody is looking to join ... it's a great experience."

For more information, connect with the Winkler Wizzards on Facebook or head to specialolympics.mb.ca.

The **Voice**

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SHARE raises funds for Cdn. Foodgrains Bank

By Lorne Stelmach

It's always a special time when harvest day arrives at one particular field near Thornhill.

One afternoon earlier this month saw a group of local farmers who support the SHARE growing project for the benefit of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank again do this as a wrap-up of sorts for harvest season.

The 250 acres of canola saw a group of combines along with several grain carts and numerous super bee trucks all in the field at one time.

They started shortly after 1 p.m. and had expected to have it done within a few hours.

"Everybody enjoys it, and it's such a worthwhile cause for everyone," said local organizer Ben Friesen. "It's always big day. We also had a field of oats and a field of wheat ... but this field we always try to make sure we get a group of guys together so that everyone can participate in it. We can sort of make an event out of it."

"It is a fun day when you get a bunch of guys out, and you put your efforts together to take a crop off," said land-

owner Duane Fehr.

The annual effort is one of several growing projects in the region that support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which is a partnership of 15 church and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger.

Its origin goes back to 1974 when Canadian farmers were harvesting a bumper crop at the same time that families in Bangladesh were facing famine.

This grassroots initiative to send Canadian grain to people in need was the catalyst for nearly 50 years of humanitarian efforts, and it has gone on to provide over \$1 billion of food-related assistance,

worked with over 100 international partners and worked in over 70 countries around the world.

The growing projects encourage groups of farmers and farm supporters to plant, tend, and harvest a crop, sell it on the Canadian market, and then donate the proceeds toward the work to end world hunger, so Canadian farmers have made a remarkable difference for families and communities around the world.

"WE ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO GET INVOLVED AND COME OUT FOR HARVESTING."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Local farmers came together earlier this month to harvest 250 acres of canola on a field near Thornhill in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. It's estimated the project will yield upwards of \$250,000 for the global relief agency.

This field near Thornhill was originally owned and worked by Dave Petkau, who supported the work of the organization. After his passing, it was turned over to his son and daughter, and it is now owned by Arlene Petkau and sister-in-law Evelyn.

"We don't rent it from them. We kind of farm it for them as a SHARE project ... they want it to go in towards the foodgrains bank," said Friesen. "We've had for maybe six or seven years ... and it's been really good for us."

He estimated this one field alone might bring in about \$250,000 for the cause.

"We get a lot of the input costs covered, and some of it we get donated," Fehr explained.

Fehr was asked a few years ago to help with the harvesting of the field.

"Since we live right close by, we only

live about a half mile away, they asked if we would kind of be in charge of seeding it and spraying it and kind of watching over it and doing the crop scouting," he said. "It was a good fit because we live right here, and we were able to just fit it into our rotation."

He is glad to put in his time to support a worthwhile organization.

"I've always had an inclination to look beyond myself and help others and help out to support different charities, and this is one of those avenues where I can do my part and help to feed the hungry people of the world," said Fehr.

"We are very thankful for all the people who get involved and come out for harvesting ... we ask the Lord's blessing on it, and we are excited to see what he has in store for us."

Pembina Valley Bangladeshi community celebrates



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Bangladeshi Society of Pembina Valley hosted its annual picnic at Centennial Park in Altona Sept. 15. The event was a great way to bring together families and celebrate their heritage through food, fun activities, and cultural celebrations, and it also helped welcome new community members. "The Bangladeshi Society of Pembina Valley plans to organize more events and engage ourselves in social and community-based volunteering programs," shared organizer Jahangir Talukdar. "The society aims to actively contribute to community initiatives."



Retirement A new beginning



How to save for retirement

REFLECT ON YOUR OBJECTIVES

There are several questions you need to ask yourself as you plan for your retirement. Do you want to downsize early or continue to live in your home? Do you want to travel often or take up particular hobbies? Do you have a plan to deal with potential health concerns or a loss of mobility? These are all fac-

tors that can help you determine how much you need to save for retirement.

TAKE CONCRETE ACTION

While it's important to reflect on your retirement goals, you should also meet with a financial adviser to put these ideas on paper. A professional can help you evaluate your current financial situation and create a realistic savings and investment strategy to ensure you meet your retirement goals. Taking this step will allow you to enjoy your golden years free of financial strain.

It might seem stressful at first, but taking action to prepare for your retirement will give you peace of mind in the years to come.

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First Chiwaz album drops Friday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

For Shepherd Chiwandire, the Parkland stage in Winkler has become a special place.

Though Chiwandire, who releases music under the stage name Chiwaz, has never set foot on it as a performer, it has nonetheless come to symbolize his hopes and dreams as a musical artist.

"My daughter started speaking when she was quite young. She was fully having conversations with us. And one day, she had a dream ... she said, 'Dad, I saw you on stage and leading people into worship.'"

It was an image that resonated with Chiwandire, who felt it was an encouragement to pursue his musical passion as a Christian artist.

"There's always doubts—am I doing the right thing? Am I going to impact people? For me, it's not really about getting a pat on the back. It's more that I'm sharing my personal story and my beliefs and you hope that someone will be out there to receive it. So that [message] really changed my whole thoughts and my whole mindset."

In the years since, the Winkler outdoor stage has become a focal point of sorts for Chiwandire

"Every time I'm around here, I do a walkabout

and come to the stage and just pray here and say, 'One day, Lord.' And it might not even be this physical stage—it could be on Spotify, where you can reach millions and millions of people more than on stage. One day."

Chiwandire has taken his first steps towards that "one day" in recent years with the release of several singles. This week, he's taking an even greater leap with the release of his first album.

20:24 drops at midnight on Friday, Sept. 27 on all the major online music platforms.

It's named after Acts 20:24 in the Bible: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

"For me, personally, being a believer ... I want to go out there and minister through my music," Chiwandire says, describing his music as a blend of styles and even languages—English as well as his native Shona and Ndebele. Chiwandire grew up in Zimbabwe and immigrated to Canada a decade ago.

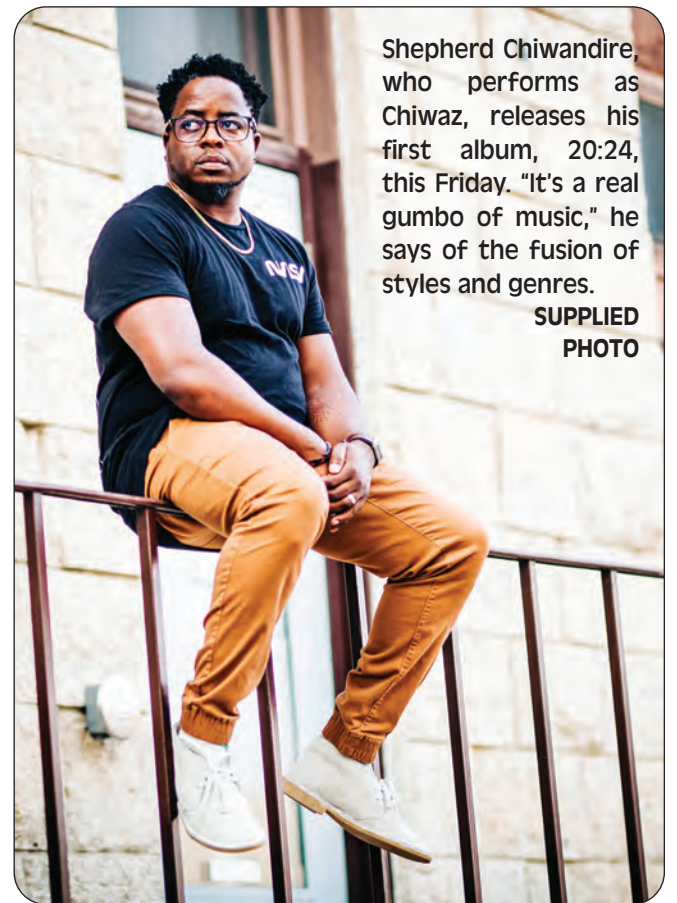
"It's a real gumbo of music. I grew up with the influence of Afro house and reggae, so there's a bit of that. There's also gospel music, so up-tempo but also very mellow. There's music that is just acous-

tic, where's it's kind of quiet. And there's music that is very Afro beat. It's all these things coming together ... I'm just mixing everything up; I don't want to put myself into a box."

"I WANT TO GO OUT THERE AND MINISTER THROUGH MY MUSIC."

Shepherd Chiwandire, who performs as Chiwaz, releases his first album, 20:24, this Friday. "It's a real gumbo of music," he says of the fusion of styles and genres.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



tic, where's it's kind of quiet. And there's music that is very Afro beat. It's all these things coming together ... I'm just mixing everything up; I don't want to put myself into a box."

Continued on page 13

The basics of financial literacy

A financial safety net can help people navigate the ups and downs of life. Developing that safety net requires a measure of financial literacy that anyone can nurture.

The Department of Education defines financial literacy as an understanding of how to earn, manage and invest money. That recognition can increase the chances that individuals make sound financial decisions, thus setting them up for long-term success and stability.

The benefits of financial literacy are not limited to theoretical notions such as the ability to understand money makes individuals more likely to make sound decisions regarding their finances. Indeed, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) notes that financial literacy has been proven to produce positive results. In its National Financial Capability Study released in 2022, the FINRA found that respondents who exhibited higher financial literacy were more likely to make ends meet than those without such knowledge. Sixty-five percent of respondents with higher financial literacy were able to set aside three months' of emergency funds at higher levels than respondents with lower literacy levels. The study also linked financial literacy to long-term stability, as more than half of respondents (52 percent) with higher financial literacy calculated their retirement savings needs,

an important step that fewer than one in three (29 percent) with lower literacy levels had taken.

Individuals are often confronted with a host of options when making financial decisions. That includes choices regarding bank accounts and credit cards, which are two variables related to financial literacy that individuals encounter every day. Individuals with financial literacy can pick a bank account that most suits their needs, whether that's standard accounts like checking and savings or something more unique like a high-yield savings account. Knowledge of financial basics also can prepare individuals to choose the right credit card, which can be a more difficult decision than choosing a bank account given the number of different cards available. Low-APR, no-APR, travel rewards, cash-back cards, and balance transfer cards are some of the options consumers can choose from when picking a credit card. Financial literacy increases the chances consumers pick the card that best suits their short- and long-term needs.

Financial literacy can help people navigate challenges that periodically arise during the course of everyone's life. Taking time to learn some financial basics can set people up for long-term economic health.



How much retirement income will you need?

Looking to figure out how much you need to meet your retirement goals? I can help.



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September 30, 2024

NATIONAL DAY for TRUTH and RECONCILIATION

JUSTICE • EQUITY • RESPECT



Understanding land acknowledgments: TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION

Have you ever paused to truly understand what's happening when you hear a land acknowledgment before a public event? It's more than just a customary opening statement — it's a recognition of the Indigenous peoples who've nurtured and protected these lands for centuries.

MORE THAN A RITUAL

Land acknowledgments aren't mere rituals, they're acknowledgments of historical injustices and ongoing struggles for Indigenous rights. Naming the traditional territories upon which people gather honours Indigenous sovereignty while acknowledging the impact of colonization. In fact, today's acknowledgments continue a traditional practice that dates back centuries in many Indigenous cultures.

WORDS ALONE ARE MEANINGLESS

Land acknowledgments alone don't dismantle the systemic barriers and inequalities faced by Indigenous peoples. Words without action are hollow. While land acknowledgments raise awareness, they must

be followed by tangible efforts to address the root causes of injustice, including poverty, inadequate access to healthcare and education and the disproportionate rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

RECONCILIATION REQUIRES ACTION

True reconciliation requires meaningful engagement, partnership and concrete steps toward addressing the legacy of colonialism. It involves honouring treaty rights, supporting Indigenous self-determination and amplifying Indigenous voices in decision-making processes.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to move beyond symbolic gestures toward action. Listen to Indigenous voices, learn from their wisdom and work toward a future built on justice, equity and mutual respect. Land acknowledgments are just the beginning — the real work lies in the journey ahead.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Day, also known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, is marked each year on September 30th. It honours the children who never returned home, and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

The Town of Altona encourages each resident to take time to reflect on the tragic and painful history and the lasting impacts of residential schools. Visit nctr.ca for educational resources, information about Truth and Reconciliation Week 2024, and more opportunities to learn and reflect.

Please note: All Town offices including the Millennium Exhibition Centre and Altona/Rhineland Waste Disposal Site will be closed on Monday, September 30, 2024.



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Darp Days at Neubergthal



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Neubergthal Darp Days took place Sept. 20-21. The event included a number of presentations, including stories shared by Conrad Stoesz in honour of the 100th and 150th anniversary of Mennonite migrations to Canada, and Low German fun by Dennis Reimer (above, left). Luncheon offered a build-your-own sandwich bar, followed by a village street tour on a flatbed trailer (above, right), where visitors could see original homestead sites and hear interesting tales about the early days of Neubergthal. Local artist Margruite Krahn (right) provided a Mennonite floor painting tour in the Klippenstein house, which is still under renovation. A fropa feast with watermelon and freshly fried roll kuchen rounded out the event (far right).

> CHIWAZ ALBUM, FROM PG. 11

20:24 features 11 tracks, some of them previously released but also several brand new songs.

"There's a story behind every song," Chiwandire says. "Whether you're a Christian or not, as people, we all go through probably the same patterns, but you'd never know it because people don't hardly share their personal stuff."

"The way I write music is when I feel something or when I speak to people, the people I connect with, if there's a season of whatever stories I hear or even what I'm going through myself, that makes it into the music."

"I think it's all about encouragement, no matter what you're going through—whether it's a season of not having a job, or a season of being sick, or of losing a loved one ..."

Chiwandire shares that one song, "Rudo", hits especially close to home since the passing of his father.

"Rudo in my native language means love," he says, explaining the track was dedicated to both his earthly and heavenly fathers. "I was really wanting to just honour

God and my dad in that song. That song means everything to me because I had hoped my father would listen to my album, but he passed a few months ago.

"It's a reminder that life is short. You only live once—you're not guaranteed tomorrow. So just grab life by the horns and live it to the fullest and make an impact somehow."

If his music and lyrics touch even just one person, Chiwandire will consider it work well done.

"I got a message from a lady, I think she was in England, and she had come across one of my songs. She said, 'I was going through something and this song really touched me.' That really humbled me. That's why you do it."

"So I'm going to continue doing it and growing too," Chiwandire says. "I'm just doing what I love, and hopefully it connects with somebody out there."

You can connect with Chiwandire on Instagram (@mr_chiwaz) or search for his music under "Chiwaz" on Spotify or Apple Music.

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St. Jean gets muddy

By Siobhan Maas

Hundreds of ATVs descended on St. Jean Baptiste over the weekend to attend the 21st annual ATV Derby.

The two-day event is one of Canada's premier ATV derbies and attracts people from across Manitoba and neighbouring provinces.

The majority of the community participates to ensure the derby runs smoothly.

"The arena staff and fire department help out as 'service hands' with the derby committee prepping the trails and mud holes," explained Sandra Fillion, who has been derby director for 17 years. "We are further supported by our sponsors, landowners, and volunteers from the community, high school and Red River Wild minor and senior hockey teams. Over 100 volunteers aid in the event.

"The Quad Derby is St. Jean's biggest fundraiser," Fillion added, "with half a million dollars going back into the community since 2001."

Profits are divided amongst various groups, including the arena, fire department, Christmas hampers, STARS ambulance, Heart & Stroke, Etoiles

d'la Rouge daycare, and CREE, the local French resource centre for preschoolers.

"I'm pretty sure people plan their work holidays around this weekend," laughed St. Jean resident and volunteer Chelsey Lavallee.

The event kicked off on Friday evening with Friday Night Lights mud bog racing sponsored by Madd Mack.

"People get to play in the mud or sit and watch," said planning committee member Jenae Berard. Participants race through the muddy water for cash prizes and trophies. The kid's mud racing has three age categories ranging from four to 15 years old.

The Saturday derby saw over 1,200 people ride through approximately 40 km of field and river trails drawing poker chips at each of five check points to achieve the highest possible hand.

About one-third of the riders are women with their own machine or mothers with children. Father-daughter team Francine and Sky won the first-place prize, valued at \$2,500.

The majority of the participants congregated around the mud holes



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

St. Jean's 21st annual ATV Derby drew huge crowds last weekend, with riders of all ages coming from across the province to compete.

following the derby, watching fellow ATVers bogging along the Plum River or catching up with each other. Many commented on how the derby is a nice way to relax, visit, and spend time with family and friends.

Musical entertainment at the beer gardens included Almost Famous and The Ricky Smits.



Brandon Johnson of Lundar was ready to ride. Right: Jenae Berard and longtime derby director Sandra Fillion man the registration tent.



Neubergthal hosting screenings of "Where the Cottonwoods Grow"

By Lori Penner

Next month, history lovers will be able to step back in time for an unforgettable cinematic journey commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Mennonite migration from Imperial Russia to Manitoba.

Neubergthal is hosting pre-release screenings of the documentary *Where the Cottonwoods Grow* Oct. 5-6.

The film captures the trials and triumphs of the Mennonite community with rare images and insights from

world experts, historians, and scholars, alongside powerful first-hand accounts of the unforgettable journey.

Director Dale Hildebrand grew up on a farm in southern Manitoba, and shares how he never really knew much about how his ancestors got here.

"Going into this, I had no idea of our history. I knew nothing about our connections to Switzerland and Holland, or Poland and Ukraine. Even the idea of colonization, and how the land was taken over. There were motives behind all these things. There's so much no information in this film, people will have to watch it five times to really gather all the little tidbits in it."

The opening scene was filmed in the restored Friesen housebarn at the

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Revving up support for mental health in the Pembina Valley

By Lori Penner

Pembina Counselling Centre hosted a unique fundraiser across the region on Saturday.

About 90 participants driving vehicles of all makes and models participated in the inaugural N49 Cruise for Hope, which began in Altona and wound through Gretna and Reinland before heading to Winkler for a car show and supper and then to Morden for a screening of *Ford v Ferrari* at the Stardust Drive-In.

Marshalling the parade of vehicles were police chiefs Dan Defer (Altona), Ryan Hunt (Winkler), and Brad Neduzak (Morden).

Albert Unrau from Winkler drove his 1960 Pontiac in the cruise, and said it was great to be a part of it.

"I think it's a very worthwhile cause," he said.

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert showed up in a 1997 Jeep Renegade.

"I think this is just great. It's exciting to see all three communities get together and be so supportive for such a good cause. The counsellors there do so much for all our communities, so to be part of a joint fundraiser like this is just amazing."

And while it was a blast to be part of the long cavalcade cruising down

the highway, the event had a higher purpose: to support and raise awareness of a mental health organization that has seen tremendous growth and increasing demand for its services.

Pembina Counselling's executive director Chris Derksen says the need just keeps rising. The number of appointments booked at the centre has skyrocketed from 2,200 in 2020 to over 5,000 expected by the end of this year.

"We've just experienced such tremendous growth," he said. "When I started in 2019, we had three counselors. Today, we have nine counselors on staff, and we have a 10th counselor doing his practicum with us."

However, with growth comes higher costs, and since the centre is a charity, it must rely on donations from the community to keep their costs low.

"We don't want finances to be a barrier to anyone getting the help that they need. So, we decided to add another fundraiser to our calendar. We wanted to do something unique, and I think this qualifies," Derksen said.

"This way the fundraising is not on the backs of the drivers, it's on my back. I'm the one raising the money in the background. All they had to do was show up, register their vehicle, get their dinner, movie tickets, a T-shirt and they get a tax receipt for



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Pembina Counselling Centre executive director Chris Derksen with one of the participating vehicles in Saturday's N49 Cruise for Hope. Left: A row of cars lined up at the Millennium Exhibition Centre in Altona and ready to join the first leg of the journey through the region.



their donation. It was all this for just \$100, and they're supporting the community and getting families the help that they need."

In the end, about \$35,000 was raised thanks to corporate sponsorships and participant registrations.

"I would like to thank all the corporate sponsors for their generosity, all the drivers who participated in the event, and the community for their support," Derksen said. "I'd also like to thank police chiefs Defer, Hunt and Naduzic for serving as our marshals for the cruise. Finally, I'd like to thank the good Lord for providing us with beautiful weather for the event."

After 31 years of service in the community, Derksen said it's incredible to meet people who have never heard of the Pembina Counselling Centre, and

the services they provide.

"But that just goes to show that I have more work to do, and we want people to know that we are there for them in a crisis. We are there for the businesses as well. The employers that I know in this community care deeply for their employees and want to help them when they're in crisis."

He went on to say, "We all have our weaknesses and strengths and it's okay. We want to help people get unstuck from the things that are dragging them down. Trouble does not discriminate from where you live, or who you are. It comes calling for us all at some point in our lives. But there's help for you. We want to be there for the community and that's why we do what we do."

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Trendy wedding dress colours

When it comes to choosing a colour for your wedding dress, brides have myriad options. Traditional off-white, pure white and ivory remain popular choices, but modern brides are opting for statement colours. In 2024, wedding dress trends are embracing a departure from tradition with an array of captivating colours. Here are four wedding dress colours to consider.

1. Pink is a standout choice for brides who want to radiate romance. From blush and champagne to dusty rose, pink wedding dresses bring a soft, ethereal charm to the aisle.

2. Purple wedding dresses, particularly in shades like lavender and lilac, are becoming increasingly popular in bridal fashion. This colour exudes elegance and sophistication, creating a whimsical and enchanting atmosphere on the big day.

3. Blue wedding dresses are ideal for brides who want to add a touch of serenity and tranquility to their big day. From pale aqua and steel blue to deep navy, blue wedding dresses evoke a sense of calmness and depth.

4. Black wedding dresses are making a statement in 2024. They exude an air of mystique and modernity, making them perfect for brides who dare to defy convention. A black wedding dress creates a dramatic and unforgettable bridal look.

5. Patterned wedding dresses are also gaining in popularity. Whether adorned with delicate floral patterns trailing down the skirt or intricate

bodice overlays, these gowns infuse individuality into the bridal ensemble.

With so many options available, it can be overwhelming to choose the perfect wedding dress. However, there are plenty of local bridal stores and dress shops that can help you find the dress of your dreams. Take your time and enjoy the process of selecting the perfect wedding dress that reflects your unique personality and style.



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Dream WEDDING

Your wedding venue: factors to consider

When planning a wedding, selecting the perfect venue is a crucial decision that sets the tone for the special day. Here are five essential factors to consider before making your choice.

1. Location. Decide where you want your wedding to take place, considering the convenience of your guests and the backdrop for your photos. A beautiful natural vista or historical location can add a touch of magic to your big day.

2. Budget. Establish a realistic budget and stick to it. Wedding venues come in all price ranges. With good planning, you should be able to find one that suits your needs.

3. Availability. Popular venues can fill up quickly, especially during peak wedding seasons. Be flexible with your wedding date or be prepared to

book well in advance.

4. Capacity. Ensure the venue can comfortably fit all the people on your guest list. A venue that's too large for your guest count may feel empty, while a cramped space can make everyone feel uncomfortable.

5. Packages. Many venues offer wedding package deals that can simplify the planning process. These offers may include catering, decor and other essential services. Review what each package includes and consider whether it aligns with your vision for the wedding.

To make the best decision, tour various local venues to get a feel for each space before finalizing your choice.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers came out Saturday morning to plant trees at Lake Minnewasta.

Grant supports tree planting at Morden's Lake Minnewasta

By Lorne Stelmach

Local volunteers are making use of a Manitoba Hydro grant to do tree planting in a key area of the Lake Minnewasta trail.

The Stanley Trail Association was awarded a grant from the forest enhancement program to plant 240 trees near the southeast corner of the Morden lake.

The group wanted to focus on this area near the start of the trail that circles the lake because they see it not only enhancing the enjoyment of the trail but providing a wind buffer, supporting habitat, and helping to reduce bank erosion.

"There's this open area where the lake is kind of exposed to the wind, and the trail is also very close to the edge of the cliff," said association member Leon Hendrickx.

"The thought we had there was we should try to get some erosion prevention there and maybe move the trail a little bit over further from the cliff so that it will not cause more erosion."

Hendrickx noted they have been working closely with Shawn Dias, parks and urban forestry manager with the City of Morden, to develop a plan as to how to best plant the trees.

"We're not going to plant them in a solid row," he explained. "It's going to be something like a couple tree islands ... there's still going to be a lake view available."

He added forestation of the site helps to support the City of Morden's parks and urban forestry master plan through increasing tree canopy, biodiversity, and park enhancements.

"It's really nice to see this happen and also just in general to plant more trees is a good thing when you see what's happening," said Hendrickx. "I think that spot in particular is a key area," he added. "And it's going to be part of the watering program of the City of Morden, so the chance that they can survive I think is pretty good."

About a dozen volunteers came out last Saturday to plant trees. Hendrickx said a lot of volunteer effort is also behind developing and maintaining all of the trails in the area, including the Dead Horse and Tinker Creek trails.

"Without this grant, this would not have happened," he said. "Basically, we don't have the funds ourselves to buy the trees. We're a non-profit organization, and it's all volunteer work. We're depending on grants and donations."



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PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

With less than a minute remaining in the game and the Pistons' net empty, Winkler netminder Liam Ernst robs Steinbach's James Fuchs of a sure goal to protect the Flyers' one-goal lead. Right: Assistant coach Eric Fehr and head coach Matthew Melo behind the bench as the team won its first game of the season.

Flyers 1-1 in season-opening weekend vs. Steinbach Pistons

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers started off the 2024-2025 MJHL season on the right skate with a 3-2 win against the Steinbach Pistons Friday night.

After a scoreless opening frame, Isaiah Peters lit up the scoreboard with a goal seconds shy of the midway point of the second period.

The Winkler lead didn't last long, though, as Steinbach's Noah Szabo returned the favour at 12:19.

Kam Thomas pulled the Flyers back into the lead as the clock wound down on the period, only to have

Cole Cairns tie it up again for the Pistons before the buzzer.

The deadlock held until the third period's 12th minute when a Mathys Blanchette goal gave Winkler the win.

Liam Ernst stood tall in net for the Flyers making 27 saves off the 29 he faced. His teammates fired 20 the other way.

The Pistons struck back hard Saturday night in Steinbach, taking that one 4-2.

Winkler drew first blood thanks to a goal from Brady Craik in the first, but Steinbach got two to Winkler's one (courtesy of Kam Thomas) in the sec-



ond and then added two unanswered goals in the third to win it.

Rylan Benner was between the posts for the Flyers this game. He made 34 saves as Steinbach outshot Winkler 38-24.

Winkler this week faces the Titans in Niverville Tuesday (results were not available at press time) and the Wolverines in Waywayseecappo Friday night.

The **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?

Bell Ringer 5-hour takes place at Shannondale

By Lorne Stelmach

An event last weekend offered a fun physical challenge for varying skill levels, all in support of the Boundary Trails nordic race team.

The “bell ringer” event at the Shannondale valley area north of Thornhill invited people to take on some serious elevation to test their minds and bodies.

“You could race it, run it or hike it ... that’s just to accommodate everyone’s abilities,” said organizer Cheryl Koop. “The course is about a 4.5 km loop with about a hundred metres of elevation ... racers have the five hours to complete as many loops as they can in that time.

“Down in the valley, there’s some really beautiful views,” she said. “We have some athletes who are going to run the whole time, and they will try to get in as many laps as they can ... some will just get a couple laps in and

enjoy the views.”

This was the second year for the event, which last year attracted about 30 participants. This year, they more than doubled that number.

The race course was a single track trail, mostly dirt, grass, and some rocks/stones.

As far as the name goes, with 100 meters of elevation over the loop, the thought was one might find themselves searching deep within to only find out that maybe your bell had been rung, and there was actually a bell in place that people could ring.

Koop said they are looking to build some sense of community especially among endurance athletes from the cross country skiing, cycling, running and hiking worlds.

“I think what we would love would be to see and to get new people coming out and experiencing it, being active and in nature.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Last year's inaugural Bell Ringer 5-Hour event at Shannondale drew about 30 participants. This year's run saw double that number.

Female Hawks 2-2 at Central Plains tourney

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks split their four games over the weekend at the Central Plains Showcase tournament in Portage la Prairie.

More important than the final scores, though, to coach Matt Victor was the level of effort he saw from the team.

“The girls progressed throughout the weekend, arguably playing the

top two teams in the league right now,” he said. “They showed zero quit for the full 60 minutes.”

The Hawks kicked things off Friday with a 3-0 shutout loss to the Eastman Selects. Despite being blanked, Pembina Valley had an outstanding effort in goal, with netminder Madison Froese stopping 48 of 51 shots.

Pembina Valley then turned things

around Saturday starting with a 3-0 shutout of the Northern Capitals.

They followed that with a 4-1 victory over the Central Plains Capitals. Goals came courtesy of Jessica Anderson, Abigail Brigg, Casey O’Brien, and Mackenna Steeves.

The tournament then closed out Sunday with the Hawks being doubled up 6-3 by the Winnipeg Avros.

This weekend now takes the Hawks to Grand Forks for a pair of exhibition games against the North Dakota 19U and 16U teams.

The regular season gets underway with three home games in Morden the first weekend of October. The Hawks will welcome Westman Oct. 4, the Avros Oct. 5, and Eastman Oct. 6.

Storm 2's season ends with 3-1 playoff loss

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Storm 2's season came to an end Friday night at the hands of Scorpions FC.

The Storm lost the Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 2 playoff match 3-1. Alex Halevych scored for the Storm.

It wrapped up what proved to be a challenging season for the team, who had three wins, 12 losses, and two ties

in the regular season. That record put them in seventh and second-last place in the standings.

Reinaldo Oliveira says it was a great learning season for the team.

“Playing in the adult league was an incredible opportunity for the younger players to gain valuable experience at a higher level of competition beyond their school games,” he said. “It’s been exciting to watch their progress in high school matches

and see how much they’ve improved thanks to the experience they gained in the league.

“I’m grateful to our head coach, Kris Robert, for his dedication, sharing his expertise, and motivating the group, as well as Wes Harder, our assistant coach, for his unwavering support and encouragement throughout the season.”

Since the division only has eight teams, Storm 2 won’t have to move

down to Division 3 next summer. Normally the bottom two teams in a 10-team league are demoted, while the top two are promoted.

Meanwhile, Winkler Storm 1 finished the summer in first place in Division 1 with a record of 14-2-2.

They played their first playoff game Tuesday night against UDM, though results were not available at press time.

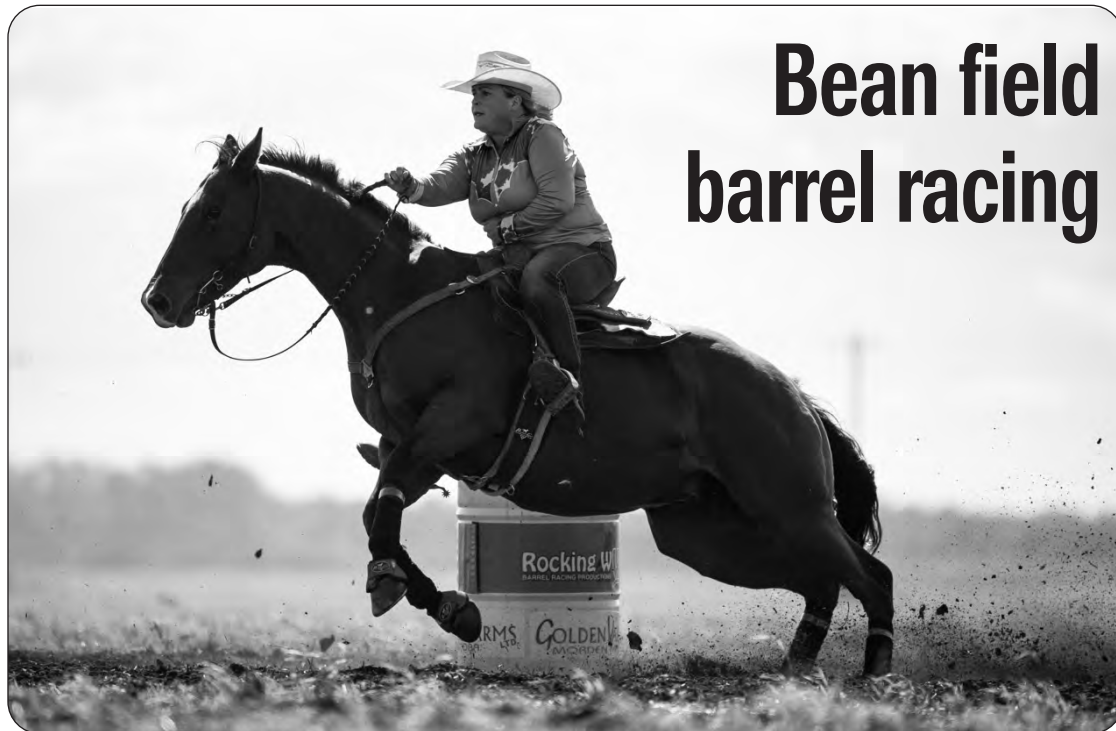
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What's *Your* story?



Bean field barrel racing



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Rocking W Ranch and Golden Valley Farms hosted the annual Bean Field Barrel Race in a harvested field north of Morden Saturday afternoon. Forty-four participants took part in the event, with Meghan Buors riding Hercules successfully defending her title from 2023 with a time of 31.589.

U13AA Female Pembina Valley Hawks are ready to soar

By Ty Dilello

The U13AA Female Pembina Valley Hawks has recently wrapped up try-outs and has named its roster for the

upcoming 2024-25 season.

The team consists of the following players: Breelyn Bjornson (Macdonald), Casey Winkler (Carman), Tessa Pitura (Macdonald), Jessica Hague

(Notre Dame), Taylor Rheault (Notre Dame), Katelyn Chanel (Notre Dame), Brielle Toupin (Notre Dame), Taliya Penner (Morden), Roselyn Vanderveen (Macdonald), Bailey Dyck (Carman), Emma Shantz (Macdonald), Collins Vrooman (Macdonald), Reese Fotheringham (Carman), Eden Lepp (Elm Creek), Abbey Hamilton (Notre Dame), Claire Dupasquier (Notre Dame). The coaching staff consists of Keith Pitura, Jesse Vanderveen, Jocelyn Toupin and Gabby Girard.

The U13AA Female Hawks will compete in the Hockey Winnipeg U13AA Female League this season for the first time. The U13AA league is the top level of competition for female hockey in the province for this age group.

Last season, the Hockey Winnipeg league consisted of nine teams, with six being from Winnipeg, one from Brandon, one from Eastman and one from Interlake. With the addition of a Pembina Valley team now to the league, the U13AA Female Hawks will play a 28-game regular season, and playoffs. The team is also currently entered in two tournaments, including the U13AA Showcase in Winnipeg.

"We are excited to get the new U13AA Female Hawks program up and running for its inaugural season," said head coach Keith Pitura. "There has been a lot of work behind



The U13AA Pembina Valley Hawks female hockey team is ready to take the ice in its inaugural season competing in the Hockey Winnipeg U13AA Female League.

the scenes from the Pembina Valley Minor Hockey Association over the summer to get us to this point, and we appreciate their efforts to provide this opportunity to our U13-aged female players in the Pembina Valley region."

The U13AA Hawks hope to count on support from across the region for the program in its inaugural season. Follow the team on Instagram @pvaau13femalehawks for game information and results. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Inquiries can be directed to team manager Jenn Shantz by email at jennshantz@shaw.ca.

Twisters lose two back-to-back in MMJHL exhibition action



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

The Twister's forward Ketema Wall takes a shot on Jet's goaltender Dylan Leclair Friday night in MMJHL pre-season exhibition action. The Jets won Friday's game 7-0, but the Twisters bounced back on Sunday with only a 2-1 home-ice loss to the Jets. Regular league plays starts this weekend when the River East Royal Knights will travel to Morris MultiPlex for the Twister's first home game of the season at 8 p.m. Pembina Valley will then travel to the Seven Oaks Sportsplex to take on the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Sunday at 2 p.m.

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Division scolaire franco-manitobaine

APPEL D'OFFRES SERVICE DE DÉNEIGEMENT

La DSFM désire retenir les services de contractuels pour les services de déneigement, de ramassage et de disposition de la neige ainsi que le déglçage des terrains des écoles de la DSFM en plus de celui du Bureau divisionnaire situé à Lorette. Ce service sera offert pour une période de 3 ans commençant l'année scolaire 2024-2025.

Tous les documents nécessaires à la préparation de l'offre pourront être obtenus en téléphonant au 204 878-4424, ou par courriel entretien@dsfm.mb.ca.

Les soumissions seront reçues au Service du transport et de l'entretien de la Division scolaire franco-manitobaine jusqu'à 15 h, le **vendredi 11 octobre 2024**.

CALL FOR TENDERS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

The DSFM is looking for contractors interested in offering services in snow clearing, snow removal and hauling off site as well as sanding on DSFM school properties and at the divisional office in Lorette for a 3-year period starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

To obtain pertinent information, please contact the Maintenance & Transportation Department at 204 878-4424 or by email at entretien@dsfm.mb.ca.

Submissions will be received at the Transportation and Maintenance Department of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine until 3 p.m., **Friday, October 11, 2024**.

www.DSFM.mb.ca 1 800 699-3736

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE BOARD OF REFERENCE • PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

**THE PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION
and
THE WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION**

As required by Section 9 of *The Public Schools Act* (RSM 1987, c.P250), notice is hereby given that a public hearing of The Board of Reference, appointed as provided under Section 8 of *The Public Schools Act*, will be held as scheduled herein to hear any person or any person on his/her behalf in the matter of a request referred to The Board of Reference in accordance with Section 5 of *The Public Schools Act*.

The hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** to hear the request of Johnny and Katelyn Neufeld to transfer 4.70 acres known as Lot 2, Block 25917 located in the Southwest Quarter Section 2, Township 4, Range 6 West from The Prairie Rose School Division to The Western School Division.

Further information with respect to the virtual hearing, including how to join the virtual hearing, may be obtained through the office of the undersigned between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, **September 18, 2024**.

Sumit Benipal
Secretary
Board of Reference
c/o Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning
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CAREERS



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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE - BOARD OF REVISION 2025 REAL, PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ASSESSMENT ROLLS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2025 assessment roll for the City of Morden has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba and is open to public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 and 43 of the Assessment Act:

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 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:

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

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43(1) An application for revision must

- (a) be made in writing;
- (b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- (c) state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- (d) be filed by:
 - I. Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the Public Notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - II. Serving it upon the Secretary,

at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board of indicated in the Public Notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on **Monday, October 21st, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Council Chambers of the City of Morden to hear applications.

The final date on which the Secretary of the Board must receive applications is **Monday, October 7th, 2024 by 4:30 P.M.** local time.

Dated at Morden, in Manitoba, this 30th day of August, A.D. 2024.

Ruziel Relatores, Secretary
Board of Revision
City of Morden
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Morden, Manitoba
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CAREERS



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PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE
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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. RZ2024-004 and By-law No. 2321-24, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

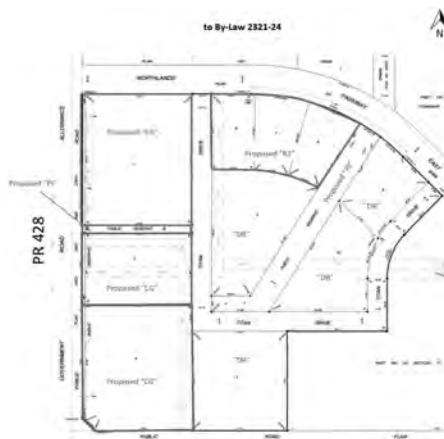
The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2321-24, is to zone the land described below, as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, so that:

- A) The lands legally described as being Lots 1, 2,3, Plan No (Dep 709-2023) MLTO be rezoned:
FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE ZONE
TO: "CG" COMMERCIAL GENERAL ZONE
- B) The lands legally described as being Lots 6,7,8 Plan No (Dep 709-2023) MLTO be rezoned:
FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE ZONE
TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY ZONE
- C) That the lands legally described as being Public Reserve, Plan No (Dep 709-2023) MTLO be rezoned:
FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE ZONE
TO: "PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE ZONE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2321-24 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: October 8, 2024
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 6th day of September 2024. Designated Officer, City of Winkler
Schedule "A"



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4
204-325-9524 | permits@cityofwinkler.ca

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HEALTH

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Annual General Meeting OCTOBER 3 from 11:30-1pm at Central Station

555 Main Street in Winkler
Lunch will be included by RSVP
is required by September 30
Please RSVP to
info@winklercentralstation.ca

CAREERS



FACILITIES FOREMAN Full Time

The Morris Multiplex is accepting applications for a Facilities Foreman – 40 hours / week
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<https://www.townofmorris.ca/residents/employment>

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ANNIVERSARY



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65th Anniversary
September 27, 1959
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WANTED

Coins, Coin Collection, Old Jewelry, 
 Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!
Wanted:
 USA, Canada, World Coin Sets & Coin Collections.
 Will buy entire collections & accumulations!
Todd
306-774-2420

TENDER



Border Land School Division Invites Sealed Tenders for Snow Removal at the Following Locations in the Eastern portion of the Division for the 2024-2025 School Year

1. Roseau Valley School in Dominion City
2. Administration/Transportation Office in Dominion City
3. Shevchenko School in Vita
4. Ross L. Gray School in Sprague

All driveways and parking lots must be cleaned by 8:00 a.m., Monday-Friday. Please include type of machine, truck/machine sizes and hourly rates. Lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

Tender Deadline is 1:00 p.m., Friday, October 4, 2024

Address All Submissions to:
 Border Land School Division
Attention:
Barry Friesen, Maintenance Manager
 120 - 9th St. NW
 Altona, MB ROG OB1
 Email: friesenb@blsd.ca
 Phone: (204) 324-9536

TENDER



Border Land School Division Invites Tenders for Snow Removal at the Following Locations for the 2024-2025 School Year

1. Gretna Elementary School
2. Rosenfeld Elementary School
3. W.C. Miller Collegiate, École Parkside School, École West Park School, École Elmwood School and the Administration Office in Altona
4. Roseau Valley School in Dominion City
5. Administration/Transportation Office in Dominion City
6. Shevchenko School in Vita

All driveways and parking lots must be cleaned by 8 a.m., Monday-Friday. Please include type of machine, truck/machine sizes and hourly rates. Lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

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 Phone: (204) 324-9536

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION



• where agriculture and industry meet •

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

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 October, 2024**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at Rural Municipality of Morris, Council Chambers, 207 Main Street North, Morris, 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
275450	ALL THAT PORTION OF RL 414 PARISH OF STE AGATHE WHICH LIES WEST OF HIGHWAY PLAN 4116 WLTO - 28150 PR 246 RD, RIVER LOTS E OF RIVER	L -\$60,600 B -\$49,200	\$14,686.16

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 MORRIS 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 9th day of September, 2024.

Managed by:



Wes Unrau
 Chief Administrative Officer
 RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS
 Phone: (204) 746-7300
 Fax: (204) 746-8801

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ANNIVERSARY



50 Years and Counting!

Bill and Elizabeth Cumming will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary after marrying on October 5, 1974 at St. Paul's United Church in Morden. They first met and fell in love while working at the canning plant in Morden. In time, were blessed with two children, and their families.

We wish you a happy anniversary!

-With love from
Kelly and Charles, Cullen, Lachlan;
Keith and Karen, Emily

OBITUARY



Patricia Catherine Stepler

It is with great sadness that on September 18th at the Carman Memorial Hospital, after a valiant battle with cancer, Patricia Stepler passed away with her loving family by her side.

Pat will forever be missed by her loving husband Daniel of 51 years; her son Ian and daughter-in-law Sandy, with grandchildren, Lori, Michael, April, Charlie and Lea; son Geoff and daughter-in-law Sarah, with grandchildren Benjamin and Penelope; son Adam and daughter-in-law Amber with grandchildren Louise and Rosalind; and son Andre and daughter-in-law Katie, with grandchildren Brynn, Brayden and Declan.

Pat was predeceased by her grandson Garrett in 2014, father Edward Orchard in 2015 and mother Catherine Orchard in 2021.

Pat was born on April 13, 1953 in Miami, Manitoba to Edward and Catherine Orchard. She was little sister to Gordon and the two of

them were raised on the family farm in Deerwood, Manitoba. Pat and Gordon grew up farming with their parents, learning to drive tractors and combines at young ages and enjoyed riding horses and the odd "quiet" cow during their "down times". Pat attended Altamont school from grades 1-8 and completed her high school at the Miami Collegiate.

Pat met the boy down the road and married Daniel Stepler in 1973. Together they raised their four boys on the farm and founded Stepler Farms-grain farming and raising purebred Charolais cattle.

Pat received her Bachelor of Arts and Teacher training from the University of Manitoba in 1974. She taught at the Miami Collegiate for five years before taking some time off to raise her four sons. In 1989 Pat returned to teaching in Miami and remained there until retirement in 2009. Pat primarily taught Senior English and was the Coordinator of the Walter and Gordon Duncan Foundation Grant awarded to the Miami Collegiate for innovative educational school improvements. Pat had a passion for teaching and genuinely cared for her students, inspiring many of her students to become teachers themselves. Her yearly drama productions were the highlight for many.

Pat retired in 2009 to be able to focus more on her family and farm. She soon took on the role of farm cook where she would often have over 15 people at her kitchen table for lunch. Pat was a wonderful cook and everyone would look forward to her warm lunch time meals where people could gather. She welcomed everyone to her table with a bright and friendly smile, making time for conversation with everyone.

Pat and Dan were so proud to farm with their four boys over the years and loved watching each of them succeed in their own areas. Pat could often be found chasing cows with Andre, delivering field meals to the boys, or taking on various projects around the farm. Stepler Farms eventually grew from cattle to include a honey bee operation and a larger grain operation when the four boys were all home to farm together. This kept Pat very busy helping out in each operation as much as she could.

A busy Mom who raised four boys, then welcomed four "daughters" over the years. She welcomed each of them and their families with open and loving arms. Her grandchildren were the light of her life and she adored spending time with each of them. Her wide age range in grandchildren meant intense games of "Crazy Eights" with the little ones, baking, gardening and mini horse training with the older ones, and attending sports and drama productions for the oldest grandchildren.

Pat had an infectious smile that could light up a room and an ability to make everyone around her feel important. She was always a listening ear, a beacon of wisdom and a source of strength to those around her. She will forever be tremendously missed by her family and friends.

The family would like to thank the Boundary Trails Cancer Care team for the tremendous support and care over the years, Dr. Dhala and the "chemo girls" were always adored. Thank you to the medical unit at BTHC and Palliative Care nurse Blake who provided everything they could to help make Pat comfortable in hospital and at home. And thank you to the Carman Memorial Hospital staff for supporting Pat and her family throughout her last days.

A private interment was held on Monday, September 23 at the Miami Cemetery followed by a Celebration of Life with close family friends at 2 p.m. at the Miami Event Centre.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation-Cancer Care.

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

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Or visit: manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef-conference.html

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Protectyourbreath.ca

Fresh produce for all through TCE Veggie Stand initiative

By Lori Penner

There's nothing as tasty or nutritious as fresh garden produce. But not everybody has access to it. For that reason, The Community Exchange in Altona has been running a grab-and-go Veggie Stand so that everyone can enjoy the bountiful harvest of local gardeners.

Administrative assistant Kayla Giesbrecht says this is the second summer the stand has been available, and its popularity and supply have steadily grown.

"The selection and amount vary as garden produce becomes available. People harvest their gardens and bring us the surplus. We wash and display them, and people can drop in and help themselves," she explains. "It's worked out really well. We have full tables loaded with boxes some weeks. There's everything from to-

matoes, apples, carrots and beets, to cucumbers, potatoes, and yes, zucchini."

The best part? It's free for the taking. Just visit The Exchange at 116 Main St. on Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesday to Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and help yourself.

Any leftover produce is delivered to Roseau River First Nation on Friday, where it is shared there.

The Veggie Stand was inspired by Border Land School Division educators Barb Rempel and Megan Regier.

"Megan and I were thinking of ways to share produce. We know there are certain times of the year when people have more than they can use," says Rempel. "Not everybody is a gardener, and some people may not have garden space or access to a garden. And others can't afford to purchase produce. So, this is also about spread-



Kayla Giesbrecht with some of the freshly harvested produce donated by local gardeners and available for free at the Veggie Stand at The Community Exchange in Altona.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

ing the wealth, knowing that groceries are expensive.

"So rather than composting or getting rid of excess produce, we thought this could be a great way to take what you don't need and share it with the community."

Noting the popularity of the program in their pilot year and the growing need in the community, they dedicated a plot to the project at the Altona Community Garden this year to add to the supply.

"Megan and I take care of it, and we have others who help

with weeding and digging," Rempel explains. "It's a great partnership. I invite anybody who has extra produce to bring it to the Community Exchange. And spread the word that this is there. They'll gladly accept everything."

Meanwhile, they'd love to see more community members share their extra produce.

"Spread the word this is here. If you have more produce than you need, we'd be grateful if you'd share it, and there are people here who will gladly take it."

> COTTONWOODS, FROM PG. 16

Neubergthal National Historic Site.

"The film begins in 1924. The opening sequence features a woman walking across the Manitoba, snowy tundra past a row of leafless Cottonwood trees," says Hildebrand. "As she enters the door, we have a whole scene of women gathered to do some quilting. This woman is the reader. She comes in with a whole bunch of stories from 1824, 50 years earlier. She shares stories of their journey. During all this, the women are quilting. And with each thematic chapter, a new patch is made. By the end of the film, the quilt is completed, and the story is told."

Cast members were gathered from across the region.

"A lot of them had an investment in these locations," Hildebrand shares. "The lady who did the wardrobe in the film *Women Talking* assisted us in the wardrobe for these scenes."

Hildebrand and his sister Eleanor Chernaboy, who plays the reader in the film, have done extensive research of that era, and created the screenplay for the production.

"Everybody involved in this project has been so supportive," he says. "It's got a lot of angels looking over it."

The film is packed with prairie scenes and settings that take you back in time.

"There is colour, black and white and grainy, just to make it look like little pieces of history. Like a faspas, with little leftovers of this and that. There are still photos and reenactments, historical footage. It's a mish mash of stuff. We've dug into every little archive from the

corners of the earth for this film. We put it all together, to show that we got stuff from everywhere, just like a quilt."

There are many scenes where tall prairie grass creates three different worlds in Russia, the U.S. Midwest, and in Manitoba. There's also a Red River sequence depicting the ship crossing the Atlantic.

"From a shipyard in England, we got original blueprints of the very first ship that came over in 1874," says Hildebrand. "We created an exact replica of that ship with special computer software. Using drone footage along the Red River, we were also able to create a steam ship carrying newcomers to Canada."

The musical score was created by composer Claudio Vena. Some of the music combines a choir singing at the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church, and song leaders in Steinbach.

"I've always been proud of being a Mennonite," says Hildebrand. "Creating this film gave me a sense of appreciation of the journey in the past and going forward. It gives us all a little bit more solid earth to stand on."

The local pre-screenings of the film takes place on Saturday, Oct. 5 in Neubergthal's The Krahn Barn (4134 Rd 1 West) at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 6 in the Commons Barn (5013 Rd 1 West) at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday's showing will be followed by live music from Paul and Sara and Maxine Penner

Admission is by donation. Email mkrahnweb@gmail.com to reserve a seat.

Supporting palliative care



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 24th Annual Red River Valley Palliative Care Butterfly Golf Tournament was a resounding success, raising upwards of \$15,000. Forty-two golfers came out to the Emerson Golf Course Sept. 8 to take part in the nine-hole tournament. The top foursome (shown above) was Brian Heppner, Ed Hayden, Kyle Hayden and Aleron Alexander, but prizes also went to the winners of the putting contest and closest to the pin (Mark Rodewald for both), longest drive (Jean Mackie and Alan Clayton), along with numerous draw and raffle winners. Organizers send thanks out to all the volunteers, golfers, and local business sponsors who make this event possible every year. Thanks to this tournament, support for palliative care families, a library, Shining Lights, volunteer education, grief support as well as several other programs are made available in our region.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

Baked Broccoli Mac

Topping:
2 cups breadcrumbs
1/2 stick butter
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Heat oven to 350 F.

In large pot, cook pasta according to package instructions. Drain well then add broccoli, chicken broth, cream, mozzarella, pasteurized cheese product, garlic powder and onion powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Mix well.

To make topping: In bowl, mix breadcrumbs, butter and Parmesan cheese.

Pour macaroni mixture into large baking dish then sprinkle with breadcrumb mixture. Bake 30 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4-6
1 box (1 pound) pasta noodles, such as cellentani, elbow or penne
2 cups chopped broccoli
2 cups chicken broth
1 cup heavy whipping cream or half-and-half
2 cups mozzarella
1/2 block pasteurized cheese product, cubed
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste



Fried Chicken Tenders

medium heat.

In large bowl, mix eggs and milk then place chicken strips in mixture.

In separate bowl, mix flour, barbecue seasoning and mesquite seasoning. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Remove 4-6 chicken strips from milk mixture and cover completely in flour mixture.

Drop pinch of flour in hot oil; if it crackles, it's hot enough. Once hot, fry battered chicken 4 minutes then, using tongs or fork, turn over and fry 4 minutes. When done, chicken will be golden and almost float. Remove from frying pan and repeat with remaining chicken.

Serve with dipping sauce of choice, if desired.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4
Oil of choice, for frying
1/2 stick butter
2 eggs
2 cups milk
3 pounds chicken breast, cut into strips
2 cups flour
1/4 cup barbecue seasoning of choice
1/4 cup mesquite seasoning
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
dipping sauce of choice (optional)
Fill Dutch oven or large frying pan halfway with oil and butter; heat over

Roasted Sweet Potatoes

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4



2 large sweet potatoes, washed and cubed
1/2 tablespoon garlic powder
1/2 tablespoon onion powder
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
oil, for drizzling
2 tablespoons butter
Heat oven to 425 F.

In bowl, mix cubed sweet potatoes with garlic powder, onion powder and salt and pepper, to taste. Drizzle with oil; mix well. Place sweet potatoes in baking dish and bake 30 minutes. Remove from oven and spoon butter over sweet potatoes, mixing well. Note: If using small sweet potatoes, use four (one per serving).

Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady,

I want to buy a house with my children, and we would all be on the mortgage. My lawyer has suggested that we do this purchase as a corporation to protect all of us on this investment. He said this is necessary in the event that circumstances change in the future and a settlement would have to be considered. He also advised me to check with an accountant too. What do you think? *Olivia H.*

Dear Olivia – I think that's a terrible idea.

It's possible, but this would mean that the corporation owns the home, and the buyers (you and your adult children) would need to set up shares in the corporation to divide ownership. I don't usually like to challenge or disagree with legal advice; but in this case, I have to say, I think setting up a corporation for homeownership is a bit of a money grab and probably not necessary. Buying a home with your children is not the same as buying into a franchise business. Everything you need to protect your ownership and rights can be handled through the registered title.

So how do you do that? Well, you will want to register title on the new purchase as percentages. This is a simple method when using a standard bank mortgage. You are all on title and all on the mortgage, but the ownership is placed by a percentage of ownership at the time of title registration. Another way to do this could be to place a collateral charge on the property, again in all of your names. The collateral charge will be setup for 100 percent of the value of your purchase and you could then split up the loan segments among those that owe a portion of the mortgage debt. Let me give you an example.

Let's say a parent wants to help out their adult child in purchasing a home and this home costs \$500,000. In order to make this a conventional mortgage request, a 20 percent downpayment would be needed to purchase. So, for this example, let's say the parent was willing to buy into this purchase and provide the 20 percent down (\$100,000 investment by parent). So, that would leave a mortgage of \$400,000. With a standard mortgage we would put all owners on title and have the adult child pay the mortgage payment with title clearly setup as 20



Christine Ibbotson

percent to the parent and 80 percent to the child. When the home is sold in the future, perhaps for \$700,000 the parent is still entitled to their 20 percent, which is now worth \$140,000.

A collateral charge makes it easier when you have more than one child or multiple owners making payments to the debt. With a collateral charge example, the parent still owns 20 percent, but now there are separate loan segments on the property registered to the two or more individuals and divided up as per ownership percentage. For example, child 1 could have a loan of \$50,000 (10 percent ownership), child 2 could have \$250,000 (50 percent ownership) and child 3 could have \$100,000 (20 percent ownership). Basically, the collateral charge gives more flexibility to the owners, and it has no term or renewal, so it is highly adjustable over time and can be paid off and drawn down again many times. Personally, I think a collateral charge provides the most freedom with multiple owners and doesn't need to be requalified for over time, when things change for all participants. I also like to use this product as an estate planning tool. Everyone's ownership, debt or investment is clearly defined, and if they pay it off, they could draw down their charge segment in the future for home improvements, etc., without qualifying again.

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and on CTV & BNN, syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at askthemoneylady.ca