

# THIS SPOT COULD BE YOURS!

For details contact Gwen Dyck 204-823-0535  
or email [gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca)



VOLUME 4  
EDITION 40

The *Altona Rhineland • Morris*

# Voice



AWARENESS MONTH

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## Tree planters at work



From left: Bill Loewen, Brenda Braun, Frank Braun, Bill Stoesz, and Gord Sawatzky were among the dozens of people who came out last week to help plant over 160 trees along the Trans Canada Trail between Altona and Grétna. For the full story, see Pg. 10.

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

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



**Blue Sky OPPORTUNITIES INC.**

**Fundraising Dinner**  
**Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025 • 6 PM**  
Rhineland Pioneer Centre, 227 10th Ave., NW Altona, MB

Blue Sky Opportunities is looking forward to a great evening with you all on November 6th at 6 p.m. Join us for great food & entertainment by Magician Patrick Gregoire, and we will be hosting a wine and bar/bar and raffle ticket sales. Advanced tickets are just \$50 and are available at Blue Sky Opportunities. Donations will also be accepted, and receipts will be issued throughout the evening. Support Blue Sky Opportunities, and pick up your tickets today!



# Ride for Refuge raises nearly \$20K for Genesis House

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second annual Genesis House Ride for Refuge saw over 70 people come out to Morden Park last weekend to support the survivors of domestic violence.

Participants walked or biked several kilometres around town to raise funds for the shelter's transitional housing complex going up in Winkler to provide women and their children a safe space to rebuild their lives after escaping their abusers.

"I'm excited to announce officially today that in 10 days, October 14th, we will be breaking ground for our transitional housing project," Sophie Gerbrandt, resource and community coordinator for Genesis House, shared with participants Saturday morning. "For those of you who were at our event last year, we didn't have a date. This was still in some ways a dream, and we are so excited that today we can say this is a reality and this is going to be happening."

The 25-unit apartment complex is

slated to open sometime in 2027. In addition to offering safe, affordable housing, it will also include a common area where support programming can be provided to women to help them rebuild their lives after fleeing domestic violence.

"We will have a life skills kitchen where we can do cooking classes and have different financial institutions come in and teach about financial freedom and work with the ladies that are coming in. Also child minding," said the project's Kari Kauenhofen. "I could go on and on, but this transitional housing project program, our building project, is incredible to have in rural Manitoba, even in Canada. We are so incredibly fortunate.

"We have got \$14.5 million in funding," she continued. "However, we still need \$2.5 million, so we will continue fundraising for that."

At press time, the online donation tracker put fundraising for Ride for Refuge 2025 at \$19,870—just a hair shy of the \$20,000 goal.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE  
Over 70 people walked or biked in the second annual Ride for Refuge in support of Genesis House Saturday. Right: Executive director Ang Braun's team reached their fundraising goal, so she came dressed as Mrs. Roper from Three's Company, as promised.



# No charges for officer in Dominion City death: IIU

By Voice staff

No charges will be laid against the RCMP officer involved in the death of a man in Dominion City earlier this year, provincial investigators have determined.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) announced last week that it has concluded its investigation into the officer-involved shooting that took place on Jan. 14.

Officers from the RCMP Morris detachment were called on to perform a wellness check on a reportedly sui-

cidal man at a residence in Dominion City around 8:30 a.m. that day.

While waiting for backup, a man came toward the first responding officer with a metal object in his hand. The officer ordered the man several times to drop the item, but he continued to advance. The officer then discharged his service firearm.

The officer performed CPR on the man until paramedics arrived. He was taken to hospital in critical condition and later succumbed to his injuries.

Over the course of the required investigation into incident, IIU investigators gathered statements from three professional witnesses and two civilian witnesses.

Based on a review of all available evidence, the civilian director has determined the officer acted reasonably under the circumstances and thus no charges are recommended.

The full report of the decision is available at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca).



## ATTENTION!

Town of Altona utility bills are due on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Paper bills are not able to be mailed at this time. If you normally receive your bill through the mail, and would like a copy of your bill, please come to the Town of Altona administration office during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 - 5).

If you'd like to sign up for e-billing, please visit our website or contact our office.



Sun Valley Co-op

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 22/25  
7:00pm Altona Curling Club

- Annual Report
- 2024 Audited Financial Statement
- Election of Directors

Call for nominations for the Board of Directors

Incumbent Directors are eligible for re-election. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted at the AGM.

Candidates must meet certain qualifications. Applications available at SVC Admin Office

Deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 15/25

204-324-6956

# getinformed

## Giant pumpkin winner weighs in at 1,715.5 lbs

By Lorne Stelmach

Charlie Bernstrom won his fifth giant pumpkin champion title at the Great Commonwealth Pumpkin Weigh-Off at the Roland Pumpkin Fair last Saturday.

The Lancaster, Minnesota native's entry tipped the scales at 1,715.5 pounds, a few hundred pounds shy of the 2,004-lb, record-setting monster he won the event with in 2024.

Prior to the weigh-in, Bernstrom had estimated this year's entry could be around 1,800 pounds, so he wasn't too far off the mark.

"It's always so much work to get to the scale, and it's very rewarding," he said after receiving the trophy once again. "We love coming to Roland. It's one of the best weigh-offs in the world. We're lucky to have it close to

us, and it's a ton of fun."

Bernstrom observed that this growing season presented some challenges.

"We were really dry until about the fourth of July, then we were really wet," he noted. "We lost two of them this year that got splits in them, so it just shows you how hard it is to get one to the scale, and all that work that goes into it.

"The one last year didn't look that much bigger," he recalled. "They can just be more dense, and you never know. I don't pre-weigh them, so I have no clue.

"I'm still excited ... it's all the hard work you put into it. The surprise is kind of actually fun, not knowing what it is until it's on there."

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Charlie Bernstrom with kids Blake, Briar, and Harper and the heaviest pumpkin at the Roland Pumpkin Fair last weekend, weighing in at 1,175.5 pounds.

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# Mitobi Security cuts the ribbon on Winkler location

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Mitobi Security celebrated the grand opening of its second location in the Pembina Valley last week.

Owner Michael Ikhuoria and his family cut the ribbon on their new space at 325 Roblin Blvd. East in Winkler (above Ideal Floors). The company also has offices in Winnipeg and in Morden (459 Stephen St.), which they opened about a year and a half ago.

"I wanted to expand to Winkler because we want to reach more people," Ikhuoria shared, noting the Winkler location opened earlier this year to good response.

Mitobi offers a range of security solutions, including CCTV and access control systems, alarm and biometric security, asset tracking and key man-

agement, smart software deployment, and AI-powered security consulting. They also sell a variety of LED signage, ICT devices, and home automation products.

Ikhuoria has decades of experience in the industry, and he's passionate about using cutting-edge technology to meet his clients' needs.

"IT solutions and electronic security is what we've been doing for the past 25 years," he said, sharing his family moved to Canada with the intent of starting this business. They're grateful to the clients they've gained over the past few years across the region and are eager to broaden their reach.

"We do a lot of stuff and we do everything to make our clients happy," Ikhuoria said. "We go the extra mile for our clients and also we are dependable tech partners. Anything you want on tech, we can always get it sorted out for you."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Esther Omoleye, Toyin Ikhuoria, Mayor Henry Siemens, Kike Ikhuoria, Michael Ikhuoria, and Winkler chamber executive director Tanya Chateauneuf cut the ribbon on Mitobi's new location at 325 Roblin Blvd. East in Winkler.

Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens was on hand for the celebration and thanked Ikhuoria for investing in the community.

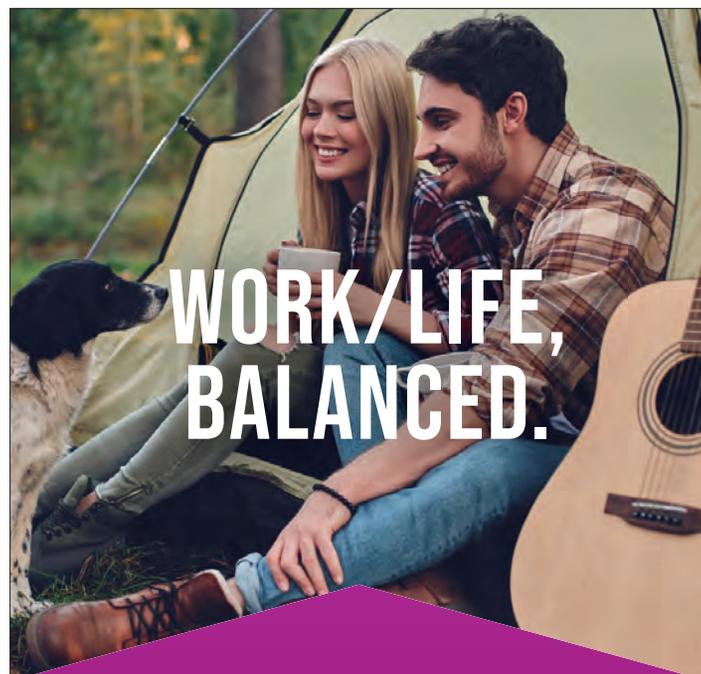
"I've seen what you've done in Morden, as you've grown there, and I was very encouraged when you made the decision to also come here. I think that is tremendous for our community," he said. "The services you offer are unique and are valuable."

Being an entrepreneur is by no

means easy, Siemens reflected, but it can pay off in spades.

"When you start, when you really step into it and you do all the hard work that you need to do to get to that next level, it makes it so much more rewarding, and that reward is there. If you do that work and if you continue to serve, the reward is there, the up-take is there, and you will succeed."

You can learn more about the company at [mitobi.ca](http://mitobi.ca).



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## > PUMPKIN FAIR, FROM PG. 3

Bernstrom noted it is always fun to see how quickly the pumpkins can progress through the growing season, as they can grow 40 to 60 pounds a day.

"So that's cool, seeing them grow fast," he said. "People like pumpkins, and just seeing the reaction after ... and you get to meet so many people at these weigh-offs that you see once a year."

Bernstrom also noted they enjoy having their kids involved, including in naming the pumpkins. In this case, the winner was dubbed Kevin after the character Kevin McCallister from the movie *Home Alone*.

"Harper, our three-year-old, watches *Home Alone* almost every day, so she named it Kevin," said Bernstrom. "Each year, each girl gets to name a pumpkin, and that's what Harper named hers."

The kids are very much hands-on with the family's entries each year.

"They go down there, and they help weed. They know what burn weed is, so they know what weeds not to touch. They're careful with the pumpkins, and each week we take a picture, they sit on their pumpkins," Bernstrom

said. "I drive school bus, so then Briar will water them in the morning. They all kind of help out a little bit."

Given this is his fifth victory at the fair with wins in 2024, 2018, 2017 and 2014, Bernstrom was asked about his secret to success.

"Each pumpkin is about 900 square feet, and it's about 100 gallons of water a day," he noted. "We live by the river, so that helps. I just pump it out of the river. And then fertilizer and making sure bugs don't get it and disease and just lots of time."

"Just ask other growers questions, I'll help anybody. Everybody will be very willing to help," he suggested.

Bernstrom's winning pumpkin is now destined for the annual pumpkin drop he helps organize to support the Kittson Country Literacy Council, which provides free books to newborns to five year olds.

Some of the other scale-busting pumpkins at the fair this year were owned by the 2020 and 2019 winner Cornie Banman from the R.M. of Stanley, who came in second with one weighing 1,522.5 pounds. Helen Banman took third place with a pumpkin weighing 1,427 pounds.

The **Voice**

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# Morden Community Thrift Store gives back \$150K

By Lorne Stelmach

The benefit of having the Morden Community Thrift Store was on display again Monday with the second of its grant announcements for 2025.

There were 13 organizations presented with funds in support of various projects and initiatives, and thrift store volunteers had the opportunity to present cheques that in total added up to \$150,000 going back into the community.

"We have a new building on our way, so we're under a bit of budget constraint here now, but we are trying to do \$150,000 in the spring and in the fall," said president Kent Noel.

"Everybody, I think, that actually applied this fall actually got something ... maybe not exactly what they're after," he noted. "We try very, very hard to give something to everybody."

The most significant recipient was the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, which received \$50,000 towards the purchase of a neuro chair, MRI head/cervical spine coil, Obie Mobile Pro, and vests for volunteers.

STARS air ambulance received \$25,000 for a ventilator for an air ambulance, while Menzies Medical Centre received \$15,000 towards the doctor recruitment program.

Other grant recipients included:

- Youth for Christ: \$10,000 to help with their backyard project for a gazebo, fire pit and games area.
- Many Hands Resource Centre: \$10,000 for the purchasing of groceries.
- Morden Fire & Rescue: \$8,000 in support of collecting fire gear, helmets, boots, breathing apparatus and other equipment for a fire department in Togo Santos, Mexico with the funds helping to cover shipping costs.
- Morden Police Service: \$5,000 for nextorch flashlight, nextorch quick draw holder and streaflight flashlight.
- Morden Area Foundation: \$5,000



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Community Thrift Shop volunteers were able to give back \$150,000 in grants to 13 community organizations and projects on Monday.

for the health care bursary fund.

- Pembina Counselling Centre: \$5,000 to help with accessible mental health services.
- Boundary Trails EMS: \$5,000 for a paramedic wellness space for them to recharge, process difficult calls and give support.
- Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre: \$5,000 in support of its programming and services.
- Darlingford Memorial Park: \$5,000 for replacing trees.
- Community Safety Net: \$2,000 for a child safety program.

It means that the Morden Community Thrift Store has handed out \$300,800 in grants in 2025. Noel stressed that it is all thanks to every single person who donates, shops, or volunteers at the store.

"We put in a lot of hours here and this is what we do it for," he said.

"It feels good in the heart actually when we're able to give something back. Everybody who volunteers here is a gift. They give of themselves; they give their family time ... I want to call it a labour of love because this is what we are here for."

Looking ahead, Noel noted it is encouraging to see good progress being made on the construction of their new building directly east of the existing thrift store.

"It's very exciting ... it's been a while in the works," he said. "We're hoping for a spring open with the new building, and then when we do go to open,

this one will shut down for a little while too so we can the transition."

The expansion will be for furniture, sporting goods, and hardware while

the existing building will focus on things like housewares, clothing, and toys.

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**"WE PUT IN A LOT OF HOURS HERE AND THIS IS WHAT WE DO IT FOR. IT FEELS GOOD IN THE HEART ACTUALLY WHEN WE'RE ABLE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK."**

# The Voice

# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Siobhan Maas



**COLUMNIST**  
Peter Cantelon



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



**DISTRIBUTION**  
Christy Brown

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Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



## When did this happen?

**H**oly crap it's fall! I mean, I knew it was coming (as it does every year) but man, it always catches me off guard.

One minute you're lazily sunning yourself at the beach enjoying the hot weather while tanning your acreage, and the next minute dry leaves festooned with Asian ladybugs are bombarding you from every direction.

Meanwhile the pumpkin spice zombies are preparing their bronze and copper autumn wardrobes without every wondering or caring that there's NO SUCH THING AS PUMPKIN SPICE.

Whew. Ok, calm down Peter. Relax. Who cares if people get joy out of such things. Remember those who rule the pumpkin spice rule the café universe.

I like fall. I really do. I just like summer better. I think what I'm not fond of when it comes to fall (and winter) is reduced light, colder temperatures, and naked trees shamefully parading their branches around like the arboreal floozies we always knew they were. I like waking up to fully clothed trees and it being sunny.

(SIDENOTE: The author is not exactly sure where the word "floozies" came from and feels it wrongly makes him out to be a prude from 1899 concerned for the moral fibre of nature.



**By Peter Cantelon**

Rest assured, nothing could be further from the truth.)

I like being out at 10 p.m. and saying to someone (for the thousandth time) that "I think I could still find my golf ball in this light if I had to."

Suddenly we're racing to the end of Daylight Savings Time like a car without brakes toward a brick wall, and all you can do is close your eyes.

The advent of fall means busy. It's like the entire population sat down for a minute in front of the television and then suddenly jumped up an hour later exclaiming, "OH NO! I FORGOT ABOUT THE SOUP ON THE STOVE!"

Summer has a way of causing us to slow down and relax for a bit. Then fall comes and smacks you in the face with a thousand new emails, Microsoft Teams invites, and meetings. Parents are suddenly having to juggle work with gymnastics, soccer, music lessons, and hockey. Even the social calendar heats up with fall suppers, concerts, Taylor Swift release parties, community events, and more.

There really needs to be a small three-week sub-season between Summer and Fall (Small? Fummer?) that lets us ease into these things. There would be rules: "You cannot send

more than five emails per day; you cannot arrange more than one meeting every two days; you only go to work four days a week in ... Autumner? Sumtem?

Oh, and another rule: if you own a store, you are not allowed to put up Christmas items until after November 11th.

Yep, every year around this time I suffer from seasonal whiplash as myself and everyone around me endlessly repeats:

"Summer felt like it went by in the blink of an eye!"

"I know!"

"I KNOW!"

"I KNOOOOOOWWWWWW!"

"RIIIIGHHT?!?"

Ugh.

But here we are, again, so we may as well make the best of it.

If you are fortunate, you might be able to find the 10-minute window when the leaves switch from green to gold in the Pembina Valley and go for a drive or hike (with 700 other people) along the gravel roads seeking pictures.

Don't despair however: summer, (all five seconds of it) will return in six thousand five hundred and fifty-two hours. But who's counting?

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**ADVERTISING:**  
Gwen Dyck 204-823-0535  
gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca

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**NEWS DESK:**

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor  
204-332-3456 [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)

Lorne Stelmach Reporter  
204-823-2655 [lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

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



## “Art makes me feel ...”

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Winkler Arts and Culture has been inviting people to come offer a thought on the arts as part of a small initiative in conjunction with Culture Days in Manitoba. There is a conversation wall where art-lovers are encouraged to complete the thought “Art makes me feel...” and put it on a post-it note on the board. “So it’s however you feel it inspires you. There’s no wrong answers,” said executive director Jered Hildebrand. “Some people are drawing their responses; other people are writing their words ... our hope is that we will have a nice full board by Oct. 12.”

## SCCR teaming up with Rhineland Car for major raffle

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The South Central Regional Library’s 60th anniversary year isn’t over just yet, but they’re planning to go out with a bang.

The library has teamed up with Rhineland Car Co. in Altona for the Off Road With a Good Book fundraising raffle.

For \$100, you get a one-in-2,000 chance to win a Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend SUV from the dealership.

“We’ve been working on this for awhile,” shared Gail Hildebrand, SCRL director of library services, noting it enables them to wrap up their milestone anniversary year on a high note indeed. “It’s an amazing prize—a new car—and Rhineland Car has really worked with us on the pricing of it. They’ve put together an amazing package.”

The dealership is providing the vehicle, valued at over \$41,000, to the raffle at cost.

“So that takes money out of their pocket, and we really appreciate that they’re doing that for us,” Hildebrand said. “They were really excited to be able to work with us on this ... they are library people, and they love to support the library.”

Tickets are available to Manitoba residents 18 years old and up at any SCRL branch (Winkler, Morden, Altona, Manitou, and Miami) and at Rhineland Car. The draw will take place at the dealership on Dec. 15.

Funds raised will go to help the library complete special projects at each of its branches, Hildebrand said.

“That’s what the funds will go towards, and then any excess will all be divided equally between the branches as well as our front office so that we can put some money into things we don’t necessarily find the funding for easily,” she said.

Continued on page 13

## Good work starts with good partners.

Last year we contributed \$13.4 million to social responsibility programming in Manitoba – including \$9.4 million to over 20 community centred organizations helping to minimize harms from alcohol, gambling and cannabis, many listed below. Through partners like these, we are proud to support a network of services for Manitobans when and where they need help.

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#MBLLGoodTogether

# Landscapes in Focus on now at Winkler gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

For photographers Steve Hiebert and Joey Siemens, this month's Landscapes in Focus exhibit at Winkler Arts and Culture is also as much about perhaps inspiring others.

Speaking at the opening reception at the Park St. gallery last Thursday, both said they would love it if the show, which features their work as well as photos from other local artists, inspired more people to get out and enjoy the Pembina Valley, perhaps with a camera in hand.

"We wanted to bring this exhibit to the community just as a way to kind of promote photography in the area," said Siemens. "We're featuring a lot of work that is showing areas of the Pembina Valley.

"We all have a real passion for it, and we do hope that passion might spill over to others and get them excited and interested and even just have them go out there and enjoy the beauty of the Pembina Valley because we live in such a great area," said Hiebert.

Landscapes in Focus is a photography exhibition that celebrates the beauty of the region while also show-

ing striking landscapes from beyond the area.

The exhibit captures the essence of the surrounding scenery with rolling prairies, dramatic skies and quiet natural moments. Complementing these are a selection of landscape images from outside the region offering a broader look at places that have inspired the photographers.

Despite his years of experience with a camera, this exhibit represents the first major exhibition of Hiebert's photos.

"This is something fairly new for me actually. I have had images in Morden at the art gallery, but doing a collaboration like this with other photographers, this is a first, and I'm really excited about it," he said. "It's great to get the community of people, of photographers together."

"That's kind of what this is all about," agreed Siemens. "It's to collaborate with each other and increase that awareness of what is out there in the landscape of our communities. The Pembina Valley is just a beautiful area.

"And I know there's a lot of people in this area who are interested in photography," he added. "So it's kind of



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Photographers Timmothy Loewen, Steve Hiebert, and Joey Siemens with some of their pieces on display at Winkler Arts and Culture in the Landscapes in Focus exhibit.

our way to promote that curiosity and help nurture it."

There is endless potential in this region for capturing great landscape images, Hiebert suggested.

"And every year is different. No two years are the same. You never know what you might find when you go out. The light's different every time you go out, and you can just keep going and going, and there's always something beautiful to shoot."

Some level of skill and knowledge is obviously needed, but it is something that can be learned and developed with time and patience.

"There's got to be some dedication," Hiebert said, citing the example of being prepared to go out at night.

"You're guaranteed to never get a good shot if you don't go out," Siemens agreed.

Hiebert cited one image in particular showing nebulae that required about 12 hours of imaging time, and it is that kind of astral deep sky photography that particularly appeals to him.

"I'm working at some right now ... I'm into 86 hours," he estimated. "When I'm done, I'm hoping it will be 150 hours on one image. Just the photography. That's not counting the hours of work that follow.

"It's very unique ... but what you get out of it is amazing," he continued. "And I love to share my work with people and let them see what's out there. It's right above them but they don't see it."

What inspires them the most when it comes to their photos?

"For me, it's just the creation that's out there and seeing the beauty everywhere. I just want to capture that," said Hiebert. "It might be right in your backyard, but if you've never actually stopped to look at it ... there's beauty everywhere. You just have to slow down and look at it."

"We live in such a fast paced world ... so for me, photography has al-

lowed me to get out into nature because I love being in the outdoors. I'm out there admiring what's out there, but having a camera with me means I get to see things in a different way because I just slow down," said Siemens.

"I reflect on what's there, and then that whole creative process starts to work. I can turn this scene into something that can tell a story because it evokes emotions and feelings, so you're connecting with it. That is probably the prime reason why I do this," he said.

Both appreciated having the opportunity to see the end results of their work on display.

"It feels good to look around and see this display and to see a community come out and support this," said Hiebert.

"It allows you to kind of take a step back and look at it ... and you can start even learning more about it," added Siemens.

"I think incredible is a good way to summarize the artwork that you see on the walls here, said Winkler Arts and Culture executive director Jered Hildebrand. "A number of the pieces are taken from right here in the Pembina Valley ... so to see the variety of landscapes that we have in our region and how well it is documented with the quality of the images, this is just an absolutely really well done exhibit."

The exhibit's opening reception also revealed the winners of a photography contest that was run in conjunction with the show.

The judges choice award went to Eugen Klassen for his image dubbed The Old Farmyard, while the runner-up was Lisa Harder. The community choice award winner was Jennifer Loewen for her Kane Elevator shot, while the runner-up was Elizabeth Froese.



From left: community choice winner Jennifer Loewen with exhibit photographers

Joey Siemens and Steve Hiebert and judges choice winner Eugen Klassen and their photos.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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# Graphic novel shares the story of 'The Secret Treaty'

By Lorne Stelmach

An illustrated book project that delves into a little-known piece of cultural history is the subject of this month's exhibit at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden.

The Secret Treaty speaks to the handshake treaty that is part of Indigenous tradition but not something widely known by others.

It revolves around Ojibwe stories from the land that Mennonites came to call the west reserve and stories of those early encounters between European newcomers and Indigenous peoples. Swan Lake First Nation knowledge keeper David Scott teamed up with artist-illustrator Johnathan Dyck, who is originally from Winkler, to create the graphic novel.

"I've been trying to get out these stories of how the different races that came here connected, and this was one of those stories because I've had lots of positive relationships with Mennonite people here," Scott said at an exhibit opening last Wednesday.

He recalled the idea coming up in conversation with Will Braun, who had in the past been involved with organizations like the Truth and Action Working Group, and it was Braun who helped connect Scott with Dyck.

"And I finally found a way that we could get this story out," said Scott. "It only took about 35 years, but, hey, it's out in the world now."

It was a remarkable and interesting opportunity for Dyck.

"I've been learning more about Mennonite history in the area, and I recognized that there were some major gaps and oversights," he said. "There wasn't much knowledge of the land, at least prior to the Mennonite settlement."

He very much wanted to learn more about the area from a non-European perspective, so he was glad to be con-

nected with Scott.

"He mentioned this story to me in passing at the Harvest Moon Festival," recalled Dyck, who noted something was originally published about it in *The Canadian Mennonite* magazine.

The two cultures would perhaps be seen by many as being so different and disconnected, but Scott maintains that is not the case.

"There was connection I had made over the last 20 years or so with the Mennonite community particularly in Morden and the surrounding area," he said. "It was purely by accident that we were able to get this story out ... and I had tried to see if any Mennonite historian would help me publish it, but nobody wanted to talk about it 35 years ago ... or even 30 years ago or 20 years ago."

"Times have changed," he continued. "I was able to get together with Johnathan and say let's get this story out there. I was very very happy when I saw the first drafts ... and I thought that's the way we need to tell this story."

Dyck saw it as an important story that needed to be told.

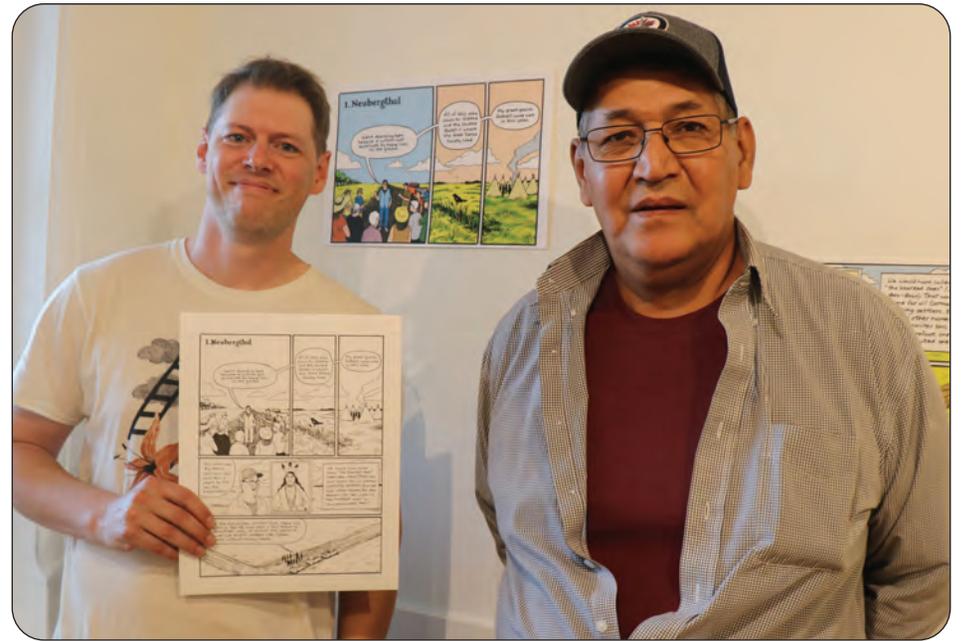
"I think particularly in this area, growing up in Winkler, there was almost no mention of Indigenous peoples and that history of the land," he said. "I think there was some awareness in Morden, but in Winkler, I don't want to say it got swept under the rug, but it just didn't get mentioned."

"I think the fact that it is in a visual format ... you can tell the oral history a little differently that can be more engaging for people," he said.

Since it came out a year ago, the book has received good feedback.

"They're starting to use it in the schools more, and I'm working with eight school divisions now, so that keeps increasing," Scott noted.

"For me, it was the kind of project



PHOTOS

BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Artist Johnathan Dyck (left) and Swan Lake First Nation knowledge keeper David Scott with the graphic novel they've created to share the often unknown story of the handshake



treaties between Indigenous peoples and Mennonite settlers in Manitoba.

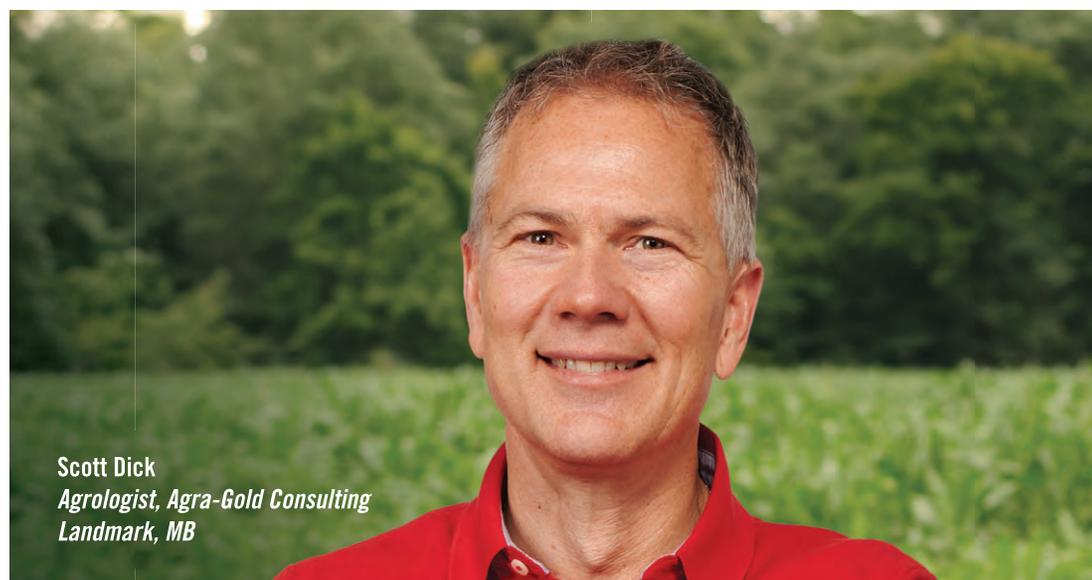
I had been dreaming of," said Dyck. "To be able to illustrate not just this history but also Dave sharing it with us out on the land. That was really special."

"I think there was also an educational mission with this project," he added. "It was clear that we really wanted to get it out there."

"Coming from the settler perspective, I think it's important for me and others to remember that things didn't have to happen the way that

they did and that relationships are still possible, and there is still work to do," he concluded. "There is common ground, and there is also a common future that we have to figure out together."

"I think the biggest takeaway from this for me is the story teaches us that our relationship was on the right path in the beginning," observed Scott. "That part of our history was not out there."



Scott Dick  
Agrologist, Agra-Gold Consulting  
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# Tree planting blitz a success

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona Gretna Trans Canada Trail Committee put a call out for help last week, and the community certainly answered it.

About 50 people showed up the morning of Sept. 30 to help plant over 160 trees along the trail between Altona and Gretna.

“We had a lot of volunteers, significantly more than we were expecting, which was very good,” said committee head Fred Dueck.

It was the latest step in the committee’s plans to plant upwards of 900 trees alongside the trail to ensure future generations of users can enjoy a bit of shade as they walk and bike their way down it.

“We’ve planted about 200 so far,” Dueck shared, noting the rest will go in the ground in the years ahead as funding and manpower becomes available. “It’s a fair amount of work to plant these trees, but the planting is just one part of it—they need ongoing maintenance for the first couple of years.”

Following a design provided by Morden Nurseries, the trees are being planted in small groves spaced out along the path.

“They each have five to seven trees and they are close as we can place them to the walking surface,” Dueck explained. “There will be a significant amount of open space between the groves, but there are few places where there are two or three groves on one side consecutively, so there will be some areas that will have a significant amount of shade.

“The underlying concept is that we want this to be more nature-oriented,” he continued. “The goal of the tree planting really is to bring back trees that are native to the area, for one thing, but, secondly to attract more wildlife, more birds.”

The trees are one part of the committee’s work on improving the pathway. Over the past few years, they’ve created a more level walking surface with packed gravel, updated and added signage, installed garbage and recycling bins, and put in several benches and donor plaques.

They’ve also naturalized a previously farmed piece of property along the trail by seeding natural prairie grasses.

“That’s been a bit challenging due to weather conditions, and native grasses are notoriously hard to propagate, but they’re there and growing, though it will probably take a few years until they’re really well established,” Dueck observed, noting the volunteer committee spearheads this work knowing it’s more likely their children and grandchildren will be the ones to really enjoy the fruits of their labour.

It’s all being done thanks to private donations and grants. With the support of the RM of Rhineland council, the group was able to request as many free trees as possible from the Pembina Valley Watershed District and to apply to the Green Municipal Fund to purchase others.

The committee is always looking for more volunteers to help with the ongoing upkeep of the well-used trail.

“We always need more volunteers,” Dueck said, directing people to find and connect with them on Instagram (@altonagretnatct) or via email to altonagretnatrail@gmail.com. “We’ll definitely be having more tree planting events.”

“Of the volunteers that came the other day, I would say probably most of them were trail users,” he noted. “I go out there fairly regularly and it’s very rare to not to meet one or more people out on the trail.”

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCEVAL/ VOICE

Over 50 people came out to help the Altona Gretna Trail Committee plant 160 trees alongside the Trans Canada Trail last week. The group plans to plant around 900 trees in all—they’ve got 200 or so in the ground already and will be holding more tree planting days in the future.



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The Steps Toward Reconciliation group in Altona took nearly 50 people to Dominion City Sept. 30 to take part in the community's five-mile walk to the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and honour the survivors of residential schools and those who never came home. STR member Dorothy Braun estimated there were a couple hundred walkers this year, from all over the region. The walk was followed by lunch at Ginew, a friendship dance, and a powwow showcase. It was, Braun shared, "a very meaningful day for all."

SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY BRUCE FRIESEN-PANKRATZ

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A night at the movies

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

It was movie night in Altona Oct. 3 as the community was invited to enjoy a showing of the live-action Lilo & Stitch on the Millennium Exhibition Centre arena ice surface (the Town is working on replacing the ice plant, which broke while trying to make ice at the start of the season). Below, from left: Sunflower Festival First Princess Claribelle Thiessen and Queen Lacey Toews served up popcorn to Farah Arcenal, Trincy Jean Usalla, and Yoshianna Mysh Alhambra.



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# Central Manitoba Youth Choir to tour central region

Submitted by the Central Manitoba Choral Association

The Central Manitoba Youth Choir (CMYC) is a group of 50 auditioned singers from throughout the central region. An annual project of the Central Manitoba Choral Association (CMCA), the purpose of CMYC is to bring together some of the finest high school singers in the region to build a choral community and prepare and perform outstanding repertoire.

CMYC 2025 is conducted by Avonlea Armstrong Green of Winnipeg and accompanied by Loren Hiebert of Altona. The singers rehearse intensively for two weekends before embarking on a regional tour, which takes place this year from Thursday, Oct. 16 to Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025.

Armstrong Green has created a beautiful program featuring composers and arrangers across the ages and genres, including Andy Beck, Cyndi Lauper, J.S. Bach, William Byrd and Freddie Mercury, in the styles of contemporary, folk, musical theatre and sacred. Her music choices are inspiring and emotionally moving, with some choreography and plenty of joy.

After celebrating CMYC's 40th anniversary last year, the association looks forward to another season of concerts welcoming alumni to encourage current members, as well as parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, friends and neighbours to celebrate the beautiful music these singers are creating — and hopefully inspire a new generation of choral performers.

Performance locations and times for this year's tour are as follows (Concerts with an asterisk are full performances.)

**Thursday, Oct. 17**

4 p.m. – Morden Access Centre, as special guests of the Central Manitoba Choral Association Senior Choral Workshop for Grades 5–12

**Friday, Oct. 18**

9:15 a.m. – École Morden Middle School (Morden) – not open to the public

10:50 a.m. – Prairie Dale School (Schanzenfeld) – not open to the public

1 p.m. – Emerado Centennial School (Winkler) – not open to the public

3 p.m. – Salem Home (165 Fifteenth St., Winkler) \*

7 p.m. – Morden Mennonite Church (363 Gilmour St., Morden) \*

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

10 a.m. – Waypoint Coffee (2-24149 PR 3, Stanley) \*

1 p.m. – Homestead South (400 Loren Dr., Morden) \*

3 p.m. – Buhler Active Living Centre (650 South Railway Ave., Winkler) \*

7 p.m. – Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 Fifteenth St., Winkler) \*

**Sunday, Oct. 20**

10:30 a.m. – Altona Mennonite Church (287 Eighth Ave. NE, Altona)

2:30 p.m. – Paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (101 Notre Dame Ave., Notre Dame)

7 p.m. – Manitou Opera House (325 Main St., Manitou) \*

The public is invited to attend any



VOICE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Young singers from Altona, Gretna, Lowe Farm, Morden, Notre Dame and Winkler are among the 50 talented voices selected for the 2025 Central Manitoba Youth Choir. The group, conducted by Avonlea Armstrong Green of Winnipeg and accompanied by Loren Hiebert of Altona, will tour the region Oct. 16–19, performing a dynamic program of contemporary, folk, musical theatre and sacred music.

of these concerts to hear the talented young singers who have bonded and formed lasting friendships through their shared love of choral music.

Come and listen as they sing together and share their passion for music with audiences of all ages across southern Manitoba.

# Local MLAs get new shadow cabinet roles

By Lorne Stelmach

Local MLAs have new roles with the Conservative Opposition after leader Obby Khan last week announced a shuffle of responsibilities in his shadow cabinet ahead of the fall sitting of the Manitoba Legislature.

Khan said the critics play an important role in keeping the NDP government in check.

"The changes I've made to the critics' duties will continue to hold Wab Kinew and the NDP accountable for the broken promises and failures they've made over the first half of their mandate," he said. "The changes build on the strengths of each PC MLA and provide them with a broader depth of knowledge in their new portfolios."

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert said she looks forward to her new role as critic for advanced edu-

cation and training as well as for immigration.

"I have experience with both portfolios and look forward to learning more about those important departments," she said in a prepared statement.

"I have enjoyed my role as PC critic for housing, addictions, and homelessness and mental health for the past two years," Hiebert added. "I learned a great deal about the addictions crisis facing the province and how it contributes to the ongoing homelessness epidemic we see all around us. I'm especially proud of the work we did to help the residents of Point Douglas force Wab Kinew and the NDP to abandon plans to build a drug injection site in Winnipeg."

"Advocating for treatment and recovery has been the priority for me in this critic role for the last two years, making sure that our loved ones can

access treatment when they need it including mental health and housing supports. That is the work of an effective opposition."

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter also provided a prepared statement on being named the new critic for labour and for innovation and new technology.

"I am deeply honoured," he said. "After serving in recent months as the critic for public service delivery, I am excited to take on this new role."

"Labour is a huge issue in the province, currently with this NDP government trying to rig the playing field to appease union bosses rather than do what is best for Manitoba tradespeople."

"Manitoba has Canada's highest debt to GDP ratio, yet Manitoba workers are seeing little in return for their tax dollars," Guenter continued. "A sluggish economy and this NDP

government's failure to show leadership on issues of innovation and resource development—exemplified by their refusal to sign on to the recent landmark energy agreement between Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario—have further put Manitoba and Manitobans behind."

Guenter will also maintain his role as deputy caucus chair for the Conservative party.

"I will continue to work hard every day to serve my constituents, hold this government to account, and bring the common-sense voices and views of Borderland residents to Manitoba's Legislature."

Midland MLA Lauren Stone meanwhile will fill the critic role for finance and for the Manitoba Public Utilities Board. She did not return a request for comment as of press time.

# Resident lobbying for PR 432 improvements

By Lorne Stelmach

An area resident is hoping to pressure the province to do something more to fix up a key section of highway in the region.

Glen Krushel has been trying to lobby Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure officials to properly reconstruct PR 432 that runs from Morden north to Highway 23 at the Rosebank corner.

"Local residents know that this road is unsafe. However people traveling from outside this area may take the road unwittingly," Krushel not-

ed. "Hitting one of these potholes at highway speed could cause one to lose control.

"Will it take a fatality to take the ill condition of PR 432 seriously? Does Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure consider the type of road condition and potholes safe for Manitoba drivers?"

The road has been in need of reconstruction for a long time already, maintains Krushel, who noted the province keeps patching and filling myriad potholes and ruts but not ever properly repairing the road as a whole.

"I watched their guys doing it," he said. "They just shovel a bunch of asphalt into the hole, and they don't tamp it down; they don't roller it ... they expect when the cars go over it that it's going to be sufficient.

"I have a feeling that's it's always just going to be the same old rhetoric," he said of his inquiries with Manitoba Highways. "You might as well just go to the bank and keep throwing money in the holes."

Krushel suggested this is one of the busiest secondary roads in this area of southern Manitoba.

"It's a link not only between Miami and Morden—it's a link between the entire RM of Thompson and Lorne and parts of Dufferin," he said.

"There's the argument if you're looking for a smooth road, why don't you just go the extra distance to Highway



3? Well, that adds 40 km to the trip," he noted. "And this is at a time when our fuel prices are higher, and we are being encouraged by government to drive less, so that doesn't really make sense.

"That road also serves all of the farmers along that stretch ... including several Hutterite colonies," he added.

The fact that this section of highway is in perhaps the fastest growing area of the province in itself demands that the area roads need to be substantially improved to support that growth, Krushel said.

He acknowledges road conditions are an increasing problem across the province, and noted how it is pointed out every year when CAA does the list of top ten worst roads in Manitoba.

"I send in as many entries as I can for 432," he said. "It just seems like we are getting the short end of the stick."

A representative for the province was contacted for comment but could

not be reached by press time.

Krushel shared an earlier response he received from a provincial representative on the matter, which notes Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is aware of the road's condition.

"The section of PR 432 between 1.3 km north of PTH 3 to PTH 23 is being considered for inclusion in future capital programs for its reconstruction," the representative said. "In the meantime, MTI maintenance staff will continue to perform repairs of the pavement surface, edges, and shoulders as and when required.

"South section of PR 432 between PTH 3 and six miles south of PTH 3, no work is planned yet but will be considered to include in future capital programs for its rehabilitation. In the meantime, MTI maintenance will complete patching work ... the total project cost will be \$300,000 and in 2026 maintenance will again be completing patch/paving work to enhance the road condition."

## > LIBRARY, FROM PG. 7

Among the projects on the library's wish list is an expansion at the Altona branch's front desk area, updated patron seating in Manitou, a joint green space with the Miami Railway Station Museum in Miami, renovations to the meeting room in Morden, and the addition of a coffee corner for patrons in Winkler.

The raffle is just one of the events happening this fall to support these projects—they're also hosting an 18+ quiz night in Altona on Friday, Oct. 24.

"We did a quiz night earlier this spring as part of our 60th celebrations," Hildebrand explained. "It was a gala event where everybody got to dress up and be sparkly and shiny and pretty for something. And people really enjoyed it. We got a lot of really positive feedback and people asking when were we going to do it again."

With October being Library Month, it seemed the perfect time to host another one, albeit a fair bit more of a casual night this time around. Hildebrand says they intend to host more trivia nights in the future, rotating between their branch communities.

There will be prizes up for grabs for trivia masters. Participants are encouraged to consider coming in a Halloween costume for a crack at a best costume prize.

The competition takes place at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre starting at 7 p.m. that night. Contact your local branch to book your table (\$160, six to eight people recommended per table).



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# get informed

## Small businesses share their successes, challenges

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden Chamber of Commerce small business luncheon last Thursday celebrated three local business success stories while also acknowledging some of the challenges that had to be overcome along the way.

A panel discussion included Earl Gardiner of Careica Health, Candace Grenier of Pure Anada, and Kyle and Audrey Wiebe of Maverick Industries.

It was facilitated by Chuck Davidson, president and CEO of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, who kicked things off by touching on a study that showed Manitoba has over the last decade lost about 25,000 residents.

When one delved into what and why it was happening, he noted the largest gap was with people between the ages of 30 and 39—those starting their careers and their families.

“Some of the research, what we found, was they were looking for better opportunities for career growth, and they didn’t see that in Manitoba,” he said.

“The big challenge we found with that was they weren’t aware of the opportunities that existed within our own province,” Davidson said. “We haven’t done a good enough job of telling the stories of the world-class companies within our communities and being champions for those.”

“What the research also showed us was that we are our own worst enemies,” he added, suggesting that was a key thought behind them putting on events like this luncheon.

“We all know the great things that our communities have to offer, and that’s really what the Manitoba

Chambers of Commerce is all about,” Davidson said, stressing there is a need to tell more of the Manitoba success stories and be champions of local business communities to help change that narrative.

Speaking about Maverick Industries, Wiebe recalled having moved away from the area but then becoming a welder and eventually having the opportunity to start his own business here with the inspiration particularly of his father

They started Maverick Industries in 2008 with smaller welding projects.

“It eventually grew to a few employees, kind of eventually bursting at the seams,” Wiebe said, noting a key development came in 2015 when they acquired Intersteel Industries. “They had about seven staff, so we amalgamated the companies.

“We’ve been growing over the years,” he said. “Audrey stepped into the company in 2016 as our COO ... and we are just over 50 staff today. We are currently in our first phase of five phases of a 10 year plan [for growth].

Grenier likewise recalled how she started Pure Anada on a smaller scale in her home.

“I started to refine the brand, make it retail ready ... and that was 20 years ago, so it slowly grew during that time,” she said, noting hundreds of retailers across Canada now carry their products. And in addition to their main location in Morden, they also have another space elsewhere in the Pembina Valley.

“I’ve always wanted to be an entrepreneur for as long as I can remember,” said Gardiner, who recalled it was while he was working as a hospital administrator in Killarney when



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left on stage are Earl Gardiner of Careica, Candace Grenier of Pure Anada, and Audrey and Kyle Wiebe of Maverick Industries, who all spoke at the Morden chamber’s Small Business Month luncheon last week.

he learned about a technology out of the United Kingdom that could produce oxygen for hospitals on site.

“I got quite excited about it and decided to leave my role at the hospital to start a new company,” he said, adding they chose to locate in Morden in part because of its close proximity to the city and airport access.

“Morden had a manufacturing industry here, not anywhere as big as it is now though,” he added.

He also touched on how the company has evolved since its inception here.

“We moved away from industrial oxygen sales, moving into providing home oxygen services,” he said. “It really fit my interests ... we moved into becoming the exclusive provider of home oxygen services across all of Manitoba.”

In 1999, they then also delved into a new technology developed in Canada that would allow for testing people for sleep apnea in their own homes.

“We’ve been really fortunate to grow our company across western Canada.”

The speakers also touched on some

of the challenges they have faced.

“In our case, we competed against multi-nationals ... so being a little company in Morden, that was really challenging,” said Gardiner. “One of the biggest hurdles that we had to overcome was to develop a CSA standard for on-site oxygen production ... that took almost five years to complete.”

“A challenge for us is that we are using ingredients that are harvested, not crafted, so it’s not like you can get a synthetic ingredient that’s standard every time,” said Grenier, who also touched on challenges with their product formulations as well as building a solid team that could help them really build the company, develop the right culture, and get the buy-in.

Audrey Wiebe noted how working together as husband and wife in itself can perhaps be a challenge.

“We work together really well. He does a lot more of the sales and customer focus, and I deal a lot more with managing the employees and building the structure around that,” she said.

Continued on page 15

**“WE HAVEN’T DONE A GOOD ENOUGH JOB OF TELLING THE STORIES OF THE WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND BEING CHAMPIONS FOR THOSE.”**

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What’s *Your* story?

# get informed

## Health officials urge Manitobans to protect themselves this respiratory virus season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As we leave the warm days of summer and early fall behind us, respiratory virus season looms ahead, and public health officials are urging Manitobans to do what they can to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities at large.

Getting the flu, COVID-19, and possibly also the RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccines are the best way to do that, says Dr. Mahmoud Khodaveisi, a medical officer of health for Southern Health-Santé Sud.

All of these viruses, can cause “severe infections, severe illness,” he says, especially in high-risk groups, which includes infants and older adults.

It can create a real strain on the health care system as people flood the emergency rooms for treatment, Khodaveisi says, some of them requiring hospital admission and, in severe cases, ending up in intensive care. Some of those people will never leave the hospital.

It’s wholly unnecessary to take the risk you or someone you love might be one of them, because vaccination is available to all Manitobans, Khodaveisi stresses.

“Vaccines are safe, effective, and

available free of charge in Manitoba,” he says. “They cannot prevent all forms of illness, but they can prevent severe infection, severe illness. So if these vaccines can prevent admissions to the hospital, to the ICU, that’s a big win for everybody.”

Even if you’re young and healthy and so less likely to succumb to the worst these viruses have to offer (though it’s certainly always a possibility), vaccination is still important, Khodaveisi says.

“Everyone six months of age and older is encouraged to receive the flu vaccine, the COVID vaccine,” he says. “Let’s say someone is young, he doesn’t feel he needs it, but if that person gets infected, maybe they’re even asymptomatic or have a mild form, they can still spread the infection to others that surround them, maybe people who are at higher risk. People at work, in the community. It’s a collective responsibility for everybody.”

The annual flu shot and updated COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone over six months of age.

Manitobans over 65 are eligible for an enhanced flu shot that provides more protection than the standard one. Older adults should also ask if they are eligible for the pneumococcal vaccine to protect against pneu-

mococcal pneumonia.

New this year, RSV immunization is also available for people in high-risk groups, which includes infants born between Oct. 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026 and certain adults aged 60+, including those living in or moving into personal care homes.

### TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

Khodaveisi says that while many older Manitobans do get their flu shots each year (about 58 per cent of the 65+ crowd), the uptake drops significantly when you look at Manitobans as a whole—about 23 per cent of us got the annual shot last year.

Those numbers drop a few percentage points for the COVID-19 vaccine for Manitoba as a whole, Khodaveisi says, and Southern Health-Santé Sud’s vaccination rates are lower still. He urges people to talk to their health care providers if they have concerns about vaccinations.

If you’re getting your flu or COVID-19 shots for the first time, Khodaveisi advises that it’s normal you might feel a little under the weather afterwards. The arm you get the shot in might be sore the next day,

and you could have a headache, muscle soreness, or fatigue.

“Most people, if they do develop side effects, they’re very mild,” he says. “And if they get side effects, then these side effects are transient [short-lived], so much less [severe] than the true infection would be.”

Khodaveisi urges people to get vaccinated sooner rather than later, especially with the holiday season coming up.

“It’s better to get the vaccines as soon as possible before things pick up in wintertime, because it takes two weeks for immunity to get fully developed.”

The Pembina Valley has numerous community vaccination clinics scheduled for the weeks ahead, many accepting walk-ins. For dates, times, and locations, head to [southernhealth.ca/health-topics/immunizations/seasonal-flu-covid-19-clinics/](https://southernhealth.ca/health-topics/immunizations/seasonal-flu-covid-19-clinics/).

You can also use the provincial Vaccine Finder to track down a clinic or pharmacy administering vaccines: [gov.mb.ca/respiratoryviruses/vaccinefinder.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://gov.mb.ca/respiratoryviruses/vaccinefinder.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

### > SMALL BUSINESS LUNCHEON, FROM PG. 14

One of the major things that she focused on for the first few years was not only bringing on people but also the retention of staff.

“We want to build this team,” she said.

Finally, the speakers touched on some of the factors behind being located in Morden and how it can be an advantage.

“I guess the culture of the communities here are unique but a little bit different. They have a small town mindset. You figure things out,” said Kyle Wiebe.

“One of the main things is we have a welding school in our community, which obviously, for our business, is a huge asset to have in our community,” he added, noting companies here also benefit from Morden having such a strong immigration program.

“We have had clients from around the world ... come to visit here ... I always left those meetings feeling so lucky that I was doing business in rural Manitoba,” said Grenier, also cit-

ing the benefit of being able to have their own building here along access to a great workforce and proximity to the border.

“It is challenging sometimes,” said Gardiner, who noted he has also benefitted from being involved with and serving on provincial committees because he feels it is important to have more rural representation.

“As a result of that, I’ve been able to gain respect of people from the city ... and I always say why not Morden as opposed to why.”

**“I ALWAYS SAY WHY NOT MORDEN AS OPPOSED TO WHY.”**

## The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Garrison Doll ©



# sports & recreation

## Winkler Flyers fall to Nighthawks 4-2, 5-4

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a rough weekend for the Winkler Flyers as they dropped a pair of games to the Niverville Nighthawks.

Playing in Niverville Friday night, the Hawks doubled up on the Flyers 4-2 in a night that saw the home team outshoot their opponents 46-19.

Jacob Michelson and Liam Carlone got Winkler on the board in the back end of the second period, and goalie Leif Ekblad made 42 saves in net.

It was a much closer affair two nights later on Winkler's home turf.

While the Nighthawks won the shots battle once again (34-22), the two teams were matching each other goal for goal throughout regulation.

William Lyons drew first blood early, in the second minute, but then Niverville tied it up not long after.

Period two saw Winkler retake the lead 33 seconds in thanks to a

goal from Connor Rieger, only for the Nighthawks to tie it up and pull ahead 3-2 by the midpoint. Less than a minute later, Rieger's second of the night tied the game at 3-3. A late Nighthawk goal sent the game into the final frame with the visitors up 4-3.

Carlone scored the tying goal 10 minutes in to force overtime, where Niverville managed the game-winner to take it 5-4.

Ekblad stood tall in net with 29 saves.

With that, the Flyers are 1-4-1 in these first few weeks of the season, good for three points and fifth place in the MJHL's East Division, trailing Selkirk, Steinbach, Niverville, and Portage, though with a game or two in hand.

This week the Flyers hosted the Winnipeg Monarchs on Tuesday. Re-



**Zodiacs, Thunder win zones**

**FACEBOOK.COM/GVCZODIACS**

The Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs and the Morden Thunder are the boys and girls Zone 4 varsity champions, respectively. The Zodiacs (above) downed the W.C. Miller Aces 2-1 in the final game last Thursday to bring home the banner. GVC had knocked out the NPC Nighthawks 3-0 three nights before in the semi-final to advance. On the girl's side, the Thunder also squared off against the Aces Oct. 2, winning the title 4-2. The earlier playoff rounds saw the Aces beat GVC 4-3 and the Thunder best NPC 4-1. The provincial championships taking place in Stonewall this weekend will see Morden and Altona (on a wildcard spot) compete on the girls side and GVC represent Winkler in the boys event.

sults were not available at press time. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

Over the holiday weekend they welcome the Steelers to town on Sunday.

## Female Hawks looking for first win this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a rough start to the season for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

A busy three-game weekend saw the Hawks fall 3-1 to Central Plains Friday then 8-0 to the Winnipeg Avros Saturday and finally 4-2 to Interlake

Sunday.

Pembina Valley could only manage a second period power play goal by Bree Pearce against Central Plains, which outshot them 37-35. Madison Froese took the loss in goal on 34 saves.

A strong Winnipeg squad held period leads of 3-0 and 7-0, and the Av-

ros did a solid job of shutting down the Hawks with a 31-17 edge in shots. Hannah Bannister made 23 saves in net for the Hawks.

It was a close battle then against Interlake with the game tied at 2-2 after 40 minutes, but the Lightning settled things in the final frame with a pair of goals. Pembina Valley got goals from

Sophia Cox and Leah Klaassen, while Froese made 23 saves as Interlake held a slim 27-26 edge in shots.

The Hawks will look to get into the win column with a pair of home games this weekend. They welcome the Winnipeg Ice Saturday then host Westman Sunday afternoon.

## Male Hawks 1-2 against Southwest Cougars

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks dropped a pair of games last weekend after having opened up the season with three wins.

A trio of games this past week against the Southwest Cougars saw the Hawks start it off Oct. 1 with a 4-3 win in Morden, but they then fell 6-5 and 4-1 Saturday and Sunday in

Souris.

Paxton White's second of the season 3:08 into overtime gave the Hawks the 4-3 victory Wednesday.

Cole Secord scored a pair to already put him at seven for the season. The other goal came from Mason Leite, while Koen Bleznuk made 29 saves as the Hawks outshot the Cougars 41-32.

In game two, the Cougars needed a shootout goal to pick up the 6-5 win

after overtime failed to settle things.

Ragnar Gillis, Caden McMahon, Casey Magarell, Nolan Bravo, and Carson Hiebert scored for Pembina Valley. Bleznuk made 35 saves with the Cougars having a 41-39 edge in shots on goal.

Ocean Fehr then scored the lone Hawks goal in the 4-1 loss in game three, which saw the Cougars take a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes before put-

ting it away with two more goals in the third. Bleznuk took the loss on 19 saves as Pembina Valley outshot Southwest 26-23.

The Hawks will look to rebound this weekend when they visit Central Plains in Portage Friday before hosting Interlake on Saturday.

# Twisters drop pair on opening MMJHL weekend

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters opened their Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League season with a pair of tough road losses over the weekend, falling 3-2 to the River East Royal Knights on Friday night and 6-0 to the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Sunday afternoon.

Friday's matchup at Terry Sawchuk Arena saw the Twisters push the undefeated Royal Knights to the wire. Pembina Valley's Ketema Wall and Josh Guilford supplied the offence, while goaltender Rowan Cherkas turned in a standout 39-save performance in a losing effort.

After River East jumped out to a 2-1 first-period lead, Guilford tied the game late in the second with help from Cohen Thomas, setting up a tense final frame. But the Knights' Cody Allen broke the deadlock at 16:27 of the third to secure the win.

Cherkas' efforts earned him third-star honours behind River East's Allen and goaltender Keaton Woloshen, who stopped 22 of 24 shots.

Two days later, the Twisters ran into a red-hot Raiders squad at Seven Oaks SportsPlex, where they were shut out 6-0. Pembina Valley struggled to generate chances, managing just 13 shots on goal compared to 42 for the home side.

Raiders forwards Lucas Desousa and Carter Andersson each had multi-point games, combining for three goals and four assists. Cole Kennedy, Owen Lourenco, and Ashton Henry also found the back of the net, while goaltender Braeden Martell stopped every shot he faced for the shutout.

Cherkas was again busy between the pipes for the Twisters, turning aside 36 shots in the loss.

The results drop Pembina Valley to 0-2-0 on the young season, while River East and Raiders improved their early records to 2-0-0 and 1-1-0, respectively.

The Twisters will look to regroup when they return home for their season opener on Friday, Oct. 10, hosting the Transcona Railer Express at 8:30 p.m. at the Morris MultiPlex.



PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

Pembina Valley Twisters goaltender Rowan Cherkas drops to make a save during game action, keeping the puck out of the net as teammates battle in front for control of the rebound.

# Northern United beat Storm 2-1 in championship final

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm end their season as the runners-up for the Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 1 championship.

Winkler fell to the first-place Northern United 2-1 in the gold medal match Sunday afternoon in Winnipeg. David Green scored for the home team.

The Storm earned a seat at the table by making short work of SWB 3-1 in the quarter-finals and then battling Grant Park SC—who finished second to the Storm's third in the regular season—to a 1-1 tie last Friday night. Janick Richter scored for Winkler, while Carter Klassen was a wall in net.

The resulting shootout broke Winkler's way 5-4 and punched their ticket to the final.

Coach Chad Bergen reflected on the strong season.

"We started the season struggling to score goals, often losing games by a one goal margin. By August, the players had made the formation their own and goals started to come from multiple sources," he said. "Over a span of five games in August and September, Storm conceded zero goals and scored fourteen. That turn around led us to a third-place finish in the league.

"Storm thanks the sponsors that made this season possible and the fans and family that cheered us on, rain or shine, at home and on the road."



# Bean Field racing

The Rocking W Ranch held its Bean Field Barrel Race Sept. 27, welcoming riders from all over to compete in a Pendleton-style race. Inspired by the professional rodeo held annually in Oregon, a Pendleton racing pattern is three times the size of a normal barrel race. Bailey Martens (right) and her horse Honey were the day's big winners with a time of 29.464.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



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**CAREERS**



## Chief Administrative Officer

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley, with the support of Way To Go Consulting Inc., is seeking an individual who will bring strong leadership skills to this position.

Information on the position is available at [www.rmofstanley.ca](http://www.rmofstanley.ca). Individuals interested in this position should email their resume and cover letter to Ernie Epp, Way To Go Consulting Inc., at [ernie.epp@waytogoconsultinginc.ca](mailto:ernie.epp@waytogoconsultinginc.ca).

The selection committee intends to review applications as early as October 31, 2025; however, applications may continue to be accepted until the right candidate is found.

*We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Planning & Permitting Department

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-008 and By-law No. 2353-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2353-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**520 Pembina Ave, legally described as Lot 20, Block 1, Plan 2011 MLTO.**  
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

**FROM:** "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY  
**TO:** "R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2353-25 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 28, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba



DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 24th day of September 2025.  
Designated Officer, City of Winkler

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

You are invited to attend the  
**Altona & Area Family Resource Centre's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **14 October**

Taking place in our Altona Stay & Play Space **6 PM Snacks Available**

**238 5th Ave NE Altona**  
Registration appreciated. 204-324-2352 [aafr1998@gmail.com](mailto:aafr1998@gmail.com)

**EMPLOYMENT**

## Constituency Assistant MP Branden Leslie

**Location: Winkler, MB**  
**Start Date: As soon as possible**

MP Branden Leslie's Constituency Office is seeking a motivated and organized Constituency Assistant to provide essential support to the office and constituents. This role involves a mix of administrative, casework, and community engagement responsibilities and is ideal for someone interested in gaining hands-on experience with the workings of the federal government.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Manage general office duties, including telephone reception and correspondence.
- Intake, track, and complete constituency casework for federal programs and departments, including:
- Immigration
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passports
- Veterans Affairs
- Other federal departments or agencies as required
- Meet with constituents to provide assistance and guidance on federal matters.
- Support MP Branden Leslie with community events, outreach initiatives, and special projects as needed.

**Qualifications and Skills:**

- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Comfortable working independently and managing multiple tasks.

**Compensation and Benefits:**

- Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.
- Participation in the Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP).
- Access to the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) and Public Service Dental Care Plan (PSDCP).
- Competitive benefits package and opportunities for professional development.

**How to Apply:**  
Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and interest in the position to [Branden.Leslie@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Branden.Leslie@parl.gc.ca)

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**COMING EVENTS**

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> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

# CROSSWORD

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Comedic actor Rogen
  - Bits per inch
  - Tire pressure measurement
  - Angels great Mike
  - Own (Scottish)
  - Notable FI racing team
  - Upper bract of grass
  - Tax collector
  - Electronic counter-countermeasures
  - Informal loan clubs
  - Skeletal muscle
  - Popular fish type
  - Salts of acetic acid
  - Arriving early
  - Worded
  - Single Lens Reflex
  - Amphibians
  - Warm greeting
  - Belonging to a thing
  - Segmented worm
  - Concerns
  - Audacious
  - Wings
  - Type of drug
  - Wind chill formula scientist Charles
  - Island close to the U.S.
  - "To the \_\_\_ degree"
  - Daniel \_\_\_, French composer
  - A way to march
  - Where golfers begin
  - Spiritual leader
  - Of she
  - Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
  - Tall, slender-leaved plant
- CLUES DOWN**
- Engine additive
  - Amounts of time
  - Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
  - Color properties
  - One who hands over
  - Thieves of the sea
  - Put in
  - Nocturnal rodents
  - Pouches
  - Systems, doctrines, theories
  - Greek alphabet letter
  - Greek goddess of youth
  - Satisfy
  - Partly digested food
  - Dictator
  - Parts per thousand (abbr.)
  - The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - A major division of geological time
  - Angry
  - St. Francis of \_\_\_
  - Romanian monetary unit
  - Stale
  - Go quickly
  - Commercials
  - Canadian city
  - One who slices
  - Perform perfectly
  - Nest of pheasants
  - Tactile sensations
  - Sword
  - Climactic
  - Adrenocorticotrophin
  - Fisherman's tool
  - Swiss river
  - Plant that makes gum
  - A French abbot
  - One point east of northeast
  - Get free of

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
11				12		13			14					
15						16			17					
	18				19		20			21				
					22	23			24					
25	26	27	28	29										
30							31							
32									33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42				
						43			44					
					45	46								
47	48									50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57				58
59										61				
62						63						64		

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**2024 F-150 XLT**

**PRICE \$58,900**

3.5L EcoBoost, 4X4, 303A, Black Appearance Pkg, Heated Leather Seats, Adaptive Cruise, Lane Keeping, Tow Pkg, Bed Utility Pkg, 360° Camera, Wireless Charging Pad, Mobile Office Pkg. One Owner, Local Trade. **Kms: 52,253 - Stk# EL010**

**2023 ESCAPE PLATINUM**

**PRICE \$32,900**

2.0L EcoBoost, AWD, Heated ActiveX Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Lane Keeping, Wireless Charging Pad, Remote Start, 360° Camera, Adaptive Cruise, Power Liftgate, FordPass. Previous Daily Rental. **88,878 km - Stk# EP006**

2 TO CHOOSE FROM

**2023 F-150 RAPTOR**

**PRICE \$95,900**

3.5L HO EcoBoost, Heated & Ventilated Leather Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Tailgate, Fox Live Valve Shocks, Active Exhaust, Terrain Management System. - **Kms: 18,534 - Stk# DT017**

**2025 HONDA CR-V SPORT**

**PRICE \$43,900**

1.5L, AWD, Heated Cloth Seats, Power Driver Seat, Heated Steering Wheel, Adaptive Cruise, Lane Keeping, Moonroof, Power Liftgate, Remote Start, Undercoat Protection. One Owner, Local Trade. **Kms - 15,695 - Stk# ET163A**

All advertised prices are subject to PST and GST.

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0% FINANCING ON ALL NEW 2025 MODELS



2025 Buick Encore GX AWD  
Stk: 006855

**\$33,719**

Lease for as low as:  
**\$115 per week at  
2.99% for 48 months**



2025 Buick Encore GX AWD  
Stk: 007018

**\$37,547**

Lease for as low as:  
**\$132 per week at  
2.99% for 48 months**



2025 Buick Enclave AWD  
Stk: 136966

**\$69,443**

0% Financing for up to 36 months



2025 Chevrolet Suburban 4WD  
Stk: 309087

**\$110,668**

0% Financing for up to 36 months



2025 Chevrolet Equinox  
Stk: 156714

**\$40,948**

0% Financing for up to 60 months



2025 GMC Sierra 2500HD  
Stk: 117270

**\$110,252**

0% Financing for up to 60 months



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