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VOLUME 2 EDITION 41

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get informed

Guenter humbled to earn second term in office

By Ashleigh Viveiros



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Josh Guenter says he's honoured to return to the Legislature with a strong show of support from Borderland voters.

Josh Guenter heads into his second term in office as an MLA energized to know he has the overwhelming support of voting Borderland constituents.

Guenter earned 4,405 of the votes cast in the riding in the Oct. 3 provincial election—71 per cent of the popular vote.

Receiving 902 votes was the NDP's Rick Derksen followed by Loren Braul receiving 741 votes for the Liberals.

Voter turnout in Borderland was 51 per cent of eligible voters.

"It is humbling," Guenter said a day after his big win. "I say thank you to all the voters of Borderland who cast their vote for me, and I look forward to going back to work for them at the Legislature."

It will, of course, be a very different political landscape than it was in

"I SAY THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOTERS OF BORDERLAND WHO CAST THEIR VOTE FOR ME, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO GOING BACK TO WORK FOR THEM AT THE LEGISLATURE."

Guenter's first term.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba lost their bid for a third term in power to the New Democratic Party of Manitoba.

The NDP earned 34 seats to form a majority government for the next four years. The Conservatives' 22 seats puts them in the Official Opposition role once again. The Manitoba Liberals earned just one seat.

While the Conservatives were in power, Guenter served as the legislative assistant to the Minister of Health and Senior Care and as a member of the provincial Treasury Board. He also served on the cabinet's Economic Growth and Development Com-

mittee and the Public Sector Compensation Committee.

"It will be interesting," Guenter acknowledged of the changes coming to the Manitoba Legislature. "We'll be holding the government to account, because that's what the Opposition does."

"For my part, I'll be standing up for constituents, as I have over the last four years, and standing up for our way of life and our families and the businesses and the farms of this area. We'll just be doing that from the Opposition benches now."

Regardless of what happened on the provincial stage last week, Guenter takes heart at the strong showing his

party had in Borderland.

"I have to say it gives me confidence," he says. "I appreciate being able to do this job from a position of strength. It gives me confidence when I go to the Legislature and take positions and work with my colleagues, both in my party and across the way, knowing that the constituents of Borderland have overwhelmingly cast their ballots in support."

"It gives me the strength and the confidence that I need to be able to go and leave no stone unturned in pursuit of their interests."

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Carrie Hiebert wins seat in Morden-Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

Carrie Hiebert will not have as steep of a learning curve as most new MLAs would face when she steps into the role representing the Morden-Winkler riding.

Having earned nearly 74 per cent of the vote in last week's provincial election, Hiebert comes with the experience of having worked for both former MLA Cameron Friesen and former MP Candice Bergen as well as having served on Conservative boards provincially and federally.

"I have been involved behind the scenes for years in government. I know a lot about how it all works," said Hiebert, who, with 5,648 votes, finished ahead of NDP candidate Ken Friesen, who earned 1,679 votes, or about 25 per cent. Liberal candidate Mattison Froese received 265 votes. Voter turnout was 47 per cent.

"I am very humbled and honoured, and the community has really been behind me and that my family has been behind me," Hiebert said. "It's an honour and a privilege to be able to represent Morden and Winkler, and I have been blown away by the encouragement that I have received here. The whole community has been amazing."

While she is disappointed that the Progressive Conservative party lost to the NDP, Hiebert sees a great opportunity still in serving as the Official Opposition in the Manitoba Legislature.

"I think it's obviously not what we were hoping for ... but now that we have a new government, my goal is to continually work for the community and advocate for the community, and I believe as long as we all work together, I think that will be the best way for us to have a prosperous province ... we will all need to work together."

"It definitely wasn't the outcome we were hoping for, but I believe that we can keep moving forward," she said. "Our area is blessed, and we have such wonderful communities. I'm going to continue to work hard and advocate."

The Opposition plays a vital role, she noted.

"It will be my job to help keep the government accountable. That's what the Opposition does, and it's a very important part of how our system of government works."

Hiebert also sees a good opportunity for renewal in the party with leader Heather Stefanson having announced she will be stepping away from that role.

"We're going to be in a new place of growth, and we'll have someone coming into the leadership position in the party, and I'm excited to see what's going to happen. There's nothing but going up from here," Hiebert said. "We can roll with it and just keep moving forward."

Hiebert is anxious to get to work as the Morden-Winkler MLA.

"I am extremely lucky to have this area ... I believe it's a real blessing,"

she said. "I have been able to be involved in the communities so much ... it feels like I know so many people, and that has been such a blessing to me. I think one of the big pluses for our area, being such a dense population, there's a lot of amazing things happening in our communities."

"I want to continue to work on health care and bringing in more doctors and work on our education and affordability for families. Those are all such high priorities for me."

Carrie Hiebert won the Morden-Winkler riding for the Conservatives with nearly 74 per cent of the vote.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



No injuries in fire that spread to two Winkler homes

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There were no injuries in a fire that spread to two houses on Roblin Blvd. in Winkler last week.

Fire Chief Richard Paetzold says they were called to a garage fire just after 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 2.

When crews arrived on the scene,

the fire had already spread to the rest of the house and also the house next door.

Fire crews quickly got to work to contain the blaze. Additional water tankers were called in from Altona/Rhineland and Morden as backup, as

Continued on page 3

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Like Us On

Community comes through with harvest, canning videos for Salem

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Residents of Salem Home in Winkler have spent the past month reminiscing about their own days bringing in the harvest or canning fruits and veggies for their families to enjoy through the winter months.

They've been aided in those reminiscences by the community at large, who responded to the personal care home's call for content in a big way this fall.

"We posted it on our Instagram page at the end of August, beginning of September," says director of community engagement Alana Thiessen, explaining they asked all "farmers, gardeners, and harvesters" to share

videos of themselves at work.

The response was overwhelming, with dozens of videos sent in to give Salem residents the chance to vicariously ride along with farmers out in the fields or stand alongside canners in the kitchen.

"It was so many different aspects, so many different things," Thiessen says. "And we got a lot of pictures as well."

The bulk of the submitted pieces were of farmwork of every stripe—combining, unloading grain, etc.—but they also got a handful of fun canning demos.

"One was of somebody making salsa, and they did it both in the fast way and the slow way so you could watch



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The videos help residents recall their own fall experiences bringing in the harvest or canning for the winter.



both versions," Thiessen says. "And then we also had somebody go and show us all of their canning downstairs in their cellar area, all the different things they'd canned."

While Salem regularly takes its residents out on field trips to see what's going on in the community (fields being planted in spring and harvested in fall, holidays decorations in December, and so on), not every resident is comfortable coming along for the ride. So staff try to bring the outside world to them whenever possible.

"Usually we have some staff go and they'll take videos for us to show, but we thought we would involve the community this time just because they have a different viewpoint," Thiessen says.

The videos and pictures have been showing on televisions and tablets throughout Salem for the past few weeks.

Thiessen says it's amazing how these types of memory aids can really bring a spark to a resident's eye.

"We had some videos of nighttime harvesting and one gentleman who doesn't really talk very often just lit up and said, 'Oh, harvesting at night

was my favourite. It was calm. I put my music on...'

"One thing that we know is if we have visuals it just makes everything much easier for people to bring up those memories."

Salem is also putting some of the videos on their interactive ABBY boards, which gives residents the chance to, for example, pretend to be driving a tractor while watching the video on screen.

While the harvest is now winding down, Thiessen notes they'd love to get more slice of life videos from the community to share with residents.

"In wintertime, kids playing shinny hockey on a homemade ice rink—that's something the residents would have done—or building a snowman or snowblowing your large driveway," she says. "Any pictures or videos around the community, they can contact me and we can see how we can incorporate them into life here at Salem."

You can reach Thiessen via email to althiessen@salemhome.ca, phone at 204-325-4316 ext. 246, or message Salem Home on social media with your videos.



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> FIRE, FROM PG. 2

parts of Winkler's water system are undergoing maintenance.

"Water supply was never an issue in this situation," Paetzold says, explaining it's a precautionary measure any time such maintenance is underway.

The house where the fire began has damage throughout, but firefighters

were able to contain the damage in the second home to the attic and roof.

Everyone inside the two houses got out safely.

"In both cases, passersby knocked on the doors to tell people to evacuate," Paetzold says.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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Morden Mayor Brandon Burley announces resignation

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley announced his sudden resignation last week, and it was learned Friday he was stepping aside in order to take on a new role in provincial politics.

Manitoba premier-designate Wab Kinew announcement of the 11 members of his transition advisory team included Burley. The team's role will be to provide advice and assistance to Kinew during the transition period.

Burley said it was a difficult decision to make, but that this was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

"I'm headed out with the city in a good spot and with the opportunity to do some more good ... so service for me is not done yet," he said.

"The City of Morden now has a very stable organization. It's in a position now where it is a good one," Burley added. "I know I leave it in very capable hands with council. There's some great candidates for leadership, and the city staff I would put up against any in the province."

Burley steps aside after five years in office. He was first elected in the fall of 2018 and then was re-elected by acclamation last fall.

A statement from the City of Morden heralded Burley's time in office as a transformative era and a period of progress for the city.

"Under Mayor Burley's leadership, Morden has experienced unprecedented transformation and significant growth, emerging as a beacon of progress in the region," stated the news release. "His unwavering commitment to the city and his visionary approach have played a pivotal role in shaping Morden's future."

Burley went on to note that his resignation also comes from a place of personal reflection, particularly related to his family.

"I have come to recognize the significant responsibility I have towards my family's own transformational growth years," he said.

"I love municipal government," Burley continued. "I had no idea when I got into this that I would meet the love of my life in this order of government. It's the government closest to the people. You see the results of the work that you do.

"The time commitment becomes very difficult, though," he said. "I've got four children in school now ... and the fear is always that you're not doing all these things well or to the fullest extent. The secondary fear is that when there is a sacrifice to be made, that's coming off the kids.

"So that had already been a thought in the back of my mind all summer, and I was taking time for reflection. It is something that was already in play in my mind all summer.

"Then the opportunity to join this advisory council with the incoming premier was kind of an 'aha' moment where I realized this was an opportunity to continue to work with the region and for the city, work for all municipalities to represent their interests," Burley said. "I hope one day to be involved again in municipal government, but right now my focus is my kids and family."

Burley extended his appreciation to the city council for their continued support and friendship throughout his tenure, and he again stressed the future of the city is in capable hands.

It wasn't always smooth sailing, of course, with issues ranging from the Morenet fallout to Burley taking heat for being an outspoken vaccination proponent during the pandemic. The bigger concern to him, though, especially early on, was almost wholesale turnover in the city administration.

"There were difficulties and chal-

lenges, obviously, but in terms of transformation and growth, council can be very proud of the work that's been done," Burley suggested.

"It's a city that you can very easily be proud of leading, and it was my honor to lead it for five years," he continued. "We had transitional challenges and some transformational challenges as well ... but those were the challenges I enjoyed meeting the most."

Pending confirmation of details, the city will initiate a by-election process to fill the vacancy created by the mayor's resignation as well as to fill the council seat recently vacated by Florian Lassnig, who is moving out of the area.

As for Burley, he's looking forward to getting to work in his new role.

"It's an interesting opportunity. I think it is clear that the government wants to build bridges, and they want to build trust ... and I'm excited about it.

"I've gotten to know Wab Kinew over the last number of years. I admire his life story; someone who has made the most of his opportunity for a second chance ... it certainly resonated with me as someone who came from a background with mental ill-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Brandon Burley has stepped down as Morden's mayor.

ness," Burley noted. "I've also gotten to respect him as an individual who is capable of nuanced conversation and who is willing to listen and to build bridges rather than dig fox holes.

"For him to come out this early and signal that he wants to be a premier for all Manitobans I think is going to resonate very well, and I'm happy to help advise him on how he can do that most effectively."

Armed standoff ends with arrest

By Voice staff

Local police responded to the scene of an armed man who barricaded himself in a home in Morden last week.

On Monday, Oct. 2 at approximately 10:30 p.m., Morden Police Service responded to a call of an assault with a weapon at a residence on Westwood Dr.

One male and one female were arrested when police arrived on the scene, but a second man remained inside the residence.

Police attempted to make contact with the individual, but he refused police entry and barricaded himself inside the home.

Multiple officers from both the Morden and Winkler departments responded to the scene, along with the Regional Support Tactical Team, the Regional Crisis Negotiators Unit, and K9.

The second man was taken into custody around 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

A list of charges had not been made public as of press time.



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Resigned

In less than a month two members of Morden city council have resigned: Councillor Flo Lassnig and Mayor Brandon Burley.

In life resignations come and go for many reasons. In my life I have resigned from many things. One of my life rules to help with such a decision is the following: if the task I have undertaken requires more than the capacity I have to accomplish it, I will leave. After all why waste other people's time attempting to accomplish what I am not able to.

It seems on the surface that both Lassnig and Burley have solid and compelling reasons to step away from their elected positions—moving away and focusing on family and the transition of Premier-elect WabKinew into office.

With this in mind, Morden may simply be in the midst of a great, unfortunate coincidence unfolding publicly which will culminate in a by-election.

Still, it is important to note that while resignations are common, two resignations from a city council in so short a time, one being from the mayor no less, bear scrutiny. This is unprecedented in Morden council history and one should ask questions.

Likely, when pressed in polite company, our dear departing council members will be gracious and wish the remaining council well. Still, one wonders at the timing. Even the wording of the city press release about the mayor's departure states:

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.



By Peter Cantelon

"Mayor Brandon Burley has announced his resignation, bringing an end to a transformative era and progress for the city..."

This sentence has an eerie predictive quality about it as if now that the mayor has departed so ends the era of transformation and progress. One imagines this was simply unintended wording (hopefully).

I applaud the efforts of Burley and Lassnig and mourn their departures. Both were voices of tolerance and diversity for Morden and their departure is a great loss. I never saw eye-to-eye with either of them on everything, but by and large I agreed with their philosophies.

(Aside: Anyone who fully and wholeheartedly agrees with everything a politician says and does is not paying attention and any politician who wants everyone to agree with them is a bad politician. The best thing a regular everyday citizen can do is offer a constructively critical eye on what their politicians say and do.)

Now, barring further resignations (for instance, another councillor resigning to run for mayor), Mordenites will begin to prepare for a by-election to refill these two crucial roles.

I expect to see the usual suspects

running, typically white guys born in Canada and over the age of 50. Not that there's anything wrong with white guys over the age of 50 ... heck, I'm a white guy over the age of 50 and so are some of my best friends. However, Morden is a VERY diverse community full of people from all over the world. There are talented men and women from the Philippines, Africa, Ukraine, Russia, Pakistan, India and more. It would be nice to see one or more of those demographics better represented.

If you are thinking about running, beware: politics is not for the thin-skinned or faint of heart. It is a hard job and the pay sucks for all the time required.

If you decide to run do so on the basis of humility and wanting to be part of a team, not an egotistical maverick who will single-handedly finally get us a pool, for example.

Politics is a team sport.

Also, know that if you plan to run as mayor you will have no special abilities. Mayor is first among equals. The mayor has one vote in seven and typically doesn't even vote unless a tie-breaker is required.

Continued on page 7

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

Winkler chamber gala speaker aims to inspire

Entrepreneur, Syrian refugee Tareq Hadhad to speak at awards gala Nov. 16

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce is bringing Tareq Hadhad to town as the guest speaker of next month's business awards gala.

In 2012, Hadhad's family home and chocolate-making business in Damascus, Syria were destroyed, which forced them to seek safety in other countries.

They fled to Lebanon where they spent three years in a refugee camp before finally moving to Canada's east coast in 2015.

Today the Hadhads once again run a successful chocolate business, Peace by Chocolate, distributing products across North America.

"We want people to feel inspired," says chamber executive director Tanya Chateaufeuf on how they go about selecting speakers for the annual P.W. Enns Business Awards gala. "And I think that the story of Tareq Hadhad's family coming to Canada and overcoming so many challeng-

es and having their community rally around them will definitely be inspirational.

"To top it off, they've had such great success and they've done amazing things with that success to give back on so many different levels."

Hadhad and his family have a focus on job creation, utilizing a network of local community members and refugees from across Nova Scotia and Canada to help support the local economy.

Hadhad himself has received numerous accolades for his work, including being named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 for Atlantic Canada, one of the Top 25 Immigrants in The Maritimes, RBC's top Immigrant Award and Entrepreneur of the Year in 2020, and a Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipient.

Hadhad's story shows that you can change your life and go on to transform the lives of others, notes Chateaufeuf.

"We hope his story will help to inspire everyone," she says, stressing the banquet is open to all, not just local business leaders. "We really want to encourage the community to come out as a whole. It's a community celebration."

The gala takes place on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre at 6 p.m. The evening includes dinner, a cash bar, and the presentation of the 2023 P.W. Enns Business Awards to Bloom Floral (Business Excellence), Outpost Grill (Customer Service), Renew Wellness Center (Business Builder), Ed Penner Construction (Community Builder) and Winkler Arts and Culture (Non-Profit)

Tickets are \$150 and can be booked online at winklerchamber.com.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Tareq Hahad is this year's P.W. Enns Business Awards gala guest speaker.

Letters

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU

Katie Cares would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pembina Valley region for the tremendous support that you have given and shown.

The Katie Cares fashion show was a huge success, and it is thanks to the sponsors, guests who purchased tickets, and silent auction contributors!

The charity continues to grow and carry out the vision and dream of a 13-year-old girl. Katie Cares continues to provide support to families in many ways. Through the cottage we can support families, and the Beanie Baby program supports children who are in medical care and provide

support to children who are critically ill, baby blankets to expectant moms, and lap blankets to cancer patients. Katie Cares also provides quilts and iPads to children who are in critically ill.

These programs could not be achieved without the tremendous support which comes from across Manitoba. Katie Cares will continue to use the funds with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

It is with heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the fashion show and the charity day in day out.

Ruth Reimer,
Katie Cares

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

If you think you might consider a run at council, start attending council AND committee of the whole meetings. Do not go in blind. Go in knowing something and being able to say you cared enough to at least attend a few meetings.

If you know a person who you think would be an amazing member of council, tell them this and suggest

they consider running. Believe it or not, many people do not realize they would be a good candidate and a simple suggestion can make all the difference.

I am resigned to the fact that we have lost two amazing members of council. Here's hoping the two who end up being elected to replace them are just as amazing.

The Voice

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Piwniuk re-elected in Turtle Mountain

By Lorne Stelmach

Doyle Piwniuk will now be one of the veteran guards of the Progressive Conservative party as it moves into the opposition role in the Manitoba Legislature.

The Virden resident was re-elected as Turtle Mountain MLA, and while he was disappointed with the PC's overall result provincially, he is grateful to be able to continue to serve the riding.

"I'm one of the five who were still with the caucus before the election that came from the Opposition days. I had two years of being in Opposition, and I know what it's like," said Piwniuk.

"It's not the funnest part of being in government, but you can do a lot of good in making sure there is accountability from the current government ... to make sure all of the promises, like they talk a lot about health care, is going to be what they are doing."

The results last week showed Piwniuk earned 4,753 votes, or 55 per cent of the ballots cast in his riding. NDP

candidate Lorna Canada-Vanegas Mesa was second with 1,933 votes followed by Keystone Party candidate Kevin Friesen at 1,486 and Liberal candidate Ali Tarar at 420 votes.

Piwniuk was first elected as the MLA for Arthur-Virden in a by-election in 2014 and was re-elected in 2016. In 2019 he was re-elected in the new constituency of Turtle Mountain.

He has been serving as the deputy speaker of the Legislature as well as in the infrastructure portfolio, which is a role he has especially appreciated.

"I've been so honoured to be representing the riding for the last four years," said Piwniuk. "We accomplished a lot, particularly when it comes to highways. When I first became MLA, we had some really rough highways.

"Health care was a number one priority. We made sure, when it came to working with different health authorities, that we have gained more people in that service."

It is a challenge serving such a vast riding, but Piwniuk noted "there's a lot of similarities when it comes to the

region ... it's one of the most beautiful constituencies to drive through ... and we have a lot of lakes, a lot of recreation, and a lot of tourism.

"There was a lot of grant money that came into the area," added Piwniuk, who has served on the International Peace Garden board. "We did a lot of projects there, almost close to \$18 to \$20 million in investment ... we're putting it on the map as a destination for international tourism."

In Opposition, Piwniuk noted the PCs will emphasize the need to maintain tax rates that are comparable to other western provinces.

"It's important because we are competing with them to keep people and professionals in our province," he said. "Right now, if the NDP continue raising the taxes like they did in the past with the billion dollar deficit that we inherited, I'm concerned about the impact."

Piwniuk said he could not say right now whether he will consider seeking the leadership of the party now that Heather Stefanson is stepping down from the role.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Doyle Piwniuk was re-elected for a fourth term in office.

"I've got a lot of reflecting to do," he said. "We will see who is going to come forward. That's going to be big ... the last leadership race, it was a challenging one. I can't really say anything right now."

Morden chamber puts call out for award nominations

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Chamber of Commerce has revised its annual business awards for 2023, but the overall aim remains unchanged.

The business community here has a vitality and success that needs to be both recognized and encouraged, suggested chamber president Tyler Schroeder as the organization put out a call for nominations last week.

"We have tremendous strength in our business community. One of our key functions is to tell the world our story and to encourage business investment in the area," said Schroeder. "It's a key and exciting function of the Morden Chamber of Commerce to have the opportunity to highlight, spotlight and recognize and acknowledge the leaders in our business community."

The awards previously included four categories: business of the year with less than seven employees, busi-

ness of the year with seven or more employees, entrepreneur of the year, and not-for-profit organization of the year.

This year the award categories include business excellence, entrepreneur of the year, and community builder, with the latter having three sub-categories for a business, organization or non-profit, and an individual.

"That assumes we have adequate nominations to cover all of those categories, but it's recognizing that the community builder role has some broad application, and we want to be able to capture all of the wonderful work that is being done in our community," Schroeder said.

For the business excellence award, nominees need to have been in operation for at least three years. The cri-

teria includes business achievements and growth, commitment to employees, contributions to the business industry sector, customer service, and overall impact on the community.

Nominees for entrepreneur of the year also need to have been in operation for at least three years. Other factors to be considered include staffing and employee growth, quality control, marketing strategies, expansions and innovative ideas, and the overall impact on the community

For the community builder awards, it needs to be shown how nominees are making a significant contribution to the community and its well-being.

"Really, it becomes a marketing exercise for the business to help tell the story of what it's doing and why it

should be recognized," said Schroeder.

"It gives them a platform to be recognized within Morden and often beyond Morden as well through the chamber of commerce network," he said. "It's very exciting to see the nominations each year. There's unique and wonderful things happening in the business community, and it's an honour and a privilege for us to have the opportunity to follow up with each of the businesses and encourage them to tell their story."

The selection committee includes chamber executive committee members along with the mayor of Morden and a representative of the Morden Community Development Corporation.

The deadline for nominations is Dec. 1. The awards gala is planned for Feb. 8.

Complete criteria and more information can be found at mordenchamber.com.

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Genesis House welcomed 20 teams to its first puzzle night fundraiser last week.

Genesis House puzzle night raises \$2,200

By Lorne Stelmach

Puzzle aficionados gathered at the Morden Activity Centre last Wednesday in support of Genesis House.

The organization's first puzzle night fundraiser brought in about \$2,200, and community and resource development co-ordinator Sophie Gerbrandt was happy with the response.

"It's not just your typical fundrais-

er," said Gerbrandt. "We had 20 tables with teams of four at each table, and we were sold out. We were full, so if we do it again maybe we'll increase the size."

"We're excited about it," she added. "Giant Tiger donated all the puzzles, and they have been a huge support to us."

In the end, 16 of the 20 teams finished their 500-piece puzzles in the

allotted two hours. The winning team finished in just over 52 minutes.

"It's something that I've seen done in Winnipeg, and I know that a lot of folks in our area like to puzzle, so I thought it would work well here," said Gerbrandt. "It's a perfect way to have some fun and raise awareness and some funds for Genesis House."

"It's also something that's inter-gen-

erational. We've had all ages here, all the way from teens to older adults.

"Obviously, it's great to raise funds, but we also want people to know about the work that we do," she added. "So if they need to access our services or have family or friends who need to access our services, they'll know who to call."

Terry Penner hired as new Stanley CAO

By Voice staff

The RM of Stanley has found its new chief administrative officer.

Council announced Friday that Terry Penner will start in the role this December. He steps into the shoes of outgoing CAO Dale Toews, who moved on to head up the Pembina Valley Water Co-op.

"We are in a good place right now. We have a good council, solid staff, things are getting done and we are focused on the future," Reeve Ike Friesen said in a statement. "Given the strategic importance of this position, we felt it was important to find someone that can sort of pick up the baton and keep that momentum going forward. We feel Terry can do that for us and we couldn't be more pleased that he agreed to join us."

Penner has a strong background related to leadership, finance, and administration with experience in a local government setting, the reeve noted. He is currently the executive director for the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre

"We took our time with this search because we wanted to make sure we found the right person for this role," Friesen said. "This is a big role, in a busy community. With a population of just under 10,000, our villages, our rural areas, agriculture, industry, it is all here and it is busy. Take a look around everywhere you go in our community there is activity."

"This is a demanding role to manage and balance what is all going on. It takes a special skill set and we are confident we found that."



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Local teen makes pitch to council for fitness park

By Lori Penner

A local teen recently submitted a letter to Altona town council on a project that he'd like to see happen in the community.

Fifteen-year-old Jonah Schroeder has lived in Altona his whole life and has an idea for an addition to Altona Centennial Park.

"I have visited other parks in nearby towns such as Carman, Winkler, and Morris," Schroeder told council. "All these towns have workout equipment that is classified as outdoor fitness parks where youth and adults can use the facilities to stay active and fit."

"I enjoy being outside in the summer, but it would be nice to have a place where I could work on my strength and work out with others."

Schroeder acknowledged that Altona already has indoor gyms, but not everyone can afford a gym membership or find the time to use it.

"If our park had a fitness level to it, parents could bring their kids to the park, and while watching them, enjoy some physical activity themselves. I go to the park every day and know several kids my age that would utilize such a facility," he said.

Mayor Harv Schroeder says council loves it when younger Altona resi-

dents take an interest in the community.

"We'll get requests like that from younger people sharing their ideas. If we can add something to our facilities that may widen the range of things people can do in the community, that's always a good idea."

Schroeder says he is aware that outdoor exercise equipment is available in many communities.

"We haven't researched how much they are being used, or the cost of these kinds of things. But we're always willing to take it to council where it would go into our planning session and budget session for next year. Those are things we have to set aside money for."

"When people approach us with ideas such as this, we ask if they're willing to fundraise, and if we have a place for it, then we can work together to make things happen."

The mayor adds that you need only look at many of the amenities in Altona, such as the Skate Park and the Community Garden, to know that the community rallies for projects such as this.

"I always look forward to working with groups like that. Jonah did mention placing it the playground area. I don't know if that's specifically where



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Fifteen-year-old Jonah Schroeder is asking Altona town council to consider adding an outdoor fitness park to Altona Centennial Park's recreational offerings.

we would be putting it. We would work with the Recreation Department and find out if this is something that fits in that area, because you don't want to put things in without a good plan.

"There is definitely space, but we have other people that have requested different things as well. Disc golf came about because a number of people expressed interest, and its use this summer was great."

Having a youth rep on council definitely gives them a perspective of different needs in the community, Mayor

Schroeder says.

"It's always positive when you have young people with ideas that will enhance your community but it's always hard to fulfill those ideas right away," he says. "Those are things that are good to have on the table and see if they are what the community wants and needs. We'll take a good look at it before we make a decision on it, but if there is a lot of interest, we'll definitely have a conversation with Jonah and see where this goes."



Foundation supports day care kiddie kitchen

Altona Community Foundation board member Al Friesen joined Kiddie Sunshine Centre director Patti Klassen for "coffee" and to make a \$4,250 dollar contribution to the child care facility's kiddie kitchen upgrade. The ACF continues to partner with Altona's KSC, having committed a total of \$50,000 toward a new facility which is currently under construction.

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The Lost Expressionist on display at Morden gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

The exhibit and forthcoming book *The Lost Expressionist – Nick Yudell, A Photographer Discovered* very much became a labour of love for Celia Rabinovitch.

The exhibit on this month at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden offers a vivid glimpse into life in 1930s Manitoba through the young Jewish Canadian's photographs that include portraits, experimental photography, and images of play, place, and self.

Rabinovitch was moved to create the exhibit to recognize not only Yudell's artistic vision but also because it serves as a vital archive of life in the 1930s.

"I think the ultimate thing that the show conveys is that one person can have quite a vivid artistic vision, and if that vision is preserved, it conveys to others what his experience of his time was and that experience, from

that, I think we can universalize it. How did people really experience the world then, and that was fully present in these photos," Rabinovitch said as the exhibit officially opened last Tuesday.

Morden plays a major role in the images as this was where Yudell spent most of his life.

Yudell was born in Winnipeg. His mother died soon after his birth and his father had a business and older children to manage, so Yudell was sent to live in Morden with his maternal aunt, who was Rabinovitch's grandmother.

Yudell grew up with seven other Rabinovitch children who were still at home, including

Rabinovitch's father Milton, and she came to learn he was very much part of the family. Perhaps especially close to him was Milton, who went on to start a business on Railway Street before opening Rabinovitch Brothers on Stephen Street.

Yudell's journey to becoming a pho-

"EVERY IMAGE WAS A SURPRISE. THEY GOT BETTER AND BETTER, AND THEY TOLD THESE GREAT STORIES."

Deadhorse Creek Speedway gives back

Race car arrives at BTHC to present foundation with \$20K

By Lorne Stelmach

The expansion of Boundary Trails Health Centre got another significant financial boost Friday.

Representatives of the Valley Motorsports Association presented a \$20,000 donation to the BTHC Foundation.

The funds were raised through the association's first two weekends of racing this past summer at the newly christened Deadhorse Creek Speed-

way.

"We're just thrilled to be able to do that and support our local hospital, which is critical to all of us," said president Chris Unrau, who made an attention-getting entrance in a race car out front of the hospital.

"It's something that's front of mind because it's an asset that our community has that's really special," he said.

"When you've needed this kind of an asset, you need it right now ... and to have such a great facility locally is a real blessing. In fact, coincidentally, one of our board members is laid up in the hospital here today.

"We had a phenomenal response from the entire community. The business community supported us; the racers supported us. The spectators and fans supported us ... huge record crowds ... it was a great time. We've



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Celia Rabinovitch with the work of her cousin, Nick Yudell, on display at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden this month.

to-ographer started when he received a camera in 1928. He quickly started with taking photos of family and places around Morden.

Yudell attended school in Winnipeg around 1930 but then came back to Morden a few years later. Later on, he studied portrait photography and set out to capture a wide array of people and locales in the community—everything from the nurses residence to the experimental farm and a popular local bakery.

The exhibit started with the discovery of the hidden cache of negatives shot before the Second World War by Yudell, who died in the war.

Rabinovitch spent years researching and developing the collection of work by Yudell, who at some point organized his images into an archive that was preserved by Milton.

"Once I got into it, it had its own momentum, so I just kept going, and I had encouragement from others too ... a number of people in Morden," said Rabinovitch.

"When someone presents you with a box of negatives that hasn't been opened since 1940 and it contains a mystery ... I thought, well, I would like to see what's in it. So once I was

Continued on page 13



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Chris Unrau of Deadhorse Creek Speedway (behind the wheel) stopped by the Boundary Trails Health Centre Friday to present the BTHC Foundation with a \$20,000 donation, the proceeds from this summer's races.

had pretty much nothing but positive feedback.

"We're supporting a local cause through our passion," said Unrau.

"It's exciting. It was a really fun summer to watch these events come together ... today's a really great day. It's the finish line," said foundation fundraising co-ordinator Jennifer Ch-

ing-Faux.

"It's a big drop in the bucket," she said. "It's going to make a huge difference in the years to come, and it's really great that everybody got to have a part in it ... everything from admission ... you bought a t-shirt, you bought a hot dog, it's all coming right back here."

Multi-Grains of Energy show on now at WA+C

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The pieces on display at Winkler Arts and Culture this month not only depict aspects of life on the prairies but also make use of a myriad of home-grown grains to do so.

Multi-Grains of Energy by artist Naomi Gerrard opened at the Park St. gallery last week and will be up until Oct. 30.

Gerrard uses acrylic paint and 18 different kinds of grains to showcase elements of the prairie lifestyle.

"I want to bring the attention to the grains themselves, the energy of the grains and how those grains—billions and billions of grains that are planted season after season in the prairies—change the vista of the prairies from year to year and from season to season," says Gerrard.

The Winnipeg artist has deep roots in the agricultural world.

"I grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania," she says. "And I've always been fascinated by grains, by their shapes and textures."

About 15 years ago, Gerrard, an avid painter and mixed media artist, began incorporating grains into her work. She uses a special gel to glue them onto the canvas.

"I start with an idea," she says of her art, which depicts a variety of rural scenes—a combine at work, a grain elevator, farmers out in the field—as well as farm animals and a few pieces that are meant to be representative imaginings of themes like "Prairie Energy" or "The Heart of the Prairies."

After sketching out her idea, Gerrard begins with her paints, adding a colour backdrop where needed, and then tops it all off with a mosaic of grains to form the heart of each piece.

One of her paintings called "Prairie Immersion" features a 3D effect with faces and hands surrounded by grains grouped into mandala patterns.

"This one was a fun process," Gerrard shares. "It's the first time I used these sort of figures—they were done in plaster—and

incorporated them onto the canvas like this."

Gerrard has been touring her work at art galleries throughout Manitoba in recent years and has been encouraged by the response.

She hopes people walk away thinking seriously about the role agriculture plays in all our lives.

"They're feeding the world," she says, gesturing to a painting that depicts just that.

"IT'S A REFLECTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRAIRIES AND THE BEAUTY OF THE PRAIRIES."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Artist Naomi Gerrard uses grains to depict scenes of prairie life. This piece shows the changing seasons. Gerrard's work is on display this month at Winkler Arts and Culture.

The entire show, she adds, is a "reflection on the importance of the prairies and the beauty of the prairies."

And if you're wondering just what grains are at play in Gerrard's various pieces, she has an identification station set up at the gallery with samples running the gamut from wheat and

barley to canola, flax, and hemp.

Gerrard will be at Winkler Arts and Culture during the day Oct. 12 and Oct. 19 to talk about her work. Local school groups or other organizations are invited to book a time for a tour with her by contacting admin@winklerarts.com



> LOST EXPRESSIONIST, FROM PG. 12

able to get them scanned, it was like this lost world unfolded that hadn't been seen for 70 or 80 years.

"Every image had a story to it, and all of the stories were linked because it's all of the same people in the pictures ... so it fleshed out the whole bigger story."

Rabinovitch observed it was remarkable that this collection was kept together and secure for so long.

"It's wonderful that it survived because a lot of people, if they didn't care about the history, would just toss it, but my father, when he first showed it to me in the early '70s ... he said to me, 'These were Nick's, so I couldn't bear to throw them out. Do you think you could do anything with them?'"

"Every image was a surprise. They got better and better, and they told these great stories," said Rabinovitch, recalling that after an article was published in the *Winnipeg Free Press* in 2011 that she heard from the nephew of Nick's co-pilot in the war. It helped her get the rest of Yudell's military history, as the co-pilot kept

a diary.

"It all just kind of started to snowball," she said, recalling then that she was encouraged to develop this all into a book.

"What came home to me was that people living here on the prairies had a very idealistic view of the world. They really believed in truth and fairness and sharing, and they knew a little about what was going on in Europe but not to a full extent," she observed.

"Part of the show deals with what people did for leisure, so there was music, photography, dress-up, driving out in the country ... they didn't have the same amount of distractions that we have now," Rabinovitch said. "I think that the photographs convey a very authentic way of living. If you look at Nick's self portraits, they're not posed like selfies. All of the people in the images seem to own themselves; they seem fully present."

You can find more information about the show online at lostexpressionist.com.

Lockport couple growing quality garlic for a decade

By Becca Myskiw

It was a decade ago when Wayne and Colleen Barylski started growing garlic.

After purchasing three hardneck varieties of garlic in 2013, the Barylskis were hooked. Wayne grew up on a mixed farm north of Arborg, and after living in Winnipeg for 26 years, the couple moved back to rural Manitoba, this time to Lockport.

"Having some acreage, I was inspired to start growing our own food," he said. "Homegrown vegetables were going to be a big part of our lives. We wanted to be self-sustained, where we grew our own vegetables. We have and continue to can and freeze for year-round consumption."

One day, Wayne looked into which specialty crops were in demand that they could grow and sell, and homegrown natural garlic came out as a result, being the second most sought after vegetable/spice product. That was also when Wayne learned garlic is not classified as a vegetable but as a spice.

"We tried growing the garlic from the local hardware stores and garden centers with little to no success," said Wayne. "(We) Found out later in my research these were soft neck garlic, grown only in the springtime."

So, they purchased some hardneck varieties and have since grown 19 varieties of garlic. Over the years, Wayne and Colleen have determined which varieties grow best in which soils and climate conditions — today, they grow nine varieties on their farm.

"I was eager to learn as much information as possible to be the best garlic producer I could be," said Wayne.

He read countless internet pages and numerous books and even took a workshop in B.C. five years ago to gain more knowledge on the spice.

"This quest for garlic wisdom allowed me to learn a lot of detailed



information that helped us grow garlic to the best of our ability," he said. "Over the years, we gained valuable knowledge and experiences, and we now have the tools and know how to be a successful quality garlic producer."

One of the tricks the couple has learned in their 10 years of growing garlic is drip irrigation, which they say makes a huge difference in production as it ensures consistent moisture, which is critical to growing healthy garlic. They also use composted organic fertilizer amendments, keeping their gardens pesticide and herbicide free.

The Barylskis process and eat their garlic. Each garlic bulb they produce is organic and all-natural. They hand plant each seed, hand weed each plant, and hand harvest and process them.

"We believe in sustainable agriculture, which includes crop rotation and no harsh chemicals," said Wayne. "We believe garlic should be given the utmost care and, as a result, a better product free from damage or bruising. This ensures quality seed stock and culinary."

Where no garlic is planted for three years at Lockport Gardens, the Barylskis will plant green manure or a cover crop as organic fertilization to keep each piece of soil well-balanced even when not in use.



PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

Wayne and Colleen Barylski are garlic farmers in Lockport who believe in sustainable agriculture.

Each year, Lockport Gardens plants its garlic seeds (bulbils) to ensure they have a fresh, clean garlic stock. Wayne said that growing their plants from bulbils is rewarding and yields the cleanest planting stock available. The newly planted bulbils will take anywhere from three to five years to mature, depending on the variety.

The garlic is planted in October and harvested in July or August the following year. Because of the overwintering, Wayne and Colleen have to battle snowfall, extreme cold, spring melt, rain, pests, and animal traffic each year. When their crops grow in the winter, the couple peels garlic cloves in preparation for garlic powder.

Lockport Gardens' hardneck garlic also produces garlic scapes, which are

curly-tipped, extremely tasty green shoots. They remove these from the plants in early summer as it allows the garlic bulbs to grow larger and fuller. Wayne said the scapes can be eaten raw, grilled, fried, or in pesto — either way, they harness the same health benefits as garlic cloves do.

"We chop them up and freeze for later cooking," he said. "They can be used in any dish you would otherwise use cloves or powder in."

Garlic is antifungal and antiviral. It's an immune booster, it reduces blood pressure, lowers bad cholesterol, improves brain function, promotes longevity, improves physical performance, detoxifies heavy metals, keeps your bones strong, fights fungal infections, and it combats allergies. These various health benefits are some of the main reasons Wayne wanted to grow garlic.

Getting to where they are today has been a labour of love for the Barylskis. They've had excellent and not-so-good growing years, but each of the past 10 years has shown that growing garlic is a very labour-intensive job with big rewards.

To learn more about Lockport Gardens or to purchase garlic or garlic powder, call or text Wayne at (204) 223-2372. Soon, they will also have a website where people can learn more about their garlic production. Keep checking www.lockportgardens.ca to see when the site goes live.



Central Manitoba Youth Choir on tour this week

By Voice staff

Some of the best youth singers from across the region are coming to a community near you this week.

The Central Manitoba Youth Choir's annual tour runs Oct. 12-16 and includes stops all across the 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 to prepare and perform outstanding repertoire.

This is the second year the choir is back on the road following online performances through the pandemic.

CMYC 2023 is conducted by Winnipegger Scott Reimer and accompanied by Loren Hiebert of Altona.

The singers, who earned their spot on the choir by auditioning, have spent the past two weekends rehearsing in the lead up to this year's tour, which kicks off with a performance at MacGregor Collegiate Institute on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.

The rest of the tour schedule includes:

- Friday, Oct. 13 at 9:15 a.m. at Gladstone Elementary School, 11:40 a.m. at the St. Claude School Complex, 1:40 p.m. at Miami School, and 7 p.m. at the Manitou Opera House.

- Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Morden Friendship Centre, 2 p.m. at Altona Mennonite Church, 7 p.m. at Morden Mennonite Church in Morden.

- Sunday, Oct. 15 at Westside Community Church in Morden as a part of their 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, then 2:00 p.m. at Homestead South in Morden, and 7 p.m. at the Carman United Church.

- Monday, Oct. 16 at Maple Leaf School in Morden, 10:30 a.m. at the Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler, 2:10 p.m. at Northlands Parkway Collegiate in Winkler, and then a final performance at 4 p.m. as the special guests of Central Manitoba Choral Association Junior Choral Workshop.

"We heartily invite you to attend any of these concerts to hear these talent-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Local members of the Central Manitoba Youth Choir this year include Ian Fenmore, Loren Hiebert (accompanist), Micah Loewen, Sam Kroeker, Rylan Hiebert, Milo Klassen, Jadyn Thiessen, Anthony Peters, Scott Reimer (conductor), Ori Plett, Rudy Sheppard, Julia Loewen, Katrina Banman, Anika Wiens, Anastasia Klages, Sara Thiessen, Hunter Martens, Kate Giesbrecht, Beth Giesbrecht, Callie Thiessen, Brooklyn Fleming, Chantelle Funk, Dalcyce Friesen, Zoe Geake, Laycee Henderson, Keeley Sheppard, Serena Driedger, Taylor Hildebrand, and Keziah Dueck

ed young singers who have bonded through their love of choral music," CMCA said in a statement. "Come and listen as they sing together and share this love of music with audiences of all ages across southern Manitoba."

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Notice of a Meeting

Of the Members of Winkler Consumers Co-operative Ltd.

Notice is hereby given of a Special Meeting of the members of the Winkler Consumers Co-operative Ltd. at Winkler in the Province of Manitoba, on the 26th day of October 2023, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. to consider a proposal to amalgamate La Cooperative Paroissiale De St. Joseph and Winkler Consumers Co-op Ltd. and consider proposed changes from the existing Articles of Winkler Consumers Co-op Ltd.

The following is the special resolution which is proposed to be brought forth at the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Articles of Amalgamation for Winkler Consumers Co-op Limited, based on the positive vote for the amalgamation, be and are hereby approved, confirmed and adopted.
2. The By-laws of Winkler Consumers Co-op Limited, based on the positive vote for the amalgamation, be and hereby approved, confirmed and adopted.
3. The Amalgamation Agreement, effective the 22nd day of August, 2023, between Winkler Consumers Cooperative Limited and La Cooperative Paroissiale De St. Joseph providing for the terms and conditions of their amalgamation and their continuance as one Cooperative under The Cooperatives Act of the Province of Manitoba, be and is hereby approved, confirmed and adopted.
4. The directors and officers of Winkler Consumers Co-op Ltd., be and are hereby authorized and directed to do such acts and things and execute such documents as may be necessary and desirable to implement the said amalgamation.

Copies of THE AMALGAMATION AGREEMENT AND ARTICLES adopted by the Board of Directors on August 22, 2023 are available from the Winkler Consumers Co-op Ltd. administration office for review. A member has a right to dissent to the amalgamation. This can only be done by sending a written objection to the resolution proposing amalgamation to the Co-operative on or before the meeting referred to above.

VOTING DATE: October 26th, 2023 TIME: 7:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: Days Inn Conference Centre, Winkler, Manitoba

HANDS Canada sends out thanks to the community

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley's adopted school in the Democratic Republic of Congo started the new school year with a growing student population and high hopes for the future.

The school supported by HANDS (Hope for All Nations Developments and Sustainability) Canada in South Kiv welcomed 350 students last month, shares founder and program director Assani Muhanuzi.

"It's our seventh school year," he says, recalling that the facility opened its doors to just over 100 students back in fall of 2016, its first year of operations.

The school provides kids from families with limited resources a place to get a quality education. They pay a modest tuition, with foreign donations helping to cover outstanding costs and fund capital improvement projects.

The school initially catered to Gr. 1-6 students, then expanded to include Gr. 7-8.

This school year marks the first one that Gr. 9 students have a classroom to call their own in a new building on

the campus.

HANDS Canada board chair Harold Hamm explains that Gr. 9 in Congo is when students begin training in earnest for their future careers.

"We had 18 kids that finished Gr. 8 last year with us and they requested, 'Can't we stay in this school?' So we hired a new teacher and we're going to give them Gr. 9 in our school."

Those kids will be training to be teachers themselves, Hamm says, and hopefully some of them will stay on at the school as the educators of tomorrow.

In addition to the school, HANDS Canada also operates a small pig farm and a garden to help feed the community and make the school more self-sufficient financially. They're also working on adding a small medical clinic for the community to use.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of Canadian donors, Muhanuzi stresses.

"I have no way to express how important it is," he says. "The money that comes from here, it helps pay the teachers, it helps us do the buildings, and it helps us maintain the school."

"We have no way to thank the community of Morden-Winkler enough for what they have done for us."

A recent barbecue held at Winkler Co-op



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

"Thank you Winkler" reads the sign at HANDS Canada's school in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Local organizers stress it is only through the generosity of donors in the Pembina Valley that the school is able to offer education to children from families in need in Africa.

brought in \$3,500 for the cause.

"It's amazing the support we receive," Hamm says, thanking everyone who has given generously to the program.

You can learn more about HANDS Canada and make a donation online at handscanada.com.



A recent fundraising barbecue at Winkler Co-op brought in \$3,500 for HANDS Canada. "It's amazing the support we receive," says board chair Harold Hamm.

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- Rick Derksen



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

Genesis House hopes to build larger shelter in Winkler

By Lori Penner

The South Central Committee on Family Violence (Genesis House) recently held its annual general meeting at The Exchange in Altona.

The meeting included feedback from Lisa Peters and Diana Wiebe of the CommUNITY Hub, which brings families and their supporters together to work through complicated life issues.

Genesis House executive director Angela Braun said it's been another busy year at the shelter for abused women and their children, and local support organizations like these are vitally important to their work.

"We currently have more people than we have beds. But we do continue to have positive things happening as well, with lots of good partnerships with community and local organizations such as Winkler Central Sta-

tion, 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden, and The Community Exchange in Altona. Working together is more beneficial for each of us than working independently. We are literally creating a place where a person can't slip through the cracks."

Braun shared how Genesis House was recently turned down for a large grant to fund their new shelter project in Winkler.

"We hadn't done this before. It was a national grant of \$250 million to be distributed across Canada for organizations that specifically support women and kids fleeing domestic violence. We worked very hard to get our application in, but there was lots of criteria. It took months to get it in and then months to hear back. It's disappointing, but we still plan to continue with this project."

Genesis House has already purchased the land for the new shelter,



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

From left: CommUNITY Hub community support team coordinator Lisa Peters, Genesis House board chair Karen Tjaden, Genesis House executive director Ang Braun, and CommUNITY Hub community connector Dianna Wiebe at the regional women's shelter's AGM last month.

Braun said.

"It was already zoned for what we needed it to be. The question from the board was do we buy the land when we don't have funding guaranteed

for the project? We just jumped in and have faith that what we need will materialize."

Continued on page 23

Diversitas hosts 25th guest speaker Oct. 24

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local Diversitas speaker series hosts its 25th event later this month in Morden.

When the series first got its start back in 2015, the goal was to educate people and foster discussion about the diversity of the human experience, says organizer Peter Cantelon.

"The intent originally was just to that one time bring someone down to talk about an issue that I felt was being kind of distorted or misunderstood in our region," he says of the very first speaker, Dr. Idris Elbakri, then president of the Manitoba Islamic Association. Elbakri's presentation, by happenstance, took place a week after the November 2015 Paris attacks in which Islamic extremists killed 130 people and injured 416 more.

The talk drew nearly 200 people—still Diversitas' largest group—and Elbakri deftly fielded questions about his faith and some of the misconceptions that surround it.

Though originally a one-off event, the community response was such that Diversitas became a full-fledged series, welcoming guest speakers from outside the Morden-Winkler area (to better provide a perspective beyond the local echo chamber, Cantelon explains) every several months.

"It just continued from there be-

cause there kept being more things that would crop up," says Cantelon.

In the years since, the series has welcomed speakers on topics that include a variety of world religions and life philosophies, Indigenous issues, 2SLGBTQ+ topics, and the immigrant/refugee experience.

"The goal is to combat ignorance on subjects, particularly subjects that are related to human diversity," Cantelon says, noting the best Diversitas events have been those revolving around topic suggestions that came from the community itself.

He expects the upcoming session will be one of these, as it was put forth as a timely topic in light of some of the protests and rhetoric making the rounds over the past year.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden, Diversitas welcomes guest

speakers from Winnipeg's Sunshine House for a discussion entitled "What is Drag? Why is Drag?"

Drag is a form of entertainment where people, most often men, dress in women's clothing and makeup and give a stylized performance featuring exaggerated gender characteristics.

There's a lot of confusion out there about what drag is and what it is not, Cantelon says, so it seemed a ripe topic for Diversitas to tackle.

"I was thankful that we're able to have a couple of speakers from Sunshine House and Winnipeg willing to come down, because this is their area of expertise ... they serve the [2SLGBTQ+] community and some of them participate in drag."

There will be a time after the presentation for questions.

Everyone is welcome, though Cantelon hopes attendees, whatever they

may feel about drag, will be respectful of the event and the speakers.

"My goal is just to provide a source of information that is intimately connected with the [drag] community and the phenomena and have them answer questions as openly and as honestly as they can.

"If we get some people in the room who hold opposing perspectives, I hope they'd at least be willing to stay, ask questions, and continue to communicate afterwards so they know that, while they may not agree with the speakers and the community they represent, they're not monsters—they just hold opposing positions.

"That's really my goal for every Diversitas event."

You can learn more online at diversitasca.wordpress.com.

Discovery Trails School principal hired

By Voice staff

Morden's new school has its first principal.

Western School Division announced last week that Samuel Jerema will head up the administrative team at the Discovery Trails School when it opens next fall.

The school is under construction on Parkhill Dr. in the northwest part of the city.

Jerema is currently the principal of Maple Leaf School in Morden. He will begin work in his new role at Discovery Trails in January.

"With over 10 years of experience in educational leadership, Mr. Jerema is

passionate about creating engaging school environments for all students and looks forward to this opportunity to positively impact our community," the division said in a statement, noting the search for a new principal to start at Maple Leaf in January will begin immediately.

sports & recreation

Flyers extend win streak to six

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers' win streak continues.

The junior team downed the Portage Terriers Friday night on the road and then came home to beat the Selkirk Steelers on Sunday.

Friday's game needed a shootout for a decision, as the two teams were tied 3-3 after 60 regulation minutes and overtime.

All those goals came in a busy second period that saw Xyon Kiemeney, Dalton Andrew, and Trent Penner score for Winkler.

In the shootout, Portage's first shooter scored while Brody Beauchemin missed the mark for the Flyers.

Andrew was also foiled in his attempt to tie it up, but Penner and Jayce Legaarden were successful, while the remaining three Terriers were stopped by Malachi Klassen in net, giving the win to Winkler 4-3.

Klassen made 18 saves overall as Winkler outshot Portage 31-21.

Two nights later the Flyers defeated the Steelers 4-2. Tanner George had a two-goal night while Isaiah Peters and Joel Purdom contributed one



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Selkirk's Noel Olsonawski robs Winkler's Jayce Legaarden of a sure goal Sunday night. The Flyers got the win 4-2.

goal each. Liam Ernst made 26 saves in net.

Winkler's 6-0 record has them in

first place in the MJHL's East Division with 12 points. Trailing them in second and third are the Steinbach Pis-

tons and the Niverville Nighthawks.

The Flyers host Waywayseecappo this Sunday.

Male Hawks split weekend doubleheader with Northstars

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The male Pembina Valley Hawks were on both sides of the win-lose equation over the weekend as they hosted the Norman Northstars.

Pembina Valley blanked Norman 5-0 Friday night.

Kam Thomas drew first blood for the Hawks near the end of the opening frame. Sam Delaquis, Haiden Friesen, and Acoyen Fehr made it 4-0 heading into the final period where Gavin Funk put the final nail in with a few minutes left on the clock.

In net, Bryson Yaschysn had a flawless 23-save night. His teammates fired 44 shots the other way.

The tables turned the next day, though it took a shootout to give the Northstars the win 3-2.

Norman got on the board in the first period and it took until early in the

third for the Hawks to tie it up thanks to a goal from Thomas.

Another Northstars goal followed a couple minutes later, and it was again Thomas who evened things out, forcing what proved to be a scoreless

overtime. Norman won the resulting shootout.

Ryler Gates was in net this match for the Hawks, making 25 saves as Pembina Valley outshot the Northstars 55-27.

This week the Hawks head into Winnipeg to face the Thrashers Wednesday night and then to Brandon to play two games against the Wheat Kings over the weekend.

Twisters down Transcona Railers 6-2

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters got back in the win column with a big 6-2 win over the Transcona Railer Express. With the win, the Twisters move into sixth place in the MMJHL's standings with a record of 1-1-1.

Merek DeGraeve led the way for Pembina Valley in the 6-2 win with a pair of goals for his club. Brett Berg-

man, Derek Wiebe, Jacob Carels and Mike Heppner scored other Twisters' goals that night.

Logan Enns stopped 44 shots in goal for the Twisters for the win.

"The start of the season has been good and the team is looking great," said Pembina Valley Twisters head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "I can't wait to see how far this team can go this year."

The Twisters are back in action with three games this week. They have a road game against St. Boniface Riels on Oct. 10, before returning home for games at the Morris Multiplex on Friday, Oct. 13, against the tenth place Stonewall Jets at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. against the first place St. James Jr. Canucks.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Access Event Centre played host to the local World Girls Hockey Weekend festivities on Saturday. There were about 40 girls signed up and who took part in both dry land and on ice sessions as well as street hockey. "They ended it off watching the U18 AAA girls," said Natalie Vigier-Hutton, female hockey rep for Morden Minor Hockey. "The goal is to recruit, retain and engage female players, and I think it's been growing. It's good to see girls from all over the Pembina Valley coming out to this event."

World Girls Hockey Weekend in Morden



Female Hawks down Wpg. Ice, fall to Chiefs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a mixed weekend for the female Pembina Valley Hawks.

On Saturday, the MFHL U18 AAA team walked away from a home game against the Winnipeg Ice with a 2-1 victory to add to their record.

Emma Durand and Tessa Helliwell did the honours for Pembina Valley

while Kasia Rakowski made 42 saves in net.

Things didn't go as well the next day against the visiting Yellowhead Chiefs, who handed the Hawks their first league loss of the season 5-1.

Scoring for the Hawks was Chase Braun. Vayha Willis made 34 saves between the posts.

With that, Pembina Valley is 3-1 so

far this fall, good for six points and the top two spots in the standings alongside the Chiefs.

This weekend the Hawks head to

Shoal Lake to play the Chiefs Saturday and then to Harney to face the Westman Wildcats.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Jessica Anderson comes out of a pile with the puck Saturday.

Storm 2 moving on up

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Storm 2 fell short of their bid for the Manitoba Major Soccer League's 3rd Division title, but the season remains a success.

Winkler clinched the SMSL Conference's first-place spot on the strength of a 14-3-1 record.

On Friday they squared off against the MCSL Conference winners SWB FC for the title, but lost 1-0.

Nonetheless, the first-place conference finish secures the team a promotion to the league's 2nd Division next summer.

Winkler Storm 1, meanwhile, finished eighth place in the MMSL's Premier Division with a 5-13-0 record. The two teams below them in the standings—World Soccer Academy and Lions FC—are slated to move down to First Division.



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- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.
- Tenders must be received on or before 2:00 pm on November 3, 2023.
- Tenders must be accompanied by a \$10,000.00 cheque payable to **McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby LLP** in Trust as a deposit. Deposit cheques accompanying unacceptable bids will be returned.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

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- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
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- The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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

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 **6th day of November, 2023**, at the hour of **5:00 PM**, at City of Winkler, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
118300	THE S 1/2 OF LOT 7 BLOCK 3 PLAN 952 MLTO EXC FIRSTLY: THE NLY 50 FEET AND SECONDLY: THE ELY 20 FEET IN NW 1/4 4-3-4 WPM - 495 MAIN ST	L - \$158,400 B - \$208,100	\$40,928.52

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

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- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the CITY OF WINKLER as follows:
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- 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 26th day of September, 2023.

Managed by:

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Consignors Welcome!

PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROLAND PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION FOR 2024 ASSESSMENT ROLL

Public notice is hereby given that the 2024 assessment roll for the Rural Municipality of Roland has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 45 3rd Street, Roland, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Any person who believes that an assessment ought to be revised, may make application in accordance with section 42 and 43 of the Municipal 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, the authorized agent of the person, mortgagee or occupier, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to the following matters:

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

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

"43(1) An application for revision must

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42(1) are at issue and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- be filed by
 - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - serving it upon the secretary,
 at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice."

The Board of Revision for the RM of Roland will sit on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00 am** in the Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of Roland to hear applications.

The final date on which the Secretary of the Board may receive applications is **October 31, 2023**.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2023.

Kristin Olson, Secretary
Board of Revision
Rural Municipality of Roland
45 3rd St.
Box 119, Roland, MB R0G 1T0

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OBITUARY



Barbara Grace Theresa Agnew (Lane) obituary February 11, 1937 – October 5, 2023

Our mom, Barb, was born on February 11, 1937, in Paris, Ontario. She attended Central Elementary School and high school in Paris. Barb is predeceased by her parents, Viola (Dawson) Lane in 1982 and Thomas Lane in 1996; her brother, Bob Lane in 2020; and her husband, Basil Agnew on April 26, 2022.

She is survived by her six children: Patrick (Renee van Meirlo) of Seven Sisters Falls, MB; Mike of Fox Creek, AB; Theresa (Dave Buchanan) of Edmonton, AB; Joan (Tim Kohut) of Morinville, AB; Clare of Morden, MB; and Bob (Shauna) of Morden, MB. She also is survived by her grandchildren: Dion Palumbo (Jun); Lisa Bellerose Kendall (Ryan Kendall) of Penhold, AB; Kimberley Bellerose of Penhold, AB; Amy Voloshanovskiy (Ivan) of Winnipeg, MB; Jenna Doherty (Dylan Reimer) of Crystal City, MB; Erin Doherty (Ted Lea) of Manitou, MB; Max Buchanan (Sadey Hamilton) of Edmonton, AB; Evan Kohut of Morinville, AB; and Caslan Buchanan of Edmonton, AB; as well as three great-grandchildren (Gabby, Myah, and Isla) and 17 nieces and nephews.

Barb began working in the Stedmans store in Paris, Ontario, in October, 1954, and on May 21, 1956, married the boss, Basil Joseph Agnew. On their honeymoon in New York City, Barb and Bas were so excited to see Jackie Robinson's Brooklyn Dodgers take on Hank Aaron's Milwaukee Braves. When they returned home, they moved into their first home in Paris, ON. The Stedmans company took Barb and Basil to many locations across Canada: Melfort, SK (1958); Drumheller, AB (1959); Red Deer, AB (1964); Souris, MB (1965); and finally to Morden, MB (1970). With each move, Barb had the difficult task of packing and unpacking, sometimes living in cramped rental homes, fitting in with new neighbours, and getting her six kids settled into school.

Barb was a major contributor to the success of the Stedmans store in Morden. With six children to get off to school, she still managed to have lunches ready, beds made, breakfast dishes done, and even a load of laundry cleaned before she arrived at the store at 9:15 a.m. She was back at the house by 4 o'clock to greet the kids when they got home from school. At least five evenings a week, all eight of us sat down at the table to have dinner as a family. No TV or radio allowed during supper, just family conversation. With Barb in charge, things were always organized.

Barb was a stay-at-home type of person, but she did enjoy the trips she took with Bas to Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Yukon, Alaska, Mexico, Texas, San Diego, and Arizona. She particularly loved Florida and Hawaii, traveling to each place three or four times. As well, she traveled through every province in Canada, loving all of the tourist attractions.

Mom enjoyed decorating her home with flowers (usually plastic) and wreaths, playing cards, watching Hallmark Christmas movies (at any time of year), cheering on her Winnipeg Jets, eating hotdogs and drinking beer. She loved Grey Cup and St. Patrick's Day parties; family euchre tournaments; bingo, coffee and happy hour at Vista Terrace, and running into neighbours and friends at the Thrift Store or Giant Tiger. She especially loved when the whole family got together, which often happened around her and Basil's wedding anniversary.

We'll miss you mom, but we are so happy that you will be reunited with dad for happy hour cribbage matches forever.

Barb and her family are deeply grateful for the care she received at the Boundary Trails Health Centre in the last weeks of her life.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a reception at Wiebe Funeral Chapel from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14. Donations may be made in Barb's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, designated to Palliative Care.

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The Winkler Morden
Voice

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OBITUARY



Peter I Friesen 1934 - 2023

Peter Friesen (hardtop Pete) when someone asked "How are you?" he'd say, "I'm still breathing" On Friday September 29, 2023 at 6:15 a.m. he breathed his last breath!

He will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his family: his wife, Margaret, his son, Peter, his girls, Debbie and Robert, Nancy and Lauren, Patti and Grant, Roma and Rob, six grandsons and one granddaughter and their families. He

is also survived by two brothers, three sisters and their families. He was predeceased by one grandson.

Funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday October 10, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

The family would like to thank elder, Ryan Friesen, Pastor John MacDonald and our church family, also Karen Schaak and Barb Wiebe, as well as Dr. Woelk for their compassionate care during Pete's illness. Thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home and to all who showed their care and support to our family.

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



OBITUARY



Cornelius Friesen 1932 - 2023

Cornelius (Cornie) D. Friesen, age 91, peacefully passed away on the morning of Monday October 2, 2023 at Salem Home in Winkler with his wife Agatha by his side.

Cornie was born in 1932 to Jacob E. and Maria (nee Doell) Friesen in Plum Coulee, Manitoba and spent his childhood in Burwalde, Schoenwiese, and Osterwick. He was baptized upon confession of his faith in Osterwick Sommerfeld Church.

He met the love of his life, Agatha (nee Penner), at a community baseball game in Hochfeld in the summer of 1955 and fell head over heels in love. He was so smitten that on a cold winter night, he walked from Osterwick to Hochfeld to see her because the roads were all snowed in. Walking up to Agatha's family home under a full moon her father exclaimed, "This guy is serious!"

Cornie and Agatha married in August of 1956 and spent the next 65 years in 13 different homes before Cornie made Tabor Home in Morden and then Salem Home in Winkler his new home. After downsizing in 2014, they spent eight wonderful years together in their Crocus Village apartment. Always a snappy dresser, Cornie thoroughly enjoyed that a new dress shirt or tie was only an elevator ride away.

Over the course of his life, Cornie wore many hats. (And would never turn down a free baseball hat.) As a young man, he worked as a farmhand and for telegraph and telephone companies. After marrying Agatha, he worked for City Hydro and Manitoba Hydro and lost a few good friends which impacted him for the rest of his life. He would often share the ups and downs of those experiences through stories and photo albums. There were also stints of farming, construction, real estate, driving a delivery truck, and buying flax straw for Ecusta before he retired. After retiring, Cornie spent many years delivering cars and motor homes for local businesses. In 1987, while working for Acrylon Plastics as a delivery truck driver, Cornie was involved in a terrible motor vehicle accident that nearly took his life and took the life of a close friend. The physical and emotional scars from that experience stayed with him but we are thankful that he was not called home to Heaven then. He was blessed to experience numerous family weddings, first homes, graduations, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

What began as forgetfulness eventually turned into dementia and slowly started to take him away from us. While some faces faded from his memory, the love for his "sweetheart" Agatha was always unmistakable. We are thankful for the meaningful time we were able to spend together as a family while he made his long journey home.

Cornie is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Agatha, their three children, Marvin (Elaine), Raymond (Elaine), and Bev (Peter), nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and all but one of his siblings. We rejoice that he has been reunited with his family that he has missed for so long, but we grieve the empty space he has left behind. When asked a few days before he passed away if he wanted to go to Heaven, he replied, "Sooner than later."

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday October 7, 2023 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with private interment prior at the Winkler Cemetery.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers at Tabor and Salem Home for always providing such wonderful care, especially Chaplain Aron Friesen. A special thank you to the staff on Cottonwood at Salem Home for their exceptional care these last eight months, especially this last week. Thank you to Pastor Victor Engbrecht for your visits and prayers. Thank you to everyone helping with funeral arrangements, especially Pastor Dean Huber and Wiebe Funeral Home. Thank you to everyone who has kept our family in your thoughts and prayers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salem Foundation Inc.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
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Okell's Pumpkin Promise raises money in memory of his mother

By Ty Dilello

Winnipeg's Chris Okell has raised over \$50,000 for CancerCare Manitoba Foundation with his "Pumpkin Promise" and lifelong passion for pumpkins.

The Pumpkin Promise began a year after Okell's mother (Marietta) passed away from pancreatic cancer in November of 2010.

"I have been playing with these big goofy pumpkins for probably 30 years," said Okell. "We always loved Halloween as a family and kids and now as bigger kids. One day, my mom saw a big pumpkin that was maybe 80 pounds or so on someone's lawn. That's when she fell in love with pumpkins. So she made me look for them and bigger ones each year. Well, that wasn't exactly easy as you can't just go to the local grocery store and find them."

That's when Okell researched and contacted the Roland Pumpkin Fair organizers. Unfortunately, Okell's mother passed away before she could see what she created.

"About a year after she passed away, I was standing in my driveway looking at the two 1,000-pound pumpkins (from the Roland Pumpkin Fair) that were lit up and ready for the swarms of people that would come to see them. I just got a feeling inside all of a sudden and looked up at the sky and said, 'Okay, Mom. What can I do?' I was getting 300-plus people a year coming to see these big, beautiful pumpkins, so I had to do something."

From there, the Pumpkin Promise was created in Marietta's honour for CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

"The very first year being unorga-

nized, I raised only \$60. But I was so happy I even raised that," said Okell. "Then the next year, I made a call to CancerCare Manitoba to set up a meeting to see what they could do to help. They built me a website so people could donate online. And I have a Pumpkin Promise Facebook page that I use to promote the event. Some people donate right in my driveway at 39 Baisinger Drive in South St. Vital all month, but especially on Halloween day/night. I am in my driveway at about 8 a.m. on Halloween morning and stay there all day to visit with people who come by to see the pumpkins and collect donations."

Year after year, Okell became amazed at the donations that came in. Every year, more money was raised than the last.

"This past year, we raised over \$11,000 in a month's time. I think to date, we have raised over \$51,000 in nine years. I never put a goal out as it would have become a job, and I didn't want that. This was something we loved, and I know my mom would have absolutely loved to see what we all have created from her love of Halloween and putting smiles on people's faces."

Okell has been going to the Roland Pumpkin Fair for many years now, and the organizers have even made him a judge with the pumpkins at the weigh-in.

"These people who donate the pumpkins were just strangers to me as I was to them when I was a young kid that just showed up looking for big pumpkins. Now, they are all family and have helped me in so many ways. I can't say thank you enough. Without the growers and all the sup-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chris Okell has raised over \$51,000 for the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation over the past nine years with The Pumpkin Promise that has been a fixture at the Roland Pumpkin Fair.

port I get, The Pumpkin Promise wouldn't exist."

Okell was honoured last November when he received the Queens Platinum Jubilee Award at the Manitoba Legislative Building. It was a humbling experience but one that Okell knows his mother would have been very proud of.

"I must say this again that without my family of growers and friends and the Roland Pumpkin Fair, this wouldn't be a thing still happening ten years later," said Okell. "These people who barely knew me have al-

ways stepped up to help and make a difference. I want to get the word out on that as I really don't think they know or realize how much this means not just to me but now so many people from all over."

All funds donated remain in Manitoba supporting an internationally recognized team of health professionals at CancerCare Manitoba who provide outstanding care for patients and their families.

You can check out the Pumpkin Promise on Facebook.

> GENESIS HOUSE AGM, FROM PG. 17

The new building will include 25 units.

"We'll have a variety of suites. One of the challenges we have recognized is that we have a lot of single women that want to stay with the family until the kids are old enough to move out. And then they have no income and there's no place for them to go. So, we have a number of one-bedroom units for that. We also have at least three three-bedroom units because we have some larger families who need a safe place to go."

Braun said a number of the two-

bedroom suites will be designated for reunification.

"We have more families than ever before, but we're seeing less kids coming into the shelter. It's not that the women don't have kids, but so many of their kids are in care. So we felt this could be a step towards reunification in a safe environment where there are programs and child-care and all the support required to safely reunite as a family. We're looking at a two-year time frame for folks living with us and staying, but each situation will be unique."

Moving from the shelter is the second stage for families coming out of a crisis.

"I imagine that's where the majority of our clients will come from," Braun said. "And as the world evolves, and more housing is built, maybe a lot of our clients could rent a place, but there is nothing available now. The reality of front-line work is that our shelters are full of people, and more people are having a crisis and have nowhere to go. We try the best we can, but they can't live in a hotel either."

Braun says Genesis House still needs much more funding before they can break ground on the new project.

"The perfect situation would be applying for one large grant and getting it. At this point we're looking at stacking grants, applying at multiple places. That process is new to me so I'm learning as I go."

"This is something that's been in the works for a while, and we have enough to get the project to this point. We're ready to build the foundation, and we can't wait to get started."

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