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VOLUME 1 EDITION 37

THURSDAY,  
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## 100 years of service



ARES member Daryl Rempel holds a helmet used by firefighters in the 1950s and '60s. The veteran firefighter has been collecting memorabilia for the department's upcoming 100th anniversary ball. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY LORI  
PENNER/VOICE

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



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# Looking back on 100 years of Altona/Rhineland emergency services

By Lori Penner

Hunting through old photos and files has been a big part of Daryl Rempel's life for the past few months.

Not only is he helping the Altona Rhineland Emergency Services (ARES) prepare for their 100th anniversary celebration gala this Saturday, but he's also gathering information for an eventual history book.

As a firefighter with the department for 32 years, it's a labour of love.

"It's fascinating to see how much it's changed over the years, even since I came on board," Rempel says.

"I had two uncles serve on the Altona Fire Department in the '60s and '70s along with one in another rural department, so I've wanted to be a firefighter since I was in Grade 1. Now, looking back, I have no regrets. Looking at photos, talking to some of the older firefighters, researching all this history... this fire department is like a river. It's always moving forward. We've done the same, changing with each era. It's that forward movement that has allowed us to continue to improve and serve in what we do and how we do it."

It all began back in 1896, when Altona was still a village.

Council minutes show there had been numerous fires in the community and describe firefighting and fire

prevention methods of the time.

"And that's where it stayed," Rempel says. "Very little is known about what they did for the next few decades. But in 1922, the first official Altona Fire Brigade was established by the Altona Committee."

Rempel says this was likely prompted by a fire that destroyed six downtown businesses.

"Most of the building material was wood and tar back then. And structures were built close together. Living on the prairies, there's always wind, so any wind could push fires very quickly."

The brigade was manned by 20 individuals, with Peter Buhr and Cornelius H. Goertz as the first designated fire chiefs.

"Some individuals manned the hose line; others were in charge of the nozzle. It was a bit different than what we do today, but a big improvement over the old bucket brigade."

In 1926 D.M. Loeppky joined the brigade, serving as deputy chief and ambulance driver when the ambulance was started. He did this until 1969.

In 1936 there was a major fire that demonstrated that Altona needed a new fire truck.

But it was the Great Depression. Fuel was limited and materials were hard to find. So, instead of purchasing an expensive new engine, Altona council



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Altona Fire Hall in the 1920s was located on Main St.

hired Loeppky to mount a new Viking pump on an old Maxwell car.

"I think that demonstrates a lot of ingenuity," Rempel says.

In 1948, Ben K. Neufeld joined the department as its first fire chief. He retired in 1979 but returned in 1986 as the ambulance secretary-treasurer.

In 1979, after 31 years of service, Neufeld became a lifetime member of the department. In 1991, he received a Canadian Fire Service medal.

"That was a well-deserved medal," Rempel recalls. "I was a new member that year, and it was humbling to see."

Through the years, the Altona Vol-

unteer Fire Brigade just kept growing. In 1956, after two years of fundraising, they added an ambulance to their fleet.

"Ironically, all ambulances in that era came out of Toronto, where they converted hearses into ambulances."

At that time, the fire hall was located on Main St. It was a very small and cramped structure, often getting flooded in heavy rains. In a public poll in 1958, individuals agreed that Altona needed a modern fire hall.

Three years later, the public was still

Continued on page 27

# Altona chamber of commerce, SEED joining forces

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two local business-focused organizations are joining forces this fall to create a "one-stop-shop" for Altona and Rhineland area entrepreneurs.

The Altona and District Chamber of Commerce and SEED (Supporting Entrepreneurs through Economic Development) announced last week that the chamber will be relocating to the SEED offices and that economic development officer Stephanie Harris will be the point of contact for both organizations moving forward.

"It's something the chamber board has been pondering over the last few years," explained chamber president Kal Smith.

The two agencies share complementary mandates relating to economic development, including attracting and retaining businesses.

"We found there were a lot of redundancies," Smith said, noting there has also been some confusion around which agency entrepreneurs should contact when looking for support.

"I've spoken to some members who have made a few comments saying, 'Why wouldn't you guys come together in some fashion?' ... now just felt like the right time [to do that]."

Smith stressed that this by no means spells the end for the Altona chamber, which has been in operation in the community for 61 years, but rather a new era in its operation.

"It's just a partnership, bringing it all under one go-to person to talk to," he explained, noting both agencies will retain their independence, including separate board of directors, mandates, and programs.

"It's just having that one connection point that business operators and owners can go to for any of their questions," Smith said. "That one contact point will know everything about the SEED programs as well about the chamber programs, to make sure that they're giving the best information possible."

That job will fall to Harris, who is excited about the unity this partnership will create between the two agencies.

"I'll be the direct point of contact for businesses, which will be nice to then be able to determine how to better serve them," she said. "Could they utilize the immigration pilot program [overseen by SEED] because they're struggling to find employees? Or if they're looking for opportunities to connect with other businesses, we can talk about the networking opportunities that the chamber can offer."

"I will be nice to be able to speak to the businesses to try to address what their needs are and then what SEED can offer and what the chamber can offer, as opposed to having to ping-pong them back and forth between our office and another office."

SEED board president Scott Penner echoed that excitement.

"What the RPGA [(Rhineland, Plum Coulee, Gretna, Altona) has in SEED is a unique and vibrant business climate," he said. "Uniting two regional municipalities, along with strong business leaders, has built a dynamic ecosystem of growth and development. By partnering with the Cham-

ber of Commerce, we're able to assist in the entirety of the business life cycle, further strengthening all supports and programming for businesses in the area."

These structural changes see the chamber bid farewell to executive director Cheryl Link.

"As a board, we want to thank Cheryl Link for all she has done over the last two years," noted Smith. "She has provided some great insight for the chamber and its members and has left the Chamber in a better position than where it was before her tenure with the organization."

The chamber is creating a new position of program and events coordinator to focus on creating and implementing initiatives for its members.

The plan is to have the chamber settled into its new space at SEED (3-42 Centre Avenue East), have the program and events coordinator hired, and undertake a strategic planning session by early in the new year.

# Genesis House marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's a busy month for Genesis House, the regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

With November being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the shelter is doing everything it can to get its name out into the community, said community and resource development manager Kari Kauenhofen.

"Every November we try to bring as much awareness as we can," she said, noting that without a public storefront the shelter must rely on other ways to connect with people about the services they provide.

"All these events are incredibly important for us because they reach so many different individuals in our community," Kauenhofen said. "It could reach somebody that is experiencing domestic abuse and didn't know there are supports out there for them. It could reach somebody who wants to give and doesn't know how to reach us.

"And it also helps us to bring

awareness and educate on healthy relationships," she continued, noting abuse isn't limited to physical or sexual violence but can also encompass emotional, financial, and even spiritual components. "The thought that, 'Well, I don't have any bruises' doesn't mean that you're not necessarily experiencing domestic abuse."

Statistically, 1 in 4 have women have experienced violence in a current or previous relationship, Kauenhofen noted.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are a lot of ways you can get involved and support Genesis House this month.

For kids, the shelter is hosting an art contest, asking youth to send in a piece of art that answers the question: What does peace mean to you?

The winner will get to drop the puck at the Nov. 18 Peace Begins at Home game, where the Winkler Flyers will take on the Waywayseecappo Wolverines wearing special white jerseys to show their support for Genesis House. Shelter staff will be on hand at the game to answer questions about their work.

The winning art will also be on display on the shelter's greeting cards this holiday season.

To enter the contest, email a photo of your child's artwork to resource@genesis-house.ca along with your contact information. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 15.

Genesis House is also once again teaming up with the South Central Regional Library for the Power of PJs campaign.

SCRL's libraries in Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami, and Manitou all have drop-

off boxes set up to accept donations of pyjamas, socks, and other comfy around-the-house clothes (sweat pants, leggings, warm socks, etc.) from now until the end of the month.

"Those pyjamas that we get generally last us the whole year. It's incredible how many come in," Kauenhofen said, noting they welcome donations of clothing not just for women but also teens and younger kids, both male and female.

It's not unusual for women and their children to arrive at the shelter fleeing a violent home situation with little more than the clothes on their backs.

"We had one individual who came in who hadn't even had time to grab her shoes," Kauenhofen shared. "And

a lot of the times they are not necessarily able to go back to get their stuff. So when they come in to us we want to be able to look after their basic needs: food, rest, and comfy clothes."

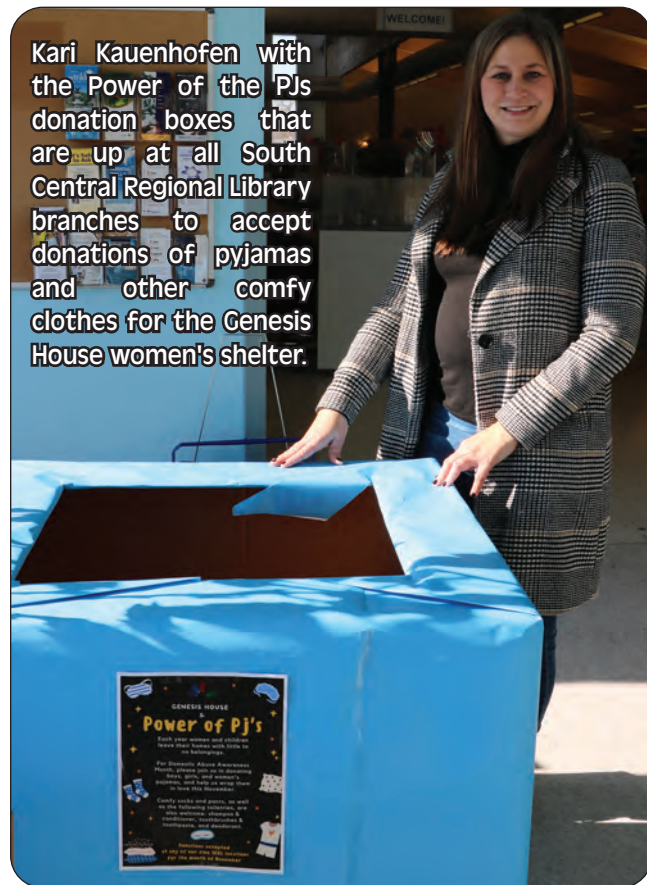
The shelter has certainly been a busy place this past year, providing safe haven to 64 women and 60 children for a total of 1,008 bed nights.

That's meant their five bedrooms have been full for much of the year, and there's no sign that the need is going to slow down anytime soon.

As a result, they've been going through supplies at a much faster rate than usual.

To that end, they'll be set up at the Fawn and Cub market at the Merid-

Continued on page 8



Kari Kauenhofen with the Power of the PJs donation boxes that are up at all South Central Regional Library branches to accept donations of pyjamas and other comfy clothes for the Genesis House women's shelter.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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# Morden Community Thrift Shop gives back \$200K



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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Representatives from a variety of different community groups were at the Morden Community Thrift Shop Monday to receive their part of \$200,000 in grants from the non-profit store.

By Lorne Stelmach

Twelve community organizations received a share of \$180,000 Monday as the Morden Community Thrift Shop presented its fall disbursements Monday morning.

The announcement also highlighted the \$20,000 presented to the Morden Legion in August to help with roof repairs at the Legion House One apartments.

Disbursement day is one that the

directors and volunteers alike always look forward to, said board president Kent Noel.

"And it's been such a better year now. We're back to our pre-pandemic sales numbers now. Everybody's healthier, and we're just having a blast in here now," he said. "It is a good day for us."

There are a few key services which they always aim to support to some degree, Noel explained.

"There's certain criteria, but it's basically what really benefits our community the most, whether it's our fire department, our police department, our hospital.

"What we try not to do is to pay wages, that's one of our policies, not the regular operating costs," Noel added. "As a board, we pick them out, and then we put it out to the volunteers. They have a say as well, it's not just our board. Our volunteers get to look at each and every one of them as well."

The largest grants were \$40,000 to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation for a mini C-arm, which involves lower radiation than regular X-rays and other diagnostic equipment, and another \$40,000 to the STARS air ambulance service.

"We are so grateful for your support," said STARS representative Daryl Braun, who noted the service flies missions in the area regularly. "This donation will help to sustain our operations for another year."

Menzies Medical Centre received \$30,000 for medical equipment. Executive director Nicole Walske noted it will support a number of things such as replacing patient chairs in clinic and exam rooms, so it is "getting the rest of those renovations completed and some things for our computer room, some noise silencing apparatus

Continued on page 7



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Ten Thousand Villages Winkler manager Lori Friesen says they're thrilled to be back in the Winkler Centennial Library's meeting room this season after a hugely successful first year there in 2021. The store is once again stocking its shelves with range of fair-trade products from around the world.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



## Ten Thousand Villages seasonal store opens in Winkler library

By Ashleigh Viveiros

You'll find Ten Thousand Villages at the Winkler Centennial Library once again this holiday season.

The fair trade pop-up store set up in the library's meeting room for the first time last year. It was such a success, they're back for a second season.

"Last year we had such a great response from the patrons, and the volunteers themselves," says manager Lori Friesen. "We just love the windows in here, all the natural light. And we also found being able to have a sign outside on the sidewalk on Main St., people really noticed it and it brought them inside for a look. It's a great fit."

The store had its opening day last

Tuesday, Nov. 1. It will be open during the library's business hours, Tuesdays to Saturdays (which includes evenings until 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays) until Dec. 23.

On offer are a host of handcrafted items from around the world, all purchased from artists at a fair price, Friesen explains of how the non-profit shop—an offshoot of the year-round store in Brandon—operates.

"All the purchases here go towards somebody—the person who makes them. They get paid a fair wage," she stresses. "They're trying to send their kids to school and they're trying to pay for their medical bills, if they have some, and in the places they are in life those things don't come easy. So if we're not going to pay them a

fair wage, they can't do those things. Which just isn't fair.

"To be able to make that difference in someone's life is important to me, and I want to give others the opportunity to do the same."

The volunteer-run store sources its products from developing countries such as India, the Philippines, Kenya, Haiti, Uganda, Ghana, Mexico, and many others. Items run the gamut from handcrafted home decor to kitchenware to clothing and food.

Handmade Christmas ornaments are always a popular gift, Friesen notes, as are the sustainably-sourced socks that support a range of causes.

"Everyone loves them. We've had grandmas who have been buying their families these socks every year for years," she says, sharing that new in stock this year are ankle-high socks.

"We've also got a bunch of backpacks in this year, that's a newer

item," Friesen adds. "Those are from Nepal.

"And last year our Christmas cards did amazing, so this year we've got lots of quilled cards ... they're absolutely beautiful."

If you're looking for a unique gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your shopping list, Friesen urges you to come check out Ten Thousand Villages.

"We hear over and over again, 'Ohmigoodness, I can't believe someone actually made this.' The patience, the time it takes ... it's incredible to think of someone sitting there putting that effort into making something beautiful."

You can connect with Ten Thousand Villages Winkler on Facebook and Instagram (@villageswinkler) or call them at 204-542-0770 to place an order.



## FIND YOUR HEART IN MANITOBA

Plan the ultimate staycation with these trip ideas.

Explore the best of Winnipeg and Brandon this season with an urban escape. Discover world-class attractions and ample options for shopping, dining and relaxing—a perfect mix for an unforgettable staycation.

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### EXPLORE CULTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN MANITOBA

In Brandon, check out the Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba—a cultural hub which regularly features works of regional and national artists. Free and open to the public, it's worth the visit to Manitoba's second largest urban centre to view contemporary and local art. After, pop in at Chez Angela for fresh baked goods.

### VISIT TWO UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS IN ONE CITY

Winnipeg Art Gallery's new addition, Qaumajuq, houses more than 14,000 pieces of contemporary Inuit art and is the first art centre of its kind in the world. Nearby is another world's first; the Canadian Museum for Human Rights stands alone as the only museum in the world dedicated to the topic of global human rights issues. Cap off your day with a stop at The Forks for a local brew and lunch.

### SOAK ALL YOUR WORRIES AWAY

Looking for a little R&R? Relax and unwind at Thermëa, an outdoor oasis enjoyable any season of the year. The signature Thermal Experience is the ultimate way to relax and follows a hot-cold-rest cycle. Or try Ten Spa for their popular hamam ritual, purifying and cleansing the body and skin from toxins. Extend your relaxing retreat with an overnight stay at the nearby The Fort Garry Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre.



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**Manitoba**  
CANADA'S HEART BEATS

PHOTO: JP MEDIA WORKS

*The* **Voice**

# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



• DON'T MIND THE MESS

## Victory at Vimy—but at what cost?

She stands alone, draped in a heavy cloak, head bowed, her face gently resting on her left hand, as if exhausted and overwhelmed.

Her expression is one of reflection and deep sorrow as she gazes down at a stone tomb, representing 11,168 missing Canadian soldiers who were killed in France and whose remains have not been found or identified.

Carved from a single 30 tonne block of limestone, she is the tallest of 20 sculpted figures that grace the Canadian National

Vimy Memorial in France.

She is called “Mother Canada” or “Canada Bereft” and represents the nation of Canada, mourning for her dead.

The Memorial stands on Hill 145, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting during the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Many historians consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, changing the course of the war.

But it was a victory at a terrible cost. About 60,000 Canadians were killed during the Great War of 1914-1918. There were 10,000 casualties at Vimy, and more than 3,500 of them died there, 104 years ago.

They had their whole lives ahead of them. They were prairie farm boys, brash young city boys, sons of fishermen.

Up to that point, the worst turmoil they had ever experienced were math test jitters and pimples before a big date. Many enlisted eager for the ad-

venture of being away from home, and the enticing \$1.10 a day wage. Rumour had it the war would be over in just a few months, and they were afraid to miss this opportunity to travel to an exotic place on the government's tab.

They had no idea of the hell that awaited them overseas. Their letters to loved ones, often written with a shaky, battle-fatigued hand in a cold, muddy trench, couldn't even begin to describe it.

But every letter, despite what was written, represented one important thing: the writer was still alive.

For thousands of families, the letters just stopped coming.

The most common age of those who died during that battle in April 1917 was 20. Of those killed who listed a next of kin, the vast majority (958) listed their father or mother (790) as their immediate contact. Only 396 listed a wife.

Continued on page 7



**By Lori Penner**

# Letters

## WE NEED TO REDUCE PLASTIC PACKAGING

I went to Superstore in Winkler the other day and there was a big sign outside that said something about no more plastic, meaning no more plastic bags.

Although that's commendable and we do need fewer plastic bags

polluting our environment, what about all the plastic containers that are virtually in almost every aisle in the store? The latest numbers reveal that only 9% of plastic in Canada is being recycled! That means 91% is going to landfill sites, and that's after we the consumer make the effort to separate our garbage for recycling.

What really would be impressive is if Superstore announced that there was a concerted effort by them to lobby the food industry to reduce the amount of plastic packaging.

We as consumers are made out to be the bad guys, but we don't have many choices when we shop. It's

Continued on page 7

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

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

# Reflecting on the sacrifices of our nation's veterans

**O**n November 11, Canadians will commemorate Remembrance Day and reflect on the sacrifices Canada's young men and women made on battlefields far from home in the service of freedom.

They have left us with a precious heritage to cherish, and legacies of entire generations that rose to 'defend the right' even when victory was far from certain.

In World War One, from a population of just 8 mil-



**By Josh Guenter, MLA**

lion, over 600,000 Canadians enlisted, of which nearly 60,000 died during the conflict. They fought valiantly, and after the war, as an expression of the gratitude of the French people for Canada's sacrifices in securing their freedom, France gifted a parcel of land to Canada on which the magnificent Canadian National Vimy Memorial now stands.

In World War Two, nearly 1.2 million Canadians served, out of a population of 11 million. By the end of the war, Canada had the third largest navy and fourth largest air force in the world. 45,000 lost their lives fighting for our freedom. In a remarkable expression of goodwill between nations and peoples, the Dutch Royal Family and the people of the Netherlands sent 100,000 tulip bulbs to Canada in thanks for liberating their country from the Nazis and providing refuge for their beloved royal family. Today, the Canadian Tulip Festival, held annually in Ottawa, is the largest of its

kind in the world and continues this wonderful tradition of friendship between the Dutch and Canadians.

Canadian soldiers have also served with distinction in other conflicts, such as the Korean War and more recently the War in Afghanistan.

We can all take a moment to pause and reflect this Remembrance Day, and to purpose to 'take up the torch' that they have left us, to make much of it each day, to honour it, and to ensure its safe delivery into the hands of the next generation.

In the constituency of Borderland, the communities of Gretna, Emerson and Dominion City will be holding Remembrance Day services, and I encourage all who are able to attend one.

To those living and dead who have served, and to those serving in our nation's Armed Forces today, thank you.

*Josh Guenter is the MLA for Borderland*

## > THRIFT STORE DONATIONS, FROM PG. 4

for our staff ... it will be used for some wonderful additions."

The Morden Police Service received \$14,000 for upgrading equipment to support their training.

"It's never-ending training," said Sgt. Sean Aune. "It takes some special training, and this is going to allow us to buy the equipment to do a lot of those training scenarios, which is very beneficial to our members."

Morden Fire and Rescue received \$10,000 towards the expansion of the fire hall. Chief Andy Thiessen explained it was particularly supporting a special idea.

"This is going for a meeting space for our guys, when they come back from a terrible incident," he said, adding the plan has received good support. "We're blessed because the contractor that's building it for us is donating all the material. We just have to pay for some of the roofing."

Receiving \$10,000 cheques as well were the Morden Community Handivan towards purchasing a new van and Pembina Counselling Centre for program and counselling assistance.

Many Hands Resource Centre was presented with \$8,000 for food supplies and vouchers that will have an immediate impact.

"This cheque will be going directly to meat and eggs to help put food into the bellies of vulnerable families in our community," said board member Darcy Wolfe.

Other grants included \$5,000 to the 500 Stephen Community Centre for new carpet tile, \$5,000 for the Pembina Valley Humane Society towards the purchase of a new van, \$5,000 to Morden Youth for Christ for programming, support, staff and counselling, and \$3,000 to Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre for support services.

## > DON'T MIND THE MESS, FROM PG. 6

I'm staring at an old photo in a history book about the war years. The baby-faced young man in the picture is standing in a deep, muddy trench. He doesn't look much older than 16. His Canadian uniform is filthy with the sticky muck he just waded through, and he casually leans against the wall of the trench, perhaps much the same way he would have leaned against a street lamp back home waiting for some pretty girl to saunter by.

Except this is the Stephen King

version of his old life. Instead of streetcars, laughing friends and corner stores, he is surrounded by rats and the bodies and limbs of the other guys in his platoon. And the scariest thing about the picture is the completely blank look on his face.

Everyone who fought at Vimy is long gone. But we owe it to them to remember the terrible cost of war, and to fiercely protect the freedom and the peace they died for. To stare at their faded photos and hear their silent plea: Never again.

## > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

the food industry that is putting its products into the containers that we take home and blindly put into the recycling bin believing that it's going to be recycled ... it's not!

We the consumer are not the problem that we're made out to be. It's the food industry.

**Rick Gallant, Morden**

by the board of directors and you, the members. Communication, both with members and other chambers across Manitoba, Canada and the U.S. was totally re-established.

But, things change ...

The board of directors are working on a new plan for the chamber to operate under a shared umbrella with economic development and this restructuring led to the position of chamber executive director being eliminated.

When I was asked to come here in 2020, it was clear that this was a temporary strategy to help the chamber build back its reputation and respect in the community.

I, with the blessing of the board of directors feel that was accomplished.

Now, I am content to pass this successful, respected chamber of commerce to those who will take it forward into the future.

Goodbye and good luck to you all.

**Cheryl Link, former executive director, Altona & District Chamber of Commerce**

## 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.

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

# get informed

## A year of growth pays off for Sun Valley Co-op members

By Lori Penner

Last year was a huge success for Sun Valley Co-op, with 2021 sales finishing at \$52.7 million compared to \$44.89 million the year prior.

Manager Brad Iverson says the biggest change in sales can be attributed to growth in food and home and building materials combined with overall inflation.

"We saw good growth in our food store since renovations were done," he noted as the store held its AGM last month.

Overall net savings finished at \$3.4 million compared to the prior year of \$2.5 million, owing in large part, Iverson explains, to an improved allocation from Federated Co-operatives Limited, which also had a strong year.

For 2021 the board approved an allocation of 6 per cent on fuel and 2.5 per cent on food and general merchandise. This equates to an allocation back to members of \$1.98 million compared to \$1.5 million in 2020.

"So we have increased allocation, with \$8.5 million allocated to our members over the past five years, with \$6.6 million paid back in cash," says Iverson.

Further donations were given in 2021 to various clubs and organizations throughout the store's trading area for the betterment of the communities it serves.



The Sun Valley Co-op Home Centre is one of many departments that saw increased profits in 2021

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

"This of course would not be possible without the continued support of our members," Iverson stresses.

He notes becoming a new member has never been easier, as memberships can now be purchased online at sunvalleyco-op.crs as well as in person at the store.

The Sun Valley Co-op's new grocery store has settled in well since renovations were finalized last fall.

"A new shopping platform was released earlier this year at this location, allowing customers to shop online by visiting SHOP.CRS," notes Iverson, urging people to head to the website to learn how they can place an order for pickup or delivery.

The Altona Gas Bar also recently completed an interior renovation that gave them more space for expanded products and services.

"We now offer a wider range of slushies and fresh offerings to start your day," Iverson says, noting the new menu includes a range of wraps, breakfast sandwiches, coffee shop beverages, and more.

"The past few years have been filled with many challenges as we have had to navigate the pandemic, product supply issues, staffing shortages and the list goes on. It has not been easy," Iverson says. "I want to say a huge thank you to our staff who have gone above and beyond to keep our doors open, worked together, stayed positive, and worked harder than ever to provide the essential services needed in our communities."

"I would also like to thank our members for their continued support and look forward to serving you in the years to come."

## No arrests in Altona gas station armed robbery

By Voice staff

The investigation continues into an armed robbery that took place at the Domo gas station in Altona last week.

Police report that a man entered the facility just before 10 p.m. on Halloween night covered in a blanket.

The man told the lone employee he had a gun and demanded money and cigarettes. He fled the scene on foot, making off with an undetermined amount of cash and cigarettes.

Chief Dan Defer said on Monday that no arrests have been made and the investigation is ongoing.

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### > GENESIS HOUSE, FROM PG. 3

ian Exhibition Centre in Winkler this weekend, Nov. 12-13, to accept donations to help fill their pantry shelves. They'll also be selling their holiday greeting cards there by donation.

Finally, Genesis House wraps up November with its biggest fundraising event of the year on Saturday, Nov. 26: the Unmasking Domestic Violence Masquerade Gala.

Taking place at Mulligans restaurant in Winkler, the gala will include cocktails, a meal, and entertainment. Guests are encouraged to

dress up in fancy clothes and perhaps a festive mask or theatrical hair.

"We have entertainment, food, and when else do you get a time to really dress up and have a good night while raising funds?" Kauenhofen said, adding that they'll have a silent auction and a few other fun surprises for guests.

There are still a few tickets available at \$140 each by contacting Kauenhofen at 204-362-0082 or [resource@genesis-house.ca](mailto:resource@genesis-house.ca).



# Buildings homes, creating community

Central Community Homes reports on a successful year of social housing renos

By Ashleigh Viveiros

At its annual general meeting last week, Central Community Homes reported on another busy year of bringing its aging social housing units into the 21st century.

The Winkler affordable housing agency purchased 66 units from Manitoba Housing several years ago. They've spent the past two years updating them inside and out.

"When we acquired them, there were a number of units that needed significant renovations," said board chair James Friesen. "That's what we've been doing the past two years is going apartment by apartment, house by house and renovating as they open up so that people's lives are inconvenienced as little as possible."

The structural and cosmetic improvements not only make the units infinitely more livable for the families who call them home, but also go a long way toward helping foster a greater sense of community pride.

"When you drive by the units now there's a pride of place, the community's proud of what it now represents, and the folks who move into those units, there's often tears in their eyes," Friesen shared. "That fuels our fire."

Building community is what Central Community Homes is all about, Friesen stressed, and is the reason Winkler wanted local ownership of the province's affordable housing units in the first place.

"Ultimately it is our responsibility as a community to provide something core like housing," he said. "We're

taking that to heart. We're saying we're responsible as a community to do this. We'll set up an organization to help that happen ... I think it's a good model for a community to have."

The community has certainly stepped up to support this model, with local construction companies getting involved in the improvement project in a big way.

"There are numerous contractors and developers who are giving time and money to donate materials and labour," Friesen said, pointing to the Mend the Gap group that has renovated several houses for families in need in recent years.

"They do at least one or two houses every Christmas," he explained. "They take some of the most seriously damaged houses, they gut them, and they renovate them, get presents, get a Christmas tree, the whole thing, and then a family gets invited in."

"That's just quietly done kind of on the side," Friesen said. "So that goodwill already exists. And if you want to be a part of that, let us know."

You can connect with—or donate to—Central Community Homes by way of the Central Station Community Centre ([winklercentralstation.com](http://winklercentralstation.com)).

## 30 UNITS COMPLETED

In his report on behalf of fellow CCH program staffers Lori Penner and Amber Plett, project manager Brad Adrian shared that they've completed renovations on 30 of the former

"WHEN YOU DRIVE BY THE UNITS NOW THERE'S A PRIDE OF PLACE ..."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Staff at Central Station oversee the management of Winkler's affordable housing units. From left: Community Housing coordinator Lori Penner, executive director Bev Wiebe, community development coordinator Krista Rempel, and project manager Brad Adrian.

Manitoba Housing units and have nine more in the works and slated to be completed in a few more months.

"Many deteriorated houses have been transformed into beautiful homes this year," he said. "The last few months have gone a little slower than we had hoped due to trades and materials at a bit of a shortage, but overall we have exceeded our expectations."

"It has been rewarding to see the joy on their faces when we hand the new tenants the keys," Adrian said. "Homing families into beautiful housing means they are taking care of the housing more. Mental health is better, [they have] more motivation to work and look after themselves."

"We are so grateful that our community sees the value in the families that live in our housing."

There are 19 more units that still require work, but Adrian observed that they are in far better shape than those already completed and will take less

time and money to do.

## NEW BUILD ON HOLD

Financially, the agency ended the fiscal year this past spring with a \$443,101 surplus.

Treasurer Ryan Hildebrand explained their revenue consisted of \$620,400 in subsidies from Manitoba Housing, \$565,437 in rent from their 90 total housing units, and \$178,725 in debt forgiveness from Manitoba Housing, for a total revenue of just over \$1.3 million.

On the other side of the sheet is \$921,461 in expenses, which includes some of the renovations that got underway this year, but not as much as originally budgeted for, creating a larger than expected surplus.

One negative note for the year was the fact the agency's major build project—a multi-unit affordable housing complex slated to go up next door to

Continued on page 10

# Oakville beats out Morden for Jets Town Takeover

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden won't be hosting a special Winnipeg Jets event next spring.

The city was chosen as one of three finalists for the Jets Town Takeover 2023, but Oakville in the end garnered more votes than Morden and Beausejour.

Although the community came up short, even getting some attention after having been selected as a finalist from among submissions from all over Manitoba was a good thing, suggested Chris Moffatt, director of community services.

"It was a little disappointing," he said. "We were pumping it around on

social media and we thought we had a good chance.

"It's always nice to showcase Morden, and I'm sure if there's other events ... we can definitely try to pursue [them]."

The decision rested on the shoulders of Jets fans, who voted for their favourite of the video submissions from

the three finalists.

Oakville will now host Jets alumni next April along with mental wellness programming for local youth and a free community party to watch the Jets take on the Wild in Minnesota.

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



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Central Community Homes has spent the past two years renovating many of the aging affordable housing units in Winkler, transforming worn-down houses (left) into beautiful spaces for families to call home (above).

> CENTRAL COMMUNITY HOMES, FROM PG. 9

the Central Station Community Centre on Main St.—had to be put on hold due to skyrocketing costs.

“At the point where it went to tender, where the numbers came back, it was probably at the highest point in terms of the spiking of costs,” Friesen said, explaining they worked with the contractor and architects to see if there was

a way to bring those costs down. “We went through that exercise, we worked hard at it, and the numbers still came in too high for our budget right now.”

The City of Winkler had received a \$1 million grant from the provincial government for the project. Those funds are still available, Friesen stressed, and the intent is to use them.

“They are working with us. They recognize that there’s a number of organizations across the province who are experiencing the same thing,” he said. “At the end of the day, they want that money invested in affordable housing, and so we’re working collaboratively [to make that happen].”

“We’ve put that plan on hold for now, but that’s not stopping us from looking at other options to try to address the affordable housing needs in the community,” Friesen added, noting the community’s greatest need right now is one-bedroom units for single individuals, which this project would have addressed. “That’s our longest waiting list, so we are trying to put a dent into that.”



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## Corn & Apple Festival wins Event of the Year award

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Corn and Apple Festival not only made a big return this year post-pandemic but has now also received accolades from outside the community.

The festival on Saturday received the Event of the Year Award for 2022 from the Manitoba Country Music Association.

Winkler’s Harvest Festival also earned a nomination in this category along with the Hanover Ag Fair, Niverville Olde Time Country Fair, Summer in the City, and the Summer Winds Family Music Festival.

“Almost any press is good press ... it’s wonderful to win this,” said festival executive director Tim Hodge, who welcomed the recognition.

“We were up against some really good festivals, so to have that vote as event of the year is wonderful,” he said. “It’s wonderful; we’re very, very grateful. It’s not something we were necessarily expecting, but it sure is nice.”

Hodge said he thinks everyone was buoyed by being able to get back to a full festival again, and it showed in the response.

“Having the festival come back after two years of cancellations was massive for the community and for all of our volunteers as well.

“This year was right in line with the biggest festivals we’ve ever hosted. We had between 80,000 and 85,000 people this summer at the festival, which goes to show how much people missed it and how excited people were to be able to come back to the festival.”

# Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas returns Nov. 17

By Lorne Stelmach

If you want to get started on your Christmas shopping, next week offers a good opportunity in Morden.

Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas is set for the evening of Thursday, Nov. 17 from 5-9 p.m. with 19 participating businesses signed up as of last week.

The annual holiday campaign organized by the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce is aimed at promoting local businesses and encouraging people to shop locally.

"I think people start planning for it and look forward to it already in the fall," suggested chamber executive

director Claire Agnew. "It's really become a holiday tradition, a shopping tradition, for many people, and they really look forward to it.

"We hope that people will take advantage to start their Christmas shopping and stay local," she continued. "It's a good opportunity to see what all these businesses have to offer, and the businesses love it as well. There's lots of promotions and people out and about and excitement."

Participating businesses are encouraged to do something special for the event, whether that be a sale, giveaway, or other promotion.

And the evening again features the passport program where shoppers



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden chamber's shop-local holiday promotion, Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas, takes place next week Thursday, Nov. 17.

can pick up a passport at participating locations and get stamps for each stop they make, dropping off the completed passport at the end of the night for a chance to win prizes.

A new feature this year will be Santa's Market, which will be located at Murray Pembina Valley Dodge Ram

and include a number of vendors.

"It will be home-based businesses ... so I'm excited to have them involved, and it worked out well for Murray to host it," said Agnew. "They were really interested in being involved; Murray was happy to have the opportunity."

Agnew also noted the participating businesses are not just in downtown locations.

"I do encourage people to go to the businesses outside of Stephen Street as well," she stressed. "And then we're encouraging people to wrap up the evening at Rendezvous."

Learn more online at [mordenchamber.com](http://mordenchamber.com).

# Morden hosts winter parade, tree lighting festivities Nov. 18

By Lorne Stelmach

A new feature is being added this year as Morden ushers in the Christmas season next week with its annual tree lighting celebration.

The evening kicks off Friday, Nov. 18 with a winter parade starting at 6 p.m. to lead up to the other activities that get underway at 6:30 p.m. at the Morden Civic Centre.

"We had a few people suggest it, and Denise Thiessen volunteered to organize the parade part of it," noted Lili Krushel, event co-ordinator for the City of Morden.

"We were actively trying to recruit

floats because the winter parade is a brand new thing for us," she said, noting they had 10 entries as of last week leading up to the Nov. 4 deadline, which Krushel noted may be extended.

People are invited to participate any way they wish, whether by vehicle or on foot. An entry could be anything from a marching band to pets on parade.

"We hoped people were going to be creative with it," Krushel said.

Also on the schedule for the night will be free photos with Santa Claus, which families can pre-register in advance for online at [mymorden.ca/](http://mymorden.ca/)

events.

"They always have been very popular," said Krushel, who noted the spots for Santa photos were past half-way full as of last week.

The night will also include hot chocolate and s'mores courtesy of Giant Tiger, outdoor bonfires set up by the fire department, a fire show at 8:15 p.m., and the tree lighting followed by fireworks at 8:30 p.m.

Krushel encourages everyone to be part of the celebration.

"We definitely get a great crowd, and this is especially a great way for newcomers to come and get to know their community as well."

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# Faith Mission hosting dedication, open house for new building Nov. 19

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Faith Mission (FriedensBote) in Winkler settled nicely into their new home this fall, and now they're ready to celebrate.

The Christian non-profit is hosting grand opening festivities at its newly-built space at 520 Circle K Drive (just off Cargill Rd., northeast of the Super Thrift store) on Saturday, Nov. 19 starting at 10 a.m.

"We'll be having a building dedication here with a few guest speakers ... who will share a little bit about the connections that we have with Germany and Ukraine and what we do," explained board member Jake Elias, noting that will be followed by a day-long open house with treats and tours of the facility until about 4 p.m.

Special guest that day will be Alex Janzen from the mission's sister charity in Germany, sharing a bit about their work there.

"Ever since we started we have been working together with them," Elias noted.

Janzen will also be on hand to speak at a come and go fundraising supper for the mission on Friday, Nov. 18 at the Winkler EMMC (5-7 p.m., admission is by donation) and to provide a presentation at the church Sunday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

## BIGGER AND BETTER

The new building went up as a result of a land swap deal between the mission and Kroeker Farms, who wanted Faith Mission's old spot on Roblin Blvd. for its potato store.

As a result, they got an all-new building at relatively little cost to them, Elias said. The facility is not only bigger, but designed to better maximize space and with a much more accessible loading dock.

"The whole building is 20 feet longer and four feet wider, so the volunteers have a much bigger work area than they did before," Elias shared, noting they also have a second floor that runs the length of the building, giving them even more storage and work space. "It's all laid out better, es-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Faith Mission founder Jake Elias in the non-profit's new home at 520 Circle K Drive (left) in Winkler, which offers volunteers a more spacious and better laid out place to work. The mission sends supplies to those in need overseas.



pecially the back area."

The spacious rear storage area includes an interior garage door that not only allows for easier access from the main work room but also lower heating costs.

Volunteers have been at work in the new space since mid-September and it's been pretty smooth sailing.

"We were down for a few weeks for the move, but it wasn't that long," Elias said, noting they have had a few people struggle to find the location, but they're working to get the word out there as much as possible.

He hopes people will take the chance to tour the site at the open house next week and learn more about the work they do sending clothing, blankets, bicycles, Christmas gift boxes, and soup to those in need overseas.

So far this year they've shipped seven shipping containers' worth of goods to people in Ukraine.

Faith Mission can always use a few more helping hands in their work.

"If there's anybody interested in helping pack Christmas gift boxes, that is something we're doing right now," Elias said, noting they have a good supply of empty boxes at their facility for people to pick up and fill over the next few weeks.

Additional volunteers are also always welcome in the clothing sorting/baling area, as are donations of clothing, bicycles, and financial gifts to help cover the increasing costs of shipping goods overseas.

More details about Faith Missions' work can be found online at [www.faithmission.ca](http://www.faithmission.ca).

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# Remembrance Day - Friday, November 11



## Modern veterans continue to carry the torch

By Lori Penner

As another Remembrance Day approaches, an Altona veteran wants people to reflect on the definition of the word "veteran."

"I'm a veteran. For years I didn't think of myself as a veteran. If you look up the definition, it really has nothing to do with going overseas and fighting in a war. It has to do with signing a blank cheque. In other words, you join the military. You prepare to die for your country, get seriously injured, or spend time away from home. That is the definition of a veteran. You get to your basic training, and you sign on the dotted line," says Perry Batchelor, who served in the Canadian Armed Forces from 1980 to 1997.

"Veterans Affairs still exists for those of us who were there during a peacetime army, but the reality is, there are lots of us who went overseas, and a whole new crop of veterans who are struggling mightily after Afghanistan," he says. "The First and Second World War veterans are gone. The ones who continue to carry the torch so that their work is never forgotten

are the current veterans. And we've lost lots to suicide since the tours they've been on.

"I lost two friends in Yugoslavia and two friends in Cypress and four guys were killed while I was in naval training, so that's the reality of the military."

Canadian involvement in Yugoslavia in the 1980s was the first time Canadians were involved in fire fights since the Korean War.

"When we got back, there was no recognition," Batchelor says. "There was some debrief training, and then nothing. It's a point that needs to be driven home: there are still lots of veterans. Five of them are right here in our area, and some are suffering."

During his time with the Canadian Armed Forces, Batchelor did a peacekeeping tour in Cypress from 1982-83, served four years in Germany from 1984-88, and did a seven-month tour in the former Republic of Yugoslavia in 1993, stationed in Croatia. He also served across Canada and into the U.S. on exercises from 1989-92.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
A young Perry Batchelor during his tour of duty in Croatia.

Continued on next page

## Lest We Forget

Friday, November 11th, 2022  
is Remembrance Day

We invite you to attend the Remembrance Day Service at Gretna Elementary School at 10:30 am, or to spend some time in quiet reflection at the Altona & District Cenotaph Memorial.



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# Remembrance Day -

Continued from previous page

He grew up in Gretna and joined the army at 19.

"My family has a combined 300-year military history. My grandfather was a First World War veteran; he was repatriated after the Battle of the Somme. A few of my grandfather's uncles as well. My dad and all but one of his brothers served during the Second World War and got on with Canada Customs. My dad was a sergeant in the artillery. My grandfather was a corporal in the infantry. And several brothers served. So, it's no surprise that I joined."

Batchelor's first tour was in Cyprus as a Master Corporal. He was posted in the middle of a battle zone between the Greek and Turk armies.

"Turks were in the north end, and the Greeks were in the south. The UN is a buffer zone on the green line in the middle, trying to stop them from getting at each other. We were on the island for less than a week and there was a Greek soldier killed on the line. It was a very real situation. We had our problems in Canada, but you've never seen hatred until you go into some of these situations."

While there, he was also dating his soon-to-be wife Kim.

"I paid for her engagement ring on my year end pay. I paid 60 thousand lira on her engagement ring. But the money is basically worth nothing now, so that's not as cool as it sounds."

Letters from home were precious. "Those were the days before cell phones and texts. We got two

phone calls a month and that came off your pay. You go to the phone booth area and there's a meter on the phone. One of my phone calls was with Kim and one with my mom and dad. So, we made our words matter."

He returned to Canada in March 1983, and married Kim the following January. From there, they flew to Germany for another tour.

Batchelor served during the Cold War and had to be ready to go out to training or battle at a moment's notice.

"We didn't know where we were deployed, or how long we'd be gone, but were told our dependents would be cared for," he recalled.

Seeing troops deployed to Latvia during the current battle in Ukraine reminds him of how quickly things can go south. "

Things chilled for many years and Canadians pulled out of Germany, and now we have troops in Latvia."

Germany was a good posting, he says.

"There were some major exercises. Our whole battalion would roll into a town like Altona and play war games. Then we'd fill the holes in and roll out again."

Training itself was dangerous. Four men were killed.

"Bugouts were always in the middle of the night. Kiss your wife goodbye not knowing if you'd see her again. We did that for four years."

They returned to Canada in 1988 and moved to Wainwright, Alberta where Batchelor taught recruiting



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This street in Croatia was known as Sniper Alley. The dummy on the pole was used for target practice.

and leadership classes at the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry battle school.

After moving back to Winnipeg in 1993, Batchelor volunteered for a tour in Yugoslavia.

"It's in the blood. When there is something going on in the world, and you're serving, you want to be part of it. It's hard on your family, but Kim said go, so I went with her blessing. She had her hands full with two kids."

It was a tough tour, he says.

"We lost two guys. Our tour got extended and moved into a back pocket area, a messy one. The small things we've been through the last three years are minor compared to these war zones and what's going on in Ukraine right now. We're truly blessed to live in this country."

In Yugoslavia, Batchelor's battalion ended up taking a line between the Croats and the Serbians.

"We were all right there. The Canadians in Delta company and one French company sustained fire, and 23 Croats were killed the next morning. Several of our guys were wounded. It was a mess. Several of our troops went in searching for bodies and the horrors of war really hit home. Civilians hidden in large mass graves. A good friend of mine came across an outbuilding where two women were tied to chairs and burned. When they put them in plastic body bags, they melted the bags."

When they returned home the following October, a number of their members struggled with post-traumatic stress.

"We didn't have to go back and I

**We Remember**

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# Friday, November 11



Croatian orphans receiving clothing, shipped from Manitoba, and home-baked cookies.



A group of kids playing in a bunker in Croatia. Many carried AK-47 rifles.

was happy about that,” Batchelor says.

After a few years in Winnipeg, Batchelor became a member of the Altona Police Service in 1997. He retired as chief of police this year.

Looking back on his years of service, Batchelor remembers those who never recovered.

“My comrades and friends took a hit mentally. I was fortunate. I have a strong faith. I know things happen for a reason. And have a strong relationship with my wife and family, and people I can talk to. I think all of that helps, but at the same time, who knows? It can all come back at any time.

“I’ve seen so much PTSD in friends and civilians. It impacts people differently. I’ve been to some serious accident scenes around here. I get

flashbacks to other scenes. I live it here more than I did in Yugoslavia.”

Batchelor believes that education and consideration can prevent future conflicts.

“It’s not pretty. We can’t sugar coat this stuff. But we can count our blessings and be good citizens and get along with our neighbours and live a peaceful life. If we just take care of what we have it might go a long way.

“Unfortunately, there is evil in this world, and that’s where you hope people will step up to defend our democracy. I’ve been part of the Mennonite faith for 39 years. I certainly understand it, and honestly, if everybody thought like a Mennonite, maybe we wouldn’t even need an army. We should love one another. And we should turn the other cheek.

But unfortunately, if you believe in God, there’s also a devil.”

As the president of the PPCLI Association for Manitoba and Northwest Ontario, Batchelor seeks more support for those who are still suffering from the battles they saw, and the inner battles they still endure.

“We have lots of veterans my age and younger who are suffering. That Afghanistan war really

took its toll. We still have veterans living among us, and we need to be more mindful of them.”

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# Winkler lights up for the season on Friday, Nov. 18

## Yard decorating contest is also back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler lights up for the holidays next week.

The community's annual tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in Bethel Heritage Park.

"No virtual tree lighting this year—we will be back in person at the park," says community events coordinator Nicole Enns. The last few years the event had to be streamed online thanks to the pandemic. "We're so excited to be able to do this in person again and to get the community involved."

The evening will include Christmas carols performed by a student choir

from Garden Valley Collegiate, a few words from Mayor Henry Siemens, and hot chocolate and s'mores courtesy of Quality Inn.

It all wraps up with the mayor officially flipping the switch on the park's holiday lights and displays.

Also back this year is the city's Light Up the Season decorating contest.

"We're hoping to see a lot of participation from businesses and homeowners," Enns says, stressing you don't necessarily need to go crazy for a chance to win. "It can be tastefully minimal or it could be tons of decorations all over the place ... you never know what Santa will decide to choose."

Santa and the other judges will be making the rounds to check out the entries between Dec. 9-14. Winners will be announced on the City of Winkler Facebook page on Dec. 15.

The best three decorated entries will



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Winkler's Christmas light displays will be turned on at the tree lighting ceremony next week Friday in Bethel Heritage Park.

## Hospitalizations, arrests after Winkler brawl

By Voice staff

A street fight in Winkler sent three people to hospital and resulted in numerous arrests last Friday night

Just before 8 p.m. Nov. 4, Winkler Police received calls from several witnesses to an altercation near Mountain Ave. and 8th St.

Witnesses reported multiple people attacking each other with various weapons and that one person appeared to be attempting to drive over somebody with a vehicle.

Upon arriving on the scene, officers located and provided assistance until paramedics arrived to an injured male and a pregnant female who had also been assaulted.

The man was transported to Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) where he was treated and released, while the female was transported to BTHC and later to a Winnipeg hospital.

Police learned that, prior to their arrival, a third female had been taken to BTHC with injuries related to this incident. She was treated and released from hospital.

In their investigation, police determined that the fight was between two families who have been having an ongoing dispute.

Members of one family arrived at the home of the second family that Friday night. Several people from the second family exited their residence and a physical altercation ensued involving various weapons.

Police say that all the involved sub-

jects were known to each other.

As a result of this incident and the subsequent police investigation, the following arrests were made:

- After being released from hospital, the injured man initially located by police, a 48-year-old from Winkler, was arrested and will be charged with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

- A 15-year-old male from Winkler was arrested and will be charged assault causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, and failing to comply with an undertaking. This youth is also facing additional charges of resisting arrest and assaulting a peace officer stemming from his actions during his arrest.

- A 46-year-old Winkler male was arrested and will be charged with three counts of assault causing bodily harm.

- The female that had been brought to the hospital prior to police arriving at the incident, a 41-year-old from Winkler, was arrested after being released from hospital and will be charged with assault causing bodily harm.

- A 22-year-old male of Winkler was arrested and will be charged with assault with a weapon and with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

- At 16-year-old female of Winkler was arrested and will be charged with assault causing bodily harm.

The incident remains under investigation.

win a gift basket from Teepa's Nest, one night stay at Best Western Plus in Winkler, and \$100 in gift cards.

Register your home or business by Nov. 25 at [www.lightuptheseason.ca](http://www.lightuptheseason.ca).

The website is also the place to go to get a map of the entries ahead of

heading out with your family to see them all.

"It's a great opportunity to have everyone together driving around enjoying the lights of the season," Enns says.

### Attention Kids...

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1. You walk into your kitchen to find ... a snowman making hot chocolate for your family! What happens next?
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4. What are you most thankful for during the holiday season?

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# arts & culture

## Fibre Art Divas on display at Morden gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

The Fibre Art Divas have returned to Morden this month to exhibit for a second time at the Pembina Hills Gallery.

The exhibition simply entitled *Home* is somewhat overdue after having been delayed in the midst of the pandemic, noted group member Rosalind Sims.

"This one was originally supposed to show in Morden in 2020, but we moved it down the road," said Sims, a Manitou-area artist who is among 14 members of the Fibre Art Divas group.

*Home*, which has been shown at galleries across southern Manitoba this year, features 18 pieces that are all the same size, though either in landscape or portrait orientation.

The beauty of it in part is that there is such a broad range of work and varied materials and styles that can fall under the category of fibre arts.

"You can use absolutely anything that you can think of ... and we use all sorts of textiles and fibres, just about anything is good to go," said Sims.

"If you do walk through the exhibition, you'll see that nobody is even close in what we do, really. There can be such a variety of styles," she con-

tinued.

"And that's partly why we keep the group small because we want to keep the variety of styles, and we've become quite a close knit group ... it's not one that we can invite a lot of people.

"The other thing to keeping our numbers small in the group is because we can have the meetings in our houses then."

The group, which formed in 2014, includes members from across the province.

Sims said their aim is simply to support, encourage and inspire one another.

"Generally, the base of our group is to bring works that we are working on," she said. "We're trying to buoy each other along to have more success with our work."

"COVID kind of did us in as far as meeting, but we never missed a meeting because we were able to do them by Zoom. It's just nicer to be meeting in person now because you can actually handle things and see them close up and in more detail."

Sims looks forward to the group creating even more now through their shared passion for fibre arts and the fellowship, which is equally important to them.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The art of the Fibre Art Divas—14 fibre artist from across southern Manitoba—are up now at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden. The exhibition is entitled "Home".

"I belong to several groups, and this little group is my favorite one because we learn so much from sharing with each other. It's unbelievable," said Sims.

"Most of us now are retired. I think there's only one person left in our group who isn't retired, so it's about gathering in fellowship as well as for the arts and the learning and the sharing that we do."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Lil Dragon author Stan Hildebrand with daughter and illustrator Wendy Wall at a book reading in Morden last week.

## 'Lil Dragon' children's book a family endeavour

By Lorne Stelmach

His grandchildren were not only the inspiration but can also find themselves in Stan Hildebrand's children's book *Lil Dragon*.

Speaking at a book reading at the Morden library last Thursday, Hildebrand noted 'Lil' is even the name of his granddaughter.

"The feedback I got from her was special. When I first read her the manuscript ... she looked at me and said is that me? She was thrilled," said Hil-

debrand, who has been sharing the book he created with the help of his daughter Wendy Wall, who did the illustrations.

He did earlier readings in Altona, Manitou, and Miami followed by the evening last Thursday in Morden. He'll be at the Winkler library this Thursday night.

It was a new adventure for Hildebrand, who has worked in the print industry for over 35 years with Friesens in Altona.

Continued on page 22

# sports & recreation



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden Bombers goalie Reed Peters reaches out to cover a loose puck in Saturday's home game against the Notre Dame Hawks, which Morden won 3-2. Right: Morden's Reid Burak battles with Griffen McLean. Burak earned four penalties that night.

## Bombers start season right

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers launched their 2022-2023 SEMHL season with a win last weekend.

Playing in Morden Saturday night, the Bombers downed the Notre Dame Hawks 3-2.

Adam Hughesman and Andrew Clark made it a 2-0 game late in the first period and then Jory Mullin contributed Morden's third of the night minutes into the second. Notre Dame's two goals in quick succession early in the third weren't enough to catch up.

Goalie Reed Peters kept the Hawks at bay in net, making 48 saves as Notre Dame outshot Morden 50-40.

Down the road, the Winkler Royals found themselves at the losing end of their battle against the Hawks a few nights earlier.

The Nov. 2 game in Notre Dame saw the Hawks win it 5-4 in overtime.

Mitch Doell had a three-goal night for the Royals, who fought their way back from being down 3-1 after the first period to a 4-3 lead at the top of the fourth.

Also scoring for the Royals was Aaron Lewadniuk early in the second period.

Notre Dame got the tying goal 10 minutes into the finale frame, ultimately forcing overtime.

There, it was Hawk Eli Carels who got the gamer-winner a minute in.

Jayme Janzen made 43 saves in net for the Royals, who were outshot 47-42.

The Altona Maroons also fought a losing battle in their game against the Islanders in Por-

Continued on page 22



# Winkler teen finds success on the drag race circuit

By Lorne Stelmach

A local girl is making some noise on the race track, both literally and figuratively.

She may be just 13 years old, but Skylar Klassen can now say she has already competed for a world drag racing championship.

She won a provincial junior title this year in Gimli, which earned her way to the world finals in Mississippi. Her father was there to share the experience.

"It's huge. We went there not even expecting to make it that far," noted Shawn Klassen. "We were just honoured to be able to be there at the event."

"Every one who wins a track championship across North America gets to go to this race," the proud papa

noted. "She won one round there ... the adrenaline when she won that and knew she would be moving on to the next round was incredible. I've never seen her that happy."

"I just like going fast," said the shy and reserved Skylar when asked what keeps her out on the track. She was more comfortable letting her dad do the talking about her family's involvement in the world of racing.

Racing is very much in the blood for the Klassens—Skylar has grown up with it, just as her father did.

"I grew up at the race track from when I was very young, and racing has always been a part of my life," Shawn said.

"For my kids, it was the same way ... Skylar was at her first race when she was just a couple months old, and there's not a summer that has gone by



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Skylar Klassen competed in a world drag racing championship in Mississippi after winning a junior title in Gimli earlier this year (left).



that she hasn't been at the race track.

"We have watched racing all over the place," said Shawn, noting they regularly compete in Fargo, North Dakota and Brainerd, Minnesota. During the pandemic they raced in Gimli, which is where Skylar won the junior championship.

"It's a pretty big racing community around here. Even locally there's a lot of cars that are involved ... and I think there's a big following for drag racing," Shawn said.

A large part of the appeal of course is the adrenaline rush.

"Drag racing obviously is a quick race ... depending on the class and such, a race can be over in as little as seven or eight seconds. It's just a very different style of racing," said Shawn. "It's just the thrill of going fast ... and the competition."

"She's also made a lot of good friends at the race track," he added, noting Skylar is just in her environment there. "She's very comfortable at the race track."

There is a lot of work and preparation that goes into a successful racing season.

"A lot of it is having the reaction time. As soon as the light's green, you want that car to be moving ...

that's what will win or lose the race," Shawn said. "There's lots of fine tuning. A race is won or lost down to the thousandth of a second. It's getting the car to run very consistent."

"It's a single person sport, but it's also a team sport," he added, noting he and his dad work on the car, and Skylar's mother, grandmother and brother are usually there to cheer her on as well.

"It's a family activity every weekend ... we camp at the racetrack, so it's always a weekend event ... it's a great bonding weekend."

Shawn believes that there is a level of dedication that is also behind Skylar's success.

"She practices her reaction time a lot. She's got a special simulator in the house where she can sit down and practice that; she works on that a lot ... and her crew works on the car to make sure it is good to go."

"It is exciting then to see her race ... for her, it's cool to see her reaction when she wins a race."

Now the Klassen family will look ahead to next year and the possibilities.

"Next year, we're going to put a new motor on it, and she's going to go a little bit faster," Shawn said.

# Female Hawks fall to Westman, best Eastman

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks earned a split of their two weekend games.

It was close game Friday, but the Hawks came up just short in a 3-2 loss to top-ranked Westman. They then rebounded for a 4-2 victory over Eastman on Saturday.

Special teams were the difference

Friday in Morden as the Wildcats connected for a pair of powerplay goals as well as a shorthanded marker.

Gracie Carels and Zenith Vanstone scored for Pembina Valley while Kaylee Franz made 19 saves with the shots on goal even at 22 apiece.

The Hawks took 2-1 and 3-1 period leads Saturday against the Selects in Niverville with a 37-26 edge in shots

on goal.

Carels as well as Caitlin Anderson, Erica Fijala and Mya Pearce scored for Pembina Valley, and Kasia Rakowski got the win in net with 24 saves.

On Sunday, the Hawks fell 5-2 to Balmoral Hall in an exhibition game in Winnipeg. Jessica Anderson and Ava Dalebozik scored for Pembina Valley while Franz was busy in mak-

ing 40 saves.

The Hawks are in sixth place in the eight team league at 3-7-1 for seven points, which has them even with Eastman and one behind Interlake.

The Hawks face the Yellowhead Chiefs for the first time this season Saturday in Morden before heading to Hartney Sunday for a rematch with Westman.

News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888

# Mordenite wraps up junior career with Wpg. Rifles

By Lorne Stelmach

Football has been the sport of choice for Gabe Grenier.

The Mordenite has had enough gridiron success that he recently completed his sixth and final year of junior eligibility with the Winnipeg Rifles.

For Grenier, there is gratitude that it in large part started with the short-lived Pembina Valley Cornhuskers football program here in the Morden and Winkler area.

It was an opportunity that didn't exist until 14 years ago when Winkler started a flag football program and the Cornhuskers program when he was 12 years old.

"I have not quit training or playing football since then," said Grenier, who recalled "when I was playing, there were, I believe, three teams that we were able to scrum together.

"It got a lot of traction. There were probably close to 100 players that they had at the time," he said. "If it wasn't for that program, I wouldn't have then gotten a call from the Fort Garry Lions, who I played with once the local team closed ... so I moved out to start playing in Winnipeg."

He continued on then and moved up an age group into midget football with the Southwest Wolves, which was an amalgamation of two Winnipeg teams.

"I was invited to the league all-star game, where I was lucky enough to play really well," said Grenier, who then made his next key connection with Geordie Wilson, the head coach of the Rifles, who was leading the all-star team.

Grenier was invited to the rookie camp for the Rifles, who are one of 18 junior teams across Canada (there will be 20 next season).

"It's basically for any players who want to play football after they finish high school. Maybe they didn't necessarily have the grades to go play university football or they didn't want to go to school but still wanted to play



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Gabe Grenier, left on the field and above with parents Joey and Diella Grenier, has wrapped up his junior football career with the Winnipeg Rifles.

football at a high competitive level," he explained.

"It's a high-level competitive program," he continued. "We're out there five, six days a week practising, and we're training all off-season ... and we still get to travel all around Canada playing football.

"There's plenty of teams in the CJFL who are partnered with CFL teams," Grenier added. "The Winnipeg Rifles are a full partner with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, so every season they take four of our players and they bring us to rookie camp. One of our players this season was actually good enough to simultaneously play with the Blue Bombers all season and play for the Rifles."

Grenier started to progress on the Rifles roster in his second year when he got on the travelling roster. He became a starting receiver in his third year.

"The first two years, I didn't really get too much time on the field. There

were really good players ahead of me on the depth chart, and I was still needing to learn a lot about the game.

"We had a good season. Unfortunately, we were eliminated from the playoffs that year. I was happy I was able to become a starter and contributing player on the team.

"My role kind of expanded over the course of my years there," Grenier continued. "I was a starting receiver; I was also a backup quarterback, and I was a special teamer.

A pivotal moment came in his second season when he played quarterback one game due to the three starting quarterbacks being injured.

"I hadn't played quarterback in a year and a half, two years. I played well," he said, recalling he produced a combined 300 yards and threw for a touchdown near the end of the game.

"I think maybe they saw me as a leader then after that," Grenier suggested. "It was a great experience, and it became the best six years of my

life, getting to know all those guys and travelling all around Canada."

Grenier credited Wilson for being a great coach and mentor who came in and really changed the culture around the team.

"Coming into this past year is where I really saw that culture change shift ... we were extremely competitive this year, and we came within one score multiple times of beating the number one team in the nation," he said. "I think the program is going to have a lot of success going forward."

His Rifles career now behind him, Grenier is open to new opportunities to remain involved in the sport.

"If no teams come calling or I decide I'm done, I'm content with it, and I'm going to get into coaching right away."

Ultimately, he would love to have the chance to bring things full circle.

"I have a goal in mind to hopefully bring back football to the Pembina Valley at some point in the future."

# Winkler Flyers stumble with three-game losing streak

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added a trio of losses to their record last week.

The MJHL team fell to Steinbach 4-1 Wednesday, to OCN 3-1 Friday night, and then to Swan Valley 3-2 on Saturday.

The Pistons were up 3-0 after 20 minutes in the Wednesday night game in

Winkler.

After a scoreless second period, Zach Nicols got Winkler up on the board with what proved to be the team's lone goal of the night. Steinbach, meanwhile, added one more to cement the win.

Malachi Klassen and Aidan Comeau split the time in net, Klassen making nine saves off 12 shots in his 20 min-

utes while Comeau stopped six of the seven shots he faced in 40 minutes between the posts. Winkler's shooters sent 34 shots back the other way.

It was a one-goal night once again for Winkler Friday, this time in OCN against the Blizzard.

Xyon Kiemeney fired it home in the game's seventh minute, giving Winkler a 1-0 lead that held until midway

through the second when OCN managed its three goals in a busy six-minute stretch.

Klassen was in net the entire game this time around, making 24 saves as OCN outshot Winkler 27-23.

Saturday night in Swan Valley proved to be a close one, requiring overtime for a decision.

Continued on page 22

# Canucks down Pembina Valley Twisters 7-2

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters were not up to the task of being the first ones to take down the first-place St. James Canucks last week.

The Canucks extended their perfect season-opening run to 11 victories with a 7-2 triumph over Pembina Valley Friday night.

The Canucks blazed out to a 4-0 first period lead and then added three more in the third to seal the deal.

Mike Heppner and Max Collet scored for the Twisters, while Logan Enns took the loss in net, stopping 30 of 37 shots before Matt Grysiuk came on for the final 2:11 and made one save. Shots on goal overall were 38-24 in favour of St. James.

With the loss, Pembina Valley sees their record slip to 3-7-1 for seven

points. It leaves them mired in ninth place, which is two up on the last-place Raiders and one behind both

the St. Boniface Riels and Stonewall Jets.

The Twisters have a pair of home

games in Morris this weekend starting with the Riels Saturday followed by the St. Vital Victorias Sunday.

## Male Hawks win one, lose one

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were on both ends of a pair of one-goal decisions this past weekend.

The weekend doubleheader with Parkland in Dauphin saw the Rangers take game one 4-3 before the Hawks then came out on top 3-2 in the second game.

Pembina Valley opened scoring with a pair of early goals Saturday before giving up four unanswered goals.

Kam Thomas, Marek Miller, and Cedrik Robidoux all scored for the Hawks, while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 33 saves as the Rangers held a 37-30 edge in shots.

Robidoux then connected for the winning goal with 1:15 remaining Sunday to give the Hawks the victory. Miller and Liam Goertzen also scored for Pembina Valley, while Raiden LeGall got the win on 35 saves with Parkland holding a slim 37-36 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks sit at 8-3-0-2 for 18 points, which has them in fifth place. They are two up on the Winnipeg Wild and Southwest while sitting even with the Winnipeg Thrashers and one behind Yellowhead.

The Hawks are at home all this week, playing the Brandon Wheat Kings Wednesday, the Norman Northstars both Friday and Saturday night, and the Southwest Cougars Sunday afternoon.

## Flyers hit the road to play Freeze, Kings

From Pg. 21

The two teams traded goals through the first two periods, Winkler taking a 1-0 lead thanks to one from Dalton Andrew in the first and then a 2-1 lead on the strength of a Jayce Legaarden goal near the end of the second.

The Stampeders followed up on Lagaarden's goal, though, with one of their own a minute later.

The tie held through the entire third period to send the game into overtime. There, Swan Valley go the game-winner eight seconds in.

Comeau made 27 saves in net for Winkler off 30 shots. His teammates had 36 shots on goal.

With that, Winkler is 11-5-2-1 for the season thus far for 25 points, which puts them in third place behind the Steinbach Pistons (30 points) and the Portage Terriers (also 30 points).

The Flyers remain on the road this week, playing in Virden Tuesday and in Winnipeg against the Freeze Friday. They also play in Dauphin Sunday.

### > LIL DRAGON, FROM PG. 18

The idea to write a children's book came to him about a year and a half ago, and he went the self-publishing route through Friesens Press.

He estimated the process was about eight or nine months to bring it all together.

"It's been actually a very interesting process from when I first drew up, wrote it up, and I shared the story with my wife ... then I asked my daughter to create the illustrations for me, and she did a great job.

"I thought I knew a lot; I know a lot more now. It was an interesting and a very fulfilling ride," he said. "There was quite a learning curve.

"It's also been so much fun. Anybody who would be interested in doing it should step into it. You've got to put some money into it, but the rewards from what I have invested so far ... the rewards I have received have been awesome," Hildebrand continued. "It's been a great experience for me, and I can share it with

### > SEMHL, FROM PG. 19

tage Saturday night.

Portage's goalie stopped all 21 shots sent his way, while his teammates fired 47 across the ice against Altona netminder Cole Kehler, scor-

ing six for the win.

This week, on Tuesday the Royals played in Carman (results were not available at press time), Thursday night sees Morden play in Altona,

**"IT WAS AN INTERESTING AND A VERY FULFILLING RIDE. THERE WAS QUITE A LEARNING CURVE."**

tration of Lil Dragon to me ... it was really, really nice," said Hildebrand, who noted the second rendering of the dragon became the final image, so very few changes were required from that point.

"I basically gave her free reign." In the end, it has been a very positive experience, and he has been encouraged by the response.

"I've had all kinds of support from the whole family ... it's been very rewarding ... it's been extremely special."

Friday Winkler hosts Ile des Chenes, and on Saturday the Royals host the Maroons while the Bombers play at Red River.

*The* **Voice**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MORTGAGE SALE**

The land and building known as **66 Elm Street, Plum Coulee, Manitoba**, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2315691/4, will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on December 7, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference.

There will be no in-person attendees at the auction.

In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Keith A. Senden at either (204) 957-8382 or [auctions@fillmoreriley.com](mailto:auctions@fillmoreriley.com)

The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a one storey dwelling approximately 1,500 square feet, with living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, crawl space basement, single attached garage on a lot approximately 113 feet x 140 feet.

Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2021.

Prior Charges: Nil.

**TERMS OF SALE**

A deposit of \$15,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to Fillmore Riley LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00), and the balance according to conditions which will be available electronically by contacting the individual below prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a **Reserve Bid** of \$107,500.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 4th day of November, 2022 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca)

Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.

Further information may be obtained from:

FILLMORE RILEY LLP  
Barristers and Solicitors  
1700 - 360 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3  
File No. 434740-12/KAS/sw (fun)  
Attention: KEITH A. SENDEN  
Phone: 204-957-8382  
[auctions@fillmoreriley.com](mailto:auctions@fillmoreriley.com)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Maria Neufeld, late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased. ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT  
LAW OFFICE  
Solicitor for the Estate

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Rate of Pay: \$35.45 - \$39.93 per hour - 2022 rates

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Call Travis Penner at Crocus Real Estate at 204-361-5038.

**COMING EVENTS**

**CRAFT & VENDOR SALE**

December 4, 2022  
11 am - 4 pm

Days Inn Conference Center  
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Silent Auction & 50/50  
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**COMING EVENTS**

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NOV 18/2022  
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Meal  
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**Reporter/Photographer Wanted**

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

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**Qualifications:**

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- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier  
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca  
Deadline to apply is Friday, November 25, 2022.

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# Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

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**OBITUARY**



**Margaret Grace Warkentin  
(nee Reimer)  
1940 – 2022**

All people die, but not all people live. Grace lived! Dedicated wife, mother of three, and friend of many. She left this world suddenly on November 3, 2022 at the age of 82. She was born on February 26, 1940 to Maria and Peter D. Reimer, the 8th of 11 children. She leaves behind her beloved husband, Wilf; three children, Randy (Karla), Bonnie (Paddy), Tami (Andy); five grandchildren, Brodie (Rachel), CJ (Lindsay), Marie (Jeremy), David, and Andrew (Yetunde) and four beautiful great-grandchildren (with more on the way) who will be inundated with tales of "Gramma" as they grow. There are many sisters and brothers, sisters-in-law and extended

family who will miss Grace.

Grace met Wilf when she was in Grade 9 and he was in Grade 12. Wilf proposed when Grace was 16 and they married just after Grace's 18th birthday. They would have been married for 65 years in May 2023. Grace was genuine to a fault, she had the heart of a lion and used her extensive vocabulary to provide words of encouragement, wisdom, occasionally sarcasm or to demonstrate her prowess at Scrabble. She loved to write poetry and received awards for some of her writing. After Grace's stroke in 2019, Wilf cared for her and they found new happiness together. Grace recovered from her stroke sufficiently to still beat the contestants on her favourite TV shows, Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. As recently as four days prior to her death, she was overheard wondering why the contestants on Wheel of Fortune could not solve the puzzle when it was so obvious to her. In addition to words, Grace had a long love affair with golf and downhill skiing. She travelled where she wanted to travel and mostly convinced Wilf to accompany her. Grace gave back to the community, often quietly and always with a deep sense of gratitude for the blessings she had received in her life. She learned about service as a child growing up in Steinbach, Manitoba. Her father, also a merchant, taught her about business and about charity. Her mother always had a room or meal available to anyone in need. Many of you remember Grace as the proprietor of Grace's Clothes Cupboard, and the Diva of Corn and Apple Festival Fashion shows in Morden. She loved fashion and nothing gave her more joy than seeing the smiles as her customers left the store. Grace continued with fashion long after her store was closed when she became the President of Morden's Caring and Sharing charity. She continued to feed and dress the less advantaged in the community. In addition to feeding the hungry, Grace ensured high school girls had prom dresses, that no one was without a warm coat and she even opened a "shoe store" where she invited those who could not afford new shoes to select new footwear. We still do not know where she procured all of those shoes! Grace believed that everything in her life led her to Caring and Sharing charity work. She wrote: "This was my calling. As Winston Churchill said: 'We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.' Now, I make my avocation, my vocation. Hunger Awareness is a focus that is real. I have gained more satisfaction and a keen insight into the sadder reality of struggling families and those learning to survive in a new country. 'Freely you have received, freely give.' (Matthew 10:8)"

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at Westside Community Church in Morden with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

If you choose, in lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation in Grace's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, BTHC Expansion Fund.

The family would like to thank the emergency services in Morden and the medical staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for their quick responses and exceptional care. A special thanks to Grace's family doctor, Dr. Kevin Convery. As children of Grace, we would like to thank our Dad for the incredible care he lovingly and faithfully provided Mom in her final years.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
In care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



**OBITUARY**



**Abram Bergen  
1946 - 2022**

Abram Bergen, age 76 years of Winkler, MB. formerly of the Rosengart area passed away on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Margaretha (nee Thiessen); their children, Maria (John) Sawatzky, Juan (Tina) Bergen, Nettie (Pete) Reddecopp, Anna (Bill) Fast, Pete (Lisa) Bergen, Jake (Shannon) Bergen, Marty Bergen, Susan (Dan) Wiens, Tina Bergen, and Abe (Nikki) Bergen; as well as 24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the German Old Colony Mennonite Church, Hochfeld with interment at the Haskett Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Abram's memory to Siloam Mission.

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



**OBITUARY**



**John (Jack) Enns  
1946 – 2022**

Jack Enns was born to Peter and Tina Enns on May 7, 1946. He married the love of his life, Margaret Hildebrand, on October 25, 1970. There were no children to this union. Jack got cancer and took strong chemo treatments approximately 35 years ago. After having cancer, he accepted Jesus into his heart and was baptized upon the confession of his faith in 1987. He wished for only two seasons in his life: hunting and riding seasons. Jack and Margaret did many things together. They went camping, fishing, farming with chickens and turkeys, deer hunting and motorcycling. Motorcycles were quite important to them. Sometimes John and Shirley would go riding with them. There were many wonderful memories. Jack worked at Kroeker Farms, Winkler Creamery, Triple E and later he and Margaret owned the health food store called Remedies for Health. After 14 years of owning the store, they both retired.

Margaret passed away in 2019 from cancer and this was devastating for Jack. He was depressed and lonely. After a while, Jack found a special friend, Bev Enns. She helped Jack with many, many things especially when he got sick. We would like to thank Bev for all the help she gave him. Jack lost a lot of weight and had many health issues since September 2021. Then in September 2022, he was diagnosed with bladder cancer. His heart was too weak to do any treatments. On Saturday, October 29, 2022 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Jack passed away.

He leaves behind his sister, Dollie and Jake Penner; brother-in-law, Fred Adler; Margaret's brothers and sisters; special friend, Bev Enns and many nieces and nephews.

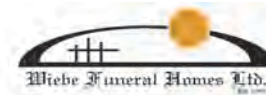
Jack was predeceased by his wife, Margaret; parents, Peter and Tina Enns; brother, Peter; sister, Tina and two nephews.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Morden EMM Church with interment at Southside Cemetery.

We would like to thank the home care specialists and the palliative care team at BTHC for the wonderful care they gave to Jack.

Because children were very important to Jack, donations may be made in his memory to Adult & Teen Challenge.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
In care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



**OBITUARY**



**Justina Wiebe (nee Enns)  
1920 - 2022**

Justina Wiebe passed away on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at her residence at the Pembina-Manitou Personal Care Home.

She leaves two children to celebrate her life: Donald and his wife, Jan Vincent, Doris and her husband, Daniel Young; three grandchildren, Naomi, Christine and Burton.

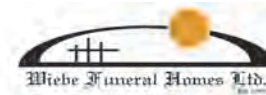
She was predeceased by her husband, Peter and her siblings: Ben (Lydia), Annie (Jake), Agathe (Bill) and Doreen (Paul).

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2022 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden with ash interment prior at the Winkler Cemetery.

The family would like to give special thanks to the wonderful and caring staff at Silver Linings at the Villages in Winkler, at Boundary Trails Health Centre and most recently at the Pembina-Manitou Personal Care Home. Also, a big thank you to those who took time to visit mom in her later years.

If anyone wishes to remember Justina with a memorial gift, these may be given to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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The **Winkler Morden**  
**Voice**

## > ARES, FROM PG. 2

in favour, but nothing had been done.

It was a political minefield; things didn't move quickly," Rempel says. "But after a positive referendum, the sod was finally turned for the new fire hall in 1961."

Altona and Rhineland approved 18 members, and in 1962, the \$25,000 fire hall officially opened.

"We're still working out of the same building today, with additions along the way," says Rempel.

By 1963, a new ambulance and fire truck were added, and a year later, the hall was expanded to accommodate the new vehicles. Within a year, firefighters responded to about 170 fire calls and made 380 ambulance trips.

Future chief Ed Klassen was elected as captain of the brigade in 1973. That year also saw the first Fireman's Ball where 150 tickets were sold for \$3 each. Held at the old Elks Hall, it became an annual event for 28 consecutive years.

Klassen resigned as chief in 1988 after 21 years, and Bob Stoesz took his place. Stoesz's role as ambulance coordinator was passed on to Irv Braun.

In 1990, the Pembina Triangle Mutual Aid District was formed, and included fire departments from Altona, Emerson, Gretna, Letellier, Morden, Plum Coulee, St. Jean, and Winkler. That group is still in existence, and in the last three years, Dominion City has been added.

"The whole idea is to assist other communities," explains Rempel. "Some smaller communities didn't have a water tanker. We did.

"We always said once you're on the fire department, you're always on the

fire department, because it's family. We rely on each other at a call, and after a call. Just as much as we rely on our spouses, significant others, parents, and children."

Braun went on to become the first paid fire chief in 1997, with an emphasis on proper training and increased public education.

"We have people trained in all kinds of things—vehicle extrication, rescue equipment training, traffic control courses, and driving courses," says Rempel. "We have had other members trained in rappelling and water rescue techniques over the years, as well. We train for worst case scenarios."

The value of that varied training became apparent during the tragedy at Canamera Foods in 1996 and during a 2011 bomb threat incident at W.C. Miller Collegiate.

More recently, the department received training in landing and takeoff procedures from STARS air ambulance

A huge shift took place in 2000 when the RHA took over the ambulance services in the region. "

"We had run it for close to 50 years, and there were a lot of mixed feelings," Rempel recalls.

Braun was the longest serving member who was chief, stepping down in 2016 after 33 years with the department. He was replaced by the current chief, Greg Zimmerman.

"He brought years of experience in a variety of different communities," Rempel says. They've also recently added chaplain Richard Bage to the department. "He's there for extra support, and he's also learning to be



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A controlled burn exercise for Altona Rhineland Emergency Services took place in 2019, at the site of the old Halbstadt Store.

a pumper operator."

In recent years, Altona Rhineland Emergency Services has acquired a ladder truck, a compressed foam truck, and other equipment to make their work safer and more efficient. New roles have also been added, including assistant chief. They've also started a cadet program through the high school, with two of the trainees joining the department.

"Looking back on all the people who have come and gone, and the changes in the way we fight fires, there have always been two things that have been consistent: our support for each other and the network of community that supports us," Rempel says. "For the last 100 years, that has continued within the department and within the community. And that's what has helped us thrive."

Today, the department boasts 30 members, whose mission is to protect the community and each other.

"Many things have changed, but some things haven't," Rempel says. "We couldn't do this without the support of the community and our businesses, that allow staff to become members of the department, and allow them to leave when somebody is having a bad day. When our pagers don't go off, it's a good day."

Being a firefighter gets in your blood and becomes a lifestyle, but it's a lifestyle that can't be lived without support.

"That support starts at home with your spouse, your significant other, your children. Some of our younger members live with their parents or their siblings. None of our members can honestly say that they have not had to miss a family function because of a call. But the main mission is that everybody gets home safe.

"That is something that has not changed over the 100 years of the Altona Rhineland Emergency Services."

# Stretch your donation—give during Giving Challenge week

By Lorne Stelmach

Local community foundations are gearing up for the annual week when donations they receive go even further than usual.

The Giving Challenge set for Nov. 14-20 means every gift made to a local foundation will be stretched by The Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government

Each \$5 gift is stretched by \$1 from the Winnipeg Foundation and \$1 from the government to a maximum of \$2,000 per foundation. It means up to \$2,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation and \$2,000 from the province upon raising \$10,000.

Representatives of the foundations in Altona and Plum Coulee always welcome the boost that these initiatives provides.

Hayden Friesen, president of the Altona Community Foundation, said the Giving Challenge is an excellent opportunity for the growth and sustainability of their community fund.

"Our foundation has been fortunate to have received the maximum stretch dollars through this Giving Challenge over the last several years," he said, estimating it brought them around \$33,000 in 2021.

"No matter the size of the donation, every dollar received is an investment in our community which supports the various projects and organizations throughout our region," Friesen stressed. "We look forward to raising funds throughout this challenge and hope to leverage all of the stretch dollars available."

You can go online to [altonacom-unityfoundation.com](http://altonacom-unityfoundation.com) for more in-

formation and to make a donation. You can also reach the foundation by email to [info@altonacom-unityfoundation.com](mailto:info@altonacom-unityfoundation.com) or mail in a donation to Box 2076 Altona, MB R0G 0B0.

Meanwhile, the Plum Coulee Community Foundation is holding a soup and pie supper at the Centre on Main Nov. 17 from 5-7 p.m. in support of the Giving Challenge.

Foundation representative Moira Porte said the challenge provides a significant boost that helps them support all aspects of life in Plum Coulee, whether it be grants to a wide variety of causes or support for the outdoor rink and the Centre on Main as well as other recreational facilities and school improvements.

"There's a significant amount of

funds that go into our endowment fund, and the interest on that fund is what we grant out to all our organizations, so it's a really big deal for us," she said. "It's been growing every year. Last year, we got over \$20,000; the year before, we were a little over \$16,000.

"We aren't quite at a million dollars in our fund, but if we keep getting that money every year, we're going to get there soon," Porte added, noting it was now at around \$700,000. "Plum Coulee is a very giving community, and we have lots of people who no longer live in Plum Coulee but their hearts are still in Plum Coulee."

To make a donation, you can go online to [endowMB.org](http://endowMB.org), email Moira. [Porte@pcc-foundation.ca](mailto:Porte@pcc-foundation.ca), or call 204-362-4195 for more information.

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## 2019 EXPLORER SPORT

\$42,900



3.5L V6, 4WD, Heated/Cooled Leather Seats, Nav, Heated 2nd Row Dual Captain Chairs, Twin Panel Moonroof, Local Trade. Km's 92,558- Stk#BL019

## 2020 F-150 LARIAT SPORT

\$52,900



3.5L V6, 4X4, 502A Pkg, Heated/Cooled Leather Seats, Adaptive Cruise, Moonroof, One Owner. Kms 80,495- Stk#BT058A

## 2021 ESCAPE SE

JUST IN



1.5L EcoBoost, AWD, Heated Cloth Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Adaptive Cruise, Remote Start. One Owner. 29,604Km's-Stk#BL018

## 2020 F-150 XLT

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5.0L V8, 6.5" FT Box, 4x4, 302A Pkg, Heated Cloth Seats, Hard Tonneau Cover. One Owner. Local Trade. Km's 43,078 Stk#BL007

## 2018 ESCAPE SE

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1.5L Eco Boost, 4WD, Heated Cloth Seats, Nav, SE Sport Appearance Pkg, New Tires. One Owner. Local Trade. Km's 64,051-Stk#BL017

## 2018 F-150 LARIAT

\$31,900



5.0L V8, 4X4, 501A Package, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, Nav, One Owner. Local Trade. Price \$31,900 Km's 249,141 - Stk#BT010A

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High tech, highly capable, low fuel consumption. The all-new 2.7L Turbo 4-cylinder engine is the modern powertrain designed specifically for light duty pickup trucks.

Features include:

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*This little engine packs a big punch.*

- 310 horsepower @ 5,600 RPM
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*A lighter engine means more towing and payload.*

- Up to 9,600 lbs towing
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- 10.8 L/100km Highway

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*With a new 3-phase Camshaft, the 2.7L Turbo 4-cylinder engine can provide excellent fuel economy as well as good performance : 0 - 100 km/h in 6.8 seconds*

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