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# The *Altona Rhineland* Voice

VOLUME 2 EDITION 46

THURSDAY,  
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## The sky's the limit



The Pylons provided musical entertainment for the Blue Sky Opportunities fundraising banquet last week. Bob and Harv Schroeder's nephew, Darren, joined them on stage to finish off the show. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

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## Blue Sky Opportunities hosts successful fundraiser amid optimism and progress

By Lori Penner

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Blue Sky Opportunities (BSO) was finally able to once again host their annual fundraising banquet last week.

A sold-out crowd of 270 guests filled the Rhineland Pioneer Centre Nov. 9 to show their support, enjoy a night of great food and entertainment, and get an update on the progress of the non-profit organization, which works with adults with intellectual disabilities.

General manager Ryan Potter expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support they receive from individuals and corporate donors.

"It's so amazing to see all the support we get from the community. We could not do any of this without you."

During the banquet, the BSO board announced its next ambitious fundraising campaign: a \$170,000 push to purchase a fully-accessible, 10-passenger van.

"This vehicle will enable us to continue to provide safe and reliable transportation to those supported

at the day program to get people to work in the mornings and afternoons, and as well as for evenings and weekends for our residential and supported independent living clients," Potter explained. "It's going to give them transportation to go out shopping or out for dinner, or bowling or to the movies, or to events and activities that we're not always able to do."

BSO currently supports about 80 clients who participate in a variety of activities.

"We're picking up clients anywhere from Emerson, Morris, Winkler, and Morden, from Monday to Friday to come to the day program," said Potter, noting Blue Sky's current vehicles aren't great for highway driving in the winter. "It's a big area, so safety is paramount."

The vehicle project gained traction as the Altona Community Foundation declared a commitment of \$21,500 towards it.

"We're very grateful to the foundation for this generous grant," Potter said. "This, along with the roughly \$30,000 we raised from the banquet, will certainly be a good start for this



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

A crowd of 270 guests packed the Rhineland Pioneer Centre Nov. 9 for the Blue Sky Opportunities annual fundraising banquet

campaign."

Potter also shed light on the organization's progress over the last few years, citing renovations and real estate changes, including the sale of an aged residence and the acquisition of two new homes. BSO currently owns eight residences.

"We've renovated kitchens and bathrooms in a couple of them to make them more accessible, but mainly it's involved paint and new flooring."

He also highlighted the long-awaited provincial government's investment of \$104 million to support disability services and increase wages for service providers and provide them with a living wage.

While Potter acknowledged the positive impact of this increase on Blue Sky's 140 staff, he emphasized the need for continued advocacy to address minimum wage disparities and the absence of cost-of-living adjustments since 2011.

"It's a step in the right direction, but

there's still work to be done," he said. "This will also help us to retain employees. Change in staff is challenging for clients, especially in residential homes."

Meanwhile, the organization's services such as the Front Shop, Opportunities Program, Life Skills program, and Supported Employment program all continue to thrive, along with commercial services such as the wood shop and service shop, which provide combine chain assembly and town wide recycling.

Along with the banquet, Potter said the annual cleanathon held in conjunction with West Park School is still one of their biggest fundraisers, raising \$32,000 last year.

"We're incredibly grateful to all our corporate sponsors and public supporters who have stood behind us all these years," Potter said, noting next year Blue Sky Opportunities will be celebrating 70 years in the community.

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## Altona lights up for the season next week

By Lori Penner

If you haven't found your Christmas spirit yet, the Town of Altona can help you with that.

The community's annual Night of Lights celebration takes place next week Friday, Nov. 24.

The fun begins at the Altona Civic Centre at 6 p.m. with free horse and sleigh rides.

Recreation programmer Brittany Winkler says these rides are a much-anticipated event for Christmas lovers of all ages.

"It's become a Night of Lights stan-

dard that everybody loves. They will go on until 7:30 p.m."

Meanwhile, the bonfire will be blazing for a free wiener roast starting at 6:30 p.m.

This all leads to the main event: lighting the giant downtown Christmas tree. For the first time ever, this will be accompanied by fireworks.

"The fireworks will go off just as the tree is being lit, just to add to the big celebration," says Winkler. "It will be about a five-minute show, set off a safe distance away, but high enough

Continued on page 27

# get informed

## Big changes ahead for Southland Mall in 2024

Winners is coming, major renos planned

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There are big plans in the works for the revitalization of Winkler's Southland Mall.

The Property Brokers Real Estate Group announced last week that Winners is coming to the Norquay Dr. shopping centre, sparking a renovation project that will change the look of the 38-year-old mall both inside and out.

The department store will be located in space north of Shoppers Drug Mart, with its own entrance out into the west parking lot.

"People are going to have to be a little bit patient. There's a lot of work to do in advance of Winners coming," cautions Wes Harder of Property Brokers, which has been tasked with leasing out space in the facility.

Portions of the existing building are slated to be demolished and rebuilt not just to make room for Winners but also to create several other newly redesigned rental spaces and entrances.

"Over the next year we're going to be seeing them do a fair bit of work with demolition on the outside, putting in some storefronts along the front of the mall," Harder says. "You're going

to see it happening beside Staples. You're going to see it beside Shoppers, which will be Winners. And directly beside Winners will be another vacant space that will be an option as well.

"And same with the space on the south side of Shoppers—there's going to a new facade going in there with clearer signage."

All this work will take place in 2024, with Winners opening sometime in 2025.

These plans have been met with a great deal of excitement by the community.

"There's been so much talk around the mall for years now of what it could be or what might be," Harder says. "There is something happening now and it seems the community and the region is just excited that there could be some life breathed back into this building."

In the days following the announcement, Harder says he fielded numerous calls from potential mall tenants eager to learn more.

"It really seems like people want to see this work. They want this to happen."

Details about available units and renderings for the renovation project are available on the Property Brokers' website: [thepropertybrokers.ca](http://thepropertybrokers.ca).

"There's a variety of spaces and sizes that can be combined to make



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler's Southland Mall will be undergoing a major renovation in advance of Winners coming to town. Work will take place through 2024.

them bigger, or smaller. Various price points," Harder says.

A map of the renovated mall shows Staples, Dollar Tree, Friesens Insurance, Scotiabank, Landmark Cinemas, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Valley Fiber (who just recently moved into office space at the south end of the

building) will all remain.

Discussions with other current tenants are ongoing.

"You can see that some will be impacted," Harder notes, "but the hope would be that we don't lose anybody, that it only benefits everyone."



THEPROPERTYBROKERS.CA

## Our mistake

A story in our Nov. 9 edition had a typo in the date for the upcoming Canadian Wrestling Elite show (*Big time rumble coming to Morden, Pg. 22*)

CWE is at the Access Event Centre

this Saturday, Nov. 18. Bell time is 7 p.m. Ticket information is available at [cwtickets.com](http://cwtickets.com).

We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE

# Koats for Kids hands out hundreds of winter jackets

By Lorne Stelmach

United Way Pembina Valley's Koats for Kids campaign this year did not have a repeat of 2022.

The annual initiative to provide new or gently used winter clothing for families in need last year saw the demand go up dramatically, but fewer donations meant people had to be turned away.

This year, the numbers were thankfully more back to normal for the distribution days held last Thursday in Morden at the 500 Stephen Community Centre and in Winkler at the Central Station Community Centre.

"Something unusual was going on in 2022," said organizer Audrey Armstrong, who suggested it was perhaps the influx of immigrants from Ukraine as well as other newcomers who had been delayed because of the pandemic. "Apparently there were way more people coming then as a result.

"This year was a more normal year. We were wondering if this year was going to be a repeat of last year, which

was pretty crazy."

She said they gave away 262 coats or snow pants in Morden and 266 in Winkler.

"We had more boots donated than previous years, and most of these were distributed along with lots of toques, scarves, and mittens," Armstrong shared.

There was no charge for any of the clothing, so anyone who needed it was welcome to come pick something up.

Armstrong observed that it's good news indeed that there wasn't as much need.

"So we did have a fair amount left. We're going to set aside some of it, especially the kids' stuff. We're going to store them this year, which we haven't done in the past because we didn't have much storage," she said.

"One thing that's different that's been happening is we've gotten some calls from places like, say, Genesis House ... they're saying we've had a family come in and they came with next to nothing," said Armstrong.



FACEBOOK.COM/CENTRALSTATIONCC

Central Station Community Centre in Winkler (above) and 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden were the pick-up sites for this year's Koats for Kids campaign organized by United Way Pembina Valley.

"We're thinking throughout the season we might get more of those calls, so it would be nice if we can have something available for those people.

"If it doesn't get used over this season, we've got it for next year ... and I'm thinking some stuff may be able to go to the thrift store."

Armstrong said they are very grateful to the citizens of Morden and Winkler for again supporting this program.

"We had lots of lovely winter coats and children's snow sets and other winter gear donated and felt much better positioned to meet the need this year than we did last year," she said.

"The event ran very smoothly in both locations, and most of the folks who attended were successful in finding some winter gear that will help them stay a little warmer this winter."

## Child safe, suspect arrested after vehicle theft

By Voice staff

A scary situation for a local parent ended with a Winkler man in custody last week.

Thursday mid-afternoon, Winkler Police were dispatched to a report of a vehicle stolen with a two-year-old girl inside.

The child's mother had popped inside a business on 1st Street, intending to immediately return to the vehicle. While she was gone, a man got into the vehicle and drove away.

Police from Winkler, Morden, and Altona flooded the area to look for the stolen vehicle.

Officers learned that an electronic device capable of GPS tracking was inside the stolen vehicle. This data was used to coordinate the police response.

Seven minutes after the initial call,

a Winkler officer spotted the vehicle travelling on Road 14 N between Road 23 W and Road 22 W. The officer blocked the road with his patrol car, causing the suspect to stop, at which time he was taken into custody.

While the suspect was being arrested, numerous additional officers arrived on the scene and police located the child unharmed inside the stolen vehicle. She was returned safely to her family.

The 36-year-old suspect has been charged with forcible confinement, theft of a motor vehicle, and driving without a licence. He was remanded into custody and appeared in Winnipeg Provincial Court on Friday.

The suspect and the victim were not known to each other. Police believe the suspect was under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the incident.

**Attention Kids...**

**What's Your Christmas story?**

Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

1. Create a story that starts with this sentence: "Come on," Sue said. "Go caroling with us. It will be fun!"
2. What do you like MOST about winter?
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4. Write about a character who is returning home for the holidays for the first time in a long time.

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*The* **Voice**

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# “It’s happening right here in our valley”

## Genesis House, Steps Toward Reconciliation group screen Rustic Oracle

By Lori Penner

Altona’s Steps Toward Reconciliation group partnered with Genesis House for a special free screening of the film *Rustic Oracle* at the Community Exchange in Altona Nov. 7.

*Rustic Oracle* addresses the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. It tells the story of a grieving family: a young Mohawk girl losing her innocence as she discovers the cruelty of the adult and settler world, and an estranged mother and daughter finding their way back to each other.

Set in the late ‘90s, the film is told from Ivy’s perspective as an adult looking back at her childhood and piecing together her memories. Ivy is constantly being shielded from the events around her but is always listening and watching how the adults in her life are dealing with the disappearance of her older sister.

Although it deals with tragedy and trauma, *Rustic Oracle* remains hopeful, and draws on scenes where a community of women support Ivy and Susan’s journey.

In the end, we see that the adult Ivy has been telling this story to her own daughter in the hope that she will break the cycle of Indigenous generational trauma.

There were tears on many faces in the audience during the film’s closing credits.

Following the screening, an elder

from Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation and her two daughters, Steps Toward Reconciliation committee members, as well as Genesis House staff, and representatives from the REDress Project were on hand to participate in a sharing circle about the film and the ongoing issues it illustrates.

Elder Lois Thomas said sharing stories about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is important, not just to raise awareness or empower women but also to let those who have lost loved ones know they’re not suffering alone.

“It’s not something I ever want to go through with my own daughters, but it’s something our people face on a daily basis. As a mom, knowing other people who have lost daughters, it feels very heavy at times. I worry more. I get upset when my daughter doesn’t answer her phone. It’s always on your mind.”

Denise Thiessen and her daughter-in-law Courtney Yeo-Thiessen coordinate the REDress project in the Pembina Valley. They have over 100 dresses that they display at various installations, each with a story representing an Indigenous woman or girl who is missing or murdered.

They brought a small display of dresses to the screening event to represent the stories of area women whose lives have ended in tragedy.

As a school teacher who also works with Indigenous youth, Yeo-Thies-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The sharing circle that followed the film screening included, from left, Anishinaabe First Nation Elder Lois Thomas, Kallista Thomas, Denise Thiessen, Courtney Yeo-Thiessen, Kree-sha McKay, Shaun Friesen, and Angela Braun.

sen said, “Knowledge is power and knowing that this situation does affect us. This is not just happening in Winnipeg or Toronto or Calgary. It’s happening right here in our valley. The REDress Project is about evoking discomfort and a feeling of wonder. It should make you feel those things. This is a tangible thing we need to look at.”

She believes generational trauma is a big factor in these tragedies.

“It can make you grow up feeling unsafe all the time, or unsure that your next choice could make or break the day. You could grow up thinking either it wasn’t fair and have the feeling of helplessness and insecurity going into adulthood. Or it can make you stronger and you can break the pattern of trauma. I don’t think there’s any sort of flag that tells us what way that’s going to go. But it’s all about that trauma that gets passed down.”

Genesis House executive director Angela Braun said she hopes those who attended the movie screening have learned something about the im-

pact of generational trauma.

“It affects your expectations of the world. If you feel so powerless in your world, then things will happen to you because you don’t feel you have the power to stop them or get out of a situation, or that people will believe you if you are in a bad situation. These women and girls are disadvantaged right from the get-go because of that.

“What I often see with the women coming to the shelter is a passive attitude of this is just how life is. Sometimes you get lucky, sometimes you don’t. You have no ability to fight back against the broken system. No ability to fight back against injustice. And that’s what residential schools have done. They have built that sense of powerlessness, and that has come through in the generations. How do women get their power and their voice back?

“We need to stop that cycle and we need to educate them and teach them that they deserve more for their life. Teach them to become bigger and louder, not smaller, and quieter.”

# City mulling over results of Suncatch Plaza survey

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden city council will be taking another look at whether to do the Suncatch Plaza downtown again next year.

The city closed off a half block section of Eighth Street between Stephen Street and the back lane to the south of the art gallery on a trial basis from May to September.

The idea had its critics, but a recent community survey put out by the city had about 70 per cent of respondents say they would like to see it done

again.

“We wanted to hear from all citizens ... and it came back fairly positive, but there were also a lot of suggestions, so we’re looking at that,” said Deputy Mayor Gord Maddock.

“We want to make sure this is the right thing, so we’ll probably look into it more once we get a full council again and see what kind of dollars we can put into it.”

The plaza idea was touted by proponents as a way to create a community space for programs and events and

to draw people downtown, but some merchants and property owners in the area questioned the benefits of a total shutdown of the road.

While they applauded the council’s desire to further boost the downtown, they didn’t feel this summer’s experiment was enough of a success to continue with it and lamented the impact on parking and traffic flow.

“There’s lots of things we would need to do different,” said Maddock, citing such examples as relocating the washrooms, having signage, and bet-

ter picnic tables and amenities including food truck vendors.

“We’re going to start working with some of the community groups if that’s the direction we go ... we would work with community groups about using it and try to get more activity in there,” he said.

He acknowledged the sentiment from some who felt they didn’t see it being used enough to warrant closing the street off for the entire season.

*The* **Voice**

# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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## The ghosts we make

Once we had paranormal investigators occupy our house for a weekend.

It wasn't exactly Ghostbusters. It was a group that consisted of a friend of mine and since we had just bought a nearly 140-year-old stone house (with a well) in Morden he mentioned that it would be an ideal candidate.

I talked to my wife ... neither of us believe in the supernatural but we thought it would be fun to allow it under the auspices of "what harm could it possibly cause?"

This also gave us an excuse for an impromptu weekend trip to Grand Forks shopping, enjoying the surroundings and sampling the restaurants and whatnot, as many Manitobans like to do.

"I wonder if we have ghosts?" I joked.

"It seems unlikely," responded wife dryly.

"I'm fine with ghosts as long as they're polite and keep the haunting as quiet as possible," I continued.

This is how the conversation went for some time, tongues solidly planted in cheeks.

After returning home we learned from our investigators that the house was officially "not haunted," which came as no surprise to either of us.

I have always had a complicated relationship with the unexplained and the supernatural. I am at a place in life

where I solidly do not believe in the supernatural and of a mind that varying phenomenon that is reported as unexplained is just that: unexplained, which in my mind means yet-to-be-explained.

When I say "complicated relationship" I mean I was raised by a mum and an extended family who were/hardcore believers in every supernatural phenomenon you could shake a stick at: ghosts, aliens, demons, etc.

For the most part, I look out into the world and believe the best approach is the measurable and measured approach. I believe in what I can see, what can be observed, measured, proven, peer reviewed.

Some feel sad for this perspective as if it leaves nothing to the imagination and is in some ways impoverished. Personally, I am quite happy in this space and so there's no need to feel bad.

One of the weird things I often run into sometimes when someone teases out what my perspectives on such subjects are is indignation. There are those who automatically assume that by holding a position opposite to their own I must therefore be judging them.

It is such an odd thing for people to preoccupy themselves with what others think and believe. It seems to me to be an enormous waste of time and mental energy.

I can say confidently I have never encountered any phenomenon that could not be explained. If I had and were relating such stories, I would advise the listener to not simply believe me because they know and trust me but rather wait for evidence. In the absence of evidence, file such stories away as yet-to-be-explained and move on.

At the end of the day, I expect people will believe whatever they want and this is fine by me (because if it wasn't it really doesn't matter). I choose the path of healthy skepticism and the reality that I live in an unhaunted house.

In the meantime, should there be ghosts seeking a quiet, warm space, my house is available to be to be haunted. I would certainly welcome the roommates provided they are quiet and clean up after themselves. Applicants should scrawl their references on my fogged bathroom mirror whilst I shower.



**By Peter Cantelon**

### 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).

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# Winkler looking at public transportation options

By Lorne Stelmach

A possible plan for public transportation in Winkler is starting to take shape.

An open house last Tuesday at Central Station Community Centre offered an update on the Winkler transportation feasibility study.

It's looking at the means of transportation in the city and what steps could be taken to improve and add to the ways people are able to get around town. Public feedback has provided some valuable direction, shared Scott Toews, director of planning and infrastructure for the City of Winkler.

"We've received quite a bit of feedback," said Toews, who noted the bottom line was 70 per cent of respondents indicated they would be interested in using a transportation service of some kind.

"We investigated everything from a door-to-door service or a home to hub or what people would traditionally think of would be a fixed route public

transit system," he explained.

The first round of public engagement made it clear there are many in the community who struggle to get around for work and recreation.

An on-demand transit service and a flex route service ranked high as possibilities people would like to see, while other options could include ride sharing services such as Uber or car share programs.

"We're looking at a transportation progression strategy, so it's helping us to develop the data a little bit further," said Toews, who added a potential direction was starting to emerge as the best option.

"Starting with a scaled down door-to-door service would be what is recommended, and once we have an idea of ridership and the number of people and where they're going, we can look at then progressing the public transportation system to a home to hub or eventually, if demand warrants it, looking at a fixed route service at some point in the future as well.

**"WE'VE RECEIVED QUITE A BIT OF FEEDBACK."**



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The City of Winkler held an open house last week to share the results of its transportation feasibility study.

"Council still has to decide on what level of service they would like to provide for the city of Winkler," Toews continued. "But what really stood out was the high percentage of people who would be interested in using a service."

Affordability of course will also be a key issue for the city to consider, he added.

"There's not just operating cost, but there's also the capital cost up front, so we want to make sure we are able to have that flexible strategy that allows us to adapt what that public ser-

vice ends up looking like ... making sure we are able to meet the needs of the community."

Toews anticipated their recommendations will go to council over the next few months to set their way to move forward with it.

"If the provincial and federal governments come to the table with additional funds, that can certainly help accelerate the timeline and what is implemented in Winkler."

# Letters

## CAUSING INEQUALITY, TENSION

As one with extensive international development experience it saddens me to see the continued propagation of the Christmas shoebox campaign.

Although the receiving of a shoebox may bring a moment of joy, this is often offset by the creation of inequality and tension in a community. For example: The shoeboxes arrive and they are all geared towards children 10 and under. This leaves the older children with nothing or with gifts that are not appealing. The younger children open their shoeboxes and it becomes clear that some children received much better gifts than others. This creates inequality and tension. Or pens and pencils are in a shoebox but what is really needed is paper. Sending a letter implies you have some sort of relationship with the recipient. This effort is a one way relationship with

value only to the sender no matter what the language used.

We need to also consider the cost of shipping internationally and the environmental cost of these shipments. Does it not seem odd that an item might be manufactured in China, shipped to Canada, purchased in Canada and then sent to some country where that same item could have been purchased locally? Locally meaning within a region. Purchasing locally would dramatically reduce the shipping and environmental costs. This is a direction that most NGOs have gone. However it seems we in the west have a need to feel good rather than actually do good.

Most NGOs who provide material aid only do so upon request from a community and assure that each kit has exactly the same items in each. This methodology allows the community to determine what it needs and assures that each recipient will

receive the same items.

I have little doubt that the people creating the shoeboxes have good intentions. But good intentions do not provide what would probably bring long term joy to these children, parents and communities. Things like access to clean water or sustainable and secure food sources. Working towards these types of goals is a long term commitment and plodding. It means walking alongside communities, listening to them and helping when and where one can. There are many organisations that work in this fashion such as MCC or Canadian Food Grains Bank. I would encourage people to consider working with these organisations in their endeavours for long term sustainable results.

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# Fossil museum gets new high-tech 3D printer

By Lorne Stelmach

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden has made a major addition to its arsenal of equipment with the recent acquisition of a high-quality 3D printing system.

It offers the CFDC almost unlimited potential in terms of its use, executive director Adolfo Cuetara suggested last week.

"It's a dream come true to have a 3D system like this with a scanner and printer ... it's important for the future of the fossils and the research," he said. "It opens up so many opportunities for more collaboration with paleontologists all over the world because they don't need to come physically to study the fossils ... so it's a really good tool for research."

There are many possibilities such as creating missing pieces from a fossil set or even creating replicas for sale.

"You can scan the fossils and reconstruct the parts that are missing ... even if you have other specimens from the same species but a different size, you can scan bones that are missing ... then you can print in a different size, so you can make the good size to match the bones that are missing," said Cuetara. "It's going to be an incredible tool for us."

This was a special project the CFDC has had in mind for some time, and Cuetara noted it was at least a year-long process to secure all of the fund-



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

CFDC executive director Adolfo Cuetara is excited by the potential the museum's new 3D printer has for fossil reconstruction.

ing for it.

There were grants including one through the provincial Building Sustainable Communities program for \$62,075 and another through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for \$67,595. Then there was also \$6,600 from the Signature Museums Endowment Fund, along with CFDC funds.

"The tricky part was to find the funds. This is almost a \$130,000 investment overall," said Cuetara. "It's a long process, and you need to have a very clear, detailed idea of what you want to do ... you have to really convince them that this is a worthwhile project."

The system includes a powerful, dedicated laptop, a 3D scanner, and a professional 3D Printer ProJet 6000.

The system has already been put into use for two important projects including the scanning, printing, and reconstruction of the skull of a *Tylosaurus peminensis* mosasaur which belongs to the Miami Museum and is currently on loan to the CFDC.

"It opens lines of collaboration with other institutions. It opens up opportunities for research. It opens as well the opportunity to

"IT'S GOING TO BE AN INCREDIBLE TOOL FOR US."



make new displays with the fossils that you have," said Cuetara.

"Now we have time to work with this ... it's a nice thing to have to work with over the winter ... we can't go into the field ... so it's a nice thing to have to keep the work going," he concluded. "This was one of the big goals that we've had in the last few years ... we are really happy and satisfied."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden closed half a block of Eighth Street downtown this summer to create a community gathering space. Whether they'll do so again next year has yet to be determined.

## > SUNCATCH SURVEY, FROM PG. 5

"In all fairness, we didn't put a pile of work into it or money. We just kind of threw it out there and hoped it worked," said Maddock.

"I know there were some groups who wanted to use it, but they didn't know where to go, couldn't get the right information," he continued. "We didn't do the best job of running this thing and rolling it out ... we understand that, and we're looking at all of the concerns."

"We'll go through the whole thing and look at where we could make improvements and see if this is worth doing again," he said. "We want to make sure we know if this is what people want."

Maddock responded to suggestions about instead using Confederation

Park down the road or even Morden Park.

"I don't think that's the place for this," he said. "We're honouring our heroes there [in Confederation Park] ... we don't need people traipsing all over and the grass gets ruined."

"Morden Park is too far away ... it's not bringing people downtown. That's what we're after. The whole intent of this was to get more people downtown."

He emphasized that they are going to give it all more careful consideration.

"We're going to talk to all of the partners involved and make sure if we roll it out again that it's going to be done properly."

*The* **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?



# Border Valley students paying it forward

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A class of enterprising young students in Reinland took their school's theme of gratitude to heart and set out to pay it forward last month.

Border Valley School is focusing on building students' character by highlighting a different trait each month of the school year.

"We know that teaching the math and writing and reading skills, that's important, but we hear from the business community and from parents that we also need to look at the character of the kids—making good citizens, good neighbours, good workers," said principal Donovan Giesbrecht, explaining staff have pulled together a list of 10 character traits to tackle with the kids. "We started off with a focus on patience in September and then gratitude for Thanksgiving and now courage this month."

Teachers are encouraged to take the monthly theme and integrate it into their classrooms in a variety of subjects.

Gr. 3/4 teacher Marilyn Dyck's class really ran with the October theme of gratitude, organizing a popcorn fundraiser in support of Samaritan's Purse humanitarian aid efforts around the world.

"It all started because we were

talking about things we were grateful for," Dyck shares, "and I would read them stories about people who had very little. It sort of mushroomed out of that into how can we do something to help other people.

"We came up with a making popcorn because that was something that we could do easily in the kitchen," she said, explaining the class was broken up into smaller groups who were each responsible for a different popcorn day. "They did everything on their own with as little help as possible."

The project crossed into multiple subjects, giving kids the chance to hone their reading, writing, and math skills as they went about planning, promoting, and holding the sale, figuring out the best way to use the funds raised, and also creating thank-you cards to the parent volunteers who lent a hand.

When all was said and done, they had raised \$380.60 and collectively decided to purchase two goats, one pack of school supplies, eight chickens, one pack of sports equipment, eight baby chicks, and one blanket for families overseas.

Gr. 4 students Jayda Funk and Gwen Klassen shared that the class is very proud of what they were able to accomplish and they're pleased to know the results of their hard work will go to help people in need.

"I just love giving things away because I'm thankful for what I have," said Klassen, observing that there are lots of families in the world living with very little. "There's so many people out there that have to drink polluted water ... it feels like I'm helping people."

"I like helping people," agreed Funk. The kids explained they sold the popcorn for \$1 a bag, but many of their classmates and teachers gave above and beyond that as a donation. "Some people paid \$20," Funk shared.

The class sends its thanks out to everyone who supported them in this initiative.

"I JUST LOVE GIVING THINGS AWAY BECAUSE I'M THANKFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Donations in hand, the kids then got to work figuring out how best to spend the money.

## A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Giesbrecht says the character trait



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Border Valley School Gr. 4 students Gwen Klassen and Jayda Funk in front of a poster highlighting some of the character traits the school is trying to impress upon kids this school year.

theme project is reaching out beyond the school to include the community at large as well.

The local community centre has a quote about courage—the November trait—up on its outdoor sign and guest speakers to the school have been using the monthly theme in their talks as well.

"We're trying to connect the dots

here and show that we're all pulling towards these same values," Giesbrecht says. "And they are values I think are really embedded in the way our community thinks. They're universal values, to some extent, but it's also the language kids are hearing at home and at church and out in the community."



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# getinformed

## Imagination Library sends out thousands of books to local preschoolers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Imagination Library has had a busy year.

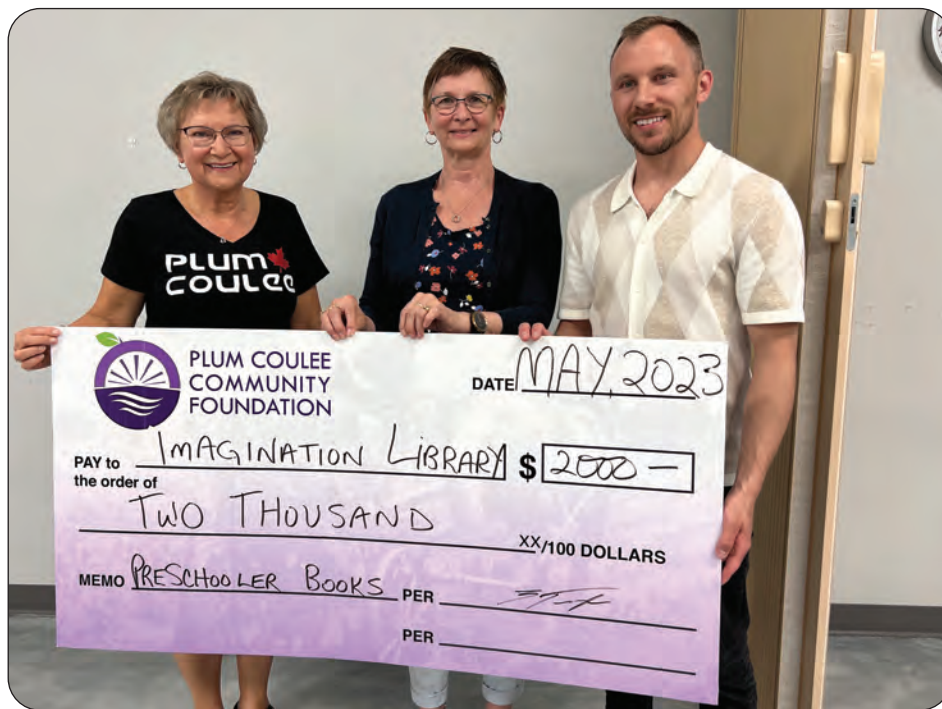
Committee member Judith Baerg says they've mailed 9,459 books to the 800 pre-school aged kids registered for the program, which provides free monthly books to children from birth to age five.

"We are always at capacity," Baerg says, noting they've had wait lists in the past but are doing pretty well right now.

The Imagination Library program was founded by country music star Dolly Parton to get kids excited about reading and ensure families of all income levels could have access to books in their homes.

It's been operating locally since 2015. Since then, tens of thousands of books have been sent out to children in the Garden Valley School Division catchment area.

"It's such a great preschool initiative that promotes literacy in our home community," Baerg says. "It's all local and it's free and it just really brings the family together when you're sit-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Dorothy Derksen and Carol Rempel from the Winkler Imagination Library committee with Levi Taylor from the Plum Coulee Foundation, which supported the program with a \$2,000 grant this spring.

ting together reading a book. It's exciting to see the bond that parents can build with their child, while also

building their literacy skills."

Community support is what makes this program possible, Baerg stress-

es. Funds raised go to cover the discounted costs of the books themselves as well as postage fees.

"We don't usually set a certain amount, but we're always hoping to raise about \$40,000 a year if possible," she says, noting GVSD provides \$10,000 annually to the program.

They also reach out to other sources of grants, including the local community foundations. This spring the Plum Coulee Community Foundation supported the program to the tune of \$2,000.

Baerg says they want to send out a big thank-you out to everyone who has supported the Imagination Library in the past, and they encourage families who have perhaps outgrown the program to consider paying it forward, if they can.

Donations to the Winkler Imagination Library can be made through the Winkler Family Resource Centre website. You can also register your child for the program online at [winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com/winkler-imagination-library](http://winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com/winkler-imagination-library).

## Winkler tree lighting festivities are Fri., Nov. 24

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Bethel Heritage Park in Winkler will be filled with the sights and sounds of the holidays next week.

The community is invited downtown on Friday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m. for the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Mayor Henry Siemens and Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert will be on hand to bring greetings and flip the switch on the park's various decorations, says recreation programmer Meg Dias.

"We plan to have a hot apple cider, which is graciously being donated by Dead Horse Cider, and candy canes. And we'll have bonfires and the opportunity to make s'mores."

Santa Claus and his sleigh will also be in attendance for photos (there won't be an official photographer on

hand, so be sure to bring your cell phone or camera).

"I think it's going to be a pretty cool event where people can just get out and get into the festive spirit," says Dias, noting everyone appreciates these types of community events all the more after several pandemic-plagued years that saw such gatherings cancelled or moved online. "I think it really gets people back to building community and being a part of community again after a couple of years of things not really being normal."

Bonfires will be set up to keep everyone warm at the Winkler tree lighting ceremony next week, which takes place in Bethel Heritage Park on Nov. 24 starting at 6:30 p.m.

VOICE FILE PHOTO



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# getinformed

## New peer support group for stroke survivors

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new peer support group has begun meeting monthly in Winkler to give stroke survivors a safe place to share their stories and lean on one another.

Led by Dr. Margie Hesom, the group gathers the third Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Central Station Community Centre (555 Main St.). The next meeting is Nov. 21.

Hesom survived a stroke two and a half years ago. She hopes this group will become a place for fellow survivors to connect.

"Having a stroke is lonely," she says. "I want to encourage other stroke survivors to attend, because no one else knows what we are going through. Every stroke is different, but some experiences are the same.

"My life is harder now and [it's] easy to be depressed and frustrated. It's easy to say 'why me' and count the failures," Hesom says, adding, however, that "we survived and I've gotta believe that there's more for

us to do. So instead of saying why me, I say where is this road taking me?"

Hesom says she's found it so helpful to discuss the healing journey with others who are going through similar experiences.

"We were talking about family gatherings [at the last meeting] and as a stroke survivor, you can get overwhelmed," she says. "And then my speech goes away and then I can't communicate with my husband that I should leave."

The point of the group is to share those types of stories as well as strategies for coping.

"I know strokes intimately and if I can help anyone navigating a stroke then maybe my road converges with your road and we can travel

together," says Hesom. "I think all journeys are made better with someone at your side."

She hopes the group will grow to the point where they can perhaps one day welcome guest speakers—doctors, physiotherapists, dietitians, other survivors.

"There's endless possibilities," Hesom says.

**"ALL JOURNEYS ARE MADE BETTER WITH SOMEONE AT YOUR SIDE."**

Next week's meeting will be the group's second one. The first meeting last month saw a handful of people come out, though Hesom notes they didn't do much to promote it in advance. She hopes to see the group grow in the months ahead.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Margie Hesom is heading up a new stroke survivor group at Winkler's Central Station Community Centre. They meet the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is Nov. 21.

Anyone affected by a stroke is welcome to attend.

"There's no judgment. I mean, we're all in the same boat," Hesom says. "It doesn't matter if your stroke was severe or not. It doesn't matter. Just come."

You can learn more about the group and register online at [www.strokerecovery.ca](http://www.strokerecovery.ca) (though drop-ins are also welcome).

## Miami Christmas Market on this Friday

By Lana Meier

On Nov. 17, the Miami Community Centre will come alive with festivities for the Miami Christmas Market hosted by the Miami Post-Secondary Educational Organization. This year's event will run from 6-9 p.m.

You'll have the chance to purchase a diverse array of one-of-a-kind goods from various vendors, enjoy a \$10 dinner of chili, a bun, dessert, and your choice of coffee or ice tea from 6-7:30 p.m., and meet Santa Claus from 6-8 p.m. Kristyn Hosaluk of Tobacco Creek Collective will be taking complimentary Santa photos.

For more information or if you have any questions about the Miami Christmas Market, email [miami.mpseo@gmail.com](mailto:miami.mpseo@gmail.com).



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# NPC students putting on holiday dinner theatre

The Rented Christmas runs Dec. 4-8 at Winkler high school

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The drama and culinary arts students of Northlands Parkway Collegiate are teaming up to put on a holiday dinner theatre in a few weeks.

The Winkler high school performs nightly showings of *The Rented Christmas* Dec. 4-8.

Gr. 11 student Selah Fehr plays the lead role of Anne Weston. She explains the show's unique storyline:

"A man comes into Anne Weston's rent shop and rents an entire Christmas," she says.

The man wants it all—a tree with gifts, Christmas carols, and even a wife and five children—and Anne sets out to make it happen, though life throws some speed bumps in the way.

"I have been telling people it's like a Hallmark movie on the stage," Fehr says.

It's a clear example that "money can't buy happiness," adds Gr. 9 student Al Marcelo, who plays one of the orphans pretending to be part of the man's rented family.

"I think that sums it up pretty well," observes Gr. 12 student Emily Bennett, who plays Bridget the housekeeper. "He's rich but alone."

A cast of about a dozen kids take the stage in this production, which also includes all the behind-the-scenes



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Northlands Parkway Collegiate drama students perform *The Rented Christmas* Dec. 4-8. The dinner theatre will include supper created by the school's culinary arts students.

support from staff and students as well as students from the culinary arts program, who will be serving up a hearty meal every night (the menu itself is still under wraps).

It's the school's first foray into dinner theatre.

"I think it's incredibly unique because not every school has the opportunity to not only have a troupe of theatre kids, but access to a state of the art commercial kitchen and people who are willing and able to cook," says Bennett.

"I think this production here at NPC is a great opportunity to see firsthand the work of our theatre students, the work of our culinary students, and what dinner theatre's really all about.

Doors open nightly for the show at 5:30 p.m. in the NPC choir room.

Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at the NPC office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Cash or cheque payable to GVSD will be accepted.

## BTHC Auxiliary puts out urgent call for members

By Lorne Stelmach

An organization that plays a vital role in supporting the regional hospital is looking for more volunteers in order to carry on its work.

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Auxiliary needs to have a number of people step up to help or else it may need to consider shutting down.

"If we don't recruit some new members, we're facing dissolution," said Margaret Ann Popplestone.

The auxiliary is down to only nine active members, and there were three who have stepped aside who played key roles, including treasurer for the auxiliary, treasurer for the gift shop, and fundraising chairperson.

The remaining members are not able to take on those responsibilities, noted Popplestone.

"We all have positions already ... so we have nobody to carry on," she said.

There is a long history of the auxiliaries supporting local health care. The Morden chapter celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2018 before it amalgamated with the Winkler chapter.

Popplestone emphasized the auxiliary continues to play an important role at the hospital.

"The funds that we raise go to help purchase equipment for the hospital," she explained. "The government only has so much money to fund all of the equipment that is needed.

"We're a volunteer group that feels it is important to contribute to the hospital and to the benefit of people in this area."

The auxiliary is open to anyone and all ages, Popplestone

noted, and it doesn't require much time commitment from people.

"You don't need to have any particular skills or background. We would definitely welcome anybody," she said. "Being treasurer is maybe a little more work. The fundraiser is busy when we're planning a luncheon or something like that ... but it's kind of a straightforward thing."

She hopes people will step forward to help out and bring some new energy to the group.

"That's what makes an organization better. It's new people with new ideas," Popplestone said. "We lost a lot of members from COVID. They just didn't come back ... last year, we decided we would try to carry on for a year and see ... I think we were fairly successful."

Anyone interested in getting involved or wanting more information can contact Popplestone at 204-822-6208 or Mary Olafson at 204-822-3742.

The auxiliary is hoping to bring nominations for new members forward at its Dec. 4 meeting.

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# The Voice

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# High schoolers take a face-to-face journey to the past

By Lori Penner

A group of Gr. 11-12 students from W.C. Miller Collegiate has been learning all about history through a unique project initiated by human ecology teacher Jennifer Dyck.

Dyck's Life Enrichment project has each of her 17 students paired up with a tenant from Altona's Gardens on Tenth for monthly visits to learn more about how things used to be before all the high-tech trappings of modern life.

"I wanted something to bring my students out of their comfort zone because we find that high school students are always on their phone, but I don't know if they actually know how to communicate with others," Dyck said. "Since human ecology is about more than just cooking and sewing, I wanted to extend it to family dynamics as well."

After connecting with Gardens events and activities coordinator Deandra Braun, Dyck was able to arrange regular visits between the students and their new senior friends.

"On the first day, all they did was interview their participants about their childhood, their adulthood and life as a senior citizen," Dyck said. "Ques-

tions have included things like what is your most vivid childhood memory? Do you remember your wedding day? What kind of home did you live in? What kind of job did you have? What was your dream job? What is one valuable thing you learned in your life that you would pass on? It's interesting how many of them noted the crowning of Queen Elizabeth as a significant thing that happened when they were a child."

The most recent session last week was all about food.

"They baked four different kinds of cookies to share," Dyck said, explaining the questions at that get-together had the seniors sharing their favorite foods and food-related memories and recalling the price of items when they were growing up.

Dyck says she hopes the kids really take these sessions to heart.

"They were kind of nervous that first time, but by the end of that session they were just chatting away. I want them to really connect with a generation that is vastly different from their own and relearn the art of communication. I want the students to know they're learning from these tenants, but the tenants are also learning from them, to see how the generations have

changed. These are really great kids, and I think they've had a great time with this project."

The visits will continue until January, with future sessions focusing on clothing and mental health.

"Our final visit will just be a big celebration," Dyck said. "The students are going to make a bunch of different types of food, and they'll play games and celebrate their time together. Who knows? They may have formed long-term connections here."

Student Selena Peters is partnered with Gardens tenant Ruth Peters for the project.

"I've really enjoyed these visits," Selena said. "It's been fun and insightful. I learned that the cost of food was way lower than it is now, and not everything was bought at the store. They grew a lot of their own food."

Ruth said she's had a wonderful time getting to know Selena.

"We've had some great conversations. I love sharing my memories and thinking back to the way things used to be. Too often we think the younger generation doesn't care about these things, but I have found they're very interested. I will miss Selena's visits and I'll have to ask her to come back and see me once in a while."

Aurellia Peters says she loves talking to her project partner, Rose Hildebrand.

"I've learned that she loved to have homemade ice cream when she was younger, and I learned a lot about different recipes that she liked to make. She definitely produced more food in her garden than I have ever done, and she saved more money on groceries than my family does. Less eating out and a lot more homemade stuff. Rose is easy to talk to and we talk about Mennonite dishes and schmaunt fat and all that kind of stuff. I'm really looking forward to more sessions."

Hildebrand feels the same way. "Aurellia really takes an interest and wants to know all these things from way back. I am a historian so that helps. Talking to her brought back a lot of memories. I just finished writing about memories of my grandma, and I've written a book about history. History is important. If you don't know where you're coming from, you don't know where you're going. That's a good lesson for the younger people too. She asked me some good questions. One question, what restaurant did my family go to, I drew a blank. I don't remember any. But it's been so fun going back down memory lane."



Left: W.C. Miller student Selena Peters and her project partner Gardens on Tenth tenant Ruth Peters enjoy some fresh baked cookies while they chat about the past.. Right: Student Aurellia Peters asks Gardens tenant Rose Hildebrand what life was like years ago.

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE



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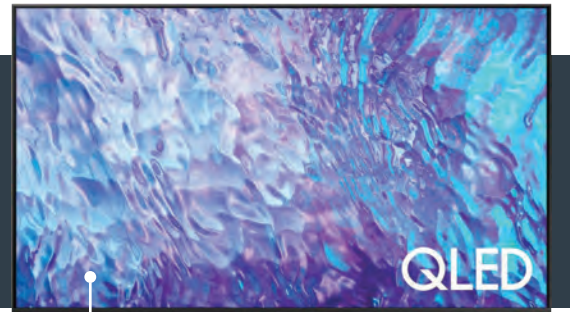
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**“We will remember them”**



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona/Rhineland Remembrance Day Services were held at the Gretna Elementary School on Saturday. Clockwise from left: W.C. Miller Collegiate band student Malcolm Janz played Reveille to end the Moment of Silence; Dave Unger and his daughter Serayah place a poppy during the wreath laying ceremony; veterans, officers, and a cadet stand at attention; veteran's wife Doris Hildebrand reads the Act of Remembrance; Dan Kehler delivered a heartfelt message on finding peace in a troubled world.



## Outdoor classroom will enhance learning and play at École Elmwood

By Lori Penner

After two years of careful planning and extensive fundraising, École Elmwood School in Altona has finally broken ground on the first phase of

its outdoor classroom project.

This initiative, led by principal Scott Hiebert, aims to address the school's need for shaded spaces on the schoolyard, encouraging outdoor learning

and fostering a vibrant educational environment.

“The shelter is phase one of the project. The other pieces of the project are to plant a lot more native trees and plant species,” explains Hiebert. “We want to create a bit of a forest on the schoolyard. We have already added a much larger sand play area than the one we had. The old one was falling apart, and with the grant dollars we were able to put in a much larger and deeper sand play area which has been an extremely popular place for the kids so far.”

Hiebert says the footprint of the outdoor classroom will be 32 ft. by 32 ft. once the roof is finished.

The original plan was to have the structure completed over the summer and ready for the fall.

“But we experienced some delays as construction projects sometimes do. And so, at this point, we are still optimistic that we can get the concrete pad completed before winter really sets in.

And then the completion of the roof may need to wait until spring.”

Hiebert says the teachers are already visualizing holding classes in the space.

“One of our key hopes is that teachers can use the space to work outside with the students through any season. The early years curriculum lends itself well to taking classroom time outside. But it is helpful to have a place where some of the activities you would normally do in the classroom are just a little bit easier. And then you can explore the schoolyard to support the curriculum that you're doing.”

Hiebert emphasized the importance of year-round use of the structure, envisioning outdoor learning taking place even in winter months thanks to its adaptable design.

Beyond the school community, he sees a broader impact.

“Our outdoor space won't just benefit our school; it's intended to be



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Work is underway on École Elmwood School's new outdoor classroom.

Continued on page 27



# GVC student businesses on display at upcoming market

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Business students at Garden Valley Collegiate are putting what they're learning in the classroom to real-life use at the school's upcoming artisan market.

Students of teacher Rhonda Kezema's Gr. 11 venture development course have spent the past few months creating their own businesses from the ground up.

"They're getting real-world experience applying all the knowledge that they've gained so far on what it takes to start and run a business," Kezema says. There are seven student groups whose projects run the gamut from handcrafted jewelry to hot chocolate mixes to woodworking.

The students will all have tables at the third annual GVC Artisan Market, which takes place at the Winkler high school on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The market also has about 35 other vendors signed up to showcase their wares. Proceeds from table rentals will go to support GVC's Youth in Philanthropy.

"It is so neat to see them interacting with other business owners," Kezema says of the benefits of having the students organize this market "And this is such a great opportunity to host it here at the school so families can come and the students are able to work together and see how it all works. I don't think we could offer that kind of experience otherwise."

Karlie Toews and Kiarah Reimer have turned an interest in macrame into a company they're calling Knot Now.

"We're creating macrame wristlets and key chains," explains Toews. "We've both made friendship bracelets before, so it's something we're familiar with."

The duo have been busy this fall figuring out what it all takes to create a company.

"A lot of what our name would be, our logo, and then creating the packaging, the ads," says Toews.

"Figuring out how people would view us as a business," adds Reimer. "And then also a lot of research for what we're going to price our products at."

Being involved in the planning and set up for the market has been a rewarding experience, they say.

"It's like the first class I've ever done where you're doing stuff outside of school," says Toews. "It's not just on

paper, and it's something you're doing out of your own interest, something you want to do."

Raegan Peters and Judith Fehr have created a line of sugar body and lip scrubs. Their business is called, fittingly, Sugared.

"We had a couple different product ideas," Fehr shares. "We were thinking candles or sugar scrubs, and we chose the scrubs."

Peters says her favourite part has been product creation, while Fehr is the team's numbers person.

"Finding how much all the ingredients costs has taken some time," she says of one of the challenges they've faced with this assignment.

Michelle Beckstedt and Eliana Deblits will be selling handmade jewelry at the market.

"Our business is Sage Jewelry," says Beckstedt. "It's custom hand stamped jewelry, like necklaces and bracelets ... and then there's a choice between a pendant or a bar tag that we write words on for you."

They're also still working out their pricing structure—always a challenge with a new business—and Deblits says they're both really enjoying tackling the promotional elements.

"The whole thing, really," adds Beckstedt. "You get to start up this whole business and you get to make profit from it."

She urges students to consider taking this class in the future.

"It gives you a lot of experience and it is fun and you make money, so, bonus."

Jonas Gislason and Victor Heide have created a barbecue sauce they'll have for sale under the banner Hungry Man Barbecue.

"It's cola-flavoured, so it's unique and it's different and hopefully that catches the eye of our customers," says Gislason, who is enjoying handling the business' social media presence and creating ads.

For Heide, the draw of this project is in the financial end of things.

"I like doing math and seeing real numbers," he says, noting it's been a bit of a process to strike upon the right mix of ambition and reality. "We were expecting to do like three sauces, but we realized the amount of costs for jars and the overall difficulty in finding enough time to make it all [made that unfeasible]."

"It's a good learning opportunity, honestly," Heide says of the course. "It helps get you into that mindset of establishing a business."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

GVC Gr. 11 venture development students have spent the past couple of months creating their own businesses. They'll be selling their products at the school's upcoming artisan market.

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- **Cheque/Cash**
- ✓ All cheques must be payable to Morden Area Foundation Inc.
- ✓ Cash & Cheque can be handed to any MAF Board of Directors or bring/mail to the MAF Office at 13-379 Stephen St., Morden MB R6M 0G8
- **e-transfers**
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# Local artist publishes children's book "Finding Grandma"

By Ty Dilello

Carman's Chris Larsen has recently published her first book entitled *Finding Grandma – A Métis Story*.

Larsen is an award-winning artist who regularly shares her love of art and nature through workshops and retreats at her River's Edge Studio.

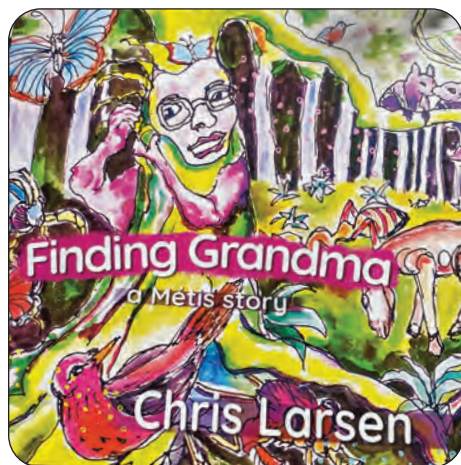
She has had many solo exhibitions of her work across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for contributing to the arts and received the Manitoba Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Grant.

Completing her first book was a challenge, but one that Larsen was up for and was thrilled to see it come to fruition.

"I really wrote it to be able to give to my grandchildren," said Larsen. "I began with drawings of our times in the forest and thought it was going to be a story of our adventures in the woods, which it is, but as time went on, five years to be exact, I knew it was going to be something a little more. Creating the art first actually inspired me to start writing about searching for and finding my Métis identity."

*Finding Grandma* is a magical journey of self-discovery and imagination. The story follows Larsen's quest to find her Métis heritage and identity.

"Together with my grandchildren, we embark on an adventure through the forest where we encounter fantastical creatures and learn about the true nature surrounding us," Larsen said. "I wanted to weave a tale of



*"Finding Grandma – A Métis Story"* follows Larsen's quest to find her Métis heritage and identity.

wonder and discovery from my experiences as an artist, grandmother, and lover of nature.

"This book is an invitation to rediscover the joy of the landscape surrounding us and learning to play in the forest with imagination and fantasy, as well as giving teachings through the different creatures in the woods."

Larsen notes that the reception to the book has been excellent so far in the month or so that it's been available to the public.

"Its lyrical form is best read aloud, honouring oral storytelling," she noted.

People interested in the book can purchase a copy from Larsen herself at [clarsen@sdnet.ca](mailto:clarsen@sdnet.ca) or through her website, [www.chrislarsen.ca](http://www.chrislarsen.ca), or at the St. Boniface Museum gift shop in Winnipeg.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Award-winning artist Chris Larsen recently published her first book entitled *"Finding Grandma – A Métis Story."*

# Morden's Scotties selling elimination draw tickets

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local organizers behind the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts have launched their first fundraiser for the event.

The provincial women's curling championship is in Morden Jan. 23-28, hosted by the Morden Curling Club and CurlManitoba.

Last week, the host committee announced tickets are now on sale for the Scotties Elimination Draw, with 400 up for grabs.

"During the week of the Scotties, we'll be pulling tickets for significant prizes leading up to the potential grand prize of \$8,000," explains Ernie Epp, tournament chairperson. "On selling all the tickets, a grand total of \$10,000 goes back to the local Scotties committee to help run the tournament, and \$10,000 prizes gets distributed to lucky winners."

The first ticket drawn will win its holder \$100, the 100th ticket \$150, 200th \$300, 375th a \$400 cash prize, 399th \$1,000, and then \$8,000 for the lucky 400th ticket holder.

"It's common in ticket sales that the first ticket drawn wins the main prize, in an elimination draw, it's the last ticket," notes Epp.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased by contacting Jim Mutcherson at 204-801-3104, Shirley Sagert at 204-823-0661, or emailing [scotties-draw2024@gmail.com](mailto:scotties-draw2024@gmail.com).

You can also send a cheque payable to the Morden Curling Club (327 2nd St., Morden, MB, R6M 1P3) or sending an e-transfer to the above email. Further details are available at [www.morden2024.ca](http://www.morden2024.ca).

The daily ticket draws will be posted on social media, the website above, and at the Access Event Centre during the week of the Scotties.

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# sports & recreation

## Royals post first win

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals got their first win of the SEMHL season as they hosted the Notre Dame Hawks Sunday afternoon.

The 9-4 victory came courtesy of a flurry of goals from Mitch Dyck, Keith Grondin (with two), Caleb Suderman, Remi Laurencelle, Donavin Tanner, Stephen Grahn, Phil Letkeman, and Marcus Neufeld.

Jayne Janzen stood tall in net for the Royals, stopping 43 of the 47 shots he faced. His teammates fired 36 the other way.

In other SEMHL action, last Thursday saw the Hawks steal a 4-3 shootout win from the Morden Bombers and the Altona Maroons fall to the visiting Ste. Anne Aces 7-1.

The Bombers game, played in Notre Dame, saw the home team up 2-0 before Morden's Mike Rey scored the team's opening goal midway through the second period. The Hawks made it 2-1 heading into the final frame.

There, a goal from Evan Weurch and Rey's second of the night tied the score and sent things into an fruitless overtime. The resulting shootout went the Hawks' way for the win.

Reed Peters was between the posts for Morden, making 26 saves as his teammates outshot the Hawks 35-29.

In Altona that same night, the Aces were up 6-0 before Altona's Tristen Dueck got the Maroons up on the board. Ste. Anne got one final nail in



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler Royals goalie Jayme Janzen watches for the incoming shot in Sunday's game against the Notre Dame Hawks, which the Royals won 9-4. Janzen made 43 saves.

the coffin before the final buzzer.

Cole Kehler made 38 saves for Altona as the Aces won the shots battle 55-32.

The Maroons went on to fall as well to the Red River Wild on the road Sunday 11-5.

The lengthy list of goal scorers for the Wild included singles from Justin Baudry, Tyler Anderson, Paul Remillard, Blake Forsyth, and Drayden Kurbatoff and two goals each from TJ Matuszewski, Jared Magne, and Jonah Wasylak.

Altona's goals came courtesy of Adam Henry, Geordie Keane, Skylar Klassen, Braden Hildebrand, and Justin Augert.

The Wild outshot the Maroons 47-41.

Continued on page 21

## Winkler Flyers 2-1 in weekend MJHL games

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers had an up and down kind of weekend, with a loss sandwiched in between a pair of wins.

Friday night saw the Flyers down the Stampede in Swan Valley 4-3.

The game needed overtime to decide it after the home team tied it up in the third period. Winkler had previously taken period leads of 2-1 and 3-2 thanks to goals from Tanner George, Jayce Legaarden, and Spen-

cer Shugrue.

In the extra period, Noah Diemer got the game-winner three minutes in.

Malachi Klassen made 18 saves off 21 shots on net for the Flyers. Winkler had 44 shots on goal.

Still on the road the next night, this time playing the Blizzard in OCN, the Flyers found themselves on the losing end of things.

Goals from George and Brody Beauchemin finally got the Flyers on the board late in the third period, after

being down 3-0, but it wasn't enough and the win went to OCN 3-2.

OCN outshot Winkler 36-34. Liam Ernst made 33 save in net for the Flyers.

Winkler rounded out the weekend with a 3-1 win against the Kings in Dauphin Sunday.

Goals from Lucas Ens and Dalton Andrew bookended the first period. Ty Pratte scored what proved to be the night's final goal midway through the second.

Klassen made 24 saves in net this game. The Flyers had 35 shots on goal.

With that, Winkler's record sits at 14-2-0-1 for 29 points, which has them in second place in the MJHL's MGEU East Division behind the Steinbach Pistons (15-2-1 and 31 points). They have a three-point lead over the Portage Terriers in third place.

This week the Flyers host the Winnipeg Blues Friday night. Puck drop is at 7 p.m.

# Wiwchar to receive baseball hall of fame accolades

By Lorne Stelmach

Just when one might think there could be no more possible honours for Joe Wiwchar, another one has come his way.

The man who has been synonymous with baseball in Morden is now being named an honorary life member of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame.

He is part of the 2024 list of inductees announced last week, which also includes a provincial team with which Wiwchar played a role as well.

The further attention is almost too much for Wiwchar, who is reluctant to be singled out yet again for his contributions and achievements.

"Of course it's nice, but it becomes too much after a while ... but I do appreciate it," he said. "There's so many other people who are so deserving as well ... there's a lot of volunteers who don't get recognized."

Wiwchar was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2023.

He was a coach for half a century at the local, provincial, and national levels and also served Baseball Manitoba in many capacities for more than three decades.

Wiwchar was also cited for his efforts as a volunteer administrative manager of the museum located at the Access Event Centre in Morden. He held the position for the first 24 years of the museum's existence.

He worked constantly to add to the museum's collections as well as to improve the way they were displayed.

His efforts always peaked in the weeks leading up to the annual banquet, which is next set to take place June 15 in Morden.

Wiwchar's name also comes up as part of the Manitoba 1977 Summer Games team which is being inducted in the special team category.

Manitoba won a silver medal that year, led by Wiwchar and Gus Beitz as coaches. The team finished first in its pool with a 4-1 record and beat Nova Scotia in the semi-final before losing 5-3 to the undefeated B.C. in the final.

Many members of the team have been inducted as individuals into the hall of fame, and Wiwchar has fond memories of the squad and the experience.

"We had the most thorough tryouts ever, I think," he said. "We just selected who we thought were the best players, not particularly the best position players."

"It was a team where they all gelled so good together," he said. "They came together so good ... that's what won us the silver, I think, even more than the talent."

Being honoured as well in the special team category is the 2010 Manitoba Junior Baseball League all-star squad. This team won the 2010 junior national championship in Quebec, breaking a 28-year title drought for Manitoba.

The team was composed of players from a number of communities, including tournament MVP Anthony Friesen of Morden.

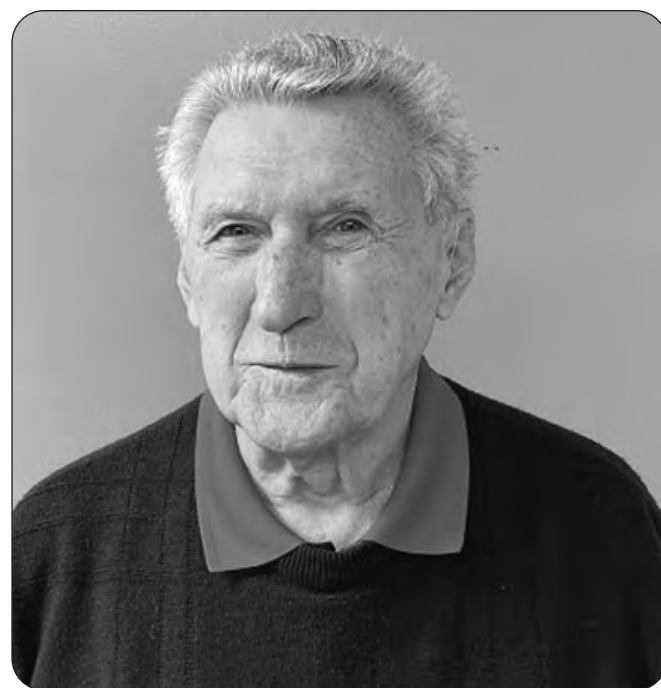
The final was against the host team Trois Rivieres, who in their semi-final had beaten Quebec, another top-ranked team. Manitoba used a big four-run fifth inning to win the game 6-3 and make history.

Other inductees in the class of 2024 include:

- Ryan Boguski, Brandon: Boguski was chosen three times (1992-94) for the Manitoba Youth Team. In 1994 he made Team Canada. He was Manitoba youth athlete of the year in 1992.

- Eleanor Callow, Winnipeg: Callow was inducted into the hall of fame in 1998 as one of the Manitobans who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

- Stuart Gilman, Calgary: Gilman was part of



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Joe Wiwchar is being named an honorary life member of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame.

two provincial championship junior teams as a pickup and played for Team Manitoba at the Canada Games in 1981 and was part of a Western Canada championship team.

- Chris Hofer, Warren: In 1994, Hofer was Manitoba's senior AA player of the year and MVP of the Manitoba senior AA championship tournament. Later, with Stonewall, he was part of three more senior AA championship teams.

- Derrick Mudge, Winnipeg: In 1983 Mudge was part of the provincial championship 18U team from the Interlake that went to nationals. With Elmwood he was part of four provincial and two Western Canada

Continued on page 21



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks player Spencer Sabourin escapes the defensive effort of Parkland's Hayden Seib in one of two 4-1 wins the Hawks earned against the visiting Rangers last weekend.

## Male Hawks post pair of 4-1 wins vs. Rangers

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks at least maintained their place in the standings with a pair of wins against Parkland last weekend in Morden.

The identical 4-1 victories over the Rangers put the Hawks at 6-8-0-0 for 14 points, which has them in ninth place, tied with Eastman and just one back of both Yellowhead and Interlake.

Acoyen Fehr scored a pair of first period powerplay goals as the Hawks jumped out to a 3-0 lead seven minutes in.

Ragnar Gillis and Haiden Friesen also scored for Pembina Valley, while

Ryler Gates made 37 saves as the Hawks held a 44-38 edge in shots on goal.

Game two unfolded very similarly, with the Hawks holding a 3-0 lead eight minutes into the first period.

Kam Thomas, Charlie Hill, Hayden Penner, and Gavin Funk scored for Pembina Valley, and Bryson Yaschshyn made 23 saves as the Hawks more than doubled the Rangers in shots 54-24.

Pembina Valley now faces a tough task with a home-and-home weekend pair of games with Southwest, who are in second place right now. The Cougars, who are 11-4-0-0 for 22 points, host the Hawks Friday and then visit Morden Saturday.

# Twisters lose both games in MMJHL weekend action

By Ty Dilello

It was a tough weekend for the Pembina Valley Twisters as they lost both of their games over the weekend. With the losses, the Twisters move into seventh place in the MMJHL's standings with a record of 5-6-2.

On Nov. 10, the Twisters fell to the St. Boniface Riels in a tight 2-1 battle. Merek Degraeve had the lone goal for the Twisters, while Logan Enns stopped 30 shots in goal for Pembina Valley in the defeat.

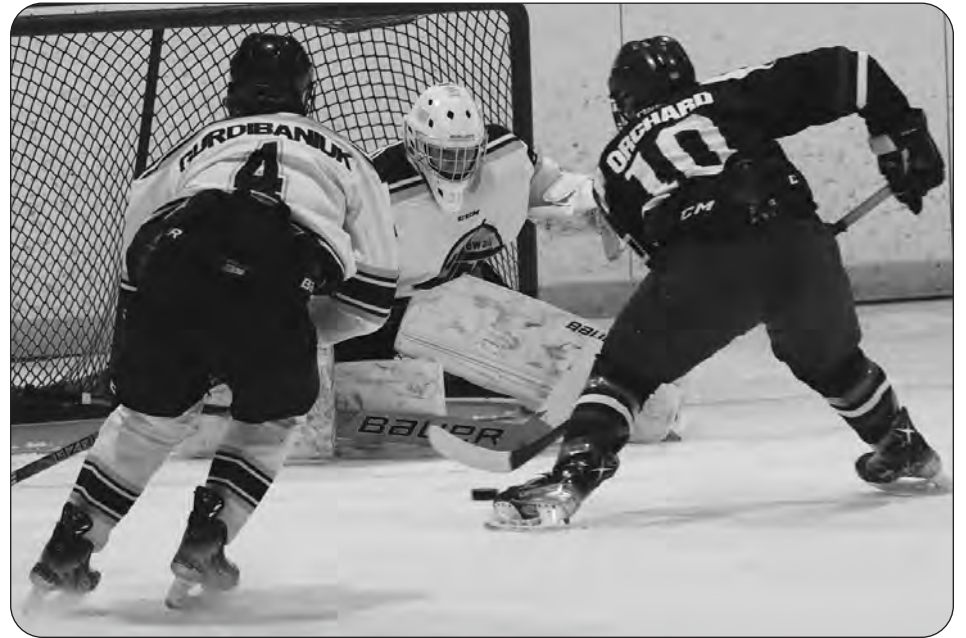
"On Friday, we played a strong game, as it came down to a bad bounce and a powerplay goal against. We are taking too many penalties, and that's something we need to work on, but our penalty kill has been fantastic all year, and we can't stop them all," said Pembina Valley Twisters head coach Braeden Beernaerts.

On Sunday, the Twisters visited the Stonewall Jets and failed to produce any offence and got hammered 7-1. Riley Goertzen had the Twisters' only tally on the night, while Logan Enns and Matt Grysiuk made a combined



23 saves in goal for the loss.

"We definitely got outworked right off the start against Stonewall," said Beernaerts. "By the time we found our game, it was far too late. Moving forward, we need to continue working the others teams every night consistently, and staying out of the penalty box."



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Pembina Valley Twisters' Ryan Orchard got beat by Jets' goaltender Dylan LeClair Sunday night. The Twisters lost 7-1. Left: Assistant captain Derek Wiebe leads Pembina Valley with 23 points in 13 games. Wiebe is third in the MMJHL league.

On the plus side of things, Twisters' sniper Derek Wiebe is currently third in the MMJHL's scoring race with 23 points in 13 games.

The Twisters are back in action with a road game on Nov. 17 against the St. James Canucks. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

# Female Hawks looking to end their slump

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks return to league play this weekend hoping to turn things around after a recent slump.

The extended break for the team came with the U18 nationals taking place this past week, as Team Manitoba involved a number of league players.

The Hawks now head into a busy three-game weekend with a 3-5-0 record that has them sitting in sixth place at six points.

They had started off the season with three straight wins before losing five in a row, but some of those were close games, noted head coach Jenai Buchanan.

"We definitely came out strong, and we were turning heads around the league," she said. "We've been in a bit of a slump right now, but we're working on some things to help us get out of it."

"I think the break was also good in the sense of being a little bit of a refresher for the girls before they get

back to it," Buchanan added. "We did a lot of team building over the break, so that was good ... and we covered some team tactics."

Buchanan continues to see a lot of potential in the team.

"I think we have a more offensive-minded team this year, so there's a lot of skill up front for us to have a bit more offense," she suggested. "I think if we continue to shoot ... we can be a pretty fast, aggressive team, so if we utilize that in the offensive zone, I think that will benefit us greatly."

"I think just sticking to the process of what we've talked to the girls about will get us in gear here," she said. "We have three big games coming up, so if we can end November on a high note and go into December with a few wins and a few points ... we'll continue to strive and climb that mountain onwards and upwards."

Pembina Valley visits Stonewall Friday to take on Interlake before heading to Winnipeg to face the Ice Saturday. On Sunday they host Eastman in Morden.

## > SEMHL, FROM PG. 19

Cole Kehler made 36 saves in net for Altona while Carter Lemay did the same for Red River.

With that, Warren (4-0), Ste. Anne (3-0), and Red River (3-1) populate the top three spots in the standings. Morden is in sixth place (1-1-0-1), Winkler in seventh (1-2), and Altona in ninth (0-4).

Coming up this week, Winkler heads to Portage to play the Islanders Wednesday, Morden hosts Red River Thursday, Altona is in Warren Friday, and Winkler hosts Carman Sunday afternoon.

# Hall of fame banquet is June 15

From Pg. 20

championship teams.

- Ollie Schroeder, Winnipeg: Schroeder was nominated for her more than 40 years of service to baseball and other sports in northeast Winnipeg.

- Derek Shamray, Oak River: For over 40 years Shamray has been an important contributor to baseball and hockey in the Oak River and Hamiota area.

- Ken Sharpe, Minnedosa: Sharpe played 15 years of intermediate and senior ball with Neepawa, Brandon, Cardale, Minnedosa and in every year he played at provincial all-star tournaments and provincial championship.

- Bryan Swaenepoel, Souris: Swaenepoel was a power hitter and a 15 time all-star in the MSBL and was part of six MSBL championship teams.

Also being inducted as teams are the Kinosota Cougars of 1965-1970

and the Oil Dome Bantam All Stars of 1990.

Being honoured in the family category is the Tycoles family of Reston. The Tycoles family has been known as the first family of baseball in southwestern Manitoba.

Another honorary life membership is being presented to pitcher, coach, and clinician Glennis Scott. He was inducted in 1998 and selected for Manitoba's all-time dream team in 2016.

# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Honey Mustard Crunch Salmon

2 tablespoons olive oil

Thaw salmon and pat dry. Arrange on oiled baking tray. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

To make glaze: In small bowl, combine honey, mustard, Dijon mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish and paprika; mix until well combined. Chill glaze until ready to use.

To make crunch: In bowl, combine breadcrumbs, parsley and oil; mix well. Reserve.

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Top each salmon portion with 1 tablespoon glaze and spread evenly over fish. Press crunch evenly onto glaze.

Bake 15-17 minutes until fish is cooked through.

Serve with drizzle of remaining glaze.

1 bag (1 pound, three 6-ounce portions) ASC-certified North Coast Seafoods Naked Norwegian Salmon

salt, to taste

pepper, to taste

Honey Mustard Glaze:

1/3 cup honey

1/4 cup whole-grain mustard

2 tablespoons smooth Dijon mustard

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

2 teaspoons horseradish

1 teaspoon smoked paprika

Crunch:

3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs

2 tablespoons dried parsley



## Immune-Boosting Green Grape Smoothie

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

1 cup green Grapes from California,

chilled

2 1/2 ounces baby spinach

1/3 cup plain low-fat Greek yogurt

1/4 cup fresh orange juice

1 cube (1/2 inch) peeled fresh ginger or 2 teaspoons prepared minced ginger

1 tablespoon walnut pieces

In blender, blend grapes, spinach, yogurt, orange juice, ginger and walnuts until smooth, scraping down sides as needed.



## Baked Apples with Coconut and Crumble Topping

ble topping.

Finely chop chocolate and combine with hazelnuts.

Arrange apple slices in lined baking dish.

Fill center of each apple generously with chocolate and hazelnut mixture (reserve about 2 tablespoons for topping).

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Combine oats, coconut, flour, butter and brown sugar; mix well.

Top each apple generously with crumble mixture, creating small mound on top of each apple; sprinkle with reserved chocolate and hazelnut mixture.

Bake apples 20-25 minutes, or until crumble is golden and apples start to soften. Serve with drizzle of maple syrup or honey.

Servings: 8

6 Envy Apples

3/4 cup dark chocolate

1/2 cup chopped roasted hazelnuts

1 cup instant or rolled oats

1/2 cup dried coconut

2 tablespoons flour

1/3 cup butter

2 tablespoons brown sugar

maple syrup or honey, for serving

Core apples then score skin around apple a few times. Cut small slice from top and bottom to make apple more stable and give room for crum-

## Ask The Money Lady

Dear Money Lady Readers:

Were you a helicopter parent when your children were small and now you're a money copter parent with your adult children?

Helicopter parents were mainly from my generation because we were overly focused about our children's experiences and problems; wanting to dive in and rescue them from life's hardships. By definition, a helicopter parent is one who was extremely attentive to their child's experiences, problems and particularly their education. These hovering parents were constantly ready to swoop in to rescue their children at the first sign of trouble. It is said that the term helicopter parent really only became apparent through social media in the early 2000's when college and university staff started experiencing consistent and intrusive behaviors from the pushy, opinionated parents of new students.

Nowadays many have become money-copter parents too, believing their adult children will not make it without the monetary assistance from the parent. Add in the mental torment of a divorce when your child was young, and you now have a parent today feeling it's warranted to keep supplementing their adult child due to their own personal regret. Many 50+ parents still have an open-door policy with their adult children, living at home with no costs, free rent, and the fridge full.

While helping our children is something we expect to do as parents, it is important to realize the long-term cost this can have on our own futures as well as the future of our adult children. I want to share a personal story with you, one that I have just witnessed again with another family member repeating the same mistakes as my mom. My mother always felt regret and a sense of need to financially support my sister. Maybe it was due to hardships after my father's death or perhaps because my sister and I were adopted. The reality is, because of this consistent financial support, my sister never learned to save money or for that matter, how to earn it, and build an independent future. Both my mother and my sister took the easy way out of their relationship through money. Did it benefit either one of them – NO. My sister always felt it was never enough, and she only learned how to prosper financially when the money eventually ran out and she was forced to change at almost 50 years of age. My mother lost most of her retirement sav-



Christine Ibbotson

ings and gained a daughter with resentment. Now – of course, there is a lot more to this story, and it took 35 years to transpire, but the message is still there. Let your adult kids figure it out for themselves. Let them make mistakes with money. Let them value their careers and want to aspire for more out of their lives for themselves and their own family. Stop trying to make it easy and constantly offering a bail-out. Did you get a bail-out when you were a young adult – or did you learn your life lessons from hard work and inner drive?

A child in their late 20's and 30's that is being supplemented to maintain their lifestyle does not view this as an act of love – even when the parent thinks it is. Be careful, your so-called monetary love WILL, after a while, be expected. All adult children want is true unconditional love, care, and emotional support from their parents. They want to be nurtured and cherished – and this can never be done with money. The helicopter parents started out being their children's cheerleaders – they didn't throw money at them or pay off credit card bills and school debts – they loved their kids, stuck up for them, and told them "they could do anything." And our kids can. They are the most educated generation of all time. They are amazing young adults. Let them figure out their money themselves. Stop bailing out your children and concentrate on your next adventure - retirement. Let your kids make mistakes. They can figure out their own way without you.

Good Luck & Best Wishes,

ATML - Christine Ibbotson

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6 syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at [askthemoneylady.ca](http://askthemoneylady.ca)

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SELLING OUT CRAFT SUPPLIES!! ALL ITEMS MUST GO - BULK SALE ONLY! Serious inquiries only! Leave message at 204-325-7839, Winkler.

**HEALTH**

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewood elkbranch@mymts.net

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URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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**EMPLOYMENT**



Border Land School Division invites applicants for an  
**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT**  
FOR ÉCOLE WEST PARK SCHOOL  
IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

**EMPLOYMENT**



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a  
**TERM TEACHER (1.0 FTE)**  
FOR HORIZON COLONY SCHOOL  
AT HORIZON COLONY

This position will commence January 8, 2024 and conclude June 28, 2024 with the possibility of an extension into 24/25 school year.

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

**CAREERS**



**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT**

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEMBINA**

Sealed tenders in writing for the purchase of the property described below will be received by:

**McCULLOCH MOONEY JOHNSTON SELBY LLP**  
351 Main St.  
Box 279  
Manitou, MB R0G 1G0

**PROPERTY FOR SALE:**

**PARCEL 1:** SW 1/4 1-1-9 WPM EXCEPTING THEREOUT - ALL MINES AND MINERALS IN THAT PORTION FORMERLY TAKEN FOR RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 143 MLTO (160 acres in total) (Title No. 3215157; Roll No. 0068700.000)

**PARCEL 2:** S 1/2 2-1-9 WPM EXCEPTING THEREOUT - ALL MINES AND MINERALS IN THAT PORTION FORMERLY TAKEN FOR RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 143 MLTO (320 acres in total) (Title No. 3215157; Roll Nos. 0069100.000 & 0069000.000)

**PARCEL 3:** SE 1/4 1-1-9 WPM EXCEPTING THEREOUT - ALL MINES AND MINERALS OUT OF THAT PORTION FORMERLY TAKEN FOR RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 141 MLTO AS RESERVED IN DEED 139476 MLTO (160 acres in total) Title No. 3215160; Roll No. 0068600.000

**CONDITIONS OF TENDER**

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.
2. Tenders must be received on or before 2:00 p.m. on November 24th, 2023.
3. A deposit cheque in the amount of \$30,000.00, payable to McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby Trust, must accompany the Tender. Deposit cheques accompanying unacceptable bids will be returned.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
5. Bids accepted on one, two or all parcels.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE**

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the date of closing which shall be January 1, 2024, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender. Once arrangements acceptable to the vendor have been made, the successful bidder may have access to the property.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2024.
5. The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
6. The land is not subject to a first right of refusal.

For further information, contact Chris H. Bowler  
Phone: 204-242-2801  
Fax: 204-242-2723  
Email: [chris@mmjlaw.com](mailto:chris@mmjlaw.com)

Please Label Envelope: "Adams' Estate Tender"

**SENIOR RENTALS**

**OAK WEST ESTATES IN MORDEN HAS SUITES AVAILABLE.**

All are one bedroom with a den. From 963 sq ft and up. Some facing east onto the creek. Everything is on one level, heated garage parking available. All suites come with fridge, stove and dishwasher, a laundry room with hook ups for your own washer and dryer, a walk in pantry, a patio and more. Call Cindy at 204-362-7151, or email to [cindy@jacobmanagement.com](mailto:cindy@jacobmanagement.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*The Public Guardian and Trustee* is seeking to contact **Christopher Thomas Russell** in order to provide documentation regarding a Court proceeding involving **the Estate of Gertrude Smith.**

Please contact **Jana Taylor, Legal Counsel for the Public Guardian and Trustee,** at (204) 945-2709 or [jana.taylor@gov.mb.ca](mailto:jana.taylor@gov.mb.ca).

# Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice

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Also purchasing Old Money, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, Coin Sets, etc.  
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**Todd The Coin Guy**  
**250-864-3521**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION FORUM**



**GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**Public Consultation Forum**  
**2024 - 2025 Pre-Budget Discussion**

The Trustees of Garden Valley School Division invite you to a public consultation forum as they set the priorities for the 2024 - 2025 GVSD budget.

Northlands Parkway Collegiate - MPR Room  
November 28, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees welcomes all suggestions and feedback on our operating budget for the upcoming year.

**CAREERS**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**



Walinga Inc. is seeking a full time, experienced **CNC Machinist** to join our growing team!

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Able to work in a fast paced environment, with a focus on high quality standards.
- Be a team player with effective interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Must be flexible, reliable, and have good time management capabilities.

**Qualifications and Requirements:**

- Red seal certified machinist or equivalent preferred.
- Must have basic machine programming skills and be able to use precise measuring tools.
- Able to read and understand drawings and blueprints.
- Minimum 1 year experience.
- Wage range is \$22/hr - \$35/hr depending on experience and skill set. A red seal or equivalent is automatically entitled to a \$2 hour premium.

Walinga Inc. in Carman, Manitoba is seeking a full time, **Material Handler** to join our growing team!

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Maintain inventory by monitoring incoming shipments & ensure proper quantities received.
- Distribution of materials received within the Plant.
- Record & report any discrepancies or damaged goods received.
- Locate and pack materials for shipping.
- Operate forklift, pallet jack and other machinery to move items onto and off trucks and loading docks.
- Maintain cleanliness of Warehouse and stock locations.
- Keep Yard and Receiving areas neat and tidy.
- Assist production with miscellaneous tasks.
- Assist in Year end Inventory & other duties as skill set reflects ability.

**Requirements:**

- Able to work in a team or independently in a fast paced environment.
- Must be reliable, organized, self motivated and pay attention to detail.
- Must be physically able to lift 40lbs & work in all weather conditions.
- Must comply with safety regulations & wear protective gear.

**Benefits:**

Walinga offers a competitive wage, full benefits package, pension, profit sharing, and a great work environment. Wage is dependent on experience and qualifications.

If you are looking for a rewarding career and would like to share a resume please contact Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 (ext 440) or email him at [ray.beukema@walinga.com](mailto:ray.beukema@walinga.com).

We thank all applicants, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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**FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON**  
**Winnipeg South**  
**Call Tom**  
**at 204-275-0055**  
**or email**  
[tmanos@shawcable.com](mailto:tmanos@shawcable.com)

**CARD OF THANKS**

I just wanted to say a big "thank you" to all the businesses who donated to the bake sale/silent auction fundraiser for Raylene's eye surgery that is taking place in Vancouver. It was a huge success! I am grateful to the Co-op grocery store for allowing us to hold the bake sale fundraiser. I appreciate all the hard work our friends and family put into baking, donating, and helping with getting everything ready. I could not have done it without all of you which made it turn out so well! - *Terry Peters*

**Thanks again to the following businesses for their donations to the silent auction:**

Winkler Dental	Landmark Cinema	Staples
Shoppers	Video Stop	NPC Culinary Arts Baking & Pastry <i>donated baking</i>
Dominos	Spence Brothers	Access Credit Union
Days Inn	St. Joseph Wind	Magnet Signs Winkler
Best Western	Fruit & More Store	DNP Construction and DNP Concrete
Dairy Queen	Toppers	Lexi Elias Massage Therapy
Earth Buds Florist	Mulligans	Janzen Chevrolet Buick
Heides Florist	Outpost Grill	GMC Winkler
Sunny Day	Tanya Guenther-RMT	
CDK Electric	Polar Plumbing & Heating,	
Canadian Tire	Just Bee Cuzz Café	

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PEMBINA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**PWCP (Prairie Watershed Climate Program) COORDINATOR**

- Term:**
- Immediate start date - March 31, 2025
  - 40 hours per week
  - Possible extension depending on funding

- Principal Duties (plus other duties as assigned):**
- Assist landowners and agricultural producers with their adoption of new Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) the PWCP funding offers
  - Enter data into PWCP database and maintain records
  - Promote PWCP and Pembina Valley Watershed District (PVWD) programs
  - Make presentations and communicate with landowners and the District
  - Update PVWD social media platforms and website
  - Assist in completing funding applications and reports by required deadlines
  - Operate within an approved budget

- Qualifications:**
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
  - High school diploma and agricultural experience
  - Computer literacy with Microsoft Office, Google Drive and social media platforms
  - GIS software experience considered an asset
  - Have a valid Class 5 driver's licence
  - Ability to work independently and as part of a team
  - Ability to meet deadlines and work within a budget

This is full-time term position. A full job description is available on the PVWD website. The position will be based out of one of PVWD offices (Killarney, Altona area, or Manitou). Some work from home options are available if desired. The job requires weekly travel to PVWD main office in Manitou, MB.

Please submit a cover letter and resume with 3 references to:  
Pembina Valley Watershed District  
Box 659 - 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0  
Phone: 204-242-3267 Website: [www.pvwd.ca](http://www.pvwd.ca)  
E-mail: [administrator@pvwd.ca](mailto:administrator@pvwd.ca)

**Application Deadline: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023 at 12pm.**  
PVWD would like to thank all applicants; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



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[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

**AUCITON**

**MULTI-PARTY COLLECTIBLES AUCTION TIMED ONLINE**  
**RUNNING LOTS START CLOSING 17 NOV 2023, 5:00PM CST**  
**BUYER PREMIUM - 2.5%, MAX 650**  
**LOCATION - 22027 ROAD 3N, BLUMENFELD, MB**



Toys and other collectibles consigned by: Corrie Klassen, The Estate of John Nickel and Elmer Voth. Due to an increase in theft, there

will be no open house. Directions to the location will be on the buyers invoice. **Payment & Pickup day:** Saturday November 18 from 9am to 6pm. We ask that you come on this day when staff is available out of respect for Mrs. Klassen's privacy. Items must be removed no later than November 18. If you cannot make that deadline, it is imperative that you do not buy.

For more listing [www.billklassen.com/nextlot](http://www.billklassen.com/nextlot)



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# Classifieds Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

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**IN MEMORIAM**



**Kristine Friesen (née Penner)**  
December 13, 1933 to November 20, 2018  
It has been five years since we lost our dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The seasons come and go but she is never forgotten. Gifted with creativity and a spirit of generosity, Kristine lived life to the fullest no matter her circumstances. We miss her dearly but continue to take comfort knowing that she is in the presence of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In her memory, please read one of her favorite Bible passages, Psalm 103.

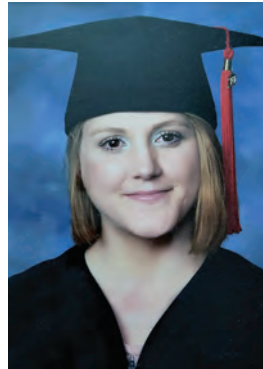
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The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

Call 204-467-5836 or  
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**OBITUARY**

**Kendra Giesbrecht**



It is with heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of Kendra Giesbrecht. She passed away peacefully at her residence in Winnipeg at the age of 35 years.

She will be forever remembered by her mom Sheila Pantel and her step-dad Darren Bell, her dad Patrick Giesbrecht, her sister Amy (Clayton) Wood, her nephew Cale Wood, her brother Darren Giesbrecht, her partner Paul Delaquis and his son Felix. Also left to mourn are her grandparents, Don and Shirley Pantel, step-grandparents Dennis and Donalda Bell and numerous aunts and uncles, cousins and friends.

She was predeceased in death by her uncle, Ron Pantel, and her grandparents Jake and Tina Giesbrecht.

Funeral Service will be held St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Morden, Manitoba on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. with Father Ramon Oncog officiating. Private interment at a later date.

To view the service details and leave condolences, please visit [www.afh.ca](http://www.afh.ca)

Adam's Funeral Home  
of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba  
in care of arrangements  
Phone 204-248-2201

**OBITUARY**

**Christine (Justina, Jesse, Chris) Fehr nee Klassen**

**April 27 1937 – November 07 2023**



Chris Fehr born Justina "Jesse" Klassen, 86, raised in Altona, MB, living in Edmonton, AB, died today in the Grey Nun's Hospital. A sister, a sister in law, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, an aunt, a great aunt & an adopted mom to many. Her Mennonite roots were always there, sharing what she had, doing what she could, when she could, for others, most of the time without fanfare. She struggled with demons, but conquered them & the family were so proud of her. If you could say one word about Chris it would be stubborn. She was a quiet person who said little. She fought to live the last decade despite medical hardships and everyone was amazed at her physical fortitude. She made friends quickly and if you were her friend there was no better place to be! She opened her home to others and it was not uncommon to have extra people meals. Mom loved her time in the North & had just met her two new great grand daughters. Sakura her oldest grandchild, was the apple of her eye.

She was predeceased by parents; Maria Froese (1974) & John Daniel Klassen (1973), in laws, John Peter Fehr (1966) & Elsie Gertrude Streimer (2004), spouse, Leonard David Fehr (1986), sons Robert Fehr (1956), Ronald Bruce Fehr (1986) daughter Sandra Fehr (2007) & grandson Andrew Mackenzie Robertson (2016).

She is survived by daughters Valerie Robertson (Gordon), grand daughter Rebecca Marie Robertson & (Serge Yudenkov) & great grand daughter Evalena Katya Robertson. Daughter, Brenda Telnes(Terry) & grand daughter Jennifer Ashley Telnes (Kevin George) & great granddaughter, Sakura Christine Telnes-George. Brenda & Terry's son, Matthew David Telnes (Amanda) & great granddaughter Elenora Telnes.

She was predeceased by siblings & their spouses except for brother, Henry Klassen & sister in law Millie Klassen. She was predeceased by sisters/brothers in laws & spouses except for Mary & Ben Thiessen, Peter Fehr, Menno Krahn, Kathleen (Kathy) Teichroeb, Karen Fehr & Walter Ratzloff, Myrna Fehr & Glen Wiebe.

Chris left the family farm, married Len in Altona & raised 5 children while they lived in New Brunswick, Kingston, Ottawa, Metcalfe, and in Inuvik. Mom worked as a housekeeper, waitress, helped run a malt shop, was a long term care assistant at the Charlotte Whitten Home & Inuvik Long Term Care – Inuvik Regional Hospital, babysat, was an emergency infant foster home, operated a daycare, & was a Child Care Supervisor at the Inuvik Receiving Home.

Her & Dad enjoyed camping along the Mackenzie River & going to Vegas. After Dad died, she moved to Edmonton in 1987, and lived with Brenda's family until her grandchildren were teens. She moved into Westlawn Court Apts. at 65 and enjoyed living on her own till her death.

Mom was a good cook, liked music, horoscopes, knitting for the Salvation Army, cable tv shows & her friends and family. The family wishes to say thank you to all of the medical personnel who were part of her life. She is missed already by her family. The family would like to thank her visiting nurses, the ambulance personnel and the doctors and nurses at the University Hospital & the Grey Nuns Hospital who took care of mom. In accordance with her wishes, she has been cremated with no service & flowers. Condolences can be sent to [valerierobertsonfehr@gmail.com](mailto:valerierobertsonfehr@gmail.com). coml. If you wish to make a donation in her name, please consider something that helps children as that was her passion.

**OBITUARY**

**Helena Martin (nee Fleming) 1923 - 2023**



Helena Martin aged 100 years formerly of Plum Coulee, MB passed away Saturday, November 11, 2023 at Salem Home in Winkler.

She was predeceased by her husband, Peter D Martin (2002), one son and one daughter, four sisters and one brother.

She is survived by two daughters and five sons and their families.

Viewing will be from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday at Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler. Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with interment prior at Elm Creek Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Helena's memory to the Health Sciences Centre Children's Hospital.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
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[Wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://Wiebefuneralhomes.com)



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## OBITUARY



### David Derksen 1953 – 2023

On Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at the age of 70, David (Dave) Derksen, of Stephenfield, MB was called home to be with the Lord. He is remembered by his loving wife Nita, his four children: Darrell (Sherr) Derksen, Brian (Danielle) Derksen, Corinne Derksen, Angela (Justin) Klassen and his eight grandchildren: Jeff, Chad, Russell, Shane, Maddison, Hailey, Jace and Nevaeh.

Dave was predeceased by his parents, John and Helena (nee Dyck) Derksen, stepmom, Helen Bergen (nee Paetkau) and his brother, John Derksen.

One of Dad's main characteristics was that he had a heart for other people. Whether it was inviting a truck driver in for lunch, talking to the person behind him in line, visiting people in the hospital or penitentiary, or talking to strangers on the phone; no matter who they were, he made an effort to get to know them and share his faith with them. And last, but most importantly, Dad's faith was held very close to him. He would spend many hours reading the Bible, listening to Christian speakers, and sharing the gospel with all those around him. Dad recognized his own need of salvation. He relied on God to give him the strength he needed to overcome any challenges. He knew that one day his faith would become sight and he would meet Jesus, face to face. Dad will be remembered and missed by many. We draw strength and comfort in knowing that Dad is where he has always longed to be, in the presence of his Lord and Saviour.

Funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at the Morden Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at the Roseisle Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Dave's memory to GFA World.

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



## OBITUARY



### Helen Penner

Helen Penner was born on March 13, 1925 in Rosefarm, about 20 miles NW of Gretna, where her dad taught school. She was the youngest of 10 children born to Peter Giesbrecht and Katharine Penner.

When Helen's dad died seven months later the family moved to Gretna so the children could attend MCI to get a good education. Helen however, chose to go to public school where she was consistently at the top of her class. The notes from the teachers on her report cards seemed to always say the same thing. "Helen is quite proficient at socializing during class time." Seems she always had a love for people.

Helen grew up during the Great Depression where everything but determination to survive were in short supply. She learned what it means to be family, a more loving and loyal mother who could

find? She also learned to appreciate the simple things in life.

When Helen was 14 years old the Second World War broke out. Three of her brothers enlisted in the army. Two spent time in Conscientious Objector camps. Each man did as his conscience directed, but it never causes a rift in the family. The respect between brothers was never an issue. Family was, and IS very important. That was very obvious.

Helen took care of her own mother into her late 20's until she met and married the only man she would ever love, John Penner. They had 20 years together which included their five children. For the next 51 years she parented alone, learning anew every day her need to trust in the Lord. She once said it was her kids that kept her going and some of them did their best, or worst, to keep her on her knees praying for them - and she never stopped praying.

Talking with staff, management and residents at Eastview Place where Helen spent her last three years, one word was heard over and over again to describe her: "Peaceful". The fact that she was at peace with the God who created her, and with everyone around her was unmistakable. Staff at Eastview would come in Helen's room and stop to say, "She's so peaceful".

It was said that the last few years of Helen's life were like a plane coming in for a landing. The first part of the decent was when she fell and hit her head in her home, landing her in the hospital. That trip would mark the last time she left her house. The second stage was being transferred to the Swan Lake Hospital during the pandemic. Then three years ago moving into Eastview in Altona. And finally, the landing was seamless and peaceful.

The peace of God that had always carried her became more and more obvious the closer she came to stepping out of time and into Eternity, into the unveiled presence of God.

And that peace is available to everybody that trusts in the fact the when Jesus died on that cross 2,000 odd years ago, He paid the penalty for our sins. We can live in that peace, that assurance, that saving power now- the peace that overcomes sorrow.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona  
In care of arrangements  
[www.wiebefaltona.com](http://www.wiebefaltona.com)

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

## OBITUARY



### Jacob "Jake" Rempel

Family is deeply saddened that our brother, uncle, and great uncle, Jacob (Jake) Rempel passed away in his home on November 4, 2023 at the age of 78 years.

He was born March 2, 1945 to John and Tina Rempel. He was predeceased by both his parents, and his brother-in-law, Leroy Friesen.

Jake leaves to mourn Tina (Frank) Siemens, Liz (Devin) Wieler, John Rempel, David (Debby) Rempel, Henry (Margaret) Rempel and Marge Friesen and our Mom's church granddaughter Edna Zacharias. Jake's nieces and nephews: Rebecca (Shaun) Warkentin and daughter Katie; Vanessa Wieler; Clayton (Tenille) Rempel and daughter Aida; Vincent Rempel; Ethan (Beth) Rempel and sons Levi and Aiden; Holly (Scott) Houston, sons Sethren, Tristan, Maxson.

Also mourning him are Jake's many friends and community folks. Your role in his life was vital and significant.

His life time buddy - Ed (Moses) Heinrichs (he missed you very much this last while); Orlando and Shelley and family - Orlando, Nathan - we thank you for your support of Jake, snow clearing etc.

We know the list of friends is long, and give you our heartfelt thanks.

A celebration of Jake's life was held on November 12, 2023 at the Halbstadt Community Centre.

Donations in Jake's memory may be made to the Halbstadt Community Centre (Box 5, Halbstadt, MB, R0A 0S0), or to Fort Dufferin (c/o Post Road Heritage Group Inc. Box 71, Emerson, MB, R0A 0L0).

#### Jake's Story

Family, community, history, farming and 'spos' (fun) combine them, and you've got Jake Rempel! Jake married Phyllis Ann Sauder in 1973 (later divorced) and moved from the family homestead in Halbstadt to rent a home across from Jake Bergen's on the Sommerfeld road.

In 1978 he moved to the yard located close to the Halbstadt Community Centre. In 1996, Jake and brother Henry, purchased the family farm. Jake also drove school bus and highway tractor.

He started out as quite a wild young man, and had become a real community booster! He's been an active member of the community, having been involved in the Halbstadt Community Centre, Halbstadt 4-H Woodworking Club, Halbstadt Store, Altona Archives, History Seekers and Fort Dufferin.

Jake was the historian in the Rempel family and was the keeper of Dad's historical papers.

He was always willing to lend a hand when needed, and enjoyed sharing the produce from his garden with family and friends.

He had been known to play jokes on many people, and had also been on the receiving end of jokes and gags. One year he even planted tomatoes in a neighbor's tree row just to see how long it would take them to notice. Very often, it was the "who dun it" game at his yard such as fake vegetables, or a giant red Christmas stocking. He was pretty handy using duct tape or metal objects as gift wrapping!

Jake liked to fish, used to curl and play on the Halbstadt baseball team.

Jake was a down to earth, straight forward and decisive individual. As the first born, he had natural leadership skills. Like all of us, he wasn't perfect. He could be outspoken, very sure he was right, and not afraid to speak his mind. Sometimes, even a little grouchy!

He liked to 'smooze' over coffee, loved to read, and enjoyed playing with animals - just ask his former neighbor Tina Friesen about 'their' dog Bonnie.

Jake had been known to buy his school bus kids treats at any old time, such as the time he picked up the children after their field trip in Winnipeg and had ice cream treats for everyone.

Thanks to: each of you who has come today, or checked in with us family, and have been so ready to lend a hand.

To the many children over the years, for being Jake's friend. He really did enjoy interacting with you all.

Orlando and Nathan for their many years of friendship and snow removal, etc.

Special thanks to all Halbstadters for set up, clean up, parking attendants and more. WOW what a community!

And most of all for the presence of each of you celebrating Jake, supporting him, and especially supporting Henry and Margaret, and the rest of us Rempel clan. Halbstadt you are amazing. WOW

Our thanks to the staff at the Altona Hospital and Jake's doctors, for their care. To the Altona Ambulance, and Trevor at Wiebe's Funeral Home.

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# Matthew Thiessen off to a strong start with Bulldogs

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Matthew Thiessen is having a solid start to the 2023-24 season in goal for the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs (UMD). The 6'2" net-minder currently boasts a 1-1-1 record with a .891 save percentage with Duluth, as we are still in the season's early stages.

Although he played in the Altona minor program, Thiessen got his start in hockey in the small northern community of Lynn Lake, Manitoba, where he skated a few times as a child. He only played organized hockey once he moved to Altona in grade one. And soon after, he found himself in the net.

"I was supposed to go to some tournament as a player, but the other goalie was sick, so I ended up getting thrown in there because I had played before," said Thiessen. "But apparently, I was crying my eyes out because I didn't want to play goalie. I guess I did pretty good, though, because I stuck with it and enjoyed it ever since!"

Thiessen credits growing up in Altona as being very important to his development as a top goaltending prospect.

"Growing up here in Altona and playing against teams like Carman, MacDonald, Morden, and Winkler, it was always really competitive, and there were plenty of battles with them over the years," said Thiessen. "It was also nice growing up and getting to play with your buddies, building relationships through hockey that you'll have for life."

Thiessen had his big breakthrough with the MJHL's Steinbach Pistons in 2017-18. His play was nothing short of spectacular as he boasted a .923 save percentage and a 2.06 goals-against average. He posted a .944 save percentage en route to his team winning the league championship and then the ANAVET Cup.

Thiessen's season was so good in Steinbach that he was selected at the 2018 NHL Entry Draft by the Vancouver Canucks in the seventh round (192nd overall). After a year with Dubuque of the USHL, Thiessen moved on to college, where he has spent three seasons at the University of Maine.

He then joined the University of Minnesota-Duluth last season and has been successful at the college level.

"I love it here in Duluth as not only is it a little closer to home, but we also play in a great conference against high-end competition every night. It was a pretty easy transition for me because of the strong culture that we have in Duluth and the amazing teammates that I have as well. I have been splitting the net here still to start the season with the other goalie, but it's been good to be able to get into games when my number is called and try to do whatever I can for the team."

Last week, Thiessen received the NCHC Goaltender of the Week award for his strong play in his past two games. Thiessen was called into action off the bench last weekend against the University of Minnesota and delivered two strong performances, including making a career-high 47 saves in a 3-3 overtime tie. Thiessen also denied both shots he faced in the ensuing shootout as UMD won.

Thiessen finished the series with 55 saves and a .948 save percentage while posting a 2.40 goals-against average. He upped his season save percentage to .891 and lowered his season GAA to 3.44 in four outings with a 1-1-1 record.

While he's having lots of success on the ice, Thiessen, his teammates, and his school's hockey program as a whole are still reeling from the loss of Adam Johnson, a former Bulldog, who tragically passed away during a professional hockey game in England a few weeks back when his neck was cut by the skate of an opposing player.

"It has obviously been an extremely hard time for the entire Bulldog family with the passing of Adam," said Thiessen. "I didn't know him personally, but by hearing all the stories, not only about him as a hockey player, but also just how awesome of a teammate, friend and person he was. Our entire team and staff, along with many alumni, were able to attend the service in Hibbing yesterday and hear some amazing memories and stories of Adam, but it was definitely an emotional service to be at. My thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family and friends and everyone affected by his passing."

Since Johnson's passing, there has been significant movement in the hockey world regarding making neck guards mandatory in all hockey leagues worldwide.

"I have always worn a neck guard, and I will al-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona's Matthew Thiessen is having a strong start to the 2023-24 season in goal for the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs (UMD).

ways be wearing a neck guard to protect myself the best from sticks, shots and skates. Many of my teammates have also been wearing neckguards, and I believe it will continue to influence more and more hockey players to do so as well."

After Thiessen graduates from college this year with a degree in Marketing, he has his sights set on a professional hockey career. He currently doesn't know exactly what his plans are but hopes to continue to keep playing hockey at the next level and see how far he can go at the pro level.

"That's always been my dream and goal, and I will continue to work hard to try and accomplish it."

## Town adding fireworks to lighting ceremony

From Pg. 2

so everybody can see them from downtown."

Following the fireworks, everyone is invited to the Altona Mall to enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, festive music presented by students from École Parkside School and W.C. Miller Collegiate, as well as holiday tunes performed by a group of alumni.

"I think the Night of Lights is a great way to kick off the holiday

season in Altona," says Winkler. "All the Christmas lights on the streets go on that night as well, including the lights at the Golden West Plaza. It's been a Christmas tradition in our

### > OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, FROM PG. 16

a central point for various outdoor school functions, serving as a park for the surrounding neighborhood after school hours and throughout the summer."

The project is estimated to cost close

community for decades now.

"It's just a fun way to get everybody in the mood for Christmas. It's a short and sweet event for the whole family, and for many residents and business-

es, it's the event that launches their holiday season. We hope to see you there."

to \$100,000, made possible through the joint efforts of Elmwood's Home and School Association, local businesses, and a grant from the province's Building Sustainable Communities Fund.

Hiebert adds that corporate sponsors, including Elmer's Manufacturing, Friesens, Access Credit Union, and Altona Farm Service, have also played a pivotal role in making this initiative a reality.

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