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# The *Altona Rhineland* **Voice**

VOLUME 1 EDITION 38

THURSDAY,  
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## Singing in the season

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Plum Coulee School Gr. 3-4 students provided the soundtrack to the community's tree lighting ceremony last Wednesday evening. For more photos, see Pg. 16.

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# getinformed

## Altona council puts call out for youth rep.

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona wants to fill one more seat at their council table, and they're hoping a local teen will step forward to fill it.

The search is on for a youth representative.

"Youth voices make up a quarter of our town and we want to make sure that those voices are represented in our decision-making," says Councillor Jordan Siemens, who was himself a youth member of council from 2009-2010.

The youth position has been a part of the council structure for over 20

years and provides valuable insight into issues affecting young people in the community.

"It's really a great opportunity. They're given a chance to share their views and insights on relevant issues and what they'd like to see in the community," Siemens says. "They learn about municipal governance and political structure, and they also act as a representative for their peers and have an impact on future planning and decision-making in the community."

Council is looking for someone who is under 18 years old and interested in municipal government, community

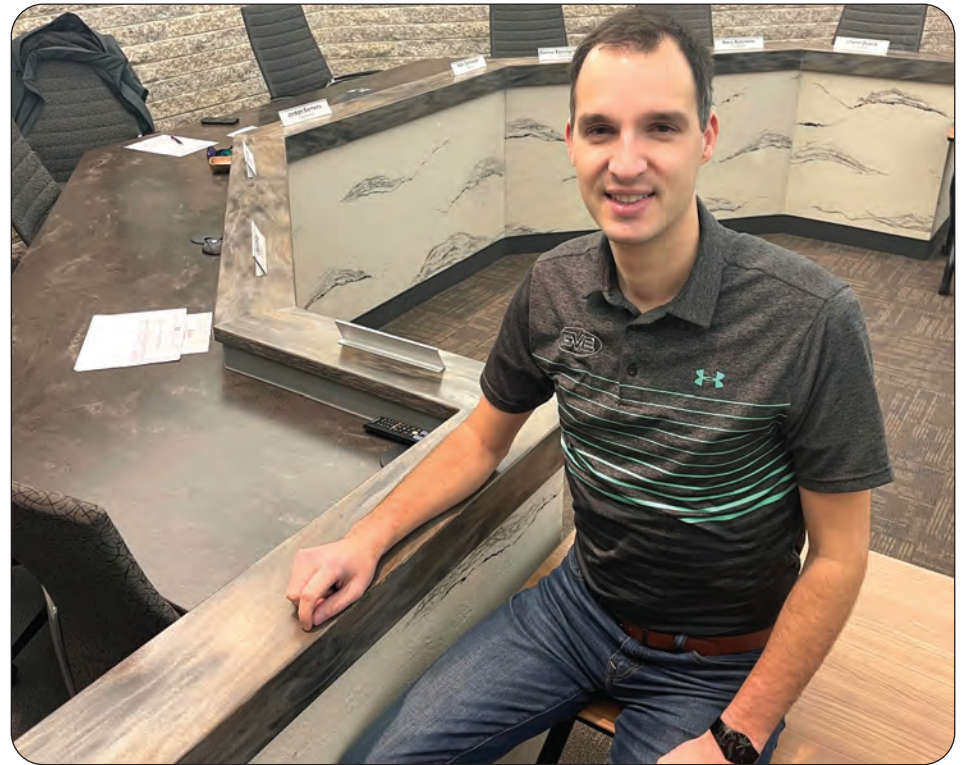


PHOTO BY LORI PENNER VIVEIROS/VOICE

Altona town council member Jordan Siemens encourages local teens to consider becoming a youth representative. His own stint in the role 12 years ago put him on a path into politics.

engagement, and decision-making.

The position also comes with some responsibilities, which include attending Committee of the Whole meetings twice a month, preparing for the meeting by reviewing the agenda, and getting feedback from their peers on issues of interest. They also need to present a brief report on issues affecting local youth and provide their perspective on issues that council may be deciding on.

"There are other town committees like the police board or the library board," Siemens says. "If they are interested in attending those kinds of things, they can also attend those if they wish."

Siemens says that his time as youth rep. was an incredible learning experience to see how council functions. Being a part of the planning sessions, for example, gave him a first-hand look at how the future of the community is impacted by decisions around the council table.

As a representative of W.C. Miller Collegiate student council as well, he was able to bring their concerns and questions to the meetings.

He recalls how the first issue he brought up had to do with improper signage along Main St. and how it felt to see that issue corrected within a week.

"That was gratifying and helped me see how the process works and how every voice matters."

He says it was his year as a youth representative that ultimately led to his decision to run for council in 2018. He was re-elected for a second term this fall.

"That chance to learn about municipal government, provide input, and make connections with the community gave me the confidence to run," Siemens says. "I would highly encourage any curious youth who like to learn how things work to come join our council for the next year and take advantage of this unique opportunity."

"It's a great way to gain skills and knowledge and learn about your town. It also can enhance your future opportunities when you include it in post-secondary applications or job resumes. It won't take up a whole lot of your time, and it may just open doors and pique an interest you didn't even know you had."

Those interested in becoming the Town of Altona's youth representative can contact Sarah Cail at [communications@altona.ca](mailto:communications@altona.ca) or message [@townofaltona](https://www.instagram.com/townofaltona) on Instagram with a brief description of why you think you're the right person for this position.

## be our youth rep

Did you know that more than 25% of Altona residents are under 19? Youth voices make up a quarter of our town, and we want to make sure that your voices are represented in decision-making.

The Council Youth Rep provides valuable insight into issues affecting young folks in the community while ensuring that you have a voice in decisions that impact the future of the community.

Contact us @townofaltona, 204-324-6468 or [communications@altona.ca](mailto:communications@altona.ca) to learn more.

Altona



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY LILI KRUSHEL



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden chamber's shop-local initiative, Wrapping up a Morden Christmas, filled local businesses with customers last Thursday night.

# Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas keeps holiday shopping dollars local

By Lorne Stelmach

Local businesses got a good boost last Thursday with the Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas promotion.

Around 20 locations were involved in the annual Morden and District Chamber of Commerce shop-local campaign.

Participating businesses were encouraged to do something special for the event, whether that be a sale, giveaway, or special promotion. The evening also featured a passport program where people got stamps for each location they stopped at for a chance to win prizes.

A new feature this year was Santa's Market located at Murray Pembina Valley Dodge Ram, which hosted a number of home-based businesses and smaller vendors.

"It was great to see people out supporting Morden businesses, and the participating businesses did a great job at creating a fun evening," said Clare Agnew, chamber executive di-

rector. "I think it really highlights that you can do your Christmas shopping locally. It's a good opportunity to see what all these businesses have to offer, and the businesses love it as well. There's lots of promotions and people out and about and excitement."

Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas is definitely always on the calendar for Pharmasave.

"This is a very good evening for us. It's one of the biggest days of the year for us," said manager Charlene Friesen. "We always make sure that we have a really good sale for this evening, and people are very receptive to it."

"I think it's very good for the community and very supportive of the community ... I know people start asking about it in September, asking us when is it going to happen," she said. "It's a way of giving back to our community and thanking them for the support that they give us throughout the year."

If anything, Friesen would like to see the event build up even more and to see the business involvement grow as well.

"I would love to see even more businesses participate ... having a sale this evening really helps," she said. "I think there is optimism ... and I would love to see more diverse businesses that we don't have to keep [shoppers] in Morden."



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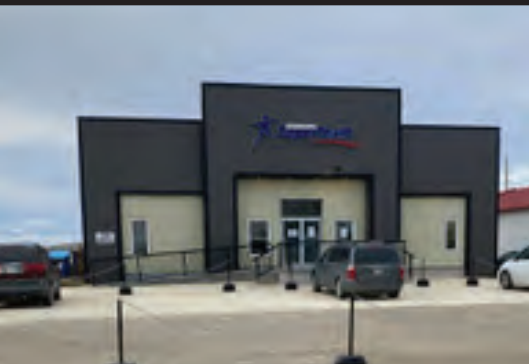
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# Cookie campaign raises nearly \$18K for Big Brothers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Tim Hortons in Morden-Winkler provided Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley with a huge financial boost last week.

The two locations sold a whopping 17,999 cookies during the annual Smile Cookie Campaign Sept. 19-25.

At \$1 a cookie and with all proceeds going to charity, that means Big Brothers Big Sisters received nearly \$18,000 in support of its mentoring programs in Morden, Winkler, Altona, and Car-

man.

"We were really happy with the amount," said Tim Hortons owner Linda Doerksen, noting the last few years have been challenging ones for the campaign amidst the pandemic.

The local Tim Hortons have worked closely with Big Brothers Big Sisters for years now, supporting them not only with Smile Cookie sales but also partnering with them in sending children to the Tim Hortons Children's Foundation summer camps.

"We're just really happy to be able to

do this for this organization, because I think they play a really big role in helping our youth in this community," Doerksen said.

Winkler restaurant manager Sara Friesen shared that the cookie campaign is always a big hit amongst staff and customers alike.

"A few days before we start we have customers asking for them already."

The chance to get their name out into the community in addition to raising funds for their programs is a huge boon to Big Brothers Big Sisters, said executive director Jenelle Neufeld.

"Right now it's a really weird time to be fundraising," she said, explaining many of their other annual fundraisers have had to be cancelled or scaled-down in recent years. "Something like Smile Cookie Week with Jeff and Linda [Doerksen] and all the staff at Tim Hortons, we know that we can count on it. And that to us is bigger than anything we could ever ask for."

Doerksen and Neufeld both send thanks out to every individual and business who ordered cookies this year, and to the Winkler Flyers junior hockey team, who came out to help staff decorate the thousands of cookies.

Neufeld noted they're getting back into the swing of things with their

programs.

"We're running our Go Girls program right now, which is our group programming," she said, explaining that one had to be on hold for awhile until they were able to get back into local schools with it.

They're also looking at starting up one-on-one in-school mentoring again, potentially inviting local teens to get involved.

"We're having a really hard time finding volunteers," Neufeld shared. "We're hoping that maybe if we can't find adults that are willing to volunteer we can ... partner with the high schools to do some of that. It's added experience for them and then maybe when they turn 18 they'll want to continue on being a mentor."

"It's all about planting that seed and hoping that it evolves into something bigger."

The agency currently has about 10 active matches in its traditional mentoring program, with a number of kids on the waiting list. They are especially in need of male adult volunteers.

If you'd like to get involved as a mentor, give Neufeld a call at 204-325-9707 or head to [pembinavalley.bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca](http://pembinavalley.bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca).



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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The staff of the Winkler Tim Hortons presented Big Brothers Big Sisters executive director Jenelle Neufeld (second from left) with the proceeds of this year's Morden-Winkler Smile Cookie campaign, totalling \$17,999.



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# From Everywhere to Bethlehem returns

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler tradition returns this holiday season.

Winkler EMM Church's living nativity *From Everywhere to Bethlehem* takes over Winkler Park Dec. 2-4.

It's the 14th edition of the outdoor production, which brings the Christmas story to life with an interactive tour through the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth.

Organizer Elaine Braun says the cast and crew are excited to be back at it after having to take the last two years off due to the pandemic.

"I just love seeing people experience

the Christmas story," she says. "It really brings you back in time to that first Christmas."

Braun explains that the audience members are very much a part of the show. They're greeted at the gates by Roman centurions who ensure they have their entry "tax" (a non-perishable food item for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard) and then guide them to the various stations, which include census takers, prophets, shepherds, and even King Herod himself, all of whom will be buzzing about rumours of a special birth happening in the stable that is the last

stop on the tour.

In addition to collecting donations for the food cupboard, the church will also be selling crafts and baked goods in a tent at the end of the show, with proceeds going to local charities.

"We want to help others," Braun says of why they've always given people a chance to donate to a variety of causes at the show. "Jesus brought the gift of salvation to us and we want to further the gift for the less fortunate."

The show in past years has drawn thousands of people from all over southern Manitoba and collected thousands of pounds of food for the

food bank.

*From Everywhere to Bethlehem* runs Friday, Dec. 2 from 6-9 p.m. and then 5-9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-4.



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

Winkler's living nativity, *From Everywhere to Bethlehem*, returns to Winkler Park Dec. 2-4.

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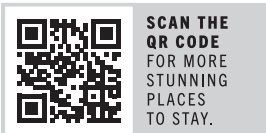
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*The* **Voice**

# getheard

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**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Lori Penner



**COLUMNIST**  
Peter Cantelon



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

## Tinsel trees and lavender angels

**T**he stores and flyers are filling up with all things Christmas, but the spirit seems to elude me this year, so I decided a little red and green around my house might help.

Rummaging through my own mismatched, but cherished collection of decorations, I pulled out a storage container filled with my mother's yuletide treasures.

There are tiny red bows and miniature tinsel trees, small candle holders, silk poinsettias and glass angels – apartment-sized adornments for a lady who still wanted to make her place pretty for the holidays, without creating too much clutter.

Tenderly picking up each small piece, big tears formed in my eyes as I caught their scent. How? How do even ceramic figurines take on the scent of the lavender cologne she loved?

Even after all this time, every single thing in that box still smells like a hug from my mom.

I was instantly transported back to our last Christmas together. She was showing me those little tinsel trees she found at the Dollar Store. She was as excited as a little girl, hunting for just the right end table or bookshelf to

display them.

When she carefully tucked them away after that Christmas season ended, did she know that the next set of hands to hold them would be mine?

So, there it was.

With that thought came huge, relentless waves of grief. But this time, I was ready for them. What once knocked the breath right out of me now washed over my heart like a warm, familiar tide, catching me up and tossing me about like a canoe on the ocean. I knew this tsunami of emotion might sink me for a while but wouldn't drown me. I swam in the stream, embracing the tears instead of fighting them. Lavender-scented angels watched over me as the waves slowly subsided.

This is how it is, in a season so rich with nostalgia. Every carol, every bell, every holiday movie, every Currier & Ives card takes me back to when all the people I loved were still right here, and not way up there. When we were still able to take each other shamelessly and blissfully for granted.

After all this time, those waves of emotion still surprise me, but they

no longer overwhelm me. Somehow, they bring a confusing sort of comfort with them; a sign I have not forgotten her, even though life mercilessly - and mercifully - has moved on.

I've learned that grief is like a Christmas tree – it demands accommodation.

When you first bring it home, you wonder where you'll put it. It's too big. The branches block the window. But eventually, you move things around, and you find a spot for it. Soon, instead of being an intrusion or obstruction, its presence becomes a part of the room, like the lamp or the couch. The sight of it comforts you.

Just like that tree, the "missing her" was the only thing I saw, at first. Like the Grinch, my heart has had to do some stretching to make some room for it. It required some adapting. And it hurt. These growing pains have changed me in ways I never imagined. They've caused me to shift things around in my life, and set priorities for the things that really matter.

And they've given me empathy for

Continued on page 7



**By Lori Penner**

### Letter policy

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

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

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

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**NEWS DESK:**

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

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

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

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# Morden-Winkler MLA touts throne speech highlights

By Lorne Stelmach

The provincial government says its setting a course toward greater health and prosperity for Manitobans with the start of the fifth session of the 42nd Manitoba legislative session.

The speech from the throne delivered by Lt.-Gov. Anita Neville last Tuesday included a series of commitments to make communities stronger, safer, and more affordable.

Morden-Winkler MLA and Finance Minister Cameron Friesen especially highlighted their measures to address affordability. It is particularly needed now at a time when inflation remains high with a recent consumer price index increase of over eight per cent, he said.

"That means that costs are up for people, for families ... and the cost of everything is going up otherwise," said Friesen, who lauded the Conservatives' affordability package that included giving payments to families with school-aged children and seniors with under \$40,000 of household income. "That was designed to try to help those individuals who are most feeling that rising cost of living.

"We have responded to the affordability challenges being faced by Manitobans, and we will continue to respond," said Friesen. "We will continue to monitor the situation, and if more relief is needed, we know we don't want to do too much and actually set back recovery or add to the inflationary effect, but we believe that targeted funding is prudent when you consider this is among, well, could be the largest inflationary contour that we have seen in this province in 40 years."

Friesen also spoke on the importance of addressing health care in terms of both staffing and the delivery of services, and he especially cited a \$200 million multi-year plan for recruiting, training, and retaining nurses.

"This is in addition to the announcement of 400 new training seats for nurses," he noted. "I was very pleased to see that one of those training centres is coming to the City of Morden."

Friesen as well celebrated some of their recent successes including eliminating the cataract surgery wait times while reducing it by half for hip and knee procedures.

"We're well underway with our surgeries and diagnostic backlog task force progress," he said. "We know that wait times got worse from the global pandemic when we had to reconfigure our health care system ... now it's time to get back on track.

"If this means in the short term that we must send others away to other provinces because we can get a surgery or a procedure in a shorter amount of time ... we will do that because we will let nothing stand in the way of getting people the health care they need."

Friesen emphasized other government priorities ranging from growing the economy and increasing our competitiveness to further boost-

Continued on page 9

## Throne speech falls far short: critics

By Lorne Stelmach

Critics of the provincial government were quick to find shortcomings in the Conservatives' throne speech that kicked off the new session of the Manitoba Legislature last week.

Premier Heather Stefanson's plan that particularly cited privatization of health care won't save the system that the government helped break, stressed the NDP Opposition.

"Nothing the premier said today offers any help for parents who are dealing with a global Tylenol shortage or for patients at children's hospital," said NDP leader Wab Kinew, who noted it was just days after the ER at children's hospital experienced its highest single-day patient count.

"In fact, she did the opposite: her privatization plan goes against fundamental Canadian values, making it harder for families to get the care they need. The right to health care should never depend on what's in your wallet."

After cutting public health care for years, the Conservatives are now offering privatization as the only solution, Kinew said, when affordable, accessible health care is a Canadian right that must be protected.

The NDP also attacked the throne speech for including

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### > PENNER, FROM PG. 6

others who are also sailing on these unexpected waves.

Mom's little tinsel trees now surround my nativity scene. The ceramic shepherd and kings have happily made space for them. Mary smiles serenely at baby Jesus. And the lavender-scented angels sweetly watch over them.

You never know when that last Christmas will be. But I do know that up in heaven, there is a blue-eyed angel singing a sweet carol as I hunt through that box of ornaments. And maybe she's joyfully telling the other angels, "Oh my, look at that. She still remembers me."

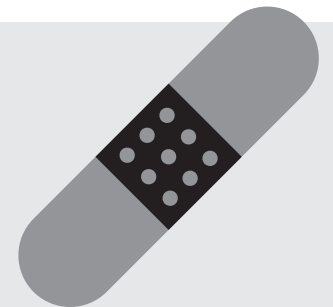
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Manitoba 

# getinformed

## It's going to be a rocky respiratory virus season: Doctors Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

Manitoba physicians raised alarm this past week about the escalating respiratory virus season and urged Manitobans to do all they can to help ease the pressure on the health care system.

Physicians are increasingly concerned about Manitobans' well-being and the risk of hospitals being overwhelmed as three viruses are increasingly spreading across the province, stressed representatives of Doctors Manitoba during a virtual news conference Nov. 16.

"It is very concerning," said Dr. Candace Bradshaw, president of Doctors Manitoba. "I'm not sure I can honestly say that there is capacity for even one patient at this very second, so things are that tight, and there's a lot of people putting in a lot of work to try to move patients around and getting the sickest ones into a bed so that more people can be seen in the emergency.

"It is becoming difficult to even care for kids coming in with compound fractures, needing an OR and needing to wait days to even get to that point because there are sicker children and babies coming in that need to be prioritized.

"This is really, really concerning, and it's something I have never seen or heard of," Bradshaw continued. "This triple virus threat is a serious risk for many Manitobans ... we're already

seeing signs of hospitals struggling to keep up with rapidly increasing patient volumes."

Respiratory viruses including RSV, COVID-19, and influenza can have serious outcomes, resulting in hospitalization, intensive care, and death.

Doctors are urging Manitobans take actions to protect themselves and those around them by slowing the spread of respiratory viruses this fall and winter. This includes many of the precautions that have become familiar over the last few years: get a flu shot and fall COVID-19 booster, wear a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated public places, wash or sanitize your hands frequently, and stay at home when you're sick.

Manitobans are also encouraged to plan now for an unpredictable respiratory virus season. Preparation should focus on ensuring your household has the following:

- Rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 on hand, which are still available for free at many locations.
- Good quality masks available, with medical or KN-95 masks offering better protection.
- Plans in place for household members to stay home when ill, including children.

"Planning ahead will ensure your family is ready to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses," said Dr. Michael Boroditsky, president-elect of Doctors Manitoba. "Take the time



SCREENSHOTS

Doctors Manitoba urged Manitobans to do what they can to ease the pressure on the health care system this winter. Speakers at a virtual press conference last week included Dr. Candace Bradshaw, a family physician and president of Doctors Manitoba, and Dr. Michael Boroditsky, an obstetrician/gynecologist and president-elect of the organization. Right: Boroditsky took some time to encourage and demonstrate proper mask use.

now to get ready and discuss your plans, so you aren't left scrambling when someone has virus symptoms in the days and weeks ahead."

"I am concerned about the spread of respiratory viruses and how that is putting our youngest Manitobans at risk ... we're seeing them going to the children's emergency departments in huge numbers," added Dr. William Li, a pediatrician and representative for the Health Sciences Centre medical district.

Dr. Bradshaw responded to a question about whether a mask mandate for public spaces should be considered again. She noted that she can't speak to public health decisions but could strongly encourage general advice such as wearing masks.

In response to another query about

concerns around the shortage of supply for children's pain medications, Li noted it is possible to crush Advil and adult Tylenol tablets together in certain amounts and apply it to things like apple sauce or yogurt for children.

"The dosing needs to be very specific, so it is important, if you're looking to do that route, to talk to your doctor or your pharmacist about that," he stressed.

Li also responded to another question about when parents should be taking their children to the hospital. His general advice was when they have had more profound lethargy, greater fever especially for more than a few days, dehydration and increased respiratory distress.

## Altona Christmas Vendor & Craft Sale is back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Altona's 9th Annual Christmas Vendor & Craft Sale returns this weekend after a two-year break.

"Before COVID, this event usually brought out between 500-600 shoppers," says organizer Trace Geworsky. "But this is my first event since COVID, so fingers crossed that our vendors will once again have an amazing turnout."

There are about 30 vendors signed up to take part, bringing with them a varied array of products.

"It will be a great Christmas shop-

ping experience for everyone," says Geworsky. "There will be a huge variety of things from Indigenous and pop art, a sublimation business that will do custom tumblers at the sale, handmade dog treats and toys, Christmas tree ornaments, candles, wax melts, fudge, luxury press on nails, crocheted items, jewelry, Norwex, and so much more."

Geworsky, a crafter herself, started up the show a decade ago to provide local artisans with a venue to reach customers.

"When I started with the craft shows, it was hard to find them in the

area ... there weren't a lot of opportunities for crafters to be able to showcase their work."

While that's certainly changed in the years since, Geworsky says she'll continue with the sale as long as there are vendors and customers interested in supporting it.

The sale takes place at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free, though people are asked to bring a donation of dog or cat supplies for the Pembina Valley Humane Society (there will be a donation bin at the main entrance).

"Every year I try to pick an organization that could use some form of donations, in lieu of charging admission," Geworsky says. "I want the vendors to have the most successful day, so I personally don't care to make our shoppers pay to come shopping."

The day will also include a silent auction featuring prizes from participating vendors and a 50/50 draw, with proceeds from both going to the humane society.

The rink's canteen will also be open, serving up snacks and meals throughout the day.



> THRONE SPEECH, FROM PG. 7

ing immigration and supporting mental health.

“There is something very real that is happening in urban communities and in our own, and that there’s been many effects of the pandemic and one of those has been a real increase in the number of people who are struggling with mental health and addictions issues.”

The throne speech outlined a series of initiatives the government plans to undertake to strengthen the province’s health care infrastructure and take aim at violent criminal behaviour while supporting efforts to tackle mental health, homelessness and addiction issues, including:

- Increasing supports for front-line law enforcement officers through in-

> THRONE SPEECH CRITICISM, FROM PG. 7

recycled announcements that fail to address root causes of such issues as public safety like poverty, addiction and cuts to education.

“Yet another opportunity for the premier to prove that she’s different from Brian Pallister has come and gone. This vision for the province is just a vague collection of things the PCs have attempted and failed to accomplish,” said NDP house leader Nahanni Fontaine.

The Manitoba Liberals said the throne speech was out of touch with the needs of Manitobans and was focused on reacting to issues the government itself created.

“If the PCs wanted to be bold, they could actually take responsibility and apologize for what they’ve done to hurt our health care system, the people who work in it and the patients and families who have suffered as a result,” said Liberal leader Dougald Lamont.

“Provincial systems and services are breaking down right now. Having functioning government departments isn’t a bold idea. It’s basic competence. We need basic steps to protect our people and our health system, and that’s not happening.”

The Liberals stressed there are a series of crises in the province that need to be urgently addressed, starting with health care. Other crises include a housing crisis, climate crisis and a cost-of-living crisis as homelessness and crime are on the rise.

Lamont said it is clear the Conservatives are out of touch on cost of living

vestments in technology, specialized training, enhanced police presence and support for more officers.

- Making an investment in Winnipeg hospitals to ensure Manitobans get the best care possible in the most modern facilities with a multi-year, multi-billion dollar capital investment.

- Providing financial support for up to 1,000 addictions treatment spaces.

- Reopening the Communities Economic Development Fund’s business loan program to support key sectors of a growing northern economy.

- Financially stabilizing Manitoba Hydro as a Crown corporation so it can continue to provide clean hydro-electric power for Manitoba residents and businesses at among the lowest

and that they have done everything they can to make pricey public announcements while falling short on Manitobans’ basic needs.

“People are running out of money for groceries and rent. Manitobans need the government to crack down on price gouging and play an active role in making sure that people who are being pushed over the edge have supports - seniors, families with children, and people living with a disability.”

Meanwhile, the government continues to push through property tax rebates without a plan on how to make up those huge losses to the public education system, observed James Bedford, president of the Manitoba Teachers’ Society

By 2023, cumulative education property tax rebates will be more than \$1 billion – money that could have been invested into Manitoba’s classrooms, he suggested.

“At a time when education funding has not kept up with inflation for the past six years, this is dangerous,” said Bedford. “We have great expectations around the public education funding announcement in the new year.

“The new funding model and announcement must guarantee funding that is adequate, equitable and predictable,” he said. “The diverse and growing needs of the students we serve every day cannot be punt-ed down the road again. This chronic pattern of underfunding must stop. Manitoba students need support now.”

rates in the country.

- Protecting students by establishing a teacher registry and an independent body to improve accountability and transparency related to educator misconduct in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools.

- Modernizing the waste diversion and recycling framework to divert more materials from landfills and create new business and job opportunities within a circular economy.

- Helping ranchers recover from climate-change driven droughts and floods by implementing a temporary rent reduction on agricultural Crown lands from 2023 to 2025.

- Continuing efforts to reduce red tape through regulation reform and modernization.

- Revitalizing the conservation officer service by hiring more officers and providing better equipment and technology to combat dangerous activities

such as poaching, night hunting and road hunting.

“This throne speech is a roadmap to a more prosperous future, building a province where its government helps make communities safer, healthier and stronger and its citizens and communities more competitive,” said Premier Heather Stefanson. “It is a course that is guided by listening to Manitobans and advancing reconciliation, protecting our environment and helping families make ends meet.

“Our government is focused on making our neighbourhoods safe places to raise families, building a strong and sustainable health-care system and helping make life more affordable for all Manitobans,” Stefanson said. “We are listening to Manitobans, taking action on their priorities and getting things done for the benefit of all Manitobans.”



PUBLIC NOTICE

Manitoba Hydro  
2023/24 & 2024/25 General Rate Application

Manitoba Hydro has applied to the Public Utilities Board for a 3.5 per cent average increase to electricity rates effective September 1, 2023 and a further 3.5 per cent average increase effective April 1, 2024. As part of this application, Manitoba Hydro is seeking final approval of the interim rate increase of 3.6 per cent implemented January 1, 2022. Manitoba Hydro is requesting increases to obtain the revenue needed to run the electric system, perform maintenance, and rebuild and expand the system as needed to continue to provide reliable, safe and effective service to customers.

**For a residential customer without electric heat** (using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month), the average impact of the proposed increase is approximately \$4 per month after September 1, 2023 and an additional \$4 per month after April 1, 2024.

**For a residential customer with electric heat** (using an average of 2,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month), the average impact of the proposed increase is approximately \$7 per month after September 1, 2023 and an additional \$7 per month after April 1, 2024.

Further details of Manitoba Hydro’s Application are available at: [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca)

HOW DO I SHARE MY VIEWS?

You can share your views on the proposed rate increases with the Public Utilities Board in three ways:

- **As a Presenter** – If you want to make a virtual or in-person formal presentation to the Public Utilities Board on this matter and are willing to respond to questions about your presentation, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and apply to become an approved Presenter. Presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.
- **Written comment** – If you would like to comment in writing on the rate increase, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and provide your written comment.
- **As an approved intervener** – If you want to actively participate in the public hearing as an Intervener, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and apply for Intervener status. Interveners are required to represent the interests of a significant group of customers and may be required to combine their intervention with others representing similar interests.

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WINKLER BIBLE CAMP PHOTO



VOICE FILE PHOTO

## Christmas Glow in the Country is back

Winkler Bible Camp hosts Christmas Glow in the Country Dec. 5-8 with a drive-thru meal and Dec. 9-18 without.

By Lorne Stelmach

A holiday season event created amidst pandemic restrictions has been so embraced by the community that there is no question of the Winkler Bible Camp continuing with its Christmas light display and drive-thru meal.

The only consideration again this year was how to not only make it bigger but do it better, said executive director Dale Wiebe.

"We've had such huge, positive traction and feedback on this whole thing," Wiebe said last week as they prepared for Christmas Glow in the Country. "We started it in a small way and it got tons of traction, so then the next year we did it a lot bigger ... and now we've further built off that, and we've changed things so we can accommodate even more people."

Christmas Glow in the Country invites people to come take a leisurely drive through the two kilometre route at the camp in the comfort of their own vehicle, tuning their radio to the Christmas Glow station and enjoying the festive displays and goodies.

From Dec. 5-8, the event includes a fundraising drive-thru pickup meal as well as the light experience. It runs from 5-6:30 p.m. those days and is by donation.

The drive-thru tour of lights then continues, without

supper, from Dec. 9-18 from 6-9 p.m. Admission is \$20 per vehicle.

Wiebe noted the event last year had over 15,000 guests, which far exceeded their expectations.

"It's been so successful just in the fact that people are really enjoying it," he said. "We've expanded it again for this year. It's a longer route."

"We've got almost 2,500 meals we're preparing for four nights ... and then we're going to be open after that for 10 nights straight."

Wiebe said they have planned it with safety in mind first and foremost, so they are emphasizing that people need to book their times in advance.

"Our hours are longer, so hopefully we will have a lot more people coming through, but we will be able to manage it better," he said. "We are directing people to go online to book a time slot so that we can keep it all safer."

COVID may have created the circumstances to initiate the idea, but it was something Wiebe's wife Candace had in mind for some time prior to the pandemic.

"She had been wanting to do this 10 years prior to this, maybe 15 years. This gave us that opportunity," Wiebe said, noting he sees the event as having a simple appeal that draws people: "When we hear from people, they just love looking at lights. Lights are just a beautiful thing. Lights are naturally just a beautiful thing to watch and to look at."

"We don't just light up things. We make scenes and create scenes, and I think that's one of the things that people have recognized ... the scenes maybe capture people's imaginations and the stories and you can just imagine what is going on because they are unique."

You can book your time slot online at [christmasglowinthecountry.com](http://christmasglowinthecountry.com).

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- 3 **IN PERSON**  
 Drop off your donation at any local Access Credit Union Branch.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week saw our region pull together 5,650 boxes. Above: Hochfeld School students raised enough for over two dozen boxes.

# Mission accomplished: Operation Christmas Child

Pembina Valley filled 5,650 (and counting) shoeboxes this year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There are going to be thousands of smiling kids half a world away thanks to this region's support of Samaritan Purse's 2022 Operation Christmas Child campaign.

Shoeboxes filled with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items poured into Winkler's Gospel Mission Church, our area's final drop-off

location, during National Collection Week last week.

"We're at about 5,650 boxes right now," said area coordinator Andrea Zammit on Monday, noting she expected a few more boxes might trickle in before the donations were shipped off to a depot in Alberta on Tuesday.

The numbers are down a bit from last year's 5,900 boxes, owing, Zammit speculates, perhaps to the tough economic times many families are experiencing these days.

But 5,650 shoeboxes is certainly nothing to sneeze at, she observes, thanking everyone who took the time to fill up a box for a child in need.

"And I had a lot of volunteers, peo-



Above: Tegan Mann (left) and area coordinator Andrea Zammit rounding up boxes in Altona. Right: Christian Derksen dropping off his family's donations at the Winkler depot during National Collection Week.



ple willing to help out, so that was good," Zammit says, thanking the many individuals who took a leadership role in rounding up boxes in their community and getting them to the central drop-off point last week. Zammit's region stretches from Crystal City in the west to Altona in the east, north to Carman and Morris and south throughout the Morden-Winkler area.

Communities like Plum Coulee real-

ly hit it out of the park again this year, Zammit says, noting they packed 1,018 shoeboxes. Plum Coulee's population, as per the last census, is 1,040.

Numerous local schools also rallied their students to the cause. Zammit shone a spotlight on Hochfeld School where teacher Simone Lik and her Gr. 1, Gr. 2, and Gr. 3 students together raised \$1,200 to pack a couple dozen boxes.

Continued on page 16

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## 7 winter car care tips

On top of investing in a pre-winter vehicle inspection, it's important to make time for cold-season car care. To prolong your vehicle's lifespan and ensure safe driving, make sure you perform the following tasks.

### 1. WASH YOUR VEHICLE REGULARLY

To remove calcium, prevent corrosion and avoid premature wear and tear, clean your car often.

### 2. USE THE DEFROST FUNCTION

If you remove ice from windshield wiper blades with an ice scraper, it can damage the rubber. Also, you should never pour hot water on your wipers because it may crack your windshield. Instead, use your car's defrost function to melt ice gradually.

### 3. ALLOW THE ENGINE TO WARM UP

To prevent wear and tear on your engine's moving parts in winter, warm up the oil and other lubricants before driving.

### 4. CHECK THE TIRE PRESSURE

Cold temperatures can cause tire pressure to drop, and driving on underinflated tires is a safety hazard. To prevent accidents, keep your tires inflated.

### 5. TOP UP YOUR FUEL TANK

To prevent condensation from forming on the inside of your gas tank when it's cold out, you should keep it relatively full. If moisture makes its way into the fuel lines, you may have trouble starting your car.

### 6. CHECK THE WASHER FLUID

Using your windshield wipers without washer fluid can wear out the rubber or scratch your windshield. Always keep washer fluid levels high, and keep a spare jug of it in your trunk.

### 7. KEEP YOUR WIPERS DOWN

Lifting your wiper blades off your windshield when your car is parked has more drawbacks than benefits. Over time, it can damage the springs in the wiper arms and make them less effective.

If you're concerned about the condition of your vehicle, make an appointment with your local mechanic.

## 5 criteria for selecting a snow brush

If your current snow brush has seen better days, or you're buying your first one for a new car, keep these five criteria in mind when shopping for this must-have accessory.

### 1. SIZE

If you're short or your vehicle is particularly wide or tall, choose a telescopic snow brush to easily clean hard-to-reach places.

### 2. SCRAPER

Instead of purchasing a separate ice scraper and brush, look for a model with a brush and ice scraper on opposite ends.

### 3. BRUSH

Although effective, bristle brushes can damage your vehicle's paint. Instead, look for a brush with flexible foam strips or a soft squeegee.

### 4. HANDLING

If you choose a telescopic snow brush or one with a rotating end, test it first to ensure the mechanisms won't jam.

### 5. STURDINESS

Winter can be hard on snow brushes, especially in icy conditions. Select a quality model that will last a few winters, so you don't have to replace it prematurely.

To find your new snow brush, visit your local automotive store.



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# PVWC celebrates three decades of growth in the valley

By Lori Penner

Pembina Valley Water Co-op (PVWC) held their 30th anniversary celebration last week, drawing current and past board members, dignitaries and PVWC customers from across the region.

CEO Greg Archibald says the actual anniversary date was in 2021 but the celebration had to be postponed due to COVID restrictions.

"But it all turned out to be a huge success anyway. Besides sharing a slideshow of past construction milestones, and a new video about PVWC, several leaders spoke of their memories of the water co-op over the years."

PVWC co-chair Don Wiebe and Midland MLA Blaine Pederson offered their greetings to the audience. Past board chair Paul Peters, long serving board member Charles Scharien, and past CEO Sam Schellenberg also did some reminiscing.

A highlight was a video detailing the organization's growth through the years, and its ongoing development and goals.

PVWC began because of a huge need for water in the region. It was formed in 1991 with 18 municipalities joining to supply potable water to all their residents and businesses.

"This anniversary is a really significant milestone for southern Manitoba, because of all the development that was possible because of the water co-op," says Archibald.

The first 15 years were about developing the infrastructure.

"When you go way back to the 90's, the first step was buying the Letellier water treatment plant from the Manitoba Water Services Board. They expanded and tripled in capacity, going from 32 litres a second to 96. Within a couple of years, they built a brand-new plant in Morris and a great big pond and put pipelines in all the different directions from the Morris plant to provide rural drinking water to that whole region. It was a huge undertaking."

When he came on board as CEO six years ago, Archibald said they began upgrading the Morris plant to a mem-

brane plant.

"Since I started, it's been all about upgrades. There have been two upgrades at Lake Stephenfield, and we're now supplying all of Carman's water. We put a new pipeline in from Roland down to Winkler to be able to put more water into the corridor, where the growth has been pretty aggressive. We now supply 35 percent of Winkler's water."

Developments happened in other areas, as well.

"There are nine municipalities that are heavily involved in agriculture, including Rhineland, with 25 percent of total water usage going to hog barns. In fact, about 30 percent of our water in that municipality goes to ag. Producers use treated water because it increases the effect of herbicides."

**"WE'VE BEEN EXPANDING AND GROWING OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL NEED AND DEVELOPMENT."**

Archibald says there's been a major shift from looking at it as just drinking water, to seeing it as a path to future growth and development.

"For example, Bunge, the largest single customer in Altona, uses 10 liters a second and they're interested in expanding. If we want to support future development, we have to look ahead, and upgrade the Letellier plant to keep up with it. We're putting in a four-liter reservoir as we speak, which will be ready for next summer. We also have a project with the Water Services Board to put in a new pipeline to pull up out of a deep spot in the Red River. That will triple our capacity, but then we also must upgrade the plant, which could be another \$35 million. It's a significant project."

Archibald says people don't really understand the value of potable water until they understand the complexity of the process to attain and produce it. They also don't fully realize how much it has helped the Pembina Valley grow in the last three decades.

"These plants distribute water through a 9,000 square kilometer distribution system across southern Manitoba. That's a huge area and a lot of pipes."



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**

The Pembina Valley Water Co-op gathered community leaders and supporters from across the region in Altona Friday night to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Veteran board member Charles Scharien (right) was among those who shared memories of the agency through the years, as was Sam Schellenberg (shown below, right, with Midland MLA Blaine Pedersen), who was PVWC's very first CEO.



"It's something you often don't give a lot of thought, unless there's a drought or a shortage. We've been expanding and growing over the last 30 years in response to local need and development. The effect of having

good drinking water across the valley has been huge. The economic impact is strong, and if you look at development as things grow in Manitoba, it's going to be very important to have adequate water."

# Altona author encourages all writers to chase their dreams

By Lori Penner

The Altona Library last week hosted local author Caleb Winterburn, who read an excerpt from his book, *Ruin Maker*. He also led a discussion about the pros and cons of being an author and shared his personal thoughts on storytelling.

*Ruin Maker* is a coming-of-age story wrapped in an epic post-apocalyptic world, in which three teenagers are forced to navigate the mysteries and politics of a dystopian future, all while they find their own identity, uncovering a sinister plot that threatens the entire globe in the process.

"The story is written with young adults in mind, specifically between the ages of 12 and 17, but I feel the story has enough depth that science-fiction and dystopian lovers of all ages would enjoy the plot," Winterburn says, noting he intends it to be the first book of a series set in the world he's created.

His inspiration for writing the book came from observing how common people suffer during big historical events.

"Oftentimes the real human element is missing from news stories about wars, or shifting ideologies. I know that sounds grandiose, but I wanted to write a story that showcased the human experience at the ground level during society-shifting events.

"I wrote it as a science-fiction story because that's the genre I know the most about," he shares. "I've been a sci-fi fan my entire life ... science-fiction

**"FINDING THE DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE WRITING DESPITE THE STRUGGLE WITH YOUR OWN INSECURITY, THAT IS THE KEY TO GETTING YOUR FIRST NOVEL COMPLETED."**

has always fascinated me, so it felt natural to couch my human-interest tale with a sci-fi twist."

Winterburn says writing a book has always been a dream of his.

"Circumstances in my life prevented me from actually putting pen to paper until very recently. I have an overactive imagination, and stories tend to build up in my mind until I finally express them through the written word."

Winterburn encourages other writers not to allow the lack of a post-secondary education to hinder their dreams.

"I really don't think a degree in writing or creative arts is necessary to become an author. Sometimes I imagine a degree would just hamper the creative process. If you are thinking of writing a story, just do it. There will always be detractors, don't mind them. If you have a tale that deserves to be written on paper, that's all that is needed."

When it comes to the process, Winterburn says you must be determined.

"There are so many challenges when it comes to writing and publishing a novel. First and foremost, your own

self-doubt. Finding the determination to continue writing despite the struggle with your own insecurity, that is the key to getting your first novel completed."

A thick skin is also required.

"Not everyone is going to like your story, and that's okay. As long as you like it, that's all that matters."

There are many things to arrange and procure when self-publishing a book, from cover design to proofreading to layout formatting.

"It can be a nightmare at times. The key is to take your time and do research before you act. There are dozens of excellent blogs out there that can help guide your self-publishing journey."

Caution is also key.

"Don't spend any money unless you're absolutely sure the service you are purchasing is legitimate and necessary, there are a lot of snake-oil sellers out there," he says, noting he used Amazon's KDP service and highly recommends it.

Beware of self-publishing companies offering a free ISBN (identifying serial number) along with their services, Winterburn warns.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona author Caleb Winterburn recently paid a visit to the Altona Library to discuss his new science fiction novel, *Ruin Maker*. He was also at the Winkler library on Tuesday.

"Do not accept those ISBNs. The government of Canada offers free ISBNs to authors, all you have to do is apply for an account online and request an ISBN. That way the rights to your creative work stay with you, without any third party claiming a piece of your material."

You can learn more about *Ruin Maker* and Winterburn's other work on his website: <https://burnedbywinter.wixsite.com/website>.

# Giving Challenge raises thousands for local foundations

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a record-breaking Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge week for the Winkler Community Foundation.

The campaign where donations to community foundations are stretched by partial matching grants saw the Winkler organization far surpass its goal.

For every foundation in Manitoba, a \$5 donation last week was stretched to \$7 with an additional \$1 each from the Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government, to a maximum of \$2,000 per foundation.

Winkler also had a number of other local supporters further matching donations received, turning that same \$5 donation into \$17.

They had set their sights on raising

\$75,000, but were blown away to find they had raised a whopping \$178,800 once the stretching dollars were factored in.

"The generosity was just unbelievable, and the support of our community made it really fun for me," said executive director Myra Peters. "It was unbelievable. I was speechless. I'm at a loss for words because it was just incredible.

"Every dollar counts, and they all add up to this large amount," she said. "We did have a few significant donors as well, so that did bring our number up high. We had also some new donors in there as well ... so we really capitalized on the stretching dollars obviously.

"We are just so thankful for the support of the community because we

are here to impact our community in positive ways, and this will allow for even greater impact in our granting to local charities and community projects."

Morden, meanwhile, came up a little short of last year's tally of nearly \$30,000, but it still gained over \$25,300 this year with the stretching dollars, so executive director Lynda Lambert is more than pleased with the outcome.

"There were a couple new donors this year, and a couple of one time donors last year who didn't donate again," she noted.

"I'm thrilled that people in the area want to invest in the foundation and invest in the future and leave a legacy for Morden and help sustain organizations way on into the future," Lam-

bert said. "It's awesome ... I'm happy about the whole thing."

The Plum Coulee Community Foundation gained over \$15,100, which was down from just over \$20,000 last year but close to the approximate \$16,000 that came in the year before.

"We're very happy with it," said foundation representative Moira Porte "It's less than what we collected the last two years, but it's still over \$15,000 that we gained.

"We really appreciate what the Winnipeg Foundation and the Province of Manitoba do for us to boost our fund," she said. "We're really happy for all of the community foundations."

The results for the Altona Community Foundation was not available at press time. We'll follow up with them in next week's edition.

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

# New learning centre helping local families with kids on the autism spectrum

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new learning centre in Winkler aims to give children on the autism spectrum a helping hand.

Clover Creek Learning Centre (CCLC) set up shop at 455 Roblin Blvd. East this summer. The non-profit organization offers social interactive play sessions for kids focused on building relationships and developing socialization and life skills.

“We ask parents what are some areas that you think your child might need a little bit extra support in?” explains CCLC educator Nolan Martens. “We’re really an extra resource for families. We just try to use this space and our teachers here in a way that can suit the unique needs that each child has.

“A few areas that pop up often are definitely behaviour and emotions, working on how can we learn to control them and kind of recognize our emotional state,” Martens says. “Communication skills is a big one as well. We have some students who are non-verbal and then it goes all the way up students who are very talkative. It’s amazing how unique every child is.”

The idea for the centre came from founder John Loewen, Martens’ father-in-law.

“He has a grandson who is on the autism spectrum,” Martens says. “So seeing him growing up and navigating some of the challenges and lack of resources in the area and the wait lists that come with some of the places in Winnipeg, it’s a struggle that my family related to.

“We recognize that there is that need in this area, so he started putting this

idea together that maybe we could open something here locally and try and help other families out.”

The family kicked the idea around for a few years before taking the leap this summer with space in a building in the industrial park.

“We renovated it so it suits the style that we need to support children with ASD [Autism Spectrum Disorder],” Martens says. “So we got our classroom set up, we’ve got a playroom, and also a mini gym, a sensory room.”

CCLC currently welcomes families for weekly one-on-one sessions of about an hour to an hour and a half.

“We use that time to just put full focus on those areas identified by the parents and try and make it as unique to the child as we can,” Martens says. “We try to base our sessions around their interests so it’s a fun experience for them ... that goes a long way towards helping students to learn.”

Right now they have nine families accessing their services and several more on a waiting list. They recently hired a new teacher and hope to be able to open things up to more families in the months ahead.

“The word is slowly starting to get out there that we’re here,” Martens says. “I think what we offer here is pretty unique and a lot of families are excited to have this extra support locally. There is a great need in the Pembina Valley for this.”

The centre is looking at instituting a flexible fee structure to ensure every family who needs their services can afford to access them.

“We know that can be a big barriers for families, so we want to make sure that we can get families in here and



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Educator Nolan Martens says the one-on-one social interactive play sessions Clover Creek Learning Centre offers kids with autism helps them learn to navigate their feelings and improve their communication skills.

not have money be a deciding factor,” Martens says.

“We opened this just to create a little extra help that families may need and we want this place to be seen as a place where their children can come and have fun and feel supported and

be set up for success. We honestly have a blast doing what we do. We love our jobs here.”

Learn more about Clover Creek online at [clovercreeklearningcentre.ca](http://clovercreeklearningcentre.ca).

## Manitoba Hydro applies for rate increases

By Voice staff

Manitobans will be paying more for hydro in the years ahead.

Manitoba Hydro submitted its two-year General Rate Application (GRA) with the Public Utilities of Manitoba (PUB) last week, seeking an electricity rate increase of 3.5 per cent in each of the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The agency is also seeking confirmation from the PUB of the 3.6 per cent interim rate increase it awarded in January of 2022.

“While we know rising costs are tough for many of our customers right now, and that no one wants to pay more for their energy, the rates we’re asking for are necessary to ensure we’re able to provide our customers with the safe and dependable service they need today and in the future,” Jay Grewal, Manitoba Hydro’s president and CEO, said in a statement.

“These proposed increases will help ensure Manitoba Hydro has the financial resources available to handle the

risks created by our \$24 billion debt load, and factors that are out of our control like fluctuating interest rates, export market prices and water levels.”

Grewal said the swings in Manitoba Hydro’s financial situation are potentially volatile and require more steps to provide a safety cushion and a path to long-term stability within a fast-changing energy landscape. Last year, for example, the utility experienced a \$248 million loss while this year it’s projecting net income of \$559 million—a swing of \$807 million. The improvement for the current fiscal year is due to higher precipitation last spring resulting in higher water flows, and higher prices on the export opportunity market.

Regular, predictable rate increases will help minimize that volatility, reducing the risk of rate shock to customers in future years, Grewal said.

“Our customers have told us that having those predictable rate increases



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The centre has a mini-gym space kids can use to burn off some energy.



PHOTOS BY  
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/  
VOICE

Santa Claus made an appearance at the Plum Coulee tree lighting festivities last Friday. The evening included carols, free hot chocolate, and a countdown to the switch flip that turned on the downtown Christmas lights.

## Coulee lights up for the holidays



### > SHOEBOXES, FROM PG. 11

"They involved the whole school, asked everyone to bring in donations. Kids were emptying their piggy banks," Zammit says. "They have only 72 students there and they raised \$1,200. Amazing."

As families, church groups, and schools dropped off their boxes last week, Zammit heard again and again how excited people were to support this campaign. It's become a Christmas tradition for many.

"They know it makes a big impact on each child that's receiving a shoebox," she says. "And not only that kid, but their families as well. Sometimes you hear about a child wanting to give their mother a washcloth they got, or a piece of jewelry. So one child can receive a shoebox but a whole family can be blessed, the whole community can be blessed."

"It's something that we can do here that's such a simple thing, but it can make such a big impact. It brings so much joy."

This year's shoeboxes are headed to West Africa, Central America, the Philippines, and Ukraine.

If you missed out on filling up a shoebox, it's not too late to do so, albeit virtually. You can donate to fill a box online at [packabox.ca](http://packabox.ca) until the end of December.

# Casera CU members okay merger with Access

By Voice staff

Members of Casera Credit Union have approved the recommended merger with Access Credit Union.

The Nov. 10-15 membership vote followed the completion of due diligence and a subsequent recommendation to merge from the boards of both organizations. Access members

were not required to vote since Casera represents less than 10 percent of Access' total assets.

The favourable vote means that the two credit unions will unite under the Access Credit Union name and brand on July 1, 2023.

"We're pleased that our members accepted the board's recommendation," said Robert Riddell, Casera's board

chair, in a statement. "Throughout the merger process, our goal was to deliver a proposal advantageous to our members, employees, and communities."

"We are excited for our future with so much in common," said Access CU board chair Kevin Beresford. "Working together, we will be able to offer more than just products, services, lo-

cations, and continued great rates. It is confirmation of our commitment to continue serving our members and communities with excellence."

The newly merged credit union will have more than \$10 billion in assets, over 168,000 members, more than 900 employees, and 56 branch locations.

# BLSD hires from within for student services coordinator

By Voice staff

Border Land School Division will have a new student services coordinator in the new year.

The division announced Friday it has appointed Franklin Rempel to the position, effective Feb. 6, 2023.

Rempel began his teaching career as a classroom teacher at W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona in 2010. After six years as a social studies and English teacher, in 2016 he shifted into the position of resource teacher and took a leading role in supporting inclusive education, planning with students

and their families, and working with Manitoba Education in English as an Additional Language.

In a statement announcing his hiring, the division noted that Rempel

### > HYDRO INCREASE, FROM PG. 15

is important to them, so they can more effectively budget for their energy costs," she said. "This GRA is an important step in providing customers that predictability."

As part of its GRA filing, Manitoba Hydro has provided the PUB with a long-term financial forecast scenario

is "passionate about working from a strength-based approach to support inclusive learning environments for all students.

"Franklin brings a strong work

based on current projections for the next two decades.

"Although this is only a rate application until the 2024-25 fiscal year, we want to ensure the PUB has all the information it requires as it reviews our submission and that we provide the fullest possible picture of the sce-

ethic, dedication to building strong relationships with the school community and a commitment to continued learning to this position."

narios we're most likely to face," Grewal said.

"Our commitment to our customers remains as true today as it has in the past: to provide safe, reliable energy at a cost that remains among the lowest in North America and be as efficient as possible as we do that."





## Turning on the Christmas lights



Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens (above) flipped the switch on the Christmas decorations in Bethel Heritage Park last Friday night in a community celebration that included Christmas carols from Garden Valley Collegiate choral students, bonfires, and free hot chocolate and s'mores courtesy of the Quality Inn.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

## IIU completes investigation into Winkler traffic stop injury

By Voice staff

Manitoba's Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has cleared the Winkler Police Service in connection with a collision that followed an attempted traffic stop this summer.

On June 8, an officer attempted to pull over the operator of a dirt bike on a roadway within city limits. The male suspect fled and subsequently struck a concrete curb, lost control, and was ejected from the bike, sustaining a broken wrist.

As a broken wrist is defined as a serious injury, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

Investigators reviewed related police radio transmissions, reports, offi-

cer notes, photographs, and the statements of civilian witnesses. They also met with and interviewed two civilian witnesses.

Despite numerous attempts to speak to the injured dirt bike rider, and promises by him to arrange for such a meeting, IIU investigators were unable to interview him nor obtain a consent for the release of medical information relative to this matter.

The civilian director found no evidence to support a finding that there is any level of contribution by the Winkler Police Service officer to the cause of the collision.

The affected person remains before the court on charges arising from the incident.

## Attention Kids...

### What's *Your* Christmas story?

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

1. You walk into your kitchen to find ... a snowman making hot chocolate for your family! What happens next?
2. Describe the most beautiful Christmas tree you've ever seen.
3. It's a snow day off from school! What will you do to make the most of it?
4. What are you most thankful for during the holiday season?

**We have TWO grand prizes up for grabs!**

**One K-4 and one Gr. 5-8 student will each win a free movie party at the local theatre for them and five friends, complete with snacks.**

Please include your first and last name, age/grade, town, and full contact information on your entry.

Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length.

Send your story to: [christmasstories@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:christmasstories@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**DEADLINE: Monday, Dec. 5, 2022**



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY LILI KRUSHEL



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## Christmas parades through Morden

Mordenites braved the cold weather Friday evening to usher in the Christmas season with the annual Morden tree lighting celebration. It kicked off with a winter parade through downtown followed by photos with Santa at the Civic Centre, outdoor bonfires handled by the Morden Fire Department, snacks and hot chocolate provided by Giant Tiger, Councillor Florian Lassnig turning on the lights on the town's Christmas tree, and, finally, fireworks.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## NPC students bring Anne of Green Gables to the stage

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate brings a musical version of a beloved Canadian classic to the stage this week.

The Winkler school's choral and drama students perform *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical* at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Nov. 24-26.

It's the first school theatrical production in three years, says drama director Angela Klassen.

"Our last one was Shrek in 2019," she says. As a result, there was certainly no shortage of students eager to showcase their dormant theatrical skills. "There's a lot of excitement about being able to do this again."

It's very much a school-wide production, with a cast of 36 and countless more behind-the-scenes crew,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A cast of nearly 40 teens from Northlands Parkway Collegiate performs *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical* at the Winkler concert hall this weekend.

including staff members and students from NPC's art, cosmetology, and electrical programs.

The show is, of course, based on the book by L.M. Montgomery about an orphan girl who is sent to live with

siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuth-

Continued on page 22

# sports & recreation

## Flyers best Wolverines 4-1, twice

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers made short work of the Waywayseecappo Wolverines in a pair of home-and-away games over the weekend.

Playing in Winkler Friday night, the home team added a 4-1 victory to their record.

Trent Penner got the ball rolling with the only goal of the first period. The Wolverines managed to tie it up with one of their own midway through the second, but Rhett Marchant pulled Winkler back into the lead a few minutes later.

The final period was all Winkler, with two more goals coming in from Nicholas McKee and Mike Svenson.

Winkler shooters had 40 shots on net overall, while Flyers netminder Malachi Klassen faced down 38, making 37 saves.

The next night in Waywayseecappo was a repeat score, though this time around it was the Wolverines who drew first blood with an unanswered



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler goalie Malachi Klassen keeps a close eye on the loose puck in Friday night's home game against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines, which the Flyers won 4-1.

goal midway through the first.

That was all they got, though, while Winkler's offensive lines managed three goals in the second (Dayton Kiesman, Trent Penner, and Logan Fillion) and one final nail in the coffin in the third courtesy of Zach Nicolas a minute in.

Waywayseecappo had the edge in shots this game 41-37, but Malachi Klassen had an almost flawless run in net, making 40 saves.

With the pair of wins the Flyers move up into second place in the MJHL's MGEU East Division this week. Their record of 15-5-3-1 is good for 34 points, which is two points behind the Steinbach Pistons in first

place. Nipping at their heels are the Portage Terriers in fourth place with 32 points.

Winkler wraps up November with a pair of road games over the next week, playing at the Winnipeg Blues this past Tuesday and in Selkirk against the Steelers Saturday night. They're back on home ice Friday, Dec. 2 to host the Dauphin Kings.



Friday's game saw the Flyers go through warmups wearing Peace Begins at Home jerseys in honour of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Representatives from Genesis House were on hand that night to talk about the services they offer the victims of domestic abuse. Left: The second-place winner in the shelter's art contest, Danilyn Wiebe, was on hand to drop the puck alongside parents Kyle and Audrey and brother Korbin and Flyers captain Trent Sambrook and Wolverines captain Andrew Boucher. (Contest winner Alex, a Gr. 4 student from Minnewasta School in Morden, couldn't make it that night.) Above: The national anthem was sung by Gr. 2-3 students from Winkler Elementary School.

# Male Hawks extend win streak to five games

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are now riding a five-game win streak after sweeping their weekend home-and-away doubleheader with the Eastman Selects.

The Hawks needed overtime to edge the Selects 4-3 Friday in Beausejour but then earned a 4-0 shutout Saturday in Morden.

Marek Miller scored the winner 4:32 into extra time in game one for Pembina Valley, who tied it up in the third period to force overtime.

Jayden Penner, Sebastian Hicks and Liam Goertzen also scored for the Hawks, who were outshot 45-35 but got solid goaltending from Bryson Yaschyshyn with 42 saves.

Raiden LeGall then got the 29 save shutout Saturday for the Hawks as

they took period leads of 1-0 and 3-0.

Hicks collected a powerplay goal while Ty Love scored shorthanded with the other goals coming from Carter Campbell and Kam Thomas. Eastman held a slight 29-28 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley maintained their hold on fourth place at 13-4-2 for 28 points, which has them even with the Winnipeg Thrashers, who however

have one more victory. Yellowhead is trailing the Hawks by four points.

The Hawks next face a tough challenge with another home and home doubleheader with the Brandon Wheat Kings, who are in first place, having won 16 of 17 games so far. They first face off Friday in Brandon and then Saturday in Morden.

# Female Hawks down Lightning, fall to Chiefs

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were on both ends of 3-1 games this past weekend.

They edged the Interlake Lightning by that score Saturday in Stonewall but then fell by the same count to the Yellowhead Chiefs Sunday in Shoal

Lake.

The Hawks took 1-0 and 2-0 leads on the Lightning in periods one and two.

The Hawks got goals from Caitlin Anderson, Gracie Carels and Zenith Vanstone, while Jessica Anderson chipped in a pair of assists, and Kaylee Franz stopped 13 of 14 shots

on goal.

Yellowhead broke open a 1-1 game with two unanswered third period goals Sunday.

Naomi Scharf scored the lone Hawks' goal in the first period, and Kasia Rakowski made 31 saves while Pembina Valley had 31 shots on goal.

The weekend split leaves the Hawks in sixth place at 4-10-1 for nine points, which is one ahead of Interlake and two behind Eastman.

The Hawks have only one game this week with the Central Plains Capitals Saturday in Portage.

# Altona Maroons, Morden Bombers post SEMHL losses

Maroons face Aces, Bombers take on Beavers, Royals play at Wild this week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local South Eastern Manitoba Hockey teams had a tough go of it this past week.

Altona fell to Carman 7-5 last Thursday night while Morden suffered a 3-2 shootout loss to Ile des Chenes Sunday afternoon. The Winkler Royals didn't play.

The Altona-Carman game saw Justin Augert get the Maroons up on the board early in the first period, but the Beavers responded with a trio of goals to take the lead.

Tristen Dueck closed the gap with the only goal of the second period, scored with 37 seconds left on the clock, and then Augert got his second of the night 27 seconds into the third to tie the game at 3-3.

Carman made it 6-3 with a flurry of goals in the first five minutes, and Altona spent the next 15 minutes playing catch-up.

Goals from Altona's Robert Guimond and Skylar Klassen nearly got them there, but with the clock counting down and the Maroons' net empty for the extra man, Carman got one more goal to secure victory.

Cole Kehler made 50 saves in net for Altona as Carman narrowly outshot the Maroons 56-55.

The Morden-Ile des Chenes game

was equally hard-fought.

After a scoreless first period, Morden ended the second frame up 2-1 thanks to goals from Evan Wuerch and Mike Rey.

It then took all the way until the very end of the third period (18:26) for the Northstars to sneak the tying goal past Morden netminder Reed Peters, forcing what proved to be a fruitless overtime. The ensuing shootout then broke Ile des Chenes' way.

Peters made 52 saves off 54 shots in net for Morden. His teammates fired

28 the other way.

With that, the SEMHL standings a month into the season have Ile des Chenes (5-1), Ste. Anne (4-2), and Winkler (3-3) in the top three spots, respectively.

Morden is in seventh place with a 2-2 record but also a couple games in hand. Altona is in 10th and last place with one win, five losses thus far.

This week, Altona hosts Ste. Anne on Thursday, Winkler plays at Red River Friday, and Morden is in Carman Saturday night.

# Twisters fall short against St. Vital Victorias

By Lorne Stelmach

They battled hard against one of the MMJHL leaders, but the Pembina Valley Twisters came up just short last week.

The Twisters at least gained a point in falling 6-5 in overtime to the Victorias Thursday in St. Vital.

Pembina Valley led 2-1 after one, but the game was tied 3-3 after 40 minutes, and St. Vital eventually scored

the winner 3:12 into overtime.

Brett Bergman, Derek Wiebe, Cody Clark, Riley Goertzen, and Nico Vigier scored for the Twisters, while Matt Grysuik made 27 saves with Pembina Valley holding a 36-33 edge in shots on goal.

The Twisters remain mired in ninth place at 4-8-1-1 for 10 points, which has them five up on the last place Raiders and two behind St. Boniface

and three back of Charleswood with both Stonewall and Charleswood just four up.

The week began Tuesday for the Twisters with a visit to Charleswood. The results were not available at press time.

Pembina Valley is at home in Morris to welcome the Raiders this Friday and then heads to Transcona to take on the Railer Express Sunday.

*The* **Voice**

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# Morden Christmas Cheer collecting donations

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Christmas Cheer Board is preparing for what might be a record-breaking year.

Volunteer directors share they're expecting a number of factors might mean a significant increase in the need for hampers this holiday season.

"We're anticipating there is going to be a need for more this year," said chairperson Carolyn Schellenberg, pointing to difficult economic conditions but also especially the influx of newcomers.

"When you think even of all the people from Ukraine who have been coming over, we are anticipating an increase ... there's so many who are coming just about every day."

Delivery day last December saw 276 packages of gift cards distributed to families in need around the community.

The move from hampers filled with food to grocery gift cards was done, in part, to lessen the number of volunteers that needed to gather amidst pandemic restrictions. The change was well-received and so the board has decided to stick with it again this year.

"We are going with [gift cards] again this year in part as we have so many different culture groups coming into the community, we don't know what their needs are," said Schellenberg. "This is what we have done the last two years, and it's worked well, so we are carrying on with it."



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Above: The Morden Christmas Cheer Board volunteers. Right: Tye Dandridge-Evancio at PHAC with the donation box for art supplies for youth.

"This year, we are including toys again. We haven't done that the last couple of years. We want each child for sure to have a toy. That's important to us."

The Cheer Board works with Morden Co-op, Giant Tiger, Pharmasave, Morden Dollar Store, Kroeker Farms (The Potato Store), and community donations to ensure all individuals have their needs met for the holiday season and feel the support and care from their community.

In addition, the Pembina Hills Arts Council is doing an art supply drive for teens in partnership with the Cheer Board. From now until Dec. 11, it is accepting new or gently used art supplies (suitable for artists 13 and up) at either the gallery or Morklers.

Applications for hampers are available in the lobby at the Morden Civic Centre and online at [www.mordenchristmascheer.com](http://www.mordenchristmascheer.com). The application deadline is Dec. 6. Hamper delivery will be Wed., Dec. 14. Volunteers are needed to help.

Recipients can expect gift cards and some non-perishable food items along with toys, books, and craft supplies for children.

The Morden Fire Hall will have a drop off spot for donations Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout December. There will also be donation boxes at Giant Tiger, Morden Legion, Morden Activity Centre, and Shear Bliss and other locations around the community until Dec. 12.



PHAC PHOTO

# Show off your tree decorating skills in Morden next week



By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Hills Arts Council together with the City of Morden and St. Pauls United Church is offering a little bit of holiday fun with a chance to win a prize package.

They are jointly hosting a tree decorating contest that will be held at the church Saturday, Dec. 3, with voting then taking place over the following few weeks.

"The trees will remain up for two

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Liza Isakov, new administrative co-ordinator for the Pembina Hills Arts Council, decorates the gallery tree with Tricia Dyck, outgoing administrative co-ordinator. PHAC and the City of Morden is hosting a tree decorating contest at St. Paul's United Church Dec. 3.

weeks, and photos will also be up on Facebook and people will have the chance to cast their votes for their favorite tree," said Tye Dandridge-Evancio, PHAC programs and outreach co-ordinator. "It's a fun holiday thing but with a tie-in to art. It's a tradition we can invite the whole community to participate in."

The idea came through City of Morden event co-ordinator Lili Krushel, who was on set for a Hallmark movie that was filmed in Morden and which featured a Christmas tree decorating competition.

"She brought the idea to us, and we leapt at the chance to do something like this," said Dandridge-Evancio.

The idea then got a boost when the Morden Community Thrift Store donated a bunch of trees to be decorated. A number of local businesses have

Continued on page 22

# Local support makes Minnewasta School playground a reality



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Funding from the Morden Community Thrift Store and Morden Area Foundation helped Minnewasta School build its new natural playground. Above: Students thanked reps from the two organizations for their support last week.

By Lorne Stelmach

The support of two local organizations made a new school playground structure possible in Morden.

The Morden Community Thrift Store and Morden Area Foundation each contributed \$10,000 towards the natural playground at Minnewasta School.

It came in at a cost of \$24,500, so the two grants really made it happen sooner rather than later, noted Rhonda Plett, a member of the school's parent advisory council, which spearheaded the project.

"Lots of fundraising has gone on," Plett said. "We liked the natural playground idea, and we had the great support of the thrift shop and the foundation to make this dream a reality."

She explained that the idea had been in the works for a few years, and the need for it was made especially clear during the pandemic.

"Because of COVID, we were separated into three cohorts, and the one cohort and the one area didn't have anything to play on."

## > ANNE OF GREEN GABLES, FROM PG. 18

bert in the fictional town of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island.

The musical version of the story was written by Donald Harron with music by Norman Campbell.

"It's the one that always plays in Charlotte-town," shares Klassen, noting the kids have been having a blast preparing for the performances. They've been rehearsing since shortly

## > TREE DECORATING CONTEST, FROM PG. 21

supported the event as well with donations for the grand prize package.

People are invited to sign-up in teams of up to four. There is a limit of eight teams. Register online at <https://www.pembinahillsarts.com/events/holiday-tree-decorating-contest> or in person at the gallery.

Each team needs to come up with a decorating theme and bring everything they need to make it happen on the day of the event. They'll get

The advisory council also liked the idea of having a natural playground, which uses wood and more natural materials and blends into the space.

"It's not a steel structure," Plett explained. "They can be closer to \$80,000 or \$100,000, and that just wasn't feasible right now with our budget or fundraising capabilities. And there is the ability to add on to this play structure because it is a custom build for the area."

"It's lovely. It's really nice," said thrift store board vice-president Francee Last-Stambuski. "We thought that this was a really good project for our money to support the school and keep the kids entertained on the school grounds."

"The natural playground idea is great," agreed foundation representative Allison Braun.

"It's always good for the foundation to support children in our community," she said. "We want to encourage as much outdoor time as possible ... this helps expand the outdoor play options, and it's a place to bring the community together outdoors."

after school started in September.

"For people who love Anne of Green Gables, it's still the same story as the book, but with music," Klassen says.

The show runs nightly at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday through Saturday.

Tickets are available online at [www.winkler-concerthall.ca](http://www.winkler-concerthall.ca) or in person at the NPC office.

their decorations back once the contest is over.

The public is invited to view the decorated trees in person or online at [www.mymorden.ca/events](http://www.mymorden.ca/events) to vote for their favourites between Dec. 3-15.

"Decorating a tree can have an art to it, and it's also a community-minded thing to get people involved," said Dandridge-Evancio. "It's just meant to be a fun, holiday thing around the tradition of decorating a tree."



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# New home for Faith Mission



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Faith Mission in Winkler cut the ribbon on its new home at 520 Circle K Drive on Saturday. Left: Doing the honours was Mayor Henry Siemens (centre), flanked by mission founder Jake Elias (right) and special guest Alex Janzen from the mission's sister charity in Germany. Right: The dedication ceremony was followed by an open house with tours of the new facility. "We're very, very blessed to be in this community, to have this opportunity to share God's love with the rest of the world, as we have tried to do for almost 30 years now," said Elias, sharing they had just sent a shipping container—their 275th overall—filled with clothing, soup, and other aid supplies to Ukraine last week and they expect to be able to send another this week.

# Morden Festival of the Arts to host full sessions next spring

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Festival of the Arts is planning its first full-fledged program since the pandemic began.

It is exciting for the festival to be making its return given its importance to the local musical and artistic community, suggested organizers.

"It feels good ... and hopefully it will all go smoothly and as planned," said longtime committee leader Erika Dyck. "On an average year, we would have around 500 to 600 festival entries, so we're hopeful that everybody will get back at it and participate again."

The festival had two years of cancellations due to COVID restrictions and a shortened version this past year.

Now in its 48th year, the Morden Festival of the Arts is a volunteer-run registered charity that provides a venue for performance, instruction and adjudication in the areas of band, strings, sacred, piano, vocal/choral and French and English speech arts.

The aim is to foster and promote continued interest, growth and development of talent within the arts. The festival keeps entry fees as low as possible to encourage all the children of our community to share their love of the arts.

"Some of the younger ones haven't had a festival experience for the last few years, so it's a good thing for them especially," noted Dyck.

"When it comes to music, a lot of the students spend a lot of time practising, and it's nice to be able to perform

what you practise. For choirs, as well, they've had a few years of not having live concerts," she added. "When it comes to speech arts, there are kids who really love to speak in front of other people, and some don't love it as much ... but they still need and want that opportunity."

The tentative schedule for 2023 is for the strings, sacred evening, and piano sessions to take place in March followed by band, vocal/choral, speech arts, and the hilights concert in April.

The Morden Festival of the Arts uses the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals provincial syllabus for all classes and numbers. A copy of the syllabus can be found at all Morden school libraries as well as at the Morden branch of the South Central Regional Library.

A listing of speech arts selections and the associated class and number can be found on the festival website, and copies of speech arts selections are available at each of the school libraries.

Piano, strings, sacred and vocal registrations are generally done through the students' private music teachers.

New this year, performers can take part multi-age/multi-level classes for adjudication only (no marks will be given and they will not be eligible for awards or provincial recommendation).

Entry forms and submission details are available online at [www.morden-festivalofthearts.com](http://www.morden-festivalofthearts.com).

A festival volunteer will be at Maple

Leaf School on Jan. 25 and at École Morden Middle School Jan. 26 to assist with speech arts entries with cash or cheque payments.

Jan. 27 is the final deadline for all 2023 festival entries.

The Morden Festival is fortunate to have a hard-working and dedicated group of volunteers who serve on

the committee year-round, but it is always looking for new volunteers to get involved. Anyone interested in assisting at individual sessions can call volunteer coordinator Marlene Britton at 204-823-0794.

For more information, head to the festival website or contact Dyck at 204-823-0208.

## The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doell  
Inspired By: 2 Bill Watterson



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

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

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

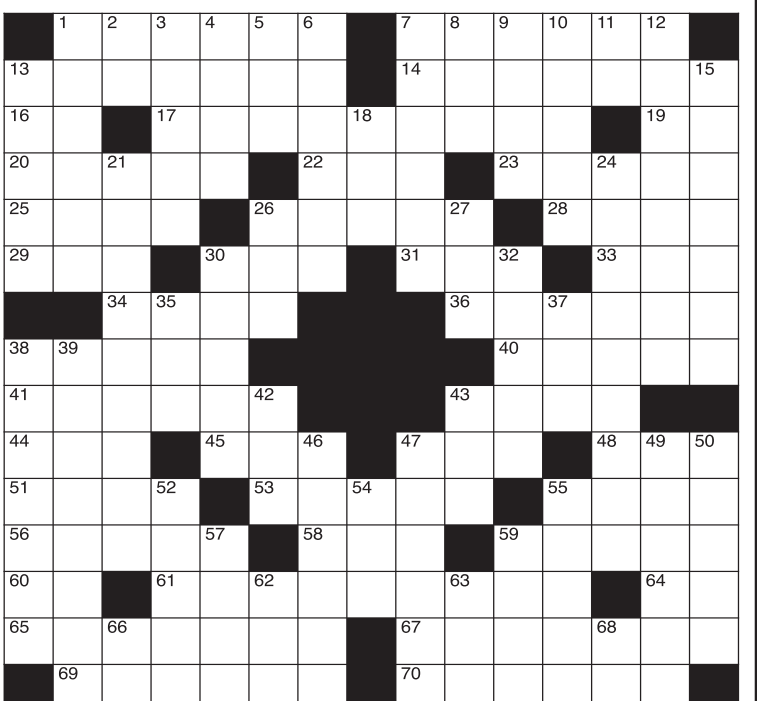
**Sudoku Answer**

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

**Crossword Answer**

## CROSSWORD

**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. India's "City of Lakes"  
7. Large marine mammals  
13. Used to carry belongings when traveling  
14. Rechristens  
16. Equally  
17. Heavy plant-eating mammals  
19. Millihenry  
20. Japanese immigrant to N. America  
22. Deep, red-brown sea bream  
23. Norse gods  
25. Peppermint and pekoie are two  
26. Auguste \_\_, founder of positivism  
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual  
29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)  
30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking  
31. V-shaped open trough  
33. People of southern Benin  
34. People of southern Ghana  
36. It's a significant creed  
38. Period between eclipses  
40. Furies  
41. Emerged  
43. Philippine Island  
44. Where wrestlers battle  
45. Unhappy  
47. Central European river  
48. Language  
51. Semitransparent gemstone  
53. Forming in a bottom layer  
55. Distinct region  
56. Broad blades  
58. Leavened bread  
59. Influential cosmetics exec  
60. Exclamation of surprise  
61. Era free of war  
64. One who helps professors  
65. Idealistic  
67. Ornamental plants  
69. Grouped  
70. Kids love this street  
**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Beloved hound



2. Equal to 100 grams  
3. S-shaped moldings  
4. Hawaiian cliff  
5. Everyone has one  
6. Subatomic particle  
7. Ghost  
8. Adult female bird  
9. Greek temple pillars  
10. Emits coherent radiation  
11. Measures the width of printed matter  
12. Musical interval  
13. Tantalizes  
15. Places of worship  
18. An unskilled actor who overacts  
21. One who volunteers to help  
24. Precaution  
26. Beverage holder  
27. Very long period of time  
30. Bullfighting maneuvers  
32. More critical  
35. Sends packing in a boxing match  
37. Taxi  
38. Decorative Russian tea urn  
39. North American Great Plains natives  
42. Seize  
43. A passage with access only at one end  
46. Cut a rug  
47. Devil rays  
49. Bubble up  
50. Veranda  
52. Outcast  
54. Car mechanics group  
55. Realm  
57. A place to get off your feet  
59. Popular music awards show  
62. Consumed  
63. A way to make cooler  
66. Thus  
68. Indicates it's been registered



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## DEVOTION

### Devotion

If you do not know Jesus before you die, Heaven will not be your home.



## COMING EVENTS

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Gateway Resources is looking for you to join our expanding team! We are hosting a job fair on December 1st from 3pm -6pm at our Main Office site located at 1582 Pembina Ave W in Winkler.

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Sophia Davidson Carruthers Dell

Thinking of you

-Ralph, family and friends

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- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

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

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Email: [news@stonewallteulontribune.ca](mailto:news@stonewallteulontribune.ca)



## OBITUARY

Rheal (Nick) Gerald Joseph Messner  
1962 – 2022

Rheal passed on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at his residence surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Adele; his children, Jaclyn (Brady) and Breanne (Chris).

Rheal was born July 2, 1962 in Swan Lake, Manitoba to Gerald and Leda Messner. He was the eldest of seven siblings. Nick spent his childhood in Somerset, Manitoba. After he married Adele Cassels in 1987 they moved to Winnipeg where he received his Autobody repair diploma. They later moved to Manitou and he purchased his own body shop. After selling his shop he was employed at his dream job of running a grader. He loved building roads across Ontario and Manitoba. He started his last job at the RM of Thompson in 2018. He was finally able to have a job he



loved, work with great people and be at home. Nick still enjoyed working on cars. He rebuilt many cars for his girls, and he finally rebuilt one of his own. He made himself a 1967 rat rod that he was so happy to complete and ride in.

We want to thank his brothers, Alain and Serge, for always being there when Nick needed them, Flo for being his breakfast partner, Brenda and Lyndon for being such great friends, our camping friends for always being there for laughter and fun and to all friends and family for your calls and visits. Thanks also to CancerCare and especially to the palliative team who treated us with so much respect. Jackie and Breanne, you meant the world to your dad. He loved you and was so proud of you. We could not have made it through this difficult time without you. Rest easy Nick, Titan was waiting for you.

As to Rheal's wishes, a private interment will take place.

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



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

## COMING EVENTS

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*“And thou shalt call his name JESUS:  
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sins.” Mathew 1:21*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the  
Gift of God is eternal life through  
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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Servings: 8-10  
 6 Envy apples  
 2 tablespoons golden caster sugar  
 1 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/2 cup, plus 2 tablespoons, water  
 1 tablespoon corn flour  
 1 large plain sponge cake  
 2 cups vanilla bean custard  
 1/2 cup caramel or butterscotch sauce,  
 plus additional for garnish, divided

## Apple Custard Sponge Trifle

1/2 cup cream  
 fresh apple slices  
 fresh strawberry slices  
 Peel, core and dice apples; place in large saucepan. Add caster sugar, cinnamon and 1/2 cup water. Simmer apples 5-8 minutes until tender.

Combine corn flour and remaining water. Stir corn flour mixture into apples until apples are syrupy.

Cut sponge cake into 2-centimeter diced pieces. Arrange 1/3 of sponge pieces in base of serving bowl. Add half of cinnamon apple pieces, including syrupy juices. Add 1 cup custard and drizzle with 1/4 cup caramel sauce. Repeat with remaining ingredients, finishing with sponge cake; chill.

Whip cream and spoon dollops over sponge cake to cover top. Garnish with apple slices, strawberry slices and caramel sauce.



Recipe courtesy of "The Produce Moms" (@theproducemoms)

Balsamic Dressing:  
 1 tablespoon honey  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt  
 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, finely ground

## Apple Wreath Salad

1 large garlic clove, minced  
 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar  
 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
 Salad:  
 10 ounces baby arugula  
 3 Envy apples, sliced  
 9 ounces goat cheese, crumbled  
 3 ounces pomegranate arils  
 3 ounces pecans, toasted

To make balsamic dressing: In small serving bowl, whisk honey, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper, garlic, balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

Place dressing bowl in center of large board or platter. Arrange arugula around dressing bowl in wreath shape.

Place apple slices on top of arugula. Sprinkle on goat cheese, pomegranate arils and pecans.



Streusel Topping:  
 1/2 cup flour  
 1/4 cup chopped pecans  
 2 tablespoons light brown sugar  
 4 tablespoons butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
 Filling:  
 4 tablespoons butter  
 2 pounds Envy apples, cut into 1/4-inch slices  
 1/2 cup light brown sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/8 teaspoon grated nutmeg  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 3 tablespoons flour  
 1 deep dish frozen pie shell  
 Preheat oven to 375 F.

## Brown Butter Apple Pie

To make streusel topping: Mix flour, chopped pecans and light brown sugar. Stir in butter using fingertips until incorporated with small lumps of butter visible. Refrigerate.

To make filling: In large skillet over medium heat, melt butter until amber, stirring often. Set aside to cool. In large bowl, stir sliced apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, vanilla and flour using spatula. Pour brown butter over apples and mix, scraping skillet with rubber spatula to incorporate brown butter bits.

Place frozen pie shell on baking sheet. Add 2 cups apple mixture into shell, gently pressing apple slices for even base. Add remaining apple slices and gently press. Sprinkle streusel topping evenly over apples.

Bake 30 minutes then reduce oven temperature to 350 F and bake 35-45 minutes until topping is golden and apples feel tender when pierced with fork.

## Recycling 101 – aluminum and steel containers

By Karl Daher

Our first article of the series focused on glass recycling in Manitoba. Today's article will address aluminum and steel container recycling. Although the last article spoke about how glass placed in the blue box was not recycled but reused as aggregate in road construction within landfills, steel and aluminum are the most valued recyclables in the blue bin. In the case of aluminum, it can be recycled indefinitely. It has been estimated that 75% of the produced aluminum is still in use today.

Just like glass jars and bottles, aluminum and steel containers from food products can be placed in blue bins and bags. Containers should be rinsed of visible food particles. Labels do not need to be removed. Only include food containers – this includes pet food containers, so Rover or Snowball can get in on the recycling as well! There are two items of food-grade aluminum that should not be put into recycling – aluminum foil and aluminum pie plates or trays. The problem with aluminum foil and plates is that they cannot be mixed with aluminum cans due to their melting point. Cans melt at a much higher temperature which causes the foil and plates to turn to ashes in the smelter. If you don't have another use for them, aluminum foil and pans need to be put into the waste bin.

Cans that store fuels, chemicals, paints, or aerosol cans are household hazardous waste items. These must not be placed in blue boxes or in household waste. They need to be delivered to your local household hazardous waste depot. Locally,



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Aluminum and steel help make up a lot of the dollar value for recycling.

they can be dropped off for free at the Winfield Road Transfer Station or the Teulon-Rockwood Waste Disposal site. On the other hand, items such as steel or aluminum pots and pans and larger items such as appliances have a scrap metal value. Scrap metal dealers will pay the going rate for the metals you are recycling. Locally, Interlake Salvage & Recycling in Stonewall is such a scrap metal dealer.

Lastly, one type of aluminum beverage container is unlike any other in Manitoba in that you pay a deposit on them upon purchase. Empty beer cans can be returned to vendors to redeem the deposit value. Please check with your local vendor for rules on returns.

Aluminum and steel help make up a lot of the dollar value for recycling. Always ensure you put all your aluminum and steel cans into the blue box each week.



## Roasted Apple Macaroni and Cheese

In large pot over high heat, melt butter then saute diced apple until caramelized and tender. Sprinkle in flour and stir. Cook 1 minute, stirring frequently.

Whisk in heavy cream and milk; bring to boil, whisking frequently so milk doesn't burn.

Once boiling, turn heat to low and whisk in cheddar cheese, Romano cheese, gruyere cheese, salt and Worcestershire. Continue whisking until cheese is melted thoroughly.

Carefully pour mixture into large blender and blend on high until smooth.

Pour cheese sauce over noodles and stir.

Pour macaroni and cheese into 9-by-13-inch pan and spread evenly.

Heat oven to broil.

To make topping: In medium bowl, melt butter and stir in panko breadcrumbs.

Sprinkle breadcrumbs over macaroni and cheese; broil until golden brown.

Salted water  
 1 pound macaroni noodles  
 4 tablespoons butter  
 1 Envy apple, peeled and diced  
 4 tablespoons flour  
 2 cups heavy cream  
 2 cups milk  
 3 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated  
 1 cup Romano cheese, grated  
 1 cup gruyere cheese, grated  
 1 tablespoon kosher salt  
 1 teaspoon Worcestershire  
 Topping:  
 2 tablespoons butter  
 1 cup panko breadcrumbs  
 Bring large pot of salted water to boil. Add noodles and cook until just tender. Drain and set aside.



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**BUILDING SUCCESS LOCALLY**

**Red River Mutual: a history of giving  
back to the communities it serves**

Red River Mutual (RRM) believes everyone has a right to feel safe and protected and know that someone is looking out for them – while they're watching out for others. With policyholders owning businesses, farms, and homes all the way from Thunder Bay to the Rockies, Red River Mutual is committed to providing competitive insurance products that meet the changing needs of Canadians.

The company began in 1875 as the Mennonite Insurance Organization, with the mandate to protect the interest of Mennonites who immigrated to Canada from Russia in the 1870's. These newcomers were settling on farms and hamlets and didn't have protection from fire or other elements, which prompted the need for insurance coverage. Thus began a grassroots organization that incorporated into a mutual insurance company in 1941, and has continued to thrive ever since.

Today, Red River Mutual employs over 160 people, with insurance brokers that represent them in commu-

nities across Canada. RRM employees work hard to protect the homes, businesses, and farms of their policyholders, creating people stories that make them special, and the company also provides the same attention and care for their employees.

Marketing communications coordinator Kailynn Newediuk joined the company in 2020 and says it's been an enriching and positive experience. "You can really tell we live out our values. We're making long term goals together and truly care for each other like family. I feel valued here, and it's so empowering to know we're making a difference in people's lives."

Red River Mutual is also actively involved in the community. Their Spruce Up Your Story campaign helps repair and maintain community spaces in the regions they serve. "This initiative is about honouring and protecting spaces that are well loved and well used but may have a little wear and tear on them because they have been such a big part of these communities,"



Newediuk says.

"In the past three years we've been able to improve 30 spaces across Manitoba and Saskatchewan, from libraries to hockey rinks, town halls, community centres, parks, gardens, and playgrounds - the list goes on."

With a strong and inspiring past, Red River Mutual is expanding their footprint across the Western Provinces, while investing in the areas of data, analytics, and technology, so that the policyholder is better served through their broker network.

Growing into the future, Red River Mutual continues to live out their purpose and vision to be a positive force in the community and in the lives of their customers.

Our purpose is to be a positive force in the lives of our customers and communities because we know it's the people we protect who matter most.

**We're proud to still be involved in the rural roots where our story began.**

Ask your broker how Red River Mutual can protect more than just your home, farm, or business.

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