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VOLUME 2 EDITION 48

THURSDAY,  
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## A visit with St. Nick

Penny Gilson was delighted to find Santa Claus at the Altona Night of Lights celebration on Nov. 25. For more photos, see Pg. 12.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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# Town of Altona council unveils new strategic plan

By Lori Penner

In a move signaling a forward-looking approach, Altona town council, now one year into its mandate, has unveiled a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the community's development over the next three years.

"When our term started, we looked back to the previous four years and reviewed the progress on goals set by that council," said Mayor Harv Schroeder. "After a year of working on those goals and receiving feedback and requests from the community, it was clear that we needed to look to the future now. We knew that we wanted input from the community on our plan."

The process began with an online community engagement survey earlier this year to get a broad view of things that are important to Altona residents. Over 200 people responded.

"We also brought together about 25 people from the community, aiming for a representative demographic sample, to discuss issues that were important to them in a focus group, giving us a deeper understanding of

what was important," Schroeder noted.

These steps helped council shape the long-term plan for Altona, along with adding their own perspectives as elected leaders. They then met with administration over the period of several months, refining our plan and giving it focus, finally boiling it down to three key strategies, one of which is a commitment to making fiscally responsible decisions.

"Taxpayers of Altona expect that we will put their tax dollars to good use," the mayor stressed. "To us, making good decisions with money starts from having good information."

This strategy, Schroeder added, includes using data to make decisions that are right for the community, the use of sustainable funding models, finding grant and funding opportunities, investing in the care and upkeep of existing assets, allocating appropriate resources to support operations, exploring new and different solutions to operational needs, and collaborating with community and regional partners.

The practice of good environmental stewardship will also play a key role.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona town council has unveiled a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the community's development over the next three years.

"Taking care of the environment means taking care of our future," said Schroeder. "We are committed to looking for opportunities to reduce Altona's impact on the environment and to improve Altona's climate resiliency."

Based on the community's growth over the last few years, preparation for sustainable growth is another priority.

"Altona has been growing over the last few years and will continue to grow. It's important that all the sectors of Altona are growing at a similar rate," Schroeder said. "We can't have a big boom in industrial growth without also having more housing, and we can't have a big population change without preparing for an increase in need for municipal services."

While these three strategies will be applied across all the town's departments and decision making, four areas of focus came up in the consultation process as most important: recreation and culture, transportation infrastructure, economic development, and organizational strength.

"We have great recreational and cultural assets that exist because people who came before us had the vision and dreams to plan for it," noted Schroeder. "Over the past year, or few years, we've had a lot of dreamers come to us with big plans for future recreation and want to make sure we are making the right decisions for the future with the space we have available. We will use our key strategies to care for and maintain what we already have and create a long-term plan for upgrading or renewing these assets."

Throughout the planning process, Schroeder said council heard a lot of feedback from the community focus group concerning roads, sidewalks, and trails.

"We heard loud and clear that taking

care of the infrastructure that keeps us moving is critical, and are committed to doing so, and preparing for the future."

Developing the local economy will also be a priority.

"Creating a good environment for economic growth paves the way for a vibrant, prosperous, and resilient community," said Schroeder. "We'll use our key strategies to promote and support economic growth, including supporting the skilled worker pool by continuing to attract and support the integration of newcomers into our community and by preparing for development across all sectors."

"Supporting those who provide essential services to the community is another important focus," he continued. "Ensuring that those services remain excellent means that we need to focus on the strength of the organization. We'll use our key strategies to make sure that operations are well supported and have the appropriate resources available."

"Being a strong organization also means building strong relationships. We'll continue to focus on our regional and community collaborations and move forward in a spirit of reconciliation."

Moving forward, council will be setting deadlines and target goals in their plan to implement these strategies, and working to make sure the entire municipal team is all on the same page.

They also want to continue to keep the community informed on how these strategies are being applied.

"We will make sure that the community is up to date on our progress on these initiatives, including regular updates that will be provided through council meetings, our website, and through our other communication channels," said Schroeder.

"ALTONA HAS BEEN GROWING OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW."

## RHINELAND CONNECT

CONNECT is a new communication system that allows the Municipality to share community information with residents and non-residents on a regular basis and on multiple platforms.

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**Emergency alerts will be sent to everyone registered no matter their selections may be.**
- 4 Stay Informed & Involved**  
CONNECT will handle everything else! You can feel confident about staying well-informed and fully engage in our communities without any worries. **Connect with us!**





# Region packs over 5,500 Christmas shoeboxes

By Lorne Stelmach

Organizers are pleased with the region's response to this year's Operation Christmas Child drive.

There were over 5,500 shoebox gift hampers packed to be shipped off to a number of possible destinations around the world, including West Africa, Central America, Ukraine, and the Philippines.

"It is right on par with last year, so we're very happy about it," said regional co-ordinator Adria Dyck once the dust had settled on collection week. "It was very successful. It went well. It was great to see people still participating this year even though costs are higher and things are expensive."

Dyck noted that this region has been known to go above and beyond with its contributions of shoeboxes for families in need.

"I have heard that our region is

very generous compared to other regions in the province or even in the country," she said. "We have a really generous region, and you can see that people really believe in the mission and the ministry.

"I think a lot of people understand the heart behind it; it's not just about the gift, but it's about the program and the ministry that happens in country after the kids receive the gift," she added. "I think a lot of people in this area really connect with that and feel passionate about it."

A program of Samaritan's Purse, the Operation Christmas Child campaign seeks to deliver joy and the good news of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box is packed with toys, school supplies, and personal care items.

This year's campaign culminated with collection week Nov. 13-19, and there were a number of locals donors



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The local collection depots were filled with a sea of Christmas shoeboxes Nov. 13-19. The Pembina Valley region packed over 5,500 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

who showed up armed with hundreds of boxes.

"There are a couple sisters who did over 700 boxes together this year," shared Dyck. "There was another lady and her mother who did about 300 boxes.

"We had a lot of churches participating again this year, and there is a church in Plum Coulee that did over

a thousand boxes," she said. "We had lots of families bringing in boxes and doing it with their kids.

"It's very heartwarming. It's nice to hear the stories from the people bringing them in ... it kind of becomes a thing that gets passed on from generation to generation, so it's very cool to see it all coming in."

# Giving Challenge benefits local community foundations

By Lorne Stelmach

Community foundations across the region received big boosts to their endowment funds this month.

Area residents were encouraged to make donations to their local foundation between Nov. 13-19 as part of the Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge.

Donations made that week were stretched by the Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government, significantly increasing the amount foundations received (up to \$4,000 for

\$10,000 raised in donations). In some cases, there were additional stretch donations made local companies and businesses as well.

"We had a tremendous year," said Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation, which in total saw its endowment fund increase by \$98,343 thanks to Giving Challenge donors.

"Each year we've definitely seen an increase," she said. "It's been 10 years

Continued on page 4

## Attention Kids...

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

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

1. Create a story that starts with this sentence: "Come on," Sue said. "Go caroling with us. It will be fun!"
2. What do you like MOST about winter?
3. What do you think Santa Claus would want for Christmas? Share his holiday wish list and the reasons why for each item.
4. Write about a character who is returning home for the holidays for the first time in a long time.

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 Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length.

Send your story to: [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)  
**DEADLINE: Monday, Dec. 4, 2023**





SUBMITTED PHOTOS



# Unmasking domestic violence

By Voice staff

Genesis House's third annual Unmasking Domestic Violence Masquerade Gala was a resounding success for the regional shelter.

Organizers shared last week that the event, held at the Access Event Centre in Morden Nov. 17, raised \$29,300 to support the victims of domestic violence in our area.

That's up several thousand dollars from last year's gala, which raised about \$26,000.

The evening gathered together 110 attendees in their red carpet best to match the old Hollywood theme.

Aura Studio's Kailey Thiessen taught the group dance steps from the Roaring '20s while 11-piece brass band The River City Syncopators provided the soundtrack for the night.

"The masquerade theme is partially just a fun excuse to get dressed up. It also is also a great 'visual' for the task we have at hand," said Sophie Gerbrandt, community and resource development coordinator for Genesis

House. "Domestic violence thrives in silence, hidden in the dark, behind closed doors. Unmasking domestic violence is a crucial step toward ending the cycle of abuse within families and our communities.

"Behind every mask is a story that we may not know."

You can connect with Genesis House online at [genesishouseshelter.ca](http://genesishouseshelter.ca).

If you need help, the local crisis line number is 1-204-325-9800 or call the 24-hour crisis line at 1-877-977-0007.

## > GIVING CHALLENGE, FROM PG. 3

now that we've been doing this, and we've raised over \$610,000 in the last 10 years, so this giving challenge really has been a big draw for donors.

"The support that the Winnipeg Foundation and Endow Manitoba initiated as a campaign for the province has really been beneficial for us."

Peters added that the community has really latched on to the challenge.

"We definitely see a number of donors who wait for this time of year so that their dollars can have an even greater impact in our community because they are stretched," she said. "It's also about the awareness that the campaign brings because it's a chance for us to talk about the foundation in the community and for them to learn about what we do and how we give back to the community."

"Each year ... if we're granting at five per cent, from a \$100,000, that's an extra \$5,000 each year," Peters noted. "It's so exciting to see the community fund grow ... we have so many requests for funding from our charities and non-profits, and this gives us a chance to meet a few more of those requests."

The Altona Community Foundation brought in just over \$40,000 in total, so president Haydon Friesen was quite pleased.

"I think it's even more than we've had in the last couple of years ... it's great to see," he said. "We're very happy obviously ... we're grateful for our generous community, and we look forward to being able to add that to our endowment fund."

"It's encouraging to see that some of our public relations efforts maybe are paying off and that people are becoming more familiar with what the community foundation is about and what we have been doing," noted Friesen. "It seems it does grow year after year with more and more people supporting their community foundation."

The Morden Area Foundation's endowment fund grew by about \$34,000, which included \$6,000 in stretching dollars from Decor Cabinets.

"We are very happy with the Giving Challenge. We are very thankful for the stretching money from Decor this year," said chairperson Sue Nelson, who noted the week's tally was an increase from the just over \$29,200 raised in 2022.

She noted they are now looking forward to their annual meeting Dec. 13, where they will announce new grants and funds.

In Plum Coulee, the foundation brought in just over \$16,846 overall with the matching dollars.

Community development chair Moira Porte noted the Giving Challenge for them was again centred around their annual soup and pie fundraiser.

"I'm very happy with it ... it's about the same. Last year we had about \$16,000 as well, and the year before we had \$20,000, so, all in all, we're doing okay," said Porte. "It's a very significant amount for us, and we are really happy with the donors. They believe in our foundation, and they want to invest in it."

Manitoba is home to 56 community foundations, which is more than any other area of the country.

Donations to a community foundation are pooled and permanently invested. Every year, those investments generate money that is distributed as grants to support local charitable needs.

The **Voice**

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# Morden Elks support Many Hands food bank

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden food bank got a boost last week from the local Elks Lodge service club.

The organization donated the \$5,000 it raised from selling beef on a bun at the Corn and Apple Festival this summer to the Many Hands Resource Centre.

The club members who get involved in organizing the sale have a say in where the proceeds go, explained Henry Penner, exalted ruler of the Elks Lodge.

"This year they were thinking it was very important that there's a place like Many Hands. It is really needed," he said. "We've always done capital

projects and that sort of stuff, but this is a good place to put some money into the community because it's helping immediately where it's really needed now."

Many Hands executive director Mariyam Tsygankova expressed her "heartfelt gratitude to the Elks for their generous donation to our organization.

"Their support will make a significant impact as all of the funds will be directed to the food bank," she said. "This donation not only provides essential resources but also symbolizes the strength of the community. When we come together for a shared cause, I think that is great."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Elks Lodge exalted ruler Henry Penner with Many Hands executive director Mariyam Tsygankova and Elks beef on a bun organizers Brian Hlady and Jeff Gionet at the cheque presentation last week.

# NDP government outlines priorities in first throne speech

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial NDP government released its first throne speech Nov. 21 to open Manitoba's 43rd legislature, promising to address long wait times for surgeries and diagnostic MRIs, reduce hospital backlogs, grow the economy, help Manitobans cope with the cost-of-living crisis and work with Indigenous and municipal partners.

The NDP won the October provincial election with a strong focus on fixing Manitoba's broken health-care system.

The throne speech sets out a course to address the "immediate crisis" in health care and reduce wait times by opening additional surgical slates [operating schedule] at the Grace hospital and expanding spinal surgery capacity at the Health Sciences Centre, Concordia Hospital and the Brandon Regional Health Centre.

"In one of our first acts, we reached out directly to Manitobans working in our health care system today. We committed to being a listening government and shared our plan to reset the relationship with health care staff on the front lines. Our team is launching a health care listening tour which will hear from the staff at the bedside across the province. We will hear directly from Manitobans who care for you at the bedside," states the speech.

The government promises to take care of health-care workers by fostering open and transparent communication, reducing burnout and holding

management accountable to improve the working lives of health-care staff.

To improve retention and recruitment of health-care workers, the NDP will create a culture that will empower workers and let them make decisions.

The NDP will restore emergency care services as it works to "staff up our health care system" by opening new ERs at the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg and the Eriksdale Hospital.

The government also promises to protect and provide access to abortion services, as well as provide free birth control.

To help Manitobans cope with high inflation, the NDP promises to put a temporary hold on the provincial gas tax and freeze hydro rates.

"At the start of the new year, our government has a plan to give you a break at the pump – we have a plan to pause the provincial gas tax, saving you 14 cents per litre every time you fill up," states the speech.

The gas tax reduction is expected to start on Jan. 1, 2024.

The speech says a "significant" new policy to lower costs for agricultural producers and ranchers is forthcoming, and that the government will partner with the agriculture industry to invest in "agricultural science, innovation, resilience and sustainability."

To help address the climate crisis, the NDP promises to focus on the environmental impacts of government policies and bring in measures to help

families afford hybrids and electric vehicles, as well as make their homes more efficient with geothermal heat pumps.

In partnership with the federal government, the province will use \$500 million in new investment to expand the electricity grid and deliver low-carbon affordable electricity.

"Today we are proud to announce that we have a commitment from the federal government to work with us on our plan to help families make the switch to affordable, geothermal home energy," states the speech. "This collaborative approach will help us deliver on our commitments to reduce emissions, lower costs for families and create more low-carbon jobs."

About 5,000 homes would be converted to geothermal energy over the course of four years.

The new government will also focus on working together with Indigenous governments, the Manitoba Metis Federation and municipalities.

To advance reconciliation, the government will introduce legislation to recognise Louis Riel as the first premier of Manitoba and make Sept. 30, Orange Shirt Day, a statutory holiday. It will strengthen municipal economies by providing infrastructure, services and multi-year funding.

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals' president Jason Linklater said the organization is encouraged by the new government's commitment to fix the health-care

system.

"MAHCP is encouraged by changes we are hearing and seeing, in tone, in approach, in government's willingness to listen and work with us," said Linklater in a statement. "Steering away from for-profit care, reinvesting in staffing and implementing ground-up solutions are what health care needs. Allied health professionals are waiting to see that change translate to the front line, where they are still dealing with short staffing and unmanageable workloads. The staffing crisis hasn't gone away, and patients are seeing it in unacceptable wait times for ERs, scans and ambulances."

Interlake-Gimli MLA and former agriculture minister Derek Johnson, whose Progressive Conservative party now sits as the Official Opposition, said there are a lot of promises in the NDP's throne speech that will have to be balanced with fiscal reality.

"It will be a matter of fitting those promises into the budget while keeping our provincial coffers from going into debt," said Johnson. "It's like a credit card: you can only spend so much on it before the interest becomes overwhelming."

In response to the NDP's claim that Manitoba faces fiscal challenges because of unsustainable commitments the PCs made, Johnson said he thinks that refers to the \$1.5-billion-dollar commitment the former government

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*The* **Voice**

# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



**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



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

## Calling all angels

**A**s we plunge into another Christmas season, I'm thinking back to all the Christmas concerts of my youth, and all the ones my kids were a part of.

Most of them included a nativity scene: Joseph and Mary, the baby Jesus (played by someone's doll) swaddled in a makeshift manger, a motley group of shepherds and wise men dressed in bathrobes, and sometimes there was even some unfortunate kid dressed as a sheep, crawling across the stage to the delight of the audience.

There was also an angel or two, with their tinsel halos and white gowns glowing under the spotlights. Angels didn't play a huge role in those school and church pageants, but they featured pretty large in the actual Christmas story.

First, there was the angel Gabriel, who came to the Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, telling them that even at their old age, they would soon become the parents of John the Baptist. Gabriel makes his next appearance in Nazareth, to tell a much younger Mary the happy, but daunting news that she was going to give birth to Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

After Joseph finds out Mary, his fiancé, is carrying a baby that isn't his, he considers leaving her. But another an-

gel appears to him in a dream, urging him to marry her, because the baby was conceived by the spirit.

The night Jesus is born, another angel appears before a group of shepherds near Bethlehem, telling them that Jesus was born and where to find him. They are joined by a bunch of angels, which the Book of Luke describes as a "multitude of the heavenly host" rejoicing the birth of this tiny Messiah. Picture what could have been tens of thousands celestial beings singing together and lighting up the night sky. What an amazing image, and exactly how I picture my own entrance into Heaven one day.

Angels also warned Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt when the evil King Herod sought to murder Jesus. After Herod's death, the angels reached out to Joseph again in a dream, telling him it was safe to take his family back to Israel.

Angels were the messengers, the proclaimers, the chorus of hallelujahs and ultimately, the protectors during the greatest event that ever happened on this planet. Their appearance is threaded throughout the Old and New Testament, showing up about

285 times. They often appeared in dreams or visions. They usually came by surprise, in times of crisis or confusion. Most of them didn't have wings but took human form.

Do angels still appear to people today? I believe that they do. In fact, the Bible advises us to be kind to everyone we meet, because we may be talking to an angel without even realizing it. I've had many people just randomly show up in my life, to comfort me and reassure me. God's messengers, who understand how vulnerable we are. The Bible tells us they catch us when we fall. And while there's no specific scripture to prove there is such a thing as guardian angels, I like to believe that each of us has one dedicated to our personal welfare. I think mine must work overtime.

I see children making angels in the snow and hanging little glass angels on their Christmas trees. I hear them mentioned in Christmas carols and other songs about deliverance.

I think about them a lot since I've had loved ones move to Heaven, and I wonder if they can see me, and still

Continued on page 7



**By Lori Penner**

### Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

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

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

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

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

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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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# PVHS launches Santa Paws donation drive

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is once again running a Christmas campaign to help stock its shelves for the year ahead.

This is the third year of the Santa Paws initiative, which calls on supporters to donate such supplies as dog and cat food.

"The last two years have been incredibly successful, so of course we were going to bring it back," said Holly Thorne, PVHS marketing and public relations chairperson.

She said the main benefit of the campaign is it can take some of the cost burden off

by providing some of these supplies for at least part of the year. They can then focus their funds on things like vet bills for injured animals as well as spay and neutering costs.

"We started it with the idea that if we could collect as many of the urgent and necessary supplies that

we need for the animals in our care for throughout the year then we wouldn't have to worry about spending as much of the money on things like cat food, kitty litter or whatever else," said Thorne.

"We know we're not going to get all of the supplies for the entire year ... although that would be very nice ... we just need the basics like dog food, cat food, kitty litter," she said. "We would like to keep more of the money that donors give us for things like medical emergencies."

Their hope would be to get at least 300 cans each of wet cat and dog food along with kitten food, clumping cat litter, and laundry detergent.

"We're always washing bedding and toys and other things," said Thorne. "The amount of laundry that we do is surprising."

She sees the campaign as a great way for the community at large to support the humane society.

**"WE JUST NEED THE BASICS LIKE DOG FOOD, CAT FOOD, KITTY LITTER."**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Shelter animals like Buck (left) and Millie are hoping the community comes through for the Pembina Valley Humane Society this holiday season. The regional animal shelter has put a call out for donations of cat and dog food, cat litter, and laundry detergent.

"The last two years have been great. It's a simple way for people to help," Thorne said. "I think people find it very easy when they're at the grocery store, if they see cat food on sale, they can easily pick up a number of cans ... it doesn't cost a lot, but it can all make a huge impact for the day-to-day operation of the shelter."

There is a bin located outside the

door of the shelter in Morden for people to drop off supplies at any time. There are also drop-off locations elsewhere in Morden as well as in Winkler, Altona, and Carman. Head to [pvhsociety.ca/events-2/operation-santa-paws/](http://pvhsociety.ca/events-2/operation-santa-paws/) for a full listing of locations and needs.

The drive runs until Dec. 22.

# Gas tax holiday won't be "giving a break to farmers"

From Pg. 5

made to rebuild the central core of the Health Sciences Centre over a period of six years and invest in health care. The funding for HSC had already been approved by the government's Treasury Board, on which he used to sit.

"I'm guessing the new government has to look at that [commitment] because they have different priorities from what our government did," he said. "As PCs, we thought that was a great investment in our health care system. The Health Sciences Centre serves not just Manitoba, but north-western Ontario and Nunavut. It's the main trauma centre for them. And STARS [air ambulance] flies trauma patients directly to HSC. The building in the centre of the hospital is over 100 years old and it needs investment, which includes bringing everything up to a new standard for ventilation to reduce the risk of having respira-

tory illnesses like COVID being transferred from room to room."

As far as the government's commitment to retention and recruitment of health-care staff, Johnson said the PCs had always encouraged employees in all sectors to come forward with ideas to help improve their industries and had introduced an innovation fund to encourage the generation of new ideas.

The NDP's promise to lower costs

for agricultural producers and ranchers falls short, said Johnson, because the PCs had promised in their campaign to reduce the cost of agricultural Crown land by 50 per cent to help producers cope with the drought of 2021 and overland flooding in 2022. And the gas tax reduction coming in the new year won't benefit farmers.

"The NDP's gas tax holiday won't be giving a break to farmers," said Johnson. "They're not reducing the

price for fuel per litre for farmers and producers who use purple fuel; they're not getting the same reduction as the rest of the population. The NDP is talking about inputs being high for farmers yet they're not doing anything for them with this gas tax holiday."

The throne speech is available on the government's website at [www.gov.mb.ca/thronespeech](http://www.gov.mb.ca/thronespeech)

## > PENNER, FROM PG. 6

protect me in some way.

I've seen people doing the work of angels: visiting the sick, donating food for those who are struggling, calling, praying, and providing support and love in hundreds of different ways.

We are social creatures, and we need each other. We all exist together under the same sun, and most of us have had a few hard times to remind

us that living on this side of Heaven isn't always easy. We all need angels from time to time. And even though we don't have halos or wings, we can all be angelic in our own way.

We can tell people how much they are valued and loved, even if it's just over Facebook. We can leave a gift, send a card, share a few Christmas cookies, a plateful of food, or just a hug to show we care. We can pray

for the comfort, the protection, and the peace that every angel provides. We can be the messengers of hope this Christmas season, telling everyone not to be afraid, and declare that a Saviour was born who loves us and will carry us through anything life throws at us, and that we'll never walk alone.

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



# arts & culture

## The Color wins two more GMA Covenant Awards

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local band The Color have two new Gospel Music Association Canada Covenant Awards up on their shelf.

The trio of Jordan Janzen, Larry Abrams, and Tyson Unrau were named Group of the Year and Pop Artist of the Year at the awards held in Kitchener, Ontario this month.

"It's an honour," said Janzen. "This is a year where we don't have any new music out and often times the awards are based around release dates. We've been touring a lot this last year, so it's pretty cool to be recognized for that."

With Janzen's wife expected to give birth to their third child any day now, the band opted to miss the ceremony so he could stay close to home for the big day. But that didn't dampen the excitement at being honoured.

"There's definitely an element of it speaking to who we are and the type of work we do and our willingness to stick with it. We've been doing this for over a decade now," Janzen said. "So to be recognized, I think for us it's



Larry Abrams, Jordan Janzen, and Tyson Unrau of The Color were honoured at the GMA Canada Covenant Awards earlier this month.

[FACEBOOK.COM/THECOLORMUSIC](https://www.facebook.com/thecolormusic)

just an affirmation of the work that we're doing and an encouragement to keep going."

A lot has changed for since The Color was formed.

"When we started this band in 2012, a bunch of us weren't married. Some of us weren't even dating at the time,"

Janzen said. "So it's definitely a different season now where everybody in the band has kids.

"I think the word that I would use for this season is just intentional in trying to be wiser in when we're away ... you have to prioritize family, because at the end of the day this music

thing will end at some point, and we want to make sure that we're doing a good job at home, too ... it's definitely a challenge that we're continually re-evaluating."

Janzen shared they're hard at work on music for a new album. He's also been focusing on his solo efforts.

"I released a song back in August, and so we're kind of playing out how that goes before we officially release some new music with The Color, but it will probably be in the not-too-distant future."

In the meantime, fans were able to enjoy the release of a Christmas song a few weeks ago ahead of the band's A Colorful Christmas Tour, which has them performing six shows in Manitoba and Alberta next month.

"We've been doing it annually in Winkler for a long time, but it's been something that we've really enjoyed bringing across the country as well," Janzen said.

The tour includes a show at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler on Saturday, Dec. 9.

## GVC students launch their businesses at artisan market



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Garden Valley Collegiate hosted a successful artisan market Saturday in The Zone. It included dozens of vendor booths featuring the work of local artisans, including students from the school's venture development class who have spent the semester building their own businesses from the ground up. Above: One of those businesses is Sugared, offering lip and body shrubs made by Gr. 11 students Raegan Peters and Judith Fehr. Right, top: Sage Jewellery offers custom jewellery from students Michelle Beckstedt and Eliana Deblits.





# Board games are coming to a SCRL branch near you

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The South Central Regional Library is beefing up its catalogue with something new this winter.

Staff were recently able to use some excess funds to purchase a couple dozen brand new board games that can be taken out by patrons.

"We previously had a few games in Winkler and Morden in the past, but those were mainly for in-library use," says Raina Teigrob, office manager for the Winkler branch and branch administrator in Miami.

"In Miami, we had a patron come in and donate a bunch of old board games that she'd had, and that got me thinking about the fact that we could do board games ... it's something you do see in other libraries."

The pandemic pushed the idea back

a few years, but when funds became available recently, cataloguing technician Joanna Dueck says they jumped at the opportunity.

"It seemed like a really good thing to add to the collection for people to borrow so they don't have to spend money to try a new game out," she said.

The stack of games runs the gamut from classics like Clue to a range of modern hits, including Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Dixit, Mysterium, Carcassonne, 7 Wonders, Codenames, Cascadia, and many more.

"We got some more popular names that people would recognize, but also some that you might have never heard of," Teigrob said, noting they also have a few kid versions of games like Ticket to Ride. "We even have a few one-player games that you can play solo, which is really cool."

You can search the full list of available games by heading to [scrl.mb.libraries.coop](http://scrl.mb.libraries.coop) and searching for "board games" under the "toys, puzzles, and equipment" category.

Teigrob said they plan to continue to grow the collection, both with future purchases of new games and, hopefully, donations of gently used games from the community.

"We're hoping to get a lot more of the classic games, standard games by donation and then we can really focus on

**"WE GOT SOME MORE POPULAR NAMES THAT PEOPLE WOULD RECOGNIZE, BUT ALSO SOME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE NEVER HEARD OF."**

putting the money into newer, unique type of games," she said.

"Right now I think we're at 34 games to start with, and this is just our first purchase of games," Teigrob said. "In the new year we'll be buying more."

If you'd like to make a game donation, reach out to your local SCRL branch.

As far borrowing the games go, it works the same as any other library loan.

"It will be a three-week checkout, like a book would be," Teigrob ex-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Raina Teigrob and Joanna Dueck with some of the South Central Regional Library's new board game purchases, which are now available for patrons to borrow.

plained. "So it's enough time for people to really get into it."

While most people think books when they think of their local library, the modern SCRL catalogue is quite a bit more extensive, Teigrob said, and they're always looking for new things to add.

"I think there's a lot of education we could still do on what libraries all offer," she said, noting SCRL also has a huge puzzle collection, not to mention DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, and more.

"I think catering to a different crowd

is always a good thing," she said. "Not everyone wants to read or enjoys it even, so this helps us bring in people that want something different."

Teigrob said they're hoping the various branches can start hosting board game nights to give people a chance to come in and try out a few of the titles.

"So there's that element as well of bringing in new people and put forward new programming too."

## Author visits ÉMMS

Author Christy Jordan-Fenton was at École Morden Middle School last week to make a presentation to students on her book *Fatty Legs*. The daughter-in-law of co-author Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, Jordan-Fenton spoke on the memoir which tells of when Pokiak-Fenton at age eight went to a residential school with the dream of learning to read, but soon realized the school was not what she'd imagined. *Fatty Legs* documents the vicious treatment she received at the school. The book has received positive critical reception as a way to introduce children to the history and trauma of the residential school system in an age-appropriate way.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE





# Winkler Bible Camp's Glow in the Country returns next week

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler Bible Camp staff and volunteers have been busy preparing for the annual Christmas Glow in the Country fundraising display.

They are again expecting large crowds for the show, and executive director Dale Wiebe believes that is in part because it is more than just lots of lights.

"They're not just lights. They're scenes, so they're dinner tables, they're living room setups and all of these different things. There are stories here. So when they see the scenes, they see stories, they see settings ... they see things happening.

"We're always making it bigger. Right now, there's probably about 25 different exhibits that will fill up the spaces," he added. "And everything gets changed, so nothing is in the same spot; maybe nothing is the same colour, and things kind of get rearranged all the time. It's a different experience every year."

People have two options to enjoy with the Christmas Glow in the Country, which is set up along what is about a two kilometre route throughout the camp property on PTH. 3.

From Dec. 4-7, it is part of the drive-thru meal nights where you receive your dinner to take home at the end. It goes from 5-6:30 p.m., and you pay by donation, though you do need to reserve in advance.

If you just want to enjoy the light displays, you can book a time between 5:30-8:30 p.m. from Dec. 8-17.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Winkler Bible Camp's Glow in the Country runs Dec. 4-7 as part of a by-donation drive-thru meal and Dec. 8-17 at \$20 per vehicle.

That one is a set \$20 per vehicle, with reservations also required in advance.

"Last year we did this and it worked really, really well ... people could come in, and the traffic was always flowing," said Wiebe of the online booking system. "You pick a time slot ... that way it alleviates the traffic on the highway so we can get through bunches of people but not everybody shows up at the same time."

The meal nights especially require a lot of work, but it is well worth it.

"I think we're doing about 600 meals

per night for four nights," Wiebe estimated.

The event seems to have really caught on and is something people plan on and look forward to as a new holiday tradition.

"It is definitely something people are talking to us about all throughout the year, and they are excited to come see it," Wiebe said. "It's busy, but it's a fantastic way for people to come to the camp and see the place with our people and our staff who are there on site. We get to say hi and thank people ... it's a fantastic connection time.

"It's tons of fun, and it is really enjoyable to see the families coming in with the kids," he said. "Another thing that I tend to see is people driving with vehicles with grandma and grandpa or people from care homes or people from Buhler [Active Living Centre] ... we see more of that where people just don't get a chance to get out ... that's just fantastic.

"Our goal is that this year hopefully we will get probably 10,000 plus people through."

You can find more information and make your reservation online at [christmasglowinthecountry.com](http://christmasglowinthecountry.com).

## DKSM Christmas concert at Winkler EMMC Sunday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Douglas Kuhl School of Music (DKSM) invites music-lovers to come enjoy "A Joyous Sleigh Ride" this weekend.

DKSM's annual Christmas concert takes place at the Winkler Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church (600 Southview Dr.) on Sunday, Dec. 3 starting at 7 p.m.

It will be an evening filled with holiday music performed by the Post Road Orchestra, Encore Strings, the Winkler Senior Choir, and other musical guests, shares choir director Wes Hamm.

"Encore is an intermediate orchestra consisting of violin and cello players," he explains, noting this year's group is a pretty even mix of both youth performers and adults.

The multi-generational makeup of the orchestra sends a great message out to the younger musicians, Hamm says.

"It shows them that this is something that you can do for the rest of your life, and there will be a place for you to perform."

It's also an opportunity for budding musicians to fine-tune their group

performance skills.

"They're working on ensemble pieces," Hamm says. "This is a great place for them to figure out what it means not just to play your instrument, but to listen to other people while you're playing.

The evening's other orchestral group is the Post Road performers, which is made up of DKSM's more advanced students.

"That's also open to both youth and adults," Hamm notes.

The Winkler Senior Choir, meanwhile, has been around since the late '90s, providing seniors with a place to raise their voices together in song. It has in recent years come under the DKSM banner.

There is no admission to Sunday's concert, though a freewill offering will be accepted in support of DKSM's musical programming.

"Everybody's welcome," Hamm says.

The concert wraps up DKSM's fall season of programming. Registration for its winter season, running January and February, will be posted online soon at [douglaskuhlschoolofmusic.com](http://douglaskuhlschoolofmusic.com).

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# From Everywhere to Bethlehem



The From Everywhere to Bethlehem interactive play took over Winkler Park last weekend. Organized by the Winkler EMM Church in partnership with other local churches, the living nativity brought audience members through the town of ancient Bethlehem, where townsfolk were buzzing about a very special birth. The evening collected food donations in lieu of admission and also included a craft/bake sale in support of local charities.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE





# getinformed



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona's Night of Lights on Nov. 24 included horse and sleigh rides, a wiener roast, and, of course, the lighting of the big tree at the Civic Centre. For the first time ever, the annual holiday celebration also included a fireworks display, which was a huge hit with the crowd. Later, free hot chocolate and cookies were offered to revelers of all ages as they listened to a round of Christmas music performed by local students.



## Altona installs new EV charging station

By Voice staff

Altona's newest public electric vehicle charging station is up and running and available for use by residents and tourists alike completely free of charge.

The Town of Altona recently installed the unit at 227 10th Ave NW on the west side of the Millennium Exhibition Centre in the Gallery in the Park parking lot.

It's a Flo Level 2 CoRe+ MAX charging station, which is equipped with a

universal SAE J1772 plug head and 1.2kW to 19.2kW of charging power, so a one-hour charge provides 20-50 kilometres of travel.

The charger is accessible 24/7 and can operate in temperatures above -40 C.

"The Town is committed to making decisions that will reduce environmental impact and promote a more sustainable future," Mayor Harv Schroeder said of the unit, which aligns with council's strategic priority of practicing good environmental

stewardship.

The charger cost just under \$28,500, \$10,000 of which was covered by a grant from Eco-West Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program.

The community also has charging stations at the Altona Mall and West Park Motors.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Town of Altona's second public electric vehicle charging station has been installed at the Gallery in the Park lot.





# Friesens: Pioneering growth through innovation and automation

To succeed, businesses must innovate and evolve with the times. Innovation has always been a focus at Friesens Corporation.

Some people fear change and automation as threats to our jobs. But with a lack of skilled trades people and an ever-increasing competitive global economy, it is imperative for companies like Friesens to automate.

Today, Friesens enables their employees with the latest technology wherever possible, and they're proud to be one of the most advanced book manufacturers in North America. From their managers to their equipment operators, the employee-owners embrace the use of automation where appropriate to make tasks more efficient and, more importantly, safer.

Continuous Improvement Leader, Scott Cherewayko, says their commitment to excellence in workflow efficiencies, innovative thinking, and growth mind-set are the influencing factors that drive automation in the company.

"One of our goals is to double the size of the company but with the same number of staff as we have today. A lot of our new equipment comes with the latest technology to dramatically decrease setup times and significantly increase output. However, there are still many physical and repetitive tasks that are required to produce a book.

"Our intent is not to eliminate jobs for people. It's actually the opposite. As more employee-owners retire there is limited availability of new workers to replace them, we need to find ways to better utilize the employee-owners we already have."

He adds that by eliminating some of the repetitive, tedious, and ergonomically unfriendly tasks, it allows Friesens to retrain and use staff for more valuable and higher-paying roles in the company. Ultimately, employees remain with the company longer because they have more rewarding work and less physically demanding work.

Friesens has been automating for decades, but one of the more recent initiatives was the installation of five



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Collaborative robots, known as cobots, are a familiar sight on Friesens Corporation's manufacturing floor, creating more efficient and safer workspaces.



collaborative robots to label and palletize cartons at the end of each of their book binding lines. A collaborative robot (known as a cobot) is designed to work collaboratively with humans in a safe shared space, compared to a typical industrial robot that requires safety fencing around it.

"Installing cobots allowed us to implement this change much easier as the space required is much smaller," Cherewayko says. "To illustrate that, we had an older palletizing robot that needed 30 feet by 30 feet, whereas these cobots only needed 4 feet by 4 feet of floor space.

"Not only do they take up less room, but they are also extremely safe. The safety of our staff is the most important. This approach also allowed us to promote 30 employee-owners into less physical and more rewarding roles."

While automation increased efficiency, it was not without some challenges. "It is easier to automate processes that are very standardized, and you might think that making books would be easy. But every book is unique. We produced 5,000 titles last year and they all are somewhat different, from the type of paper, the size, and the different binding methods, just to name just a few variables. So, automation in our business can be challenging."

To deploy robotics, most companies work with service providers called "integrators." These service providers work with the company and the robot supplier to develop the right solution for the process that is being automated. But no single integrator fits all solutions. So, when Friesens wanted to develop more robotic solutions for other tasks, they partnered with a new integrator. "After numerous meetings with different companies, we found a hidden gem right in our backyard: a local integrator based in Winnipeg." Innovair Automation recently installed a pair of industrial robots to de-palletize bundles of sections into a book binding line.

"Before installing these robots, we had to hand place 30-pound bundles of paper into the binding machine. We had 2-3 employees doing that work for a 12-hour shift at a time. But the new robots will automatically lift the bundles into the appropriate spaces in the machine, thus increasing the efficiency, health, and safety of our employee-owners by eliminating the repetitive lifting and twisting. This system allowed us to promote 12 employee-owners to more rewarding roles."

Innovair Automation understands Friesens objectives, and their local support has solidified a remarkable

partnership. Cherewayko expresses gratitude for the proximity, a rarity in an industry dominated by overseas equipment providers.

He states, "Having technical support just an hour away is unheard of in our industry. It also fits with one of our company values of supporting the local economy. We're already collaborating on another system slated for installation by February 2024."

Looking forward, Friesens envisions further integration of collaborative robots across various operations. "We plan to install 10-15 more cobots, allowing us to promote an additional 16-32 employee-owners to more rewarding roles," Cherewayko shares. "Our focus remains on delivering a great return on investment and improving the quality of work for employee-owners."

As Friesens continues to invest in growth, innovation, and automation, they strive to lead their industry with state-of-the-art technology. The company's approach to continuous improvement helps position them as a leader and showcases how embracing change and leveraging automation can drive progress in the ever-evolving business landscape.

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PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Village Market drew a large crowd to the rustic Commons Barn in Neuberghal Nov. 25. Vendors from across the region offered everything from paintings, crafts, toys and baked goods to antiques, leather work, rocks, and much more.

# The Village Market



## Cottonwood presents The Tin Woman

Cottonwood Community Drama presented *The Tin Woman* at Buhler Hall in Gretna last weekend. Pictured is a poignant moment as Joy (Lisa Klassen) allows Sammy (Sonja Toews) to listen to the beat of her transplanted heart, as the donor's parents, Hank (Jake Fehr) and Alice (Val Schellenberg) look on.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

## Government introduces a gas tax holiday for six months

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government is introducing amendments to the fuel tax act, which would temporarily pause the collection of the provincial tax on gasoline for at least six months starting next year, Finance Minister Adrien Sala announced last Thursday.

According to Sala, the current situation in Manitoba and throughout Canada is one of affordability crisis. Therefore, this proposed legislation aims to offer crucial assistance to Manitobans, specifically during these exceptional times of significant inflation. It would benefit various individuals, ranging from families with busy schedules to small business owners who heavily rely on their vehicles for work.

The proposed Bill 3, also known as the fuel tax amendment act or the fuel tax holiday, aims to provide a temporary reduction of the provincial fuel tax rate to zero cents per litre on gaso-

line, natural gas and diesel fuels for road use. This proposed tax pause is set to remain in effect for six months. As stated by the minister, this period will see the elimination of the current 14-cent fuel tax rates on gasoline and diesel used for operating motor vehicles.

According to Sala, this would offer immediate assistance to Manitoba families facing financial difficulties due to increasing expenses and is an essential part of our government's efforts to enhance affordability for all residents of Manitoba.

There is no provincial sales tax on the purchase of fuel. Fuel taxes would continue to be collected on aviation, locomotive and propane as these are not included in the fuel tax holiday, the minister added.

The average Manitoba family with two cars is expected to save approximately \$250 during the six-month fuel tax holiday, the minister noted.

*The* **Voice**

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Hanging Christmas stockings is just one of the many traditions that fill the days leading up to Christmas. One theory regarding the origins of stockings says the tradition began when a poor widower who had three daughters worried over having enough money for their wedding dowries to help secure the daughters' futures. The women, who had hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry, woke up to find solid gold spheres inside. This legend suggests kindly St. Nicholas visited the home in the night and left the presents, helping ensure the daughters could

marry well, after all. Christmas stockings were the first places where gifts were stowed, before under the boughs of Christmas trees became the primary spot for placing gifts. Then stockings were secondary vessels reserved for small trinkets. Today stockings are largely Christmas decorations rather than places to place gifts. Still, they're a key component of holiday magic. When including stockings in holiday festivities, follow these tips for whimsy and more.

- Utilize stocking holders. Stocking hold-

- ers are either metal or wooden devices that are placed on mantels. Hooks on the holders suspend the stockings. Just be sure the holders are sturdy enough to handle the weight of a stuffed stocking if you plan on filling it with goodies.
- Determine your style. There are Christmas stockings that coordinate to just about any interior design style. From farmhouse to modern to traditional, choose one that fits with your aesthetic. That isn't to say you can't mix and match stockings if you prefer a more eclectic, homespun feel.
- Enhance your stocking look. If stockings are strictly decorative, enhance their look with a few tricks. First, use tissue paper or balled up shopping bags to stuff the stockings and give them shape. Fill a small baggie with sand or florist glass and place in the heel of the stocking to balance it out and prevent the stocking from blowing around in the breeze.
- No fireplace; no problem. Stockings are traditionally hung from the fireplace mantel, but if you don't have a fireplace there is no need to fret. Simply use ribbons to hang them from the bannister of a staircase, or hang stockings right on walls with removable hooks, or from sturdy shelves. You also can think creatively and hang larger stockings on a door like you might a wreath.

Whether they're decorative or functional, stockings can be an integral component of holiday decor in a home.



When you are looking for just the right Christmas present for the lover of history, why not consider giving them a copy of our new publication, *A Story for Every Mile*, available for \$60 per copy.

A preview of the book is available on the **Pembina Manitou Archive** web site. Local sales venues and contacts are as follows: Emerson-Franklin - the Dominion City Municipal Office and the Emerson Library. Manitou - contact Al Thorleifson at [pembinamanitouarchive@gmail.com](mailto:pembinamanitouarchive@gmail.com) or Leona DeVuyst at [leonadev@mymts.net](mailto:leonadev@mymts.net), the Manitou Library or the Boundary Trail Railway Co. Office. Miami contact the Municipality of Thompson office. Carman contact the Municipality of Dufferin office. Morris contact Lou Erickson at [louerickson@gmail.com](mailto:louerickson@gmail.com). Morden, contact the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, the Pembina Hills Art Gallery, or Stephen Street General Store. Altona - Hometown Vintage Collectibles. Winnipeg, contact Ed Ledohowski at [edledohowski@gmail.com](mailto:edledohowski@gmail.com).

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**WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE**





PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Left: Legion House 1 resident Alana Kelly with property manager Marina Brown and Jeff Enns, director of sales with Decor Cabinets, in front of the aging cabinets Decor is replacing as a donation to the low-income senior housing complex. Above: Kelly and Brown later in the week with the new cupboards.

## Decor donation helping to spruce up Legion House 1

By Lorne Stelmach

A low-income housing facility for seniors in Morden is starting to get some overdue improvements with a contribution from a local business.

Five suites in Legion House 1 are getting entirely new kitchen cupboards donated by Decor Cabinets.

"Getting a little bit of support from the community is extremely wonderful," said Marina Brown, property manager for both Legion House 1 and Legion House 2.

"I'm very excited to be getting new cabinets," resident Alana Kelly said last week as she eagerly awaited their installation over the next few days. "I have three different laminate grains ... I had to put mactac on my counters to cover up some damage ... I made it look okay, but that's wearing out now.

"The shelves look like they've had 50 pound weights on them, and they're just bowed," Kelly said as she showed how the shelves in the cabinets were sagging. "They served well, but it's

time for a new one."

"Maybe the rest of these can get changed," noted Jeff Enns, director of sales for Decor Cabinets, noting that plumbers and electricians were stepping up to help out and suggesting perhaps other companies could get involved as well.

"I think it's just an opportunity. I look at this, and I look at the fine folks that live in our community, live in Legion House 1," he said. "As just a member of this community, as a member who works with Decor and cares about the community ... I think it's an opportunity to maybe show our surrounding area how it is here and maybe there's more that we can do.

"It's great to hear Alana so excited. This is really about can we change their lives, and hopefully it's an opportunity for more people just to become aware because there's no question about the goodness of the people in the Pembina Valley."

Brown agreed that the cabinets were

outdated and long overdue for replacement.

"They've lived their time. They're dark; the kitchens are very dark in a lot of the suites. This gives us an opportunity to lighten them up, to make them easier for our seniors to use.

"It's just an exciting thing to happen to get improvements done in this building. We've done a lot of things in our last four years. We just want to keep going. We want to improve their lives and make it for them a decent place to live with dignity and respect."

Brown noted their biggest challenge in making improvements has been around affordability. She said their focus is on Legion House 1, as Legion House 2 belongs to Manitoba Housing and so repairs and upgrades fall under the responsibility of that provincial agency.

"We really are kind of strapped with what we can do in that building, but this building owns itself so we can,

as long as we can afford it, we can do whatever upgrades, whatever things we need to do," she explained.

"That's part of the problem. We don't have the funds. It is a low income building. Their rent is below \$600 a month, so it's low income, and \$600 a month doesn't go very far."

Come last Friday when Kelly had her bright new kitchen in place, she was even more ecstatic.

"I just about fell over, I was so happy and they looked so beautiful ... the hard part was fitting everything back in, and I realized how much I had," she noted.

"I've got a lazy Susan and a pull out spice rack ... it's just wonderful."

"It's just a miracle. I never thought I would be this lucky."

"I think it's just a blessing that Decor came forward," added Brown.

If you'd like to make a donation to Legion House 1 improvements, call 204-823-4588.

## Local infrastructure projects earn recognition

By Voice staff

A few local projects earned provincial honours at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) awards breakfast and annual general meeting earlier this month.

"Our government knows how important the construction industry is to Manitoba communities," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Lisa Naylor. "These awards celebrate the outstanding impact our construction sector has on our province, from trade and commerce, to road safety

and employment opportunities for Manitobans."

Each year, nominations are submitted for projects in seven different construction categories. Projects are evaluated criteria that includes quality of work, adherence to contract specifications and design criteria, complexity of project, and adherence to construction timetable and budget.

Earning a nod in the paving category was Maple Leaf Construction for bituminous reconstruction on PTH 3 from 0.3 kilometres east of PTH 13 to PR 305.

In the water infrastructure projects category, Tri-Core Projects Ltd. was recognized for flood protection for the Mary Jane Dam emergency spillway rehabilitation in Manitou.

Also at the MHCA event, the Manitoba government announced its 2023-24 winter advertising schedule for construction, engineering service provider, and material supply tenders for infrastructure projects across the province. Highlights of planned construction include:

- surface rehabilitation on PTH 6, 0.6 km south of PR 239 to Fairford River;

- structure at Lawford River, servicing Oxford House, God's Lake, God's River, Red Sucker Lake and Garden Hill first nations;

- structure on PR 311 at Manning Canal, 1.9 km west of PR 206;

- structure on PTH 3 at Souris River, 0.7 km east of the north junction of PTH 83 (vicinity of Melita);

- structure on PR 305 at Red River, 0.5 km east of PTH 75 (Ste. Agathe); spillway rehabilitation for Rivers Dam; and

- new airport terminal building at God's Lake Narrows Airport.



# Farm Women's Conference sought to "educate, encourage, and empower"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Days Inn Conference Centre in Winkler welcomed women from across Manitoba to town last week for the Manitoba Farm Women's Conference.

Organizing committee vice-chair Doris Doelger says they had nearly 140 ladies signed up to take part in the three-day event, which kicked off with registration and trivia Tuesday night followed by two days of educational sessions and guest speakers.

"It is reduced from the size we were 37 years ago, but our numbers are coming up again, which is nice to see," she said, noting it's been a few years since they've been able to hold a normal, multi-day conference. Last year's event, the first in-person gathering for the group since the pandemic, had a one-day program.

What hasn't changed is the conference's mission: to educate, encourage, and empower women in agriculture.

Along those lines, the conference featured guest speakers on topics ranging from farm safety to mental health to transition planning. Attendees also got the chance to venture out for a combine clinic at Green Valley Equipment and a tour of Vanderveen Greenhouse.

"We try to cover a little bit of everything," Doelger said, noting they have big plans for the future. "We are working on getting into more different parts of the ag industry ... in the coming years we're going to broaden

our scope."

As always, the event's attendees come from all over, said Doelger, who is herself from Beausejour, where she's involved on her family's farm.

For her, the conference is a great opportunity to meet other women in agriculture.

"I love the networking. Meeting women in the same industry, not only farmers but also the agribusiness side of things," she said. "Yes, we're named the Farm Women's Conference, but if you are an agronomist, if you are an agricultural banker, you're welcome. We're trying to get to all parts of the industry with any connection to agriculture."

Doelger says the organizing committee is made up of a varied group of farm women, and they're always looking for new members eager to pitch in to plan the next conference.

"We have monthly meetings, and most of them are on Zoom," she said, noting the time commitment beyond that varies depending on what aspect of the conference you're involved in organizing.

If you'd like to learn more or connect with the group, check them out online at [mfwc.ca](http://mfwc.ca).

## PROMOTING AGRICULTURE

Wednesday afternoon's keynote speaker was Cheryllyn Jolly-Nagel.

Jolly-Nagel is an agricultural advocate who farms with her family in Saskatchewan and spends the off-season touring as a speaker on agricultural-related topics.

Her presen-

**Manitoba Women's Farm Conference organizing committee vice-chair Doris Doelger says the event is all about connecting and educating women involved in the agriculture industry.**

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Women from across Manitoba gathered in Winkler last week for the Manitoba Farm Women's Conference. Wednesday's keynote speaker was farm advocate Cheryllyn Jolly-Nagel.

tation last week urged attendees to work to "promote rather than defend" agriculture, taking a proactive approach to public education.

Through her years working on farm policy, Jolly-Nagel said she's come to see just how important public advocacy is to the industry.

She didn't always hold that view, she shared.

"I thought, why would I waste my precious time talking to the public?

I took more of a 'none-of-your-business' attitude as it related" to non-farmers weighing in on how things were done on the farm.

"I realize now that was a mistake on my part, and that of all the policy issues, this could be the most important," Jolly-Nagel continued. "I grossly underestimated the importance of building relationships with the public, and showing them how much farmers truly care about the land and the environment and the safety of our food system."

Public trust is integral to the continued growth of agriculture in Canada, she stressed.

"For years, on the survey of who the public trust the most, farmers were always near the top of that list. And so we took for granted that we were always going to have their trust. And then we just walked out of the tractor one day and went, 'Why doesn't anybody trust us?' We didn't realize that we needed to be building a relationship with the public."

Many people have an antiquated view of farming in their heads, when the truth is that modern agriculture is among the most scientifically advanced industries in the world.

"But the way the public views agriculture and views farmers is from 50

years ago," Jolly-Nagel said.

It's up to today's farmers to engage with the public to help foster updated views of agriculture and to impress upon people the shared values that fuel the industry.

"Public trust is granted when our actions align with the values and expectations of society," Jolly-Nagel said in discussing the responsible use of things like genetically-modified crops or pesticides. "I have the privilege of

farming with minimal rules because I make good decisions. That's a privilege ... and if you want to hold onto those privileges, you have to work really hard at it."

It's not necessarily a matter of throwing facts and data at people, Jolly-Nagel noted, "which is what we did when we first started defending the

industry. 'You don't like glyphosate? Here's a 400-page study. It's sure to convince you.'

"What we have learned since then is that sharing your values is three to five times more effective with building trust than sharing scientific facts and expertise."

Knowing the science behind decisions being made on the farm is still important, Jolly-Nagel stressed, but when it comes to engaging the public it's more important to inform people as to why these decisions are being made and let them know the decision-makers share their values when it comes to food safety and environmental stewardship.

"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care," Jolly-Nagel said, quoting U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.

Continued on page 23





# sports & recreation



## Superfight in Winkler

Level MMA hosted a Superfight at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Saturday night, pitting fighters against one another in jiu-jitsu submission matches, with championship belts up for grabs. Clockwise from above: Kloe Stewart (top)

beats Jessica Banack; Andrew Place gets some air while defeating Darrius Joof; Mackenzie Hancock (top) beats Hayden Robertson; Marc Perrier (bottom) won his match against Arbie Balajadia.



## Hawks split weekend's games with Northstars

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks picked up three of a possible four points on their weekend road trip to Thompson.

They rebounded from a 5-4 shootout loss to Norman Saturday by defeating the Northstars 5-2 Sunday, and it keeps them in the middle of the pack in the standings. Their 7-9-1-3 record has them in seventh place with 18

points.

In game one, the Hawks led 4-2 after 40 minutes but gave up two third period goals to take the game to overtime. In the shootout, the Hawks failed to connect while Norman's second shooter scored for the win.

Kam Thomas, Haiden Friesen, Lane Apperley, and Liam Goertzen scored for Pembina Valley while Ryler Gates made 43 saves as Norman held a 48-

31 edge in shots on goal.

Three unanswered goals within the final two minutes—including an empty net marker—provided the margin of victory for the Hawks in game two.

Thomas had a pair for Pembina Valley with the other goals coming from Friesen, Goertzen, and Acoyen Fehr.

Shots on goal were 37-36 in favour of Norman, and Bryson Yaschyshyn got the win in goal with 35 saves.

Pembina Valley sits four points back of the sixth-place Winnipeg Thrashers and is one point up on Parkland and two ahead of Eastman and Yellowhead.

The Hawks host the third-place Winnipeg Bruins Wednesday night before visiting the first-place Brandon Wheat Kings Friday and the Winnipeg Thrashers Saturday.



# Flyers best Steelers, get blanked by Terriers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was an up and down week for the Winkler Flyers in Manitoba Junior Hockey League action last week.

On Tuesday, the team beat the Selkirk Steelers 5-2 on the road.

Winkler got control of the game midway through the first period, responding to the Steelers' opening goal with one of their own from Brody Beauchemin and then stonewalling the home team until the very final minute. In between, the Flyers added goals from Jayce Legaarden, Mike Svenson, Zach Nicolas, and Dalton Andrew for the win.

Liam Ernst denied 16 shots in net while his teammates fired back 29 the other way.

Things didn't go quite so smoothly one night later as the Flyers welcomed the Portage Terriers to Winkler for a penalty-laden match.

Despite a close shots battle—Portage had 32 to Winkler's 29—the Terriers were the only ones doing any scoring,

including one in the second and three in the final period alone to get the win 4-0.

Malachi Klassen was in net for the loss, making 28 saves.

With that, Winkler's record for the season is 16-3-0-1, giving them 33 points and third place in the MGEU East Division behind the Steinbach Pistons in first (39 points) and the Portage Terriers in second (35 points). Nipping at their heels are the Niverville Nighthawks with 31 points.

Coming up this week, Winkler hits the road to play in Niverville Wednesday and in Virden Friday night.

In other Flyers news, the team announced Friday that it has traded veteran defenseman Jacob Sargent (2003) to the Kam River Fighting Walleye of the SIJHL in exchange for a player development fee.

Sargent has played with the Flyers for the past three seasons, suiting up for 102 games and contributing seven goals and 18 assists.

"Sarge has played an integral role in



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler forward Tanner George decides the shortest route to the puck is behind Terriers Jayden Catellier in Wednesday's home game, which the Terriers won 4-0.

building the culture here in Winkler," noted coach and general manager Justin Falk. "The professionalism and work ethic that he brought daily has rubbed off on many of the players in this room and we thank him for his efforts and contribution to the team and City of Winkler. This organization is truly better after having Jacob pass

through it.

"Although a hard day for our locker room and team, we are happy for Jacob that he gets to fulfill his wishes and be able to play the remainder of the 2-year-old season with his brother, in front of his family, and for his hometown team he grew up cheering for."

# Red River Wild move into second place in SEMHL

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Red River Wild moved into second place in the South Eastern Hockey League standings after besting the Ile des Chenes Northstars 5-3 on Sunday.

Jonah Waylak, Parker Janz, Tyler Anderson, Justin Baudry, and TJ Matuszewski contributed goals for the Wild. Mark Friesen stopped 36 of the 40 shots he faced in net.

The Wild are now 5-1 for the season thus far, tying them in points (10) with Ste. Anne in first and Warren in third place.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Royals dropped from fourth to fifth place after falling to the first-place Aces 7-3 last Wednesday night.

Cam McNabb, Jamie Thiessen, and Marlin Froese scored for the Royals. Jayme Janzen made 46 saves in net.

Winkler's record is now 3-3, good for six points.

The Morden Bombers held on to their seventh-place spot with a win and a loss.

On Thursday, the Bombers dropped a 2-1 decision to the visiting Northstars. Mike Rey scored for the home team.

Morden bounced back with a 5-1 win against the Maroons in Altona Saturday night.

Geordie Keane scored for Altona midway through the first period, but then the Maroons took the lead—with Jay Fehr scoring twice that same period—and held it through to the end thanks to additional goals from Thomas Stuart-Dant, Mike Rey, and, on an empty net, Andrew Clark.

Reed Peters made 29 saves for Morden while Cole Kehler stopped 38 for Altona as the Bombers outshot the Maroons 42-30.

The loss dropped Altona from ninth to 10th and last in the league with a 0-6 record and zero points. Morden is 2-2-0-2, good for six points.

This week, on Wednesday the Royals host Ste. Anne and the Maroons travel to play Portage while Thursday sees Morden host Carman.

Over the weekend, on Saturday Al-

tona is in Notre Dame, Red River is in Carman, and Winkler plays in Ile des

Chenes while Morden hosts Portage. On Sunday, the Royals are in Warren.

## Zodiacs tops in province



FACEBOOK.COM/GVCZODIACS

The Garden Valley Zodiacs boys junior varsity team are tops in Manitoba after a strong showing at the provincial AAA volleyball championships in Winnipeg last weekend. GVC were 1-2 in the round robin but then bounced back in a big way in the playoffs, downing the Niverville Panthers and St. John's Ravenscourt each in two sets to earn a seat at the championship final against the Linden Christian Wings, which they won in three hard-fought sets to take the title.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**CORPORATE SERVICES**  
*Finance and Administration*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Winkler purchases approximately 35% of its water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC). The Public Utility Board has approved a rate increase for PVWC in the amount of \$1.17/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2024. This rate increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of \$0.41/1000 gallons for Winkler consumers.

Public notice is hereby given that the utility rate increase will be \$0.38/1000 gallons effective for the March 15, 2024, quarterly billing in the City of Winkler. That being from the present water rate of \$10.21/1000 gallons to \$8.76/1000 gallons and the sewer rate from \$6.59/1000 gallons to \$8.42/1000 gallons.

Jody Penner  
City Manager

**CAREERS**



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- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

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

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**COMING EVENTS**

Join us for a  
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In Altona Mennonite Church  
At 7 Sunday December 3, 2023  
All are welcome

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the matter of the Estate of JACOB REMPEL, late of the District of Halbstadt, in the Province of Manitoba, Retired.

All claims against the above-noted Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0, on or before the 3rd day of January, 2024. Dated this 27th day of November, 2023.

Cole & Mace Law Office, Adam R. Mace, Solicitors for the Estate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT**

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2023-005 and By-law No. 2308-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2308-23, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**119 & 135 Victoria St, legally described as Lots 20 & 21, Block 5, Plan 30045 MLTO.**

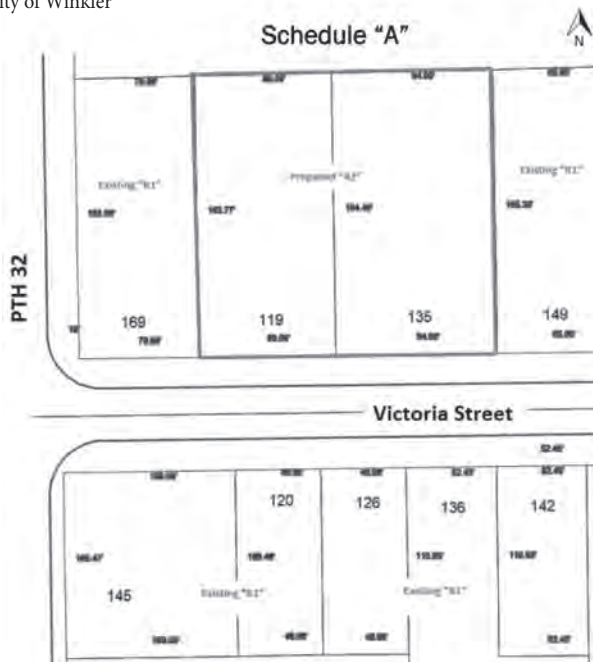
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

**FROM:** "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY  
**TO:** "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2308-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** December 12, 2023  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 25th day of October 2023.  
Designated Officer  
City of Winkler





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**WATER RATE INCREASE**



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Rural Municipality of Stanley purchases water from the Pembina  
 Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) to supply water to portions of the  
 Municipality. The Public Utilities Board approved a rate increase for  
 PVWC for \$1.17/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2024. This rate  
 increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of \$1.17/1000  
 gallons for RM of Stanley consumers on the PVWC water system.

Public notice is hereby given that the water rate increase will be  
 \$1.17/1000 gallons for the March 31, 2024, quarterly billing in the  
 Rural Municipality of Stanley. That being from the present rate of  
 \$13.36/1000 gallons to \$14.53/1000 gallons.

Chad Harder  
 Finance & Administration Supervisor

**CAREERS**



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**www.gatewayresourcesinc.com**

Gateway Resources supports people with intellectual disabilities to live full and  
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- Communication with internal teams, external resources, CIDs representatives, and  
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**Qualifications**

- Have a genuine interest in supporting people with intellectual disabilities
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- Complete an Adult Abuse Registry Check without concerns to the work environment
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 Douma, Director of Human Resources at (204) 325-7304, ext. 233. Only those considered  
 for interview will be contacted. **Closing date December 8th, 2023 or until filled.**

**COMING EVENTS**

**A Christmas Musical Drama**

**Celebrate**  
**THE SAVIOUR**

**Sunday, December 17**  
**at 6:00 PM**

**PEMBINA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**120 Manitoba Road, Winkler, MB**







# Pembina Valley Twisters on three-game winning streak

By Ty Dilello

After a slow start, the Pembina Valley Twisters have hit their stride and dominated this past week, sweeping all three games. As a result, the Twisters have climbed to seventh place in the MMJHL rankings, holding a solid 8-7-2 record.

On Nov. 21, the Twisters defeated the St. Vital Victorias by 5-2. Riley Goertzen (2), Derek Wiebe, Alex VanDeynze, and Max Collet scored the Twisters' goals. Logan Enns stopped 22 shots in net for the win.

A few nights later, on Nov. 24, the Twisters doubled the Charleswood Hawks 6-3. Goertzen had another pair of goals, while Merek Degraeve, Zander Carels, Jacob Carels and Ryan Orchard had the other goals for Pembina Valley. Enns was fantastic in the net, stopping 41 shots for the win.

In their most impressive victory of the week, the Twisters overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period to defeat the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge

Twins 4-3 in overtime on Nov. 26. Scoring for the team were Degraeve, Wiebe, Mike Heppner and Slade Sotheran, with Enns recording an impressive 36 saves during the match.

"After losing three straight games, we knew we had put ourselves in a tough position," said Pembina Valley Twisters head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We played this week like our backs were against the wall. And with battling a few injuries on some key guys, all the boys stepped up and got the job done. Moving forward we just want to keep the consistency and effort up every night."

Twisters' sniper Derek Wiebe is currently third in the MMJHL's scoring race with 29 points in 17 games, while Enns is currently fifth in the goalie rankings as he boasts a 3.42 goals-against average and a .903 save percentage.

The Twisters are gearing up for their next game on Dec. 1, when they face off against the River East Royal Knights at home starting at 8 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Twisters' goaltender Logan Enns had a fantastic week in between the pipes, winning all three of his games.

## Hawks fall to Avros 6-1

By Lorne Stelmach

For 40 minutes, there appeared to be hope the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks could snap their losing streak Sunday afternoon in Morden.

They only trailed the Winnipeg Avros 1-0 and 2-1 at the intermissions, but four unanswered third period goals led to a 6-1 loss that now has Pembina Valley mired in a nine-game slump.

Abigail Brigg scored the lone Hawks'

goal in the second period, while Kasia Rakowski made 33 saves as the Avros held a 39-19 edge in shots on goal.

It was the lone game of the week for Pembina Valley, which has slipped to seventh place at 3-9-0 for six points. That has them three points up on last place Central Plains and one point back of sixth place Interlake.

It sets up perhaps a key game this weekend as the Hawks welcome Interlake to Morden for their only game of the week Sunday afternoon.

## "Take every opportunity you can"

From Pg. 17

"It doesn't matter if you've memorized all of that science so that you can reply to somebody on Facebook," she said. "It matters why you do what you do, and that's the value behind it."

Jolly-Nagel encouraged her fellow farm women to get out into their communities.

"If you're wondering how you can contribute, one of my favourite ways to start promoting agriculture has to be going into the schools. If we had more educated kids graduating from high school about how their food was grown, wouldn't that

be fantastic? Wouldn't we have a society that had a better base level of knowledge?

"If you haven't done this already, it's such a fantastic way to get out there and start sharing some really real stories about life on the farm.

"I also think it's really important to talk to adults about this ... I spend the majority of my off-farm hours speaking to an urban audience and sharing with them the good news stories about life on the farm and being a mother on the farm and all those different value systems. And I encourage you guys to do the same ... take every opportunity you can."



## Aces come in second

The W.C. Miller Collegiate junior varsity girls volleyball team finished second at the AAA provincials in Winnipeg last weekend. The Aces were 2-1 in the round robin and then downed St. Boniface and Leo-Remillard in two sets each in the playoffs before falling to the Neelin Spartans 10-25 and 19-25 in the championship match.

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> MEAL IDEAS



## Brown Sugar Honey Glazed Ham

down.

Bake ham about 1 hour until heated through to internal temperature of 130 F with meat thermometer inserted into thickest part of ham.

In medium saucepan, combine brown sugar, honey, butter, Dijon mustard, apple cider vinegar, cinnamon and cloves. Cook mixture over medium heat, stirring frequently, until butter is melted and ingredients are well combined.

Brush about half of glaze over ham, making sure to fill crevices or scored cuts.

Return ham to oven and bake 30-45 minutes, or until glaze is bubbly and caramelized with internal temperature of 145 F.

Baste ham with pan juices and glaze every 10-15 minutes while baking.

Remove from oven and let rest 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

Prep time: 12 minutes  
Cook time: 90 minutes  
Servings: 32  
1 fully cooked Coleman Natural Applewood Smoked Bone-In Spiral Ham (7-9 pounds)  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup honey  
1/2 cup unsalted butter  
1/4 cup Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
Preheat oven to 325 F.  
Remove ham from packaging and place in roasting pan with flat side



## Smoky German Potato, Sausage and Bacon Chili

Once sausage is cooked, add diced onion and minced garlic, cooking until onion is translucent.

Drain excess fat then stir in chili powder, coriander, cumin, cayenne pepper, oregano and Fresno peppers until well mixed.

Add drained diced tomatoes, German potato salad and cooked bacon to saucepan.

Add beef broth and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Bring mixture to simmer and let cook about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until flavors are melded.

Substitution: Jalapenos can be used for Fresno peppers.

Recipe courtesy of "Dad with a Pan" on behalf of READ  
Prep time: 20 minutes  
Cook time: 40 minutes  
Servings: 8  
4 strips thick bacon, cut into cubes  
1 pound smoked sausage, sliced into 1-inch segments  
1 small onion, diced  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
4 tablespoons chili powder  
1 tablespoon ground coriander  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
2 Fresno peppers, diced  
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, drained  
1 can READ German Potato Salad, drained  
1 cup beef broth  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
In large saucepan over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy. Remove and set aside, leaving about 2 tablespoons drippings in saucepan.  
Add smoked sausage and cook until browned.

## Tuscan 3 Bean Peasant Soup

Recipe courtesy of Sarah Meuser on behalf of Aunt Nellie's

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 27 minutes

Servings: 8

10 ounces day-old crusty bread, such as ciabatta, cut into 1-inch cubes  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus additional for drizzling (optional)

2 medium shallots or 1 small yellow onion, peeled and chopped

3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped

## Ask The Money Lady

*Dear Money Lady: Should I sell my home and move into a retirement home? I'm 76 and I really don't want to move but my kids say I should. What do you think.*  
Anna

Well, isn't that a loaded question? Anna, I want to commend you for at least having an open mind to moving. I know it's a big decision and one that gets more complicated as we age. There are plenty of Canadians that feel the same way and have strong emotional ties to their homes. I have read all your emails: "They'll carry out my dead body from this house. I will never sell". Okay, I get it, you don't want to give up your home.

Instead of thinking that you have to give up your house, why not consider giving yourself a new home that may be an even better fit for you as you age, and if it helps to give you a little bit more money, how can that not be something you would consider? The decision to change your living arrangement in retirement could provide more confidence and happiness instead of the nervous worry about how to maintain the status quo. A wait and see perspective can be very stressful especially if your current residence is not suitable for an aging senior. If you get forced into a decision you're not ready for, it could make things very difficult at a time when your health may not be at its best. Here are some questions to consider.

1. Can you downsize your traditional home into a smaller home or condo. Are you able to get a new home that is more suited to your needs as you age? Could you see yourself growing old in this new home? Are you able to stay in the same town/location?

2. Could you move in with family/friend to save money and build a tight social system. Families could move in together to help out each other and care for one another (grandchildren/elderly, cooking/cleaning/gardening, financially supporting one another).

3. Should you financially downsize and rent: no more taxes, mainte-

1 can (15 1/2 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed

1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes

3 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) low-sodium chicken broth (about 6 cups)

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1/2 cup small pasta, such as ditalini, uncooked

2 cups frozen cut leaf spinach or chopped fresh spinach

2 jars (15 1/2 ounces each) Aunt Nellie's 3 Bean Salad, drained

1 tablespoon lemon zest (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 F. Place bread cubes in single layer on large baking pan. Bake until bread cubes are light-



Christine Ibbotson

nance, etc. This would provide a true lock-and-leave-it lifestyle. Are you wanting to be "free as a bird" to travel? You could sell your home, rent for a few years, and then move into a small home or consider an adult living community when you want to settle down.

4. If moving is still out of the question, could you spend part of your retirement savings to make your current home more suitable. Can you modify your home to keep you in it long term; for example, a main floor master, walk-in tub/shower, new roof or heating, less maintenance/gardening, etc. Can you get a renter in the basement to help with expenses? What about hiring a part-time maintenance man to help out?

There are many people who know their current home may not be suitable anymore, but they still don't want to leave. What will they do for Easter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas? Family memories are made in a loving home, but they can also travel with you. Remember, it's our family, not the place, that binds us together. Don't worry about your adult kids, they will still gather no matter where you end up.... maybe Christmas could be at another person's home with new traditions and lots more new memories for you to make and treasure.

*Good Luck & Best Wishes,*

*ATML - Christine Ibbotson*

*Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6 syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at ask-themoneylady.ca*

ly browned, 8-12 minutes. Set aside.

Heat large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons oil; swirl to coat. Add shallots; cook 5 minutes, or until soft, stirring occasionally. Add garlic; cook 1 minute, or until fragrant. Add cannellini beans, tomatoes, broth and black pepper; bring to boil. Add pasta; cook 8 minutes, or according to package directions. Stir in spinach and bean salad. Simmer 5 minutes, or until heated through.

Ladle soup evenly into bowls. Top with toasted bread cubes and lemon zest, if desired. Drizzle with additional olive oil, if desired.