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**Holiday treats**

Leyah Doell and Caroline Bergen enjoy free cookies and hot chocolate during the Town of Altona's Night of Lights festivities last Friday. For more photos, see Pg. 16.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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



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## Supporting Morden Christmas Cheer

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder's Christmas Cheer game pitted Morden Collegiate hockey players against members of the Morden police and fire departments (Guns n' Hoses) last Friday night. The stands were packed with fans, many of whom brought along donations to the Morden Christmas Cheerboard. In all, \$5,822 and countless toys and food items were collected for this year's campaign. "We are continuously floored by the generosity of our community," Morden Christmas Cheer said in a social media post about the event. "Because of you, someone's holiday season will be brighter." The Cheerboard hampers go out to families in need the week before Christmas. Organizers expect to distribute nearly 400 hampers this year.



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Keep your gas tank at least half-full in case you get stuck and need to run your car for warmth

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# Open house on Hwy. 14 improvements held in Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

There are a number of options for improvements to PTH 14 going east out of Winkler, and an open house last week laid them all out.

The ideas centre around the stretch of highway at the eastern end of Winkler going from the PTH 32 and PR 428 intersection east past Circle K Drive and Eastview Drive.

It is a small section of highway, but a potentially complex project with many factors coming into play.

"There is a lot to consider," said Donovan Toews of Landmark Planning and Design, which is consulting on the project for Manitoba Transpor-

tation and Infrastructure.

"From the City of Winkler's local perspective, what are the city's plans for the land that is adjacent, especially north in this section ... and on the south, there's lots of industrial," said Toews, adding there is also the nearby Discovery Nature Sanctuary. "No matter where you go, to the north or to the south, there's going to be some impact to somebody."

There are two key aspects to improving what is an increasingly busy section of road. One is further twinning that stretch of highway, but even that is not necessarily straightforward, Toews noted.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Donovan Toews shares some of the ideas Landmark Planning has for improvements to PTH 14 east of Winkler.

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## Lighting up the night



**PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE**  
Eden Foundation hosted its first Light Up the Night celebration Nov. 28 in Winkler, bringing the community together to show support for those struggling with mental health challenges. Clockwise from left: The foundation's Quinn Friesen and Dave Sawatsky with the giant stocking they hoped to fill with gifts for the regional mental health facility's patients; the event included bonfires, s'mores and hot chocolate; music therapist Joel Klassen braved the bitter cold to perform a few songs; attendees were encouraged to hang a ribbon on the 20-foot Christmas tree in memory of a loved one. The tree will remain lit up through the winter as a beacon of hope.



### > PTH. 14, FROM PG. 3

"We're looking at if you were to do two lanes for each direction, how would you do that ... we also have to look at what to do with the intersections."

Another question would be do you twin it to the north or to the south, or do a combination in some way? And what are the options for the key intersections? It could be either traffic

lights or perhaps roundabouts.

"All of the options have advantages and disadvantages," said Toews. "Part of what we're doing is demonstrating what we think the advantages and disadvantage are for all of those options."

"And are there other things we should be thinking about locally because local people know the area, and

there may be things we aren't thinking about," added Toews, who noted people who live and work nearby may have concerns about how they access their properties. "That's a really challenging one because in order to make intersections in this area safer, you do end up having to close some accesses and redirect traffic here and there."

And there are many environmental and engineering considerations in terms of how to make it as safe as possible.

"Once all those factors are considered in their totality, then we add the

cost," Toews explained. "We try to remain unbiased. We don't just select something because it's cheaper ... we pick the right one, but we are aware that it comes at a cost."

It will be a long process, he noted, as once they have chosen a basic design they then need to do the more detailed plans.

"And then we haven't even gotten to approval by the government to do the project ... and if there's approval, that means there has to be a budget approval," Toews said. "We're looking at a couple of years of these two stages that we're doing now."

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# getinformed

## Garden Valley SD hosts pre-budget public forum

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Garden Valley School Division board of trustees and staff will be diving into the 2025-2026 budget planning process in earnest in the new year, and they'll do so armed with feedback from consultations held this fall.

The division invited the public to a pre-budget discussion at Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nov. 26. It followed on the heels of earlier discussions with GVSD students, teachers, and parent advisory council members.

It's the second year the division has held these advance consultations, as opposed to inviting stakeholders and the public to hear about the nearly-finalized budget in March.

"I think this sounds more like a

conversation," observed board chair Leah Klassen. "We are able to get more feedback, instead of coming to the public saying, 'This is what we're doing and, oh, by the way, we're passing the budget in two weeks.'

"This gives us the opportunity for more discussion and to have a better understanding of what the community would like out of their school division."

The forum drew GVSD staff, parents, and taxpayers, all of whom were asked to share their thoughts on four questions:

- Are the educational programs and services provided to children meeting your expectations?
- Are there any programs and services not currently being provided that you would like to see added?
- Please provide three to five priority



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

GVSD staff and community members gathered at NPC last week to share feedback with trustees as they prepare to draft the 2025-2026 budget.

ty areas that you believe are most important in our upcoming budget.

- Please identify the priorities that you feel should be addressed by the school division in the 2024/2026 budget.

"Are we meeting the needs?" Klassen said in boiling down these questions. "What are their children's experiences in the schools, and where can we help?"

Past feedback has led to things like increased funding spent on mental health and speech and language supports, for example.

"Today, one PAC member pointed out some of our buildings are needing help—there are some staff rooms that are being used as classrooms," Klassen shared. "Those are the things that the board wants to hear and wants to

know whether they are a priority for the community."

Drafting the annual budget is always a delicate process, observed secretary-treasurer Kevin Vovchuk

"There's going to be tough decisions that have to be made, whether it's to prioritize different programs or services versus increased taxation," he said. "That's the balancing act that the board has to go through every budget year—services versus tax increases."

When you break it down, GVSD receives about two-thirds of its annual revenue from the provincial government, with most of the remaining one-third coming from local taxpayers.

Continued on page 7

"THIS GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE DISCUSSION AND TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE OUT OF THEIR SCHOOL DIVISION."

## United Way PV campaign at \$77,000 mark

Still a ways to go to hit \$160K goal

By Lorne Stelmach

United Way Pembina Valley is making an appeal to the communities it serves to help their annual fundraising campaign reach its goal.

The 2024 campaign had received nearly \$77,000 in donations as of last week, but it still has a ways to go to meet its \$160,000 target by the end of the year.

President Levi Taylor was hopeful that the Winkler and Morden area would come through for them as they

enter the final weeks of the campaign.

"I think we're somewhat on pace with last year, although we might be a little bit behind," he said, noting the 2023 campaign raised \$150,000. "We have full confidence in the community that they will continue to support the United Way and that we will eventually reach our goal for the donation season."

He emphasized that supporting the United Way goes a long way to help a lot of local organizations.

"Last year, the United Way granted back to 31 local non-profits in both Morden and Winkler," Taylor noted. "I think the communities know that when they donate to the United Way that those dollars stay in the commu-

nity ... that's what the United Way is all about.

"We are dedicated to the local community ... and a hundred per cent of the money that we collect goes right back into the community," he continued. "We see some very positive impact, and we are able to support some really generous and positive organizations."

In addition to providing financial support to dozens of non-profits last year, the agency was also able to support the post-secondary aspirations of Morden and Winkler students with scholarships and bursaries.

Due to the ongoing postal strike, mailed-in donations are not recommended, however you can drop off

your donation cheques at either the Winkler Senior Centre or the Morden Activity Centre. You can also donate via e-transfer to unitedwaypembina-valley@gmail.com or online at unitedwaypembina-valley.ca.

Donations are also welcome at two community events coming up in December: United Way Pembina Valley is sponsoring a Skate with Santa at the Access Event Centre in Morden on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 12:15-1:45 p.m. and at the Meridian Exhibitoin Centre in Winkler on Sunday, Dec. 22 from 12:30-2:15 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is invited to come join in on the fun.

# The Voice



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**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## The neutral zone trap

**I bet you think this is going to be a hockey column. No such luck. However, there will be a fun hockey analogy so if you are into those, strap in.**

The neutral zone trap is a defensive strategy in hockey that sees a team deploying four players in the neutral zone and one central forechecker. The goal is to force turnover in the neutral zone and prevent offensive movement to the defending team's side.

While it does all of this it also accomplishes one other key thing: it makes your team nearly universally hated for turning an exciting, fast-paced game into a boring, low-scoring, pile of garbage. Rather than developing and honing a team's offense and overall skill it meekly accepts its role as a weak opponent against a stronger adversary.

As we move closer to 2025 and a new world order with President Trump ready to take the reigns of the American presidency along with his assorted and "interesting" nominees for key positions, Canada is going to find itself in an interesting position: having to decide on whether we will continue to advocate along certain lines as we have done historically or begin to move to a place of silence, a place of neutrality.

It's already starting to happen. Immediately after the results of the U.S. election became clear Canada began softening some of its language and

policies about things like immigration, possible American tariffs, and more.

The statement from the prime minister was practically effusive about Trump's win, including statements about how many great things were accomplished between the U.S. and Canada during his last term.

"Well, what's he supposed to say, Cantelon? Is he supposed to attack Trump right after an election? It's called diplomacy."

Of course, I understand this and the need not to antagonize the elephant that you, the mouse, are sleeping next to. Still, it concerns me and leaves me wondering if we are on the path of becoming the next Switzerland for the 21st century.

Switzerland has been famous for its neutrality. Particularly during the Second World War.

In many ways Swiss neutrality contributed to a broader good during the war. More than 300,000 refugees fled to Switzerland, diplomatic talks were held there, and assistance was provided to prisoners of war.

Still, neutrality meant that the Swiss benefited from strong economic ties to both Allied countries and Nazi Germany. While most of Europe was

suffering under the economic weight of the conflict, the Swiss economy and people chugged along just fine.

A Swiss commission estimated the national bank received \$440 million from Nazi sources and that \$316 million was looted. The Swiss shoe company Bally was able to benefit by purchasing Jewish shops that were confiscated by the Nazis.

By the 1930s, Germany was Switzerland's most important trading partner (sound familiar?). Many see the leaning into neutrality as a pragmatic survival tactic on the part of the Swiss; a means of surviving against a far superior force.

Of course, one can understand this in the same way one understands how one can compromise personal values for the sake of survival and to "live to fight another day."

How important was Switzerland to Germany's wartime economy that fed the machine that drove the Holocaust and the murder of millions?

Walther Funk, president of the Reichsbank during the war, commented that "not even for two months could he do without Switzerland's help in converting gold into foreign currency."

Continued on page 7



**By Peter Cantelon**

### Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

# Little reminders

**M**y Christmas spirit may need a little nudging this year, so I decided a little red and green around my house might help.

Rummaging through my own mismatched but cherished collection of decorations, I pulled out a storage container filled with my mother's yuletide treasures. Tiny red bows, miniature tinsel trees, small candle holders, silk poinsettias, and glass angels—a partment-sized adornments for a lady who still wanted to make her place pretty for the holidays without creating too much clutter.



By Lori Penner

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

Even after all this time, everything in that box still smells like a hug from my mom. I was instantly transported back to our last Christmas together. She was showing me those little tinsel trees she found at the Dollar Store. She was as excited as a little girl, hunting for just the right end table or bookshelf to display them. When she carefully tucked them away after that Christmas season ended, did she know that the next set of hands to hold them would be mine?

With that thought came huge, relentless waves of grief. But this time, I was ready for them. What once knocked the breath right out of me now washed over my heart like a warm, familiar tide, catching me up and tossing me about like a canoe on

the ocean.

I knew this tsunami of emotion might sink me for a while but wouldn't drown me. I swam in the stream, embracing the tears instead of fighting them. Lavender-scented angels watched over me as the waves slowly subsided.

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

After all this time, those waves of emotion still surprise me, but they no longer overwhelm me. Somehow, they bring a confusing sort of comfort with them; a sign I have not forgotten her, even though life mercilessly—and mercifully—has moved on.

I've learned that grief is like a Christmas tree—it demands accommodation. When you first bring it home, you wonder where you'll put it. It's too big. The branches block the window. But eventually, you move things around, and you find a spot for it. Soon, instead of being an intrusion

or obstruction, its presence becomes a part of the room, like the lamp or the couch. The sight of it comforts you.

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

And they've given me empathy for others who are also sailing on these unexpected waves.

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

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

## > GVSD, FROM PG. 5

"Our budget is around \$60 million dollars," Vovchuk shared, "so it's a significant budget that we are dealing with and significant funds that we have the responsibility to administer."

But while the operating budget numbers in the millions, there's actually a fair bit of restriction in it.

Eighty-three per cent of the current budget is locked up in salaries—a number that will rise with the new contracts that have been inked with the division's unionized staff, including teachers.

"So of the remaining amount, there isn't a lot of play in a lot of those numbers. Most of those items are fixed," Vovchuk said, noting the

remaining 16 per cent of the budget covers all the division's programming, services, materials, and other operational costs. "When you look at the non-salary expenditures that we have some discretion over, it's probably very close to five per cent of the expenditures we have."

Due to rising property values across the division, Klassen noted GVSD has been able to keep the mill rate relatively low while still getting the funds it needs to efficiently run the schools.

Still, the 2024-2025 budget saw a 5.25 per cent increase in the mill rate, and they expect they will have to raise it again to deal with rising costs.

"At the end of the day, this last year was a break-even budget," Klassen pointed out.

"Expenses are going up, everything is going up," she said, noting, in example, the most recent provincial collective agreement with teachers includes a plan for harmonization of salaries across Manitoba in a couple of years, which will likely mean increased costs.

Just how much the school tax bill will increase for Winkler area residents next year is hard to predict right now.

"One of the big unknowns right now is the provincial funding," Klassen said. "That drives a big chunk of the decision."

The board is also continually lobbying the provincial government for details on the planned new funding

model for the public school system.

"We're looking at making sure that our funding is sustainable, that it's consistent, that there is enough there so we don't have to always go back to the ratepayer," Klassen said.

The GVSD board and administrative staff will take the feedback gleaned this fall to heart as they begin drafting the financial plan for the next school year. Work on that goes into overdrive once the provincial funding is confirmed in January or February. The budget then needs to be completed and submitted to the province by the end of March.

If you missed last week's forum and want to weigh-in on the budget planning process, Klassen urges you to get in touch with the division or any of the trustees. Contact information is available at gvsd.ca.

## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

While neutrality in the face of a significant and aggressive partner may seem inevitable, it is also fatally naïve, as can be seen in the research by scholar Maria Ott in her paper *Political Procrastination: Swiss Neutrality and World War II*. She reported:

"On May 13, 1940, Nazi head of propaganda Joseph Goebbels stated in a speech that "no neutral states would continue to exist within Europe ..."

Further to this, Ott states that maps held by the Third Reich regularly

showed Switzerland as part of greater Germany.

The point? Neutrality is a myth, and history judges the "neutral" harshly in later years.

In the face of a new American administration that holds some very different values compared to mainstream Canada, I expect we will feel forced into positions of neutrality more and more.

It's a trap to be sure, and I don't envy our leaders the task of navigating it.

The **Voice**  
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# Local donors come through for Sixteen13 Ministry

## New trailer a blessing to ministry's food program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Christmas came early for the Sixteen13 Ministry, which has a new refrigerated trailer to help it get food into the hands of people in need across the region.

On Friday, the Winkler area ministry unveiled the trailer to its supporters, many of whom have their company logos on the side in recognition of the financial or in-kind donations that made it all possible. Nearly \$37,000 was raised to purchase and outfit the vehicle.

"These companies all believe in what we're doing," says ministry president Harold Espinosa.

What Sixteen13 is doing is picking up donations of thousands of pounds of food each week and distributing them to families across southern Manitoba.

"We pick up a boatload of vegetables—around 4,000 pounds every week," Espinosa says, sharing that local farmers and companies like Jeffries Bros Vegetable Growers, Four Seasons Potato Ltd., Heartland Fresh Pack, and Western Harvest Beans have overwhelmed them with their generosity.

"That number is going to increase," he says, "because now that we have a reefer [refrigerated trailer], I can go to

more places, different companies that have chicken and a whole bunch of other things and see if they're willing to donate ... we have no limits now except for what people want to do and want to give."

Sixteen13's Compassion Ministry program walks alongside hundreds of families and marginalized individuals; they're delivering food to upwards of 300 households each month.

Their mission with this work, Espinosa explains, is to build relationships, provide support, and demonstrate the love of Christ.

It creates a real ripple effect in the community, he notes, with many of the people they work with turning around and doing what they can to give back as well.

"The cool thing about us growing is that with all these things we need helpers. This gives all the immigrants and all those that are being helped a chance to say, 'You know what? I can't give back with finances, but I can give my time.'"

In addition to helping out with ministry programs and events, Sixteen13's families have jumped at the chance to volunteer at the Winkler Harvest Festival, for example, and last month's From Everywhere to Bethlehem living nativity production.

"I had a friend there who called me and said they needed help with unloading and loading," Espinosa shares. "I made a few calls and we had 18 guys just like that. We had Ukrainians, Africans, Mexico, Germany ... we were all working together. That unity makes all the difference."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Business reps with Sixteen13 staff and board members and their new refrigerated trailer. Nearly \$37,000 was raised to allow the ministry to purchase the vehicle, which will help them more easily pick up and deliver food donations across the region.

## 'I BELIEVE IN HELPING PEOPLE'

Supporting the purchase of the trailer with financial or in-kind donations was Agassiz Trailers, Coolers Refrigeration Ltd, Garry Klassen Electric, Choice Reality, Sunlife Insurance, Banman Meats, Kroeker Farms Limited, Froese Enterprises Inc, Schnell Industries Inc, and Sunvalley Tire.

Banman Meats has been processing cows for the ministry for several years now.

"I believe in helping people," owner Tina Wiebe says. "So we donate our time for processing the meat.

"Very often someone comes in with beef they want to donate and [Harold] doesn't even know about it," she adds, noting those are always good days when she gets to call him with that news.

"We do help locally a lot, because here we can see the impact," Wiebe says.

Sunvalley Tire's Jeremy Hildebrand says the work of Sixteen13 resonates with the company, making a financial donation for this project an easy decision.

"Any ministry like this that goes out, reaches people that are in need, and helps them be in a closer relationship with Jesus is really important," he says.

Espinosa gives thanks to God and to each and every business who supported this project.

"All the people who are receiving [groceries], they're very grateful and thankful," he says. "We're all so grateful."



From left: Sixteen13 Ministry's Alvin Thiessen, Tiffany Krahn, Harold Espinosa, and Gary Klassen with the new trailer.

## Local companies receive Sustainable CAP funding

By Voice staff

The Manitoba government last week announced it is investing in several major capital infrastructure and investment projects under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP) that will increase food processing capacity in Manitoba.

The funds, which include support for two Winkler area companies, will allow producers to sell more of their product locally and create more agricultural jobs, said Agriculture Minis-

ter Ron Kostyshyn.

"We're supporting Manitoba companies to process more of our home-grown agricultural products right here, so we can grow our agriculture sector and our economy," he said. "Helping food processors scale up production will mean more good Manitoba jobs, an increased value and volume of Manitoba-grown commodities, and a more competitive economy that benefits all Manitobans."

Continued on page 10



# GVE, Enns Bros. commits funding to Ag in the Classroom

By Lorne Stelmach

Greenvalley Equipment and Enns Brothers are both investing in a program that aims to promote careers in agriculture.

Partnering up with Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Manitoba makes sense for the company, GVE president Curwin Friesen suggested last week.

"It's a growing industry. It's a big industry, so Ag in the Classroom is just a great way to connect with students," he said. "It's in a unique position to reach students in a number of ways."

Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba last week announced the new partnership with the two companies. Over three years, the combined \$75,000 investment will enable the program to expand career programming across the province.

Ag in the Classroom is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing agricultural literacy among Manitoba students. Through curriculum-based programs and resources, it connects students with the agriculture industry.

Representatives see the funding as helping ensure students across the province have access to vital information about careers in the agriculture industry. It will support enhanced career fairs and classroom programs that are provided to thousands of students annually, develop new virtual classroom resources and provide educators with professional development days.

"We are deeply grateful to Enns Brothers and Greenvalley Equipment for partnering to support

our career programs," said AITC Manitoba executive director Katharine Cherewyk.

"Their collaboration amplifies their investment and exemplifies the spirit of partnership that drives Manitoba's agriculture industry forward. This support will significantly enhance our ability to reach more students, inspiring them to explore the dynamic and rewarding careers available in agriculture and related sectors."

As one of Manitoba's largest industries, agriculture offers a wide range of career opportunities in fields such as engineering, heavy machinery, science, technology and digital agriculture, Friesen noted.

Thousands of high school students each year are thinking about possible careers, he said, so they "want agriculture to be part of that equation."

"Too often, students think that agriculture is just farming, and agriculture is much more than farming," said Friesen.

"We need people to want to be in this industry," he said, noting it is estimated there could be need for a hundred thousand plus jobs in the next three or four years across Canada.

"We see a lot of the technology changes that are coming now ... and there's going to be a lot of technologies that are going to be impacting farming ... right here in southern Manitoba," he added. "And what we're seeing as well is more and more people are going into agriculture who never grew up on a farm ... you don't have to have grown up on a farm to be interested in farming."

"At Enns Brothers and Greenvalley Equipment,



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Curwin Friesen of Greenvalley Equipment says the company is pleased to be able to support Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba.

we joined forces to maximize our impact, understanding that a strong investment is essential to secure the future of Manitoba's agriculture workforce," said Ray Bouchard, president and CEO of Enns Brothers. "Our multi-year donation provides the program with the funding stability it needs to expand crucial career programs like its EngAGED Career Fairs, which bring agriculture careers to the forefront for middle and high school students."

For more information, visit [aitc.mb.ca](http://aitc.mb.ca).

# Altona to develop long-term plan for urban forestry

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona is enhancing and sustaining its urban greenery by hiring Davey Resource Group to develop a comprehensive vision and framework for the town's urban forest.

This includes creating a strategic and operational plan for the planning, planting, protection, maintenance, and care of trees, forests, greenspaces, and related resources within the community.

Part of this effort involves devising a detailed road map for managing the urban forest, including long-term pest and disease management. The proposed cost of the project is \$53,774.

Mayor Harv Schroeder highlighted the importance of a long-term strategy for the urban forest.

"These trees and developments take time. For instance, the trees in Altona Park, planted many years ago, are now falling away, prompting us to

think about long-term planning."

Schroeder pointed out the threats from diseases like Dutch Elm Disease and the Ash Borer, which can affect many trees in town.

"We need a plan to tackle these issues, including replacement options. Losing a 100-year-old Elm tree is heartbreaking and changes the dynamics of the community."

The project aims to set long-term goals for the town's tree canopy.

"An aerial photo of Altona shows a vast number of trees, but there are also areas that need attention. Whether it's open spaces or green spaces, long-term planning is necessary," Schroeder explained.

Davey Resource Group will assess the current tree canopy and its benefits, set target canopy goals, and develop strategies to achieve these goals. They will also recommend policies, bylaws, and enforcement of tree management and establish a monitoring plan to track progress and effec-

tiveness.

A town employee is receiving training to support these efforts. Public engagement will also be key in assessing urban forestry needs and recommending participation and education programs.

"It's to take care of the environment and the future of our trees," Schroeder noted. "The Town of Altona is committed to adopting a sustainable lens when making decisions for the future, seeking opportunities to reduce the community's environmental impact and improve climate resilience."

The plan is expected to be developed and implemented in 2025.

Efforts are also being made to revive the town's arborist training, which had lapsed over the years.

"We're trying to do what we can with our current staff, but larger projects may require hiring outside contractors and engaging the public," Schroeder noted.

The town addresses the removal of

private trees by adding replacements.

"Part of it is being good stewards of the climate and the town's appearance," Schroeder said. "Walking through the park, the presence of trees, birds, and squirrels creates a peaceful environment."

The tree program, including boulevard tree planting, has also been a significant part of the town's efforts.

The mayor notes that practicing good stewardship and climate resilience involves having a management plan that looks ahead and considers the types of trees to plant.

"Make sure you're planting the best trees that will be sustainable for many years, not ones that could die in five years," he said. "This is a community of tree lovers. If we know their life span, we will want to know if there's a plan in place to replace them. It leaves a big hole when things don't get replaced."

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What's *Your* story?

# Here comes Santa Paws

## PVHS launches holiday giving campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is again calling on the local communities to keep them in mind for gift giving this holiday season.

The organization is holding its Santa Paws campaign for a fourth straight year with the goal of helping meet its needs for dog and cat food and other supplies.

There's a wide range of everyday kinds of supplies that are needed at the shelter in Morden, and the support can take some of the cost burden off by providing some of these supplies for at least part of the year. They can then use other funds to pay for animals to be spayed and neutered and other treatment and care costs.

"It started during COVID ... we were thinking it would be nice to get all of our supplies at once so we weren't asking so often, and it was also trying to do something for the holiday season," said Tanya Rempel, spon-

sorship chairperson for the humane society.

"It's ended up being a huge fundraiser for us and has really reduced how often we're asking for supplies throughout the year, and it really cuts back on how much we're buying too, so more donations can go to animals and less on supplies."

They are open to receiving not only cans of wet cat and dog food but also clumping cat litter and even laundry and cleaning supplies.

"We've almost always met our goals," said Rempel, who noted they last year collected 75 bags of litter, which served their needs until October. Kitten food ran out earlier, and Rempel noted that is a significant need.

"The biggest thing we need for food is kitten food because we have a lot of kittens coming in," she said.

"It's also a lot of cleaning supplies that people might not think of ... we go through a lot of gloves," she add-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Shelter manager Jennifer Young and shelter administrator Emily Bueckert with some kittens who will be among the animals benefiting from this year's PVHS Santa Paws donation drive.

ed. "And we go through a lot of laundry in a day.

Monetary donations are also most welcome.

For more information on how you can get involved and support the humane society, head to [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca).

# Work on Coulee pedestrian bridge to start in January

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After five years of planning, the Plum Coulee pedestrian bridge project finally got the green light from the province last week for work to begin.

Committee chair June Letkeman shared Friday that Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has issued the project the permit it needs to get the bridge's piers in the ground next month.

"It's been a long, hard struggle," she says. "Our first application went in on April 19, 2019, so it took five years to get this permit. But now we can finally start."

The plan is to build a permanent bridge across the Hespeler Drain, which cuts off the south side of the community from the north, forcing pedestrians and cyclists onto busier highways on either end of town.

This new bridge will be a much safer option for everyone, Letkeman says, especially considering how much the town has grown in recent years, with new residential builds going up all the time.

"This is very exciting news for Plum Coulee," she says. "It's just so necessary because we have no safe way of walking from one side of Plum Coulee to the other."

Work will start first thing in 2025

on phase one of the project, which includes getting the bridge's foundations installed. Phase two will finish off the bridge itself.

Letkeman singles out project engineer Kyle Wiebe for getting them to this point.

"He's put in an amazing amount of hours to get all of this done," she says. "He has worked tirelessly to get this permit from MTI."

With the good news, though, comes some bad: the project did not receive the \$100,000 grant it had been hoping for from the provincial government's From the Ground Up program.

"So we still need to raise \$150,000 to complete the second phase of the bridge," Letkeman says.

Considering the entire project is pegged at \$420,000, and they've already raised about \$270,000 of that, this last \$150,000 is more than doable, Letkeman stresses.

"That's not too bad—we will do it," she says, thanking all the individuals and businesses who have already supported the campaign. "We've had nothing but encouragement and support, amazing support."

The bridge committee will continue reaching out to local businesses in the

months ahead, and plans are also in the works for a few public fundraisers to get them across the finish line.

The hope is that the money will be raised in time to allow for bridge construction to be completed by the end of 2025.

If you'd like to make a donation toward the pedestrian bridge or get involved as a volunteer with the committee, contact Letkeman at 204-362-0501.

"We're looking for people to help us raise these funds," she says. "We're open to any help that is out there."

## > SUSTAINABLE CAP FUNDING, FROM PG. 8

Through Sustainable CAP the provincial and federal governments are investing up to \$15.4 million over four years to 70 projects through four streams of the Capital Infrastructure and Investments program. These projects support growth and expansion through capital investments in modernization activities that enhance efficiency, productivity and environmental sustainability.

Among the many companies receiving funding is the Kimberley Packing Corporation, a Kroeker

Farms Ltd. company, and Spent Bros. Premium Meats.

Kimberly Packing is a producer and processor of potatoes. The funding they'll receive will allow them to package their product in Manitoba, a process currently done outside the province.

Spent Bros is a farm family-owned pizza production facility, retail store, and meat processing plant located in Winkler. Their funding will help them expand the market for their frozen pizza products across Cana-

da.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.

This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially-territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

# get informed

## 'Staches for STARS

By Lori Penner

Around 110 people gathered on Nov. 29 for the grand finale of the LD Seeds annual, month-long 'Staches for STARS fundraiser.

The celebration featured presentations by STARS representatives and stories from a very important patient (VIP). Mustache enthusiasts also competed for awards in various categories.

LD Seeds owner Lloyd Wiebe described the event as fantastic.

"It took place at Gables Wedding Barn this year. We enjoyed a delicious smoked BBQ brisket dinner courtesy of Ridgeville Colony Meat Shop, with the brisket expertly smoked by Ernie Wiebe and Dennis Froom."

Tracy Mowdy from STARS presented details about the organization's operations, their service areas, and the rising costs of missions, which have increased to \$6,000 from \$4,500 last year.

Wiebe shared a poignant comparison: "I have a friend in Minnesota whose grandson was flown from Sleepy Eye to a hospital in Minneapolis. It cost their insurance company \$70,000. It's about the same distance from here to Winnipeg. So that shows how lucky we are to have this free service in Manitoba."

Garry Smyrski of Birds Hill recounted his harrowing experience in 2021 when a chunk of ice flew off a truck, smashing through his car window and injuring him.

"His wife took control of the vehicle and managed to stop," Wiebe said. "The ambulance was there, and they decided to call STARS, who flew him to the Health Sciences Centre. He still has some healing to do, but he gives STARS the credit for him still being alive."

The 'Staches for STARS fundraiser, now in its eighth year, continues to grow. Since 2016, Wiebe and his family, friends, colleagues, and customers have grown mustaches in November to raise funds for local causes.

"We've got more and more people every year who want to participate. And even if they can't attend the event, they still want to donate to the cause. We see such incredible generosity from local businesses, farmers, and suppliers."

STARS is recognized as an essential service, especially in rural areas.

"It can make the difference between life and death, and just our ability to access critical care," Wiebe said. "We're fortunate to have Boundary Trails. But getting to Winnipeg during those critical minutes can be a huge challenge. Speed matters in those moments. Those helicopters carry everything they need to keep people alive until they get to the hospital."

So far this year, STARS has made 53 missions into the Pembina Valley region, saving many lives.

Wiebe is delighted to announce that LD Seeds raised \$127,000 this year, surpassing last year's total of \$113,000.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

LD Seeds was proud to have their 'Staches for STARS logo placed on one of the helicopters to signify they've raised over \$250,000 for STARS. Back row: LD Seeds staff and family members, from left, Lloyd Wiebe and his wife Lori, daughter Taylor Wiebe, and son Dylan Wiebe with his son Redden, Abe Quiring, Rory Penner and Corinne Komishon. Front row: members of the STARS team.

"It blows my mind ... that would cover about 21 missions for STARS. Every year we're amazed at how people step up and just give.

"We also shared with the crowd that we got our 'Staches for STARS logo placed on a STARS helicopter last June to signify that we have raised over \$250,000 for the organization. That was cool."

Over the years, the event has raised a grand total of \$397,000.

"It's a community event. It's not just us," stressed Wiebe. "We coordinate

it, but it's the people and the companies that are supporting it.

"I want to thank our community, our businesses and customers, as well as those who contributed to the celebration. I'm grateful to my son Dylan and his wife Ravae for all the work they put into organizing the event. I also want to thank Brad and Ashley Wiebe for donating the Gables Wedding Barn. It's a worthy cause, and it takes a community to bring an event like this together."

## AMM convention a productive three days: Siemens

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Municipal leaders from across the province gathered in Winnipeg last week for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities' fall convention.

Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens shared it was a fruitful three days of discussion and connection.

"We have an opportunity to connect with other reeves and mayors and councillors and to talk about the challenges that each of us have," he said. "And surprisingly, we find that our

challenges are fairly similar.

"The biggest challenge that the growing municipalities of Manitoba have is how do we fund all that growth-related infrastructure? That's been a challenge for some time."

The convention gives municipal representatives the valuable opportunity to engage with provincial officials directly.

"Because the MLAs make a really good appearance at these things, it allows us to connect with them a little bit," Siemens said. "Particularly

in the bear pit session where we have cabinets sitting up on a stage and we get to ask them questions directly and they respond to us. I felt, overall, we were able to engage well with cabinet ministers. We had good responses.

"Personally, I was able to connect with the Premier and the Finance Minister and had good conversations with both," Siemens added. "I was able to lay out some of the concerns of Southern Manitoba and hopefully help to lobby for the great need for wastewater [treatment expansion] in

Morden. I know that's something that we have to solve for our region. We can't, as a region, grow if that can't be fixed.

"By in large, it was a very productive, very quick three days."

Premier Wab Kinew used the convention platform to announce the NDP government's new One Growth Revenue Fund, committing \$62 million over the next five years to municipalities in addition to the existing

Continued on page 12

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

# Morden-Winkler medical clinics competing in holiday food drive

By Lorne Stelmach

The medical clinics in Winkler and Morden have a friendly competition going on, with an overall goal of supporting their communities.

The CW Wiebe Medical Centre is collecting non-perishable food and hygiene items to be donated to the Winkler and District Food Cupboard, while Menzies Medical Centre in Morden is doing the same for Many Hands Resource Centre, which oversees the food bank in Morden.

The staff wellness team in Winkler came up with the idea to start this collection to bring together not only their staff but the community as a whole to work towards a common goal.

"We were trying to find a way to have the community involved not just in the clinics but to bring us all together," said Jessica Hammer, who is part of the wellness team at the CW Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler.

"It's hard to know or comprehend how many people out there need this kind of support," she said. "So if we can help people have some good, healthier nutritious meals ... otherwise they end up getting more sick and they just don't get what they need."

"The physicians and staff of CW Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler and Menzies Medical Centre in Morden work collaboratively together to meet

the health care needs of residents of the Winkler and Morden areas," Karen-Denise Cyr, executive director of C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre, said in a statement. "So this fun and important food drive is just another way that we can work together and show our communities how much we care."

"The staff were very on board to support this," said Nicole Walske, executive director of Menzies Medical Centre. "Here we gave them the option to decide where our food would go, and they very quickly chose Many Hands to support the food insecurity situation in Morden, which we know is growing."

"We can share kindness in small ways but know that it makes a difference ... we were glad to participate in it."

Although there's a little bit of competition between the two clinics, the real winners are going to be the food programs in both communities.

"We are happy to work together with all organizations in our community and spread that love," Walske said. "We want to be part of our community and support the growth and community wellness ... if people aren't eating properly, they're not well, so it really ties in with full comprehensive care."

"It's already been touching to see some of our patients bringing bags of food in to support the initiative, so



**ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE**  
Menzies Medical Centre executive director Nicole Walske (above) and the CW Wiebe Medical Centre's Dustin Cooper and Dr. Louw Greyling with some of the donations for the two clinics' food drive competition on now.

it's not only our staff contributing but also our community," she noted. "It will be a fun day then to have Many Hands pick up as many boxes as we can provide them and try to help our community."

The food drive ends on Friday, Dec. 13. People can bring donations of non-perishable food items to either clinic weekdays during their regular operating hours.



**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

## > AMM CONVENTION, FROM PG. 11

operating grants they receive from the provincial coffers.

"Last year, our government promised to treat municipalities like the true partners that they are and to respect the pressures they are under after years of freezes," Kinew said in a statement. "This year, we're establishing a new fund to provide extra support for programs now and into the future. Together, we're giving Manitobans reasons to hope with a plan that makes life better across our province."

Siemens said a rough early estimate for what this means for Winkler is about an extra \$125,000 a year.

"The end result on the actual number—that number doesn't get us to where we need to be," he said in terms of addressing ever-growing infrastructure needs. "It's not a material difference ... but the

fact that the province recognized that a new [funding] stream was needed and that they started funding that stream leaves us tremendously hopeful moving forward.

"One of the things that we've consistently heard from this government is that they recognize some of the challenges that we're dealing with," Siemens observed. "They recognize

that we need predictable, sustainable, growing funding, so they've provided predictability on most of the revenue streams that flow from the province to municipalities."

For example, the government's Budget 2024 committed a two per cent escalator to the Municipal Operating Grant to help municipalities address rising cost pressures after the funding freezes of past years. Siemens noted

there's also a two per cent increase coming for the provincial police funding.

"So they're recognizing that today's dollars won't pay tomorrow's bills," he said. "Those kinds of things for the province to recognize that and agree to continue working with us, leaves us very hopeful, leaves us confident that they're hearing us and that they're prepared to work with us."

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# Prairie Dale students raise funds for toy drive

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A group of students from Prairie Dale School in Schanzenfeld got the chance to go on a bit of a shopping spree last week.

Armed with the proceeds raised through a fundraising bake sale they organized in support of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Group's Christmas Toy Drive, the gaggle of Gr. 4 and Gr. 6 girls hit the aisles at Canadian Tire Thursday to try and find the toys most likely to put a smile on the faces of kids dealing with cancer.

"We all came up with an idea [to support] children's hospitals," explained Veronika, Gr. 6.

When they found out about the toy drive—which throughout November was collecting donations for Candle-

lighters' annual Christmas party for families dealing with childhood cancer; any extra toys will be donated to the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg—it seemed the perfect cause to rally behind, the girls said.

"You get to help lots of people that need it," noted Carly, Gr. 6.

Some of the girls have family members who have spent time in hospital, they shared, so they know firsthand how important it is to know people are thinking about them.

The sale itself raised \$242.90, rounded up to an even \$300 thanks to a donation from principal Anny Froese. A local business, who wished to remain anonymous, chipped in another \$200 to give the girls \$500 to spend.

Coupled with a 10 per cent discount from Canadian Tire, they managed to fill a shopping cart to the brim with

**"YOU GET TO HELP LOTS OF PEOPLE THAT NEED IT."**



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Prairie Dale School students Janey (Gr. 4) and Veronika, Katelyn, Jaclyn, Carly, and Jana (all Gr. 6). with the toy haul they purchased from the proceeds of a bake sale they organized in support of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Group.

toys, overflowing the toy drive drop-off box at the store.

"On behalf of Prairie Dale School, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the generosity extended by the local businesses involved and the parent volunteers that supported and encouraged this act of kindness," said Froese.

Candlelighters board chair Naomi

Fehr was thrilled at the initiative the kids took on the charity's behalf.

"Any time a kid sees needs somewhere outside of themselves, it's such a huge thing," she says. "You can teach a kid a thousands things, but being a good human, being a good person, thinking of other people? That's just so important, and it just melts my heart they wanted to do this for us."

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Alzheimer Society of Manitoba - South Central		10-120 Donald Street Wpg R3C 4G2	Winkler Senior Centre	204-325-8964	102-650 S. Railway Ave, Winkler MB R6W 0L6
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley	204-823-1028	Box 450, Winkler, MB R6W4A6	Altona and Area Family Resource Centre	204-324-2352	Box 473 Altona, ROG 0B0
Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation	204-331-8808 x 2,	Box 2000 Winkler R6W1H8	Altona Community Action Network	204-304-0601	136 Elmcrest Drive, Altona, ROG 0B0
Central Station Community Centre	204-325-0257	Box 736 Winkler R6W 4A8	Altona Community Foundation	info@altonacommunityfoundation.com	Box 2076 Altona, ROG 0B0
Eden Foundation	204-325-5355	Box 129 Winkler MB R6W 4A4	Altona Senior Citizen Club	204-304-6505	39 1st NW, Altona ROG 0B1
Gateway Resources	204-325-7304	Box 1448 R6W 4B4	Altona and District Heritage Research Centre		Box 2453, Altona ROG 0B0
Habitat for Humanity Winkler-Morden	204-362-5026	Box 241 Winkler MB R6W 4A5	Blue Sky Opportunities	204-324-5401	box 330 Altona ROG 0B0
Katie Cares	204-362-1173	255 13th St. Winkler, MB R6W 1S5	Build a Village	204-324-7786	rayloewen123@gmail.com
Mennonite Central Committee	204-325-9770	325 4th st Winkler R6W 0M5	CARE (Community Assistance Resources for the Elderly)	204-324-1528	Box 670, Altona ROG 0B0
Morden Activity Centre	204-822-3555;	306 N. Railway St. Morden MB R6M 1S7	Morris Area Foundation	204-712-0538	Box 282 Morris MB ROG 1K0
Morden Community Handi-Van	204-822-5047	400 Loren Dr Morden MB R6M 0E2	Morris Area Senior Services	204-746-6336	Box 997 Morris MB ROG1K0
Morden Family Resource Centre	204-823-8158	181 15th st. Morden, MB R6M 1G3	Morris District Handivan	204-746-0681	Box 1191 Morris MB ROG1K0
Pembina Counselling Centre	204-822-6622	205-30 Stephen St. Morden MB R6M 2G3	Neubergthal Heritage Foundation	204-304-6253	Box 2429, Altona, MB ROG 0B0
Pembina Valley Humane Society	204-822-9413	462 Jefferson St. Morden MB R6M 1Y4	Plum Coulee Community Foundation		
Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre	204-325-7900;	Box 2504 Winkler MB R6W 4C2	Red River Valley Food Bank	204-746-6544	Box 851 Morris, MB ROG 1K0
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# City unveils arena reno concept drawings

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winklerites got their first peek at what the revitalized Winkler Centennial Arena is going to look like a year from now.

The City last week shared a few concept images of the ice and seating areas of the Park St. rink, which is currently being gutted as part of a \$23.75 million renovation project.

"I think when we first announced the project, everybody was excited about it, but until you have a visual to see what it's going to look like, it's difficult to know what to get excited about," observed Mayor Henry Siemens. "So as we've shared these images now, it allows people to get a really good feel for what that is."

"And it allows people to get an understanding of one of the key concepts, the key differences that will be there," he added, "in that you're going to be walking down to your seat now, rather than up to your seat as you did at the old arena."

Having people walking down into the seating area was a design choice that comes with a number of benefits, the mayor shared.

"From a safety point of view, from a sight line point of view ... and certainly for the look and feel of the hockey experience, we wanted to create a bowl that allows that whole area to be built around the ice surface."

The renovations will add about 500 seats to the arena, a mix of traditional bench seating at either end of the ice

surface and, new to the facility, individual seats along the length of the rink. There will also be significantly more standing room viewing space.

"We worked very closely with the Winkler Flyers and our other user groups to try to get the right size," Siemens noted. "We've had them along for this conversation the entire way."

"Each one of those groups ultimately was comfortable with this configuration because it allowed us, for the vast majority of anything that we're going to do, to have enough seats, and then the standing room would be able to tackle the rest of it."

The renos will move the arena's

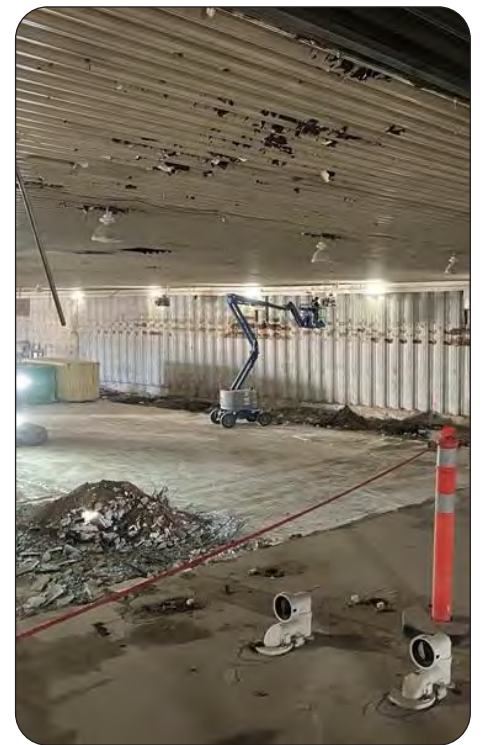
**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**  
Above: A look at what the Winkler Centennial Arena will look like inside a year from now. Right: Demolition work is nearing completion, and soon the renovations will be able to begin in earnest.

entrance to the Meridian Exhibition Centre's southwest corner, build new dressing rooms, and bring the aging building's mechanical and electrical systems up to modern standards.

Siemens says the project has been moving along nicely since it began earlier this fall.

"One of the things that we're pleasantly surprised about is the quality of this build in 1967, in terms of what's there," he said.

Structural upgrades they believed they'd have tackle have proven to be unnecessary in many cases.



Continued on page 28

"WE'RE FINDING THAT THE BONES OF THIS ARENA ARE STILL REALLY, REALLY GOOD."



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**2025 MB Forage Seed Producer Forum & AGM**  
**January 9, 2025**  
**Victoria Inn, Winnipeg**

The Manitoba Forage Seed Association invites you to their Annual Forage Seed Conference and AGM. A range of topics will be covered dealing with various aspects of growing and managing forage and turf seed crops. This year's conference is featuring:

- Highlights from EMILI's Innovation Farms
  - Herbicide & Fungicide Options
- Peace Region Production & Research Update
- Seed Production Research in Minnesota
  - Precision Planting Solutions

**Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the members of the Manitoba Forage Seed Association Inc. will be held on January 9, 2025, at 10:30 am at the Victoria Inn, Wpg. Member is defined as an individual or entity who has paid a levy fee for the sale of Forage seed crops between the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024.

The Board of Directors will be proposing amendments to By-Law No. 1/2005 at the AGM for discussion. A vote to approve the amendments will be held immediately following discussions. Limited copies of the proposed amendments will be available at the AGM.

Advance copies can be obtained by emailing Lisa at: [loneill@forageseed.net](mailto:loneill@forageseed.net)  
To register contact the office at: 204-376-3309 or email Lisa.  
Details on our website: [www.forageseed.net](http://www.forageseed.net)



**PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE**  
The Town of Altona launched the Christmas season with their annual Night of Lights event on Nov. 29. The evening included horse and sleigh rides, a free wiener roast, free hot chocolate and cookies, music by local school holiday band ensembles, and, of course, a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick. Clockwise from above: Holiday music; visiting Santa Claus was a new experience for six-month-old Mekeila Fababeir; the free wiener roast at the Altona Civic Centre kept carolers warm and fed during the official tree lighting and fireworks; band students perform for a large crowd in the mall; a group of Christmas lovers braved the cold to enjoy a hay ride around Altona; newlyweds Toby Penner and Jessica Shearer posed for festive photos in the snowman frame.



# Altona Rec. launches free hockey and skating initiative

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona Recreation Department has announced the launch of a new initiative aimed at enhancing youth hockey and skating skills in the community.

Numerous ice times from now until the end of the arena season will be available at no charge for children

aged 18 years and under, providing an inclusive opportunity for skill development and recreational enjoyment.

This initiative was developed in partnership with Altona Minor Hockey and the Altona Skating Club. After extensive discussions with representatives from both organizations, it was decided that offering free ice time

to all youth in the community would foster an equitable environment for skill enhancement.

"This initiative is designed to be as inclusive as possible," says recreation services manager Eric Hildebrand. "I really want to commend the user groups for their collaborative efforts to make this happen."

"A lot of different options were

discussed but ultimately we landed on some terms that all parties could agree on, such as the ice times being a minimum of one-hour slots between the hours of 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends, with exceptions being made on days where there are no classes in the Borderland School Division."

Continued on page 17

*The* **Voice**

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# getinformed

## Deck the halls and shop local

### Altona chamber launches its Passport to Christmas

By Lori Penner

The Christmas season is upon us, and local businesses are embracing the festive spirit with the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce's Passport to Christmas contest.

Now in its second year, the promotion is already generating excitement, says chamber director Stephanie Harris.

"Last year 28 businesses participated, and we received great feedback. This year we've got 33 businesses on board, including some new ones that are excited to join."

A grand prize winner will be drawn to win \$500 in Chamber Bucks, a significant boost for holiday shopping around town.

"Chamber Bucks are accepted by all Chamber members, keeping money within our community and supporting local businesses," Harris says.

Each passport, valued at \$200, encourages more traffic. A diverse range of businesses—from restaurants and retail to car dealerships and salons—are participating. Shoppers can collect one stamp per visit and earn another with each new purchase, promoting repeat customers.

"Once they've earned and collected 15 stamps, they can place the completed passport in a drop box to be eligible for the draw," Harris says.

Passports can be obtained from participating businesses listed on the chamber website (altonachamber.com). Once filled, passports can be dropped off at the chamber office (42 Centre Ave. Suite 3) or the Town of Altona drop box at 111 Centre Ave. (open evenings and weekends).

Passports are due in by Dec. 17. The draw is on Dec. 18.

"The program helps boost the local economy, as seen in the significant spending each year," Harris notes. "It's a fantastic way to help the community thrive and bring even more cheer to the season."

The chamber also runs the Chamber Bucks program year-round, making the holidays an ideal time to purchase



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona & District Chamber of Commerce director Stephanie Harris and events and programs coordinator Chloe Driedger are thrilled to promote this year's Passport to Christmas program, on now through Dec. 17.

them as gifts for staff, family, and friends.

"Chamber Bucks are just like cash. They come in various denominations,

never expire, and can be redeemed at any participating local business or banking institution," says Harris.

### > ICE TIME, FROM PG. 16

Other key points include mandatory helmet use, users bringing their own pucks, and youth under the age of 12 requiring adult supervision.

"We've actually had a few sessions take place already and it was great to see the initiative in action," Hildebrand said. "Prior to a W.C. Miller Aces game, we had 21 Altona area youth on the ice working on their hockey skills while a figure skater was given ample ice surface space to work on their skating routines."

"It was a perfect example of how the user groups were hoping to collectively take advantage of ice time slots that otherwise may sit unused. And because of the final agreement, it's not just youth that are part of these user groups that are welcome to take advantage of the available ice times; all Altona and area youth ages 18 and under are welcome to participate."

Hildebrand added that the Town of Altona believes that this program will have a positive impact on youth engagement in sports, allowing more children to participate and develop their skills in a fun yet casual atmosphere.

"By removing the financial barrier, the recreation department aims to encourage participation from all corners of the community."

The free ice times can be found on the town's website (altona.ca) on the arena schedule under "Under 18 Hockey & Skating."

Hildebrand noted there may be some confusion regarding this program versus traditional public skating.

The rec. department already offers a number of free public skating ice times which are sponsored by local businesses. Those ice times will not be affected by this new initiative.

"Over the years we have had great support from a few long-standing Altona businesses to keep offering public skating at no cost, and this will not change," Hildebrand explained.

The main difference is that while public skating is aimed at all ages and is often attended by families, the U18 Hockey & Skating times are more for youth wanting specifically to hone their hockey and skating skills.

The rec. department along with Altona Minor Hockey and the Altona Skating Club will review the program in early to mid-January and again at the end of the ice season.

In exchange for what Hildebrand expects to be more than 200 hours of ice time being made

available, the user groups have agreed to pay a fee to provide a level of revenue to the town.

"It's also important to note that we can and will take private or association-based ice rentals during these scheduled Under 18 Hockey & Skating times, and the user groups are aware of this. It will be important to consistently check the online arena schedule and realize that a paying ice rental will take precedence over any scheduled Under 18 Hockey & Skating ice time."

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# Dream WEDDING

## Questions to ask when shopping for a wedding reception venue

Engaged couples make plenty of decisions when planning their weddings, and some may be more significant than others. Choosing a wedding reception venue is among the most important decisions couples will make.

The reception venue is where couples and guests will spend the majority of the day, and no two venues are the same. As couples begin shopping for a place to host their reception, they can ask them-

selves and venue representatives a multitude of questions to narrow down their options and ultimately make the best decision for them.

### What are we looking for in a venue?

Some couples may know precisely what they want their receptions to be like, while others may not have the slightest idea. Of course, some couples may be somewhere in the middle. Prior to beginning the process of choosing a ve-

nuce, couples can identify what they're looking for. Is a venue with outdoor entertaining space a priority? Do you want to hold the ceremony and reception at the same venue? How many guests will the venue need to accommodate? Answering these questions and others can help couples narrow down their search.

### How much can we afford?

Budget is a significant variable when shopping for a wedding venue. Some venues offer multiple spaces that can accommodate couples with a wide range of budgets, while others are singular spaces suited to receptions within a specified size. Itemizing a budget and determining how much can be allotted to a reception venue can serve as a guideline when couples begin searching for sites.

### Is our date available?

Once couples know what they want and what they can afford, they can prepare a number of questions that are worth asking at every venue they visit. Perhaps the most important, at least for those couples who have already chosen a wedding date, is the availability of the

site on that date. If couples have not yet chosen a date, they can ask for a list of available dates at each venue they visit and perhaps use that knowledge to pick a day, particularly if they prefer a given venue.

### Who will cater the meal?

Some venues do their own catering, while others may have working relationships with outside caterers. And some venues rent only the spaces and require couples to hire their own caterers and arrange all the details on their own. If a venue caters the meal, ask if they accommodate people with various restrictions, such as food allergies and gluten intolerances.

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# Do you recognize this drawing?



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Marjel Venzky of Carman purchased a charcoal portrait of General Montgomery, drawn by J.B. Quinn while visiting the Altona MCC last month. Venzky was drawn to the portrait and learned that Earl Montgomery was a Field Marshal and named a hero of the El Alamein Africa area. He died in England in March 1976 at age 88. Venzky hopes that a reader with British ties can help her get this drawing to a suitable place to call home. She is unsure if the portrait could be hung somewhere in Canada or should be sent overseas. If anyone has any information as to where the portrait came from or where it could go please email [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)

### How many hours are included in the rental agreement?

It's important that couples know what they're getting, including how much time they get in each space they consider. The online wedding resource The Knot notes a standard wedding reception is five hours, the first of which is generally designated as cocktail hour.

### What is the payment structure?

Identifying the payment structure, include down payment due date and when the final payment must be made, is important as well. This knowledge can allow couples to map out their expenses, the most significant of which is typically the reception venue.

These are just some of the questions couples can ask as they plan their wedding receptions.



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# Morden Festival of the Arts entry forms now available



By Lorne Stelmach

Plans are falling into place for the 50th anniversary of the Morden Festival of the Arts.

Much of the festival schedule will be back as usual, but organizers are planning to do something to highlight this milestone year.

"We've got a few things that we're trying to plan to make our highlights concert a little more special this year," said spokesperson Erika Dyck.

The Morden Festival of the Arts is a volunteer based registered charity that provides a venue for student and adult performance, instruction, and adjudication in the areas of band, strings, sacred music, piano, vocal/choral, and French and English speech arts.

The aim is to foster and promote continued interest, growth, and development of talent within the arts. To encourage youth to share their love of the arts, the festival strives to keep entry fees as low as possible.

Dyck noted it can be a good learning opportunity for performers.

"It's a good place for them to get good feedback, positive feedback from an adjudicator, things to work on, and it's a good experience for them to perform in front of other people."

She anticipates registrations will reflect the trend of recovery post-pandemic.

"Our numbers were up last year compared to the previous year," shared Dyck, noting the strings session was back to normal while piano was down a little, but speech arts was up.

"It was really nice. It was good to see that kids were wanting to perform and there was still interest in the festival," she said. "We're fairly confident that our numbers will be good and that we'll have a good festival again."

The 50th annual Morden Festival of the Arts runs next spring.  
VOICE FILE PHOTO

The tentative schedule for 2025 is strings March 9-11, sacred music March 23, piano March 23-25, vocal and choral April 14-15, speech arts April 22-24, and then the band session and highlights concert dates are still to be determined.

The festival's syllabus can be found online at [www.mordenfestivalofthearts.com](http://www.mordenfestivalofthearts.com) or in person at all Morden school libraries and the South Central Regional Library's Morden branch.

Copies of French and English speech arts selections are available on the website and can also be found at all school libraries in Morden.

The festival will continue to offer the multi-age/multi-level class this year. Information on this class is available in the addendum on the festival website.

Piano, strings, sacred and vocal registrations are generally done through the students' private music teachers. Entry forms and submission details are available online.

For all disciplines, emailed entry forms and e-transfer payments are the preferred method of submission. Entry forms along with the required payment in cheque form can also be mailed to Morden Festival of the Arts, Box 493, Morden, MB, R6M 1A5.

The final deadline for all festival entries is Jan. 24.

The Morden festival is fortunate to have a hard-working and dedicated group of volunteers who serve on the committee year-round, but they are always looking for new volunteers. Anyone interested, can call Marlene Britton at 204-823-0794.

If you would like to support the Festival of the Arts financially, send your donations to the mailing address above. Tax receipts and two free passes to the highlights concert will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Holiday Wreath Popcorn Treats and Cranberry Popcorn Balls

heavy saucepan, combine sugar, cranberry sauce, orange peel, cranberry juice, corn syrup, vinegar and salt. Bring to boil; lower heat and cook to 250 F on candy thermometer. Mixture will bubble in pan so watch to keep from boiling over.

Pour mixture slowly onto hot popcorn and mix until well-coated. Let stand 5 minutes, or until mixture can easily be formed into balls. Butter hands and form into 3-inch balls.

To make holiday wreath popcorn treats: Spray large mixing bowl lightly with nonstick cooking spray and place popcorn inside.

In medium saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Stir in marshmallows and gelatin dessert powder until marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth. Pour over popcorn and mix well until coated.

Spray hands with nonstick cooking spray and press firmly to form popcorn mixture into 9-inch logs then bend to form "wreaths." Place "wreaths" on wax paper. Press candy pieces and jelly beans onto wreath to decorate; add "ribbon" cut from fruit leather.

- Yield: 8 wreaths and 18 balls
- Cranberry Popcorn Balls:**  
 2 cups sugar  
 1 cup whole berry cranberry sauce, slightly mashed  
 1 tablespoon grated orange peel  
 1/2 cup cranberry juice  
 1/2 cup light corn syrup  
 1 teaspoon vinegar  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 5 quarts unsalted popped popcorn
- Holiday Wreath Popcorn Treats:**  
 Nonstick cooking spray  
 3 quarts popped popcorn  
 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine  
 3 cups miniature marshmallows  
 3 tablespoons (1/2 of 3-ounce box) lime gelatin dessert mix  
 small red candies  
 jelly beans  
 red fruit leather
- To make cranberry popcorn balls: In



## Turkey Spinach Orzo

- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

In large skillet over medium heat, brown turkey and spinach with butter. Add chicken stock and orzo; cover and cook 10 minutes.

Turn off heat and mix in Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and onion powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

- Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
 Servings: 4-6  
 2 cups leftover chopped turkey  
 1 1/2 cups frozen spinach  
 2 tablespoons butter  
 2 cups chicken stock  
 2 cups orzo

## Pumpkin Chiffon Pie



- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
  - 1/2 teaspoon ginger
  - 1/2 teaspoon cloves
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1 beaten egg
  - 3/4 cup milk
  - 1 cup whipped topping, plus additional for serving (optional)
  - 1 graham cracker pie shell
- In saucepan, mix gelatin, pumpkin, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, salt and sugar. Whisk in egg and milk. Bring to boil over medium heat while stirring.

- Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
 Servings: 8-10  
 1 envelope unflavored gelatin  
 1 can pumpkin

Set aside and let slightly cool then whisk in 1 cup whipped topping. Pour into pie shell. Refrigerate overnight.

Serve with additional whipped topping, if desired.

## Understanding health buzzwords

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

It's fantastic that, overall, people are becoming more health conscious and aware of how the choices they make in their foods affect their quality of life. Many companies have caught on to this and added labeling to help consumers choose the right product for their nutritional needs. However, a dark side to the spotlight on eating well is how some food producers have allowed their marketing teams to create confusing, often deceptive, buzzwords. Let me break down the good and the bad of what some of the most popular labels really mean to you.

**Organic:** You've noticed this label and the higher price tag in many cases. In Canada, organic products are non-GMO, meaning that they are grown with the use of any genetically engineered products, including synthetic growth hormones or antibiotics, artificial additives or preservatives. Read carefully because I didn't say pesticide-free since organic farmers can use natural pesticides to control pests in their crops, in some cases, which many still have environmental impacts to consider. A few downfalls to choosing organic food are that sometimes foods spoil more quickly and are not necessarily more nutritious than available frozen versions, which were packaged and preserved at their peak quality.

**Non-GMO:** Products that do not contain any genetically modified organisms. The long-term effects of consuming GMOs cannot be known yet. However, this tag does not speak to the use of chemicals related to the food.

**Gluten-Free:** Products labelled certified Gluten-Free are made with careful planning to avoid contamination of the product with gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye, which is required for people who live with celiac disease or



Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

a sensitivity to this protein. To improve the texture and taste of these products, they are sometimes higher in sugar or fat.

**Grass-Fed:** This term refers to whether an animal was grass-fed or ate a combination of grass, grain or corn, which could mean meats have different nutrient profiles. Various terms are used, and it's often unclear from the many similar terms which guarantee short- or long-term dietary habits, and if the government follows up on such claims in any way.

Are you interested in articles on this topic? Reach out to me with your comments and questions at [info@juliegermaine.com](mailto:info@juliegermaine.com), or if you want to discuss your individual nutrition questions, fitness goals and struggles with me, visit my website [www.juliegermaine.com](http://www.juliegermaine.com) or schedule a consultation by visiting: [www.calendly.com/juliegermaine](http://www.calendly.com/juliegermaine)

Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to long-life health! She is an active mom, Registered Personal Trainer, a 2x Pro Fitness Champion, Certified Nutrition Expert & Fitness Specialist. She has helped many thousands of people worldwide improve their health since 2005.

## Easy Crab Rangoon



- Servings: 12
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 12 wonton wrappers
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened

- 4 ounces lump crabmeat
- 1 scallion, sliced thin, green and white parts separated
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, grated
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- Heat oven to 350 F.

Spray muffin pan with nonstick cooking spray. Press wonton wrappers into muffin cups. Lightly spray wrappers with nonstick cooking spray and bake until lightly browned, 6-9 minutes. Let cool slightly.

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Combine with crabmeat, scallion whites, ginger and soy sauce. Fill each wonton wrapper with filling. Bake until filling is heated through, 6-8 minutes.

Sprinkle with scallion greens. Serve warm.

# CME organizes tour of Winkler businesses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two Winkler businesses welcomed a tour organized by the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) last week.

On Friday, about 50 people from across Manitoba arrived in town to spend the morning exploring Icon Technologies and Triple E Leisure Travel Vans before enjoying a made-in-Winkler meal of farmer's sausage and potatoes made by Northlands Parkway Collegiate's culinary arts students.

The group was made up of people involved with high school apprenticeship and technical vocational programs, shared Mitchell DeFehr, CME's workforce development program coordinator.

"One of our activity lines as part of our broader mandate is to facilitate educator tours to bridge the gap between industry and education," he explained.

"We've done them in the past, and more recently decided to team up with the high school apprenticeship program [HSAP] and the Red River Technical Vocational Area [RRTVA] in putting on these tours because they were also looking to have tours as part of their learning committee days.

"People want to see the growth that's happening from manufacturers outside the city," DeFehr continued. "We really wanted to highlight the contribution that they're making



**SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters brought a group of educators to tour Icon Technologies and Leisure Travel Vans last week.

to the Manitoba economy and to the workforce sector, so this seemed like a really good opportunity to go to Winkler and showcase some of the thriving businesses out there."

The two tours gave participants a behind-the-scenes peek at Icon and Leisure's manufacturing facilities and processes.

"It's great to see all the growth that's happening there, and especially to drive through the industrial park and see there's even more coming up," DeFehr observed.

"For CME, that's kind of their mandate, to help manufacturers grow. So just to see that there's so much innovation happening in Winkler and that the workforce is really thriving ... the research and development and innovations ... it's really exciting to see."

After the tours and lunch, the HSAP and RRTVA groups spent the afternoon holding meetings and networking.

It was an incredibly informative day, shared RRTVA director Lane Curry.



"We were pretty excited to be able to be part of an event like this," he said. "It's nice to get provincial people with the same interests and areas of education in our area together to showcase what we have and see some of our facilities in manufacturing and exporting that's going on in our neck of the woods."

Touring local companies is an invaluable opportunity for RRTVA educators and administrators, who can take what they've learned back to their students.

"It's kind of unbelievable," Curry observed of the success so many area

companies are experiencing in their respective markets, not just close to home but around the world. "You drive past facilities like Icon and they're growing so much. I've driven past Leisure Travel Vans my whole life and never been able to go in there before.

"It's really interesting to see their continuous improvements ... the same type of things that we want to do in education and vocational learning. And it's really interesting to see how different industries and companies work with that within their own needs."

# A Simple Kind of Christmas comes to Manitou Dec. 14

By Ashleigh Viveiros



**SUPPLIED PHOTO**

Daniel Jordan, Sheena Rattai, and Danile Pélouquin-Hopfner of Red Moon Road are in Manitou next weekend as part of their Simple Kind of Christmas Tour.

Red Moon Road returns to the Manitou Opera House for the second holiday season in a row next week.

The historical venue is the second-last stop on the Winnipeg band's Simple Kind of Christmas tour, which has taken them to a host of rural communities over the past few weeks.

"Red Moon Road has a long history of playing all over Manitoba, and Canada, for that matter," shares Daniel Jordan, one-third of the trio that also includes Sheena Rattai and Daniel Pélouquin-Hopfner. "We've played every province extensively, but you know when they say be a tourist in your own place before going else-

where? We've just come to really love playing rural shows in Manitoba. You can connect with communities in a really special way."

The 2023 holiday show was a huge hit for the band and audiences alike, so they were eager for a repeat this year, Jordan says, noting they were pleased the Manitou Opera House Foundation was keen to have them back again.

"The opera house especially is amazing to have something so special in terms of the community that's there, but also to have a space like that," he said. "For the show that we have, it just seems the perfect fit."

Continued on page 28

# sports & recreation

## Flyers beat Blizzard 4-1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added a couple of wins and one loss to their MJHL record this past week.

Last Tuesday's game on the road in Waywayseecappo got off to a slow start, scoringwise.

Neither team made any headway through the entirety of the first period and most of the second. Winkler's Blake Matheson finally broke the deadlock with a goal at 17:38.

The Wolverines returned the favour four minutes into the third, making for a 1-1 tie that held through to the end of regulation.

In the resulting overtime, it was the Flyers' Isaac Deveau who put an end to things, scoring at 3:42 to give Winkler the win 2-1.

The Flyers won the shot battle 44-29, with Liam Ernst in net for the duration, making 28 saves.

The team found themselves on the other things a few nights later in Selkirk against the Steelers.

This game also went into overtime after the Steelers managed to come from behind in the final minutes. Winkler was up 3-2 thanks to goals from Nicholas Mckee and Jared Grenier, but two late goals from Selkirk sent things into extra minutes for a decision. The Steelers scored 1:56 in



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler Flyers goalie Rylan Benner makes a pad save, helping his team kill a penalty in Sunday's 4-1 win against the visiting Winnipeg Blizzard.

to win it 4-3.

Ernst made 33 saves this game, off 37 shots. His teammates sent 47 the other way.

Winkler bounced back Sunday with a 4-1 victory against the visiting Winnipeg Blizzard.

Outshooting Winnipeg 40-26, Win-

kler's Brady Craik, Brody Beauchemin, Will Lyons, and Mckee had scoring honours, while Rylan Benner made 25 saves in net, giving up the Blizzard's lone goal midway through the second period.

The Flyers are currently in second place in the MGEU East Division with

a record of 17-6-2, good for 36 points. They trail the Steinbach Pistons in first place by just three points.

This weekend, the Flyers host the Niverville Nighthawks on Sunday. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m. at the Winkler Icon Arena.

## Hawks double up on Chiefs, get frozen by Ice

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Hawks female U18 team crushed the Yellowhead Chiefs but then fell to the Winnipeg Ice last weekend.

Friday night's home game against Yellowhead saw the ladies double up

on the visitors 6-3.

Jessica Anderson was responsible for half those goals, while Abigail Brigg, Emma Durand, and Casey O'Brien scored as well.

Madison Froese had a 39-save night in net as the Chief outshot the Hawks 38-26.

Things didn't go so well the next night against the Ice in Winnipeg.

Goalie Kasia Rakowski found herself hammered with 42 shots, while her teammates sent just 17 the other way, all unsuccessful.

The Ice managed to get four of their shots past Rakowski for a 4-0 shutout

win.

It brings the Hawks' record to 6-10, good for 12 points and sixth place in the standings.

This weekend the Hawks take on the Interlake Lightning in Morden Friday at 7:45 p.m.

The **Voice**

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# Bombers down Wild 8-4

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers decisively defeated visiting Red River Wild last weekend in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action.

The Wild came to town Saturday night, and left with their third loss of the season.

TJ Matuszewski drew first blood just three minutes in, but Morden's Collin Shirley returned the favour 22 seconds later, and then Mike Rey pulled the home team into the lead 2-1 in the sixth minute.

Geordie Keane tied it for the Wild in the middle frame's opening minutes, but goals from Keane Boucher, Steve Mullin, Jay Fehr (with two) and Shirley cemented Morden's lead 7-2 heading into the final period.

There, Derek Wiebe made it 8-2, and while Red River managed two more (Justin Baudry, Matuszewski) they couldn't close the gap, giving the win to Morden 8-4.

Carter Lemay and Jayden Catellier split duties in the Wild net, Lemay

making 10 saves off 12 shots while Catellier made 18 saves off 24. Across the rink, Reed Peters made 44 saves.

The Winkler Royals, meanwhile, pulled off a 5-4 OT win against the Northstars in Ile des Chenes Saturday night.

Colton Harder had a two-goal night while singles came courtesy of Justin Augert and Braden Hildebrand. Winkler was up 4-3 in the final five minutes of the game, but the Northstars managed to sneak one past netminder Matthew Thiessen to force overtime.

There, Mitch Dyck got the game-winner for the Royals.

Thiessen made 40 saves in net as the Northstars outshot the Royals 44-35.

With that, Red River is in fourth place in the SEMHL standings (5-3), behind Springfield in first (6-1), Ste. Anne in second (5-1), and Warren in third place (5-2).

Winkler is in sixth place (4-3-0-1) and Morden is in eighth (2-3)

Coming up, Red River is in Winkler Friday night while Morden hosts Carman Saturday.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden Bombers game star Jay Fehr tries to escape the Red River Wild's Mark Nelson. Fehr led the team with two goals and three assists in the 8-4 Morden win.

# Twisters continue to plummet in MMJHL action

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey club had another tough week as they lost in their only game. The Morris-based MMJHL team is now 3-16-1, which is good for last place in the league standings.

On Nov. 29, the Twisted got blasted 7-0 by the River East Royal Knights in a very forgettable game as it was the first time the team has been shutout this season. Darion Penner stopped 29 shots in the Twisters' goal in the loss.

"We strayed away from our game again, but we're bound to figure

things out eventually," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts.

The Twisters are back in action with a pair of games this week. They're at home on Dec. 6 to play the Transcona

Railer Express at 8 p.m. And are on the road on Dec. 8 to do battle with the St. Boniface Riels at 3 p.m.

"Our defensive zone play needs to be better, and we're going to keep

working on it," said Beernaerts. "And then from there, hopefully, that can spring some offence."

# Male U18 Hawks split weekend games

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Hawks U18 men's team split their games over the weekend.

Friday night saw them fall 3-2 in a heated overtime battle with the

Wheat Kings in Brandon.

A goal from Adrien McIntosh had the Hawks up 1-0 in the second period, but the home team managed two in quick succession midway through the third and looked poised to win it

right up until Haiden Friesen evened things out with a Pembina Valley goal at the 18:14 mark.

Brandon scored 18 seconds into the extra period to win the night.

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# Local teams reach podium at volleyball provincials

By Voice staff

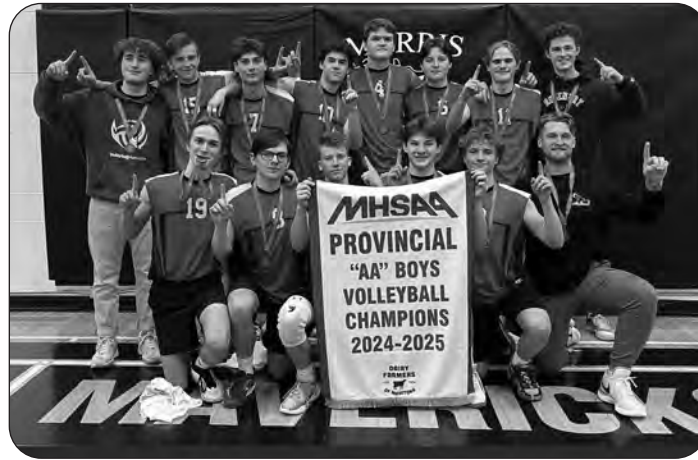
Local teams shone at the provincial high school volleyball championships over the weekend.

At the AAA varsity tournaments at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, both the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs boys and the W.C. Miller Collegiate girls made it to the podium.

After a third-place finish in the round robin (1-2), the Zodiacs made short work of the Louis-Riel Voyageurs in the quarterfinal (winning it in three sets) and then beat the Calvin Christian Eagles in two to advance to the championship match against the Neelin Spartan Varsity team. Neelin came out ahead in three sets (22-25, 25-19, 15-11) to clinch the banner.

On the girls side, the Aces were also third in their pool (1-2) but then downed the Balmoral Hall Blazers (25-23, 6-15, 13-15) in the quarterfinals to go up against the Stonewall Rams in the semifinal.

The Rams won it in three (25-27, 25-23, 11-15) to advance, eventually losing to the Westgate Wings in the final.



ABOVE PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK.COM/ROSENORTSCHOOL

The Rosenort Redhawks boys team (above, left) won the AA championship last weekend, while the girls (above, right) came in second place. The GVC Zodiacs (below, left) and the W.C. Miller Aces (below, right) finished in second and third place, respectively, at the AAA championships.



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE



FACEBOOK.COM/W.C.MILLER.COLLEGIATE

Altona, meanwhile, went on to down the Neelin Spartans 15-25, 25-17, and 11-15 to finish in third place.

Closer to home, Morris School and Rosenort School were hosting the AA championships, and the home teams went the distance.

On the boys side, the final came

down to the Morris/St. Jean (Co-op) Mavericks and the Rosenort Redhawks.

Rosenort, who was flawless in their four round robin games and also bested the Goose Lake Raiders in the semi-final in two sets, won the championship in three (16-25, 25-22, and

3-15).

On the girls side, the Redhawks were also undefeated in their pool. They beat the Prairie Mountain Predators in two sets in the semi-final, but then came up short in the final against the Elton Sabres (24-26, 24-26) to place second in the province.

# Little Ballers program looking for coaches in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

A basketball program that is as much about teaching basic skills as it is about the sport itself is starting up in Morden in the new year, and orga-

nizers are looking for coaches.

"What we really need first is to have really solid lead coaches," said Chad Celaire, owner of Little Ballers. "The response from parents has been great so far, but we are looking to hire a few coaches."

Celaire has been involved in basketball as an athlete and

The Little Ballers basketball program for pre-schoolers is looking for coaches to lead the new Morden session starting in January.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



coach for 36 years.

As a coach, he first discovered his love for coaching during his off-seasons while playing basketball for the University of Regina. While a student-athlete, he built on his coaching experience and became a coach for summer camps with Athletes in Action in 1998.

From 2002 to 2017, he worked as a youth minister in Winnipeg. Some of his responsibilities involved directing summer camps and local recreation activities and mentoring youth with an emphasis on character development and leadership.

Since 2017, Celaire has been a stay-at-home dad, and this role led to a special interest in watching his children's development and their ability to learn new skills.

It is precisely these experiences as a father that led him to launch Little Ballers as a preschool-aged development program. His goal is to provide

a positive and fun environment that will shape understanding, confidence, ability and love for the game and sports in general.

He started the program initially with two Winnipeg locations in the fall of 2022.

"We quickly realized that it was like a niche market and that people seemed to really like the program, so we started to expand it to various places within Winnipeg," said Celaire. "We noticed there people coming from some of the suburbs and outside of Winnipeg."

He initially started then with what they called free awareness classes in possible communities of interest. They have since started up in Carman and then in Winkler.

"It was well attended, but the bulk of the people came from Morden, so that's why we decided to kind of pur-

Continued on page 26

# get informed

## Roland, Altona United Church welcomes new minister

By Ty Dilello

The Altona and Roland United Church have a new minister as Reverend Sourav Nag recently arrived in southern Manitoba from India in August.

Rev. Sourav applied to be a minister of the United Church of Canada in the fall of 2023. He applied to the post where he would share a full-time minister spot between the Roland United Church and Altona United Church.

"Both congregations were struggling to find a candidate for a half-time ministry position," said RM of Roland Reeve Jodi Gaultier. "So we joined together to collaborate and share a minister."

Rev. Sourav was a minister in India for several years before he decided to explore ministry in Canada. He lives in Altona and has been navigating the joys and challenges of completely starting over in a new country.

"I was drawn to Canada by the opportunity to serve in a diverse and inclusive church community," said Rev. Sourav Nag. "The United Church of Canada has a rich tradition of welcoming people from different back-

grounds, and I felt a strong calling to be a part of that. It was also a great chance to broaden my ministry experience and connect with people from different cultural perspectives."

The two congregations have been helping the new minister settle in as they set up his apartment before he arrived, help him get a bank account and health card. He is currently taking driving lessons and preparing to take his driver's test in November.

Rev. Sourav officially started work on Aug. 15 and had his first service in Altona on Sept. 8 and his first service in Roland on Sept. 15. He currently alternates Sundays between the two congregations.

"We are so excited to have him with us," said Gaultier. "He is just full of optimism and positive energy."

Rev. Sourav has been really enjoying his time in southern Manitoba since arriving back in August, and he is quickly getting used to life in a new country.

"Manitoba is a beautiful province, and I've been touched by the warmth and hospitality of the people. Getting settled has been going well, and I'm appreciating the slower pace of life



PHOTO BY JODI GAULTIER/VOICE

Reverend Sourav Nag has recently arrived from India to become the new minister at the Roland and Altona United Church.

compared to some of the larger cities."

If you'd like to see Rev. Sourav Nag in action, come to the Altona and Roland United Church on Sunday mornings. The Reverend promotes community and inclusion in his services.

"The services have been going won-

derfully," said Rev. Sourav. "Both congregations have been incredibly welcoming, and I feel a strong sense of community here. It's been a joy to share in worship and get to know the members of the congregation."

### > LITTLE BALLERS, FROM PG. 25

sue looking for a location there," said Celaire.

They have now found a location at the Morden Mennonite Church. They had some staff in place, but their work requirements changed and they may not be available now.

There is strong interest with about 40 kids already signed up, so the need is to find both lead and assistant coaches.

"I have a few of my ones that came over from when they were working in Winkler, but they're not committed to working the entire time," Celaire explained.

He noted they will do some training and mentoring, and they have a curriculum to follow along with supporting videos.

The focus overall is on early childhood development, as there is a small portion that directly involves basketball while much of it is devoted to learning basic athletic skills.

"It really is a program that can help kids prepare for any sport," he said. "Many of the movements that we're doing are transferable to other sports."

The program would run for 10

### > HAWKS, FROM PG. 24

Ryler Gates was between the pipes for the Hawks. He made 39 saves off the 41 shots sent his way. His teammates fired 24 at the Brandon goalie.

Two nights later the Yellowhead Chiefs came to Morden. The Hawks had a firm handle on things through the first two periods, with goals from Cole Secord (in the first) and Ryder Wolfe and Tegan Fehr (in the second) giving them a comfortable 3-0 lead heading into the final 20 minutes.

Yellowhead chipped away at that lead with goals at 8:50 and 13:08, but didn't get any closer to closing the gap, giv-

ing the win to the home team 3-2.

The Chiefs outshot the Hawks 36-23. Karsen Dyck made 21 saves in goal for Pembina Valley.

The Hawks are currently in eighth place with a 10-8-2-0-1 record and 23 points.

This weekend they hit the road to play the Southwest Cougars Saturday and Sunday. They're also on the road next week Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Winnipeg to play the Wild.

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

# Manitoba's inaugural Sunflower Day a success

By Ty Dilello

The inaugural Sunflower Day in Manitoba, held at the Carman Community Hall on Nov. 26, proved to be a resounding success. It brought together farmers, agronomists, and industry professionals to focus on the latest in sunflower agronomy.

The event featured expert-led presentations from top organizations, including North Dakota State University, Manitoba Agriculture, the Manitoba Crop Alliance, and Manitoba Agricultural Services Cooperation.

The day began with a warm welcome from Callum Morrison, followed by a presentation from Jon Low, an Insurance Specialist with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC). Afterward, Michael Wunsch, a North Dakota State University plant pathologist, delivered a comprehensive presentation on sclerotinia in sunflowers.

Following lunch, attendees were given an update by Morgan Cott from Manitoba Crop Alliance. The afternoon continued with an agronomy panel discussion featuring a diverse group of experts: Callum Morrison (Provincial Crop Production Extension Specialist), Kim Brown (Provincial Weeds Specialist), John Gavloski (Provincial Entomology Specialist), and Dennis Lange (Provincial Pulse Specialist and Sunflower Farmer).

The panellists addressed a range of questions posed by the audience, offering practical advice and expert perspectives on sunflower crop management, as well as emerging issues with herbicide-resistant waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.

Next, Page Klug presented on the challenges posed by red-winged blackbirds and starlings in sunflowers, discussing potential control measures. Provincial Farm Management Specialist Darren Bond then provided an in-depth look at farm profitability, highlighting the importance of financial sustainability in agriculture.

The day concluded with a presentation by Ali Moneo on sunflower markets, discussing market trends and opportunities for sunflower growers.

Attendees of the Sunflower Day event gained valuable insights on best management practices for sunflower production, pest management, and the latest research in crop development. Industry sponsors R-Way Ag, Winfield, Gowan, and FMC were also in attendance and played a key role in making the event possible, showcasing their support for the growth and innovation of Manitoba's sunflower industry.

Event organizer and MC Callum Morrison, the Crop Production Extension Specialist for the Central Region with Manitoba Agriculture, expressed his excitement about the event's suc-



cess and announced plans to bring Sunflower Day back in 2025.

"The day proved to be a valuable platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and discussions on the future of sunflower farming in Manitoba, positioning the event as a promising addition to the province's agricultural calendar," said Callum Morrison.

Morrison notes that in the future, producers will need to be increasingly more vigilant about herbicide-resistant weeds as it will pose a significant challenge to crop management.

"Sunflowers have relatively few in-crop herbicide options, and their wide row spacings create a lot of bare soil, providing ideal conditions for weeds to germinate and compete for space, light, and nutrients," said Morrison. "With the increasing risk of herbicide resistance, producers will likely need to explore alternative, non-chemical weed control measures, such as

inter-row tillage, to help manage weed populations. Additionally, ensuring effective weed control during non-sunflower years will be crucial to keeping weed seedbanks low and preventing weed pressure from escalating in subsequent growing seasons. By combining integrated weed management practices, farmers can maintain productive sunflower crops and reduce the reliance on a single type of control."

At the end of the Sunflower Day meetings, it was announced that three upcoming "Central Region Crop Meetings" will take place in February 2025. The dates and locations are Feb. 18 in Carman, Feb. 19 in Altona, and Feb. 21 in Holland. These meetings will provide further opportunities for local farmers and industry professionals to engage with experts and stay up to date on the latest crop management strategies.

## Temporary GST/HST tax holiday bill passed by Liberals

By Patricia Barrett

The federal Liberal government moved a step closer last week to delivering a temporary two-month GST/HST tax holiday to Canadians after securing the support of the federal NDP and moving legislation through the House of Commons.

Deputy prime minister and finance minister Chrystia Freeland introduced Bill C-78 on Nov. 27 to halt the GST/HST on certain products such as taxable food items, children's clothing and toys, video games and Christmas trees.

"We understand that it's a good thing to be there for Canadians to help them to address affordability issues and we brought in measures last Thursday that will do precisely that," Freeland told the media in French after an evening meeting on Nov. 27 with provincial and territorial leaders to discuss U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's threat to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods. "So, I'm

very happy it will now be possible to move forward with the GST suspension. I think that will really help Canadians with affordability, particularly during the holiday season."

The *Tax Break for All Canadians Act* passed three readings in the House of Commons, with third reading on Nov. 28. The house voted 176 in favour of the bill with 151 against it. Both the Bloc Quebecois and the Conservatives voted against it.

The bill is on its way to the Senate for three readings in that chamber before it can potentially come into effect. If passed, the tax-relief measure will take effect on Dec. 14 and end on Feb. 15, 2025.

In estimates provided to the CBC, the federal government said the GST/HST break would cost about \$1.6 billion in lost tax revenue.

The proposed tax holiday sparked a great deal of debate from opposition parties and critics.

The Conservatives contend the cut to the GST/HST is a political gimmick

designed to prop up a flagging Liberal government, and that the measure will drive up inflation.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre said Canada has a "weakened" economy, border, military and prime minister, and that the Liberal leader is "desperate" for leverage.

"He's [prime minister Justin Trudeau] lost control but he's trying to hold on to power," said Poilievre before third reading of C-78 on Nov. 28. "And so he's come up with an irresponsible and inflationist six-billion-dollar tax trick that he will take away right before raising the carbon tax on heat, housing, groceries and gas in just a few months."

The Liberal government first announced the temporary suspension of the GST/HST on Nov. 21, adding that that it would be followed by a \$250 "Working Canadians Rebate" cheque for those who made up to \$150,000 in 2023. Both measures would help Canadians continuing to struggle with the high cost of housing, food and

gas. The federal NDP wanted the \$250 rebate cheque to be voted on as a separate bill, so the Liberals excluded the proposal from C-78.

According to the government's background paper released on Nov. 21, the GST/HST will be excluded from children's clothing and footwear, diapers, car seats, toys, video game consoles, controllers or physical game media, print newspapers, printed books and Christmas trees (natural or artificial).

The tax will also be suspended from food and beverages including wine, beer, cider and coolers (spirits excluded), carbonated beverages, candies, chips, popcorn, salted nuts, seeds, granola, dried fruit, juice bars, frozen yoghurt, ice cream, fruit bars, cakes, muffins, pies, pastries, cookies, brownies, pudding, prepared salads, sandwiches, cold cuts, food or beverages sold at restaurants, coffee shops, lunch counters, and bottled water.

Low-income Canadians who file an income tax return every year are eligible to receive a GST rebate.

> RED MOON ROAD, FROM PG. 22

The Saturday, Dec. 14 performance will include a host of traditional Christmas carols—with a Red Moon Road spin, of course—as well as the band's own holiday-themed songs.

"We've got a few holiday classics people will recognize that we're doing in a new way," Jordan says. "And we've even got a couple new songs as well."

While the tour and the album is called "A Simple Kind of Christmas," the music is anything but.

"It's a bit of a misnomer, we've learned," Jordan says. "We recorded the album, a lot of it, during the height of the COVID lockdowns, so that made it tricky in and of itself. When it came time to perform it live, we realized instead of touring with just the three of us, like we have for so many years, we actually had to incorporate an entire three-piece band."

"We have orchestral bells. We have

something like 64 different strings from eight or nine different instruments on stage. It just seems to get a little bit more intricate each iteration we do, because we always try and push the show ... we always try and grow it with something a little bit different.

"It's a show that I think resonates

and connects on a bunch of levels, including musically," Jordan says, noting they revel in the between-songs banter and storytelling that has become a hallmark for the band.

Red Moon Road will be joined on stage in Manitou by fellow Manitoba musicians Daniel Roy (drums), Keiran Placatka (piano and keyboard),

and Logan Picton (guitar and mandolin).

The show begins at 7 p.m. next week Saturday. Tickets are \$25 and are available by calling or texting 204-242-4414 or by emailing events@manitouoperahouse.com.

> ARENA RENOS, FROM PG. 15

"As we started digging in and started testing the tensile strength of our steel and started looking at the piles underneath and those things where we had thought we would need to add more, we actually haven't had to add as much as we anticipated," Siemens said. "We're finding that the bones of this arena are still really, really good. It speaks to the quality of the construction back then, speaks to the quality of the investment by

the council of the day that made sure that the facility they built back then for 50 years is now 56 years old and still in really good shape.

"We have been almost universally pleasantly surprised," he continued, noting they did find some asbestos that needed to be removed, but that was expected in a building of this age. "At this point in time, now that the demolition piece is done and we're going to start towards the construction piece, I would say we're

very happy with how everything has gone."

The plan is to have the work done by the end of 2025. The final result will be a rink that will serve the community for generations, Siemens said.

"We have a really good team who's been very, very good at finding the efficiencies and finding the benefits that allow us to hopefully build something that the community is going to be very proud of."

# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

# X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bar bills
- 5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 8. Swiss river
- 11. Czech Republic capital
- 13. "Officially known as"
- 14. A French abbot
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Local area network
- 17. Data transmission speed measure
- 18. Embarrass
- 20. When you hope to get there
- 21. This (Spanish)
- 22. Gives up
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Current
- 31. Slang for gun
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Vanished union bigwig
- 38. Rocker's tool of the trade
- 41. Dearth
- 43. 2024 Olympics host
- 45. Excess blood in the vessels
- 48. Afrikaans
- 49. Agreement between provider and customer
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Ancient Syrian city
- 56. Witch
- 57. Celebrations
- 59. Long period of time
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Current unit
- 62. One-time aerospace company
- 63. French/Belgian river
- 64. Swedish rock group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 2. Genus of clams
- 3. Remark
- 4. Actor LaBeouf
- 5. Ohio town

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19		20			21			
				22	23				24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43			44					
	45	46	47										
48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56					57			58
59					60					61			
62					63						64		

- 6. Olympic sport
- 7. Cure
- 8. Behave in a way that belittles
- 9. Shares a boundary with
- 10. Give advice
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing
- 19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn
- 23. Small piece
- 24. King of Camelot
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. Small Milky Way constellation
- 27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)
- 28. Equal (prefix)
- 29. Shawl
- 34. S. American wood sorrel relative
- 35. The end
- 36. Supervises interstate commerce
- 37. Yes vote
- 39. Officer of high rank
- 40. Church office
- 41. Tire pressure measurement
- 42. From a distance
- 44. Photographs
- 45. Industrial process
- 46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 47. Map out
- 48. Mammary gland part of female mammal
- 51. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 52. Spongelike cake leavened with yeast
- 53. Speak incessantly
- 54. Poetry term
- 58. Relaxing space

# Classifieds

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

**SCRAP METAL**

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

**WANTED**

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

**FLIGHT ACADEMY**

Want to learn how to fly? Recreational Pilot Program is the best way to get started, must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger; can easily add float rating to permit. LS Airways Flight Academy 204-651-1402.

**News Tips?  
Story Ideas?  
call the Voice**

**NOTICES**

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

*The Voice*  
Winkler-Morden  
Call 204-467-5836

**NOTICES**

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS ADS RIGHT NOW! Maximize your business plan before year end. Early deadlines are in place. Now booking advertising for the remainder of 2024. Plan your success! Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

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**CAREERS**



**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT**

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

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**THE CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 16-2024  
Being a BY-LAW to the CITY OF MORDEN TO  
CLOSE A PORTION OF A MUNICIPAL ROAD AND  
AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF LAND**

**HEARING**

Morden Civic Centre  
**LOCATION:**  
195 Stephen St.,  
Morden, MB  
**DATE:** Monday,  
23<sup>RD</sup> December 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00pm

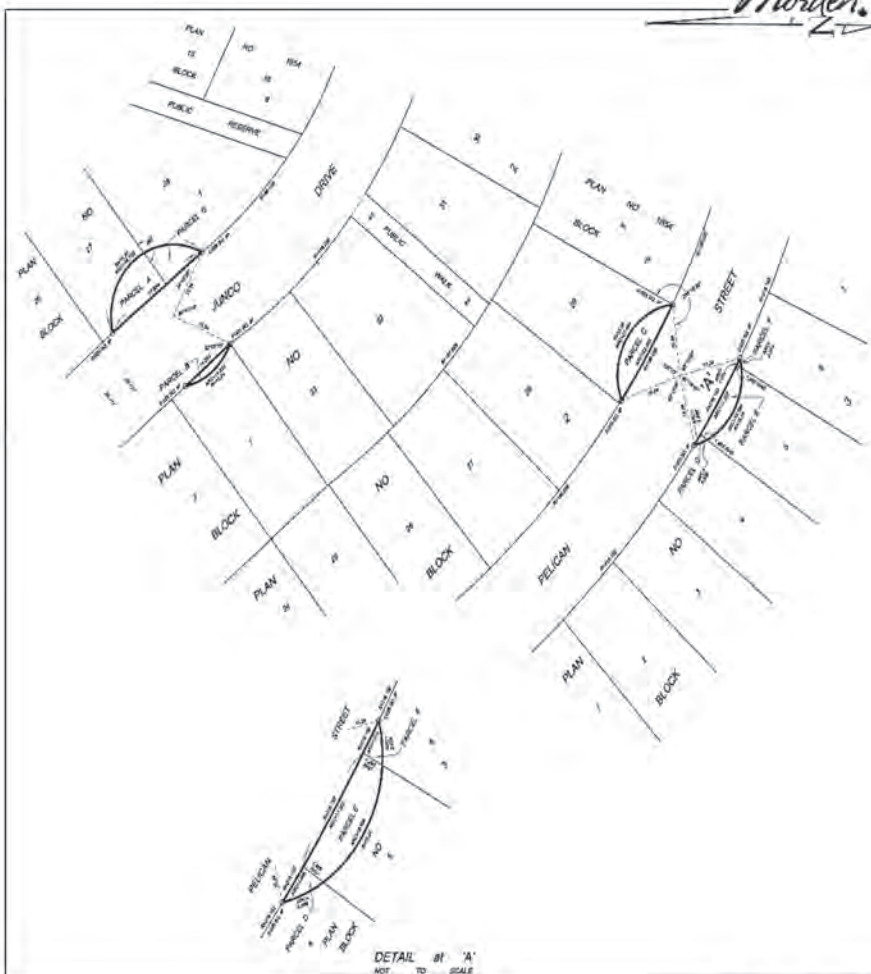
**TO:** Close specific portions of Junco Drive and Pelican Street bulbs to facilitate extension of these Streets beyond their current cul-de-sac configuration and sale of the closed portions.

**AREA:**

All that portion of the municipal road known as Junco Drive (Parcels A, B, G) and Pelican Street (Parcels C, D, E, F) which will be consolidated with adjacent lots.

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Santokh Randhawa  
Deputy City Manager  
Operations  
133 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Morden,  
MB. R6M 1V3  
Phone: (204) 822-2567



**Schedule A**

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**TOWN OF ALTONA PUBLIC NOTICE  
REGARDING ROAD CLOSING  
BY-LAW NO. 1827/2024**

**Being a by-law of the Town of Altona for the purpose of closing certain lands taken for a public road known as 7th Avenue NW and conveying same to the owners of the adjacent lands and premises.**

The Council of the Town of Altona has scheduled a public hearing at 111 Centre Avenue on December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to consider, and if approved, pass a by-law for closing certain lands and described below taken for a public road and consolidating such lands with an adjacent existing title.

The portion of the public road known as 7th Avenue NW to be closed is described as follows:

Road No. 1, Plan No. 73746 MLTO  
in SW ¼ 8-2-1 WPM

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Council will, at the time and place aforesaid, hear any person or by his or her agent, any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. The Plan referred to above may be viewed at the Municipal Office, 111 Centre Avenue East, Altona, Manitoba, on any weekday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Dated at the Town of Altona the 23rd day of October, 2024.

Dan Gagné  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Altona  
Phone: (204) 324-6468  
dan.gagne@altona.ca

# Classifieds Announcements

## NOTICE OF HEARING

### THE BOARD OF REFERENCE • PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

#### THE TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION and THE PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

As required by Section 9 of *The Public Schools Act* (RSM 1987, c.P250), notice is hereby given that a public hearing of The Board of Reference, appointed as provided under Section 8 of The Public Schools Act, will be held as scheduled herein to hear any person or any person on their behalf in the matter of a request referred to The Board of Reference in accordance with Section 5 of *The Public Schools Act*.

The hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** to hear the request of G&D Riglin Farms Ltd. to transfer 158.47 acres located in the Southwest Quarter Section 29, Township 3, Range 14 West from The Turtle Mountain School Division to The Prairie Spirit School Division.

Further information with respect to the virtual hearing, including how to join the virtual hearing, may be obtained by contacting the office of the undersigned between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, **November 26, 2024.**

#### Heather Thomson

Secretary  
Board of Reference  
c/o Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning  
507 - 1181 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3G 0T3  
**Telephone:** 204-945-0201  
**Email:** EASAdministration@gov.mb.ca



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Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at  
**204.947.1691** or email  
[classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)

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

## Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving  
Featuring Coins  
December 11th @ 7:00PM  
\*Last Sale of 2024\*

Wishing You All  
a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season  
from Stuart McSherry & Staff  
[McSherryAuction.com](http://McSherryAuction.com)  
**204-467-1858**  
or **204-886-7027**  
[mcserrytld@gmail.com](mailto:mcserrytld@gmail.com)

## WANTED

### COIN COLLECTIONS



CASH FOR COIN COLLECTIONS  
& ACCUMULATIONS  
OF COINS! ROYAL CANADIAN  
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COINS, GOLD COINS,  
RARE COINS ETC.

Also buying all Silver,  
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Coins, Old Jewelry,  
Bullion, Ingots, Sterling  
Silver, Old Quality  
Watches working or  
not, Rolex, Omega ++

**Todd**  
**204-904-9705**

## FARMLAND TENDER

### FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER RM OF ROLAND

Completed tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 2:00PM on the 13th day of December 2024, for the land described below, at:

#### PKF Lawyers

71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0  
Attn: **Mona Brown/Meghan Bennet** Ph: **204-745-2028**  
[mbrown@pkflawyers.com](mailto:mbrown@pkflawyers.com) [mbennet@pkflawyers.com](mailto:mbennet@pkflawyers.com)

#### LAND FOR SALE:

Either or both of the following:

**OPTION NO. 1:** (142.67 acres)

#### Title No. 3002200/4

PARCEL 1: THE SE 1/4 12-5-5 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: RAILWAY SS PLAN 559 MLTO SECONDLY: PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 1800 MLTO THIRDLY: PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 1165 MLTO FOURTHLY: ALL THAT PORTION WHICH LIES TO THE NORTH OF THE NLY LIMIT OF THE LAND TAKEN FOR STATION GROUNDS AS SHOWN ON RAILWAY SS PLAN 559 MLTO; AND TO THE SOUTH OF A LINE DRAWN PARALLEL WITH AND PERP DISTANT 197 FEET NLY FROM THE SAID NLY LIMIT; AND TO THE EAST OF A LINE DRAWN PARALLEL WITH AND PERP DISTANT 230 FEET WLY FROM THE ELY LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION. AND FIFTHLY: PLAN 42226 MLTO  
PARCEL 2: ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 12-5-5 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY SS PLAN 559 MLTO EXC FIRSTLY: ROAD PLAN 63196 MLTO AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 1140749 MLTO

**OPTION NO. 2:** (158.68 acres)

#### Title No. 2995436/4

PARCEL 1: THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 12-5-5 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: THE NLY 1320 FEET PERP SECONLY: PUBLIC DRAIN PLAN 179 MLTO THIRDLY: RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 93 MLTO AND FOURTHLY: PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 611 MLTO (W DIV)  
PARCEL 2: ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 12-5-5 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY SS PLAN 559 MLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 1140749 MLTO

#### Title No. 2927515/4

THE NLY 1320 FEET PERP OF THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 12-5-5 WPM EXC PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 611 MLTO (W DIV)

#### OPTION NO. 3:

ALL 301.35 ACRES

#### Conditions of Tender:

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
2. Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. **To obtain tender form or more, contact Meghan Bennet or Mona Brown at 204-745-2028.**
3. Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposit, of tenders not accepted, will be returned to the Tenderers.
4. Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. Vacant possession shall be the 20th day of December 2024. Tax adjustment shall be the 31st day of December 2024.
6. The maker of any tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the land, independent of the representations made by the Vendor or the Solicitor and Agent of the Vendor. The land will be sold "as is" and the Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.

## COMING EVENTS

### A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL DRAMA PRESENTED BY PEMBINA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

# From Christmas to Calvary

Everyone welcome!

*Hank hated Christmas and a lot of other things in his life, but what Hank needed to know was that the story from Christmas to Calvary was just for him.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 6:00 PM**  
120 Manitoba Road, Winkler, MB (204) 325-5670

# Classifieds Announcements

The **Winkler Morden** Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Henry (Terp)Thiesen December 7, 2022**  
My dear Terp  
Although gone since December 7,2022  
I will remember you forever and keep you close to my heart.  
Remembering you, your beautiful smile, your spirit, and your love.  
Forever in my heart wife, Elma

**Remembering Dad**  
On December 7,2022 you joined your Heavenly Father and we all miss you still.  
All your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren miss your beautiful smile and your loving eyes. Your graciousness to all and your humble leadership still influences us today.  
We love you. Your family

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of **HELEN HARDER**, late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

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

**GBH LAW OFFICE**  
Solicitor for the Estate

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Sophia Davidson Carruthers Dell**  
Thinking of you.  
-Ralph, family and friends

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of **RALPH DENNIS HOWE**, late of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the attention of: Amanda Adam, Estates Officer, at 155 Carlton St., Suite 500, Winnipeg, MB R3C 5R9 on or before the 30th day of January 2025.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 28th of November, 2024.

Keri Ranson  
Acting Public Guardian and  
Trustee of Manitoba

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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**HEALTH**

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

**Responsive Career Pathways Project**

Are you mid-career and employed in Winnipeg? Do you want to increase your career confidence and work satisfaction? **Take part in this research to:**

- Get Career support in person and online options
- Receive an honorarium

**Apply by Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024**  
<https://mittqp2024.weebly.com/>  
Starting Jan. 9, 2025

**Funded by:**  
Government of Canada,  
Future Skills Centre,  
and MITT



**BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT**  
in **The Voice**  
Call 467-5836

**EMPLOYMENT**



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a **TERM DIVISIONAL SOCIAL WORKER**

THIS POSITION WILL COMMENCE JANUARY 6, 2025 AND CONCLUDE JUNE 27, 2025 - WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTENSION INTO THE 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR

FOR DETAILS VISIT [WWW.BLSD.CA](http://WWW.BLSD.CA)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Greetings from the MAF Board of Directors & Staff!  
Wishing you every happiness this HOLIDAY SEASON

*You are invited*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
GRANT AWARDS NIGHT  
&  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**WEDNESDAY \* 11 \* DECEMBER**

**7:00 PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM**  
**MORDEN LEGION HALL,**  
**285 NORTH RAILWAY ST., MORDEN**

7:30 PM Presentation of Cheques to the 2024 Grant Recipients

7:00 PM Annual General Meeting and Wine & Cheese

Announcement of new funds in 2024 and learn more about the Foundation's great work.

**MORDEN AREA FOUNDATION**  
Invest. Partner. Build.

For more info:  
email [info@mordenfoundation.ca](mailto:info@mordenfoundation.ca) or  
call 431-349-1138

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- 7 PASSENGER
- FOLD FLAT REAR SEATS
- NEW TIRES
- 157,000 KM

**\$14,900**  
PLUS PST/GST  
STK# 23U131

**2020 F-150 LARIAT 4X4**



- 5.0L V8
- SYNC 3 W/ NAVIGATION
- APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO
- HEATED/COOLED LEATHER
- 360-DEGREE CAMERA
- 99,000 KM

**\$41,900**  
PLUS PST/GST  
STK# 24U115

**2019 F-350 XLT 4X4**



- 6.2L V8
- SYNC W/ BLUETOOTH
- POWER LEATHER SEATS
- BACKUP CAMERA
- 5 PASSENGER
- 103,000 KM

**\$43,900**  
PLUS PST/GST  
STK# 24U134

**2020 RAM 2500 BIG HORN 4X4**



- 6.7L CUMMINS DIESEL
- HEATED & POWER CLOTH SEATS
- APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO
- PUSH-BUTTON & REMOTE START
- OFF-ROAD PACKAGE
- 93,000 KM

**\$60,900**  
PLUS PST/GST  
STK# 24U111

**JUST IN** STK W13111A



**2020 FORD ECOSPORT SE**

1.0 ECOBOOST ENGINE,  
6 SPEED AUTO, A/C, TILT,  
CRUISE, LOCAL TRADE

**ONLY 8400 KM'S**

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