

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



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## "It has changed their lives"

## Winkler's Community Care Program making inroads in helping at-risk families

### By Ashleigh Viveiros

With a year's worth of work under its belt, Central Station's Community Care Program (C.C.P.) is starting to gain traction in the community.

The program, which launched in fall of 2017, began working with its first at-risk family one year ago this month.

Today that family is preparing to exit the program with a great deal more confidence and self-reliance than ever before.

"That family is now transitioning out and it has been unbelievably successful for them. It has changed their lives," says Tash Olfert, who picked up the torch as program coordinator from Lori Penner in September.

Funded by and operating under the Safe Communities Initiative, C.C.P. is a partnership of social service agencies who come together to help participants create and work through a plan for a better life.

"This family had no trouble accessing supports individually," explains Olfert. "But what this program does is it brings them all together in the same place and time."

Participants meet monthly with Olfert, members of their personal support network, and representatives from the various service agencies they're involved with.

That could include the local school division, police department, Child and Family Services, community justice—there's a lengthy list of agencies who have signed on to take part when needed.

"It's my job to coordinate that meeting, creating that team of natural supports and agency supports," Olfert says. "And then we get together and we brainstorm how, in baby steps, we can set goals ... so that it's structured and people are accountable.

"We go over progress: what worked, what didn't work and then why it didn't work. And then what's the next month going to look like? What's the next step?

"This isn't just everybody else doing everything for you. It's meant to build self-reliance. To help them realize, 'I can do this on my own.""

This type of support program for vulnerable families has found success elsewhere in Manitoba, but it is new to Winkler.

As such, it's taken some time to get the word out about the benefits it provides to both potential participants and service providers.

> "We're trying to help families who are kind of at



a crossroads or at the cusp of going in one of two directions," Olfert says. "If we can catch them before they go down a really bad slope, then that's a success.

"Because of the success of this first family, the people that were on that support team, the agencies involved with that team, have seen the impact," she says. "So now the phone calls are coming: 'I've seen how this works and I think I have someone for you that this would be good for.' It's going to grow organically that way."

Three families are in the program right now and another three are slated to start the process soon.

"The goal is to have 10 families in the program by the end of June. And judging by how November/December has gone, we won't have any trouble reaching that," says Olfert.

Families can be referred to the program by others, but many are walking into Central Station themselves to ask for help.

"This past month it's been people who have walked through the doors here and said, 'I can't do this on my own anymore. I need help,'" Olfert says. "And that's what we're here for. We can walk alongside you and help you with this and give you some concrete, real steps to get through it.

"I'm so glad that there is something like this that can give people a little bit of hope," she adds. "With a team helping them, it lightens the burden, it lightens the load."

C.C.P. is open to citizens of Winkler and the surrounding area, specifically anyone living within the GVSD catchment area.

If you'd like to learn more about the program, contact Central Station at 204-325-0257 or via email at info@ winklercentralstation.ca.



## Morden United Way on track to \$85K goal

#### By Lorne Stelmach

Volunteer directors are optimistic they will be able to close the books on one of the better years in recent memory for the Morden and District United Way.

Donations as of mid-December were nearing the \$70,000 mark with some money still expected to come in by Dec. 31.

"We've always got some late in the year donations," said president Alex Fedorchuk."We were hoping in the last month that there would be a really good push to get us there ... we were hopeful that December would be a good month.

"We anticipate that we'll probably hit about \$80,000. Our target was \$85,000, but we will be delighted with \$80,000."

The United Way last year paid out about \$72,000 to a variety of charitable agencies, so Fedorchuk is pleased they will likely be able to increase that at least a little this time around.

"We've heard from about 17 agencies ... last

year we paid out to 22," he said, noting some years they've issued cheques to two dozen community groups.

Fedorchuk suggested the organization may have benefitted from some increased awareness in 2018, but it might also just be a matter of the year having been a more prosperous one for many donors.

"I think toward the end of the year people have a look at what they've given year to date, and if it's been a good year, a lot of folks may make an additional donation or at least a larger one than they may have earlier."

Fedorchuk also observed there had initially been some questions around the potential impact on Morden with the Winkler and District United Way not running a full-fledged campaign due to organizational changes, but that doesn't seem to have been the case.

"We have a number of mutual recipients, but we were not approached by any Winkler agen-

# New name, home for Big Bros. Big Sis.

## **By Ashleigh Viveiros**

Big Brothers Big Sisters wrapped up 2018 with a new home and a new name.

The former Morden-Winkler organization is now officially called Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley.

The name change came just in time to go up on the sign over the mentoring agency's new home at 7-820 Triple E Blvd.

They made the move there from their old space on Main St. in late October.

"As far as I know, this is the first space that the agency has owned rather then rented," said executive director Michael Penner.

"It was the right space for the right cost," he said. "We've been saving money over the years for somethingwhether as a nest egg to fall back on during hard times or something to invest in—and this was the opportunity that presented itself. The board decided to jump on it and buy it."

The nearly 700 square foot space provides a much roomier place for Big Bros. staff to work in and should be enough for the foreseeable future.

"At least until we outgrow it," Penner said with a chuckle. "We're working on it.

"You always want to grow, but I think that will be many years down the road if that were to happen."

While the move gives the agency some stability-it's their third address change in the last several years-the new name reflects their growing reach.

"It just better represents the area that we serve. It's more inclusive of all the communities we serve," Penner

said, noting that in addition to Morden and Winkler they also offer programming in Altona and Plum Coulee and the surrounding region.

The Altona expansion got its footing in 2017 but really came into its own in 2018.

"Altona has embraced us fully and we've seen so much growth," Penner said."It started maybe a bit slow but this past year we've just had an explosion of mentors coming forward."

That outpouring of support is welcome but not entirely unexpected considering how long Big Bros. has been fielding requests for service from that area.

"The community had been asking for many years to have Big Brothers Big Sisters programming but it just wasn't a possibility at that time, both financially and staff-wise," Penner said, adding that when they started to put feelers out officially a couple of years ago it became clear the support was there to justify the expansion.

Between the agency's traditional mentoring program, its in-school mentoring matches, and group programs such as Go Girls! (an afterschool program for girls age 12-14 that focuses on physical activity, balanced eating, and self-esteem), Big Brothers mentored 94 children in 2018.

"We're kind of maintaining that number, that's our goal," Penner said, noting that there's always room for a few more "Big" volunteers and "Littles" as well.

"Any child who could use some extra time with a friend would benefit from having a mentor," he said. "Those who are in family situations or life situations where they have less support benefit the most.

## > MORDEN UNITED WAY, FROM PG. 2

## cies for help," he said.

Fundraising aside, 2018 was also a banner year for the United Way's community events.

"Skate with Santa was a roaring success, and God bless the Co-op. They really accommodate us," Fedorchuk said, explaining the grocery store helped provide them with 200 goodie bags, of which about two dozen leftover ones were donated to the Genesis House women's shelter.

"The Koats for Kids campaign was

also very successful," he added, pointing to the 175 pieces of donated winter clothing items that were given to families in need.

Looking ahead, the United Way is in a good position, especially considering the volunteer board has increased to nine members.

"We also have a new youth member ... so we're really looking forward to having her on board for a couple or a few years," said Fedorchuk. "All in all, we feel really good about it all."

**Big Broth** ers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley executive director Michael

Penner in front of the mentoring agency's new home. With the new space came a name change to better reflect their service area.

> PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH **VIVEIROS**/ VOICE



"As an organization, we're there to support the child first of all, but we're also here as a support for the entire family."

For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley, visit them online at pembinavalley. bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** 

of the Pembina Valley



## **REGISTER FOR A FITNESS CLASS!**

Walking for Mobility (M) 10:00-11:00AM	Pump it Up Yoga (TH) 5:05-6:05PM		
Power Yoga (M) 8:15-9:15PM	Total Body Fitness (TH) 5:05-6:05PM		
Yoga Fundamentals (TU) 5:00-6:00PM	*Partner Yoga (TH) 8:00-9:00PM		
Cardio Drumming (TH) 5-6PM / 7-8PM	*Family Yoga (SA) 2:00-3:00PM		
Gentle Yoga (TH) 10:00-11:00AM	*one session only!		

Register at mordenmb.com/fitness

## Christmas Tree Recycling options:



- 1. Cleaned trees may be dropped off at the compost site located at Willcocks Road at any time.
- 2. Your cleaned tree on the curbside for pickup during the week of January 7th to 11th. Your tree must be placed at the curb by 8:00 a.m. on January 7. City crews will only be performing a single sweep of curbside pickups.

Please be patient, as the team will be chipping the trees as they pick them up, so the process of collection may take a while.

Compost Day     Morden Waste Collection:       Garbage Day     Jan 7- 11, 2019				For 2019 curbside	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	collection schedule contact City
Christmas Pick Up W	Tree zone	zone 2	zone 3	zone 3	of Morden or visit mordenmb.com /waste
204.822.4	4434 v	www.morde	nmb.com	info@mord	enmb.com







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## Winkler mayor reflects on "boom year"

#### **By Ashleigh Viveiros**

Mayor Martin Harder says 2018 was undoubtedly a boom year in Winkler.

"From a building permit perspective, we have never ever had a year this size," the mayor said in sitting down with the *Voice* just before the holidays to discuss where the community's at and where it's going in 2019.

"When I look at my state of the city address [last March] I did mention that we could get \$60 million worth of building permits. I didn't have a single person in that room who believed it," Harder recalled. "Everyone said, 'No way. You've got to be kidding. You're dreaming.'

"So it feels good to be able to say that as of the end of October we'd surpassed \$65 million and likely will get closer to \$70 million for the year."

Several major projects boosted those numbers, including the construction of Pine Ridge School (nearly \$24 million in permits) and the foundational work getting started at the Meridian Exhibition Centre site (\$2-\$3 million).

But take away those big-ticket undertakings and the city still saw much more construction happening across all sectors than in an average year.

"The normal would be between \$20-\$30 million for the year," Harder said. "So our numbers are still high regardless. It's not just because of the big projects that we are where we are."

Every single building permit represents much more to the community than just another house or factory going up.

"I look at around the industrial park at the number of buildings that have been built there and I'm seeing jobs," Harder said, noting this all feeds into the community's continued growth: jobs attract people, people build houses and create a demand for more services, and then more public and commercial projects become viable as a result.

"That is exactly the example of how this entire region has been growing over the course of this past year," he said."It is like the city of Winkler and this region has come of age."

Harder is quick to point out, though, that the success the community is having today didn't simply come about spontaneously.

"It is never that we just wake up on Jan. 1 and now we have all these bright ideas," he said. "These things are all building on the groundwork we've done earlier."

That includes highlights of recent years like the Buhler Active Living Centre and the Winkler Arts and

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder says 2018 was a year of unprecedented growth in the community, and he has high hopes for similar success in the year ahead.

> PHOTO BY **ASHLEIGH VI-VEIROS/VOICE**

Culture Centre, not to mention the in-the-works Meridian Exhibition Centre and the regional wastewater treatment facility.

"A lot of those projects have been in the works for years before they finally show up on the community's radar screen,"Harder said.

The exhibition centre, for one, is a project that's been nearly a decade in coming. Winklerites will finally see progress made on the arena expansion in 2019.

"That honestly has been over eight years in the making,"

Harder said. "We didn't have all the pieces together then of what this was going to look like. But we got there.

"I think that really is a difference in our community compared to many other communities," he continued. "We have an entrepreneurial community that sees an opportunity, builds on the opportu-

nity, and brings it to fruition."

Of course, even as Winkler prospers it continues to struggle with growing pains.

Chief among them is convincing the provincial and federal governments to support projects vital to the city's future.

"The huge challenge that we face in our can-do community is to ensure that we get a hand up from government levels that are higher than ours," said Harder. "That has been a huge challenge and we have not been totally successful in dealing with that."

The seemingly never-ending saga of the twinning of Winkler's 1st St.which, as Hwy. 32, falls under the jurisdiction of the Province of Mani-



toba—certainly fits that description. It's a project that has dragged on for far too long, Harder said.

The city has done everything it can to prepare the surrounding area for the project, he said, but while recent talks with the province have been encouraging, no firm timeline has been announced.

In the meantime, the busy thoroughfare's congestion problems continue to spill over to other city streets. "Roblin and 32 is a disaster of a cor-

ner," Harder lamented. "There are

no turning lights and the traffic gets blocked all the way back to [Norquay Dr.] ... and people take stupid chances over there so they can avoid what is a traffic-controlled intersection, but only half of the needed controls are there.

"We're also waiting for the province so that we can run a safe transportation route for cyclists and pedestrians beside 32. Right now we can't do anything there because we need them to finish their end of it."

City council will continue to emphasize these problems to the province, Harder pledged.

"I, the eternal optimist, would say I hope we'll get some action on 32 this coming year."

Harder expects the city's commercial and industrial community will continue to grow in the year ahead as well, both with new companies and expansions to existing ones.

**"IT'S LIKE THE CITY** OF WINKLER AND THIS REGION HAS COME OF AGE."



## Morden's new mayor has high hopes for 2019

#### By Lorne Stelmach

The first two months on the job have been a bit of a whirlwind for Morden Mayor Brandon Burley.

There's been countless meetings and lots of homework for him to get up to speed on the goings-on of city council, but he is loving every minute of it.

"I knew that I would enjoy the job, but I didn't think that I would enjoy it as much as I have," Burley said in a recent year-end interview with the *Voice.* "There has not been a day that has not had some small success and some joy brought to it. I'm really excited every day that I come into the office here."

The rookie municipal leader is heading up a Morden city council that includes four other newcomers.

At the council table alongside Gary Hiebert, Jim Hunt, Gord Maddock, and Nancy Penner are incumbents Doug Frost and Hank Hildebrand. There has been a bit of learning curve for them all, but Burley said that they are growing into the job well.

"Council has been tremendous to work with ... they've been really good in moving into their roles," he said.

"The biggest thing so far was establishing what we want to achieve together," Burley continued, "and establishing what our roles are going to be and finding out where our strengths lie. I think we have done a good job with that, and we are working really well together.

"The other one has been getting to meet people. That's been a highlight, getting to meet people I wouldn't otherwise have met and establishing relationships with people," he said. "I don't consider myself an extrovert, but I've thoroughly enjoyed it and I'm thankful for the opportunity."

Burley said the first month especially was "intensely busy" with the city also dealing with a turnover in a number of staffing positions, including welcoming new city manager Faisal Anwar to town in mid-December.

"We almost have the staffing resolved in the front office, so that's going to be a very important piece for us going into 2019," he said.

Burley has also been working to get a firm grasp on a number of projects and priorities the previous council got the ball rolling on, the most significant one being the wastewater treatment plant, which still awaits a funding commitment from the federal and provincial governments.

"It's the largest project this region has even taken on," he said. "I spent the first four weeks familiarizing myself with as much of that as I could and knowing where we are at in the process."

Looking ahead into the new year, Burley sees a number of key areas for council to focus on, including economic growth.

"And trying to get ahead of community growth in terms of infrastructure Morden Mayor Brandon Burley says his first few months in office have been a whirlwind. He's eager to see what accomplishments 2019 will bring.

> PHO-TO BY LORNE STELMACH/ VOICE

and affordable housing ... those are the three things we're really going to have to get on top of going forward," he said. "Opportunities for community health are going to be big as well for us.

"There's movement on the YMCA and we want to make sure that movement continues ... we have budgeted some for it, and we are looking at regional partners to do the same."

Burley suggested they want to look at all areas around the well-being of Morden residents. He is hopeful that will include the announcement for a new day care in 2019.

"The city has allocated money towards that as well as the Menzies Medical Centre project. Those are two priorities for us."

Early in the new year as well will be the new council's first budget, which was delayed from its initially sched-



uled Dec. 17 introduction.

"The limitation for us has been with staffing," Burley explained.

Overall, Burley said they hope to work in the year ahead to keep pace with the ever increasing needs of a growing city and continue to encourage that growth

"That has to be a priority. Economic growth can even defray a lot of social ills," he said, going on to hint at some significant announcements to come "that will significantly broaden the tax base.

"That's been our challenge, to look at the growth and make sure that we aren't spending today's dollars for tomorrow's citizens ... and making sure that we continue to be responsible with taxes and ensure that we can deliver infrastructure growth within the constraints of a reasonable taxation base."

## Stanley's growth continues to pay dividends: reeve

#### By Lorne Stelmach

Morris Olafson is upbeat and optimistic about the year ahead for the RM of Stanley.

Re-elected in the fall to a second term as reeve, Olafson welcomes the challenges that come with the continued fast growth of the region.

"The area is just doing so well," he said in a year-end interview.

"On the other side, you've got more population, more demands ... but we're so fortunate that we have enough new businesses and enough new homes being built, which adds to our tax roll, so that if we do have an increase in taxes, it's not a big hit.

"It just makes it way better for ev-

eryone, way better than if we were a stagnant area. If we were a stagnant area that had zero growth ... it's a different story."

Olafson went on to touch on some of what he saw as key achievements in the past year.

Among them is the highway corridor development, which will be able to advance further with a sewer line in place to service almost a four mile stretch.

"That was a \$900,000 project, of which the RM paid a third ... so now we've some sewer down the corridor and we're ready to go there for new development," Olafson said.

"The corridor secondary plan was finally finalized this year as well. It had been ongoing for the last two or three years," he added, noting that will help guide new developments like the Terrapoint Agribusiness Centre.

Across the municipality there were 133 building permits with projects that carried a development value of over \$20 million—more than double from the previous year.

Continued on page 6

RM of Stanley Reeve Morris Olafson says with more population comes more demands, but the growth is worth it.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



## **Co-op contributes \$10K to pregnancy care centre**

Winkler Co-op gave the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre a huge helping hand with its Morden office relocation/renovation project.

In early 2018, the pregnancy care centre began the process of moving its offices from downstairs at Boundary Trails Place to a space double the size upstairs.

To help move the project forward, Co-op committed \$10,000 in finances and furnishings.

"This is a very welcome contribution to our capital project and helps us not only complete the building aspect but also to furnish and decorate the space," said PVPCC executive director Linda Marek.

The donation was used to help furnish the office's second conversation room, set up a third work station for staff, and decorate the walls with art-work.

"We appreciate that Co-op has a heart for local folks and organizations like ours," Marek said.

Co-op general manager Evan Toews said they were happy to help.

"We are pleased to be able to support such a great organization that provides extraordinary value to our community, guiding women through sensitive issues with care, professionalism, and respect," he said. "We are fortunate to have this organization in Southern Manitoba."

Thanks to support from Co-op and many other generous local businesses and private donors, the capital project is close to completion.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left: Co-op's Cam Buhler presents Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care reps Davis Wieler, Linda Hoeppner, Linda Marek, Glenda Schwarz and Konrad Loewen with a cheque for \$10,000 towards the charity's office renovations

"At this time, we are waiting for the furniture to arrive," said Marek. "It's been well over a year of planning, fundraising, and decision-making, so it's fabulous to see it all come to-gether."

## > OLAFSON, FROM PG. 5

In the area of infrastructure, Olafson noted there were 26 new water connections, which he suggested could serve perhaps another 100 people or more with potable water.

He also heralded the completion of the Reinland Drain, which was a \$3.7 million project boosted by federal disaster assistance funding.

"Those kinds of things are all in addition to the regular maintenance that we do like gravelling, dustproofing, grading, snow clearing," he said, noting as well there were the highway turning lanes installed at Schanzenfeld as well as work that included five more kilometres of road paving in the village."We finished off the four year program of paving this last year in Schanzenfeld."

Looking ahead, Olafson said they are working on final sewer plans for Schanzenfeld and Reinfeld.

"We'll need federal and provincial money to make that happen, but it's all ready to go as soon as we get the money."

Also contingent on federal and provincial funding is the wastewater treatment plant project with the City of Winkler.

"If we get that treatment plant going ... that will start a whole new round of things," Olafson said, explaining it will clear the way for more development—something that has been held back thus far due to wastewater processing limitations.

"You get to the next level then ... at

some point, we're going to get maxed out. We're not quite maxed out yet, but we're close ... so it is hindering development right now."

These projects are all just the tip of the iceburg.

"At this point, it looks like we won't be slowing down," Olafson said. "There are a number of things in the works here."

Among them, expansion of water into the 1-6 and 2-6 areas in the southwest part of the municipality.

"There's an area there that doesn't have any service, so our plan is to get that underway. We're getting close to announcing that we're going to go ahead, but we're not quite there yet.

"We've got lots of things cooking, lots of things to come," Olafson continued, reiterating that they need to press the other levels of government to help make continued progress possible. "You've got to spend money to make money, to make things grow ... but you've got to be on top of all of the granting and everything else that you get from the feds and the province, and you have to have the initiative yourself."

He remains optimistic and looks forward to working with the new council in the year ahead.

"We got two new faces ... that's always good to get new faces, new ideas," Olafson said. "I think we're a progressive council, not standing still, and we still have the vision and the motivation to keep progressing and get things done."



#### PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

About 30 people turned out for the third annual Tour Of Lights in Morden Dec. 18. The event encourages people to get out and get active while enjoying a celebration of the Christmas season. Two groups headed out for about a 30 minute tour of the city to enjoy the holiday lights and décor, with one group walking about 2.5 km and the other biking 6 km before gathering back at the Morden Activity Centre for refreshments and prize draws.

## Winkler United Way drop-off days a hit

#### By Lorne Stelmach

It's not running a full campaign, but the Winkler and District United Way is still maintaining its presence in the community.

The organization is in rebuilding mode after having lost nearly its entire board of directors to retirement after the 2017-2018 campaign.

It had initially planned to take 2018-2019 to regroup, recruit new board members, and rework how it will raise funds in future years. However, with encouragement from the community, the board decided to hold two donation drop-off days at the Winkler Coop last month.

The agency is also accepting donations online at unitedwaywinkler.com and at donation boxes at the Winkler Senior Centre, Gateway Resources, City Hall, and the Winkler Co-op grocery store, gas bar, and truck stop from now until the end of February.

"We had a great response from our first donation evening at the Winkler

Co-op and at our drop-off spots," said president Kim Nelson, who noted the first drop-off day brought in around \$1,500. Donations from the second day were still being tabulated at press time.

Even more important than the fundraising, though, was the opportunity to raise the awareness about the United Way and the more than 20 charities and programs it supports each year.

"That's the main goal for this year, just to let everyone know that the Winkler United Way is still around and that we hope to continue to support many local organizations and programs," Nelson said.

"We recognize that we're not raising the amounts that we did when we were canvassing," she added. "Since we're in a bit of a transition year this year, we're hoping that next year we'll be able to raise more.

"It's nice to know that the community still supports the Winkler United Way. It is very encouraging and exciting to see what's going to come."



Kathy Funk was the big winner of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce's annual Elf on the Shelf promotion last month. The Plum Coulee resident was one of many local shoppers to find the elf doll hidden at participating businesses to earn a draw ticket for the prize pack valued at \$750.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Volunteers Amber Peters (left) and Justina Neufeld manned the donation table at Winkler Co-op as part of the Winkler United Way's donation drop-off days last month.

The United Way board will get to work in the months ahead on plans for the 2019 campaign.

"We'll sit down and make a calendar of events, what we're going to do and how we're going to proceed and what it's going to look like," said Nelson."We're very optimistic for the future."



**To Deliver the Winkler Morden Voice** 

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Winkler Morden DELLI 01CC WEEL

DELIVERY IS ONE DAY A WEEK EVERY THURSDAY

## 8 The Winkler Morden Voice Thursday, January 3, 2019 Nordic club puts call out for volunteers

#### By Lorne Stelmach

A scenic section of land about halfway between Morden and Winkler and north on Hwy. 3, Burwalde Woods is a favourite spot for many local cross country skiers.

It serves as the main headquarters for the Boundary Trails Nordic Club and has been a labour of love for Phil and Vera Froese.

They are, however, now appealing for more volunteers to help with the operation of the facility and particularly with the nordic centre where skiing equipment is available for rent.

"We would like to get some more club volunteers in here, especially on weekends, particularly to help people who are brand new to skiing," said Phil. "It's basically just to have that presence here."

"We can have a hundred people here on a Saturday, and if you don't have volunteers helping people it can be a little chaotic," added Vera. "We wouldn't want to lock the nordic centre because there's so many renters, so many families that count on coming and renting ... but if we're not on the yard and we don't have volunteers, we may not have much option.

"And there's so many new families in the area from different parts of the world," she added. "They're able to, because of the low cost to rent here, come here with six kids and have an afternoon of skiing. It's a nice way for them to be able to embrace Canadian winters."

Burwalde Woods has been a big part of their lives since Phil first came to the location in 1980.

"The first year I moved here, I started cutting some trails ... I started skiing here in 1980 ... the first year, I cut about a 1 km trail," he recalled.

A like-minded community began to develop with another nearby neighbour, Don Wiebe, who was also interested in skiing.

"We had more skiers showing up ... and that's when we decided to organize a club," Phil said.



- Excerpt from Footprints of Hope by Henry Martens. Illustrated by Raymond Klassen.





Vera noted one of their main interests at first was to get involved with the national cross country skiing club program for kids, so they started the a jackrabbits program here.

"And now our jackrabbit program this year has a second generation jackrabbit in it. One of our first ones has brought her little girl here now."

Phil noted their trails also venture on to neighbouring property, so it is good that many of them are also interested in skiing.

"Skiing, in a way, it's kind of brought neighbours together here," he observed. "As we expanded the trails, all of our neighbours were involved in it ... and we have a high percentage of skiers in our area, and some of them are pretty avid skiers."

Burwalde Woods offers a number of different trails including a main one of 5 km that combines a number of smaller routes.

The outer limits trail, formerly just a skate loop, now has a parallel classic trail and is about 3.5 km long and can be skied in either direction.

The creek trail is a 5 km touring

## > HARDER, FROM PG. 4

"I know there's some industrial land that has been purchased with the intention of building significant sized facilities," he said, adding that it's always heartening to see these homegrown success stories. classic trail that is accessed from outer limits. It is an out-and-back trail, so the entire trip is 10 km.

Finally, for the romantics, skiing double is a 1 km flat trail that follows the creek bottom starting at the main trail head or accessed off outer limits. It is groomed for skate and classic and can also be used as a link to the creek trail.

For the skate skiing, the short 1 km inner circle can be linked with the 3.5 km outer limits (skate) and the 1 km rollercoaster.

Another option in the region for skiers is the Shannondale ski area west of Morden and north of Thornhill where the trails offer a range of technical difficulty from easy to very challenging.

Nordic club memberships are available for \$40 for an individual or \$70 for a family including children under 18.

For more information on the club, the trails, and how you can get involved as a volunteer, head online to btncski@wordpress.com

"When we look at the business growth that we have in Winkler, it's 99 per cent local people that are expanding and just creating more opportunities. That's what we're known for."



The Winkler Morden Voice Thursday, January 3, 2019 9



















South Central **Cancer Resource** 

sccr.mb.ca

400-34 Stephen Street Morden, Manitoba 204-822-9541 Toll Free: 1-866-287-4730 Email: sccr@mymts.net

## educate. hope. support.

The South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR) came into existence on April 14th, 2003, serving Morden/Winkler and surrounding areas. It was created by a group of people in south central Manitoba who saw the need for cancer related support services that rural people could access without having to travel a great distance. SCCR is a registered non-profit charitable organization administered by an elected Board of Directors whose members live throughout the area. The office in Morden is staffed by a Clinical Coordinator and an Administrative Coordinator. The organization is funded entirely by the communities that it serves, in the form of grants, memorials, donations and fundraising initiatives by groups and individuals. SCCR does not receive financial assistance from government, or from organizations such as CancerCare Manitoba or the Canadian Cancer Society, although these organizations provide assistance to SCCR in areas of resource and education material.

SCCR provides support to cancer patients who live in the RM's of Montcalm. Morris. Roland, Dufferin, Thompson, Rhineland, Stanley, Pembina, Louise and Roblin. Services include individual support, a very active transportation program, a loan banks of wigs, head coverings, prostheses and bras, a resource library and educational displays and programs.



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# Sponteserected

## Flyers aim to right the ship

#### **By Ashleigh Viveiros**

It's been a season of highs and lows for the Winkler Flyers, but head coach Steve Mullin is feeling good about the junior team's chances of turning things around in the back half of the season.

Speaking to the *Voice* just before the Christmas break, Mullin acknowledged that the team's 13-17-3 record (as of Dec. 18) left a lot to be desired.

"It's been a roller coaster. We had a good little start and then had a little bit of a swoon," he said. "And then over a 10 game stretch we had eight wins and an overtime loss. Then all of the sudden the last 10 or 12 games we've only been able to put up a couple of wins.

"But we're a young team, so some ups and downs are expected ... we knew that coming into this year."

It's Mullin's first time in the head coach position with the Flyers, but he's by no means a stranger, having put in six seasons as the Orange and Black's assistant coach.

"It's been good but it's been hectic," he said of his first four months in the position. "Being an assistant with Kenny [Pearson, former Flyers head coach and current general manager] you think you have a grip on everything you need to know and what you need to do, but doing it is something else entirely.

"The fact that Kenny's still been here and I can go bug him and lean on him has made things easier."

Mullin brings his own experience playing junior and college hockey to the role. He also led the Pembina Valley Hawks AAA midget team to the championship in 2010.

Now he's working to whip the Flyers into shape for similar success somewhere down the road.

He's optimistic some of the mistakes



made on the ice in the first 30 games of the season—failing to capitalize on shooting chances and a rocky power play showing among them— won't be repeated in that last.

"We feel we've corrected it in the last four or five games, but when you go through a stretch like that everybody's confidence gets bumped a little bit and you start to overthink things," Mullin said.

"I think once we start putting a couple of games back in the win column we'll see thing even back out," he continued. "And hopefully this back half of the season is a little more evenkeeled and we're seeing the team we want to be more consistently."

Looking back at this past month, Mullin is pleased by what the Flyers have been doing on the ice, even if it hasn't translated into wins just yet.

"Everybody always looks at the end result ... they scored more goals, you lost, so it means you didn't play well. But that isn't always the case," he said, noting they've held their own against most every team in the league but have been on the wrong end of a few lucky breaks.

"Our games in December, outside of the first period against Steinbach and maybe about six minutes against Selkirk, we've been pretty happy with how we've played, as a coaching staff," Mullin said. "When you look at the content of the game, we feel we're getting there, which is why we have all the confidence that this back-half of the season is going to go a lot better for us.

"We're going into every game thinking this is a winnable game for us. That's a really exciting season to have," he added. "There's no team where, if you play well, we can't have a measure of success against."

Off the ice entirely, Mullin is proud of the work the team has done in the community this fall.

Many of the players are involved with the minor hockey breakfast program or with local youth groups. The entire team also lent their brawn to the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board, helping to load up care hampers.

"Those are some great things. Yes, we're a hockey team, but they're also guys that are coming in and contributing to the community," Mullin said. "This community pours a lot into us and I think we feel the need and the responsibility to give back in any way, shape, or form that we can."

Hopefully the Flyers will also get the chance to thank the community for its support by blazing their way up the standings in the new year.

"We have a great support in the community," Mullin said. "They want to see us succeed and they want to see us win and we want to win for them in the worst way.

"I'm working to make this group of players that we have here the best that they can possible be right now. We've got a ton of confidence in these guys and what they can do and really feel that we are going to continue to improve here."

Mullin will get to put his expectations for the team to the test with their first games of 2019 this weekend. The Flyers host Dauphin Friday and Virden Saturday. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

# Winkler 3 come out on top

With two goals in the final three minutes, Winkler 3 beat Winkler 2 in a come-from-behind victory 3-2 to win the inaugural Quality Inn Winkler Cup (Novice Division) on Dec. 16. Back row, from left: Coaches Andrew Froese, Mitch Rempel, Terry Enns, and Darrin Driedger. Middle row: Draydon Peters, Liam Peters, Bentley Loewen, Denver Rempel, Graham Friesen, and Peyton Enns. Front row: Levi Driedger, Everett Wiens, Jane Wiens, Mason Froese, and Gavin Chudley.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Female Hawks hoping for better luck in 2019

### By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a challenging season so far for the female Pembina Valley Hawks. The on-ice fortunes for the AAA team have been up and down with

four-game winning and losing streaks

along the way, and they faced difficulties early on with injuries to both of their starting goaltenders.

"We've had to face some injuries throughout this first half, so it's been a bit of a bumpy road ... definitely some adversity for the girls," coach Shanley Peters said recently as the Hawks headed into the holiday break. "Overall though, I think we're making headway," she said. "I think there's definitely a lot these girls have to offer and it's just getting them to their full potential and getting ready for the last half of the season. Heading into playoffs, we really need to be peaking."

Going into two games before Christmas against the Winnipeg Avros and

Continued on page 12



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12 The Winkler Morden Voice Thursday, January 3, 2019



## **SCCR** hands out raffle prize

The lucky winner of a fundraising raffle in support of South Central Cancer Resource received their prize recently. Receiving the Winnipeg Jets jersey signed by the entire roster of the 2017-18 team was Carret Brook on behalf of his wife Scharmayne, who bought the winning ticket from board member Samantha Hilhorst, seen here with program co-ordinator Deb Thiessen. The jersey was donated by Olympic Sports and framed by The Framesmiths, with Eagleye Printing and Design donating the tickets. "We're very pleased with the way that the draw went," said Thiessen, who said it raised \$6,100 for SCCR's programming.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## Hawks start 2019 solidly in the middle of the pack

#### **By Lorne Stelmach**

Their record and even the team's statistics have the male Pembina Valley Hawks very much in the middle of the pack at the midway point of the 2018-19 season.

Going into their final three games before the Christmas break, the Hawks were in seventh place in the 13-team AAA league, but co-coach Jeff Andrews believed the team "is trending in the right direction.

"Recently, we're really happy with the direction that our team is going," he said. "When you look at what's transpired through half the year, I would say that we had a really good start and then followed that up with about a 10 to 12 game stretch where we would have liked to have been a lot better.

"We're starting to do a lot of the little things we're looking to do on a nightly basis a little more consistently."

After 26 games the Hawks were at 13-10-2-1 for 29 points, which had them just one ahead of the Winnipeg Bruins and five up on Kenora while remaining nine behind Brandon and 10 back of Southwest.

Their team stats backed up their position in the standings, as their 97 goals for ranked seventh while the 95 goals against ranked eighth.

At press time, Tyson Allison led the Hawks in scoring with 12 goals and 28 points followed by Roux Bazin at 16 goals and 25 points. In goal, Dylan Meilun had a 3.36 goals against average and .907 save percentage, while Brock Moroz was at 3.57 and .898.

Andrews said he was encouraged by some of their recent results where they have competed well against some of the top teams such as the first place Winnipeg Wild.

"The last time we played them at home we had them down going into the third period," he noted. "So if you look at our last seven games prior to Christmas, we could be putting ourselves in a pretty good position ... and looking to trend in the new year with a little bit of success," he said, citing as well the importance of upcoming games against Brandon and Southwest. "For us to squeak one or two out there would be huge for us, and that would give us a little bit of momentum heading into kind of a softer January ... with one or two heavier games mixed in there."

Andrews said there were a number of aspects of their game that he was liking as well as some they need to keep working on.

"Our defensive zone is something that we've tried to focus on here ... just really simplifying things, working on our positional play and making sure we're a little more responsible when it comes to our jobs," he suggested. "That's something we've

## > HAWKS, FROM PG. 11

Central Plains Capitals, the Hawks had been stuck in sixth place at 7-6-2 for 16 points.

They slipped in the standings in the midst of a run of just two wins in their last seven games in November and December, so they were needing some victories to keep in the hunt. They were four points back of Eastman and the Winnipeg Avros, five back of Central Plains and six behind Yellowhead with Westman on top at 27.

Offence has been one of the challenges for the Hawks, as their 35 goals was above only that of last place Interlake. Their leading scorer had been Cora Fijala, who at press time stood 12th in scoring in the league with four goals and 14 points, followed by Tessa Odell at eight goals and 12 points.

"Some areas that we definitely need to be working on is trying to find the back of the net. It's difficult to win a really turned around here lately ... and I would say that would have been the biggest area that we were looking to improve.

"In general, other things that have been positives for us have been our special teams play. Our powerplay and penalty kill throughout the entire first half of the season have been good," Andrews noted. "Our powerplay especially has been near the top of the league ... and our penalty kill was up in the top three for a big portion of the year, and it's kind of just levelled off now, more in the middle of the pack but trending in the right direction.

"If things keep trending the way they are ... we know that we need to play a certain way to be successful in this league ... that's been our challenge with this group of kids is getting everybody to buy in to play the way we need to in order to be successful," he continued. "On some nights, it's evident that some guys are focussed and ready to go. Other nights, we just don't have enough guys going to win hockey games."

Andrews said he will continue to stress working hard and playing wellstructured hockey.

"We're trying to find our identity," he added. "Guys are figuring out how to play in this league. We're a little younger this year ... I think we're starting to figure this out, and it's at a good time.

"If we can really get this train rolling in the right direction here in the second half, the sky's the limit with this group," he concluded. "We've proven that we can beat the top teams in this league ... we've also lost some games to teams that are below us in the standings."

game without scoring goals, so for us that is key," Peters said.

She remains optimistic however that the girls can elevate their game as long as the effort remains there.

"I definitely like the work ethic overall. We've got a lot of young girls, and they're eager to learn and get better and push themselves. I definitely like that side of things," she said.

"It's also just being more consistent. We've definitely had ups and downs; one game we're really awesome and then the next game it's like a whole other team out there. So it's about bringing that consistency to the game and what we know that we can bring every single game."

That is especially important given how close the standings remain and how competitive the league is again this year.

"It's one of those seasons where you can't come to any game taking any

time off because any team at this point is a team that can take a game from you," Peters stressed. "And it's always going to be good game no matter who you're playing, whether it's the first place team or the last place team.

"It's been a bit disappointing, knowing the talent we have on the team," she added, noting they would have liked to be in a better position at this point in the season, but she feels they have the potential to make a good push in the next few months.

"I think we definitely have a team that we can make a push and push our way back up. We'd really like to see ourselves sitting in the top four. Home ice advantage is always nice going into the playoffs."

The Hawks return to action with a visit to Shoal Lake Saturday to take on Yellowhead and then are back home to welcome the Avros on Sunday.

# Agriculture

## Success planning starts with the decision to do so

#### **By Harry Siemens**

Mike Poole, a tax specialist with MNP, told farmers at a recent seminar in Miami that there are many good provisions in the Income Tax Act for producers, including requirements that can assist with the transition from parents to the next generation, or, if the future generations are not interested, ways for parents to convert that value into retirement.

"While a lot of times it doesn't feel like the Income Tax Act is trying to do us a lot of favours, in this case, as long as you know about these options that you have available and you give yourself enough time to implement them, there are significant tax savings, hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax savings when you're talking about the value that farms have gotten to over the last decade," Poole said.

"When you're talking about million-dollar farms, \$10 million farms, the tax matters," he continued. "The key points are the importance of having a plan. Don't put your head in the sand. They can be uncomfortable conversations with the next generation, the non-farming children, conversations with Mom and Dad about when are you going to slow down. But they're important conversations."

Poole said that without those discussions, no one can formulate a plan, because he needs to know where the person wants to go when he sits down to help them.

"And then I can use my knowledge of the Income Tax Act to help get you there, keeping the tax bill as low as we can," he said."Ultimately, the way I look at that is if we're paying less in tax, that's more value left in the farm. It's more for the next generation.

"By and large, I think what Mom and Dad and the kids want is that the farm carries on for the next generation and the next generation. There's a lot of, I think, responsibility there because we're talking about multigenerational farms, a lot of people, a lot of sweat and effort has gone into them. So we should be careful with these and treat them with respect, and make sure that we're doing what's right for Mom and Dad so that they can retire, but also do what's right for the next generation so they can survive and the farm can survive into the future."

Poole said doing the plan and then working the program means the next generation doesn't need to get more financing or sell that quarter section that's been in the family for 80 years.

"We can make it work, but the key is you have to give yourself and your planners enough time so that you can take advantage of these aspects of the Income Tax Act."

While he has no real percentages as to how many people are coming in to start that planning earlier, what Poole feels strongly about is that the ones that do make that effort. Those folks are going to have a way better transition than the ones where the older generation leaves matters to be dealt with after they're gone.

"That can lead to not only a negative tax effect, [but] it can be hard on the family," he said. "Because when you've got a farming child and nonfarming children and they don't understand what Mom and Dad's wishes were, and if the only time they're finding out is when they read the will when Mom and Dad are gone, when emotions are high-it's a recipe for disaster.

"You know, kids, siblings not talking to each other anymore, things like that. So that's the worst thing that can happen. The tax is bad, but it's that impact that is the worst thing."

So be open and honest and start those conversations sooner rather than later, Poole urged.



#### **By Harry Siemens**

Remember nearly 20 years ago? It was the year 2000 and I wonder whether any people out there today still have dried foods in their cupboard because the world was coming to an end, at least the digital world.

Well, it didn't happen. Now, with another new year upon us, what will the future hold for you and me? We don't know. We know who holds the future and it's not me or you.

A well-known radio preacher Chuck Swindoll once said 90 per cent of everything we do depends on attitude. The same holds for going forward with another year.

If 90 per cent of what we do depends on attitude—and I think Swindoll was shooting low—then its time we may have to change our attitude.

In the '80s, I developed a motto that goes like this: a positive mental attitude to encourage and to serve others will motivate me to do my best. With time I added "to inspire" as the third plank of the segment of a seminar/talk I developed, presenting it hundreds of time across Western Canada and points beyond.

A positive attitude is something that goes deeper and has an effect beyond surface cheer. Negative attitudes promote fear and a narrowing of focus and the mind, while positive attitudes do the opposite.

A positive attitude doesn't mean ignoring life's troubles. It just means being an optimist and looking for the good in things rather than being a pessimist and concentrating on the bad in situations.

When I look at the challenges of 2018, including losing my dear wife Judith and battling health issues myself, oh my word. But you see, we don't know or understand the future. If we did, we'd mess it up too.

That is why it is possible to have a positive mental attitude regardless of most circumstances.

Farming has always been part of my life, as a youngster growing up, then joining my brother and father in a three-way operation, and then eventually becoming a farm journalist and advocate for the last 47 years. What a journey and I hope it isn't over just yet, but if things change and I need to change, I think I could do that too.

Farming right now isn't for the feeble and weak-hearted, but for those who take the challenge of feeding the people around the world plus themselves. To go out spring after spring whether the prices are high or low, whether there's moisture or not, and prepare the land, plant larly outside of the home.

the seeds, apply the crop protection products, be price takers, and spin the dice yet another time.

Some may say farmers are gamblers. If they are, the odds for the most part are pretty high that things will turn okay. And if not, then we wait until next year.

As I wrote in other article, management plays a more significant part than ever as to whether a farm will be successful or not.

One can make all the right decisions and some years it still isn't enough. That is when the positive attitude must kick in.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." Our pastor spoke on that passage and had some high points for developing a positive attitude.

1. Decide you want to change [I'm not a product of circumstances but of my decisions.]

2. Openly declare the goodness of God. How good is God in your life?

3. Discard your rights

4. Direct your thinking

Here is my wish that you decide to go forward in 2019 with a positive attitude because it certainly beats the alternative.

Just imagine the effect you will have on those around you and others you come in contact with regu-

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