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Tidings of great joy

The living nativity play From Everywhere to Bethlehem brought the Christmas story to life in Winkler last weekend. For more photos see Pg. 12.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Prairie Vapour collecting gift cards for Donate Love

By Lorne Stelmach

A local business is not only celebrating its new location this Christmas season but also giving back to the community.

Having been in business for about two years now, Prairie Vapour recently moved into the new strip mall development on the east end of Morden.

This month, owner Chris Hildebrand is looking to decorate the store's tree with gift cards that will support local charitable organization Donate Love.

"I wanted to do something to get involved in the holiday season locally," he said. "I finally had enough room in the store where I could do things like decorate for the holidays."

Hildebrand chose to support Do-

nate Love because they help some of the people most in need in our community.

"There's needs to be addressed ... it's almost easier to overlook the fact there's needs in small towns like ours than in a larger urban centre," he suggested.

"We don't really think of Morden having homeless people ... you just don't see them," he added. "There are people without jobs, they're struggling to make ends meet and feed their family. We don't see it."

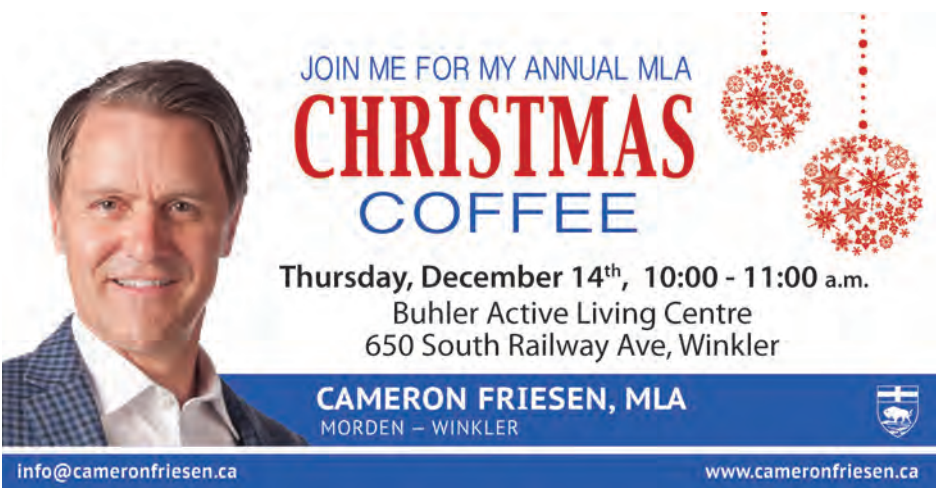
As Donate Love has stressed that they are most in need of things like breakfast cereals as well as fresh items like milk and eggs, gift cards for grocery stores like the Co-op and Giant Tiger seem like the easiest and most accessible way to help out, Hil-

"ANYWHERE THAT YOU CAN GET GROCERIES ... ANY GIFT CARD OF ANY VALUE, COME IN HERE AND HANG IT ON THE TREE."

debrand said.

"Anywhere that you can get groceries here ... any gift card of any value, come in and hang it on the tree. You don't have to be a customer," he said. "I just want people to come and give freely. Then, at the end of the month,

we're going to take them all down off the tree and we're going to bring them over to Donate Love to distribute freely to people ... so that struggling families can go shopping for fresh groceries."



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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Prairie Vapour owner Chris Hildebrand with the Christmas tree he hopes to fill with gift cards for Donate Love this holiday season.



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Around the rink with St. Nick



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

There was plenty of picture taking happening as a large crowd packed the ice Sunday at the Access Event Centre in Morden for the annual Skate with Santa. The free community event is a chance for the Morden and District United Way to give back and say thanks to the community for its support of its annual fundraising campaign.

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Intentional action leads to greatness, legacy

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a full house at the Days Inn Conference Centre in Winkler last Wednesday as The Muscle Hut hosted performance coach and author Ben Newman and UFC welterweight champion Tyrone Woodley.

About 200 people came out to hear the pair share advice about overcoming adversity and taking one's life to the next level.

That's more than double the numbers that were at the fitness centre's first speaker event last spring, which also featured Newman.

"We're really excited about that," said organizer Kurtis Fox. "It's exciting to see that people want to see this type of thing, working on personal development professional development."

"I think really the biggest thing is that they find something they can take home and take action on," he added. "It's easy to sit back and be inspired, but we hope they actually do something with it."

Inspiring others to greatness is a mission for Newman and Woodley, who teamed up two years ago as motivational speakers.

"We've had the opportunity to speak in the Dominican Republic



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Performance coach Ben Newman with The Muscle Hut's Evan Kehler and Kurtis Fox and fellow speaker and UFC champion Tyrone Woodley in Winkler last week.

together, Las Vegas, Denver, Phoenix, and now here we are in Winkler, Manitoba," said Newman, adding that he was excited to be back in the city before an even larger crowd than before.

When they step up on stage, he said, their goal is always "connecting with the audience, helping them become the best that they can be in anything

that they do

"Everybody's coming from different walks of life, different businesses, so we want to help them understand what it means for them to be a champion in their lives.

"I think if people are intentional in their thoughts, then it allows them to be great in their lives," Newman said.

"A lot of times when we fall short of the things we want to accomplish we're just not being intentional with our actions."

Being intentional with one's actions leads to greatness and, ultimately, leaving behind a legacy, he explained.

"I think that's something we can all do every single day. We can intentionally live to be the best we can be to leave the world a better place."

"I think it's impossible to not leave a legacy if you do those things," agreed Woodley, stressing that we can all strive to excel in whatever field we find ourselves in.

"You can be a legendary baker, a legendary computer programmer ... whatever you excel at, whatever God's gifted you with talents to do, if you locate those talents, locate what you should be doing with your life, and you really push it, everybody has the ability to leave a legacy. It's not just athletes, it's not just speakers or entertainers—everybody."

Woodley also encourages people to work at pushing through their comfort zones.

"A lot of times in life we become complacent, we become comfortable and that's how we get stagnant," he said.

Winkler, Morden police boards mull merger

By Lorne Stelmach

Local authorities are open to exploring the idea of merging the police services of Winkler and Morden.

Amalgamation is the biggest among a range of recommendations made by retired Winnipeg police chief Devon Clunis in a consulting report for the two municipalities.

The report only recently landed in the hands of the Winkler and Morden police boards, but the chairpersons of the two authorities say its ideas are being fully explored.

"We're really open to seeing where the conversation goes," said Henry Siemens, chair of the Winkler board.

"There certainly are opportunities to work together ... to work much more closely together," he said. "Could that lead to amalgamation? It would be premature to say yes or no to that. We're really interested in finding out how to provide better policing together than either one of us could do alone."

"Our members are used to working together," Siemens added, citing the example of the regional tactical support team. "I think we do a lot of things really, really well in both Morden and Winkler, and I think quite possibly there are some opportunities to do things better without additional cost if we work together."

"Exactly where that goes and how quickly it goes there ... it's probably a little bit too early to tell. We're really, really excited about the idea of working together."

"There's lot of things that come into play," noted Morden board chair Rich Harries, pointing to the political environment in both communities and a need to maintain a degree of local control. "There's lots of variables ... but I think that the climate appears to be supportive of working together in as many opportunities as possible, and for myself that's a positive."

A recent Morden police board meeting did an initial review of the report, and they are now looking to have

discussions with the Winkler police board to move the conversation forward.

Harries sees this as a chance to "open the door to more shared services ... it covers the whole range from shared expertise to a full merger."

While exploring the idea of an amalgamation would be a complex process, Harries suggested they are eager to look at implementing other recommendations much sooner.

"The intention is work fairly quickly together if we identify some opportunities ... so we're not dragging this out. We believe there's some momentum here in both communities."

Siemens agreed they are eager to begin acting on some of Clunis' recommendations.

"We've already started to imple-

ment some of those recommendations, particularly with regard to patrol sergeants and creating more platoons ... there's a number of things there that we can already do," he said. "I don't think there's a single recommendation in there that ultimately

we won't want to pursue. [But] some of them have some cost implications."

One mitigating factor for Winkler right now is their search for a new chief to replace the retiring Rick Hiebert.

"I think most of [the recommendations] are probably going to have to wait until we have a new chief in place," Siemens suggested, explaining that they would want the new chief to have some input.

The Winkler board intended to delve further into the report's recommendations at a meeting this week.

"WE'RE REALLY OPEN TO SEEING WHERE THE CONVERSATION GOES."

Access CU named top MB employer

By Lorne Stelmach

Access Credit Union has been named one of the top employers in the province for a fourth straight year.

Citing the Access Credit Union for its commitment to innovation and education for its staff, the honour is something that can have an extended impact for them, said chief administrative officer Larry Davey.

He said it is an ongoing challenge to meet the demands of a changing workforce that includes a greater focus on personalized member service and innovative technologies. It all starts, though, with needing to have employees that are well equipped to meet the challenge of making Access the leading provider of financial services in southern Manitoba.

"Our commitment to education and development and creating an innovative organization is a large part of the attraction to working at Access," said

Davey. "We're certainly proud that we've been able to create the environment for our staff.

"What it means long term for us is we're able to attract people that fit the business model we're looking for ... which is just providing strong, knowledgeable service for our members," he continued. "By being a top employer, we're seeing the number of people and the quality of people applying continues to increase.

"We're seeing that the area we draw from continues to grow. I think people are happy and comfortable to relocate to our area, knowing that they are going to be supported by their employer."

Entering its 12th year, *Manitoba's Top Employers* is an annual competition organized by the editors of *Canada's Top 100 Employers*.

It recognizes companies that meet a range of benchmarks for an extraordinary workplace, including working



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Among the staff credited for helping Access Credit Union being named a top Manitoba employer for a fourth year in a row are human resources team members Eric Braun, Anna Wieler, Joan Kroeker, Brittany Fehr, Darren Heide and Janessa Unrau.

conditions, stability, benefits, flexibility, community involvement, and the ability to further each career as it suits their aspirations while balancing life goals.

As the only full-service financial services company recognized four years in a row, Davey said it is further encouragement for Access to continue building on this success to create an even more engaged workplace among its 260 employees in 17 branches.

The ultimate benefit ripples down to

the customers day in and day out.

"I think it gives the membership a comfort level that they know they are going to dealing with people who are happy where they work, they're engaged in what they do, and they continue to leverage their education to increase their knowledge about financial services," said Davey. "They're looking at dealing with someone who is there for the long term, and that contributes to the sustainability of the credit union long term."

Local leaders weigh in on issues at AMM conference

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual gathering of municipal leaders from across Manitoba last week offered rural communities the opportunity to get the attention of the provincial government.

Council members from the cities of Winkler and Morden and the RM of Stanley were part of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities annual convention held Nov. 27-29 in Brandon.

Municipal representatives presented 49 resolutions dealing with everything from government funding, taxation, and education support to water management issues and natural gas expansion.

The pending legalization of cannabis and how it will impact municipalities garnered a lot of discussion.

"In my opinion, it took up too much negative time that could have been spent on more positive things, but that was the hot button item this time around," noted Winkler Mayor Martin Harder.

"There's a lot of decisions that have to be made on that yet," observed Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe. "We can't do a lot at the municipal level really until the federal and provincial people give us some more idea of what the direction is going to be."

Winkler sponsored one resolution that calls on the AMM to lobby the province to remove

the authority to set local speed limits from the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board.

The motion grew from the ongoing battle between Winkler and the traffic board over reducing speed limits on key, busy routes such as 15th Street. It passed with about 80 per cent support.

"I look forward to seeing what efforts AMM can do as far as the lobby to get the province to ensure that the traffic board becomes just a commentary agency," said Harder.

Morden, meanwhile, also garnered strong support for its resolution to give municipalities the right to operate electric vehicle charging stations. Currently only Manitoba Hydro has the authority to sell electricity in the province.

"We're very happy with the support we got at AMM," said Wiebe, noting that the motion drew 89 per cent support.

"We're trying to do what we can to be a greener community," said Wiebe in explaining the rationale for the resolution.

The RM of Stanley did not bring forward any resolutions, but it obviously shares an interest in all of the issues presented, said Reeve Morris Olafson.

One major issue for them is changing how education is funded by removing the burden from

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WINKLER, MORDEN AND MANITOU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

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Continued on page 7

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The unique in the whole

The City of Toronto is made up of countless communities, including Cabbagetown, Little Italy, Greek Town, Chinatown, Koreatown, Thornhill, Little India ... the list goes on and on and on.

Each community is unique and exciting and a celebration of culture and diversity. Yet, at the same time, they all have one thing in common: they are part of greater Toronto area.

So why am I telling you this? Why talk about the relevance of Toronto to the Pembina Valley?

Well, because a horse that I refuse to stop flogging reared its head again recently and that horse is regionalism.

It recently became public that one of the ideas the Morden Police Board is investigating is combining service with the Winkler Police Service.

I confess to know nothing of the details that would make this happen. I can say, however, that I am 100 per

cent in favour of such a move, as one thing it would do is bring our two communities closer together

One of the greatest fears people have when talk of amalgamation and regionalism comes up is the loss of unique identity. After all, Winkler and Morden are distinct and unique communities. From the outside this might not be so apparent, but to those of us who live here we are deeply aware of our differences.

But an interesting thing happens when communities partner and organizations amalgamate: those aspects that make them unique and different become stronger, not weaker.

Ask any Greek or Italian who has moved to Toronto in the past 100 years.

In Italy, my great grandparents were regular folk. They got up in the morning, prepared for the day, ate, worked, came home, ate, and enjoyed family and friends. On the weekends they would no doubt enjoy various recreation.

They did not become members of an Italian Cultural Club; they were not organizing Italian cultural fairs and celebrations, publishing Italian cookbooks, or designating a part of their community "Little Italy."

These sorts of things only happened when they moved to Guelph, Ontario.

As part of a school project, my daughter asked me to help her breakdown her heritage.

"Well, you are a quarter Guatema-

lan, a quarter Jewish, an eighth German, an eighth British, an eighth Irish, and an eighth Italian. You're like the United Nations in one person."

The response was not to panic at a loss of identity over all these differences packed together in one person but to become even MORE interested in who she was and these parts that make up the whole.

When we find our community becoming part of a larger whole we do not sit back and allow it to erode and disappear. No—we enhance our culture, we put it on display, and we revel in the things that make us distinct that we might not have thought about before.

If there is one thing Canadians know how to do it is to protect our cultural uniqueness in the face of regionalization and often because of it.

This is another reason I am strongly supportive of any efforts that make sense and tend towards greater regional cooperation and partnership in the Pembina Valley. They force us to look into our distinctiveness. They drive us to celebrate who we are in the midst of who we are becoming.

Things like regionalizing protective services, fire services, school boards and one day even municipal governments are not a threat to our identities but a catalyst to strengthen and bring that uniqueness to the forefront in ways that has not been done before.



By Peter Cantelon

> **FAITH FOCUS**

It's time to rethink your wedding

Imagine for a moment that the concept of marriage was a brand new idea.

Imagine that you and I had been given the monumental task of brainstorming and implementing some form of ritual or rite of passage into this new chapter of a person's life. We have the power to craft a process that

will immediately become the standard for all couples in our culture.

So we sit down over a nice cup of coffee to begin planning and one of us says:

"Here's an idea: What if we started by coming up with a list of things we

don't want to see happen? Let's create a scenario that includes all the things we wouldn't wish upon a couple."

Pulling out our notepad, we begin to make a list. A process that would be truly tiresome and unnecessarily difficult for a couple:

- Should produce high levels of stress. Even worse, the stress should be unequal, with considerably more



By Dan Doerksen

Continued on page 8

Morden hosting free Canada 150 Skate Day Sun.

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is inviting families to come skating this weekend to help them mark the end of the community's Canada 150 celebrations.

The Morden Canada 150 Skate Day runs this Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Access Event Centre from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Enjoy skating to a Canadian music playlist and free hot chocolate, cookies, and a goodie bag.

A photo booth will be available along with a colouring and poster-making station. Door prizes will be given away, and donations of mittens and pyjamas will be accepted for

Genesis House.

"I think it's been fantastic that Morden has been able to participate in the Canada 150 activities throughout the year," said Clare Agnew, director of community services. "The Skate Day seemed like a fitting way to end the celebrations. Communities have

been encouraged to offer free public skating across the country on Dec. 10, and Morden was eager to participate."

For anyone without their own skates, the Access Event Centre's skate lending program has a wide range of sizes free to borrow while quantities last.

Agnew encouraged people to make

a day of it at the event centre on Sunday, with the Pembina Valley Hawks playing the Southwest Cougars at 2:30 p.m. and Co-op presenting family entertainer Fred Penner at 3 p.m. Tickets to the concert are available at the Co-op grocery stores in Morden and Winkler.

Our mistake

Our story Nov. 30 on the latest Diversitas speaker, Maththumagala Chandananda Thero, had a rather glaring error in the headline.

Rather than "tenants" it should have read: "Diversitas series explores the tenets of Buddhism."

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

We'd also like to thank our many eagle-eyed readers for pointing out the mistake!

> AMM CONVENTION, FROM PG. 4

property taxes, he said.

Another major issue for all municipalities is funding support from the federal and provincial governments. Some discussion at the convention centred around pressing for a 40-40-20 per cent formula for the three levels from federal down to municipal.

"We want the province to step up to the plate in regards to requesting 40-40 split funding ... leaving us with 20," said Harder, noting the difference that allow municipalities to be able to tackle larger projects. "It is unbelievable the difference that would make for us as a municipality if we were able to get that through."

Wiebe noted that some municipalities are opposed to this idea on the grounds they expect the other two levels to be able to carry more of the financial burden, but he saw that as

unrealistic.

"When you take all things into consideration and the chances for success ... I think there's probably a better chance of success. As a council, we fully support that proposal."

Olafson is less optimistic.

"I think the reality in the short term is the province isn't going to get to that [40 per cent] number," he said. "They're in non-spending mode ... so I have a hard time seeing that happening."

In the end, all three local leaders saw the AMM conference as a good opportunity even just in terms of being able to meet face to face with government representatives.

"I was very pleased to see the cabinet ministers that came there ... I think they made a real good effort to answer some of the questions rather

than skirt around them," said Harder.

The AMM certainly carries some weight with the provincial government, Wiebe noted.

"Numbers generate attention ... and nearly all the communities of Manitoba are there," he said. "That's a lot of councillors speaking on behalf of their communities, and the provincial government does pay attention. It's a chance for them to hear what the grassroots concerns are in the province."

"It's an opportunity to have a better dialogue," added Olafson, suggesting they can get an inkling of what is coming from the province. "That's what I want to hear from these guys."

"I do think the AMM and the province talk quite a bit," he said.

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Buhler Industries receives safety certification

By Lorne Stelmach

Buhler Industries and its Farm King plant in Morden are on the forefront of a provincial safe work initiative.

The company was honoured Friday as the second manufacturing firm in Manitoba to receive certification under the Safe Work Manitoba program.

Created over three years ago as a prevention initiative of the Workers Compensation Board, there are five industry-specific safety associations, with Made Safe representing the manufacturing sector.

Buhler Industries was lauded by the association for its commitment and successfully achieving certification.

"It's always great to be one of the first, and they're only the second manufacturing company to achieve the new certification. We now have five companies," noted Neal Curry, executive director of Made Safe. "It just shows they're leading edge and they're not sitting around waiting for somebody else to take the lead."

Curry stressed the importance of safety in the workplace, calling it one of the three pillars alongside productivity and sales. The association's ultimate aim is to reduce workplace injuries across the province, he said.

The certification process is a comprehensive program and reflects a

Buhler Industries celebrated the achievement of being the second Manitoba manufacturing firm to receive official Safe Work Manitoba certification. On hand were Jennifer Wood, HR and safety manager, Neal Curry, executive director of the Made Safe manufacturing safety association, Terry Paetkau, co-chair of the safety committee, and committee co-chair and plant manager Shawn Wiebe.

PHOTO BY
LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

real commitment "both on the part of management and on the employees," Curry said.

"A very significant part of our certification program is to have involvement from top level management and worker participation," he noted. "In order to get certified, the workers have to demonstrate they've been involved and know about it."

Buhler Industries human resources and safety manager Jennifer Wood



said the recognition means a lot to the employees and management alike.

"It has taken every one of them, and they all worked very hard to attain this certification," she said. "There are interviews involved ... they pick random employees off the floor and ask them questions, so it's growing our safety program."

"They have to be willing to work at this," she concluded. "It takes them all doing the actions on the floor and

keeping it up and continuing it."

Safety committee co-chair Terry Paetkau praised the local staff for their commitment.

"The guys that I work with are 100 per cent on board. If there was an issue, they let me know and we take care of it," he said.

"We all, as a team, we just made sure things happened. I'm really proud of everybody. I know that I'm getting a 110 per cent out of everybody."

> FAITH FOCUS, FROM PG. 6

pressure and responsibility on one person over the other.

- Should come at a high cost. So high, in fact, that couples will either go into debt, enter the tricky waters of receiving funds from family, or simply think twice about getting married and choose to postpone their relationship until the funds are available

- Should also create financial stress on their friends and family with expectations of giving gifts, throwing parties, or even purchasing special attire for the big occasion

- Should include uncomfortable situations for the bride and groom. The big day should have plenty of elements to elicit self-consciousness, like standing in front of all their friends and families for an extended period of time and being excessively photographed, as well as numerous public speaking opportunities. Also consider adding a few awkward or embarrassing rituals forced upon them by their friends surrounding

the big day, just for kicks.

- Should require the couple to learn the likely entirely new skill set of event planning in order to pull it off well. Since most young couples would not be accomplished event planners by this point, this should be as large an event as possible. Such a large event, in fact, that the preparation for it would become burdensome and all-consuming.

- Should primarily be about making everyone but the bride and groom comfortable. Details concerning the guest experience such as venue, seating charts, and menu will need to be planned anywhere from 6-24 months in advance, while more important elements which will form the foundation of their commitments to each other, let's call them vows, should be left until the week or two before to think through and write out.

- Despite all this effort, there will be many who still see this occasion as mostly uninteresting, boring even,

causing them to hope they are not invited to too many in any given year

- Should become an increasingly complex process as time goes on. While new ideas and extra events can be somewhat easily added, they should quickly become the new norm and be very difficult to remove for future couples. We can already envision people adding things like bridal showers, bachelor/bachelorette parties, rehearsal dinners, multiple receptions, expensive vacations, and elaborate fundraiser events.

Yikes! This is quite a list! The mere thought of couples going through a process like this sends shivers down our spines

Just coming up with a list like this has made both of us decide to abandon the whole effort of coming up with a standardized rite of passage and rather encourage couples to craft their own unique celebration that encourages and instills hope for the future, while not creating additional stress.

To all those about to enter into this sacred relationship called marriage, be encouraged to chart your own course; to be unshackled by expectations and experience complete freedom and joy as you plan for your new life ahead.

Stepping back into reality for a moment, most would agree that there are ultimately three factors that need to be present in order to be Biblically and legally married:

- Verbal lifelong commitments (vows).

- Physical union (that's a "newspaper-friendly" euphemism, by the way)

- Official documentation, issued by the legal authorities of any given country (marriage license).

Everything else is optional.

Dan Doerksen is the Family Ministries Pastor at WMBC. He has had the privilege of officiating over 30 weddings.

Morden Drug Store open for business

By Lorne Stelmach

It's a simple, straightforward name, but Morden Drug Store has meaning to owner and pharmacist Hany Maawad.

Having Morden in the name reflects that he wants to be part of and invested in the community, said Maawad, who opened his new downtown pharmacy last month at 104-215 Stephen St.

"Drug store is the old word for it," he said. "My father and your father used drug store ... so let's get back to basics and call it a drug store ... that's why we chose the name."

Maawad grew up and was educated in Egypt. He immigrated to Canada in 2012, starting out in British Columbia before making his way two years ago

to Manitoba to work for a pharmacy chain in Selkirk. Last fall he started up his own business and now he's excited to expand with this second location in Morden, where he sees a lot of potential.

"I feel Morden people deserve more services," he said, noting that Morden Drug Store offers a full range of pharmacy services, including free delivery.

"We can pick up the prescription from the doctor's office, deliver it to the patient," Maawad said.

They offer a full complement of counselling and consultation services, ranging from diabetes advice and meter training to the Meds Check program. They also have walk-in flu shots, prescription and over-the-counter compression stockings, a photo centre machine, and a loyalty



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Hany Maawad, far right, owner and pharmacist of the new Morden Drug Store with staff members Scott Zegalski, Candice Klassen, and Gil Salibi. The store opened in downtown Morden in November.

rewards program for customers.

"We also have a section for weight loss and healthy nutrition. It's protein enriched foods," noted Maawad.

Maawad said there are benefits to being local owned and operated as an independent pharmacy.

"One of the most important benefits is lower dispensing fees ... this is a big

difference."

The store plans to be open seven days a week year-round.

"If a client wants help, we want to be here to help," said Maawad.

You can contact Morden Drug Store at 204-822-9992 or find them online at mordendrugstore.ca.

Western SD looking to reward innovation

By Lorne Stelmach

A local program is providing an incentive to get everyone from staff and students to parents and the community involved and engaged in the school system.

Western School Division offers innovation grants each year to support program ideas to benefit education in Morden, and trustees see it having an impact.

"We're all responsible for the education of the next generation," chairperson Brian Fransen said after the school board last week approved two innovation projects.

"What we've done the last couple of years now is put aside a little bit of money in our budget to see if there's some innovative ideas in the division and in the community," explained Fransen. "It's a chance to try something that may have a positive impact on student learning and other priorities in the division."

"What we've found over the years is that there are more and more unique ideas coming from within the school division. What we want to do now is spread that out a little more."

The division allocated \$7,500 for innovation grants for the current school year, including \$1,500 in support of a bike service shop at Morden Collegiate.

The idea is the students can contribute to healthy living and sustainability by fixing and maintaining bicycles, Fransen said.

"It's an idea that some of the staff had," he said. "I think this idea really brings together a unique set of opportunities for the students and the staff."

"There's a number of schools in different places that have done this as a hands-on opportunity. It certainly fits well with our project-based learning approach as well," noted superintendent Stephen Ross. "We know we've had a fairly active bike club at the school in past years, so I think it fits really well with our community."

A second innovation grant also approved last week is making money available to the division's parent advisory councils.

There isn't a specific amount of money allocated to it at this point as it depends on what ideas the advisory councils come back with, said Fransen.

"This is a great way for parents to help drive change," he said.

"If they have a great idea, and they need perhaps a little bit of startup money for something that's going to make the schools better than that's something the board wants to look at," said Ross.

Continued on page 14

Date	Event	Deadline
December 14th	Christmas Greetings	Greeting Deadline – Mon., Dec. 4th, 4 pm Regular Paper Deadline – Mon., Dec. 11th, 4 pm
December 21st		Regular Paper Deadline – Mon., Dec. 18th, 4 pm
December 28th	Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements	EARLY Deadline – Tues., Dec. 19th, NOON
January 4th	Year in Review	Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements EARLY Deadline – Thurs., Dec. 21st, 4 pm
		Offices will be closed December 23rd through January 2nd. Offices will reopen Wednesday, January 3rd

Happy Holidays!



Christmas comes to Winkler



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Arts and Culture Centre hosted the city's Light Up the Season celebration Nov. 30. Above: Mayor Martin Harder and wife Valerie won the People's Choice Award in the gingerbread creation competition with their miniature version of the Meridian Exhibition Centre. Right, top: St. Nick and elf helper Taylor Hildebrand



greeted kids by the Christmas tree. Right, bottom: GVC choir students provided the musical entertainment. The evening also included crafts for the kids (left), the WAC's Advent art show (on all through December), and hot chocolate and s'mores courtesy of the Quality Inn.



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Christmas Sale supporting Genesis House

Pembina Valley Events is hosting its annual Christmas Sale on Saturday, Dec. 9 at Garden Valley Collegiate in support of Genesis House. The sale, which runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature 50 vendors, a children's craft corner, performances from the Pembina Valley Baptist Church Choir at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., and entertainment by Mad Tunes Entertainment.

Admission is free.

Organizer Gina Diclemente notes that Pembina Valley Events heard the local women's shelter needed help and they jumped at the opportunity to invite them to the sale.

Genesis House executive director Ang Braun will be on hand all day to speak about the shelter's work and accept donations.

"We are so happy that Pembina Valley Events has asked us to participate in their annual sale," said Braun. "The sale falls in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, which provides our agency another opportunity to interact with community and open discussion about violence."

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Rosenort CU backs pool snack shack project

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Aquatic Centre will have its new snack cabana up and running next summer thanks to a donation from Rosenort Credit Union.

The financial institution stopped by the pool last week to present the City of Winkler with a gift of \$40,000 towards the structure, which is already well on its way to being completed before winter sets in.

"We are grateful for RCU's support," said Mayor Martin Harder, who notes the donation covers roughly half the cost of the building. "We are fortunate to have many businesses in Winkler who understand the value of partnering with the city to make these projects possible."

RCU branch manager Tyronne Wall said they jumped at the opportunity to support this project.

"We wanted to give back to the community," he said. "We've felt very blessed at the response and the welcoming we've received from the Pembina Valley region and this was one way we could show thank-you to our members."

"This is probably one of the biggest gathering areas during the summer for not just Winkler but for a good portion of the region," Wall added.

The 240 sq. ft. concession building is located on the north side of the pool, just east of the slides, and features two service windows—one for pool customers and one facing the parking lot for passersby.

"[It's opening] is going to be extremely positive for the people using the pool as well as using the campgrounds," Harder said. "We look forward to it being open."

The snack stand is just one of several major improvements at the aquatic centre

this off-season.

The aging pool liner has already been replaced and by next summer swimmers will be able to enjoy a larger children's wading area and a new climbing wall in the deep end.

It's all part of the city's plan to breath new life into the 21-year-old facility.

"As we did the pool renovations we said we wanted to make this unique, make this special, new, and something exciting," Harder said, noting he expects the concession stand to be a popular place next summer. "There's a lot of traffic past here, so I think there's a tremendous opportunity for people just to enjoy a quick snack."

The city will begin the process of finding an operator for the stand in the new year.

"We want it to be open regularly," Harder said. "We don't want it to just be used on weekends or holidays."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Rosenort Credit Union's Peter Martens and Tyronne Wall presented a donation of \$40,000 to Winkler Coun. Don Fehr, city manager Barb Dyck, Coun. Marvin Plett, and Mayor Martin Harder toward the Winkler Aquatic Centre's new concession stand (right).



Winkler Police arrest four in meth investigation

Winkler police made four arrests on the weekend as a result of ongoing investigations involving methamphetamine.

Police first announced that they had arrested three men Saturday following a search of a Southview Dr. home.

More meth was seized and a fourth man was arrested on Sunday. That suspect now faces meth trafficking charges as well as charges for resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.

Police had released no further details of these incidents at press time.

Other items of note in the weekly police reports include:

- Police were on patrol in Winkler Nov. 29 when they witnessed a two vehicle accident at Roblin Blvd. and 1st Street. A vehicle going north did not stop at the red light and collided with a car going east on Roblin. The driver of the northbound vehicle was ticketed. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

- Morden police responded to a two-vehicle accident Nov. 28 at 1st Street and Thornhill St.

The driver of one of the vehicles was

uninjured but suspected to be under the influence. Officers attempted to administer a field sobriety test, at which point he became uncooperative, swearing at officers.

The man eventually failed the tests and was arrested for impaired driving. In the arrest, the man became combative with police, pulling his hands away as they attempted to handcuff him. A search discovered a quantity of shatter (a marijuana derivative) in his jacket.

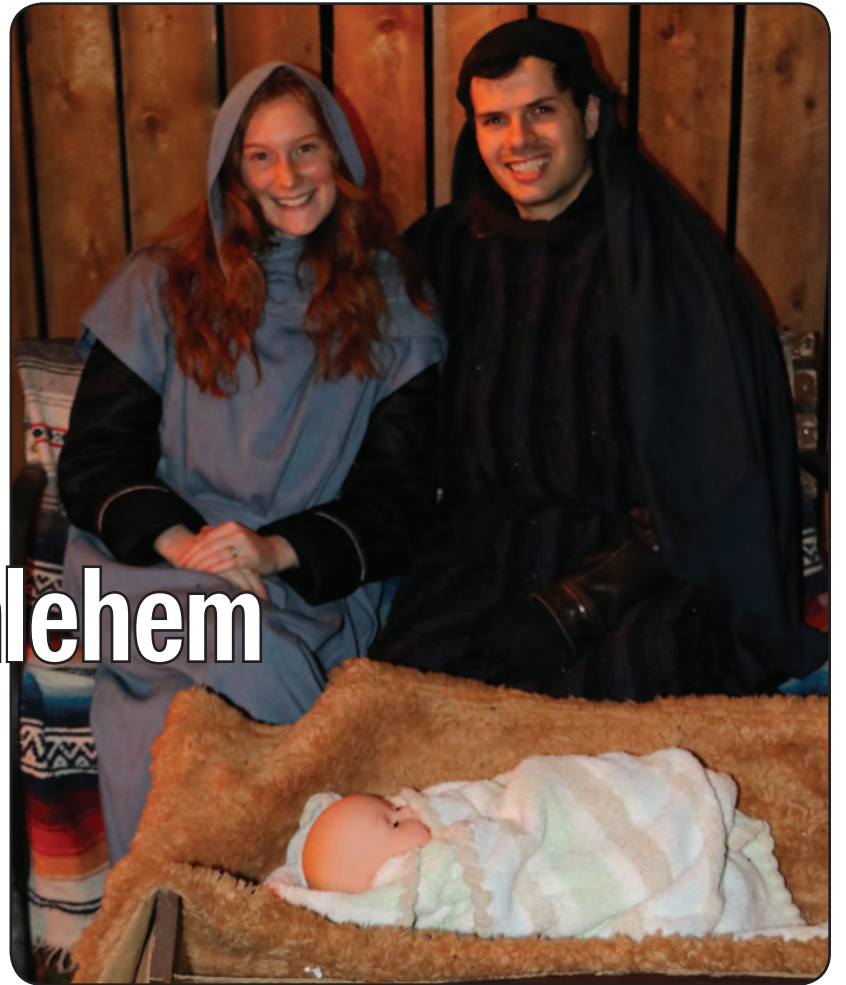
Police called in their drug recognition expert to administer more

testing, but the driver refused. The 17-year-old now faces numerous charges and will appear in Morden court in January.

- Morden police were on patrol Dec. 1 when they saw a vehicle in a parking lot with no front licence plate.

Several minutes later, after the vehicle started travelling west on North Railway St., it was stopped and the male driver admitted not only was the vehicle not registered but he also did not have a driver's licence.

Continued on page 20



From Everywhere to Bethlehem



Nearly 3,100 people checked out the interactive nativity production of From Everywhere to Bethlehem in Winkler Park Dec. 1-3. The show had audience members visiting with all the characters in the Christmas story, including (clockwise from above) the three wise men; Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child; shepherds guarding their flocks, and King Herod, to name a few. People were asked to bring a tin for the bin as admission to the show. As a result, the weekend collected 2,700 pounds of food for the Winkler Food Cupboard. An on-site bake sale also raised funds for the MCC Living Gift program.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



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· Stay within your budget. Even last-minute shoppers have holiday shopping budgets. But it can be harder for last-minute shoppers to stick to their budgets because they have less time to comparison shop and hunt for deals. As the holiday shopping season winds down, resist the temptation to go over budget. If a gift you had in mind is available but more than you can spend, look for something else. Overspending on holiday shopping in December is a recipe for debt in January, and no shopper wants to begin the new year weighed down by consumer debt.

· Shop local. National chains and big box retailers are renowned for rolling out great deals during the holiday season, but such stores may have very limited or unimpressive inventory left by the time last-minute shoppers begin shopping. In addition, shoppers who stick with local retailers won't have to pay shipping costs to ensure items arrive on time.

· Shop during off-peak hours. Shopping during off-peak hours can help last-minute shoppers make efficient use of the limited time they have to buy gifts for their loved ones. Visit stores early in the morning or late at night, or schedule a midweek afternoon shopping trip so you aren't spending what little time you have left waiting on lines or hunting for parking.

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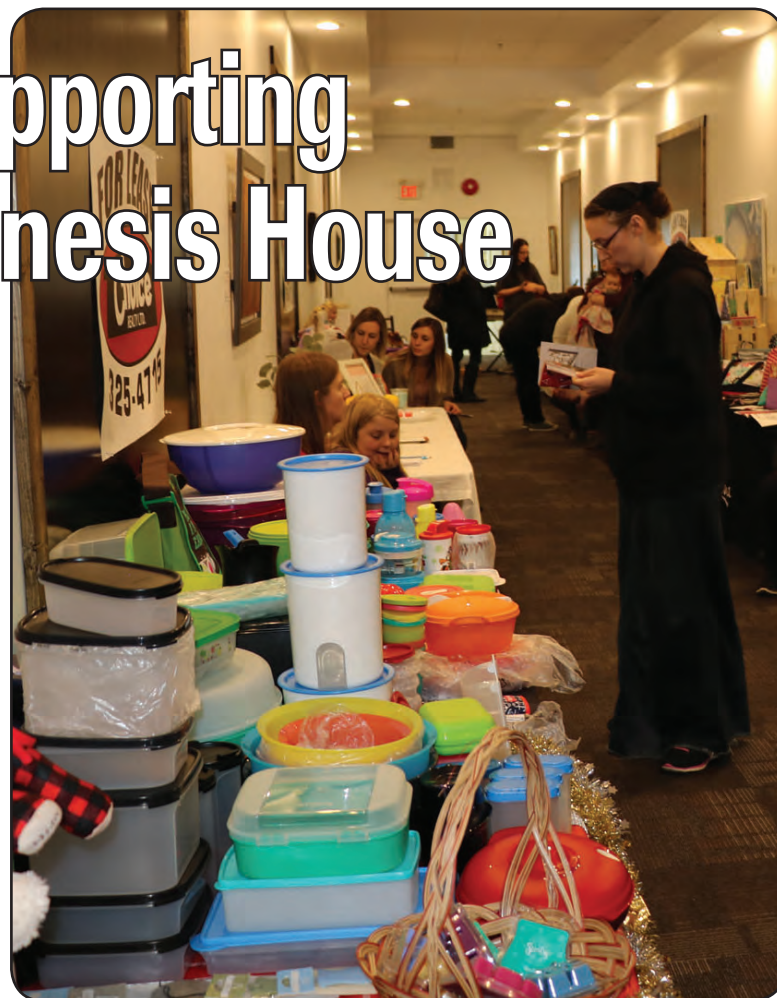
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Supporting Genesis House



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

TiAnna's Cafe and Bakeshop's Rolanda Heinrichs and Anna Wiebe are thrilled at the donations that have been coming in for Genesis House in honour of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. They will continue collecting donations of clothing and other items through to month's end. "We want to support local organizations and this is one that we really feel is needed," said Heinrichs. "A lot of people really benefit from it." The cafe also hosted the first of three weeks of its Jingle for Genesis Craft and Vendor Sale last weekend. The sale also runs Dec. 8-9 and Dec. 15-16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays in the East Gate Mall (390 1st Street). Proceeds from the vendor fees will be donated to the women's shelter. A donation will also be made for every person who comes into the cafe and shows they are wearing some sort of jingle bells.

Movember campaign raises funds for SCCR



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Physiotherapy presented the proceeds Friday from its Movember campaign held to help support and raise awareness around men's health issues. Presenting \$1,484.50 to South Central Cancer Resource

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Physiotherapy did its part for the cause of men's health this past month.

Staff at the local practice got on the board with the "Movember" movement to both raise funds and awareness.

The team collected donations both online and at the clinic, raising \$742.25. They matched that amount to be able to present South Central Cancer Resource with a donation of \$1,484.50.

The campaign revolved around a competition among staff members Tim Shantz, Jared Hildebrand, and Stefan Mulaire to collect donations

and votes for the best moustache. In the end, Hildebrand took the honours in voting in the clinic and Mulaire in voting online.

The friendly competition marked November as Men's Health Month, with the Movember campaign working to address some of the biggest health issues faced by men, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.

The Movember Foundation is working to halve the number of deaths from prostate cancer by 2030. Working independent of government funding, in 13 years it has funded more than 1,200 men's health projects around the world.

> WSD, FROM PG. 9

Also at the November board meeting, trustees approved a new "idea challenge" program for students.

Any student who thinks they have a great idea for their school are encouraged to come pitch it to trustees for potential funding and implementation.

Fransen sees Western School Division being in a good position to be able to try out new programs

and ideas on a smaller scale than other larger school divisions.

"Western School Division is in a unique setting in the province ... with a good population but not too great to be cumbersome and not too small," he said. "We can try some things out that other divisions are unable to on a scale that they can manage. So we're trying to take advantage of our unique situation."

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Our grandfathers taught us the basics of fishing and were the source of all sorts of good stories and funny jokes.

As for our aunts and uncles, they were often the ones who provided the entertainment during Christmas and birthday parties, with their off-colour songs and clowning around. They made all those family get-togethers such festive, fun affairs!

Now it's our turn to think of all these people who loved us and who have now reached their golden years. The least we can do is give them some of the attention that they once gave us. Let's be sure to think of them at Christmas time; let's not leave them on their own.

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INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers best Selkirk, fall to Dauphin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The battle for supremacy in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League continues as Winkler split their games last week.

The Flyers headed into the weekend flying high with a three game win streak and sole possession of first place in the standings.

They cemented that lead with a 2-1 victory over the Selkirk Steelers Friday night.

The close match featured Winkler goals from Matt Krawiec at the end of the first period and Coltyn Bates a few minutes into the second.

Selkirk got on the board at 8:33 in the middle frame and that was it for scoring. Winkler's Troy Martyniuk denied all comers, saving 38 shots on goal as Winkler narrowly outshot Selkirk 40-39.

Things fell apart the very next night when the Dauphin Kings came to town to face a short-handed Flyers roster (Everett Bestland, Brody Moffatt, Coltyn Bates, and Mitch Dyck were all out due to injuries).

The bottom-ranked Kings pulled off a decisive victory, responding to Winkler's opening goal in the first period with two of their own in each of the remaining periods to take the game 4-1.

Weiland Parrish did all the scoring for Winkler, while Martyniuk took the loss in net, making 24 saves. Winkler outshot Dauphin 31-28.

That gives Winkler a 21-9 record for the season for 42 points and second place. They trail the first place Steinbach Pistons, who have a game in hand, by just one point. Nipping at their heels in third are OCN and Portage at 40 points each.

This week, the Flyers hosted Winnipeg on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.

Coming up next week, Winkler heads into Winnipeg Dec. 11-12 to play Waywayseecappo and OCN.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Winkler's Brett Opperman got a five minute major and a game misconduct for charging on Dauphin goalie Brennan Kitchen, who was forced to leave the game after the collision. The Kings went on to take the Saturday night game 4-1.

Redskins, Royals post losses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a rough weekend in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League for both the Morden Redskins and the Winkler Royals.

Morden traveled to play Carman, returning home with a 4-3 loss to add to their record.

Carman broke the scoring deadlock early in the second period and then managed to hold off Morden until 31 seconds into the third, when Graham Leiding fired one home.

The Redskins managed two more in that final frame, courtesy of Keith Bially and Tyler Penner, but Carman got three of their own for the win.

Morgan Wall took the loss in net, making 43 saves as Carman outshot Morden 47-39.

Winkler lost by a much wider margin when playing the Islanders in Portage Sunday.

Portage kept a firm hold on things throughout, scoring two in the first period and three more in the second before Winkler's Mark Hildebrand

and Phil Letkeman finally got the Royals on the board in the third.

That was it for scoring, though, and Portage got the win 5-2.

Matt Krahn guarded Winkler's net, making 31 saves. Winkler outshot Portage 42-36.

Morden is currently tied for fourth place with Carman and Portage at six points. Winkler is in seventh place with four points.

This week, Morden hosts Altona on Thursday while Winkler gets a week-end off.

Hawks down Capitals

By Lorne Stelmach

The female Pembina Valley Hawks saw their winning streak end at five games this weekend.

The Hawks were on the opposite ends of one-goal decisions as they followed up a 2-1 win over the Central Plains Capitals Saturday with a 3-2 loss to the Winnipeg Avros Sunday.

"Discipline will be a key for us from here on in ... we would like to see more consistency in our play," coach Dana Bell said afterwards.

With a record of 8-6-0-1 for 17 points, Pembina Valley remains in fourth in the standings, trailing Winnipeg at 22 points, Westman at 20 and Yellowhead at 19.

In Saturday's game, Sage McElroy-Scott scored both goals for Pembina Valley while Halle Oswald stopped 25 of the 26 shots sent her way. The Hawks had 34 shots on net.

"I felt we took Central a little lightly. We didn't play to our full potential but still came out with the win," said Bell, giving credit to "a beautiful goal in overtime by Sage for the win.

"Halle stood on her head and kept us in both games this weekend as well," he added of their veteran net-minder, who made 46 saves in a losing effort Sunday.

The Hawks got goals from McElroy-Scott and Makenzie McCallum as they trailed the Avros 2-0 and 3-1 at

the intermissions. The shots on goal ended up heavily in Winnipeg's favour at 49-16.

"We got off to a shaky start ... we needed to be at our best, as that was a very important game," said Bell, adding that nine minor penalties also did them in. "It's hard to win hockey games from the penalty box."

The Hawks get a break in the schedule this week and only return to action next Saturday, Dec. 16 when they visit Interlake in Arborg.

They then go into the Christmas break after a pair of home games with Central Plains and Eastman on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23.

OSWALD HONOURED AS GOALIE OF THE MONTH

Oswald was named the MFMHL's GDI Goalie of the Month for November.

The Sanford native is in her third season with the Hawks and in November alone helped lead the team to four wins, including two shutouts.

She only allowed two goals in four games, made 79 saves, and had a 0.975 save percentage for the month.

Oswald was also selected for this season's U18 Team Manitoba, U18 team Canada, and recently committed to play at the University of Alberta next season.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Central Plains' Lindsey Rutherford can't control the attack of Hawks forward Makenzie McCallum in Saturday's game. Pembina Valley got the win 2-1 and then fell to Winnipeg 3-2 the next night.

Male Hawks finding their footing

By Lorne Stelmach

The male Pembina Valley Hawks got back on track this weekend in Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League action.

The Hawks followed up a 3-2 road win over the Southwest Cougars Friday with a 6-0 shutout of the Interlake Lightning Saturday at home in Morden.

Coach Rylan Price saw things he liked in both games, as Pembina Valley snapped a three game losing skid. "We played a great road game in Souris ... big time goal by Tyson Allison to go ahead late in the game," he said. "We brought that same kind of simplified play on Saturday, and it was a big game for Nathan Ayotte with two goals."

Kolton Shindle got the Hawks on the board in the first period against the Cougars, and Travis Penner extended the lead early in the second. Southwest got that one back and tied it in the third before Allison got the

winner at 14:42.

Brock Moroz earned the win with 32 saves as the Cougars outshot Pembina Valley 36-25.

The Hawks also got goals Saturday from Penner, Sven Schefer, Tristan Day, and Jayden McCarthy as they took period leads of 2-0 and 4-0 on the Lightning.

Martin Gagnon earned a 31 save shutout as the shots tally ended up 32-31 for the Hawks.

The victories allowed Pembina Valley to maintain its hold on sixth place at 12-8-0-1-1 for 26 points. That leaves them two up on the Yellowhead Chiefs and three back of the Winnipeg Thrashers.

The Hawks hit the road this week starting with the Wild in Winnipeg Wednesday. Results were not available at press time.

They are in Beausejour Saturday to take on Eastman and then return home to Morden Sunday afternoon to face Southwest at 2:30 p.m.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Steinbach Pistons	29	21	7	1	43	144	76			
Winkler Flyers	30	21	9	0	42	112	73			
OCN Blizzard	29	19	8	2	40	108	86			
Portage Terriers	29	19	8	1	40	121	73			
Viridon Oil Capitals	26	17	9	0	34	118	78			
Selkirk Steelers	28	14	11	2	31	99	97			
Winnipeg Blues	29	13	12	3	30	102	111			
Neepawa Natives	30	14	14	2	30	111	111			
Swan Valley Stampeders	26	11	12	3	25	74	92			
Dauphin Kings	30	6	22	1	14	71	138			
Waywayseacappo Wolverines	32	4	25	2	11	70	195			
MANITOBA MAJOR JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	23	18	2	3	39	87	42			
Charleswood Hawks	22	15	4	3	33	61	39			
Transcona Railer Express	23	14	7	2	30	84	67			
Stonewall Jets	22	14	7	1	29	72	54			
St. James Canucks	23	13	9	1	27	74	61			
St. Vital Victorias	21	11	10	0	22	71	78			
Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins	23	10	12	1	21	64	64			
Pembina Valley Twisters	21	9	10	2	20	84	85			
St. Boniface Riels	23	6	14	3	15	63	85			
River East Royal Knights	23	2	20	1	5	35	120			
SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Altona	6	5	1	0	10	29	21			
Notre Dame	7	4	2	1	9	31	27			
Warren	7	4	3	0	8	30	28			
Carman	6	3	3	0	6	24	23			
Portage	8	3	5	0	6	24	32			
Morden	6	3	3	0	6	25	16			
Winkler	8	2	6	0	4	27	43			
MANITOBA AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Brandon	23	21	2	0	42	127	54			
Wild	22	18	2	1	38	126	48			
Eastman	23	17	5	1	35	102	67			
Bruins	22	16	5	1	33	88	65			
Thrashers	27	14	12	1	29	91	104			
Pembina Valley										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Yellowhead	22	12	8	1	26	72	71			
Parkland	23	9	12	0	20	71	88			
Southwest	22	9	12	1	19	69	74			
Central Plains	22	7	12	1	17	74	88			
Kenora	23	7	14	0	16	66	86			
Interlake	21	5	16	0	10	49	103			
Norman	24	1	22	0	3	67	161			
MANITOBA AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
Cougars	18	13	4	0	27	112	49			
Chiefs	19	10	8	0	21	66	63			
Rangers	15	9	5	1	19	67	61			
Hawks	18	8	9	1	17	68	79			
Capitals	20	5	13	1	12	64	131			
Wolves	18	4	14	0	8	66	153			
Wheat Kings	17	3	14	0	6	43	77			
MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	Reg W	Reg L	T	OTW	OTL	PTS			
Winnipeg Avros	15	8	4	-	3	-	22			
Westman Wildcats	15	8	4	-	1	2	20			
Yellowhead Chiefs	14	9	4	-	-	1	19			
PV Hawks	15	7	6	-	1	1	17			
Eastman Selects	14	7	6	-	-	1	15			
Central Plains	15	5	7	-	1	2	14			
Interlake Lightning	14	-	13	-	1	-	2			
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY										
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA			
W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	10	8	2	0	16	60	20			
Prairie Mountain Mustangs	11	7	3	0	15	55	41			
Morris Mavericks	9	7	2	0	14	46	29			
Cartwright/Nellie McClung/ Pilot Mound Tigers	11	7	4	0	14	39	41			
Morden Thunder	10	6	4	0	12	46	33			
Northlands Parkway Collegiate										
Nighthawks (Winkler)	10	6	4	0	12	42	33			
Garden Valley Collegiate										
Zodiacs (Winkler)	13	3	8	1	8	36	67			
Carman Cougars	11	2	7	2	6	34	49			
Portage Collegiate										
Institute Trojans	11	2	8	0	5	30	75			

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

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Curling for critters

Eleven teams took part in the Giant Tiger Curl for Critters funspiel in Morden Saturday in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society. The event raised over \$2,300 for the regional animal shelter. Best team costume honours went to the Cats Pajamas (above), while the event trophy went to Team Hawt Paws, which included Kevin Storey, Keith Norrie, Chris Driedger, and Sonya Froese.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Two points for Twisters

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters can take comfort in the fact they did get two of a possible four points this weekend.

Both, however, came as single points in a pair of extra time losses as the Twisters fell 4-3 in a shootout last Tuesday to River East and then dropped a 6-5 overtime decision Friday to the Transcona Railer Express.

The Twisters and Royal Knights traded goals through regulation time, with Pembina Valley getting markers from James Van De Velde in the first, AJ Nychuk in the second, and Keane Boucher in the third.

After overtime solved nothing, Brendan Keck was the lone Twister to score as the Knights then connected in the fourth round for the two points.

Pembina Valley had its chances in this one as they outshot River East 41-26, with Griffin Dyck making 23 saves.

The Twisters struggled to generate much offense through the first period Friday, and the Railer Express would score first with just over six minutes left on a scramble.

Travis Klassen was counted on to make multiple big saves due to sloppy play by the Twisters, who were out-shot 18-10.

Alex Tetrault's eighth on a power-

play got Pembina Valley on the board and then Michael Wirth put them up 2-1 before Transcona connected twice more to lead 3-2 after two periods. Shots in the period were 19-11 for the Railer Express.

Two more powerplay markers early in the third by Fraser Mirrlees with his 14th and Keane Boucher restored the lead for Pembina Valley.

The teams then exchanged goals, with Brendan Keck netting his 13th, but then Transcona connected again to force overtime. Shots in the third period were 16-10 for the Railer Express.

In the extra frame, the Railer Express would score with 2:52 left to take the win on a rebound through Klassen's five hole.

Shots on goal were 57-34 for Transcona, with Klassen keeping the Twisters in the game in stopping 51 shots.

Pembina Valley remains in eighth place at 9-10-2 for 20 points. They are just one back of the Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins and two behind the St. Vital Victorias.

This week the Twisters hosted St. Vital on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time. Coming up, they play in Stonewall against the Jets Friday and then welcome the Raiders from Winnipeg Sunday in Morris.

Thunder hosting Christmas Cheer game

Teens challenge Guns 'N Hoses Dec. 17

By Lorne Stelmach

A rivalry that is now a holiday season tradition in Morden will be renewed next weekend.

The fourth annual Christmas Cheer Game takes place Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Access Event Centre, and it again pits the Morden Thunder high school hockey team against the Guns 'N Hoses team made up of local police and firefighters.

The event last year raised over \$5,000 for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

"We'll certainly be looking to equal that if not surpass it," said Thunder head coach Jeff Andrews. "It's something that we really take pride in, and it's a good opportunity for us to be involved in the community and to give back. It's supporting a really good cause."

"I know in talking to the guys they really enjoy being part of it," he con-

tinued, adding they enjoy the friendly rivalry with the Guns 'N Hoses. "It does add a fun element when you're going up against the fire department and the police."

In addition to the game, the event will also include a silent auction and a chuck-a-puck game. Admission is by donation, be it food, toys, or cash for Christmas Cheer. The activities get underway at 6 p.m. Puck drops on the

game at 6:30 p.m.

Morden fire Chief Andy Thiessen looks forward to the challenge from the students every year.

"Even if it's for a good cause, there's that competitive nature that kind of kicks in, and now that we've got a little trophy that we've constructed ... it gives a bit of bragging rights for the next year," he said.

"It's all being spearheaded by the high school kids, and to have them include us in something like is kind of special," he added, encouraging the

community as a whole to get involved by coming out and cheering the players on.

"Every year, it's just enjoyable. It's a fun time, and it's a great cause. We have a good time, and I think everybody who's taking part in it enjoys it," said Thiessen.

"The more people that we have involved, the better. It's there to help our community, so we want the community involved in it."

Thunder down Zodiacs 6-2

Both the Morden Thunder and the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs had mixed results in Zone 4 high school hockey action last week.

On Nov. 30, the Thunder fell 4-3 to the Morris Mavericks. They bounced back, though, the very next night to beat the Garden Valley Collegiate Zo-

diacs 6-2.

For GVC, meanwhile, that loss came on the heels of a 5-3 victory over the Carman Cougars on Nov. 29.

Posting a pair of wins was the Northlands Parkway Collegiate Night-hawks, who beat the Pembina Tigers 5-1 Nov. 28 and the PCI Trojans 8-7

Nov. 30. Their match against the Morris Mavericks Monday night was cancelled due to poor road conditions.

Morden and NPC head into play a tournament in Brandon this weekend while GVC hosts the Aces Friday and Morris on Saturday.

Agriculture

Black Sea Crop Tours indicate another bumper crop

By Harry Siemens

Agronomist Mike Lee says the crop in Russia is even more significant than last year's massive crop.

"Middle of last month, we did another tour through Ukraine and Russia specifically to look at the winter wheat planted, and the condition of it as it goes into the winter," said Lee via Skype recently. "I always like to try and get a view on the wheat as it goes into the winter and disappears under the snow so we can think about it when we start seeing some weather anomalies perhaps in January or February. So when it turns cold, we've got an idea of the condition of the crop as to how well it will stand up to that."

Lee and his associates did the usual tour around central Russia, across the border into Ukraine, down to southern Ukraine, and then back up to central Ukraine before flying out.

While not able to get down to south Russia, reports indicated wheat in south Russia was not emerging particularly well. It had been quite dry there, or it was slowly emerging.

"Since then, we've had people feed information to us to tell us that there's been plenty of rain and the wheat's come up as you'd expect," Lee said. "Elsewhere across Russia and Ukraine, it's looking in good condition. Slightly better than last year, but certainly in good shape going into the winter."

"The headline figure is the Russian wheat crop, which blew everybody's expectations out of the water," he said. "The 2016 crop was 75 million tons from memory, and that was a record then ... a substantial record."

"With the 2017 harvest just in, they're looking at final figures of around 85 to 88 million metric tons. That's bunker weight, but certainly a huge uplift on the previous year, which was a record harvest in itself."

"So, it's a big crop coming out of Russia," said Lee. "Ukraine, I think, came out slightly under last year, but, again, it's still a big crop for Ukraine. So both Black Sea countries, Ukraine and Russia, have produced large crops again this year for the second, third year running."

Russia's Minister of Agriculture just

released a statement saying that exports of wheat are likely to achieve an impressive 35 million tons this year.

"I looked at some figures making some comparisons with the total production and the amount of export that is currently taking place in Russia, and there's a large gap between 80, 85 million tons and 35 million tons," Lee said. "I see that Russia has a lot of capacity to increase its exports even further. Reliable sources told me it's an infrastructure problem that slows down the quantity of grain that can

come out of Russia, but there are port facilities, and companies are building grain handling facilities as we speak.

"If you dig into the news, you will see the occasional announcements of some of the big grain companies developing grain facilities. Trains and trucks and this sort of stuff will be or are being invested in, particularly in Russia. Less so in Ukraine. It's an infrastructure problem in terms of the quantity they can export, not the quantity of grain they can grow."

While there are some infrastructure

problems, the Russian ministry is still very bullish on agriculture, still pro-farming.

"A lot of that is perhaps words rather than actual support, but it's not hindering agriculture," Lee said, noting that the government's website is "full of stuff about positive development in agriculture. Land reclamation, increasing land area, and productivity. As we said many times, it's continuing to increase."

Treating parasites correctly boosts bottom line

By Harry Siemens

In response to new research on parasite resistance in Western Canadian beef cattle, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture livestock specialists, in partnership with Merck Animal Health, identified the need to examine and demonstrate the prevalence of parasite resistance and the effect of using a strategic deworming program in three Saskatchewan backgrounding lots.

The livestock industry uses a pour-

on dewormer onto the animal. The animal's bloodstream absorbs the product to control various parasites and other nasties that can happen to cattle in feedlots and out on the range.

Regional livestock specialist Naomi Paley said they were looking for data on several fronts.

"One, at what the level or the prevalence of parasite resistance that we saw in background cattle? Two, the good old Ivermectin pour-on, a mainstay in the North American cattle industry, for the last 25 years," said

Paley. "It's been the wonder drug, a one-shot deal, the easy to administer, the pour-on right down their back, and it took care of everything. It took care of internal parasites, it took care of lice and everything."

However, like so many long-lasting products and after continued use and perhaps uneven applications and inconsistent absorption, the cattle sometimes get low levels of the active ingredient in all the Ivermectin-type

Continued on page 20



By Harry Siemens

A huge announcement from a commercial entity that hasn't always done well by some cattle producers in western Canada is set to turn that criticism on their collective ear.

I'm not saying those critics were wrong—in fact, I agreed with them. In 2013, Canadian ranchers criticized fast-food chain A&W's new campaign that promised healthier burgers to customers. The restaurant had launched a series of Better Beef commercials that featured three of the ranches it buys from. Those ranches were not all from Canada, and when A&W claimed there weren't enough cattle producers in Canada to sup-

ply their needs, they said stop.

Last Friday an announcement in Saskatoon seemed almost like one of those 'man bites dog' items. Although far from anyone getting bitten, the apparent arch-enemy of the beef industry came out not with a bite but a helping hand. In fact, five million helping hands when A&W handed over \$5 million to the livestock industry by way of a donation to the under-construction Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan.

A&W's chairman emeritus Jefferson Mooney said they are deeply committed to the Canadian beef and forage industry.

"Partnership is an important thing

to us at A&W," he said. "I think we built our company on the concept of partnership. Partnership particularly based on trust and mutual respect, because that's the only way you can build a partnership, and the only way you can sustain a partnership."

Agriculture Dean Mary Buhr said the university is the place to do the kind of work that will answer questions unequivocally.

"We will be able to test and answer all of the questions that anybody has. The other part of it is that this is the kind of relationship that will enable a dialog because we're going

Continued on page 20

Huge announcement from A&W



Up close with our feathered friends

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

People had a chance to get up close and personal with a Red-tailed Hawk and an American Kestrel as Gallery Wealth Management hosted the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre exhibit on Saturday. The Morden business used the occasion of its 30th anniversary to support the centre, which is in the midst of a capital fundraising campaign to build a new facility.

> PARASITES, FROM PG. 19

pour-on and parasites start to build up a resistance.

"Over the last 25 years, resistance is happening and we have good research to say it's becoming more of a problem, specifically in western Canada and in our cattle here," Paley said. "And that's why we wanted to take a look at this and see what's happening in our backyard.

"We did a side-by-side demonstration, two pens of cattle at each location," she explained. "One pen received the regular pour-on Ivermectin, and the second pen of cattle with Ivermectin, and Safe-Guard Fenbendazole. The difference between it and Ivermectin is a different active ingredient and mode of action. The reason that we treated both with Safe-Guard and with Ivermectin is the Safe-Guard does not get the lice on the outside of the animals. This product only focuses on internal parasites, so that's why we covered our bases by using both in the demonstration."

Primarily, they looked at fecal egg counts collected right at the time of treatment, looking at the number of live and active parasites. Samples were collected again two weeks later to see how effective the treatments had been.

"We had substantial and statistically significant differences between the two treatment groups," Paley said. "The groups treated just with Ivermectin still had significant numbers of parasites that survived the treatment and causing production losses; causing low rates of absorption, poor gains, and so on.

"The ones treated with the Safe-

Guard and Ivermectin had virtually zero fecal egg counts—a very, very low level after treated with the fenbendazole, the Safe-Guard product."

Paley said the bottom line over the three different farms between the Ivermectin treated group versus the Safe-Guard treated group was an

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 19

to have everybody sitting around the table, able to talk to each other," she said. "And, the university is a place where we work with the evidence and the facts and the tested results. And, we'll be able to communicate, whatever reality is, to the consumers once we've done the work."

Ryder Lee, CEO of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association said cattle producers through their marketing levies have also made a substantial contribution to the project.

"A million dollars of cattle producers' money is a part of the partnership, and you see the leverage of that investment continue to grow," said

> POLICE REPORT, FROM PG. 11

Police then spoke with a female passenger, who was recognized as the suspect from a previous theft at Shoppers Drug Mart in Morden, and they saw items in the back seat being concealed.

When questioned, the two gave inconsistent explanations, police say, and though the woman produced receipts for small purchases in Winkler, they were inconsistent with what was in the car.

average of 15 pounds. So the calves treated with the Safe-Guard gained 15 pounds more on average versus the ones that just had the Ivermectin treatment.

"The cost of the Safe-Guard suspension product [is] \$3 a head. Net return to using that treatment, part of the de-

Lee. "You know, you've had federal government putting money, the provincial government putting in money, the university put in money, and now A&W is putting in money. That is multiplying our producer investment because it's a signal that this is important not only to the cattle producers, but evident to others too as you see other people investing as well."

The project also received \$10 million from the university and nearly \$15 million from the federal and provincial governments.

This joint-funding project is great to see where the two facilities that make up the Livestock and Forage Centre

worming strategy, \$33.83 a head, quite significant," said Paley. "I think the feedlot industry breaks even on average over 10 years. So when you look at being able to spend three bucks and gain just about \$30 a head or somewhere in that ballpark, depending on what prices are, that's significant."

of Excellence will be in use by March 2018 for research and teaching and uniting forage field labs and science labs in a single location.

I like what Dean Buhr said in her remarks, that the university is the place to do the kind of work that will answer questions unequivocally, evidence-based, able to test and answer all of the issues that anybody has.

Maybe before A & W launches another Better Beef TV promotion those decisions may first come through this setting because, "this will be the place where we work with the evidence and the facts, and the tested results."

The investigation led police to a Winkler hotel room where there was a large amount of property believed to be stolen.

Police continue their investigation.

• Winkler police were called Dec. 3 about a fight that had broken out on the Valley Bowling Lanes parking lot around 1 a.m.

Officers learned that a heavily intoxicated man was trying to start fights with others at the scene, but he had

since left and was walking towards Tim Hortons, where they found him inside the restaurant and heavily intoxicated.

Staff at the restaurant advised police the suspect frequently attends the restaurant intoxicated and harasses customers and asked that he be removed. Police arrested the 29-year-old resident of Winkler under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act and later released him once sober.

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COMING EVENTS

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Sat., Dec. 9, 2017
7:30 pm at the
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The Municipality of Pembina is requesting proposals for the supply and apply of shale and gravel required for the 2018 and 2019 seasons.
Requests for the information package for either proposal available by contacting
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email: admin@pembina.ca

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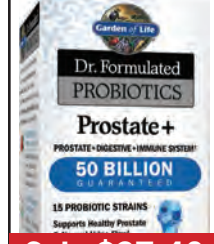


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NOTICES

CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICES PROPOSAL- BY-LAW NO. 27-2017

To establish a rate for fire and police protection services and street lighting services within the City of Morden limits for the years 2018 to 2022.
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 318(1) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Morden has scheduled a public hearing at the City of Morden Civic Centre on the 18th day of December 2017 at 7:00 P.M. Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the following Special Services:
- The estimated cost of the Special Services plan for the next five years is as follows:

2018	\$2,600,000.00
2019	\$2,900,000.00
2020	\$3,150,000.00
2021	\$3,500,000.00
2022	\$3,850,000.00

Method and Rate of Calculating the Special Services Tax.

The method of taxation to be applied shall be based on the portioned value of assessable property. The assessed property is all rateable properties, including otherwise exempt properties, within the City of Morden. The mill rate shall be determined by Council annually, based on the annual fire protection, police protection, and street lighting budgets set out in the City of Morden's Financial Plan to a maximum annual levy as per the estimated costs above. The actual assessed values of the properties will be supplied annually by the Department of Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs (\$443,096,120 in 2018). For 2018: \$2,600,000.00 / (\$443,096,120 / 1000) = 5.83 mills. All objections, by mail or in person, must be filed with the City Manager, at the City of Morden office at 100-195 Stephen Street by December 18th, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. A notice of objection must contain the name and address of the person filing the objection, identify the property of which the objection is filed and state the grounds of the objection of the above noted Local Improvement. Copies of the special services proposal are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours (9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) of the City of Morden at 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba.

Dated at the City of Morden this 12th day of November, A.D. 2017 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.



Patrick Dueck, CPA CA
Director, Finance & Technology
City of Morden

Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

OBITUARY



**Katrina (Tina) Bergman
(nee Hildebrand)
1924 - 2017**

Tina Bergman was born on May 24, 1924 to Abraham and Agatha Hildebrand [nee Dyck] on the farm in the Krongart district. She was the third child of seven. She is survived by one sister, Annie and sister-in-law, Emmy. She was predeceased by husband, Cornie in 2007; sisters, Agatha, Lena and Agnes and brothers, Herb and Abe. She was also predeceased by in-laws, Jim Dyck and Mary Hildebrand (nee Enns).

Mom was baptized on her confession of faith. In her early twenties, Mom's sister, Annie was dating a young man Jim Dyck. One day, Jim brought his best friend, Cornie along. Obviously, Mom

was taken with him, because on July 11th, 1948, Mom and sister, Annie had a double wedding. Mom and Dad lived on the farm, four miles south of Kane. Mom and Dad were blessed with three sons: Grant (Darlene), Earl (Valerie), Rodney (Darlene); nine grandchildren, Amanda (Doug), Justin (Megan), Scott, Alexandra, Paige, Preston, Christopher, Karl (Angela) and Kimberly; five great grandchildren, Kaylee, Neveah, Jereth, Jensen, and Adelyn.

Mom was very involved in church. She enjoyed the ladies fellowship and singing in the choir. In 1985, Mom and Dad retired and moved to Winkler. They enjoyed many years of traveling. They traveled to every state in the US and every province in Canada. Mom and Dad enjoyed the Arizona climate and spent many winters there.

Mom loved to crochet as a pastime and we have many afghans to show for it. Through the years of Dad's failing health, Mom faithfully showed us what the marriage vow "through sickness and health" meant. She lived it, always being there for Dad. When Dad's health didn't allow him to live at home, Mom moved into Cedar Estates on the conditions that she could be on one of the upper floors and facing west, so she could watch the weather. She had a great circle of friends that would meet regularly for coffee at Chicken Chef and McDonald's. Then in June of this year, due to failing health and not being able to live on her own, Mom was admitted to Boundary Trails Health Centre for a month and then transferred to Swan Lake Hospital to await placement in Tabor Home. On November 17th, she was moved back to Boundary where we were able to spend four days with her until November 20th, when she was called to her heavenly home. She lived her entire life following God's word. Over the last years, as her health was failing, she would express her desire to be with Jesus. The last few weeks she was so close to her heavenly home, you couldn't help but feel His presence in the room.

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

Memorial Service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 27, 2017 at Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment prior at Winkler Cemetery.

We as a family, would like to say a special thank you to Boundary Trails and Swan Lake hospital staff as well as Wiebe Funeral Home for the kindness and respect they showed our Mom and George Klassen catering for a job well done.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



COMING EVENTS

A Christmas Musical Drama

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM

Presented by
Pembina Valley Baptist Church
120 Manitoba Road, Winkler, MB

OBITUARY



Walter P. Voth

April 29, 1935 – November 12, 2017

We sadly announce the passing of Walter Voth, age 82. Mourning Walter's departure are his wife, Bernice; sons: Doug (Verna) and Wayne (Treena); grandson: Skyler; sister: Chris Penner (Don); brother: Glen (Barb) and their families. Walter is predeceased by his parents Peter and Nettie Voth.

Walter was born near Morden, April 29, 1935. He did his schooling in Morden and in high school won the Governor General's Award for Scholastic Achievement. During his school years Walter excelled at figure skating and appeared in community shows. Walter married Bernice Young of Manitou in 1958. He then graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1959 as a Chartered Accountant. Walter and Bernice welcomed their first son in 1960,

moved to Edmonton in 1962 and welcomed their second son in 1967. From Edmonton Walter was transferred to Ft McMurray where they lived until retiring to Okotoks in 1996. He found his calling of Community Service when he joined the Kiwanis Club of Canada, serving for nearly 20 years and being honored twice as a Diamond Mel Osborne Fellow of the Canadian Foundation of Kiwanis. After 17 years valiantly battling Parkinson's disease Walter has earned his rest.

In lieu of flowers, we ask for a donation to either the Parkinson's Foundation or the Canadian Diabetes Association.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Chance Craft Sale! 2 floors, up to 100 crafters! Sunday, Dec. 10th, 11-5. Canad Inns, Club Regent Hotel, 1415 Regent Ave W. Winnipeg, Admission \$3. katherinebielek@gmail.com

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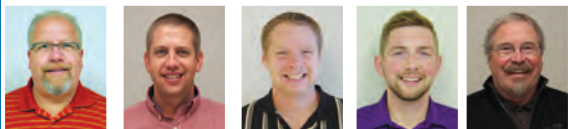
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