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The **Winkler Morden**

Voice



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Santa comes to town

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The annual Multi-Cultural Christmas at the Library celebration in Winkler Dec. 15 wrapped up with a special visitor from the North Pole. For more photos, check out Pg. 11.

Morden Christmas Cheer delivers 222 care hampers

By Lorne Stelmach

A whirlwind week concluded for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board with delivery day for their hampers.

Two days of preparing and packing led to an army of volunteers loading up 222 hampers for delivery on Dec. 14.

Cheer Board president Carolyn Schellenberg noted there was a lot of prep work that went on behind the scenes leading up to hamper week.

"Some of our board members have been working since the beginning of December pretty steadily every day, and it's all volunteer service," she said. "They put in many hours and hours."

The board had been anticipating there would be an increase from the 220 hampers of last year to perhaps 240, but that jump didn't materialize.

"We had some people telling us they didn't need a hamper this year ... on the other hand, we had people replace them," Schellenberg said, adding the bigger picture is that it's good news for the community that there weren't more people in need.

Overall, the Cheer Board is quite pleased with how this year's campaign turned out.

Continued on page 2

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

> CHEER BOARD, FROM PG. 1

Every year, Schellenberg said, they learn a little more about fine-tuning the organization of the campaign. She gave all the credit for its ongoing success to the dedicated team of volunteers.

"It worked out very well for volunteers. We had a good number ... lots of delivery people, lots of people packing hampers."

Each hamper was packed full of food, toiletries, and other odds and ends to help tide people over through the holidays. Recipient families with

kids also receive a toy for each child.

The Cheer Board fills the hampers primarily thanks to cash donations that allow them to purchase what they need, but they also receive other kinds of donations through community campaigns like Dairy Queen's Angels Anonymous toy drive, the Gift a Stocking program organized by the adult education centre, and blankets brought in by students from Maple Leaf School and the Barnswallow quilting club.

"We've had, I think, a lot more food

The hall at the Morden Mennonite Church was a bustling place last week as Cheer Board volunteers were hard at work filling hundreds of hampers with food and gifts for delivery on Dec. 14.

donations than we've had in the past," Schellenberg added.

"We should be doing okay financially," she said, noting they basically just aim to cover their costs, though a little bit leftover is welcome each year. "We don't want too much. We want enough to get started next year."

Phil Granda, who was among those delivering hampers last week, got more directly involved this year after having been indirectly involved in the past through Giant Tiger.

"Usually I'm here helping co-ordinate the food from our store ... but

I got a truck this year, so I decided I was going to help out."

Granda said it makes you feel good to be involved in a cause like this that touches so many people's lives.

"It's sad to see so many people need something like this ... any little thing that I can do to help out ... helps them have a little better Christmas," he said as he awaited a load of hampers.

"It's amazing ... all the businesses and all the groups and organizations that help out with this ... all these volunteers ... it's a pretty well oiled machine."



Best wishes for a festive season & prosperous 2017 from the Council and staff at the City of Morden.

HOLIDAY HOURS: City of Morden offices will close by 2:00 p.m. on December 23 & 30. Offices will be closed all day on December 26 - 27, 2016, and January 2, 2017.

PAYMENTS NOTICE: Computer systems will be down on December 29 & 30, 2016 while a software changeover occurs. Please ensure any outstanding payments for Utility, Supplementary Taxes, etc. are made by **December 28, 2016**. Pre-authorized payments will not be affected.

Morden man charged in terrorist attack hoax

A 52-year-old Morden man who was charged in August for reporting there would be a terrorist attack at the Corn and Apple Festival has pled guilty to public mischief.

In the week leading up to the festival, Morden Police received information from the accused with specific details about a terrorist attack during festival weekend.

The report was confirmed several times with the accused to ensure that his information was accurate, which he assured police it was.

As a result of this information, police contacted the National Security Enforcement Section to assist with the investigation.

After several interviews and many hours involving resources from several agencies, the accused admitted that the information was not factual.

The man, whose name police are not releasing, received a fine of \$1,300, a

period of probation, and is also required to reimburse all police agencies for costs totaling \$4,551 for the hours that were spent as a result of this investigation.

ROBBERY SUSPECT NAMED

Winkler Police have released the name of the Winkler man accused of robbing the Esso gas station on Dec. 10.

Jonathan Michael Louis Soldier, age 22, has been charged with robbery, disguise with intent, and two counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Police say they were able to identify Soldier as a suspect thanks in part to high quality surveillance video.

He was arrested at his home late the evening of Dec. 12 and appeared in court later that week.



get informed

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Greater independence for Salem residents

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salem Home cut the ribbon on their brand new entrance last week, ushering in a new era of accessibility and independence for their residents.

The Winkler personal care home transformed its front entrance this fall, installing a new door that opens automatically as someone approaches, a sloping ramp for better wheelchair accessibility, sidewalk access that allows entry without having to cross the driveway, and a much larger foyer area.

The project has been getting rave reviews from residents and visitors alike since the doors first opened in October.

"I don't think I've seen a project that has brought so many smiles," said Salem Foundation special projects assistant Nancy Wiebe.

Residents who previously struggled to navigate the old entrance have delighted in being able to more easily wheel themselves outside to enjoy the day.

"We knew it was difficult getting out of the old doors, but you don't know how difficult, you don't even appreciate it until you actually see them use these doors," said Salem CEO Sherry Janzen.

Inside, residents have been pulling their wheelchairs into the foyer to watch for friends and family members or enjoy the sunlight pouring in through the large windows.

"It's so much more than just an entrance," said Wiebe.

"I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN A PROJECT THAT HAS BROUGHT SO MANY SMILES."

This approximately \$380,000 project has only been possible thanks to the generosity of the many local businesses, churches, and individuals who donated financially or in-kind to make it happen.

Continued on page 6



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Salem Foundation chair Arlen Hildebrand, WBS Construction's Harv Thiessen, and Salem Home board chair Raymond Grenier with some help from residents David Banman and (not shown) Lena Zacharias cut the ribbon on Salem's new entrance last week.

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CANADIAN TIRE

Newcomers celebrate the holidays with potluck

By Lorne Stelmach

Integrating into a new culture, a new community comes with a host of challenges.

Among them, meeting people and making friends in your new home, a task made a little easier thanks to last week's Newcomer International Holiday Potluck in Morden hosted by Regional Connections.

Marina Zmeu and her family were among the 170 or so people who came out to enjoy the evening of food and fellowship last Wednesday.

A recent immigrant to Morden from the Eastern European country of Moldova, Zmeu relished the opportunity to get to better know her neighbours at the meal.

"It's interesting to meet new people because we are here without any relatives ... I would like to make more friends and to be close with them," she said. "I think this event can help bring us all closer together."

That is exactly the point behind the event, which is an extension of Regional Connections' welcome evenings held monthly throughout the year.

"This is kind of an expanded version

of that ... the focus is still to welcome newcomers, but this is broadening it out a bit," said organizer Lynette Froese.

The evening is also a chance to celebrate the growing diversity of the community.

"We were hoping people would bring food reflective of their own traditions at this time of the year," said

Froese, stressing that the overall goal is building connections. "It's a time for people to meet each other ... to help newcomers meet each other and other folks who have been here longer, who have lived here."

Their hope is that it could potentially help people make lasting friendships.

"We want them to feel like they are really

part of the community that they live in," said Froese.

The array of countries represented has become more varied since the first time the potluck was held three years ago, with Germany representing a far smaller portion than in the past.

"Russia, Ukraine and the Philippines would probably be at the top ... some of the other eastern European countries are represented ... we have a number of families from Africa as

"I FEEL MORE A PART OF A BIGGER COMMUNITY ... AND PART OF A KIND COMMUNITY."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

About 170 people came out for Regional Connection's third annual Newcomer International Holiday Potluck in Morden last week.

well as Asia," Froese said.

Froese said it is interesting to share the different cultural traditions as well as having the newcomers perhaps experience Christmas in a new way, if not for the first time.

"I think the western idea of Santa Claus and that kind of thing is pretty well known, so people will have an expectation of some stuff ... they're excited about it," she said. "I think people are basically just interested in being together."

Froese said she feels events like this are making a real difference in the community not just over the holidays

but year-round.

"We have some people who have been attending those Wednesday evening meetings quite regularly even though they've been here a little longer already," she said. "It's just sort of a place to connect and have some sense of community."

Zmeu, for one, said she was very thankful for the opportunity.

"We are all different ... and it's very interesting to talk to each other, find out about each other," she said.

"Now I feel more a part of a bigger community ... and part of a kind community."

PVCPTA rebranding as Central MB Tourism

By Lorne Stelmach

The benefits of a name change go beyond the obvious for this region's main tourism agency.

Rebranding the Pembina Valley Central Plains Tourism Association in 2017 simply as Central Manitoba Tourism is about more than just having a shorter and simpler moniker.

"We want to create a new logo and new look as well ... create some excitement around the organization," said incoming board chairperson Tyler King.

Chosen to lead the rebranding initiative, the Carman resident said the board and association members are excited about the potential

for growth for the organization in what has been an expanding region in recent years.

"We are a larger region than we were in the past," said King, noting the new name perhaps better reflects the scope of this tourism area.

He said they are also optimistic that the area will be able to take advantage of what he described as an enhanced provincial government partnership for 2017 that could include new project-based funding formulas of upwards of \$110,000 for marketing and product development opportunities.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The festive evening for newcomers to our community included a potluck meal and activities like Christmas cookie decorating.

Continued on page 6

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Siemens steps down from Buhler centre

Michael Chute taking on senior housing high-rise's management role in new year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After spending the better part of the past decade working to get the Buhler Active Living Centre project off the ground, Walter Siemens is passing on the torch in the new year.

Siemens, who has served as the senior housing facility's board chair for the last several years, has been managing the building since it opened in June.

He and wife Lynda, the centre's marketing director, will both retire from their positions effective Jan. 1.

"Our plan was always to develop the building, raise the funding for it, build it ... we were never looking at being the operators going forward," says Siemens. "So we're just following our plan. It did take a little longer than we thought—I never thought planning and fundraising would take over five years, and the building of it was two."

It was a long time coming, but seeing the facility operational this past year made it all worth it.

"From a building standpoint, it's something that the community certainly can be proud of," Siemens says. "It's well-designed, it's a state-of-the-art facility ... this building's going to be around for 100 years or more and I want our children and our grandchildren to be able to point to it and say, 'That was built in Winkler. Look how well that building still stands to this day.' We're making an investment for the future."

Siemens is also very proud of the welcoming community the complex has created for its tenants.

"We've had nothing but positive feedback and that's primarily due to the fact that we, especially Lynda, have made an effort to make them feel at home," he says, likening it to "one big family."

None of this would have been possible if not for the community at large

rallying behind this project, Siemens stresses.

"If it hadn't been for community support, none of this would have happened," he says. "We have so many aspects of the community that got involved, including the business sector and individuals and organizations, and the tenants themselves ... you put that all together and it makes it work. That's the secret of how we could do this."

CHUTE STEPPING IN

Stepping into the roles left behind by the Siemens is Michael Chute.

Chute, former manager of the Winkler Scotiabank, says he's excited at the opportunity ahead of him.

"I got on the senior centre board and I really enjoyed it and then this opportunity came up," he says, noting he will be stepping down as a Winkler Senior Centre board member in light of this new role.

"It's something I like to do, because I'm a people person," Chute says. "A lot of it is building relationships. There's a lot of challenges, too, with it, but I think it's going to be great."

Chute has several key projects on his to-do list in 2017, including getting the facility's supportive housing program up and running for the 24 units on the second floor.

"The challenge is getting the players in place to allow us to open it up," he says. "There's a real great need in the community for that."

He also hopes to bring in new tenants to the rest of the facility, which currently has 47 of its 72 non-supportive housing apartments filled.

"For a building that's that only been open for six months now to have a 67 per cent occupancy I think is fantastic," he says. "We just want to grow from there ... I'm up for the challenge. We're going to work toward making it happen."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

After years of guiding the project to completion, Walter Siemens (left) is retiring from his role at the head of the Buhler Active Living Centre. Filling his shoes in the new year will be Michael Chute.



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Winkler Morden Voice

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Doing their part for Morden Cheer



The Morden Cheer Board was on the receiving end of giving in the lead-up to their hamper campaign last week. Above: Manitoba Hydro employees in Morden dropped off a donation of nearly 100 food items,

30 toys, and \$270 in cash they collected for the cause over the past few weeks. Presenting the goodies was Hydro's Kyla Groening (far left), Scott Unrau (second from right), and Tamara Schroeder to the Cheer Board's Denis Myers and Mike Duncan. Left: The Morden 55+ Activity Centre's bingo volunteers also did their part, presenting the campaign with a \$300 donation.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

> SALEM, FROM PG. 3

"We just live in a great community as far as support ... it just shows that they care," said Salem Foundation board chair Arlen Hildebrand. "People saw a need."

"The community has been very, very generous," agreed Janzen. "Individuals and the business community especially have been very supportive of this project, I guess, because it benefits all the residents and families."

Approximately \$80,000 still needs to be raised to cover the costs of the renovations, but Hildebrand is optimistic they'll get there.

If friends or families of Salem residents are stumped on what to get them for Christmas, the foundation hopes they'll consider a donation to Salem Home.

"This is a wonderful, wonderful way to give them a gift for their home which is just breaking down a barrier," said Wiebe.

Donations can be made by contacting Salem Home or the Salem

Foundation.

EXPANSION IN THE WORKS

Projects like the new entrance help make Salem Home a more inviting place for its residents, but they don't address the very real need for more beds.

On that front, the care home's board is in early talks with the provincial government about getting the ball rolling on a 60-bed expansion.

"We're in the very early, preliminary stages of putting together a plan for Manitoba Health for additional beds," said Janzen. "We have lots to sort out still ... but that's our next ma-

jor project."

The care home currently has 146 beds. Their last expansion added 20 beds back in 2001.

Since that expansion, the community has grown exponentially, as has the demand for Salem's services.

At any given time, the care home has a waiting list of well over 80 people, and that number's only going to increase.

"If we don't do anything starting now, by the year 2035 we'll be short 90 beds," Janzen said. "So we need to ensure we are keeping pace with what the needs are in the community."

> TOURISM, FROM PG. 4

The association has a number of big plans for 2017.

"We're going to relaunch our website with a new look and some additional feature," King said. "We're planning on doing some video initia-

tives where we shoot video throughout our member communities.

"The rebranding will allow us to focus on growing our membership and our organization," he added.

Shoppers Drug Mart donates \$2,300 to Eden

By Lorne Stelmach

Shoppers Drug Mart's annual fall fundraising campaign supported Eden Health Care Services this year.

Last week, the Winkler store presented over \$2,300 raised through its Growing Women's Health campaign to Eden for its Community Choices program.

The community-based support and drop-in program was a good fit, says Shoppers Drug Mart owner Zahid Zehri.

"Shoppers Drug Mart is engaged to improve the quality of life and improve the health ... so we thought this is the perfect match for us," he said.

"It ties in, I think, quite nicely with what Shoppers Drug Mart hopes to achieve ... we have a synergy that is happening here," said Earl Reimer, director of development for the Eden Foundation.

Mackenzie Hiebert, housing and supports co-ordinator for Eden, explained Community Choices is an afternoon program offered weekdays at the Enns Court apartments in Winkler to support people living with mental health issues through a range of healthy activities, proper diet, and engagement in the community.

"The funds are going to be used in such a good way ... it's going to ben-

Winkler Shoppers Drug Mart staff presented Eden Health Care Services representatives with a donation of \$2,300 for the Community Choices program last week.

PHOTO
BY LORNE
STELMACH/
VOICE



efit our participants so well," said Hiebert, who described the program as "being there to promote positive mental health and recovery on their journey."

Reimer said programs such as yoga and aquasize classes have a big impact.

"It's been found that physical exercise is a significant contributor to improvement of mental health ... so Community Choices obviously is the vehicle by which that happens."

As the program falls outside of

Eden's core mandate supported through Manitoba Health, it needs financial support from the community, Reimer noted, so donations from businesses like Shoppers Drug Mart are vital.

A large percentage of the people benefitting from the program are women, so that made it a good connection for Shoppers, too, as that is the focus of the campaign that allows customers to make a donation at the till.

"We thought maybe this program

would help us a lot to help women locally here," Zehri said, noting in past years the store has supported such organizations as Genesis House and South Central Cancer Resource.

"It was a very good response from the community," Zehri said, adding he appreciated the efforts of their staff to promote the campaign and help it surpass the previous year's tally of about \$1,800.

The Growing Women's Health program has raised over \$29 million nationally since 2002.

Humane society makes funding pitch to councils

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society continues to stress its sustainability as it plans ahead for the new year.

Representatives making the pitch for the agency's annual operational funding recently to both Winkler and Stanley councils said the society is working to remain fiscally responsible and to diversify its revenue sources while also counting on the support of the municipalities they serve.

"Sustainability is huge ... it's what will keep our doors open," incoming president Tyler Cameron told Winkler councillors at their Dec. 13 meeting.

Cameron as well as outgoing president Cindy Kalansky stressed the society has been working to further improve its record-keeping to have a clear picture of such things as where animals are coming from and where they are going—basically, which municipalities are making the most use of their services.

"Because we work with so many different communities, it's important for us to know when we're asking for money," Cameron said. "With our new data tracking system, we see that Morden and Winkler definitely take up a large part of what we are asking for."

The City of Morden accounted for 35 per cent of their animal intakes between 2014 and 2016, so it is being asked for the most in 2017 with an increase in the request from \$4,500 to \$6,000.

About 13 per cent came to the shelter from the Winkler area, so council was being asked to up its contribution from \$2,500 (with \$3,000 actually provided in 2016) to \$4,000 for 2017.

The request to Stanley, which accounted for about four per cent of in-

takes, remains at \$2,000.

Other funding requests include \$2,000 from Altona and Carman/RM of Dufferin, \$1,000 from the RM of Rhineland and Plum Coulee, and smaller amounts from a few other municipalities in the region.

Cameron said the society operates on a pretty tight budget each year.

"We're always right at our budget if not a little under every year. Costs always go up in everything that we do."

To help offset that, the society continues to develop funding sources such as expanding the

retail component in the Morden shelter and doing monthly donor drives.

"That kind of consistent income helps us with our planning and sustaining ourselves," Cameron said, noting they also support their operations with initiatives such as their an-

nual supply drive.

In addition, they continue to try to grow their community involvement and educational roles in the region.

"We've tried to get into more classrooms ... community connections and education are a big part of what we do," said Cameron. "That's important ... changing that mindset on animals and proper animal ownership."

On behalf of council, Winkler Mayor Martin Harder expressed support for the efforts of the humane society.

"We have always actually given them more than they looked for ... this time, the increase is maybe a little more than we expected ... but I'm sure we'll take a look at it favourably," he said.

"They serve a very useful purpose in our community. If you take a look at the numbers, it's certainly warranted."

The municipal budgets will be finalized in the new year.

"SUSTAINABILITY
IS HUGE ... IT'S
WHAT KEEPS OUR
DOORS OPEN."

Stanley water rates to rise slightly in 2017

By Lorne Stelmach

RM of Stanley residents will pay slightly more for their water in the new year.

Council approved an increase of about two per cent at its Dec. 15 meeting.

Reeve Morris Olafson said the increase basically just allows the municipality to keep up with rising expenses.

"I think that's almost a normal cost of living increase ... everything costs more money."

For users on the Massey water system, their rate will increase to \$5.10 from \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons. For a home consuming 15,000 gallons per quarter, that would be an increase of \$9 per quarter or \$3 per month.

For all other water customers, the increase will take the rate to \$11 from \$10.53 per 1,000 gallons. For a home consuming 15,000 gallons per quarter, that would be an increase of \$7 per quarter or \$2.33 per month.

Part of the equation for the latter is the municipality purchases from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, which

RM of Stanley councilors were showing the spirit of the season as they wrapped up their final meeting of 2016 last Thursday.

PHOTO BY
LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



is increasing their rates by \$0.16 to \$8 per 1,000 gallons. The RM charges the water co-op rate and adds \$3 per 1,000 gallons to bring the total to \$11 per 1,000 gallons.

MORE PAVING IN THE WORKS

Stanley council also approved the next stage of road paving in the mu-

nicipality for 2017.

The tab for the third phase of paving in the villages will come in at about \$900,000 for the year.

The municipality had done two phases of paving previously, with more planned now for Reinfeld in the coming year.

"Hopefully we'll finish Reinfeld completely ... we'll do the same cost

sharing between the RM and the landowners," said Olafson.

"We're going to do another quarter to half a mile of overlay in the village of Chortitz," he added. "Hopefully ... in phase four ... we'll get ourselves over into Schanzenfeld."

"There's a few other patches around the RM that need some touch-up paving," Olafson said.

Ten Thousand Villages wraps up busy season

By Lorne Stelmach

It's a store that is open for business for less than two months of the year, but it certainly makes an impact in

that short period of time.

The seasonal store of Ten Thousand Villages opened in the Southland Mall in Winkler in early November and is set to close up shop for the sea-

son this Friday.

Manager Sandy Hildebrand said they got a lot of good feedback from shoppers looking for fair trade gifts this holiday season.

"A lot of people were happy and excited that we were back again," she said. "We had been getting a lot of traffic and good sales, and it looks like we are going to meet our goal again."

The store has reached \$30,000 in sales for the past two years. As of last week, it was on track to hit that number again this year.

Hildebrand said the shop does fairly brisk business for the short period of time it is open.

"A lot of people maybe wish we were still open year-round," she noted.

This year marked a milestone for the organization, which is celebrating 70 years since the inception of the project that became Ten Thousand Villages under the banner of the Mennonite Central Committee.

It eventually became known as The

Olive Branch and then, in the mid-1980s, Ten Thousand Villages.

The program has now grown to the point where it works with over 30 developing countries around the world.

The store's former permanent location in Winkler closed several years

ago but was revived with a seasonal shop thanks to a group of people who still wanted to promote fair trade products in the area.

"This at least gives them a good chance to shop for fair trade products. It's just the uniqueness of each gift,"

said Hildebrand. "It's the idea that it's all handmade and that we're helping people across the world."

The store relies heavily on the local volunteers who step up to staff it every fall.

"It's all volunteer, so it really helps us," Hildebrand said. "The volunteers here have been awesome. Without them, we couldn't do it."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The seasonal Ten Thousand Villages store in Winkler is on track for another banner year, says manager Sandy Hildebrand (above, at left, with a volunteer staffer). The store closes up shop on Friday.

**"THE VOLUNTEERS
HERE HAVE BEEN
AWESOME. WITHOUT
THEM, WE COULDN'T
DO IT."**

MAF presents day care with \$15K grant

Foundation reports on a successful year

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation celebrated the Christmas season with a year-end reception last week that included the announcement of a special grant.

The foundation will be providing \$15,000 to the Pembina Valley Child Care Centre in Morden for a new surface in its infant and toddler outdoor playground area.

"It's to resurface one part of our backyard so that it's a safer area for our children," explained director Shuana Richards. "It's very exciting that we're finally going to be able to get this project going this spring. It's very important to the centre."

At the reception, foundation chairperson Avaline Widmer reflected on what she felt had been a very good year for the organization.

"One of the things that I'm very pleased with is the growth of our foundation," she said.

Their total endowment funds have grown to more than \$1.5 million with the addition of over \$121,000 in endowment donations in the year ending Aug. 31.

Funds donated back into the community through grants increased from \$58,000 in 2015 to just over \$71,000 for 2016, and the total since the foundation's inception in 1993 is now in the \$900,000 range, fast closing in on the million dollar milestone.

"A large part of that is we did give \$15,000 to the Katie Cares cottage with the assistance of BSI," Widmer noted, adding there was also \$15,000 granted to the Morden fire department for its water rescue boat.

Widmer also highlighted the introduction of two new endowment funds for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and the Morden Corn and Apple Festival. A gala event raised over \$10,000 for the former while a

wine tasting festival generated a similar amount for the latter.

The foundation also held its first Power of the Purse event where its Women's Giving Circle invited 100 women who brought \$100 each to donate to three local charitable causes.

"We look forward to continuing these types of events," said Widmer. "We hope to do them annually."

She also noted the benefits that have come from the organization now having its endowment funds managed through the Winnipeg Foundation.

"We're getting a little more bang for our buck," she said, adding the partnership is also helping with their operating costs. "So that gives us a little more money, a little more wiggle



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

ÉMMS students shared their charitable activities this year as part of a presentation at the Morden Area Foundation Christmas gathering Dec. 14. The students undertook a number of Pay It Forward projects, with their efforts also helping to put up a basketball court in Thornhill along with the support of the foundation.

room, for our grants."

Widmer concluded by noting the ripple effect that happens every time someone makes a donation to the foundation.

"The more that we can grant back

to the community, the greater impact we have," she said. "That is the thing that sets it apart from other charities is that when you make a donation to the foundation, it truly is a gift that keeps on giving."

Daycare project moving forward in '17

By Lorne Stelmach

Plans are in place for a new child care facility to be built and ready to open in Morden by next summer or fall.

The new centre is planned for space in the Boundary Trails Place building that also houses the Agasiz Medical Centre.

A key piece of the planning process fell into place with the commitment of operational funding from the province, noted Shuana Richards, director of the Pembina Valley Child Care Centre.

With support from the City of Morden as well as the Manitoba government now in place, Richards said they were able to move forward on getting construction quotes for the project. A few developmentally hurdles still need to be cleared, but she's optimistic the project will fi-

nally be moving ahead.

"We're moving forward ... it's just been a little bit slower than we were hoping," she said.

Planning for the new day care began in the fall of 2015 when the

provincial government announced funding for 14 new or expanded child care centres in Manitoba. Pembina Valley Child Care Centre, which operates the Morden and Manitou day cares, received \$240,000 to create a second Morden child care centre.

The City of Morden and the Morden Community Development Corporation are also contributing \$300,000 to the project, while Boundary Trails Place is donating \$60,000

and the Morden Elks have donated \$10,000 to build a playground.

The new centre will provide about 50 more child care spaces for the community.

"This is going to be infant and pre-school ... kindergarten will still be just at the other facility," said Richards. "We're not changing anything with our current facility. We'll still maintain our 112 spaces over there."

Even at that, the new facility will immediately be full as there are over 100 children on the centre's waiting list.

"I know that a lot of families are not putting their names on our wait list anymore, but it is 125 children right now," Richards noted.

"IT'S JUST BEEN A LITTLE BIT SLOWER THAN WE WERE HOPING."

"I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE GROWTH OF OUR FOUNDATION."

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PHOTOS BY
CORI BEZAN/VOICE

GVC marked its 50th anniversary with a banquet on Saturday. The evening included musical performances from a variety of current and former students. Above: Several alumni gathered on stage for one final song at the end of the night. Left: Gr. 12 student Victoria Nash opened the show. Below: Guests were able to check out the school's new history book, which highlights five decades of Zodiacs accomplishments.

Garden Valley Collegiate celebrates 50 years

By Cori Bezan

Garden Valley Collegiate celebrated a major milestone on Saturday, inviting students, staff, and alumni to its 50th anniversary banquet.

Guests were treated to an evening of good food, great company, and a concert packed full of GVC students past and present.

"It more than lived up to [our vision]," said teacher Scott Bell. "My focus was the music and bringing musicians in and trying to represent the broad spectrum of the years at Garden Valley Collegiate. The music exceeded my expectations.

"What I didn't anticipate tonight was the crowd, and how much they enjoyed it, and just how happy people were to see each other," he added. "It really had a reunion atmosphere, even though, again, it spanned decades, the age of the crowd here... that really made me feel great."

GVC teacher and 1995 alumni Donovan Giesbrecht said that he was very excited about the banquet when the idea first came up.

"My first reaction was get ready for the good music," he said. "There's so many good musicians that have come through here."

GVC 1980 alumni Grace Sukkau was eager for the opportunity to check out the major second floor renovations the school underwent last year to create The Zone.

"I have not been here for years, so this is completely different," Sukkau said. "The stage that we're in now used to be the AV room, which is where we had our concerts and stuff."

"But the washrooms are still exactly the same, even the toilets!" she added, laughing.

Sukkau also performed on stage with her husband Orlando and many other friends throughout the evening.

"When Scott Bell emailed me, I felt really honoured that I could be part of this," she said. "There's a lot of people that were in school here before me that I kind of knew and maybe looked up to, and they're performing tonight. And to see the younger generation also up there, it's really good."

One of the highlights of the evening for many alumni was not only meet-

ing up with old friends and classmates, but also reconnecting with past staff members.

"The best part is seeing my old teachers from the past, and staff that used to work here," Giesbrecht said. "We had such great teachers when we were here. I think of Bill Dowling or Loretta Thorleifson or Dave Stobbe, Dave Hildebrand, these guys got me listening to stuff I wouldn't listen to otherwise and getting us performing."

The banquet was the perfect example of what GVC has accomplished over the last 50 years: building a strong sense of community.

"People matter most," Giesbrecht said. "What do I remember from high school? The people, the teachers that invested extra time in us and made special effort to get us performing."

"I think there aren't a lot of facts that I remember [from school], but there's certain things that I love now that I wouldn't love if it wasn't for my teachers," he added. "I think we've has such a long-standing history of excellence and great teachers and great administrators that it's hard to take that ship off course."

Throughout the evening, alumni flipped through the school's new history book, a collection of photographs and stories from the past five decades.

"I sort of think of it as an 80-page photo essay," said teacher Loretta Thorleifson, who helped out with the project. "It tells a story of the 50 years of the school...but then there's this whole litany of captions that sort of weave it all together."

"I think that people, when they look through it, I hope they're not just looking for themselves, but they're looking for this was my time, and this is what I'm part of, and this is the story that I'm part of," she said. "I hope they see the energy the school has over the years, and the excellence."

The banquet was not only about reminiscing about the past, but also building a strong future for tomorrow's students. GVC advisory council member Jeff Penner announced an idea to connect alumni with students at GVC in a mentorship-like program.

Continued on page 20

"IT REALLY HAD A REUNION ATMOSPHERE, EVEN THOUGH IT SPANNED DECADES."

Holiday diversity



The Multi-Cultural Christmas at the Library celebration filled the Winkler Library with music from around the world last Thursday. Above: From the

Philippines were performers Allan Cabato, Manny Araullo, Carmen



Cabato, Esterlita Cabato, and Cheery Friesen Left: Representing South Korea, Linda and Jeremy Woo played several Christmas carols. Above: Anna and David Pfaffenrot along with sister Elina (not shown) showcased their German heritage. The evening also included a visit from St. Nick and snacks.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Council approves WA+C interim funding

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Winkler is stepping up with some additional interim financing for Winkler Arts and Culture.

At its Dec. 13 meeting, council approved just over \$200,000 in bridge financing for the arts centre.

"It keeps the bills paid," said Mayor Martin Harder, explaining the centre has outstanding donations and support expected to come in over the next two years. "As those donations come in, it will offset the liabilities that they have outstanding."

Council also dealt with and reported on a number of other matters last week:

- A number of Winkler properties are being rezoned with the future expansion of Salem Home in mind.

Council voted to rezone eight lots bordering Salem Home to the east and north from residential to institutional use to provide space for the growth of the personal care facility.

- Councillors met recently with the owners of Tim Horton's over concerns about traffic congestion at the popular coffee shop and res-

taurant in Winkler.

Mayor Harder said given the location of the coffee shop, there are limited options available, but the business was looking into having a second drive-thru lane to ease congestion.

"That will take at least another six vehicles off the street ... and it will also speed up their drive-thru," he said. "They came up with the best solution that was available."

- Council approved a policy that sets out guidelines for development of the Clover Creek industrial park on the east side of Winkler.

It spells out criteria for all construction and development in the park while aiming to continue to encourage growth.

"We want to have an industrial park that is something that we can be proud of," explained Harder.

Also last week, a variation order cleared the way for construction of a new manufacturing facility in the industrial park.

Icon Technologies, which manufactures a range of RV parts, purchased about 17 acres on Roblin Blvd. with plans for a proposed facility of up to 100,000 square feet.

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What's *Your* Christmas Story?

We asked kids to share their best themed holiday stories with us for a chance at night-at-the-movies prize packs. Here are the winning stories and a few other favourites:

GRAND PRIZE WINNER GR. 5-8: SERENA PETERS, GR. 8, CHORTITZ

Sweet Christmas dream

Before I fell asleep in my warm, snug bed, my imagination got the better of me, and I asked myself what it would be like to live in a gingerbread house.

I thought of all the delicious candy I could snack on, and how wonderful it would be. As I was drifting off to sleep, my question turned into a dream ...

I trudged through a winter wonderland. The delicate, snowy crystals crunched beneath my feet. Icicles were magically hanging over my head on tree limbs that were stretched out toward the parchment-white sky. A snow globe-like flurry wafted down from the unseen clouds, and a perfectly shaped snowflake landed on my black, leather glove.

There were some Christmas-green bushes ahead, and I parted them to see what was beyond them. I gasped.

A frosted, candy-sprinkled gingerbread house awaited me.

I slowly opened the pretzel, yogurt-covered gate, trying to take in everything I saw. I walked down the Nerd path leading to the house. In awe, I grabbed hold of the Gobstopper doorknob. I opened the door, and what a sight I saw.

Candy everywhere. A fondue chocolate fountain with ruby red strawberries sat in one corner, while a candy cane rocking chair sat in the other. A chandelier hung from the ceiling and was made of different coloured ring pops. They cast green, purple, red, and blue gleams around the room. The table was made of Kit Kat bars. A bowl of fruit consisting of sugar-covered orange slices and sour watermelon was sitting on top of the table.

I walked into the next room, amazed by what I saw: a marshmallow bed with a Fruit Roll-up blanket in the bedroom. There was a gum drop dresser that was orange, red, yellow, and green. Lifesavers were stacked just right to shape a lamp. Curtains framed the window looking out toward the pure white, fluffy snow. They were made of sugar-covered rainbow gummy candy. Straight, flavourful wafers created closet doors in which, ABC (Already Been Chewed) gum had been modelled into clothes.

I walked further to a medium-sized room that I assumed was the living room. A Christmas tree stood on one side, made out of gingerbread. Rich, green icing was spread on the face of the cookie. Candy necklaces were wrapped around the tree, which served as lights. M&M's were stuck to the icing and looked like ornaments. A yellow fondant star was placed on top. Presents were under the tree and were made of caramel blocks with

melted chocolate bows. Stocking-shaped gummies were hung from the coffee crisp fireplace. The fire was orange jello, moulded into flames that looked real.

I discovered a small room, and when I peeked in, I realized it was the bathroom. Chocolate chips had been melted and moulded into a toilet. The seat was made of an icing-sugared donut. A Smartie had been placed on top and looked like the flush button. A marshmallow hung on a rod. It was toilet paper. The bathtub was made out of chocolate and had pieces of Aero bars inside as the bubble bath water. Licorice was stuck together, making a shower curtain for the tub.

I walked all around the house once more and thought it had everything in the perfect spot.

I suddenly woke up, and was disappointed to find out it was all a dream.

I thought about my joyful experience, and the only thing I would have added was a sour cherry bomb on top.



RUNNER-UP, GR. 5-8: AMY NEUFELD, GR. 6, HASKETT

Grace and Ginger's Adventures at the North Pole

It was December 25th and Santa had just left for his first stop, in New York. The elves were laying on the floor with exhaustion. Cleaning up was out of the question.

It was so silent in the workshops that you could hear the snow falling, and, off in the distance, the sound of the reindeers' harnesses still ringing.

But the ringing seemed to be getting closer to the workshops! Santa shouldn't be coming back! But the sound was NOT a soft jingle, but a band of musicians playing carols considerably LOUD. And not to mention that they were aboard a very strange looking contraption! This was definitely not Santa.

Almost all the elves were outside by now, awake, no doubt. Who on earth was in that thing? And why such loud music?

The contraption skidded to a halt

and the musicians stopped playing, noticing all the elves had covered their ears, needing a break from the loud, but merry carols. A girl climbed out of the contraption, and with her, a chimpanzee a little bigger than the elves themselves.

"Um, hi," said the girl, shyly. "I'm Grace. And you all are?"

The elves started to say their names all at once until, finally, the chatter was over.

"We're Santa's elves," a little elf piped up.

"Are you the new elf?" one asked.

"Yes, I'm the new elf," said Grace.

"Aren't you a little late? You know, for Christmas?"

"Yeah, I guess so."

"I'll bet you just came now so that you get Boxing Day off, now didn't you?" grumbled the Captain of the Mailroom.

"No, I didn't. Are you always this grouchy the night before your only day off?"

"No, he's not," said one elf so quietly that Grace couldn't hear.

"I'm sorry, could you repeat that? I'm 60 percent, or partly deaf. Most of you spoke loud enough that I could hear, so I didn't think about it."

"Is that why your music was so loud?" asked the grouchy elf.

"Yes. I'm sorry if it bothered you," said Grace.

Then some elves inquired, "What's with the monkey?"

"This is Ginger and she does sign language with me. I thought maybe she could help."

All the elves agreed it would be fun to have a monkey around, so Ginger was allowed to help. They invited the two inside for hot chocolate as it was getting chilly out in the snow.

The elf sitting beside Grace asked, "Hey Grace, I gotta ask, what's that strange contraption outside?"

"That," said Grace, "is a little thing I like to call a car." All the elves oohed and ahed over the word. "As you could see, it had a little trouble getting here."

Now everyone was exhausted again, and they all went to bed.

At 2 a.m., the elves woke up to the sound of snow falling, and softly playing carols. They got up to see what was happening.

Sitting there in the main workshop were Grace and Ginger! Steadily building toys! But why today? Today was the big DAY OFF!

Just then, the Captain of the Mailroom shrieked, "Someone has filed ALL the mail, and... this place looks

Continued on page 14

What's *Your* Christmas Story?

K-4 WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE, K-4: HEIDI REIMER, GR. 4, WINKLER

A special gingerbread Christmas

On December 21, a cold, windy night, a small gingerbread family rested on cherry red licorice seats. There was a couch of bittersweet chocolate but no one ever used it because it melted when they sat on it.

"On a night like this, it's nice to be warm by the fondant fire," Papa commented. Sugar stared at him with a confused look. Sugar just turned two so she didn't understand much. Cinnamon and Cocoa, the nine-year-old twins, shuddered.

"This gingerbread house is kind of creaky," Cocoa complained. "I don't think we got strong enough icing."

"Relax," replied Gumdrop, who was a 12-year-old "smart cookie," as Mother called her. But Cocoa was right. The house would need some patches when the powdery sugar snow melted.

The next morning Papa announced that he would try to make some reinforcements to the roof that afternoon. Sugar was uninterested. She was trying to figure out what on earth the cookie dough smothered in melted chocolate was!

"Sugar! No!" cried Cinnamon just as Sugar decided to smush her face into the melted chocolate. As Mother was cleaning up, Papa slipped out of the door and walked up Smartie Way (a road) and turned onto Gummy Path. When he came to the hardware store he turned into the drive and pushed open the sugar-coated door.

Cinnamon gasped. It was December 23 AND IT WAS RAINING! They had to buy special icing to deal with the rain but they only applied that in spring! Their icing was getting soggy! There was a good chance THE ROOF WOULD FALL

DOWN! The sale for the rainproof icing was over!

"AHHHHH!!!" screamed Cinnamon.

Papa was on the roof desperately trying to apply icing as fast as the rain could wash it away. Luckily when he had visited the hardware store he had bought two cans of sugar-coated icing—rainproof.

Finally, the rain and wind died down and Papa could return down from the roof. Cocoa and Cinnamon had calmed down but Sugar was still upset thinking that the rain was ten times worse than it had been. When Mother finally got the household back in order it was around 9 p.m.

"Oh dear!" cried Mother and she rushed off to put Sugar to bed. As Cinnamon and Cocoa pulled back their rainbow sour strips coverlet, Cocoa commented that it was two days until Christmas.

"Yikes!" yelled Cinnamon. "I still haven't gotten a present for Papa!"

"You're probably going to have to make a homemade one," Cocoa agreed. "All the stores are closed!"

So that's what Cinnamon did. The next afternoon she set to work making a delicious wreath. Instead of pine branches, Cinnamon used green Skittles and green Lifesavers as a substitute. Gumdrop admired and approved of it. She was going to show it to Papa but then she realized that he was the one that the gift was for! She tucked it under her bed where he would never look.

After supper they bundled up and went out carolling. Late that night all Cocoa could remember was climbing into her cozy quilts.



In the morning Cocoa awoke to an excited feeling as she shoved off the sour strips and fumbled down the stairs to find her family awaiting her by the glowing Christmas tree, eagerly wondering what was for them.

The family sat by the tree distributing the presents with huge smiles plastered on their faces.

Papa loved his homemade wreath. Mother received a colourful Fruit Roll-up apron. The twins were delighted to find that their gift was kept in a huge box tied in red, silky ribbon. Their gift was two sugary pairs of licorice ski poles with a gift certificate for candy cane skis. Wrapped in sugary, pink paper was a huge stuffed gummy bear with Sugar's name on it. A beautiful jube jube necklace and matching bracelet were handed over to Gumdrop, who demanded to know who made it. Cocoa admitted that it had been her who made the sparkling necklace. It was a very special Christmas indeed!

RUNNER-UP, K-4: TROY HOEPPNER, GR. 2, MORDEN

How Santa's elves spent their day off

It was the elves' day off.

Charlie, Rocket Booster, Mento, and Pepsi always got into crazy stuff, kind of like Mentos and Pepsi would in real life.

Rocket Booster was the fastest elf, so they went on Santa's sleigh and Rocket Booster powered the whole thing. They were off and they crashed into the top of my house. The sleigh was still good. Then the fuel tank that holds all the magic exploded. The magic fell on the ground and all

the pieces of grass started flying. The magic touched the elves and made them fly.

The elves flew to the South Pole. They thought it was the North Pole. Then they found penguins. The elves thought there was a new creature in the North Pole. The elves were scared of the penguins so they ran away looking for reindeer and Santa and discovered that he wasn't there. They realized they weren't at the North Pole anymore.

Since the elves had the harnesses on from the reindeer, but the sleigh wasn't there anymore, Rocket Booster used his super speed to run and jump and fly all the way until the equator. The other elves came with him.

They were stuck at the equator because Rocket Booster was tired and out of power. They were only halfway home. They waited and waited and finally Rocket Booster was charged up again. Then he made another run and another jump and then they were

three quarters home.

Rocket Booster was all charged up again and he flew the wrong way all the way back to the equator with the other elves. Mento and Pepsi worked together to be a Pepsi rocket because Mento always carried lots of Mentos and Pepsi carried lots of Pepsi. They made it home in time for Christmas with their Pepsi rocket jet packs.

Santa asked them where they had been all along and they said, "It's a long story!"

What's *Your* Christmas Story?

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Battle at the Christmas tree factory

After searching every store for 100 kilometers I discovered there wasn't a single tree left, real or fake.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a tree! So I got my friends, Logan, Bob, and Fred, and together we set off for the Christmas tree factory.

When we got there it was bolted shut. We were about to give up when I peered through the window and was astounded by what I saw. There were factory workers bound tight with licorice whips with gingerbread men standing guard. The gingerbread men had giant candy canes sharpened to a point.

After I showed my friends, we all decided to save the factory workers. Logan noticed that there were large vents going into the factory. We climbed through them and into the building. Unfortunately, Fred isn't very quiet so we ended up getting captured.

The strange gingerbread men poked us with their candy cane weapons and led us to a different part of the factory. It was hard to take the gingerbread seriously, they smelled delicious and they were making us very hungry! But their candy canes were super pointy so we just followed along quietly.

They led us to a room where we met a reindeer who appeared to be their leader. The strangest thing was that the room was filled with trees the size of peanuts and the reindeer was holding a sci-fi type of gun.

When he explained his diabolical plan to us it all made sense. You see, he was feeling left out because he wasn't allowed to be one of Santa's reindeer. So he decided to rid the world of all the Christmas trees so that Christmas wouldn't happen. He took over the factory and shrunk all of the real trees.

After he explained his plan, Bob asked him how he shrunk all the trees. The reindeer showed it to us by demonstrating on one of his gingerbread men. Fred ate the mini gingerbread. He liked it so much that he ate the other guard, too. We charged towards the reindeer to try and get his gun, but in a mad panic he started firing it, shrinking tables and chairs all around us.

Eventually we got the gun away and tied him up with licorice. Now, how were we going to stop the gingerbread men? We didn't have to wonder long because Fred suddenly took the ray gun and shrunk



all the gingerbread men and ate them all. After Fred ate the gingerbread men we untied the factory workers.

Now we had to take care of the reindeer. We called his mom and she quickly came to the factory. That reindeer is now on the world's longest time out!

The factory workers were so happy they gave us all Christmas trees to take home. Christmas is saved!

—Cole Bergen, Gr. 5, Plum Coulee

The Christmas tree catastrophe

After searching every store for 100 kilometers, I discovered there was not a single Christmas tree left, real or fake. But then I had an idea: I would make one!

So when I got home I gathered the stuff I thought I would need like metal, wood (lots of it), fabric, string, cloth, bark, glue, and tape.

But then a thunderstorm came and do you know what I do when there

are thunder storms? No? Well then you will hear what I do. I go crazy and I wreck everything I see and so that's a good thing I didn't have a Christmas tree yet!

But the making of the Christmas tree was helpless because I had ruined everything! I was looking in the storage room and guess what I saw? I have seen the real meaning of Christmas. It was a nativity scene. I had for-

gotten all about it.

So I just did not have a Christmas tree that year. And that is the story of

the year I did not have a Christmas tree!

—Kara Dyck, Gr. 4, Schanzenfeld

No tree, and then ...

After searching every store for over 100 km, I discovered there was not a single Christmas tree left, real or fake. But then I had an idea.

I would look in my shed and find a thick plank. I would drill holes in it and find some sticks and I would stick them in the drilled holes.

Then I would cut some glorious green paper. Then glue the glorious green paper to the sticks.

Then I would find wonderful Christmas magazines and colourful string. I would cut some pictures out of the magazines and hole punch them at the top. Then put the strings through the punched hole and hang it on the Christmas tree.

That is how I got a Christmas tree.

—Kailynn Röder, Gr. 3, Winkler

> NORTH POLE ADVENTURE, FROM PG. 12

as neat as stripes on a candy cane!" The other elves gasped in amazement.

Then the Captain of the Mailroom asked Grace and Ginger, "Did you do ALL this?"

"YES," signed Ginger.

"That means 'yes' in sign language," said Grace.

Then one elf asked, "Can you teach us to sign?"

"Sure I can!" said Grace. Ginger nodded in agreement.

When Santa came home, all the elves were already able to sign "WELCOME HOME SANTA" and

were signing as he came in for a landing, but the reindeer were confused by the signs and started going all different directions! The sleigh landed a bit tangled up, but no one was hurt.

Later, Santa made Grace the Elf of the Month along with Ginger for doing useful things on Boxing Day, their only day off.

They both got to pick a present from Santa. Ginger chose candy and treats and Grace chose a journal to record all of her wonderful adventures at the North Pole.

The gingerbread house

If I lived in a gingerbread house I would eat LOTS of it! Every morning I would be on a sugar rush. I think the windowsill would be frosting. Cookie frosting, of course! I would always be munching on yummy candy! The doorknob would be a chocolate chip.

I wish I could live in a gingerbread house in real life. If I had three wishes, the first would be to live in a gingerbread house, second would be a hover board, and the third would be a bunch of Pokémon.

—Tyson Mullin, Gr. 3, Morden

What's *Your* Christmas Story?

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

The very last gingerbread house

Do you think life living in a gingerbread house would be the best thing ever? If you think that you are wrong as living in a gingerbread house can be frustrating. Everybody who has ever lived in a gingerbread house has been tempted to eat it and has gone homeless.

This has happened for millions of years, and now there is only one gingerbread house left. The only family who cannot be tempted to eat their own gingerbread house are gingerbread people themselves. The last people to ever live in a gingerbread house are Mrs. Gingerbread, Mr. Gingerbread, Lolly the ginger cat, and Gumdrop the ginger dog. They have the finest gingerbread house ever to be seen. It has a sparkly white frosting slanted roof on both sides, an Oreo cookie step, two red and green lollipops on each side of the door, a creamy milk chocolate door with a blue mint knob, and the windows are made out of pink icing sugar. Every person and every living thing has wanted to eat their house since Candy Cane Castle was invaded by ferocious sweet-eating gummy worms. For the first few weeks Mr. and Mrs. Gingerbread just got their ginger dog Gumdrop to guard the house. But it's been a year now and Gumdrop is getting a bit too old and lazy to snarl and bark a lot. The worst part is that tomorrow is Christmas, the best time for eating gingerbread! Mr. and Mrs. Gingerbread will have to think of a plan before Christmas Eve tonight.

"Can you help me wrap the sour patch kids' Christmas presents?" Mrs. Gingerbread asks Mr. Gingerbread.

"I'll be there in a minute," Mr. Gingerbread exclaims.
"I'm just trying to hatch a plan," he said again.

Mrs. Gingerbread sighed.

"Meow!" said their ginger cat Lolly.

"Maybe I can spare enough time to go to the Christmas Village and get you something for Christmas too!"

Mrs. Gingerbread says to Lolly.

“Okay! Where are the presents for me to wrap!?” Mr. Gingerbread shouts while running down the white chocolate stairs.

"Over there!" says Mrs. Gingerbread while pointing to a big piece of black licorice.

"Why are you giving the sour patch kids black licorice? Nobody likes black licorice!" Mr. Gingerbread exclaims.

Mrs. Gingerbread chuckled.

"Wait. What if..." Mr. Gingerbread paused.

"If what?" Mrs. Gingerbread questioned.

"What if I dig underground and find us a bunch of black licorice, then I can surround our house with it and no one will bother to eat it!" Mr. Gingerbread exclaimed.

"You can try," Mrs. Gingerbread said while wrapping the licorice.

Mr. Gingerbread grabbed his salty pretzel stick and candy corn shovel and ran outside. He quickly dug through the sugar snow and the zingy tangy grass until he hit the black licorice. He walked back to his



house carrying a huge block of black licorice and placed it under one of the windows. He repeated this ninety-five times until his whole house was covered in black licorice.

No one messed with Mr. and Mrs. Gingerbread's house ever again. Or at least not until they started craving black licorice...

—Addy Bone, 10, Morden

Elves don't work on Boxing Day

Santa's elves don't work on Boxing Day. Boxing Day is after Christmas Day. They sleep in Santa's workshop. After the long sleep they had a party. They had an awesome time. They ate sweets. They were also eating cookies, monster cookies and donuts.

The elves played games. They went outside.

When they were outside they went splashing in the puddles. Playing games was their favorite. They bowled and played Go Fish!

They had an awesome day at the North Pole!

—*Maria K.*,

Gr. 2, Plum Coulee

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364 Days of Christmas

We could hear the “ping, ding” of the beautiful little bells that were neatly propped up on Santa’s reindeer. Cheers erupted and spread all through the town square. I dropped the stack of forms I had under my arm and looked up. As the paper danced under the wind, a jolly “Ho ho ho” echoed through the freezing air.

“Could it be?” I asked myself, “I’ve been waiting a full 364 days for this!”

I dashed toward the sled that was slowly making its way towards me. A big grin grew across my face. When the sleigh landed, the big, jolly fellow popped out the door.

“Hello, Edward” said Santa. “Another successful year because of your wonderful planning, and my other jolly helpers.”

“We are so happy to have you back. Christmas is the best holiday ever, so we are glad to help!” I proudly announced.

“This positive attitude of yours is one of the reasons I have you as my head elf,” said Santa, “Now, I have an announcement to make.”

Santa walked up to the podium and said, “Tomorrow is Boxing Day. You’ve worked so hard to make this Christmas so great. As your reward, don’t

come to work tomorrow. See you in two days and have a Merry Christmas!”

I went home and got into bed. Bill, my roommate, started snoring but I didn’t care. No one can ruin Santa’s head elf’s day off.

The next morning, my face lit up, “I’ve got it all planned out! This is going to be almost as good as Christmas. Let’s go shopping.”

Bill shrugged and followed me out the door.

After a little wandering around the North Pole, we came across the store “Elvesmart.”

All the Christmas cookies were on sale and apparently the elves working there didn’t get the day off. We walked in and bought seven packs. It’s never too late for Christmas cookies.

Then we headed into the clothing section. I found a not-so-ugly ugly Christmas sweater and new snowman pajamas.

Then I was pulled in by a very well-constructed toy train made by the famous Theodore Wendell, the first and best toy-making elf. It was \$749.99, so I didn’t purchase it.

Bill is a toy-making elf, so he was in

the toys—literally. He found a car that fit him. It wasn’t too big because Bill and I are two feet tall. He found some neon shades and was cruising around the store. He pulled up beside me and looked up at me over his sun glasses.

“That was groovy! Hop in and I’ll give you a ride to the cash register,” he said.

After we paid for our stuff, we went home to watch the movie *The Nightmare before Christmas* with the cookies we bought. Turns out it’s not the most festive movie and I got scared the first five minutes in, so we switched to *Rudolph*.

At 4:30, I met up with my friend, Tanner, to play indoor basketball. On our way, we got distracted and a dancing penguin encouraged us to play a round of bowling. Of course, one round turned into five and five turned into ten. By the time I got home it was 7. Just enough time for one more activity.

“Glue, paper, scissors, and beads. Perfect.”

I promised Bill crafts. Crafts never ended well. Paper flew, glue got everywhere, and I got ten paper cuts. In the end our masterpieces looked like a goopy glob. I was so tired, I didn’t bother to pick up the mess. Slumping into bed, I realized that today wasn’t too bad.

The next day we resumed our work. I counted all the kids that needed presents, wrote some papers about how many people believed in Christ-

mas, and finished by eating a box of chocolates. I saluted Santa and went home.

I sat down at the dinner table with Bill. Maybe yesterday wasn’t too exciting, but I felt relaxed and ready for the rest of the year.

I better get back into the Christmas mood. After all, we only have 363 days until next Christmas.

— Sara Watson, Gr. 5, Winnipeg

Tiny Christmas adventure

One cold winter night I invited my friend Hannah over for a sleepover. Late that night we finally fell asleep. But when we awoke the next morning ... we were tiny!!! We looked around to make sure we had shrunk and the stuff around us hadn’t just automatically grown. But, sure enough, we had shrunk.

We did not know what to do but then I remembered we had a gingerbread house in the kitchen. We climbed up the leg of the table and hopped up on the counter. We walked across the table and went inside the gingerbread house.

Surprisingly, it was quite roomy. It smelled delicious. I wanted to eat it but Hannah reminded me that this was the only thing our size that we could live in so I could not eat it.

After that we made some furniture out of Kleenex, paper and cardboard. Next we ate breakfast. We each had one Smartie and that filled our tiny bellies! Then we decided to take a nap on our cardboard beds with our Kleenex blankets.

When we woke up it was lunch time. For this meal we tried to eat a peppermint but it was too big and too hard to fit in our mouths. Instead we ate a goldfish cracker.

Next we went outside for a walk but we came back right away because we remembered we were tiny and we did not want to be seen like this.

I looked at the time. Hannah had to leave soon! We tried to retrace our steps from the night before. Maybe we had done something that had made us tiny! We thought we went through everything but realized we had missed one thing: last night we each had found a dollar and wished on them that we could live in candy!

We reversed our wish and became big again. We had liked being tiny in the gingerbread house but we had to get back to our normal lives.

— Rylee Olafson, Gr. 5, Morden

A different kind of Christmas tree

After searching every store for 100 km, we discovered that there was not a tree left, real or fake. But then I had an idea ...

My friends and I were looking for a Christmas tree for my grandparents. They wanted it tomorrow but we could not find one!

My idea was that we could find old cardboard from a store. Then we would trace a Christmas tree on it, cut it out, paint it green and add beautiful balls and sparkling lights.

We agreed to split up. That way it would go faster. I went to the left. After asking at five stores I still had no cardboard. I went to find my friends. They also had found nothing. We were just about to go home when we spotted a small rusty old store that had a sign that said “LARGE PIECES OF CARDBORD FOR SALE \$7” Perfect!

We walked over to the store and stepped inside. The manager asked if we wanted cardboard and of course we said yes! He held out his hand for money and said, “seven bucks.” We fished around in our pockets and pulled out \$7. We took the cardboard and went outside.

We all agreed to meet the next morning at 6:30 at my house. Hannah said she would bring green paint and Rylee said she would bring decorations. I said I could bring lights.

The next morning when we were all in my room we

got started. I went to get my Dad’s x-acto knife and then traced a Christmas tree shape on the cardboard. We cut the shape out and then painted it green. Rylee said she was hungry and Hannah and I agreed, so we decided to go have lunch.

After we had lunch we cut holes in the tree and hung balls and decorations on it. Last of all we added the lights. We turned off the room lights and plugged in the Christmas tree. It looked beautiful. The tree was done! We all agreed to meet at my grandparents’ house the next evening for supper.

The next evening my parents dropped me off at my grandparents’ house. I could see Rylee and Hannah waiting for me. I ran up the steps. Rylee rang the doorbell as we hid the tree behind us. When Grandma opened the door we yelled, “Surprise!”

When my grandparents saw the tree they jumped for joy. They said that they were worried that the tree was not going to come. We all stepped in. When everybody settled down we put the tree up. It looked beautiful.

After that we ate cookies and I said it was sure a different type of tree but it still worked! We all felt great and my grandparents loved the tree.

That is how my grandparents got their first cardboard and handmade Christmas tree!

— Beth Giesbrecht, Gr. 5, Morden

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Cheer Cup raises \$5,000

By Lorne Stelmach

Organizers were estimating the annual Morden Thunder charity hockey game Sunday may have raised upwards of \$5,000 for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

For a third year, the game pitted the high school team against the Guns 'N Hoses team made up of members of the Morden police and fire departments.

"I think it was a fantastic evening," said Mark Sawatzky, a member of the event's organizing committee.

The game itself offered some entertaining hockey that may have started a little lopsided but offered some drama at the end.

"The Thunder came back in the third, and that just made it fun and interesting," said Sawatzky, noting it came down to a penalty shot for the Thunder with about a minute left that would have tied the game. Ultimately, the Gun 'N Hoses got the win 9-7.

More important, though, was the money raised for the Christmas Cheer campaign not only through donations but other fundraising activities, including a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

Earlier this month, members of the Thunder team also carried groceries

at local stores in exchange for donations.

Sunday evening's festivities offered other fun as well, including a Chuck a Puck contest and events involving local minor hockey players and others from the hockey community in a

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT
The Morden Thunder fell to the Guns 'N Hoses in the Cheer Cup on Sunday. The charity game raised about \$5,000 for the Cheer Board.

shootout.

"I thought that was cool because it involved all kinds of people from the hockey community here," said Sawatzky.

"There was good community sup-

port. We're happy with it," he said.

"It is a good community event ... fun for all ages of people ... It's something that's enjoyable for everybody ... my feeling was it just had a great atmosphere."



Left: Thunder parents sold numbered pucks to fans for an on ice competition at intermission. Right: Santa (Fire Chief Andy Thiessen) couldn't help but be naughty, soaking Thunder players with water.



Winkler cricket club celebrates third place finish

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's cricket club, the Pembina Royals, brought home the hardware from the Manitoba Cricket Association's awards ceremony earlier this month.

The team, who had a 5-1 record over the summer, were presented with the third place trophy in the MCA's regional T20 tournament.

Although it's a step down from the second place finish the club had in its inaugural season the year before, team president Zahid Zehri said they were still thrilled to be able to bring

the trophy home for Winkler.

"We lost only one match in the entire tournament and that match we lost against one of the best teams in the MCA in terms of ranking, and they are the league champions," he said, adding that match was a very close game, decided by just a handful of runs.

The Royals are made up of about two dozen players, the bulk of whom are from Winkler.

Many are relative newcomers to the community for whom cricket was a major sport in their home countries, Zehri said.

"Winkler has become a more cosmopolitan city and we have so much diversity and the people who come from those countries where cricket is perhaps their national game ... this is a passion for them," he said.

They don't just love the sport—they're pretty good at it.

Zehri said the club is playing at a high enough level that they could move up to the MCA's premier league, but they won't be able to make that leap until the Winkler has a committed cricket pitch to host games.

"We have been asked [to move up] but the thing is we don't have any facilities here in Winkler to practice on or also invite other teams for games," he said, adding that a regulation pitch is a key safety requirement for more advanced play.

The MCA is also hosting a major cricket competition in 2020 and Zehri



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Members of the Pembina Royals cricket team with the awards they took home from the Manitoba Cricket Association ceremony this month. The team placed third this season thanks to a 5-1 record. Left: Club president Zahid Zehri before a match this summer.

would love to see Winkler as one of the communities games could be played in.

Last week, the team presented its trophies from the past two seasons to Winkler's city council, also taking the opportunity to pitch their case for a field in the community.

Mayor Martin Harder said the city is very open to the idea and hopes to find space large enough to accommodate the sport.

"We are very much in favour of them continuing with this," he said. "What we are trying to do is find an appropriate property that can be used for more than just a cricket pitch ... can be used for multiple things."

"We would sure love to help them out ... so that by 2020 they could be part of the competition."

The Royals invite anyone interested in learning more about cricket to contact them through their Facebook page (Winkler Cricket Club) or check out the Manitoba Cricket Association's website at cricket.mb.ca.

The 2017 season will start up in May and Zehri hopes the community will show its support for the team and its efforts to bring cricket to Winkler.

"I would invite the entire community to please support us in any form they can," he said. "We played for the city and we won it for the city."



Pembina Valley Hawks 2-0 in northern road trip

By Lorne Stelmach

The male Pembina Valley Hawks put together their longest winning streak of the season with a successful road trip to northern Manitoba last weekend.

They made it four straight with a pair of wins over the Norman Northstars, taking game one 6-2 on Saturday and then following it up with a 4-1 victory Sunday in Thompson.

Pembina Valley's powerplay connected three times Saturday in expanding a 2-1 first period to 5-1 after 40 minutes, while Martin Gagnon made 28 saves.

Norman netminder Allan Kohli was under fire and in the end stopped 44

of the 50 shots by the Hawks, who got a pair of goals from league-leading goal scorer Elijah Carels. He also chipped in a pair of assists for a four point night, while Travis Penner had a pair and singles came in from Caleb Unrau and Cade Kowalski.

On Sunday, Pembina Valley took control with three goals by the 11 minute mark of the first period and ended up outshooting Norman 43-28 overall.

Carels connected for his 26th goal of the season while Unrau also scored and Kolton Shindle contributed two. In net, Aaron Brunn made 27 saves for the win.

Pembina Valley remained in sixth place but improved their record to 16-



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Pembina Valley Hawks are on a four game winning streak after downing the Norman Northstars 6-2 and 4-1 over the weekend.

10-0-0-1 for 33 points, leaving them just two back of the Winnipeg Thrashers and putting them seven up on the Eastman Selects and Southwest

Cougars, who were slated to host the Hawks Wednesday in Deloraine in the final game for Pembina Valley before the Christmas break.

Flyers on fire at MJHL Showcase

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers had a fine showing at the MJHL Showcase in Winnipeg last week.

On Dec. 13, the boys downed the Swan Valley Stampede 3-1, with Nolan McGuire, Braden Billaney, and Ian Mackey all scoring goals.

Swan Valley's only goal came on a five-on-three powerplay with eight minutes left in the game.

Troy Martyniuk had a relatively easy night in net, facing just 16 shots while his teammates fired 38 the other way.

It was a much closer match the next night against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines.

Coltyn Bates, unassisted, opened scoring with the lone goal in the first period at 9:19.

Wayway tied the game on a powerplay just minutes into the second, but Will Blake pulled Winkler ahead with a goal in the seventh minute.

Bates scored once more in the final frame, but it was sandwiched between two goals from the Wolverines that sent things into overtime for a decision.

There, Bates came through for his team with his game-winning third goal of the night.

Weaver was in net this game for Winkler, making 33 saves.

The Flyers' five game winning streak came to an end at the hands of the Portage Terriers over the weekend.

The two teams were matched goal for goal in the first two periods, with Brayden Cullum tying it at 1-1 in the first and Tanner Lewis pulling Winkler into a 2-1 lead



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Winkler's Matt Christian in action at the MJHL Showcase game against the Swan Valley Stampede, which the Flyers won 3-1. They also downed the Wolverines 4-3.

early in the second before Portage drew even minutes later.

Both teams battled hard to pull ahead in the third, but it was Portage who snuck one past Weaver at 17:22. Winkler pulled him for the extra man in the final minutes, but failed to make good on their chances, while Portage took advantage of the wide open net to make it a 4-2 win.

Overall, Winkler outshot Portage 34-25.

The Flyers got sweet revenge the very next night in front of a hometown crowd.

Scott Gall scored the only goal of the opening period just 31 seconds in and then, following up on a Portage goal that tied the game early in the second, pulled Winkler back into the lead with his second of the night.

The Terriers tied it up one last time a few minutes later, but a goal from Jeff Michiels as the clock wound down put Winkler up 3-2 heading into the final frame.

There, Connor Harmonic gave the Flyers an insurance goal, scoring off a powerplay at the 1:44 mark. Portage managed one more eight minutes in, but that was the last time they got past Martyniuk, who made 38 saves overall in the 4-3 victory.

With that, the Winkler Flyers are in second place with a 25-10 record and 50 points. They trail the first place Pistons by seven points and have seven points up on the third place OCN Blizzard.

The team is off for the holidays now until Tuesday, Jan. 3 when they host the Dauphin Kings.

Hawks fall to Wildcats, bounce back vs. Avros

By Lorne Stelmach

First place was on the line as the female Pembina Valley Hawks faced two tough tests last weekend.

In the end, they toughed out a 3-2 win Sunday over the Winnipeg Avros in Morden, but that was after having bowed to Westman 4-3 in overtime Friday.

It set up the Wildcats to grab first place from the Hawks with a successful weekend that included a 4-0 shutout of the Avros Saturday followed by a contest with the winless Interlake Lightning Sunday.

The Hawks remained in the thick of it, though, with a record of 13-2-2 for 28 points, three points up on Winnipeg and Yellowhead, who were tied at third with 24 points.

Pembina Valley took period

leads of 2-0 and 3-0 Sunday afternoon and then survived a third period push by Winnipeg.

It was a good bounce back game for Pembina Valley, who had lost a 2-1 shootout contest to Winnipeg Dec. 4. They then lost a second in a row for the first time this season in falling to Westman, though they came away with a point from the overtime loss to the Wildcats.

In that Friday night game, Pembina Valley gave up a first period goal and then scored twice in the second to leave it tied 2-2 going into the third. They then exchanged third period goals to force the extra frame.

Westman all-star Ashton Bell did all of the scoring including firing home the overtime winner after the Hawks took an extra time penalty.

Katelyn Heppner and Makenzie

Hutchinson each had a goal and two point nights for the Hawks, with the other goal coming from Sage McElroy-Scott. Halle Oswald took the loss in net, stopping 19 of the 23 shots she faced.

The Hawks are now on their Christmas break, returning to action Jan. 4 when they visit the Yellowhead Chiefs in Shoal Lake before hosting Westman in Manitou Jan. 6.

Rocky week in Zone 4 hockey

The Morden Thunder had a rocky go of it last week in Zone 4 boys hockey league action.

Morden dropped a pair of 4-3 decisions, battling to a shootout loss against the Altona Aces on Dec. 14

and then falling by the same margin in regulation against the Carman Cougars the next night.

Also losing both their matches for the week were the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs, who bowed to the

Portage Trojans 8-0 on Dec. 16 and then to the Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks 8-3 on Saturday.

NPC, meanwhile, had a split week, having fallen to the Mustangs 3-1 two nights before.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SPECIAL SURVEY ACT MANITOBA

A Special Survey has been made in the Rural Municipality of Stanley and City of Morden in Sections 3 and 4; E ½ Sec. 9 and W ½ Sec. 10 Township 3 Range 5 WPM The purpose of this special survey is to correct survey discrepancies regarding the definition of the limits of Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10 Township 3 Range 5WPM being the NE ¼ and the ¼ East of Section 4. The plan and field notes of the Special Survey have been filed in the office of the Examiner of Surveys for registration. The Municipal Board will hear any objections to the Special Survey or plan on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 9:00 am, in the Municipal Board Room, 1144 - 363 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB. Objections may be made against the said Special Survey or plan by any person interested in the affected property. Any person who wishes to object to this Special Survey shall provide the Minister of Justice with a written statement, setting out the nature and grounds of their objection. The statement shall be delivered to the Examiner of Surveys, 276 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B6 or by Fax (204) 948-2823 prior to Monday, February 13, 2017. If a written objection is received, the hearing may be re-scheduled. Complainants will be contacted by The Municipal Board in that regard. If no objection is received the Plan of Special Survey will be submitted to the Registrar General for approval and registration. A copy of this plan can be viewed at the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, 276 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB.

Dated at the City of Winnipeg in Manitoba this 15th day of December, 2016.

Cas Manitowich
Deputy Examiner of Surveys

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OBITUARY



Anne (Anna) Dyck (nee Zacharias) 1921 – 2016

On Sunday, December 11, 2016 at Salem Home in Winkler, MB, Anna Dyck aged 94 years formerly of Blumenfeld, MB went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, Evelyn and Abe Unrau, Grace and Peter Dueck; three sons, John and Maryanne, Jack and Sandi, Harv and Connie as well as 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Cornelius J Dyck in 2003.

Funeral service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at Winkler Reinland Mennonite Church with interment at Blumenfeld Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Anna's memory to

the Salem Foundation Inc.

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



OBITUARY



Jan Michnik 1930 – 2016

On Sunday, December 11, 2016 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Jan Michnik, aged 86 years of Winkler, MB went to his eternal rest.

He leaves to mourn his passing three sons, Ed and Deb, Jim and Katharina, Don and Lisa as well as numerous step children and their families. He was predeceased by his first wife, Justina (nee Loepky) in 1991 and second wife, Helene (nee Penner) in 2014.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Jan's memory to Katie's Cottage.

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



OBITUARY



Eva Thiessen (nee Goertzen) 1940 – 2016

Eva Thiessen aged 76 years, of Winkler, MB passed away on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at Salem Home, with her two daughters by her side.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Henry; her daughters, Brenda and Terry of Altona, Evelyn and Loni of Winkler and her son, Ron and Rita of Swan River; eight grandchildren, Brad, Kendra, Jordan, Teya, and fiancé, Jason Friesen, Matthew, Jayden, Reese and Myron. She was predeceased by her parents, Jacob and Anna Goertzen; five brothers and one sister. She is survived by her two sisters, Anne and Tony Hoepfner of Morden and Mary Friesen of Winnipeg; eight sisters-in-law and four brothers-in-law.

Memorial service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at the Winkler EMMC with interment prior at Reinfeld Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Eva's memory to either the BTHC Foundation (designated to the Palliative Care Dept.) or to the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba.

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



OBITUARY



Evelyn Marjorie Klassen (nee DeFehr) 1944 - 2016

On Wednesday, December 14, 2016, Evelyn Klassen of Winkler, MB died peacefully at her residence.

Mom was baptized upon confession of her faith in Jesus Christ in May 24, 1964 by Bishop John A. Friesen at Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. Dad and mom were united in marriage on September 17, 1961 in Winnipeg, MB.

She leaves to mourn her passing her loving husband, Jake and their eight children: Sandra, Shirley (Rick), Brian (Helen), Brenda (Dave), John (Kathy), Linda (Shawn), Lori (Cornie), Darlene (Darryl); 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is also survived

by three sisters, two brothers and their families. She was predeceased by her parents, Isaac and Annie (nee Martens) DeFehr, one brother and one sister.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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



OBITUARY



Donald Lindsay Lumgair 1938 – 2016

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Donald Lindsay Lumgair on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Karen (Popkes); his son, Curt (Brandi), Darlingford; his daughter, Kathi Hamm (Don), Morden; his grandchildren Wade and Chase Lumgair and Geoffrey Hamm. He is also survived by sister-in-law, Doris Lumgair; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dennis and Barbara Popkes; and his nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Lyle; sister, Lorraine and her husband Abram Reimer; and nephew Adam Popkes.

Don was born to David and Evelyn Lumgair on November 13, 1938. He was raised on the family farm in the Shadeland District.

In 1967, he married Karen and farmed for many years with his brother Lyle and later with his son, Curt. Don loved farming and when he and Karen moved to Morden in 2000, he continued to be involved in the daily farm operations. In the last few years when he wasn't able to drive to the farm he always wanted to be aware of the daily happenings and enjoyed seeing pictures of the crops. Throughout Don's life he enjoyed fishing, hunting, curling, playing ball on the Shadeland fastball team, woodworking and in later years having morning coffee with his friends. He was a 4H leader and long-time member of the Morden Elks Lodge. There wasn't anything that he couldn't fix or build!

Family was so important to Don. He enjoyed all of Curt and Kathi's activities and in later years the activities of Don, Brandi and his grandchildren, Wade, Geoffrey and Chase. Don was known for his calm, quiet ways.

A celebration of Don's life was held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, Morden, MB.

If friends so desire, donations in Don's memory may be made to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, Box 2000, Winkler, Manitoba R6W 1H8.

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In care of arrangements
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