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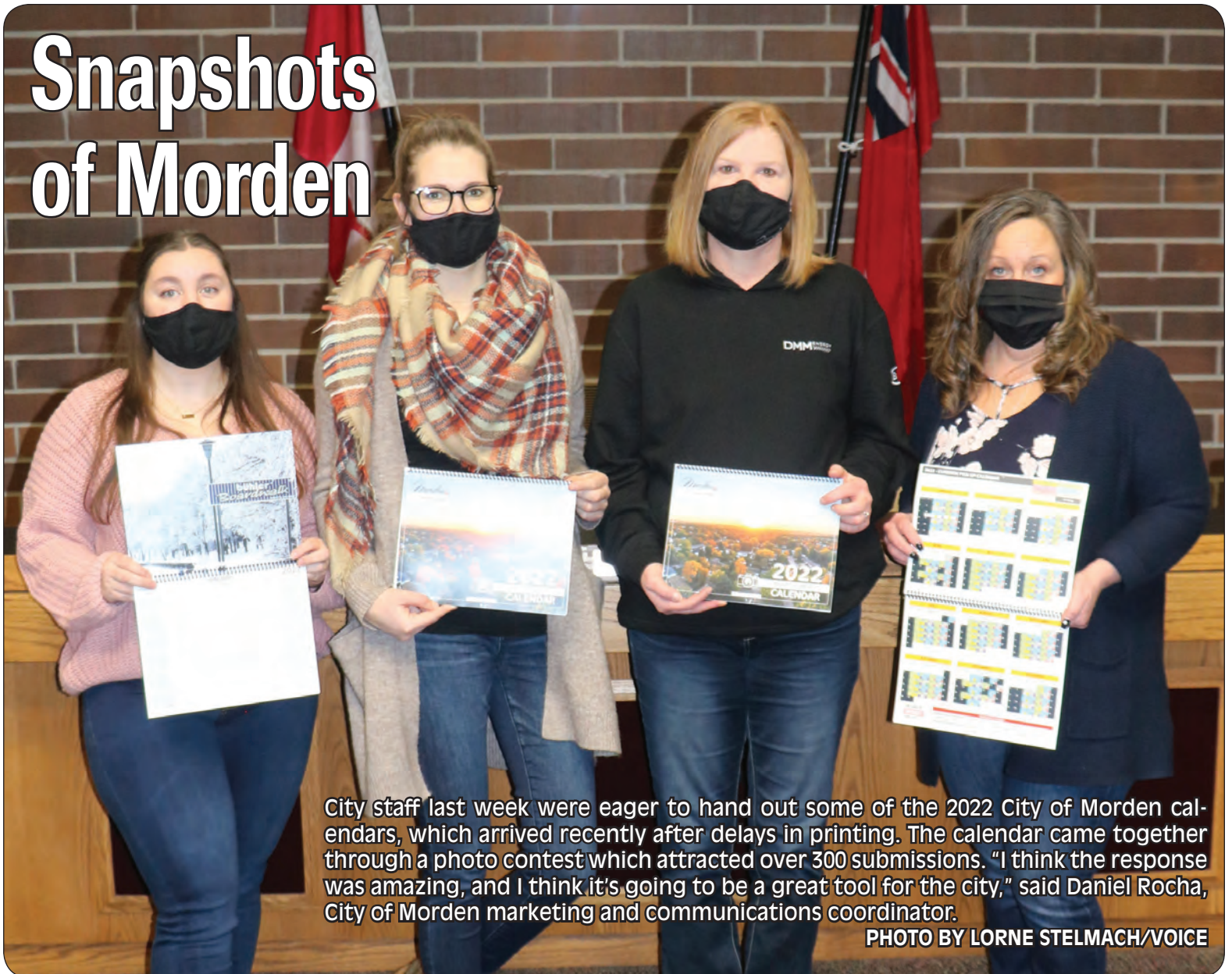
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**Snapshots  
of Morden**



City staff last week were eager to hand out some of the 2022 City of Morden calendars, which arrived recently after delays in printing. The calendar came together through a photo contest which attracted over 300 submissions. "I think the response was amazing, and I think it's going to be a great tool for the city," said Daniel Rocha, City of Morden marketing and communications coordinator.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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# Central Station reports on challenging, rewarding year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

"It has been a tumultuous year to say the least," Central Station Community Centre executive director Bev Wiebe told those assembled virtually for the agency's annual general meeting last week.

But though the pandemic brought with it a host of challenges when it came to the centre's programming and outreach efforts, 2021 as a whole was still filled with plenty of successes.

"My staff turned on a dime over and over and over again," Wiebe said of navigating ever-changing restrictions while still trying to keep programming going, albeit often in modified ways. "We have done our best to serve the needs of our community. This has meant virtual support team meetings, lots and lots of food deliveries, breakfasts to go, words of kindness, cookie deliveries, thermometer distribution—you name it, we've done it."

"Though our service delivery was different than it has been in the past, Central Station continues to be dedicated to amplifying the voice of the voiceless, investing in central homes, strengthening community through

partnerships, and providing a safe and comfortable community space where everyone who passes through the door will encounter radical love and acceptance."

Board chair Phillip Vallely also noted in his report that the centre remains committed to those core focuses.

The centre was not created to be a "band-aid solution" to the problems facing many in the community, he stressed.

"One of our dreams is to really look at the systemic issues behind the challenges that the people we deal with every single day are facing."

## A PRODUCTIVE YEAR

Central Station was able to finally launch its Community Action Training Program in 2021. Twelve participants have been meeting weekly to learn the skills they need to take leadership and advocacy roles in the community.

"This is something we have talked about for many years," Wiebe said, explaining the program is designed "for people with lived experience in poverty. It gives them an opportunity to learn skills needed to advocate for



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Central Station staff have had the chance to tour the renovations at Main St. Plaza. The community centre moves there later this year.

themselves, for their neighbourhoods, for their families, for their friends, and for the community."

Graduates will spend the next year volunteering in Central Station's advocacy office.

Wiebe shared the words of one participant about how profoundly the program has impacted them:

"I know my worth now. I am more capable of loving myself than I thought I ever was ... I have found my voice, knowing now how to use it to

help others that helped me. They are in the same place that I was. I want to be able to use my voice to help others by advocating for them in ways that they can't do for themselves."

Another highlight of the year was the renovations that were completed in the affordable housing units Central Station oversees.

The work has transformed previously rundown buildings into updated, modern spaces for families to call home.

"We continue to work together with Winkler Affordable Housing on a goal of completing renovations on all of the Manitoba Housing units in the next few years," Wiebe said, noting there are 66 such units. Central Station staff will provide support to families through these renovations and long afterwards.

On that end, the Community Care Program is now receiving funding from Manitoba Justice to the tune of \$50,000 annually.

"That is a huge win for us," Wiebe said, adding, however, that it comes with the added responsibility of being part of risk data collection for the city, reporting on issues such as homelessness, addictions, mental health, suicide, domestic violence, and other similar factors they see.

On a lighter note, the centre's weekly free community meal, Café 545, has seen its participant numbers skyrocket, welcoming 500-600 people every Monday night (using a drive-thru format since restrictions kicked in)

"We cannot wait to see how the community is going to come together to dine in our new dining room once we have the space to accommodate and sit down," Wiebe said.

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# Candlelighters getting food to families stuck in HSC cancer ward

By Lorne Stelmach

A volunteer effort is helping to ease the daily burdens for families living with a child with cancer.

The Manitoba Candlelighters childhood cancer support group program recently stepped in to provide a helping hand particularly with the impact of a COVID outbreak on the children's cancer ward at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

It has meant that these families need to isolate, so while the children get their meals, there is currently only perhaps a bag lunch provided for the parent, so the Candlelighters for a few weeks have been purchasing hot dinners every day for each parent/caregiver on the ward.

At that moment, it is one less thing for them to worry about when everyone is already so stressed under the circumstances, suggested Candlelighters board chairperson Naomi Fehr. The group is based in the Morden-Winkler area.

"Support and encouragement can come in many different ways," said Fehr. "You don't necessarily think that a hot meal would change the path of how their day has been going ... but sometimes we take all those kinds of things for granted, and it doesn't have to be a huge act—it can be something small like a meal.

"We had a child with cancer, and we were in the same ward, and we were isolated for a different reason," noted

Fehr. "It's more the fact that they're not forgotten and they are cared about and they matter."

Candlelighters Manitoba is a well established organization that has gone under a number of different names since 1986, but its mission has remained to simply support families touched by childhood cancer.

"We try to reach out to families in many different ways," said Fehr, who added they obviously have not been able to do in-person events given the pandemic restrictions. "We've just had to think outside the box a bit and support them in other ways ... and, thankfully, we have FaceTime and all these other ways to reach these families."

The thought behind this simple gesture is not lost on Monique Stratton, whose 12-year-old daughter Makena is a patient on the children's cancer ward and who helped spur the idea.

"I cannot get over this! I never expected anything like this could have happened with a simple post, a vent, a plea," she wrote in a message relayed by Fehr.

"The support rolling in from across the province is truly humbling. I've never been a part of anything this beautiful and powerful. There's so many people wanting to help. So much good in this world. To think it all started because of a piece of pizza."

Fehr said they can't thank people enough for supporting this effort and want people to know how much of a



**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Makena Stratton, a 12 year old cancer patient in quarantine at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, eating pizza provided for families by the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Group.

difference they are making with their help.

"Often when we think of the vulnerable getting really sick with COVID, we tend to think of adults; not often do we picture these little faces who

are already facing giants way bigger than they should ever have to," added Fehr.

For anyone who wants to make a donation, you can send an e-transfer to support@manitobacandlelighters.org.

## > CENTRAL STATION, FROM PG. 2

Work on Central Station's new home in Main St. Plaza is well underway and fundraising efforts have been very successful thus far.

"We have planned and visioned for this move for many, many years," Wiebe said. "We will be relocating in the next six months."

The \$1.6 million project will see the building transformed to offer Central Station more meeting spaces for its programming, a larger food bank and warehouse area, increased room for childcare, and a much larger commercial kitchen and dining hall.

"We are so eager to share this new space with our community," Wiebe said.

So far the fundraising campaign has raised roughly \$1 million, leaving about \$600,000 to go. Central Station is waiting to hear back about several major grants that would take a big bite out of that number. A few fundraising events are also in the

works for this spring.

"At this point I'd have to say we're fairly confident that we can reach it," Wiebe said of the goal, adding they also have sizeable verbal commitments from a number of local organizations to the project. "So I feel confident it's going to happen ... trusting that if we've gotten here this far we're going to get to the finish line pretty quickly."

Financially, Central Station is in good shape, ending the 2021 fiscal year just over \$188,000 in the black.

Donations continue to make up a huge part of the agency's annual budget—nearly \$277,000 in 2021. Another \$75,000 or so came in through various fundraising events.

The move to the new space will come with some increased expenses, but the agency has been saving for those costs for some time now and is projecting a break-even year for 2022 with a budget of \$574,350.

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# Gospel Echoes settling into spacious new home

Winkler thrift shop built a brand new facility on Roblin Blvd. East

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Gospel Echoes Thrift Store in Winkler kicked off the new year with a spacious new facility.

Over the holidays, the store moved from its rented location off Cargill Road to a brand new building at 326 Roblin Blvd. East, across the street from the Southland Mall.

"We've been kind of dreaming of this for probably two, three years. It's always kind of been up and down—should we? Should we not?" says store manager David Martens a week after the thrift store opened its doors at the new location Jan. 3.

"This lot has been in my dreams for a long time already," he said. "I kept driving by here thinking, man, this would be great for a thrift store."

The new location is certainly a boon, being a little easier to find and closer to many other retail stores, but the extra space is nothing to sneeze at either—at 15,000 square feet, the new store is a full 5,000 sq. ft. bigger than the old one.

Martens says the extra room was roughly split between the retail floor and the sorting and pricing operations in the back.

The thrift shop opened its doors on Cargill Rd. back in 2013 and then expanded into a larger building on the property in 2017.

Even after the expansion, though, space was always at a premium. Now, it's no longer a concern.

"It's just going to be great. For example, we had one pricing table in the old building," Martens says. "We had to schedule that pricing table. So the clothing ladies would come on one day and then we had the houseware ladies the next day—we always had to schedule it.

"Here, we have at least six or seven pricing stations. So we can move stuff through so much faster than before."

The new building also comes with a few other perks, not the least of which is a more open retail floor design, lots of natural light, a paved parking lot, and air conditioning. Those last two should improve conditions inside for customers and staff alike, as the doors no longer need to be propped open to cool the building during the summer.

"It will keep the dust and everything to a minimum," Martens says. "Over there, we constantly struggled with the dust. You'd just wipe the shelves and then it would be back.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The new Gospel Echoes Thrift Store has 5,000 square feet more space than the old, giving volunteers a lot more space to sort and price donated items.

"It all just flows so much better," he adds of the space, noting how busy they've been since opening. "If we would have had that many people in the old building it would have been nuts.

"I have certain departments that we can expand on now that we have this place," Martens continues, pointing out that also makes room for a few more volunteers.

Volunteers are, after all, the heart of the thrift shop, which has as paid staff only Martens, a weekend manager, and a janitor. All the other roles—from cashier to donation sorter to pricer—are filled by the 80 or so volunteers who give of their time every week.

"This place would not be what it

is, would not be anything, without the volunteers," Martens stresses. "They're the backbone of this place.

"Our area is just fantastic for volunteers. I've talked to thrift stores in other communities and half of their staff are paid because they just can't find enough volunteers. Our community is just full of volunteers."

Thanks to the work of all those volunteers, sales at the store go to support the Gospel Echoes prison ministry, which provides Christian discipleship materials for prison chaplains and inmates.

They haven't been able to be in prisons in person through the pandemic, Martens notes, but they continue to

Continued on page 5



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Store manager David Martens says the community's support is what made the new building possible. The new facility is a fair bit roomier but also has much better flow—something that has gotten a big thumbs up from shoppers since it opened earlier this month.



## > GOSPEL ECHOES, FROM PG. 4

reach out with virtual services and by mailing study curriculums and Bibles to inmates who request them.

"The funds that we raise here stays in Canada West, so Manitoba to B.C.," he says, explaining the store tries to make its mission clear to bargain-hunters so they know their dollars are being well used. "They love the deals, and then they love that they can justify that spending for a good cause."

### "WE'RE EXTREMELY BLESSED"

Gospel Echoes Thrift Store's new home was built thanks to the community's support—both by shopping at it as customers over the years and with tradespeople stepping up to help out with the construction project itself.

"Pinnaco's been fantastic," Martens says of the build's general contractor. "They helped find contractors who are willing to do this work and then donate back.

"We had over \$100,000 just from contractors and suppliers that donated back. And then you had some other donors, \$50,000, from people who just donated. They saw we were doing a project and they liked what we're doing and they just donated.

"It just helps us out so much. We're extremely blessed."

The building was designed to accommodate the



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The new Gospel Echoes Thrift Store location is open for business at 326 Roblin Blvd. East, just behind the Southland Mall.

thrift shop well into the foreseeable future, including with some room for an expansion one day.

"We prepared for that with the idea that maybe in 10-15 years we'll need to," Martens says.

The store hopes to hold a grand opening celebration this spring. In the meantime, Martens wants

to the community to know that they appreciate all the support.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone," he says, adding that people from outside the area don't always see just how giving local residents are. "We have a very special community."

# Manitoba sees 23 more COVID deaths over the weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Public health officials reported 23 new deaths in people with COVID-19 on Monday, ranging in age from 50s to 90s and from all across the province.

It brings the death toll to 1,515 since the pandemic began.

The weekend saw another 52 people admitted to hospital with the virus, bringing the total of hospitalized Manitobans to 716, including 49 in intensive care.

Looking back at data for seven days ending Jan. 20, Manitoba saw 367 new COVID-19 hospitalizations, a 0.3 per cent decrease from the previous week.

On the flip side, we also had 40 new ICU cases of COVID-19 in that time, an 8.1 per cent increase over the previous week.

Health officials were also reporting 5,597 new cases for that week. It's a 24.2 per cent decrease, though the case counts are not an accurate representation of how many people actually have COVID-19, as most symptom-

atic Manitobans are now doing rapid tests at home, if at all, which are not included in the official case totals.

Nonetheless, on Monday the province was reporting 38,691 active cases of COVID-19 and a test positivity rate of 33.3 per cent.

The province continues to encourage Manitobans to consider getting vaccinated against COVID-19, noting that, based on the past six weeks of data, people who are not fully vaccinated are three times more likely to be hospitalized should they contract the virus, 11 times more likely to wind up in ICU, and 10 times more likely to die than someone who is fully vaccinated.

"Vaccine is still our best defence against omicron [variant] and COVID-19. It still provides tremendous protection against severe outcomes," stressed Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer, in a news conference held last Wednesday. "Whichever dose of vaccine you're eligible for, please get that as soon as

you become eligible for it."

At press time, 78.8 per cent of eligible Manitobans age five and up had

received two doses of the vaccine (fully vaccinated). The rate for the third dose booster shot was at 38.4 per cent.



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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

• FAITH FOCUS

## You are loved. No, really

**H**ow does God feel about you, right now? And how do you determine that? Do you base your answer on what kind of week you've had? Whether you've been nice to your children? Have you watched something or said something you shouldn't have? How consistent your devotional times have been?

For many years qualifications like these drove my response. If I'd had a good week, a real "Christian week"—I felt close to God. When Sunday came around, I would feel like lifting my head and hands in worship, almost as if to say, "God, here I am ... I know You're excited about seeing me this week."



By Terry Dueck

But the opposite was also true. If I hadn't done a good job at being "Christian," I felt distant from God. If I'd fallen to some temptations, been a jerk to my wife, dodged some easy opportunities to help others, was stingy with my money, forgotten to recycle, kicked the neighbour's dog. Well, on those weeks I felt like God wanted nothing to do with me. When I came to church, I had no desire to lift my soul up to God. I was pretty sure He didn't want to see me either.

The Gospel or good news is that Jesus traded places with me, living the perfect life I should have lived, and dying the death I had been condemned to die. Second Corinthians 5: 21 says that Jesus actually became my sin so that I could literally become His righteousness. He took my record, all my mistakes, failures, regret, shame, died for it, was raised from the dead, and offers me His perfect record in return. He lived in my place, and died in my place, and then offered to me a gift. If I place my faith in Him, I will be forgiven and have everlasting life. Wow! God now sees me according to how Christ has lived, not on the basis of what kind of week I've had.

I'm learning to daily remind myself that there is nothing I could ever do that would make God love me more, and nothing I have done that makes Him love me less. What if I gave away

all my money, would He love me just a little bit more? Nope. What if I went to live in a foreign country to be a missionary? No again. What if I fixed the toilet like my wife wanted me too? She might love me more, but God wouldn't.

Years ago, we went for dinner to Twisters and my daughter at that time looked up at the car on the roof of the building, and asked, "Did that car used to be alive?" We knew what she was getting at, but it was an interesting conversation trying to explain what it means to be alive. That's the difference between religion and the gospel. Religion tries to change your behavior, mechanically change you on the outside, but the Gospel, the power of Jesus to save, changes our hearts, so that we can truly become alive on the inside.

If you are not sure where you stand with God, if you feel "dead" inside or worn out from religion, the answer is not simply to try harder, to get more radical, learn more about the Bible, recover ancient devotional techniques, go to church every Sunday. These all have their place, but in the end, just like you can't make a car alive, all we are doing is piling on superficial changes. None of those things can heal your soul, and make your heart

Continued on page 7

# Letters

## A THANK-YOU TO CHEER SUPPORTERS

We live in a wonderfully generous community, and this was very evident again during the Winkler & District Christmas Cheer Board's 2021 season.

It is really quite amazing to consider the many people that contribute

to our cause, and we'd like to thank all of our donors.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals for all of your donations—each one helped make Christmas brighter for the recipients of each hamper.

During our Cheer Days, which were held at the Meridian Exhibition Centre, we packed the 400 hampers

that were picked up and delivered. Thank you to all who were involved!

The Cheer Board could not operate without the generous hearts of those who contribute in many different ways.

Lori Derksen,  
public relations for Winkler & District Christmas Cheer Board

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.

# Friesen sworn back in as Manitoba's finance minister

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen is back as Manitoba's finance minister.

Premier Heather Stefanson returned the portfolio to Friesen in last week's cabinet shuffle. He had previously helmed the finance department from 2016-2018 for the Conservative government before moving on to serve as health minister and, for the past year, as the justice minister and attorney general.

It was a welcome homecoming of sorts for Friesen.

"When I left that role in 2018 to take on health and then, thereafter, justice, I never thought that there would be a point in my career when someone would tell me once again that I was the finance minister," he said last week, hours after being sworn into the role. "I just entered into my new, old office moments ago and in some respects I'm back where I started, but the honour is no less significant the second time."

Friesen likened getting back into the swing of things in the department to "catching a wave" when surfing—there's a lot of things in the works and it's his job now to get caught up on them and begin the work of overseeing it all.

Chief among them, of course, is the upcoming provincial budget, work on which was well underway under outgoing Finance Minister Scott Fielding.

"Now I need to assume control of that budgetary process, including outreach and the scheduled meetings with stakeholders groups, and then of course landing the plane on what we will present in terms of tax concessions and areas of focus and what we will assign to departments for numbers," Friesen said.

"I would say that it's not going to be easy, but there is the benefit of having done this role before, and that can't be overstated."

That said, Friesen acknowledged that the world in 2022 is very different from what it was when he was last handling this portfolio—a time when

stabilizing Manitoba's finances was at the forefront.

"I think that some people will be apprehensive," Friesen said, "and they will say, well, here's a finance minister coming in who was the finance minister in charge during all those critical times, all the hard discussions about living within budgets and getting more with less, and will he try to apply that same lens now?"

"The answer is simply no. You cannot apply a lens from 2016 to where we are in the middle of a global pandemic going on two years," he said, stressing it's been two years of financial struggles for many individuals and businesses alike.

"So we need to be focused on helping Manitobans," Friesen said, explaining they intend to do that by focusing on both stability and affordability.

"We've got some very, very significant work to do at this point in time. We need to make sure that Manitobans can keep more of their hard-earned money, we need to send powerful signals to markets to say that we are working hard on this province's finances to emerge from these pandemic expenditures. I believe that we are the team to be doing this at this time."

Stefanson has also shifted ministerial responsibility for Manitoba Hydro to the finance minister.

"It's a new responsibility for me," said Friesen, noting affordable power is one of Manitoba's biggest advantages and the government is committed to keeping those rates low while also ensuring the Crown corporation remains fiscally stable.

All that lays ahead of Friesen as he settles into this new but familiar position, but looking back briefly he noted he's pleased with what he was able to accomplish during his time in the justice department.

"It was one of the fundamental privileges and pleasures of my career as an elected official to be the attorney general and the minister of justice," he said. "I felt that the work was meaningful. I feel that my interactions with the Grand Chiefs at a key moment in

"THE HONOUR IS NO LESS SIGNIFICANT THE SECOND TIME."

our province's history were momentous. And we got things done."

He pointed to things like family law reform, restorative justice initiatives, and changes to the Independent Investigation Unit's role as a police watchdog.

"You cannot leave work like that without becoming very, very attached to the work, attached to the people that I get to work with in the civil service, attached to the stakeholder groups. You form relationships, you form trust, and when you walk away, yeah, that feeling, it will always be bittersweet," Friesen said. "Clearly some of that [recently introduced] legislation will outlast me, and I entrust it to the next minister to see it through."

He also had a message for his local constituents.

"My fundamental and first role will always be to represent the people of Morden-Winkler," Friesen said.

"They are the people who vote me in



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen was sworn in as Manitoba's finance minister last week.

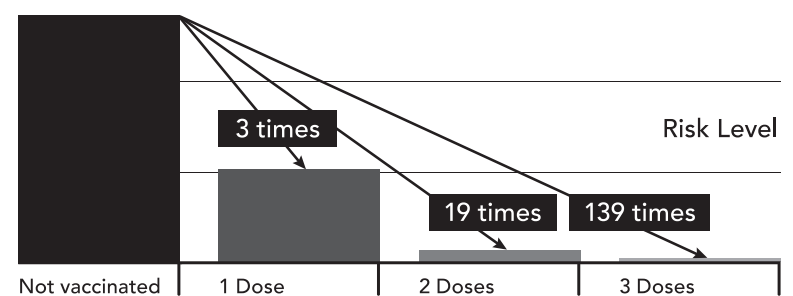
and nothing will ever eclipse that role. I know during COVID it necessitated changes in the way I interact with my voters, but that work goes on and it's at the centre of my work. Some of the most rewarding work I do is actually in the constituency office."



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## > FAITH FOCUS, FROM PG. 6

come alive. It's only by accepting the grace and unconditional love that Jesus has for you.

If all of this is completely new to you, read the book of John in the Bible (it will be near the end of the Bible in what's called the New Testament) and get to know who Jesus is.

If you don't have a Bible, please

stop by any of the churches in town and I'm sure they'll give you one. I'm at WMBC (the "Pizza Hut" church) and I'd love to chat with you about living in the way of Jesus.

—Terry Dueck is the lead pastor at the Winkler MB Church

# Fdn. puts call out for Citizen of Distinction nominees

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation is again in search of a person who perhaps flies under the radar in making a difference in the community.

Nominations are being accepted until March 31 for the Citizen of Distinction Award.

The aim is to recognize and honour citizens who have a strong commitment to making the City of Morden and area a better place to live, visit, and play through their long-term commitment to service and excellence.

"It's the person who does all that work in the community so selflessly and just really lives for the betterment of the community and everyone's lives with whatever they are doing," suggested executive director Lynda Lambert.

She emphasized the key is recognizing someone who makes a difference through their role modelling leadership, positive attitude, behind the scenes support, and/or out-front leadership and authentic care for the well-being of Morden and area.

"It doesn't have to be the person who is chairperson of everything. The citi-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Dave Destoop was last year's Citizen of Distinction for Morden. The Morden Area Foundation is now looking for the next honouree.

zen of distinction has often been that person who is totally unnoticed, totally behind the scenes, but who makes everything run and evolve for the good of the community because that's just what they do ... they just want the best for everything and for everyone in the community," said Lambert.

"It does not need to be the person who is in the limelight. It's a person who gives that support in whatever manner," she continued. "There has to

be people who have even come more into play these past two years who

## GVSD on the hunt to fill two senior admin. positions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division is on the hunt for two key members of its senior administration team.

Superintendent Todd Monster has given the board of trustees notice of his intention to retire at the end of this year. Monster remains on medical leave in the meantime, with Janice Krahn filling the role in an interim basis.

Also up for grabs is the division's secretary-treasurer role. After the departure of longtime staffer Terry Penner last year, Gerry Lesage came on board for three months before also giving his notice.

Board chair Laurie Dyck said they've hired a recruiting firm to help them fill both these positions.

"Our goal is to have a new secretary-treasurer in place for spring and a new superintendent starting in July// August so we can get ready for the school year coming up," she said, noting in the meantime Krahn will serve as both superintendent and secretary-treasurer. Her normal role with the division is as assistant superintendent of programs and curriculum.

"She's a real trooper," Dyck said. "We couldn't ask for a more dedicated senior admin team."

That team also includes Joanne Derksen as assistant superintendent of student services and, stepping in a term position until the end of the school year, former Emerado Centen-

maybe haven't been as noticeable."

The award began in 1946 when the Kinsmen Club of Morden established what was then called the Meritorious Service Award. The Kinsmen honoured 57 citizens before disbanding in 2002.

The Morden Area Foundation understands the importance of philanthropy in creating a robust community and therefore chose to continue presenting this award to some of Morden's finest, explained Lambert.

Along with the recognition, the recipient receives a \$1,000 grant to be donated to a registered charity of their choice.

To nominate someone, head online to [mordenfoundation.ca/volunteer-of-the-year](http://mordenfoundation.ca/volunteer-of-the-year) or email [info@mordenfoundation.ca](mailto:info@mordenfoundation.ca) for more information.

## DON'T BE SURPRISED

It was Friday on a September long weekend and I was leaving my office slightly after hours. As I pulled out I noticed survey equipment set up on the boulevard.

This was a very complex and very expensive mounted GPS instrument with antennae and recording station set into a foam lined hard case. My first thought was some slothful employee had gone home and left this equipment out to be stolen. I drove several blocks around my office and no evidence of any surveyors. I wasn't about to leave it out for the weekend and so the only reasonable thing to do was to pack it up and return it Tuesday morning to the company identified on the equipment. I carefully disconnected the wires and dismantled the equipment fitting it carefully into the case. I remember thinking good thoughts about myself as I drove home. "Just think of the money I'm saving this company - they will be happy to hear my story on Tuesday." When I got home I reinforced my uprightness

to my children all the while looking forward to Tuesday morning where there would be some "back-patting" and true appreciation for my honesty and integrity. Tuesday arrived and I proudly walked through the office door with case and tripod in hand. One man asked, "What have you got there?" I began to tell the story emphasizing my good deed. "So you're the guy" another interrupted, "there are a number of surveyors who would like to get their hands on you." Apparently there was a time sensitive survey project scheduled for the weekend and several survey crews were out in various locations, some a mile or two away. In my hand was the main terminal where all the data was being recorded and at 6pm on Friday the signal died and the project had to be abandoned. All I can say is that my drive to that office was different from my drive away. It reminds me of a verse in the Bible that describes the shock of those thinking some form of good works would merit Eternal Life. In Matthew 7:23, Jesus says to these people "Depart from me, I never knew you." They found out when it was too late that their good efforts didn't count.

Many assume that on judgment day God will pull out a "good-deeds" scale and weigh our good against the bad. Maybe there is something we could do which would tip in our favour. The Bible is clear that when it comes to Salvation all the doing has been done, for Christ's death on the cross paid the debt of sin for all mankind. Salvation is "the Gift of God which is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:23b. We can never earn Salvation by being good enough. "Not by works of Righteousness which we have done, but by His mercy He has saved us" Titus 3:5. The fact is, we all deserve Hell (that's eternal separation from God), but "God so loved the world that He GAVE his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3:16 Ron and

Nancy Burley [www.sermon4u.com](http://www.sermon4u.com) [www.hymns2enjoy.com](http://www.hymns2enjoy.com) Paid Advertisement



# Cutting the ribbon on Akash Digital in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Rubaiyat Zaman may be new to Morden, but digital marketing and tech services are not new to him.

Zaman brings about 20 years of IT experience to the community with the opening of Akash Digital, which held a ribbon cutting last Friday at its location at 104 Eighth St.

It is an exciting step for Zaman and his wife Nusrat after having moved here from Bangladesh last year. He had started working from home but decided to take the next step and open up an office space.

"I want to do whatever your business needs to make it profitable or grow," said Zaman.

They offer the whole range of web development including custom websites and e-commerce, monthly website support and maintenance, website content and graphic creation and more. Their services also include a variety of application development, maintenance, and support as well as digital marketing including email, social media, and web-based marketing and promotion.

Their aim is to provide innovative



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Akash Digital celebrated the grand opening of its new home in downtown Morden with a ribbon cutting.

solutions that will help clients gain a powerful digital presence, grow their brand value, increase their customer base, and generate sustainable revenue. Zaman stressed their approach is to immerse themselves in your business in order to best meet your needs.

"If it doesn't make sense for your business, we won't do it ... I want to be convinced first that a service has value to you," he said. "I can tell a business

what they need and what will be good for them. I study their business first and then tell them, okay, these are the services for what you need."

"We can provide the services in an affordable way," added Zaman, who sees the services they can provide as perhaps being especially vital for growing smaller, rural businesses as the technology and what is possible continues to advance so quickly.

"There is a greater need because everything is going digital, everything is going online ... you need a digital presence now," he said. "There has been a lot of a shift in the last 10 years already, but the next 10 years will be crucial because it is a new era."

You can find more information online at [akashdigital.ca](http://akashdigital.ca).

## Four found dead of exposure near Canada-U.S. border

By Voice staff

Manitoba RCMP are still working to confirm the identity of the four people found dead near the Canada-United States border last week.

On Jan. 19, U.S. Customs and Border Protection notified their Canadian counterparts that they had apprehended a group of people who had crossed into the U.S. from Canada near the town of Emerson, MB.

One of the adults in the group had items meant for an infant, though no baby was found with them.

An extensive search was launched on both sides of the border, eventually finding the bodies of an adult male, an adult female, a male teenager, and an infant 10 kilometres east of

Emerson.

They were found metres from the border and are believed to have died from cold weather exposure.

Police issued an update Monday noting that while some media outlets have been publishing the possible identities of the victims, nothing has been confirmed as of yet.

"As a law enforcement organization, we will not be in a position to confirm these names until we have 100 per cent certainty of their identities and next of kin notification is completed," police said in a news release, noting Indian consular officials have arrived in Manitoba and police have been in regular contact with them to try and identify the victims, who are believed to be migrants from India.

Steve Shand, a 47-year-old man from Florida, has been arrested by U.S. law enforcement and charged with human smuggling in connection with this incident.

According to documents filed with the U.S. District Court in Minnesota last week, Shand was the driver of the vehicle in which border patrol officers found two undocumented Indian nationals on Jan. 19.

A group of five other Indian nationals were then found walking south of the Canadian border close to where Shand was arrested.

They said they had been walking for 11 hours and had expected to be picked up by someone across the border. They also said members of their group—a family of four—had gotten separated from them in the night.

Two of the survivors sustained serious injuries and were transported to a hospital.

Shand appeared in court Monday and was released on bail with numerous conditions.

## Morden police make meth trafficking arrest

By Voice staff

A Carman man is facing drug charges after a traffic stop in Morden last week.

On the afternoon of Jan. 16, members of the Morden Police Service pulled over a vehicle in relation to a drug investigation.

The officers observed the driver to be acting in a suspicious manner. Further checks revealed the driver had an invalid licence.

With the assistance of the Winkler Police Ser-

vice, police arrested both the driver and a passenger for possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking.

A search of the vehicle found approximately 38 grams of meth, a scale, cellphones, cash, and other drug trafficking paraphernalia.

As a result of this incident, a 45-year-old Carman resident has been charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking. He will appear in court next month.

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# PVHS looking to get 100 monthly sponsors



Pembina Valley Humane Society is hoping to grow its monthly donor base to 100 people. Secure funds coming in every month will be a big help in the shelter's daily operations, including caring for cats like Forrest and pooches like Barney, who is awaiting surgery.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is looking to boost its financial base by increasing its monthly donors.

The campaign comes about with the impact of the last two years of being in a pandemic having highlighted the importance of having reliable and consistent income to ensure they can care for the animals coming to the shelter.

That's where PVHS Life Changers comes in with the goal of helping further build their level of sustainability, said public relations chairperson Holly Thorne.

"It means we would have a little bit more weight off our shoulders because we know this money is coming in each month," she said. "The last two years, if it's taught us anything, it's that things can fluctuate like crazy, so just knowing that we can count on so much coming in each and every month means we know that our animals are going to continue to get the care that they need."

The humane society currently has 85 monthly donors who in total contribute about \$24,000 or around 14 per

Continued on page 18

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# Betty White Challenge raises \$6K

By Lorne Stelmach

The death of a beloved actress not only brought on an outpouring of sadness but also a flood of support for what was one of her favourite causes.

Animal organizations all over took part in the Betty White Challenge last week, and the resulting tally of around \$6,000 in donations was a welcome surprise for our own Pembina Valley Humane Society.

"We were exceptionally blown away by the support that we received with the Betty White Challenge," said Holly Thorne, public relations chairperson.

"It really took off ... with the passing of Betty White and her dedication her entire life to animals, it just seemed like something that, if she were still

Continued on page 18

## EDUCATION FEATURE WINTER / SPRING 2022

### Mennonite Collegiate Institute

Written by: Julia Bergman (nee Hogue), Class of 2002

Being a graduate of Mennonite Collegiate Institute remains a precious part of life's memory bank. Moving into Dorm my grade 11 year gave me a sense of independence and pride to be stepping into more freedom. At the time, I didn't fully understand my parents' thoughtful consideration in making this significant decision in releasing me into the loving care of the MCI community, but I am so glad they did! I got a taste of managing my own time, schedule, and responsibilities while learning to live with accountability away from my parents. Living at MCI also gifted me with the experience of claiming my faith in Jesus for my very own. Being surrounded by other students and having teachers who wore their faith on their sleeve, forever marked my life.

Now, almost 20 years later, it was our turn as parents to wholeheartedly consider offering this unique opportunity to our children as we prayerfully weighed out the pros and cons.

Nearly two years into this global pandemic we wanted, perhaps more than ever, to offer our children opportunities to do life in and with community. Lock-downs and canceled events have been necessary, and yet we were eagerly keep-

ing our eyes and ears peeled for doors to open for our children, that would continue to engage their learning, spiritual growth and to continue to fuel their passions of sports and music. That's when MCI came to mind.

Our eldest son Eli has just finished his first semester living in Dorm while attending MCI and we are so thankful that it has been all we were dreaming for and then some!

It can feel tricky to wrap your head around sending a child to live at school before the more traditional timeline. We wrestled with this. Having regular and open communication as a family and with the incredible staff both in the Dorm and in the academic part of the school has made this transition more peace-filled than we thought it might be. It has been a joy to see Eli flourish with the opportunities that are at his fingertips. Cheering his teammates on to Volleyball Provincials, sharing thoughts and opinions over a meal, impromptu floor hockey matches, listening and making music with fellow students, have all been good for the mind, body, and soul. Our family is excited to think about what the future holds as we step into the MCI community.



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BRANDON, Man. – Choosing Brandon University is the right move for anyone looking for the support of a positive, close-knit environment.

"Brandon University really does have the best of both worlds," said Erin Mills, Director of Recruitment and Retention at BU. "We offer a full spread of course and degree choices, so there's lots for you to choose from, and we offer personal support and caring relationships to ensure a solid chance of success for everyone."

She says that BU offers 19 separate undergraduate programs, plus many pre-professional pathways — plenty of options for every student entering university. Plus, she notes that BU has an additional half a dozen graduate degrees for those pursuing advanced education like a master's degree.

"Your Brandon University education can take you anywhere," she says. "And it all starts with a simple conversation. Talking to one of our Student Success Officers sets you on a path to success."

Interested students can book a virtual tour or an introductory conversation at [BrandonU.ca/Your-Future](http://BrandonU.ca/Your-Future), where friendly and knowledgeable Student Success Officers can go over options, and introduce opportunities that are unique to BU.

"So many students are interested in our Indigenous Transition Program, which provides unique cultural supports for

first-year Indigenous students," Mills said. "It's a great way to get to know our Elders and Knowledge-Keepers, as well as all of the social and educational opportunities at our Indigenous Peoples' Centre."

Many students also get a chance to earn while they learn, thanks to the explosive growth of BU's Co-op Education program.

"A BU education puts you on the fast track to a great career, and Co-op gives you a head start," Mills said. "Employers from across Canada are eager to hire Co-op students, so you can build your resumé with relevant experience, kickstart your network, and bring home a paycheque. Co-op is a true win-win-win."

Balancing student health and safety with a great hands-on education hasn't been easy for anyone over the past couple of years, but BU has consistently delivered a high-quality blended experience that students can rely on.

"Our small class sizes mean we have the flexibility that's needed these days," Mills said. "It also means you get to really know your professors, and your fellow classmates. You can be sure you'll make great friendships that last a lifetime while earning a degree that will build a solid career."

Learn more at [BrandonU.ca/Your-Future](http://BrandonU.ca/Your-Future) and join the more than 3,000 students who choose Brandon University every year.

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# Polar bear research connects CMU alumna to the natural world

By Myles Thiessen



For Sara Wolowich Brown (CMU' 19, Environmental Studies), going to the zoo is more than just entertainment. It's become a passion.

That passion and desire for connection with the natural world translated into a three-month work placement at Assiniboine Park Zoo this past fall, where she helped conduct polar bear observation and shoreline clean-up strategies. "It was a really unique opportunity to see a bunch of different aspects of the zoo," she says. "A lot of people, when they think of the zoo, they think about just going to look at animals, but [the Assiniboine Park Zoo] actually has lots of research projects that are going on, and that's a really big part of what they do."

Specifically working with the Research and Conservation Department, Wolowich Brown spent most of her time studying polar bear personalities. "[I surveyed] what they're doing, where they're located, if they are interacting with other bears. All that information is used to provide care for the bears at the zoo," says Wolowich Brown.

Whether it be understanding that polar bears like to watch the zoo's crowds or that all the bears at Assiniboine Park Zoo are rescued from Churchill, Wolowich Brown says her time at the zoo gave her a much deeper appreciation of conservation efforts taking place in the province.

"The zoo is about education, conservation, and research. It's not just entertainment," says Wolowich Brown. "The more people know, the more people care about

something. Hopefully, that care can move into actual real-life decisions to better the planet and take care of these animals."

Wolowich Brown's placement at the zoo came through a program called Ocean Wise, which connects young people with opportunities in conservation. She says Ocean Wise "looks at skills you have and your background and match you up with an organization that could use your skills and develops them."

Some of those skills, Wolowich Brown says, she developed through CMU. After joining the Environmental Studies program in its infancy, Wolowich Brown says, "I know when I got there that there were new professors, so it was a growing experience between the professors and the students." But she says she found the program's interdisciplinary focus to be beneficial to her education. "The overall concept of the crossover between the sciences and social sciences was already there," she says.

Kenton Lobe, Teaching Assistant Professor, International Development and Environmental Studies at CMU, says the institutions' courses are shaped to help students explore that crossover. "I am enlivened by dialogue that reflects careful reading, impassioned dialogue, and the ongoing creativity I witness in student thinking and work," says Lobe. "It will seem cliché to talk about the energy of young people, but it is true. I am encouraged by students grieving deeply for broken kinship relationships with our non-human neighbours."

Wolowich Brown hopes to blend her passion for conservation with education in the future. "I think there is a disconnect, and people don't understand we have beluga whale, seals, and polar bears; we have a whole other ecosystem that is directly connected to us," she says. "[I want to help] people become more literate of the natural world around them and make changes in the world to protect these species."



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# The Polytechnic Advantage – Delivering Flexible, Employer-Driven Training to the Pembina Valley

In October 2021, the province's largest college unveiled a bold new strategic direction and embraced its identity as Manitoba's polytechnic — by bringing that word into its name, as Red River College Polytechnic, or RRC Polytech.

This evolution enables RRC Polytech to continue to modernize apprenticeship training and expand in areas that are hallmarks of a polytechnic education, including applied research and work-integrated learning, allowing students to seamlessly transition from the classroom to their careers.

The new identity recognizes RRC Polytech's evolution into a unique kind of post-secondary institution — one that blends deep, theoretical learning with applied, hands-on experience, and highlights the important role its graduates will play in growing Manitoba's economy as the province recovers from the pandemic and looks to the future.

For students, a polytechnic education means more choices, flexible options and opportunities to gain highly sought-after skills — at the start of their career, or anywhere along the way.

For employers and industry partners, it means a pipeline to top Manitoba talent and a direct hand in developing a workforce that meets their current and future needs. It also means expanding partnerships and applied research collaborations to help position employers at the forefront of innovation and growth.

"Sectors across Manitoba continue to experience disruption at a faster and more frequent pace than ever before. This quickened pace demands an urgent and agile response, and RRC Polytech is perfectly positioned to meet the emerging needs of our students and of the workforce they are entering," said Fred Meier, President and CEO, RRC Polytech.

"Aligning our new identity and strategic direction puts us in the right place, at the right time, to stay in front of what's ahead."

RRC Polytech offers in-class and online education for students and training for organizations from its campus in Winkler.

Learn more at [rrc.ca/winkler](http://rrc.ca/winkler).



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# PHAC unveils new look, name for gallery gift shop

By Lorne Stelmach

A revamped gift shop and display area could do more than just boost business at the Pembina Hills Gallery.

It not only provides a welcome update to the space but may also help expand and diversify what can be offered at the arts centre while also hopefully drawing more people there.

"We want to get more people in through the doors," said administrative co-ordinator Carla Dyck. "So we want to be adding to it and creating more diversity in the arts and crafts that we're selling ... and we're also hoping to create some diversity in the artists themselves.



The gift shop got overhauled with new shelving that was purchased with the sponsorship of Decor Cabinets. It has helped to open up the space overall while also providing more display room.

The space reopened in the new year



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Carla Dyck in the Pembina Hills Gallery's revamped gift shop, now dubbed Clock Tower Gifts.

as Clock Tower Gifts, which is a name that was selected through a contest that saw Trisha Warkentine submit the winning entry.

"The clocktower came up a few times," noted Dyck. "It really is a great name. It represents our heritage building ... and our clocktower still gets wound by hand.

"We thought to get the community involved because we are a community space," she said. "We want to create a space where everyone feels welcome.

"When I started here, that was in my mind, just to create a welcoming space," she continued, noting a priority was to create a space that would be better able to showcase the work of local artists. "I recognized that we had a wait list of artists. I think we had about 14 or so, and some have been there for two years, so I wanted to create some more space for artists.

"Even just by reorganizing, we were able to create some more space, and we have four new vendors so far with space for more," she said. "So we're excited about it. We think it needed to

be freshened up ... and it did open up the space."

Along with the new name and logo, which was designed by programs and outreach co-ordinator Tye Dandridge-Evancio, came the theme "Time to Unwind."

"We want people to see the gallery or the Pembina Hills arts centre as a place where they can come spend some time and relax," said Dyck, who noted there is a coffee bar now where visitors can also get wine and beer.

They also see another meaning behind the theme, however, which is connected to a recognition of some of the harms of colonization in Canada.

"We want to help unwind some of that harm that has been done and try to be more diverse and have more demographics represented here," said Dyck.

The arts council meanwhile is now also particularly promoting memberships, with some new benefits being offered to members.

Every membership supports ongoing programs and classes, but it now also offers a number of perks at other local businesses and places including the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, Morklers, Bella's Castle, Coffee Culture, Rendezvous, and Pure Anada.

Head to [www.pembinahillsarts.com](http://www.pembinahillsarts.com) for more information.



## Check your cords

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY RIVER ROBSON

A vehicle fire at the corner of Gilmour and Ninth Street in Morden Sunday was the most recent of a number of such calls for local firefighters. Morden Fire and Rescue reported having responded to four calls for service in the past six days, with three of them being vehicle fires. Residents are reminded to inspect their block heater cords and extension cords for any damage and to not plug in their vehicles when parked inside a garage.



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# Candlewick has a busy schedule coming up

By Lorne Stelmach

Candlewick Productions and the Kenmor Theatre in Morden are aiming to bring the stage back to life in the coming weeks.

A number of shows and productions are in the works with public health order restrictions in mind, but director Richard Klassen is optimistic.

“With the current restrictions, we recognize that filling the theatre to half capacity with vaccination protocols may pose some challenges, however we are hopeful that we will have some support as we try to get things going again,” said Klassen. “Even though there are restrictions in place, the new Kenmor Theatre Concert Collective has been busy planning a series of concerts to help re-ignite the interest in live performance.

First up this week is *Elvis/Johnny Thing* featuring a concert by tribute artist Corny Rempel playing music by Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. It is this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. A livestream option is also available.

Next up will be *Masks Off*, which is a romantic comedy set in a remote getaway in Belize.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior high 'Xplor' drama class students from across the region took to the stage at Morden's Kenmor Theatre recently to perform the play *The Curious Savage*. The show brought both a witty and melancholy look at greed, family, and the source of genuine happiness. The Kenmor Theatre and Candlewick Productions have a number of upcoming events and productions in the works for the weeks ahead.

“With multiple unexpected twists and mistaken identities, we find that no one is truly who they say they are in the end ... or are they?” said Klassen,

who added their cast of actors are keen to get back at it with this Valentine's Day production that includes a dinner theatre option in Manitou. “It

is a fantastic opportunity to reignite the acting bug for the sake of some great theatre.”

Continued on page 16

## Celebrating the Chinese New Year

The lunar new year is celebrated in many cultures, but perhaps no celebration garners as much attention as China's.

The fanfare begins each year around the beginning of February. The Chinese New Year is marked by 12 zodiac symbols, which are rotated on a 12-year cycle.

2022 is The Year of the Tiger, a zodiac sign last celebrated in 2010. The tiger holds the third sign of the Chinese zodiac, based on the tenacity he showed in crossing the perilous river during the Chinese Zodiac Race. The Jade Emperor didn't know which big cat to include in the race, with the mighty lion garnering consideration. However, the lion's raging temper repelled the Emperor, so the tiger was chosen instead.

The tiger has been a prominent symbol in Chinese culture. It is known as the king of all beasts, and is a symbol of strength, bravery and exorcising evils. People born during a Tiger year may live to seek adventure and have an insatiable thirst for knowledge. They also may be a little reckless and restless. Tigers have big energies and are fiercely independent, according to Chinese astrologer Tiffany Lin. Enterprising and risk-takers, Tigers may be natural born entrepreneurs.

The Year of the Tiger is cause for celebration, and this year's festivities begin on February 1.

The lunar new year is celebrated in many cultures, but perhaps no celebration garners as much attention as China's.

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# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Bomb shelter delivered to Israel thanks to Winkler golf tournament



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



By Becca Myskiw

Thanks to the Covenant Cup Golf Tournament in August, a bomb shelter has been donated to a Kindergarten class in northern Israel.

On Aug. 28, Taylor Polstra from Winkler hosted the event with the dream of raising \$50,000 to buy a bomb shelter for the people of Israel. According to bomb shelter provider Operation-LifeShield, the area “has been under constant threat of destruction since the day it was established.”

Terrorist groups in Lebanon and Gaza sent thousands of missiles into Israeli cities each day. Since 2001, over 22,000 have been fired. Those living near the border usually only have seconds to find shelter once the rocket sirens go off. A bomb shelter in areas such as these is the difference between life and death, says Operation-LifeShield.

The golf tournament ended up raising \$51,000, which bought a bomb shelter that fits 35 people, with money left over. The money not used went to OperationLifeShield, who will pay for part of another bomb shelter in an area that needs it.

“It was so amazing to see how all the details came together and how generous the Pembina Valley is,” said Polstra.

The Kindergarten class that received this shelter has 26 students and three teachers, all of whom can fit comfortably in it when necessary. It was delivered and dedicated to the class on Dec. 29 and sits right outside their door so they can get to it in lots of time.

The shelter donated is a cube shape

**“THE PEOPLE IN THE PEMBINA VALLEY ARE TRULY GENEROUS. THEY MADE THIS HAPPEN.”**

that weighs 35 metric tons. It has an internal space of 4.2 square meters, running 2.10 meters high, two meters wide, and three meters in length. It comes with a steel blast door, an emergency window and ladder, wiring, and ventilation.

The dedication video is on Covenant Cup Golf Tournament’s Facebook page for those wanting to see it.

“There was not a dry eye in the place,” said Polstra. “Everyone was crying because they were so relieved and thankful.”

Seventy-two golfers played at the tournament, each paying a registration fee of \$125 to do so. However, Polstra said there were way more donations than golfers, and they surpassed her dream goal.

With the shelter now at the HaMa’apalim Kindergarten class in Maalot, Polstra knows it will save lives.

“Bomb shelters truly save lives,” she said. “The people in the Pembina Valley are truly generous. They made this happen.”

The plaque on the shelter reads: “This shelter was donated by the people of the Pembina Valley in Manitoba, Canada, Ezratek Inc. and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem – Canada for the safety of our dear friends in Maalot-Tarshiha.”

### What's *Your* story?

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Please share your story ideas at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) Phone 204-332-3456

The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

The Covenant Cup Golf Tournament I raised \$51,000 that paid for this bomb shelter that was delivered to a Kindergarten class in Israel last month. The shelter is right outside the classroom, ensuring the students can get to it when necessary.

### > CANDLEWICK, FROM PG. 15

Tickets went on sale Monday for the Manitou dinner theatre shows planned for Feb. 11, 12th and 13th at the Manitou Opera House. Tickets are \$45 with only 65 seats available per night.

The show will then take to the stage the following weekend at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden, minus the dinner attraction. Tickets are \$20 with only 130 seats available per night Feb. 18 and 19, and there will be a livestream option for Fri-

day and possibly Saturday as well if there is enough interest

Also scheduled for later in the month is *A Comedy Thing* With Matt Falk Sat., Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kenmor Theatre. Tickets are \$25 with a livestream option available for local residents.

If you are interested in any of these events, visit [candlewick.ca](http://candlewick.ca). You can also email [tickets@candlewick.ca](mailto:tickets@candlewick.ca) or call the box office at 204-822-7469 for tickets.



# Free ice sculpting workshop returns Feb. 6

By Lorne Stelmach

Ice sculpting is returning to Morden after having received good response when it was introduced here last year.

It won't be in conjunction with Winterfest this year because of the cancellation of that event, but the Pembina Hills Arts Council believe there could be enough interest to carry on with the one-day workshop at Lake Minnewasta.

"First and foremost, I think it's just the chance to try something really different," said Tye Dandridge-Evancio, program and outreach co-ordinator for the gallery. "It's just such a cool opportunity to learn how to do this, to learn a new art form or technique. And I think being able to offer it for free definitely opens it up to more of the community. That's the big thing. We just want to get people out and to try something new."

"There was lots of positive feedback about it and inquiries about whether we were going to be doing it again."

The workshop is planned for Sunday, Feb. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Minnewasta. Participation is free, though you do need to pre-register to secure a spot.

They are looking ideally for groups

of three, and you will need to bring some tools for scraping and carving the ice.

"You will receive all the instruction on how to make your vision for an ice sculpture to come to life," said Dandridge-Evancio.

The arts council is again working with Sputnik Architecture of Winnipeg to host the workshop, which last year attracted about two dozen people who made everything from a mosasaur and a buffalo to Italy's famous Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Leading the workshop will once again be Peter Hargreaves, who is a principal architect at Sputnik and the producer of what he called winter activation events for the company, which has been involved with the river trail warming huts in Winnipeg.

Speaking at last year's workshop, Hargreaves noted they recognized an event like this was a good opportunity to get more involved outside of the city.

"We knew winter projects were going to be essential because you can do these kinds of things outdoors safely. We started thinking about what kinds of projects we could do with community groups," he said.

"We've learned over the last six



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Participants in last year's ice sculpture workshop put the finishing touches on a chilly Leaning Tower of Pisa. This year's class is Feb. 6.

or seven years in Winnipeg how to harvest ice and work with ice, so we thought ice would be a good medium to work with, and Pembina Hills Arts Council responded," Hargreaves said. "I was thrilled ... I grew up in Winkler, so I was happy to do a project out

here."

You can find more information online at [pembinahillsarts.com](http://pembinahillsarts.com) or contact the gallery by email at [info@pembinahillsarts.com](mailto:info@pembinahillsarts.com) or photo at 204-822-6026.

# Students get back to in-school learning

By Lorne Stelmach

Students, families, and staff likely all felt a combination of excitement and trepidation with the return to in-person learning in schools.

There obviously are concerns in the midst of high COVID case counts with the rapid spread of the omicron variant, but many at the same time were also happy to be back while taking all of the necessary precautions, suggested Western School Division superintendent Stephen Ross.

He had visited all of the schools in Morden with the resumption of classes, and he came away encouraged by what he saw and heard.

"I think there was a sense of calm and good learning going on and a good sense of normalcy. I think it's been quite positive," Ross suggested last week.

"There's those families who were uncertain for family health reasons and other factors ... but quite honestly, I think families and kids and staff were quite happy to be back in school."

The province had instituted a one-week remote learning period for most Manitoba students after the holiday break to ensure schools could implement enhanced measures for in-person learning.

There was a phased-in approach to allow K-6 students of critical service workers as well as high-risk students and students with special learning needs in K-12 to attend school if no alternate care was available, but otherwise all other students only returned to in-person learning Jan. 17.

With that though came a few measures that included distributing 500,000 rapid tests to all schools for K-6 students and plans to expand access to rapid tests for all Manitobans as the rapid testing kit supply increases in Manitoba, particularly for schools with high case counts.

As well, it was estimated the province would be distributing at least five million more child and adult medical masks over the next eight weeks to increase supply in schools and support increased demand.

Janice Krahn, interim superinten-

dent of Garden Valley School Division, could not be reached to discuss the return to in-person learning there, but Ross touched on a number of issues and questions around the transition at local schools.

He suggested there had initially been a lack of detail and clarity with some of the information and direction coming from the province.

"We get it a week or two later [after the press conference announcements], and the schools are supposed to be doing it already, so that makes it pretty hard for us," he noted.

"We didn't think there was going to be any remote learning," he added, "but I think that the one week was because they were not able to rollout the test kits for the K-6 kids in a lot of areas of the province before Christmas. We were very fortunate that we got ours on the last day of school, and many of our families were able to pick up their test kits prior to Christmas, but not all."

The magnitude of the surge in cases though makes any sense of trepidation understandable, Ross said.

"Really, who would have foreseen the surge that we saw from Dec. 22 to even Jan. 1 and the uprising of cases? We knew it was going to come at some point, but it sure hit hard."

He remains thankful that much of the Western School Division community has been accepting of the rules and restrictions all along.

"Our community has always been very supportive going along through this ... there's a family here and there who are very concerned, and if there's options that we can help them with, we've done that," said Ross.

"We're not allowed to offer remote learning now like we were a year ago," he added. "We can help families register in the Manitoba remote learning support centre ... but really we have had few people interested in that option."

Getting the information that people want now is also an ongoing challenge, especially now with the province unable to provide accurate PCR test numbers and having moved away

Continued on page 18



## ÉMMS students raise \$1,840 for Cheer Board

École Morden Middle School students and staff worked together last month to support the Morden Christmas Cheer Board. The student council with the help of staff advisors held two fundraisers and raised \$1,840 for Christmas Cheer. The money was presented to Lynn Friesen of the Cheer Board just before the holidays.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# RCMP ask public for help identifying suspect



RCMP SUPPLIED PHOTO

By Voice staff

Pembina Valley RCMP are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect seen trying to use a stolen card at the Co-op Cardlock in Morris earlier this month.

On Jan. 4, police received a complaint of mischief that occurred at a business in Carman.

The initial investigation determined that two company trucks had been broken into over the holiday weekend. One of the vehicle's cardlock fuel cards, stored in the glove box, was missing.

Someone then tried to use that same card at the Co-op Cardlock in Morris at 4:10 a.m. on Jan. 4.

As the investigation continues, offi-

cers are asking for the public to help identify this suspect (see photo at left).

If anyone has information, call RCMP at 204-745-6760 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. You can also provide a secure tip online at [www.manitobacrimestoppers.com](http://www.manitobacrimestoppers.com).

## > LIFE CHANGERS, FROM PG. 10

cent of the humane society's annual operating budget. The Life Changers campaign aims to reach at least 100 monthly donors.

Any amount, large or small, will make a huge difference in what the shelter can do, said Thorne, who cited the example of one monthly donor who since 2016 has donated over \$5,000.

It will all make a meaningful impact in terms of the sustainability of the humane society, said Thorne.

"It's a reliable source of income that we can count on every single month ... when we know a certain amount of money is coming in every month then we don't need to necessarily worry as much about certain things."

You can find more information about how to become a monthly donor by going to the [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca) website and clicking on the donate button.

## > BACK TO SCHOOL, FROM PG. 17

from the close contact notification process in schools.

"I think the whole part about the change in notification to schools again happened quickly without clear communication from the province to parents," Ross suggested. "As school divisions, we have repeatedly asked for earlier and clearer communication to the public on changes that the province is going to make, but we have not yet seen that occur."

"We can only go by what people report to us at school, and so without PCR tests being done for the majority of the population right now ... we know when kids are absent, but kids may be absent for haircuts and they're absent for other things," he continued.

"Our illness numbers in the first few days were low, like they would normally be this time of year," Ross continued. "That doesn't necessarily mean they are that low. We can only go by what people share with us at the school, so it's really hard to have accurate numbers."

He stressed that they continue

to notify public health and share information when it is warranted and needed.

"And we do have a supply of rapid tests now so that we can send tests home to asymptomatic students and staff so they can test and monitor themselves as well."

Meanwhile, the first day of face-to-face classes also brought about what was to be a series of walkouts across Manitoba by students to highlight concerns about limited pandemic protocols in K-12 buildings and the inability to participate in e-learning.

A social media page had listed stu-

## > PVHS, FROM PG. 10

with us on her 100th birthday, that she would have had her full support."

White passed away just a few weeks shy of her Jan. 17 birthday. Her love for animals sparked the social media challenge that encouraged people to donate to their local animal shelter in White's name on that day.

The local effort brought in donations from supporters ranging from individuals to businesses like Valley Fiber and BSI Insurance. The latter pledged

to donate a dollar for every social media engagement on BSI's social media platforms up to \$1,000, and it reached that target within hours.

"They have especially been so behind us in as many ways as they can," said Thorne.

"It was way more than we would have ever expected. We were so thrilled with how exceptional this was for us."

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

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Hawks win two out of three weekend games

By Lorne Stelmach

It would always be a challenge to make a clean sweep of a three game weekend, so winning two out of three is not a bad result for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

The fifth place Hawks unfortunately opened the weekend by being blanked 4-0 by the fourth place Ice in Winnipeg, but Pembina Valley bounced back on home ice in Morden by shutting out Interlake 3-0 Saturday before beating Eastman 5-1 Sunday.

On Friday, the Hawks were stymied despite taking 25 shots on goal, while the Ice took advantage of their opportunities with 28 shots on Pembina Valley netminder Tria Enns as Winnipeg took period leads of 2-0 and 3-0.

The Hawks then peppered Interlake goalie Rachel Hallderson with 55 shots Saturday as Pembina Valley outshot the last place and winless Lightning 55-19. Kaylee Franz got the shutout while goals came in from Abbey Bourdeaud'hui, Anika Braun, and Mya Pearce.

Pembina Valley grabbed period leads of 2-1 and 4-1 Sunday while holding a slight 26-23 edge in shots on goal, with Enns getting the win on 22 saves.

Quinn McLaren had a pair of goals and a three point game for the Hawks with Cambree Martens also contributing a pair and Mackenzie Couling also scored for Pembina Valley.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Interlake Lightning captain Emmerson Mcauley tries to stop Erica Fijala of the Pembina Valley Hawks from completing a pass in Saturday's match in Morden. The Hawks won it 3-0.

The Hawks are now just a game below .500 at 11-12-0 for 22 points, which leaves them seven points behind the Ice and eight up on Central Plains,

and they are now in the stretch run with five regular season games remaining starting with a makeup game this Saturday with the Winnipeg Ice. It

is a home game for the Hawks but will be played in Carman.

## Male Hawks gain ground with pair of wins

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks have gained a little bit of ground in the standings with a four game win streak.

They remain locked in eighth place but improved their position with a pair of wins on home ice this past weekend over the Parkland Rangers.

It was done in dramatic fashion with both games going to shootouts, but

the Hawks prevailed with 5-4 and 7-6 wins to improve to 12-16-2 for 26 points.

Cameron Parr was the hero in game one Saturday as he scored the lone shootout goal in the third round, while Carter Campbell scored twice including the tying goal in the third period.

Marek Miller and Sebastian Hicks also scored for Pembina Valley, while Raiden LeGall made 40 saves with the

Rangers outshooting the Hawks 44-31.

In game two Sunday, Parkland forced overtime with just 20 seconds left in regulation, but Griffin Ayotte won it this time for Pembina Valley in the fifth round of the shootout.

Cohen Thomas and Carter Sotheran scored a pair for the Hawks with the other goals coming from Carter Campbell and Keston Worley, while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 42 saves

with the shots 48-30 in favour of the Rangers.

Pembina Valley is three points back of Parkland and four behind Yellowhead and Southwest while just two ahead of the Winnipeg Bruins.

The Hawks were in Winnipeg to take on the Thrashers Wednesday. They are back in Morden to host Southwest Friday and then in Brandon Saturday to face the Wheat Kings.



# Flyers down Wpg. Freeze 7-2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers had a decisive 7-2 victory over the Winnipeg Freeze Friday night.

Winkler kept firm control through the first two periods, up 3-0 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Trent Sambrook, Mike Svenson, and Dalton Andrew and 10 saves from Malachi Klassen in net.

Period two saw Klassen give up just one goal to the Freeze off of six attempts, while teammates Josh Beauchemin and Jayden McCarthy contributed two more to the Flyers' tally.

Justin Svenson brought the lead to 6-1 with a goal eight minutes into the final frame. Winnipeg got its final of the night off a powerplay a minute later and then Kyle Crewe made it seven for the Flyers as the clock reached its final couple of minutes.

Klassen made 29 saves overall as the Flyers outshot the Freeze 43-31.

Saturday's rematch in Winkler was postponed. A rescheduled date was not available at press time.

The Flyers remain in third place in the MJHL's East Division with a record of 20-13-1-1 for 42 points. They trail the Steinbach Pistons in first place by eight points and the Winnipeg Blues in second place by just two.



Winkler's Justin Svenson tries to get his stick on a loose puck in front of Winnipeg netminder Keegan Gordon.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Nipping at their heels are the Selkirk Steelers in fourth place with 37 points.

Coming up, Winkler is scheduled to host the Freeze Friday night and then play them again in Winnipeg Saturday.

Next week they move on to a series of games against Steinbach.

## LETTER OF INTENT

In other team news, the Flyers have signed a letter of intent with forward

Jayce Legaarden (2004).

The Grandview, MB native has played for the Parkland Rangers in the Manitoba U18 AAA league for the past three seasons. He currently sits in third in the league in goals scored with 35, and 22 assists for a total of 57 points.

Assistant Coach Ryan White says the organization is lucky to have a player like Legaarden.

"He is a natural play maker, who has

figured out the value of going to the blue paint and he is getting rewarded for it this year," he says. "We were lucky enough to get him for a few games this year and got the chance to see him up close and appreciate his hockey IQ, leadership skills and work ethic and that's what really excites us about Jayce.

"He is going to be a big piece for our culture moving forward and we are lucky to have him."

# Twisters remain locked in third in MMJHL standings

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters picked up a couple more wins this past weekend as they fight to keep pace with the

MMJHL leaders.

The 2019-2020 defending champions edged St. Vital 2-1 Friday then took down Fort Garry Fort Rouge 4-3 in a shootout Sunday to make it a success-

ful Winnipeg road trip.

The Twisters spotted the Victorias a first period goal Friday before Riley Goertzen knotted it up in the second and Nico Vigier won it in the third

with an unassisted marker.

Shots on goal were 33-32 in favour of Pembina Valley with Martin Gagnon getting the win in net with 31 saves.

On Sunday, the Twins scored a pair of third period power play goals to draw even with the Twisters and force extra time, where Vigier and TJ Matuszewski scored to win the shootout.

Jordan Keck scored twice in regulation with Goertzen getting the other goal for the Twisters, who got 30 saves from Logan Enns with the shots on goal 36-33 in favour of Pembina Valley.

The Twisters improved to 20-6-4 for 44 points and remain locked in third place. They trail St. James at 53 and Transcona at 50 while being five up on St. Vital.

The Twisters close out January by hosting River East Friday then paying a visit to the Raiders Sunday.

The **Winkler Morden** *Voice*

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**Closing Date: February 7, 2022**

DL Seeds thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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By calling the Box at:

1-204-822-SHOW (7469)

All tickets to be sold prior to the event (no walk-up ticket sales).  
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### EMPLOYMENT



The Redboine Watershed District is currently seeking applicants for the position of

### GROW Program Technician

The GROW Technician will work with landowners to plan, design & implement RBWD GROW Program project activities in the Redboine Watershed District.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post-secondary education or equivalent experience in Environmental Sciences (e.g. Land & Water Management, GIS/Geomatics, Agriculture etc.)
- Experience with GIS software & GPS/Survey Equipment required
- Ability to work independently, meet deadlines & follow a budget
- Organizational skills & the ability to work with members of the public are a must
- Must hold a valid class 5 driver's license
- Experience operating tractors, ATVs, UTVs, chainsaws, and other equipment is an asset

#### DUTIES:

Reporting directly to the RBWD GROW Coordinator, & with guidance from the District Manager and RBWD Resource Technician, the successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Meeting & working directly with landowners in the district
- Planning, surveying, designing and supervising construction of GROW Program projects
- Ensuring GROW Program projects are completed according to approved budgets and with all required permits
- Keeping accurate project files and ensuring GROW Program GIS database is up to date
- Assisting the Resource Technician with surveying, designing and construction of RBWD projects
- Supervising summer staff and organizing summer staff schedules
- Providing regular program updates to the GROW Coordinator & the District Manager
- Assisting with fundraising activities to bring additional external funding into the GROW Program
- Performing miscellaneous office duties & other tasks as required

The RBWD GROW Technician position is a flexible 35-hour work week with pension, and health plan options available.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please submit your resume & salary expectations before 4:00 pm CST on Friday, February 18, 2022 to:

**Redboine Watershed District**  
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## NOTICES

Worried about COVID impacting your business? Advertise in the 32 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging out. Selling something? Have an on-line store to shop at, doing curbside pickup/deliveries? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Start the year off right. Don't let COVID get you down. We are now booking Classified Advertising for 2022. Call us at 204-467-5836 or call MCNA at 204-947-1691 for details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association www.mcna.com

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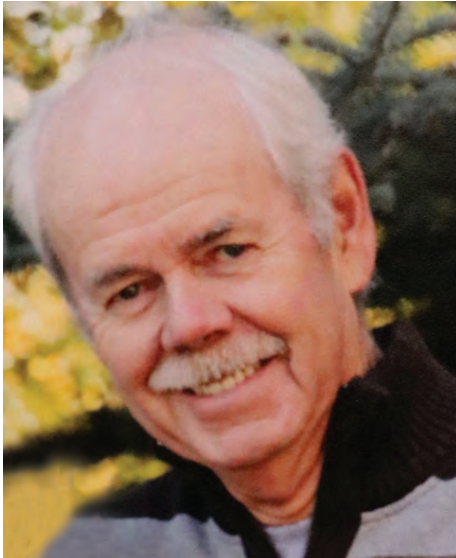
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**BIRTHDAY**



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Born January 31, 1942  
(do the math)  
Farm boy at heart, sales  
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True community member of Morden,  
volunteer fireman and golfer.  
We're so proud of you.  
Thanks for being there for us.  
-We love you,  
Tammy, Mark and Shauna

**IN MEMORIAM**



Ten Years Have Passed  
Gone is the face I loved so dear,  
Silent is the voice I loved to hear.  
Too far away for sight or speech,  
But not too far for thought to reach.  
Sweet to remember him who once was here,  
And who, though absent, is just as dear.  
-Lovingly remembered Judith K.

# Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

**OBITUARY**

## Robert Duane Buelow 1952 - 2022



Robert was born and raised in the Darlingford/Windygates area. He grew up hunting and studying nature. Even as a young child, he could build or fix anything and he grew into a gifted carpenter. There was nothing he could not make with wood or metal. A difficult project to him was like a challenge he would not be defeated by. He carried this philosophy throughout his life and pushed himself for perfection in everything he did. This included growing a beautiful, clean garden. He had a huge heart and gave freely of his time and energy to help anyone in need, though he would never ask for help himself. A man of strong convictions and a great sense of humor, he loved to debate the issues of the day with "the boys" in the coffee shop. Robert truly loved his land in

the valley, but there was nothing he loved more than his wife of 39 years and his children. To him, the sun rose and set on each and every one. No Dad could ever have been prouder than he was. When he became a grandpa, he took proud to a whole new level. His happiest moments were spent with his nine grandchildren. One of his most recent proud moments was teaching his granddaughters about gun safety and giving them their first shooting lesson. There was not a time he could sit in his big chair without a granddaughter snuggling up on his lap. He would also help them put their babies to bed in the doll beds he made for them. Oh, how he loved each and every one of them.

Robert will be greatly missed by his wife, Laura and their four children: son, Travis (Roberta) Buelow, Avery, Heidi, Hailey; daughter, Tiffany (Chris) Carson, Kelby, Logan, Cadence, Sawyer; son, Evan (Kourtney) Buelow; and daughter, Natasha (Tyler) Riglin, Burklee and Denver as well as his brother, Ron Schindel and his family and nephew, Tyson Babey and his family.

He left us far too soon but passed knowing how deeply loved he was. We are sure he is having coffee in Heaven and watching the wildlife. And without a doubt, he will be bragging to everyone about his kids and grandkids.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
In care of arrangements  
wiebefuneralhomes.com



**OBITUARY**



## William Elias 1937 - 2022

Willie Elias, formerly of the Wakeham School District, went to be with the Lord early in the morning on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at Salem Home.

Willie Elias is survived by two sisters, Mary Sawatzky, Betty Wolfe (Cornie); one sister-in-law, Elvira Elias; two brothers, Jake (Pat) and Abe (Joyce); and nine niece and nephews.

Willie was predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Mary Elias; brother, Peter Elias and brother-in-law, George Sawatzky.

A private funeral service was held with interment at the Haskett Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in William's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

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



**OBITUARY**



## Edward Paul Doucette 1940 - 2022

On Saturday, January 15, 2022, Edward Paul Doucette, 81 passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Tabor Home in Morden, MB.

Edward was born February 17, 1940 in Monominto, MB to Emmanuel and Annie Doucette. He was one of seven children. Edward attended school in the Monominto area until grade nine at which time he left school to help on his parents' farm. In 1969, he met his lifetime partner, Doreen and together they raised their four children. They eventually moved to the Morden area. Edward was a kindhearted and humble man who loved his family very much. He worked hard and was a good provider for his family. He enjoyed hobby farming, truck driving, playing cards and lawn darts, watching baseball and hockey

and spending time with his family and friends enjoying good food and live music. He was a wonderful and caring partner, father, grandpa and great-grandpa who always took time to help if someone was in need or just needed to chat. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Rest in peace Dad - we are going to miss you and your million-dollar smile!

Edward will be lovingly remembered by his lifetime partner, Doreen and their children, Carolyn (Robert), Michael, Gail (Nick), Raymond (special friend, Jerilynn) as well as his grandchildren, Jessica (Steve), Joshua, Bryanna, Jackson, Jason, Jefferson, Ravenna, Madeline and six great-grandsons, Carmine, Kavik, Benci, Kiezer, Walker and Lucas.

He was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Evelyn, Violet and Yvonne and his brother, Gordon.

A private memorial was held with ash interment at Waldheim Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank Wiebe Funeral Home for all their thoughtfulness and to Tabor Home for the wonderful care Edward received during his time there.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Edward's memory to the Tabor Home or to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
In care of arrangements  
wiebefuneralhomes.com



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