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# The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 30, 2025

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## Quilts of comfort

Winkler Library clerk Linda Funk with some of the quilts last week's Crochet Marathon generated for patients at Eden. For the full story, see Pg. 10.  
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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# Black Hawk helicopter begins border monitoring

By Voice staff

The RCMP are beefing up security along the Canada-United States border with the addition of a Black Hawk helicopter to monitor potential illegal activity.

The RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region announced last week that the first regular flights with this helicopter along the Manitoba border began Jan. 19.

"The flights will target all illegal activity along the border," a news release explained. "This includes searching for individuals who illegally enter Canada between official ports of entries and for the human smugglers who facilitate their travel. It will also be used to detect and stop illegal smuggling and trafficking of contraband such as illicit drugs into, and out of, Canada."

Police officers will be aboard the helicopters to respond to any illegal activity observed. The aircraft can also be used to help direct border enforcement officers patrolling on the ground

to suspicious activity.

"The addition of this helicopter greatly increases our detection and rapid response capabilities and significantly strengthens border security in the area," said Regional Commander Lisa Moreland. "The RCMP is fully committed to securing our border and will continue to add new technologies and resources across the region as, and when, they are required."

Residents in communities along the border may hear and see the helicopter on a regular basis, the release noted. These are part of normal police operations, RCMP say, and there is no cause for any public safety concern.

## CONSERVATION OFFICERS ON PATROL

On Monday, Premier Wab Kinew shared that Manitoba conservation officers are also patrolling along the border to increase security.

"Our government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of



RCMP PHOTOS

Black Hawk helicopter patrol in Emerson last week.



our southern border, and with Manitoba conservation officers joining the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in this work, Manitoba is doing our part," said Kinew. "Increased eyes and ears will help crack down on drug trafficking, stop unsafe crossings and potentially save lives."

Conservation officers stationed out of Virden, Boissevain, Manitou, Winnipeg, Steinbach, and Sprague are conducting border patrols as part of their work. Patrols are being conducted between ports of entry, focusing on secondary roads and backcountry areas.

# Morden-Winkler planning to roll out accommodation tax

By Lorne Stelmach

Local hotel operators are disappointed with the plans of Winkler and Morden to implement an accommodation tax starting this summer.

Winkler city council recently gave first reading to its bylaw setting out how the accommodation tax will be implemented, while Morden city council is looking at something similar but has not yet tabled it.

The tax will be phased in over the next three years starting at one per cent this year then increasing to two per cent in 2026 and three per cent in 2027. The aim is to generate revenue that will be used to help further grow tourism promotion and attract more events and as a result boost economic development.

"I'm definitely disappointed with the stance that the cities are taking," said Felicia Penner, general manager of the Quality Inn of Winkler.

"We did talk with them early last

year ... asked for a bit of a round table conversation in 2024, and all of the local hoteliers from Morden and Winkler and surrounding area met with both mayors and some councillors from each city," she said. "I feel like we were all quite unified in our stance ... that this will hit our bottom lines."

"I am curious how long after our discussion it took for them to draft the bylaw," she added.

Morden Mayor Nancy Penner did not want to comment before council had approved its bylaw, but Winkler's Mayor Henry Siemens explained it was an idea that both Morden and Winkler have looked at for some time now.

"Our goal here is to do more events to bring more people to our area," said Siemens. "One of the goals was to find something that we could do without going back to our existing taxpayers."

Continued on page 4

# Altona

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# "We've put a lot of effort into the region because we know it's radon-prone"

Health Canada rep trying to get the word out about the dangers of radon

By Lorne Stelmach

The risk posed by radon gas on our health is enough of a danger that Health Canada continues to try to get the word out about it.

On the forefront of that effort here in the Manitoba region is Sandy Hutchison, who was at the Morden library recently for an information session.

The regional radiation specialist for Health Canada notes the central region of the southern Manitoba—including the Morden and Winkler area—is a hot spot in terms of radon, with one estimate suggesting the percentage of homes with high radon levels in the region being as much as 42.6 per cent.

"We've put a lot of effort into that region because we know it's radon prone," said Hutchison. "In the Pembina Valley, a large percentage of homes come above the guideline ... and amongst those that measure above the guideline, a lot of the time they are well above ... that means, that on a population scale, you're seeing a risk that is much higher than the national average.

"We have a couple of things working against us," he noted. "One is the longer heating season ... when your home is sealed up and your heating source is on, that of course is creating warmer air, which will rise."

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. It is invisible, odourless, and tasteless. When it is released from the ground into the outdoor air, it is diluted and not a concern. However, in enclosed spaces, like homes, it can accumulate to high levels and become a risk to health.

Prolonged exposure to high levels

of radon in indoor air results in an increased risk of developing lung cancer. In fact, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

The air pressure inside a home is usually lower than in the soil surrounding the foundation. This difference in pressure draws air and other gases, including radon, from the soil into your home.

Radon can enter a home any place it finds an opening where the house contacts the ground: cracks in foundation floor and walls, construction joints, gaps around service pipes, support posts, window casements, floor drains, sumps or cavities inside walls.

Radon concentration levels will vary from one house to another, even if they are similar designs and next door to each other.

"It is present in almost every indoor environment, and the only way to know your radon level is to test for it," Hutchison emphasized.

He noted it is great that they have partners in the region like South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR) to help provide people with testing kits.

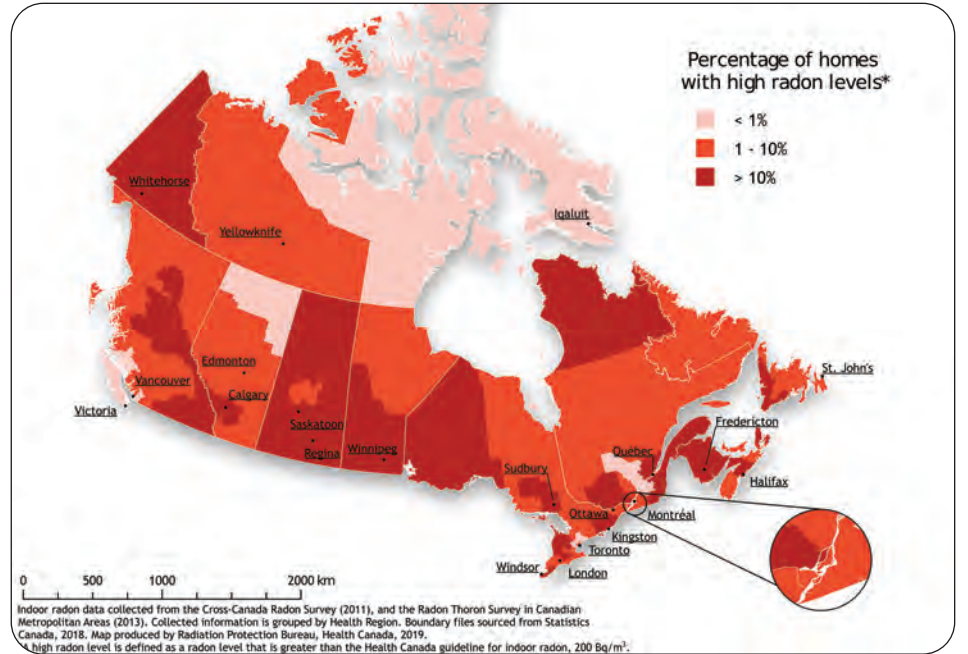
"It's fantastic having them on board. I've worked with them for a number of years, and they've reached out to some local businesses to offer that solution, often at a reduced cost," he said.

Erika Friesen, social media and project co-ordinator for SCCR, said it is important that they help raise radon awareness and provide resources for the region.

"Every November for radon awareness month, we try to run a special program to help make test kits more accessible," she noted. "The last two years we have partnered with Polar Plumbing out of Winkler. They provide free test kits to anyone within our service area.

"All year round, if anyone has inquiries about how to locate a test kit, we do help guide them in the right direction, and if anyone is struggling to

Continued on page 12



SUPPLIED IMAGE

South Central Manitoba is a hot spot for radon, with as many as 42.6 per cent of homes reporting high levels of the gas.

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# Business as usual for PTM in 2024

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was largely business as usual for the Pembina Threshermen's Museum.

There were no major projects to be done, but the pioneer village in the highway corridor between Morden and Winkler is always busy, not only with its variety of events but also keeping up with taking care of the many heritage buildings and items in its vast collection.

"We didn't do any huge capital projects this last year. We did smaller ones," shared Marlene Loewen, who took over as board chair from Ike Elias at the museum's annual meeting last week.

"The barbershop got a new floor and a bit of a facelift ... and they built an extension on to one of the storage sheds," said Loewen, adding they also purchased a 40-foot storage container. "It's just a little extra storage for all of our surplus stuff."

"And we finished redoing our parking lot ... some smaller things for the kitchen and dining hall," she said. "So we feel like we're still going forward even though it maybe wasn't huge leaps like the year before, but there's always things that have to be done."

It is an ongoing challenge to keep up with everything.

"Maintenance has always been huge, and the storage has always been a big factor," said Loewen. "Going forward, this next year, there's a few of the smaller buildings that need shingles ... our dining room is going to need some new shingles, so those are on our agenda for this year."

"We will see where we can perhaps save a few bucks and maybe do it as economically as possible, but we still want to do something that is for the long term. It's not going to be just a temporary fix."

Loewen felt like they had a good response last season to their various events, including Pioneer Days, Heritage Days, and Reunion Days.

"Our main events were really good. We had a fairly good turnout for the Heritage Days ... and then the Reunion Days were good," she said, adding they had a second Pioneer Days on the August long weekend in conjunction with a large family reunion that brought in upwards of 600 people. "It was just a really good weekend, and they seemed to really enjoy it too."

"And we had the Tractor Trek here. We partnered with Eden Founda-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum hosts several special event days throughout the season to bring history to life. Last summer's celebrations all saw good turnout, the board of directors shared at their AGM last week.

tion," Loewen added. "We served pie and coffee at the end of it, so that was kind of really a fun thing."

Meanwhile, the year also turned out positively financially.

"We did well. We were over what we had budgeted for, so our income was more than our expenses, so were quite happy with it."

Looking ahead, Loewen said a lot of their focus, as always, will be on getting more people involved and engaged to support the museum.

"Of course, we're always short of volunteers," said Loewen. "There's always the ongoing challenge of finding enough volunteers to man all of the stations and clean up after everybody. We do have a great bunch of people. They're very dedicated and hard working, but we sometimes just need more of them."

"We're looking forward to starting up with some more fundraisers here coming up ... we're starting to gear up."

## > ACCOMODATION TAX, FROM PG. 2

"We looked at it fairly carefully, and we approached the hotels a couple of years ago the first time, and obviously they weren't particularly happy with the idea," he acknowledged. "We brought it back to them about mid last year, and we had the majority of our local hotels there ... we had a really good meeting."

When it first came up for discussion, Siemens said council heard the message that the time was not good then with the lingering impact of the pandemic, so it was postponed to start July 1, 2025 with a plan to stagger the fee and work up to three per cent by 2027.

"We felt that we did a good job of hearing their concerns while still trying to find a way to deal with what we needed to have happen," he suggested.

Siemens doesn't necessarily see the tax as steering some people away from the region.

"Certainly, that is not our hope," he said. "It's never made a difference where I've booked a hotel. I'm looking for a hotel that is close to the amenity or the event that I have and at a price point that makes sense to me."

"We believe this will, in fact, over the not too distant amount of time,

help us to significantly grow the number of overnight events that will generate more room stays," he said. "There are many communities that just put these dollars into general revenue. We specifically in our bylaw created four categories of things that

these funds can be used for."

According to the bylaw, the money will be used on new event acquisition, current event retention, enhancing economic development, and encouraging tourism in the City of Winkler.

Hank Froese, president of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce, sees

some positives and negatives from the plan.

"One of the most important things, I think, is that it's a regional approach ... it's going to be less of an impact," he said. "The regional approach at least is a positive about it."

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## BREAKING THE BYLAW DOWN

Here are some of the key aspects of the bylaw tabled by Winkler city council on the accommodation tax:

- one per cent of the purchase price per night of accommodation in the year 2025.
- two per cent of the purchase price per night of accommodation in the year 2026.
- three per cent of the purchase price per night of accommodation in the year 2027 and beyond.

The aim is to generate revenue to be placed in reserve funds for the purpose of promoting and supporting new event acquisition and current event retention while enhancing economic development and encouraging tourists

It does not apply to the following:

- accommodation where the pur-

chase price is \$30 or less per night or \$210 or less per week.

- accommodation provided to patients or residents in a hospital, a sanatorium, a facility designated by regulations under The Mental Health Act, a personal care home or a residential care facility licensed under The Social Services Administration Act or a residence or accommodation supplied to patients and/or family of patients while attending for medical care and treatment.
- accommodation provided to a student by an educational institution while the student is registered at and attending the institution.
- accommodation supplied by employers to their employees in premises operated by or on behalf of the employer.

- a time share arrangement.
- accommodation provided to evacuees or as provided on a temporary basis by the provincial or federal government, or any other agency.

- tent or trailer sites supplied by a campground, tourist camp or trailer park.

- a hospitality room in an establishment that does not contain a bed, is not in a suite that contains a bed and is used for displaying merchandise, holding meetings or entertaining.

The use of accommodation tax funds includes new event acquisition, current event retention, enhancing economic development and encouraging tourism in the City of Winkler.



# The healing power of music

By Lorne Stelmach

The regular musical jam sessions that take place at the Morden Activity Centre are about much more than just entertainment.

The twice-a-month Healing Power of Music sessions make a real difference for people like Jim Stow and Bill Watson.

For Stow, music has been integral to his recovery from a stroke, and it provides a strong connection for Watson as he continues to deal with increasing dementia.

"It makes me feel like I'm accomplishing something and that I'm worth something. The applause helps," Watson said after the jam session held last Wednesday afternoon.

"And he really gets joy out of it," said Sally Marsolais, a Morden resident whose family Watson lives with. "This is his favorite thing ... this is what he looks forward to the most."

Stow had been spending winters in Arizona, and it was while he was there that he had a stroke.

"After I had my stroke, I couldn't talk. I had to learn from the beginning by trying a few new words every day," Stow said in an email interview. "I was reading at Kindergarten level—one word at a time but no sentences."

They flew home about six weeks after it happened, and that was when a revelatory moment occurred.

"Our son picked us up at the airport to drive us back to Carman. He had his three year old daughter Emily with him. Conversation was still near impossible, so part way home our son said, 'Dad, why don't you sing Emily that song you used to sing to us when we were kids?'"

"I cautiously started to sing, and

every word came out perfectly for all three verses," he recalled. "Our son looked at my wife and said 'where did that come from?' It was at that moment that I realized that I would be able to talk again."

"For this reason, I wanted to start a jam session in the Morden Activity Centre because I believe that music can help heal the brain," said Stow.

A fire in Portage la Prairie left Watson homeless, and he eventually ended up at Boundary Trails Health Centre. It was there about a year ago when he was diagnosed with dementia, and he then came to live in Morden with Marsolais.

"We picked him up on a Thursday, and by the following Monday, I recognized that the Bill that we knew, this was not him," she recalled.

"Bill has stabilized in the last year. His health has significantly improved, and he is doing really well," Marsolais noted, adding that about a month and a half ago another doctor confirmed the dementia.

Watson lamented that he lost almost everything aside from a guitar.

"You've got no freedom anymore. That was a big thing," he said of the loss of his driver's license as well, admitting that he had contemplated suicide at one point "not because I lost anything, but because I felt useless."

He touched on his day-to-day reality at the moment.

"I may have dementia, but I'm not as deep into it yet as I will be ... but I do notice that my memory isn't what it used to be," he said. "It's like I stopped in a middle of a song there because I couldn't remember anything ... it was a blank."

Watson then reflected on what music does for him.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Jim Stow (at the microphone) and Bill Watson (far right) have found the jam sessions at the Morden Activity Centre to be an amazing outlet as they deal with health challenges.

"It tests my memory. I find memory coming back when I play music," he said. "I've always played music. I've got 60 years of performing in public."

Marsolais related how they might occasionally do karaoke and try to think of songs.

"I'll pick a song, and he say, oh, I know that song, and then he just sings along. He knows the words, and they just come like that," she said.

She also recalled how he got a song book at Christmas and thought he wouldn't know the songs.

"I said, Bill, you probably know most if not all of them. I don't know any of them, so we went through the whole song book. There were a few old school English ones that he didn't know, but he knew them ... just looking at it, he didn't recognize it, but as soon as he hears the music, the words, it takes him back and the words just flow out of him."

Marsolais sees how music stirs emotions for Watson and still sees him occasionally start writing.

"He'll get his book, and he'll be writ-

ing down words, and that's one of the ways that he expresses his emotions as well and his thoughts and his history ... he writes about things that he knows," she said.

"I used to have a repertoire of over a thousand songs without a book. Now, I'm down to about 30," Watson said. "It's in there, but it's hard to get them out."

As a lead musician for the jam sessions, Dave Stobbe noted how they also benefit him as well.

"If I play, I keep my skills up, but more importantly, I get to mix with people, and I think it keeps me sharp," he said. "We often think that it's for the audience to have some healing, but I think us musicians on stage are experiencing some of those similar things as well."

"We don't know the back stories of people and what they have gone through, but when they share things, it's a pretty impressive experience, and I think it's similar for the audience."

## > ACCOMODATION TAX, FROM PG. 4

"It's good that it's going to be allocated to a specific purpose," he added, saying he recognizes the possible benefit of an additional source of revenue for things like tourism promotion.

"It increases the cost for the visitors, though," he acknowledged. "Accommodation costs will rise ... it may be a deterrent to some visitors."

"I think it's at least been discussed well in advance, and it's a phased in approach, which will be helpful I think."

Clare Agnew, executive director of the Morden Chamber of Commerce, expressed some reservations about the tax.

"We're concerned if it impacts our local businesses, however if this money increases tourism and brings more people to the community, it hopefully increases business at our hotels and accommodations."

"Hopefully, it will pay off for the local accommo-

dation businesses."

For her part, Penner suggested the hoteliers thought it would have at least been helpful if they could be part of a committee to provide their input on how the funds might be used.

"Where is this money going to go ... what really is their intent with it?" she asked, citing the examples of perhaps infrastructure or even just city beautification. "These seem like petty questions, but these are things we talked about a year ago, and they had no answers for it."

"We shouldn't be the only industry having those costs," she added.

Penner wondered if the cities are underestimating the potential impact of the tax overall.

"That extra cost per room does add up," she said. "If you're booking hotel rooms, you're looking for the best deal."

"It is something we may have to subsidize. The

hoteliers will have to adjust their rates by that three per cent ... so that we're not losing our guests."

"We all want more tourism business," she continued. "We're all on the same page about that ... but somehow we were able to pull off the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Esso Cup ... somehow we did those things without an accommodation tax."

"At a time of such inflation and financial uncertainty and economic uncertainty, many of our guests just can't afford an extra three per cent," she suggested. "We showed the data and we showed how the incremental costs to our guests would ultimately hit our bottom line."

"We talked about how the profit margins are smaller than many other industries in hospitality and hotels in particular and how our industry is really still recovering after the pandemic."

# The Voice



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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## A bishop's courage

**T**hese days my thoughts often drift to history and to times such as ours.

The world is divided, the idea of a centre where extremes can meet and dialogue toward common solutions is not only non-existent, but the very mention brings mockery and laughter.

We are at war and the casualties are mounting. As is most often the case in war it is the most vulnerable, and the least powerful, that are caught in the crossfire between sides and brutalized.

In another era long ago in Italy a man I have come to admire by the name of Antonio Gramsci said, "To tell the truth is a revolutionary act." He said this in 1919 within the context of his own divided and conflict-ridden culture.

In times of conflict and strife it takes courage to stand publicly and speak truth to people in power. It takes courage to voice opinions contrary to the direction the powerful would seek to lead us. But the ability to speak critically in the public space to the powerful as we seek to hold them accountable is a cornerstone of democracy. We value this right as one of the highest we hold.

One day after the inauguration of President Donald Trump the Episcopal Bishop of Washington directly addressed him during a prayer:

"Mr. President. Millions have put

their trust in you and, as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now. There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and independent families, some who fear for their lives. The people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings; who labor in poultry farms and meat packing plants; who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shifts in hospitals. They...may not be citizens or have the proper documentation. But the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurudwaras and temples. I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away. And that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here. Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land."



**By Peter Cantelon**

It took an enormous amount of courage for Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde to speak those words as she stood alone at the front of a church filled with some of the most powerful people in the world during a televised service.

Nothing Budde said was untrue. There are people who are afraid. There are people who seek mercy. We have been asked to be merciful.

Budde's words were not even critical, they were simply a call for mercy. Have mercy on those least powerful. It could have come straight out of Christ's Sermon on the Mount – "blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy."

In her singular act Budde has become a model for how to speak truth to power. She spoke graciously. She spoke directly. She spoke fearlessly. Most importantly, she used her position to give voice to the voiceless.

Before you consider reacting to what Budde said ask yourself why it makes you feel the way it does. Ask yourself further if you want to live in a country or a world where we feel or are told that voices like Budde's should be silenced.

I for one do not want that kind of world.

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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• FAITH FOCUS

# In search of peace

**P**ace—where can it be found? Peace is a concept that is described in the Bible from cover to cover. Key teachings are given but illustrations are also given—stories of the failure to experience peace, and of efforts to make peace, are recorded in the Old and New Testaments.

We need to be careful that we do not simply think of peace as a psychological condition we can achieve through

self-discipline of the mind and body. The Old Testament is very clear in demonstrating that peace is not found within us, but is something God can give to us in our time of need.

Every one of us is guilty of saying and doing things that did not contribute to peace in specific circumstances, and the resulting pain can linger. In Isaiah 26:3, 4 we read “You (the Lord) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD God is the eternal Rock.”

We love to read in Matthew and



By Randy Smart

Luke as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ. We are reminded that there were people who were burdened with their sin, and some righteous souls who were eagerly waiting for that day when the promised Messiah would come to be among them. They understood that peace was from God and that God is concerned about the salvation of the whole person. The shepherds and many righteous people responded with joy as they heard of Jesus, the Christ, but Herod, the political ruler of that place, responded in violence. God instructed Joseph and the young family had moved to a safe place, a place of peace in regards to their immediate needs.

Jesus grew up and in his teaching to his disciples before his death he said, “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with

you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:25-27).

One author stated “God gives a sense of wholeness and success to the business of living, which is marred only by human inadequacy and sin.”

We have begun a new year. I am not sure how much old baggage we have dragged into the year with us but we should all be aware that God offers to us a way to live at peace with Him and as a result to begin to learn to live at peace with others.

God also wants us to be agents of His peace to the world around us. The opportunities will come in all kinds of daily encounters. With God’s help we can model, we can display, we can speak about the peace of God to a world that is wound up very tight in self, pride, arrogance and despair.

*Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.*

• DON'T MIND THE MESS

# Snow angels and silly snowmen

**A**fter a fresh dumping of snow, my granddaughter insisted we play outside. Now, the attention span of a five-year-old is kind of like a squirrel, so I wasn’t too worried about either of us getting frostbite, or even getting our mittens wet.

I was giving it 10 minutes tops before boredom set in, and she’d insist on going back indoors, where it was warm and dry. Then we could build another Mr. Potato Head person, chug some eggnog, and jump right back into an episode of Bluey.

After a scavenger hunt for mittens and toques, she made a bee-line for the swing set. “Watch me, Grandma! I’m flying through the snowflakes!” she shouted.

And then, just like that, she was done. “I wanna go inside,” she announced, heading for the door.

But by then, a long-neglected child

within had woken. I turned to her with my best Disney princess smile and asked, “Do you wanna build a snowman?”

Her response was quick and unexpected. “Nope.”

But I was undaunted. “Oh, come on. It will be fun,” I insisted. She frowned, parked herself on the snow-covered picnic table, crossed her arms, and watched her grandma transform into a little girl, creating a tabletop snowman, complete with twigs for arms, a red pepper smile, and Mr. Potato Head eyes.

I stood back and admired it as if it was my opus. My gift to humanity, or at least to every stranger passing by.

“Can we go in now?” she asked, jumping down from the table.

But the child in me wasn’t done yet. I was drunk on fresh air and Christmas joy, channeling that little farm girl who used to spend full days exploring a yard that had magically transformed into a winter wonderland. Back then, we had two TV channels on a good day, and our toy selection was minimal. A good snowfall opened all kinds of doors to adventure.

Eyeing the soft, white drifts across my yard, I said, “Let’s make snow angels.”

“Nope,” she said, running for the door. I dragged her back to the middle of what used to be my lawn and said, “Okay, well if you don’t want to make an angel, then watch me make

one.”

She crossed her arms again, patiently indulging this middle-aged woman who apparently had lost her ever-loving mind. Now mind you, I had not made a snow angel since I was roughly her age. My legs are not as nimble as they once were, and getting back up is a bit more of an effort.

Regardless, with a smile rivalling the snowman’s, I spread my arms and allowed myself to fall backward into the two feet of fluff.

The snow wasn’t quite as deep or as soft as it looked, so the impact was a bit harder than I anticipated. But never mind. I started breathing again, and I’d check for paralysis later. I moved my arms and legs with delight, up and down, back and forth, forming the dress and the wings of my angel.

It felt so wonderful, staring up at the sky, as my granddaughter smiled down at me. “But now you have to get up, Grandma.”

That’s the thing about snow angels.

If you don’t position your feet and hands just right, you ruin it. As kids, I think we must have had some kind of levitational skills. We’d hop back up, and our angels were beautifully intact.

I tried to sit up

without the use of my hands, and it just wasn’t happening. I tried placing my feet wide, so I could bounce up. Also, no longer possible. At what point did I lose my mobility? Maybe somewhere between baby number six and the day the last one got married.

I lurched clumsily to my feet, trying not to harm my beautiful angel, but the result was not pretty. She still had wings, but she looked like she’d been attacked by a bear.

“See, look at Grandma’s beautiful angel. Don’t you want to make one too?”

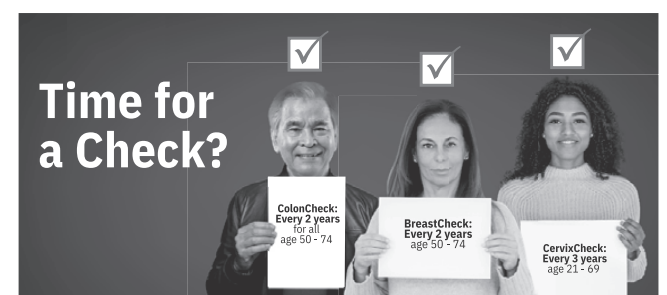
“Nope.”

Gazing down at my desecrated creation, I didn’t blame her.

The wind has mercifully covered this heavenly creature. But the snowman is still perched on my picnic table, leering at every passerby. Someday when I become a real angel, maybe this little girl will remember the day her grandma floundered in the snow like a crazy person, just to show her how to have fun. And maybe she’ll do the same for her grandkids, and say, “Look at my beautiful angel. It looks just like my Grandma’s.”



By Lori Penner



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# Connecting cultures

By Lorne Stelmach

Personal accounts of the journeys of refugees and newcomers who fled their homelands to start new lives in the Pembina Valley were the focus of an event in Morden Saturday afternoon.

Connecting Cultures Through Stories was an initiative organized through Regional Connections at the Youth For Christ Warehouse featuring stories from refugees and newcomers who found their way to this region.

The lead organizer shared that his hope was simply to build some greater compassion and understanding in the community.

"I've been working with the program for three years now, and this is our first time doing something like this and sharing their stories with the community," said Russell Collantes, Resettlement Assistance Program co-ordinator. "I think this will be best opportunity to let our community know that some of these clients have gone through so many challenges in their lives."

The shared stories were read out by volunteers because the organizers were sensitive to people wanting to keep their identities anonymous.

In addition, there was a photo exhibit with images from the perspective of refugees or newcomers to Canada.

"We had a photo gallery that shows what our refugee clients are thankful for, and there's meaning behind each

photo," explained Collantes.

The stories offered a variety of accounts of oppression as well as varying forms of abuse.

One offered an account of living in fear and amongst violence and making the difficult decision to escape and even resorting to a human smuggler to get to freedom.

"There was no time to rest, as we had to keep moving," the person wrote, going on to describe the feeling of eventually getting refugee status in Canada.

"I felt an over-abounding sense of safety ... I had a new opportunity to build a better future for my family."

The process of settling in Canada was challenging with countless challenges including attending English classes and having the children adjust to school here.

"I am grateful every day for the opportunity that has been given to us ... this is a new chapter for my family, and we will never forget the kindness."

Another story started in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, which was described as "a place where freedom was a distant dream."

The family was originally from Burma and had to flee into exile for safety.

"Life in the camp was harsh and growing up there felt like existing without a future," the person wrote.

They finally arrived in Canada during the winter, but the cold didn't dissuade them.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

At Regional Connections' Connecting Cultures Through Stories event Saturday, Cristine Hona Cayona shared a story of a local newcomer's experience coming to Canada.

"My thoughts were only on my children's future and their safety and the possibilities that lay ahead," the person wrote. "For the first time in my life, someone was accepting us ... I'm doing this for the future of my children, for their opportunities and their dreams."

Another story described having come to Canada from Cuba.

"I desperately wanted to change my reality ... I worked hard and saved up as much as I could," the person shared. "I felt a mix of emotions. I had so much hope for a better future for myself and my son, but at the same time, my heart was heavy."

"My son and I are truly grateful for this opportunity," the writer added, noting how they had learned to take things a day at a time and overcome each challenge with the hope for a

better future.

Collantes hoped the stories provided an idea of the journeys of people who have overcome much to get here to where they are now.

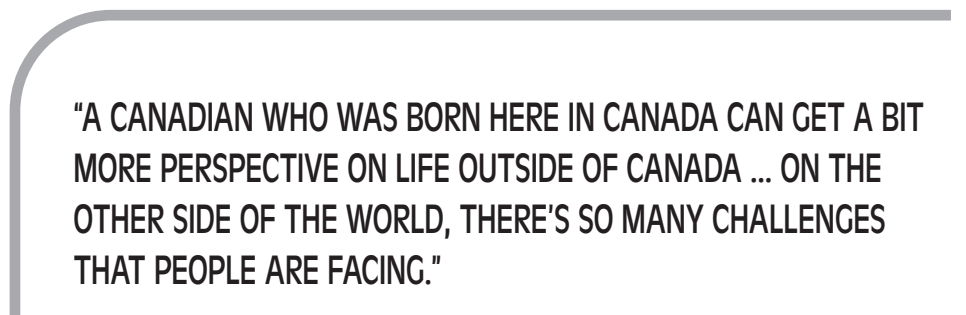
"They're still adjusting to the new culture in this area," he said. "It's also just a way of showing appreciation and empathy towards them. A Canadian who was born here in Canada can get a bit more perspective on life outside of Canada ... on the other side of the world, there's so many challenges that people are facing there."

"We could all be a little more thankful or appreciative of what we have here," Collantes concluded. "It's even just a way of understanding them better ... that's our purpose ... that people from the community would better understand."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Above: Tuesday and Promise Ebuade provided some musical entertainment for the afternoon. Right: There was also a photo exhibit featuring images from the perspective of immigrants or refugees.





# Abstract art on display in WAC's second gallery

By Ashleigh Viveiros

For the first time in awhile, Winkler Arts and Culture will have not one but two exhibitions on display for the month of February.

The Park St. gallery is once again making use of its second display space upstairs starting this Thursday, filling it with the work of artist Ngozi Okoye.

WAC executive director Jered Hildebrand is excited to reopen the space for art shows (it's mainly been used for educational programming of late), given that the main floor gallery is pretty much booked up for the entire year.

"So that means that, other than the members' show, we don't have a lot available, especially when you have artists that have maybe just a few works that they want to show," he says. "We're reserving six months out of the year just to have it wide open for members to show their work off for one or two months, depending on the interest."

For Okoye, it's the perfect opportunity to showcase her abstract art pieces. This will be her first Canadian exhibition since moving to Winkler a

year ago from Nigeria.

"It's very exciting, because since I moved to Canada I haven't seen like anything similar to what I do," she says. "So I'm very excited to introduce my art to this community."

"I'm an artist that likes to create art with unconventional materials," Okoye shares. "So mostly mixed media—paintings with lots of textures and a variety of other stuff."

Okoye utilizes materials ranging from wine corks to stones to provide depth to her pieces, which aren't your typical paintings of landscapes or portraits.

"My art is very unusual," she says, noting there's room for interpretation in the eye of the viewer as to what they see in her work, which can often be displayed in any orientation. "Personally, for me, I want my art to touch people in the way that they are inspired."

"I would love my art to be something that a lot of people can relate to, in the sense that maybe when they look at it they feel better or they feel hopeful."

Okoye has always had an artistic bent, dabbling in everything from painting to sculpture to jewelry.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The art of Ngozi Okoye (above) is on display at WAC this month.



"It's something that I've always, always loved to do, because it's something that comes naturally to me," she says. "Many times I can just be sitting down meditating and then something will come to my head and I have to jot it down so I can recreate it."

Mixed media has given her the freedom to get really creative—just about anything can be used to make a piece.

"Nothing is ever set in stone, because today I'm [using] paper and tomorrow I might be using glass and the next day it might be stone," Okoye says. "That's how my art is. It's different kinds of materials, so I have to have a very open mind to try

new things, new materials.

"It's just like recycling," she observes. "Nothing is wasted ... everything can be used to create something beautiful."

In addition to Okoye's show, the WAC is also welcoming Shirley Elias' *Spectrum* exhibition in the main gallery starting Feb. 6. Stay tuned for a story on that show in a coming edition of the *Voice*.

Closer at hand, the gallery has its first Back 40 Festival Coffeehouse this Friday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. featuring local artists covering the music of The Highwaymen. There's free admission and a cash bar.

The ***Voice***

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# Afghans for Eden

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Despite the frigid weather conspiring to keep people at home, last week's Afghans for Eden crochet-a-thon at the Winkler Library resulted in four finished blankets and several more in the works.

The library put out an open call on Tuesday, Jan. 21 for people to stop in and help crochet afghan squares or assemble finished squares into blankets to be donated to the patients of Eden Health Care Services.

Fifteen people stopped by throughout the day to help out. Numerous donations of completed blankets, yarn, and squares were also made in advance of the event.

"The weather was not in our favour yesterday, but you take that into account when you're planning a January event," said organizer and library clerk Linda Funk on Wednesday. "I was pleasantly surprised by how many people came out."

Four blankets were ready to go as a result of donations, two more are well underway, and a stack of 279 squares are awaiting assembly as a result of the event. As well, 2,050 grams of

yarn have been donated towards the project so far this year.

While the crochet marathon is a once-a-year event, the library accepts donations of finished afghans, squares, and yarn year-round. Until the end of February, the Little Yarn Barn in Winkler (169 George St.) is offering 20 per cent off select yarns in support of the project. Mention "Warmth in Winter" at the store.

A basket with yarn and needles is always set up in one of the library's reading areas for anyone who wants to stop by and sew for a spell.

"We never stop, so the numbers just keep going up and up," Funk said, noting anyone who wants to help assemble some of the hundreds of squares in the library's possession is welcome to get in touch with her there to volunteer their sewing skills.

"We've got a whole bunch of colour coordinated ones that should be easy to put together," she said. "Whatever style people want to use to put them together is fine—sew, crochet, something fancy, something plain. As long as it holds together in the wash, we're good ... they're all warm and they're all beautiful."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Last week's Crochet Marathon at the Winkler Library generated hundreds of afghan squares that volunteers will turn into blankets for patients at Eden.

The afghans are given to patients once they complete their mental health treatment at Eden's psychiatric hospital and are headed home.

"It's sort a gift to you from the community of Winkler. An extra hug to carry with you," Funk said.

It's a gift that is most appreciated by the patients, shared Irma Klassen, Eden's volunteer coordinator.

It's a privilege she said, to be able to pass on to patients these "beautiful gifts of comfort and warmth as a

reminder that there is a caring community that supports them with well wishes as they continue to cope with and work towards mental health recovery."

The project has inspired others in the community to give back in a similar way, Klassen shared, resulting in 30 afghans being donated to Eden over the last few years.

"A big thank you to all who participated by donated time and resources to make afghans for EMHC," she said.

## Stanley council okays substantial capital lot levies increase

By Lorne Stelmach

New development in the RM of Stanley will be coming with a substantially increased cost for the developers.

Council recently gave final approval to a revised bylaw that increases the capital lot levies that will be charged, and it basically comes down to the idea of growth needing to help pay for growth.

What had previously been a levy of \$2,500 will now be \$16,600 per new lot. For properties designated as rural clusters, it will be \$13,600 per new lot, while properties in the highway corridor will be charged \$22,500 per acre of land being subdivided. All other properties will be charged \$11,400 per new lot.

"It's a lot more ... it's substantially higher," acknowledged Reeve Ike Friesen, who noted the capital lot levies had not increased in the RM for a

number of years.

"It was very much needed," he said. "We're doing what a lot of municipalities are doing now. It's happening right across all municipalities. For us, we were just seeing with the expenses that we weren't keeping up ... we weren't staying on top of it for the future."

"We were trying to be very careful to not chase away development," he added. "It was a tough decision for everyone."

The increase came about following a review done with a consulting firm, and it was found that the capital lot levies had not kept pace with significantly increased costs.

The funds collected through the levies will go into a variety of reserve funds for municipal infrastructure ranging from sewer and water to roads and recreation.

"All taxpayers were paying for a lot

**"IT IS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE ... THERE NEEDS TO BE A GREATER SHARE FROM THE DEVELOPERS."**

of that type of infrastructure when it was needed," said Friesen, suggesting there was a need to put more of it on the developers. "As development was continuing to happen ... we needed to be prepared for all of the extra expenses that will be coming with all of the growth."

Stanley CAO Terry Penner noted the actual costs faced by the municipality were significantly higher than what was being paid when the fee was \$2,500.

The new fee of \$16,600 represents about 60 per cent of the total associated costs of development, with the

municipality responsible for 40 per cent.

"So it is a substantial increase," he also acknowledged. "It is an effort to try to recapture some of the future anticipated cost of development and share those together with the developers."

"As time goes on and as the infrastructure ages, there's significant costs to maintain that stuff," said Penner. "It's not just Stanley. It's all of the municipalities right across Canada who are taking about this ... there needs to be a greater share from the developers."

*The* **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?



# Winterfest coming up Feb. 8

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's annual celebration of the community's cultural diversity is now in its 15th year, and organizers feel it has really taken hold as an important event for the city.

"It's become a really big event already. There's lots of different people coming out for it," said Shelly Voth, immigration co-ordinator for the City of Morden and a member of the Winterfest organizing committee.

"It's a draw for local people for sure. It's also something that I think eventually can draw people from outside of the area as well," said Voth, who added it is great especially to engage newcomers in the community. "It's a great way to get them involved, and it's also a great way for people to see people who maybe are their neighbours or co-workers but kind of in their own element."

The Morden Multicultural Winterfest began not only as a celebration of the winter season but also the growing multiculturalism and diversity of Morden.

The overall goal remains the same: giving longtime area residents and newcomers alike the chance appreciate all the different cultures in Morden and just see the different people

who call the community home.

Set for Saturday, Feb. 8, Winterfest is following the same format as the last two years with separate pavilions in different locations. Each pavilion will feature entertainment including dancing and/or music as well as food and snacks, cultural displays, and other activities.

"You can take in all of these different things for free," said Voth, who added their aim is to have "something for everybody. There's all kinds of different demographics of people who come out ... there really is something for everybody."

"Each of the pavilions will have live performances, and each will have food samples from those particular cultures. Each of the pavilions will have a table for a bunch of different countries."

"There's also another addition this year ... there's going to be a kids activity at each of the pavilions," Voth noted. "We're hoping to get more young families out."

Another new addition is the inclusion of an Indigenous cultural showcase put on by the Truth and Action Working Group at the 500 Stephen Community Centre.

"That adds another indoor pavilion, and other than that we have four

Pavilions will be set up all over Morden to share live performances, food, and displays on the vast array of cultures that call the community home.

VOICE  
FILE PHOTO



more indoor pavilions and the outdoor pavilion at the lake," said Voth.

The Canadian pavilion including an ice sculpture workshop and other outdoor activities will be at Lake Minnewasta. Otherwise, there will be the east Asian pavilion at the Access Event Centre, the south Asian pavilion at Westside Community Church, an African pavilion at the Morden Activity Centre, and the Europe and Latin American pavilions at École Discovery Trails.

Transportation will be available to take people from one pavilion to the next.

"There's a few of the pavilions where parking could be an issue," noted Voth. "So you can park your car wherever you can get to and then

you can take a bus to each pavilion for free."

The pavilions all run from noon to 5 p.m. but people of course will be free to enjoy activities at the lake otherwise for as long as they want.

Voth encourages everyone to get an event passport.

"We've got a great lineup of prizes. We have prizes for passports, so everybody can pick up a passport and collect stamps at the different pavilions and at the end, they can put their passport in for a draw," she said. "Each pavilion will also have its own draw for prizes."

For more information, check out the Morden Multicultural Winterfest on social media, including Facebook.

# City of Morden launches accessibility survey

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is offering residents an opportunity to offer their input on making its facilities and services more accessible.

A brief survey is inviting Mordenites to offer their thoughts on how they access city facilities and services and what may be needed to overcome any barriers than exist. Under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act, municipalities are required to review their accessibility action plans every few years.

"The survey is being put out basically to see if we're missing any areas and where we are lacking in terms of the services we provide," said Mayor Nancy Penner. "We really just want to identify any barriers that we could remove that would make our services easier to access."

Barriers can come in many forms, including:

- Attitudinal barriers: These are beliefs or assumptions that limit opportunities for people with disabilities. For example, assuming someone can't understand information and speaking only to their support person.

- Physical barriers: These are features of buildings or spaces that make it harder for people with disabilities to access services. Think of things like counters that are too high or pathways that are blocked.

- Communication barriers: This includes difficulties in receiving or understanding information that others can easily access, such as unclear signs, small print, or hard-to-read websites.

- Systemic barriers: These are rules or processes that might limit or exclude people with disabilities. For example, policies that don't allow service animals, require people to appear in person, or ask for written forms that can't be easily completed.

- Technological barriers: This includes software or equipment that isn't accessible. An example would be a website that someone who is blind can't use with screen-reading software.

"We have to be aware of things like those attitudinal barriers as well ... that was sort of an eye opener to me," the mayor noted.

Penner said Morden has undertaken a number of initiatives in recent years, ranging from a new website where the visually impaired can make the font larger to renovations at the civic centre that included a lower counter that is easier to access if you're in a wheelchair

"You might not be aware of some of these things until you have a disability ... or you might not have a permanent disability but you might have a temporary one."

"You don't realize those curbs going down off a sidewalk can be hard to manoeuvre," she added as a further example.

Penner also noted the city has a grant application in the works to do some accessibility work at the beach.

"Hopefully we can get some grant funding to make the beach more accessible," she said. "Those are some of the types of things we are looking at and trying to improve the accessibility."

The survey is available online at [morden.ca/accessibility-survey](http://morden.ca/accessibility-survey). If you need any help completing it or

would like a paper copy, you can call 204-822-4434 or e-mail [info@mymorden.ca](mailto:info@mymorden.ca). The deadline for responses is Feb. 26.

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## Friesens 'unplugged'

By Voice staff

Friesens Corporation in Altona hosted its "Unplugged Night" earlier this month as part of its Employee-Owner Days, bringing about 300 staff and its entire book sales team together at the Millennium Exhibition Centre.

It was an evening of celebration and camaraderie, the company shared in a news release.

"It provided a unique opportunity for employees to unwind, socialize, and strengthen their bonds," the release said, noting attendees enjoyed food, games, and a chance to reconnect with colleagues who often work remotely.

Nearly 100 service awards were presented to staff—ranging from five years to 45 years with the company—and an employee-owner distribution of \$1.75 million was announced.

"This significant milestone underscores the company's commitment to its employee-owners and their invaluable contributions," Friesen says.

"As Friesens heads into 2025, with almost 118 years of business behind them, the company is in a robust position for the future, buoyed by growth in the book industry," the company says. "The year has started off strong, and Friesens is poised to continue its success, driven by the dedication and hard work of its employee-owners."

## Stanley open houses review wastewater system plans

By Lorne Stelmach

RM of Stanley residents had an opportunity this week to learn more about the municipality's wastewater plans and how they will impact them.

Public information meetings on the wastewater low pressure sewer project were held Monday in Reinfeld and Tuesday in Schanzenfeld.

Those villages are two key communities that are involved in the project and will be connected to the system, so they are perhaps among those most impacted by it.

The open houses aimed to cover all aspects of the project, from the cost to even more technical aspects of how the system will work, so there were a range of experts, engineers, and council representatives available to answer questions.

The goal is to ensure all residents have access to the information they need to understand the project and its potential impact on their communities, said Reeve Ike Friesen.

"Cost for sure is something that everyone is waiting on and wanting to know," he said.

Stanley has been working in partnership with Winkler on the construction of the new wastewater treatment facility for the last number of years. This facility will provide capacity to allow for growth in the corridor as well as a new wastewater collection system to be constructed in

Stanley which would convey wastewater to the new treatment facility.

The RM of Stanley will be purchasing a portion of the facility's treatment capacity, and Stanley will also build the conveyance systems to move wastewater to the plant from new developments particularly from Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld.

Once a municipal sewer system is installed, provincial regulations require property owners to connect to it within 10 years, but they have a few options at this point:

- Full connection immediately to the home - a cost of \$16,000 but with a \$1,000 early connection discount for a net cost of \$15,000.
- Partial connection to the edge of the property but no immediate connection to the home - a cost of \$10,300 but with a \$1,000 early connection discount for a net cost of about \$9,300.
- Opt out for the time being but with the requirement that connection will be required in 10 years and at full cost at that time.

For those property owners who sign on, there

is the option of having it financed through their property taxes over a 20-year period. There will be one opportunity for an early payout after 10 years.

The deadline for property owners to make their decision and commit is April 30.

The total cost of the overall project to the RM of Stanley will be around \$13.2 million, but there is provincial and federal funding that comes to about \$8.5 million, which leaves the municipality with a net cost of about \$4.7 million.

For those who were unable to attend the open houses, you can visit the RM of Stanley website where detailed information on the wastewater project is available.

"After this process, then we can actually go to tender, and hopefully we can even lower the price ... I think it will be quite close in terms of what we are expecting though," noted Friesen. "If all things work out, as we are hoping, then fall of 2026 we could have people connecting up."

### > RADON, FROM PG. 3

test due to the cost, we help them locate free test kits."

The South Central Regional Library also has electronic monitors available for patrons to borrow for testing.

"Although you won't have the monitor for the recommended 90 day long-term reading, it has proven effective at increasing radon awareness all around," Hutchison observed.

Getting people to test for radon is one thing—the next hurdle is the fact mitigation costs, if needed, aren't cheap, but Hutchison noted there is assistance available.

Manitoba Hydro allows it as an eligible expense under its home efficiency loan program, and the cost can be repaid monthly on your energy bill over a period of up to five years.

There is also a grant through the lung association through a program called Lungs Matter where up to \$1,500 is available for low to moderate income households as well as those where there has been a diagnosis of lung cancer.

More information and resources are available online at [takeactiononradon.ca](http://takeactiononradon.ca).

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# sports & recreation



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Nicholas Mckee dives across the crease trying to get the puck around Blizzard goalie Taye Timmerman in Friday's 3-0 Flyers win.

## Flyers post back-to-back shutouts against Blizzard

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers blanked the visiting Northern Manitoba Blizzard in two games straight last weekend to cement their place at the top of the MJHL standings.

Game one Friday night saw the home team up 1-0 thanks to a late first-period goal from Max Lavoie. Blake Matheson and Brody Beauchemin then made it 3-0 with unanswered goals midway through the second.

That was it for scoring that night from either side. Liam Ernst had a

15-save shutout while across the rink the Blizzard's Taye Timmerman made 32 saves off the 35 the Flyers sent his way.

In the rematch Saturday night, neither team made any headway through the first two periods—Ernst stopped eight shots in the first and 12 in the second for Winkler, while Timmerman denied the five and seven that came his way.

The deadlock was finally broken in the final period when Brady Craik scored six minutes in. Nicolas Mckee then made it a 2-0 win for Winkler with two minutes to go on the clock.

Overall, the Blizzard outshot the Flyers 30-23.

The victories came after a rare Flyers loss earlier in the week, when they dropped a 4-3 OT decision to the Titans in Neepawa.

The Tuesday night game saw Winkler battle back from a three-goal deficit to force overtime. Isaiah Peters, Blake Matheson, and Mckee did the honours, but it was the Titans who got the winning goal in the resulting extra period. Leif Ekbald was in net for Winkler this game, making 25 saves as the Flyers outshot the Titans 42-29.

Winkler currently has a 30-6-3 record in the MJHL's East Division, good for 63 points and first place. They are tied in points with the second-place Steinbach Pistons (30-8-2-1) but have two games in hand over them. Rounding out the top three are the Portage Terriers (29-11-0-1, 59 points).

Ten of the Flyers were in Winnipeg this Tuesday and Wednesday to take part in the MJHL-SJHL Showcase, while the rest got a few days' breather ahead of Saturday's game at home against Neepawa. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

The **Voice**

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# Female Hawks hanging on to fifth place

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks continue to hold down fifth place after winning two of their three games this past weekend.

They romped to an 8-2 win Friday over Interlake but were then shutout 6-0 by Yellowhead Saturday before rebounding to edge the Winnipeg Ice 3-2 Sunday.

They are important victories for the Hawks, who have now won four of their last five as they head into their final two weekends of the regular season.

Pembina Valley blew a 2-0 game wide open with four second-period goals against Interlake, and Jessica Anderson potted four goals including

a natural hat trick.

Abigail Brigg added a pair with the other goals coming from Casey O'Brien and Hayden Arkle. Kasia Rakowski had 27 saves as Interlake held a 29-21 edge in shots on goal.

Rakowski was then under fire Saturday as Yellowhead fired home four unanswered first period goals while outshooting the Hawks 44-23. The Chiefs were boosted by a pair of powerplay goals and a shorthanded marker.

Madison Froese then backstopped the Hawks to their tight win over the third place Ice as she stopped 39 shots with Winnipeg having a 41-21 edge overall.

The teams exchanged goals until Anderson got the game winner with



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTOR/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks, Jessica Anderson scored four times in her team's 8-2 victory over the Interlake Lightning in Manitoba Female Hockey League U18 AAA action in Stonewall Friday night.

just under a minute left in the second period. O'Brien and Emma Roch also scored for Pembina Valley.

The Hawks improved to 13-5-1 for 27 points, and they sit six back of Yel-

lowhead and three ahead of Brandon, so it sets up a key weekend showdown with Brandon. The Hawks host the Wheat Kings Friday with Brandon returning the favour Saturday.

# Four-game win streak comes to an end for male Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

A modest four-game winning streak came to an end on a week with mixed results for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

It began positively with the Hawks doubling up Central Plains 6-3 Tuesday, but it was followed by a 5-4 overtime loss to Yellowhead Friday then a 7-3 defeat by the Winnipeg Wild Sunday.

Pembina Valley took period leads of

3-0 and 4-2 against Central Plains, and Haiden Friesen had a pair of goals as part of a three point night.

Also scoring were Gavin Rondeau, Adrien McIntosh, Cole Secord, and Parker Henderson, while Karsen Dyck made 18 saves with the shots on goal 43-21 in favour of the Hawks.

Pembina Valley overcame a 4-0 deficit with four unanswered third period goals to get Yellowhead to overtime, but the Chiefs pocketed the winner 1:59 in.

Friesen continued a hot weekend with a hat trick in the third period after Tegan Fehr had started the Hawks' comeback. Pembina Valley took the overtime loss despite outshooting the Chiefs 43-29.

The Hawks were even with the Wild at 2-2 after 20 minutes but then gave up three unanswered goals in the second.

Ryder Wolfe did all the scoring for the Hawks with a hat trick, while Dyck tried to keep the Hawks in the

game with 37 saves as the Wild held a 44-37 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley remains in ninth place at 16-15-4-2 for 38 points. They are one point behind Interlake and just three short of both Eastman and Parkland while comfortably 11 ahead of Norman.

This weekend they take on the Winnipeg Thrashers Friday, Kenora Saturday, and first-place Brandon Sunday in Morden.

# New U13 regional teams holding their own

By Lorne Stelmach

A new U13 AA regional hockey program is having some success in its inaugural season in a top Winnipeg-based league.

Two regional boys teams—Pembi-

na Valley West and Pembina Valley East—are competing in the Winnipeg AA league, and there is also a female U13 AA team also in its first season.

Going into action this past week, Pembina Valley East was in 17th place

at 7-13-0-2 for 16 points, but Pembina Valley West sat in fourth place at 15-4-0-1 for 31 points.

Pembina Valley West head coach Sean O'Brien believes this new program will be a big boost to the minor hockey system in the region overall.

"It definitely helps the system moving forward," he suggested. "The higher level the kids compete at, the easier the transition should be then ... we're helping these kids prepare for the next step."

"The league is very tight top to bottom ... with the majority of teams, these games can go either way every single time. So the compete level has to be there every single game, and it makes for a really exceptional experience for the boys. At every game, they really have to be prepared."

It came about as a result of Pembina

Valley Minor Hockey receiving a proposal for a pilot project from the Morden Minor Hockey Association.

"It seems there was the need, that there could be a more competitive league than what we had locally," said O'Brien.

A key factor was that they would be regional teams, and they were required to set up two teams based on the registration numbers.

"It was a from the ground up effort, a grassroots team that started in early June of 2024, and it got off the ground in September," said O'Brien, noting how much had to be done from jerseys to coaching staff and tryouts as well as finding available ice.

Pembina Valley East plays out of Rosenort, while Pembina Valley West



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The U13 Pembina Valley West team (above) is playing in the Winnipeg AA league this season alongside a Pembina Valley East team.

Continued on page 15



# Team Cameron wins Manitoba women's provincial curling championship

By Ty Dilello

On Sunday afternoon, Winnipeg's Kate Cameron captured the 2025 RME Women of the Rings presented by Case IH, the provincial women's curling championship for Manitoba, at the Millennium Recreation Complex in Pilot Mound.

In the championship final, Cameron defeated fellow Winnipeg rink Beth Peterson by a 7-6 scoreline in a back-and-forth game that came down to the final rock in the tenth end. The winning Cameron rink is joined by third Allison Flaxey, second Taylor McDonald, lead Mackenzie Elias and fifth Brianna Cullen.

Manitou's Cheyenne Ehnes was the home team at the event in Pilot Mound, but luck was not on her

team's side. The local rink crashed out of the event early with a 0-5 record.

East St. Paul's Kristy Watling finished the event with a 5-3 record and narrowly missed out on a tiebreaker game due to a culminative last-stone draw.

The winning Kate Cameron rink will now represent Manitoba at the 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Canada's national women's curling championship in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Cameron will be joined at the event by a few other Manitoba teams that had pre-qualified, including Gimli's Kerri Einarson and Winnipeg's Kaitlyn Lawes. The action from Thunder Bay will take place from Feb. 14 to 23.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kate Cameron, out of the Heather Curling Club in Winnipeg, captured the 2025 Manitoba women's provincial curling championship on Sunday evening in Pilot Mound. From left to right: Mackenzie Elias (lead), Kate Cameron (skip), Taylor McDonald (second), Allison Flaxey (third), Brianna Cullen (fifth).

# Red River Wild move into second place in SEMHL

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Red River Wild came out on top as they squared off against the Morden Bombers in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action last weekend.

Morden got out ahead of things with unanswered first-period goals from Logan Christensen and Tyler Peers. Jonah Wasylak then got Red River on the board midway through the second.

The Wild's offensive line came to life in the third—after Colin Baudry's goal 21 seconds in tied the game at 2-2, Wasylak scored his second of the night to put the Wild in the lead.

It was short lived, though, as Christensen scored a minute later to tie things at 3-3.

At 7:24, TJ Matuszewski pulled Red River into a lead that held right through to the final seconds, when the Bombers pulled their goalie for the extra man. It didn't do them much good, though, as Wasylak scored his third goal to give the Wild the win 5-3.

Reed Peters was between the posts for Morden, making 40 saves off 44 shots. Across the rink, Jayden Catellier made 31 saves off 33 shots for the Wild.

A couple of days earlier, Red River had trounced the Ile des Chenes Northstars 6-1. Scoring for the Wild were Baudry, Tyler Anderson (with two), TJ Matuszewski (with two), and Jared Magne. Carter Lemay made 25 saves in net.

The Winkler Royals, meanwhile, hit the ice twice this past week, but failed to add anything to their win column.

On Wednesday they played the Aces

in Ste. Anne, and lost 7-4.

Ste. Anne was up 5-0 when Braden Hildebrand scored the Royals' first of the night. Justin Augert scored the team's second just a few minutes later.

In the third, Adam Henry and Augert worked to close the gap, to no avail. The Aces then managed one more with less than two minutes on the clock.

It was a much closer affair a few nights later in front of a hometown crowd against Ile des Chenes.

The Sunday night game once again saw Winkler down, this time 2-0, when Henry got the team on the

board.

After a scoreless middle frame, both teams took turns lighting up the net, with the Northstars scoring a minute in, Aaron Lewadniuk responding in the next minute for Winkler, and then Ile des Chenes making it 4-2 not long after. Unanswered goals from Augert in minute 13 and Lucas Ens with 55 seconds left on the clock sent things into overtime.

There, it was Ile des Chenes that managed the game-winner to take it 5-4.

Matthew Thiessen made 48 saves that night as the Northstars narrowly outshot the Royals 53-50.

With that, Red River moves into second place in the SEMHL standings with a 10-4-1 record and 21 points, five behind Ste. Anne in first and tied with Springfield in third, though the Winterhawks have a game in hand.

Further down in the standings is Morden in sixth place (8-6, 16 points) and Winkler in seventh (7-6-1-1, 16 points).

This week the Royals host the Bombers Tuesday night, the Wild are in Carman Wednesday, Friday night has the Bombers in Ile des Chenes and Red River hosting Ste. Anne, and Sunday Winkler is in Portage.

# Twisters struggle in last place in MMJHL standings

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey team is having an increasingly difficult season. They have now lost 15 consecutive games and currently hold a record of 3 wins, 28 losses, and 2 ties, placing them at the bottom of the league standings. On January 24, the Twisters suffered a 9-3 defeat at the hands of the St. James Jr. Canucks. Cohen Thomas, Dominic Rooney, and

## > U13 TEAMS, FROM PG. 14

plays out of Manitou, and the locations are ideal given how the make-up of the teams came together.

"The way the split went is Morden kind of found itself going west, and Winkler found itself going to the east team," said O'Brien. "In our case,

Spencer Sabourin scored the only goals for Pembina Valley, while goaltenders Darion Penner and Jordan Armstrong combined for 37 shots faced in the loss. A few nights later, on January 26, the Twisters lost 5-2 at home to the St. Vital Victorias. Josh Guilford and Darby Olson scored for the Twisters, and Jordan Armstrong did his best in goal, stopping 43 shots despite the defeat.

"This season has not gone exactly

as we've drawn it up," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "All we can do is just keep working hard and improving parts of our game and hope that are results will start to change."

The Twisters return to action on Jan. 31 with a road game against the Charleswood Hawks at 7:30 p.m. They then have a home game on Feb. 1 against the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins at 7 p.m.

we have kids all the way from Pilot Mound and that area, so we had to find something central for them."

He suggested their success in the first season speaks to the level of interest and skill in the region.

"And I think the regional approach

does give each communities the ability to add a couple players to a regional team, which makes it very competitive against the Winnipeg teams," he said. "Our record does show that we are as competitive as anyone else."



# Winkler Basketball League's inaugural season a slam dunk

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Basketball League is midway through its first season and already looking to grow next year.

Six teams take to the courts at the Prairiedale School gymnasium every Sunday afternoon in this recreational—but still decently competitive—league.

They've been playing since early November and intend to wrap up the season the first weekend in March, share organizers Bryan Collantes and Mike Urichuk.

"We'd planned this for awhile now, and then it finally came to fruition this year," Collantes says.

Inspired by the success of the regional Filipino basketball league and the numbers the informal weekly pick-up basketball nights were seeing, Collantes and Urichuk felt it was past time for Winkler to get its own organized rec. basketball program up and running.

"That one's been running for almost a decade now and I was surprised: why can't Winkler have a local com-

munity league?" Collantes says. "There's so many players here, let's open it up to everyone."

"There were over 100 different players that had come to those Wednesday night pick-up games," Urichuk adds. "So when the numbers are that high, the thought was let's get some ongoing competitive ball going, feed that desire within us to have a bit of a competition there as well as being active and being part of the basketball community here in Winkler."

"We have some really strong players in Winkler, a number of different people who have graduated high school that still have some serious skills and want to keep playing."

The idea was met with a great deal of enthusiasm; about 60 players, ranging in age from teens on up, suit up every week.

"And we've received a number of different sponsorships as well from the people who helped support the creation of the outdoor court that we have," Urichuk shares, explaining the funding helps cover the costs of the gym rental and team uniforms.



## SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Six teams, including the Firebirds (above) and the Apollos (left), are going head-to-head in the Winkler Basketball League's first season, which is heading into its final month of games.



Games run from about 1:30-5:30 p.m. every Sunday at the Schanzfeld school, and basketball fans are more than welcome to come take in the action.

"We've had lots of people come out to watch the games, to watch some pretty exciting finishes and some controversial calls," Urichuk says.

While the season is heading into its final few weeks, Collantes and Urichuk notes that just means spring/summer basketball is on the horizon. The outdoor courts on 15th St. are a busy place in the warmer months, with pick-up games happening regularly.

Planning for the 2024-2025 winter league, meanwhile, will run through the summer, and Collantes, for one, hopes next year will be bigger and better.

"If we have more interest we can have more teams, more sponsors that might come in and help, more refs," he says, encouraging anyone interested in playing ball, sponsoring the league, or getting involved behind-the-scenes to get in touch with them via email to [winklerbasketballleague@gmail.com](mailto:winklerbasketballleague@gmail.com).

"We're always looking for more people to help that way, if people have had any experience in running these types of leagues," Urichuk says.

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FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

WIDMER et al. V SCOTT et al.

Court of King's Bench File No. CI18-11-00476 & CI23-01-42312

FARMLAND AND OTHER REAL  
PROPERTY FOR SALE BY TENDER

TAKE NOTICE that the Manitoba Court of King's Bench has ordered the sale of lands of sufficient value described below by written tender to satisfy Certificate of Judgment 1272190/4 for all amounts owing pursuant to Court File No. CI18-11-00476 and CI23-01-42312. All acreage indicated is approximate size according to a Province of Manitoba Property Assessment Report.

Status of Title No. 2119883/4 (Sizes vary by lot)

PARCEL I:  
LOT 24 BLOCK 1;  
LOTS 1 TO 7, LOTS 18, 19, AND LOTS 21 TO 24 BLOCK 2;  
LOTS 7 TO 15 BLOCK 3; AND  
LOTS 2 TO 8 BLOCK 4  
PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM

PARCEL II:  
LOTS 1 TO 13, AND LOTS 15 TO 23 BLOCK 1;  
LOTS 8 TO 11, AND LOTS 13 AND 14 BLOCK 2;  
LOTS 4, 5, 6 AND LOT 16 BLOCK 3; AND  
LOT 1 BLOCK 4  
PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING – ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT

PARCEL III:  
ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK E PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT IN THE PRODUCTION SLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET, WHICH POINT IS DISTANT NLY 172 FEET FROM THE SLY LIMIT OF SAID BLOCK E; THENCE SLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE SLY LIMIT OF BLOCK E; THENCE ELY ALONG SAID SLY LIMIT 350 FEET; THENCE NLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE AND PARALLEL WITH THE WLY LIMIT, 326 FEET; THENCE SOUTH WLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT  
EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT

PARCEL IV:  
LOT 12 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO  
IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 43189 MLTO  
PARCEL V:  
LOT 20 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO  
IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 48315 MLTO;

Status of Title No. 2182590/4 (75 feet)  
LOTS 11, 12, AND 13 BLOCK 4 PLAN 4 PLAN 59 (RL DIV) IN NE ¼ 24-2-12 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2560904/4 (0.13 acres)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK "E" PLAN 142 MLTO REQUIRED FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A SPUR LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH EAST ANGLE OF BLOCK "E"; THENCE WLY ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK "E" 269.7 FEET; THENCE SOUTH ELY ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT OF 715 FEET

RADIUS TO WHICH THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE IS A TANGENT, 93.5 FEET; THENCE SOUTH ELY ON A CURVE OF 478.3 FEET RADIUS COMPOUNDED WITH THE LAST DESCRIBED CURVE TO THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK; THENCE NLY ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 110361 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2589819/4 (13.25 acres)  
BLOCK "E" PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING:

FIRSTLY – RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 205 MLTO  
SECONDLY – ALL THAT PORTION LYING AND BEING TO THE WEST OF THE PRODUCTION SLY OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN 142 MLTO;  
THIRDLY – ALL THAT PORTION DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SAID PRODUCTION WITH THE SLY LIMIT OF SAID BLOCK "E"; THENCE ELY AND ALONG THE SLY LIMIT 350 FEET; THENCE NLY AND PARALLEL WITH SAID PRODUCTION 326 FEET; THENCE SOUTH WLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO A POINT IN THE SAID PRODUCTION DISTANT NLY THEREON, 172 FEET FROM SAID SLY LIMIT; THENCE SLY AND ALONG SAID PRODUCTION TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT  
FOURTHLY – ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;

Status of Title No. 2589820/4 (1 acre)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK E PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM WHICH LIES WEST OF THE PRODUCTION SLY OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET AS SHOWN IN SAID PLAN  
EXCEPTING – ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;

Status of Title No. 2726654/4 (80 acres)  
W ½ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING – OUT OF SW ¼ - THE SLY 1320 FEET;

Status of Title No. 2726664/4 (28 acres)  
BLOCKS B, C AND F PLAN 142 MLTO  
BLOCKS B, C AND F PLAN 142 MLTO  
EXC OUT OF BLOCKS B AND C: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 42079 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2726666/4 (2 acres)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 4-1-8 WPM WHICH LIES SOUTH AND WEST OF ALL THAT PORTION TAKEN FOR THE SPUR LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PLAN 205 MLTO  
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;

Status of Title No. 2726668/4 (80 acres)  
THE W ½ OF SW ¼ 17-1-8 WPM ;  
Status of Title No. 2726670/4 (320 acres total)  
W ½ 9-1-8 WPM;  
Status of Title No. 2726672/4 (80 acres)  
THE E ½ OF SW ¼ 17-1-8 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2726673/4 (160 acres)  
THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM;  
EXC ALL THAT PORTION TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE MANITOBA SOUTH WESTERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY PLAN 143 MLTO;

Status of Title No. 2748017/4 (160 acres)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE MANITOBA SOUTH WESTERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY  
PLAN 143 MLTO  
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN DEED 140260/4 MLTO;

Status of Title No. 2748021/4 (160 acres)  
THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 17-1-8 WPM  
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN;

Status of Title No. 2748048/4 (80 acres)  
THE E ½ OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 18-1-8 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2748067/4 (2 acres)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST ANGLE OF SAID QUARTER SECTION; THENCE NLY ALONG THE EASTERN LIMIT THEREOF 609 FEET; THENCE WLY PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHERN LIMIT THEREOF 142.5 FEET; THENCE SLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERN LIMIT TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION; THENCE ELY ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT;

Status of Title No. 2762923/4 (160 acres)  
THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 6-1-8 WPM;  
Status of Title No. 2847224/4 (160.80 feet)  
LOTS 15, 16 AND 17 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO;  
EXCEPTING – ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

Status of Title No. 2847225/4 (13.90 acres)  
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND STATION GROUNDS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PLAN 142 MLTO EXC FIRSTLY: ALL THAT PORTION OF SAID STATION GROUNDS WHICH LIES BETWEEN TWO LINES DRAWN PERP TO THE CENTRE LINE OF SAID RAILWAY ON SAID PLAN, THROUGH POINTS THEREIN DISTANT ELY THEREON 1100 FEET AND 1650 FEET RESPECTIVELY FROM THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF SAID QUARTER SECTION AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFERS 110361 MLTO AND 42079 MLTO;

Status of Title No. 2847226/4 (4.92 acres)  
BLOCK "D" PLAN 142 MLTO  
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 43190 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

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Tenders will be received on any one or combination of the titles making up the Lands.

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- No party shall advance a bidding amount less than the most recent assessed taxable value of the title in question.
- No party shall be allowed to retract a bid.
- The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

- Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque in an amount equal to 10% of the proposed purchase price, payable to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, IN TRUST for the Applicants of Court of King's Bench File CI23-01-42312. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- The purchaser shall, at the time of sale, pay the balance of the purchase price on completion of the sale. On payment of the balance, the purchaser shall be entitled to receive and take possession of any of the Lands purchased.
- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the Lands, its true condition, possible liabilities, and the title thereto and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of any other party.
- Any purchase and sale is subject to approval of an Associate Judge of the Court of King's Bench pursuant to a Report and Order on Sale. If required, the purchaser shall have the transfer(s) prepared at the purchaser's own expense and tender it to the party having carriage of the sale for execution.
- If possession of the Lands is wrongfully withheld from the purchaser following the transfer of title to the Lands, or any combination of them, the purchaser shall be entitled to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for an order of possession, or similar order, and shall do so at its own expense. For greater certainty, the judgment creditor pursuant to Certificate of Judgment 1272190/4 and their solicitors shall bear no cost or responsibility for providing vacant possession to the purchaser of the Lands on the date of possession.
- Where the purchaser fails to comply with any of these conditions, the deposit and all other payments made shall be forfeited to the applicants and the Lands may be resold. Any deficiency on the resale, together with all expenses incurred on the resale or caused by the default, shall be paid by the defaulting purchaser.
- The successful purchaser, if any, will within seven (7) days of being advised that he or she is the successful bidder, sign a standard Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP agreement of purchase and sale for the property which will include the terms and condition of the sale.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing March 14, 2024, or as otherwise directed by the Court.
- Possession date will be 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2025, or as otherwise directed by the Court.
- Tenders are binding upon acceptance and should not be subject to any conditions precedent.
- The Lands or any portion of them thereof will be sold "as is" and the purchaser is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of said Lands, its quality, environmental condition, and any other information pertaining to the Lands.
- Tenders must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 28, 2025, or as otherwise directed by the Court.

Please send sealed Tenders to purchase any of the Lands to:

Antoine F. Hacault / Andrew D. Warkentin  
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP  
1700 – 242 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V1  
Email: afh@tdslaw.com / adw@tdslaw.com  
Fax: 204-934-0530



EMPLOYMENT

ROSEISLE

Backhoe Service Ltd.

RED SEAL HEAVY DIESEL MECHANIC

Roseisle Backhoe Service Ltd. is seeking a FULL TIME Red Seal heavy diesel mechanic, for an excavating and trucking company. Pay is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Welding experience is an asset. Class 1 drivers license and or the ability to operate heavy equipment will also be considered an asset.

**Call or text Jason Klassen at 204-750-0172 or email: [jasonklassen.rbs@gmail.com](mailto:jasonklassen.rbs@gmail.com)**

CAREERS



Assiniboine College

We are hiring!

Assiniboine College

1430 Victoria Ave E.

Brandon, MB R7A 2A9

Deputy Chief Power Engineer

Facilities  
Full-Time, Regular  
Brandon, MB  
Comp #65-24/25  
Salary: \$74,555.54 to \$90,292.80 annually  
Classification: Chief Power Engineer 3rd Class plant (C3E)  
Under the direction of the Engineering Services Manager, this position is responsible for the safe and efficient maintenance and operation of the Steam Plants and all ancillaries at the Victoria Ave East (Brandon) & Parkland (Dauphin) campuses. The incumbent is responsible for planning and supervising work schedules, repairs and preventative maintenance performed by power engineers and/or contractors. The incumbent is also responsible for Human Resource Management of Power Plant Staff, Budget, and Maintenance Management all the while ensuring excellent client relations are maintained. For more information, please visit [www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).  
How to Apply:  
If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net). We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

COMING EVENTS



Join us for a discussion on PWCP, GROW, and PVWD programs for 2025 growing season!

Open to producers and landowners.

<b>Killarney</b> February 13, 2025 Shamrock Centre Elk Lounge 	<b>Winkler/Morden</b> February 6, 2025 Threshermen's Museum 
<b>Boissevain</b> February 20, 2025 Legion Hall 	<b>Saint Jean</b> February 27, 2025 Centennial Hall 

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COFFEE AND FOOD

START TIME(S)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

FREE

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for a chance to win a door prize(s)!

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CAREERS



Assiniboine College

We are hiring!

Assiniboine College

1430 Victoria Ave E.

Brandon, MB R7A 2A9

Instructor, Practical Nursing

School of Nursing  
2x Full-Time, Term (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)  
Part-Time & casual (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)  
Steinbach, MB  
Comp #72-24/25  
Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually (\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)  
(Educational Supplement: Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/hour)  
As an Instructor in our Practical Nursing program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of nursing education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison.  
\*We are open to secondment opportunities\*  
How to Apply:  
If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net). We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

CAREERS



Assiniboine College

We are hiring!

Assiniboine College

1430 Victoria Ave E.

Brandon, MB R7A 2A9

Shift Power Engineer

Facilities  
Full-Time, Regular  
Brandon, MB  
Comp #69-24/25  
Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually (\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)  
Classification: O2E Power Engineer 2nd Class Plant (3rd class certificate)  
The Shift Power Engineer will operate and maintain a Steam Plant at Assiniboine College in compliance with the Power Engineer Act, Provincial Codes and acceptable best trade practices, as well as Workplace Health and Safety regulations. In the absence of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager, the incumbent may be responsible for the entire physical plant operation. The Shift Power Engineer may be the initial contact in service requests under the guidance of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager.  
How to Apply:  
If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net). We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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IN MEMORIAM



In loving memory of  
John Worms  
March 1938 - January 2025  
and Helen Worms  
November 1940 - October 2023  
We were so blessed to have had you for so many years..your Godly example of unconditional love and faithfulness; your wisdom, joy and encouragement. You are greatly missed!  
Til we join you in Heaven...  
-Your loving family

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Aubin Nurseries Ltd.

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Full-Time, Seasonal or Year Round

Must be available Saturdays in April & May. Must be able to lift min 80lbs

Please email resume to [Kristina@aubinnurseries.ca](mailto:Kristina@aubinnurseries.ca)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN DAVIDSON MACFARLANE late of Arnaud in Manitoba, Deceased.  
All Claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue, Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0, on or before the 24th day of March, 2025.  
DATED at the Town of Morris, in Manitoba, this 23rd day of January, 2025.  
BRUCE D. GREGORY LAW CORPORATION  
Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue,  
Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0  
Solicitor for the Executor



# Classifieds Announcements

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

The Winkler Morden Voice

## OBITUARY



### Abram Penner

In the morning of January 17, 2025, at 8 a.m., Abe passed away peacefully at home in Blumenfeld with his beloved wife by his side.

Our husband, father, and grandfather was born on April 21, 1944 to Henry and Maria Penner in Winkler, Manitoba. He was baptized upon his confession of his faith in Winkler Sommerfeld church by bishop John A Friesen on May 24, 1964. Abe was united in marriage to Helen Berg on August 2, 1964 in Osterwick Sommerfeld church. They were blessed with three sons, Melvin (Nita), Joshua (Mandi), Tyler (Sydney) (Rylynn), and a daughter, Jessica. Son Karl (Shelley) Noah and Eli. Son Leonard. Abe is survived by four sisters and three brothers.

Abe was predeceased by his parents two brothers and two sisters and three brothers-in-law.

In July 2023, Abe was diagnosed with TCell lymphoma and had his last treatment on January 12, 2024. He was healthy for a good 11 months, and then it came back.

Abe was a hard working man, and for the last 30 years, Abe was never late for his appointments. Neither was he late for his last appointment with God. Family was also very important to Abe. As a brother-in-law the visit in the hospital was very special to myself and to the people in the hospital. Abe held my hand tight. "I have not always been a good boy, but after much prayer, God forgave my shortcomings, and now I am a free man with peace and joy in my heart. Abe also said if God can and has forgiven me, if we but only ask, God will forgive. Let also radiate that there is no room for sin in heaven.

Abe loved gardening. He grew a lot of potatoes and shared them with family and friends. Abe was very meticulous about how the crop was dug only by hand in 2024 it was done in the mud.

A special thank you to Pastor Art Wiebe, Dr. Woelk, the medical staff at BTHC and St. Boniface Hospital, Wiebe Funeral Homes, family and friends, the Winkler Sommerfeld Serving Group, and many prayers. Thank you from the family.

Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, at 2 p.m. at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

## OBITUARY

### Darlene Cameron (née Lechner)

Born November 25, 1938 Darlene passed on January 15, 2025. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Darlene Cameron (née Lechner) on January 15, 2025 at the age of 86. Darlene passed away peacefully.

She was born November 25, 1938 to Sophia and Jack Lechner. Darlene was a loving wife and partner to Gordon Cameron. She Grew up in Morden, Manitoba, where she developed a deep love for gardening, art and baking. She went on to be a Registered Nurse, then a farmer's wife, mother and homemaker.

Darlene was the beloved wife of Gordon Cameron, a devoted mother to Shawna, Mike and Bill, and a cherished grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She Leaves to morn her husband Gordon. Daughter Shawna (Jamie), grandchildren Patricia, (Shannon) Kehler, Joanna (Matt)



Kervel. Chad, Devin Klatt.

Great-grandchildren Leah, Myah, Keaira Kehler, Shawn Froese, (Jess), Caleb Kervel, (Hannah), Brody Kervel. Great-great-grandchild Nathan Froese.

Son Mike (Sandy), grandmother to Shaun, (Trudi), Jordan (Emily), Erin and partner Ryan. Great-grandmother to Savannah.

Son Bill partner and wife Laurie.

Grandmother to Derick, Jack, Emily, Sarah, of Edmonton, AB.

Sons Reg and Waylon Catchway as her own.

Darlene is also survived by her sister Karen, brother-in-law Keith Jones, their children Scott, Lisa and their families.

Brother Jim, sister-in-law Susan Lechner their children Robbie and Kelly and their families.

Brother-in-law Jim Cameron and sister-in-law Donna Cameron, their children Christine, Kathleen Cameron.

Sister-in-law Marleen Cameron, Kim, (Terry), John and family.

Her family was her pride and joy, and her unwavering love and support will be remembered by all who knew her.

Darlene will be remembered for her love, kindness, generosity, and caring, as well as her love of artistry, cooking and baking. Her impact on her family and the lives of those around her is her legacy and will be missed by all.

Darlene will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. May her memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Roland United Church, RM of Roland, Box 119, Roland, MB R0G 1T0, or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, 1200-2300 Yonge St, Box 2414, Toronto, ON M4P 1E4, cause's close to Darlene's heart.

Funeral Service was held on Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Roland United Church in Roland, MB.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



## CAREERS

# BUNGE

## MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

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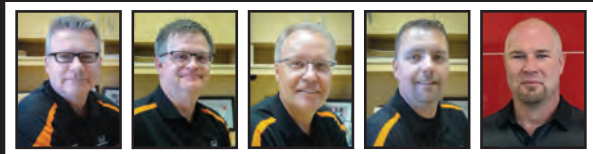
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