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Pizza Week showdown

Explore Morden Winkler's Karina Bueckert (left) and Wendy Klassen grab a bite of pizza as Caylie Nicholson of Rendezvous Brewery looks on during Pizza Week. Twenty different locations throughout the Morden-Winkler area took part in the campaign, selling thousands of pizzas. For the full story, see Pg. 3.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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Pizza Week kept participating restaurants hopping

By Lorne Stelmach

A record number of pizzas were likely consumed last week thanks to Explore Morden Winkler's Pizza Week.

The tourism agency had 20 restaurants throughout the region take part in the Jan. 25-31 promotion, and business was booming as a result.

Organizers estimate that around 7,000 pizzas (over \$150,000 worth of food) were sold throughout the week, with the entry from Valley Bakery in Winkler coming out with the most votes from the public at large.

"It was a great marketing campaign," said Andrew Penner of Valley Bakery, who were out of their normal realm in doing pizza. "It was something different for us ... exceeded expectations, although I really had no idea for the week actually because we've never done pizzas before."

"The phones were ringing off the hook like every couple of minutes

here," said Chris Krushel of Chicken Chef in Morden. "It was crazy good. It was more than we may have been prepared for, but as the week went on we got things down to a science here."

The Pizza Week promotion came as a follow-up to the equally successful Burger Week last fall which had 14 restaurants involved and saw King Pinz Pub and Grill in Winkler voted as the favorite for its UnBRIElienable Burger.

This time around, participating locations offered their own unique spin on a pizza pie.

Some particularly interesting entries included the dessert pizza from Legends Bakery loaded up with sugary dessert toppings and Valley Bakery's five-cheese sourdough pizza.

"I really wasn't sure what the response would be, and it was quite big," Penner said, adding they now have a decision to make around the idea of adding pizza to their menu on a regular basis. "Customers are asking that now. They want to be able to con-

Continued on page 5

From dinner to dessert, Pizza Week had pizza-lovers covered. Right: Valley Bakery's entry to the Explore Morden Winkler promotional campaign, which won the popular vote. Left: Legends Bakery's sugar-laden dessert offering.

EXPLORE MORDEN WINKLER PHOTOS



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WCDC charting new course for the future

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Development Corporation has a new face at the helm, but one who is no stranger to promoting the community.

Leah Klassen has stepped into the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Leah Klassen is the Winkler Community Development Corporation's new board chair.

board chair role for the agency, which has as its focus the social and economic development of the Winkler area.

Klassen is excited to bring her experience as a business owner (Pembina Valley Physiotherapy) to the position. She is also a member of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce board of directors and a trustee with Garden Valley School Division.

She was among several business leaders invited to a meeting last fall as WCDC sought out new board members.

"I was very honoured to be asked to come," Klassen said. "It was really neat because we were a bunch of business owners or past business owners sitting together and brainstorming as to what Winkler needs and where we've come from and where we could go. I was really energized by that conversation."

So much so that when she was asked to not only join the board but to lead it, she jumped at the chance. Though perhaps not without a little hesitation

at first.

"That morning I had actually read a quote saying, 'If something scares you and excites, you should do it,'" Klassen recalled. "So I thought this certainly does excite me and it scares me a little bit because I'm new and I don't know what I don't know, but when you look at who's on this board ... to be able to learn from these folks is a pretty amazing opportunity."

The WCDC was established in 1958 to advance the economic development of the city. Over the past 60 years it has led the charge on such projects as the creation of the incubator mall (a five-unit space on George Ave. for fledging businesses) and the hiring of a community development officer (a post that has been vacant for some years now). Today it also includes the RM of Stanley in its area of service.

Figuring out what comes next for the organization is at the top of Klassen's

to-do list for the year ahead.

"The corporation has evolved over time, starting with trying to bring industry to Winkler ... and playing a big role with the immigration initiative," she said. "Some of the things we're looking at is what's our purpose today and where do we want the direction to go?"

The group will hold a brainstorming session soon to delve into these questions.

"We don't want to stand still," Klassen stressed. "Where do

we see Winkler and Stanley in five, 10, 15 years? How can we draw business here, how can we draw professionals here? What's necessary and needed and where can we help in cooperation with other organizations that are working on these things?"

A big part of it all will include reaching out to the community to hear exactly what's needed.

"I'm excited for the conversation," said Klassen.

"WE DON'T WANT TO STAND STILL."

Manitoba outlines its vaccine rollout plans

Hope to have 70 per cent of Manitobans vaccinated by end of year, possibly by August

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Province of Manitoba provided details of its COVID-19 vaccine rollout strategy last week.

On Jan. 27, Dr. Joss Reimer, medical lead of Manitoba's Vaccine Implementation Task Force, joined Health Minister Heather Stefanson in outlining the four-stage plan.

"Right now we have a very limited supply of vaccine, but assuming supply issues resolve ... we understand that Manitobans will want to know who's next and when it might be their turn," said Reimer.

The plan breaks people into four priority groups: health-care workers and congregate living staff, residents of congregate living facilities, residents of First Nations communities, and Manitobans, based on age.

The most vulnerable people within

the first three groups have already started to be eligible for immunization in the first stage of the plan.

"We've made progress here, but we still have more people to immunize in this stage," said Reimer.

Future stages continue to broaden the vaccination criteria for health-care workers and congregate living staff and residents (including homeless shelters and correctional facilities) not covered in stage one.

The general population will begin to be vaccinated in stage two, starting with Manitobans over the age of 95 and then working down by one-year increments until reaching age 80. This stage could start as early as April, assuming the vaccine supply allows it.

Stage three will work down from Manitobans over age 75 to those over age 60.

The broadest rollout for the general

public will be in stage four, which will work down from Manitobans age 55+ to those 18 years old or older.

"There will be a vaccine for everyone who wants it in Manitoba, but depending on your situation you may need to be patient," Reimer said.

The plan notes that essential workers could be added at any stage as additional vaccine products are approved for use in Canada. The province has not yet outlined who, exactly, will be considered an essential worker.

Manitoba's under-18 population is also not in the plan, as the current vaccines are not approved for their use. As more vaccines are approved, assuming they are safe for children and youth, that may change.

How fast Manitoba will work through the various stages of vaccination depends greatly on vaccine supply.

Under the projected low-supply scenario, which does not include any vaccines not yet approved, it's expected all Manitobans who want it will have the chance to get the vaccine by the end of 2021.

If supplies increase with the inclusion of new vaccines in development, that date could be moved up to the

end of August.

In both cases, public health officials are estimating 70 per cent of qualified Manitobans will choose to get the vaccine.

Reimer noted the province is working on ensuring Manitobans have easy access to the vaccine when their time to get it comes up.

"That's our goal, that all Manitobans have access," she said. "Whether you live in the cities, whether you live in a remote setting, we're going to be working hard to have sites available that any Manitoban can access, within reasonable distance from their home."

Vaccination supersites are in the works for the Interlake-Eastern and Southern Health-Santé Sud health regions for March. Additional supersites are planned for all health regions through the spring and summer months as more vaccine becomes available.

FIRST NATIONS ROLLOUT

Details of the First Nations vaccine strategy were released Monday by members of the First Nations Pandemic Response Co-ordination Team

"THERE WILL BE A VACCINE FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS IT IN MANITOBA, BUT DEPENDING ON YOUR SITUATION YOU MAY NEED TO BE PATIENT."

Morden thrift shop in need of new volunteers

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Community Thrift Store is putting out a call for more volunteers.

The non-profit organization is looking for help in the wake of a challenging year that has seen some of its volunteer core taking a break for a number of reasons, including concerns around COVID.

"Many of our volunteers have decided to step back, which is understandable," said president Normand Poirier, noting the age of many of their volunteers makes them potentially more susceptible to the virus.

"The store is open though, so we need to fill in these slots that have become vacant," he said. "We have been getting some responses, so that is encouraging, but we would welcome more people."

Poirier added it is good regardless for an organization to get different people involved in their work, so they are open to anyone including perhaps even people who are looking to gain some work experience to add to their resumes.

"A lot of our volunteers are retired, so it's also an opportunity for socialization for them," he said of what often draws people to donate their time. "I think it's a great opportunity for people, and there's more to it than meets the eye."

Poirier noted they only ask volunteers to contribute whatever time they feel they can.

"The hours are flexible. Most people come in and put in a couple of hours ... some people spend more time, but it's totally flexible.

"We try fit in with the volunteer's schedules, so they can do whatever they can manage," he said. "It depends on what they want to do, their comfort level, their skill set. We can work with whatever they have to offer."

Part of the reward is being able to contribute to an organization that gives back to the community.

A dozen organizations and services this past year shared \$320,000 in funding from the thrift store. During a normal year the shop donates upwards of \$500,000.

"It's actually humbling to be part of such a great organization," said Poirier, adding they are grateful for the

community support and the many volunteers that make it all possible. "The community is fantastic. The thrift store is, I think, one of the best success stories. I think the fact that we do work without salaries and everything that we do get goes right back out to the community resonates with everyone in the surrounding area."

If you are interested in being a volunteer, stop by the store at 220 North Railway for an application form or call 204-822-3435.

"THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteer Rudy Pauls at work behind-the-scenes at the Morden Community Thrift Store, which has put out a call for new volunteers.

> PIZZA WEEK, FROM PG. 3

tinue to purchase after this week, but we're just not sure what they could look like now."

He sees the promotion as having been a huge draw for local restaurants.

"With the restrictions, a lot of restaurant customers are not there, so this was definitely a nice boost for this season."

Krushel, meanwhile, estimated Chicken Chef was cranking out an average of about 50 a day of their southwest chicken combo with BBQ chipotle chicken and Santa Fe dressing.

"Instead of coming up with something too crazy, I came up with something that we had all the ingredients in house already," he noted.

He agreed that it was a very welcome boost during what is already traditionally a slower time of year, never mind the pandemic.

"It's excellent exposure for all of the restaurants here in Morden and Winkler," Krushel said.

"We've received so many new customers. Hopefully they will stay as our customers and it won't be a one-time thing. Even if it is, I'm glad they were able to enjoy our creation."

Other restaurants taking part included Flavors of Mexico, King Pinz, That Burrito Place, Pizza Hut, Winkler Pizza, King's Deli, Twisters, Chicken Chef Winkler, Boston Pizza, Hi-way Groceteria, Domino's Pizza, Rendezvous Brewery, Ralph's German Restaurant, DJ's, Pizza Hotline, Red Swan Pizza, and Co-op.

Explore Morden Winkler executive director Tyler Hildebrand said they were thrilled with the response to the campaign.

"It couldn't have gone better," he said. "The response we've heard from the community was really cool; everyone was asking what have you tried or have you tried this one?"

"It was tough to pick a favorite," added Hildebrand, who suggested people became very curious about Valley Bakery's entry from the get-

go. "It was a big surprise to people ... as soon as the word got out, everybody had to try it. I think the creativity showed through there. It was a cheese pizza, but it was his own sourdough and a special mix of cheese, and they really put a lot of care into that pizza."

Ultimately, the reward of the campaign was building support for these local restaurants in a tough time.

"And they may have new customers that they haven't seen before, so it's a cool opportunity for these restaurants to try something new," said Hildebrand.

The tourism agency is hard at work on their next big promotion, though Hildebrand is mum on what exactly it will be.

"There is another week coming, and it will also be very cheesy and very savoury," he hinted, noting they're eyeing spring as a possibility for it.

> VACCINATION PLAN, FROM PG. 4

and Manitoba's Vaccine Implementation Task Force.

Thousands of doses of the Moderna vaccine have already been shipped to 63 First Nations in Manitoba to vaccinate health-care workers in remote/isolated communities, residents and staff in personal care homes or elder care facilities, individuals 60 years and over in remote communities, and individuals 70+ in non-remote communities.

Moving forward, Manitoba's Indigenous communities plan to prioritize

health-care workers in non-remote areas, workers at alternative isolation accommodations, and traditional healers/knowledge keepers as part of the health workforce.

When the province at large begins offering vaccines to Manitobans over the age of 80 in stage two, First Nations people over 60 will also be able to be vaccinated.

"Life expectancy for First Nations people is lower than for other Manitobans and the median age of severe outcomes is also much lower for First

Nations people. And right now, First Nations people make up 50 per cent of all COVID-19 hospitalizations and 40 per cent of intensive care unit admissions," explained Dr. Marcia Anderson, vice dean, Indigenous health and public health lead for Manitoba First Nation PRCT. "We will address this by ensuring younger First Nations people have access to the vaccine sooner to address the higher risk to First Nations people."

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PUBLISHER
Rick Reimer



ADMINISTRATION
Lana Meier



EDITOR
Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER
Lorne Stelmach



SALES
Gwen Keller



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown



PRODUCTION
Tara Gionet



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta

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News tips: 204-332-3456

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

A year with(out) travel

travelled to New York City with my wife and son in 2020.

Now, upon hearing this, what is your instinctive response? Is it negative? It's all right if it is, but you can relax.

Back in the day when COVID-19 was but a small piece of news focused on China we arrived by car in New York City on Jan. 1, 2020 and drove straight into Manhattan to a parking garage about three blocks from our hotel, which was about a five minute walk from the Empire State Building.

This was all part of a road trip that took us from Morden to the border

at Emerson and through the United States to Sarnia, Ontario and then up to Barrie for a Christmas visit with family.

While we were planning the trip, my wife noticed that the drive from New York City to Morden was almost the same length of time as it was from Barrie, and thus was born the idea to detour up to New York for a few days.

By doing so we managed to scratch out an "international" trip in 2020—the year travel was cancelled.

I love to travel.

Now, when I say travel I do not mean I love to go to the same place in Mexico or Hawaii every year and soak up sun (as fun as that would be). What I mean is I love to experience new places and I love road trips.

Driving long distances and stopping along the way at out-of-the-way towns and just experiencing the differentness of it is what I like the most.

Ironically (for someone who used to

run a major tourism destination) I am not fond of a packed schedule full of visiting all the "must-see" things and places.

For example, the best part of New York for me was simply existing in that space. The fire trucks sirens that went off almost every hour throughout the night because our hotel was next to a fire station is a good memory. The sense of a city slowly emerging from a hangover as a result of New Year's Eve celebrations is another, and of course experiencing it all with loved ones is the best.

Don't get me wrong: we still hit some touristy spots. The Empire State Building, the Museum of Natural History, and the astounding and unforgettable Metropolitan Museum of Art were but a few along with long days of walking and subways around Manhattan.

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

Letters

APPRECIATING LIBERTY AND FREEDOM

I am responding to last week's rather insidious (insidious marked by slyness or treachery) attack by Art Hildebrand [*Letters, Jan. 28, Pg. 6*] on M.P. Candice Bergen because of all things wearing a MAGA hat such as thousands of Trump supporters wore at election rallies.

These crowds of Trump supporters were of all various different ethnic groupings and were not filled with hate and violence such as we noticed from the left-leaning mobs that were burning large sections of American cities. The letter is filled with extreme judgementalism.

Next he implies that Candice Bergen may have hate, white supremacy, racism, exceptionalism and particularism in her makeup as a person. It is sad that so many left-leaning voters do not make allowance for freedom loving people of conservative views to be at liberty and have them.

The further left you go you eventually inadvertently move into the communistic orb ... just where are we at today with all our restrictions by using a virus as a means to what end?

I have read enough of the communist experiment in Russia to appreciate what it is like to live at liberty and freedom.

**Cornelius Fehr,
Winkler**

SUPPORT FOR TRUMP

I would like to respond to a recent article in the *Winkler Morden Voice* titled, "Bergen Rep Says MAGA Hat Was Not Hers" [*Pg. 9, Jan. 21 edition*].

Speaking as a Christian and a Canadian born in Manitoba, I have always supported President Donald J. Trump, who served as the U.S. president from 2016 until 2020.

I would like to have a hat made for Canadians which reads, "Make Canada Christian Again."

Apparently an old photo of MP Candice Bergen wearing a camouflage hat with MAGA stitching surfaced on social media. Bergen responded that, "I was shocked ... and strongly condemned the violence incited by outgoing President Trump" in response to questions by email to the *Voice*.

Continued on page 7

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



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The old golf course restaurant building in Winkler came down on Monday after decades of serving the community. Mulligans Restaurant and Lounge and the pro shop have moved into the course's new clubhouse nearby.

Province announces 89 new COVID-19 cases, three more deaths

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Public health officials announced three additional deaths in Manitoba due to COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the total to 832.

The province began the work week with total of 3,466 active case of the virus and 25,353 recoveries.

The bulk of new cases in recent days have been in the Northern health region, which reported 42 additional cases on Monday compared to 22 in Interlake-Eastern, 18 in Winnipeg, four in Southern Health-Santé Sud, and three in Prairie Mountain.

There were 255 people in hospital due to COVID-19 at press time, including 104 still considered infectious and 151 no longer contagious but still

requiring care.

Manitoba's intensive care units were caring for 38 patients, 27 with active COVID-19 infections.

The Southern Health-Santé Sud health region began the week with 185 active cases (dropping from 215 a week earlier), 4,317 recoveries, and 136 deaths (eight more from the week before)

In the Pembina Valley, the active cases on Monday included seven in Winkler, four in Morden, two in Stanley, 22 in Lorne/Louise/Pembina, one in Roland/Thompson, three in MacDonald, nine in Altona, and 28 in Red River South. There were no active cases reported in Carman, Grey, or Morris.

A total of 24 people have died of COVID-19 in these areas (up two from

the week before).

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was 7.9 per cent provincially and 4.2 per cent in Winnipeg

NEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister last week announced amendments to the public health orders in connection to interprovincial travel.

Starting Jan. 29, anyone entering Manitoba from anywhere in Canada is required to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes those entering from northern and Western Canada and from west of Terrace Bay in Ontario, which under previous health orders did not require self-isolation.

Pallister pointed to the increasing

variant COVID-19 strain cases popping up around the world and right here in Canada as the reasoning behind this change.

"This is being done out of an abundance of caution to protect Manitobans," he stressed. "We do not want these variants ... in Manitoba."

"Now is not the time for non-essential travel. We all need to do our part to keep each other safe."

There are some exemptions to the new self-isolation measures, including for those traveling for essential interprovincial work or medical purposes and individuals who regularly travel to and from communities near the borders for essential purposes. Complete details are available online at manitoba.ca/covid19.

> CANTELON FROM PG. 6

And of course we had to stop at Tiffany's. *Breakfast at Tiffany's* is one of my top 10 movies.

Growing up we didn't travel. We never owned a car. The furthest I

could go was as far as my legs, my bike, or the city bus would take me. I never even got on a plane until I was 20 and I never left the country until I was 24.

> LETTERS FROM PG. 6

Since the events in D.C. on Jan. 6th, 2021, much evidence has surfaced proving that the coup was actually the work of Antifa and BLM activists wearing pro Trump clothing and carrying Trump banners.*

Seventy-four million U.S. citizens voted for President Donald J. Trump on Nov. 3, 2020. There has been much confusion relating to evidence of election fraud.* In Canada, too, our mainstream media has been reporting negatively about President Trump for four years. It is a very one-sided opinion.

There are millions of Canadians who support President Trump. And there are millions of global citizens

who support him too. Why? We see him as a voice for our concerns and a real help for global issues.

In my case, I support him because he is a Christian and he is pro-life. So am I.

Pamela Funk,
Morden

**Ed. note: The Federal Bureau of Investigation in the U.S. has stated they have found no indication that Antifa activists were responsible for the breach of the Capitol Building. When it comes to the issue of voter fraud, the former president's claims have not stood up in any U.S. court.*

But even then I made what I had count. I would bike from Guelph to Elora or Aberfoyle (small communities nearby) and I once walked to Kitchener, all simply to go to places I had never been.

Once I was old enough I would spend my limited cash on bus tickets from Guelph to Toronto just so I could spend the entire day walking around Queen Street W. and the core with no money staring at the crowds and the endless businesses and tall buildings. New and different things.

I am glad we managed to get to New York in 2020. I am also glad the restrictions forced us to wander closer to home. We spent the summer experiencing our local small towns on weekends, places like Gimli, Husavik, Baldur, Saint Alphonse, and Mariapolis, to name a few. Each one with its own interesting facets and people.

Here's to 2021 and the possibility to hit the road again. I have no doubt that whether the border opens or not we will still find interesting places to visit.

Letter policy

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

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are unlikely 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.

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Are you brave enough to take the Polar Plunge?



VOICE FILE PHOTO

A participant in last year's Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics braces himself before diving in. This year organizers are asking people to do the plunge at home.

Participants asked to get creative for an at-home icy swim

By Lorne Stelmach

Switching to a virtual event in light of the pandemic restrictions may be a blessing in disguise for an annual fundraising effort in support of Special Olympics Manitoba.

Organizers of the Polar Plunge are encouraging supporters to take the plunge at home this year in place of the public event normally held in conjunction with Morden's Multicultural Winterfest, which is also just an online program this year as well (see story on Pg. 10).

"Going virtual is something everyone has been faced with this past year," said Morden Police Service Cst Scott Edwards, who is also involved with Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

"Our hope is that we're actually going to be able to reach a wider range of potential participants ... this can open it up to people across the province wherever they are," he said. "So I think there's potential for it to be very successful."

The Polar Plunge has been held in Morden now for five years, joining similar events in Winnipeg and Por-

tage la Prairie.

Participants usually take a dunk outside in a special portable tank to raise funds for Special Olympics.

Last year 35 people braved the icy water and raised over \$17,000, bringing the event's five-year total to more than \$100,000.

That's a huge support for Special Olympics, so organizers wanted to do whatever they could to carry on with the event in some way in 2021, despite COVID-19.

"The impact obviously has been felt by everyone, including our athletes at Special Olympics Manitoba, and we as an organization wanted to try to do what we can," said Edwards. "Not only programming but fundraising for Special Olympics has been impacted."

The plunge at home initiative will run throughout February and March. People are encouraged to use their own imagination to do some sort of plunge by themselves or perhaps with a family member or friend.

"It can be whatever you want to do, we're leaving it open," said Edwards. "Dunk in some water, jump in a tub of ice water, or jump in a snowbank, although there isn't a lot of snow around."

Edwards said a website for the initiative is still being finalized but he expects it will be up this week. In the meantime, head to specialolympics.mb.ca for more details on how to get involved.

PHAC puts call out for new board members

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Hills Arts Council has put a call out for some fresh blood for its board of directors.

Chair Lorne Stelmach, who himself was a newcomer to the board just last year, says PHAC is seeing a fair bit of turnover of late as several longtime board members reach the end of their terms.

With one more member expected to step back this spring, the board finds itself in need of at least four new members.

You don't need to be an artist or an art expert to get involved.

"People think they need to be involved in the arts somehow, but that's not the case," Stelmach says. "Anyone who has any amount of interest or appreciation for the arts and culture in our community can contribute their time and energy to the board."

It's not an onerous job, he adds, explaining the board meets once a month (virtually during the pandemic) and takes a break for the summer. There are also opportunities to get involved with events at the gallery as a volunteer, but it's not a requirement.

"I wouldn't say it's a huge demand on people's time," says Stelmach. "We just want people to contribute what

they can."

PHAC is currently looking for general board members, though it's possible the role of treasurer will be opening up as well.

The council hopes to hold their annual meeting this April, in person or online. They'd like to have the new board members in place for that meeting, ideally.

If you'd like to get involved, contact Stelmach at 204-823-2655 or via email to lorenzostelmach@gmail.com.

Looking to the year ahead, Stelmach says they're hard at work planning ways to keep the community engaged, as they have been throughout the

pandemic.

"It's been a challenging but also an interesting and exciting time for the arts council," he says. "Having to find different ways to do things has opened up new ideas and new opportunities in terms of our online programming and such."

"We're looking as much as we can to continue on with a diverse range of programming moving forward," Stelmach adds, stressing that encompasses "arts and culture in a broad sense, not just art but the written word and the performing arts as well."

CN Police raising awareness about rail safety

By Lorne Stelmach

CN Police are aiming to raise awareness around rail safety, particularly now in the winter months when people are out on snowmobiles.

Last year in North America there were over 3,400 collisions with trains resulting in over 2,200 serious injuries or fatalities.

"We really look at like one incident is too many," said Paul Leaden, a sergeant with the prairie division of the CN Police.

"This time of year, it's really important to get the message out," said Leaden, noting particularly that trespassing "is a significant and probably the biggest concern."

"It's important people understand that there's legal consequences in addition to the safety issue," he said. "We remind people of the legal ramifications but it's primarily for safety."

"Trespassing on railway property is not only illegal, it is extremely dangerous, so we would encourage snowmobile users and ATV users to participate in their hobby but off the property and in areas that are legal and safe."

Leaden noted that railway property extends 50 feet on either side of

the tracks. He added that travelling alongside tracks can present a range of hidden dangers.

"There's many dangers the train presents if you're in close proximity. There's a lot of dangers there that people don't realize," he said. "There's things in the snow that you can hit. It could be something simple like some rail ties that were set aside in the fall and then it snows over top."

He reiterated that railway yards, tracks, tunnels and bridges are private property, and driving along or on railway tracks or taking a shortcut across tracks is not only illegal but can be fatal.

"You can sometimes have areas where people on snow machines are crossing the tracks at locations that aren't level crossings, which is the only legal place to cross."

Tips on how to stay safe near a rail line while operating an off-road vehicle include:

- Use designated railway crossings.
- Slow down, look both ways and listen for approaching trains; proceed only if it is safe to do so.
- Stay off the tracks.
- Use approved trails, not railway tracks.
- Keep in mind that trains can over-



hang the tracks by as much as one metre on each side.

- Stalls or stuck vehicles must be left behind. Once safe, immediately notify emergency responders by calling 911.
- Be rail-smart on an off-road vehicle: stop, look, listen, live.

"Safety is a core value at CN, and we want to take every opportunity

to raise awareness on safe behaviour around rail," said Cst. Mark Eagles. "It is our job to make sure that Manitobans know that off-road vehicles and railway tracks are not a good combination. It is important for CN Police officers to engage the population on the dangers related to a railway incident."

PVLIP hosting virtual community celebration Feb. 25

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) is inviting the community to a special celebration later this month.

PVLIP's first Connecting Cultures & Communities Celebration takes place online on Thursday, Feb. 25 starting at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will include a chance to learn more about what PVLIP has accomplished over the past year as well as its plans for the future, says coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon.

"We're looking at this as a way to help bring more awareness to the Pembina Valley about the local immigration partnership's role and the goals and ways in which we are trying to bring more value to the region," she said. "We really focus on trying to help improve the settlement and immigration outcomes for newcomers, but we do that through partnerships with other community members."

To that end, the night is open to anyone interested in learning more about PVLIP or wanting to get more involved with the organization.

"We're hoping to reach as many people as possible," said Burton Saindon.

The evening will include performances of cultural entertainment, a surprise "cultural content" package for participants to open, a prize for the "best traditionally dressed" participant, and a chance to provide feedback on the work PVLIP is doing in

the Pembina Valley.

The plan had been to hold this event in-person, but COVID-19 threw a wrench in the works.

"However, we are going to try and keep it interactive," said Burton Saindon. "So there will be opportunities to meet new people while also learning from one another."

Participation in the celebration is free, though space is limited. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. The stream may also be posted online for people to check out after the event.

For more details or to sign up, check out the event listing on the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership Facebook page.

RCMP ask public to be on lookout for stolen chainsaw

By Voice staff

Pembina Valley RCMP are asking area residents to keep an eye out for several stolen goods thieves made away with after a break-in in the RM of Thompson last month.

On Jan. 20, police were called to a tool shed on a rural property believed to be broken into the night before.

Personal items such as fishing equipment, a red bicycle, and an extensive list of tools including socket

sets and other various hand tools were stolen.

One of the items taken was a Husqvarna 445 18" chainsaw with the serial number 20162900869 (the serial number on a Husqvarna can typically be found near the lead handle and chain break on a metal tag).

Police believe some or all of these items were sold by using a local online buy and sell platform.

If you have any information or may have purchased some of these items, contact Carman RCMP at 204-745-

6760 to assist police with their investigation.

RCMP note that break and enters into garages and sheds have been on the rise lately and remind the public to make sure they're locking up these areas securely.

You're also encouraged to keep a list of your property that includes serial numbers and detailed descriptions, both of which aid in proof of ownership and assist police in taking action against those responsible for break and enters.

Morden's Winterfest going virtual this year

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Morden Multicultural Winterfest may not be able to happen as usual thanks to COVID-19, but organizers are hoping to replicate the community celebration the best they can in a new way.

They are looking to the community to contribute towards a virtual event which they hope to compile into the online presentation tentatively planned for mid-March.

"We want to make sure we are still brought together at least virtually rather than not at all because there is still lots to celebrate about Morden and winter," said planning committee member Robyn

Wiebe. "With COVID separating us all so much, there are still so many things that can bring us together, and Morden's Multicultural Winterfest has been a huge part of it."

This would have been the 13th year for the celebration of both the winter season and the growing diversity of the community of Morden.

One big draw for Winterfest is always the cultural entertainment and displays in the community hall. Organizers see such a benefit in bringing people together from the

different cultures represented locally that they knew they wanted to explore how they could carry on with that aspect of it, albeit virtually.

"WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE STILL BROUGHT TOGETHER AT LEAST VIRTUALLY RATHER THAN NOT AT ALL ..."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The annual Morden Multicultural Winterfest, a celebration of winter and the community's diversity, will be an online presentation this year. Organizers have put a call out for performers.

"We had a lofty plan for a three hour show complete with lots of extras," said Wiebe, who noted, thought, that their plans to start filming segments back in November and December were halted by code red restrictions.

"We are still trying to see how we

can celebrate winter and multiculturalism now that things have sort of lifted," she continued. "So we're asking people to self-record some of their performances and some of their infor-

Continued on page 11



2021 - CURBSIDE PICK UP CALENDAR

* See April, November & December compost pick ups.

* The correct cart must be placed properly at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the assigned collection date.

* Contact MWM if there has been an issue with your curbside pickup, such as a missed pickup: 204-822-0327

* Contact the City of Morden for issue with your carts, schedule, or fees for curbside service. Ph: 822-4434 Email: info@mymorden.ca

Zone 1	Compost Day
Zone 2	Recycling Day
Zone 3	Garbage Day
Yard Waste	No Pick Up

JANUARY						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Dec 28/20	Dec 29/20	Dec 30/20	Dec 31/20	1	2	3
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School bus collides with SUV

One injured in Pilot Mound accident

By Voice staff

A school bus and an SUV collided in Pilot Mound last week.

Emergency crews were called to the junction of Hwy. 3 and Broadway Ave. at 8:31 a.m. on Jan. 26 in response to an incident involving a bus from the Prairie Spirit School Division.

Police say the driver of the bus proceeded to enter the intersection when it was unsafe to do so, causing the SUV to run into them.

The bus, which was carrying students in Kindergarten to Gr. 10 to school, was driven by a 65-year-old



RCMP PHOTO

The driver of this SUV was brought to hospital in Winnipeg in stable condition after colliding with a school bus in Pilot Mound last week.

man. No one on the bus was injured.

The 37-year-old male driver of the SUV sustained serious injuries. He was transported to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg in stable condition.

The investigation is ongoing. Police say alcohol was not a factor.

Winterfest puts call out for community video submissions

From Pg. 10

mation about their countries.

"They can share as well what they love about Morden," Wiebe added. "We are looking for any kind of culture to be shared but with an emphasis on winter activities and an emphasis on anyone's culture. There are many aspects of people's cultural backgrounds.

"We are also looking for businesses to record reasons they love Morden so they can show their business ... why having a business in Morden is good," she added.

The only guidelines on submissions are for them to be kept to about three minutes long.

People also need to be mindful of all public health directives in terms of gathering sizes and physical distancing measures while recording.

Wiebe suggested people should aim to have their submissions in by mid-February to give organizers enough time to put them together for the community watch party next month, which is a few weeks later than the usual Louis Riel Day weekend celebration.

"We're giving it some time to see how many people can manage to record something," she said. "We're excited to see what people come up with."

You can find updates and more information on the Morden Multicultural Winterfest page on Facebook.

"WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE COME UP WITH."

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Or call 204-823-0535 for more details.
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An at-home PJ party

The South Central Regional Library didn't let a little thing like a global pandemic stop them from celebrating Family Literacy Day last week. In lieu of the usual in-person pyjama parties, staff from the branches in Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami, and Manitou recorded themselves reading a bedtime story for a video posted online at the SCRL YouTube page. Among the readers were Miami branch administrator Cherie Debreuil (left) and Winkler's Jess Martens (above).



Pregnancy care centre expanding to Altona

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Centre is setting up shop in Altona, expanding its on-site services from

its current Winkler and Morden locations.

Executive director Linda Marek explains the agency has long had connections in the community (they had an office there some years back), and the time was right to provide people living in that area with closer-to-home services once again.

"People reach out to us from across the region ... but we didn't always have the capacity to have a presence there on a regular basis," she said, noting staff regularly drive out to

"PEOPLE REACH OUT TO US FROM ACROSS THE REGION ..."

meet people as needed all across the Pembina Valley, but having a dedicated space in a community makes it easier for everyone.

Continued on page 16

The Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care



Facebook contest



Send a

I LOVE selfie

for Valentine's Day

The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

Post a selfie of you and your Valentine on our Facebook page and together you could

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at Victoria Inn & Hotel & Convention Centre
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CONTEST RULES: Go to the Winkler Morden Voice Facebook page and post a picture of you and your partner on our page before midnight on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021. Following the deadline, all the pictures received will be placed in our "Love Selfie" album in order to give the general public the chance to "like" the selfie of their choice. On Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, the couple whose picture got the most likes will win a 1 night stay at one of the Victoria Inn & Hotel & Convention Centre locations in Brandon, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg or Flin Flon. The name of the winner will be announced on our Facebook page and in the Winkler Morden Voice on Thursday, Feb. 25.

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Enter now at manito.ba/sweepstakes

CONTEST CLOSES FEBRUARY 28, 2021. Full contest rules and prize details are available online at manito.ba/sweepstakes. Please remember to practise safe travel and physical distancing throughout the province.

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Don't drink or use pot while ice fishing: RCMP



RCMP PHOTO

Ice fishing communities are popping up on countless Manitoba lakes and waterways. RCMP remind people that consuming alcohol or cannabis while out on the ice is illegal and carries a hefty fine.

By Voice staff

Manitoba RCMP are reminding ice fishing enthusiasts to be safe while out enjoying the waterways this winter.

Police say that with the increasing popularity of ice fishing this COVID-plagued winter, they've seen a rise in illegal consumption of alcohol and cannabis and more people driving to and from their fishing shacks while impaired.

"With all sorts of vehicles out and about, no determined roadway, people skiing, walking, and skating, and places where there is open water, the ice can be a challenge to drive on at the best of times," said S/Sgt. Kyle McFadyen of Manitoba RCMP Traffic

Services. "When a driver is impaired, that challenge becomes downright dangerous."

The RCMP remind Manitobans that it is illegal to consume alcohol or cannabis while on the ice or inside either a temporary or permanent ice fishing shelter. The fine for having open alcohol on the ice is \$672.

For impaired driving, the same rules apply as if a driver was driving impaired on a roadway. Suspension, loss of licence, and even jail time could result, depending on the severity of the occurrence.

With the current public health orders, RCMP note it is also imperative that people continue to practise social distancing and not gather in large groups.

Winklerites to pay a bit more for water in 2021

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler residents will be paying a little bit more for their water services this year.

A small increase approved by city council at its Jan. 26 meeting reflects the slight hike being charged for the water that comes to Winkler through the Pembina Valley Water Co-op.

"It's very, very minimal over a thousand gallons," said Mayor Martin Harder. "It's just on the portion that we buy from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. The City of Winkler is not adding anything on our side.

"When the City of Winkler gets that cost increase ... we take the amount of the increase and we blend it out over the entire portion."

The rate increase from the co-op is 18 cents per thousand gallons of water from a rate of \$9.16 to \$9.34. Given the City of Winkler purchases 35 per cent of its water from the co-op, it means the "pass through" increase works out to six cents per thousand gallons.

Harder noted the gradual increases for the water co-op are important as it continues to take on vital improvements and upgrades across the region.

"They had an aggressive revamping program in mind ... it all helps to continue to provide water for the valley," he said.

The mayor noted the city will at some point in the future take a separate look at its own water rates.

"Our rate review is going to have to happen once we do our mechanical wastewater treatment facility," said

Harder, who added it makes sense to have minimal increase to keep pace with the costs. "Otherwise communities who have been reluctant to have any increase in taxes, eventually you run out of money and eventually the big bill comes, and then you're faced with a huge problem."

Meanwhile, council also approved a revision to its special services plan to provide for waste, compost, and recycling collection in Winkler.

It is simply taking into account the expansion of the city, Harder explained.

"They need to be incorporated into the overall taxable area for the City of Winkler," he said, noting the rates remain the same from having started at \$110 for residential service in 2019 and rising to a maximum of \$150 in 2023.

Council also approved what they will be paid in 2021 with a one per cent in-

crease in their annual indemnity.

The mayor will receive \$36,542 while the deputy mayor gets \$19,594 and other council members are paid \$16,735. In addition, they receive a per diem while attending to city business of \$250 for a full day or \$125 for a half day as well as \$50 for other special meetings of council and \$25 for representing council at other community functions.

> PVPCC, FROM PG. 12

The agency now has a couple of volunteers from Altona, so they will be providing on-call supports there moving forward.

"We're going to be offering all the same services through our volunteers there," Marek explained. "So, pregnancy tests, options conversations, support for loss, post-abortion grief support, and practical items like diapers and baby items."

They'll also be looking at how they

might introduce PVPCC's various support group programs to the area if the demand is there.

Marek noted they have a private space they'll share with another agency. Clients who call in for support will be directed there as needed.

It's an exciting opportunity, Marek said, adding care centre staff and volunteers are looking forward to building connections and providing support to those in the area dealing

with an unplanned pregnancy.

"Having a safe place to come to with your questions, concerns, fears and feelings is vital to women making informed decisions," she said. "Even one woman living with regret because she didn't have access to information and support is one woman too many."

The PVPCC's Altona care team can be reached by call or text to 204-304-6757.

> FTC, FROM PG. 14

pany YouTube page at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13. It will remain up for later viewing as well.

No tickets are required, but donations to help FTC with its programming in the future are most welcome. Email flatlandstheatreco@gmail.com for details.

With the next few months still up in the air when it comes to what CO-

VID-19 restrictions are going to look like, FTC has made the decision to postpone its spring performance of *Anne of the Island*.

Instead, the troupe is planning to perform an outdoor show tentatively called "The Last of the Spring Show" June 19-20. It will include a variety of one-act pieces.

"We wanted to come up with a

way where we could be respectful of regulations, respectful of our cast's needs and safety, as well as setting it up for people to feel comfortable to come and watch," Hoepfner says.

Also in the works is FTC's first weeklong summer theatre camp for kids, currently scheduled for mid-July. Further details will be released in the months ahead.

Banner year for local real estate market

By Lorne Stelmach

The real estate market had a banner year in 2020, even while being in the midst of a global pandemic.

The Manitoba Real Estate Association has reported sales records being set in several categories.

"In my three decades working with home buyers and sellers, I have never experienced a year quite like 2020," said Manitoba Real Estate Association president Stewart Elston. "It's been an extraordinary year we will never forget."

For the first time ever, over 16,000 residential properties in the province sold in a single year, and the sales account for over \$5.10 billion in total value, which is up 19.3 per cent over the previous yearly record of \$4.27 billion in 2019.

Even sales in December, which is typically a quieter month in the market, exceeded expectations in 2020 with 971 properties sold in the month. That's a 49 per cent increase compared to the average home sales in December over the previous five years.

New listings in 2020 totalled 24,335, which was a drop of eight per cent, but the average sale price increased 4.4 per cent from \$291,255 to \$304,117.

Local realtors say it was a busy market here in the Morden-Winkler area as well.

"I definitely feel that trend was similar out here," said Brent Laverty of Crocus Real Estate in Morden. "Overall, in Winkler and Morden, I think it was a strong year, and it remains strong."

"It was a slow start ... there was a bit of a lull there for March and April, but as soon as the restrictions kind of loosened in May, we were busy," he said. "And it's been steady since then ... and we have lots of buyers out there, but we need listings because there's lots of people who are looking."

"We don't get the crazy highs like

Winnipeg, but we don't get those lows either. It's not a rollercoaster ... it's a slow upward trend," Laverty continued. "We had a real influx ... as soon as things opened up, we had lots of people listing their houses."

"We had a very strong year in the area," agreed Dave Kasdorf of Choice Realty, which also saw favorable numbers in 2020.

Their median sale price increased from \$255,000 to \$260,000 in Winkler and from \$219,000 to \$254,750 in Morden. The average amount of time homes were on the market also dropped from 26 days to 21 in Winkler and from 45 to 28 in Morden.

Kasdorf said they saw some initial slowing of sales with the first shutdown in early spring, but it picked up shortly afterwards.

"People are still getting married, and those kinds of things don't stop in the world even though there is a pandemic," he pointed out. "The other thing is the local job market has been so strong. There's still people coming and moving into the area for employment, so we had a bit of a pause in spring ... after four weeks of being very quiet, it picked up where it left off."

It has been very much more of a seller's market, Kasdorf suggested.

"We still have a shortage of inventory for the first time home buyer market ... and there's certainly strength in that market as far as how many buyers there are now," he said. "There's a little bit of a shortage of listings in that \$200,000 to \$300,000 range. It's a little hard to come by and they certainly sold the quickest."

Kasdorf also saw some good and bad in terms of the impact of the pandemic restrictions, including not being able to do traditional open houses.

"We spent more time on photography and some videos ... let people view a little more detail of the house before you go to see it," he explained. "What it really did is it kind of meant the buyers who were looking were serious buyers. During a pandemic, people don't want strangers in their house unless they're serious about buying it."

Another potential pandemic side effect was people looking to upgrade as they realized their family could use more home office space or a bigger yard.

"If you don't have a home that's working well for you, you're probably



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The global pandemic didn't put much of a dent in local real estate sales in 2020, say Morden-Winkler agents.

going to make a change because of the amount of time you're spending in your home," said Kasdorf.

Gables Realty based in Morden also saw their sales more than hold their own in the past year. They had 168 residential sales in Morden, down only slightly from 176 in 2019, while Winkler had 187 residential sales, which was up from 176 in 2019. A majority of those sales were in the final two thirds of the year.

"Most of our business was done between May and December ... it ended up being a very good year," said Sandra Wiebe. "The problem this year has been not enough listings ... more buyers than sellers, and 2019 was a bit like that too."

"I think people had a lot of time to sit and look at what was available," she suggested with a chuckle. "A lot of it is immigration as well, where they came maybe a year ago or two years ago. I had a number of immigrants that I sold houses to."

"Rentals have had a little more vacancies this year," Wiebe noted. "And it's been a harder year as a realtor because there haven't been enough listings available. I have done a lot of knocking on doors this year to find the right place for people. I sold a number of places that were not listed at all."

She also noted that the newer duplexes in northwest Morden have been popular.

"Those have been selling really well ... it's maybe not a place they will stay in forever but it's a great start," she said. "There haven't been a whole lot of acreages available."

Considering the state of the world, Randy Reimer from Winkler's Crocus Real Estate was impressed with the health of the local market in 2020.

"We've got pretty consistent growth here. It's just a constant. The growth has been good, and the interest rates have been low. A lot of the industry jobs have been solid," he suggested.

"I've been in this for almost 30 years, and we've had one bad year out of those 30," Reimer added. "We've been lucky that way. It's consistent growth."

WHAT PEOPLE WANT IN A HOME

The Manitoba Real Estate Association noted that a survey of 1,000 random Manitobans gave them some insight as to how the pandemic had changed what their preferences were in a home:

- Almost half want a dedicated space to exercise in their home.
- Almost a quarter say having a property with a yard is now a much higher priority.
- 38 per cent of Manitobans say living in a detached home is now a higher priority
- Extra space for a home office is a higher priority now for 44 per cent of Manitobans and especially women.
- 55 per cent of Manitobans living in multi-unit buildings say that being close to parks or green spaces is more important now.

"Home buyer demand has been very high, and there is every indication it will remain so as we enter the new year," said Elston. "Levels of inventory on the market will also be a key factor impacting home sales and price trends."

"Elevated demand and fewer homes on the market, combined with low interest rates which raises a buyer's purchasing power, created a competitive housing market with upward pressure on prices," he added.

"While it has been challenging for some buyers to find a home, with many properties selling quickly, we are optimistic many more houses will come on the market as we get further into the year. We are fortunate in Manitoba that many homes remain affordable compared to other parts of the country."

"IT WAS A SLOW START ... BUT AS SOON AS RESTRICTIONS KIND OF LOOSENED IN MAY WE WERE BUSY."

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Winkler Flyers on standby for season to resume

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's junior hockey team are doing what they can to stand ready for the season to start—whenever that may be.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League's hopes to resume play in recent weeks were foiled by the extension of code red restrictions until at least Feb. 12, but the league has said it remains committed to resuming the 2020-2021 season once it is allowed to do so.

In the meantime, it's been nearly three months since the Winkler Flyers sent their players home—some clear across the country—and while they miss the hockey, it's certainly not the only loss this odd season has created.

"I think just being around the guys all the time and the camaraderie of it all," says goalie Dylan Meilun when asked recently what he's been missing most as the mid-season break wears on and on. "It's different not having it this year."

"Definitely hanging out with the guys," agrees captain Jayden McCarthy. "Usually we practise, we work out, and then we hang out for the rest of the day playing ping pong or watching TV, that kind of thing, with 20 of your best friends."

The guys have been staying in touch with group chats and online video game sessions.

"We're always talking," Meilun says.



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY RYAN SAWATZKY/WINKLER FLYERS

Dylan Meilun has been keeping his skills sharp by spending a lot of time at the local outdoor rinks as the Winkler Flyers and the MJHL await word for when the season might be allowed to resume.

It's not the same, but at least it's something.

Head coach Kelvin Cech says they started out the break with regular Zoom meetings with the players, but those wore out their welcome pretty quickly.

"I got really sick of the Zoom meetings really fast," he says. "Some guys, their internet connection isn't great so you can't really show video and work on stuff. Even then, it's not like there's a lot of things we need to do. Most of them it's just we'll work on stuff when they get back."

The coaching staff have since pivoted to regular calls and texts to keep on top of the guys, who are expected to return to the rink ready to work.

"A couple guys have said you're going to have to skate us for a few days and told them I'm not going to have time for that," says Cech. "You need to come in in shape and then we need to find the game timing and the stuff with the puck and competing with each other on the ice."

To that end, outdoor rinks—of both the backyard and community variety—have featured heavily in nearly all the players' lives in recent months.

"Everyone's got their skates and their gloves and they're out there doing what they can," says Cech.

Meilun has been making the rounds at the rinks in Morden and nearby Darlingford to ensure he's keeping his netminding skills sharp.

"It's tough. I mean, obviously it's not like past seasons where you're on the ice every day and have access to the gym," he says. "It's been a challenge to stay active, but we're getting it done."

Whether it's getting a friend to shoot



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Meilun gets a ride home after a tiring day of practice.

"WE'RE ALL STAYING ACTIVE AND STAYING READY BECAUSE WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE CALL THAT WE CAN GO BACK."

Continued on page 19

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 18

pucks at him or lifting weights in his home gym, Meilun says he finds motivation in the hope the season will eventually resume.

"We're all staying active and staying ready because we're just waiting for the call that we can go back."

Seeing the potential start date pushed back again and again has been frustrating for McCarthy, but he's tried to focus on the bigger picture.

"It's usually just a one day thing [of disappointment] and then you're just back to being focused on being ready to play when it happens because you won't get that many games, so you want to be as good as you can for those games."

He's also aware that he's luckier than some other players, for whom this season is their last of junior hockey.

"It's hard to complain when they're in a much tougher situation with trying to go to college and whatnot and now everything's backed up," he says. "I think you just gotta hope for the

best ... stay positive through it all and keep doing your job. In the end, that's all you've got to do."

The MJHL has a few different plans for finishing out the season, depending on what the province does with restrictions in the months ahead.

Whatever it ends up looking like, Cech knows one thing for sure about what he'll see from his players when they finally get back to Winkler:

"I'll tell you the enthusiasm will be unprecedented," he says. "I would expect a lot of sloppiness and kind of careless play to start, but if that's my biggest worry of the day, at that point, then that means we're on the ice and I really won't care."

"To get them going again it will just be a lot of game situations and competing against each other," he adds. "The guys really push each other, but nothing can replace playing a different team and taking your three months of anxiety and frustration out on someone else."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Flyers captain Jayden McCarthy passes the puck around on his backyard rink in Morris to keep his skills sharp.

Morden Curling Club calls it quits on the season

Winkler club not far behind

By Lorne Stelmach

The local curling season that never really got going due to the pandemic has now come to an end.

Unable to open since the code red restrictions came into place in the fall, the Morden Curling Club announced last week that it was shutting down for the season, and it seemed likely that the Winkler club will be following suit.

"We were going to wait just in case there was a little bit of a glimmer of hope by the 12th of February," said Jim Hiebert of the Winkler Curling Club last week. The current code red restrictions are in place until Feb. 12.

"By the sounds of it, it didn't look at all promising," noted Scott Bissett of the Morden club. "Now we're hoping by fall that this will all be straightened out ... I think a lot of people are disappointed, not just for the curling but for the social aspect of it too."

There had been some hope earlier in the fall that at least a partial curling season would be possible if public health orders were eased, although even then it would have looked very different from previous years.

There were not only changes to how the game would be played but also a

range of public health restrictions and measures to get used to this year.

Curl Manitoba's return-to-play guidelines included major modifications to sweeping and player positioning on the sheet in the interests of physical distancing guidelines.

That all became moot once the COVID-19 virus numbers worsened by November and led to sports being cancelled entirely.

"We got two weeks in at the beginning of the season before we were shut down," noted Bissett.

The club was able to receive some financial assistance but it's not going to be a great year for their budget.

"We're going to come out in the negative for sure," said Bissett, noting the reality of the income not being there while the costs to maintain and keep

the rink operational remain.

"We're going to be rebating the curlers a percentage of their fees ... we're going to make that offer to them, and hopefully some of them will donate it back to the club," he said.

The Winkler Curling Club finds itself in a similar situation.

"We had four days in November. That is all we had," said Hiebert.

He said they have been holding out some slim hope of being able to still get in a little bit more curling if restrictions allow.

"I can understand the government wanting to be careful," said Hiebert, while acknowledging that it is still quite disappointing not to be able to let curlers out on the ice they've been tending to all winter. "I've been on the ice every day, and once a week we get together, Charles Dyck and I get together, and we scrape the ice."

We have the ice plant turned up so the ice is just barely below freezing. I think we will probably have to just shut it down."

"WE GOT TWO WEEKS IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON BEFORE WE WERE SHUT DOWN."

The Winkler Morden
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> MEAL IDEAS



Red Velvet Mug Cake

3 tablespoons powdered sugar
1 tablespoon cream cheese, softened

In 12-ounce mug, whisk flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Add milk, butter, vanilla and food coloring; mix until blended.

In small bowl, mix powdered sugar and cream cheese until smooth.

Drop cream cheese mixture into cake batter. Press into batter until covered.

Microwave up to 3 minutes until cake is done.

Servings: 1

6 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter, melted
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
30 drops red food coloring



Red Velvet Heart Pancakes

syrup, for garnish
powdered sugar, for garnish
raspberries, for garnish

In large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In medium bowl, whisk egg. Add buttermilk, 2 tablespoons butter, vanilla extract and food coloring; whisk until combined.

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir to combine.

Spray heart-shaped cookie cutter with nonstick cooking spray and place in skillet. Add enough batter to fill heart. Cook 2 minutes. Remove heart cutter. Flip pancake and cook 1 minute.

Serve with butter, syrup, powdered sugar and raspberries.

Note: If mixture is too thick, add water until desired consistency is reached.

Servings: 8-10

1 cup flour
1/4 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg
1 cup buttermilk
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus additional for garnish
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
30-40 drops red food coloring
nonstick cooking spray



Cranberry Raspberry Vanilla Punch

Add frozen cranberries and scoops of frozen sorbet.

Servings: 6-12

8 cups cranberry-raspberry juice
8 1/2 cups cranberry ginger ale
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 pint raspberry sorbet
frozen cranberries, for garnish
In large punch bowl, add juice, ginger ale and vanilla extract. Stir until combined.



Christine Ibbotson

Could you tell me about a RESPs. My mother wants me to open one for our son who is only two.

Thanks, Bianca

Great question Bianca,

For those who don't know, a RESP is a registered education savings plan designed to provide a tax-deferred savings investment with direct government assistance to help you reach education savings goals for your children or grandchildren. The subscriber to the plan is the person who opens the account and makes contributions to it, and the beneficiary is the individual(s) who receives the funds for post-secondary education. The beneficiary must be a Canadian resident and also have a SIN, (social insurance number).

I always recommend having a Family RESP plan versus individual plans because it has so much more flexibility. The investment is larger and has the ability to receive higher returns; funds in the plan do not have to be shared equally among beneficiaries; and it provides the most flexibility for future withdrawals. Your mother could also consider having a Family RESP for all of her grandchildren to use for education.

There are a few key components of a RESP that you must be aware of. There are no limits to the number of plans you can establish or on the number of beneficiaries you want to have; however, the limit on lifetime contributions for any one beneficiary is \$50,000 and any over contributions are subject to a penalty of 1% per month. You can make contributions to the plan for up to 31 years and it can remain open for up to 36 years. If the beneficiary is disabled you can contribute to 35 years and it will remain open for 40 years.

There is a basic CESG, (Canada Education Savings Grant) for beneficiaries of the plan under the age of 18, (special rules apply for children over 16). The Canadian government will add 20% annually to the first \$2,500 contributed, a \$500 bonus every year. The maximum CESG over the life of the plan is \$7,200 per beneficiary. The benefit to a family plan is that when you are planning to allocate the funds among the beneficiaries, you will not be restricted on withdrawals and can direct more to a child whose education expenses may be higher. Let's



AsktheMoneyLady.ca

look at how it works for withdrawing from your plan.

Almost all Canadian universities and colleges qualify for a RESP including some outside of Canada, (CRA will be able to provide a complete qualifying list). A part-time student can access up to \$2,500 for each 13-week semester and a full-time student can access up to \$5,000 during the first 13 weeks of initial enrolment, with no limit thereafter. The funds withdrawn are taxable upon the beneficiary, resulting in little to no tax payable because they are a student.

So, what if you did all this and your beneficiary does not pursue an education after high school? Well, you can transfer up to \$50,000 of the plan's earnings to your RRSP provided you have the contribution room. The initial contributions you made into the plan would have no tax consequences since you contributed with tax paid dollars, however the CESG funds paid into the plan must be returned to the government. Interest or investment growth earned on the grant money do not have to be paid back to the government. It is advisable to discuss this with your financial advisor or you can check on the Canadian government website at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/resp-reee/menue-eng.html.

Why not show your children or grandchildren you are invested in their future. Whether it be a basic separate savings account or a specific RESP, you should always lead by example and encourage your children to have a committed future-focused plan. Encourage them to save their earnings or cash gifts from family to add to the plan and start showing them how to get their money working to maximize opportunities for their future.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" and a new book Don't Panic - How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus" available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: www.askthemoneylady.ca

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FARMLAND TENDER

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 2S2

PROPERTY

- Parcel 1: NW ¼ 5-2-7 WPM, EXCEPTING FIRSTLY - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN, SECONDLY - ALL THAT PORTION WHICH LIES SOUTH AND WEST OF THE SOUTHWEST LIMIT OF PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 657 MLTO, THIRDLY - PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 657 MLTO (approx. 15 cult. acres with shale pit)
- Parcel 2: THAT PORTION OF NW¼ 8-2-7 WPM LYING SOUTH AND EAST OF PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 657 MLTO EXCEPTING THEREOUT - PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 380 MLTO (NOW CLOSED) SHOWN COLOURED GREEN ON PLAN 657 MLTO (approx. 2.5 cult. acres)
- Parcel 3: THAT PORTION OF SE ¼ 8-2-7 WPM LYING EAST OF THE ELY LIMIT OF PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 657 MLTO. (approx. 42 cult acres)

Tenders close 2:00 pm, February 18, 2021.

For further information contact S. Tristan Smith at:

Ph: 204-254-3511

Fax: 204-257-5139

email: tristan@avdkslaw.ca

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in Morden has 2 bdrm/2bthrm suites available. Everything is on one level, indoor heated parking is available, common rooms for socializing and gatherings (when safe), lunches are available 5 days per week. Suites are spacious with open concept, walk-in pantry, utility room is ready for you to bring your own washer and dryer, fridge, stove and dishwasher are provided. All suites have an outside entrance and are connected inside through common hallways. All suites have a patio and a small flower bed. Rent includes maintenance, snow removal, yard care, and all utilities. Call or e mail Cindy at 204-362-7151 or cindyek@mts.net.

EMPLOYMENT

HarBar Farms Ltd. is looking for a MOTIVATED TEAM PLAYER to join our family-run grain farm near Elm Creek, MB.

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- Salary is based on experience and skillset.
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CARD OF THANKS

A big thank you for the caring expressions of sympathy during the loss of our dear mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend on January 28, 2021. To everyone who visited her at Salem Home, she appreciated you all so much, as well as the musicians for the music they brought and all her caregivers at Salem who took such good care of her (especially this past year in a pandemic). Thanks also to Wiebe's Funeral Services, Winkler in care of arrangements.

-The Tina Klassen family

BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday!
Jake Penner turns 90 in February!
Wish him a happy birthday at 325-4579!



ROBERT (BOB) MATHEW RIDDELL 17 November 1938 – 22 January 2021

OBITUARY

Robert (Bob) Mathew Riddell passed away peacefully surrounded by family on 22 January, 2021.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife Lorraine, his first wife, Mary and his four children Kim (Russ Zitaruk), Rob (Donna Foote), Janet (Mike Guatto), Randal (Lisa Macdonald). His grandchildren Nicolas Zitaruk, Rachel (Carson Zilkey), Sidney (Devan Cobb), Quinne Riddell, Phoebe Riddell, Senem Riddell-Yapici, Hazel and Lewis Riddell, and great-grandson Bohdi Zilkey (Rachel and Carson). He is survived by his brothers and sisters Jim, Leonora (Gord Sutherland), Chris (Helen), Brooke, and Gordon (Donna).

Also many wonderful nieces and nephews. Also survived by Lorraine's extended family the Girouards, Boulets and Sandersons.

Dad was born on the family farm in Warren, MB to Florence (Nickel) and Ernie Riddell and had many rich stories of growing up on the prairies. After attending Manitoba's Teacher's College 1958 he started a life long love of teaching even after he retired in 1994.

He moved to Miami in 1963 where he and Mary shared raising their four children on a small farm with so many animals the fences sometimes burst. Many adventures happened all over the countryside including a two week horse and wagon trip to Warren. (Caravan was hand built of course!)

Schools where he taught were Cartwright (1958-61), Milner Ridge, Stockton, Assistant Principal at Miami Elementary and then Principal (relinquished due to health) then Grade 6 and 3 at Miami Elementary. He enjoyed his shift to the Miami and then Skyview Hutterite Colonies. He retired on 31 December, 1994.

Robert married Lorraine in 1996 and they enjoyed their retirement in Manitou and then Carman. They travelled visiting the growing number of grandchildren. Dad was famous in Carman for his red electric trike that he delightfully rode around the trails on daily adventures to cap off his retirement.

Many thanks to the tremendously caring staff at the Carman and Boundary Trails Hospitals and Carman Boyne Lodge for the most excellent care Dad received in the last stage of his life. His quality of life was improved every day by all of you.

Everywhere Dad went his circle of family and friends grew. He will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

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AUCTION

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take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

	4	2		9		1		6		
		7				5				
	8									
	1				3					
	6	4							2	
				1	5					
			8					3		
		6		2	7					
				4	5	9				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	9	6	5	4	3	1	2	8
1	9	8	7	2	6	9	8	7
4	3	2	9	1	8	6	5	7
6	8	9	7	5	1	3	7	2
2	1	3	6	8	7	4	9	5
5	4	7	3	6	2	8	1	9
3	6	4	2	7	9	5	8	1
8	2	5	1	3	4	7	6	9
9	7	1	8	6	5	2	4	3

Sudoku Answer

T	X	V	S		N	A	D	A	O	I		
E	N	I	E	S	Y	B	E	N	E	I	V	
M	V	S	E	E	S	W	E	D	V	X	V	H
H	L	H	D	I	E	E	A	V	B	V	H	
E	G	V	D	I	M	S	T	V	T	V	S	
U	O	L	V	N	S	S	H	H				
V	D	P	F	V								
S	O	V	D	E	L	V	E	A	B	E	T	O
B	V	V	V	N	O	S	S	S	O	V	O	
E	T	V	H	E	O	V						
H	O	S	C	E	R	E						

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Of she
- Hyperbolic function
- Rice dish
- A team's best pitcher
- Strong and healthy
- Induces
- Popular manga series
- From a distance
- Split
- Consumed
- Cushions
- All over
- One who provides food
- St. ___ Girl, brand of beer
- Walking slowly
- Wood
- Semitic gods
- Bugle
- 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- Congressman
- Plant of the heath family
- Subdivision of an army
- Having many different forms
- Shellfish
- Latin for hail
- Between sixth and seventh
- Maori war dance
- Precious or semiprecious stone
- Teeter totter
- Deity
- A major division of geological time
- Fishing net
- Small Caribbean bird
- Field force unit
- Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

- Prevents oil spills

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14			15					
16				17		18			19				
20					21			22					
			23		24			25					
26	27	28	29			30							
31						32							
33							34	35	36	37	38		
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45				46					
49						48							
56					57			58		52	53	54	55
59						60			61				
62						63				64			

- Monetary unit
- The color of the sky
- Dough used to make tortillas
- Popular comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Has its own altar
- Expedition to see animals
- Group of related organisms
- His and ___
- Frenetically
- Small integer
- Unit of energy
- Studies of culture
- Taxi
- Doctors' group
- Don't know when yet
- Former measure of length
- Popular CBS series
- Skin condition
- Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- They ___
- Caused severe damage
- Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- One point east of due south
- Sea eagles
- Drenched
- State capital
- Italian city
- Sweetheart (archaic)
- Brief talk
- Popular disco group: Bee ___
- First Chinese dynasty
- Military vehicle
- Chinese Moslem

EMPLOYMENT

Aubin Nurseries Ltd.

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OBITUARY



Peter A. Dyck 1934 – 2021

We are saddened to announce the passing of Peter Dyck, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather, peacefully on Friday January 29, 2021 at the Tabor Home in Morden. He reached the age of 86 years and 10 months.

Peter was born on March 29, 1934 at Plum Coulee, MB to Herman and Anna Dyck (nee Petkau). He was baptized upon the confession of his faith at the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. He was united in marriage on April 28, 1957 to Susanna Thiessen. They shared 62 years, 11 months and 13 days. They started their marriage off living in the Miami area, and then bought a farm north of Roseisle. They farmed there until they retired and moved to Morden in August of 1998. He was a song leader at the Reinland Mennonite Church in Winkler for many years.

He leaves to mourn his passing his six children: Peter (Sue), Samantha and Dustin, Susie (Terry) Paetkau, Bradley and Michael, Herman, Margaret (Ben) Krahn, Sharon and Mark Christensen (Megan and Amelia), Darrel, Victor and Trevor, Cornie (Nettie) and Henry (Susie), Ryan, Jason and Jeremy. He is also survived by two sisters and two brothers and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Susanna in 2020, his parents, four brothers and one sister.

Private funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with Bishop David Penner officiating. Interment followed at the Reinland Mennonite Church Cemetery, Schanzenfeld.

Special thanks to Bishop David Penner, Wiebe Funeral Home, the staff at Tabor Home and the many kind words, phone calls, cards and prayer support.

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



OBITUARY



Tina (Unger) Klassen June 10, 1926 – January 28, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Tina Klassen announce her passing at 94 years young on January 28th at Salem Home in Winkler, MB.

Tina was predeceased by her parents Jacob and Margaret Unger, her husband John H. Klassen on June 8, 1994 and their daughter Elizabeth Sharon Klassen on June 3, 1971.

She is lovingly remembered by her five daughters and four sons (and spouses), Marilyn (Murray) Young, Jim (Donna) Klassen, Henry Klassen, Aileen (Dave) Klassen, Shirley (Robert) Hildebrand, John (Karen) Klassen, Ruth (Mark) Tyler (Twin), Rudy Klassen (Twin), Mary Jane (David) Davidson. Also mourning her passing are 22 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren, her sister Evelyn Unrau and her sister-in-law Agnes Unger, plus many nieces and nephews.

Tina (Katharina) Unger was born on June 10, 1926 in the New Hope District near Altona, MB. Tina attended the New Hope school. Being the eldest of six children she left school at a young age to go work as a cook and helper for a nearby family so she could help out her Mom, Dad and siblings. Tina met John Klassen and they were united in marriage on September 26, 1946 by Rev. Jacob Unrau in the Sommerfelder Church in Altona, MB. They worked for farmers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, at a farm near Plum Coulee, MB. and finally settling into their last home on 6th Street in Winkler.

Tina worked as the Head Dietitian at the Winkler Bible School until her retirement. Shortly after that Tina sold her house and moved into Heritage Manor in Winkler. She enjoyed many years cooking banquets and making biscuits at the Senior Center, she was highly sought after and thought of. She also loved singing in the choir with her many friends. She also discovered her talent for painting and produced a number of pieces of watercolours and acrylic paintings. It was a sad day when Tina had to give up her apartment and move to Salem Home in Winkler. She eventually adjusted to her new home and learned to love all her caregivers there.

Our mom was a hugger! If you never received a hug from our mom it means you haven't met her. It was not unusual to find a few extra people at our dinner table when we had gatherings. Anyone who had no place to go was welcome with open arms.

Let us not forget the pearls! It just wouldn't look right unless she was dressed up with her pearls! She surely loved her necklaces.

Mom's greatest treasure was always her family and her prayer for each of us to come to salvation and to stay strong in faith. Thanks for that Mom! We will miss your Sunday faspas and your hugs.

Rest in peace Mom.

A private celebration of life was held for family at Wiebe's Funeral Chapel on Saturday, January 30th, interment at Rosenbach Cemetery.

For friends who so desire, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Winkler Senior Center, Alzheimer's Foundations or a charity of their choice.

OBITUARY



Donald Nagadzina 1938 – 2021

On Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Donald Nagadzina, 82 of Morden, MB passed away peacefully after a brief illness.

He was born October 23, 1938 to Fredrick and Sophia Nagadzina. He married Dorothy Kruschel on September 23, 1961 and together they raised two children, Donna and Sheldon. After working over 30 years with MTS, he hit the road driving for Bison Transport for 10 years. His love of travelling took him to Alaska on a bus tour in 2019 and too many camping and fishing trips to mention, but he certainly had fun. He will be lovingly missed by his family and friends.

Don was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Dorothy (2017); his parents; his brothers, Lloyd (Liz) and Amyl (Lil), George and his sister, Kay. He is survived by his children, Donna (Ed) and Sheldon; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; sisters-in-law, Ruth Buhler and Maryanne Krashel.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service with ash interment at Hillside Cemetery will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Don's memory to Diabetes Canada.

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



OBITUARY



Eric Abram Harder 1993 – 2021

Eric was born on October 12, 1993 in Winkler, MB. He spent his growing up years in Reinland where he attended school at Border Valley and graduated grade 12 from GVC in 2012. He currently lived in Morden with his brothers, Brad and Mark. As a teenager, he loved to play hockey at the Reinland rink and spent many hours flooding the ice rink along with Mark. Due to his love of hockey, he lost a tooth and tore cartilage in his knee resulting in two separate surgeries. After high school, he met Ryan Loewen and they created a special bond which lasted to the present day. Eric and Ryan were very close and spent a lot of time together; they would have many stories to tell. Eric loved to be busy whether it was constructive or getting into trouble somewhere. He loved four

wheelers, snowmobiles, hockey and fishing. He also loved semi-trucks which he drove to the present day. One day, he and Ryan were doing his dad a favor and decided to stop at Timmies for a coffee. As he was ordering his coffee, the lady said, "Sir, could you shut off your vehicle, I can't hear you." Turns out he took the semi through the drive-thru. typical Eric thing to do. Eric made a career out of driving truck. His first driving job was for Haskett Growers and then he went on to drive for Windy Lane, Winkler Construction, he drove for the Oil Fields in BC and currently he was driving for Peter Harder, hauling gravel and asphalt for road construction. He had been off work since November and was looking forward to going back to work.

Family was very important to Eric and family was biological as well as extra special friends which included Ryan and his parents, John and Helen Loewen. One might say they became a part of each other's families. He expressed his love for people by the kind acts he did for others. Eric's caring nature can be seen in his last week on earth. After hearing of the passing of his nephew, Nathan, he made an extra effort to show his love and support to the family. Eric was very up front and honest with people but also an encourager and always wanted to make sure there were no hard feelings before he parted ways with someone. He loved to help others and would drop what he was doing to help someone else. He especially loved to get a call when someone got stuck and needed a "pull" so he could go and pull them out of a ditch in a snowstorm or the middle of a field while it was raining.

In the early morning hours of January 23, Eric was involved in a one vehicle accident and was taken to Boundary Trails Health Centre and then airlifted to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. He had many internal injuries and he passed away due to those injuries later that morning. Eric was surrounded by some of his family when he breathed his last breath and went to home be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

A private service was held with interment at the Reinland Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the first responders, RCMP, STARS Air Ambulance and the doctors and nurses at both hospitals, to everyone who gave prayer, food, flowers and cards that were brought to our home. Thank you, Ron and Glenda Gerbrandt and our church prayer chain for the prayer support and thank you, Lord for giving us Eric for 27 years.

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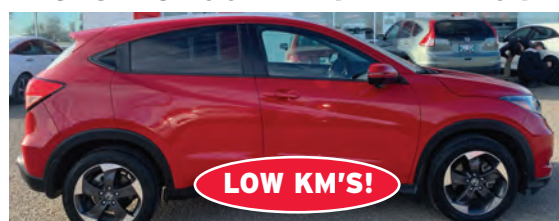


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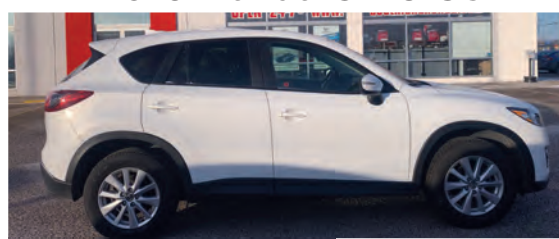


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