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A steady hand

Mark Friesen at work on his "Zoom wine night" sculpture at Lake Minnewasta. The Pembina Hills Arts Council hosted an ice sculpture workshop there on Sunday. See Pg. 18 for more photos.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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Rally held in Morden in support of Ukraine

By Lorne Stelmach

A rally in Morden Sunday brought a group of people together in a show of solidarity with Ukraine.

Members of the Ukrainian community in Morden joined almost 30 others across Canada in organizing a Stand With Ukraine rally Feb. 6.

There were rallies in all 10 provinces of people showing their support of the country as it continues to face fears of invasion by Russia.

"A big surprise for us was that the majority of the participants of the rally were very freshly arrived in Canada and even one family whose life was touched by the conflict," noted local rally organizer Yevgeniya Tatarenko of the BORSCH Ukrainian Cultural Club and Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Manitoba

"The Holtsov Oleksandr family's house was destroyed in Donetsk in 2015. They were dislocated to another part of Ukraine among 1.5 million people from that area," she explained.

Since the end of November, Oleksandr, his wife Okopna, and their two sons have lived in Morden, and a comment



A rally gathered at the Morden Civic Centre to show support for the people of Ukraine, who are bracing for an invasion by Russia.

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY OLEKSANDR BARVINOK

was provided on behalf of the family about how they now feel so safe.

"Thank God that we are in Canada now, that we are safe and that there are no more risks for our family and especially for our kids," they said.

A lot of Ukrainians in Canada have families and friends in Ukraine, not-

ed Tatarenko, and all their hearts are crying as they see the conflict and the threat from Russia escalate with an estimated military build-up of around 100,000 Russian troops along the Ukraine-Russia border.

Tatarenko said the main point of the rallies nationwide included asking

the Canadian government to act and send defensive weapons to Ukraine.

"Ukraine and all Ukrainians want to live free and independently, and Ukraine needs Canada's help. Without the help of the world and friendly Canada, Ukraine can't defend her land and people."

Yeshua (Jesus) says:
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Candice Bergen

Bergen named Conservative interim leader

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen is the new interim leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Party members voted Bergen to the role after ousting Erin O'Toole from it last week

Wednesday.

Bergen has served as the deputy leader of the Conservatives and the Opposition since 2020. She's been the MP for Portage-Lisgar since 2008.

The *Voice* reached out to Bergen for an interview but did not receive a response by press

time.


In a statement released last week, Bergen thanked O'Toole and his family for their service to the party and the nation.

"The professionalism and dedication that Erin brought to the job is something that I will continue as Leader of the Conservative Party," she said. "I would also like to thank my colleagues for putting their trust in me to lead the Conservative Party. I will work hard every day to earn that trust.

"As we move forward, it's important that Conservatives come together from coast-to-coast-to-coast to focus on Justin Trudeau's cost of living crisis, his divisive approach that is threatening our national unity, and his repeated ethical scandals.

"I'm ready, and so is our caucus. Over the next few months, my colleagues and I will be listening and acting. My goal as interim leader is to strengthen our movement and leave the next leader with a party that's ready to win."

A date has not yet been set for the party's election of a new, permanent leader. It will be the third such election in the past five years.



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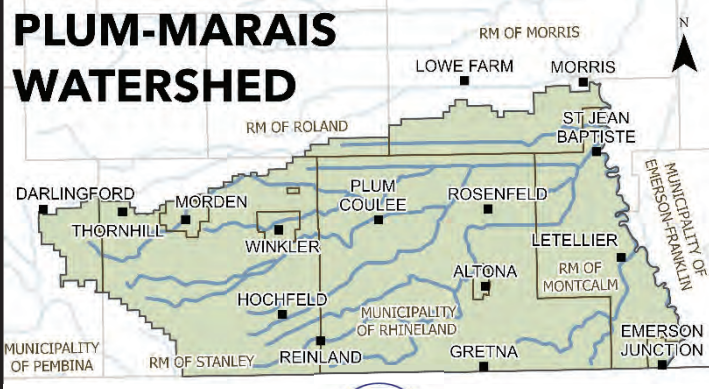
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Brad Braun
Chair of the Plum-Marais Project Management Team and Councillor of the Municipality of Rhineland

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lifestyle||hearing

Virtual Power of the Purse event is on for March 5

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Power of the Purse fundraising brunch will be taking place virtually once again this year.

With the aim to engage women of all generations in community philanthropy, the initiative of the Morden Area Foundation started seven years ago with the goal to raise and grant out \$10,000 within 100 minutes with the help of 100 women donors.

Last year's first virtual Power of the Purse attracted 104 paid participants who donated \$10,400 to Genesis House, Pembina Valley Humane Society, and Many Hands Resource Centre.

"We were really wanting to do an in-person thing, but it's the typical thing now ... next year we'll get to do it," said executive director Lynda Lambert. "The virtual event went well last year. Some of the ladies had trouble getting on to the link, so this year we're going to try to make that easier for them."

The foundation sees Power of the Purse in part as a coaching program to help build and create visibility for Morden's charitable sector while bringing women together to learn about the needs of the community and to support charitable projects through donor

directed grants.

The goal is to create a lasting legacy that will provide funds for charities already at work in our community and to encourage the birth and growth of new initiatives that especially target emerging needs of women and children.

The 2022 event via Zoom takes place Saturday, March 5 from 10-11:30 a.m. It will be hosted by Jayme Giesbrecht and broadcast by Morkler's. Guests will enjoy a free brunch (available for curbside pickup or delivery) catered by Owen Klippenstein of Homestead South.

"It will be the same format as last year. There will be break-out rooms where they will get to visit with other women," said Lambert. "I'm quite excited about it again."

"We want to make sure we at least meet that 100 women target because then the Morden Area Foundation gives \$5,000 to put into the Power of the Purse endowment fund ... so that's our minimum, but it's great if we go over ... it would just be more money then for each of the charities."

Contact the foundation to register by calling 204-822-5614 or emailing info@mordenfoundation.ca.

Goodie bags handed out at last year's virtual Power of the Purse event. This year's celebration of giving takes place on March 5.

VOICE FILE PHOTO



Manitoba could be restriction-free by spring

New hospitalizations trending downward

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Premier Heather Stefanson and Chief Provincial Public Health Officer Dr. Brent Roussin announced last week that Manitoba will be taking a cautious but steadily increasing approach to reducing public health restrictions in the weeks ahead.

The province's COVID-19 numbers have been improving of late, Roussin said, resulting in a lessening strain on the health care system.

"As this week has passed we see that many of those indicators continue to be stable or trending in the right direction and so we are getting a better understanding of where we are in this wave," he said.

As a result, new public health orders in effect until Feb. 22 ease capacity limits slightly in several settings.

Private gatherings where everyone 12 and older is fully vaccinated are

now allowed the household members plus 25 others in indoor spaces and 50 people outside (up from the previous 10 and 20-person limits)

Such gatherings with individuals who are not vaccinated are capped at the household plus 10 people inside (up from five) and 20 people outside (up from 10).

Also lifted is the 250-person capacity limit for settings like fitness centres, casinos, movie theatres, and performing arts centres, though facilities are still limited to 50 per cent capacity with proof of vaccination required.

When it comes to indoor religious services, capacity is limited to 25 per cent or up to 250 people, whichever is lower, when proof of vaccination is not required. Services restricted to fully immunized people and those under 12 not eligible for the vaccine

Continued on page 7



New Opportunity for Farmers

Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) is a new initiative that recognizes the valuable role farmers play in improving the environmental health of the agricultural landscape.

Through GROW, local Watershed Districts provide financial incentives and technical support to help farmers implement projects that restore, conserve and enhance ecological goods and services originating from their lands.

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- ✓ perennial cover for sensitive land
- ✓ soil health improvements
- ✓ shelterbelt establishment

For more information on GROW or to connect with your local watershed district, visit www.manitobawatersheds.ca, or call 204.945.0002.



"WE HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION OF RELAXING NEARLY ALL RESTRICTIONS ..."

The *Winkler Morden*
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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Welcome to the Cold War

More and more these days I encounter a lot of comments along the lines of: "If that's the way you feel/think/act then don't talk to me/unfollow me/I'm blocking you ..."

This is the current state of things. We don't like what we see or hear so we put our fingers in our ears and start saying "NANANA-NANANA I CAN'T HEARYOU!"

I call myself a centrist all of the time but in reality that is generally not true. I take positions on most things, I just don't care to slap you in the face with them.

Today's rant/column is triggered by the reactions and responses to the trucker convoy currently on the way to Ottawa to protest the Canadian rules about vaccination and how they are applied to them. By the time you

read this that convoy may be long over and we will have a new thing to express our outrage over.

To be clear: I STRONGLY support the government policies and restrictions put in place regarding vaccinations, public gatherings, etc. and I don't need to go into why because you don't care and that's not what this is about.

That said, I am thrilled I live in a country where a convoy of truckers can drive to the capitol and protest the government. In some countries this kind of protest would be met with military "persuasion" and protestors would simply disappear.

What bothers me is an increasing tendency to not want to even listen to people anymore.

I get it. It is EXHAUSTING to have to hear the same thing over and over and say the same things in response over and over and see nothing change.

However I urge you to not create and retreat to your own echo chambers where everyone thinks and acts like you do. First of all, you're not that interesting (and this includes me). We need more than our perspectives, however RIGHT we are.

Whenever I talk like this I am pressed with comments like, "Well, what's the solution then?" to which I

respond lamely, "I have no solution" which feels a lot like a GOTCHA! moment where people can say, "See, the only option is war."

You have heard it said that you shouldn't murder but our thought life and our words, not just our physical actions, can be hateful and murderous.

Words matter (at least this columnist hopes they do). Words create an environment within which thought percolates into actions that reflect those words. Violent, angry words beget violent, angry actions.

I guess what I am saying is do not segregate yourself away from those who think differently or oppositely from you, or even wrongly, as the case may be.

I am not saying agree with them. I am saying do not censor your experience by removing them from your lives lest you become the person who awakens lost in a world they no longer recognize.

Empathize and engage.

Relationship is the difference between the choice to act in harm and the choice to abstain from that act. It is harder to hurt someone you have a relationship with, and you cannot be in a relationship with someone you block from your life.



By Peter Cantelon

Letters

MP'S SUPPORT IS SHAMEFUL

To the R. Hon. Candice Bergen:

I am shocked and dismayed to find out you are supporting these radical truckers who have taken a simple legal protest into an occupation of Ottawa.

Wearing the MAGA [Make America Great Again] hat was one thing, but quoting Donald Trump the leader of the Jan 6th Insurrection stat-

ing there are "good people on both sides" is unconscionable!

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario senior vice-president of clinical services and chief nursing executive Tammy DeGiovanni told the *Ottawa Citizen* recently there are families of children receiving cancer care who faced lengthy waits in their cars or nearly missed crucial treatments entirely due to protestors gridlocking city streets.

"It is incredibly disheartening to

hear some of these stories," she told the *Citizen*. "For kids with rare and complex diseases, CHEO is the first place they go when they are in an emergency. If you are an oncology patient and spike a fever, we advise families to get in within an hour. We have families thinking now, 'How would we even do that?' This is just an added stress for them."

Minister Bergen, you should be ashamed of yourself. You should

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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.

> RESTRICTIONS, FROM PG. 5

are limited to 50 per cent capacity.

Sports tournaments are also now allowed, retail capacity limits in stores throughout Manitoba have been lifted entirely, and restaurants and lounges can sell liquor until midnight—two hours later than under the previous orders.

Restrictions will most likely be relaxed further later this month, Stefan-son said.

"Situation permitting and based off of what the data is telling us at the time, we will be looking to remove a significant amount of capacity limits and restrictions," she said. "Later this spring we hope to be in a position of relaxing nearly all restrictions and moving to recommendations."

"Given where we are right now, if we don't see anything unexpected, we're looking at a restriction-free Manitoba by spring," agreed Roussin.

RISE IN INCIDENTAL CASES

On Monday, the province's online COVID-19 dashboard reported there were 702 people in hospital with COVID-19, including 47 in intensive care. The death toll had hit 1,600.

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

apologize to all Canadians and resign your position at once!

Timothy M. Wall,
Pilot Mound

FRUSTRATED FORMER CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTER

I've been watching patiently over the last week of the occupation of our capital city of Ottawa and it dismays me that our Conservative MPs are pandering to these protestors' demands.

I've been a Conservative for decades and am shocked that politicians are behind the cause. I'm sure there's a few well-intentioned truckers in the mix but they are now part of the problem with their support of the general cause.

Bill Potter,
Morden

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.

The day's health bulletin noted the trends for the week ending Thursday, Feb. 3 show Manitoba had 286 new hospitalizations in the previous seven days, a 19.2 per cent decrease from the week before. ICU admissions also dropped 19 per cent to 34 new patients with COVID-19.

Dr. Roussin noted that an increasing number of hospitalizations have COVID-19 incidentally, meaning they were admitted to hospital for another reason but tested positive for the virus while there.

"It's really important for us to understand who is in hospital because of COVID, not in hospital incidentally related to COVID," he stressed. "Because omicron is so widespread, we know that every person admitted to hospital is tested for omicron, we're going to find people that were there for other reasons but happen to test positive for COVID."

Last week, about 40 per cent of the listed COVID-19 hospitalizations were there because of the virus alone. In the ICU, that number jumped to 70 per cent of patients.

How any reasonable person can endorse people who intimidate, defecate, deface, blatantly break the law, overtake and physically attack people on the street, it stymies my logic.

Conservative MPs seem okay with this as they pose for selfies and publicly state their support.

Today, I hereby resign my support of the federal Conservative party of Canada for the sake of common decency.

How dare you put support for Nazi flag waving anarchism and people who demand their way or nothing else regardless how it impacts the general public? It may play well as the Official Opposition but makes no sense to the public.

Supporting Genesis House



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Genesis House received financial support this week from Shoppers Drug Mart in Morden. The Love You campaign in support of womens charities and programs saw the Morden store raise \$1,319, which exceeded their goal of \$852. "This may seem small, but every dollar counts. We are thankful to our local community for their continued support ... and I would also to acknowledge our team as well," said front store manager Rose Montoya. "it's always such a blessing to be chosen by an organization or a business in the community," said Ang Braun, executive director of Genesis House. "The staff really do go over and above by asking each shopper that comes through about making a donation."



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Manitoba

Drought plan guiding Morden through water woes

Council exploring diversification

By Lorne Stelmach

A formal drought plan is in place to continue to guide the City of Morden in both the short and long term.

Prepared by consulting firm Landmark Planning and Design, the drought plan was actually initiated prior to the beginning of the current extreme drought as a requirement by the province.

It is timely then in terms of not only addressing the current drought situation but also to have Morden better prepared for future droughts as well, suggested Mayor Brandon Burley.

"We're trying to put ourselves in a position where luck isn't part of the equation. We're trying to get ahead of the next one," the mayor said following a recent meeting of city council.

The city has continued to stress the need for water conservation measures in the face of an extreme drought while also making arrangements to source additional water supply for the city, and that is all being addressed in the drought plan, said Burley.

He emphasized the importance of



Low water levels at Lake Minnewasta is something the City of Morden's formal drought plan addresses in both the short and long term.

reducing our footprint in terms of water consumption while also pursuing options to ensure the city is able to sustain its growth.

"We had been talking about diversifying before the drought hit," he said. "We need to take concrete action in terms of sourcing our water, diversifying our water supply and also man-

aging it. The city now is also actively looking at the steps we can take ... some have already been implemented, some will be in the 2022 budget ... it will feature very strongly with the theme of reducing our consumption."

One measure related to the drought plan will be a low flow water fixture rebate program, which earned the approval of council recently.

The details of the program are still being finalized, but it will rebate a certain portion of the costs related to the installation of low flow toilets and shower fixtures in Morden.

"It's not a full one hundred per cent on replacement; it's a portion of those costs," said Burley. "It's on a limited

intake, so there will be an allocated amount in the 2022 budget, and it will be on a first come first serve basis for applications."

"It's something I think will be reviewed on an annual basis," he suggested. "It's a financially prudent move, and it's also environmentally friendly. I think it's a great policy, but we will see what kind of uptake we have with it."

Looking ahead, the city entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Water Services Board to connect a new 12 inch water main from the water co-op water main at Boundary Trails Health Centre to the existing eight inch water main along going Road 12N with a new booster station on the line.

This new infrastructure can enable the water co-op to supply up to 12 litres of water per second to the city, and it will help the city to further reduce its withdrawal from the lake, reduce the draw down on the lake and help ensure water supply through next summer until hopefully there has been enough precipitation to bring the lake to normal.

In addition, the city through the water co-op was also pursuing the construction of booster stations on the water main along PTH 23 so more water can be moved to the corridor and enable it to provide the Morden up to 12 litres per second year-round.

The city estimates this all will help sustain growth in the coming five to six year period. Depending on the funding availability, this work is expected to be completed in 2022.

"WE NEED TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION IN TERMS OF SOURCING OUR WATER, DIVERSIFYING OUR WATER SUPPLY AND ALSO MANAGING IT."

Borderland MLA removed from legislative assistant role

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter was removed from his role as legislative assistant for the minister of health last week.

Guenter posted on social media Jan. 29 that he had spent time with "family, friends and scores of peaceful freedom-

loving Canadians" at a rally on Highway 75. A convoy of truckers and supporters have been slowing traffic near the Emerson border crossing in protest of vaccine mandates. Guenter thanked the participants "for inspiring a movement focused on returning to civil liberties."

Two days later, Premier Heather Stefanson announced Guenter's demotion.

"As I have stated before, I expect all representatives of the government, whether Ministers or their Legislative Assistants, to support efforts to get all Manitobans vaccinated," she said in a statement issued Jan. 31. "The recent events involving protests from Canadian truckers raised significant concerns."

"Our government believes in democracy and the right to peacefully protest; however, we do not condone the use of anti-Semitic, racist imagery, and desecration of war memorials or statues," Stefanson continued, referring to events

happening in Ottawa last week as participants of the "Freedom Convoy" occupied the capital in opposition to COVID-19 public health measures.

The federal mandate that truckers be vaccinated to travel to and from the United States is causing supply chain issues, acknowledged Stefanson.

"Concerns with the border mandate for truckers do have merit and should be examined further by our federal government to find better solutions," she said. "Manitoba has had success implementing [rapid] testing as an alternative to vaccination mandates, and using this method, we can mitigate further supply chain disruptions."

Guenter, who remains in the Conservative caucus, did not respond to a request for comment at press time.

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Being out on a closed highway could net you a fine: RCMP

By Voice staff

With Manitoba Merv, our province's official Groundhog Day puppet, having seen his shadow on Feb. 2, it looks like we're in for at least six more weeks of winter.

Whatever the next few months may bring in terms of wintery weather, RCMP are reminding people to take care when roads become treacherous due to snow, wind, and ice, as they did during last week's storm.

Many highways were closed as February was ushered in with blizzard conditions across much of the province.

Police urge drivers that if they have

to head out in poor conditions to make sure they are dressed warmly, have a full tank of gas, and have someone who knows your route just in case something goes awry.

If you are on the road and get stranded, call police, ensure your tailpipe is clear of snow, and only turn on your car intermittently to stay warm.

RCMP also remind Manitobans that when a highway is closed it means that travel is not allowed on it for any reason.

Anyone caught driving on a closed highway could be fined \$203, not to mention the fact emergency vehicles may not be able to reach you if you run into trouble.

City council pledges to tackle ice plant noise

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is promising residents it will be taking action in response to the excessive noise from the new ice plant in operation at the Access Event Centre.

Council anticipated having an engineering consulting report by this week that will set out options for the city to address the issue, which saw a large delegation of nearby residents appear before council to ask for action this past November.

Measurements of the sound level from the ice plant were found to be excessive, and residents maintained sound mitigation should have not only been part of the plan from the start but questioned the decision to locate the plant on the west side of the building rather than on the east side, which would not border residential properties.

Burley said council was intent on acting on the report as expediently as possible.

"They're going to identify solutions along with projected reductions in noise pollution, and steps will be taken as soon as it is possible," he said.

"We have to make sure that we rectify this as quickly as possible," Burley continued. "We want to make sure this happens ... it is on the front burner for us."

"We can't possibly ask people to live with that situation, so we are going to fix it ... it will be dealt with. We want the public to know we are going to deal honestly with them and we're going to act in good faith."

In other council news, the city recently put in place a COVID-19 policy that requires staff to either be vaccinated or submit to regular testing.

"We need to respect the safety of both our employees and the public," said Burley, who suggested this would not be an issue for staff. "We did go to

directors early on with this program. I know that I have received, and council has as well, concerns from employees that we didn't have this policy in place.

"We think there's a good balance here," he said. "This is a step forward in protecting the public who are entering our facilities and our employees as well."

Council will also be taking a closer look at both water rates as well as fees for Lake Minnewasta beach and campground users.

The water rate study is something that is done on a regular basis as required by the province, Burley noted.

The last rate increase by the city was in 2013, but there have been minor increases charged by the Pembina Valley Water Co-op including for the current year.

"We can do a rate study and apply it for five years and be confident that



RCMP PHOTO

RCMP were kept busy last week trying to assist drivers who slid into the ditch or were otherwise stranded on the wind-swept, snow and ice-covered roads last week.

rate will apply through to the end of that period," said Burley.

And it is still to be determined what how much more users may need to pay at Lake Minnewasta in the coming year, but it is being considered

further at the committee level.

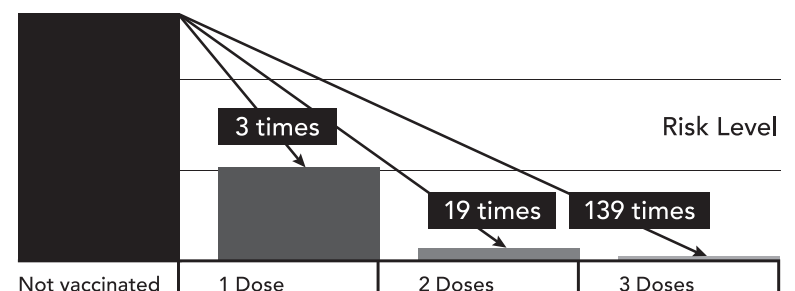
"The cost of operating it all is going up, and we can't be operating in a negative position," said Burley. "There will be some rate increase there across the board, it's just a matter of how much."



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Manitoba

Bringing girls together for sport, camaraderie

Winkler Rec's Snowshoe & You getting kids active, building up their confidence

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A gaggle of young ladies has been getting the chance to burn off some excess energy every Wednesday night at the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler.

The Snowshoe & You program winds up this week after several sessions of physical activity, journaling, and camaraderie.

The bone-chilling temperatures last Wednesday meant the girls weren't able to get outside to show off their burgeoning snowshoe skills. Instead, they took over the facility's indoor field for some soccer, tag, and hula hooping.

But it's not so much about what sport they're having fun with as it is the fact they're being active at all, says Winkler recreation scheduler Kelly Morgan.

The program, aimed at girls age 9-11, is about "trying to figure out what it is that keeps girls in sports and where they're getting lost in the system," Morgan says, noting some girls who were active in childhood drift away from sports as they enter junior high and high school.

"And I think especially through COVID it's been so important to think of unique ways to try to keep them connected," she adds. "We're watching and seeing this little community connect and get to know each other. It hasn't taken long—

they're out there every week having fun."

Winkler recreation programmer Kaitlyn Dyck explains the program was made possible thanks to funding from the Government of Canada and the Canada Parks and Recreation Association.

"It allowed us to purchase 10 pairs of snowshoes for the facility and some journals for these girls," she says.

The journals are as much a part of the program as the snowshoeing.

"It's called a Big Life Journal and it's all about boosting confidence and spreading kindness and joy in the world," says Dyck, adding that it's also about "creating a safe space" for the girls to talk and share their thoughts and dreams.

The program gets rave reviews from the girls involved, some of whom had never strapped on a snowshoe before in their life.

They say they've learned a lot about the patience needed to try something new, and to get back up again when they fell, repeatedly, that first night out on the snow.

"The best part is being outside and having fun with friends, especially when I fall and these two laugh at me," said Makenna Wilson, gesturing at her giggling pals nearby.

"I wanted to do it because it sounded fun and I've never done it before,"

"WE'RE WATCHING AND SEEING THIS LITTLE COMMUNITY CONNECT AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER ... THEY'RE OUT THERE EVERY WEEK HAVING FUN."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

An enthusiastic group of 9-11-year-olds have been taking part in the Snowshoe & You program at the Meridian Exhibition Centre in recent weeks, though last week's cold snap kept them indoors in the field-house (below) instead of outside on the fresh Parkland snow.

added Ellen Wieler, who noted it wasn't too hard to learn and that she's also had a blast getting together with her friends like this each week.

Olivia Thiessen noted the journaling part of the program provided some food for thought.

"We did this thing where we had this paper with goals and how we can learn from our mistakes and things like that," she shared.

It's uncertain whether or not another session will be held next winter, but if it is the girls are unanimous in their recommendation that others come check it out.

"It's really fun," the group collectively and enthusiastically said when asked what the program most had going for it.

In the meantime, Dyck notes they are planning to make the new kid-sized snowshoes available for the public to borrow at the MEC. Contact the Winkler Rec. Department for details.

Cheque is in the mail: MPI

By Voice staff

Manitobans can expect to receive a rebate cheque from Manitoba Public Insurance any day now.

The Crown corporation announced last week that the first batch of COVID-19 rebate cheques were in the mail, and they expect the rest will be on their way by mid-February.

In total, 680,000 cheques will be issued to ratepayers in the coming weeks, totalling \$312 million.

"The pandemic has negatively impacted many Manitobans' personal finances, but it has also reduced the collision claims to MPI allowing for a rebate," explained Justice Minister Kelvin Goertzen, the minister responsible for MPI. "Returning these funds to its customers benefits Manitobans and is in keeping with the mandate of Manitoba Public Insurance."

"The last two years have been a challenging time in our province. This current rebate is both positive and welcomed. Together, we'll work our way through this challenging time in our province."

This is the third MPI COVID-19 rebate over the past two years. In total, MPI will have provided rebates of nearly \$500 million to its policy holders. This latest round will result in about \$328 for an average private passenger policy.



Watershed district wants your feedback

Work begins on a 10-year plan for the Plum-Marias watershed

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Watershed District (PVWD) is putting out an open call for feedback as it develops an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) for the Plum-Marias watershed.

Province of Manitoba watershed planner Daniel Phalen is working with PVWD on what will be a 10-year plan for the watershed, which spans from Darlingford in the west all the way to the Red River in the east.

The goal, he explained, is to figure out how best to keep the watershed as healthy as possible moving forward.

The action plan "will guide the funding used on the landscape ... to improve the watershed," Phalen said, noting the area is one of the last in

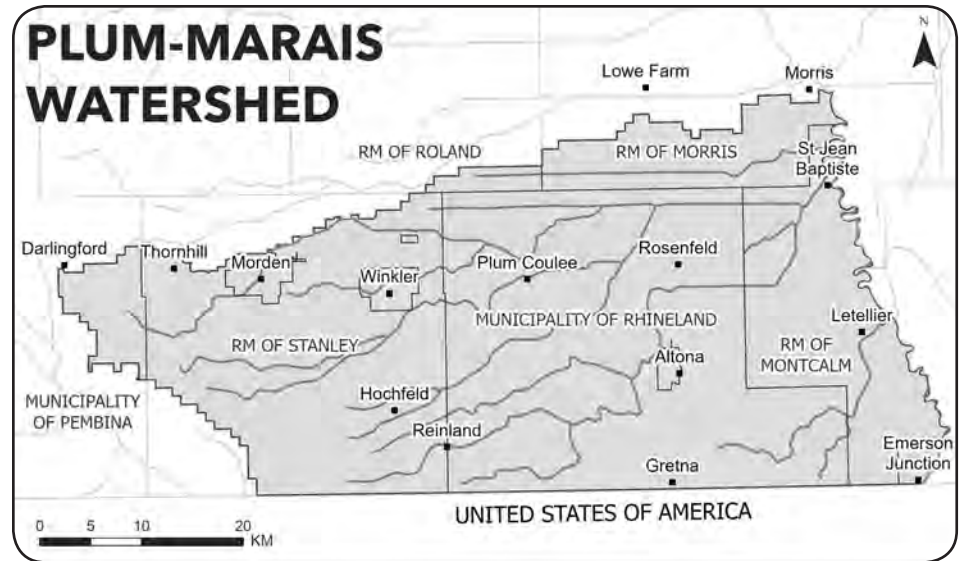
Manitoba to develop an IWMP.

Watershed projects address things like surface and ground water quality and quantity issues, drinking water issues, soil health, flooding, erosion, invasive species, and aquatic habitat, to name just a few.

Heading up the management team behind the plan's creation is RM of Rhineland Deputy Reeve Brad Braun, who stresses it's important for them to get feedback from as wide a range of local residents and businesses as possible.

"The more people you get talking about it, the more ideas come out from the simplest conversations—sometimes that's where the best ideas come from."

To that end, PVWD is getting the conversation going with a new survey



Live in this area? The Pembina Valley Watershed District wants to hear from you as they work to create an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Plum-Marias watershed.

available via the agency's social media pages and website (pvwd.ca).

Everyone who fills out the survey by March 1 will be entered into a prize draw for a free rain barrel, but the survey will remain up beyond that as well.

A series of public meetings, both in person and online, are also in the works for later this year.

Both Braun and Phalen urge everyone to weigh in. If you live, work, or play in the watershed area, you should

have a voice in how it is managed.

"This watershed plan is for everyone. It's not just for the farmers, for industry—it's for everyone. We really want to get as diverse feedback as possible so we know that our projects are not just affecting one sector," Phalen said. "We want to make sure there's watershed health for everyone."

"We're hoping to hear from anybody that's got an opinion or a view on this," said Braun. "We're listening."

Province announces \$120M increase in school funding

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Manitoba government announced last week it is increasing its funding for public schools by \$120 million while also freezing education property taxes for another year.

Education Minister Wayne Ewasko explained that increase includes \$43 million more in annual funding and additional one-time funding of \$77 million to address incremental wage costs and other pressures.

"School divisions have told us that COVID-19, inflation and other costs have increased financial pressures, and this has been taken into consideration in this year's public school funding," he said at a virtual press conference Jan. 4. "These increases will ensure that school divisions have the resources they need to help students succeed, regardless of where they live, their backgrounds, or their individual circumstances."

Ewasko noted that with this funding Manitoba has the second-highest spending per student in Canada after New Brunswick at \$15,412.

The annual funding includes an increase of \$18 million for public schools, \$2.2 million for independent schools, and a \$23.2 million increase

to the Property Tax Offset Grant.

The education property tax freeze affects how much school divisions are allowed to raise from local taxes. The province says increasing the Property Tax Offset Grant should help to balance that out.

The province is still planning on phasing out school property taxes entirely and introducing a new education funding model next year, the minister noted.

Co-op Community Spaces accepting applications

By Voice staff

Co-op's Community Spaces Program has put out a call for applications for 2022.

The program, supported by Co-ops across Western Canada, has \$1 million this year to distribute to capital projects dedicated to recreation, environmental conservation, and urban agriculture.

"Co-ops have been supporting their

"A new education funding model is being developed in consultation with school divisions for the 2023-2024 school year, and base funding will be adjusted" according to that model, he said.

Locally, Garden Valley School Division is expected to receive \$29.5 million in provincial funding and \$800,000 from the Property Tax Offset Grant for a total of \$30.3 million for the 2022-2023 school year, an increase

of \$200,000 from the current school year. The province says GVSD will receive \$1.6 million in wage assistance funding.

Western School Division will be receiving \$13.4 million in public funding and \$400,000 from the offset grant for a total of \$13.8 million, an increase of \$700,000 overall. They'll receive \$700,000 in wage assistance funding.

local communities for years because we believe that communities thrive when there are opportunities to connect, grow and learn," said Pam Skotnitsky, vice-president of strategy at Federated Co-operatives Limited. "Now more than ever, we're proud to invest in projects that will preserve nature and create places where we can come together, build relationships and support one another."

Since its launch in 2015, Co-op Com-

munity Spaces has provided \$10.5 million to 147 community projects, including parks, greenhouses, and sports fields.

Co-op invites registered non-profit organizations, registered charities, or community service co-operatives to apply online at communityspaces.ca by March 1.

Funding between \$25,000 and \$150,000 is available per project.

The Winkler Morden Voice

Send news items to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca
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arts&culture

Wayne Letkeman brings “a little bit of everything” to WAC



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Ashern's Wayne Letkeman came to painting late in life, but he's more than making up for it, with hundreds of pieces completed over the past few years. Fifty of them are on display now at Winkler Arts and Culture.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Five years ago, Wayne Letkeman and his wife were settling into their new home in the community of Ashern in the Interlake.

Letkeman, a bush pilot by trade, recalls his wife set out to decorate the blank walls.

“She ended up buying a couple of paintings and when I looked at them I said, ‘I think I could do better than that.’”

He picked up a paint brush and hasn't looked back since—making up for a late start in art by painting hundreds of pieces over the past few years, about 50 of which are on display this month at Winkler Arts and Culture.

“Whenever I have an opportunity, I'll prepare a canvas and go to town on it,” Letkeman says, explaining he usually completes his pieces the same day he starts them.

He rarely works from photos, preferring instead to let his imagination guide him.

“Everything that I do I sort of envisage something that I'd like to see and I try to create that. Ninety-nine per cent of the time what you end up having isn't what you saw initially.

“All of the sudden you'll see something in your mind while you're painting” and it will end up on the canvas—an unexpected waterfall, perhaps, or a cabin peaking out amongst the trees. “You create them as they develop.”

Letkeman's work runs the gamut from mountains to seascapes to the Northern Lights.

“A little bit of everything,” he says, explaining his technique is what's known as *alla prima* painting, or wet-on-wet, which allows him to create colour blends right on the canvas itself, rather than in advance on a palette.

He's also partial to black canvasses instead of white ones, which allows him to play around in different ways with colour, layers, and what the human eye perceives.

You can check out Letkeman's work at the Park St. gallery in Winkler until Feb. 26.

FTC continues to connect creatives of all ages

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Ongoing public health restrictions have made for a challenging couple of years for Winkler's Flatlands Theatre Company, but they're still finding fun ways to connect.

The company's winter theatre classes are well underway, with plans to host a session-ending showcase for each grade level next month.

“Our performances will be in the evening just before spring break,” said FTC artistic director Jeanette Hoepfner. That puts the Gr. 4-6 class show on Monday, March 21 and the K-3 show on Tuesday, March 22, both at 7 p.m.

“They'll be inviting family and friends, and if there are other public people that want to attend they're more than welcome,” Hoepfner said, noting they will be following whatever the public health orders are for the

concert hall at the time of the show (as of right now, that's proof of full vaccination and masks required).

The students will be writing their own scripts for the shows, which gives them a chance to stretch both their acting and writing skills.

Everyone involved in the classes has been having a blast, Hoepfner says.

“For the kids who maybe aren't into sports, there often isn't really another option for them to get together with people outside of their [school] class. Connecting and creating is a big part of this.”

Connecting and creating is also a key feature in a new program FTC launched last month called Writer's Block Party.

A group of local writers have begun meeting weekly online to share their projects and be motivated to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard, as the case may be).

Co-organizer Angela Klassen says the first few sessions have been a hit, with eight or nine writers logging on each week.

“It's a nice size. Small enough that we can all have time to talk and share about our writing projects.”

It's a unique way to stay connected with the theatre community during a time when regular performances

simply aren't possible yet.

“I think arts are really important for people and during COVID that has been one area that has really suf-

fered,” Klassen says. “For creative people, it's important to get together as a community and create.”

With any luck, local theatre buffs will be able to take to the stage once again this May with an in-person show at the Winkler concert hall, albeit a scaled-down one.

“It won't be a big staged production,” Hoepfner says. “There's just enough unknown out there that we don't want to start planning on something that we can't follow through with.”

Instead, the plan is to host another radio drama live on stage, as they did with *Miracle on 34th St.* in November.

They've yet to determine which radio show they'll be doing, but have pegged the first weekend in May for performances. Auditions for parts will take place later this month.

Head to flatlandstheatre.com or email flatlandstheatreco@gmail.com for updates.

“IT'S IMPORTANT
TO GET TOGETHER
AS A COMMUNITY
AND CREATE.”

New economic development, immigration officer for Winkler-Stanley

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Stanley Economic Development Corporation (WSEDC) has found its man.

The agency announced last week that Mark Sawatzky is its new business development and immigration officer. The hunt for the right candidate started last fall after the Winkler and Stanley councils committed funding for the position for the next five years.

"The economic development board is extremely excited to be moving forward on this," said president Leah Klassen. "We believe this is a positive step in building the future of our region."

Sawatzky is tasked with facilitating the growth of the region's workforce, helping existing companies expand and thrive, and attracting new businesses to the area.

He comes to the position with extensive experience as a management consultant. He also worked as an economic development officer for the City of Winnipeg.

Sawatzky grew up in Winkler, returning here to raise his family about 20 years ago, and so knows the community well.

"We really needed someone that understood, first of all, the culture in our region and understood what an entrepreneur or what a business person is going through," Klassen observed. "We feel that Mark really has that sense. He's really connected to the business community ... so he already brings to the table that relational piece and the trust equity that we're looking for."

The WSEDC board have set out a series of goals for



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Mark Sawatzky brings his background in economic development and management consultation to his new job with the Winkler Stanley Economic Development Corporation.

Sawatzky for the year ahead.

They include developing a labour pool strategy that takes not just immigration but also in-migration and retention/growth into consideration; establishing the economic development office, its strategy, marketing, and business community engagement; and being the first point of contact and providing support for new business growth originating both inside and outside the region.

"There's a real strategic leadership element to this as a new position," Sawatzky said, noting he's keen to tackle all these objectives. "There's a lot of processes that have to be put in place to manage the various elements."

Connecting with local businesses is of course a big part of the job.

"What it comes down to is we're trying to develop a labour pool ... where our employers have access to good people so that they can continue to do what they do," Sawatzky said. "We have to have good engagement with our business community first of all to know what they're looking for and what they need."

Those relationships will also allow Sawatzky to serve as a spokesperson for the region when it comes to discussing immigration objectives with government agencies, Klassen noted.

"He'll be able to give government that really good sense of what businesses here need ... be that line of communication to government."

You can reach Sawatzky at mark.sawatzky@wsedc.ca or 204-312-0326. More information on WSEDC is available at www.wsedc.ca

FIND THE HIDDEN CUPIDS CONTEST

Find the 3 hidden Cupids in this week's edition and enter to win a Valentine's prize.

They are tiny cupids hidden deep within the paper... so search with all your heart!

Email us with the page numbers you found the cupids on and be entered to win.
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P.S it's not the cupid on this page, and they won't be in any ad!

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Up on the rooftop

Take a weight off your house this winter—clear it of snow

By Lorne Stelmach

With all the snow we've gotten this winter, homeowners are being encouraged to be aware of the potential hazards related to letting it build up on their rooftops.

Some residents may not think it is too much of a concern, but it can be a case of better safe than sorry.

"Some people don't realize it can be a danger for their house. These problems can come up without you knowing," said Will Friesen of Precision 4k Property Maintenance in Morden. "I have been getting quite a few calls, but I thought I would be getting even more than I have so far just because of the amount of snow we have had this year."

Too much snow and ice buildup on the roof of course can lead to a leakage problem, but people also need to ensure the plumbing stacks are kept clear after a heavy snowfall.

"The plumbing stacks can get completely full of snow, and what happens then is you can have a sewage smell in your house," said Friesen.

"You can also have slow running water and slow flushing and things like that, and it can be just due to the amount of snow built up on your roof."

Friesen also cautions that going up on a roof can be a risky job, so he encourages people to call one of the local outfits offering rooftop cleaning for help if they're at all uncertain about the task.

For the do-it-yourself crowd, roof



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden-Winkler has received an awful lot of snow this winter that could be putting a strain on some rooftops.

rakes can be another option.

Local stores have sold a few this winter, though they haven't been in too high a demand.

"I don't know that most people think

about shovelling their roofs off," noted David Dunseath at Canadian Tire in Winkler, estimating they've sold perhaps a dozen rakes this winter. "Last year there was so little snow, so it's hard to compare, but even compared to two years ago we haven't really seen much of an uptake yet in sales."

"There's definitely some people concerned about it, but we have not heard much about it here," echoed David Janzen at Home Hardware in Morden. "We sold a number of roof rakes in January ... this year, there probably has been a little more overall."

Back on the ground, Manitoba Hydro cautions property owners to also ensure their natural gas meters are clear of snow and ice.

"Our meters are built to withstand extreme winter weather, but snow and ice can create a safety hazard,"

Continued on page 21

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It's time to file
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TAX DEADLINE : APRIL 30

How to handle debt during tax season

The deadline for paying your 2021 taxes is approaching, and about one-third of Canadian tax filers will need to send money to the Canada Revenue Agency. With many taxpayers already in debt, it's no surprise that many Canadians have trouble paying their annual taxes. This year may be especially difficult, as anyone who received a Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will have to pay a portion of it back. Here are some tips to help you handle your tax debt and avoid fines and penalties.

FILE YOUR TAXES EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PAY

Failing to file your taxes on time can result in financial or criminal penalties, which will only make your situa-

tion worse. The CRA charges a penalty of five per cent of your 2020 balance owing, plus one per cent for each month your return is late.

There's no leniency on your filing deadline this year, so while you may not have to pay until April 30, 2023, you still need to file by April 30, 2022.

**APPLY FOR A PAYMENT PLAN OR
TO WAIVE PENALTIES AND INTEREST**

If you're having trouble paying your taxes, the CRA offers the following options:

- **Payment plan.** In some cases, you can pay the balance owed on your taxes in instalments. To be eligible for this, you need to prove to the CRA that you're doing everything you can to get the money together.
- **Waive penalties and interest.** You can apply to the CRA to have your penalties and interest reduced or waived. You'll need to prove your inability to pay and demonstrate how settling your tax bill will create undue financial hardship for you and your family.

GET HELP FROM A TAX PROFESSIONAL

Filing a request to pay your taxes in instalments or to waive the penalties and interest can be challenging. A tax professional, however, can help you prepare your tax forms, file on time and get the help you need.



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Manitoba

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SCAN THIS QR CODE to open the Winter Explorer Guide on your phone.

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Keep yourself and others safe as you explore Manitoba. Remember to:

- ➔ Wash or sanitize your hands frequently
- ➔ Wear a mask
- ➔ Practice physical distancing
- ➔ Stay home when you're sick
- ➔ Be prepared to provide proof of vaccinations at restaurants, events and museums
- ➔ Follow all local travel restrictions

Travel Manitoba cannot guarantee that the attractions and businesses featured will be open and operating as described. While we strongly recommend that all tourism businesses adhere to the public health and safety measures set by the Government of Manitoba, we cannot guarantee the compliance of any business featured in this content. Please contact businesses directly for operating hours and policies.

↑ Mystery Mountain Winter Park

SWAN VALLEY AREA

MANITOBA WEST

When asked about their favourite trail systems in Manitoba, snowmobilers bring up **Swan Valley** again and again. The Swan Valley Snowmobile Association takes exceptional care of 370 kilometres of trails that wind through wooded terrain, meadows, and rolling hills.

FLIN FLON TO THE PAS

MANITOBA NORTH

If you're adventurous, challenge yourself with the 144 kilometre trail from **Flin Flon** to The Pas. The Border Explorers Snowmobile Club has all the information you need to take on this epic snowmobile adventure.

INTERLAKE AREA

MANITOBA CENTRAL

Known for its ice fishing, Manitoba's **Interlake** region is also a hotspot for snowmobiling. The Interlake Snow Trackers maintain 430 kilometres of trails that will take you through Arborg, Hecla, Riverton, Gimli, Winnipeg Beach and even across frozen Lake Winnipeg to Grand Marais.

WEKUSKO FALLS LODGE

MANITOBA NORTH

When it comes to ice fishing in **northern Manitoba**, Wekusko Falls Lodge is a staple. With several legendary lakes nearby and once-in-a-lifetime big fish opportunities, Wekusko Falls Lodge is the ultimate ice fishing experience.

ICEBOUND EXCURSIONS

MANITOBA CENTRAL

One option for ice fishing on **Lake Winnipeg** is Icebound Excursions. Icebound offers anglers the unique experience of heading onto the lake in the luxury of a SnoBear—a fully equipped mobile fishing shack.

BRUIN OUTFITTING

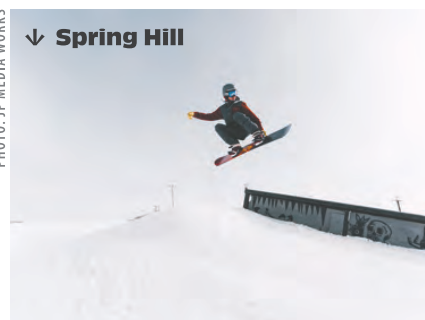
MANITOBA EAST

On a Bruin Outfitting excursion, they take care of all the ice fishing necessities including shacks, rods, bait, and drilling the holes in the ice. Anglers heading out with Bruin will get the chance to catch a variety of species from perch to pike, all in **eastern Manitoba**.

↓ Nestaweya River Trail at The Forks



↓ Spring Hill



↓ Kinosao Bridge



Find more skiing and skating ideas at manito.ba/winter-explorer.

Manitoba encompasses Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Territory and communities who are signatories to Treaties 6 and 10. It is the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anish-Ininiwak, Dakota, Dene, Ininiwak and Nehethowuk and the homeland of the Métis. Acknowledging these original caretakers is a reminder of our unique heritage, our important relationships and our obligations to and shared responsibilities with Indigenous peoples.

Manitoba
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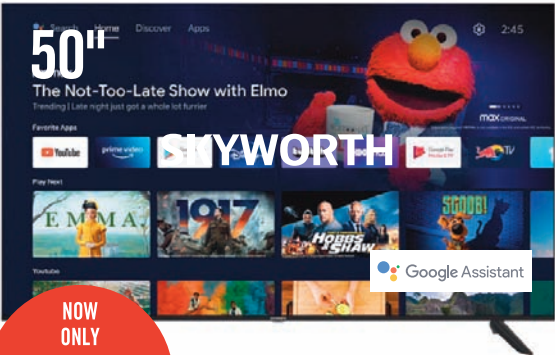
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Lake ice transformed into works of art



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Pembina Hills Arts Council teamed up with the City of Morden and Sputnik Architecture Inc. to hold an Ice Sculpture Workshop at Lake Minnewasta Sunday. Above, left: Daniel Friesen works on his Loop de Loop sculpture. Above, right: Friesen with teammates Helen Lepp-Friesen and Deter Schönwetter. Left: Organizer Peter Hargraves, explains some techniques to interested onlookers.



Left: Jo-dine Leigh carves on her Juggling Pig sculpture. Right, top: Steven Douglas and James Friesen work on their un-sinkable Titanic. Right, bottom: Participants at work as passersby check out the icy creations.



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Whatever the community requires, we are trying to give it

Keeping a brand new business going in the midst of a global pandemic is no easy feat, but Cleaning Service 7 has certainly pulled it off.

Husband and wife team Mrinmoy and Niby Moulick brought their more than 20 years of cleaning experience to the table when they started the company two and half years ago, shortly after moving to Morden from India.

They started small, offering free disinfection services to businesses in Morden as a way to introduce themselves while also supporting the business community in the early days of the pandemic.

"And then it just progressed into something a little larger than we expected," says Niby.

Today they clean 50 different businesses across southern Manitoba and have been regularly adding new cleaning services to their already extensive list.

They can clean any manner of business—commercial, industrial, professional—and also provide floor stripping and waxing, window cleaning, wall cleaning, water and fire damage restoration, and home cleaning services.

"That's a new area we have been expanding into," says Mrinmoy, explaining they'd been fielding an increasing number of calls for service from potential residential clients in recent months.

Business has certainly been booming, which has allowed the Moulicks to bring on new staff. They currently have 20 cleaners on the payroll and they're looking for more.

Many are immigrants to Canada looking to gain some work experience in their new home. The Moulicks, who well recall the challenges of finding work when they first arrived here, are thrilled to be able to help them out.

"It's such a good feeling. We're creating so many jobs, not only in this community but in other communities as well," Niby says, pointing out they have staff working for clients as far away as Winnipeg and all across the Pembina and Red River valleys. "We're trying to



Mrinmoy and Niby Moulick bring 20 years of experience in the cleaning industry to Morden's Cleaning Service 7, which offers a wide range of services to clients across southern Manitoba.

keep people in their communities so they don't have to go out and they can stay with their families a little more rather than spending time travelling for work."

That also comes with a perk for customers, who no longer have to hire and pay extra for Winnipeg cleaning companies to come to the area.

"Whatever the community requires, we are trying to give it. That's what we opened this business for," says Niby, encouraging people to let them know if there's a specific cleaning service they need but don't see being offered—they just might be able to provide it.

Learn more about Cleaning Service 7 online at www.cleansingservice7.com or call 204-312-1434.

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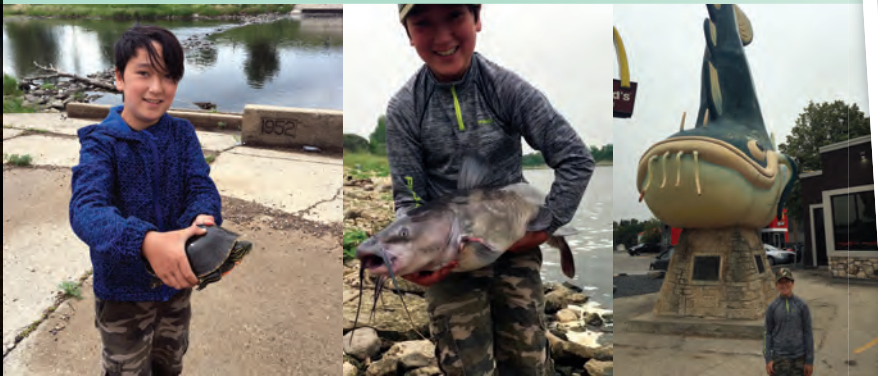
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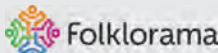
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Valley Fiber gives back

Valley Fiber recently gave back to the community through a charitable campaign. In December, the company partnered with Golden West Radio to support the Eden Foundation. Between community donations and Valley Fiber's matching and additional donation, \$7,500 was raised for mental health, with Valley Fiber contributing \$4,625. "Valley Fiber is thrilled to support the Eden Foundation and the positive impact they are having on the mental health in our local communities," said Valley Fiber senior vice president Conley Kehler (left) in making the presentation to Earl Reimer, director of development for Eden. "We continually strive to be a good neighbour and giving back is one of the ways we can do this. Supporting local initiatives in our backyard is what we've always done and will continue to do."



Fire response calls up in Winkler, Morden in 2021

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year not only brought a few major incidents for local firefighters but some ongoing challenges as well with the pandemic.

Fire calls overall only increased slightly in Winkler in 2021 while Morden saw about a 25 per cent increase, but it's what lies behind the statistics that matters for the fire chiefs of both communities.

There is the toll of events like the blaze that destroyed the golf course clubhouse in Morden or that damaged Gateway Resources in Winkler, but what is especially impactful is incidents like when firefighters had to rescue someone who had perished after getting trapped inside a grain bin.

"For us, emotionally, that was probably the toughest one this year," shared Morden's Chief Andy Thiessen. "It was someone from the community who we have known for a long time. I went to school with him, and a couple of my guys here did work for him, so there were some close connections."

"We had a few major incidents," noted Winkler Chief Richard Paetzold, who noted in particular a multiple vehicle fatal accident near the Winkler Bible Camp as one example. "We were fortunate there was nothing else that would be out of the ordinary in any given year."

In Winkler, the fire department had 174 calls in 2021, an increase of just six per cent from the previous year. There were 118 in Winkler, 52 in the RM of Stanley, and four mutual aid calls outside the area.

Paetzold noted the main increase in calls involved motor vehicle accidents, which he added were also already on the rise in the new year with 22 as of last week.

"We probably already have one quarter of the motor vehicle accidents

that we usually have in a year," he said.

Morden meanwhile had 152 calls, which equalled their previous highest call volume in a year and represented an increase of about 25 per cent from a year earlier.

"It was a busy year for us last year. A lot of it was grass fires because it was so dry," said Thiessen, who noted they had 23 calls for grass fires. Other categories such as the 23 vehicle fires were about average for them, he suggested.

Notable of course was the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club blaze that destroyed the restaurant and clubhouse, as it was of a scale and scope that they don't encounter often here.

There was a notable change in the time of day when calls came in, Thiessen noted.

"It kind of emphasizes that I need guys available during the day because 41 per cent of our calls were during the day," he said, noting another 38 per cent were evenings and nights and 21 per cent on weekends, whereas it is normally pretty even through those three categories.

Meanwhile, they saw almost no direct impact from COVID in terms of lost manpower time.

"I don't think we really lost any time ... we had one guy who worked with someone who got COVID, so he had to stay home because of it," said Thiessen.

"It can make it tough, but we've been lucky," he added, noting the pandemic did impact their training in terms of having to limit group sizes.

"There is always more time spent on training than on calls," said Thiessen, pointing out training involved over 6,100 man hours while call time was at about 3,700 man hours.

"We made do with what we could manage ... and we're still able to respond in a platoon system up to this point," he said. "It's a little frustrating, but we're still able to do what we need to do."

"We stayed relatively healthy," said Paetzold, although some Winkler firefighters were impacted by COVID at various times over the past year. "We had a number of guys [get sick], but we're thankful no one had any serious repercussions from it except for

some time off ... we had all the necessary protocols in place to make sure it wasn't bigger."

That included having multiple platoons who worked and trained separately from one another.

"In 2020, we got all the bugs out in terms of how to work through it, and in 2021, it went pretty well," Paetzold said.

With restrictions changing, the department is looking forward to bringing the entire crew together later this month for not only training but also a chance to recognize several members for service milestones.

"That's our first drill back where all of our platoons we will back together in person," Paetzold said, noting the milestones include Peter Neufeld for 40 years and Marvin Plett for 35 years of service.

Morden meanwhile also has a number of members who have reached significant milestones. Among them are not only Thiessen himself for over 35 years but Pete Peters, Paul Warkentine, and Terry Nelson for having reached 30 years and Jeff Giesbrecht serving for 25 years.

> ROOFTOP SNOW, FROM PG. 14

said Riley McDonald, a media relations rep for Manitoba Hydro.

"On natural gas meters, buildup can block the vent and allow excess gas pressure into your home. Snow and ice buildup can also cause stress on the meter piping and could potentially cause leaks.

"Also, it can be challenging for meter readers to navigate piles of snow and icy driveways and walkways to do their job. We ask customers to keep their driveway, walkway, and steps free of ice and snow, and to keep a clear path to their natural gas

and electric meters."

Manitoba Hydro offers a number of tips and ideas for homeowners on their website, including:

- Clean and repair eavestroughs in the fall. Freezing rain, roof runoff or water from leaking eavestroughs can cause a build-up of ice on the meter below.
- Remove any large icicles hanging above your meter or appliance vents.
- Carefully brush snow from your gas meter with your hand or a broom.
- Avoid using a snow blower in the area of your natural gas meter.

• Never hit, kick or use a hard object like a shovel on the gas meter assembly to break away ice or snow.

• Keep the area around sidewall vents, which are common in high efficiency natural gas furnace and water heaters, clear year-round for safe operation.

If you notice an ice build-up on any part of the natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set, do not try to remove it by kicking or hitting the meter or piping. Instead, contact Manitoba Hydro for assistance.

Free mental health services available for farmers

By Jennifer McFee

A new resource has cropped up to help farmers cultivate a sense of mental wellness.

Announced last month, the Farmer Mental Wellness Program will offer mental health support for farmers and their families.

Through this program, farmers and



Roberta Galbraith

their immediate family members can access six free one-on-one counselling sessions with professional counsellors who also have a background in agriculture. These confidential hour-long sessions are funded by the Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program, a non-profit organization established in October 2021.

To accommodate farmers' schedules, the services are available days, evenings and weekends. Farmers can opt for sessions in person, by phone or by video chat, and appointments will begin in March.

"The program was designed to fill a gap. Our advisory board and people in the counselling and farming community identified that there are lots of terrific resources and supports and online forums, but at the end of the day, people wanted to have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with somebody," said board member Roberta Galbraith, who is a farmer in the Minnedosa area.

Galbraith points to studies by the University of Guelph and Farm Management Canada that draw direct links between farmers' mental health

and the profitability of their business.

"When you pause and think about it, it really makes sense that if you're not well mentally, then decisions are going to be more difficult," she said.

"You might tend to fumble and stall a bit. Your mind whirls and then you become very indecisive. You might not sell at the right time and then the price goes down, or in the case of fertilizer inputs, the price goes up."

Although the board has identified the Farmer Mental Wellness Program as a pilot project, Galbraith hopes it will continue as an ongoing resource.

"We expect that the uptake will be greater than we anticipate. This program was built on the success of similar programs in P.E.I., Quebec and Ontario, where the demand has grown," she said.

"We hope that we will morph from a pilot to an established program within the next year and then move forward with more robust fundraising and maybe some additional programming, depending on the demand and interest of the public."

Galbraith notes that she has family members that farm in the Ashern

area, and she's aware of how discouraging last summer was for Interlake cattle farmers and for those who watched their crops disappear to grasshoppers.

"It was nice to see awareness from other places in the country and corners of the other Manitoba ag community that tried to help support what was going on there," she said.

"Just because you might be another sector within a larger industry doesn't mean that you're not a peer. This program is designed for any farmer."

The program is currently in the final stage of development. Farmers and family members will soon be able to book a session, by visiting www.manitobafarmerwellness.ca and clicking on "Book an Appointment." Through the website, they will also be able to select a counsellor that might be a good fit for them.

In addition, the website provides information about how to apply to work as a counsellor for the Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program, as well as how to donate to the cause.

Lloyd Orchard Community Arena receives Ag Days grant

By Becca Myskiw

Miami's Lloyd Orchard Community Arena received an Ag Days Gives Back grant to put towards new flooring in the changing rooms.

The giving program takes 100 per cent of 50/50 funds raised and gives them to agricultural organizations throughout the province. This year's 50/50 was online as the show scheduled for Jan. 18-20 was cancelled.

"We wanted to give back some of the show's success to the communities where our exhibitors and patrons live," said general manager Kristen Phillips. "Over the course of the last nine years, we have been able to support some many amazing projects that are helping to grow communi-

ties across the region."

Over the nine years of the Ag Days Gives Back program, \$375,500 has been granted. This year there were 15 community recipients, each of whom received \$1,000.

Lloyd Orchard Community Arena board president Brian Weir said they applied for the grant about two months ago with the hopes of completing their arena renovations. He said each of the facility's five dressing rooms got a facelift, and they had two more that needed new rubber flooring, but they just couldn't get the funds for it.

"We did all the renovations in the hopes that someday we could finish the flooring," he said.

The flooring was wearing out and in desperate

need of replacement. The cost to do each room, the hallways, and stairways was around \$10,000 and the \$1,000 from Ag Days Gives Back was the final push they needed.

"Because of this grant, it helped us get right at the flooring after renovations," said Weir.

The rest of the renovations project was paid for by other grants and community donations. Weir said the arena is quite busy hosting games, tournaments, and rentals on a normal year.

"We like to have a top facility for our locals, but it's also important to have a good facility to offer to the outside groups that frequently rent from us," he said.

Continued on page 23

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Winkler Morden Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

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The Winkler Morden
Voice



The Lloyd Orchard Community Arena received a \$1,000 Ag Days grant for new rubber flooring in the changing rooms.

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• INCREDIBLE CREATURES

Lots of new species identified in 2021

By John Gavloski

With new high resolution telescopes being sent into space, and probes being sent to Mars and the sun, it may be tempting to think that the Earth and its diversity have been adequately explored and documented.

But that is far from the case. Hundreds of new species are being discovered every year. It is estimated that there are still thousands, if not millions, of species yet to be discovered.

In this month's Incredible Creatures we will explore some of the new species that have been described in 2021. Although there have been hundreds of new species identified from all corners of the earth over this past year, I will focus on some cool new animals, starting with a large mammal and concluding with the new "leggiest" animal on Earth.

North America

Researchers determined that a group of whales in the Gulf of Mexico that looked like Bryde's whales are actually a new species, which they named the Rice's whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*). Scientists estimate that

only 33 individuals remain alive and are threatened by marine ship traffic, plastic waste, and oil and gas exploration in the Gulf.

Six new species of bark scorpions were discovered from Guatemala and Mexico. While people might generally associate scorpions with arid desert climates, these bark scorpions find respite from predators, namely larger scorpions, high in the treetops of undisturbed primary forests.

Asia

Researchers have described 12 new gecko species from India's Western Ghats mountains. One of these is described as "nearly impossible to catch", and was named Jackie's day gecko, after the famed actor and martial artist Jackie Chan. Most of the new geckos were found in caves or on the forest floor. They are quite small, most measuring only 3 to 4 centimeters.

A brightly coloured Easter egg weevil, *Pachyrhynchus obumanuvu*, was discovered in the forested mountaintops of the Philippines. These weevils live in the canopy of the moist, moss-covered cloud forest. Its colours mimic the traditional garments of

the Indigenous Obu Manuvu tribe; hence the species name of this beetle. Deforestation is a concern in the region, and it is hoped that the power of a name may instill a sense of pride and stewardship for a species within a community.

Africa

The newly described *Brookesia nana* chameleon from Madagascar is believed to be the smallest reptile on earth. It is about the size of an aspirin tablet. Madagascar, though quite large, has a surprising number of miniature animals, many of them found nowhere else on the planet.

A new chameleon species, named the Wolfgang Böhme's Ethiopian chameleon, was found living in bushes and small trees in the Bale Mountains of south-central Ethiopia. The chameleon is around 15 centimeters long and has a distinctive crest of large spiny scales along its back and tail.

Australia

One of the truly amazing new discoveries over the past year was a new species of millipede, named *Eumilipes persephone*, which broke the



PHOTO BY ANALYN CABRAS

A new species of Easter egg weevil discovered in a cloud forests in the Philippines.

record for number of legs; one of the specimens collected has 1,306 legs. This eyeless millipede was discovered underground near the south coast of Western Australia. There are more than 13,000 species of millipedes, and in spite of the name millipede, most species only have a few hundred legs at most. The previous record was a millipede with 750 legs. This new species is the first "true millipede" and the leggiest animal on Earth.

From whales to tiny reptiles, some amazing new species were discovered in 2021. It's exciting to think about what is still out there waiting to be discovered.

Miami and Area Foundation AGM sees total funds grow by \$50K

By Becca Myskiw

Last Thursday, the Miami and Area Foundation hosted its annual general meeting and revealed 2021 ended with \$50,000 more than last year in their total funds.

The foundation generated \$6,607 from capital donations and another \$8,000 from flow-through donations. In addition, they got \$2,000 from the operating grant from the Winnipeg Foundation and \$23,719.83 from the Winnipeg Foundation's managed dollars—that includes admin payment, affiliate fund, annual payment, grant for a laptop, and the Sustainability and Growth grant.

Miami's Youth in Philanthropy generated another \$200 for the foundation, giving them a total income of \$60,719.60 in 2021.

The Miami and Area Foundation spent \$29,000 on grants last year, \$1,030 on advertising and promotions, \$1,472.82 on management and administration, and \$2,288.26 on a regional staff project.

They also transferred \$56,500 to the Winnipeg Foundation, making their

total expenses \$92,113.33 in 2021. That means their net income was -\$30,027.40 after interest and other income, but treasurer Tricia Livingston said that's not the way to look at it.

"It shows as going out, but it isn't an expense," said Livingston after the meeting. "It's just going into a differ-

ent investment."

In 2020, the Miami and Area Foundation ended with just over \$600,000 in total funds. This year, they have \$658,212.34, showing their account is growing, which means they can continue to grant out more to organizations and projects in the future.

Following the financial report, the meeting went into the changing of or keeping of directors. Everyone stayed in their previous positions: Gordon Simpson is still board chair, Brian Callum is vice-chair, Heather Imrie is the secretary, and Livingston is staying as treasurer

> MIAMI ARENA, FROM PG. 22

Weir said the board is grateful for the help from Manitoba Ag Days and it's nice for Miami to be seen as a real farming community in the province.

Other Ag Days Gives Back grant recipients include:

- Eustache Minor Hockey
- Francois Xavier Community Club
- Silverton Community Centre

- Gilbert Plains Recreational Complex

- McCreary Centennial Arena
- Sanford Community Rink
- Centre Recreatif de St. Leon
- Doc Bonar Arena
- Neepawa Curling Club
- Wawanesa Recreation Centre
- Heartland Multiplex

- Strathclair Rink
- Goodlands Community Rink
- Angusville Community Centre

There were also three scholarships of \$1,000 given out and \$10,000 granted toward Agriculture in the Classroom.

The Winkler Morden
Voice

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> MEAL IDEAS



Thai Chicken and Pork Skewers

1 tablespoon chili oil
1/2 tablespoon lime juice
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast
1 1/2 pounds pork tenderloin
In mixing bowl, combine ginger, garlic, peanut butter, broth, soy sauce, chili oil, lime juice, honey and cilantro. Mix well and season with salt and pepper, to taste.
Cut chicken and pork into strips and thread onto skewers. In non-metal container, marinate meat in half of peanut butter sauce 1-2 hours in refrigerator. Reserve remaining sauce for dipping.
Heat oven to broil.
Broil skewered meats until done, turning once. In pot, bring remaining sauce to boil and serve warm as dipping sauce.

Recipe courtesy of the Georgia Peanut Commission

1 tablespoon minced ginger
6 cloves garlic, crushed
2 cups creamy peanut butter
1 cup chicken broth
2 tablespoons light soy sauce



Brussels Sprouts with Peanut Chipotle Vinaigrette

nish
fresh orange or mandarin juice, for garnish
crispy fried shallots, for garnish
crumbled French feta, for garnish
chopped fresh mint, for garnish
Preheat air fryer to 400 F.
Lightly brush Brussels sprouts with peanut oil and place in fryer basket. Cook 10-15 minutes, shaking halfway through.
In small bowl, whisk peanut butter, water, champagne vinegar, honey, chipotle chili powder and 1 pinch salt until well combined.
Once cooked, remove Brussels sprouts from air fryer and place in bowl. Toss in chipotle peanut vinaigrette until well combined. Season with salt, to taste.
Garnish with orange segments, orange juice, crispy fried shallots, feta and mint.

Recipe courtesy of Parker Wallace (parkersplate.com) on behalf of the Georgia Peanut Commission

2 pounds Brussels sprouts, halved
peanut oil
2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
2 tablespoons water
3 teaspoons champagne vinegar
2 teaspoons honey
1/8 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
1 pinch kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
orange or mandarin segments, for garnish



Peanut Butter Cookie Oatmeal

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup milk
2 teaspoons maple syrup
In medium saucepan, combine oats, water and salt.
Bring to boil then reduce heat to medium. Cook 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally.
Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Stir until peanut butter melts.
Add brown sugar, raisins, banana, cinnamon and vanilla extract; stir.
Divide oatmeal into two bowls. Top each bowl with 1/4 cup milk and 1 teaspoon maple syrup.

Recipe courtesy of the Georgia Peanut Commission

1 cup old-fashioned oats
2 1/2 cups water
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons chunky peanut butter
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons raisins
1 banana, sliced



Christine Ibbotson

Dear ATML Readers: I want to share a study done a couple of years ago, (pre-COVID) on why some retirees are happier than others. See if you can do these things too.

When we think about it – why aren't all retired people happy? They don't work or commute any more. They have no deadlines, commitments, angry bosses, or back-stabbing coworkers to deal with, and they can sleep in every day. To the rest of us still working, we can't imagine why they wouldn't be happy all the time? But it turns out, there are some retired Canadians that are indeed happier than others. So, let's find out why and discuss how you too can be guaranteed retirement bliss.

When we looked at the financial aspects of the happiest retirees, it was not that they had more money, but more that they viewed their money as a tool for their happiness. The happier retirees had no mortgage or consumer debt. They also stayed in the homes that they purchased and paid off while they were working. This is where it got very interesting to me. Turns out, many retirees that moved during the early years of retirement to "right-size" their life, took on home renovations, or made big purchase decisions and wound up with more debt than they bargained for; forcing them to eat into their retirement savings or carry a new mortgage that wasn't anticipated. When it came to vacations, (again please remember this study was done pre-COVID), the happiest retirees had taken two or three vacation every year, while the less happy retirees had one or none. This next discovery was something I didn't expect. Turns out the happiest retirees in the survey were not lavish spenders and seemed to be right in the middle-class with their spending especially on cars, clothing, and vacations. The unhappy retirees on the other hand were the opposite. This group had a lot more status symbol purchases and high-priced vehicles, with BMW being the most popular.

Another thing that I found most interesting was that the happiest retirees had done a lot of planning over the years. They obviously were not leaving anything up to chance. Most had financial advisors, and all had multiple sources of income in retirement, (3-5 sources funding retire-


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ment). The unhappy participants, as you would expect, did little to no planning for their future during their working years, with most starting just five years before retirement. This group invested without financial assistance, usually day-traded on their own, and all planned to rely on one or two sources of income, such as their pensions only.

When we look at the other facets of the happiest retirees, the study showed that this group had many personal hobbies. The happiest people had four to seven hobbies versus the most unhappy retirees who had fewer than three. So, what is a hobby? A hobby is a leisure pursuit, something that fulfills and defines you. This would be something that you think about, something you do often, and is absolutely one of the key traits that will ensure your happiness. You see, those retirees that had many core pursuits were statistically happier than those that retired with only one or two things they liked to do outside work. According to the research, many Canadians with no hobbies, ended up with depression in retirement; claiming that they had never been depressed before retirement, but now without work, they felt they had lost the only identity and sense of purpose they had ever known. The number one hobby among happy retirees was volunteering of which we all know there are endless options. Happier retirees tended to be very active and social with daily exercise being a key factor as well. Please remember that this study was done pre-COVID; however, the findings are still interesting. The happiest retirees were much more involved socially (and still are, virtually). They joined clubs, played sports, attend fitness classes, volunteered, had part-time jobs, and were generally busy every day with activities. The unhappy in the study tended to prefer more solitary interests, such as, walking alone, hunting, and watching television.

So my ATML Readers: the take-away from this study is to Plan Your Life. I know we are all getting tired and discouraged with COVID, but remember, life is what you make it. Only you can make yourself happy, healthy, fit, slim, busy, wealthy, content, independent, prosperous.....you get the idea! So, no matter where you are, no matter what is going on right now in your life; change it and mix it up this year. Find your own happiness equation and just do it!

*Good Luck & Best Wishes,
ATML - Christine Ibbotson*

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of 3 finance books and the Canadian Best-Selling Book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" www.askthemoneylady.ca or send a question to info@askthemoneylady.ca

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers nab pair of narrow wins over Pistons

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers battled their way to a pair of narrow victories against the Steinbach Pistons over the weekend.

Winkler was up 3-1 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Josh Beauchemin, Justin Svenson, and Jayden McCarthy but saw that lead successfully chipped away at by the Pistons in the game's final 10 minutes.

It took almost five minutes of overtime for a decision, which went Winkler's way 4-3 thanks to Svenson's second of the night.

Winkler fired 33 shots Steinbach's way, netminder Dylan Meilun fielding 37 in return, making 34 saves.

Svenson got what proved to be the game winner the next night on home ice, scoring Winkler's third of the evening in the final period's first five minutes.

His goal built on those from Trent Sambrook and Gavin Waltz in the first, while Meilun in net let just two goals slip past him in the 3-2 win. Steinbach outshot Winkler 40-32.

The Flyers are currently in third place in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's East Division with a record of 24-13-1-1 for 50 points. That puts them just two points behind the Winnipeg Blues in second place and seven short of the Pistons in first.

Coming up on the schedule, the Flyers host Steinbach Wednesday night and then travel to play the Selkirk



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Flyers' Jackson Arpin watches a rebound off the blocker of Steinbach goalie Simon Harkness in Saturday's game in Winkler. Below: Mike Svenson celebrates his goal which would turn out to be the game winner for the Flyers.

Steelers Friday evening, the Pistons once again on Sunday, and then the Blues in Winnipeg next week Tuesday.

Hawks have a tough go of it with three straight losses

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks had a rough go of it on the road in Winnipeg this past week.

The Hawks dropped two games and

are now riding a three game losing streak after falling 7-2 to the Wild last Wednesday then being shutout 6-0 by the Bruins Sunday afternoon.

Continued on page 26



Abbey Bourdeaud'hui and Anika Braun each had a goal and an assist while Mya Pearce also scored for the Hawks, who managed 26 shots on goal.

The Hawks are poised to enter the playoffs in fifth place, where they sit at 12-14-0 for 24 points, which has them four up on Central Plains and seven behind the Winnipeg Ice. The Hawks won three of four in their regular season series with Central Plains.

The schedule wraps up this weekend with the Hawks hosting a pair of home games in Morden starting with the Eastman Selects Friday evening and then the Winnipeg Ice Sunday afternoon.

> HAWKS, FROM PG. 25

The loss to the Bruins was especially costly as it allowed them to draw even with the Hawks in eighth place at 28 points, although Pembina Valley has one more win on a record of 13-20-2. The Hawks trail Southwest at 34 and Yellowhead and Parkland at 35 points.

The Hawks had the game tied 2-2 after 20 minutes against the Wild before Winnipeg scored five more unanswered goals through the final

two periods.

Keston Worley and Carter Campbell scored for Pembina Valley while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 28 saves with the shots on goal 35-32 in favour of Winnipeg.

The Hawks were pretty much shut down by the Bruins, as they only managed 15 shots while their net-minder Raiden LeGall had to face 50—including 29 in the third period alone.

Things especially started to unravel in the second period as the Bruins were opportunistic in capitalizing four times on just six shots.

The Hawks are home in Morden Friday to host the last place Interlake Lightning and then are in Winnipeg for a rematch with the Bruins Sunday afternoon.

take *a break*
> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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!

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

Sudoku Answer

[illegible]

CROSSWORD

1. One point east of due south
4. City in Maine
10. Inquire too closely
11. Make dirty
12. Small Greek island
14. Bitterly regret
15. Millisecond
16. ___ the ante
18. Without value
22. Eurasian ryegrass
23. Authentic
24. Having a mournful quality
26. Not out
27. Salvador ___, Spanish artist
28. Cargo (abbr.)
30. This (Spanish)
31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
34. Slang for trucks with trailers

			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	47	
48					49						50						
51											52						
			53							54					55		
			56					57		58							
			59							60							

40. Genus of olive
41. Computer term (abbr.)
42. Horse gear
48. Give off
50. A type of salt
51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
52. One who watches birds
53. Sailboat
54. A major division of geological time
55. Sodium
56. American state
58. Soak in water
59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood
60. Affirmative

- 31. Footwear
- 32. Famed Alabama city
- 33. Sheep's cry
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. Clergical vestment
- 41. Serving no practical purpose
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. Industrial German city
- 49. Scottish island
- 56. Early multimedia
- 57. Atomic number 18

Bombers end season in second place, Winkler in fifth

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League regular season is over.

The Portage Islanders are the top team in first place with 27 points followed by the Morden Bombers in second (26 points) and the Warren Mercs in third.

The bottom half of the standings has Carman in fourth place and the Winkler Royals in fifth followed by the Altona Maroons and the Notre Dame Hawks.

Morden ended the season with two strong wins last week, slapping down the Hawks 7-4 Thursday night and then trouncing Altona 5-1 Saturday.

Mike Rey and Adam Hughesman both scored twice while singles were fired home by Cole Penner, Jaden Townsend, Steve Baker, and Sean Christensen.

Reed Peters turned away 28 shots on net as the Bombers outshot the Hawks 41-32.

Peters had a 43-save night against the Maroons in Altona a few days later, giving up just one goal late in the first period. The two teams were more evenly matched in shots this time around—it was 47-44 in favour of the Bombers.

Rey scored twice once again, joined this time by two from Andrew Clark (including an empty-netter in the final few minutes) and one from

Hughesman.

With that, Morden's season stands at 13 wins and five losses.

The Winkler Royals also ended things on a high note, beating the Hawks 5-3 on Saturday and then defeating the Mercs Monday night.

Allister McNabb put the Royals up on the board with the lone goal of the first period against the Hawks.

Notre Dame tied it up a few seconds into the middle frame but then Winkler pulled ahead again with four goals coming in from Jamie Thiessen, Brandon Friesen, Brett Suderman, and Remi Laurencelle.

Two more goals from the Hawks—one in the final minute of the second period and the other unanswered in the third—wasn't enough to catch up, giving victory to Winkler 5-3.

The Hawks outshot the Royals 40-30, Jayme Janzen making 37 saves.

Winkler ended the regular season Monday with a 4-3 victory over Warren.

Brett Dudar opened scoring with the lone goal of the first period. That was followed by two more for the Royals from Caleb Suderman and McNabb, while the Mercs responded in kind to send things into the final frame 3-2.

An early Warren goal tied things up and the game looked poised for overtime when Laurencelle broke the deadlock with 29 seconds on the clock to win it.

Janzen made 36 saves as Winkler outshot Warren 40-39.

The win put the Royals' record at 7-9-2.

The SEMHL Survivor Series gets underway this weekend with Winkler hosting Altona Friday and Carman hosting Notre Dame Saturday.

The winners will move on to play each other in a three game series for a crack at the Portage Islanders in the semi-finals.

The other semi-final pairing pits Morden against Warren.

Free provincial parks entry for February

By Voice staff

February is the month to check out Manitoba's provincial parks.

The provincial government announced last week that it is once again offering free entry to all provincial parks for the entire month.

"Free park entry gives everyone more opportunities to enjoy nature and the great outdoors," said Environment, Climate and Parks Minister Jeff Wharton. "People across our province love Manitoba's parks and our government is pleased to make it easier to explore them and to experience all that they offer."

Vehicle permits will not be required at any provincial park in Manitoba in February, though Snopasses will be needed for snowmobilers using groomed trails in parks.

Entrance fees continue to apply at national parks.

Provincial parks have groomed trails for a variety of activities, including cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, fat biking, snowshoeing and hiking.

Paint Lake, Spruce Woods and Turtle Mountain provincial parks also offer outdoor skating areas, hockey rinks and toboggan hills.

Birds Hill, Spruce Woods, and Whiteshell provincial parks have park interpreters offering numerous guided experiences, including wolf howl hikes, snowshoe treks, quinzhee building and ice fishing. Event details and registration information can be found under the events tab on the Manitoba Parks Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MBGovParks and at www.manitobaparks.com.

Twisters win two out of three

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters won two of three last week to keep within range of the leaders in the MMJHL.

The Twisters had wins of 8-3 over Stonewall and 4-0 over Charleswood sandwiched around a 5-3 loss to Transcona.

Pembina Valley remains in third place at 24-7-4 for 52 points and trail Transcona at 54 and St. James at 60 while St. Vital is fourth at 44 points.

Pembina Valley limited Stonewall's

chances last Wednesday as they held a 41-15 edge in shots, although the Jets did still manage to get three past Twisters' netminder Logan Enns.

TJ Matuszewski and Riley Goertzen both had a pair for the Twisters with the other goals coming from Travis Penner, Mike Heppner, Jacob Carels, and Nathan Ayotte.

The game Friday got away from Pembina Valley as the Twisters led 2-0 and 3-1 before giving up four unanswered third period goals to Transcona.

Matuszewski, Ayotte, and Carter

Hynes scored for Pembina Valley while Martin Gagnon made 23 saves as the Twisters held a 35-28 edge in shots on goal.

Enns then got the 24 save shutout Saturday against Charleswood, with the Hawks being outshot 36-24. Curtis Rebeck, Merek Degraeve, Caelan Russell and Joel Vigier scored for the Twisters.

Pembina Valley is home in Morris this weekend for a pair of games against St. Boniface Friday and Fort Garry Fort Rouge Saturday.

Morden hosting pond hockey tourney March 5

By Lorne Stelmach

Fans of old-fashioned shinny are being invited to come down to Lake Minnewasta early next month for a chance to be crowned as champions.

The City of Morden is inviting people to enter teams for a pond hockey tournament planned for Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beach and campground manager Brian Thiessen said they are hoping this will become an annual event at the lake as they continue to try to promote it as a year-round destination.

"This is another facet of getting more people out using the lake," he said. "We want to give people more opportunities, if the weather allows,

to come out and enjoy what we have to offer here."

The tournament has five categories: corporate, adult competitive, adult recreational, ages 11 and under, and ages 12 plus.

Teams should consist of no less than three people with the suggestion to have at least two alternates. Registration fees for the adult categories are \$150 per team while the youth categories are \$50.

Due to the unknown future of public health orders, you can register your team for free and pay the fee later as long as tournaments are still allowed. If you choose to pay the registration fee at time of booking, full refunds will be provided if the tournament is

cancelled.

Cash prizes for first and second place in each category will be based on registration revenue.

"We're not in it to make money, so we want the money to go back to the people who win," said Thiessen.

He has high hopes that this idea will catch on with the community.

"It's something I've been hoping to have at the lake for a couple of winters now," he noted. "I think we've got great conditions for it, as long as the public health regulations will allow it. We're really excited to put this on and to get people to come out and enjoy some more outdoor activity."

You can find more information and register online at mymorden.ca.

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Any questions please call Harry van Dijk @ 204-745-2260

Deadline for this opportunity is February 28, 2022.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROLAND

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 3rd day of March, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at Rural Municipality of Roland Office, 45 - 3rd Street, Roland, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
69950	LOT 11 BLOCK 6 SS PLAN 1593 MLTO IN NE 1/4 4-5-4 WPM EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT - 51 3RD ST	L. \$19,200	\$7,582.51

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
 - The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
 - If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
 - The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
 - The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Roland as follows:
 - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 - A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents.
- The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
 - The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
 - If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2022.

Managed by:

Kristin Olson
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Roland
Phone: (204) 343-2061
Fax: (204) 343-2001



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URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a winter or Christmas event? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of **Henry Wiebe**, late of Altona, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

**GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT
LAW OFFICE**
Solicitor for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of **Jacob Suderman**, late of Chortitz, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

**GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT
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Solicitor for the Estate

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CAMPGROUND NIGHT SECURITY OFFICER

Have you been considering a career in law enforcement, security officer or border services? Here is an opportunity for you to enjoy a taste of this profession as a seasonal Campground Night Security Officer at beautiful Lake Minnewasta Beach and Campground. The CITY OF MORDEN invites applications for the position of Campground Night Security Officer where you will work at night-time to create a safe and welcoming environment for our guests at this family-oriented destination. This is a seasonal position available on a part-time basis on weekends only from May 15-June 17 and on a full-time schedule from June 18-Sep 5.

This position will be responsible to:

- Maintain night-time safety and security of campground guests and facilities
- Ensure campground rules are adhered to and guest concerns are heard and resolved
- Ensure Provincial guidelines and standards with respect to public safety and campground operations are met
- Maintain a nightly shift log - complete nightly report sheet of activities and observations
- Ensure general calm and good order of campground and beach facilities is maintained.

The preferred candidate will have the following qualifications and competencies:

- Superior customer service and public relations skills
- Accustomed and proficient at working in an unsupervised environment
- An aptitude for gathering relevant information, assessing situations and determining resolution to guest concerns in an efficient and professional manner
- Private Investigators and Security Guards License – training may be provided
- Experience/background in security or customer services industries is desirable
- Available evenings and weekends – May to September
- Valid Class 5 Manitoba Driver's License.

Deadline for applications is February 28, 2022. Interested applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume together with required licenses and two references by email (in confidence) to:

bthiessen@mymorden.ca

City of Morden

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We thank all for applying, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted. A condition of employment is provision of clear Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse Check and Vulnerable Sector Screening Check to City of Morden.



City of Morden Seasonal Employment

The CITY OF MORDEN invites applications for the following seasonal employment opportunities. **All positions may require availability for weekend and evening shifts.**

Deadline for applications is February 28, 2022. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume together with required certificates and two references by email (listed below).

BEACH/CAMPGROUND

Campground Office/Camp Store (May – August)

- Provide excellent customer service, handling retail sales, registering guests, general cleaning duties through-out the campground and store, basic computer knowledge is necessary.

Gate Staff/ Activities Assistant (June – August)

- Provide excellent customer service, handle cash, keep records, perform general cleaning duties and assist with various campground activities.

Paddle Club Attendant (July – August & weekends in May)

- Administer the paddle club rentals, run the lifejacket lending program.
- Must have or obtain Respect in Sport certification, Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Record Check
- First Aid CPR certification is an asset.

Campground Maintenance Personnel (April – August)

- Assist with maintenance of campground facilities, beach and lake areas, landscaping, sanitation, general cleaning duties and general labor.
- Requires the ability to operate small tools, power equipment, tractors, and mowers

Please submit your resume by email to
bthiessen@mymorden.ca

111-D Gilmour St, Morden, MB R6M 1N9

RECREATION

Summer Programmer (May – August)

- Take the lead in planning and leading summer camps. Assists with swimming lessons registration.
- Requires experience working with children, organizational abilities and current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.

Summer Program Assistants (July – August)

- Assist summer programmer in delivering summer programs including Park Days and Sports Camp.
- Requires experience working with children and current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.

Swim Instructors (July – August)

- Instruct Red Cross Swimming Lessons at Lake Minnewasta
- Requires current WSI Certificate – LSI preferred, Standard First Aid with CPR/AED Level C, Current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.
- NLS or Red Cross Lifeguard Certification is an asset

Volunteer Assistant Swim Instructors

- Assist certified instructors with younger classes.
- Minimum completion of Red Cross Swim Level 9.

Lifeguards (July – August)

- Monitor the beach, use first aid skills and rescue training as needed, and educate the public on water safety.
- Requires NLS or Red Cross Lifeguard Certification, Standard First Aid with CPR/AED Level C, Current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.

Assistant Lifeguards (July – August)

- Assist trained lifeguards with monitoring the beach, help with rescues, and educate the public on water safety.
- Requires Red Cross Assistant Lifeguard Certification (course will be scheduled), Standard First Aid with CPR/AED Level C required, Current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.

Please submit your resume by email:

sdueck@mymorden.ca

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PARKS & URBAN FORESTRYCAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE

Parks/Boulevard Maintenance (May – August)

- Assist in all Urban Forestry activities (Planting, Pruning, Inventory, Treatments, Removals).
- Assist in all Horticulture activities (Annual Flowers, Shrub Beds, and Turf).
- Assist in all Pest Management activities (Adult trapping and mosquito larva control, gophers).
- Assist in all Parks and Greenspace activities.
- Ensure proper operation, maintenance of small tools and equipment.

Baseball Diamond Maintenance (May – August)

- Assist in all turf maintenance activities.
- Assist in all diamond maintenance activities.
- Assist in all diamond repair and renovation activities.
- Flexibility to work during tournament weekends.
- Ensure proper operation, maintenance of small tools and equipment.

Successful candidates will enjoy working outdoors in all conditions, can perform physical work and can work with a variety of maintenance tools and equipment.

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EMPLOYMENT

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TWO SEASONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

TERM: May – August 2022 (40 hours per week)

• GROW PROGRAM ASSISTANT

DUTIES: The position requires water testing, computer work for watershed planning, project monitoring and compliance checks, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, educational events and tours, newspaper article writing and assisting with water and soil projects within the district. Applicant must have access to a reliable vehicle (mileage to be reimbursed). **This position is based out of Killarney, MB but involves travel throughout the entire district.**

• TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT

DUTIES: The position requires assisting with water and soil projects within the district; including surveying, construction, hauling supplies and materials to job sites, water testing, computer work for watershed planning, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, educational events and tours. This position requires you to work in wooded areas, swampy lands, and inclement weather. You will likely come into contact with insects, snakes and other outdoor rodents, so you must be comfortable in this setting. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB.**

Applicants must meet the requirements of the Green Team eligibility criteria (be between the ages of 15 – 29), have a valid drivers license, be physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weather, be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently, experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers an asset and good oral communication skills.

Please submit resumes with 3 references to:
Pembina Valley Watershed District, Attn: Lexine LeBlanc
Box 659, 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0
Phone: 242-3267 Fax: 242-3281
E-mail: pembinavalleywd@gmail.com

Application Deadline: Monday March 7th, 2022
PVWD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Please note: offers of employment will be contingent upon submission of satisfactory Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Checks

OBITUARY

Lorna Barclay (nee Pockett) 1930 - 2022

Lorna Barclay passed away Sunday afternoon, January 30, 2022 at Tabor Home in Morden, Manitoba.

Lorna was born at home in a log cabin, on a homesteading quarter near Spirit River, Alberta. She was predeceased by her infant twin brother. Her parents were Pansy Sweet of Thornhill, Manitoba and Vernon Pockett of Kelwood, Manitoba. Lorna and her younger sisters, Kae and Florence moved



to Manitoba with their mother in 1942. Lorna received her high school education at Gordon Bell Collegiate. She taught on permit for one year at Eriksdale. In 1952 she completed her Registered Nurse training from Children's Hospital in Winnipeg during the height of the 1950's polio epidemic. She started her nursing career at Morden General Hospital and the following year was asked to be Matron of Nursing. At a rural dance, she met a young farmer, Gerald Barclay from Darlingford. They were married in 1955, after the harvest was off. With kindness and generosity, they raised their three children, on the family farm in the Barclay District. Lorna continued to nurse and was employed at the Morden Clinic for 23 years. Lorna was active in the community of Darlingford, teaching CGIT and 4-H. She was a strong supporter of the United Church Women organization at the local and provincial level. She supported Amnesty International, served on the Boundary Trails Healthcare Auxiliary and volunteered at the former Tabor Home for 15 years. Lorna was a woman of action, who liked to get things done and care for others.

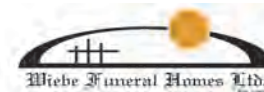
She is survived by her husband of 66 years, her two sisters, her children, Barbara (Conrad Grexton), Cathy (Doug Lone) and Kent (Patti Barclay), her grandchildren, Ava and Jennifer Grexton, Graham and Kelly Lone and her two great-grandchildren, Saveta and Orin.

Memorial service was held with interment prior at the Darlingford Cemetery.

The family thanks Dr. Kevin Earl for his understanding and care of Mom over the past few years.

Donations in Lorna's memory may be made to either: Menzies Medical Centre (130- 30 Stephen Street Morden, Manitoba) or Mission and Service Fund (care of Pembina Parish 353 Thornhill Street Morden, Manitoba).

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



Peter H. Hamm
1947 - 2022

At 4:15 a.m. on Thursday February 3, 2022 Pete Hamm entered the gates of Heaven. He was born March 14, 1947 in Winkler, Manitoba to Abram and Helena Hamm (nee Dyck).

Pete leaves to mourn his wife, Verna (nee Letkeman), son, Nathan (partner, Tammi), son, Matthew (wife, Carla), daughter, Natasha (husband, Geoffrey), six grandchildren, Kristi (husband, Matt), Tyler (wife, Thalia), Tristan, Talia, Cassiah and Gracie, one brother, John, three sisters Helen, Sally and Mariann along with many special nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Abram and Helena Hamm, brother, Abe Hamm and brother-in-law, Hank Fehr.

Private funeral service was held with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens. On behalf of the family, we want to thank Kiley Wilson from Wiebe Funeral Home, as well as all the health care workers who provided wonderful care for Pete.

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



OBITUARY



Carol Dobrowolski (nee McElroy)

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Carol Dobrowolski (nee McElroy) on January 9, 2022. After a valiant fight against cancer, Carol passed peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

She leaves to mourn, her beloved husband of 35 years, Dale, as well as her mother Irene Coleman and siblings Dena (Lawrence) Gillis, Calvin McElroy, Carla (Harvey) Friesen and Patti (Kent) Barclay. She also leaves in-laws Diane (Gary) Loewen, Doug (Kelly) Dobrowolski and Arlene (Brian) Dorge, as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Carol was predeceased by her father, Frank McElroy as well as, step-father, Gerald Coleman and in-laws Carl and Olga Dobrowolski.

Carol was born in Stonewall, Manitoba on November 14, 1960, middle child of Frank and Irene and twin sister to Carla. The family moved to Darlingford, Thornhill and then later to Morden, where Carol received all of her schooling. She graduated from Morden Collegiate in 1978. She then enrolled at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Human Ecology, where she completed both degrees in 1982. Carol started her teaching career with a term position at Thomas Greenway Collegiate in Crystal City, Manitoba, she then took a position at Westdale School in Charleswood, Winnipeg, where she taught the rest of her career (39 years). Teaching was Carol's passion, and she took on each role and responsibility with ease. She always looked for the best in her students and did all she could to help her students be successful. She was an active leader within her school and became a role model and mentor for many new teachers. Nothing was too much for Carol to take on.

In her spare time, Carols' first choice was to spend time with family. Heading to their seasonal camp site at Lac du Bonnet was a regular weekly outing during the camping season. Attending family celebrations or just relaxing together were regular events. Other activities enjoyed were golfing (especially with long time friends Lynda and Tannis), hiking, reading and working on fun projects or custom sewing. Many bridal parties have seen Carol's touch.

Travelling to fun spots with Dale was always an enjoyed pastime, but it was always nice to get back home. Hawaii was one of her highlights and favourite travel spots. Attending cultural and sporting events were also highlights Carol enjoyed. She held season tickets for Manitoba Theatre performances as well as Rainbow Stage. Carol was also an avid Jets and Blue Bomber fan and was able to cheer from the stands at last year's Banjo Bowl and return of the CFL.

The family would like to thank all those who assisted with Carol's treatment and care through Cancer Care at the St. Boniface Hospital. The team of health care workers was phenomenal in supporting us through this journey.

In lieu of flowers please donate to a charity of your choice or to CancerCare Manitoba.

The Line

Every minute someone leaves this world behind.

We are all in "the line" without knowing it.

We never know how many people are before us.

We cannot move to the back of the line.

We cannot step out of the line.

We cannot avoid the line.

So while we wait in the line...

Make moments count.

Make priorities.

Make the time.

Make your gifts known.

Make a nobody, feel like a somebody.

Make your voice heard.

Make the small things big.

Make someone smile.

Make the change.

Make love.

Make up.

Make peace.

Make sure to tell your people they are loved.

Make sure to have no regrets.

Make sure you are ready."

-Author Unknown

Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice Announcements

OBITUARY



Abram Suderman
1926 ~ 2022

Our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Abe Suderman, ascended to heaven on Wednesday February 2, 2022, at Boundary Trails Health Centre after a 20-day hospitalization. Abe lived a wonderful life of joy, generosity and love for his family despite a couple of deep family setbacks.

Abe was born on July 3, 1926, to David and Margaret Suderman in Greenfarm, MB, just north and east of Winkler. He was the third of seven children and the first male child and had many fond memories of his earlier years before marriage including playing ball, being with his school friends, travelling in southern MB, listening attentively to the radio to hear what was going on in the world and working for his Dad on the farm. Actually, he didn't have

much choice with doing farm labour, being the first boy in the family.

It was in 1945 or '46 at a local wedding that Abe met the eventual love of his life, Tina Froese. They fell in love and then each got baptized at the Winkler Berghthaler Mennonite Church in 1948. That led up to their wedding on July 1, 1948.

Mom and Dad first lived with Tina's parents for a while then eventually established their home in a little two-room house 1 mile east of Reinfeld. It was there that they had three boys and one girl, with the 1st boy Kenneth passing away after 12 days of life. Kenneth was born in 1949, Randy was born in 1952, Dwight in 1957 and Julie in 1962. Michelle was born later in 1966 when they lived beside Hwy #32.

Dad was a farmer his entire life, and he loved it. They made investments in land in the 1950's and 1960's, acquiring land in Greenfarm and Jordan. Dad grew a variety of crops including wheat, barley, field peas, navy and pinto beans, flax, sunflowers and buckwheat. He wasn't a big time farmer in terms of acres farmed, but overall, he did quite well. In retirement, Dad still loved to drive by his fields to see how they were doing.

Mom and Dad then acquired 28 acres of land just south of Winkler in 1962 and built a house and moved there in 1963. Tragedy then struck in April 1964 when Randy, just short of his 12th birthday, died in a drowning mishap. Mom and Dad were devastated, and it took some time for life to get back to normal.

Abe found time to participate in many volunteer roles. At church, he was on missions committee, and he was an usher for many years. He served on the board of a group home in Winkler and for 20+ years he was a canvasser for Winkler United Way, including in a leadership role. Dad gave blood to the local Red Cross well over 50 times, again helping wherever he could.

At home, Mom and Dad encouraged (some of us would say coerced) the kids in studies / music lessons / sports. Dad knew that a well-rounded education would stand us in good stead. Dad and Mom of course attended as many of our concerts, programs and games as they could.

Dad was an amazing Grandpa who really loved his four granddaughters. He loved spending time with them showing them around the farm, attending many school performances and sharing his curiosity about all things big and small with them.

Once Dad started receiving his Canada Pension cheques at age 65, he immediately took the extended family to Clear Lake for the September long weekend, a tradition that lasted for 30 consecutive years. It was an amazing tradition that really brought our family together.

Dad loved many sports and in winter the sport of choice was curling. Dad absolutely loved curling with his friends, relatives and with his son, Dwight. He curled in hundreds of bonspiels over the years in rinks throughout southern Manitoba including the MCA bonspiel in Winnipeg. As a boy and a young man, Abe played a lot of ball, again with lots of joy and enthusiasm. In the adult / retirement years, he learned to enjoy golf and played with family and friends as often as he could.

Abe is survived by his wife, Tina, son, Dwight (Kathryn) Suderman and their daughter, Alexandra (Nolan) Froese (Sophia, Logan), daughter, Julie (Paul) Doerksen and their three daughters, Cecely, Hannah and Greta, daughter, Michelle (Lorne) Stelmach. He is also survived by two brothers, John and Peter and one sister, Doreen Hildebrand. He was predeceased by two sons, Randy and Kenneth.

Dad's faith was a lived faith. Even though his direct words about his faith were few, his example and subtle direction were very evident.

Donations may be made to United Way Pembina Valley or Canadian Foodgrains Bank. A heartfelt thanks goes to the BTHC palliative care staff for their compassionate care amid the current health restrictions. For the many prayers, condolences and well wishes, we thank you. We will miss you, Dad, but know that you are in heaven.

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