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A new champ

Andrew Ferris from the Children's Miracle Network presents Winkler's own Pacey Wall with a hero cape to mark the start of his year serving as the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba's 2023 Champion Child. For the full story, see Pg. 3.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Celebrating French February

By Lorne Stelmach

A community-based group continues working to offer and promote more opportunities for children learning French here.

The Morden chapter of Canadian Parents for French sees itself playing an important role in encouraging kids to learn and use French as much as possible.

It's important to have a range of additional activities and resources to help maintain and build their language abilities so that they can more fully develop their skills, said chapter rep. Sara Convery.

"I find a lot of people are looking for these extra opportunities for their kids to learn and practise the French that they're learning at school," she said. "We try to provide some activities outside of school for the kids."

"We just recently had the dance at Maple Leaf School that was called the Bilingual Bop. We invited all K-4 students from Maple Leaf to come, so you didn't even have to be in French Immersion."

"All throughout, we encouraged the kids to practice French," Convery said, adding Gr. 7-8 French Immersion students volunteered at the dance to speak to the kids in French.

"It was an opportunity for all kids to come listen to some French music. We had Zumba and crafts and a photo booth and just lots of different fun things for the kids to do."

There had previously been a local chapter of Canadian Parents for French for years, but was disbanded for a short time before being re-established in 2016.

Since then, the group has maintained a good level of interest and parent volunteer involvement, and it remained active even throughout the pandemic with a number of activities as part of French February.

Convery feels it is a reflection of how there has been strong interest in the French Immersion program here in Western School Division. In fact, the enrolment numbers have generally remained steady if not increased in recent years.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The local chapter of Canadian Parents for French hosted a Bilingual Bop at Maple Leaf School in Morden recently.

"Every year we consistently have good numbers of kids involved in our programming," she said. "With students sometimes moving in who have been in immersion in different places, that adds to our numbers here as well."

The chapter can be an important resource for many families.

"We provide information for families. Sometimes we get people who are just wondering about French Immersion ... or what more they can do for their kids," said Convery.

"We can direct people to some addi-

tional resources ... and some parents want to learn to speak French themselves, so we can direct them to some courses."

There are a few activities already in the works for this year including a French speaking competition in March, possibly a French movie night in April, and the annual week-long summer camp in August.

You can find out more about the Canadian Parents for French Morden chapter and follow their activities on social media, including Facebook.

Government funding to support 74 new child care spaces in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden will be getting 74 new child care spaces as part of an investment by the federal and provincial governments.

Fourteen more rural and First Nations communities will be able to access affordable child care following the announcement of additional funding for what is now a \$94-million investment.

The ready-to-move child care project is a partnership between the governments of Canada and Manitoba, municipal governments, and First Nation communities to provide new facilities in less than a year in areas with a demonstrated need for child-care spaces.

The City of Morden made the application through economic development officer Jason Dyck, and Mayor Brandon Burley was very pleased it proved successful.

"It is excellent news. So many families have been trying to access dependable and quality child care," said Burley.

"It is important for households to be able to grow household incomes and be able to retain jobs but also know your kids are being taken care of in a reliable way ... so it will be very good news for a lot of families."

Based on the success of the first phase of the project, the second phase was expanded to increase to an additional 1,004 spaces in 14 facilities for a project total of 1,670 new spaces and total of 23 new centres across Manitoba.

The new facilities approved in the second phase of the project are expected to be operational before the end of the year. Construction is now underway on sites announced last November during the first phase of the project, with construction slated to begin at other sites this spring.

Eligible applicants are providing serviced land rent-free for 15 years to the child-care provider as well as building support services and maintenance and repair commitments.

"The deal was if the municipality provided a long-term lease agreement on land then they would provide the

facility," said Burley. "The location right now is still being determined, but they are looking at beginning delivery in late spring of this year."

"Our staff are working with Pembina Valley Child Care Centres to select a site ... based on proximity to residents with ease of access but also what works with the existing infrastructure and care requirements of Pembina Valley Child Care Centres," Burley said. "I imagine there will be a selection within the next couple of weeks."

Shuana Richards, executive director of Pembina Valley Child Care Centres, welcomed the announcement while also noting more details needed to be settled.

"Once I know more ... then my board will know if they want us to proceed with the management of the facility."

She did add though that the need in the area is very clear.

"We are in need of more spaces, as our wait list for care in Morden is over 300."

The child care spaces being developed with this investment are part of

the Manitoba government's commitment to create 23,000 new, regulated not-for-profit child care spaces for children under age seven across the province by 2026.

"The Manitoba government is making investments to ensure families in rural and First Nations communities have access to affordable child care," said Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Wayne Ewasko. "To achieve this goal, our government is taking an innovative approach through ready-to-move construction technology to create child-care spaces more quickly."

"The ready-to-move pilot project is another example how the Canada-wide system leverages innovation and collaboration between federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations communities to ensure that every family, no matter where they live, has access to high-quality and affordable child care," said Karina Gould, federal minister of families, children and social development.

Pacey Wall is 2023's "Champion Child"

Winkler youth named ambassador for Children's Hospital Fdn. of Manitoba

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba has named Winkler's own Pacey Wall as its 2023 Champion Child.

Since the age of three, Wall has spent countless days at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg as medical staff grappled with diagnosing and treating the failure of his intestinal system.

Despite 34 surgeries, including having his colon removed and a colostomy placed, Wall, now nine years old, has retained a big smile and an optimistic outlook on life that makes him the perfect ambassador for the hospital and its fundraising efforts.

"This is a very exciting day when we come together as a community and celebrate the children throughout our province who triumph over health adversity," said Stefano Grande

president and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba in introducing Wall as this year's spokesperson.

"Our Children's Hospital relies on donations from philanthropic families and corporations and people," he said. "No matter their illness or injuries, having champion children who share their personal stories, their journey, to help raise awareness of the Children's Hospital is so important to continue to advance child health and child health research in our province."

The Children's Hospital at Health Sciences Centre treats over 130,000 children annually. For the next year, Wall is going to be their voice.

It's a big job, but he feels he's up to the challenge.

"I am so thankful for Children's Hospital because the teams there saved my life," Wall said to a crowd



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Nine-year-old Pacey Wall and his family—parents Benji and Kim and sisters Addison, Bailey, and Savannah—are greeted by the Winkler Flyers junior hockey team at a celebration last week announcing Pacey as the 2023 Champion Child.

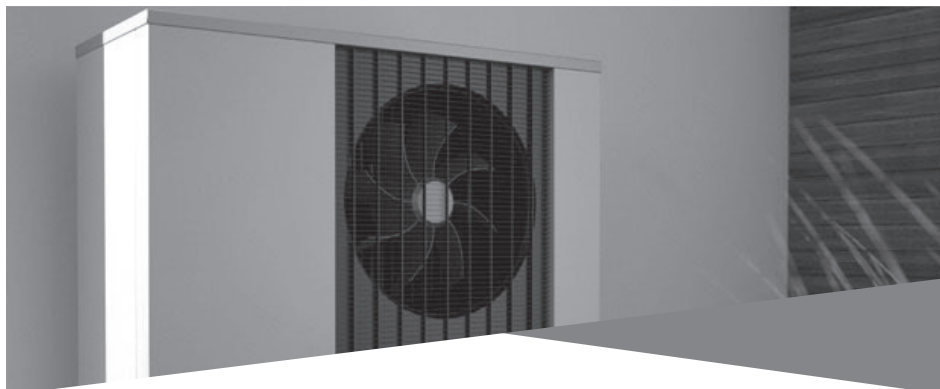
of friends, family, and supporters at the Winkler Centennial Arena Friday morning. "The surgeons who have cut me open a lot of times are now all my friends.

"My team of surgeons and doctors have given me many tools to help get nutrition into my body and help me be able to get home with my parents and sisters," he shared, explaining the array of tubes that have been inserted into his body to help keep him alive.

Wall is not able to process regular food, but he doesn't let that stop him from enjoying favourites such as pizza.

"The taste of food is pretty awesome, so even though I can't swallow it because I'd be rushed back to Children's Hospital if I did, I have learned to sham feed. This means I chew and taste food but then I spit it out instead of swallowing.

Continued on page 4



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From Pg. 3

“My parents now have to buy even more groceries because I love to try everything but never get full!”

Being the Champion Child for 2023 gives Wall the chance to give back to the hospital that has done so much for him and his family.

“Because of all this here at Children’s Hospital, today I’m able to be home with my sisters, go to school with my friends, and do things I love like swimming, hockey and boxing classes,” he said.

“I get to live my life to the fullest, and I plan to taste everything at least once. I am thankful for everyone who works at Children’s Hospital and the

Children’s Hospital Foundation who helped support the emergency department that I have needed and purchase medical supplies like the surgical tools that helped me.

“I am thankful for everyone, for all of you donors and volunteers who help the foundation,” Wall stressed. “Because of all your donations, I get to have a better future.”

Wall will spend the rest of this year sharing his story at public events and being the face of the foundation’s fundraising campaign.

He and his family will also get to go to Walt Disney World in Florida with other Champion Children from across Canada—a fact Wall gleefully surprised his three sisters with at Friday’s launch event.

Also on hand for the celebration were representatives from Walmart Canada, which has been involved in supporting the Children’s Miracle

Network since 1994.

“Last year, thanks to what I like to call the trifecta, which is the inspiration of our Champion Child and the Children’s Hospital Foundation, our amazing Walmart associates who work tirelessly to achieve our goals, and the incredible generosity of Manitobans, Walmart Manitoba reached a record-breaking \$635,000 raised for the Children’s Miracle Network Foundation of Manitoba,” shared Pamela Walker, who spearheads charitable efforts on behalf of Manitoba’s Walmart stores.

“This year, with Pacey as the inspiration, the sky’s going to be the limit for us. And we are going to raise as much as we can.”

You can learn more about Wall’s story and make a donation to the Children’s Hospital Foundation of Manitoba online at goodbear.ca/Pacey



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Pacey Wall and Stefano Grande, president and CEO of the Children’s Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, surprised Wall’s sisters with the news that the entire family will travel to Walt Disney World as part of his duties as Champion Child.

Morden chamber rethinking its annual event schedule

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce is reassessing what all it wants to offer as annual events and programs moving forward.

Board members feel post-pandemic is a good time to do a review and perhaps come up with some new ideas.

“We completed our strategic planning for the next three years, and as part of that planning exercise we are going to do an event review,” noted executive director Clare Agnew. “We want to make sure that the events that we’re offering the community have value for the businesses as well as the public.”

The chamber recently opted not to move forward with the annual Home

and Life Show in March.

There may be an opportunity for the show or something similar that showcases local goods and services to be revived in the future, Agnew said.

“We’re going to review that in the future just to ensure that it’s something that the business community would still like us to co-ordinate.”

Other events being considered for the year ahead include a community-wide sale and promotional event, perhaps in mid-June.

Agnew stressed they are approaching their planning with an open mind.

“If any businesses or people in the community have ideas for new events or activities in our community, we welcome their suggestions.”

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Polar Plunge moves to Lake Minnewasta this year

By Lorne Stelmach

People will once again be “freezing in’ for a reason” as the Polar Plunge fundraiser returns in support of Special Olympics Manitoba.

After a few years of virtual events, organizers are excited to be returning to an in-person plunge this year, though it will be done differently from past events.

The 2023 Polar Plunge in Morden takes place on Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. in conjunction with the Morden fire department’s pond hockey tournament at Lake Minnewasta

So, yes, anyone game enough to take the plunge will be testing out the chilly waters of the lake this year instead of a giant tank of water.

The plan is to have the plunge site somewhere near where the dock is usually located, but it will be dependent on the conditions.

“The plan right now, if the weather co-operates, is to have a hole in the lake and do it into the lake water,” said Morden Police Sgt. Scott

Edwards, who spearheads the event. “So it’s a little different from what we have done in the past ... but if we think it’s unsafe then we still have other options with our tank.”

Participants can register to take the plunge and collect pledges as an individual or a team. Details are available at plungemanitoba.com.

The Polar Plunge has proven quite a popular event for participants and spectators alike over the years.

“Our first year was probably the biggest. I think we had close to 50 people, and then our last few years we were probably around 30,” Edwards noted. “Our last in-person event reached \$100,000 raised through five events.

“We’re excited to get the in-person event back, and we hope we’ll have a lot of people interested who have taken part in the past but also people who maybe haven’t but want to be part of a cool event,” he said. “The goal is to always try to make it bigger and better.”



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Supporters of Special Olympics will be taking the Polar Plunge once again this year, though this time the event takes place at—and in—Lake Minnewasta, weather allowing.

Honing their skills



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The local recreational sledge hockey league welcomed players and coaches from Winnipeg for a series of practice drills and a friendly scrimmage game on Saturday. It’s the second season for the program, which brings together athletes of all ages with physical disabilities for an hour on the ice at the Meridian Exhibition Centre every week.

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Lorne Stelmach



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Harry Potter and the repeating of history

When I moved to Morden 18 years ago I was freshly graduated from seminary with my Master of Divinity degree and ready for my new career in ministry.

In the midst of the busyness of moving we were reading *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, which had just been published. We were staunchly a Harry Potter family and thoroughly entrenched in the wizarding world created by J.K. Rowling.

It wasn't long after I arrived however when I found myself embroiled in my first ministry crisis. A congregant had complained to the senior pastor that my reading the series was inappropriate and set a bad example.

This had never occurred to me. I always felt the stories belonged in the categories of allegory and fantasy. Nevertheless I was tasked with defending my choice and had to dig into numerous books and articles from varying Christian and non-Christian perspectives and present a defence, both verbal and written, to my senior pastor.

The whole thing was unnerving for me. Coming from Toronto, where I had lived for three years while completing my degree at Tyndale Seminary, the idea of Harry Potter being anti-Christian and evil had NEVER

come up. Not once. We were focused on the serious tasks of hermeneutics and Biblical literary criticism. As far as I and others were concerned, Rowling landed in the same camp as Tolkien and C.S. Lewis—two of her significant influences. I was not prepared for the culture shock I encountered when I moved here.

Now here we are almost two decades later and I have continued to be a wildly enthusiastic Harry Potter fan, having consumed enormous quantities of the wizarding world in various ways.

Ironically, Rowling, the wizarding world, and its fans have come under attack again, but not for faith-based reasons. These days the controversy around Rowling and her works have to do with her increasingly transphobic views.

It all started around 2020 when she tweeted out an acerbic comment critical of an article for its gender nuanced headline. Very quickly Rowling was attacked for being insensitive to the transgender community. In response, Rowling published an essay which cemented her position as a Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist (TERF), a term for feminists who do not view transwomen as women.

Famous Canadian author Margaret Atwood retweeted an article that was deemed anti-trans for asking the question "Why Can't we Say 'Woman' Anymore?" which has led many to wonder about her own views of the transgender community. Atwood has since remained relatively quiet, seeking to avoid fanning the flames and staunchly, somewhat combatively, avoids questions related to transgender issues.

Unlike Atwood and other famous people who have stepped into this discussion, Rowling has stubbornly dug in her heels and actively seems to enjoy baiting and sarcastically responding to the transgender community's concerns on Twitter and by doing so demonstrates a callous disregard for their feelings and the pain of a community that has been tormented for a very long time.

Now, in this ever growing conflict, there are many who accuse anyone who enjoys Rowling's work of being transphobic because she earns royalties off the sales.

Sigh. I just wanted to just enjoy the wizarding world. It is odd to me that

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

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Ashleigh Viveiros Editor
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Lorne Stelmach Reporter
204-823-2655 lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca

MAILING ADDRESS:

Winkler Morden Voice
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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• FAITH FOCUS

Courage for our daily life

Do you ever lack courage? Recently I was thinking about the factors that can cause us to experience fear.

Fear and the related emotional conditions can bind and hinder us from making constructive and positive decisions affecting our own well-being and those closest to us. A healthy response to fear includes re-discovering hope and finding courage for the situation we find ourselves in.

We cannot manufacture hope or courage within us, though some may try. Courage needs to have an anchor, a core understanding and belief that points us to a greater truth beyond the facts of our immediate situations.

When my father was coaching me as a young boy about how to ride a bicycle, I told him that I could not do it. I cannot tell you what I was specifically afraid of but I could not see how it would be possible.



By Randy Smart

The facts were that I was sitting on the bicycle. My father was keeping it balanced and prepared to provide support as I moved forward. I had tears and protested that I could not do this. My father gave me a gentle motion forward and told me to peddle. I started to peddle and make progress. I was surprised. I looked back to see my father and forgot to keep peddling. I fell, but now I had begun to realize that when I acted on the things my father had told me I could ride the bike.

On many occasions the word delivered to God's people, as recorded in the Bible, was "fear not" or "Do not be afraid." There are many examples in the Old and New Testament. The instruction and encouragement to not be ruled by fear was based on the fact that there was a reason for hope and courage in the midst of un-

expected and challenging moments. That reason is God himself, his nature and his perfect plans. He invites us to trust him for every part of our journey.

God does not want us to be ruled by fear. A simple children's song which was taught in our home was based on Psalm 56:3,4. "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God I trust; I will not be afraid."

The writer of the Psalm is thought to be David and he was in a situation of personal concern about his safety.

When we look to the Lord God, He can give us courage for the situations we face today. You may also need to talk to others who share your worldview and will listen with compassion and stand with you. Renewed courage can lead us to better questions, thoughtful actions and a more certain path. Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; Trust also in me."

When we are tempted to look back and quit peddling, God encourages us to personally trust and listen to him, look ahead and keep going.

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

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

when I first started enjoying it I was having to navigate the hate and opinions of one group concerned from a theological perspective. Now I am navigating a far different group over Rowling's transphobia.

Don't get me wrong: this is not a "poor me" column. I cannot comprehend the struggle and pain of the transgender community as a cisgender straight male. My journey has not been their journey.

But as a writer and poet, I have often said that I believe once an artist releases their art to the world it no longer belongs to them. I can enjoy Wagner's music divorced from his antisemitism (I don't) and read and value Shakespeare despite the racist caricature of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.

Can I not enjoy the work of Margaret Atwood and JK Rowling despite their problematic (perhaps naïve, certainly hurtful) perspectives on the transgender community without being considered transphobic myself?

Maybe. Maybe not. We're right smack in the middle of the eddies and undertows of an evolving narrative on the subject. Signs should be posted telling people to swim with caution lest they be pulled out to sea and drowned.

Once thing is certain: I never in my life imagined that 18 years after seeking to navigate anti-Rowling sentiment from one community I would come full circle and find myself trying to navigate similar feelings from a wildly different community ... but here we are.

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New tool to be released to track local water movement

By Lorne Stelmach

A new technological tool that will soon be available online is expected to serve as a valuable resource for farmers and land managers in the region.

The high-tech modelling project involving the Pembina Valley Watershed District and Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA) will have the ability to forecast and detail water resources and water movement in the Pembina River valley.

It is supported by funding of up to \$152,250 provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriRisk Initiatives Research and Development stream via the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

The project is being developed with Aquanty, a software firm from Waterloo, Ontario, that is constructing a high-resolution HydroGeoSphere (HGS) simulation model encompassing the full area of the watershed district.

It will provide a means to forecast



VOICE FILE PHOTO

A new tool is being released this spring to help farmers and land owners better track water movement in the Pembina River valley. Such a tool would have been of great benefit heading into the major flooding of last spring, says PVWD manager Ryan Sheffield.

water resources such as soil moisture, groundwater, and surface water flow, and farmers, land managers and decision-makers will be able to access it via a portal at MFGA.net.

"It's a very sophisticated model. It's

kind of cutting edge technology that hasn't really been done here before. It was developed in Canada," said watershed district manager Ryan Sheffield.

"The ability to access this tool will be a valuable asset to have on so many levels, from farming to wetland conservation to infrastructure decisions," he suggested. "From a planning perspective, once we all get up to speed on what the tool can exactly do and tell us, we will have access to a database around water movement and water resources that we have never had before."

Sheffield sees this as being especially vital for the Pembina Valley watershed, as it covers about 7,500 sq km of landscape that includes both the Pembina and Plum watersheds.

This user-friendly forecasting tool will enable agricultural producers, communities and conservation planners to look at key factors such as what moisture is in the soil as well as satellite imagery down to the field level, and he sees it as enhancing both short-term and long-term decision making.

Sheffield looks forward to seeing how producers will be able to make use of it. The tool will offer the options of getting seven or 32-day forecasts, so it could impact how and when they decide to seed their crops, for example.

"It will be interesting to see how a

farmer is going to respond to a predicted water condition could affect a multitude of practices on their farm," said Sheffield. "Even with the watershed district, we're often building water retention projects ... and if there was to be a high stream flow at a certain water body, we might change our practices and work someplace else."

Sheffield noted there will be some training sessions available online soon in advance of its rollout.

"The plan is to have this available to farmers approximately by the end of March and to be used for this upcoming growing season."

He noted how something like this would have been a real benefit especially with last year's flooding in the region, as well as the drought the year before.

"Unpredictable weather conditions and then the soil and water conditions can have a huge effect on farmers and their decisions on the land," said Sheffield.

"The last two years are perfect examples of how having the ability to predict soil and water conditions and surface flow conditions, whether it's flooding or drought, is important," he said. "I can only assume farmers would find that information pretty valuable after having gone through the last two growing seasons."

The Pembina Valley Watershed District project will represent the second major water forecasting platform for the MFGA, as it also has a concurrent water forecasting tool project underway in the Assiniboine River Basin that is also on track for completion and launch before the end of March 2023.

"Now that we are close to completing this powerful water decision-support tool in the Pembina Valley watershed, we will work closely with the watershed district to ensure all audiences are aware of the tool, with those that want to learn more to have the chance to test it and provide key feedback before we launch publicly," said Lawrence Knockaert, MFGA chair and a dairy farmer from Bruxelles. "We want to ensure farmers and stakeholders will be able to use it to the best of their ability."

Pembina Valley Baptist Church MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Thursday, February 23-24

at 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 26

10:00, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Bill Wall

Cuauhtemoc, Mexico

All are welcome!

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Caron throws hat in the ring for nomination

By Lori Penner

Rejeanne Caron has announced she is seeking the nomination to be the next Conservative Party candidate for the riding of Portage-Lisgar.

The Oak Bluff resident has served as a police officer with the Winnipeg Police Service for the past 29 years.

Seeing firsthand many harsh realities has deeply affected her and sparked her advocacy on Indigenous, social, and political matters.

"In my policing career, I've seen a lot of injustice, pain, and suffering," Caron says. "I want to take my experience as a mother, wife and police officer and be a strong voice for all Canadians and residents in the riding of Portage Lisgar."

Caron has worked with many people from all walks of life, organizations, not-for-profit organizations, shelters, businesses, and all levels of government.

She has participated on a steering committee of 34 community and government leaders to develop a strategy

to end gender-based homelessness in Manitoba.

Caron's political platform includes affordability, with a goal to make food, heating, housing, and goods more affordable and bring hope and prosperity back to Canadians.

She also wants to end the practice of releasing violent, repeat and un-rehabilitated offenders in our communities, and target organized crime groups/persons who import, produce or distribute harmful, illegal drugs.

Caron says no to Bill C-21, amendments or bans to firearms, and instead wants to target violent criminals, gangs, and drug dealers who import or use firearms in the commission of an offence.

"I plan to support law-abiding firearms owners, farmers, sport shooters and Indigenous communities, for they are not the problem."

She is also an advocate for quality health care in Canada, including immediate access to treatment and recovery for methamphetamine and

opioid addiction.

"So many are suffering," Caron said. "I support more resources to help those suffering from mental health."

Caron believes Canadian farmers are global leaders in sustainable quality farming and the solution to food insecurity worldwide.

"I will stand up for our farmers, and I support that Canada can be a self-sufficient nation," she said. "We need to stop taxing fuel and fertilizers that farmers utilize and bring back production to Canada. I will fight to ensure our farmers can supply Canadian families, and our allies, with a sustainable, consistent source of agricultural products."

Protecting Canada's fundamental freedoms is also important to Caron.

"I say no to forced government propaganda and censorship. Trudeau is attempting to censor what you can see and say online, making it difficult to hold our government accountable. I do not support Bill-C11."

Also running for the nomination is



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Rejeanne Caron is running for the Conservative Party of Canada nomination in Portage-Lisgar.

Cameron Friesen, Lawrence Toet, Liz Reimer, Branden Leslie, Don Cruickshank, and Josh Okello.

Joshua Okello joins Conservative nomination race

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Joshua Okello last week became the seventh person to join the race for the Conservative Party of



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winkler's Joshua Okello is running for the Conservative nomination in Portage-Lisgar.

Canada nomination in Portage-Lisgar.

Okello grew up in Kenya and immigrated to Canada in 2009. He spent several years in Toronto before moving to his wife's hometown of Winkler, where they live today with their two kids.

Okello works as a civil designer with Valley Fiber, teaches business at Red River College Polytechnic, and acts as an asset management consultant for local municipalities.

He has a business background in both the manufacturing and agriculture industries, a bachelor's degree in business, and a master's degree in technology.

Okello also studied philosophy at the post-secondary level, and it's there he says his interest in politics began.

"That is where the political side of it came in," he says. "I've been following Canadian politics keenly since 2012."

While he's new to the political sphere, he feels his professional experiences make him a strong candidate for the role of MP.

"Working with municipalities has given me a lot of insight in terms of infrastructure and how it ties into economic development," he says, stressing the importance of spreading the costs of major improvement projects for things like roads, water, and wastewater treatment between multiple levels of government.

These projects retain and draw people to the area and open doors for local manufacturers and businesses to grow and thrive, Okello says.

"If I were to get this nomination, one thing that I think I could do well is uniting different levels of government."

While improving infrastructure and fostering economic development is a passion of his, it's just one part of Okello's campaign.

"Family values and community unity" is another, he says. "Things like compassion, kindness, responsibility, integrity—these are things that in the recent past have been eroded from our culture and I think they are an important part of our existence and they need to be restored if we're going to be a community that is going to thrive

together."

He also wants to see businesses that struggled during the pandemic find their way back to success.

"That is something I'm passionate about and I believe I can strongly advocate for," Okello says, adding that he also feels "transparency, accountability, and ethics" are all integral to good governance. "Taxpayers need to have a responsible government. A government that is open with their transactions."

In the running alongside Okello is former Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen, former Elmwood-Transcona MP Lawrence Toet, behind-the-scenes Conservative campaigners Liz Reimer of Morden and Branden Leslie of Portage, Winkler's Don Cruickshank, and Oak Bluff's Rejeanne Caron.

Whoever wins the nomination will represent the Tories in the upcoming by-election caused by MP Candice Bergen stepping down mid-term earlier this month.

No date has been set for either the nomination vote nor the by-election.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

CFDC completes major laboratory overhaul

By Lorne Stelmach

A recent renovation project is going to be a real benefit for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre.

The museum has finished a complete overhaul of its laboratory. Executive director Adolfo Cuetara described the project as long overdue.

"Since I started here in February 2020, it was a project they had in mind for a long time because the laboratory was in the same situation from maybe 40 years ago," said Cuetara, who noted the lab area dated back to the earliest years of the museum. "It was not done properly originally, almost kind of homemade then."

The lab now has new stronger storage shelves for the field jackets brought in from dig sites, and there are work stations with computers and microscopes set amidst new cabinetry, furnishings, and a refinished floor.

The cost came in at about \$12,000 with a majority covered through funding from the community museums support program of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage and the Signature Museum Sustainability Fund. There was also some support through Decor Cabinets.

"All the money came from outside. We didn't have to spend a single dollar from our organization," Cuetara said. "And we did most of the work by ourselves, so we kept the cost of the renovation down."

The laboratory is a key part of the facility, as it is where they bring the fossils from the field to go through an exhaustive process to clean, preserve, and consolidate them for research and eventual public exhibition.

"Now it's looking really, really nice," said Cuetara. "Considering that we are working a lot more in the laboratory now, it was very important. It has to look nice, but it's also for the quality of the work that is being done here as well.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre executive director Adolfo Cuetara in the museum's newly renovated laboratory, which is designed for much better professional organization compared to the old lab setup (below).



CFDC PHOTO

"Now, this is much better. We have a good ventilation system; we need to have a system for the extraction of dust ... and it's to keep things clean

and also for the safety of the workers we have here.

"And now we have a permanent position for a laboratory technician with Gerry Peters ... previously, it was only volunteers."

Now that the project is complete, it will be very much welcomed as the centre looks forward to what Cuetara thinks will be a busy year.

"The timing is perfect because we are right now in the process of hiring a new paleontologist," he said. "So there will be a lot of activity here in the summer."

The CFDC is working in co-operation with the University of Manitoba and a program that will cover 75 per cent of the salary cost. The position can also serve to help a student in pursuit of their PhD.

The opportunity attracted 15 applications, all of whom are international students.

Cuetara anticipates the person starting in about three months, and their hope is that it could lead to a permanent position down the road.

"The plan is to conduct research over the next four years with the material that we have here in collaboration with the University of Manitoba. Our intention is to make the position permanent then after that."

Developments and initiatives like this are all part of helping the centre move forward towards eventually moving into its proposed new building.

"We are increasing the investment in the museum," said Cuetara. "We are working a lot with grants, and it is our hope to bring as much investment as possible in grants and investment in our activities.

"We have been changing a lot in the museum in the last two years, and I think there will be big things coming this summer, not only in the museum but in the field."

Western School Division budget expo returns March 1

By Lorne Stelmach

Western School Division is bringing back an event that aims to put on display the programs and services supported by its operating budget.

The division is finally able to once again host its annual Budget Expo on Wednesday, March 1 at Morden Collegiate at 7 p.m.

Board chair Brian Fransen is looking forward to having the opportunity

again, as it engages the community much more than just presenting the numbers of the financial plan.

"There's a former trustee in the province who famously said when you're talking about budget, the public stays away in droves," he said. "Unfortunately over the years we've seen that to be true, so we were brainstorming as a board years ago to think how can we engage the public to come to an event that will have us discussing

our budget. What better way than to showcase how that money is being spent in our schools in the community?"

The expo offers a variety of displays of some of the programs and services that are financed by the division.

It's received a good response every year, Fransen said.

"I think we were blown away the first time we did it. I'm fairly sure we had several hundred people cycle

through throughout the evening. In the past, we were lucky if we had a dozen people not counting media and staff.

"It's had great turnout, and it's a great opportunity for our staff to show some of the amazing things that they're doing in the schools that some members of the public have no idea."

The draft budget for 2023-24 will also be introduced that evening.

sports & recreation

Hawks sweep Kenora in double-header

Will face Yellowhead Chiefs in first round of playoffs

By Lorne Stelmach

A weekend sweep of a doubleheader with Kenora clinched third place for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

Sebastian Hicks scored 3:49 into overtime Saturday to get the 3-2 victory for the Hawks in the first game of the weekend. Also scoring for the home team were Ryder Wolfe and then Marek Miller with four minutes remaining in regulation to tie the game.

Pembina Valley held a large margin in shots on goal at 57-39, with goalie Raiden LeGall earning the win with 37 saves.

Bryson Yaschyshyn then got the 32-save shutout in the second game Sunday, while Ty Love led the way with a



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Thistles goalie James Sinclair covers a loose the puck while Brandon Gustafson crosschecks the Hawks' Cedrik Robidoux into the net Saturday in Morden. The Hawks won it 3-2. They then won game two against the Thistles the next day 3-0.

pair of shorthanded goals and Hicks added a third period insurance mark-

er. Pembina Valley held a 35-32 edge in shots on goal.

That put the team's record at 30-7-6 for 66 points, three points ahead of the Winnipeg Wild, who they face in their final regular season game Wednesday night.

The Hawks will then meet the Yellowhead Chiefs, who finish the season sixth place, in the quarter-final. In the two teams' four games against each other this season, Pembina Valley won three times.

The league's other quarter-finals will be repeats of last year's first round matchups, with Brandon facing Southwest, the Winnipeg Bruins

Pembina Valley Hawks coach Dorian Miller was named the Manitoba U18 AAA league's Coach of the Year last weekend. Also honoured for their work this season was goalie Raiden LeGall and forward Sebastien Hicks, both of whom were named All-Stars. LeGall was also voted League MVP.

against Eastman, and the Winnipeg Wild against the Winnipeg Thrashers.

The playoff schedule was not available at press time, but the post season play is expected to get underway Feb. 28.

AWARDS

Three Hawks were honoured with awards at Saturday's game.

Raiden LeGall was named 1st Team All-Star and was also voted League MVP. LeGall has stood tall in net for Pembina Valley this season with a .941 save percentage and a 2.18 goals-against average that has him among the top three goalies in the league.

Sebastien Hicks was selected as a 2nd Team All-Star in recognition of his 25 goals and 46 points. Six of his goals have been game-winners and four have been short-handed.

Finally coach Dorian Miller was named Coach of the Year for his work behind the bench.



News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

Bombers advance

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden, Portage, Ste Anne, and Warren were left standing after the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League's first round of playoffs last week.

The Morden Bombers made short work of the Ile des Chenes Northstars, winning the series three game to zero.

Aside from the 6-1 rout in game one, games two and three were both close affairs, with the Bombers squeaking out a 6-5 OT win in game two last Thursday night and then following it up with a 4-3 victory two nights later.

Regular season champions the Portage Islanders, meanwhile, knocked

the Winkler Royals out of the running 3-0 as well, winning game one 9-4, game two 3-1, and game three 7-2.

The Ste Anne-Red River series needed four games for a decision, the Wild having tied things up at a game apiece with a 4-1 game two win. The Aces then won games three and four by a wide margin (6-2 and 8-3) to advance.

Finally, the Warren Mercs won three straight to bump the Notre Dame Hawks out of the running, taking games by scores of 6-1, 2-1 in overtime, and 5-2.

The schedule for the next round of playoffs was not available at press time. Head to semhl.net for updates.

On the awards front, the Red River



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden's Derek Holenski chips the puck away from Northstar Brent Wold in Thursday's playoff game, which the Bombers won 6-5 in overtime.

Wild's TJ Matuszewski was voted as the SEMHL's Rookie of the Year. He received his trophy at last Tuesday night's game.

Winkler Flyers stumble against Terriers, Stampeders

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added two losses to their record last week in coming up against the top-ranked Portage Terriers and the Swan Valley Stampeders.

The Terriers, who are in first place in the MGEU East Division, blanked Winkler 3-0 on Saturday.

Malachi Klassen made 25 saves off the 27 shots on net he faced (the Terriers' last goal came on an empty net in

the final minutes of the game).

Across the rink, Portage's Bailey Monteith got the shutout with 30 saves.

Playing at home the next night, Winkler didn't fare any better against the Swan Valley Stampeders, who are in third place right now in the league's West Division behind OCN and Waywayseecappo.

Despite firing 47 shots on goal, the Flyers just couldn't crack past the

defenses of Swan Valley netminder Kobe Grant.

Winkler goalie Aidan Comeau stopped 25 of the 28 shots he faced.

The Flyers remain in third place in the East Division with a record of 28-13-5-1 for 62 points. Ahead of them are the Terriers (74 points) and the Pistons (68), who have both earned their seat at the playoffs. Well behind the Flyers in fourth and fifth place are the Niverville Nighthawks (46 points)

and the Selkirk Steelers (45 points). The Winnipeg teams are in sixth and seventh (the Blues with 39 points and the Freeze with just nine).

Coming up, Winkler hosts the Winnipeg Freeze Wednesday night and then hits the road to play in OCN Friday and Swan Valley on Saturday.

The Flyers then kick off March with a home-and-away against Selkirk that starts in Winkler next week Wednesday night.

End of the road for female Pembina Valley Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The 2022-23 season came to an end this past week for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

The sixth ranked Hawks gave the third place Winnipeg Avros a good test after Pembina Valley had dropped all four regular season matchups, but the Avros still prevailed in three straight.

After edging the Hawks 3-2 in overtime in game one Thursday, Winnipeg completed the sweep with 1-0 and 2-0 shutouts Friday and Sunday.

In game one, the Hawks had taken a 1-0 lead in the second period, but the Avros outscored Pembina Valley 2-1 in the third before collecting the overtime winner.

Jessica Anderson and Mya Pearce scored for the Hawks while Kasia Rakowski made 30 saves off the 33 shots she faced. Her teammates sent 25 the other way.

A lone third period goal was all the

Avros needed in game two. Winnipeg's Jenna Goertzen got the 26-save shutout while Kaylee Franz stopped 26 of 27 shots for the Hawks.

It was then a 22-save shutout in game three for Madelynne Sylvestre, while Franz did her best to keep the

Hawks in the game in stopping 40 of 42 shots on goal.

Elsewhere, Westman completed a three-game sweep of Central Plains. They await the winner of the quarter-final between Yellowhead and Eastman to see who they'll play in the

next round.

The Winnipeg Ice knocked Interlake out of the playoffs in three straight. They'll now face the Avros in the semi-finals.

Twisters clinch a playoff spot

By Lorne Stelmach

A pair of victories last weekend clinched the Pembina Valley Twisters a playoff spot in the MMJHL.

The team downed Transcona 2-1 Friday and then battled Fort Garry Fort Rouge to a 3-2 overtime win on Sunday.

The first win came in dramatic fashion with Slade Sotheran putting home the winning goal with just one second

remaining in regulation.

Riley Goertzen had given the Twisters a 1-0 lead in the second period with his team-leading 23rd goal of the season.

Logan Enns made 44 saves as Transcona outshot the Twisters 45-31.

On Sunday, Derek Wiebe got the game-winner 3:32 into overtime.

Also scoring was Goertzen and Caelan Russell. Enns made 31 saves in net as Pembina Valley outshot the

Twins 40-31.

The wins improved Pembina Valley's record to 17-13-3-3 for 40 points, which has them in sixth place. They are six ahead of Transcona while just one and three points behind Charleswood and Fort Garry Fort Rouge.

This weekend the Twisters play at home in Morris against Stonewall Friday and then St. James Saturday.

Gimli's Einarson looks for Scotties four-peat

By Ty Dilello

Manitoba is well represented at this week's 2023 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Kamloops, British Columbia, as the keystone province boasts an all-time high of four teams in the event.

Gimli's Kerri Einarson (Val Sweeting, Shannon Birchard, Briane Harris) enter the Scotties as the betting favourite to win the championship. They will be playing as Team Canada since they've won the three previous Scotties events.

Einarson's team has been Canada's finest over the past five years. They've won everything except the last Olympic Trials. With one more Scotties win this year, the Einarson foursome will tie Nova Scotia's Colleen Jones for the most consecutive Scotties titles in history with four when they won every year from 2001 to 2004.

Jennifer Jones and her rink (Karless Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine) out of the St. Vital and Altona Curling Clubs are Team Manitoba and hold a ton of experience as Jones is a six-time champion at the event.

Team Kaitlyn Lawes (Laura Walker, Jocelyn Peterman, Kristin MacCuish, Selena Njegovan) out of the Fort Rouge will be playing as Wild Card #1 as the team ranked highest in Canada that failed to win their provincial playdowns. Finally, Team Meghan Walter (Abby Ackland, Marquette's Sara Oliver, Mackenzie Elias) is entered as Wild Card #3 for their remarkable season on the World Curling Tour.

The other teams that make up the 18-rink field are Alberta's Kayla Skrlík, British Columbia's Clancy Grandy, New Brunswick's Andrea Kelly, Newfoundland and Labrador's Stacie Curtis, Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville, Nova Scotia's Christina Black, Ontario's Rachel Homan, Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt, Quebec's Laurie St-Georges, Saskatchewan's Robyn Silvernagle, Northwest Territories' Kerry Galusha, Nunavut's Brigitte MacPhail, Yukon's Hailey Birnie, and Wild Card #2's Casey Scheidegger.

The event follows the same format as the past two Scotties that includes Team Canada, the fourteen



VOICE PHOTOS BY DERWIN FARMER

Manitoba is well represented at this week's 2023 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Kamloops, British Columbia, as the keystone province boasts an all-time high of four teams in the event. Team Jones, Jennifer Jones, Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias and Lauren Lenentine celebrate their win Monday.



Emily Zacharias releases a stone.

Canadian curling member associations (including three territories and Northern Ontario) and three Wild Card teams that are the top three teams who did not qualify from their provincial playdowns based on CTRS standings.

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts runs from Feb 17-26 at the Sandman Centre in Kamloops, British Columbia. The winning team will represent Canada at the 2023 World Women's Curling Champion-

ship at the Göransson Arena in Sandviken, Sweden.

As of Monday night Team Jones had three wins and one loss. Team Manitoba lost their first game 8-11 to Northern Ontario but went on to defeat Team Walter 12-5, Newfoundland and Labrador 7-4 and Team Ontario (Homan) 6-4. The other Manitoba teams, Team Walter had one win and three losses, while Team Einarson had five wins.



Mackenzie Zacharias and Jennifer Jones discuss a shot.

Project preserves the stories of historic village's past

By Lori Penner

When you tour some of the quaint housebarns in the Village of Neuberghthal, you wish those timber walls could talk. Oh, the stories they could tell.

Preserving the stories of the original Mennonite settlers and inhabitants of the nearly century-and-a-half old community is the focus of a new project being launched by the Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation (NHF).

Funded through a grant from the Plett Foundation, the project involves digitally recording conversations with descendants of the original founders of the village, as well as former residents. These recordings will then be stored and transcribed for future reference.

NHF member Susie Fisher says the Plett Foundation supports projects that involve researching the 1870s Mennonites and their descendants. The grant will help the NHF further their own research on Neuberghthal, as well.

"We hired somebody to do oral history interviews with people who have lived in the village in the past," Fisher says. "These are elderly people for the most part, who may not be around much longer. We just want to make sure we have all their stories, so that we can continue to preserve our past, but also find interesting ways to share it. The more we know, the better."

At this point, there are about two dozen individuals on the list of interviewees, and the NHF is looking for more.

"Maybe someone who has connections to the village who finds out



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation is launching a project to interview and preserve the memories of people who used to live in the village of Neuberghthal.

about this project will come forward and say, "I have some stories to add" and that would be great," says Fisher. "We'd love to hear from them if they're willing to be interviewed."

The process entails contacting the individual, sitting down with them, and asking them various questions pertaining to their memories of life in the village. The digital and written copies of the conversations will then be sent to the Canadian Mennonite University for their archives, as well as the village's own archives.

The recordings and transcriptions will also be shared with interviewees, giving them a legacy for their own families.

"The questions are pretty broad," Fisher says. "We're interested in stories about their homes, the school, sports, traditions, things like that. Part of the project is looking at the

map of the village and recalling what they remember about certain yards and the people who lived there. Really trying to bring up any memories that folks have. Was there floor painting, was there art, were there special community events, what was church like... anything they can remember."

Neuberghthal was founded in 1876 by a group of related Mennonite families immigrating from Russia to the open plains of southern Manitoba.

The village was designated as a national historic site in 1989 because of its unique layout and architectural significance.

NHF member Ray Hamm conducted and recorded a number of interviews with residents at the time.

"Many of those conversations are in

Low German," Fisher says. "The plan is to digitize and transcribe those in the future, as well."

Jonathan Hildebrand will be conducting these new interviews.

Hildebrand is a PhD student in history at the University of Manitoba, where his research focuses on the creeks and waterways of the West Reserve, Mennonite settlement, and use along the creeks, and Mennonite-Indigenous interactions in the area.

While he currently lives in Winnipeg, he grew up in Altona and says he's excited to be involved with the NHF project.

"Given my interest in history, I've been finding it a valuable experience in learning more about the region. I've also enjoyed the project because it's helped me connect more strongly with my own roots—not just through learning about the history, but through meeting and the folks being interviewed, who all have such a wealth of experience and knowledge.

"Projects like this are important for preserving the local history and knowledge of a place, at a different level than what we might read in textbooks."

Fisher says according to the grant, they've been allotted two years to complete the project, but Hildebrand hopes to finish it this year.

"This project aligns perfectly with his knowledge and interests, and we're happy to have Jonathan be a part of keeping Neuberghthal's history alive for generations to come."

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Special visitors

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY LILI KRUSHEL

The City of Morden brought a special Valentine's Day treat to Kindergarten students last week. Three princesses and Spider-guy stopped by local schools to read, dance, and take pictures with the kids in celebration as well of February being I Love To Read Month.

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URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? 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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EMPLOYMENT



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CAREERS

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We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

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Qualifications:

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING 2023 Financial Plan

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Winkler will present its 2023 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

March 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
City of Winkler Council Chambers,
185 Main Street, Winkler, MB

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan. Anyone wishing to get a copy of the City's 2023 Financial Plan can contact City Hall by phone at 204-325-9524 or admin@cityofwinkler.ca during regular office hours.



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CAREERS



Finance and HR Manager

DL Seeds is a plant breeding and seed production company whose goal is to produce superior canola hybrid and pulse varieties that are profitable to producers in North America. Our success is in our people and our genetics. Our research team works closely with industry partners, universities, other breeders, and our distributors to test and develop the best possible crop varieties. DL Seeds mission is to excel in Spring Canola Hybrid and Pulse performance in the North American marketplace.

DL Seeds is currently seeking an experienced, self-motivated leader to join our team as the Finance and HR Manager. Reporting to the General Manager, this position could be based out of either our Morden or Winnipeg Research Stations, but accommodations could be made for the right candidate.

The Finance and HR Manager fulfills a critical role within DL Seeds as a member of the senior leadership team and supporting the Board of Directors. Leading a team of three full and part time people, the Finance and HR Manager is accountable for all financial reporting, leading the budgeting and forecasting process, supporting other people leaders in recruiting, and managing our team of full time, part time and seasonal employees, and engaging with other leaders and Board members to help drive the business of DL Seeds forward.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Leading the preparation and analysis of the financial statement package including consolidated financial statements, monthly variance reports, and P&L analysis
- Control of all financial/regulatory reporting, budgets, forecasts, and annual audits
- Work closely with senior and operational management team to ensure accurate forecasting of revenues and expenditures and advising on future budgeting.
- Maintaining a high degree of professionalism when dealing with staff and other departments within the organization, customers, and others in a courteous and professional manner
- Development of financial and human resources policies
- Providing financial analysis support to various areas of the company
- Verify compliance with accounting standards and regulations.
- Oversee insurance and risk management.
- Manage, mentor and coach a team – Accounting Assistants and HR Assistant.
- Liaising with GM to make decisions for operational activities and setting strategic goals.
- Support people leaders in management of personnel including decisions on staffing, performance management and goal setting.

To be considered for this position, the following would be an asset:

- CPA designation (e.g., CA, CMA, or CGA designations)
- Bachelor's Degree in Business/Accounting, or equivalent education or experience
- 5 + years of management experience
- In depth knowledge of diverse business functions and principles
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal abilities
- Excellent organizational skills with a problem-solving attitude
- Excellent leadership skills to lead and motivate employees.
- Strong knowledge of human resource policies and regulations

Salary and benefits will be competitive, based on experience.

Closing Date: March 7, 2023

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

Please forward applications to: leah.beattie@dlseeds.ca

SENIOR RENTALS

OAK WEST ESTATES HAS 1 SUITE AVAILABLE.

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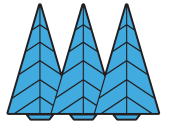
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Please forward resume to cyndie@aubinnurseries.ca or call 204-745-6703.

DEVOTION

Devotion

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PUBLIC NOTICE

WINNERS Sharptooth Adventures - Jo Jo Bird
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Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual - Yvonne Kroeker

A special thank you to Sharptooth Adventures, Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual & Meadows Golf & Amusements for providing the gift certificates to our winners for this contest.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

WESTERN School Division
Morden, Manitoba
"Rooted In Caring, Committed to Learning"

Western School Division is pleased to invite the public to the following events:

Grand Opening of the MCI Technology Education Centre

Tuesday, February 28th
1:15 p.m.
171 North Railway Street, Morden, MB

Sod Turning and Unveiling of the Name for the New School

Tuesday, February 28th
3:30 p.m.
Near the corner of Geneva Drive and Parkhill Drive
Morden, MB

Western School Division Budget Exhibition

Wednesday, March 1st
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Morden Collegiate Institute Gymnasium
345-5th Street, Morden, MB

Government of Manitoba representatives will be in attendance for the Grand Opening and Sod Turning.

CAREERS



A wholly owned subsidiary of



Job Title: Manager Trainee
Department: Winkler
Reports To: Manager

Organizational Background
Walhalla Bean (Canada) is owned by Columbia Grain International, LLC. Columbia Grain is a long time established full-service grain company in the grain and pulses business.

Position Description

The primary responsibilities of the Elevator Manager Trainee will work with location manager, facility employees and regional office personnel to learn and execute all aspects of facility operations including safety programs and operational procedures. The Manager Trainee will work with the other members of the team toward operational goals while maintaining quality and efficiencies.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Maintain awareness of inventory quantities as well as quality of inventory.
- Learn to grade beans, load outbound trucks & unload inbound trucks.
- Maintain knowledge of changing economics of current market values, truck transportation costs and local competition.
- Create and develop customer and industry relationships
- Maintain a profitable margin while increasing facility volume.
- Understand elevator logistics and keep operations personnel updated on all inbound and outbound bean quantity and quality specs.
- Issue and execute purchase contracts and grower agreements.
- Other duties as assigned.
- Must hold valid driver's license and passport.

Education/Experience

- High School diploma, GED or equivalent experience.
- Previous experience in an industrial or manufacturing environment preferred.
- Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals.
- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instruction, and procedure manuals.
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, storage, interest, commissions, ratios and conversions quickly and accurately.
- Good work ethic (team environment, both safety and quality), efficient and willingness to perform all required work with good attendance.

Physical Requirements necessary to perform this job

- Must be able to move freely throughout the operations including walking on elevated platforms, standing, sitting, climbing, stooping, kneeling and crawling
- Ability to regularly lift and move up to 10 lbs., frequently lift and move up to 25 lbs. and occasionally lift and move up to 100 lbs.
- Exposure to extreme climate temperatures, humidity and noise.
- Required to wear protective equipment to include hard hat, safety glasses, protective footwear, gloves, coveralls, and other PPE as required.

Benefits Offered

- Paid Holidays, Vacation and Sick leave
- Walhalla Bean (Canada) pays competitive salaries and will be dependent on experience in the industry.

EMPLOYMENT



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CAREERS



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What we Provide:

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OBITUARY



**Lillian Joyce Hildebrand (nee Gibson)
1932 – 2023**

With sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Lillian Hildebrand aged 90 years, of Morden, MB. and formerly of the 1-6 District on Monday, February 13, 2023 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Lillian was born June 23, 1932 in Morden. After completing high school at Maple Leaf Collegiate, Lillian attended Normal School in Winnipeg and began her teaching career. She enjoyed teaching at schools in Winnipeg, Kenora, Thornhill and Lindal. She married Bill Hildebrand January 10, 1959. When they married, she had no experience with farm life – she was a town girl in love. She was athletic, adventurous, courageous, resourceful and approached every new farm chore with a determination to succeed. Mom's

years on the Hildebrand farm, (11-1-6NW) alongside Bill and their five children were the best years of her life. Lillian and Bill loved each other and loved providing for their growing family.

The Lutheran Church was always central to Lillian's life. She served by teaching Sunday school, attending Bible study, contributing to the ladies' aid, and singing in the choir. Bill and Lil moved into Morden in 1983 and Mom worked in the kitchen at the Morden Motor Inn and Morden General Hospital, at the Tupperware factory, and drove the school bus. She was good company and was a faithful friend, always ready to listen and interested in many topics.

She will be lovingly remembered by her four daughters and son: Audrey and Jim Wilson, Mavis and Gerard Brake, Willie Hildebrand-Whalley, Sheila and Jon Paintin and Charlie and Margie Hildebrand; her grandchildren: Angus, Lochlan, Christopher (fiancé, Marianne), Zachary, Parker, Clark, Robyn, Kenzie; her sister, Eleanor Orchard; sisters-in-law, Martha, Sigga and Ann; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Bill; son, John (in infancy); parents, Charles (Fredrick) Gibson and Catherine McVicar Jickling; and many other loved ones.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Morden with private family interment at Hillside Cemetery to follow at a later date.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Lillian's memory to the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 144 7th Street Morden, MB R6M 1E2

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



OBITUARY



**Alitta Milaine James (nee Fehr)
1960 – 2023**

Alitta James passed away peacefully at the age of 62 after a courageous battle of cancer. She was surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honour her legacy of love.

Alitta was born to Jake and Helen Fehr in Winkler, Manitoba on June 21, 1960. She met the love of her life, Rick James, in an Altona youth group and they married at the Altona EMMC on April 8th, 1979. They built a family and a life together as they raised their three kids here in Winkler. Alitta worked as a paralegal in the same law office for 40 years. She retired at the age of 60 to enjoy time with her family and growing tribe of grandkids. Alitta loved well. People who knew her, were loved by her. She treasured her role as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She

loved swimming and the water, family holidays, gardening, crafting and sewing. She had an eye for beauty - whether it be in flowers, home decor or finding it in the people around her. As a Grandma she loved to cuddle, make and play play-dough, read books, paint rocks, plant flowers, create car roads and be crafty. Even with the challenges she faced, her ability to Grandma never wavered - she always had the strength to make moments with her grandkids special. Though her past six years weren't easy and she fought many battles, she never complained, always loved and her steady faith in God was an inspiration.

Alitta was predeceased by her parents, Jake and Helen Fehr and is survived by her husband, Rick James, her children, Devin (Janelle) James, Jordan (Rachel) James, Jenilee (Steve) Goertzen, her eight grandchildren, Tianna, Grady, Everly, Mavrick, Beau, Callen, Parker and Charlize and her brothers, Dwight (Maggie) Fehr and Mike (Jamie) Fehr.

A celebration of life was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the Winkler EMMC with a private interment prior at the Rudnerweide Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Alitta's memory to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to CancerCare.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY

**Wilfred Kenneth Warkentin
1936 - 2023**



It is with great sadness that the family of Wilf Warkentin announces his passing on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at the age of 86; only three short months after the death of his beloved Grace. While Grace was often larger than life, Wilf was quiet and shied away from the limelight. Their very different personalities complemented each other, and they could not imagine life without the other. Wilf was born on May 18, 1936, to Martha and George P. Warkentin in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

He leaves behind his three children, Randy (Karla), Bonnie (Paddy), Tami (Andy); five grandchildren, Brodie (Rachel), CJ (Lindsay) Marie (Jeremy), David (Emily) and Andrew (Yetunde) and five beautiful great-grandchildren. He met his newest great-

granddaughter, Hunter-Grace, and congratulated his grandson, David, on his engagement to Emily, just days before his death. Wilf is survived by two of his sisters, Grace Klassen and Edith Grimes. He is much loved by his and his late spouse, Grace's extended family and by his nieces and nephews and their families.

Wilf and Grace moved to Morden from Winnipeg with their young family in 1967 so Wilf could pursue his passion for cars and sales. He co-founded Garden City Chrysler with Max Friesen and they succeeded in business together for the next 40 years. Wilf and Grace quickly adopted their new home. Within weeks of arriving in Morden, Wilf began volunteering in the community. He is most widely remembered for his unwavering commitment on the Tabor (personal care) Home Board where he served for more than 30 years, including as the Chair of the Board for 14 years. During his time as the Chair, he was the driving force behind the development, fundraising and construction of a new, state of the art, 100-unit personal care home.

In 2015 Wilf was named Morden's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, in which he was recognized for close to 50 years of volunteer service. He was nominated because of his creation of the Morden Community Handi-Van, a service that provided transportation to disabled residents of Morden. For more than 30 years, Wilf and Max contributed new vehicles for the Handi-Van from their dealership. Wilf was also honoured for his service as a trustee and then Chair of the Western School Division, as a member of the Morden Town Council and as one of the first Chairpersons of the Morden Corn and Apple Festival and of course, for his contributions to the Tabor Home. Above most other things, Wilf loved to golf. He and Grace travelled wherever they could swing a club; to places such as St. Andrews in Scotland, the Canary Islands in Spain, Hawaii, California, Florida and extensively throughout Canada. Wilf and his son-in-law, Andy, were partners at the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club, Tuesday Night Men's League for over 25 years. After Grace's stroke, Wilf devoted himself to her care for three and a half years until her death in November 2022.

Wilf was buried beside Grace at a private family service on February 14, 2023. A memorial service for Wilf will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023 at Westside Community Church in Morden with a reception to follow.

If you choose, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Wilf's name to the Tabor Home in Morden.

The family would like to thank the emergency services in Morden and the medical staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for their exceptional care in Wilf's final days. We extend a special thanks to Dr. Kevin Convery, Dr. Tanya Borchers, nurse, Denise Darling and the entire Palliative Care Team.

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In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



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arts & culture

The return of the Irish Rovers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A few years ago, the Irish Rovers embarked on what was billed as their farewell tour.

They set out to visit every city around the world they'd ever performed in and had made pretty good progress when the pandemic reared its ugly head.

Now, the Celtic crooners are back on the road again, and they're returning to the Pembina Valley with a show March 23 at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler.

"We sat home for two years, like we all did, and our wives and girlfriends finally said, 'Get the hell out of the house. Go do something!' They got sick of looking at us," jokes George Millar, who's been part of the Irish-Canadian group since he co-founded it 60 years ago. "Officially this is only our first farewell tour ... Cher has done five, so I think we have a few to catch up on yet."

While they have been gearing up to wind down on the big tours for a few years now, the band has certainly not been resting on their laurels.

They've kept up a steady pace of releasing an album every year or so, including 2022's *No End in Sight*.

It's really the fans that keep them heading back into the studio and out on stage year after year, Millar observes.

"While people still want to see us and we're all in decent shape and good health, we just thought why not keep going, if that's what people want. They'll tell us when to quit when they stop coming or stop buying CDs. Then, of course, it's time to stop. You don't want to flog a dead horse.

"But the demand is still there and the concerts are all doing well, so why not?"

Doing well might be an bit of understatement—more than a few of their planned stops across Canada next month have already sold out, with additional shows being added to meet demand.

Performing live still gets Millar's blood pumping.

"The fire is still in the blood. When you get up on that stage ... you forget your woes and your pain and everything else and you just enjoy the

whole vibe of the audience," he says. "It's our job and we love it."

RECORDING IN COVID TIMES

In between driving their loved ones nuts, Millar says they spent the pandemic working on *No End in Sight*, which includes the song "Hey Boys Sing Us a Song" inspired by the challenges of the past few years.

"We had to record remotely of course," he says, explaining he recorded his vocal and guitar tracks and then sent them along to the rest of the Rovers to act as a guide for their own parts. "We sent this to three of the boys in Ireland. They put on their parts and in two or three days it was back to me here."

Those tracks continued their international trek by being sent to Millar's cousin and bandmate Ian Millar down in Florida before returning to Canada for some final tweaking.

"It's not the ideal way to do it, but it certainly does work," Millar says of the process. "Nobody's more incredulous about it than me because I never in 100 years would have thought you could have done it this way, and you couldn't even 10 or 12 years ago ... now it can be done and it's quite amazing."

A lot has certainly changed since Millar started up the Irish Rovers with a handful of fellow Irish-born musicians—including his brother Will—all those years ago.

"I was still finishing school, Jimmy [Ferguson] was working ... so the Irish Rovers started strictly as a weekend thing," he shares with a chuckle. "I had no thoughts in my mind that it would go beyond three or four years and then I'd probably go on to do some university and then find a career of some type. Never, ever in my wildest dreams did I imagine—even now, after all these years, I look back and I can't believe that it went this long and the fans aren't sick of us yet!"

The Irish Rovers went on to become an international success with hits like "The Unicorn" and "Wasn't That a Party."

"It's been a wonderful ride on that little horned horse of ours," Millar says. "It took us for a merry ride around the world and it's still got us on its back."



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY HAMISH BURGESS

The Irish Rovers bring their high-energy show of hits old and new to the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler next month.

Joining Millar on stage for this tour is Ian Millar, Davey Walker, Gerry O'Connor, Geoffrey Kelly, Fred Graham, Shane Farrell, Jimmy Keane, and Kevin Evans.

Their collective goal, Millar says, is that you leave the concert hall with a smile on your face and a tune on your

lips.

"If people leave whistling 'The Drunken Sailor' to themselves, then we've done our job."

Ticket information for the Winkler show is available at winklerconcert-hall.ca.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY

By: Harrison Doell
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



KIDS' CORNER

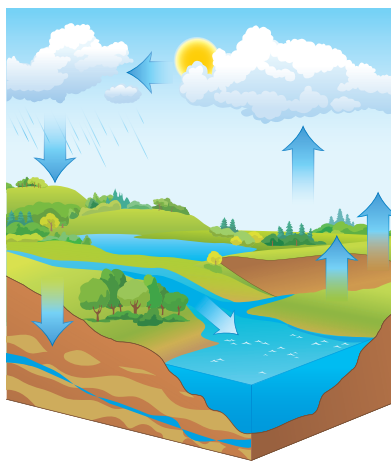
Learn. Play. Be amazed!

What makes it rain?

Ever wonder why drops of water fall from the sky? Here's an explanation.

The sun heats large bodies of water like seas, lakes and rivers, causing the water to evaporate and rise as vapour. As the moisture moves upward, it cools and condenses to form clouds. These clouds are blown toward land by the wind. As the clouds move, they gather water droplets and become heavy. Eventually, gravity makes the water droplets fall as rain. The water returns to earth, and the cycle starts all over again.

It rains more in the spring and summer because it's warm. Warmth produces more evaporation, producing more clouds that make rain.



Spring into action: 4 fun activities



Spring is a great time to get outdoors and have fun. Here are four fun activities that may inspire you to get some fresh air.

1. Go on a nature hunt. Challenge yourself to collect unique items like pinecones, leaves, rocks, feathers and wildflowers. You can use what you find to make crafts, gifts and spring decor.

2. Watch birds. Birdwatching is a great way to study nature. Borrow a bird book from your local library and see how many different species you can spot in your neighbourhood.

3. Dance in the rain. Spring is often associated with rain showers. Next time it rains, put on

your rain gear and play in puddles. Don't forget your umbrella!

4. Go on a picnic. Spring is the perfect time for a picnic because the weather is mild and there aren't many insects. Bring a blanket and some delicious snacks while enjoying the sounds of nature.

Invite your friends and family to join you outdoors.

Spring is in the air! Test your knowledge of this sunny season with this short quiz.

1. What's the first day of spring called?
 - a) The vernal equinox
 - b) The spring solstice
 - c) The Easter equinox
 - d) The Easter solstice
2. On the first day of spring, day and night are nearly the same lengths. How long are they?
 - a) 10 hours
 - b) 12 hours
 - c) 14 hours
 - d) 8 hours
3. Is spring considered the year's first, second, third or fourth season?
 - a) First
 - b) Second
 - c) Third
 - d) Fourth
4. Which of the following holidays doesn't happen in spring?
 - a) Easter
 - b) April Fool's Day
 - c) Mother's Day
 - d) Valentine's Day
5. What does spring symbolize?
 - a) Peace
 - b) Love
 - c) Rebirth
 - d) Hope
6. Spring is often associated with allergies. What's considered the biggest allergy trigger?
 - a) Mould
 - b) Dust
 - c) Pollen
 - d) Dander

1. a). In the northern hemisphere, spring usually begins on March 20 or 21 but can sometimes start early on March 19.
 2. b). The day is slightly longer than the night on the first day of spring.
 3. a). The seasons go in order from spring, summer, fall and winter.
 4. d). Spring lasts for about three months and ends on June 21.
 5. c). Spring is all about new beginnings and starting fresh.
 6. c). Hay fever is what you call a pollen allergy.

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