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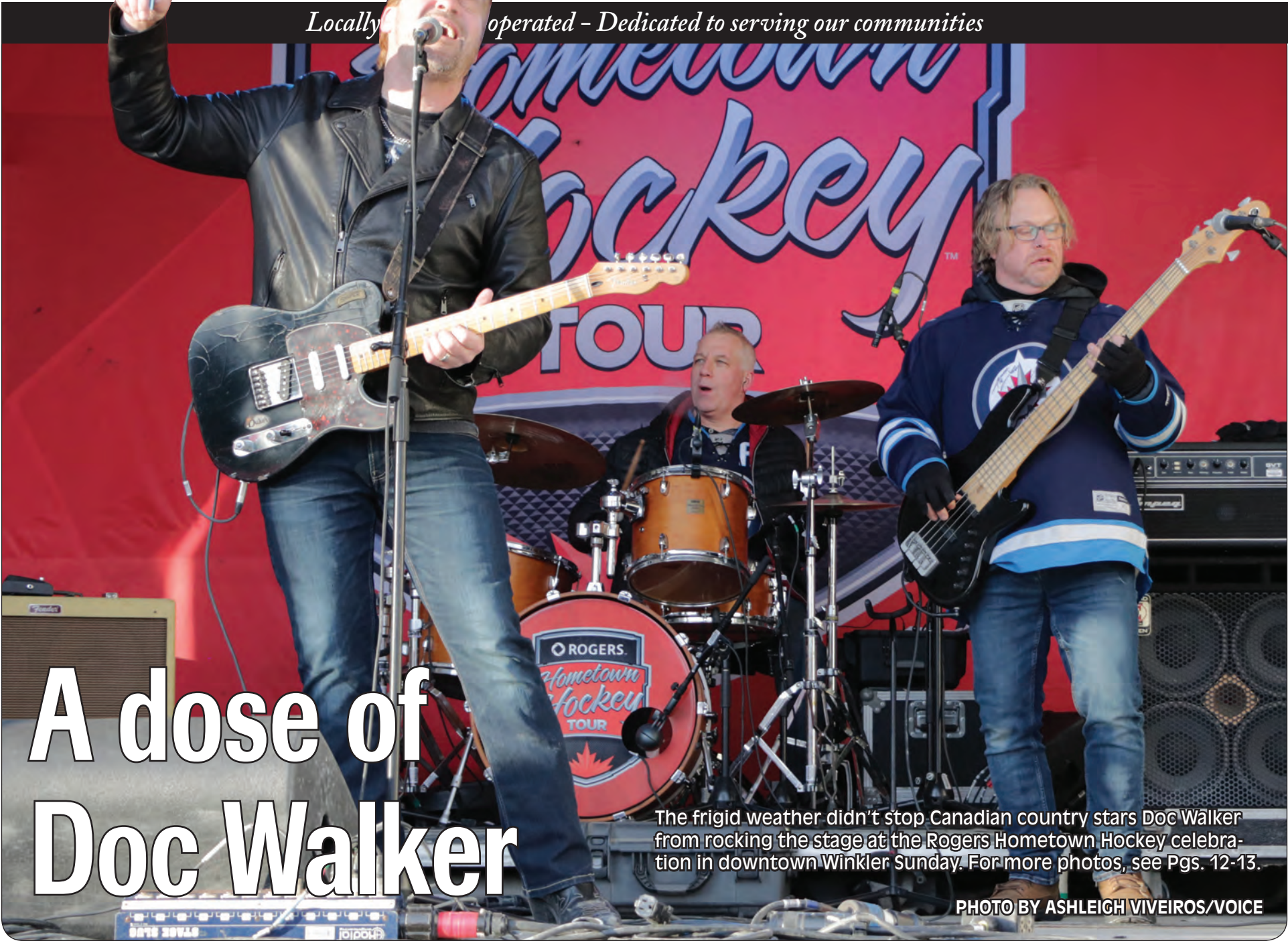

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VOLUME 10 EDITION 10

THURSDAY,
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A dose of Doc Walker

The frigid weather didn't stop Canadian country stars Doc Walker from rocking the stage at the Rogers Hometown Hockey celebration in downtown Winkler Sunday. For more photos, see Pgs. 12-13.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



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National spotlight shines on Winkler for Hometown Hockey

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The eyes of Canadian hockey fans were on Winkler this weekend as the Rogers Hometown Hockey tour set up shop in the heart of the city.

The two-day celebration of our nation's favourite sport culminated with hosts Ron MacLean and Tara Slone broadcasting live from downtown Winkler as the Winnipeg Jets beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-2.

The lead-up to Sunday's game included appearances by NHL alumni Ed Belfour and Grant Clitsome, musical performances by Doc Walker, The Color, and Tyler Del Pino, another chance for locals to get up close and personal with the Stanley Cup, a Parade of Champions down Main St. featuring minor hockey teams, and a host of other hockey-themed activities.

Though Rogers Hometown Hockey has nearly five seasons under its belt, the thrill of bringing this party to a different community every week hasn't gone away for MacLean.

"I think both Tara and I just love the education," he said. "I was in Winkler for Scotiabank Hockey Day back in 2008 and really had no grasp of Winkler and the Mennonite history and the hockey history of the area.

"It's just such a fascinating community, Morden-Winkler."

Southern Manitoba is certainly an area that has raised its fair share of NHL stars, MacLean noted, pointing to Carman native and former Winkler Flyer Ed Belfour and Stanley Cup winners Dustin Penner and Eric Fehr.

It all starts with the local hockey programs.

"One thing I also latch onto is learn-

ing about the midget AAA hockey coaches in various parts of the country," MacLean said. "I remember appreciating in year one and ever since that there's a minor hockey coach that's the equivalent of [coaching legends] Scotty Bowman or Al Arbour in every community in Canada. They develop so many good citizens and good hockey players and rarely get any acclaim.

"It's really great that the telecast can go in and shine a light on folks like that."

For MacLean's co-host, it's also the slice-of-life stories she gets to share that fuel her travels each season.

"The stories never end ... and they also never cease to amaze us," Slone said. "The opportunity to travel across the country in this way and be part of a positive experience ... that's what keeps us going."

Segments aired to viewers across the country try to reflect the community Rogers Hometown Hockey finds itself in each week, Slone said, as well as to capture the spirit of hockey in Canada.

Show fans and hockey legends alike "appreciate talking about hockey's grassroots and where people have come from," she said. "Every stop has something special."

The weekend's festivities were a special homecoming of sorts as well for Belfour, who had people lined-up around Rogers Fan Hub tent for a chance to score his autograph.

"It's always nice to see the local kids, they're all excited, and all the familiar faces that I remember from playing here," he said. "It's a chance to give back to the place where my roots

**"THE STORIES
NEVER END ...
AND THEY ALSO
NEVER CEASE TO
AMAZE US."**



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Rogers Hometown Hockey hosts Ron MacLean and Tara Slone take the stage Sunday ahead of the live broadcast in downtown Winkler.

started."

The Hockey Hall of Famer credits his time goaltending for Winkler's junior team as a launching pad for his career.

"I had a great time here in Winkler and I learned a lot about the game and that helped me get on my way to North Dakota," he said.

Belfour played for the University of North Dakota before signing with the Chicago Blackhawks. He went on to play for several NHL teams during his nearly 20-year career.

This was Belfour's first time taking part in the Hometown Hockey tour, and he said Saturday he was having a blast.

"This is awesome. We have to promote the sport," he said. "There's so many things for kids to do nowadays and sometimes they get distracted pretty easily, so we've got to do everything we can to help keep kids involved."

More Rogers Hometown Hockey photos on Pgs. 12-13.

Winkler chamber announces business award winners

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber

of Commerce announced the winners of the 2019 P.W. Enns Business Awards at its annual general meeting last week.

"There's so many amazing things that are happening in Winkler and in the business community on a local level, a national level. We need to recog-

nize the things that we're doing," said incoming president Darren Heide.

"Excellence helps drive further excellence," he added. "When you see someone else innovating, driving, finding that excellence, it inspires other businesses."

Elias Woodworking and Manufacturing will receive this year's Business Excellence Award, the Community Builder Award goes to Triple E, Rise Athletics and Wellness will receive the Business Builder Award, Solutions IT receives the Customer Service Award, and the Winkler and District Health Care Board is the Not for Profit of the Year.

Rise Athletics owner Kurtis Fox said it's an honour to be recognized

Continued on page 5

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Home & Life Show '19



About 50 exhibitors filled the hall and foyer of the Access Event Centre for the Morden chamber's annual Home and Life Show Friday and Saturday. Now in its eighth straight year, it has become a major trade show that offers a little bit of everything from local businesses. Featured exhibitors included Ideal Floors, Two30Nine by Decor, Carman Granite, Co-op@ Home, and Avenue Polaris Kawasaki South.

PHOTOS BY
LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE



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Boundary Trails Dental Centre is pleased to welcome Nicole Walske, Practice Manager. Nicole brings over 20 years of experience as a Dental Assistant and Dental Office Manager.

She has completed multiple courses in Human Resources and Dental Office Management. Having lived in Morden nearly her entire life she is excited to be employed in her hometown and looks forward to connecting with the current patients and welcomes new patients to schedule an appointment and say hello!

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“It’s not the amount. It’s the vision.”

Mayor shows off Meridian Exhibition Centre in State of the City address

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Whether it’s a \$20 donation from a child or a million dollar one from a corporate sponsor, it’s the community that is making the Meridian Exhibition Centre a reality.

Mayor Martin Harder highlighted that fact in his State of the City address at the Winkler chamber’s annual meeting Feb. 28.

He invited up 12-year-old Jesse Vanden Berg to briefly share the stage with him.

Vanden Berg appeared at a city council meeting two years ago to urge councillors to do something about the lack of an indoor soccer turf in the city. He donated \$20 to get the campaign started.

On Thursday, Vanden Berg and the 250 business leaders in attendance at the meeting got the chance to take a video tour of what the Meridian Exhibition Centre will look like when it is finally completed in a year’s time.

“Thank you Jesse for your faith that you had in us to see this become a reality,” said Harder, who also invited Meridian rep Curtis Farmer up to present \$500,000 to the city, the first installment of the company’s \$1.25 million commitment to the project.

“This is what community is. And I’m so proud to be a part of it,” an emotional Harder said. “It’s not the amount. It’s the vision.”

The tour of the facility showcased the second rink (which, Harder noted, is the only sled hockey-friendly

one in Manitoba with ice-level player/penalty areas), an indoor soccer pitch and exhibition hall, an indoor track, meeting rooms, and plenty of space for community groups and recreational programs to call home.

The design got the thumbs up from Vanden Berg.

“It felt pretty good just to see it all come together,” he said. “It’s kind of how I imagined it.”

Vanden Berg, who is a member of the Pembina Valley Panthers team, said the exhibition centre will be “a great opportunity for the club to get together and play on a real turf facility.”

MAKING IT HAPPEN

In keeping with the theme of community, Harder reflected on the growth the city has experienced and what needs to be done to ensure that growth remains healthy.

“This past year has been a year where the building permits in Winkler hit an all-time high—almost \$88 million worth of building permits in one year,” he said, stressing, however, that “construction numbers by themselves do not make a community.”

Winkler is truly a place where people make the difference, Harder said, lauding Central Station, The Bunker, local churches, and other related agencies for providing vital services to residents.

To that end, what makes a city healthy is ensuring its people’s



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Curtis Farmer, vice-president of Westman Group Inc., and 12-year-old Jesse Vanden Berg present Mayor Martin Harder with \$500,000 and \$20 donations, respectively, to the Meridian Exhibition Centre. The cheque from Westman, which owns Meridian, is the first installment of \$1.25 million for the naming rights to the facility.

needs—mind, body, and spirit—are all being met.

“How is a healthy city determined? It is the quality of life. That is the essence of every successful community,” Harder said, emphasizing council’s ongoing commitment to improving that quality of life for all Winklerites.

Mayor Harder continued his speech with a discussion of the upcoming city budget, which will be outlined in further detail at the March 12 council meeting.

“In 2019, the City of Winkler will see some significant tax changes,” he said, owing in part to the Meridian Exhibition Centre project.

The impact of the project, which has a \$17 million debenture, is a \$1.27 million debenture payment per year for the next 20 years. This means the city mill rate is increasing 1.58 mills for 2019.

For residential taxpayers, taxes are going up 5.9 per cent, which means a home valued at \$208,000 will see a tax bill of \$1,360 in 2019—up by \$109. The changing cost of residential garbage pick-up (\$110 per dwelling) will be highlighted as a separate line item on your tax bill this year.

Meanwhile, removing the costs of commercial waste pick-up in Winkler resulted in a commercial mill rate reduction of .94 mills. Commercial and industrial ratepayers will see an overall tax decrease of 2.6 per cent in 2019.

Overall, even with a major capital project in the works, the City of Winkler is on solid financial footing thanks to years of building up its reserve funds.

“The reason why we can afford to do [this project] this year is the fact that our debt is actually down to roughly \$4 million and our reserves are up there at roughly \$12 million,” Harder explained, adding that even once figuring in the loan for the exhibition centre, the city’s reserves still come in “at a respectable \$10 million ... and our debt load would be upwards of \$19 million.”

“It shows you that our city is in healthy financial shape,” he said. “And we want to make sure that we keep it that way.”

Harder wrapped up his speech by addressing an issue that has been part of his State of the City addresses for 13 years: the status of Hwy. 32, which current and past city councils have been lobbying the province for decades to have twinned.

“To date, I have not been able to deliver. That to me is a major disappointment,” he said. “We continue to work with this government to make this project a reality. However, as of today, I am not sure if it will happen in 2019.”

“We have put money aside in 2019

Continued on page 6

“HOW IS A HEALTHY CITY DETERMINED? IT IS THE QUALITY OF LIFE. THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF EVERY SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY.”

Chamber welcomes Darren Heide as new prez

From Pg. 2

alongside the accomplished list of past business award winners.

"When you look at some of the companies that have received awards over the past five years, six years that we've been in business, to be recognized alongside them is pretty cool," he said.

"It's times like these where you get to take a step back and realize, yeah, we've definitely seen a lot of growth and been able to make an impact in the community, which is really important to us."

Wes Ens of Solutions IT said the company strives to achieve world-class customer service, so to receive the Customer Service Award is validating.

"We're very intentional about it. We study customer service initiatives, we have a smile-back system on every task that we do," he said, going on to explain that every customer interaction is followed up with feedback. "It's a relentless pursuit of capturing the data and refining the edges. It sharpens us up. We take that feedback really seriously."

"We're honoured and privileged to be recognized in the community."

Health care board chair Marvin Plett is thrilled the work the organization has done to improve health care in our community is being singled out.

The volunteer board, which is made up of representatives from throughout the region, has tirelessly worked

under the radar for decades, he said.

"It's added a tremendous benefit to the community, to the people in our area because they can have so many local health care services delivered to them," Plett said, "and we're looking at continually finding new things."

"It's maybe one of the earliest ways of our municipalities and communities working together to solve a problem that we had," he added, noting that the board's founders 20 years ago "really had a vision. And we're building on that vision."

Representatives from Elias Woodworking and Triple E could not be reached for comment as of press time.

The awards will be presented at the chamber's gala on April 4, which features as keynote speaker author, director, and marketing expert Terry O'Reilly, host of CBC Radio's *The Age of Persuasion*.

Ticket information is available online at winklerchamber.com.

NEW PREZ STEPS UP

Announcing the award winners was one of Heide's first major jobs as chamber president, but it certainly won't be his last.

The long-time chamber board member has big plans for the agency during his term at the head of the table.

"We recently had a planning session and identified three strategic priorities that I am excited about pursuing over the next few years," Heide said.

"The first one is using innovation and technology to make it easier for



our members to do business with us," he said, explaining that will include online booking and payment of tickets for chamber events.

"The second strategy is to identify the needs of members and future members ... [to] ensure that we're providing the value for you that you expect from us."

Finally, the chamber is working on creating and executing a new social media strategy to "increase awareness of local business and their role within our community."

Meanwhile, looking back on the successes of the past year, outgoing president Kori da Costa noted the chamber's membership continues to grow.

"2018 was a really good year for the chamber ... we had about a 10 per cent increase in our membership,

which is huge," she said, going on to list a few of the year's highlights like the Small Business Week luncheon, provincial chamber of commerce CEO Chuck Davidson's visit, and numerous educational and networking events.

"I joined this organization to become more familiar with our vibrant business community and the people that work hard every day to support the growth, be part of the success, and to enhance the quality of business offered in our area," said da Costa. "It's been an excellent experience."

"We are blessed to have such an encouraging group of people in our community to coach the people with innovative ideas to start a business and to cheer on those that have been pushing through challenges to become strong for decades."

Morden city council puts the kibosh on roundabout plans

By Lorne Stelmach

The highway roundabout proposed for the eastern entrance to Morden has been shelved.

The potential cost was a factor behind the decision to move on from the roundabout idea, but Mayor Brandon Burley also suggested it was simply not favoured as an ideal answer for the city.

"[The province] did not feel it was a suitable solution for that location ... they indicated that it would be a solution for about 55,000 vehicles a day, not the 12,000 that we have," he said last week.

The decision arose from a meeting Burley, deputy mayor Nancy Penner, and city manager Faisal Anwar had with Manitoba Infrastructure representatives last month.

Originally estimated in the \$1.6 million range, recent estimates pegged the project's costs at between \$2.8 and \$3.4 million. Manitoba Infrastructure's contribution would have been only \$800,000, leaving Morden on the hook for at least \$2 million.

Burley said Manitoba Infrastructure has committed to assisting the city in finding a more pragmatic and safe solution, particularly for the area in the vicinity of the La Verendrye Blvd. intersection.

What this means is that council will be taking another look at this intersection, he said, noting a key part of their plan could be the development of an industrial parkway that would divert larger commercial and industrial traffic via Road 27W to Road 12N and reduce the traffic coming into the city on Thornhill.

"They were very supportive of the idea of an industrial parkway that would take all the commercial traffic off that road, or at least a great majority of it," suggested Burley. "If we get that traffic off and then a reduction in speed, they don't feel that any other improvements there would be required ... they think if we get that commercial volume off, we're good to go."

"We've agreed in principle to pursue that," he said. "It won't happen in the short term, but we're pursuing that."

Burley said city reps also raised traffic concerns for the 1st St and Thornhill intersection as well as the need to extend the reduced speed limit zones on both the east and western approaches to the city. The province has committed to looking at both of those

issues in the short term.

What that means is that there could be turn signals at 1st St. in the near future as well as a speed reduction at both eastern and western entrances to Morden. There was also discussion about installing turning lanes at La Verendrye.

"The speed limits will happen soon," said Burley, who added he was pleased the meeting led to concrete plans being put in place.

"I think we have a very good long term vision of what we want to achieve in terms of the traffic flow and moving traffic more efficiently ... we feel the industrial parkway is a good fit," he said.

"We also have a short term picture of what we want to achieve in terms of safety."

The Winkler Morden
Voice



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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Why they didn't ban Tiger Woods

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps has size 14 feet. They're basically flippers.

The average man's shoe size is 9. His height is 6'3" while the average man is 5'9" tall. Does this make Phelps a cheater?

Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 6'4" tall. Does this make Bolt a cheater?

The winner of the 2018 World's Strongest Man competition is Iceland's Hafþór Júlíus (The Mountain) Björnsson. He is 6'9" tall and weighs 441 pounds—a far cry from the average 30-year-old man at 197 pounds. Does this make Björnsson a cheater?



By Peter Cantelon

My immediate and gut response to each of these questions is "of course not, how absurd." I would hazard a guess that most people feel the same way.

When I was a lowly yellow belt in Judo as a skinny 12-year-old I was matched in a sparring against another yellow belt—a 6-foot-tall, 35-year-old man. I was destroyed. The rules stated you sparred against people of the same belt colour regardless of size, gender, etc.

Can you guess what this is all about? Search the headlines and you will find controversial comments by former

world tennis star and amazing athlete Martina Navratilova about why she does not think allowing transgender athletes to compete against others of their gender is a good idea.

Navratilova recently wrote an Op-Ed column in the *Sunday Times* entitled "The rules on trans athletes reward cheats and punish the innocent." Fairly self-explanatory.

Since this was written, Navratilova, who identifies as a lesbian woman (which is relevant in this context), was ousted from an LGBT advocacy group she was a part of. Conservatives have jumped on her comments as ammunition in their battle to limit LGBT rights. In response to the uproar and accusations of attacking transgender rights, she said:

"Well that is just ridiculous – I was only speaking about professional athletic competitions – certainly not HUMAN RIGHTS and EQUAL rights for transgender people. That is totally misrepresenting what I write/said." (sic)

For some people this is easy. Men are men, boys are boys, women are women, and girls are girls. But things are never as simple as we would like them. If I had a transgender daughter who wanted to play on the girls' baseball team, I would understand this. I would also understand how some parents would be unhappy about the fact that she may be physiologically stronger than the average girl on the team and thus deemed to have an unfair advantage.

But if The Mountain Björnsson happened to be in the Pembina Valley and decided he wanted to play a little football for Winkler in a friendly compe-

tition with Morden, people wouldn't say, "Hey, that's not fair. He's too big." They would grumble about how unfortunate it was that Morden was not able to find their own giant and then strategically develop fast plays, assuming he would be a slow runner.

When Tiger Woods destroyed almost every golf course he played back in the 1999/2000 season there was a lot of grumbling. Here was this young, super athletic, driven player that was getting on Par 5s in two strokes. He may as well have been an alien species he was that much better than every other golfer.

Was he banned? Was his training regimen called cheating? No.

So what did they do? Golf courses began to re-design Par 5s to "Tiger Proof" them. That's right—instead of trying to level the playing field by removing the superior athlete they changed the game.

The point is the issue really is not one about physiological fairness. Nearly every athletic champion in most strength-based sports is in some way physiologically superior to the people they are competing against. Of course, they work hard. But, frankly, when you have size 14 feet and are 6'3" you don't have to work as hard as the guy swimming in the next lane who is 5'2" with size 5 feet. And nobody disqualifies you for it.

The root issue is not about transgender people's unfair physiological advantage or disadvantage, perceived or real. It is purely gender-based and wrapped up in our culture's struggle with understanding transgender people and their rightful place.

> STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 4

to do our part as a city," Harder said, explaining that includes over \$1 million to reroute infrastructure and create sidewalks in that area. The hydro lines are in the process of being moved and all the properties needed along the route have been purchased. "Our light is green. If this project is again deferred, that is not because of a lack of [our] trying, that is not because of a lack of not

being ready."

If the province puts off the four-laning again, Harder said the money Winkler has set aside for its portion of the project will be kept in reserve for 2020.

"I haven't given up on this year, but I can honestly say the message has not been coming out of our province very positively right now."

Harder ended his speech on a

more positive note:

"We are thankful for our continued growth, because without that we could not do the things we do," he said. "Today, as always, we commit to creating an environment where businesses want to locate, where your employees find a satisfying and healthy lifestyle that supports a great and awesome community."

Winkler United Way distributes \$10,000

By Lorne Stelmach

The efforts of volunteers who stepped up to keep the Winkler and District United Way alive paid off last week for local non-profit agencies.

The United Way distributed \$10,000 back to the community with \$500 contributions presented to representatives of 20 organizations last Wednesday at the Winkler library.

It represented the commitment that there will be even more to come in the future after a rebuilding year for the United Way.

Major changes at the board level necessitated a smaller scale campaign this past year, explained president Kim Nelson, who noted the new board was formed too late in the year to fully launch the agency's usual fall fundraising efforts.

"Nonetheless, we were gratified to see so many people were still eager to support our efforts and the work of the non-profit organizations who do so much good in our community," she said.

The \$10,000 in funding came through a campaign that included donation drop-off points, online giving, and payroll deductions from participating businesses and their staff.

It came together last fall despite the challenge of firstly even just getting enough board members, never mind then planning and kicking off a campaign.

Nelson said their goal was "to show the community that we are still here. It was a smaller scale campaign than what Winkler United Way has done in the past, but we're excited for the new events that we're planning for the future and moving forward."

"It's exciting to be able to support local non-profit agencies and to continue to do the great work that Winkler United Way has started," said Nelson, adding that they are now hard at work planning the 2019-2020 campaign.

"Our goal is to have more of a community presence and to be at more events and host events so that people can remember United Way not just at kickoff time in September, but all year," she said.

Agency representatives on hand for the cheque presentations last week were grateful for the support and the commitment of the new United Way board.

"We're a fairly small organization ... so local support really does make a difference for us," said Linda Marek, executive director of the Pembina Val-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Winkler United Way president Kim Nelson (front, centre) presented \$500 cheques to representatives of several local non-profit organizations last week. In all, the United Way distributed \$10,000 to 20 recipients to close out their 2018-2019 campaign.

ley Pregnancy Care Centre.

"We know that they've had a year of change and restructuring and rebuilding," she added. "We're excited with what that means for them, to reconnect in the community again, and hopefully we can be supportive of their projects and fundraising going ahead as well because really it's about working together for the good of our community."

"We serve a large geographical area, and United Way in Winkler has done a great job by giving back," said Myrna Wiebe of South Central Cancer Resource.

"We're very, very thankful for any donations that just can enhance the services that we can give our cancer

patients. We don't have any government funding ... so we are very happy that they see us a valuable partner."

Also receiving funding was the Alzheimer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley, Canadian Diabetic Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian Red Cross, Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba, Eden Health Care Services, Gateway Resources, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Mennonite Central Committee, Northland Childcare Centre, Salem Home, Genesis House, The Bunker, Winkler and District Food Cupboard, Winkler Bible Camp, Winkler Day Care Centre, and the Winkler Senior Centre.

Western SD outlines \$21.5 million budget

By Lorne Stelmach

Local ratepayers in and around Morden will get a bit of a break on their school tax bills this year.

There will be slight decreases coming their way under a proposed \$21.5 million budget introduced last week by Western School Division trustees.

The good news financial plan for 2019-20 comes about in large part because of the division receiving the second largest increase in provincial funding support with a 4.4 per cent hike.

"Western School Division was definitely fortunate with the funding increase ... we could have a serious look at maintaining and possibly improving some of the services and programming that we provide," said board chair Brian Fransen.

"Over the last number of years we've

had to make some difficult decisions ... we've been very prudent over the last number of years, and then we end up in a situation this year where we were fortunate to have more than most of the other divisions around us.

"Last year, because our budget was a little tighter, we had to make some cuts in certain areas," Fransen continued. "With all of our growth, we're having more teachers and more support staff to handle that ... and looking at specifically continuing to support and enhance our literacy and numeracy programming."

The budget outlines overall spending of just under \$21.5 million for 2019-20 that represents a 2.3 per cent increase from the current financial plan.

It means a home assessed at \$275,000 will receive a school tax reduction of \$7.42 to \$1,895.85. On a

quarter section of land in the RM of Stanley assessed at \$1 million, the school tax portion will decrease by \$15.60 to \$3,983.20. For a commercial property assessed at \$500,000, there will be a cut in school taxes of \$19.50 to \$8,154.25.

About 64 per cent (\$14 million) of the division's revenue comes through provincial support, while another 34 per cent comes from municipal support, including local tax revenue. Minor amounts of additional revenue comes through such sources as a City of Morden grant for busing and fees related to international students.

The division is forecasting a reserve of \$628,000, which would be 3.5 per cent of the budget and falls within the provincial mandate that restricts divisions to a maximum reserve of four per cent.

Part of the motivation for maintain-

ing that reserve, Fransen noted, is to be ready for the additional capital costs that will arise when the division finally gets approval for its new school.

"When you're looking at growth in the future, you can't just run on empty," he said.

"The province, when it provides funding for new schools or even portable classrooms, it's the bare bones. It's the space, and we need to fill it, so we need to use local dollars to fill it ... so we're trying to be prudent with our budgeting looking forward."

Otherwise, the division is bumping up spending a little in a number of areas, including an additional 2.63 full-time equivalent teaching positions to meet the needs of increased enrolment.

Continued on page 10

Power of the Purse hosts 125 participants

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation's Women's Giving Circle hit its target once again with its annual Power of the Purse fundraiser.

Last Saturday's event met its goal of 125 participants in honour of the foundation's 25th anniversary in 2018.

"This is starting to get full. I love having that kind of a problem," said executive director Lynda Lambert.

The fundraising project began four years ago with the idea of raising \$10,000 by having 100 women each bring \$100 to donate as they saw fit to three local non-profits.

It surpassed that goal last year with a final tally of 106 ladies, and Lambert noted this year she had to turn down a few more people who expressed interest at the last minute.

"The first year, it was pulling teeth to get 75 to show up," she recalled. "It's really caught on."

"It's just a good program. Nobody's telling them where to put their mon-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The fourth annual Power of the Purse fundraiser drew 125 women Saturday, each bringing \$100 to donate to local charitable groups.

ey, nobody's telling them what to do," she said. "These charities, I think they feel comfortable because they're all approved ... they get to come and enjoy with the women."

"You're promoting your own people, so how much better is that?"

The breakdown of how the participants chose to donate their money was not yet available, but the three agencies under consideration were the Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre, and Genesis

House.

Genesis House made their pitch for up to \$4,500 for a Caring Dads program that would provide support services for men in relation to domestic violence.

The Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre was hoping for up to \$5,500 for a Steps In Hope program that will center around a support group for women who have suffered a loss.

Habitat for Humanity said whatever amount came in for them will go toward making their first home build in Morden a reality.

Habitat fundraising chair Sue Nelson noted just as important as raising funds is raising awareness, and Power of the Purse goes a long way in helping non-profits do that.

"It's important for us to be out in the community, to be spreading the word, because it will be about the community," she said. "It's about a grassroots sort of effect and having everybody involved that we can get involved."

Morden to launch Cycling Without Age program

By Lorne Stelmach

Federal funding will help get local seniors out and more engaged in the community.

A \$25,000 grant through the New Horizons For Seniors program has been awarded to the City of Morden. The majority is earmarked to support an initiative dubbed Cycling Without Age.

A \$22,500 portion of the funding will be used to purchase two specialized "trishaw" bicycles that will have volunteers operating them for rides

around the community.

The grant also includes \$1,400 for an inter-generational fitness program and \$1,200 for an inter-generational storytelling project.

"I thought it would be a great way to provide a service to our seniors and also to have a way for people across generations to connect over being outside and enjoying the outdoors by having a bike ride," suggested Stephanie Dueck, Morden recreation programmer.

"Having come across Cycling Without Age via social media got me

thinking how great it would be to offer this locally. I shared it around with others, and there was consensus. This was the spark that led to our grant application."

Cycling Without Age is a movement started in 2012 by a Danish man. Ole Kassow wanted to help the elderly get back on their bicycles, but he had to find a solution to limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw, and he started offering free bike rides to nursing home residents.

He then got in touch with a civil society consultant from the City of Copenhagen and together they bought five trishaws and launched Cycling Without Age, which has since spread to 40 countries around the world.

Cycling Without Age's guiding principles include generosity, as the rides are always free. It also aims to encourage storytelling by connecting generations, to build social connections and to strengthen well being, and to overcome age barriers.

Each trishaw bicycle is built to accommodate a pilot and two adults with a bench for sitting in the front of the bike.

Dueck said the program will utilize volunteer drivers to provide rides to seniors throughout the community.

"There's lots of options, and we'll be working out the details of how to book a bike and setting times," she

said, noting the program will be coordinated by volunteer Heather Francis.

It will take some time for the trishaws to be manufactured and shipped here.

"We aren't anticipating starting until June because that is the earliest we will probably be getting the equipment. The organization of it will be done closer to that time," said Dueck, who encouraged people to keep up to date at mordenmb.com/cyclingwithoutage.

Meanwhile, Dueck said details of the inter-generational fitness and storytelling programs are still being worked out, but she sees them as being an ideal way to "get generations to have experiences together so they can learn from each other and share their knowledge and their life stories."

"We are looking forward to seeing these programs move forward," said Morden Mayor Brandon Burley. "These kinds of programs help to build community and quality of life, and we love to see that in Morden."

Dueck added the city is looking to offer more cycling programming and resources with the help of additional grants. Community feedback will help to shape what is offered.

You can fill out a survey at www.mordenmb.com/cyclingsurvey to let the city know what you'd like to see.



The City of Morden is launching a Cycling Without Age program this summer to provide volunteer-powered bike rides to local seniors.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Cuts in the works as GVSD seeks to fill \$684K funding shortfall

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School division outlined its preliminary budget plans to those in attendance at its annual public consultation meeting Feb. 28.

While Winkler area taxpayers may be pleased to hear education taxes are slated to go down, it does come at a steep price—trustees have had to cut \$684,000 to make ends meet.

The division is projecting approximately \$519,000 in additional revenue for 2019-2020 in a budget of nearly \$52 million. But that's not nearly enough to cover the expected \$1.2 million in additional expenses.

Those expenses include \$493,000 in new operating costs for the Pine Ridge Elementary School opening in fall, \$605,000 in increased staff wages and benefits, and \$105,000 in other miscellaneous operating expenses.

The board's hands are tied when it comes to taxes, says chair Laurie Dyck, as the Minister of Education has once again ordered school divisions to limit local education property tax increases to two per cent (representing a maximum increase of \$399,000 in GVSD) while also freezing, capping, or phasing out other sources of provincial funding (GVSD receives only an additional \$120,000 from the province for the coming school year).

"We have to absorb operating a whole new building and we weren't given opportunity to be able to tax for that," Dyck said. "Operating expenses like that we can't put into a reserve fund for building a school. This is pure operational [expenses] and it will not go away."

"And the reality is we're still having to keep up with many other things in our buildings, from intercom systems to fire panels to general maintenance. Those pieces come out of our operating budget."

To fill the funding gap, the GVSD board had to make some tough decisions, cutting funds to school program and equipment budgets.

"Our goal was to look at what things can we cut that don't cut people," Dyck said. "That was important to us ... we know we need the staffing, and

so we looked at things instead."

That includes potentially cutting \$60,000 from the school budgets, \$180,000 from the information technology budget tech integration plan, \$274,000 from the bus replacement plan, and \$170,000 from the discretionary staff budget (which allows schools to more quickly hire extra staff when student enrolment spikes).

Local schools are going to feel the pinch in all these areas, but especially when it comes to the lack of new computers and buses, Dyck said.

Computer are a vital part of education today, heavily used by students and staff alike, she noted.

"It's an integral part of how education happens," Dyck said. "What we're proposing is that we're just going to simply going to cut money out of that. And it's just putting off a problem, because the reality is computers don't last forever. They have a lifespan of, if you're lucky, five to eight years, and GVSD has some in that time zone."

Garden Valley's bus fleet, meanwhile, includes several vehicles pushing 20 years of service. The opening of Pine Ridge school also means the division needs to add three new bus routes to its existing system.

No new buses means "drawing out of our spare fleet to help make routes happen," Dyck said. "If we're pulling out of our reserve fleet, that means there's less buses available for extra-curricular activities."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Manitoba School Boards Association president Alan Campbell, shown here with Garden Valley School Division board chair Laurie Dyck, was on hand for the division's public consultation meeting last week.

One area the division refuses to make cuts is to the ongoing programs related to its strategic goals. That includes its literacy, numeracy, and mental health initiatives, all of which have made great strides in recent years, Dyck said.

"The reality is, we have a lot of good data showing the impact [these programs] have had," she said. "The machine is moving in the right direction ... so, no, we didn't want to cut that."

Enrolment in GVSD is not expected

to significantly change this fall, but there will be a projected 4,511 students attending classes in the division.

As for taxpayers, Garden Valley is proposing a mill rate of 15.02, which represents a 0.42 per cent drop from the current year. Residential, commercial, and agricultural education taxes will all go down as a result.

The board will firm up its budget plans this week in advance of passing it at its March 12 meeting.

"Local voices for local choices"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

In addition to outlining some of the challenges Garden Valley School Division is facing when it comes to its 2019-2020 budget, board trustees also took time at the public consultation meeting last week to express concerns about the provincial government's upcoming review of the K-12 education system in Manitoba.

"We've always been in favour of a review," noted Manitoba School Boards Association president Alan Campbell, who was on hand to show GVSD his support.

"We're not adverse to change, but it needs to be positive change for everyone—for students, families, and communities," he said. "And it has to be meaningful in that what comes from the review is indeed going to improve [learning] outcomes."

Comments made by provincial of-

ficials in recent months have left trustees worried Manitoba is heading down a path toward removing local school boards via amalgamation or centralization.

An amalgamated school board attempting to service a much larger region would struggle to accurately reflect the concerns and values of the local community, stressed GVSD board chair Laurie Dyck.

"Local voice, it's crucial. It's our democratic voice at the table," she said. "And it represents our communities."

Having one big division overseeing, for example, the entirety of southern rural Manitoba would be unwieldy, Dyck fears.

"How do you begin to give leadership to that in an effective and meaningful way that reflects your communities?" she said. "We all have different value bases, we all

have different cultures."

Not only do nearly 70 per cent of rural Manitobans want to keep local school boards (as per a poll conducted by Probe Research last fall), but, GVSD trustees asserted in their presentation, there would also be no real financial benefit to eliminating them.

"It's would be easy to ask a question that says, 'Would you like your taxes reduced by eliminating school boards?'" said trustee John P. Klassen. "How many people wouldn't say yes?"

In reality, Manitoba's school boards cost just half a cent on every dollar spent in education today. Ninety-six cents (and it's closer to 97 cents in GVSD, he noted) of every dollar spent on education goes directly to providing students with programs,

Continued on page 10

"OUR GOAL WAS TO LOOK AT WHAT THINGS CAN WE CUT THAT DON'T CUT PEOPLE."

Rogers presents \$15K to Big Bros. Big Sis.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Rogers Hometown Hockey MC Kyle Bутtenham (far right) presented Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley's Michael Penner and Kerri Bennett with a donation of \$15,000 last week.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley got an unexpected but very welcome funding boost thanks to the Rogers Hometown Hockey tour.

Just a few days before the weekend festivities took over downtown Winkler, Rogers reps stopped in at the mentoring agency's offices to present executive director Michael Penner with a donation of \$15,000.

"It was a big surprise ... a great surprise," Penner said, noting he was blown away when the company contacted him about the unsolicited donation.

"It's a huge boost for us," he continued. "We were projecting a bit of a loss this year, but with this grant obviously it won't be anymore."

The extra money also means the agency, which currently caters to the Morden-Winkler-Altona area, can get the ball rolling on adding Carman to its service area.

"Recently we've been approached by Carman to start in-school pro-

grams there," Penner said. "We were working on that slowly, waiting to see if the funds would be there ... now we have some funds to pursue that and also to continue expanding in our current communities, too."

Kaitlyn LeFeaver, community investment manager for Rogers Communications, said the company has making a financial gift like this at each of the Rogers Hometown Hockey stops across the nation this winter.

"Recognizing the importance of giving back to our communities, the Ted Rogers Community Grants help support educational programs that enable youth to succeed inside and outside of the classroom," she said. "As part of Rogers Hometown Hockey, we support local community programs focused on inspiring youth to continue their education."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley was selected "to support their youth mentoring programs to change the course of young lives."

Roland band workshop March 16

The 22nd annual Roland Community Band Workshop takes over the Roland United Church next weekend.

Forty-four musicians and counting have signed up for the workshop taking place on Saturday, March 16 from 9:45 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This day-long reading session under the direction of Bernard Helfter is open to all adults and senior students with a band instrument and music in their souls, said organizer Tom Neufeld.

Music selections will range from easy to challenging, he said, and it's always a great day of music.

The event wraps up with a public concert at 7 p.m. at the church hall.

For more information or to register, call 1-204-343-2358 or email TomLori@mymts.net.

You can also check out more about the event on its Facebook page: Roland Community Band Workshop.

> WESTERN SD BUDGET, FROM PG. 7

The student population that had already jumped to 1,885 as of last September had further risen to 1,925 as of January. It's forecasted to hit 2,029 by 2020.

As well, there will be some increased support time as well as some extra literacy and numeracy programming.

Other initiatives highlighted in the financial plan included opening up Minnewasta School for community use in the evenings and small increases in funds for professional development and for school advisory councils.

Overall, around 77 per cent of spending goes toward salaries—an increase of 2.5 per cent—with another 5.5 per cent going towards benefits—an increase of 7.5 per cent. Another seven per cent of spending comes under instructional support, while 6 per cent is for transportation and operations.

Fransen feels the division is well positioned to meet the challenges of continued growth, though there is also uncertainty about what the future holds with the provincial review of the educational system.

The province is holding their cards close to their chest, he said, though many wonder if it is leading to an amalgamation or even

elimination of local divisions.

"I think it's very important that people in Manitoba learn about what the impact is of the education review and what some of the proposed changes would do," Fransen said.

"When we're looking at the potential of amalgamating school divisions, especially in rural Manitoba, we've

> LOCAL VOICES, FROM PG. 9

supports, and services, leaving about 3.5 per cent for administrative costs—an amount far outweighed by the value provided by local school boards, Klassen said.

In 2001-2002, 20 Manitoba school divisions were eliminated by the NDP government in a bid to save millions of dollars. But a study by the Frontier Institute for Public Policy in 2005 found this move resulted in virtually no savings, Klassen said. Instead, it simply removed the ownership of public schools from the communities they serve.

Fellow trustee Leah Klassen pointed out local control over education tax dollars means the division is able to more accurately tailor its programs, services, and facilities to the community's needs.

In GVSD, that has included things like funding for literacy and numer-

acy programs, winter busing, school renovations, technical vocational and alternative education programs, and partnerships with other educational projects in the community.

"As a local board, we have the ability to make decisions based on local values," she said. "That comes with meeting with our parents, meeting with our constituents, and knowing what matters most to them."

GVSD is asking people to contact their elected representatives, including Premier Brian Pallister and Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen, to weigh in on the importance of local school divisions in Manitoba.

"The more they hear that we care, it's going to have an impact," Dyck said. "We can't sit back and be passive aggressive and hope for the best."

Further details are available online at gvsd.ca.

Pine Ridge School on track for fall opening

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's new school is on track for completion this summer.

Work on Pine Ridge Elementary School in the city's west end has hit the one-year mark, and Garden Valley School Division superintendent Todd Monster says there have been very few bumps in the road in that time.

"From the time that the shovel went in up to the present, most things have come along nicely," he said. "We're confident that the project will be completed in time for September 2019 and our opening then."

The 84,000 square foot K-8 school will be home to 675 students. It also features an integrated child-care centre with space for 20 infants, 54 pre-school children, and before and after-school programming.

The walls, of course, are up, and some parts of the building are further along than others.

"There's still quite a bit to get done on the second floor," said Monster. "But the main floor, that's come along really, really well. In some areas they're prepping for painting. So that's exciting, when you start getting to that part."

"July and August are when we're hoping to be able to get in and get furniture in and get set up, get all the necessary equipment into place so that we're not scrambling at the last minute. That's always the goal—we do not like scrambling!"

School principal Renae Hildebrand, who formerly headed up the Border Valley/Blumenfeld administration unit, started in her new role last month.

"Where we're at right now is trying to nail down the furnishings and equipment list for the school. That's the next phase of work for us," Monster said. "Renae is heavily involved in that part of it, figuring out what's needed in various spaces in the



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The walls are up, windows are going in, and in some parts of the building it's nearly time to paint as contractors work to get Pine Ridge Elementary School in Winkler ready for its fall opening.

school.

"She's also very heavily involved in the staffing. Right now we're working on the teacher list to determine which teachers will be going into the new school."

That list was finalized last week to give the division time to begin advertising for open positions at Pine Ridge and the other schools as soon as possible.

"We've got lots of staff that are interested in moving into a new school," Monster noted, "because most people will go through their career as a teacher and never have the opportunity to be part of opening a new building."

The nuts and bolts of creating the brand new school community—including the mascot, school colours, and logo—will be decided with student input this fall.

While the grand opening of Pine Ridge will certainly be a highlight for the students slated to go there, it will also have a positive ripple effect in many other Winkler area schools as the student populations finally stabilize after years of overcrowding.

Nearby Parkland Elementary School, for example, currently has 530 students. Once Pine Ridge opens,

that number is expected to be closer to 310. Winkler Elementary and J.R. Walkof (the latter of which will become a K-3 school this fall) are also expected to see notable enrolment drops.

"There's quite a bit of excitement around the idea of found space again, of having room," Monster said. "What has happened over the years is that as these schools have grown they've lost what we call their flex space. They've had to give it up for classrooms."

Emerado Centennial School, meanwhile, is preparing to welcome Gr. 4 students next year, becoming a Gr. 4-8 school.

The division is working hard to ensure that transition for students goes smoothly, Monster said.

"One of the things right now that's in discussion is how to help those kids that are going to be moving," he said. "We're working together with staff to look at transition planning ... as well as making sure that necessary resources and everything are in place to accommodate these children as

they come over."

In addition to gaining a bit more breathing room, many Winkler schools that currently have small villages of portable classrooms on their grounds will be bidding some of those farewell.

"A lot of the portables, especially the detached portables, will no longer be needed," Monster said. "That's a really good thing to be able to say."

Pine Ridge itself has room for an eight-classroom expansion down the road that would bump the facility's numbers up to 875 students.

"Depending on what happens with growth in the region, of course, we're positioned now to be able to accommodate growth into the near future," Monster said. "From what we can see based upon trends in the last five years, we should be in a good place for the coming years."

"It's an exciting time," he added. "There are always challenges that go with opening a new school, but the benefits outweigh all that. ... We're looking forward to opening day."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Left: Tall windows will provide plenty of light for the school's spacious library. Above: An airy atrium complete with an overhanging walkway makes up the space just inside the front doors.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
The Rogers Hometown Hockey tour took over downtown Winkler last weekend for a two-day celebration of Canada's favourite sport. Clockwise from above: Lord Stanley's cup

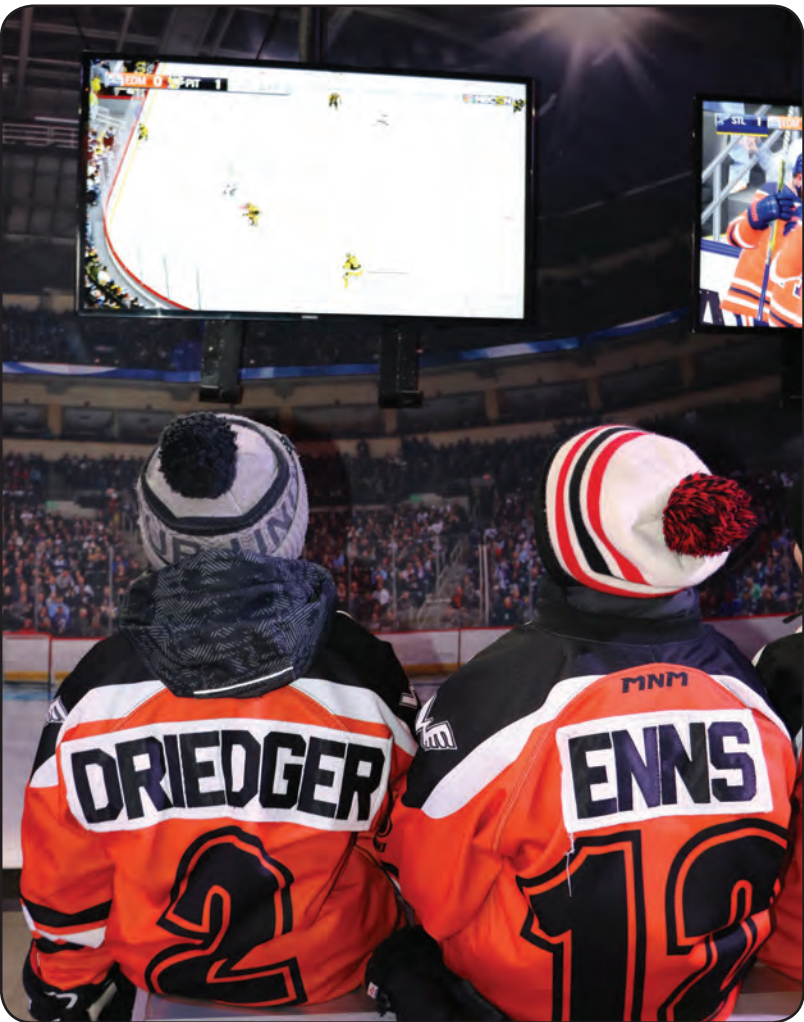


made its return to town; enthusiastic fans mug for the show's cameras at the mobile broadcast booth, which had outdoor screens up to show the Jets-Blue Jackets game; homegrown group The Color presented members of Winkler city council with the Juno Award they won last spring as a way to thank the community for its support; hockey circus performer Paz shows off his fiery juggling skills; on Saturday, Scotiabank's Kerri Leroux (left) and Rogers Hometown Hockey host Tara Slone (far right) presented reps from the Winkler, Morden, and Altona minor hockey programs with donations of \$5,000 each through the bank's legacy cheque program; a fan gets the thumbs up from Hometown Hockey mascot Hank.





Clockwise from above left: Local minor hockey teams kicked off the live broadcast Sunday with a Parade of Champions; NHL legend and former Winkler Flyer Ed Belfour signs the jersey of a young fan; downtown businesses did their part to help paint the town red for the weekend; ball hockey in the Scotiabank rink; warming up with a video game inside the Rogers Fan Hub tent; the Winkler Flyers Pee wee #2 team helped Scotiabank unveil the weekend's commemorative jersey.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



March is Pharmacist Awareness Month



Key members
of your
health care family

The expanded role of pharmacists in Canada

Pharmacist Awareness Month is about letting Canadians know what services their pharmacist can provide them. This is an important message to pass on since many people aren't aware of how the role of pharmacists has changed in Canada in recent years.

Since 2013, the scope of practice among pharmacists has broadened to include a number of duties previously reserved for doctors. The specific duties vary by province, but in many cases, include the following:

- Prescribing for minor ailments
- Rescinding prescriptions (particularly when a prescribed drug might negatively interact with other medications)
- Ordering and/or interpreting laboratory tests
- Administering drugs, including injections, for immunization and other purposes
- Helping develop care plans for patients
- Monitoring patients

The expertise of pharmacists has encompassed such functions since well before 2013. However, largely for logistical reasons, the abilities and knowledge of these frontline health care workers was underused. The pivotal change occurred when electronic health records were integrated into the health care system. Thanks to this technology, pharmacists, doctors and other specialists can now easily communicate with each other.

The new system translates to more convenient health care for Canadians. Additionally, it's hoped that it curbs an increasing tendency among Canadians to seek medical advice on the internet. Overall, pharmacists are a reliable source of health care information. They're also accessible in nearly every community.

Want to learn what services the pharmacists in your province can provide? Consult the Canadian Pharmacists Association website at pharmacists.ca/pharmacy-in-canada/scope-of-practice-canada/.

New Approach to Prescription Refills - Getting things Always Right and Right on Time!

To get full benefit of many medications and health supplements, you must take them on a regular basis as prescribed or directed. Taking medication regularly can be challenging for many reasons. Taking many medications can also be challenging in a variety of ways.

To help alleviate these challenges, Pharmasave's pharmacy team is excited to provide a new service: Simpl Sync. Simpl Sync saves you time, money and hassle when it comes to your prescription drug refills. It also can go a long way toward keeping you healthy (by helping you take medications as prescribed) and reducing the country's overall medical costs - which are often linked to the improper use of medications. Another part of the Simpl Sync program is an annual one-on-one session with a pharmacist to review all of your medications to ensure they are providing you with the best possible health outcomes.

Many people take a number of different medications, and getting all those refills can require several trips to the pharmacy each month. Now, through our Simpl Sync program, our pharmacy team can work to meet patients' individual needs and with their insurance

plans so that all of their refills are available for pickup on the same date.

Pharmasave will offer a week-ahead check-in for those enrolled to make sure there haven't been any changes in their medications, and will also remind people the day before their prescriptions are ready for pickup. In this manner, medications will be filled exactly the way patients should be taking them, and exactly when they need them. Private consultations with a pharmacist will be scheduled to more thoroughly review medication issues.

This program is the first of its kind in western Canada. Pharmasave is pleased to be offering Simpl Sync to any person on three or more regularly-scheduled medications. There is no extra cost to joining our Simpl Sync program.

People's top reasons for not taking their medications include running out, being away from home, trying to save money, and experiencing side effects. Whatever your reason, Pharmasave's Simpl Sync program can help you take your medications properly and with less worry and hassle. Please stop by Pharmasave in Morden and ask any staff member about the Simpl Sync program.



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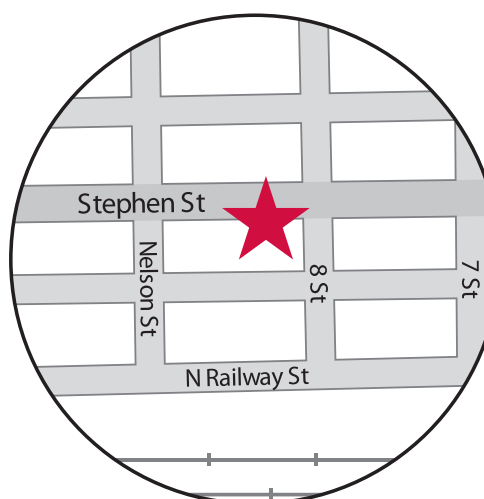
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- Speak with your Pharmacist for details*

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Friday 8:30 am-9:00 pm
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of your
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What you may not know about drug interactions

Pharmacists, doctors and other specialists are careful not to prescribe patients medication that could interact negatively with other drugs they're taking. However, it's important for those taking medication to be aware that drug interactions aren't limited to prescription drugs. Some seemingly benign over-the-counter (OTC) medications and natural health products can react negatively with prescription drugs. And the same goes for certain foods and drinks.

Commonly used OTC medications like Aspirin, antacids and antihistamines can become problematic for those taking specific prescription drugs. For example, combining Aspirin with a prescription blood thinner can lead to excessive bleeding, mixing antacid tablets with antibiotics can interfere

with the absorption of the prescription medication and taking antihistamines with a prescribed sedative can cause daytime drowsiness.

St. John's wort, a herbal supplement sometimes used to treat depression, can produce a dangerous group of symptoms known as serotonin syndrome when taken with fluoxetine (Prozac) or sertraline (Zoloft). In addition, St. John's wort can block the contraceptive effects of birth control.

As for food-drug interactions, grapefruit in particular is worthy of note. Grapefruit juice interacts negatively with a large number of drugs, including certain cholesterol-lowering drugs, anti-anxiety drugs and even some antihistamines. Generally, it allows more of the drug to enter your blood, producing negative, and sometimes serious, side

effects.

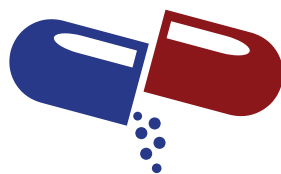
If you're considering taking an over-the-counter medication or a natural health product, ask a pharmacist beforehand whether it might interact with the medications you're taking. Doing so will help you avert unpleasant or possibly dangerous reactions.



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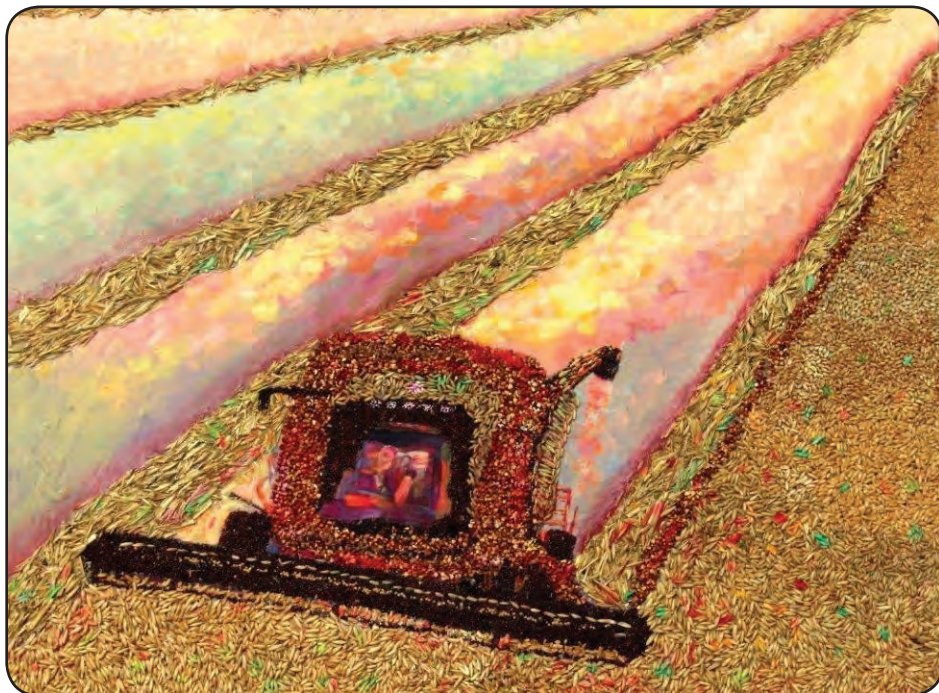
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Artist Naomi Gerrard incorporates prairie grains in her work to celebrate the importance of agriculture in our society.

Art and agriculture

By Lorne Stelmach

Naomi Gerrard always especially enjoys working with mixed media in her art, and her latest creations do that while also tapping into her roots growing up on a farm.

Gerrard sees incorporating prairie grains into her paintings as a way of celebrating the importance of agriculture to our society while also appreciating its natural beauty.

"I'm hoping that the grains themselves will carry the message," said Gerrard, whose exhibit *Multigrains of Energy* is featured this month at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden.

The show features 45 pieces in which the highlights are the colours and textures of the variety of grains that help create the scenes done with acrylic paints.

In an artist's statement from her website, Gerrard notes her hope is that "these grains command a deep respect and encourage a reflection on life, nature and our connections to the land."

"I feel that agriculture is vital in our economy in Manitoba and also really important in relation to the health of our people," added Gerrard, who grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania.

Those rural roots have remained with her, even as she went on to call Minneapolis and now Winnipeg home.

"My interest is in the grains and how the grains themselves have an influence on the vista and the atmosphere of the whole prairie scene. I'm more interested in the energy of the grains and the grains themselves," said Gerrard.

Her artwork has always featured mixed media, using a large variety of materials such as sand, cloth, threads, lace, paper fibers, tissue paper and other natural products along with paint.

The draw for her is the range of texture and colour and contrasts which

she sees as bringing into play elements of surprise, humour, and pleasure.

"I started doing this quite a few years ago, gradually incorporating grains into the work ... it's a little different than using paint for the whole canvas," she said.

It is an interesting process, Gerrard added, noting that she usually relies on the natural texture and the colour of the grains.

"Infrequently, I put a little bit of paint on the grains. One of the pieces has a fair bit of paint on the grains, but I usually use the colour and the texture of the grain itself to carry the image. It's really the colour and the shape and the size, the feel of the grain itself, that carries the image."

"What's interesting as well is the grains, when they have the hull on ... or when the hull is taken off or split ... in some cases, like barley, the pearl barley is quite beautiful white, but with the hull on is entirely different," Gerrard noted, adding similarly that one type of buckwheat is quite dark but "when the hull is off, it's quite different as well."

As a complement to her art, Gerrard also includes a grain identification station in the exhibit.

"I have little bottles of all of the grains that have been used ... so if somebody is looking at the piece and thinking I wonder what this grain is," she said.

This is the latest in a number of stops for the exhibition, which has been touring galleries throughout rural Manitoba in recent months.

"I was impressed with the gallery and with the community," noted Gerrard, who will be back in Morden next Friday for a public reception at the gallery from 7-9 p.m.

In addition to *Multigrains of Energy*, the gallery this month is also displaying some of the barrel-fired pottery work of Kathryn Newsom.

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Watoto choir performs next Tues.

The Christian Faith Church hosts a special choir from Africa next week.

The church, located at 11151 Road 20W, welcomes the Watoto Children's Choir on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

It's just one stop on the choir's six-month tour to perform songs from their new album *We Will Go* and share the story of abandoned African chil-

dren and vulnerable women who have been empowered to rise above their circumstances and answer the call to make a difference in the world.

Admission to the show is free, though donations and proceeds from it and the sale of the album go to support woman and children in need in Uganda.

New Minnewasta rock wall a hit with students

By Lorne Stelmach

A new feature at Minnewasta School not only offers students a physical challenge, but opens up new ways of learning at the same time.

A rock climbing wall installed recently in the gymnasium of the Morden early years school with the support of Enbridge is more than proving its worth.

There are a wide variety of ways that students can learn and engage while taking on scaling the wall, which is a safe traverse style of climbing wall where students are never more than a few feet off the matted ground below.

"It's really so adaptable. We can use it almost every day, and it hasn't really been the same lesson twice," said phys-ed teacher Kyle Turnbull. "There's so many activities that are possible. The students just love it."

Turnbull said he had long wanted to have a climbing wall in the gym, and the school advisory council supported the idea and was prepared to take on fundraising for it. But then Enbridge came along looking for projects to support in local schools.

"It was perfect timing for us," said a grateful Turnbull, noting Enbridge covered the entire cost of over \$9,000.

The beauty of the climbing wall is that it gets kids to hone a host of physical skills in a fun new way.

"It's kind of the whole direction phys-ed is going now, getting away from some of the traditional sports," said Turnbull, noting the wall can also be used for a variety of learning activities involving magnetic numbers and letters.

"Students can do things like climbing across the rock wall, getting magnetic letters to spell a word that their partner on the ground is telling them that they have to spell," he said. "We've also done activities where they need to finish a story ... and they come across and find the next word."

"So it's very cross-curricular and, in the division, we're focusing a lot on literacy and numeracy, so we can hit all of those elements with the rock wall."

The wall is also good for all levels and abilities, Turnbull added, citing the example of one student with cerebral palsy who has been working on



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Enbridge's Andrew Plett tries out Minnewasta School's new rock climbing wall alongside a few students.

holding himself up for several seconds.

"For him, the climbing is difficult, but what we've done is we've created a plan ... and with my help holding him he can climb up on his own," he said. "So we can work on setting goals ... maybe today we get to the third panel of the rock wall, the next time maybe they want to try to get to the fourth."

Andrew Plett, a land agent for En-

bridge, said they were happy to support this project, noting Minnewasta is right across from their main construction yard and in close proximity to their easement in the area.

"The school is an important stakeholder ... and this project seemed to be a great fit for us," he said. "It's great to see that it's being used so well and that the students are really excited to use it."

Family Day at Gallery Wealth Mgmt. March 16

By Lorne Stelmach

Gallery Wealth Management is hosting a few feathered friends for a special family day next week Saturday.

The Morden financial planning firm welcomes people to stop in March 16 between 2-4 p.m. to check out a few animal ambassadors from the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre.

They held a similar event in the fall of 2017 and see this as a way to give back to the community while also supporting the centre.

"Reaching out to Wildlife Haven, it gives us an opportunity to help them get the word out as to what they do," said Allison Braun, administrative assistant and operations manager.

Braun said they very much appreciate and value the work and mission of Wildlife Haven, which has been rehabilitating injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife for their return to the wild

since 1984 as a volunteer-driven charity. Construction has begun on Wildlife Haven's first permanent home with its wildlife rehabilitation hospital and education centre.

"They do a lot of rescues of raptors," she noted, adding it is also a passion for herself and husband Reg, a financial advisor and founder of Gallery Wealth Management.

"We really enjoy watching the birds in our back yard. We feed birds and count all the different varieties," she said.

Coming to visit and pose for photographs that afternoon will be a Great Horned Owl, an American Kestrel, and an Eastern Box Turtle.

"We just want it to be a fun family time," said Braun, noting they also hope it might help promote the La Riviere Raptor Festival which is set for its eighth year on Sat., April 13.

"We hope it may be good timing for them as well," she said.

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arts&culture

Manitou students tackling West Side Story

By Lorne Stelmach

Students from Nellie McClung Collegiate are taking on a more serious production this year for their annual play in conjunction with Candlewick Productions.

The classic musical *West Side Story* featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim will be a departure from what the students usually tackle, suggested co-director Caitlin Cranmer.

"The cast and crew are excited to take on a dramatic story. In the past, we have always performed comedies with happy endings, but this year the students wanted to take on a more adult play that dealt with real issues," Cranmer said in advance of the performances set for March 14-17.

Cranmer said they realized the subject matter is tough and dark, but they wanted to put on a more challenging production.

At the same time, she added, it is also "such a popular musical. *West Side Story* is considered one of the top musicals of all time.

"*West Side Story* has always had an amazing score," Cranmer said. "The music itself could be considered one of the characters in the story. The score and the lyrics really drive the story and show the characters' emotions.

"We have added more instruments to this year's production," she continued. "Normally we have somewhere between four to five people in our band, but this year we're adding violins, a saxophone, flutes, and possibly other instruments."

West Side Story has been performed to audiences around the world since its creation in 1957.

The story revolves around a modern-day Romeo and Juliet involved in New York City street gangs.

"I think audiences, especially students in high schools studying the Shakespearean play, can really relate to the characters and their circumstances," said Cranmer, who pointed out there are parallels to what is going on in the world today. "Audiences can also relate to the struggle of starting again, to the history of America and the immigration that helped populate the country. Even today, people are immigrating to America to find a better life and are being met with discrimination.

"In *West Side Story*, the Puerto Rican immigrants are faced with racism and struggle to establish themselves as citizens in America. Due to rising hostility, each side is forced to defend their own and violence ensues," Cranmer said. "I think audiences can relate to these issues that have happened in



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Nellie McClung Collegiate students present *West Side Story* March 14-17. Right: Xander Klassen as Tony embraces Julia Vanynsberghe as Maria.

the past and are going on even today."

The NMC show involves a cast and crew of nearly 60 Gr. 7-12 students from across the region.

Performances take place nightly at 7 p.m. March 14-16 and Sunday, March 17 at 2:30 p.m. at the Manitou Opera House.

Ticket information is available online at candlewick.ca or by calling 204-825-8406.



Regional art studio tour registration nears

By Lorne Stelmach

Susan Pharaoh sees the value as an artist in being involved each fall in the Pembina Valley Studio Tour.

Having been part of the tour for half a dozen years and now part of the organizing committee as well, she is encouraging other artists in the region to jump on the bandwagon.

"It becomes a learning experience for both the patrons and the artists," Pharaoh suggested last month as the March deadlines approached for the two day tour set for Sept. 7-8.

Now in its 15th year, the free, self-guided studio tour draws hundreds of visitors to the region every fall.

Artists of all mediums are welcome to take part. Past years have included painters, potters, photographers, woodworkers, and textile artists, to

name just a few of the kinds of art on display.

Pharaoh said the weekend offers a glimpse into where and how the magic of creating art happens.

"The people who come on the tour don't just want to see what you've made, they want to see how you've made it," she said. "Having my work out on display in progress ... that can be absolutely perfect ... that's one of the reasons you get people coming is that they are interested in the process, not just the final product."

The tour not only offers artists a chance to promote their own work but maybe even to gain inspiration from engaging with the public, Pharaoh added.

"Every year is quite unique. I enjoy meeting completely new people on the tour," she said. "Every year really

has been a very good learning experience ... I also have had a number of people come back and purchase my work ... so it has been a very good experience for me overall.

Registration for artists is \$75 by March 15. The rate for galleries (locations hosting two or more artists) is

\$125.

Artists interested in applying can visit pembinavalleystudiotour.com for more information or can contact tour chairperson Margie Hildebrand at 204-822-6679 or chasmarg@mymts.net.

Prairie Singers perform Sun.

The Prairie Singers take to stages in Winkler and Morden this weekend for a concert dubbed All Around the Circle.

The choir, led by conductor Marilyn Houser Hamm and accompanied by pianist Fay Carruthers, will perform music from Brahms' *Liebeslieder*, selections based on Canadian folk

songs, and a variety of other songs intended to appeal to a broad musical appreciation this Sunday at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler at 2:30 p.m. and the Morden Mennonite Church at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10. Students are half price.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Hawks fighting for their lives

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Hawks were fighting for their playoff lives this week.

The male AAA Hawks headed to Shoal Lake Tuesday down two games to the Yellowhead Chiefs in their best of five quarter-final series.

The Hawks could have had a better fate in game one Friday before falling 4-3 in overtime. They then lost their composure in game two Sunday as they gave up a 3-0 lead in falling 6-3 on home ice in Morden.

"When we're playing at our best, we can compete with them," said co-coach Jeff Andrews, whose seventh place Hawks took the second place Chiefs to overtime in three of their four regular season games.

"They're a really good hockey team and a team that we have to be at our best to beat, and I don't think that we've played our best hockey yet in this series," he said. "If we can maintain our focus and stick to our game plan, we've got a chance of coming back here and being successful."

In game one, the Hawks came back twice from being down 2-1 and 3-2 before the Chiefs got the winning goal 3:47 into overtime.



Yellowhead's Bray Rookes defends against Derek Wiebe of the Pembina Valley Hawks in game two of their quarter-final series Sunday. The Hawks fell 6-3 to trail 2-0 in the series.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Riley Goertzen, Tyson Allison and Nico Vigier scored for the Hawks while Dylan Meilun made 34 saves. The Chiefs outshot the Hawks 38-25.

"I thought we played a really good game Friday night," said Andrews. "Obviously, to lose in overtime was a little disappointing but, at the same time, we felt like we could have done some more things in that hockey game to help our team be successful."

Game two started out promising, as Hayden Couling got the Hawks on the board in the first and then goals

by Goertzen and Campbell Enns on a powerplay had Pembina Valley up 3-0 halfway through the second.

Things began to come apart after Sloan Stanick scored twice in 15 seconds for the Chiefs, who then tied the game a few minutes later on a Hawk penalty by Michael Hlady, who a few minutes later was tossed from the game with a major and misconduct.

Further penalty trouble led to the winning goal in the third. The Chiefs then put it away with two more late goals.

Shots on goal were even at 39 apiece with Meilun taking the loss on 33 saves.

"We had a fantastic start," said Andrews, who said it started to unravel with what he termed a controversial call. "Yellowhead turned things up ... and we just kind of lost our focus for a little bit and ended up losing that hockey game."

If the Hawks were able to continue the series, game four will be Thursday in Winkler with game five, if necessary, back in Shoal Lake Saturday.

Beavers win game four to extend series

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Carman Beavers managed a decisive 8-1 win Saturday over the Morden Redskins to extend the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League playoffs.

Morden spent last week dominating the semi-final series, following up on an 8-5 game one win Feb. 23 with victories of 6-3 Feb. 26 and 4-2 Feb. 28.

Game two in Morden saw two goals each come in from Mike Rey and Jay

Fehr (including an empty-netter for Fehr) while Jordan Valentino and Tyler Peers added singles. Reed Peters stood tall in net, making 40 saves as Carman outshot Morden 43-37.

Game three was a much closer affair, with Carman taking a 1-0 lead with a late first period goal that was followed by a scoreless second frame.

Morden came to life in the final 20 minutes as Fehr tied things up two minutes in and then Steve Mullin got a tying goal himself shortly after Car-

man scored their last goal of the night at 2:52. Karl Fey and Tyler Grove also contributed.

Peters stopped 50 shots on goal this night as the Beavers once again won the shot battle, this time 52-42.

The tables turned for game four Saturday night.

Carman took a 3-0 lead in the opening period and then responded to Morden's lone goal of the evening from Jordan Cameron early in the second with three more of their own.

The Beavers' Mark Owen scored two more of his four goals that night in the third period to put the final nail in the coffin.

Peters faces 41 shots in net, saving 33. Across the rink, Steve Christie slapped away 43 Morden attempts.

Game five took place in Carman on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.

If the Beavers managed a win, game six is back in Morden Thursday while game seven is in Carman Saturday.

Local curlers bring home silver from Winter Games

By Lorne Stelmach

A local foursome brought home silver medals from the 2019 Canada Winter Games.

The girls curling team of sisters Hayley and Peyton Bergman of Rosenfeld, Cheyenne Ehnes of Manitou, and Anastasia Ginters of Altona came up just shy of grabbing gold for Manitoba at the competition in Alberta last week.

After going 8-2 in the round-robin and second only to 9-1 Ontario, the Manitoba team doubled up on New Brunswick 6-3 in the semi-final but then fell 8-3 to Ontario in the gold medal game.

Team skip Hayley Bergman said the Games were a great experience overall and added there was little or no disappointment in not coming out on top.

"We had such a solid week. The girls played really well all week, and we're just so thrilled with where we ended up in the standings," she said. "Of course, it would have been really nice to pull out that last game and win the gold, but we're not disappointed with how our week went whatsoever."

Aside from lopsided 12-1 and 10-0



SPORTS MANITOBA PHOTO

Team Manitoba, which included Hayley and Peyton Bergman of Rosenfeld, Cheyenne Ehnes of Manitou, and Anastasia Ginters of Altona, won silver at the Canada Winter Games.

wins over Northwest Territories and B.C., their games were all close, well-played matches. That included handing Ontario their only round robin loss 5-3.

Bergman said their original goal had been to make the playoffs, but then

finishing second earned them a bye to the semi-finals and they were guaranteed to be playing a medal game.

"There were lots of good teams. Lots of the games that we had it was just a shot here and there that made the game swing the way it did," she said.

She credited their team with being well prepared throughout.

"I think that focus on mental preparation really helped us throughout the week. We had really focused on not only our shot making and our physical preparation for the games but also our mental preparation, how you deal with a long week with 10 round robin games and the potential for three more."

Another area athlete competing at the multi-sport competition was Winklerite Trentyn Crane, who was part of the Manitoba hockey team that ended up fifth overall.

Ijob Hamraev of Manitou competed in judo, where he came fifth in his category with Team 'Toba finishing fifth overall as well.

Winkler brother-sister duo Aaron and Tessa Warkentine competed in cross country skiing at the event, though they didn't crack the top 10.

Nor did the local alpine skiers, which included siblings Jared and Karly Friesen and Lori Steppler of Miami alongside Manitou's Amanda Creith.

In all, Team Manitoba finished off the Canada Winter Games strong in fifth place with 25 medals: nine gold, seven silver, and nine bronze.

Flyers fall to Steelers, Pistons to finish season

The Winkler Flyers ended their 2018-19 season this past week with a pair of losses.

After falling 9-2 to the Selkirk Steelers last Tuesday, the Flyers closed out their schedule Saturday with a 7-2 loss to the first place Portage Terriers.

The Flyers finished the season with a record of 23-32-5, which left them in ninth place and 10 points out of the last playoff spot. It's the first time since their inaugural season in 1980-1981 that they haven't had a seat at the playoff table.

Winkler native Malachi Klassen made his first Manitoba Junior Hockey League start against the Steelers for the Flyers, who travelled to Selkirk with five regulars out of the lineup.

The Steelers scored a pair of goals in the first 11 minutes of the opening period before Cayden Meyer sent a shot in from the point to cut the home team's lead to 2-1 with 8:11 left, but the Steelers quickly regained their two goal lead.

Not even a minute after the Steelers scored to make it 4-1, Jesse Korytko finished off a nice passing play for his 15th of the year to bring Winkler

back within two. However, Selkirk got that one back later in the period and would go on to score four more in the third to put the game away.

Klassen made 34 stops as the Steelers outshot the Flyers 43-23.

Facing the first place Terriers, the Flyers got goals from Jayden McCarthy and Connor Beebe as Winkler kept the game close through the first half only to see the Terriers open it up late in the second.

The Terriers opened the scoring before the game was three minutes old, but the Flyers were quick to get that

one right back when Garrett Kuklica sent a shot off the back boards that kicked right out to Beebe, who passed it across to goal mouth to Jayden McCarthy for his 12th of the season. The Terriers scored a short-handed goal later in the first period.

Both teams traded chances but held tight defensively early in the second. Then, with just over seven minutes left, the Terriers scored the first of three goals in the period and took a 5-1 lead into the third.

After Portage added another one early in the third period, Beebe scored

for the Flyers to cut the Terriers' lead to 6-2. Portage got one more in before the final buzzer.

Riley Morgan played the bulk of the game for Winkler, while call-up goaltender Fraser Senebald also saw a few minutes of action in the third. Portage outshot Winkler 39-22.

The season done, the Winkler Flyers now turn their attention to some of their summer programming, including the 2019 hockey school.

Registration is now open for the Aug. 19-23 camp for players born between 2005 and 2012.

Mavericks best Zodiacs for title

The Morris Mavericks clinched the Zone 4 High School Hockey League championships title by downing the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs.

The Mavericks took game one of the best-of-three series 4-0 last Tuesday and then swept the series with a 6-2 win Thursday night.

Scoring for Winkler were Ryan Krahn and Vitali Penner. Nick Toews

faced 29 shots in net for the Zodiacs, who will compete in the provincial AAAA championships in Winnipeg this weekend.

In varsity basketball, the Morden Thunder boys downed the Sanford Sabres 101-81 in the Zone 4 playoffs, while the girls lost to Altona 46-35.

GVC's girls beat Crocus Plains 79-77 in the interzone match to earn a spot

at provincials, while the boys defeated Vincent Massey 74-63.

NPC's boys fell to the J.H. Bruns Broncos 101-83 in the SCAC playoffs, while the girls won their game against the Broncos 62-57 and then went on to fall to the Glenlawn Lions 78-37 and then, in the third place game, lose to the Olympiens 61-44.

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NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Lions gearing up for annual toy show

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Morden Lions Toy Show has been drawing people from far and wide for almost two decades now.

Started 19 years ago by David Booker and run for the last nine by the local service club, the show never fails to fill the Access Event Centre hall, and organizer Donald Holenski says it's always clear to him that people just have a passion for these classic toys and other collectibles.

"I guess you've got to be young at heart maybe," Holenski said in advance of the show set for March 16-17.

The idea of toys and collectibles transcending all ages, he added, is a big part of the show's appeal.

"Having grown up on a farm, I'm always amazed what they have and what all there is with these toys ... a lot of the toys you can't buy off the shelf," he said. "It's an attraction, especially the different farm toys."

The 2019 show will feature upwards

of two dozen vendors and 80+ tables with everything from diecast farm toys and cars to sports collectibles, woodworking, and Lego. There will also be a few tables packed full of flea market items up for sale.

"We have people who customize toys, they'll make farm toys or diecast toys that you can't buy out of a box. They would build you something if you want," Holenski said. "We have quite a few sports cards people who usually come out from Winnipeg as well."

Holenski noted the event has proven to be a good draw year after year, with people coming from as far as Saskatchewan and from south of the border as well.

"We have people coming from Saskatchewan selling toys ... and actually we have people come from Regina to buy toys here ... there's one who has been here the last five years for sure, I've been told," he said.

"They show up here from the States



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Lions Toy Show takes over the Access Event Centre community hall March 16-17.

as well," Holenski added. "I would say we usually have maybe 600 people who attend, so I think it's a draw for the community."

The toy show runs Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continues Sunday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults. Kids 12

and under are free with an adult.

Proceeds from the weekend's admissions and the 50/50 raffle draw will be donated to local charitable projects.

"We've usually managed to give away between \$1,800 and \$2,000," said Holenski, noting past recipients have included Katie Cares and the children's ward at BTHC.

Pembina Valley Twisters have lock on first place

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters have a lock on first place as the MMJHL season winds down.

The Twisters helped seal up the top spot by defeating the team closest to them in the standings, handing the Raiders a 5-1 loss Friday before then falling 4-2 Sunday to the Stonewall Jets.

The Twisters took period leads of 2-0 and 4-0 against the Raiders in a tight battle that saw shots on goal end up 26-21 in favour of Pembina Valley.

Scoring for the Twisters were Dylan Daquay, Brendan Keck, T.J. Matuszewski, Travis Penner and Mark Klassen, while Travis Klassen got the win

in net with 20 saves.

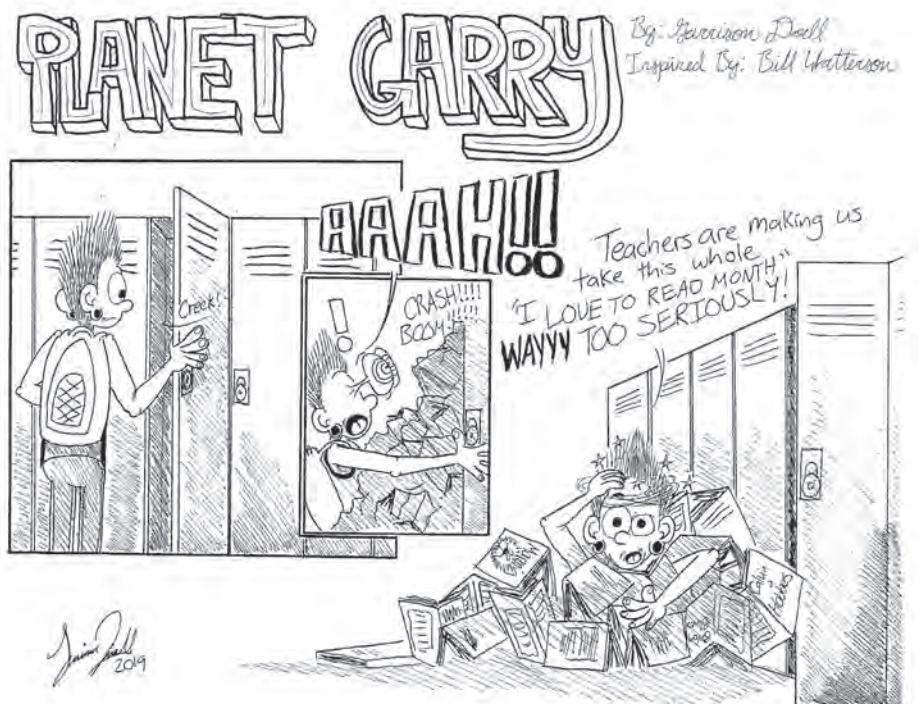
Against the Jets, the Twisters were stymied by Stonewall goaltender Adam Swan, who faced down 43 shots from the Twisters. Across the rink, Klassen faced 29 shots.

Sven Schefer and Jeremie Goderis scored for Pembina Valley, who had come back from a 2-0 deficit to tie it in the third.

The Twisters are now at 33-6-4 for 70 points, which has them nine points up on both the Raiders and the St. James Jr. Canucks.

They close out the regular season schedule on home ice this week, first hosting the Charleswood Hawks on Wednesday and then the St. Vital Victorias on Friday.

The Funnies



Agriculture

Manitoba soybean acres likely to drop in 2019

By Harry Siemens

Manitoba Agriculture pulse specialist Dennis Lange told growers in Brandon earlier this year that Manitoba could see soybean acres of around 1.5 million acres—that's down from 2.3 million two years ago.

"Part of that reason is that we saw some lower yields last year due to the dry conditions we had in July and August," he said. "The estimated provincial average yield is going to be about 32 bushels an acre. In the previous year we were at 34."

Lange thinks another reason is that growers realize it's nice to have a bit more selection of some of the crops in different regions. Pricing for soybeans currently has been a little bit lower, as well.

"In this local area, there were some green seed challenges this year for a couple of weeks, where the seed had matured so quickly on some varieties that it caused the green seeds to be locked in, and in some cases growers had some very high levels, which resulted in some discounts on some loads," Lange said. "It was more of an isolated region that it happened in. It wasn't province-wide. But all these factors contributed to it, and right now seed sales ... [are] a little bit lower."

All these factors play into it, Lange said, adding, however, that he doesn't believe the apparently low protein counts in Western Canadian soybeans are a major consideration.

"When growers are looking at growing a crop, what they're looking at is ... what's going to work best on their farm given where commodity prices are at based on history, and on the number of late season crops you want to have," he said.

"They look at some of the competing crops that they're growing. For example, oats, cereals, canola, winter wheat, spring wheat with yields in most areas this year were quite good. When you compare something with a very high yield compared with something that was a little bit lower yielding, like the soybeans this year, that plays into grower's decisions I think a lot more than the protein content in soybeans. We have seen some regions in the last couple of years that have

had lower protein, and again, partially could be related to the dry conditions at a wrong time. The plants are shutting down prematurely."

Rotation is also a big factor.

"You have to look at wheat, the spectrum that growers have to work with. When you're changing crops, you're also changing in some instances the

chemistries that you're using to control some of these weeds, which is a great thing to do," Lange said. "You need to be able to not rely on one product to control all your weed problems."

"In other words, if you're putting soybeans too often in a rotation, you're using the same chemistry to

control those weeds, so to have that crop in the rotation and be able to rotate your chemical groups is a bonus."

All that said, there's still going to be lots of soybeans around.

"Don't get me wrong ... 1.5 million acres is still nothing to sneeze at," Lange said. "But it'll just be a little less than what we saw several years ago."



By Harry Siemens

CropConnect 2019 brought together an array of speakers, exhibitors, and of course producers of the most vital commodity on this earth: food.

The two-day event last month included many thought-provoking topics and discussions on many timely issues.

I'm one who doesn't sit through too much of programs like this (been there, done that), so I pick and choose the ones I want to focus on and interview.

One dynamic guest speaker I spoke with was Michael "Pinball" Clemons, a Canadian Football League legend and an icon of sporting excellence, community leadership, and personal integrity.

I thought I'd missed it by coming in around mid-morning, well after his scheduled slot of 9 a.m.

No such fate. With his flight delayed from down east due to another winter storm, Clemons came late and spoke instead after lunch.

For the next 50 minutes, Pinball, the second-winningest coach for the Toronto Argonauts, had the farmers and other attendees on their feet at least four times, clapping, hooting and hollering about the most critical industry in the world, that of producing food.

When he finally finished, I sauntered to the front and shook his hand just after he sat down.

You see, Pinball walks the talk and talks the walk. He may not know much about farming, but he

CFL legend Michael "Pinball" Clemons made a lively presentation at CropConnect 2019 last month.

PHOTO
BY HARRY
SIEMENS/
VOICE



understands as well as anyone the importance of producing food.

He gave me a short interview, but it wasn't the length nor the message that struck me, although it was great.

When I turned on my iPhone recorder, Mr. Clemons put his hands on my shoulders, one on either side, looked me in the eye, and boldly but quietly answered my two questions.

It did two things: it showed his focus and it showed that for those brief moments that interview with me mattered to him, because it kept all the other reporters, wannabe questioners, and well-wishers at bay.

Here's how it went:

Harry: You speak to a lot of audiences, you've hit a lot of guys, so what's your main message to this crowd here today?

Pinball: "My main message is the number of hits I took, right, the number of yards I ran, pale in comparison to [the farmers'] commitment to community and what they do."

"They support families in a way that nothing else can. When you don't have food, nothing else matters!"

"So the diligence it takes on the farm, the discipline, day after day. There's no such thing as a weekend, and so on and so on, and indeed the example that they make as families I think is ... we think of it as an old trade or occupation, but it's not that. It is a way of life and maybe the best way of life on the planet."

Harry: So in your life, what's your most important goal?

Pinball: "My most important goal is to love God and the way I manifest that is by loving people and so it starts with my wife and my girls and then it moves on from there."

"We do want to try to empower those who are marginalized, so young people who don't have the opportunity, who are in foster care or a shelter or a marginalized community ... that's what we think is valuable."

Cuddle up and read



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

It's not every day you get to come to school in your PJs, but local children had their chance last Tuesday with Cuddle Up and Read at Maple Leaf School in Morden. There were guest readers on hand for the event, which wrapped up activities held throughout February for I Love To Read Month.



take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Public broadcaster
 - The media
 - Manila hemp
 - Not just "play"
 - Trailblazing German historian
 - Type of puzzle
 - Plant in the daisy family
 - Not young
 - Dennis is one
 - Revealed
 - But goodie
 - Absurd
 - Commercials
 - University of Dayton
 - Expression of annoyance
 - Stories
 - More critical
 - Of I
 - Time units (abbr.)
 - Arousing intense feeling
 - High schoolers' test
 - Trauma center
 - Astronomical period
 - Fights
 - Italian Lake
 - Rhenium
 - Baseball stat
 - State of consciousness
 - Some is dietary
 - Stringed instrument
 - ___ Kidman, actress
 - Orator
 - Ottoman military commander
 - Makes known
 - Type of font
 - Cool!
 - Short musical composition
 - Porticos
 - Not wet
- #### CLUES DOWN
- The upper part of a duet
 - Carpenter's tool
 - Outrageous events

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	61						62	63				64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

- Procedures
- Type of party
- Between northeast and east
- Sanskrit (abbr.)
- NJ college ___ Hall
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Observed something remarkable
- One who obeys
- ___ de sac
- Sign language
- Predecessor to Protestantism
- Right-hand man
- ___ anglicus: sweating sickness
- People who proof
- Israeli Defence Forces sergeant
- Remains as is
- Receptacle
- Archers' tool
- Gets up
- Unit of energy
- Explains again
- Pa's partner
- Region bordering the sea
- Type of acid
- Lesotho capital
- Gave a speech
- Irregular as though nibbled away
- Neither
- Copyreads
- Edward ___, British composer
- Prepared
- Launched Apollo
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Protects from weather
- Feline
- Equal

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Morden

City of Morden

Suncatch: Summer 2019

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	The City of Morden would like to offer live music entertainment at the Morden Suncatch on the last weekend of each month in the summer. The specific dates are: May 24 & 25, June 28 & 29, July 26 & 27, August 30 & 31, 2019. *June 28 must include a multi-cultural component.
PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	Provide a description of the entertainment you would book and proposed cost for the summer project. Include information on the following: 1. Your experience in event planning 2. Type of entertainment you are proposing 3. Total project cost 4. Promotion ideas and materials
COMPLETION DATE	August 31, 2019
FORM OF SUBMISSION	Submissions are welcomed at the City of Morden's main office by mail, delivered in person or emailed as follows below. Address all correspondence to Clare Agnew, Community Services & Events Manager. Mailing Address City of Morden Civic Centre c/o Clare Agnew 100 - 195 Stephen Street Morden MB R6M 1V3 Hand Delivery City of Morden Civic Centre - 195 Stephen St Access Event Centre - 111 Gilmour Street Email cagnew@mordenmb.com
TIMELINE	Please submit your quotation by March 15, 2019 4:00 p.m.
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION	The City may, at its discretion, enter into contract with one, multiple, or none of the parties who submit a quotation. The City is not under obligation to any party on the basis of their submission.

LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

Your newspaper helps stitch our communities together - questioning what needs questioning and serving as the voice of our democracy. Newspaper journalism is essential to protect our vibrant communities. **Access to truthful, local news is under threat.** Now more than ever we need reliable LOCAL journalism.

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TENDER

**Tender arable Land Rental in
RM of Thompson & RM of Stanley**

Sec#
SW4-4-6W1 (160 Acres)
SE4-4-6W1 (50 Acres)
SW3-4-6W1 (78 Acres)
NW33-3-6W1 (105 Acres)
Consisting of 393 Acres.

**Tenders must be submitted by
March 22, 2019 to Box 381,
Manitou, MB, R0G 1G0.
For more information call
Devin Boulton 204-242-4447.**

NOTICES



**RURAL
MUNICIPALITY
OF THOMPSON**

PUBLIC NOTICE 2019 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of the Municipal Act that Council for the Rural Municipality of Thompson intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2019 at a public hearing located at:

**R.M. of Thompson Civic Centre
530 Norton Avenue
Miami, MB**

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available for review at the Civic Centre on March 18, 2019.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

PrairieSky Royalty Ltd. is a publicly-traded company in Calgary that is looking to acquire oil & gas fee title and royalty interests at fair market value. To receive a cash offer, call 587-293-4008 or visit www.prairiesky.com/ Selling-Your-Royalties.

STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel Building Sale ... "Big blowout sale - all buildings priced to clear!" 20X23 \$5,977. 23X25 \$5,954. 25X27 \$7,432. 30X31 \$9,574. 32X31 \$9,648. One End Wall Included. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036 www.pioneersteel.ca

WORK WANTED

Available to do renos, repairs, maintenance, painting, siding, roofs, fix-ups. Residential or commercial. Call Bill at 204-362-2645 or leave a message at 204-822-3582.

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or email wilbert@wghomes.ca
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www.mcna.com

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HELP WANTED

Dream Job! Live in caregiver/housekeeper. Summers in Winnipeg and winters in the tropics. Call 204-997-4629

Fishing Lodge Opportunity: employment for 2. Dock & boat hand, yard & housekeeping, PR, fishing. Private LHK accommodations available for family/couple. May-Sept. 204-232-3012 for interview.

Healthy Child Coalition - Central Region is seeking applications for the position of Coordinator, with duties to start May 21, 2019. For further information regarding responsibilities, qualifications, hours and salary, email hcc.centralregion@gmail.com or check out the website www.healthychildcentralregion.ca Deadline for applications is March 29, 2019.

Trouble Walking? Hip or Knee Replacement?

Restrictions in daily activities?
\$2,500
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\$40,000
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rebates
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MISCELLANEOUS

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Caught you looking! Reach over 413,000 Manitoba readers weekly. Spring is coming. Book your Announcements, Events, Sales, Employment Opportunities, Auctions, Wanted Ads, For Rent, Volunteer Opportunities, etc. People rely on these classifieds to find what they need. Catch them looking at your material in our 48 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call us at 204-467-5836.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 23rd Annual Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum Induction Dinner will be held in Morden on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Tickets may be obtained by contacting Morris Mott at 204-726-5167 or mott@brandonu.ca, David Taylor at 204-841-3242 or taylor@brandonu.ca, Jack Hrehirchuk at 204-638-6923/204-648-6395 or jhrehirchuk@wcgwave.ca, Joe Wiewchar at 204822-4636 or mbbhof@mymts.net or on-line at www.mbhof.ca Deadline for ticket sales is May 15, 2019.

The Winkler Morden Voice
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COMING EVENTS

Thousand Oaks Ministries Inc.
GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT
Sat., March 9, 2019
7:30 pm at the
P.W. Enns Centennial
Concert Hall Winkler, MB
 Featuring:
Instruments of Grace,
 Grunthal, MB & *My Anchor*
Holds Plum Coulee/Winkler, MB
 Everyone Welcome! Freewill Offering
 1000 Oaks Info Line (204) 822-1253
 Website: thousandoaksinc.org

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 BEGINNING AT 6 PM**

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 Cell: (204) 325-6230
 Fax: (204) 325-4484

HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

COMING EVENTS

Grace Valley Mennonite Academy
 Non Government Funded Private School
FUNDRAISER!
Enchilada Supper
 with Rice, Beans, Chips and Pie for Dessert
Friday, March 15
5:00 - 7:00
WINKLER MENNONITE CHURCH
31 WILLOWDALE CRESCENT
 School Choir Singing at Intervals
 Admission by Freewill Donation
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

AUCTION

Bill Klassen Auctioneers is planning a



MAY 4 SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

We will be selling machinery from Maryann Janzen's farm, collector Tractors from Dorothy and the late John Elias, other tractors collector cars, etc. and we are open to lawn and garden equipment, etc. Our **AUGUST AUCTION** is always too late for seeding and spraying equipment.



So look around and call me or email with the machinery you would like to turn into cash at this SPRING AUCTION bill@billklassen.com
 204.325.4433 office 204.325.6230 cell

WWW.BILLKLASSEN.COM

REGISTRATION

**Winkler Kid's Korner
 NURSERY SCHOOL**

**FALL
 REGISTRATION**

**Winkler EMM Church (Southview Dr.)
 - South Entrance**

Mon., March 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM

• 3 year olds - Tuesday AM

(Limited Spots) or Tuesday PM

• 4 year olds - Monday &

Thursday PM, Wednesday AM
 or Wednesday PM

You MUST bring a \$80 non-refundable deposit, and either a post dated cheque for September or cash for the remaining amount. And also bring your MHSC card to complete registration!



NOTICES

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**THE MSTW BY-LAW NO. 1-2019
 BEING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MSTW PLANNING DISTRICT
 DEVELOPMENT PLAN BY-LAW NO. 1-2014, as amended.**

±

HEARING LOCATION: **Winkler Council Chambers**
185 Main Street
Winkler, MB

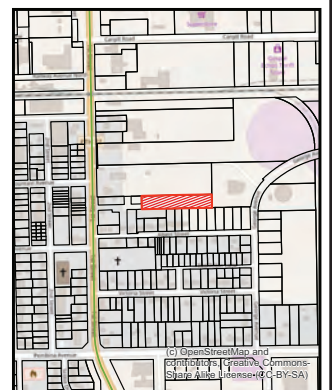
DATE & TIME: **March 20th, 2019**
at 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL INTENT: **To re-designate a portion of land**
From: Urban Employment Area
To: Urban Neighbourhood Area

AREA: **City of Winkler**
Lot 1, Plan 46684
SW¼ 3-3-4W

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: **Glen Wieler, MSTW General Manager**
180 5th Street, Unit D
Morden MB R6M 1C9
Phone (204) 822-6223 (ext. 222)
Email: manager@mstw.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.



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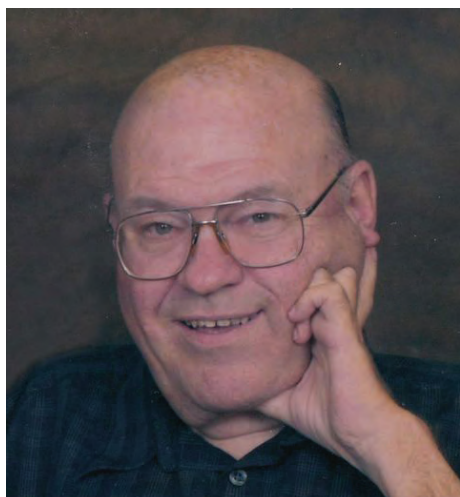
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Announcements

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The Winkler Morden
Voice

IN MEMORIAM



Donald Gordon Boulton
March 15, 1947 – March 1, 2018

One year ago
His smiling way and pleasant face,
Are a pleasure to recall;
He had a kindly word for each,
And died beloved by all.
Someday we hope to meet him,
Someday, we know not when;
To clasp his hand in the better land,
Never to part again.
-Love Margaret, Korina, Robyn
and families

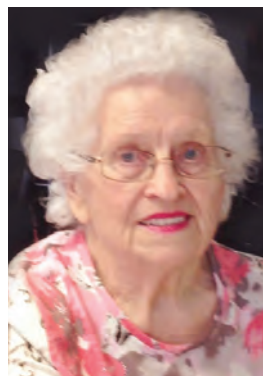
IN MEMORIAM



Evelyn Giesbrecht
1931 - 2017

You can only have one Mother,
Loving, kind, and true;
No other friend in all the world,
Will be so true to you.
For all her love and kindness,
She asked for nothing in return;
If all the world deserted us,
To our Mother we could turn.
For those of you who have a Mother,
Treasure her with care;
For you will never know what heartache is,
Till you see she is not there.
To hear her voice, to see her smile,
To sit and talk with her awhile;
She leaves a place no one can fill,
We love you Mom, and always will.
-Your family

OBITUARY



Olive Julia Kunzelman
(nee Johnson)
1924 – 2019

On Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Olive Kunzelman passed away peacefully with her family by her side.

She will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by her daughter, Bernice Enns (Richard); son, Barry (Nowell); and grandchildren, Michael Enns (Maria), Marci Miller (Brian), Matthew Enns (Leanne), Morgan Lambert (Brent), Andrew Kunzelman (Melissa Wiebe) and Melissa Kunzelman. She will also be fondly remembered by her great-grandchildren, Alexandria and Kaitlin Miller and Dylan and Brooklyn Lambert. She was predeceased by her husband, Philip; one daughter and two sons in infancy; her parents, J.B. and Jona Johnson; sister, Marcelia and brother, Benny.

Olive was born on June 24, 1924 in Morden. She grew up and went to school in the 1-6 district. She married Philip in 1948 and they farmed in the 1-6 district until 1961 when they moved to a farm south of Morden. After Philip's death in 1994, Olive moved into Morden where she lived until her passing. Olive had a lifelong passion for horses and dogs which was evident in her home. She also had a great love for flowers. She spent a lot of time tending her flower beds and was very proud of them. It was a sad day when she decided to give them up. Olive was a farmer's wife and a stay at home mom. When we grew up, Mom started work as a nurse's aide and later as Activities Director at Tabor Home. She worked there for 15 years and developed a great love for the residents. After her retirement to town, she spent a lot of time at the Friendship Centre socializing playing cards and shuffleboard. Over the years, she made many friends and valued them all. She was always positive, non-complaining and had a large smile and twinkle in her eye. She loved to tease and kibbitz with everyone.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden. A private family ash interment will take place in the spring on a nice warm day.

We would like to thank everyone especially her friends at Vista Terrace and Homestead South for making her years so enjoyable. Also thank you for supporting us as a family in our time of grief. We will miss her very much and are very grateful for her amazing, long, healthy and happy life of 94 ½ years. Until we meet again. Love ya, Mom and Gramma!

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Olive's memory to either the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation (designated to Palliative Care) or to the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

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



OBITUARY



Cornelius Braun
1943 – 2019

Cornie Braun, aged 75 of Winkler, MB formerly of Chortitz, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at Boundary Trails Health Centre due to complications of Diabetes.

Cornie will be greatly missed by his wife, Betty Ann (nee Letkeman); one son, Darren Braun; two daughters, Angela and her husband, Robert Peters and Melissa and her husband, Jason Fehr; two grandchildren, Saulomon Fehr and Mackenzie Peters. Also left to mourn his passing are his brothers, John (Irene), George (Linda) and Peter (Susan) as well as sister-in-law, Viola Barkman (Randy), brothers-in-law, Dave Penner, Jake Letkeman (Bea) and Gary Letkeman as well as many nieces and nephews.

Dad was a good provider for the family, spending most of his life as a truck driver. He enjoyed celebrations; birthdays, Easter, but especially Christmas. He loved spoiling his family with surprises and gifts, especially his grandchildren Saul and Mackenzie. Dad was larger than life. When he entered the room, you knew it. Dad enjoyed life, family and friends. He had an easy laugh and a gruff exterior that protected the soft heart he had inside. He could be opinionated and stubborn, but also funny and clever. He loved Betty Ann and his family fiercely. We will miss Dad but know that he was at peace at the time of his passing and that we will see him again.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at the Winkler Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church with interment prior at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

As a family we would like to express our gratitude for the care dad received at Boundary Trails Health Centre. Special thanks to Dr. Gacutan for his care, Stephen Siemens, James Peters and the members of the EMM Church for their support.

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



OBITUARY



Elizabeth (Betty) Hildebrand
(nee Wiebe)
1942 – 2019

Betty was born on February 2, 1942 in Southern Manitoba. Betty went to school in Blumenfeld and was raised in the Old Colony Church. She was baptized upon the confession of her faith on May 22, 1961. She married her one and only sweetheart, Cornelius Hildebrand on May 31, 1964 in the Chortitz Old Colony Church. They had three children. They lived close to Morden after their marriage, then moved to Blumenfeld, Osterwick, and then to Winkler for their retirement. For a majority of their married life, they were very involved in and attended the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church in Reinland and in Winkler.

Betty loved life and lived every day to its fullest. She loved music including playing guitar and singing. Some of her favorite times were singing with her family. Betty loved to read and would read the same books over and over. Her Bible is tattered from all its use. Betty loved to sew and knit. She was especially good at embroidery. She could take a bag of rags and create a masterpiece. Betty's biggest loves were God and her family. She spent hours praying for each of her children and grandchildren. Nothing made her happier than when her whole family was together. Her goal in life was that everyone in her family follow Jesus. This became a reality before she went to Heaven.

Betty passed away unexpectedly, yet peacefully on February 21, 2019 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre. Betty's passing leaves a big hole in the family circle, but she would not come back if she could. Betty is survived by her husband and soulmate, Cornelius Hildebrand; three married children, Cornie and Mary Hildebrand who have two sons, Todd (married to Samantha) and Blake, Martin and Teresa Hildebrand who have three children, Kelsey, Kalen, and Sierra, and Lisa and Tim Friesen who have one son, Sampson. Betty was predeceased by her parents, numerous siblings and many friends.

Funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at the Osterwick Cemetery.

If Betty were still here, she would be telling everyone how grateful she was for all the love and support for her family during this difficult time. Betty was always the first one to help wherever help was needed. When her grandson, Sampson was adopted from Liberia, she was determined to help other kids in Liberia. In her memory, please consider giving to "Learning With Laughter" an organization that sends children to a Christian school in a very poor area of Liberia.

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OBITUARY



Mary Anne McGregor

Mary Anne McGregor, beloved wife of George McGregor, passed away on February 21, 2019 at Boundary Trails Hospital. She was born on May 7, 1922 in Grawnes, County Cork, Ireland, and was predeceased by her parents Helena and Patrick Murphy; brothers Jim, Michael and Patrick and her sister Margaret. She is survived by George, her husband of 72 years; her daughter Helena (Burke) Wilson and sons Glenn (Lorna) McGregor, Michael (Linda) McGregor, Jim McGregor and Kevin (Florence) McGregor; grandchildren David (Amanda) Wilson, Julie Wilson, Bruce Cooke, Marie McGregor (Kevin), Laurie McGregor (Sam), Steven McGregor (Sarah), Colin McGregor, Nolan McGregor, Katherine McGregor, Amy McGregor and Kim (Brock) Jansen as well as six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters Eileen Hartnett, Delia Ryan and brothers Peter (Moiria) Murphy, Brendan (Eileen)

Murphy as well as many nieces and nephews.

Our mother was second oldest of nine children. She was raised on a farm situated in an area called Grawnes in the Beara Peninsula known for its spectacular views from high cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Trade restrictions at the time made life very difficult for the Southern Irish so to supplement the family's income as a teenager Mom worked as a maid in the nearby manor homes built by the British. During the war she travelled to England to find work and she met George McGregor, a Canadian airman. When George shipped back to Canada he returned to Manitou and purchased a quarter section of land in the New Haven District. Mary came to Canada to join him. George converted to Roman Catholicism and they were married on May 10, 1947.

With a family of five children (Helena, Glenn, Michael, James and Kevin) Mom and Dad worked hard to expand the farm. Mom missed her family in Ireland, but she made a new home in Manitoba. Their first house had a wood or coal burning stove with no forced air or running water and initially there was no electricity. To make the seven-mile trip to town it was often necessary to use the horses in the winter. The laundry and the many diapers were washed in a wringer washer and dried on a clothes line year round. Mom made most of the clothes for the children on her sewing machine and hand knitted socks, mitts and sweaters. The large garden provided fresh food in the summer and then harvested fruit and vegetables were canned in sealers for food during the winter. Mom helped hand-milk the cows and separate the raw milk on a hand cranked cream separator to provide an important bit of steady household money from the cream cheque. For them, for their neighbours, and for most of their generation, the life they built and accomplishments they achieved were founded on hard work and strong resolve.

In 1960 the family moved to a larger farm and a bigger more modernized house closer to Manitou. There were no longer the requirements to make clothes for the children or hand milk cows, but Mom kept her huge garden. One of her young grandchildren nicknamed her "Grandma Digger" because of her constant gardening. Each year she won prizes at the Manitou fair for her entries in the clothing, flowers, vegetables and baking categories. With children no longer at home and their livestock sold Mom enjoyed travelling with Dad throughout Europe, the United States, Cuba and Mexico. She returned to Ireland many times to re-acquaint herself with her large extended family. After returning home from a trip Manitou was always proclaimed the best place to live of all the places visited. To Mom the wheat fields waving in the prairie breeze reminded her of the ocean she was familiar with as a child. The family spread out and moved away, but the grandkids were always eager to visit, and they were always assured of a loving welcome. She thanked God for her family and their health. Mom and Dad retired in 1987 and moved to Elks Place in Morden in 1996. In 2016 they moved to Homestead South in Morden.

The family will always remember Mom for beating her sons at cribbage, her strong will, her love of laughter, her boundless love and concern for her family, her love of her home and garden, the steadfast relationship with her soulmate and husband.

Donations in Memory of Mary Anne McGregor can be made to the Tabor Home, 450 Loren Drive, Morden, Manitoba R6M0E3

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OBITUARY



Georgina Sharon Doell June 22, 1943 - March 2, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sharon Doell at the Boundary Trails Health Center, after a lengthy and courageous struggle with cancer.

She leaves to mourn her mother, Viola M Doell of Winkler; sister and brother-in-law, Colleen and Robert (Bob) Carter; nephew, Chris Carter and his wife, Maegan; great-niece, Chloe, all of Winnipeg, many other relatives and friends. Sharon was predeceased by her father, George Doell in 2002.

Sharon was born and raised in Winkler. After completing school, she lived in Winnipeg until 2000, although she spent seven years in Lynn Lake, MB during the late 60s and early 70s. She returned to live in Winkler in 2000. While in Winnipeg, Sharon graduated from the New Horizons career program and became the public education coordinator for Anxiety Disorders of Manitoba (ADAM). In Winkler, Sharon worked at Linden Place, retiring in 2005. After returning to Winkler, Sharon reconnected with the Trinity Lutheran Church and became involved in church life including Bible study classes, singing in the choir, and playing the organ for church services. In spite of her illness, she was grateful to be able to play for the Christmas Day service. Six days later, she was admitted to Boundary Trails and remained there until her death. While she was there, she remained hopeful and optimistic that she would be able to return home, however, her condition deteriorated rapidly in the last several weeks. After being diagnosed with cancer in April 2018, Sharon's concern was not for herself, only for those people, especially her mother, whose lives would be affected by her illness. In spite of the many health challenges she experienced during the last number of years, her faith in God sustained her and she remained positive and focused on the future. She was a generous and kind individual. Her pets were everything to her and they received nothing but love and attention. She had a gift of taming even the most reluctant and timid of animals. Sharon was also blessed with a musical gift that provided her with hours of enjoyment. She was proud to be the pianist for the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Winkler, honoring her father, uncle and great-uncle all of whom served in the Canadian Forces.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler, Pastor Alex Klages officiating. Ash interment will take place at the Winkler Cemetery at a later date.

Thanks to the caring staff at Boundary Trails, especially the nurses on the medical ward, also CancerCare Manitoba, both the Winnipeg and the Morden offices. Special thanks to the many people who supported Sharon during her journey, the people who prayed for her and with her, those who visited her and helped look after her home and pet.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CancerCare Manitoba or the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

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



OBITUARY



Helen Marjorie Godkin 1922 - 2019

Peacefully at Tabor Home in Morden, MB on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at age 96 Marjorie Godkin passed away. She was predeceased by her sisters, Mildred, Hazel, Elaine and her brother, Garner and will be remembered by many nieces and nephews.

She was born in Morden, May 21, 1922 to the late Garner and Maggie (Saunders) Godkin. Marjorie joined the Women's Army Corps at 18 and worked in the motor pool until 1945. She went on to enjoy a nursing career in Quebec and Manitoba. In 1987, Marjorie retired to Morden where she enjoyed visiting with friends and family, puzzles, her daily soaps, crafting and running a craft shop out of her home. She started the Morden Craft Show which

continues annually. Marj will be missed - she had a wonderful sense of humour and lived her life well.

We thank staff and volunteers at Legion House, Boundary Trails Health Centre, Agassiz Medical Centre, Pembina Manitou Health Centre and Tabor Home, for their care and compassion to Marjorie over the years.

At Marjorie's request, her body has been contributed to the University of Manitoba for the advancement of medicine.

There will be no memorial service at this time.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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