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Fancy footwork



Alison Convery on the ice at the Morden Figure Skating Club's spring carnival Sunday. For more photos, including those from the Winkler and Altona clubs' year-end showcases, see Pg. 17.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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"The single hardest budget we've ever had to work at"

Garden Valley SD weighing major cuts as provincial funding, tax revenue falls short

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division is being forced to make some tough decisions as it drafts its 2022-2023 budget.

Soaring inflation, a hobbled ability to reap the tax benefits that come from being in a growing community, and a continued drop in funding from the provincial government all add up to cuts for the next school year, the division shared at a virtual public meeting last week.

"I have never experienced this in my 12 years as a trustee," said board chair Laurie Dyck after the meeting, echoing comments made by fellow long-time trustee John Klassen at the event that this is "the single hardest budget that we've ever had to work at."

This is the second year GVSD has seen a reduction in funding from the province, Dyck noted, which has also directed school boards not to increase the mill rate to take in more in education taxes. There is offset funding of two per cent for GVSD, but it is not enough to actually cover the differ-

ence in the costs of running public schools year over year.

"We can't generate revenue like we have been able to in the past through property tax, so that has bound us there," Dyck said of the \$20.9 million special levy the board approved last week—the same amount in local tax revenue it received for the 2021-2022 school year.

Tax revenue makes up about a third of the money the division has to play with for the year. Funding from the province—which has been reduced 2.5 per cent—makes up about 66 per cent.

Capping taxes means the division isn't able to make the most of the fact the area it serves is among the fastest-growing in the province, despite also having to deal with the extra costs that growth generates in schools.

"The new builds, the businesses moving in ... that growth comes with more families, more children, and those children likely are attending public schools," Dyck said. "It costs money to school children."

Further complicating matters is the fact GVSD's provincial funding for the 2022-2023 school year is tied to the enrolment data available last September.

Over the past two years, 800 students have been pulled from Garden Valley schools in favour of homeschooling or private schools.

"That's two school's worth of kids," Dyck said, explaining the exodus was spread out across the division but has hit some schools worse than others.

Pre-pandemic, the number of homeschooled kids in the division was around 500. Now it's over 1,300.

Many families pulled their children due to anger at the enforcement of public health orders in local schools, including the requirement for students to wear masks, for example. There were also a small number of families who kept their kids home due to safety concerns relating to COVID-19.

"People have that right, that's their choice," Dyck stresses, adding the division will happily welcome those families back to public schooling when and if they feel comfortable returning.

The wrinkle, though, is the division has no idea if it will receive additional provincial funding to cover these returning kids—and no way of knowing exactly how many of them to expect back in class this fall.

"The problem is that how are we going to put educators in front of the



kids if all 800 of them show back up? Never mind the natural growth of our area," Dyck says. "We're going to have other people move in and new children coming into kindergarten. All of those things are on top of [the returning homeschooled kids]"

Even if less than half of the pulled students return—say, 300 or so—the division simply does not have enough money right now to staff the classrooms needed for those kids, Dyck said.

The province in its funding letter to GVSD indicated it is open to discussing the issue of additional funding for returning students, she noted, but there was no firm plan or formula for what kind of dollars divisions may be able to appeal for, nor when that funding will be made available.

GVSD enrolment last September was projected to be 4,385 students. The actual number was 3,662 (the huge drop was due to more families than expected opting to keep their kids home as pandemic restrictions continued; by January enrolment had dropped further to 3,605 students) and that 3,662 is what the division is receiving funding for in 2022-2023.

That means cuts are going to be necessary to come anywhere near close to a balanced budget (though a deficit is far more likely, for the second year in a row).

With staffing costs making up 80 per cent of the division's budget, it's there that some of those cuts will be made, Dyck said. There will be fewer teachers and support staff in Winkler area schools starting this fall.

"All schools will feel the impact and all areas of staff to some degree are going to see it," Dyck said.

The division will also reduce professional development budgets across the board, hold off on replacing aging school buses (despite the fact several in the fleet have been in service for 15-20 years), and reduce school and

board discretionary spending by four per cent.

That last one means less money for basically everything a teacher uses to teach and a student uses to learn, never mind any fun extras.

"Less paper printing, less book buying—can we make due with what we have? Less meals, less field trips, less art supplies. Less, less, less," Dyck said.

"Can a home ec. class work on less of a budget? Can an industrial arts shop work with less of a budget? Where can you trim?" she said, noting rising costs at the same time make these even more challenging questions. "That's what we're working on with our senior admin. team, our principals. Everyone's quite engaged in figuring out how to make this work."

But they're all trying to find ways to trim the fat from what Dyck maintains is already a very efficient local education system.

"Garden Valley School Division has run a very efficient, lean expenditure budget for years," she said. "For many years we have had less senior admin staff, we have had less support staff. We have worked to be as efficient as possible with our dollars ... some of the significant cuts that they're asking us to make, for our school division, that's digging really deep right now."

The division will continue its talks with the provincial government on all these funding challenges, Dyck said. She encourages local residents to contact their MLA (Cameron Friesen in Morden-Winkler, Josh Guenter in Borderland) if they'd like to voice their concerns about public schools financing in Manitoba.

GVSD will unveil its budget, with firm numbers and all the necessary cuts, later this month. The board of trustees needs to approve it and have it to the province by March 31.

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Morden calling for changes at dangerous intersection

Three accidents in one day at First, Thornhill

By Lorne Stelmach

There have been renewed calls for more measures to be taken to address safety concerns around a busy Morden intersection.

A recent weekday that saw three accidents occur within one afternoon at First St. and Thornhill St. may have helped put it back on the front burner with the province.

At the very least, the City of Morden is pressing for turn signals to be installed there, as was done in the past year down the road at the Mountain and Thornhill intersection.

"I found it odd that Mountain and Thornhill is the intersection that got done and not First and Thornhill," observed Mayor Brandon Burley. "We are leery of the high volume of traffic ... it's only a matter of time where, left to its own devices, that the corner leads to severe poor outcomes.

"We're asking for a similar solution at a minimum," said Burley, who came away from a recent meeting with Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Doyle Piwniuk encouraged that the concerns will be addressed.

"They are promising a full and a new review of that corner," he said, noting he wonders how measures such as turn signals could have been rejected previously.

"One was completed two years ago at our request with Mountain and Thornhill, and that led to a left turn light there but nothing at First and Thornhill, so we're asking for them to review it again, and they're promising a quick review this spring."

Burley noted the city certainly has the data to back the request up.

"We have collision reporting both for that intersection and for Mountain and Thornhill. We supplied that to the province ... and we were able to supply collision data for Mountain and Thornhill and demonstrate the reduction in accidents at that corner ... so we've provided all that analysis for them.

"It was my impression that the meeting went very well and that we were able to successfully make our

point, and there seemed to be a consensus. So I'm hopeful there will be a resolution."

The mayor noted that they are also pressing for some other traffic safety measures.

"The other things we raised in that meeting were speeds coming into town on the east approach and west approach. We've asked for three years for reduction in speed before you hit the Boston Pizza corner ... we have submitted several requests for updates on it.

"The other is addressing that gravel at the awkward intersection of Willcocks and Mountain. We're looking for that to be completed."

The city has asked for the speed limit on the eastern entrance to Morden to be reduced to 70 kph by the time drivers reach Road 27W. They also want the 50 kph zone moved further out to the Boston Pizza corner.

There has also been some discussion about other measures such as turning lanes, but some of those may be longer term projects.

"That is all on our list of requests," said Burley, who hopes the turning lights at least could be in place by this summer. "We'll continue to lobby for all of it ... there's broad consensus that something needs to happen ... I think there's a pretty good understanding of what needs to happen."

'THERE ARE TOO MANY ACCIDENTS'

MLA Friesen said he wasn't pleased by the traffic department's decision just last year that there was no rationale for a turn signal at First and Thornhill.

"I was dissatisfied with that response, abrupt response ... it is a concern to me, it is a concern to the city," he said, noting they asked the department to analyze it again. "The fact is ... there are too many accidents. We need to be able to move traffic effectively ... it's a safety concern that needs resolving, so I told them please call this one priority for our city. We've got their attention.

"Our government has also been working hard to be able to devolve more decision making ability to communities. That's ongoing," Friesen noted. "There's highway infrastructure that essentially travels through municipal domains, and in those places, we're working to try to de-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The City of Morden has requested the province to put in a turning lane at the intersection of Thornhill St. and First St. and also lower the speed limit on Hwy. 3 as it enters town.

volve more decision making capability right to the municipal authority."

In a request for comment, a provincial spokesperson noted Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) "has been reviewing relevant data to confirm the most appropriate solution, with the knowledge that Morden is growing rapidly and further assessment of traffic volumes

may be required in the future to mitigate congestion and ensure safety on Manitoba's highways.

"MTI has been working closely with the City of Morden throughout the review and will be meeting with city officials in the near future to confirm next steps, including possible improvements to the intersection starting this summer."

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Ukrainian concert a success

Over \$13K raised for humanitarian aid

By Ty Dilello

Altona area residents showed their support for Ukraine in a big way by attending a concert last Friday night to raise money for relief efforts.

The evening included performances from Callum Morrison, Seolah Kim, Ashley Wiens, Ainsley Mariani, Felice Mariani, Manny Araullo, Nolan Kehler, Loren Hiebert, Michael Luptak, Kevin Neufeld, Nolan Hildebrand, Nancy Neufeld, Wanda Friesen, Emily Hildebrand, and the River City Syncopators.

Morrison, who in addition to performing was also the evening's organizer, was delighted to report that

show raised over \$13,000.

"It was my first time putting on an event like this. It was both a challenge and very rewarding. I feel touched that the people of my town answered the call and donated prizes, auction items, art, and their hearts to the people of Ukraine," he said.

"It's amazing that an event organized in only a week we had such a wide range of performers, and local businesses and artists contributing. I really felt overwhelmed by a great feeling of community spirit. But we were not just united as Altonans and Manitoban—as one of our performers put it, we were all united as 'Ukrainians in Spirit.'"

All funds that were raised from the evening will go to Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Ukraine Emergency Response, which aims to provide psychosocial support and trauma



PHOTOS BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Altona lent a hand in the Ukraine relief efforts by raising over \$13,000 with a special concert that was held at Seeds Church last Friday night.



healing, temporary emergency housing, emergency distributions of locally purchased emergency supplies such as blankets, and distribution of food packages.

Morrison's friend in Ukraine, Anton Sachko, recorded a video address for the concert that spoke of reality on the ground as the war rages and the need for humanitarian aid grows.

Sachko guards a bridge every day in his small town near Lviv.

"I think one of the most important things is to hear from those who are directly affected," noted Morrison. "Listen to their concerns and understand what we can do to help. I asked him what he thought of the performance that was live-streamed on YouTube, but sadly he has been unable to watch it yet as he's currently sheltering in a basement."

Local dignitaries and politicians were very pleased to be on hand to show their support at the concert, noting the Altona area has had a large Ukrainian population since its inception.

"What's going on in Ukraine isn't that far away with all of our connections here, even though it's seven time zones away," noted Altona Mayor Al Friesen. "This concert was a great initiative, and all of the artists have done a wonderful job."

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter said the Government of Manitoba is preparing for Ukrainian immigrants to come to the province.

"We've committed \$650,000 to the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Ukrainian Congress, and we know there's more to come," he said. "The refugees won't have to pay the \$500 fee for the Provincial Nominee Program, as we are waiving that."

"We've also set up a website for Manitobans to show support for refugees arriving to Canada with things like housing and food."

You can find that website at manitoba4ukraine.ca.

You can also donate to MCC's work in Ukraine by scanning the QR code below.





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Burley announces plans to run for a second term

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley will seek re-election in this fall's municipal election.

Burley cited a number of factors in making the decision to seek a second term, but they all ultimately came down a common denominator.

"Faith in the organization and faith in our city is what really pushed me over to the decision to run again," Burley said in an interview Monday.

"What overcomes it all is a belief in this city that we will be able to continue to grow in the right ways and a belief in the people of Morden," he said, acknowledging it was not an easy decision given the challenges of the past four years ranging from Morenet to his outspoken approach on COVID-19.

"It hasn't been an easy four years, but it has been a worthwhile four years," said Burley. "The adversity we've faced as council has really pulled us together and really forged

us a group. I'm extremely proud of this council, and I wish I could bring them all back for another four years, but I know that may not be a reality."

For Burley, who grew up in Calgary but has called Morden home now for two decades, having the support of his family was key for him in making the decision, but he also touched on a couple other considerations.

"When you feel passionate about something ... you always risk some heartbreak if you lose," he said. "I love our community, and I'm passionate about it ... and I was reminded that if you love but are not willing to be vulnerable, then you question your passion."

"We've developed a lot of good chemistry with this council," Burley added. "There's people on this council and our crew who are extremely passionate about the city and have worked well for positive outcomes, and I've been fortunate enough to be able to lead them."

He then asked himself if he was pre-

pared to continue on in the mayor's chair if it turned out to be a new council team.

"I'm confident that the city will once again be able to elect people who are about our city and who care about what comes for our children," said Burley.

He feels good about what has been accomplished but sees that there is more that still needs to be done.

"We've got long term objectives around water that have to be carried through on as well as wastewater ... I would like to have the opportunity to see that through."

"But I would caution against electing somebody just for the sake of continuity," Burley added. "We need to elect based on energy and ideas and passion. Those are the things that really move communities forward and have them succeed."

"The groundwork has been laid for the next council to act boldly, and the time is now," he concluded. "I'm optimistic about the future of the commu-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley intends to run for re-election this fall.

nity, whether it's myself or somebody else leading it."

Access CU once again named a top employer

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been an annual accolade for Access Credit Union now eight years in a row, but it is not an honour that can be taken for granted.

Named again recently as one of Manitoba's top 30 employers, Access Credit Union needs to constantly strive to meet those expectations, a representative suggested last week.

"The bar keeps being raised for what being a top employer means," said chief marketing officer Adam Monteith.

"Eight years is a long time, and while we believe our core values make us a great place to work and provide us a solid foundation, it is a continual effort to meet and exceed those expectations for nearly 400 staff across all of Manitoba," he said, adding there is also "an expectation that will grow to nearly 800 employees with our successful merger with Sunova and Noventis Credit Unions."

Manitoba's Top Employers designation is an annual program organized by the editors of *Canada's Top 100 Employers* which recognizes the Manitoba companies offering exceptional places to work.

In addition to this honour, the \$6.2 billion credit union was also named one of Canada's best employers for recent graduates, according to *The Ca-*

reer Directory.

Published annually since 1992, *The Career Directory* is Canada's longest-running employment guide for recent college and university graduates.

Highlights in Access' winning submission include the development and engagement of staff as well as a continued focus on member service and innovative technologies.

"It is an affirmation that we are doing the right things," suggested Monteith. "The job market continues to change, and we continue to shift with it."

"The recruitment of top talent has al-

ways been a key part of our strategy, and being recognized externally for creating an environment that people want to work in is one of our greatest opportunity for maintaining and improving on our success there."

Building on Access' three main priorities—members, people and culture, and future outlook—the financial institution has strived to create a culture of accountability, empowerment, and trust, said CEO Larry Davey. It is this commitment to a corporate culture that encourages employees to make decisions, share ideas, and develop their careers that has contributed to Access Credit Union earning acco-

lades year after year, he said.

"We have worked hard to build a workplace culture that meets the evolving needs of our staff, who will then meet the needs of our members," Davey said. "For eight years, this recognition has confirmed that we're doing the right things to make Access the place everyone wants to be; both for their financial needs and their place of employment."

Some benefits of working at Access include paid training and continuing education, flexible hours and work locations, matched pension plans, competitive salaries, and the opportunity to contribute to the community.

Rhineland appealing census data

By Ty Dilello

The RM was surprised last month after the 2021 Statistics Canada Census noted that the municipality registered a 2.1 per cent drop in population between 2016 and 2021 (from 5,945 to 5,819 residents).

Reeve Don Wiebe was not expecting a massive increase in the population, but they certainly did not see a decrease in the cards.

In his speech at the Altona Chamber

of Commerce annual general meeting last week, Wiebe spoke on how accurate population counts play a critical role in building public policy and affect grant funding that is doled out on a per capita basis.

And so, with those high stakes on the line, the RM of Rhineland is officially launching an appeal.

"We are contesting the population decline because it just doesn't make sense," Wiebe said. "We had over 100 homes built last year and have no va-

cancies. We don't know of any rural homes that we can buy either. So we are now contesting the census count."

The municipality is building a case to launch a formal appeal into the census totals, Wiebe said. It will include official building permits and immigration numbers for the municipality along with settlement patterns.

Administrators are also checking to see if some residents were possibly overlooked with the census surveys.

The **Voice**



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Alberta blows

have to say—Alberta really blows this winter.

In an average season Manitoba might see anywhere from five to 25 Alberta Clippers as they sweep vigorously across the country like a curler responding to a poorly thrown rock. According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, they usually occur between December and January.

Of course this season it seems as if there have been about 2,374 clippers (or at least enough to form a Los Angeles basketball team) coming with such frequency that I have begun to wonder aloud if we need a name for a new weather phenomenon.

I mean, what would you call an Al-



By Peter Cantelon

berta Clipper that starts in December and ends in March as one long, seemingly endless blast of unwanted air?

Personally, I have suggested names such as: an Alberta Parliament, Alberta Blowhard, and Alberta Wind Tunnel (although either Justin Trudeau or Pierre Poilievre would be just as suitable titles).

Some of my more imaginative friends have contributed as well. Carla suggested Alberta Bluster or Alberta Tirade while Graham christened it an Alberta Convoy. Mike wondered why Manitoba doesn't develop a Mauler that heads west to seek retribution.

Really, this is all British Columbia's fault because these things form as warm, moist air rises from countless Vancouver cappuccino machines (or from the Pacific Ocean, I can't remember which), hit the Rocky Mountains, lift to cooler climes and then plummet down the eastern side into Alberta and beyond with wild and reckless

abandon.

Clippers are basically the weather version of that annoying 12-year-old kid that keeps sledding down the steep golf course hill again and again, bowling over hapless younglings along the way and laughing as they go.

Don't get me wrong: I appreciate the snow these have been bringing and part of me is hoping for a quick spring melt so that Lake Minnewasta's watershed gets a rapid refill before it's all absorbed. I cannot begin to imagine the amount of power generated by the wind farms around here either but it certainly must be enough to power a small country.

Weather is interesting in how it shows human forgetfulness. I mean, we have had a reasonably average winter so far in terms of temperature and snowfall but some make this season feel like the worst winter they've

Continued on page 7

letters

THANK THE RIGHT PEOPLE

A letter in the March 10 *Voice* "Misleading ad" questions the "Thank You Truckers" ad in an earlier edition of the paper.

The writer correctly suggested the trucker convoy and subsequent chaos it created in Ottawa as well as others parts of Canada did not have any influence on the lifting of COVID mandates.

The ad in question said the truckers should be thanked. My reply is:

For what? Should they be thanked for disrupting traffic on the highway leading to Boundary Trails Health Centre and hindering people on their way to and from that hospital? Should they be thanked for bringing traffic between Winkler and Morden to a crawl and preventing people from getting to either city? Should they be thanked for shutting down the PTH 75 border crossing at Emerson and disrupting the efforts of fellow truckers who decided their work

was more important than taking part in an illegal blockade?

And should we thank truckers for invading downtown Winnipeg and disrupting traffic and the lives of downtown Winnipeggers? And what about the invasion and occupation of downtown Ottawa and the ensuing noise, disruptions of lives and traffic, abuse, threats and harassment of innocent (and law-abiding) residents and cursing and threatening our

Continued on page 7

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Roussin delivers final regular COVID-19 briefing

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's top doc held his final regularly scheduled COVID-19 briefing last week.

Coming one day after the last of the province's public health orders expired, chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin emphasized at a virtual news conference March 16 that Manitoba is transitioning into the next phase of the pandemic—learning to live with the virus.

"We're certainly at a different place in this pandemic," he said. "We've been able to change our approach from strict public health measures to public health recommendations. That guidance is now available online to help support people in their own decision making to assess their level of risk when it comes to things like mask wearing, physical distancing, and how many people they're comfortable with gathering."

The past two years have been filled with loss and divisiveness, Roussin observed, and it's time to move forward.

"We know that COVID-19 will very likely be part of our lives for years to come, so we can't wait for COVID-19 to be gone before we start our journey of healing."

Roussin called on Manitobans for understanding and compassion.

"We may not have agreed on the best approach on public health measures ... we may not all agree on the timing of the loosening of the restrictions, but I'm sure we can all agree that all Manitobans have been faced with tremendous challenges and difficulties during these last two years.

"We see businesses now, some choosing to keep the proof of vaccine, others leaving that in the past. Some people will continue to wear masks, others will give that up. For many, these choices aren't easy. But we sure can make it easier on each other if we show some respect, kindness, compassion for other people's decision as we navigate this transition period."

Even with restrictions gone, modeling suggests Manitoba will continue to see a downward trend overall in

COVID-19 hospitalizations, Roussin said.

On Monday, the province's online COVID-19 dashboard had 388 people in hospital with the virus (down 26 from the Monday before) and 22 in ICU (up two). The death toll was at 1,731.

Manitoba has already begun shutting down its pandemic infrastructure. Numerous testing sites were set to close this week and many vaccination supersites—including the one in Morden—are already closed, with more to follow in the weeks ahead. Roussin said embedded in these closure plans are plans to reopen testing and vaccination services again if needed in the future.

Vaccines will continue to be offered through clinics, pharmacies, and at the supersite at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, which will remain open for now.

Health officials will continue to actively monitor COVID-19 indicators here in Manitoba, nationally, and around the world, Roussin stressed.



SCREENSHOT

Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer, appealed to Manitobans again for understanding and compassion as we move to a new phase of the pandemic.

"This is the last formal COVID-19 briefing, but I can assure Manitobans that our work on this virus is not stopping at this point."

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

country's leaders?

And then there's the desecration of a symbol of the sacrifices tens of thousands of Canadians made to ensure the freedom of Canada and the vandalism of a statue of a young Canadian who single-handedly did more for our country than all these truckers combined.

However, to be fair, we should thank the trucker convoy for showing us their lack of knowledge of our country, of current events, and of history. Why else would they wave American, Confederate and Nazi flags? Why else would they demand the governor-general replace our elected government? Why else would they think Canada had a First Amendment which guaranteed the right of peaceful assembly?

The convoy also showed us the insidious invasion of Canada by right wing

extremists from the United States and beyond. It's interesting, isn't it, that the flags of choice for many protestors were the Stars and Stripes, the Confederate battle flag, and the Nazi flag?

Sorry, truckers, I don't thank you for bringing about the end of COVID mandates. I thank the millions of Canadians who took the COVID threat to themselves, their families and fellow Canadians seriously and did the right things by wearing masks, distancing, isolating and being vaccinated. Thank you all.

Don Radford,
Altona

STOP THE NONSENSE

Can anyone imagine what my mom went through last month?

On a Friday in February her husband

fell and temporarily lost consciousness. He got brought to our local hospital and Mom was told by the ambulance attendants that she would be allowed to see him.

Later she was told that she would have to wait five days! When she talked to him on the phone on Saturday and Sunday he kept asking "Where are you? Where are you? I want to hold your hand."

She went there on Monday and Tuesday and pled to see him, but the answer was still no. On the phone she couldn't make out what he was trying to say, he was getting too weak.

Wednesday was five days so she went there, along with a pastor, totally expecting to go see him. Still "NO." She went home crying again.

She wasn't home very long when a doctor called and said she could go see him now. She got to the hospital and

the nurses still wouldn't let her in, until finally they got word from the doctor that had talked to her.

She could then see and talk to her husband and hold his hand, but he was way too weak to say anything, just a few grunts.

She was there for most of the 24 hours before he died.

Now let's say this was your spouse lying in the hospital and the last words you ever hear her/him saying (by phone) are "Where are you? Where are you? I want to hold your hand! Where are you? I love you."

And I have heard of other cases that are far worse than this. Can someone PLEASE tell all your doctor friends and nurses to stop this nonsense?

Andy Fehr,
Winkler

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

ever experienced.

Last year I never used my snow blower once. This year I have easily used it close to a dozen times, so perhaps contrast is the real culprit.

We didn't really hear much about Alberta Clippers where I grew up in southern Ontario. The effects were rarely felt and when they were we just called them annoying, shovelled out, and moved on.

Well, soon enough they will be done, spring will arrive and we can begin to complain about the next prevailing weather phenomenon. Until that time, however, perhaps we should all take up the hobby of winter kite flying or sending messages on balloons from Morden to Winkler. The mind reels at the options.

getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

SCCR looking for volunteer drivers for its transportation program

The roster is down to about half of pre-pandemic numbers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

South Central Cancer Resource is putting a call out for volunteer drivers for its transportation program.

The program provides cancer patients with door-to-door rides from their home community to local and out-of-town hospitals for their medical treatments.

It started back up again last fall after being shut down for much of the pandemic, albeit with far fewer drivers than before the break.

Pre-pandemic, the program had upwards of 120 volunteers. Now it's about half that, says SCCR program resource coordinator Karla Leite.

"We just haven't had the same number of drivers as we had before, so we're trying to restart the program and recruit new drivers," she says, explaining the program reaches out across SCCR's service area, which stretches from Roblin in the west to Morris and Emerson in the east, north into Dufferin/Carman and all the way south to the U.S. border.

"In all of those areas we need drivers," Leite stresses. "Some we have a few, but we need more. And some areas we have very few or none at all



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Morden's Wanda Hovey has been a volunteer driver for South Central Cancer Resource for several years now. She enjoys combining her passion for driving with the opportunity to help people.

right now."

Volunteer drivers are reimbursed for their mileage, parking costs, and also a meal if necessary.

SCCR's stats for the program record an average of between 3,000-4,000 trips in a year, Leite says, pointing out that some of those trips do include clients who drove themselves or had a friend or family member do it and were then reimbursed for their costs, same as a volunteer driver would be.

For many cancer patients, the rides are a real help during what is a stressful time. Many find themselves hav-

ing to travel for treatment multiple days a week for potentially months.

"It's an important program for the clients who need to get to medical treatment in Winnipeg or even Boundary Trails and who maybe aren't well enough to drive themselves or don't have family or friends available to take them," Leite explains, adding they also have some clients who simply don't have a reliable vehicle they can use and can't risk missing a treatment because of it. "Then our volunteer drivers are extremely important."

Wanda Hovey has been involved with the program for about eight years now. She's currently the driver coordinator for Morden's volunteers.

"It's basically perfect because my two favourite things are driving and helping people. So if I can put that together ..."

Most of her rides are to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Some weeks she finds herself making the trip several times; others, not a one.

It's a flexible way to give back, Hovey observes, and one that is clearly very much appreciated by the people using the service.

"They are always extremely grateful because even clients who have families who are willing to do it sometimes, that's quite the burden if they're going in for 28 treatments, right? So if they can just give us a call ... it's one thing we can totally take off their plate.

"If you've got a heart to help people, this is one of the best things you can do."

Becoming a driver is a pretty simple process. You'll need to have access to a vehicle, pass a criminal record check, and provide a few references.

"Drivers come in all different shapes and sizes," says Hovey. "Some are still working and so they fit this in as kind of an extra. Others, they're retired and they can go almost anytime."

If you're interested in getting involved, contact SCCR at 204-822-9541 or head to their website, www.sccr.mb.ca, for a volunteer application.

Flooding conditions improve a bit in March outlook

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Things are looking a little better when it comes to potential flooding along the Red River this spring.

In its second 2022 spring flood outlook last week, Manitoba's Hydrologic Forecast Centre put the worst-case-scenario for spring flooding at the levels seen along the Red in 2011.

That high risk of flooding is with unfavourable weather conditions—lots of rain or snow over the next few weeks.

With favourable conditions, the risk of flooding is still considered major, though more like the peak levels seen

in 2019 from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet.

"Normal" weather over the coming weeks would put the expected flooding levels close to that seen in 2020.

Red River tributaries, including the Roseau, Rat, and Pembina rivers, are also at a high risk of moderate to major flooding, depending on what the next few weeks of weather brings us.

Due to below normal soil moisture at freeze-up and normal to well above normal winter precipitation, there is high risk of moderate flooding in the Assiniboine River and its tributaries, including Souris River basin, and

in the eastern region, including the Whiteshell Lakes area, the report notes.

The risk of spring flooding is low for Interlake and northern Manitoba regions. The risk of flooding for most Manitoba lakes is also low.

The province notes the predicted peak levels of flooding across Manitoba right now are expected to remain below the dikes and community flood protection levels, which have been raised significantly since the Flood of the Century in 1997.

"The magnitude of the spring runoff on Manitoba's rivers is still very dependent on weather conditions from

now till the spring melt and during the spring melt period," the report stresses. "A late thaw and spring rainstorms could result in a rapid snow melt that increases overland flooding and the flows on tributary streams and the larger rivers.

"A single precipitation event similar to the rainstorm that occurred in the summer of 2014 could change the flood outlook significantly."

The complete March Outlook Report can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/pdf/2022/march_2022_flood_outlook_report.pdf.

Kroeker Farms receives PVWD Conservation Award

By Lorne Stelmach

Their success is very much tied to the natural world, but being environmentally conscious goes even deeper than that for Kroeker Farms.

It's a commitment that recently earned the Winkler-based company the 2022 Conservation Award from the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

The Conservation Award, created in memory of Mike Cabernel, is presented each year to recognize an individual, organization, family or business who actively promotes wise farm management and conservation practices.

"It's a fantastic award, and we're very honoured to receive it," said Kroeker Farms CEO Wayne Rempel, who described the company as having an obligation beyond economics, as we all need to protect and enhance the environment and the resource of our soil.

"The need to take care of the environment is very important to us ... you have to be committed to it, and it has to be more important than profit."

In the early days, potato farmers had a poor reputation for soil erosion, and any time there was dust up in the air during a windstorm, it always was potato farmers that got the blame.

In an effort to change this mindset, Kroekers started trying various things including planting corn rows and even experimenting with Jerusalem artichokes for annual barriers which could trap snow or stop blow-

"THE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US."

ing. They would often have potato fields that would have a strip of corn every few hundred feet.

Of course, it was a multi-step approach. They tried to reduce tillage and tried not to have fields too black. They worked hard at keeping the soil covered where possible, not tilling too much.

One of the things that they found to really be a problem were the tree rows. They knew that trees were very helpful in preventing erosion, but they became more and more of a problem in several ways.

In the years following, Kroekers kept working at solutions. While their tree rows in their fields were very helpful in reducing wind erosion, these tree rows were also a problem in other ways.

As they started irrigating more in the '90s, these rows were in the way for the irrigation systems, which were typically large irrigation pivots. The temptation was to remove the trees to allow for the installation of this equipment. In effect, they were actually going backwards.

The other problem that arose in the wet years was the tree rows were ac-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Deadhorse sub-district chairman Bob Giesbrecht (right) presenting Wayne Rempel of Kroeker Farms with the 2022 Conservation Award on behalf of the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

tually causing a drainage problem.

In early years, PFRA really promoted tree row planting and recommended the rows be planted in a north-south orientation. However, in the western Red River valley, all of the fields drain towards the east, so north and south tree rows actually blocked the water.

This was also a time Kroekers was starting to install drain tile, so they had a tough decision to make, which was to remove tree rows and replant new ones. Over the years, they painfully removed a lot of these rows but replanted many in the proper east-west orientation and on the perimeter of fields.

One of the big things that was done back in the early days of irrigation, and with many of the old tree rows removed, was to plant a cover crop of barley or rye right after the potato crop. Often it was seeded right after harvest was done, but they also spread the rye on before harvest, so it got as fast a start as possible.

Kroekers continued to focus more and more on tree rows and continued the cover crop program—almost every acre of potatoes today gets a cover crop.

Their organic production has put strong emphasis on soil health, so, if anything, they are more devoted to that cause than ever before, and it means again they have zero tolerance for blowing.

Over the years, Kroekers have further developed the tree row system, especially in their organic production.

Tree rows can still be problematic in that they cause large snow drifts and delay planting as well as reduce the wind movement and encourage disease to form more easily in their organic production. To help alleviate

these issues, the company has planted mostly hybrid Poplars that grow fast.

Kroekers also trim them up to 10 or 15 feet high, which means the wind can blow through in summer and not create disease, and they can cultivate close to the tree rows and keep them clean. In winter, when the winds and blizzards come, the snow doesn't get deposited right beside the tree rows but continues through and spreads the snow out over the field, which is a huge improvement.

Besides the cost of maintaining them, the company feels like the tree rows have almost no negative implications but lots of positives because of the contribution to the prevention of soil erosion from wind.

"It's something we work and think about almost every day," said Rempel. "There's nothing that frustrates us more than to see dust in the air ... it's been a goal to reduce soil erosion ever since I started working with the company. It's been a major focus for me."

"And any more trees growing is fantastic," he added. "I think it's really come around ... and things like cover crops; we do lots of organics, so all those things contribute to reducing soil erosion."

"Kroeker Farms Ltd continues to demonstrate leadership in farm sustainability throughout all areas of their production," said Clint Cavers, PVWD GROW co-ordinator. "Their use of shelterbelts, cover crops, organic production methods and crop diversity show their desire to keep land and water health tied to farm productivity and profit."

Kroeker Farms will be recognized at the Manitoba Association of Watersheds conference this December.



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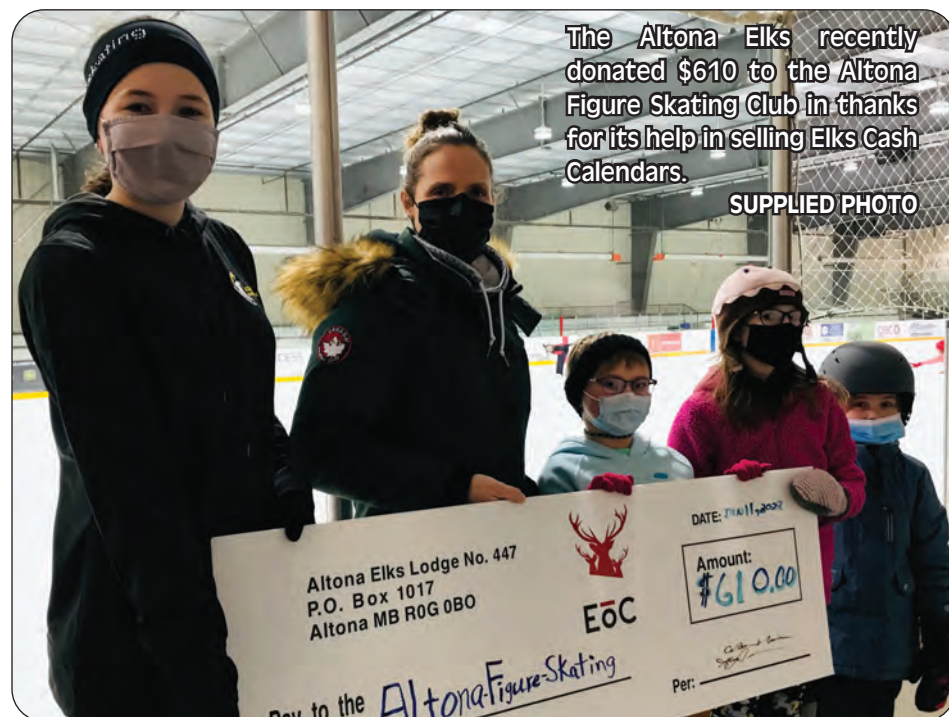
Kroeker Farms' work with shelterbelts won them the 2022 Conservation Award from the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

Altona Elks lending a hand in the community

By Ty Dilello

The Altona Elks Lodge have been supporting families and children

in the Altona area for over 65 years, which makes for quite a lengthy list of programs and projects made possible thanks to its members.



The Altona Elks recently donated \$610 to the Altona Figure Skating Club in thanks for its help in selling Elks Cash Calendars.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

"Individually, we can't do much, but as a group, we can make a difference," said long-time member and lodge leader Guy Mullen. "It's amazing how much a small group of people can make a huge difference in the community."

Last year the Elks donated money to two different families who suffered house fires, Mullen noted. So far this year the club has given back \$610 to the Altona Figure Skating club for their help in selling Elks Cash Calendars. The \$20 calendars give people a one in ten chance of winning a cash prize while also providing the Elks with funds to support even more local charities and projects.

One of the projects on the club's radar right now is the South Central Regional Library Altona branch's move to the Altona Mall. They have an ongoing fundraiser that has currently raised over \$6,000 for the new library. Members have also recently helped out at the library's book and bake sales.

"That's what we do. If any group needs us, we partner with them and help in any way that we can," said Mullen. "We're always working with other groups just to make Altona a little bit better because you can't count on the government for everything."

Mullen and his fellow Elks have heard many stories about the impact of their work, but one really stands out.

"The biggest thing that we did was trying to tackle teen mental health in the community," Mullen shared. "We had speakers come in and did several teen mental health workshops."

"In our very first workshop, there was a secret box that people could put notes in, and we found that there was a little girl who was contemplating suicide. We were able to intervene, and she's still alive, which we're very thankful for."

If you'd like to get involved with the Altona Elks or make a donation, reach out to Mullen at 204-324-7685 or via email to mullenguy@gmail.com.

Morden council presents 3% tax hike, reduction in spending

By Lorne Stelmach

The 2022 budget for the City of Morden manages to reduce overall spending while still limiting the municipal taxes to a three per cent increase.

It is a reasonable hike, Mayor Brandon Burley suggested as the \$16.7 million financial plan received first approval last Thursday.

It represents a substantial 21 per cent decrease in spending from the 2021 budget made possible through careful prioritization and finding a range of cost savings and efficiencies, the mayor explained.

"It's not an exciting budget; it's not necessarily a big hurrah budget, but it's what the city needs right now ... I think it's a necessary budget."

"It's a balanced approach. We really set that as a budget priority," Burley said. "Right now, we're working on getting our capital planning up to speed so the next council can hit the ground running with a vision to build on ... so there's no surprises in the budget for them."

"We're really trying to set up the next council to succeed and the next council after that," he continued. "That was our goal in this budget, to make sure that we were helping set up the success of the city long after we're not here."

The three per cent municipal tax increase is based on a mill rate that rises

from 17.094 to 17.607.

When including the garbage fee of \$158.81, the 2.94 per cent net increase means a home assessed at \$250,000 will have an increase of \$61.10 to a total municipal tax bill of \$2,139.60

Breaking down how that money is spent shows:

- Community services, \$425.76.
- Transportation services, \$397.66.
- Protective services, \$258.89.
- General government services, \$188.55.
- General reserve, \$173.54.
- Sanitation, \$158.81.
- Environmental health, \$142.38.
- Contribution to capital projects, \$117.52.
- Economic development, \$113.06.
- Debenture debt payments, \$87.77.
- Contribution to utilities, \$43.77.
- Public health and welfare, \$31.63.
- Environmental development, \$0.26.

"I don't think you're ever going to be free of a rate increase," Burley suggested.

"If you can find waste, that's great," he said, noting they have found benefit in going back to a system where it is very much driven by the directors of the various city departments, so in a number of key areas they are holding the line on spending. "The savings they've been able to find have been substantial ... we made them

work really hard to justify their budgets this year.

"The other part of it is some of our capital was eligible for expenditure under gas tax revenue, and over the last several years we've had to hold back on gas tax revenue simply because of our financial situation. We were not certain what we had and what we could spend."

"We had some things that just were not viable, and we've had a lot of savings in areas like infrastructure and information technology," Burley said in further addressing the 21 per cent spending reduction.

"There's efficiencies ... we've been extending some life cycles of items," he continued. "I would say the biggest thing over last year was in our vehicle replacement, so we had substantial purchases previously ... but we didn't have those big vehicle replacement costs this year, which really helps long term."

"We've also started fleet leasing vehicles, which is substantially cheaper than us purchasing. So there's a lot of operational savings ... and some of things we're doing this year are high impact but not a lot of costs associated with them, like the Conner Hill park."

Overall, 58 per cent of the city's revenue comes from property taxes, which are generating an additional \$376,234 in revenue.

Another 13 per cent of revenue comes from both from reserve funds and through grants, while 11 per cent is through things like user fees, rentals and permits, and another five per cent is from other miscellaneous sources.

Here is a closer look at the key areas of spending in the budget:

- Fiscal services - 24 per cent of the budget at just under \$4.1 million; decreases by 55 per cent. The biggest change here is the contribution to capital drops \$8.3 to \$3.4 million.

- Community services - 19 per cent of the budget at \$3.2 million and nearly unchanged. The largest items here are almost \$1.7 million for the recreation department and almost \$784,000 for parks and \$338,000 for the beach.

- Protective services - also about 19 per cent of the budget at just under \$3.2 million; increases by three per cent. It includes \$2.2 million for police salaries and benefits and \$261,000 for fire department salaries and benefits.

- Transportation services - 12 per cent of the budget at \$1.9 million; increases by 12 per cent. Most significant areas of spending here include planning and engineering, road work and maintenance, equipment costs, snow clearing and street lighting.

- General government services - 10 per cent of the budget at just under \$1.7 million; increases by 13 per cent.

Continued on page 11

Stay off the lake

By Lorne Stelmach

People were being cautioned last week about going out on Lake Minnewasta after a man fell through the ice.

The message is to not take things for granted, as the ice may still seem stable in some areas but conditions are changing quickly now with the milder weather.

"Weather of course always plays a huge factor in terms of whether it's safe," said beach and campground manager Brian Thiessen.

"You don't necessarily know with every step you take if it's going to be solid," he said. "So you need to use extreme caution if you are planning on going out or you find yourself out on the lake."

The conditions in spots began to change more quickly even just a week after the recent pond hockey tournament.

In one case, a man fell through to about waist depth, and although there were others there to help him, there is an area nearby where the shore does drop more drastically.

"He had said it seemed stable ... so I'm sure it was a surprise indeed," said Thiessen. "We're advising people that with all the warm weather in our forecast ... the ice's stability is decreasing, and of course we're still drawing water ... so all of these things play into it. We also have runoff coming into it."

"The snow can be deceiving. You're not necessarily going to see if it's weak ice underneath or if there's a

big puddle of water underneath the snow. There's lots of standing water right now on the lake, on the ice," said Thiessen.

The Lifesaving Society Manitoba last week was also recommending people stay off all frozen bodies of water in southern Manitoba as the ice becomes unpredictable and potentially unsafe.

Even thick ice may be weak if it is "rotten" or contains layers of snow. Rotten ice has frozen and thawed repeatedly, making it potentially fragile even when it appears solid.

"If you do choose to go on the ice, then you need to plan ahead and be prepared to go through the ice and into cold water," said executive director Stacey Grocholski.

"Wear something that floats, like a lifejacket over your winter clothes, don't go out alone, and be prepared to perform a rescue."

Drowning can occur at any time of the year. In fact, one third of all drownings in Manitoba every year occur during the colder months between October and April, and many of these drownings occur on ice and involve recreational snowmobiling.

The provincial snowmobiling agency was also cautioning snowmobilers throughout the province that ice thickness must be at least five inches of clear hard ice to hold a snowmobile.

"Stay safe by checking ice conditions and staying on groomed trails," stressed Snoman executive director Yvonne Rideout.

Holes, cracks, and soft spots are rapidly forming on Lake Minnewasta and other southern Manitoba waterways as the spring thaw sets in. Officials urge people to be cautious if they venture out on the ice.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



Hog sector making strides for small-town Manitoba

Over 14,000 skilled Manitobans depend on the hog sector for their livelihood, including the compassionate people who take care of the pigs in the barns. Each hog sector job helps sustain up to five jobs in related sectors. From general labourers to highly trained professionals, at the heart of it all is a commitment to ongoing education and training.

Over 30 new barns and expansions have been completed since 2017, providing opportunities for more Manitobans to become involved in raising and producing pork. Every dollar created by the hog sector generates \$2.75 in additional economic activity, and the hog sector contributes \$1.7 billion to the provincial economy every year.

The hog sector is a key contributor to the provincial economy, helping communities thrive and positioning Manitoba as a leader in providing high-quality protein to a growing global market.

To learn more, visit manitobapork.com/economy

SPONSORED CONTENT

> MORDEN BUDGET, FROM PG. 10

It includes \$570,000 for administrative staff; other areas include the IT department, damage and liability insurance and legislative costs.

- Transfers to reserve funds - eight per cent of the budget at \$1.3 million; increases by 15 per cent. This includes money going into replacement reserve fund, general reserve and federal gas tax reserve.

- Environmental health services - four per cent of the budget at almost \$686,000; increases by 6.3 per cent. This includes waste collection and recycling costs.

- Economic development services - three per cent of the budget at almost \$553,000; decreases by 31 per cent. It includes \$350,000 towards community development.

Lesser areas of spending include public health and welfare services and environmental development services.

The city's financial plan for 2022 also

includes the capital budget of over \$11 million.

Of that, \$5.6 million goes towards utilities with some of those projects including the Pembina Valley Water Co-op PTH 23 booster station and new line and booster station to Morden as well as new wastewater treatment system and a lift station near Decor Cabinets.

Next on the capital list is \$2.1 million towards administration projects and primarily for expansion of the civic centre. Another \$1.4 million then goes to community services projects and \$1.3 million to public works.

Among the significant items are a tentative expansion of the fire hall, new cemetery road, new sewer line for construction for 4th and 5th Street, new campground office, tentative new parks shop, Conner Hill park, and spray park water recirculation project.

Fossil discovery centre unveils rare shark fossil

By Lorne Stelmach

The unveiling of a display at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre Friday came with much more significance than just the addition of a new exhibit.

The research that has been going on behind the scenes in connection to the shark fossil is what makes this especially notable for the Morden museum.

It is anticipated that the scientific paper that will be published in the near future in relation to the fossil could confirm this as a new species or variety of shark, and that is what makes it especially exciting for executive director Adolfo Cuetara.

"This is a unique specimen," Cuetara said of the shark skeleton nicknamed Dave in honour of it being found in 1975 on Dave Lumgair's property near Thornhill. "Everything is pointing towards it being a new species because it's very unique ... and it's almost sure it's going to be a new species, but we have to wait until the paper is published."

It was not until a few years ago that this shark fossil was re-discovered after being hidden for many years in storage in the CFDC collections room.

"It was rediscovered in the jacket [the plaster used to protect a fossil when it is removed from the field], and they realized that it was something special," Cuetara said. "At that time they didn't know what kind of species ... and finally, in the last few years, we were able to work on it in the fossil lab."

Fossil shark skeletons are extremely rare due to their cartilaginous composition, which makes fossil preservation difficult. That is the reason why teeth are usually the only fossil remains left from sharks, explained Cuetara.

In this case, however, it is the oppo-



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dave Lumgair takes a look at the rare shark fossil that bears his name. The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre unveiled the new display last week.

site, as the museum has a complete shark skeleton with no teeth.

The preliminary conclusion is that it is a filter-feeder shark, preying mainly on plankton and small fish, and that would make this fossil not only the only near complete shark skele-



ton in Canada but also the only near complete filter-feeder shark skeleton found in the cretaceous Western Interior Seaway in North America.

"So this is a very special unveiling for many reasons," said Cuetara.

Canadian paleo-artist Julius Cso-nyi was commissioned to draw a life-like reconstruction of this shark for the new display, which was sponsored by The Thomas Sill Foundation, the Signature Museums Fund, and Décor Cabinets.

"A lot of people have been working in the last few years, and finally in the last year we were able to finish the preparation," said Cuetara. "It was a long process. Just to build the display, it took almost a year, but it is finally complete, and we are excited about it."

As for Lumgair, whose property also produced the famous mosasaur Bruce, he was reluctant to be in the spotlight.

"I just happened to be there at the right time. I think the shark is far more deserving than I am," said Lumgair.

"It seems to me that things like this are far more valuable ... they're evidence of life in the past," he continued. "So it's got to be shared with the world."

CFAM celebrates 65 years of local radio

By Ty Dilello

It was a special day last week as CFAM Radio 950 celebrated its 65th anniversary from when it first went on the air in 1957.

Golden West CEO Elmer Hildebrand has been there since its inception. One of the radio station's original employees, the station went on the air on March 13, nine days after Hildebrand had his first day on the job.

"Somebody had an idea to do this in Altona, and so they applied to CBC for a license," said Hildebrand. "It was granted, and they started a radio station even though nobody had any idea what they were doing."

"Originally the

first station in Altona covered a good part of southern Manitoba because there was less radio interference in those days. It covered Morden all the way to Steinbach."

Soon after, CFAM went from 1,000 to 10,000 watts because interference was beginning to creep in. They opened a radio station in Steinbach to combat that, acting as a repeater. In 1968, they established CJRB in Boissevain.

From then on, CFAM had a network that covered all of southern Manitoba, including Winnipeg and Brandon. Hildebrand isn't surprised that CFAM has lasted this long, attributing the success to always staying loyal and local.

"The reason that we are still around after 65 years is that we concentrate 100 per cent on local news. We don't care much about Canadian or inter-

national news, as we just put all our effort into creating local news."

Since the '50s, Golden West Broadcasting has grown to include numerous towns across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Northwestern Ontario.


There are so many memorable moments that come to mind over that period of time. One of Hildebrand's favourites is that all the people that have worked at CFAM over the years are from southern Manitoba.

"We had a big staff get-together for this 65th, and they all grew up in this area. That's been a huge part of our success and something that I take a lot of pride in. That's the first thing I did when I became manager in the early 1960s. Prior to that, they were hiring people from all over, and they would stay just long enough to get another job. So we started hiring local, and people stayed."

One of the best examples of this is Al Friesen, who had a lengthy career at CFAM and never had to leave the community. He is now the mayor of Altona.

Hildebrand was thrilled with the 65th anniversary and its celebrations both on-air and off last week. He hopes that CFAM and Golden West

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Lake trail filled with a diverse population of birds, plants

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Stanley Trail Association's 2021 trail user survey provided a detailed overview of who's using the Lake Minnewasta trail and for what (hiking, biking, bird watching, etc.).

The organization also took the opportunity last summer to document some of the plants and birds who share the lake with us humans.

Released alongside the user survey results (which, if you missed it, you can read more about on Pg. 9 of the March 17 edition of the *Voice* via our website archives) were findings from a bird survey conducted by Paul Goossen and a plant inventory courtesy of Doug Kelso.

Goossen, a local bird expert, spent several days out on the trail trying to spot as many feathered friends as he could.

"There were a total of 80 species recorded," he says, noting, however, that it is "not a full representation of what you might see at Lake Minnewasta over the year because the surveys were limited to spring and summer. So birds you see in fall or winter were not included."

Year-round birdwatchers have identified over 160 species at the lake in the past.

"Which is a fairly good number for just that little area there," says Goossen. "It's a wonderful place to walk along and to listen to the birds."

Providing the soundtrack to the lake are scores of songbirds, who made up 55 per cent of the species identified by Goossen. Water birds were the next highest classification at 33 per cent.

"There were a few species at risk spotted as well, which was kind of

neat," Goossen says, pointing to sightings of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Eastern Wood-Pewee and the Western Greb, all of which are listed federally as species under threat or of special concern.

Alongside these rarities were an abundance of Franklin Gulls, Yellow Warblers, Clay-colored Sparrows, Least Flycatchers, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

"I was really surprised to see the number of Yellow Warblers that I encountered on the trail in the spring," shares Goossen. "It was great just to see these little flashes of yellow all around the woodland singing."

A DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

While Goossen was keeping his eyes peeled for birds, Kelso had his sights set on the more rooted inhabitants of the lake.

The plant inventory compiled by Kelso and fellow STA volunteer Leanna Wiebe through June and July found 18 tree species, 16 species of shrubs, and 80 herbaceous species (plants with soft, green stems).

A diversity of habitats surround Lake Minnewasta, Kelso notes, each made up their own of unique plant communities.

"The lake trail is very rich in plants and plant diversity and different kinds of habitats ... it's quite varied around the lake," he says. "There's the lake, of course, so there's aquatic plants, but there's also little ravines and meadowy areas, wooded areas, parkland areas."

The report breaks the lake down into seven distinct plant zones: aquatic, aspen grove, aspen oak parkland, dry



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY PAUL GOOSSEN

A bird survey at Lake Minnewasta last summer found 80 species, including Yellow Warblers and Red-winged Blackbirds.

hill or dry saline, prairie, sheltered valley, and wet meadow and wood.

Wild flowers abound in many of these zones, as do trees and shrubs of all kinds.

"There's one tree which is called an Ironwood, or Hop-Hornbeam. It's a very rare tree," says Kelso, explaining a population of those trees are nestled in the shelter of one of the lake's ravines. "So that's kind of a neat, unusual little treasure of a plant species that you wouldn't really see much."

"And there's a bunch of iconic prairie plants, just little populations of them because there's not a whole lot of area in there, but small populations of a plant called Prairie Smoke ... there's a little population of Manitoba Prairie Crocuses in there, there's some native grasses and some Little Bluestems and Big Bluestems."

"These are all plants that are native plants. They're getting less common and they need kind of natural habitat in order to survive and thrive there."

While the extreme drought last summer meant some common lakeside plants were harder to find than they normally would be, at least one species of grass took the opportunity to shine.

"One grass, a native grass that I have never seen before, appeared," says Kelso. "A good bunch of it showed up ... growing in one area. It's really a short prairie grass that grows in places that are drier than we usually are here in Morden. So it kind of took its moment for that one summer."

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION EFFORTS

Both reports include a list of recommendations that line up quite nicely

with one another.

Goossen and Kelso each call for collaboration among municipalities, urban centres, and environmental organizations to raise awareness of the jewel that is Lake Minnewasta and promote conservation of the plant and wildlife habitats that exist there.

"I think one of the things as the city expands and as there's more development, we need there to be cautious in terms of protecting habitat around the lake and in the forested areas," stresses Goossen. "One of the various threats that we have to North American birds is habitat loss. The more that we can protect habitat the better it is for not only birds but insects, mammals, plants."

"The loss of biodiversity is a pretty big issue and [we need] to maintain whatever biodiversity we have," echoes Kelso. "The plants of course support the insects and the insects support the birds—it's all part of the whole program."

"I'm not talking about trying to put a fence around it or chain myself to a tree or anything here," he jokes. "But having awareness that there is a beautiful and diverse plant community there that should be maintained, or at least should be protected, managed, respected."

The pair also hope to see more educational opportunities created to inform people about what they're looking at as they set out for a hike or bike around the lake.

That might include increased trail signage about the birds, plants, and habitats there, guided nature walks, or videos and other resources for schools and the general public.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY DOUG KELSO

An inventory of plants at the lake reveals a varied eco-system full of plants, including Beebalm (left, also known as wild Bergamot or Monarda) and Prairie Turnip (also known as Prairie Breadroot).

Students share their I Love to Read Month activities at Evergreen school

Submitted by Marissa Waldner,
Evergreen Colony School

For, I Love to Read Month, the Gr. 6-8 students each got a bingo card. On the bingo card we had to dab in the squares by reading different types of books.

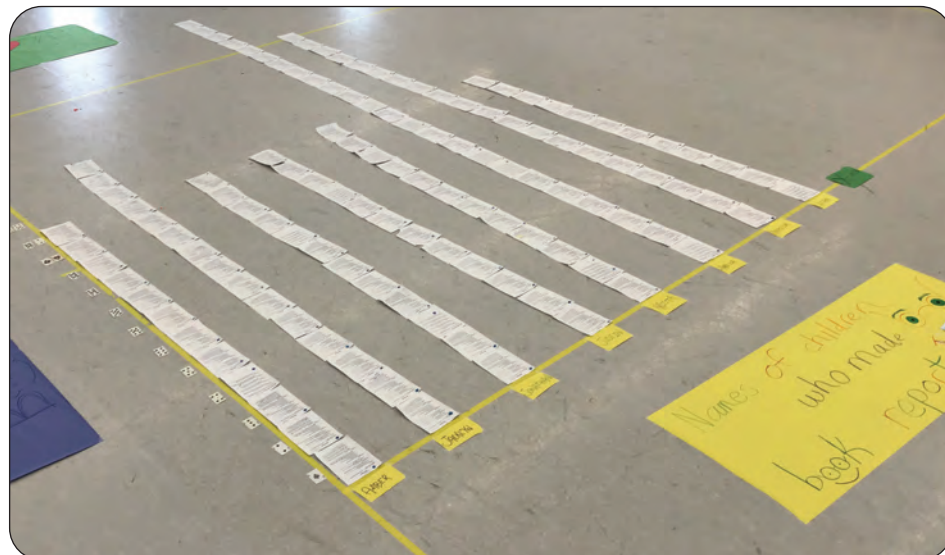
For example, if you read a book about a GIANT you could fill in the square about a book with a character that is not real. Or you could read book about a different subject and fill in that square, but for every book you read you would have to fill out a book report.

For every bingo you made, you were given a privilege. The first Bingo allowed you to come to a party. If you made two bingos you could come to the party and have chips/pops. If you got four bingos, you got to come to the party, get chips, pop, and pizza.

At the party, we played a game where we make up a set of rules for everyone to follow. If you got a blackout bingo, you could eliminate one rule that you do not want play in the game. The blackout bingo meant you had to read 24 books. Only Marissa Waldner got a blackout.

The game works like this: the teacher gives each student five to seven candies. Then you make up a bunch of crazy rules (for example, pat your head three times before standing up, and if you catch somebody not following one of the rules you get to take a candy from them). The game lasts the whole day. Whoever gets the most candy at the end of the day wins.

Jacklyn Waldner won first prize. Amber Stahl won second place. Jonathan and Marissa Waldner won third place. The prizes were chocolate eggs.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Gr. 6-8 students at the Evergreen Colony School near Somerset created a graph to teach the younger kids about their I Love to Read Month project, which included collectively reading and doing book reports for 119 books.

Yummy, chocolate eggs.

The day after the party, our wonderful teacher, Mr. Plante, came up with a bright idea. He told us that we should take our book reports and come down to our big gymnasium.

So we took our book reports and went down to our big gymnasium to find an interesting pattern on the floor. Mr. Plante had placed playing cards on the floor. He told us that we would be making a graph with our book reports. The cards would be used as the scale for counting the number of books that each student read. Then Mr. Plante gave us each a job to do.

Jacklyn Waldner made the Y-axis line. Jonathan Waldner made the X-axis line. Amber Stahl made the graph title (I Love to Read). Justin Waldner made the X-axis variable (names of children who made book reports). Everybody made the Y-axis variable (number of book reports). Krista Waldner made the names of

the kids. Nathan, Mathilda, and Marissa were in charge of making sure the graph was organized and ready to show the K-5 kids.

Since they are learning about graphs, Jacklyn, Krista and Justin showed the K-5 kids how our graph works. They had the kids count how many books we read, they asked who read the most and who read the least.

As a class, we talked about how to calculate the average number of books each student read. The elementary kids were amazed by our cool and incredibly huge graph.

That was the end of our I Love to Read Month activities for this year.

Evergreen Colony School is a public, Hutterite K-12 school in Prairie Spirit School Division. There are 27 students in the entire school. Mr. Peter Plante's eight Gr. 6-8 students collectively read 119 books for I Love to Read Month.

Two facing multiple charges after Morden drug bust

By Voice staff

Three people were arrested after a drug bust in Morden this month.

Morden Police Service members, with assistance of officers from Winkler and the Regional Support Tactical Team, executed a search warrant on a residence in town on Saturday, March 12.

The search revealed a quantity of cocaine, baggies of methamphetamine, cash, pills, a scale, and other drug trafficking paraphernalia.

As a result of this incident, a 42-year-old woman from Morris is facing charges of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, two counts of possession of a controlled substance

(cocaine and methamphetamine), and possession of proceeds of a crime.

A 24-year-old male from Miami is facing charges for possession of cocaine.

Both were released on conditions to appear in Morden Provincial Court in May.

A 33-year-old male resident of Mor-

den was also arrested on an outstanding warrant. He was turned over to the RCMP to deal with his charges.

> CFAM, FROM PG. 12

have at least another 65 years in them, although he does plan to retire sometime before then.

"It was a great day. Our morning

> BIRD, PLANT SURVEYS, FROM PG. 13

"Another element of recreational hiking and walking and biking is just knowing what it is that you're hiking and biking and walking

crew did a great job marshalling everything together. They've had a lot of musical talent in there that was all made in Manitoba, which was a fan-

through," observes Kelso.

"I think there's a tremendous opportunity for interpretation, for telling people about the flora and fauna

tastic thing. It was a fabulous day, and I certainly enjoyed it a lot."

of that particular area," says Goosen.

You can read the reports online at stanleytrailmanitoba.ca.

Friends of the Mennonite Centre distributing humanitarian aid in Ukraine

By Lorne Stelmach

A community organization in Ukraine is carrying on with its mission, although the circumstances obviously have changed significantly amidst the Russian invasion of the country.

The facility in the town of Molochansk is supported by the Canadian-based Friends of the Mennonite Centre, and it is managing to continue to operate in what is a old school building in the former Mennonite village of Halbstadt.

The centre distributes humanitarian aid to villagers in rural Ukraine, and the current war has changed the focus of their work, but their Ukrainian staff continue to do their best to help in every way they can, say local supporters.

"It's been a drastic shift for us. We're thankful we can do it, but we wish desperately we wouldn't have had to do it," said Gretna's Dave Regehr, who is vice-chair of the Friends of the Mennonite Centre.

"They are incredibly frightened. We have been told on several occasions that our staff and their families and some local people have taken shelter in the basement of the centre simply because they were afraid of shelling and missile attacks.

"I can't imagine what that would feel like," he said. "The fear and the anxiety and the trauma of all of it would be pretty horrific, I think, and yet, they are carrying on and wanting to help as many people as they possibly can, and we want to encourage them as much as we possibly can to carry on the work because it's needed now more than ever."

The centre started in 2000 in response to the needs especially in the rural communities and particularly Mennonite communities in Ukraine.

One focus is on education assistance such as helping schools with equipment and providing post-secondary scholarships, while a second emphasis is on medical assistance such as providing support for specialized treatment or equipment and supplies for hospitals and clinics.

In addition, the centre supports church and community projects such as summer camps for youth and the disabled. There is also a twice weekly meal program with an emphasis on support for local seniors care homes.

Things first changed for the centre in 2014 when it started providing assistance for people impacted when Russia first moved into eastern Ukraine and seized the Crimean region.

"When Russia took possession of Crimea and the eastern part of the Donbas area, there were many people who were displaced, who left that area and came further west in the Ukraine. We provided a lot of assistance for them," said Regehr. "Now, of course, our efforts have shifted dramatically.

"The Russian military has come through Molochansk ... at least one building has been shelled, but otherwise I think things have mostly carried on," he noted. "But it is, as we understand, at this point under Russian control."

A key focus for the centre these days is getting out food to those who remain in the area.

"The centre is now the only place in town that serves a hot meal, and it is particularly important for seniors ... we serve up to 300 meals a day," said Regehr.

Despite the circumstances, the four or five staff in Ukraine have done their best to carry on, and the supporters here in Canada have been able to keep in contact.

"They have continued their work



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Staff of the Canadian-based Friends of the Mennonite Centre have been distributing food to people in Ukraine as the Russian invasion continues.

there providing food and medications as well," Regehr said.

He added that many people have rallied to do whatever they can to help out.

"Some of the local farmers have come forward and brought grains that they had in storage, and a local facility has been able to grind this grain into flour.

"Just recently, we heard that one of the local store owners who had some

small shops in a couple rural villages there, and because of the trauma now of the war, he is selling out and offered all of the produce, all of his goods to the centre."

They also have contacts in Kharkiv and Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, and they have been able to provide some support for those communities as well including for food and shelter and transportation to safer areas.

Continued on page 16





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5. Election of Directors
6. By-law changes
7. Any other business authorized by the by-laws to be transacted at Annual Meeting of Members

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Stanley Soil Management Assoc. holds AGM

By Lorne Stelmach

The valuable work of the Stanley Soil Management Association was highlighted as part of the organization's recent annual meeting.

The benefit and value of shelterbelts was especially noted as part of the report by technician Richard Warkentin during the meeting held virtually March 15.

"In the RM of Stanley particularly, we have a lot of shelterbelts," said Warkentin. "People always see there's shelterbelts taken down, but there's actually a lot that are still out there, and there is a great effect by all of the shelterbelts that we have, particularly in the RM of Stanley."

He touched on the many benefits of shelterbelts including serving as a wind break, aiding soil conservation, offering shelter for farmyards and even mitigation of airborne contaminants.

As well, there can be indirect benefits including water quality enhancement and aiding ground water recharge, he added, noting that one study had shown snow trapped in eight miles of shelterbelts in a primary recharge area contributed about 160 acre feet or about 625 million gallons of water to the aquifer in a single year.

"This year will be a great year for the snow to help recharge the aquifer," he



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Stanley Soil Management Association sold and planted thousands of trees last year for a total of over 25 miles of shelterbelts.

said. "So we have been promoting the use of shelterbelts and providing the ecological benefits to the watershed."

Warkentin also noted shelterbelts have been shown to have agricultural benefits, with one study having estimated a corn crop increased by 12 per cent due to shelterbelts on the land.

"So there can be an increase in yield," said Warkentin. "And the bottom line is you're adding beauty and diversity to the landscape."

The past year saw the association sell over 19,400 tree seedlings to over 60 customers.

While customers themselves planted 14,313 trees, there were 5,087 planted by the association. It translated into 17.87 miles planted by customers and 7.64 miles planted by the association.

The association was also involved in 7.64 miles of shelterbelts being planted, and 486 seedling trees were planted in gaps over 2.1 miles.

As well, there was a total of 10.92 miles of shelterbelts maintained with tillage equipment or hoeing, and 23.5 miles were sprayed for weed control.

"One of our biggest things was we do sell a lot of trees ... and basically

there's still lots of opportunity for people to have trees planted by us," said Warkentin.

Equally important though is the maintenance, so that is why they also emphasize services like doing spraying and laying plastic mulch, with the latter particularly playing an important role.

"Basically what it does is it warms up the soil a bit so the tree usually grows a bit faster," he explained.

Warkentin also touched on some of their other programs and services, such as woodlot resource management plans. There are six in the area, and a key purpose is to provide landowners with an inventory of their woodlot natural resource and recommendations for developing those resources.

The association also continues monitoring for diffuse knapweed, a noxious weed that is only found in a small area west of Stanley Park.

Last year they spent about two days scouring the area for the weed and sprayed about 18 acres.

"It's the only place in all of Manitoba where diffuse knapweed is found ... we did a little bit of monitoring and scouting, and we found some plants, and this year we needed to spray," Warkentin said. "It's been there for a number of years, and the intent is to eradicate it."

> UKRAINE, FROM PG. 15

Regehr also noted the story of the centre's maintenance person who had fled for safety but was still going to help transport goods from Poland and then help get others to safety.

"It is a somewhat dangerous operation, but he was willing to do that, and we are helping to pay for that ... on the way back, he will be taking some people to western Ukraine as well."

They are thankful that they have been able to make a quick transition to try to continue to help under the circumstances.

"What allows us to continue the work is we have still been able to send money via the banks to Ukraine," Regehr said. "We are still able to transfer funds to the centre in Ukraine where the staff are able to use it now to help people during this crisis."

"So we need the funds now more than ever," he added. "We've sent over way more money than we had budgeted for, but we feel the need for it, and people have been generous."

"We need the support, and we need to keep praying for these people. War is just such a horrific experience for them."

Anyone wanting to help can donate by cheque to Friends of the Men-

nonite Centre in Ukraine (FOMCU) c/o George Dyck, 3675 N Service Rd., Beamsville, ON, L0R 1B1 or by e-transfer to gtodyck@gmail.com (make sure you include donor mailing address). You can also find more information at mennonitecentre.ca or helpforukraine.ca.

Locally, Regehr can be reached at 204-327-5216 or dhregehr@gmail.com.

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Skills on the ice



Morden Figure Skating Club member Mei Stoesz-Cuthro.
PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler, Morden, and Altona figure skating clubs all hosted season-ending showcase nights over the past week to give members the chance to demonstrate what they've learned in both solo and group performances.



Winkler Figure Skating Club members take to the ice together.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



Winkler Figure Skating Club's Mackenzie Enting.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT



Flying high at the Altona Skating Club Achievement Night.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Colourful antics in Altona.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



A purr-fect demonstration in Morden.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden Magics take to the mat for first time in two years

By Voice staff

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, a local gymnastics club recently had its first opportunity to compete in two years.

The Morden Magics took part in the Keystone Kips Classic competition March 11-13 in West St. Paul, Winnipeg.

It will be the only competition the club will attend this year, but all welcomed the chance with local gymnasts doing well at the event.

Here are the placement standings for the development program gymnasts:

DP 1

- Ava Loeppky: vault, bars, floor - silver; beam - gold; all around (AA) - silver.
- Tori Wiebe: vault, bars, floor, beam - silver; AA - silver.
- Madison Piché: vault, bars, beam - silver; floor - gold; AA - silver.
- Abby Loutchan: vault, bars, beam - silver; floor - gold; AA - silver.
- Anjulia St-Jean: vault, bars - silver; beam, floor - gold; AA - silver.
- Chloe Earl: beam - bronze; vault, bars, floor - silver; AA - silver.

DP 2

- Kelsey Dyck: vault, bars - first; beam - sixth; floor - first; AA - first.
- Raelyn Martens: vault, bars - second; beam, floor - fifth; AA - fourth.
- Emery Griffin - vault, bars - sev-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

enth; beam - sixth; floor - third; AA - seventh.

- Emily Herlick: vault, bars - third; beam - fifth ; floor - fourth; AA - fourth.
- Cali Graham: vault, beam, floor - second; bars - third; AA - second.
- Natalie Redekop: vault - third; bars, floor - second; beam - fourth; AA - third.
- Makaya Teichroeb: vault, bars, beam - fifth; floor - fourth; AA - fifth.

• Chloe Falk: vault - sixth; bars - second; beam - fifth; floor - fourth; AA - fourth.

DP3:

- Nyah Dyck: vault - sixth; bars - second; beam - third; floor - fifth; AA - fifth.
- Megan Krahn: vault, bars - fourth; beam - second; floor - fifth; AA - fourth.
- Greta Loewen: vault, bars, beam - sixth; floor - second; AA - sixth.

• Kassidy Bourgeois: vault, bars - first; beam - fourth; floor - third; AA - first.

- Aliyah Giesbrecht: vault, bars - second; beam - third; floor - fourth; AA second.
- Bo Rachul: vault, beam, floor - sixth; bars - third; AA - sixth.
- Zoe Geake: vault, bars, beam, floor - fourth; AA fourth.
- Ava Earl: vault - fourth; bars, floor - first; beam - second; AA - first.

Flyers face the Blues in first round of playoffs

Winkler finishes season in second place in MJHL East Division

By Ty Dilello

The Winkler Flyers have finished their regular season and will now meet the Winnipeg Blues in the first round of the playoffs this week.

Game one takes place at the Winkler Centennial Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Head coach Justin Falk has been impressed with how his group has battled adversaries down the stretch to put themselves in a good position in the playoffs.

"It's been an interesting month and a half here. We've battled many injuries and have had a lot of scheduling conflicts and some busy schedules to boot," he said. "But I'm really proud of our group on how we've answered the bell here.

"With key players gone down, we've had a next man up mentality. So there's been lots of cool, unique

opportunities for guys that weren't able to get in the lineup earlier in the year."

The Flyers have had major regular seasons from its star players Justin Svenson, Jayden McCarthy, Trent Sambrook, and Josh Beauchemin. This year, Svenson led the entire MJHL in points with 82 in 54 games.

"Everyone's stepping up by committee as we push to get better each day," observed Falk. "You need big years from key players that are close to graduating out of your program, leading on the ice and off the ice by example.

"All of these players, it's been a great year for their development. When I say that, I mean they all came through the pandemic in different ways, and it's affected them differently as everyone has a different situation."

The team finished the regular season

in second place in the MJHL East Division with a record of 33-16-3-2 for 71 points, trailing the Steinbach Pistons in first by 16 points and ahead of the Winnipeg Blues—who they beat in their final regular game of the season 3-2 last Friday night—in third by 10 points.

The Flyers will now meet the Blues in a best-of-seven first round series. Home ice advantage will be key here for the Flyers as they look to play off of their large crowd at Winkler arena.

"We've had a lot of great close games with them, so it'll be an exciting battle," said Falk. "With restrictions gone and full arenas, these guys are able to experience the Winkler Flyers fanbase and community that we've talked about, but most haven't had a chance to see. The opportunity they're getting now, we've had some big crowds so far in March. And going down the

stretch in the playoffs, it'll be a lot of fun."

Falk knows all too well from his own professional hockey career how much a home crowd's support can boost a team.

"We were six rows deep on standing room only last game, so it's been really cool. Our guys feed off the crowd, so to give the community a great experience is wonderful."

Both of the Flyers' goaltenders, Dylan Meilun and Malachi Klassen, have been excellent this year, and Falk expects them both to play in the postseason.

"Both goalies have been playing so well ... I can't speak highly enough on their support for each other. They've picked each other up and put in the extra work with each other together."

The Flyers' most significant test, perhaps, this postseason will come

Continued on page 20



Mia Sawatzky is headed to Cross Country Skiing Nationals this week in Whistler, B.C., after winning a gold medal at the Manitoba provincial championships earlier this month.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS



Sawatzky off to ski nationals

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Mia Sawatzky recently competed at the provincial cross country skiing championships, which were held March 5-6 in Kenora.

Sawatzky was racing in the U20 category of the event and ended up winning gold and silver medals in the two races she skied in.

"On the Saturday, we had a 10 km classic technique race. And the Sunday was another 10 km, but a skate technique race," explained Sawatzky. "Saturday's race felt really good with

getting first place, as I was proud of how I pushed myself and achieved my race goals. My skis were also super fast. The temperatures were finally warm, so it was extra fun to race."

Winning the provincial championships was a culmination of all the hard work that she's put into the sport. Sawatzky first tried skiing in Grade 3, and it has been a strong hobby and passion of hers ever since.

"I joined the Boundary Trails Race Team in Grade 5 and have been training with them for years since. And then I started training more seriously

a few years back, which means working hard during the offseason and training more than just with the team year-round."

Skiing also isn't her only game, as Sawatzky is also quite the multi-sport athlete in and around Altona.

"Basketball season is just coming to an end, and badminton is starting up. In spring, I had done a handful of bike races, soccer, and volleyball. I'll also be training for track and cross country in the spring. So I'm always doing some sort of sport."

Sawatzky's next skiing event is the

National Championships in Whistler, British Columbia. She will be at the event with Team Manitoba from March 18-28.

"I'll be competing in five races that week. I'm feeling super nervous and excited about this event, and I'm stoked about competing and pushing myself," she said. "It's always a fun experience being surrounded by some super fast skiers and travelling around Canada with my skis."

Jennifer Jones joining forces with Team Zacharias

Olympian to skip Altona team next season

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Mackenzie Zacharias made a major move on the curling world last week as her team announced that they will be joining forces with Jennifer Jones.

Jennifer Jones is arguably the most decorated curler in the history of the

sport, with six Scotties titles, two World Championships, and an Olympic gold medal to her credit.

After her own team was disbanding following this season, the 47-year-old Jones made her intentions clear that she wanted to continue curling and do so out of Manitoba.

Jones will join Team Zacharias (Mackenzie Zacharias, Karlee Burgess, Emily Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine) for the next quadrennial, taking things on a year-by-year basis.

The new partnership will see Jones skip the 2020 World Junior championships and reigning Manitoba Women's

champions as Team Jennifer Jones.

"When I came home from the Olympics, I knew in my heart that I wanted to keep curling," Jones said in a statement last week. "When we realized that our team would be going in different directions, I really put some thought into what team I could put together or what team I could join, and I kept coming back to Team Zacharias."

"Mackenzie, Karlee, Emily and Lauren are so talented and definitely the future stars of our game. They are also great people who are full of energy and excitement and want to grow and learn as curlers. In talking with

them, we had the same goals, and we really believed we could create a winning formula on the ice and have a lot of fun along the way. The fact that we are all from Manitoba just makes it that much more special."

Jones will be taking over the skipping duties from Zacharias, and everyone on the Altona rink will essentially be moving down a position. Emily Zacharias and Lenentine will alternate at the lead position. However, there will likely be some lineup switch-ups throughout the season,

Continued on page 20



Year-end awards

The U18 Pembina Valley Hawks handed out their year-end awards earlier this month. Sebastien Hicks was named Best Defensive Forward, Tyler Moroz won the Unsung Hero Award, Rookie of the Year is Cameron Parr, MVP is Griffin Ayotte, Top Scorer honours went to Carter Sotheran, Keston Worley was the Top Goal Scorer, Raiden Legall and Bryson Yaschyshyn received the Coaches Award, and Most Improved was Liam Goertzen.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Farmers bonspiel

The foursome skipped by Thomas Titchkosky took the top honours this past weekend at the Morden Farmers Bonspiel. Ray Kirk presented the trophy to Titchkosky, third Rylan Didkowski, second Kelby Carson, and lead Owen Storey. Also on hand for the occasion was Brad Shore, son of Haze Shore, as the annual event is being renamed the Haze Shore Memorial Farmers Bonspiel. Shore was the longtime ice maker and an avid curler in Morden.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Twisters oust Twins, move on to face Express

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters are moving on to the MMJHL semi-finals after ousting the Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins.

The third ranked Twisters took the best of seven quarter-final series in five games, winning four straight after dropping the opener.

Pembina Valley wrapped it up with a 4-1 win last Tuesday in game three followed by a 4-1 victory in game four Friday and then a 6-3 win Sunday in game five.

The Twisters spotted the Twins an early goal in game three but then shut them down the rest of the way as they took control with three unanswered second period goals.

Travis Penner, Riley Goertzen, and Caelan Russell scored in the middle frame and then Cody Clark put it away with an empty net goal in the third period. Logan Enns made 30 saves with the Twisters holding a 42-31 edge in shots on goal.

Jacob Carels scored twice as the Twisters took period leads of 1-0 and 3-0 in a game four that got chippy late in the third with a number of misconducts handed out.

TJ Matuszewski and Tyler Van Deynze also contributed on the score-sheet, while Enns made 39 saves with the shots on goal 48-40 in the Twist-

ers' favour.

Pembina Valley then scored four unanswered goals after being even at 2-2 with the Twins after 20 minutes in game five as they wrapped up the series.

Scoring for the Twisters were Matuszewski, Clark, Merek Degraeve,

Nathan Ayotte, Nico Vigier, and Curtis Rebeck. Goalie Martin Gagnon got the win on 16 saves as the shots on goal were 44-19 in favour of Pembina Valley.

The Twisters will next take on the second place Transcona Railer Express, who ousted the seventh ranked

River East Royal Knights in five games. The schedule for the series had not been set as of press time.

The other semi-final will feature the first place St. James Canucks against the winner of the St. Vital Victorias and Raiders quarter-final.

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 18

down the road against the incumbent first-place Steinbach Pistons. The Flyers have played them eight times this year and have won three, so the team believes it would have a puncher's chance at them if they do indeed matchup against each other.

"Steinbach runs a great program with a great team that works hard and plays hard," said Falk "Whoever you play in the playoffs, it doesn't really matter. You gotta bring it every night."

> JONES, FROM PG. 19

with all of them in university.

Team Zacharias has made a lot of noise in the curling world the last few years, having won the 2019 and 2020 Canadian Junior Women's Championship before winning the 2020 World Junior Women's

Finally, the last few months have been an especially trying time for the Flyers' organization. Their hearts are hurting right now for the White family as assistant coach Ryan White's son Gordie has been diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour.

"It's been a difficult go for our group, organization and community. Our hearts hurt for Ryan, Gordie, and their family right now. We continue to pray and support them how we can," Falk said. "It's a further

Championship. They also won the Manitoba Scotties this season and represented our province at the past two Scotties National Championship (once as Manitoba and once as a Wild Card team).

"We are so excited for the oppor-

portunity for our players to recognize perspective and the situation that they're in right now that they're playing exciting junior hockey in a great community with a sold-out rink. You couldn't ask for anything more."

After opening the series against the Blues at home this Friday, the Flyers hit the road to play games two and three in Winnipeg next Monday and Wednesday. Games four and five are back in Winkler April 1 and 3rd.

tunity to play with and learn from Jennifer Jones, someone who we've looked up to in Manitoba for so long," said Mackenzie Zacharias. "Jennifer is a legend in women's curling and has won everything there is to win. The wealth of experience and knowledge she brings to the curling ice is unmatched, but she is also a great person and leader. We absolutely can't wait to get on the ice next season."

Going forward to the 2022-23 season, the new Team Jones plans on playing all of the Grand Slam events and hopes to be at next year's Scotties.

The **Voice**

Get in touch with us via e-mail:

Send news to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Advertising to: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Blueberry Banana Smoothie

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar blend
1 tablespoon almond butter
1/2 cup bananas, frozen
1/2 cup blueberries, frozen
1 tablespoon chia seeds
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon minced ginger
1/2 cup berry yogurt
fresh blueberries, for garnish (optional)
In blender, blend spinach, water, apple cider vinegar, almond butter, frozen bananas, frozen blueberries, chia seeds, cinnamon, ginger and yogurt until smooth.
Pour into two glasses and garnish with fresh blueberries, if desired.

Servings: 2
1 cup spinach
1/2 cup water



Butter Pecan Waffles

1 egg
Pearl Milling Company Syrup, for topping
toasted pecans, for topping (optional)
To make browned butter: In small skillet over low heat, place butter. Increase heat to medium-low, stirring butter with heat-proof spatula. Cook and stir until butter reaches desired brown color. Remove from heat and stir in pecans.
Place pancake mix in large bowl. Add 3/4 cup milk, egg and browned butter. Stir until large clumps of batter disappear. If batter seems too thick, add additional milk 1 tablespoon at a time to reach desired thickness. Let batter stand 4-5 minutes before cooking.
Pour batter into lightly greased waffle iron. Bake until steam stops or as directed by waffle iron instructions. Top with syrup and toasted pecans, if desired.

Yield: about 6 waffles (4 inches each)
Browned Butter:
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 cup Pearl Milling Company Original Pancake & Waffle Mix
3/4 cup milk, plus additional if necessary, divided



Banana Walnut Pancakes

2 bananas, mashed
Homemade Whipped Cream:
1 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons sugar
Toppings:
1 banana, sliced, for topping
2 jars (5 ounces each) walnuts in syrup
24 ounces Pearl Milling Company Syrup
Place skillet over medium heat.
In large bowl, stir pancake mix, milk, eggs, oil and mashed bananas.
Spread 1/4 cup pancake batter on skillet. When pancake begins to bubble, use spatula to flip. Cook until golden brown on each side. Repeat with remaining batter.
To make whipped cream: In small bowl, whip heavy cream and sugar until thickened.
Top pancakes with homemade whipped cream, banana slices, walnuts and syrup.

Yield: about 20 pancakes
2 cups Pearl Milling Company Original Pancake Mix
1 1/2 cups milk
2 eggs
2 tablespoons oil



Christine Ibbotson

Dear Money Lady, could you write about reverse mortgages – I am not sure if I should consider one. Alma

Dear Alma – that is a great idea and I know others would like to know too. Thank you.

I love the latest TV commercial with actor Tom Sellick about reverse mortgages. It must be his fabulous mustache and soothing voice. Okay, all joking aside, it is almost impossible to escape the cadre of aging male actors and athletes who've found a second career as pitch-men for reverse mortgages. Kurt Browning is the front man for Canada's CHIP reverse mortgage product. So, it is not surprising that Alma is consider it.

Reverse mortgages have their place as a viable equity product and there are only two lenders in Canada that offer them: Home Equity Bank and Equitable Bank. Most of the time this product is sold through a mortgage broker and is designed to meet the need from aging homeowners that cannot qualify for a traditional home equity loan or line of credit because they no longer work or can't make the monthly payments. This type of equity-take-out loan allows someone to access a portion of the value of their primary residence without selling it or making monthly payments to repay the debt. Now before you get too excited, let's discuss the pros and cons of this product.

To be eligible for a reverse mortgage you must be 55 or older and own your home. The matrix for qualification is based on three criteria: your age, home value, and location. Of course, the amount provided by the lender will be higher if you live in an urban center as opposed to rurally, and you can choose to get a lump sum payout or have a scheduled payment setup. There are many different types of reverse mortgage products with some that are fully open and others that are locked in. The interest rates range from 4.5 per cent to 7 per cent compounded annually and repayment is due upon your death, when you sell the home, or if you decide to end the contract and pay back the loan in full.

AsktheMoneyLady.ca

The setup and cessation fees are quite high and of course you will need to do this through a real estate lawyer because a lien will be placed on your property for the loan. Some additional fees could involve prepayment penalties if you pay off the mortgage before it's due and independent legal advice requirements. Some initial start-up fees can be added to the balance of your loan, (which will incur additional interest over the life of the product) but others may need to be paid up front, to be deducted from your payout.

Obviously, the pros to reverse mortgages are that you don't have to make regular loan payments and you can turn the value of your home into cash without having to sell it. The cons would be that it is quite costly to do so, with interest rates so much higher than most other types of mortgages and secured lines of credit. The biggest drawback I see with this product is that the equity you hold in your home may go down over time as you accumulate more and more interest on your loan. The other problem is that when you die, your estate must repay the loan + interest + fees within a set period of time, regardless of how long it takes to settle your estate, leaving the onus on your beneficiaries.

I know there are many retirees that have considered this option, even my mother talked about it. It is definitely an option to "stay and play," but I must caution you on the compounded interest component. Interest is continually added to your loan each month and tacked on to the principal balance. Each month, interest accrues on a larger balance, meaning you are basically paying interest upon interest. If you are looking to this product to shore up your financial resources so you can stop working, pay off credit card debt or travel and enjoy life, I would suggest you either sell and right-size your home or look to a conventional lender with lower lending rates. Think of a reverse mortgage not as an added benefit to owning a home, but as a tool of last resort to be considered in your older years, when every other resource or option has been exhausted.

Good Luck & Best Wishes,
ATML - Christine Ibbotson

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

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The **Winkler • Morden** *Voice*

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CAREERS



BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION
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Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

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CAREERS

Employment Opportunity



Walinga Inc. in Carman, Manitoba is seeking a full time experienced trailer mechanic to join our growing team!

Duties and Responsibilities:

Analyzing and identifying issues.

- Completing major and minor repairs to trailers.
- Testing components for repair effectiveness and general fitness.
- Completing maintenance and service of trailers according to manufacturers recommended schedule or as necessary.
- General shop duties.
- Interpret work orders, technical manuals, inspection and repair reports.
- Diagnose faults or malfunctions.
- Adjust equipment and repair or replace defective parts, components or systems.
- Test repaired equipment for proper performance and ensure that the work done meets manufacturers' specifications and legislated regulations.
- Report to the Shop Supervisor on a daily basis.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Welding steel and aluminum is an asset. Willing to train the right candidate.
- Red Seal Truck Trailer Service Technician certification (310J).
- 5 years' experience or better.
- Applicants must have: steel-toe CSA safety footwear, basic tools.
- Reliable transportation to and from work and a valid class 5 driver's license.
- Ability to communicate clearly verbally and written
- Ability to lift/push/pull a minimum of fifty (50) pounds and maneuver in/through/around equipment easily and safely.
- Ability to learn new processes.
- Ability to provide great attention to detail and meticulous care in accomplishing tasks.
- Ability to work indoors/outdoors in all weather conditions with tolerance to fumes and odours.
- Is comfortable working in confined spaces.
- Is able to comfortably and to safely work at heights.
- Ability to take direction and work with moderate supervision.

Job Types: Full-time, Permanent

Wage is dependent on experience and qualifications.

Benefits included.

Schedule: Five 8 hour shifts; working Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:00pm

If you are looking for a rewarding career or would like to share a resume please contact; Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 (ext 440) or email him at ray.beukema@walinga.com

Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. NO ITEM TOO LARGE! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Do you own rental property in Winnipeg? Are you tired of dealing with long term renters and the mess they can leave? We can provide you with a different option to earn a rental income. Pawluk Realty 204-890-8141.

GARAGE SALE

Moving garage sale - everything must go! Pressure canner, Forman grill, deck chairs, BBQ, and too many items to mention. Mar. 31, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Apr. 1, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Apr. 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 55 Schantz Street North, Schanzenfeld.

WANTED

WANTED: Collector paying top prices for old advertising service station dealership signs, gas pumps, globes, oil cans, pop coolers, light up plastic signs etc. 306-221-5908.

NOTICES

HIRING FOR SPRING? Need Class 1 drivers? Construction staff? Having an AGM or on-line event and need attendees? Advertise in the 32 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging out now! Selling something? Have an on-line store to shop at, doing curbside pickup/deliveries? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Call 204-467-5836 or call MCNA at 204-947-1691 for details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

NOTICES

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

BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT

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CAREERS

CommUNITY Support Team invites applicants for a

COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATOR



The Altona CommUNITY Support Team Coordinator will work collaboratively with various agencies to bring individuals, families, and their supporters together, to work through complicated life issues and make life better.

For more information: CommUNITY Support Team on localjobshop.ca

CAREERS



BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION
Life Long Learning

Border Land School Division invites applications from exemplary leaders for the position of

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE



R.M. OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE Pesticide Control Programs during 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Stanley may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2022:

- 1) To control noxious weeds on road allowances within the Municipality. The proposed period of application would be from May 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022. The herbicides to be used could include:
 - Tordon 22K
 - 2-4-D amine 600
 - Overdrive
 - Roundup Transorb
- 2) To control insect pests including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, canker worms, etc. The proposed period of application for these programs would be from May 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022. The insecticides to be used could include:
 - Malathion

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

**Manitoba Environment, Climate, and Parks
Environmental Approvals Branch
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4**

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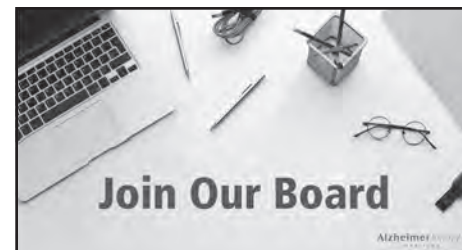
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www.batteryman.ca



Join Our Board

NEW LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Alzheimer Society of Manitoba is actively looking for new leaders in the community to fill two board member positions. The successful candidate will help guide the organization's work to support families living with dementia throughout the province. Interested and qualified applicants with diverse backgrounds across Manitoba are strongly encouraged to provide a cover letter and resume by April 22nd, 2022.

Visit Alzheimer.mb.ca for the full listing and for more information.

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Classifieds

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The Winkler Morden Voice

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

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The Winkler Morden Voice
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LIVESTOCK

HBH Angus Farms Bull Sale, March 31, 1:00 p.m., Oak River, MB. View www.BuyAgro.com for catalogue. Purebred Black Angus and Black Angus/Simmental Bulls – 50 lots. Watch/bid online www.dlms.ca. Brayden 431-282-3085, Darcy 204-365-7755. Semen tested. Guaranteed. Lunch 11:30.

McSherry Auctions

a12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB

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Featuring Guns & Ammo, Coin Collection
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EMPLOYMENT

Aubin Nurseries Ltd.

CLASS 5 DRIVER

All applicants must have the ability to work unsupervised in a fast-paced environment, customer friendly and comfortable with lifting nursery stock. Wage depends on experience and opportunity for advancement. Please forward resume to cyndie@aubinnurseries.ca. Any questions, call 204-745-6703.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of **LILLIAN JUNE GUDNASON**, late of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the attention of: Brenda Knight, Manager, Estates and Trust, at 155 Carlton St Suite 500, Winnipeg MB, R3C 5R9 on or before the 13th day of May, 2022.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 11th day of March, 2022.

Nicole Hamilton
The Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba
Administrator



Owner Operators needed to haul bulk liquid throughout Western Canada and to US seasonally and year-round.

Loaded and empty miles paid!

Contact us or submit your resume:

Phone: **204.571.0187**

Email: recruiting@renaissancetrans.ca

Or submit an online application @ www.renaisancetrans.ca

The Aurora Plus

1648 SqFt RTM

3 bedrooms, ensuite, huge kitchen, quartz countertops, walk-in pantry, island. 9 ft walls and double cathedral ceiling. James Hardie Siding.

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204-346-3231

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Camp Esnagi – Fishing Camp near White River, Ontario.

1 Maintenance Position (jack of all trades).
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4 months of work. Must be self motivated for lots of hours with great pay.

Alcohol consumption (beyond social) and substance abuse is not welcome at Camp Esnagi. 1-204-937-4007

CELEBRATE THE SPECIAL MOMENTS!

Don't forget to send your special wishes to your friends and family.

LAND TENDER

Land for Sale by Tender

Completed Tender and a \$10,000.00 deposit of the Tender Price are invited to be received up to 12:00 PM (noon) on April 21, 2022 (the "deadline") on the property described below, which Tenders and Deposits shall be received at:

PKF Lawyers,
326 Stephen Street, Morden MB
Attn: Stéphane Warnock
Ph: 204-822-4463

Property for sale:

1. THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 3-2-6 WPM
EXC THE SLY 1045 FEET PERP OF THE NLY 1655 FEET PERP OF THE WLY 1045 FEET PERP 134.93 Acres
Certificate of Title No. 2888919/4
(the "Land")

-Located in the Rural Municipality of Stanley

Conditions of Tender

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
2. Tenders to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Stéphane Warnock @ PKF Lawyers.
3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00.
Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. The Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be May 2, 2022
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of the Land, Land quality, Land use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to the Land.

LAND TENDER



MANITOBA HOUSING Caretaker Services

Manitoba Housing is compiling a list of suppliers interested in providing Caretaker Services to the location(s) listed below, 2 Contracts to be awarded. Contract review meeting must be attended to be considered eligible and receive Request for Quote.

CONTRACT 1 – Morden – 23 Units

Tabor Seniors Home – Building (23 Units)

CONTRACT 2 – Morden – 15 Properties

Scattered Units – Lawn Care/Minor Maintenance

Housing must be made aware of interest by March 31, 2021.

For additional information please contact:

Manitoba Housing

Mandy LaPointe

Phone: 204-239-3049

Toll Free: 1-866-440-4663

PUBLIC NOTICE



R.M. of ROLAND PUBLIC NOTICE - 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act The Council of the Rural Municipality of Roland will hold a Public Hearing to present the 2022 Financial Plan:

Tuesday,
April 12, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.
Roland Memorial Hall

Interested persons may make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review from the Municipal Office after April 4, 2022.

Classifieds

The *Winkler* *Morden* Voice

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FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in

The *Winkler* *Morden*

Voice

Call: 204-467-5836



Boyne Care Holdings (2016) Inc. (BCH) invites applications for the position of **Executive Director** to oversee the operations of our aging in place campus in Carman, Manitoba. BCH currently oversees maintenance and food services within a 79 resident small house personal care home and 40 suite seniors apartment complex. The facility, once completed in early 2023, will include 105 rooms as well as a new bistro to complement our food service operation and commercial space. Future phases include assisted living and supportive housing. The Executive Director will report to the BCH Board of Directors and be responsible for the management of the current operations and future development phases of the campus. Position description is available at www.boynecare.ca/news. Applicants can send a resume and cover letter with salary expectations to info@boynecare.ca by Friday, April 29th at noon. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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!

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. One who regrets
5. Time zone
8. Subway dweller
11. Bend in a river
13. Alias
14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
15. Very (music)
16. Zero
17. Phil __, former CIA
18. Competitions
20. Unwell
21. Puts in place
22. Gets rid of
25. Allows light to pass through
30. Climbed quickly
31. We all have it
32. There's a North & South
33. Emaciation
38. Supervises flying
41. Very dark colors
43. Unwanted
45. Grants
48. Three visited Jesus
49. Wife of Amun
50. Broadway actress Daisy
55. A Spanish river
56. I (German)
57. French opera composer
59. Six (Spanish)
60. Last letter
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Noah had one
63. Make a mistake
64. Tall plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Computer memory
2. "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. College army
5. Cassava
6. Talented

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19		20		21		
				22	23				24		
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	45	46	47								
48					49				50	51	52
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

7. Capital of Estonia
8. Finger millet
9. In a way, assists
10. Men's fashion accessories
12. Misery
14. Skin disorder
19. Selling at specially reduced prices
23. Good friend
24. Stationary portion of a generator
25. Expression of disappointment
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Where birds fly
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Chaotic states
34. Comedic actress Gasteyer
35. Kids' dining accessory

36. Snake-like fish
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. Assign lifelike qualities to
40. One who cites
41. Midway between east and southeast
42. North wind
44. One or the other
45. Cavalry sword
46. Of the Hungarian language
47. Life stories
48. Flat tableland with steep edges
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. French cleric
54. One point east of northeast
58. Free from

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OBITUARY

Valerie Kathleen Epp February 12, 2022



The only child of Eileen and Harold Walker, Valerie ("Val") Kathleen Epp (nee Walker) was born in Edmonton, Alberta on March 2, 1952, and raised by her mother in Altona, Manitoba.

As a talented pianist and a beautiful young woman, Val was deemed Princess in the Sunflower Festival Queen contest and at the age of 17 she met Victor ("Vic") Epp who became her best friend and the love of her life. After graduating from the St. Boniface School of Nursing, Val married Vic in 1973 and the two eventually moved to Morden, Manitoba where they were active and happy members of their community and church. In 1980, after welcoming their two children to the world, Val and Vic made the bold move to leave their community in Manitoba behind and

moved to British Columbia to start a new adventure. Val continued working as a Registered Nurse at Abbotsford's Regional Psychiatric Center (RPC) correctional facility (now the Pacific Institution/Regional Treatment Center) for many years before transitioning to a nursing position in the Psychiatric Unit at the former MSA Hospital. When Val told stories of her time at RPC, she would often start them with "when I was in prison" which always got a laugh. After winning Abbotsford's 'search for gold' contest in the early 1990's, Val took her family to California for the vacation her kids had been longing for. Val was always up for an adventure including the odd street race behind the wheel of Vic's '69 Barracuda, parasailing in Hawaii and opening an antique store. Val and Vic shared their love of music, boating, camping, tending to their beautiful yards and gardens and helping their kids with all manner of projects and renovations. In 2011, Vic was diagnosed with cancer and embarked on a journey of health issues before passing away in July of 2017. After courageously living with her broken heart, Val's health began to decline, and she was hospitalized in January of 2022. It is with very heavy hearts that we say goodbye to this incredibly well-loved woman who peacefully passed away on February 12, 2022.

Val is survived by her daughter Robyn Lane (Christian), son Derek (Leah); grandchildren Hannah, Emma and Jayden; her cousin Susan Loeppky, who was like a sister to her; and her many in-laws. Val will forever be missed but we take comfort in knowing she is again with her one true love, Vic and their fur baby, Shaggy.

"The story of love is hello and goodbye... until we meet again." – Jimi Hendrix

At Val's request there will be no funeral, but to honour her we ask you all to take a moment to reflect on the happiest times of your lives with the hope they bring you comfort, joy and warm memories.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your local SPCA or to a charity of your choice.

OBITUARY

Elsie Mary Braun (nee Brandt) 1927 – 2022



Elsie Braun, aged 94, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Elsie will be lovingly remembered by her five children, John (Cindy), Bill (Carol Ann), Patti (Doug) Brenda (Dan) and Mary Jane (LaVerne); 12 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Elsie is survived by siblings, Herb, Evelyn (Carl), Ethel (Peter), Gilbert (Susan) and one sister-in-law, Margaret.

She was predeceased by her husband, John in 2016; her parents, John K Brandt and Anna Brandt and siblings, Pete, Edwin, Esther, Victor, Allen, Eleanor and Bernie.

Elsie was born on December 15, 1927 in Herbert, Saskatchewan. Being the daughter of a school teacher meant a few moves in Saskatchewan and Manitoba during her early years. In 1943 she and her family moved to Burwalde where she met her future husband, John. She was baptized in 1945 in the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church. Before she was married, she went up north to Oxford House by boat and canoe at the request of her missionary brother. There she was not daunted by the challenging task of teaching school even though she lacked supplies. She could create her lessons from what she had. John and Elsie were married in BC on September 17, 1949. They moved to Miami, Manitoba to begin their life together. There they had five children. Then in 1960 they moved to the Braun "home" farm where they farmed until their retirement in 1993. They then moved to their retirement home they had built for them in Morden, Manitoba. One final move in 2013 landed them in Homestead South in Morden where she resided until her passing. Elsie was a reluctant farm wife at first but devoted herself to supporting John and his farming endeavors. Raising five children during these years meant a lot of cooking, sewing and gardening. The girls especially were always well dressed. The business of raising children gave way to the enjoyment of welcoming grandchildren. She also spent a lot of time serving in the church in various capacities. One of the ways she served for 17 years was in Pioneer Girls Club. After retirement she took up golfing and quilting. I think we could say she became more recognized for her quilting skills than her golfing. She produced many fine quilts, some that won awards. She taught many ladies how to make fabric covered boxes as well. Mom was a strong woman with strong opinions, and many called her a friend. She will be missed.

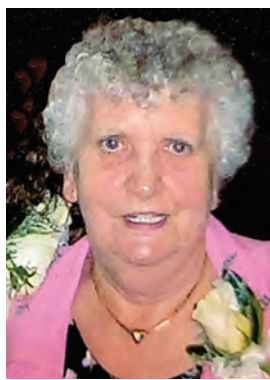
Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with a family interment prior to the service at Hillside Cemetery.

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



OBITUARY

Lydia Neufeld (nee Heide) 1933 - 2022



On March 15, 2022 at her home in Morden, MB Lydia Neufeld, 89, fell asleep in the arms of her Saviour.

Lydia was born February 6, 1933 in Haskett, MB. to her parents, Herman and Helena Heide. She married her sweetheart, Bill, on August 16, 1959 and were married for 42 years. Together they raised their five children, Wayne, Edna (John Klassen), Valerie (Kent Noel), Kimberly (Dan Wolfe) and Stanley. Lydia was Grandma to 15 grandchildren, and Great-Grandma to 15 great-grandchildren. Lydia was also lovingly referred to as "Grandma" by the more than 60 children she provided care for over the years. Lydia was predeceased by her husband, Bill in 2003. Besides her children and their families, Lydia is survived by one brother, John (Isabel)

Heide and one sister, Agatha (John) Reimer.

Mom's faith was very important to her. She prayed daily for her family and friends bringing every concern before the Lord.

We will miss Mom so much but take comfort in knowing that she has been reunited with Dad in Heaven.

Memorial service was held on Saturday, March 19, 2022 with interment prior at Southside Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Lydia's memory to CancerCare Manitoba.

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



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AUCTION

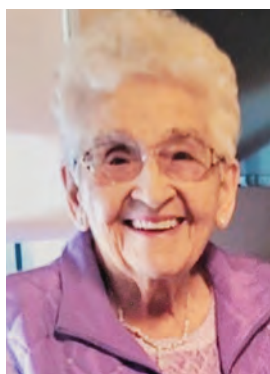
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OBITUARY



Sarah Dyck (nee Hiebert)
1921 – 2022

Sarah Dyck, age 100 years passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at her residence at Tabor Home in Morden, MB.

She was born March 23, 1921 in Winkler, MB and married Elvin A. Dyck on October 29, 1944.

She was predeceased by Elvin September 13, 2002 as well as her son, Raymond and daughter-in-law, Donna Dyck; her parents, Abraham and Margaret; sisters, Marge, Mary, Tina and her brothers, Pete and Abe.

She is survived by her brother, John and her sisters, Elma and Anne; her daughter, Geraldine Janzen (Elmer); son, Glen Dyck (Carmen); daughter-in-law, Eunice Dyck (Ray) and grandchildren, Sheldon Janzen (Cheryl), Robin Yeager (Mark), Stacy Dyck (Scott),

Keri Demianiw (Ryan), Micheal Dyck (Nikki); great-grandchildren Alysha (Goran), Shae-Lynn (Brennan), Dylan Yeager (Madison), Nya, Keanna and Damon and great-great-grandson, Collins Yeager.

Sarah was a daughter, sister, aunt, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother great-great-grandmother to a family who will miss her amazing presence.

Memorial service was held at Wiebe Funeral Chapel with interment prior to the service at Southside Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Sarah's memory to Katie Cares.

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



OBITUARY



Robert (Bob) Calvin Hiebert
1946 - 2022

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Bob Hiebert, aged 75 years on Saturday, March 12, 2022 peacefully at his home in Morden, MB with his wife, Viola at his side.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Viola (nee Wiebe); six children, Ken (Celina), Cory (Alison), Ryan, Audrey (Cole), Tamara (Michael) and Tim as well as 13 grandchildren and two brothers, Larry and Murray (Karen).

He was predeceased by his parents, Cornie and Mary Hiebert of Miami, MB.

Cremation took place and a memorial was held on Friday, March 18, 2022 at Westside Community Church with ash interment at Hillside Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Bob's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to cancer care.

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



OBITUARY



Isaac Dyck
1928 – 2022

On Sunday, March 13, 2022 at his residence in Winkler, MB, Isaac M Dyck, 93 passed away.

Ike was predeceased by his wife, Anne Dyck; by his siblings, David, George, Tina, Liz and Anne; and by numerous sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law in both the Dyck and Penner families.

Dad is survived by his family: John (Heather) and family, Randy, Alma (Roger) and family, Al (Kathy) and family. Dad had eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial service was held on Friday, March 18, 2022 at the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church with interment prior at the Zion Mennonite Church Cemetery in Schanzenfeld.

Donations may be made in Isaac's memory to The People's Gospel Hour, Tribal Trails or Back to the Bible.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



Eva Heinrichs
(nee Kehler)

Mom was born in the village of Neubergthal on May 9, 1930 on the Kehler family homestead. She started her life living in a housebarn with her parents, Martin and Maria Kehler. She was joined by her siblings Menno and Rita, an aunt and uncle along with their children, and Grandma and Grandpa Kehler. This many people living under one roof was filled with challenges, chores and memories, some great and some that will forever be left untold. Due to her grandparents failing eyesight, she provided them with a set of eyes for reading as well as at the age of 13 a set of eyes for a grandpa who insisted he could still drive "being a bit blind". Luckily the village traffic was minimal or they would have spent most of their travels in the ditch.

At the age of 15, she was able to move with her parents and siblings to their new home where she enjoyed more freedom from chores and more of a social life which included the prospect of meeting a potential suitor, which she did. She met a charming young soldier, Otto Heinrichs, much to her Grandma Schmidt's consternation, but love blossomed and they were married on October 6, 1949. Her new husband moved her to their first home or what she referred to as being "in the bush" on an acreage in Halbstadt. Their first son Grant was born in 1950, followed by Bonnie in 1952, Roma in 1955, Mark in 1956, Cindy in 1959, Myles in 1964, Andrea in 1966, and Lisa in 1971. She was kept busy raising her family which in the end included 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

As a young family they enjoyed yearly summer vacations in Detroit Lakes as well as numerous other family vacations as Dad was always suggesting they travel and enjoy their life.

With Otto's career, they moved around to several locations, which included Emerson, Regina, Minnedosa, and finally settling in Gretna.

Unfortunately, she lost our Dad in 1988. She had a difficult time adjusting to life without her partner but she eventually continued her joy of traveling. By this time, she had moved to Altona and met new friends and old acquaintances. She never seemed to be at home. She enjoyed a cruise to Alaska with her Heinrichs in-laws, travels to both Mexico and Dominican Republic with her Kehler cousins, trip to Jamaica with her sister Jolene with age of 79, and a bus tour to Nashville. Not to mention the numerous shopping trips to Grand Forks or Cavalier with either family or friends.

Our mom was devastated again when she lost her oldest son Grant in 2011. She was resilient and had faith and started enjoying life again. She enjoyed a challenge, so she joined a weekly cousins (Helen Kehler, Agatha Kehler, Anne Braun) Canasta group and they met weekly for many years to enjoy the game and a meal together. She was a very astute player and tough to beat. She particularly ensured all her grandkids were taught the game SkipBo, and they were challenged to play whenever visiting their Grandma. She enjoyed teaching them and cherished the times with each of them.

Another of her pastimes was doing jigsaw puzzles. A 1000 piece puzzle was no match for her skills, which she would work on till the wee hours of the morning. She wouldn't give up until it was completed.

She was in good health until 2013 when she learned she needed to have a pacemaker. Even this did not deter her and she continued enjoying life to the fullest, with more shopping trips to Grand Forks and a trip to Ottawa to visit her sister Rita.

When the house in Altona became too much for her to maintain, she moved to the Buffalo Apartments where she met new friends and enjoyed several more years of puzzling, gardening and still playing Canasta or any other card games with willing participants that would come to visit. While living there she suffered a fall which prompted her move to the Gardens on 10th, which was her home for the last few years. She was able to get mobile again and continue enjoying her favourite pastimes.

Unfortunately, she had another fall on February 6, 2022, which was too much and she succumbed to her injury and ended her suffering on March 14, 2022.

She is at peace and has been reunited with her husband Otto, her son Grant, her brother, grandchild, and her parents.

She survived by her children: daughter-in-law Gloria Heinrichs (granddaughter Jill and Derek Bueddefeld and baby Annika); daughter Bonnie and husband Tony Hildebrand (grandson Curt and Sara and Alexandra and Justin Polson, and Madi) (granddaughter Tracy and Dan Heinrichs and Broedy, Zac and Zoe) (grandson Russ and Nicole and Sarea, Dominic and Emilia-Lynne) and (grandson Justin); daughter Roma and husband Terry Wiebe (granddaughter Rachel and Justin Hildebrandt) and (grandson Joshua); son Mark and wife Debbie (granddaughter Bailey) and (grandson Marcus and Allison and Colton and Spencer); daughter Cindy (granddaughter Wendy and Cory); son Myles and wife Dianne (granddaughter Melissa and Antoine) and (grandson Devon); daughter Andrea and husband Greg Carman (grandsons Tyler, Matthew, and Scott); daughter Lisa and husband Howard Voth (granddaughter Cecilia). Mom is also survived by sister-in-law Anne (nephews Tim, Dan and niece Leigh-Ann and their families); sister Rita and Roy Martel (nieces Jodi and Stephanie and their families); sister Jolene (nephews Chris and Jordan and their families); also by her Heinrichs sisters-in-law Myrtle, Elsie, and Betty and their families. A private funeral service was held with burial at the Halbstadt Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Eva may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba or to CancerCare Manitoba.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

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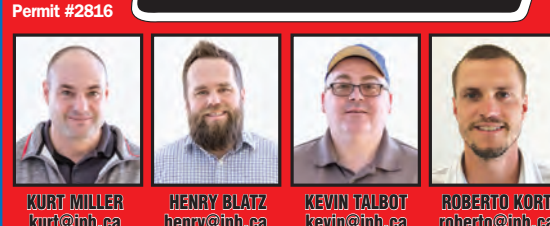


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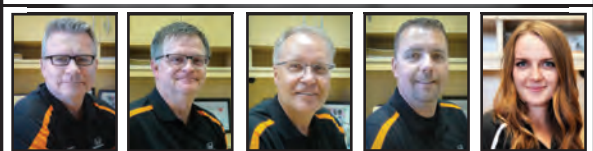
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