



MANITOBA'S LAW FIRM

PKF Lawyers, Manitoba's law firm. Providing trustworthy, expert, real-world results since 1924.

Ready to serve today, tomorrow, **always.**

[pkflawyers.com](http://pkflawyers.com)

# The *Winkler • Morden* Voice

VOLUME 17  
EDITION 15

THURSDAY,  
APRIL 23, 2026

[www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca)

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE  
— DRIVE IN TODAY



**REBATES ON FARM TIRES**  
-Firestone  
-Michelin  
-Trelleborg

80 Thornhill St, MORDEN  
204-822-6127

273 Main St S, CARMAN  
204-745-2300

HOURS:  
Mon-Fri 8AM-5:30PM  
Sat 8AM-12 noon  
[edstireservice.com](http://edstireservice.com)



## Musical medley

Gr. 3 students at J.R. Walkof Elementary School got the chance to perform with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra last week. For the full story, see Pg. 10.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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

### A NEW QUILT STORE IN MANITOBA



### FABRIC STORE IN MORDEN, MB

315 N. RAILWAY ST | 204-362-9999

[WWW.SASHASATELIER.CA](http://WWW.SASHASATELIER.CA)

# Local students shine at Skills Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

Four local vocational students showed off their skills recently at the 28th annual Skills Manitoba competition at RRC Polytech in Winnipeg.

In a test of strength, speed, creativity, and technical mastery that their chosen career paths demand, the next generation of local skilled professionals were involved in the competition, which saw about 500 secondary and post-secondary/apprentice students challenge their peers in over 40 categories.

From this region, Brady Peters of W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona and Colton Pedersen of Northlands Parkway Collegiate in Winkler brought home gold medals in carpentry and electrical installations, respectively, while NPC students Susie Boldt (aesthetics) and Mya Thiessen (nail technology) earned silver.

Peters enjoyed being involved in the competition.

"It was a good experience," he said. "There were lots of new faces that I got to meet, and it was pretty cool just competing against other top carpentry students.

"I was nervous going into it ... but once we started, I felt a lot better once I could just focus on what I was doing with nobody else around me," Peters noted. "It was pretty intense. There wasn't as much time. The time felt shorter when I was building than what I thought it would, so I had to work pretty fast the whole time. And I

only finished with about eight minutes left."

He is grateful to have such a good vocational program available to him.

"I really like it, and it's just something different than just sitting in class all day, more hands-on."

Boldt likewise really enjoyed the experience of being in her first Skills Manitoba competition.

"It was such a blessing. I had so much fun. It was truly a dream come true, she said. "It was quite intense. I was competing against some girls older than me, so that part was kind of scary, but it was mostly pretty fun getting to show my skills like that and competing."

She admitted to having some nerves going into it, but she had confidence from the training she has received.

"I had a great coach who taught me everything really well. I felt really well prepared going into it," Bolt said. "We are so blessed to have such great programs and teachers who are available to us here."

Thiessen was also grateful for having the opportunity.

"I really enjoyed it. It was a fun experience," she said. "I competed against some competitors who were older than me and maybe had a bit more experience. That was a bit nerve wracking.

"I practiced quite a lot at home," she noted. "A lot of my days, I sit and practice my art ... and I get my teacher to help me so that I can practice my skills and perfect my work."



SUPPLIED PHOTO


W.C. Miller Collegiate's Brady Peters brought home a gold medal from the Skills Manitoba competition this spring.

Being in Grade 10, she would consider entering again next year.

"I do plan to become a fully licensed aesthetician, and I would see that being my career."

Pederson could not be reached for comment by press time.

Gold medal winners at the provincial event have the opportunity to be part of Team Manitoba and compete at the Skills Canada national competition in Toronto May 26-30.



## Emergency Preparedness Week

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Altona Emergency Warning Siren Test:**  
**Monday, May 4th at 1:00 PM**

Altona's outdoor warning siren will be activated for four minutes as an annual test to check that the equipment is working properly. The Warning Siren will continue to be tested for a few seconds daily at noon.

**Emergency Preparedness Expo**  
**Tuesday, May 5th at 6:00 PM**

Join us at the Altona Fire Hall to see emergency equipment up close, learn how to keep your family safe in an emergency, and enjoy free hot dogs and family fun!

**Mass Notification System: Altona & Rhineland**  
**Register today for emergency alerts!**

Sign up so your municipality can share emergency information with you directly and efficiently. Register at [www.altona.ca](http://www.altona.ca) (Altona residents) or [www.rmofrhineland.com](http://www.rmofrhineland.com) (Rhineland residents)



## Mental Health Week

**Activities to promote mental health and well-being!**

<b>Tuesday, April 28</b> Flower Crown Workshop 6:00 - 7:15pm   Cost: \$15	<b>Sunday, May 3</b> Public Skating 12:15pm - 1:45pm   No Cost
<b>Tuesday, May 5</b> Nature, Wildlife & Wellness Presentation by Prairie Wildlife Rehab Centre 6:00 - 7:15pm   No Cost	<b>Thursday, May 7</b> Paint Night for Mental Health with Jen Martens 6:00 - 8:00pm   Cost: \$2

*Morden*

**Register at [morden.ca/rec](http://morden.ca/rec)**



# “Morden is growing, planning, thriving”

By Lorne Stelmach

Optimism marked the overall tone of Morden Mayor Nancy Penner’s state of the city address at the annual meeting of the Morden Chamber of Commerce last Thursday.

Penner acknowledged the challenges faced by the city, such as a need for a solution for wastewater treatment, but she mostly offered encouragement for what lies ahead.

“Morden is growing. Morden is planning. Morden is thriving, and together we are building a future we can all be proud of,” she said. “Morden continues to be a place of opportunity, growth, and strong community spirit.

“Over the past year, we have seen not only progress in infrastructure and development, but also the resilience and collaboration that defines who we are,” Penner said. “We will continue to prioritize smart growth, strong partnerships, and responsible planning. Because the decisions we make today will shape the Morden of tomorrow.”

Penner noted how growth must be managed thoughtfully, and she shared how the city made significant investments last year in infrastructure—from upgrades to roads and sidewalks to critical improvements in the water systems—and they have continued working towards a wastewater solution.

She then touched on the city’s strategic planning process, noting how it focuses on four key priorities: enhancing quality of life, strengthening infrastructure and services, supporting economic growth, and building strong partnerships. Council has also part-

nered with the Morden Community Development Corporation (MCDC) to develop a strategic plan that aligns their efforts and strengthens their shared vision for economic growth, investment attraction, and long-term prosperity in Morden.

“The city continues to work to support local businesses on several fronts,” Penner said. “The phase one expansion of the industrial park will provide the space needed for our businesses to meet their growth potential.

“The city also recognizes that growing businesses need the right skills and talent to reach their full potential. That’s why we continue to invest in strategic partnerships with educational institutions and with provincial and federal funders—partnerships that deliver programming responsive to the real, evolving needs of employers right here in our community.”

Last year, the city supported the purchase of Boundary Trails Place through the MCDC, securing a permanent home for many services in the community including the community medical clinic without adding cost to ratepayers.

“This was an important step in ensuring continued access to health care and professional services close to home,” Penner said. “Because when we invest in health, we invest in the strength of our entire community.”

She went on to highlight the increasing importance of regional collaboration.

“We know that many

**“TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A FUTURE WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF.”**



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE  
Morden Mayor Nancy Penner delivered her state of the city address to chamber members last week.

of the challenges we face are not unique to Morden. That is why we work closely with our neighbours in Winkler and the RM of Stanley,” Penner said. “We share challenges such as aging infrastructure, water security, and of course wastewater. We are also exploring opportunities for enhanced regional services such as police services along with a current study underway for the feasibility of a regional airport.

Continued on page 4

## Give to Your Local Community Foundation.

April 26 is Community Foundation Day

Across Manitoba, community foundations support the spaces and opportunities that bring communities together, like recreation centres and sports equipment.

Give today. Support your community forever. Visit [EndowMB.org](http://EndowMB.org)

A PROGRAM OF THE WINNEPEG FOUNDATION

Proclaimed by the Manitoba government, Community Foundation Day celebrates the impact of community foundations and the generosity of Manitobans.

## Spring Showers!!

BE PREPARED!!

WESTERN BOOTS

20% OFF

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

CLARKS MEN'S DRESSY

20% OFF

EASY ON EASY OFF

WOMEN'S CLARKS

20% OFF

DRYSHOD & MUCK ANKLE BOOTS

20% OFF

WRANGLER SHIRTS, JEANS & HATS

20% OFF

TIGER CSA WORKBOOTS

\$143.99

K.C.'s

Shoe Repair

WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE  
YOUR FAMILY FOOTWEAR STORE  
WINKLER, MB • Ph: 325-5538  
Service & Selection Guaranteed  
Company charges welcome (must be arranged ahead of time)

HOURS: Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm  
Saturday 9:30am to 4:00 pm  
325 Kimberly Rd. - East of Canadian Tire

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

# Highlights of the Winkler Festival of the Arts take the stage



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Festival of the Arts held its awards night Friday, featuring highlight performances from performers such as (clockwise from top left) Katrina Banman and Rachel Hesom (vocal), Brayden Wang (speech arts), Macy Hildebrand (vocal), and Matai Peters Loewen (piano, Gr. 5).

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Festival of the Arts filled the sanctuary of Winkler EMMC with music the past few weeks.

The festival welcomed performers of all ages for adjudicated competition in piano, vocal, choral, and speech arts categories.

They capped off the sessions with a two-part awards night Friday, featuring performances from each category's top participants.

Piano award winners include Ethan Thiessen (Gr. 1), Mark Alles (Gr. 2), Lias Fochtberger (Gr. 3), Amy Stuermer (Gr. 4), Matai Peters Loewen (Gr. 5), Mary Mierau (Gr. 6), Kaleb Neufeld (Gr. 7), Grace Xia (Gr. 9), and Cayden Wood (Gr. 10).

Winning piano scholarships were Charlotte Klassen (Gr. 1), Quinton Kroeker (Gr. 2), Eliana Jumatayeva (Gr. 3), Jesslynn Driedger (Gr. 4), Aaron Kenemy (Gr. 5), Lenya Dickmann (Gr. 6), Brayden Wang (Gr. 7), Hadassah Hildebrand (Gr. 8), Karl Haw (Gr. 9), Jared Borja (Gr. 10).

Winning the adjudicator's choice award for piano was Reuben Alles.

Earning piano medals was Grace Xia

(W.A. Mozart), Claire Thiessen and Tabitha Rempel (duet/trio), Jesslynn Driedger (piano cover by ear), and Emily Maier (sacred music).

Receiving piano provincial recommendations in their age categories were Quinton Kroeker, Mark Alles, Charlotte Klassen, Judah Giesbrecht, Laura Friesen, Lias Fochtberger, Amy Stuermer, Jocelyn Grewe, Matai Peres Loewen, Mary Mierau, Eden Watson, Danica Thiessen, Hadassah Hildebrand, Xander Thiessen, Brayden Wang, Grace Xia, Reuben Alles, and Karl Haw.

In speech arts, Brayden Wang won the adjudicator's award and also a provincial recommendation.

In the vocal category, Rachel Hesom won the Justina Wiebe Trophy for overall best performer.

Vocal scholarships went to Katrina Banman, Rachel Hesom, Macy Hildebrand, Norah Thiessen, Arielle Banman, and Savannah Klassen, while provincial recommendations went to Norah Thiessen, Ariana Pauls, Rachel Hesom, Macy Hildebrand, Arielle Banman, and Katrina Banman.

## > STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 3

"By working together, we can achieve more than we ever could alone."

As the city looks to the future, Pen-

ner said they remain focused on sustainable growth, and she acknowledged the impact and concerns in regards to wastewater capacity.

"We agree that this is a key infrastructure need for our community. We know the cost of doing nothing has a far greater impact compared to the cost of taking action now," she said. "This is why council has approved Stantec to proceed with the next phase, including the pre-selection process for our future wastewater treatment facility.

"This is an important step ... this council is committed to advancing the project, working toward environmental approvals, submitting our Environment Act proposal and positioning ourselves to move into the construction tender phase by year end.

"This is critical infrastructure for our community. Quite simply, we can no longer afford to delay. The cost of inaction is too great, not just financially but in missed opportunities for growth and development."

Penner then reflected on the need for increased information for and communication with the community.

"This spring, we'll be hosting public information sessions focused on our wastewater project ... an opportunity

for residents to learn more, ask questions and understand how this investment will shape the future of our community."

Penner then took a moment to thank the city staff for their dedication to the community.

"A strong city is one that takes care of its people, and I truly believe that includes the people who work for the city," she said. "We are committed to supporting staff, creating opportunities for growth and building a workplace where people can build meaningful careers. That commitment is reflected in our ability to attract and retain top talent and in the strength of our internal leadership.

"Our new police chief, fire chief, deputy city manager and director of community development were all promoted from within, something we are incredibly proud of," Penner noted. "Council deeply values each and every member of our team. Your dedication helps make Morden a place people choose, not just to live but to belong."

## NO FRILLS STORE ON THE WAY

Penner closed out her speech with a special announcement

"One of the most meaningful measures of a growing, thriving community is the continued investment from

you, our businesses, that see opportunity here ... opportunity in our people, our economy and our future. It brings myself and council great pleasure to share some exciting news that reflects exactly just that ... Morden has secured a new No Frills grocery store.

"This is more than just a new retail development. It represents increased choice and affordability for our residents, new employment opportunities and continued confidence from major national brands in Morden as a place to invest and grow," Penner said. "Access to affordable groceries is important for every household, and this addition will help strengthen our local food landscape while supporting the day-to-day needs of our community.

"I want to acknowledge the work of council, administration, and our partners who helped make this happen. Attracting this kind of investment doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of long-term planning, relationship-building and a shared vision for Morden's future.

"This announcement is another sign that Morden is not standing still," she concluded. "We are moving forward, growing responsibly and continuing to build a community where people want to live, work and invest."

**National Huntington Walk Manitoba**  
**Lockport River's Edge Run**  
  
**for HD**  
**HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE**  
*"Manitoba's Beautiful Run!"*

<b>30k</b> MARATHON 7:30 am	<b>1/2</b> MARATHON 7:30 am	<b>10k</b> RUN/WALK 8:00 am	<b>5k</b> RUN/WALK 8:00 am
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Start & Finish at Skinner's River Road in Lockport, MB**  
 Register at:  
[www.hdmanitoba.ca](http://www.hdmanitoba.ca)  
**Free Deluxe Pancake Breakfast for all participants!**  
**EVENT SPONSOR**

**FOOD SPONSOR**  
  
**HARRY'S FINE FOODS**

**4 COMMUNICATIONS INC.**  
 authorized dealer

**SK SPONSOR**  
  
**K5**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
  
**Running Room**  
[www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com)

# Starting the conversation about housing

By Lorne Stelmach

Community members came together last Tuesday at Rendezvous to be part of a conversation around housing in Morden.

The night wasn't expected to generate solutions but rather to serve as a starting point for further discussion about what is seen as a tremendous challenge for the community.

Kevin Driedger, executive director of 500 Stephen Community Centre, which organized the event, felt good about how the discussion turned out.

"What I liked was the blend of people whose work is involved with housing, like Genesis House and Habitat for Humanity ... it's kind of central to their work ... but then there were also just community members who are interested, so they could be learning from each other," he said.

"I didn't go into expecting that we would come up with sort of solution in the end. That wasn't the goal. It was let's have this conversation and see where things might go ... help us learn from each other."

Overall, Driedger said it was clear that there is a real concern about the

shortage of both available and affordable housing options in Morden.

"And there's a big chasm in terms of how to move from that kind of concern to having any kind of action, and who can do that ... I think these kinds of conversations need to happen in order to build up connection, build up community awareness. I'm hoping it did a little of that."

Ang Braun, executive director of Genesis House, touched on the challenges their clients face when trying to rebuild their lives after leaving an abusive relationship.

"For housing, there really has never been much of a glimmer of hope," she said. "Those problems haven't changed ... they are worse now, and that is unfortunate to have worked at something for a long, long time."

She noted the province had added a housing benefit, but there are a number of restrictions and limitations. There are overall a variety of barriers that people face, Braun noted, and even if they have the resources to afford a place, they often cannot even find one.

Driedger said community conversa-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Concerned community members gathered at Rendezvous last week to talk housing, led by 500 Stephen Community Centre's Kevin Driedger.

tion on this topic will continue.

"I want to be in touch with our board as well as the community mobilization program, which is kind of part of us, about what might our role be in moving this conversation forward and moving this conversation towards action. What role do we have here?" he said. "I would certainly be glad to host more like this ... and I could see that as the role of 500 Stephen, to bring people together again for more conversation.

"It's obvious that the challenge is

real, and the concern is real," Driedger said. "And there's a lot of knowledge out there. That was evident. There's people who really know a lot about this."

He sees events like this as fitting in well with 500 Stephen's goal of building connections and relationships.

"We're not in a place to build new housing, but we can bring people together that have a variety of different perspectives and experiences to help foster collaboration and help foster solutions."

## Mom saves son from fast-flowing creek

By Voice staff

The quick action of a mother saved the life of a four-year-old boy who fell into a creek southeast of Winkler last week.

RCMP say the boy fell into a creek near his home on Monday, April 13 just before 5 p.m.

He and his older brother were playing in the yard when they moved past some trees towards the water without permission.

The younger boy was playing on ice and snow near the creek that suddenly broke off, causing him to fall in.

The older brother ran inside to get their mother. She ran to the creek and then across the road when she couldn't see the boy. He had been pulled by the current through a culvert.

The mother, who didn't know how to swim, jumped into the creek and pulled her son to the bank with the help of a neighbour. She then started performing CPR and successfully revived him while a neighbour called 911.

The child, who was alert, was treated at the scene by paramedics before being transported via air ambulance to hospital in Winnipeg.

At last report, he was in stable condition.

RCMP remind all Manitobans to stay away from the edges of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes to prevent falls into cold and often fast-flowing water. The combination of melting ice and additional rain or snow can also lead to higher water levels that can destabilize stream and riverbanks, increasing the risk of accidents.



COMFORT ISN'T A  
GUESSING GAME WITH AN  
**ENERGYGUIDE**  
HOME EVALUATION

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A **\$400 REBATE.**

If some rooms feel drafty while others run hot, a registered energy advisor can help you understand why. They'll assess your home and provide expert advice about which upgrades will have the biggest impact on your comfort and energy use.



To learn more and check your eligibility, visit [efficiencyMB.ca/getting-started](http://efficiencyMB.ca/getting-started) or call us toll free at 1-844-944-8181.

**EFFICIENCY MANITOBA**

**COME SAVE WITH US**

**The Voice** What's *Your* story? Call 204-325-6888

# The Voice



**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Holly Thorne-Wiebe



**COLUMNIST**  
Peter Cantelon



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



**DISTRIBUTION**  
Christy Brown

The newspaper is supported by advertising dollars. If you enjoy the paper and would like to see it grow and prosper, visit any of the advertisers and businesses in our rural communities. Keep your dollars working at home and shop local.

Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Time marches on

**H**ave you noticed in recent years that various summer festivals are starting to attract the music you like?

For years maybe you thought, like I did, that the festivals seemed to be geared to an older crowd, attracting musical acts that reflected those tastes. Sure, the music was good, there was no question there. It's just that it represented a different era that maybe you weren't as interested in.

You would find yourself saying things like, "Haven't they already had this band here three or four times before?" and "I didn't know these guys were still alive" and such.

Then lately you started noticing something. A change was in the air. The festivals were starting to showcase different music. Younger music. Music that appealed to you. How exciting.

Finally, you thought, the festivals are looking to appeal to younger people—like me!

Well, I have some bad news for you. Brace yourself. The festivals aren't appealing to younger people. You just got older.

I know it's difficult to believe, but it's true. Don't believe me? The aches and pains, the grey hair or lack thereof are not enough to convince you? Let's do a small experiment.

Take a band that had a hit song in 1992. Maybe a band you really loved. You suddenly find out they're coming

to your local festival and you're so excited you pull out those old skinny jeans to see if they still fit.

Well, 1992 was 34 years ago. This is no longer the young hip band you remember and no, the younger demographic around you is not super excited that they are coming. They are responding to your inquiries with comments like "who?" no matter how many times you force them to listen to that one song you loved so much.

A teenager listening to music from 1992 today would be like teenage you listening to the hits from 1958.

Look, there's nothing wrong with

older music. I love some old music and some of my best friends enjoy older music. Heck, I remember 21-year-old me going to a concert at the old Exhibition Stadium in Toronto to see The Who. I didn't know who they were, but my friends were excited, so I went with them. It was good music. But it was older music.

I say enjoy it for what it is: music from the previous century. A trip down memory lane. You put in your time having to tolerate your parents' and grandparents' music on the stage.

Continued on page 7



**By Peter Cantelon**

# Letters

## LABELS DON'T TELL THE FULL STORY

As the executive director of a local food bank, I have the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life. And one thing continues to stay with me: how quickly we, as a society, place labels on others—and how rarely those labels tell the full story.

Behind every label is a person. Someone who is trying. Someone who is carrying more than we can see.

Many of the people I meet did not choose the circumstances they

were born into. Some are working incredibly hard to break cycles that have shaped their families for generations. Anyone who has ever tried to change deeply rooted patterns knows—this is not easy work. It takes time, strength, and often more resilience than most of us will ever be asked to find.

I remember a young man who, after years of unemployment, finally found a job. The pride in his voice when he shared the news was something I will never forget.

Continued on page 7

## Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).

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

**GET IN TOUCH WITH US**

**GENERAL INQUIRIES:**  
204-325-6888

**ADVERTISING:**  
Gwen Dyck 204-823-0535  
gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca

**Advertising Deadline: Monday at 4 p.m.**

**NEWS DESK:**

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor  
204-332-3456 [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)

Lorne Stelmach Reporter  
204-823-2655 [lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

The *Voice* is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 23,692 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The *Voice* received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

View the *Voice* online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoic.ca](http://altonavoic.ca)

# Access CU reports on a year of growth, change

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was both a busy one and a year of transition for the Access Credit Union, and that was a theme in the presentations offered as part of the financial institution's recent online annual general meeting.

One significant talking point in both the presentations and question and answer session that followed centred around amalgamations and recent branch closures.

In the greater southern region, it included the Sanford branch closing and consolidating with the new Kenaston Crossing location in Winni-

peg, the Plum Coulee branch closing and consolidating with Winkler, and the Emerson branch closing and consolidating with Altona.

"Sometimes these benefits are not as visible on a day to day basis as they are behind the scenes," board chairperson Curt Letkeman said in addressing a question on the benefits of closures and amalgamations.

He cited an example from a number of years ago where previous amalgamations at that time were found to be saving the credit union \$5 million a year in operational costs.

"So we are seeing benefits. They are

sometimes not necessarily visible to members, but we do, when we talk about rates and trying to be the most competitive," he said. "We talk also about what we are able to do in communities, and a lot of the community support would be challenging for small credit unions if they were not a part of a larger, stronger organization such as Access.

"The size allows us to weather some storms," he added. "On occasion, there's been some financial difficulties in certain communities and certain businesses that, had they been on their own, this credit union may not have been able to sustain some of those things."

"While our branch network is evolving, our commitment to serving members in those communities remains strong," president and CEO Myrna Wiebe noted in her report. "Collaboration, transparency and accountability will continue to guide our decisions as we work to deliver sustainable value for our members and clients."

Wiebe emphasized that Access remained focused on strengthening its balance sheet, managing risk responsibly, and ensuring sustainable growth for the credit union.

"Both our loan and deposit portfolios achieved meaningful gains, sup-

ported by disciplined lending practices and strong member engagement. Operational efficiencies and strategic investments further enhanced our overall financial stability," she stated.

"Our loan portfolio delivered a strong performance this year, reflecting disciplined growth and continued demand across our markets. Total loans reached \$12.4 billion, supported by \$12.0 billion in deposits and a solid balance sheet with total assets of \$14.1 billion," Peter said. "This strength translated into net income of \$76.1 million and a gross operating margin of \$113.5 million."

Wiebe's report covered a lot of ground, starting with her succeeding Larry Davey in stepping into the role of president and chief executive officer in September.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead at a moment that is so pivotal to advancing our purpose, supporting our members, our communities and our employees," she said. "The strategic priorities established by our board of directors centre on enhancing the member and client experience, supporting community well-being, creating opportunities to add value for members and fostering employee growth and development."

Continued on page 16

## > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

It wasn't just employment—it was dignity, hope, a step forward. I also remember a young woman with a deeply kind heart. Even while facing her own challenges, she found ways to give back, to support others, to be present. Over time, these two found each other. They were not perfect. They came from difficult backgrounds. But they were trying—honestly and earnestly—to build something better together.

And yet, when it came time to find housing, doors kept closing. Not because of who they were, but because of assumptions tied to where they came from. Decisions were made about them before they were even given a chance. And slowly, the progress they had fought so hard for began to slip away. It is difficult to witness how easily hope can be undone—not by lack of effort, but by lack of opportunity.

At the same time, I have seen something else that continues to move me deeply.

I have seen people—complete strangers to one another—stand side by side and offer support in the most genuine ways. Often, these are not people with abundance or stability. These are individuals who are barely staying afloat themselves. And yet, they are the ones who show up, who listen, who care, who offer a steady presence.

Perhaps it is because they understand. Because they know what it

feels like to struggle, to be judged, to be unseen. And in that understanding, they choose compassion.

This is not a letter of blame. It is simply a reflection—and a gentle reminder.

The way we see people matters. The assumptions we make, the stories we tell ourselves about others, the quiet "no" that closes a door—these things have real consequences. Sometimes, without realizing it, we are not just failing to help—we are becoming part of the barrier that keeps someone from moving forward.

Maybe we can pause before we judge. Maybe we can choose to see the person, not the label. Because sometimes, the people who have the least to give are the ones who show us the most about what it truly means to be human.

**Mariyam Tsygankova,  
Many Hands Resource Centre,  
Morden**

## GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

What is going on in this clown world we call Canada? Never have there in Canadian history been so many floor crossers in such a short time. It seems democracy is dead in Canada. These floor crossing MPs must be being bribed, coerced, extorted to make them cross over like this. The smell of government corruption is ripe in the air.

**Joesepp Sparrow, Rosebrook**

## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

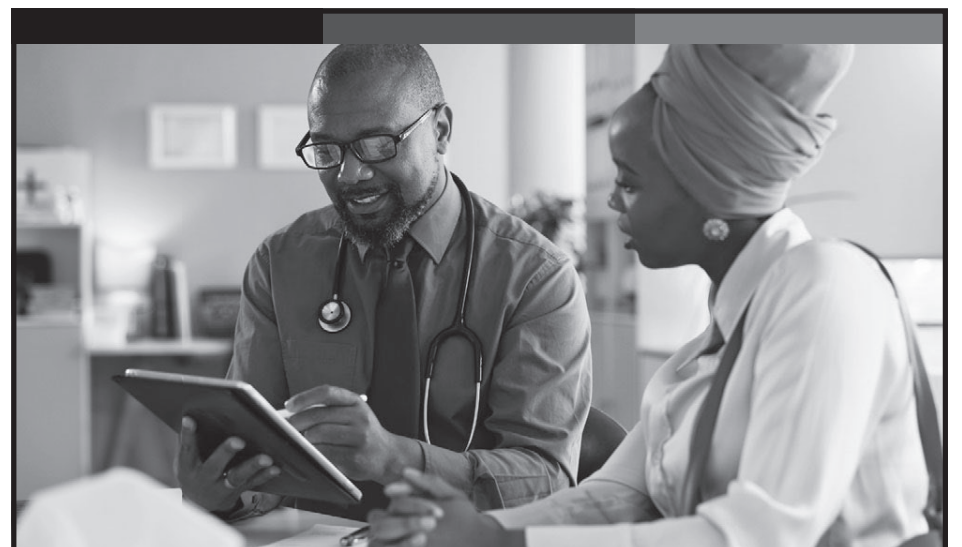
Now, like King Charles, you finally get to reign.

Eventually, in several decades, your kids will be experiencing the same thing as music from the 2020s creeps into the concert scene.

They will finally be excited for the

local festival music lineup declaring things like "Finally, some REAL music" to the disdain of those of us still alive.

In the meantime, their kids will be annoyed by the choices but, as we know, their turn will come.



## 90 new doctors in rural Manitoba.

With 90 new rural doctors and a plan to recruit even more, Budget 2026 is re-opening ERs and making rural health care better.

[Manitoba.ca/Budget2026](https://Manitoba.ca/Budget2026)

**Manitoba** 

# Barnswallows Quilt Show coming up May 1-3

By Lorne Stelmach

From its humble beginnings 40 years ago, what became the Barnswallows Quilters has come a long way.

It marks the milestone with its upcoming annual show set for May 1-3 at the Access Event Centre in Morden.

As always, the show serves as a showcase of the creative talent from across the region. Every year it brings a wide variety of work that is both traditional and contemporary, and that is something organizers are always keen to highlight.

"They're all very artistic," said co-chair Lesley Andrew. "Maybe it's because of Manitoba's long winters. We have more time to do these kinds of things in winter time."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The work of quilters and fabric artists from across the region will be up at the Access Event Centre next weekend.

"There is a lot of talent for sure, and it's neat to see it come through in so many different ways. It's not just the traditional quilts. There's beautiful wall hangings and a variety of things."

The quilt show had modest beginnings, Andrew recalled, noting it started when Gloria Dyck converted an old horse barn on her property into a gathering space for friends to sew.

"She gathered her friends to hand quilt a quilt for charity," she said. "They met regularly and enjoyed having a show and tell. So this event eventually led to having a public show."

The variety of work displayed for the show has grown to include all manner of fabric work by artisans from all over southern Manitoba.

The 2026 event runs Friday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 3 from noon to 5 p.m. in the event centre community hall.

Registration happens on Wednesday April 29 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the facility's Morden Chiropractic meeting room. While Barnswallows members get preference if space becomes limited, the show is open to all quilters.

"You don't have to be a member, although we do have a lot of quilts and we may not be able to hang up everyone's quilts," Andrew noted. "We welcome everyone with different levels of expertise, whether you're a first time quilter or you're learning new techniques or you're sharing your inspiration with others ... anyone can register a quilt for the show."

As always, the show will shine a spotlight on a feature quilter. This year it's Joyce Debreuil, who will have several pieces on display.

Another feature of the show is the annual challenge where creators are given a theme to work with for the following year. This year's theme is "Connection."

"It is always interesting to see. They take a theme, and what one person sees with it is different from what another person sees," said Andrew, who shared that the 2027 theme is "Ruby" in honour of the quilting showcase's four decades in the community.

A new feature this year will be a display by a fiber art network from B.C. with the theme of "Up Close." The show will also feature a merchant mall overseen by Aspen Grove Quilting. And, of course, the Barnswallow's Boutique allows members to have some of their work available for sale as well. There will also be a rainbow auction, with proceeds supporting South Central Cancer Resource and Boundary Trails Health Centre women's health services.

Andrew shared that they will have perhaps around 60 high school students tour the show on the Friday, and she hopes that it will inspire the next generation of quilters.

"And we're always encouraging new members ... everyone is welcome. It doesn't matter what level of expertise you are," she said.

More information is available online at the [barnswallowquilters.wordpress.com](http://barnswallowquilters.wordpress.com).

## This year's feature quilter is Joyce Debreuil

By Lorne Stelmach

Barnswallows Quilters's annual quilt show always puts the spotlight on a featured quilter, and the choice for this year's event was quite surprised to be selected for the honour.

The work of Joyce Debreuil will be featured at the show set for the May 1-3 at the Access Event Centre in Morden.

"I was astonished," said Debreuil. "I've actually only belonged to the group for a couple years, although I've been quilting for a lot longer than that ... so I was surprised and very flattered."

"I've always sewn quilts, but I would have never imagined being a featured quilter."

The displays of the featured quilters often vary from being a sort of retrospective of their work to perhaps having a representative theme. For Debreuil, family connection is the common thread between many of her pieces.

"I have nine great grandchildren, and I made each one of them a quilt with their name on the top, so that's going to

be the centrepiece," she shared.

Working with fabrics and especially sewing has long been a part of Debreuil's life.

"I sewed all my life, but mostly I sewed for my kids," she noted. "I started quilting about 25 years ago after I retired."

"I like working with colour, and I've always sewn and worked with fabric."

She sees much of her work as not being very traditional in most ways.

"Most of my quilts are not traditional patterns. The ones I'm going to show are not traditional patterns mostly," Debreuil said.

She referred to a couple mottos she likes to ascribe to when it comes to her pieces.

"If everything fits but one doesn't quite match, it's a mistake, but if nothing matches, then it looks great," she said. "Another quote from a book I really enjoyed was 10 colours might be wrong, but a hundred colours are always right ... if you have enough colours, it will be fine. My display will be very colourful."



**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL LIBRARY**

**"THE BIG ONE"**  
**ANNUAL BOOK SALE**  
**Fundraiser**

**\$10 A BAG**  
Purchase an SCRL tote for \$10!

<b>APR 30<sup>TH</sup></b> 2PM - 8PM	<b>MAY 1<sup>ST</sup></b> 9AM - 8PM	<b>MAY 2<sup>ND</sup></b> 9AM - 2PM
---	--	--

**ACCESS EVENT CENTRE**  
111-D Gilmour St., Morden, MB

\*Prices vary by bag size.  
\*We accept cash, debit, and credit!



**RURAL BUDS**  
CANNABIS SHOP

**MORRIS • CARMAN**  
**ST. PIERRE • ST. ADOLPHE**



# FTC brings Silent Sky to the stage next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Flatlands Theatre Company wraps up its 20th season next week with playwright Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky*.

Running April 30 to May 3 at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler, the show shines a spotlight on the story of a pivotal 19th-century astronomer.

"*Silent Sky* follows the life and career of Henrietta Leavitt, a very important astronomer from the early 1900s who sadly does not get a lot of credit," says Amber Enns, a FTC acting veteran who is venturing into her first time as director with this production. "She lived and worked at a time when

women were not allowed to publish under their own names."

The play spans decades of Leavitt's life, starting with her beginning work as a human "computer" at the Harvard Observatory when women weren't allowed to even touch a telescope, never mind express an original idea.

Despite those challenges, Leavitt would go on to discover how to accurately measure the vast distances between stars and planets.

Her work revolutionized astronomy, eventually allowing Edwin Hubble—of Hubble Space Telescope fame—to prove the existence of other galaxies beyond the Milky Way and determine that the universe is expanding.

"We see a dramatized, romanticized version of her life and relationships, so there's a lot of love, there's a lot of friendship, a lot of laughter," Enns says. "And we get to see the science in a universally understood way through music and through mutual discovery, which is really fun."

The small cast includes Angela Klassen as Leavitt, Denice Pauls and Jeanette Hoepfner as fellow female astronomers Williamina Fleming and Annie Jump Cannon, Hannah Franz as Margaret Leavitt, and Darren Kehler as Peter Shaw, assistant to the head astronomer at the observatory.

Klassen says the story behind the real-life Leavitt is truly fascinating.

"To be doing science and astron-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Flatlands Theatre Company's Darren Kehler, Hannah Franz, Jeanette Hoepfner, Angela Klassen, and Denice Pauls in *Silent Sky*, which takes to the stage at the Winkler concert hall April 30 to May 3.

## > DEBREUIL, FROM PG. 8

As to the attraction to quilting, Debreuil went back to her family connections with her creations.

"They're useful. When I give people quilts, I tell them don't hang them on the wall. Use them. So these baby quilts are all going to have been used already."

Debreuil sees there being a lot of talented quilters in the region, so it is nice that this show puts it all on display.

"It's high quality work," she said, noting there is an upcoming national show in Winnipeg where she would love to see local quilters on display. "I went to one in Edmonton a couple years ago, and lots of the quilters here could easily show there and not be ashamed."

And as for the local show, she also looks forward to meeting and connecting not only with other quilters and aficionados but perhaps even inspire interest among youth.

"It's nice to see when a few younger people come in," Debreuil said, recalling when she taught a 15-year-old great niece to quilt. That niece went on to make a huge queen-size quilt for her parents that will be in the show.

"This is a bit of a push to get some younger people interested," she noted. "It's a bit of an expensive hobby, especially to get started. Without having somebody to help, it's hard to get started, but there's a few."

omy in a time when women were supposed to be at home and getting married and having kids, which is a fine thing, but she was doing something else," she says. "She was a very interesting person. When you read the history, of course some things get changed for the show, but there's a lot of accuracy in what we're showing."

Playing Leavitt's sister, Margaret, a fictional character, Franz has the opportunity to provide a contrast to the astronomer's life.

"She's really what Henrietta's life would have been if she hadn't gone to Harvard, if she'd stayed home and been a teacher, a homemaker, whatever options were available to her there,"

she says. "Margaret is really that past part of her life kind of calling back to her: this is where you came from."

Franz says the writing in the play drew her to be a part of it.

"I read the script and it was so beautiful, I had to do it," she says. "The story is really well told. And it's a story about science, but told in a beautifully artistic way; there's allegory and metaphor to explain it ... it's an artistic rendering of a mathematical, scientific story."

Show times are 7 p.m. nightly April 30, May 1, and May 2 and 3 p.m. on May 3. Tickets are available at [winklerconcerthall.ca](http://winklerconcerthall.ca).

## JOIN US FOR THE APRIL CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

### April OFFSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 12th -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 22nd, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM



### April ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 13 -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 23, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM



### April ONSITE Week 3 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 27th -30th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 30th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on May 6th, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Thursday, May 7th & Friday May 8th from 9 AM to 5 PM



Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 • Ed Pylypjuk (204) 392-8442 • Russ Harder 204-371-4771 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM. Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions. If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.



# MB Chamber Orchestra stops by J.R. Walkof School

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Students at J.R. Walkof Elementary School in Winkler got quite a treat last week when the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra came to town.

As part of its spring tour to rural communities, the Winnipeg orchestra performed at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Wednesday night. The next day, they stopped by the elementary school to give Gr. 3 students the opportunity to take the stage alongside them, playing a variety of kid-friendly instruments.

It's part of MCO's Toy Symphony school program, explained Suzu Enns, MCO director of education and community engagement, and it was

the first time they've taken the musical workshop to students outside Winnipeg. In addition to the Winkler stop, MCO performers were also at École St-Malo the day before.

"It's our first time in the region," she said. "It's been on our to-do list for awhile, so we're glad to finally make it happen."

In a morning workshop with Enns and J.R. Walkof music teacher Caleb Reimer, the kids learned their instrument parts for a concert they performed with MCO musicians for the rest of the school a few hours later.

"It's a bunch of Orff [percussion] instruments, vibraphones, and different egg shakers—all instruments that are really hands-on," Enns said, noting



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Gr. 3 students at J.R. Walkof School in Winkler got the chance to perform alongside the visiting Manitoba Chamber Orchestra last week as part of MCO's Toy Symphony school outreach program.

the workshop is meant to help the kids learn how to play as an ensemble and to follow a conductor's lead.

The hope is it will give the budding musicians a taste of the joys of chamber music and performing for an audience.

"It's so inspiring to see the kids play and all their focus when they hear the orchestra right next to them for the first time. And the sound—it fills the gym," Enns said, sharing one student in St. Malo told her that he'd "never had this much fun with music."

It's an amazing opportunity for his students, noted Reimer.

"We do have artists coming to our school—sometimes the students perform for their classmates and sometimes we have the high school coming through with different groups—but just to be able to have a professional organization come in, to see the professionalism, hear their amazing per-

formance ... it's a tremendous treat."

The entire Gr. 3 group at J.R. Walkof, about 80 kids strong, took part in the workshop and the show, which also included several selections played by the orchestra meant to showcase the different instruments and demonstrate how they layer various parts of music to create a greater whole.

It hopefully gave the kids—performers and audience members alike—plenty of food for thought.

"The more we bring different groups in, it's kind of inspiring them for the future and making them consider the different [music and band] options that are out there for them," Reimer said. "So hopefully they have some good takeaways and some good memories, some good core memories that they can consider later when they're making their choices in high school and so on."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A full house of about 30 people enjoyed a lovely evening of fine wine, friends, and art Friday evening as the Pembina Hills Arts Council hosted a wine tasting at the gallery in downtown Morden. The wine tasting experience was led by arts council board member Michelle Stelmach (right), who is a certified Spanish wine scholar. The evening raised close to \$1,500 in support of arts programming in the community.

# Wine night at the gallery



News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888

# Art on the Trail project looking for proposals

By Lorne Stelmach

A local initiative to create art to be set in the natural environment at Lake Minnewasta is continuing with more installations in the works.

The aim of the Pembina Hills Arts Council's Art on the Trail project is to create and place public art amidst the natural beauty of the Morden lake, but the challenge for artists is to create works that are both sustainable and land-conscious.

"The main idea behind it is to make sure that we very nice and empowering art along the trail at Lake Minnewasta," said gallery director Anna Ishkhanyan. "And it can give an opportunity to not only encourage physical activity at the lake but also give some extra incentive with something interesting to see there."

"We have a lot of art lovers in the community, and art is really highly appreciated here, so why not do art outside in the open air and a wonderful space where people can combine physical activity with art."

The arts council recently put out a

call for applications for the next phase of Art on the Trail, which so far has had four pieces installed at the lake. Ishkhanyan emphasized they have some specific guidelines and restrictions artists need to follow.

"We cannot accept applications for art that is not using nature friendly materials," she noted. "The most important consideration is making sure that the nature is not spoiled ... whatever we do has to be ecologically friendly and does not disturb the natural space there."

Past Art on the Trail seasons have included work from local artists Jen Martens, David Peters, Lauren McLean, and Margie Hildebrand.

Hildebrand's piece from 2023 is the most recent addition, and it was very much inspired by the nature that surrounds it. Towering at over 10 feet, the sculpture features some of the variety of animals that can be found at the lake.

Ishkhanyan shared she's been encouraged by the proposals that have already come in for the next round of installations, including one idea she



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Artist Margie Hildebrand (far left) unveils her Art on the Trail installation in 2023. Pembina Hills Gallery has put a call out for new pieces to go up at Lake Minnewasta this summer.

described as a cocoon-like piece that uses natural materials

There are two pieces currently in the works, she noted, but they're still looking for a possible third one.

"And since the project is continuing, we are also going to have a continued call up for applications, so we're aiming to have at least two or three more art pieces installed along the trail," Ishkhanyan said.

The hope is to have the new pieces installed in May or June, depending on the weather and conditions on the lake trail. PHAC is also looking at or-

ganizing some outdoor art activities at the lake to coincide with Art on the Trail.

"It could be really fun to have people doing some outdoor art activities and enjoying nature and art together," Ishkhanyan said, noting they have appreciated the support this initiative has received from the City of Morden in connection to the lake and trail. "The co-operation with the city and lake management has been great."

For more information about Art on the Trail, head to [pembinahillsarts.com](http://pembinahillsarts.com).

# Smile Cookie Week to benefit BTHC Foundation

By Lorne Stelmach

Tim Hortons will be spreading smiles again next week in the Winkler and Morden area in support of a good cause.

The annual Smile Cookie Week goes from April 27 to May 3, and the local proceeds will benefit the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

This will be the third year that Tim Hortons in the two cities will be directing the proceeds to the foundation. The previous two-year total sales generated over \$90,000 toward the regional hospital. This year's goal is \$60,000.

"We already have a lot of pre-orders, so we're really excited about that ... and we think we're going to hit that goal," said Shannon Samatte-Folkett, executive director of the foundation.

"It is a really big effort, but we have seen it grow every year, so we're pretty confident," she added. "It takes a lot of community members to help us out. We have a big volunteer group that will be at Tim Hortons both in Morden and Winkler decorating every day. We have volunteers who will be delivering cookies. We have volunteers who will be selling cookies at the hospital."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Tim Hortons staff and volunteers during last year's Smile Cookie Week.

Samatte-Folkett noted it is especially nice to have the hands-on involvement in the initiative.

"It's so much fun. It's fun to decorate the cookies and to just be in the stores and chat with people in the restaurant and share with

them what it is that we're working on, which is the outdoor wellness space at the hospital," she said. "it will be for patients and family and staff. It will be accessible for everybody."

And she noted their appreciation for the continued support of Tim Hortons and owners Jeff and Linda Doerksen.

"They're always helping us in different ways, but this one is a little bit different. It's really fun ... it's a good thing to see what they're going to look like when you open up the box," she said. "We're really appreciative of Tim Hortons and Jeff and Linda for choosing our charity. It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun."

Jeff Doerksen noted 100 per cent of the proceeds from Smile Cookie sales will be donated to nearly 700 local charities and community groups across Canada. Last year, Tim's guests helped raise \$22.6 million for local charities and community groups.

"It's an incredible accomplishment contributing to the Smile Cookie legacy of over \$151 million since the program began in 1996. We look forward to an incredible week starting next Monday with our guest, volunteers and our in-store team to make this our best year ever."

# Morden chamber of commerce reports on a busy year

By Lorne Stelmach

Tyler Schroeder went out on a positive note in his last address as chairperson of the Morden Chamber of Commerce last week.

As he prepared to hand the reigns to Stephane Warnock at the annual meeting April 16, Schroeder touched on the progress and achievements of the organization in the past year.

“At the Morden chamber, every action we take aligns with our four core pillars,” said Schroeder. “We are the voice of business amplifying your concerns. We are a source of information, providing critical and timely insights. We offer networking opportunities, connecting the businesses for growth, and we provide promotion of local businesses, championing Morden’s economic vitality.”

Schroeder began by highlighting the chamber’s vital role of advocacy within a framework that is guided by the feedback of local businesses.

The chamber addressed such issues as the need to deal with wastewater to concerns that revolved around the seasonal closure of a section of Eighth Street in downtown Morden for events.

“We partnered with the Winkler chamber and City of Morden to urge



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Chamber’s board of directors are eager for the year ahead.

the Manitoba chamber to advocate for increased provincial and federal funding beyond the standard one third contribution,” he noted, specifically in reference to support for wastewater treatment, which he emphasized is urgent for Morden and threatens the economic growth of the city.

Schroeder went on to highlight the board’s strategic planning.

“We successfully completed our three-year strategic plan focussed on organizational stability and capacity ... achieving goals like enabling growth and enhancing member services,” he said, noting they were now going to be developing a new plan for

2026-2029.

The chamber is also in a healthy situation financially, Schroeder noted.

“Financial strength is fueling our ambition,” he said. “Our financial position is robust. Our balance sheet holds over \$75,000 in reserves.

“Our sustained financial success has allowed us to accumulate a combined two-year net profit of over \$12,000, enabling a bold 2026 budget with a temporary deficit (of just over \$9,000) to invest in staffing and member impact while focusing on driving new revenue growth.”

Schroeder expressed gratitude for the operating grant from the City of

Morden as well as the chamber team that includes executive director Clare Agnew, member services co-ordinator Tara Wyton, and social media and marketing co-ordinator Lili Krushel.

Schroeder then highlighted other initiatives, which included over a dozen different events in 2025 and even more planned for 2026, ranging from the Small Business Week luncheon to the annual business awards gala.

And he was pleased to cite the growth of the chamber, which saw membership increase to 241 members in 2025.

“Morden’s future is bright,” Schroeder concluded. “Morden is brimming with opportunity. The chamber is uniquely positioned to drive impact backed by strong leadership, a dedicated team and forward thinking board of directors.”

The annual meeting also brought about some changes in the executive, with treasurer Connie Pauls and directors Derek Hamilton and Brent Laverty seeing their terms come to an end. Re-elected were directors Leah Olson and Mariyam Tsygankova, and newly elected were Jody Scott, Josh MacFarlane, and Chauntel Dyck. Also continuing on the board from 2025 are Derek Wiebe, Zoraida Constantino, and Nicole Walske.

## Many Hands reflects 2025’s accomplishments, growing needs

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was one of growth with both increased need and increased challenges for the Many Hands Resource Centre.

Directors were encouraged, though, by the number of people who turned out for the annual meeting last Wednesday, which tells them what Many Hands is doing in and for the community matters to people.

“We had a strong turnout, and it was really encouraging to see the level of support from the community,” said executive director Mariyam Tsygankova.

Tsygankova reflected on the increased need in the community and the demands on the programs and services provided by Many Hands.

In 2025, the food bank usage increased by 20 per cent, and this upward trend has continued into the current year with an additional 14 per cent increase. Many Hands is now serving about 130 families each week through the food bank program.

“The past year has been a year of significant growth for Many Hands for sure, so we are now serving over

400 families representing more than 1,000 individuals, which is a substantial number for a community of our size,” Tsygankova said. “We are seeing a steady increase in demand with some months reaching close to 300 families accessing the food bank, and while we are proud to be able to support so many people, this level of growth also brings real challenges.”

She went on to offer highlights of some of their other programs and services:

- Their soup kitchen serves over 100 warm meals each week.
- Community meal attendance continues to grow, especially through seasonal themed events. They are seeing an average of 150 people come out per meal.
- The Better Access to Groceries (BAG) program participation increased by over 50 per cent after transitioning to a client-choice shopping model.
- The After the Bell summer snack program served 113 families and 257 children in its first year. Funding is approved again for this summer with plans to distribute 800 nutrition kits.
- The Direct Farm Food voucher

program provided \$46,200 in fresh local food access last season and is expected to support many families again this year.

“I am struck by both how much has been accomplished and how clearly the need in our community continues to grow. Over the past year, Many Hands has continued to be a place of nourishment, welcome, and connection,” co-chair Darcy Wolfe commented in his report with co-chair Julie Plett.

“We believe we are better together—that the challenges we face in our community are best addressed through collaboration, partnerships, volunteers and a shared sense of responsibility. These priorities aren’t just ideas on paper. They are meant to guide how we make decisions, how we write policies, how we allocate resources and how we move forward together as an organization.”

As food insecurity continues to rise, the non-profit has expanded both its services and infrastructure to meet growing community need while maintaining its commitment to dignity, inclusion and compassionate support.

“Of course, along with the increased demand for our services came some very real pressures like space limitations, staff capacity, food supply and the need for stronger systems and governance,” Wolfe noted.

“All of this led us to take a step back earlier this year to think carefully about who we are and where we are going. On January 24, our board and executive director gathered for a full-day strategic planning session. Out of that day came a renewed clarity around our mission.”

As part of that planning and as a way to support their mission, they established board priorities to guide Many Hands over the next three to five years. Those priorities touch on matters of governing with accountability and sustainability in mind, ensuring all patrons are treated with dignity and respect, recognizing the importance of its various food programs in meeting urgent needs while also building connections, and supporting staff and volunteers so they can continue to serve.

Looking ahead, the organization

Continued on page 13

# Fun & games at Small Wonders



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## > MANY HANDS, FROM PG. 12

noted space is a significant issue they need to address in order to be able to move forward.

"We've outgrown our current space, so we are facing limitations in food storage, staff capacity and overall program space. Simply put, we do not have enough room to store the amount of food we are receiving or to operate as efficiently as we need to," said Tsygankova.

"At the same time, we are trying to move beyond just responding to immediate needs, so we are investing more in intervention programs, so it's helping people before they reach a crisis point.

"Looking ahead, our focus will be on finding sustainable solutions to those challenges including space, resources and continued growth," she continued. "The need is growing, but so is the support from our community, and that gives us a lot

of hope moving forward."

And she stressed they always welcome more volunteers.

"We are open to everybody who thinks they can contribute. We have different programs, not only the food bank. We have nine programs ... and 80 per cent of the physical work is done by volunteers, so we just can't survive without those wonderful people. We always need help."

There were fun and games to be enjoyed Saturday morning as the Small Wonders nursery school hosted a spring carnival in its space in the Westside Community Church building. The event was aimed at raising awareness of and interest in what it has to offer to the community with a variety of morning and afternoon classes for families with children aged two to six. The carnival included crafts, face painting (above), games, and character meet and greets (above, left).

## Celebrating the Vibrant Heart of Our Seniors' Communities

In the sun-dappled corridors of Morden and Winkler, there is a warmth that has nothing to do with the thermostat and everything to do with the spirit of the people who reside there. While much is written about the rapid growth of our region's industries, the true crown jewels of the Pembina Valley are our seniors' residences. These aren't just buildings; they are flourishing ecosystems of wisdom, laughter, and lifelong friendship that prove the "golden years" are truly the most radiant.

To walk through the doors of facilities like Morden's Homestead South is to witness a masterclass in community building. There is a palpable sense of "home" that greets you at the entrance—a blend of the comforting aroma of fresh coffee and the lively hum of neighbors sharing stories. These residences have become the heart of our twin cities,

offering a beautiful tapestry of support and independence that allows our elders to shine.

What makes the Morden-Winkler corridor so special is the seamless way these homes integrate with the local culture. Our seniors are not "retiring" from life; they are leaning into it. From organized choir practices that fill the halls with song to the fiercely competitive (yet always friendly) games of shuffleboard and crokinole, these spaces are buzzing with energy. It is a joy to see our community's builders—the farmers, teachers, and entrepreneurs who shaped this soil—enjoying the fruits of their labour in such dignity and comfort.

We must also pause to celebrate the incredible staff who breathe life into these residences. The caregivers, culinary teams, and activity coordinators are the unsung heroes of the Pembina Valley.

Their dedication turns a suite into a sanctuary and a meal into a social event. They don't just provide service; they provide kinship. In an era where the world can feel increasingly disconnected, the intergenerational bonds formed here—where grandchildren visit and volunteers share their time—serve as a beautiful reminder of our shared values.

As we look to the future, there is much to be optimistic about. The continued investment in seniors' living in our region is a testament to our commitment to one another. We are creating a

legacy where no one is left behind and where every stage of life is celebrated with flair.

In Morden and Winkler, we aren't just building apartments; we are cultivating joy. Our seniors have given us so much, and it is a privilege to see them live their best chapters in environments that are as

### ~ Seniors Residences Feature ~

vibrant, welcoming, and comfortable as the communities they helped create.

### MORDEN COMMUNITY HANDI-VAN

Please contact: 204-822-5047

Door to door service



LOCATED IN MORDEN AT  
400 LOREN DR. (204-822-1237)

**HOMESTEAD**  
• South •

www.homesteadmanitoba.ca



PREMIER SENIORS' RESIDENCE IN SOUTHERN MB

**RENT INCLUDES:**  
Meals, Housekeeping, Linen Service  
Hair Salon, Library, 1 & 2-bdrm Suites  
Activities, Outings & more!

Call for a tour or  
to go on the waitlist!

~ Active Living ... for Independent Seniors ~

# Roaring Morden Leos working together to give back

By Lorne Stelmach

The youth wing of a local service organization held a bake sale fundraiser this past weekend to help support their efforts in the community.

The Roaring Morden Leos were selling cupcakes Sunday afternoon at 500 Stephen, and they expected to bring in about \$300.

Fundraising, however big or small, is vital for them to be able to do what they can in the community, said treasurer Raidah Arisha.

"It is a way that we know that we have an outlet to give back to the community," she said. "Considering the fact that the community does so much for us, we have so many organizations that look out for the betterment of people ... this is a way for us to give back."

The club has been in existence now since 2022 and currently has about a dozen members ranging in age from 13-17.

Arisha said the program is a great opportunity for youth to get involved and gain experience.

"It is very engaging for youth," she



**PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE**  
Members of the Roaring Morden Leos hosted a cupcake sale Sunday to raise funds for their ongoing work in the community. From left: Kikelomo Ikhario, Angel Jain, Arisha Raidah, Inaya Sameen Shaikh, Haseen Mahparah, and Shahir Nawaz Farique.

said. "We are all just so swarmed in our everyday lives, and there are points where we might feel oh, it's just too swamped, and we might take things for granted.

"Here, while we're working, it really gives us the opportunity to look at the broader picture and see how we can help out those in need who need the help, and we also see how much we

get ourselves and how much more we can provide from what we have."

That's why organizing and running events like the bake sale are so integral to the club's work.

"Our club is mainly involved in fundraising for organizations which are asking for or needing donations for doing their initiatives," Arisha explained. "The last fundraiser

**"IT REALLY GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE BROADER PICTURE AND SEE HOW WE CAN HELP OUT THOSE IN NEED ..."**

that we did was a puzzle night fundraiser where we donated a portion of our money to Gateway Resources. That was a great fundraiser for us. It went really really well."

Arisha noted they're grateful for the ongoing guidance of the adult Lions Club.

"It provides us with great guidance and great support on our journey of fundraising."

For more information about the Roaring Morden Leos, find them on social media or reach them via email to [roaringmordenleos@gmail.com](mailto:roaringmordenleos@gmail.com).

## Bloom cuts ribbon on Morden location



**PHOTO BY LILY KRUSHEL/VOICE**

From left: Flora Elias, Morden Mayor Nancy Penner, Taylor Schiller, Bloom Floral owner Madison Schiller, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, and Cassia Wiebe cut the ribbon on Bloom Floral's new Morden location at 201 Loren Dr. Saturday. The celebrations included refreshments, photo opportunities in front of a floral backdrop, and walk-in floral workshops. Bloom now has locations in both Winkler and Morden.

## Legion hosting fundraiser for washroom upgrades

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Legion is planning a fundraiser to help build some financial support for a project to renovate its washrooms and make them accessible.

The event dubbed "Plants for Spring & Crafters' Things" is set for May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Legion Hall, and it will include a luncheon as well as a 50/50 raffle.

The renovations will be a significant project for the Legion, noted president Jason Evert.

"We continue to raise funds," he said. "We've been working towards applying for grants through the province and different opportunities within the community such as the Morden Area Foundation and then planning events like our plants for spring and crafters thing as a fundraiser."

Evert noted the initial quotes for the project had been around \$250,000, so it is a significant thing for the Legion to take on.

"It will be both the washrooms upstairs and downstairs," he noted.

The possible timeline for the project

is uncertain at this point.

"It's really going to be dependent on the grants at this point, just with it being such a significant number," Evert said. "If we were able to get a couple of the larger grants that we have applied for, then there would be a good chance we could look to start this project in 2027."

"Knowing if we can't get those ones, then it's mostly going to be done through grassroots fundraising, and it would take substantially longer than that for us to get there."

"We're going to continue to apply and look for opportunities," said Evert. "Events like this are so important ... obviously, the grants are those bigger chunks of money, but events like this are also really good to show the space to people and see why this is needed ... it's important to also just be involving the community."

There was still a small opportunity for vendors to sign on for the sale, with a cutoff date of April 25. The cost for a vendor table is \$35. If interested, you can call 204-823-0384 or e-mail [williamsbk97@gmail.com](mailto:williamsbk97@gmail.com).

# sports & recreation

## Registration for 55+ Games is coming up May 9

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The registration deadline for the 2026 Manitoba 55+ Games in Stanley-Morden-Winkler is coming up fast.

Older athletes wanting to take part in the June 9-11 sporting competition need to sign up by Saturday, May 9.

There are a host of both individual and team sports and activities happening across the region that week, but volunteer Al Wirth has his sights set on one special category: track and field.

A longtime high school coach, Wirth is thrilled the 2026 Games will offer running events (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m) as well as shot put and standing long jump.

While predicted walk and runs have long been a staple of the Games (and they are back again this year), the other track and field categories are rarely offered, Wirth shares.

"There have been in some years but it's hit and miss, depending on who wants to take it on at the host community," he says. "They've only really had track events when there is a good track in the town hosting."

With Morden's École Discovery Trails having a top-level track, it made sense to add them to the roster this year.

As with all Games categories, track and field athletes will be competing

with others in their age group. And if it's been perhaps a few decades since you've ran, jumped, or hurled a shot put—or even if you've never done those things competitively at all—Wirth hopes you won't let that be a barrier to participation.

"I've talked to some people and they've said, 'Well, I've never thrown a shot put before.' That's fine—I'll teach you," he says. "It's not that hard ... come give it a try, see what you can do."

To help people get the rust out, Wirth will host a pre-Games practice on Sunday, June 7 at the ÉDT track (1079 Parkhill Dr.) from 1-3 p.m.

"There should be an advantage to having home field here," he says, chuckling. "People can just come out and practice, see what

it's like—if you want to use the blocks you can, or see what the long jump looks like, just to familiarize yourself with it."

This will be Wirth's first time at the Games as an athlete, and he's looking forward to it.

"I haven't thrown competitive shot put or discus or anything in probably 30 years," he says. "But I'm going to try it. I used to throw in high school and I know I'm not going to be in the ballpark of what I could do back then, but I want to just do it."

"I just want to have some fun with it, and I think that's really the message



Al Wirth at the École Discovery Trails track where running, shot put, and standing long jump events will take place for June's Manitoba 55+ Games.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

### "WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING NEW?"

of the whole Games—nobody at 55 or 65 or 85 is an Olympic athlete, but why not try something new?"

### PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM

In addition to the track and field events, the sports line-up includes bowling, pool, snooker, cribbage, disc golf, regular golf, horseshoes, swimming, predicted run and walks, bocce ball, contract and duplicate bridge, floor shuffleboard, pickleball, lawn bowling, arts and crafts, slo-pitch, and even horseback riding (though that last one is at Bird's Hill Park).

Lois Dudgeon has been an athlete at the Games for decades, competing in both golf and pickleball, and was also the longtime leader of the Pembina Valley team. Her first foray at the event was in 2002, when Morden hosted it for the first time. Winkler has also hosted it once before, back in 1995.

Dudgeon is thrilled to see the Games

coming back to her own backyard, and eager to see old friends.

"What I enjoy the most about it each year is all the people—it's one of those events where you keep running into the same people year after year that you may not see at any other time of the year," she shares.

Whether you're a returning athlete or a newcomer, it's a welcoming group, Dudgeon says, one whose focus is less on being uber-competitive and more on simply having fun together being active.

"The competition part of it is really not a big deal," she says, noting the Games' longtime slogan spells it out. "Fun, fitness and friendship—three good reasons to keep participating in the Games."

To register or check out the full list of sports, head to [activeagingmb.ca](http://activeagingmb.ca), email [info@activeagingmb.ca](mailto:info@activeagingmb.ca), or call 204-632-3847.



MHSAA PHOTO

## Kyle Nixon named Coach of the Month

By Voice staff

Morden Collegiate's Kyle Nixon has been named the March Payworks Coach of the Month by the Manitoba High School Athletic Association.

"Nixon has had a tremendous impact on the Morden Thunder hockey program this season," the citation said, noting he has "devoted countless hours to creating an environment that has helped players develop as student-athletes and positive community members."

"Coach Nixon prioritizes academics and a team-first mentality, which helped the Thunder excel in the classroom and on the ice, capturing the Thunder's fourth consecutive league championship for Zone 4.

"Coach Nixon creates a team environment of positive competition and excitement for the players to enjoy the game and work on self-improvement throughout the season."

In addition to coaching Thunder hockey, he also heads up the school's baseball team.

# The Forge Gym hosting novice strongman competition Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

StrongManitoba and The Forge Gym are hosting a Novice Showdown in Winkler this weekend, and anyone interested in seeing budding strong men and women show off their skills is welcome to come check it out.

The day—which starts at 11 a.m. at the gym at 319 Manitoba Rd. on Saturday, April 25—is an opportunity for those new to the sport to flex their muscles.

“This is for the people who haven’t been doing it for very long. They don’t need any experience coming into it,” says Ryan Froese, gym owner and one of the organizers of the event alongside fellow accomplished local strongman competitors Ariel Griffith and Eryn Penner.

“We typically keep the events fairly simple. Things that, honestly, if you’ve been in a gym or you’ve been even in a blue collar work environment, you’ve probably done things similar to it,” Froese said.

The lineup kicks off with a truck pull followed by a log clean and press for reps, a wagon wheel axle deadlift, farmer’s carry, and a sandbag and keg carry and load medley. There are male and female, teen, and non-novice 50+ categories.

At press time, they had around 30 people registered to take part, so it should be a great day of competition, Froese says.

“It should be a pretty entertaining show. If people want to come and watch, the doors will be open,” he says, noting admission is



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: The Forge Gym owner Ryan Froese, Ariel Griffith, and Eryn Penner are organizing a novice showdown this Saturday at the Winkler gym.

free. “Anyone can just waltz on in and come and check it out.”

Froese got into competing in strongman events over a decade ago at the urging of a friend.

“I got tricked into it,” he says, laughing. “A friend of mine who was coaching me at the time, he kept telling me I should really try strongman. I kept telling him no, I didn’t want to.”

But one day at the gym this friend and some others were lifting and moving around a heavy keg, and they challenged Froese to give it a try.

“This happened a couple more times where he kept getting me into different events, and I was finally like, okay, okay, I’ll try it. I did a competition and I’ve been hooked every since.”

He in turn got Griffith, now his wife, into it in much the same way.

“We started dating and I was already going to the

gym a bit, so he was like, ‘Let’s lift heavier’ and I went, ‘Sure,’” she shares. Griffith has since competed at numerous events, ranking sixth at nationals last year.

The mix of personal accomplishment and a supportive community is what’s kept her at it.

“I like continuously trying to improve the weight that I’m lifting, ... I like seeing those numbers go up,” she says. “If you like seeing improvement, it’s fun to do, because you can always see more improvement in this sport.”

Penner, meanwhile, is heading into her third season of competition. She placed first provincially last fall and third nationally, and also competed in the Arnold Pro-Am competition in Ohio last month, ranking 12th.

“Apparently I’m pretty strong,” she jokes. “I was following The Forge on Instagram and saw they had posted the weights for a novice competition. I had been lifting weights for about six months leading up to that and realized I was already moving those weights.”

She got first place at that novice event, and the rest is history.

“I fell in love with the community, the support, the engagement,” Penner says. “And like Ariel said, also just seeing the continuous improvement ... there’s always room for improvement. And the community is great. They’ll keep encouraging you to keep growing and getting stronger.”

“It’s a really great environment,” agrees Froese. “The culture is good, the crowd is always really welcoming. It’s just an easy place to be and you can always strive to be better.”

You can check it out for yourself this weekend at The Forge Gym.

## > ACCESS CU, FROM PG. 7

Wiebe emphasized Access remains committed to delivering exceptional service and strengthening the trust their members place in the credit union.

“Over the past year, we continued to enhance the member experience by listening closely, responding quickly and designing solutions that reflect our members’ evolving needs,” she said.

“Several new online banking features were introduced to enhance convenience and control for members including CRA Direct Deposit, which allows members to select their deposit account directly through online banking,” Wiebe noted, adding there was also “debit card management, enabling members to lock or block debit cards to prevent unauthorized use, and Aviso wealth investment integration, which lets members view their Aviso wealth investment accounts within online and mobile banking.”

And with the ever-changing cybersecurity threats, Wiebe said they remain focused on safety.

“We have increased and enhanced monitoring systems, expanded additional authentication layers and increased investment in education and protection against emerging threats,” she said. “We also launched a 24-hour fraud emergency support, giving members access to help whenever they need it. At the same time, we are in the early stages of leveraging the use of artificial intelligence to assist in operational efficiencies and support members more effectively.”

Her report also acknowledged that some members experienced technology-related challenges

over the past year. Wiebe said they are committed to addressing these issues.

“Our focus is on improving the stability, reliability and overall performance of our online and mobile banking platform.”

Another point of emphasis was the credit union’s commitment to giving back to and investing in their communities.

It was noted that they contributed over \$2.1 million to local initiatives in 2025. Access employees also recorded more than 18,000 volunteer hours and raised \$150,971 through the Jeans for Charity program.

In addition, a partnership with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers continued to create impact through the Tackle Your Finances Like a Pro program, helping students across Manitoba build confidence in money management through financial literacy education. They also raised \$116,182.90 for Ronald McDonald House and Katie Cares charities through the Access charity golf tournament.

Wiebe emphasized the importance of Access CU staff, who continue to be the driving force behind the organization’s success.

“We expanded learning and leadership development opportunities to support career growth and promote employee engagement. We were also proud to be one of Manitoba’s top employers for the 11th consecutive year, a testament to the dedication of our more than 925 employees and our commitment to creating a workplace where people feel supported and empowered.”

She concluded with the thought that “as we move into the year ahead, our focus is clear: to build on

our strong foundation, embrace innovation and pursue excellence in everything we do. We will continue to respond thoughtfully to market changes, enhance our products and services and invest in our technology and talent. This includes making thoughtful and sometimes difficult decisions so that we can continue to invest in our strategic priorities.”

Meanwhile, on behalf of the board, Letkeman touched on their strong financial position as well as their continued commitment to serving their communities.

“From a business standpoint, 2025 was another year of strong growth for Access,” he said.

He highlighted the focused funding grant, which awarded \$25,000 to 10 Manitoba schools to enhance nutrition and wellness programs, and noted Access overall was able to support more than 1,080 organizations across Manitoba in “enhancing the commitment to the communities in which we all live.”

He concluded with a reference to operational changes, including the branch closures.

“We have made some difficult decisions which affect some of our smaller communities. We know the closure of a local branch is disappointing and for some members deeply personal. A branch isn’t just a building. It’s part of how people connect with Access Credit Union and their community,” he said. “While our physical footprint is changing, our commitment to the community is not. We will continue to invest in local initiatives, support community events and organizations and remain active partners in places where our members call home.”

# Classifieds Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**SCRAP METAL**

Buyer for all farm-yard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

**FEED AND SEED**

**FORAGE SEED FOR SALE:** Organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Free Delivery! Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

**LIVESTOCK**



**SPRUCE RIDGE STOCK Farms** at Ashern has a good selection of 2 yr old and yearling Angus bulls on offer. These are big growthy bulls developed on TMR silage based ration in 15 acre runs to ensure longevity. Perfect feet, strong joints, moderate birth, combined with top of the breed growth. These are hard muscled bulls sired by some of the top A. I. bulls in Canada. Semen tested, delivered when needed, guaranteed. Call Ross and Helen Jermey and Family. 204-768-0333

**WANTED**

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

**CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER**

- To run Canada - must have experience
- Paid pick, drops, layovers and stat pay
- Multi drop runs
- Benefit package
- Dedicated truck
- Sign On & Annual bonus
- BC Experience an Asset
- Reset at home
- Weekend home time
- Paid training
- Referral program

**Derek (204) 793-7465**  
CENTENNIAL TRANSPORT & LEASING LTD.

**WANTED**

**WANTED:** Buying estates, contents of homes, farms, barns, sheds, garages, etc. Buying most anything old & interesting! TEXT/PHONE: 204-918-1607. Junkies Estate, Salvage, Antiques & Oddities.

**BUSINESS WANTED**

Seeking to Acquire Established Business - Entrepreneur actively looking to purchase a small to medium-sized, profitable, and currently operating business in the manufacturing sector or agri-support services. Preference for businesses located in Southern Manitoba. All inquiries will be treated with strict confidentiality. Serious sellers only. Please contact: joseph.info72@gmail.com

**NOTICES**

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

Please support our advertisers

**FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION** with an **EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD** in **The Voice** **467-5836**

**NOTICES**

**SPRING INTO SUCCESS!** Let us help you book your SPRING classified ads, Response & Power Builder Ads across Manitoba! Let people know about your business, items for sale, or event, by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen across Manitoba in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes. Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details and to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

**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 stonewood elkranche@gmail.com

**SHOP LOCAL**

**News Tips? Story Ideas?** call the Voice

**BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT** **The Voice** **Winkler Morden** Call 467-5836 Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**CHEF/COOK**

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**Chef or Experienced Cook**  
Full-time Seasonal Position - Living Quarters -Above Average Wages  
 **Contact Irv for more details.** Email: office@narrowssunsetlodge.com Phone 204-981-2831 or 204-467-8507

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND**

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at: Municipality of Rhineland Office, 109-3rd Avenue NE Altona, MB during regular business days until Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

At this time the Senior Election Official (SEO) will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

**VOTER ELIGIBILITY:**  
A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- 1) a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- 2) a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

**NON-RESIDENT VOTERS QUALIFIED IN MORE THAN ONE WARD:**  
In accordance with Section 25(2) of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act, any nonresident voter who owns property in more than one ward is responsible to notify the S.E.O in writing, not later than September 15th, 2026 of the ward in which they desire to vote. Failing the foregoing, the voter's name will be placed on the list as the SEO may select.

**APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:**  
A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address / email below) no later than September 15th 2026 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or email and must include your name, address and include proof of identity

**All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 15th, 2026.**

**Dated at Altona, in the Province of Manitoba, April 15th, 2026.**

**Jake Bergen**  
Senior Election Official  
Municipality of Rhineland  
Box 270, Altona, MB R0G 0B0  
Ph. 204-324-7693 or 204-324-5357  
Email - bergenj42@gmail.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the matter of the estate of Norman Hildebrandt, late of the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, deceased:

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, on or before the 21st day of May, 2026.

Dated at the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, this 13th day of April, 2026.

**COLE AND MACE LAW OFFICE**  
Box 2039  
Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0  
Solicitors for the Administrator

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the matter of the estate of Henry Hildebrand, late of the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, deceased:

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, on or before the 21st day of May, 2026.

Dated at the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, this 13th day of April, 2026.

**COLE AND MACE LAW OFFICE**  
Box 2039  
Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0  
Solicitors for the Administrator

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALICE MARIE BROWN, late of Lowe Farm, in the Province of MANITOBA, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 14 Main Street South, Box 1670, Carman, Manitoba R0G 0J0, within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

DATED at the Town of Carman, in Manitoba this 20th day of April, 2026.

**MCCULLOCH MOONEY**  
**JOHNSTON SELBY LLP**  
Attention: MICHELLE L. HARMS  
Solicitors for the Administrator

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY**

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT candidate registrations will be received:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30 and September 22, 2026

at the RM of Stanley Administration Office, 1-23111 PTH 14, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below:

Dan Giesbrecht  
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)  
RM of Stanley  
204-325-4101  
seo@rmofstanley.ca

Dated at the RM of Stanley on April 9, 2026.

# Classifieds Announcements *The Voice* Winkler Morden

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

## SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

### SUMMER STUDENT WANTED:

For Central Manitoba Tourism  
Starting **May 15 until August 31, 2026**,  
30 hours per week

You will be responsible for:

- Attending events in the CMT Catchment area
- Taking photos and videos for use in our 2025 Visitor's Guide
- Do interviews with organizers
- Deliver Visitor's Guides where needed
- Must be flexible and willing to perform any task that is given
- Applicant must have a valid Drivers License and access to a vehicle.
- Applicant must be willing to work evenings and weekends

Please send resume to:

June Letkeman  
General Manager, Central Mb Tourism  
[gm@centralmbtourism.ca](mailto:gm@centralmbtourism.ca)  
204-362-0501

## TAXES/BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

### TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

**LAITY TAX**   
& BOOKKEEPING SERVICES INC.

*Our team is fully competent in your Financial, Bookkeeping and Tax Service needs.*

**Winkler, MB • 431-775-7742**

## REAL ESTATE



**One level home at 112 4th ave SW Altona, includes fridge, stove, dishwasher, microwave, washer, dryer. Heated floor in garage, new HE furnace, approved for insulation upgrade, C/A, C/V. Will also consider offers until May 15, 2026!  
Call Abe 1-204-324-9433!**

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOWN OF ALTONA

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026. Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

- For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026, and September 15, 2026
- For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026, and September 15, 2026

at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue East, Altona, MB during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone numbers listed below.

Dated at Altona, MB on April 15th, 2026.

**Jake Bergen**  
Senior Election Official

Town of Altona  
Ph. 204-324-7693 or 204-324-6468  
Fax 204-324-1550  
Email [bergenj42@gmail.com](mailto:bergenj42@gmail.com)



Join the fight against Prostate Cancer

**RIDE DAY**  
**Saturday**  
**May 30, 2026**

**10am**  
**Earls Polo Park**  
(Winnipeg)

Visit [ridefordad.ca/manitoba](http://ridefordad.ca/manitoba)

to register or make a pledge



**CASH FOR ALL GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM COINS, BARS, JEWELRY, BULLION, NUGGETS, STERLING+!**

**Paying:**

\$5000 +/- per ounce 999+ Gold  
999+ Silver \$75+/- per ounce  
US Silver dollars \$60+  
Canadian Silver dollars \$40+  
US & Can. silver 50 cents \$18  
25 cents \$8, 10 cents \$3 each

Also buying entire coin collections, rare coins, old money, Royal Canadian Mint, Franklin Mint+++.

**Call or text!**  
**1-204-904-9705**

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

## MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on **October 28, 2026**.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between **May 1, 2026 and September 15, 2026**

For the office of councillor: Between **June 30, 2026 and September 15, 2026**

at the Municipality of Rhineland Administration Office, 109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone numbers listed below.

Dated at Altona, MB on April 15th, 2026.

Jake Bergen  
Senior Election Official  
Municipality of Rhineland  
Ph. 204-324-7693 or 204-324-5357  
Fax 204-324-1516  
Email [bergenj42@gmail.com](mailto:bergenj42@gmail.com)

## X CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Will Ferrell holiday film
11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
13. Error-related negativity
14. Volcanic crater
15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
16. True market value
17. Italian term for exchange rate
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Children's craft supply
22. Extra benefits
25. In an early way
30. A judge has one
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. Tractor unit
33. Defunct supercomputer developer
38. Promotional materials
41. A forgetful state
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Clergy's vestment
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19	20			21				
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43			44					
	45	46	47										
48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

# Classifieds Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

- 59. Nigerian governmental area
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Places to hang things
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Communication
- 6. Stoats
- 7. Showcases
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly notable
- 19. Meet one's needs
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape a surface
- 34. Green vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Capital of Brazilian city

- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN personality Kimes
- 44. One who moves slowly
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary
- 51. Swiss river

- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave by coating
- 54. North Carolina university
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**CAREERS**



**Instructor, Practical Nursing**

School of Nursing  
 Full/Part-Time, Term (April 13, 2026, to December 23, 2026)  
 Red Sucker Lake, MB  
 Competition: #65-25/26  
 Salary: \$65,184 to \$102,262 annually (\$34.58 to \$54.25 hourly)  
 (Educational supplement: Masters \$1.60/hour, PHD \$3.19/hour)

As an Instructor in our Practical Nursing program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of nursing education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison.

**How to Apply:**

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net). We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

**COMING EVENTS**



**YFC MORDEN FISH FRY BY DONATION**



**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE**  
 605 1st Street, Morden

**MAY 1ST 4-7PM**

GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE  
**CONTACT US: CALL/TEXT 204-822-8085**

**COMING EVENTS**



Join us for a Taco supper to support the needs of our local Hospital and Personal Care Home.

- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Refried Beans
- ✓ All the fixings
- ✓ Brownies & Ice Cream
- ✓ Tea
- ✓ Coffee
- ✓ Gluten Free Options Available

**By Donation**

When **May 5<sup>th</sup> 4:30 - 6:30pm**

Where **Altona Pioneer Centre**

**Receipts will be issued.**

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

**Crossword Answer**

**COMING EVENTS**

**WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** EST. 1922

**P.W.Enns Awards WINNERS**

Customer Service ONE Insurance Group  
 Business Builder King's Deli Market & Eatery  
 Community Builder Golden West Broadcasting  
 Non-Profit Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley  
 Business Excellence Schnell Industries Inc.

**P.W.ENNS AWARDS GALA**  
 MAY 12, 2026

**AT MERIDIAN EXHIBITION CENTRE**  
 COCKTAIL RECEPTION 5PM | AWARDS PROGRAM 6PM | TICKETS \$150+GST  
 TABLE OF 8 \$1,100+GST

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY  
[WINKLERCHAMBER.COM/EVENTS](http://WINKLERCHAMBER.COM/EVENTS)  
 ADMIN@WINKLERCHAMBER.COM

**Escape TRAILER**

NOW IN WINNIPEG!

Escape Trailer is proud to partner with **ReVolution Trailers** Now selling fiberglass RVs built for comfort, durability and adventure.

You are invited to the **Revolution Trailers OPEN HOUSE**

May 8 - 11:00 - 4:30  
 May 9 - 10:00 - 3:30

Phone: 204-955-7377  
[www.revolutiontrailers.ca](http://www.revolutiontrailers.ca)

**A-1 CEMENT CONTRACTORS LTD.** IS SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED **CONCRETE REPAIR TECHNICIAN** TO JOIN OUR TEAM. THIS ROLE IS IDEAL FOR A SKILLED TRADESPERSON WITH STRONG EXPERIENCE IN CONCRETE REPAIR, CUTTING AND BREAKOUT WORK AND WHO TAKES PRIDE IN QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP AND CUSTOMER SERVICE.

**COMPETITIVE WAGE: \$30/HOUR, DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE PLUS BENEFITS.**

TO APPLY PLEASE SEE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION ON INDEED AT - [HTTPS://CA.INDEED.COM/ CMP/A--1-CEMENT-CONTRACTORS/LOCATIONS/AB/CALGARY](https://ca.indeed.com/cmp/A--1-CEMENT-CONTRACTORS/LOCATIONS/AB/CALGARY)

**Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the**

Call 204-467-5836 or [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

The Winkler Morden **Voice**

**WINKLER  
AUTO  
DEALERS**

**HOMETOWN**



**SERVICE**

**JANZEN**



**CHEVROLET BUICK  
GMC**

**Southland**



**HONDA**



STK# 25U156

**THIS 2020 MUSTANG BULLITT IS THE REAL DEAL - A TRUE TRIBUTE TO STEVE MCQUEEN'S ICONIC MOVIE CAR.**

WITH JUST 34,000 KM, THIS CLEAN, LOCAL VEHICLE DELIVERS UNMISTAKABLE BULLITT STYLING, AGGRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, AND THAT UNMISTAKABLE MUSTANG RUMBLE. EXTREMELY WELL-MAINTAINED AND READY TO TURN HEADS EVERYWHERE IT GOES.

PRICED AT ONLY **\$49,900** PLUS PST/GST.

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO OWN THIS SPECIAL EDITION MUSTANG!**

**2018 GMC SIERRA SLE CREW**



5.3L V8, CLOTH, BENCH

**FOR ONLY \$29,681 + TAX**

**2019 INFINITI GX50 ESSENTIAL AWD**



2.0L 4C, LEATHER, MOONROOF ONLY 67,700 KM

**INQUIRE FOR PRICE**

**2024 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD**



1.5L TURBO 4C 6 SPD AUTO \*\*\*\*ONLY 2,295 KM\*\*\*

**INQUIRE FOR PRICE**

**2025 BUICK ENCORE GX SPORT TOURING-AWD**



1.3L TURBO 9 SPD AUTO ONLY 34,110 KM

**INQUIRE FOR PRICE**

**2024 Honda CR-V**



- Sport
- Nicely equipped
- Clean Carfax

**CALL FOR PRICE**

55,500 KMS  
STOCK #248611

**2024 Honda Pilot**



- Black Edition
- Loaded
- One Owner

**CALL FOR PRICE**

49,700 KMS  
STOCK #241858

**2023 Honda CR-V**



- Touring
- Loaded • Local
- One Owner

**CALL FOR PRICE**

48,000 KMS  
STOCK #235710

**2021 Honda CR-V**



- Sport
- Nicely Equipped
- Local • One Owner

**CALL FOR PRICE**

118,000 KMS  
STOCK #212837



STK#SSD297

**2025 F-350 LARIAT 4X4**

\$122,394 MSRP  
**\$15,444 DISCOUNT**  
**\$106,950**  
CLEAR-OUT PRICE PLUS PST/GST

- 6.7L HIGH OUTPUT W/ 500HP
- MAX TOW RATING 23,800 LBS
- 5TH WHEEL PREP PKG



Permit No. 1162

Since 1955



Bob Derksen Brian Derksen Konrad Friesen Ike Dyck

**690 MEMORIAL DRIVE • 325-4777**  
**WWW.HOMETOWNFORD.CA**



**JANZEN**

CHEVROLET BUICK GMC LTD  
WINKLER - CARMAN

Permit #2816



KURT MILLER kurt@jpb.ca HENRY BLATZ henry@jpb.ca KEVIN TALBOT kevin@jpb.ca ROBERTO KORT roberto@jpb.ca

**1-888-305-8917 • 204-325-9511**  
**WWW.JANZENCHEVROLETWINKLER.CA**



WAYNE CHUCK BILL JODY



**WWW.SOUTHLANDHONDA.COM**  
**1-877-246-6322 • 325-7899** Permit #9725

\*Honda Loyalty Program, \*\*Lease Rate, \*\*\*Vehicles not exactly as pictured.