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The **Winkler • Morden**

# **Vo**ice

VOLUME 16  
EDITION 17

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## Honouring outstanding citizens

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert presented Morden Police Chief Brad Neduzak (left) and Lt. Col. Mark Wilson with King Charles III Coronation Medals last week. For the full story, see Pg. 13.  
PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

# GARDEN CENTRE NOW OPEN!

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# It's Pay It Forward May

By Ashleigh Viveiros

May is finally here, and with it the local Pay It Forward (PIF) campaign.

The Winkler Community Foundation and the Morden Community Foundation are challenging their communities to “plant kindness, grow community” for PIF 2025.

Even a small act of kindness can grow into something amazing, creating a cascade of giving that ripples throughout the community, says Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler foundation.

“The biggest thing we want people to know is to look around you and see the good and the little things you can do for others, because everybody can participate in Pay It Forward May,” she says. “It doesn’t have to cost you a lot of money, it doesn’t have to be a grand gesture—it can be giving your time, sharing some baking, cleaning up someone’s yard. There’s so many

wonderful things you can do for someone else.

“That’s the fun part about it—there’s no one way of paying it forward.”

Every year the foundations hear stories of people paying for the person behind them in the drive-thru, students going out to clean up trash in local parks, community groups delivering sweet treats to care home residents, and businesses putting encouraging messages on their outdoor signage or hosting special Pay It Forward events.

“Our communities have been engaging with this and that is so exciting to see,” Peters says, noting they’ve moved away somewhat from focusing on what the foundations are doing for PIF May (though their board members do have a few things in the works—keep an eye out in the weeks ahead) to shine the brighter spotlight on the community as a whole.

**“LOOK AROUND YOU  
AND SEE THE GOOD  
AND THE LITTLE  
THINGS YOU CAN DO  
FOR OTHERS ...”**

pay it  
**FORWARD**  
**MAY**

## PLANT KINDNESS, GROW COMMUNITY

### WHAT SEEDS OF KINDNESS WILL YOU PLANT?


“It’s about what the community is doing,” she says. “We’re all sharing kindness.”

To learn more about the initiative—how you can get involved, resources available, and ideas to inspire you—head to [winklercommunityfoundation.com/what-we-do/#PayItForwardMay](http://winklercommunityfoundation.com/what-we-do/#PayItForwardMay)

Peters also encourages people to

share acts of kindness they’ve done or have witnessed by using #PIFM on social media or by contacting the foundations so they can share those stories.

“I understand it might feel silly to be sharing the good things that you’re doing,” she acknowledges. “But what it does is it inspires others.”



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# Apprenticeship program honours business support

By Siobhan Maas

A luncheon at Lily Stone Gardens near Rosenort last Wednesday recognized businesses providing vocational training and mentorship to young people through the Red River Technical Vocational Area's High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP).

Growing from a handful of Altona youth in 2005, HSAP today provides apprenticeship opportunities to hundreds of students throughout southern Manitoba in school divisions stretching from the Morden-Winkler area to the Ontario border. The four divisions of Border Land, Garden Valley, Red River Valley, and Western share this vocational training program.

"Meant as a career pathway for young students that have interest in trades, the program is a great launch pad for career transition to post-secondary after graduation," HSAP instructor Reg Toews shared with the school partners and 26 businesses present at the event, there to represent many of the possible trades students might enter, including construction, manufacturing, mechanics, and service positions. "You provide more than a place to work," fellow HSAP teacher Andy Reimer told the attendees. "You provide these students with the chance to grow, to develop real world skills, to have a head start on their career path.

"With the first apprentice, you might focus on knowledge because you see a version of who you once were. That apprentice starts forgetting, asks lots of questions and you have to explain and repeat, yet you realize that they start understanding, they take initiative, they are learning. And that is rewarding."

Reimer recognized the businesses'

ability to build soft skills in apprentices—the skills to show up, to work as a team, to take direction, and to bounce back.

"You help build a bridge between skill and education in valued and respected careers," he stressed.

Sperling Industries Ltd. started working with welding, millwright, ironwork, and crane operation apprentices in the mid-1990s and has apprenticed over 100 individuals since then, many through HSAP.

Human resources manager Tasha Worms and operations manager Colin Nicolajsen shared that apprentices are integral to their shop fabrication and field installations.

"We foster relationships with our apprentices and hope

to build long-term employment for them," said Nicolajsen, noting he sees the program as a win-win for everyone involved. "The apprenticeship program is a partnership between the employee, the student, and the government. Businesses receive tax incentives for apprentices, the students lower tuition fees and access to resources, and the economy benefits from skilled workers.

About 120 businesses are providing placement for 165 apprentices in the 2024-25 school year through HSAP.

"YOU PROVIDE MORE THAN A PLACE TO WORK."



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Local businesses who host apprentices through the RRTVA's High School Apprenticeship Program gathered in Rosenort last week for an appreciation luncheon.



Toews and Reimer hope to increase this number to 225 by the end of the school year, as happened last year. Approximately 15 per cent of the program's students go on to pursue further studies or work in the apprenticeship trade.

"The future looks great when businesses invest in something bigger, such as leadership and mentorship," said Reimer to those gathered. "Thank you for saying yes."


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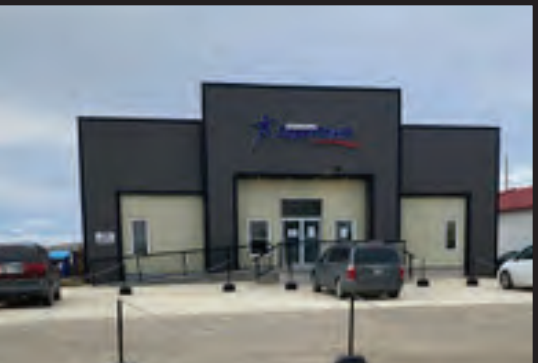
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# Gardenland Co-op continues to grow

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Gardenland Co-op continues to find new ways to diversify its offerings so it's better able to weather ever-changing economic climates.

At its 94th annual general meeting last week, Co-op announced its latest acquisition: Venture Parts & Supply in Morden.

The business, located on 9th St. beside Co-op's cardlock, begins operating under the Gardenland banner this week, with all current staff staying on, Co-op general manager Evan Toews told the assembled crowd of members April 22.

"This business has grown over the past few years since they've started and this acquisition represents an exciting step forward in enhancing the services that we offer in Morden," he said, explaining the location will continue to provide a wide variety of agricultural and industrial parts and supplies.

While the Co-op grows in one area, it's also shutting down one longtime department in Winkler: Fashions by Co-op will close its doors for good this summer.

"After nearly 20 years of continuous significant financial losses, many attempts to change the operations, products, and locations, it became clear that continuing operations in this department was no longer sustainable," Toews said, explaining the shop simply wasn't able to compete with larger chain and discount stores and online shopping. "We don't have the buying power to purchase the way that they do. By the time we get these products into our store they are often available at a large discount

from some of these large retailers."

The lease was also up on the 1st St. building and rent was set to increase significantly, Toews shared.

"All of this added together made the long-term look worse than the past. It wasn't a decision that we made lightly. We know it served a loyal group of members and held a meaningful place in our Co-op for many years, but as stewards of this organization we have to ensure long-term sustainability and focus our energy and resources on where we can have the greatest impact."

The staff in that department will be given the opportunity to transfer elsewhere within the Co-op, if they wish.

In addition to these announcements regarding future developments at Co-op, the board of directors also shared some of the many highlights of 2024.

These include completing the merger with St. Joseph Co-op, opening a pharmacy and completing renovations at the Morden food store, rolling out the name change from Winkler Co-op to Gardenland Co-op, and purchasing 204 Main St. in Winkler for the company's new administrative offices.

Renovations at the former credit union building are wrapping up and admin. staff should be moved in within the next few weeks, Toews said. The old offices in Co-op's main building will be the new home to Extend Insurance come July.

The fiscal year saw Gardenland Co-op hit total sales of \$159.2 million, up from the \$144.8M of the year before. Net income before taxes was \$5.7M. Member's equity and reserves total \$57.2M, with total Co-op assets coming to \$86.1M.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Gardenland Co-op board president Milt Olfert (left) and general manager Evan Toews address members at the annual general meeting last week.

The company donated over \$500,000 to more than 300 community projects, events, and causes in 2024, directors shared.

Membership grew to a total of 22,015, up 1,209 from the year before, including many new members from the Rosenort and St. Joseph areas due to the mergers of recent years.

Thanks to the strong sales year, Co-op announced a patronage allocation of \$4.3M to its members at a rate of 4.5 per cent for fuel, five per cent for oil, 1.5 per cent for fertilizer, zero per cent for agro equipment, 1.5 per cent for chemicals, 3.25 per cent for food/fashion, and one per cent for appliances.

Board chair Milt Olfert said the Co-op is in great shape financially and they have high hopes for the future.

"Even in a rough economy, it seems people are really supporting local, and that's what the Co-op is all about," he said. "And if we can keep that going and we keep giving back to the community and the community keeps giving back to Co-op, we're going to be okay."

"We appreciate the continued support," Olfert added. "It gives us great joy to be able to give back and to see all these communities continue to thrive."

The board is always looking for ways to diversify and strengthen the organization, Olfert noted.

"We entertain everything to see whether it fits into our mission statement, into our core values," he said, adding that the purchase of Venture Parts made great sense given the success and location of that business. "I think it's going to be good for everybody."

Co-op's directors bid a fond farewell to Eric Peters, who did not seek re-election after 14 years on the board.

The terms of Darren Heide and Chris Kalansky were also at an end, though both retained their seats for another three years after the members voted them back in. Joining them to fill Peters' seat is Carrie Hennan.

Rounding out the board is Olfert, Dinah Elias, Guy Damphousse, Richmond Delorme, Gordon Earl, and Grant Fehr.

# Branden Leslie re-elected in Portage-Lisgar

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Branden Leslie was re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar by a wide margin Monday night.

At press time, with 194 of 195 polls reporting, Leslie had received 31,687 votes, or 69.5 per cent.

His nearest competitor was Liberal

Robert Kreis (10,358 votes) followed by New Democratic Party candidate Lisa Tessier (1,984 votes), People's Party of Canada's Kevin Larson (973 votes), and the Green Party's Janine G. Gibson (592 votes).

Voter turnout was nearly 68 per cent of registered voters.

Elsewhere in the region, the preliminary results had Conservative Ted

Falk retain his seat in the Provencher riding with 34,194 votes, 66 per cent of those cast. He beat out the Liberal's Trevor Kirczenow (13,450 votes), NDP's Brandy Schmidt (2,367 votes), PPC candidate Noël Gautron (940 votes), and the Green Party's Blair Mahaffy (699 votes).

In Brandon-Souris, Grant Jackson won the seat for the Conservatives

with 27,118 votes, besting Liberal candidate Ghazanfar Ali Tarar (10,075) and the NDP's Quentin Robinson (6,276 votes).

Nationally, the Liberals, led by Mark Carney, won their fourth consecutive government with 43.5 per cent of the vote at press time, winning 168 seats. The Conservatives were set to form the Official Opposition with 144 seats.

Check out the Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoice.ca](http://altonavoice.ca)

# CFDC curator builds connections at international gathering

By Lorne Stelmach

A gathering of representatives from European countries offered a great opportunity for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden.

Executive director Adolfo Cuetara was invited by the Spanish embassy to be part of the event in Winnipeg last month, and he welcomed the opportunity to make a lot of connections.

"I felt honoured to receive this invitation, even more so when I realized how few people other than the embassies' representatives were present," said Cuetara.

"This meeting's purpose was mostly to make connections and networking with other European countries, and I had the opportunity and the honour to be introduced and talk to several other ambassadors," he said. "I had also the chance to briefly talk to the Premier Wab Kinew. He has been already several times to the CFDC, but I invited him to come again, now as a Premier of Manitoba."

European Union Ambassador Geneviève Tuts and 18 heads of mission of European states in Canada met with Kinew at the Legislature on April 14.

The European delegation included ambassadors and high commissioners of Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

During the two-day visit, the European delegation met with the premier and members of cabinet to discuss such issues as trade and investment, clean energy, critical minerals as well as research and innovation opportunities under the Horizon Europe program.

They also met with the Business Council of Manitoba and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and toured the Canadian NORAD headquarters and CentrePort Canada, which is a key hub for international trade.

Cuetara saw the event as a great

opportunity to improve the relations between Manitoba and the European Union in such areas as commerce, science, and research.

"This is one of many consequences of the erratic politics happening south of the border," he said. "Canada and Europe share similar values and visions, and both economic and social powers are wasting no time in rapidly improving their relationship at all levels."

Cuetara, who is originally from Spain, was invited to the meeting by the Spanish embassy. He noted how there is a connection between Manitoba and Spain that could help launch several projects in scientific research in collaboration with universities and researchers overseas.

He added it was surprising and very informative to learn more about the relationships between those European countries and Canada and specifically with Manitoba.

"I was shocked to learn that the European country importing more goods than any other from Manitoba is Spain, and there are serious plans to rapidly increase those numbers," he said.

"The timing for the CFDC couldn't be better, since I have been working with several former colleagues in Spain during the last year to start to make some businesses between their institutions and the CFDC," Cuetara said. "Here at the CFDC, we have been preparing some spectacular specimens that are unique to this museum, reconstructing them and replicating them using 3D technology and roto-casting molding with the idea to sell those replicas to other museums. This will increase our self-generated income and will spread the word of the CFDC, Morden, and Manitoba internationally."

"There is a significant budget from the European Union to fund eligible projects. I had a very informative talk with the ambassador of Spain about how those projects have to be put together, and sure thing the CFDC won't be missing this opportunity,"



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre executive director Adolfo Cuetara (right) with Premier Wab Kinew at a gathering of Manitoban and European representatives in Winnipeg last month.

he suggested. "I am already talking to my connections in several other European museums, scientific institutions, and universities to plan some of the projects."

Premier Kinew also saw a lot of opportunity in making these kinds of connections.

"Manitoba has what Europe needs; whether that's critical minerals or low

carbon energy, we're ready to do business with countries that share our values," the premier said. "Through the Port of Churchill, Manitoba is able to ship goods to places like Rotterdam quickly. We're facing a trade war on two fronts and while that presents a challenge, Manitoba is leaning in to diversifying our exports."

## Our mistake

Our story April 17 about the upcoming Sixteen13 Ministry concerts ("Sixteen13 hosting gospel music nights, Brother Yun, Pg. 15] mistakenly left off one of the performing artists.

Joining the Glencross Quartet at the praise and worship concert at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church on Friday, May 23 is Vic & Linda Wolfe.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is by donation, with all the funds raised going to support the ministry's programming to help those in need both close to home and abroad.

We regret the omission and any confusion it may have caused.

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## OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



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## The lost ones

I was reading a post on social media today about another missing Ukrainian newcomer in Winnipeg. I hope the young man is found well. As of the time of my writing this he has yet to located.

There have been other incidents of death and violence facing not just Ukrainians but other newcomers to Manitoba and Canada. It got me thinking about the added challenge of having to flee one's country and become strangers in a strange land.

I understand that there are plenty of people born and raised in Canada who face struggles and challenges depending on their demographic and mental health. But this is everywhere.

Adding to the normal struggle of being human by leaving everything you know, love and understand must be next level.

If you move to a large city, as is the temptation, you have the chance of finding a community of your own to connect with but then you have to deal with typical urban struggles like a higher cost of living etc.

When you move to a smaller community like Winkler, Morden, or Altona you run the risk of not finding many others from your culture. You have to deal with isolation and language issues.

Just finding a job must be challenging.

When I moved to Morden from



**By Peter Cantelon**

Toronto in 2005, I had the benefit of a welcoming community of people waiting for my arrival who helped with literally everything. This is not typical.

I know of newcomers arriving late in the night with young children in tow and a loaded truck who sought help simply to unload because they were exhausted and alone and knew no one—no one stepped forward.

How do you break into friend groups and communities as a newcomer when most of these people have known each since the womb?

Don't get me wrong, I have heard loads of testimonials from newcomers about how welcoming our region has been to them, but there are still so many that seem to lose themselves in the chaos, confusion, and isolation of a new country and culture.

I'd like to think I work hard at connecting with and welcoming people, but my connections are all introductory. I do not maintain long term relationships very well and so most people will get as much help as I can give in a moment but not much over time.

I think there must be added pressure on newcomers to always appear grateful as well. I mean, no one wants to be welcomed into a new country and community and appear ungrateful. This must be challenging however because healthy communities create an environment where people

can feel safe expressing struggle and critique not just the positive things.

What I'm saying is if you're a newcomer it's okay to express doubts, misgivings, struggles, disappointments and more about your new home. This is human. As a community we should be able to hear these things without immediately shouting "IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT HERE GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM!"

One of the most beautiful things about Canada, one of its greatest strengths we often forget, is that this country was made entirely of newcomers who were not told to shed everything they knew to become Canadian. They were told to weave everything they knew into our nation's fabric because this is what it means to be Canadian.

Be who you are in this place. Say what you need to say in this place. In the face of isolation, sadness, lost culture and familiarity, reach out to places like Regional Connections and Many Hands and others for support.

Most importantly, be proudly, unashamedly, loudly you. Be Ukrainian, Egyptian, Nigerian, Indian, Pakistani, Russian, Filipino and more. Speak your language in public; run for city council or the school board. This is part of what it means to be Canadian. Maybe the most important part.

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).

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# Letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca). Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

## BILL IS A NON-ISSUE

Bill 43 is a bill that aims to make intentionally misgendering someone a violation of provincial law.

Let me rephrase that: Bill 43 is a bill that aims to make disrespecting someone's very existence against the law.

Now, that seems quite extreme, so let me break it down a bit.

When a trans person chooses to transition, they are risking friendships, family ties, and moral respect. This seems very bad; mainly because it is. To then purposely use the wrong name or pronoun is quite disrespectful to them, at least that's what I think.

Now, regarding the point you made about free speech [Letters, Pg. 7, April 24], I think we can both agree it is not always the best thing. Hate speech, for example, is misinformation weaponized to marginalize a community or speech intending to make someone feel worse about themselves. This also applies to trans people. If you walked down the hall

and heard people calling you a male, wouldn't you be upset?

On the point of two biological genders: intersex people. That is all I have to say.

This bill is a non-issue that is being stressed way more than it should be.

Asher Friesen,  
Winkler

## WELL-DESERVED MEDALS

I had the privilege of attending a King Charles III Coronation Medal presentation ceremony this past week. The two recipients, Morden Police Chief Brad Neduzak and Lieutenant Colonel, Ret'd, Mark Wilson, currently a school teacher in Winkler, are well deserving of this award.

The Voice has covered many of these award ceremonies in the last number of weeks and every recipient's medal was, in my opinion, well deserved.

The ceremony made me reflect on how much is accomplished by volunteers and how much rich-

er our communities are for their unselfish contribution. Youth programs, arts centres, thrift stores, food banks are just a few of the organizations that would probably not exist without those volunteers.

My thanks and appreciation goes out to all those that contribute their time and effort to make our communities such great places to live.

With much gratitude,

Kenneth W. Wiebe,  
Morden

## KUDOS TO GVC'S DRAMA STUDENTS

Such powerful acting, strong singing and all-around inspiring teamwork brought this classic musical [Wizard of Oz] to a new high.

It was a truly enjoyable time and time well spent (I enjoyed it twice).

Thank you so much GVC.

Don Bergen,  
Winkler

# Morden, Winkler chambers making joint resolution

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden and Winkler chambers of commerce are making the case for a significant change in how major infrastructure projects are funded.

They are jointly making a resolution at the upcoming annual meeting of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce in Winkler May 1-2.

Their hope is having the backing of the provincial organization in lobbying for a change in the commonly understood municipal infrastructure funding formula as being one third cost shared by the three levels of government will carry some weight.

Morden chamber chairperson Tyler Schroeder said they are "asking them to use their larger and louder voice to advocate on our behalf ... to utilize their leverage and their strength and their voice.

"The Manitoba Chamber maintains a policy library from which they advocate from when speaking to the province of Manitoba," he noted.

The resolution calls for reform of the infrastructure funding formula amid rising costs and population growth, and it makes two key points:

- To provide urgent and aggressive infrastructure funding to Manitoba municipalities beyond the commonly referenced municipal infrastructure funding formula of one third cost sharing by the three levels of government to decrease the cost burden on Manitoba municipalities and to facilitate timely infrastructure investment that will enable future commu-

nity and economic growth and urge the government of Canada to do the same.

- That municipal infrastructure funding be indexed to both population and economic growth through a formula linked to GDP and that the government of Manitoba work collaboratively with municipalities to ensure funding levels are aligned with current and future infrastructure demands.

As background, it notes the cost of many municipal infrastructure projects is of such a high cost that the one third financial commitment from the municipality is often untenable, therefore limiting the municipality in their ability to undertake infrastructure projects.

The resolution continues that municipalities do not have the fiscal capacity to support such infrastructure investment, and when such projects are driven by growth, they are frequently accompanied by related or ancillary infrastructure needs, which further compound the financial challenges and the true costs borne by municipalities.

It is noted as well that municipalities have a maximum borrowing limit established by the province. Due to the high cost of many infrastructure projects, the borrowing requirements of a municipality to satisfy their one third contribution can consume a disproportionate amount of its borrowing capacity or exceed the capacity.

If much of the one-third municipi-

pal contribution is provided by way of borrowing debenture, this places an immediate large taxation burden upon the residents of the municipality on an investment intended to facilitate future growth and a larger future tax base. As well, current provincial legislation limits the ability of the municipality to finance a long-term growth asset beyond 25 years, which also places a disproportionate tax burden upon the current residents.

In addition, the resolution notes the cost of economic development is often borne first at the municipal level, but the federal and provincial government are the first and largest beneficiary of taxation from investments at the municipal level and the existing tax tools available to municipalities are administratively burdensome.

"This model isn't feasible at the municipal level for large scale projects and is an impediment to economic growth," said Schroeder. "We believe it to be an issue of broad relevance across the province ... as municipalities struggle with the increasing costs of capital infrastructure investments that support targeted growth assets.

"There are costs to maintaining the status quo, and we have a great example here in Morden with our wastewater capabilities reaching capacity and regional development being stunted as a result," he noted. "By the time the government of Canada provided their initial one third commitment to this project a number of years ago, the project cost had increased expo-

nentially, but their contribution had remained at the same dollar amount.

"Skip ahead to the future, and the need for a wastewater solution is more urgent and much more costly," he concluded. "We need urgent and aggressive funding commitments from the province of Manitoba and the government of Canada."

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## PTM opens for the season May 12

By Lorne Stelmach

Another season is starting up at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum in the highway corridor between Winkler and Morden.

The pioneer village is set for its opening day Monday, May 12. The usual array of events are planned for the season ahead, and volunteer directors again hope to see more people come to check it all out.

"Not necessarily everyone is interested in museums and old stuff ... but we always hope to get some new attendees who haven't been here before. That's huge for us," said board chairperson Marlene Loewen.

"Being that we're right in the centre between Winkler and Morden, you would think that there's a little bit more visibility than there is, but every year we get local people who've lived here all their lives saying they've never been here before," she noted.

"I'm not sure what we have to do, maybe some more advertising to get more local people to come and visit us," she said. "It's not expensive, and you can spend a few hours here if you want."

Loewen noted they welcome any opportunity to promote the museum,

such as when the Manitoba Moose hosted a special promotion for museums that was dubbed "Mooseum Day." PTM had a display where they offered 50 per cent off for anyone who had been there to come and visit.

"Maybe we can get more people from the city to come out," Loewen said. "A lot of people stopped in at the table to check it out."

This summer's main events at PTM begin with Heritage Days June 6 and 7, and the timing means the museum gets a lot of school tours.

"We've already got over 600 students from K to Gr. 5 registered to come, including some home schooling groups ... and we expect some more yet."

Next up will be Pioneer Day July 5 followed by Frontier Day Aug. 2.

"Those are not big events, but we have a few extra things going on that day," said Loewen, noting there will be barrel train rides for the kids along with the general store being open for business.

The grand finale then of course is Reunion Days set for Sept. 6-7.

"It is exciting to kick off another season, and we're really looking forward to it," said Loewen.

As always, the museum has a few improvement projects lined up for the



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Pembina Threshermen's Museum kicks off its summer on Monday, May 12.

months ahead, including redoing the chain link fence on the east side of the property.

"That's a bigger project, and we've been applying for some grants but have not been approved as of yet ... so we may need to do our own fundraising," shared Loewen, noting they will also replace the fence along the front of the parking lot with a smaller wooden fence. "It's really just for aesthetics. It's not a security thing."

"We have a bunch of roofs that need to be redone as well, so that's a big project for this summer," she said, adding new dining room doors were also donated by Berdick. Otherwise, there is also just some general maintenance, including repainting a number

of the buildings.

The museum always appreciates the support they get from the local communities and businesses.

"It's always good to get some stuff donated from the community," said Loewen. "That's huge for us if we can get some stuff locally donated, and it doesn't dig into our operating costs."

"And I am grateful for the board of directors as well as the office staff and all core volunteers. They are an amazing, dedicated bunch," she concluded. "Also a huge thank-you to the RM of Stanley and the cities of Morden and Winkler for the continued support. Without their support, the museum would not be what it is today."

## Genesis House launches sexual assault intervention programming

By Lorne Stelmach

Genesis House has introduced a program to help address the issues and needs around sexual assault.



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It received three years of funding through the Aurora Foundation to implement a sexual assault intervention program, which is very much an extension of shelter services but is also available to the community at large.

Executive director Ang Braun noted how Genesis House has noticed a significant increase in sexual violence being reported by the women they serve, and they also recognize how it is a complex issue. So their goal is to bring awareness to the issue and provide support and navigation to the people that need it.

"We went with the idea let's make it a little bit easier to navigate and see what we find and where it goes," said Braun.

"Our interest in this was piqued when [CTV's] W5 a couple of years back had a focus on Manitoba and the fact that there were very little services outside of Winnipeg ... we here at the shelter we're seeing a lot of sexual assault and a lot of sexual exploitation actually, so we figured at some point we were going to have to tackle this for the region."

"I think we have recognized the need for the program for a couple of years ... but we hadn't been able to secure funding to start anything."

The sexual assault intervention program has two components.

The first is providing psycho-education and public awareness of sexual assault in the community, so Genesis House is offering 40 hours of sexual assault advocate training. This training is geared towards individuals who are interested in the psycho-education behind sexual assault and how to best assist survivors.

Genesis House is also launching a sexual assault awareness team with partners from such agencies as Ginev Wellness Centre, First Nations police, Boundary Trails Health Centre, local police services and RCMP as well as victim services and various other community entities.

Meetings will be held quarterly to discuss trends, challenges, and barriers in the communities regarding sexual assault with the hope that the collaborative work of this group will better address the matter.

The second component is that Genesis House is now offering counselling services for those who have experienced sexual assault, including both short-term counselling and support groups. These services are offered free of charge.

Program co-ordinator Taylor Goerz

said a key thing with the initiative is bringing in a number of organizations and agencies to play a role.

"I think that creating a regional team and working together in co-operative roles will be really effective," she said, suggesting these various stakeholders can bring a lot of knowledge and perspective into play.

"There are complex reasons as to why victims aren't reporting ... so that's one of the issues that we're hoping to work together as a group to maybe lower some of the barriers."

The program was already up and running in conjunction with April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"We are now accepting client referrals as well as delivering educational components to community members who are interested now," said Goerz, noting there were some one-on-one as well as group components. "We have the capacity to do some one on one things as well as a support group that we offer here at the shelter."

If you are interested in learning more about the sexual assault program or would like to collaborate with Genesis House, e-mail [SAIntervention@genesis-house.ca](mailto:SAIntervention@genesis-house.ca) or call 431-775-5990.

# Be prepared—know your risks

## May 4-10 is Emergency Preparedness Week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The outdoor warning sirens will sound off in both Morden and Winkler at noon next week Wednesday, May 7.

It's the only time of the year when you hear that sound that you can safely disregard it, as it's just a test—any other time the sirens' wail should be taken as the serious warning that it is, stresses Darin Driedger, municipal emergency coordinator of the Southern Emergency Response Committee.

In the event of a real emergency, the sirens are meant to alert anyone outdoors that it's not safe to be there, he says, and you need to get inside and tune into local radio or municipal websites to see what's going on.

Next week's test is part of SERC's participation in Emergency Preparedness Week.

This year's theme is "Be Prepared—Know Your Risks" and Driedger encourages everyone to take a moment to consider what natural and man-made disasters we might face in this area.

"Tornadoes, severe weather, and then flooding as well" are all risks in the spring and summer months, he says, complemented by blizzards, life-threatening driving conditions, and power outages in the winter.

"And then there's a few man-made

ones as well: hazardous materials spills, large fires," Driedger says. "Those are the two main ones that we focus on here in our communities."

Thankfully, large-scale disasters are few and far between in the Pembina Valley, but it's important not to become complacent. Driedger warns people against shrugging off emergency alerts—they're issued for a reason, even if the worst doesn't come to pass.

"We're always cautious when sending out alerts," he says. "It's always a challenge for emergency managers to strike a balance between educating people and [sending out too many and] having people fail to take them seriously."

"Last summer we had some pretty severe storms nearby, but thankfully they didn't impact our area directly. But they could have. It wasn't too far away where we had some tornado strikes."

Severe weather is at the top of Driedger's risk list for this area.

"Just because it comes up so quick, and even with the best advances we've made in forecasting, there's still a lot of uncertainty and unpredictability that comes with that threat," he says. "So we want people to be aware and be prepared."

The first thing you should do is have an emergency plan so everyone in the



family knows what to do and where to go.

Figure out the safest spot in your home to take shelter, Driedger says, and make sure you have an emergency kit equipped with basic supplies—food, water, a flashlight, medications—to get you through at least 72 hours.

"It's a simple thing you can do. It can be pretty cost effective—most of the supplies you probably already have," he says. "And the thing with a kit is you can always build it small and add to it over time, so it doesn't have to be a big cost."

You should also consider what the plan is if an emergency strikes when family members are outside the home, perhaps at school or work.

"Know who to contact in town and out-of-town, someone you can all know to communicate with to check in on," Driedger says. "It just makes it so much quicker and less stressful to reunite and reconnect families if we do encounter a storm or a tornado."

And while it's human nature to want to see what's going on—or the aftermath of what happened—Driedger stresses how important it is to resist that urge. As fascinating as severe weather can be to witness, it's not worth your life.

"When you're by a window, that's not a safe place to be in a storm," Driedger says. "Windows break, debris can fly in and cause a lot of damage. If you want to capture it on film, consider setting up a webcam or something, but don't stand by a window and watch the storm hit. Take cover."

"The second part of that is right after there's a tendency for people to want to go and see what happened, which is also problematic for our first responders and utility crews and folks who are trying to deal with the impact."

Stay home and stay safe, Driedger urges.

Learn more at [getprepared.gc.ca](http://getprepared.gc.ca).

# Central Community Homes kicking off fundraising campaign

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Community Homes (CCH) kicks off the fundraising campaign for its new affordable housing complex this month.

The non-profit is hosting a luncheon at Central Station Community Centre (555 Main St.) at noon on Monday, May 12 that is open to all.

"We're launching our fundraising campaign for our project at 557 North Railway Ave., the new 28-unit apartment block that's currently under construction," said Dave Kasdorf, CCH vice-chair.

Kasdorf shares that the project is well on its way, and should be ready for its first tenants this fall.

"There's not much work happening outside right now—the inside work is being done, and we are on schedule ... it sounds like we're even a little bit ahead of schedule, which is great," he said.

The luncheon will feature as guest speaker David Asper. Asper is a lawyer and accomplished businessman who has a long history of community service, including as past chair of the Asper Foundation, Winnipeg Folk Festival, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and the Winnipeg Police Board.

He is currently a majority shareholder and chair of Funding Change, which helps organizations in their fundraising efforts.

CCH is partnering with Funding Change as it seeks to raise the money

still needed to cover the costs of the new affordable housing apartment complex.

"Right now we are about \$500,000 short from fully funding this project," Kasdorf says, explaining that they've been able to secure a loan by leveraging some of the other social housing units CCH operates in Winkler, but they're hoping community donations will help them close the gap.

Details about the fundraising campaign and future events will be made at the luncheon.

Tickets are \$100 each or \$750 for a table of eight.

The luncheon's Eventbrite page was slated to go live this week. You can also contact Kasdorf at 204-325-3766 to book seats.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

David Asper is the guest speaker at the Central Community Homes luncheon May 12.



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# Talking sustainability



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The first Sustainability Fair hosted by the Pembina Climate Action Network Saturday included a variety of displays and short presentations as well as a Morden Thrift Shop fashion show at St. Paul's United Church in Morden. There were displays of such things as pollinator gardens, making your own laundry soap, what e-waste is and what goes in the garbage, recycle or compost bins. There were also talks on subjects ranging from electric vehicles to the new Stanley community pathway. Above, left: People were able to have their bikes serviced for free at the event. Above, right: Carol Toews and Margie Hildebrand with their pollinator-friendly gardening display.

## We care about quality!

In his nearly 40 years on the job, KC's Shoe Repair owner Ken Thiessen has fixed just about everything.

Shoes, certainly—if there's a chance to breathe new life into your favourite piece of footwear, he's the man to do it—but his workshop is also packed full of projects ranging from luggage to hockey equipment to all manner of leather or canvas pieces.

"I can fix just about anything," Thiessen says, sharing that it's the variety of his job that's kept him at it all these years.

In today's disposable world, shoe repair is a dying art, but an important one.

"We can change up the glue, change the soles, and they're good to go for who knows how long," says Thiessen, adding he also can mend tears and install

orthotic lifts—whatever it takes to make an aging shoe functional once again. "It keeps it out of the dump and in use a little longer."

Beyond repairs, KC's also offers a wide selection of footwear of all kinds—shoes, boots, sandals—for the entire family, and also all manner of work and western wear—from hats to jeans to shirts—for the youngest cowboy to the oldest, all from trusted brands meant to last.

"We care about quality," Thiessen says on what makes KC's stand out. "That's very important. Junk you can get anywhere. For quality, you come here."

Customer service is another feature the family-run shop prides itself on, he adds, noting they offer personalized, friendly service to everyone who walks through the door.

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# MS Education and Awareness



## MS awareness: do you know the signs?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic condition that affects millions of individuals and their families across the country. March is National MS Education and Awareness Month. This nationwide initiative was launched in 2003 by MS Focus and serves as a powerful reminder of the challenges faced by those living with MS. It also aims to promote early detection and management.

### SYMPTOMS

Multiple sclerosis is a complex and unpredictable neurological condition, with symptoms that can vary significantly from person to person. While no two journeys with MS are alike, some common symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Depression
- Heat intolerance
- Numbness & tingling
- Loss of balance, dizziness and vertigo
- Stiffness or spasms
- Tremor
- Pain
- Bladder and bowel problems
- Vision problems
- Problems with memory and thinking

It's important to note that some people may experience certain symptoms while others may not experience them at all. This highlights the importance of consulting a healthcare professional if you or someone you know is experiencing concerning symptoms that may indicate MS.



### DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosing MS is a nuanced process that requires the expertise of a neurologist. There is no single definitive test that can confirm a diagnosis of MS. It requires a comprehensive assessment, including a detailed medical history, neurological exami-

nations and various imaging tests, such as MRIs. Promoting awareness during National MS Education and Awareness Month helps empower those affected by MS to seek help, connect with resources and raise their voices. Every effort counts in the fight against MS.

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# Brad Neduzak, Mark Wilson honoured for years of service

By Lorne Stelmach

Two local residents with long records of service to their communities, province, and country were honoured last week.

Morden Police Chief Brad Neduzak and Lieutenant Colonel Mark Wilson of Winkler received the King Charles III Coronation Medal from Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert at a special ceremony April 22.

"It's an extreme honour to be nominated and receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal ... it's an extremely proud moment for sure," said Neduzak. "Nobody does this for recognition ... it just makes coming to work each and every day more special and worthwhile."

"It's a huge privilege to be honoured in such a way," agreed Wilson, who has balanced military service with his teaching role at Garden Valley Collegiate. "I've had the opportunity to work for the Canadian Forces for 28 years ... it's nice that it's noticed."

Hiebert said it was an immense privilege and great honour for her to celebrate these two dedicated community members.

"This medal is a tangible symbol of the profound impact you have made on our communities and our nation," she said, noting how they both exemplify extraordinary commitment to serving others and embodying the true spirit of leadership.

Hiebert noted how Wilson had recently retired as the commanding officer of the 38th Canadian brigade group artillery tactical group, but it followed a military career that began in 1997 and saw him rise in the ranks to sergeant and then eventually lieutenant colonel and commanding officer.

His service included being deployed in 2007 to Afghanistan for training of the Afghan army and in 2017 to Iraq to help liberate that nation from ISIS.

"Lt. Col. Wilson has exemplified what it means to lead with honour, courage and dedication. His exemplary service with the Canadian armed forces reflects not only his commitment to our country but also his unwavering spirit and dedication to the values we hold dear," Hiebert said.

She also referenced Wilson balancing a military career with his teaching career, and lauded his dedication and passion for both learning and leadership.

"I've always lived a bit of a dual life," reflected Wilson. "I've enjoyed the teaching side just as much as the army side ... you hope to instill in them a desire to serve the communi-

ty."

Wilson emphasized being motivated and driven by his sense of duty.

"It was a privilege to work for the forces for so long and to work as part of so many different teams," he said, adding he hopes to perhaps inspire others to serve in some way.

"I think there's a lot of different ways to serve," he said. "I think the forces is only one. I think the important part is the sense of duty towards the community, something bigger than yourself."

Hiebert saluted Neduzak for a long career and record of service that has included 25 years as police chief alone.

"For 40 years, Chief Neduzak has been a beacon of leadership and integrity within the Morden Police Service," she said. "His unwavering commitment to public safety and well being in our community is a statement to his career and professionalism."

She also cited him for many accomplishments such as the formation of the first K9 unit as well as a regional tactical team, negotiating team, and community resource officers.

"Chief Neduzak's vision and dedication to advancing our police strategies have truly set the standard for future generations," Hiebert said.

Neduzak expressed gratitude for "the people you work with for sure, and the community you live in and you work for ... if it wasn't for the group that I work with, my staff, they are so supportive in everything that I do and try to do, and they are there to help me along the way. They make my job easy."

He also offered a thought on what really stood out the most for him when he looks back at his career.

"I think just the general growth of the police service and what we are able to offer the citizens of Morden," he said, citing as well the growth of regional co-operation particu-

larly with the Winkler police.

"You can't do this alone. You have to work together," he said. "There's strength in numbers."

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**May 7, 2025 @ 12:00 PM**

**Morden/Stanley/Winkler Emergency Management**

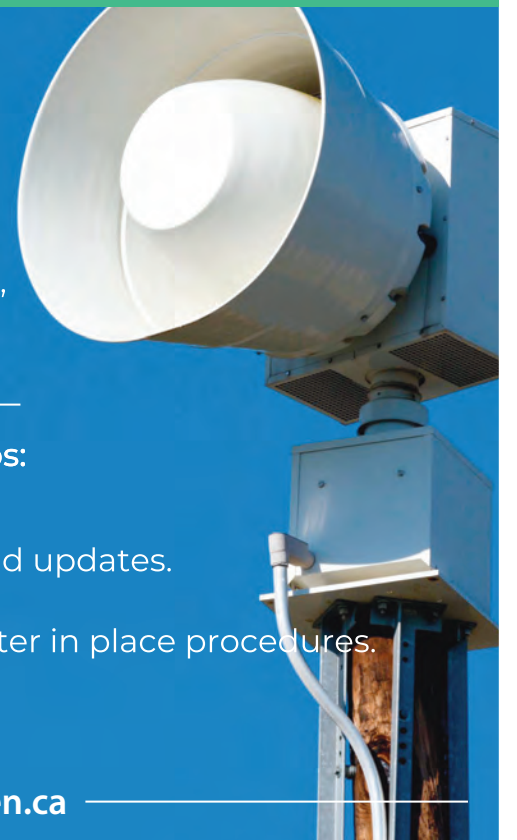
**A test of the outdoor Weather Warning Siren System will be conducted in Winkler and Morden at noon on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. The City of Morden will also be testing their CodeRED system at this time.**

The Outdoor Sirens are designed to alert citizens that are OUTDOORS of danger (Tornadoes, Chemical Spills, Large Scale Fires, etc.), so that they may seek shelter INDOORS or SHELTER-IN-PLACE.

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1. Go indoors immediately.
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3. Follow instructions given by emergency services.
4. For Hazardous Materials Emergencies – know shelter in place procedures.
5. Have your 72-hour emergency kit available.
6. Listen to your local radio station for the all clear.

[www.cityofwinkler.ca](http://www.cityofwinkler.ca) [www.morden.ca](http://www.morden.ca)



# Winkler introduces new Public Service Request Portal

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's new Public Service Request Portal is making it easier than ever to connect with the right civic department to see action taken on a variety of concerns in the community.

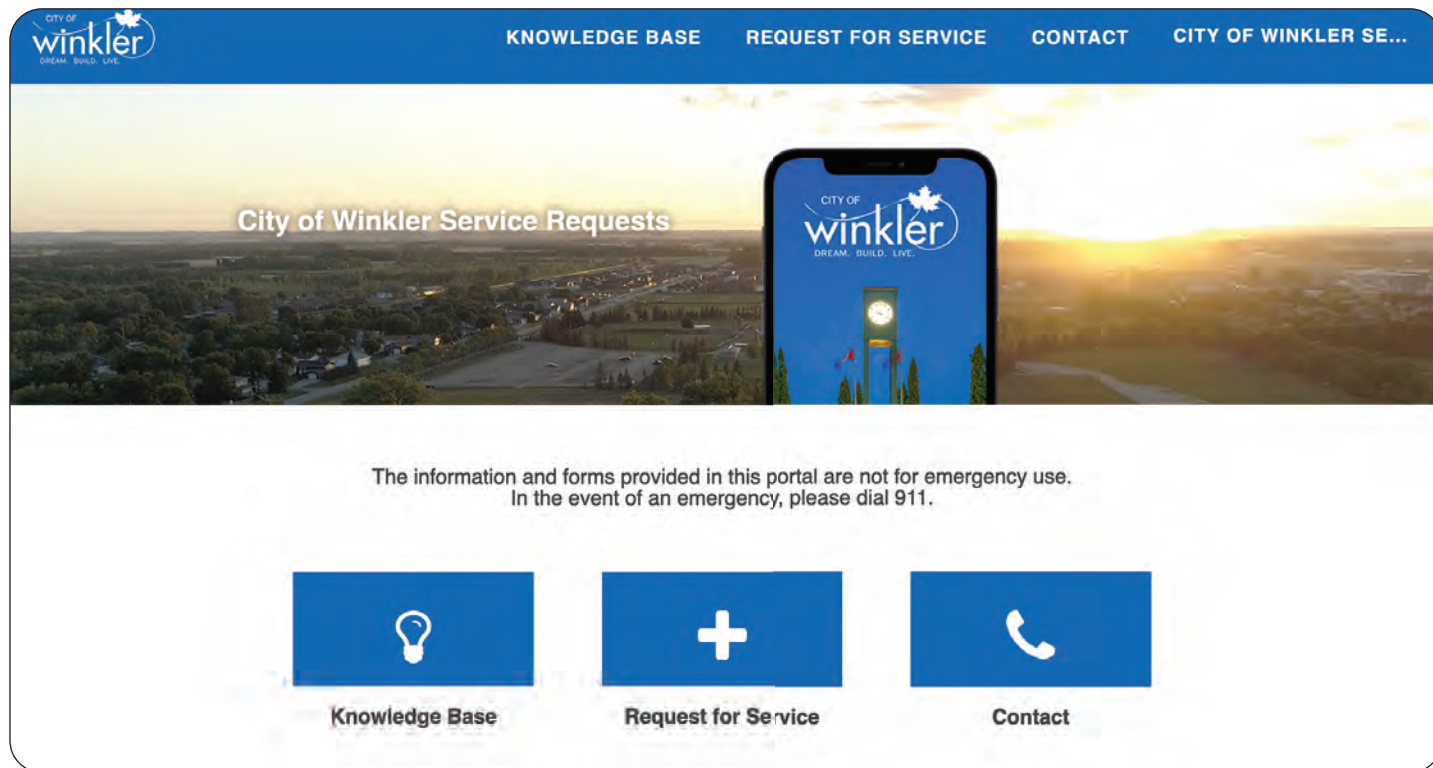
The City of Winkler launched the new portal on its website (cityof-winkler.ca) a few weeks ago and has already seen engagement with residents increase, shares city manager Jody Penner.

"It didn't take long and it's probably growing every day," he says. "Not many days go by where we don't get some request in that system."

"This is something that we've wanted to put in place for a long time," Penner says. "We had a way of doing service requests on our website before, but it was not a very robust system."

The old program didn't have an easy way for city staff to keep people updated on the status of their request for service—a gap the new portal fills by allowing residents to leave contact information, if they wish, to be updated as their request makes its way through the system.

"We really wanted a way for our residents to efficiently help us, to in some ways be our eyes and ears out on the streets," Penner says. "We



CITYOFWINKLER.CA

can't see everything, and so we want residents to have a really good way to let us know when something might need attention."

That could include anything from a pothole in the road to garbage collection issues to street light outages. The portal also has options for questions about bylaws, community events,

recreational programming and other like matters.

Assistant city manager Wendy Klassen notes that the new system should streamline the request-for-service

process, but it doesn't mean every request will get an immediate solution.

"This will give us more service requests, and that's great because, like Jody said, we can't know everything," she says, "but we still have to prioritize the requests that come in. So if it's something very small that is not affecting safety ... it might not be at the top of the list. Sometimes things will still take some time."

When you enter the portal page, you have a few options to choose from.

You can search the Knowledge Base, which Penner notes they're working to expand so it can answer some of the more common questions people may have.

There's also a "Contact" link in case

you want to call a specific department directly for more urgent queries, including emergency situations.

And then there's the "Request for Service" link that allows you to select the location in question, provide details and even pictures of the issue at hand, and then fill out your contact information and whether or not you'd like to be apprised via email, text, or phone call of any updates.

The city website has a video outlining step-by-step how to use the system.

"We want to get this information out there," Penner stresses, "and we want our residents to be a part of the process in this way."

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**PLANT KINDNESS,  
GROW COMMUNITY**

WHAT SEEDS OF KINDNESS WILL YOU PLANT?









#PIFMAY

## Step into Spring in Morden May 10

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is ushering in spring with a family fun afternoon.

The Step into Spring celebration set for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 10 in the Huron Arena at the Access Event Centre is centred around a petting zoo by the Niverville-based Prancing Pony Petting Zoo.

"Springtime always makes me think of things like animals and babies and new life," said Morden event co-ordinator Trisha Hoeppner.

The petting zoo will feature up to 10 different animals, including goats, alpacas, bunnies and more.

"There will be lots of animals there for people to enjoy," said Hoeppner. "The humane society is coming as well, and they're going to have a

display to promote animals that need to be adopted in the area.

"It will just be a nice afternoon for the family to get out and experience some animals," she said, adding there will also be games like mini-golf, Connect Four, and Jenga as well as cotton candy.

Hoeppner suggested, with the arrival of spring, people are anxious and ready to get out and do things, and she hopes this event goes over well.

"If there's a good turnout, it's something that I would be more than happy to bring back," she said. "It is something I would like to make an annual event."

"We want to put things out there for the community to enjoy that's free," Hoeppner said. "It's nice to be able to support our community in this way. We just really hope people come out ... we just want people to enjoy it."



**PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE**  
The Crusty Bun Morden Open Table Tennis Tournament saw competitors out from across Manitoba last Saturday. Above, left: Kendra Fehr from Altona battles against Winnipegger Matias Gervai. Above, right: Mordenite Gabriel Machado (foreground) fields a ball from Irwin Raymundo of Winnipeg. Reaching the podium in the Advanced Division A were Nury Vasquez (first), Polina Sirotina (second), and Badru Awwal (third). Top-three finishers in Intermediate Division B were Gabriel Fernandez, Rachel Lemus, and Roman Kostenko.



## Measles identified at Schanzenfeld school

By Voice staff

Public health officials are warning the public about two new confirmed cases of measles in the Southern Health-Santé Sud region after recent international travel to Mexico.

The individuals both attended Southwood School in the Garden Valley School Division during the infectious period, officials reported last week.

While public health is in communication with the school to notify anyone who could have been exposed, they're also asking anyone who thinks they may have been exposed in the following locations but have not been directly notified to contact Health Links-Info Santé (1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba):

- Southwood School in Schanzenfeld on April 14 and April 15 during school hours and after school until 5:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until May 7.

- Bus #2683 before and after school, servicing Southwood School and Prairie Dale School in Schanzenfeld

on April 14 and April 15 from 8 to 10:35 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until May 7.

Symptoms of measles generally appear seven to 21 days after exposure. Initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat.

Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (brain inflammation).

If symptoms develop, individuals who may have been exposed are advised to isolate at home and contact their health-care provider and advise them of the potential

Continued on page 16

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# BOOK SALE

## 'The Big One!'

Access Event Centre  
111 Gilmour St, Morden, MB

Thursday, May 1: 2-9 PM  
Friday, May 2: 9-8 PM  
Saturday, May 3: 9-3 PM

Fill a standard-sized shopping bag for **\$10**

# HMCS CHIPPAWA's Prairie Sailors to return to Manitou Opera House stage

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitou Opera House Foundation is welcoming back the Royal Canadian Navy Band, the HMCS CHIPPAWA Prairie Sailors, for a concert on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

Known for their wide variety of musical styles, the professional musicians of HMCS CHIPPAWA are dedicated to supporting the Canadian Armed Forces and engaging with the broader community.

When the Opera House Foundation first hosted the band in 2023, organizers quickly recognized the CHIPPAWA musicians' enthusiasm for sharing their talents and raising awareness about Canada's Navy and Naval Reserve.

The band is led by Lieutenant Everett Fristensky, whose versatile vocals range from rock anthems to jazz standards. Fristensky said the Navy Band's role is to enhance public awareness of the Royal Canadian Navy and its Naval Reserve while providing musical support for the military, all levels of government, and a wide range of public functions.

The CHIPPAWA Band performs at

military and public parades, ceremonial events, social gatherings, dances, and school and public concerts, demonstrating its broad versatility.

The band also actively supports community fundraising efforts for non-profits, including the Rainbow Resource Centre, the Children's Wish Foundation, United Way, the Firefighters Burn Fund, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Variety Children's Charity, Winnipeg Harvest—and now, for the second time, the Manitou Opera House Foundation.

The CHIPPAWA music program features several ensembles, including a concert band, parade band, stage band, Dixieland combo, jazz trio, brass quintet, and its newest addition, the Prairie Sailors rock group.

At the Manitou concert, the Prairie Sailors will deliver a mix of classic rock, rhythm and blues, and jazz standards, highlighted by a strong brass section.

During their 2023 visit, band members connected warmly with the audience, greeting fans after the show—a moment that was especially meaning-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Royal Canadian Navy Band, HMCS CHIPPAWA Prairie Sailors, will return to the Manitou Opera House for a concert on May 10, bringing a mix of classic rock, jazz standards and rhythm and blues.

ful for local Navy veterans.

In honour of the Navy Band's spirit of service, the Manitou Opera House Foundation is offering free tickets for cadets who serve at the annual Remembrance Day Service in Manitou, as well as for participants in local school band programs.

The Opera House doors will open at 6 p.m. Reserved seating tickets are \$25, or \$10 for those aged 17 and under. Tickets are available online at [www.manitouoperahouse.com](http://www.manitouoperahouse.com) or by calling 204-242-4287. For more information, email [events@manitouoperahouse.com](mailto:events@manitouoperahouse.com).

# Age-friendly committee hosting watch party

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming initiative is aiming to celebrate some inspiring stories and successful initiatives from across the region.

Southern Health-Santé Sud is hosting an online session called *Communities Making a Difference: Learning from Each Other*, and the Morden Age Friendly Community Committee invites people to a watch party for the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Yas Hassan is the guest speaker at the Communities Making a Difference watch party being hosted by the Morden Age Friendly Community Committee next week.

event.

"We wanted to get our name out there. It's a new committee, and we wanted to start things ... and this was a way of getting a bunch of different organizations and people together," said committee member Shelly Voth.

"We're really hoping to get a good cross section of people ... maybe some different non-profit organizations and even just anybody from the community," she said. "There is a guest speaker and also some different communities talking about some good ideas that they've had and projects they have implemented, so it really is just kind of a feel-good morning."

The watch party is set for Thursday, May 8 starting at 9 a.m. at 500 Stephen.

The program includes guest speaker Yas Hassan, who is an associate director at the Tamarack Institute's learning centre, which is dedicated to community development and engagement while prioritizing ethical co-creation and collaboration.

Hassan specializes in community engagement, learning and development, conflict resolution, and more.

## > MEASLES, FROM PG. 15

exposure to measles.

Anyone else in the household who is unimmunized should limit exposure to others until the symptomatic person has received advice from their health-care provider. It is best to call ahead so health-care staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of others to the virus.

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease spread through droplets in the air formed when coughing or sneezing. An infected person can spread the virus from four days before the rash appears until four days after. The

There will also be five short presentations on community success stories, including the human library in Pilot Mound, community youth festival and events in Ste. Anne, families and nature adventure nights in Sprague, art in the woods with friends in Grunthal, and storytelling and traditional foods in Ste. Eustache.

Voth thinks there is a great opportunity to learn from what's been successful in other communities and perhaps get ideas from them.

"We all can learn from each other, whether you're a different organization or if you just want to do some good in the community. It can be good to hear what other people are doing," she said. "Especially with like-minded, community-minded people, whenever you put a bunch of people in a room and you listen to other people's ideas ... hopefully we can spark some good ideas of our own."

There is no cost to attend and no advance registration needed. There will be gift card prize draws for attendees.

For more information, you can e-mail [svoth@mymorden.ca](mailto:svoth@mymorden.ca).

disease tends to be more severe in infants and young children, and can be life threatening.

Immunization is the only means of protecting people from contracting measles. Contact an immunization provider such as a local public health office, physician or nurse practitioner to ensure everyone is up to date on their shots.

Public health officials continue to monitor the situation and will provide updated information as necessary.

For general information on measles, including immunization, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html).

# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Sweetpotato Summer Slushie

1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 cups crushed ice  
2 ounces spiced rum, coconut rum or bourbon (optional)  
pineapple slices or orange wedges, for garnish (optional)

In blender, blend sweetpotatoes, pineapple juice, orange juice, lemon juice, coconut milk, simple syrup or honey, vanilla extract and ice until smooth and slushy.

Pour into glasses and serve.  
For alcoholic version: Add spiced rum, coconut rum or bourbon after blending. Pulse in blender or stir after blending for layered effect.

Garnish with pineapple slices or orange wedges, if desired.

Recipe courtesy of the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission

1 cup cooked, mashed North Carolina Sweetpotatoes  
1 cup pineapple juice  
1/2 cup orange juice  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
1/4 cup coconut milk  
2-3 tablespoons simple syrup or honey (adjust to taste)



## Creamy Carrot Soup

1/4 cup orange juice  
1/4 cup heavy cream  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
honey

BLT wraps, for serving

In blender, blend canned carrots, including juices, until smooth. Transfer to pot and add broth.

Mix in brown sugar, garlic powder, onion powder, ginger and orange juice. Bring to simmer then add cream. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Drizzle honey over each bowl. Serve with BLT wraps.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6  
2 cans (14 ounces each) carrots  
2 cups broth of choice  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
2 teaspoons ginger



## Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup

1 tablespoon thyme  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 cup heavy cream  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste

cucumber sandwiches, for serving

Chop carrots and celery. In pot, saute with butter.

In bowl, mix chicken with lemon juice and lemon pepper then set aside.

After carrots and celery are tender, add broth and orzo to pot. Then add garlic powder, onion powder, thyme and sugar. Simmer 10 minutes then add chicken and cream; simmer about 5 minutes.

Add salt and pepper, to taste. Serve with cucumber sandwiches.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6  
2 carrots  
2 celery stalks  
3 tablespoons butter  
2 cups cooked, chopped chicken  
1/3 cup lemon juice  
2 teaspoons lemon pepper  
6 cups broth  
1 cup orzo  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon onion powder

## Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

It's been a year since my 50th birthday. I achieved my goal for the year and celebrated 50 times over the last twelve months! A little extreme? Maybe. But the doctors told me I'd probably be dead by 25, so turning 50 seemed extra special for me.

Some of my celebrations were big, like a party with live music at our house with about 30 of our closest England friends; an event in Manchester with New York Times best-selling author Elizabeth Gilbert; a four-day girls trip to Wales. Some had less wow-factor, like an intentional phone call with a Canadian friend; a visit to a newly opened second-hand shop with a £2 t-shirt purchase; an amateur fashion show at our local village hall (which was hilarious, by the way. A couple of the volunteer models were, um, a little tipsy, which made their cat-walking in heels and hats, um, more entertaining.) These events were smaller, but still meaningful.

What I've learned from both the doctors' threats, and my year of intentional celebrating, is that we never know how much time we have – being alive or able – and

life is a heck of a lot more wonderful when we carpe diem the snot out of it when we can.

Sometimes ill-health can be the kick in the butt we need to gain perspective; to make our lives beautiful. 50 may seem like a lot, but if we all picked just one thing a week, big or small, to focus celebratory energy to, it could really change our outlook on life. And now, after this past year, I can attest to the outcome that it makes one more mindful of really enjoying simple phone conversations as joyful events. I find myself thinking, Oh! This feels like a celebration! when I never would have, before.

Now, to be clear, I am not minimizing how hard ill-health can be. Painful; frustrating; terrifying, even. But there's nothing like an ongoing death-threat to point out all that one has to celebrate.

Don has been very supportive of my 50 celebrations, withdrawing from the bank account to buy yet another ticket, or hire another musician. He did say, though, "Okay, but no more celebrating 50 times in a year."

"I agree," I said. "This year, I'll celebrate 51 times, ha!"

So upon reflecting on life and death, I've become more intentional. And what a fun year it's been, despite the pain, nausea, medical tests, and fear of a new diagnosis. I wish I hadn't waited so long to live this way.

You don't need to wait until a milestone birthday to live intentionally. So I dare you...go start celebrating!

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @authorsusieschwartz, and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com). (Email: [info@lesshealthstress.com](mailto:info@lesshealthstress.com)) If you like her writing, find more on her Substack page: *The Quest For Less Health Stress*



## Potato Salad

2 tablespoons mustard  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste

smoked paprika, for garnish

Coarsely chop potatoes. In Dutch oven, boil until fork tender. Drain then add coarsely chopped eggs and pickles.

Add garlic powder, onion powder, bacon pieces, mayonnaise and mustard. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Mix well.

Transfer to large bowl and refrigerate 1-2 hours. Garnish with smoked paprika.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6  
3 pounds potatoes  
4 boiled eggs, coarsely chopped  
2 dill pickles  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 package (2 1/2 ounces) real bacon pieces  
2 cups mayonnaise

# sports & recreation

## Winkler Flyers hand out year-end awards



WINKLERFLYERS.COM

The Winkler Flyers marked the end of their season with their annual awards banquet last month. Clockwise from top left: The junior team presented Max Lavoie with the Rookie of the Year award, Nicolas McKee with Most Improved Player, Isaac Deveau with the Leadership and Perseverance award, Jayce Legaarden and Brody Beauchemin with Top Forward, and Liam Ernst with Team MVP. Isaiah Peters took home two awards: the Community Commitment Award and the Top Defenceman honour.



## U13 Central Energy crush competition with four-game sweep

By Annaliese Meier

The U13 Central Energy delivered a dominant performance over the weekend, notching four straight victories against the Smitty's Terminators and Winnipeg Lightning in softball action.

In Saturday's opener at Varsity View, Emma S. drove in six runs to lead Central Energy to a commanding 19-6 win over Smitty's Terminators. Emma smashed a grand slam to centre field in the first inning and added a two-run triple in the third. Kaitlyn B., Reese F., and Beaudry E. also sparked the offence early, helping Central Energy pile up 10 runs in the opening frame.

Collins V. earned the win from the

circle, striking out five over two innings. Central Energy finished with 14 hits and 12 walks, with Reese leading the team at the plate, going 3-for-3.

Later that day, Central Energy cruised to an 18-2 win in the rematch against Smitty's. Brady W. powered the offence with a two-run inside-the-park homer in the second inning, while Reese F. added a two-run home run in the third. Kaitlyn B. and Lindsay F. each had three hits. Addison D. was sharp on the mound, tossing two shutout innings with five strikeouts.

Central Energy kept the momentum rolling on Sunday in La Salle, sweeping a doubleheader against Winnipeg Lightning.

In the first game, Central Energy

earned a 14-8 victory. Emma S. again led the way, pitching two no-hit innings while driving in two runs at the plate. Despite a five-run third inning by Winnipeg, sparked by Lyla R.'s inside-the-park grand slam, Central Energy answered with five runs of their own. The team showed patience at the plate, drawing 15 walks and stealing 11 bases in the win.

The weekend concluded with a 12-4 triumph over Winnipeg Lightning. Beaudry E. crushed a solo home run in the third inning, while Addison D. struck out five across two hitless innings to start the game. Madison K. and Lindsay F. each collected two hits, and Central Energy added another 12 walks and 10 stolen bases to cap off the weekend.

The U13 Central Energy will return to action with a rematch against Winnipeg Lightning next Sunday.

### U15 CENTRAL ENERGY POWER PAST ANGELS IN DOUBLEHEADER

The U15 AAA Central Energy put together a pair of dominant performances on Saturday, defeating the Manitoba Angels 13-0 and 16-0 in back-to-back games.

In the opener, Zoey Shantz led the way at the plate, driving in four runs on three hits to pace Central Energy to a 13-0 victory. Shantz hit a solo home run in the first inning, singled to bring home a run in the second, and singled

Continued on page 19

# Maxine Jade shares her heart in debut album and concert

By Lori Penner

When Maxine Jade steps onto the stage at the Krahn Barn in Neuberghthal on May 10, it will be the beginning of something she's dreamed about for a long time.

The Altona-based singer-songwriter is preparing to release her debut album, *A Collection of Affection*, a project built from years of writing, reflection, and gathering moments of life and love.

"I've been writing songs for a few years now, but this is the first proper release of anything," Maxine shares. "It's really exciting to finally be sharing it."

Each song on the album carries a piece of Maxine's heart: poems turned melodies, prayers whispered into lyrics, stories shared with gentle honesty. Some came as spontaneous piano ballads, while others grew from conversations and experiences that shaped her life.

"There are multiple layers to it," Maxine says. "And I know with any music; we're all interpreting it through our own lenses and lives. So, I imagine there will be even more layers as people listen and see it through their own lens. That's one of the beautiful things about music."

Maxine recorded the album with local artists Andrew Brown and Laura Smith at their studio in Altona. She describes the experience as transformative, as they helped bring her quiet compositions to life.

"They really filled out the songs and brought out so much more than I had the capacity to imagine," she says. "Working with them was such a gift. They saw things in the songs that I

hadn't even realized were there. It felt very collaborative, and also very safe."

Her journey into recording and performing was guided by a deep desire to share the songs that had been living quietly in her journals for years. Over time, the idea of keeping them to herself no longer felt right.

"I had it on my heart to record for a while," she says. "It's not perfect — but I really love every song that's part of this project. Each one feels like it carries a little piece of my story."

Choosing the Krahn Barn for her first concert felt like a natural and meaningful decision. It was a place that had been part of her life for years, even before she began dreaming of recording music.

"When I started recording the album, I was thinking how amazing it would be to have a release concert there," Maxine says. "I grew up going to concerts and events at the village, and I've always loved it. It's such a homey, warm place — the perfect setting to release these songs that are so close to my heart ... it feels like the songs are coming home."

In addition to Maxine's solo set, the evening will also feature music from guests Paul Krohn, Elias Dodson, Rafael Talavera and his daughter Brianna Talavera, Andrew Braun, Laura Smith, Sierra Burrigan, and Steven Reimer.

"They've all been so kind and supportive," Maxine says. "It means so much to have people join me who really care about the music and about the heart behind it."

Her songwriting process remains deeply personal, drawing inspiration from artists like Joni Mitchell, Sarah



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Maxine Jade takes the stage to launch her debut album, *A Collection of Affection*, at the Krahn Barn in Neuberghthal May 10.

McLachlan, and Jess Rae — musicians known for their emotional storytelling and raw, heartfelt lyrics.

"The songs usually start when I sit down with a journal, or sometimes just at the piano," she says. "It's very prayerful for me. Sometimes I don't even know what's going to come out — it's just kind of showing up with an open heart and seeing what's there."

As concert night approaches, Maxine says she feels a mix of excitement, gratitude, and a little nervousness. But mostly, she feels an overwhelming sense of joy for the support she's already received.

"When I see people in town and they tell me they've got their tickets, I feel very loved by that," she says. "It's very humbling and beautiful. I have a lot of gratitude for everyone who's

been cheering me on."

More than anything, Maxine hopes the evening will leave people feeling encouraged and connected — to the music, to each other, and to their own dreams.

"I hope people feel at home," she says. "That they'll feel uplifted and encouraged and at ease. Maybe even inspired to try the things that have been on their hearts, too. If my music can do that for even one person, it will mean everything to me."

The album release concert takes place Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Krahn Barn, 4134 Road 1W, Neuberghthal.

Tickets are \$20. To reserve a ticket, email [margruitekrahn@gmail.com](mailto:margruitekrahn@gmail.com) or call 204-324-1612.

## > CENTRAL ENERGY, FROM PG. 18

again to score two more in the third.

Central Energy exploded for five runs in the first inning, highlighted by a three-run homer from Shyanne Goertzen and Shantz's long ball to centre field. Hailey Baldwin added an RBI single to extend the lead.

The offence stayed hot in the second and third innings, with Kylie Wiebe delivering a two-run double and Baldwin picking up another RBI.

Goertzen earned the win in the circle, throwing four no-hit innings while striking out seven.

Central Energy collected 12 hits in the contest, with Bree Pearce and Shantz each recording three. Baldwin also chipped in with a two-hit effort. Defensively, the team was flawless, committing no errors.

In the second game of the day, it was Pearce's turn to take centre stage. The

catcher drove in four runs on a double and a triple, sparking a massive 13-run first inning that paved the way for a 16-0 rout.

The early rally featured contributions from up and down the lineup. Goertzen and Baldwin each had two hits, while Wiebe tripled home a run and Payton Manness added an RBI walk. Errors by the Angels also contributed to Central Energy's offen-

sive outburst.

Wiebe earned the win, allowing four hits over three shutout innings while striking out six. Central Energy again played error-free defence, with Baldwin leading the way with six chances in the field.

Central Energy will return to action at home next Saturday in another matchup against the Manitoba Angels.

The **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?

# Regional community foundations connect for a stronger future

By Lori Penner

On April 22, five local community foundations came together in Altona for one of 11 regional gatherings designed to connect Manitoba's 57 community foundations.

The meeting, hosted by Kevin Parsons and Courtney Feldman of Endow Manitoba, brought together representatives from Altona, Winkler, Morden, Plum Coulee, and Morris to discuss key topics such as community engagement, diversity, social media strategies, and the ongoing relevance of community foundations.

"Last year we got together for a provincial conference. This year, they were looking at something a little bit different," shared Altona Community Foundation vice-president Al Friesen. "They thought smaller, more intimate gatherings were the way to go."

The event was not only about sharing successes but also exploring challenges and brainstorming solutions.

"It's about creating community," Friesen continued. "We sat down together and wrote down some things that we thought were important. The topics were more or less selected by the people that came, and there was a lot of overlap. Everybody's working to do it the best way they can. So, if something works in Morris, then it may well work in Altona."

The discussions at the gathering centered around several critical areas, one of which was how to ensure community foundations reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

"I think it's fair to say that commu-

nity diversity is something that's been happening to an increasing degree all across rural Manitoba and all across Canada," Friesen noted. "I think we need to learn to reach beyond the people that are normally in our circles and figure out ways to get everyone engaged in what we're about."

Friesen emphasized that while traditional support has been valuable, it's crucial to look at the changing make-up of the community.

"The Altona that we had 30 years ago is not the Altona that's here today," he said. "We also have to look at it from the lens of how we can reflect what's relevant now."

One way the Altona Community Foundation is addressing this issue is by involving youth. Through a youth internship program at the local high school, the foundation is engaging the next generation of leaders.

"It's not a large ton of money, but it is recognizing different needs in the community, because they are a different age group with different interests, and introduces them to the value of community leadership," Friesen explained.

The role of social media in promoting these foundations and engaging community members was another key discussion point.

"The traditional ways are still important, but there are more ways now to connect," Friesen said. "When you think of something like social media, we try to present in such a way that it can encourage people and say, 'Oh, this is what's happening in my hometown,' and shine a community light



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Last week's gathering of community foundations drew representatives from Altona, Winkler, Morden, Plum Coulee, and Morris.

on it."

Courtney Feldman of Endow Manitoba also highlighted the importance of these gatherings in strengthening the network of community foundations.

"The goal is to create connections among Manitoba's Community Foundation leaders—sharing ideas, success stories, and challenges—to reignite the passion of dedicated volunteers and staff," Feldman explained.

Feldman emphasized that while each community is unique, the shared commitment of the community foundations ensures a unified mission.

"By strengthening the network, we remind each other that no one is working alone," she said. "Every CF is part of a vibrant community, united by the common mission of securing a better future for the places we serve."

One of the key challenges facing

community foundations today is the growing demand for support, which often exceeds their capacity.

"Providing adequate resources for the incredible volunteers (and staff) is a critical challenge," Feldman noted. "No CF should be its community's best-kept secret, so how can foundations build stronger connections and raise awareness of their impact?"

Regional meetings like the one in Altona, she said, provide a platform for community leaders to collaborate and find solutions.

"There is power in knowing that others share the same obstacles, and the discussions spark creative solutions. Conversations among community-minded leaders generate ideas that travel back to each attendee's home CF, evolving into actions that strengthen their communities."

## MB Health launches spring COVID-19 vaccination campaign

By Voice staff

Manitoba's spring COVID-19 vaccination campaign

### What's *Your* story?

#### We want to hear from you.

The Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion?

A senior celebrating their 100th birthday?

A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas via email to [news@winklormordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklormordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888

*The* **Voice**

launched last week and will run until June 30.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care says the campaign is timed to provide "the best protection to Manitobans at highest risk of serious COVID-19 outcomes during the summer months when COVID-19 circulation may increase."

Booster shots are available to individuals who last received a dose of the vaccine in fall of 2024 (provided it has been at least three months since this dose) and who meet one of the following criteria:

- adults 65 years of age and older;
- Indigenous people 45 years of age and older, regardless of place of residence;
- adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors; and
- individuals six months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment). Vaccines for this age group will only be

available until June 14, after which the supply expires.

Any Manitoban who has not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine as part of the fall 2024 COVID-19 vaccination program is encouraged to receive a dose before June 30.

Starting July 1, routine COVID-19 immunizations will only be available in special circumstances based on guidance from a health-care professional for a specific medical condition, as this will ensure a three-month interval before the start of the fall 2025 COVID-19 immunization campaign.

The vaccine is available free of charge from medical clinics, pharmacies, nursing stations and rural public health offices. Head to [www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/vaccinefinder.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/vaccinefinder.html) or call 1-844-626-8222 to confirm a location near you.

# Rhineland wins double awards for best and most improved roads

By E Antonio

Rhineland's dedication to maintaining its roads has paid off, as the municipality won two Manitoba Good Roads Association (MGRA) awards on April 15.

Since 1909, MGRA has been recognizing, educating and assisting municipalities across the province in the maintenance of their roads. All MGRA members are eligible for an award in one of five districts across Manitoba. Annually, two MGRA judges spend endless days driving the roads in each municipality, scoring them based on their general condition.

"Everyone knows that when we are driving on the roads which ones are good and which ones aren't," said MGRA executive director Terra Van Deynze. She added that hosting the competition inspires municipalities to improve the condition of their roads as they strive to take up the provincial cup.

"We want to encourage everyone to have good roads in our municipalities. I think that often when communities see that a neighbouring municipality has won, it pushes them to make their roads better," she said.

Rhineland was District 2's champion for both Best Maintained Municipal Roads and Most Improved Municipal Roads, beating out 20 other communities.

"We have a great team of staff who take pride in their work on maintaining our roads," said Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe. "Given that we are agriculturally based, it is critical that we have a good road system."

Rhineland's roads must be built to withstand heavy machinery, and public works staff are diligently working to ensure they can handle consistent travel and fluctuating weather conditions.

The municipality's commitment begins with its equipment. Rhineland has purchased specialized machinery, including sloppers, which have been influential for road maintenance. Sloppers shape roads into a dome, allowing water to drain off the sides rather than pooling.

Wiebe said this is essential when it rains so that water drains into ditches instead of collecting on roadways.

The RM has also invested in drain tiles with help from a federal grant. The underground piping system diverts excess water away from the



PHOTOS BY SOPHIE MOQUIN

The Municipality of Rhineland was recognized with two awards at the Manitoba Good Roads Association banquet on April 15. Best Maintained Municipal Roads award presented by Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard. Pictured left to right: Jake Heppner, Brad Braun, Simard, Don Wiebe, Hank Froese and Archie Heinrichs.

roads, limiting the amount of water that remains and helping to maintain road conditions.

The next goal for the municipality is to focus on repairing bridges. Wiebe mentioned that some bridges have

been closed after being deemed unfit for travel.

"We aim to make changes that keep our community safe and functional," he added.

# Morden-Winkler MLA hopes to cut red tape

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert hopes to help cut red tape and paperwork for Manitoba's farmers and agricultural retailers.

Hiebert recently introduced Bill 228, the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act, which she described as being about making life easier for farmers and small businesses.

The current system is outdated, burdensome, and inefficient, Hiebert said. Bill 228 aims to streamline the process for producers and ag retailers in relation to the many costs involved.

"It's to help cut the red tape and paperwork for Manitoba farmers and agriculture retailers," she explained. "I really want to support our farmers across the whole province ... it's such an important thing."

Bill 228 allows farmers to register for a new farm identification number, similar to a GST number, that can be used to claim tax exemptions on qualifying purchases without having to sign a declaration form every time.

Under the current rules, a 'wet' or digital signature is required for each purchase, even in remote areas where access to service can be limited.

The proposed changes would allow a farmer to provide their ID number to suppliers instead of signing repetitive declarations, eliminating the paperwork burden for both. Accordingly, a declaration would only have to be signed once every two years instead of for every purchase.

With the uncertainty in the agriculture sector growing due to tariff threats from the U.S. and China, Bill 228 is a practical step to support the farmers and ag businesses that feed our province and the world, Hiebert suggested.

"Farmers and retailers asked for this

change, and we listened," she said. "During harvest, farmers are working long hours and shouldn't be worried about signing paperwork for every purchase. This bill brings common sense to our tax system."

Hiebert said she had been hearing concerns from a number of people in the region.

"We have a lot of ag retailers in the area, especially in the corridor between Morden and Winkler, and one of the things I'd heard was that this really is just an archaic system with farmers to get the exemption on their farm purchases.

"I took a look at it and what the system was, and it was pretty old, and I thought what can we do to make this easier and better for the farmers and for the retailers.

"It just makes it much easier ... they'll get a number, relatively the same as a co-op number ... it's just much more simpler for the farmers and for the retailers."

"Why are we still requiring a physical signature? That's kind of crazy," said Hiebert, who expressed her hope that it would be supported by the NDP government.

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Lowe Farm Spring Fling Vendor & Craft Market, Saturday, May 10th 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Location: Friendship Center inside The Community Center Mother's Day weekend, something for everyone. Come support our local crafts and vendors.

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## CAREERS

### Musée St-Joseph Museum Inc. Job Title: Museum Administrator

**Job Description:** Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Museum Administrator is responsible for the general operations of the museum including administering archives, collections, tours, activities and programming including the Montcalm Heritage Festival.

**About the Museum:** The Musée Saint Joseph Museum is a cultural and tourist destination in the Red River Valley of Manitoba. Located an hour's drive south from Winnipeg in the town of Saint Joseph, it is open year-round with a mission to preserve, exhibit and tell stories of the livelihood of people of the Red River Valley, the Francophone and Franco-Métis communities of Manitoba.

### About the Role:

- Plan, organize and direct the activities, programs and archives of the museum.
- Recruitment, training and management of seasonal staff and volunteers.
- Manage the collections including cataloguing, acquisitions & deaccessioning.
- Coordinate the Montcalm Heritage Festival including programming, sponsorships and marketing.
- Complete all other assignments and tasks as directed by the Board of directors.

### Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, within group settings and with the public.
- Good sense of responsibility with strong organizational skills.
- A keen interest in Manitoba's history.
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office.
- Bilingual (French - English) an asset, oral and written.

**Other:** Wage to be negotiated based on skills and experience.

**Starting date:** June 1, 2025 Full Time position.

**Submit your resumé by:**  
**May 20, 2025**

**Email to: Robert Parent**  
**President of Musée St-Joseph Museum Inc.**  
**St-Joseph, MB PH 204-324-4209**

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## CAREERS

**BUNGE**

## MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
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This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

**Starting Wages:**

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Morris District Handi-Van Service Inc.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Wed., May 7, 2025 • 2 PM  
Davidson Memorial Centre  
Everyone Welcome!

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Rhineland Area Food Bank  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Wed., May 14, 2025  
7:00 p.m.  
162 Centre Avenue, E.  
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## CAREERS



MANITOBA'S LAW FIRM

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This position is at the Carman location and is open until filled. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

News Tips? Story Ideas?  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:  
THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 4-25  
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY  
ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

**HEARING LOCATION:**  
**DATE & TIME:**  
**GENERAL INTENT:**

R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers  
1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W  
May 8, 2025 at 9:05 a.m.  
To amend Appendix 1 Use Table within Zoning By-law 8-18 to allow for the use of "Self or Mini Storage" as a conditional use in the Agriculture Limited Zone

#### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Groening,  
Planning and Development Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley  
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1  
Phone: (204) 325-4101  
Email: [mgroening@rmofstanley.ca](mailto:mgroening@rmofstanley.ca)



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

## CAREERS

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

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

**GENERAL INTENT:**

To amend the following sections of City of Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 as amended: 2.3, 2.7, 3.2, 3.5.2, 3.6.2, 3.7.2, 4.8.1, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 9.1, 9.2, 9.8, and 9.10

**AREA:**

By-law 2341-25 will apply to the entire limits of the City of Winkler.

**CONTACT:**

Planning & Engineering Department  
City of Winkler  
Phone: (204) 325-9524-2  
Email: [permits@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:permits@cityofwinkler.ca)

**DATE OF HEARING:** May 13, 2025

**TIME OF HEARING:** 6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.

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## EMPLOYMENT

**Prairie Spirit School Division**  
**School Counsellor**  
**Crystal City Early Years &**  
**Thomas Greenway Middle School**  
**Competition #2025-25 (0.60 fte)**



**Prairie Spirit School Division** invites applications for a School Counsellor to commence September 2nd, 2025. Deadline for applications: **Noon May 9th, 2025.** Details available at: [www.prairiespirit.mb.ca](http://www.prairiespirit.mb.ca) or phone 204-836-2147.

## COMING EVENTS

YFC MORDEN'S ANNUAL

# FISH FRY

Fundraiser



**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE**  
**605 1ST STREET, MORDEN**

**MAY 2, 2025**

**MORE INFO :**  
**204-822-8085 | [THEWAREHOUSE@YFC.CA](mailto:THEWAREHOUSE@YFC.CA)**

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**Where**  
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