

VOLUME 12 EDITION 21

The Winkler Morden Voice

THURSDAY,
MAY 27, 2021

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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Maple Leaf School students in Morden were learning the proper hand signals last week as part of a bicycling program. See the story on page 5 of this week's Winkler Morden Voice.

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

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Writer draws on Morden connections

Community's influence seen in poetry collection, says James Scoles

By Lorne Stelmach

A short time spent in Morden during his growing up years has had a long lasting impact on a Winnipeg writer.

James Scoles sees some of the southern Manitoba community's influence in his writing, which has seen him recently release his poetry collection *The Trailer* featuring his award winning piece with that title.

"It's amazing how our family and that town have always been connected," Scoles said in an interview last week.

"A lot of the poems in the collection are country poems and farm poems," he noted. "It's a humorous and poetic look at what it's like to sort of live on the edge of a city ... a number of poems in the collection sort of touch on getting out to the family farm, getting out on the country roads and feeling that freedom again."

Scoles was born and raised in northern Manitoba, but the family lived in Morden for just under four years, and he attended elementary school here and played hockey and baseball.

The family connection in the region goes further with his father having been born in the Miami area, where there is still a family farm, so there are still many visits here with both family and friends.

"I think of all the connections we made and the friendships we sort of maintained over the years that sort of have meant more and more to me," he said. "I really still identify with

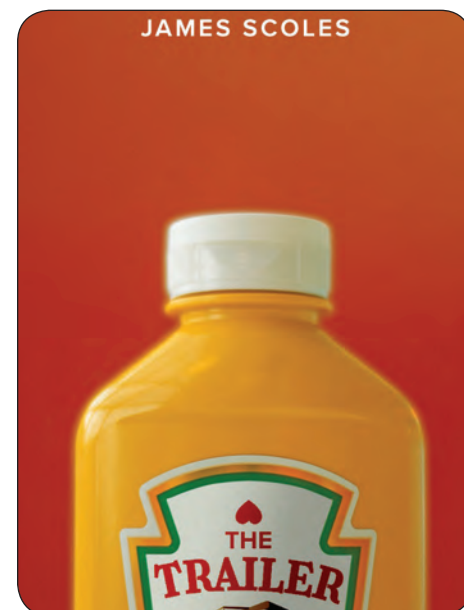
Morden and all the friendships and the connections that we made. We've always had these connections with Morden that are going on and on, and they were built from that short amount of time we spent there."

Scoles now lives in Winnipeg, where he teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Winnipeg. He holds degrees from Arizona State, North Dakota and Southern Illinois universities, and he has lived, traveled and worked in over 90 countries.

He gained attention in 2013 when

"I THINK OF ALL THE CONNECTIONS WE MADE AND THE FRIENDSHIPS WE SORT OF MAINTAINED OVER THE YEARS THAT SORT OF HAVE MEANT MORE AND MORE TO ME."

Continued on page 9



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Recently, in conjunction with National Poetry Month, Signature Editions launched James Scoles' debut poetry collection *The Trailer*.



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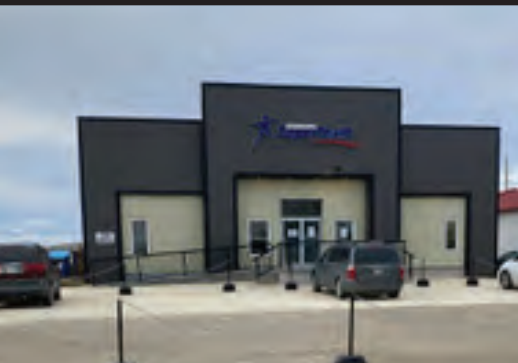
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New platform raises creatives' voice to share intimate experiences

By Nicole Brownlee

Leading with a song, a Manitoba church launched a creative platform to share personal stories.

New City Church leaders launched CREATEDBY-MADE, a storytelling collective, in early April. The platform's first project features Tanya Elias' debut single, "Find You," and offers listeners a peek behind the curtain to learn about Elias' inspiration for the song.

Elias said the idea for the platform came while she was working on "Find You" with New City Church's worship pastor Bomba Ng'andu. The church has been in Manitoba for almost two years now with locations in Winkler and Winnipeg.

Elias and Ng'andu wanted to create a place for creatives to not only share their art, but also their story.

"You can't always convey every feeling in a song," Elias said as an example. "The goal of CREATEDBY-MADE is to be able to tell people's stories and to be authentic and get out all those emotions."

To tell Elias' story, Ng'andu wanted to shoot both a music video and a behind-the-scenes piece to dive deeper into her motivation for "Find You."

"For this particular project, I felt like doing a little mini-documentary," said Ng'andu. "I feel like people will be able to gain a little more of an understanding of the story and what she's talking about."

The almost 30-minute documentary is featured on CREATEDBYMADE's website and social media pages. The documentary discusses Elias' relation-

ship with her parents and follows her and her father as they explore one of the family's past homes and reflect on Elias' childhood.

"I've been wanting to write music for years, but just never found the courage to do it," said Elias.

In early January, Elias was determined to follow through.

"I was like, 'Okay, I'm just going to sit here and I'm not going to leave until I write a song,'" she said, chuckling.

Elias completed her first song by the end of the day.

"I was a little bit too shy and unsure of what to do with it," said Elias, but Ng'andu encouraged her to share the song through a music video and a short documentary. "He was the visionary."

"Find You" tells the story of Elias' dad's impact on creating a home for their family through his consistent care that he expresses through prayer.

"My family, we moved around a lot when I was a kid," said Elias, recalling 22 different moves. Her parents would "chase the wind" when opportunities arose.

Constantly adjusting to new communities made it hard to feel like she had a hometown, but Elias said she found comfort in her father praying.

"It doesn't matter what house I'm in. That always feels like home to me," said Elias.

Elias realized while reflecting on the past year that she wanted to create the same sense of home for her children as her father did for their family, which inspired her to create "Find You."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tanya Elias said releasing her debut single "Find You" with an accompanying music video and documentary is like a "dream come true."

"I don't think I've stopped smiling for like six months," said Elias. "To be able to present a visual to people and the story behind it. It's literally all my dreams come true."

To learn more about CREATEDBYMADE, visit createdbymade.com. To find out more about how to get involved with the platform, email createdbymade@wearenewcity.com.



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School promoting safe cycling

By Lorne Stelmach

Maple Leaf School in Morden continues to take on the challenge of offering phys-ed outside not only in a safe way but a fun one as well.

In the colder times, there was a skating unit for the Grade 1 to 4 students, and the arrival of spring now has them enjoying a cycling unit.

The program has kids learning bike safety and out riding their bikes around the school grounds, and the school even had some bikes donated from a program in Winnipeg with other donations as well from the community and Country Cycle.

"We have had a lot of students biking," said principal Samuel Jerema. "Some kids are just learning how to bike, so we've got some good stories of students who haven't had opportunity to bike."

"Being outside all year, we've had to come up with different things to do," said phys-ed teacher Reid Sloan.

"It's been great being outside. I think we've only been inside a total of 10 days this year just during that one cold snap," he noted. "The kids really enjoy it. They like to be outside doing things, and it gives them opportunities ... there's things to do here, and we're just trying to be as creative as we can with our programming."

The school is running the cycling unit now over a four week period, and it has the students learning the rules like proper hand signals as they bike a route around the school grounds.

"We're seeing a lot more walking and biking traffic to school," Sloan noted.

"So we're trying to focus on the rules of the road and being safe out there and giving them the confidence to be

"WE'RE JUST TRYING TO BE AS CREATIVE AS WE CAN WITH OUR PROGRAMMING."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The school is running the cycling unit now over a four week period, and it has the students learning the rules like proper hand signals as they bike a route around the school grounds.

able to bike in the community and feel comfortable doing that," he added.

"These things are important because it can be a lifelong activity for them."

Sloan said the satisfaction comes from seeing the students not only embracing the activity but also enjoying it.

"There's been challenges through-

out the year, but the teachers are all being amazing in adapting ... we want to get through this year," he said. "There's smiles on their faces ... for the majority of the time, they're having fun and they're just enjoying being physically active at school, and it's great to see. It puts smiles on the teachers' faces as well."

New GM for Keystone Agricultural Producers

By Voice staff

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) has a new captain at the helm.

Brenna Mahoney is coming on board as the agency's general manager next month.

"I am very pleased to welcome Brenna to our organization," KAP president Bill Campbell said in announcing the hire earlier this month. "She brings with her a wealth of agricul-

tural and communications experience that will build on the strong foundation we have at KAP."

Mahoney has contributed to and built national coalitions and partnerships focused on advancing grain nutrition and health, farm practices, market access, public trust, and sustainability.

Before joining KAP, Mahoney was the director of communications and stakeholder relations for Cereals Can-

ada. She was also a steering committee member for the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) and supported the development of the CRSC's code of practice.

Mahoney is a board member for the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and Farmers Abroad Canada. She was formerly chair of the Healthy Grains Institute.

She holds a bachelor's degree in human ecology from the University of

Manitoba and a certificate in human resource management from Red River College.

"I am excited to work for Manitoba's agricultural producers," said Mahoney. "Agriculture is a key economic driver and there are many opportunities for sustained growth through collaboration across the sector."

Manitoba Pork launches "Manitoba's Best Teacher" contest

Submitted by Joey Dearborn

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers have proven their dedication to educating and inspiring the next generation of outstanding Manitobans. Manitoba Pork has launched "Manitoba's Best Teacher", a contest to acknowledge and celebrate four teachers across the province who deserve special acknowledgement, and who have gone above and beyond in keeping our schools safe and classrooms functioning this past year.

"Teachers have been challenged throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but their commitment to educating students across our province has been unwavering," Manitoba Pork community engagement coordinator Laurel Lyons said. "Manitoba Pork is proud to recognize deserving teachers with a special gift and prizes for their school staff as a token of appreciation from Manitoba's hog farmers."

As part of the campaign, Manitoba Pork is asking students, parents, and educators to submit nominations for deserving teachers who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to their students. The winning teachers will receive a \$500 Visa gift card and a pork-based lunch for their entire school staff.

Nominations can be submitted at manitobapork.com/teacher. Nominators are asked to include the name of the teacher, the school's name and location, as well as a brief paragraph explaining why their teacher deserves this special recognition. Nominations are open from May 19 to June 9 and can come from anyone, including Manitoba teachers, school staff, parents and students. Manitoba Pork will work with the winning teachers to organize lunch deliveries before the end of the school year and in accordance with provincial COVID-19 protocols.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Enter a deserving teacher who has gone above and beyond to win \$500 and a pork-based lunch for their school.

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

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A tale of two cities

The winds of the Pembina Valley blow predominately from the west to the east, carrying aloft a malodourous scent serving always as a reminder to Winkler it has a neighbour in Morden toward the sunset.



By Peter Cantelon

A traveler finding themselves at the juncture of highways 3 and 14 and looking north toward Winnipeg will notice astutely Morden is on the left and Winkler is decidedly to the right and downhill, slightly beneath Morden (in elevation).

A casual observer may conclude then Stanley would be somewhere in the middle, but the more attentive person would see it leans more heavily to the right in line with Winkler.

Now, of course, we are speaking purely in geographical terms.

If you, dear reader, have been atten-

tive over the years, you would have noticed the author is fond of and quite often advocates towards that noble aspect of unity as opposed to that ever-dark cloud of division.

Still, it is worth noting unity does not mean uniformity.

There is still, to be sure, very distinct and different approaches to life and the world between the communities of the Pembina Valley.

Historically, Winkler was founded later than Morden by Mennonites fleeing the oppressive regime of pre-Communist Russia and the pressures of Cossacks and a demanding monarchy and the like, whereas Morden was founded a few decades earlier by the Canadian Pacific Rail line and populated by English and Scots – both from Ontario and immigrants, not to mention a small Jewish community as well.

Foundations make all the difference to a house and to communities.

As the earlier of the two communities, Morden was established as a government centre and, as a result, continues to this day to see a slight bias from provincial and federal decision makers when it comes to administrative offices and the local court.

Having come to the area later, Winkler's population strove to catch up and industriously employed practices of business utilizing the substantial networking potential of an astounding collection of churches which persists to this day.

In time, as business developed, and Morden continued in its more conservative approach focused on nurturing government offices and the like, Winkler grew past Morden in population and GDP, to where it stands today as the successful younger sibling in the family.

As with any such family, there tends to be bold and vigorous discussions around the proverbial dinner table as it were. The younger Winkler regularly pointing to a new success here or a great initiative there. Meanwhile the older Morden strives to emphasize the value of stability, however, from time to time, it may feel a little envious of younger siblings' success.

From an outsider's perspective, one might think Morden and Winkler were combative and even hateful of one another, but those in the know are aware it is a familial rivalry, as one between brothers or sisters, and this is the secret to future unity.

One can step between combatants who truly dislike one another and choose sides, but let anyone step between Morden and Winkler to take sides, and they will quickly learn there is a bond that runs deep and a mutual respect (albeit grudging at times) that exists between the two.

Yes, while the sun may set to the west of Morden, it rises to the east of Winkler, and between the two, there is the common day that binds them and will no doubt secure their mutual futures.

letters to the editor

A message for moms

June is Pride month, and I want to thank Keely O'Reilly-Towle and Peter Wohlgemut of Pembina Valley Pride for their letter (Celebrating Pride Month, Voice, May 20) and for their courage and vulnerability in sharing the experiences of 2SLG-BTQIANB+ folks (two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, non-

binary and others) in southern Manitoba.

I believe in the adage by Maya Angelou to "do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

After reading Keely and Peter's letter, there is no denying the devastating impact lack of acceptance has had on the rainbow community in the Pembina Valley region.

As a rainbow mom, I feel it is my responsibility to implore other moms - now that we know better, we

must do better. I'm reaching out to all moms, not just moms of 2SLG-BTQIANB+ kids.

You may not think you know any rainbow kids, but you do. Be the mom who is a safe person for kids to come out to, not just your own kids but your kids' friends, your nieces, nephews or niblings and the kids on the sports teams and clubs. Studies show that having even one supportive adult reduces the risk of suicide.

You may not think there are rainbow kids in your church, but there

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

letters to the editor

are, so be the Mom who advocates becoming an affirming and inclusive church that welcomes and celebrates rainbow members.

You may not think there are rainbow kids in Pembina Valley schools, but there are, so be the mom who encourages gay/straight alliance groups in schools and who advocates for gender neutral bathrooms.

You may not think you know any families with 2SLGBTQIANB+ members, but you do. Be the mom who puts her arm around another mom's shoulder and tells her that her child is perfect and loved just as they are and that you will be with her on this journey.

You may not think you know a rainbow kid, but you do. Your actions will be a shining light to them, even if they can't tell you. You will make them feel seen and loved, and they will secretly be thanking you.

You may even save a life.

Carla Ginter Dyck
Roseisle

Say no to Bill 64

The PC party wants to paint school boards as a less legitimate body, as there are a number of acclamations to the positions.

This is rich, coming from MLAs in 'yellow dog' ridings where their seats are all but secure.

They say that it shows there isn't much interest in community serving in this elected role. And yet, their proposed plan then asks only parents of school age children of every school to volunteer their time to try to fill in the governance of the abolished school board.

Which is it?

Is there no interest in locally elected community providing the governance, or is there so much interest that they are going to recruit volunteers to fill the gap from every school?

I value local school boards and the perspective the trustees bring and especially the ones who are going to lose their voice if the PCs have their way.

Right now, there are trustees with and without school age children, and trustee positions are open to all who want to run. With the proposed new system, only parents with kids in school are welcome.

I, for one, am a believer in the wisdom of those who have gone before and blazed the trail and am thankful our local boards are more inclusive than the proposed takeover by the

PC government.

No to Bill 64!

These thoughts are my own as a concerned parent.

Dave Guenther
Morden

Back to drawing board with Bill 64

I am a grandmother. I have great grandchildren in some Manitoba schools, and I am very concerned about Bill 64.

When I was a girl, I attended a three room school in Snowflake: three rooms, 100 students, three teachers and grades one to eleven. That small, rural school employed skilled teachers and produced students that went on to become doctors, lawyers, nurses, dentists, architects, police officers, pharmacists, farmers and more.

When our sons started school, the old building had been replaced with a new grade one to eight school. This meant that, for grade nine, they were bused to Crystal City. Buses started picking kids up about 7:30 a.m. and kids arrived home about 4:45 p.m.

Schools were different again when my grandchildren attended school. I am familiar with change, and I understand that it happens and can be necessary. My great grandchildren are now facing it.

I have read many articles regarding Bill 64, but I have yet to see any in favour of Bill 64. They all mention the opposite. Many mothers and fathers and grandparents seem to share my concerns.

The government had a long consultation process where they surveyed and listened to many different groups of people about the education system. They reviewed the system and determined that improvements needed to be made. Bill 64 was developed.

The problem, though, is it seems like Bill 64 does not address the concerns of the various groups. It seems like its goal isn't to improve education and give people more voice but instead to give appointed officials more control over education. In addition, it seems to introduce problems to the system.

Bill 64 removes limits on how long students can be on the bus. This means children, big and small, tots to teens - will be spending still more time on buses, and we all know what Manitoba winters can be like.

In addition, waking up extra early and starting the day with a long bus ride creates tired students. A tired

student has difficulty learning.

Long daily bus trips are not my only concern: this seems to set the stage for closing smaller schools and sending students on long bus rides to larger ones. Closing schools is a death knell for communities. Schools close, students get bused away, grocery stores close, farms get sold, buildings remain empty. Communities fade.

Our minister of education, Cliff Cullen, wrote an article that "Manitobans can be assured that the process will be inclusive, balanced, flexible and transparent. We want to continue to listen to all Manitobans about how we can improve our education system to ensure our students have the best chance to succeed."

Bill 64, however, includes a plan to do away with local school boards. School boards give the parents a chance to know what is happening in our schools. Parents need and have a democratic right to know. There is a good chance board members know some of the students, and school boards are available locally for parents and students to express concerns or to bring problems.

I remember - more than once - students from our small town going to the board with issues. This would never happen if the school board was in Winnipeg. How would a school board in Winnipeg be able to have any real personal contact with all schools and families in Manitoba?

Local school boards also allow for local insight and input into the specific needs of our children in communities across the province. How could a small number of appointed officials in Winnipeg know what our local kids need?

Mr. Cullen might argue his vision for new and improved parent advisory councils will fill that role, but the need is already being met with our current school boards.

I understand things change, but I don't think the changes proposed by Bill 64 are changes that will benefit our children or communities.

On behalf of all the children and parents and grandparents in Manitoba, I implore our minister of education to do as he said he would do: listen to the people in Manitoba. They are speaking loud and clear. Don't take away our democratic right to have input into our children's education and their lives.

Rethink Bill 64. Do right by our children.

Joyce Maxwell-Windsor
Morden

Food for Thought

Dear Editor

Here is my statement of the week clarification on the freedoms of our days call (self satisfaction).

At the beginning of time, Adam and Eve were created. They were given 'everything' except an apple tree, and as we all know the evil spirit told Eve, that this tree was going to be such a delight for her, it would give her abilities like god. Now my comment is (she had it all why did she need more?), so of course she shared the fruit with Adam and here we are suffering for their mistakes and repeating history ourselves.

God loves us so much, he gave us his son on a cross and a set of rules called the 10 commandments for us to redeem ourselves and travel to his home in heaven, but like in the past history the evil one is again convincing us, that god is not making sense with these rules.

What is wrong with us, that we choose evil over Jesus???

Examples: Pride parades, people are happy they live-against-god's-laws - oh it's their right to show the world this expression of freedom.

We kill our babies, because it is a inconvenient time in our lives to conceive, we call it a women's right 'excuse'.

We kill each other with weapons of the mouth with false words, lies, deceptions, we destroy our perfect bodies with some evil signs or designs or we use guns on each other.

We destroy our spirits with our visions of immortality on TV and magazine illustrations.

We are all very good people, just very much disobedient and easily influenced by evil.

Think about it, are we ever foolish human beings, no wonder we all have to suffer (over and over). God calls it 'his time-out', because through our sufferings we redeem ourselves for the next world.

One of these days God will give up on us and then what???

I don't think God will accept it was my right, on judgement day, but he might accept I'm sorry I had a bad evil moment, forgive me and help me return to your mercy, now Lord. Prayers dear people are our protection from evil. Self-denial in the form of sacrifices is our repentance of our evil ways or sins.

A Christian story teller
- Monica Mayner, Tolstoi

Fair process and fewer appeals

By Jeff Bereza

There has been much discussion around Bill 37 - The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act - in recent weeks.

This legislation sets out a solid framework for economic growth by creating a mechanism for ensuring development decisions are timely and consistent across Manitoba.

Critics have suggested this legislation will erode the democratic process in local municipalities by overriding decisions and creating a backlog of frivolous appeals. Yet history has shown that undertaking a fair, open and transparent appeal process results in fewer appeals and a more accountable planning system overall.

Planning appeals are already heard by the Municipal Board of Manitoba. Part of the recent discussion has focused on the fact municipal board members are appointed and therefore unaccountable. This is not only untrue but wholly inaccurate.

The Manitoba Municipal Board has been in place since the late 1950s. Its purpose is to make decisions or recommendations about various matters

under the Municipal Board Act, Municipal Assessment Act, Planning Act and various other acts. While its members are appointed, as a quasi-judicial tribunal, the board is independent and not subject to direction by any minister, Member of the Legislative Assembly or government official.

The current board has over 70 years of combined experience in municipal governance, and all members have a clear understanding of the planning act. Board members are made up of professionals from all across urban and rural Manitoba and include lawyers, engineers and planners as well as former municipal councillors, mayors and CAOs. These individuals have been selected based on their experience, knowledge and background.

Municipal board hearings are transparent. All Manitoba planning hearings are open to the public and, in most cases, are held in the community where the matters have arisen, ensuring the public has the opportunity to attend.

Parties appearing before the Municipal Board include the applicable planning authority and appellant as well as members of the public who

may wish to make a representation on matters to be considered by the board. All municipal board hearings are recorded and written minutes of the hearing are retained.

Municipal board hearings are *de novo*, which means the board hears a matter fresh for the first time and must make its decision based only on the information that is presented to it during the hearing. And once a hearing concludes, after thoughtful deliberation, board members must come to a unified written decision with supportive analysis within time limits specified in the legislation.

Where the board is the final decision-maker, the written decision is presented to all parties involved, and all board decisions dating back to 1975 are available for inspection and copying.

Rather than overriding local decisions and creating a backlog of appeals, as some have suggested, the new legislation will streamline the planning and approval process. It complements existing authority of Manitoba municipalities to create, administer and enforce their own development plans, zoning and other bylaws respecting land use and development in their municipality.

This means if municipalities undertake effective and timely decision-making processes, with up-to-date development plans and zoning bylaws, fewer appeals could result. However, if local decision-making is not transparent, development plans and zoning bylaws unclear or municipal officials are unable or unwilling to explain their outcomes to applicants, then there is a process in place to ensure a fair and unbiased decision is made. This is the core of Bill 37.

No one can argue democratically elected municipal officials know their communities best. However, in the absence of clear bylaws and local planning, partiality can result.

Applicants expect and deserve a clear explanation of why their application is being denied. In the absence of this, the appeals process comes into play, and the municipal board will assess the decision based on all of the

"NO ONE CAN ARGUE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS KNOW THEIR COMMUNITIES BEST. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR BYLAWS AND LOCAL PLANNING, PARTIALITY CAN RESULT."

information available.

It is critical for the municipality to be able to reference their local planning policies and bylaws in support of their decision. Handing down a 'denied' decision without any explanation not only is often the catalyst for an appeal but can have a negative impact on how long a hearing or decision can take.

Another concern raised has been there will suddenly be a flood of thousands of appeals. Coincidentally, in 2018, there existed just that scenario, when the current municipal board inherited a nine-year backlog of assessment appeals on taxes. Property owners were frustrated, and municipalities were liable for interest owed on back taxes.

The municipal board developed a 'made in Manitoba' framework for the assessment appeals process. Using case management, a mediation-driven process in which the parties come together and try to find resolution to the issues without going to a hearing, most of the backlog has been eliminated, and municipalities will no longer be paying interest on business assessments almost a decade old.

The municipal board's outstanding work over the past three years is an excellent example of eliminating red tape and saving money and time for municipalities and their ratepayers. This is the very reason it is the appropriate body to ensure there is a transparent, timely, and consistent appeals process in Manitoba.

- Jeff Bereza is chair of the Manitoba Municipal Board and a former councillor for the City of Portage la Prairie.

PAID FORWARD

It was this week in the Morris Tim Horton's drive thru that I was the recipient of a Pay It Forward kindness. My lunch was paid in full. The kind man in the forest green Jeep with a dealer plate, drove off before I could honk or make some gesture of gratefulness. It is fun to respond back and do those things which put a smile on our face and others. One of my sons paid it forward recently with the large van behind him being \$83.00 fuller than he thought. It's fun when it is \$10 or even \$20. Would we do it less if every payment forward were over \$50? In 2007, International **Pay it Forward Day** was started and has spread to over 70 countries. The initial goal was that these good deeds should accomplish something that the other person **cannot accomplish on their own**. Now to do that might take real giving. I can only think of one gift that universally fits the great need of all people; It is **SALVATION - GOD'S GIFT TO MAN**. This is such great news because none of us deserve God's love and forgiveness. We could never earn it by being good enough or rich enough to pay for it. The fact is we all deserve Hell (that's eternal separation from God), but God loved us so much that he died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins that you and I deserved. "When we were without strength (could not help ourselves), in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom 5:6). This was a debt that none of us had the ability to pay on our own. The good news is that He did not stay dead; He rose again and has returned to Heaven where He wants you to be forever with Him. The Bible tells us that we must receive this **Free Gift** that God has to offer. This is man's greatest need. A Saviour who would take away our sin and guilt before a Holy God and provide a perfect atoning sacrifice on a cruel cross. It was on the Cross where this gift was Paid Forward. So, it's true that "God so loved the world that He **GAVE** his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). That is why the greatest gift ever given is the "Gift of God which is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:23). If it were a gift we worked for, it would no longer be a gift. **We receive this gift by faith**. Have you ever wondered where your soul will be for eternity? God offers this gift of eternal life today. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). The Gospel is urgent. "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of Salvation" (2 Cor 6:12).

Ron and Nancy Burley www.sermon4u.com

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Celiac Association Virtual Walk-a-thon

Submitted

The Canadian Celiac Association Manitoba Chapter would like to invite everyone to participate in our Annual Virtual Walk-a-thon. The event will be starting June 5 to the end of June to raise funds to support those requiring gluten free food through Harvest Manitoba. Pledge

sheets will be sent out to supporters but the general public is invited to join in. Go to www.manitobaceliac.com to download a pledge sheet and start seeking donations today. This will be a virtual event so be creative as to how the walkathon could be work for you!

COVID cases trend in wrong direction

By Lorne Stelmach

Rising concern around high COVID-19 case counts saw the province not only maintain but increase restrictions this past week going into the May long weekend.

The additional public health order restrictions in effect at least to Wednesday this week included not allowing any outdoor gatherings with anyone from outside a household and having only one person per household allowed to enter a business with only a few exceptions.

The measures came as the province continued to see a bad trend with some of the highest daily new case counts and an infection rate over two weeks that soared to 470 per 100,000 in population - highest in the country and more than twice the national average.

It led to clear warnings from public health officials about what we are facing right now.

"Our health system is on the brink of being overwhelmed. Contingency plans are being triggered and people are tired," said Shared Health chief nursing officer Lanette Siragusa.

"We are still seeing case numbers in our province that are far too high," said chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin, who noted

that with second-dose appointments underway, the province's vaccine roll-out is headed in the right direction, but Manitobans must to continue to do everything they can to reduce transmission of the virus.

"I know it is tough for us all when we have to tighten restrictions, but everyone needs to understand that we are at a critical point with this virus," he said. "We are seeing more and more people in ICU, especially younger people. We need to lower these case numbers."

Public health officials Sunday reported the death of a man in his 80s from Southern Health-Santé Sud. It brought the total number of deaths in people with COVID-19 to 1,029.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate as of Sunday was 14.5 per cent provincially with 459 new cases of the virus identified, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 48,436.

New cases Sunday included 76 in Southern Health-Santé Sud health region, where the active case count included 105 in Winkler, 40 in Morden and four in Stanley. Other regional centres included Altona at 54, Lorne / Louise / Pembina at seven, Roland - Thompson at two and Carman at 18.

Overall, there were 5,072 active cases and 42,335 individuals who have

recovered from COVID-19, while 259 people were in hospital with active COVID-19 as well as 57 people who are no longer infectious but continue to require care. Another 53 people were in intensive care units with active COVID-19 as well as 21 people who are no longer infectious but continue to require critical care.

Public health officials also reminded Manitobans that, in most cases, they should only seek testing at a provincial test site if they are symptomatic or have been advised by public health that they are a close contact. Manitobans have several options available to access testing including drive-thru and walk-in sites or by booking an appointment by calling 1-855-268-4318 or online at select sites at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/locations.html#appointment.

Some Manitobans can now book second dose COVID-19 vaccine appointments. At this time, only people who have health priority conditions were able to book a second-dose appointment by phone or online, and indigenous people were also eligible to book second-dose appointments as of Friday.

To book second-dose appointments, people will need to know when they received their first dose and the type of vaccine they received. If someone does not recall this information, it is can be found through their immunization record at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>.

Young people aged 12 and up have now also been eligible to book their first-dose appointments. Parents or guardians booking for their children (ages 12 to 15) are reminded to book the appointment under the child's name and not their own name. Young people aged 16 and 17 can sign their own consent form. It is estimated there are about 111,000 young people aged 12 to 17 in Manitoba.

"I KNOW IT IS TOUGH FOR US ALL WHEN WE HAVE TO TIGHTEN RESTRICTIONS, BUT EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE AT A CRITICAL POINT WITH THIS VIRUS."

> POETRY COLLECTION, FROM PG. 3

his piece The Trailer won the 2013 CBC Poetry Prize, and his short stories are featured in Coming Attractions 13 (Oberon Press) while his writing has been nominated for The Journey Prize, Pushcart Prize and both the Western and National Magazine Awards.

Recently, in conjunction with National Poetry Month, Signature Editions launched his debut poetry collection, The Trailer.

In this collection, Scoles takes you to the city's outskirts, where everything moves just a little slower than the rest of the world and where all the beauty, joy and humour of life can be found within four tin trailer walls.

"The Trailer is sort of representative and metaphoric of a relationship ... it's also the idea of coming through that and everything that influences a relationship," said Scoles.

"It sort of came together from

that, the exploration of a relationship and a place and trying to blend the two together in a metaphor of what it's like to sort of live on the edge, be on the edge and find that stability within that realm."

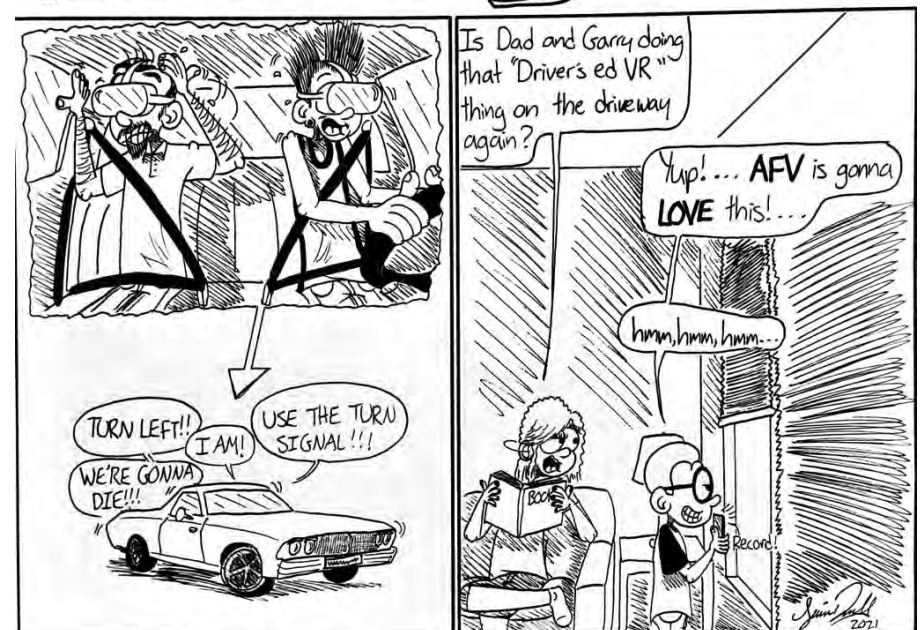
"I hope readers get the humour and they get the varied look, the poetic look. I use a variety of different forms, whether it's a sonnet, whether it's a short sort of meditative poem," he noted.

"I try to take a look at life from the humorous perspective and also sort of give people the idea what it's like to sort of live on the edge of a city and to experience love and a relationship in this place."

He sees parallels between the precariousness and instability of it all with the current circumstances but also sees the need to be "finding hope amidst all of this, hope and humour," he concluded.

The Funnies

By: Harrison Dell
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



Award recipient honoured

Make It A Reality Scholarship presented by foundation

By Lorne Stelmach

A young Winkler woman with a passion for children, a desire to help those in need and to take action to build a better community received a special honour last week.

Victoria Maschkin is the recipient of the 2021 Gordon Wiebe Make It A Reality Scholarship presented by the Winkler Community Foundation.

The \$20,000 scholarship, which will provide her with \$5,000 annually over a four year period, was made possible by the generous bequest received from former pharmacist Gordon Wiebe.

His gift in 2015 of \$2.2 million established the Gordon Wiebe Education Fund to fulfill his wish that these awards make life dreams possible for young people who demonstrate commitment to community service.

The scholarship recipients represent this legacy, and Maschkin said that made this a true honour.

"It is so amazing. It's such an incredible blessing for me. When I got the phone call, my mom and I were dancing up and down in the kitchen. It's a really exciting," said Maschkin.

"It will make a huge difference for me," she said. "It means a lot to me because it really kind of sets

me up for the next few years, and it will really help with education and future career."

"I don't know exactly what stood out for them," said Maschkin, who is entering University of Manitoba this fall to get into social work.

"I think perhaps it was leadership because I had a lot of community involvement. I think that is kind of one of the main things they focussed on," she said. "I was super shocked because I knew some of the girls who also went for an interview, and they were amazing girls, just super smart."

Maschkin was cited for having demonstrated courage and passion within her school experience and in the broader community.

She has taken on leadership in various aspects of school and has invested time and energy to participate in volunteer coaching roles in the minor sports program in Winkler, noted the foundation in a news release.

Maschkin is the fifth student to receive this \$20,000 award by showcasing her commitment to serving her community, her resilience in navigat-

ing barriers and the leadership skills she has shown in her past projects.

It was difficult to choose from the numerous applications for the Make It A Reality Award from aspiring post-secondary students, noted Julia Blais, scholarships and marketing coordinator.

"All the applicants are actively involved in the community and have unique personal stories and walks of life that has shown us their efforts to work through difficult life circumstances and a variety of

"IT IS SO AMAZING. IT'S SUCH AN INCREDIBLE BLESSING FOR ME."



PROVIDED PHOTO

The scholarship means Victoria Maschkin will receive \$5,000 annually over a four year period.

barriers to education," she noted.

Our committee carefully considered each applicant's essay and volunteer history in making our decision. We devoted many hours, efforts, and expertise to carefully consider each applicants contribution. The scholarship committee thanks each Make It A Reality applicant for being open about their life experiences," added Blais, who noted they encourage them to apply for the ongoing education support scholarship program.

Local companies part of COVID rapid testing

Workplaces playing an important role: health minister

By Lorne Stelmach

Two area businesses are now part of a government initiative that is helping to deploy over 200,000 rapid tests for COVID-19 in settings across the province.

Greenvalley Equipment has joined Winkler Meats as local companies that are among 35 businesses and community partners participating in the asymptomatic rapid testing screening program.

"We wanted to give that option to our staff ... and this is

a way of trying to ensure we can stay open to keep serving our customers," said Greenvalley CEO Kerwin Friesen.

"We're making it voluntary ... we're just offering this as an option," said Friesen. "They literally take one minute to administer the test, and in ten minutes you've got a result."

"We're trying to ensure it works for everybody at this trying time with COVID spiking. It's another tool in the toolbox."

Health and Seniors Care Minister Heather Stefanson expressed her gratitude for workplaces like Greenvalley Equipment and Winkler Meats doing their part.

"Providing COVID-19 screening to more Manitoba workplaces expands our ability to identify asymptomatic cases that would otherwise go undetected," Stefanson said in a news release.

"Using rapid tests in this targeted way helps protect Manitobans by limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community through early detection, and we are happy to be onboarding more partners daily."

The asymptomatic rapid testing screening Program provides antigen-based rapid tests to businesses and critical service providers in

non-health-care settings who can self-administer a sustainable asymptomatic screening program.

This is in addition to the targeted rapid testing already occurring for screening or diagnostic purposes at Fast Pass sites, select personal care homes, in support of northern and rural populations and within the province's broader health system.

The province provides participating organizations with a supply of rapid tests along with training and other resources to support launch of their workplace program.

The majority of sites are using nasal swabs, which can be administered by non-health-care professionals. Both self-testing and in-work testing program administration models are available. Red River College is supporting the program by offering participants a two-hour virtual training module on nasal swabbing and the rapid test.

"Since launching the program in April, I am pleased to see the number of new businesses coming on board to provide rapid testing to their employees. These partnerships, along with vaccine, play an important role in limiting COVID-19 in our communities," said Stefanson.

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Plan set out for Reinfeld

By Lorne Stelmach

A plan is being set out to provide a detailed long-term vision for managing growth and development of the village of Reinfeld.

The second draft of the secondary plan presented at an online meeting last Wednesday focuses on Reinfeld's fringe areas and infill lands to help guide current and future decisions around such aspects as infrastructure and servicing, transportation and land use area planning.

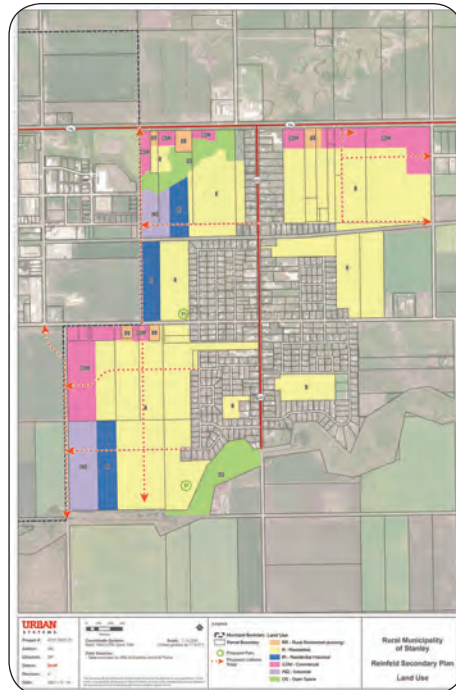
The plan has been developed and refined through a process that has included meetings with a range of stakeholder groups from landowners and developers to municipal and provincial partners, and it sets out a variety of priorities. They range from maintaining the semi-rural character and ensuring development is done incrementally to minimizing impacts of development on agriculture and ensuring it is all compatible.

"This is just about having a blueprint in place ... a lot of these undeveloped areas are kind of situated around the existing community's footprint," said project lead Daniel Penner of Urban Systems.

Estimating a current population of about 1,900 residents, the plan puts out a growth projection that, assuming growth rates remain consistent over the next 25 years, Reinfeld may likely grow to a population between 2,814 to 5,052 residents.

Its focus is on four key areas:

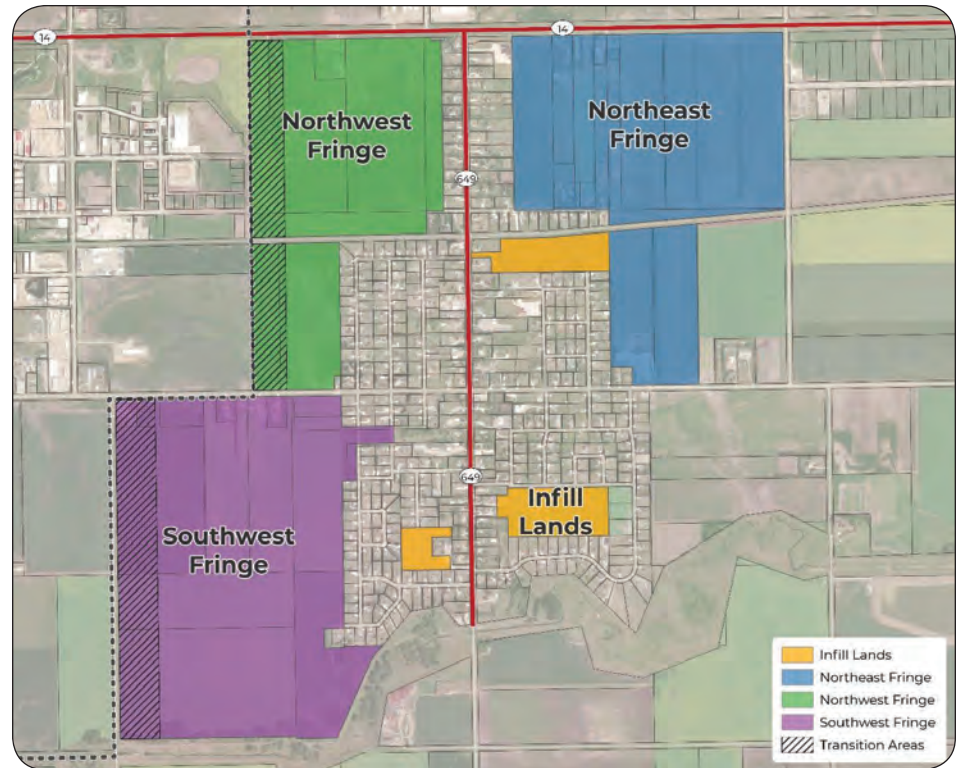
- Northwest fringe - about 400 acres of largely undeveloped land currently used mostly for agriculture with some rural residential.
- Southwest fringe - about 260 acres of largely undeveloped land also used mostly for agriculture and some rural residential.
- Northeast fringe - about 320 acres of land that is the most developed of the Reinfeld Planning Area sub-areas and currently used for agriculture, residential development and some commercial uses.



- Infill lands - three separate parcels that total 57 acres in size and are mostly or entirely surrounded by existing residential development.

Some key considerations identified during the planning process include:

- Manitoba Infrastructure's plans for the expansion of PTH 14 to four lanes and its influence on the development of Reinfeld lands with highway frontage.
- The existing drainage system in Reinfeld is not sufficient and experiences overland flooding during large storms and seasonal thaw events that impacts large portions of the community.
- The future development of municipal wastewater system to service Reinfeld will enable greater development densities of undeveloped lands once operational.
- The City of Winkler's continual growth eastward towards Reinfeld requires the coordination of land uses and transportation network to ensure development in either community does not conflict with one another.
- The existing transportation system in Reinfeld, including village access to PTH 14, is not sufficient to accommodate additional traffic flows resulting



PROVIDED PHOTOS

The secondary plan focuses on four key areas for future development and touches on a range of aspects including trails and pathways as well as pockets of green space.

from future growth and development.

The RM of Stanley's growth priorities for Reinfeld's fringe and infill lands include:

- Maintaining the rural feel and character of the existing community.
- Providing new development with municipal water and waste-water servicing.

• Developing an interconnected, safe and efficient transportation system.

• Ensuring appropriate land uses and development occur in the Winkler-Reinfeld transition areas.


• Ensuring adequate storm water drainage systems service new development.


Continued on page 19

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Soup's on!



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Gateway Resources was dishing and handing out a lot of soup again last Thursday for the second day of its dinner for two fundraiser. Held on May 6 and 20, the event is helping fill the void from the organization not being able to hold its Faces of Gateway fundraiser. They did serve up 249 litres of soup on the first day and nearly the same on the second day, and they estimated that the fundraiser ended up bringing in around \$10,000.

Art council pays it forward



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Individuals, organizations and businesses have continued to support Pay It Forward May, and the Pembina Hills Arts Council got involved last week in bringing snacks to Minnewasta School. "We appreciate the community for supporting the art gallery and the Pembina Hills Arts Council," said administrative co-ordinator Carla Dyck, centre, here with programs and outreach co-ordinator Tricia Dyck and administrative assistant Dani Johnson. "We chose teachers because it has been such a challenging year for them, and we wanted to show our appreciation for everything they have done for the students and for the community."

Better vision, better life

HOW TO PREVENT DIGITAL EYE STRAIN

If you're experiencing dry eyes, headaches or blurry vision, digital eye strain may be to blame. Here are five things that can help alleviate the effects of frequently looking at your computer, tablet or phone screen.

1. FOLLOW THE 20/20/20 RULE

Look up from your screen every 20 minutes and focus on something approximately 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. This short break will give your eyes the needed rest to relax, re-focus and reset.

2. CHANGE YOUR SETTINGS

If your job makes it impossible to avoid looking at a screen all day, try using a larger font size. Additionally, you can increase the contrast, sharpness and brightness of your screen.

3. ADJUST THE LIGHTING

Glare from the sun or overhead lights

can cause your eyes to work overtime. Try dimming the lights in the room, closing the blinds or installing an anti-glare filter.

4. IMPROVE YOUR POSTURE

Bad posture can intensify digital eye strain. Avoid slumping over, craning your neck or looking down at your screen for long periods of time.

5. SCHEDULE REGULAR EYE EXAMS

An optometrist can ensure that your uncorrected vision problems are addressed. Plus, they can provide professional advice on how to keep your eyes healthy.

Though digital eye strain is unlikely to lead to permanent damage, it can be uncomfortable. Taking precautions will help minimize difficulties with your vision and eye health.

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Shoring up Dead Horse Creek

By Lorne Stelmach

A partnership is making progress in shoring up the banks of the Dead Horse Creek in Morden.

The joint effort of the Pembina Valley Watershed District and the City of Morden has tackled the stabilization of a number of areas along the creek, with the latest completing work on a section in the Morden Park near the 13th Street entrance.

It has come a long way from the days when the town just placed chunks of sidewalk or concrete on the banks. The work today involves a more complex two-stage approach, explains PVWD manager Cliff Greenfield.

"Over the years we've done all kinds of different things, but this looks really good, and it will stand up better," he said. "I think maybe it's more the standard now, this benched approach or two-stage approach."

The project approach combines an

armored rock area adjacent to the channel with a tiered and widened slope above that allows for the installation of plant material.

The watershed district supplied the grass seed and woven straw/coconut fabric to help prevent erosion, while the city intends to plant willow and dogwood on the tier with new trees along the upper slope.

Greenfield said there are a few key aspects to this method.

"Instead of hard armor, they're using soft armor, meaning vegetation and plantings," he said. "As the stream gets higher, more energy gets dissipated by the vegetation, so you don't need to spend the money on the rock all the way up. The vegetation can do the job higher up, whereas the vegetation wouldn't work on the lower part."

"It's better for water quality as well. It sort of catches the sediment and the debris; it's not as sterile as the rock," Greenfield added. "And the rock rip-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Before (left) and after bank stabilization work on Dead Horse Creek in Morden Park.

rap is better because it's sort of flexible and it adapts to a bit of erosion, a bit of movement."

"The project outcomes are twofold," noted Shaun Dias, parks and urban forestry manager for the City of Morden. "We wanted to address the erosion of the creek bank, which was moving further and further into the park space. Secondly, the undercut bank adjacent to the public park became a safety concern."

In conjunction with this initiative, Dias noted the city is extending the no-mow zone along the top of the bank to further encourage and allow plant material to establish adjacent to the creek. As well, they are asking park users to avoid walking on or accessing the creek in this location as the plant material is establishing itself through the spring and summer.

Dias said the city is grateful for the support and expertise of the watershed district.

"We rely heavily on the watershed district staff, such as technician Randy Dow, for his experience in design and

implementation," he said. "This initiative has been working along the banks of the creek for over a decade now, so thanks again to our partners at the watershed district."

"Full credit to Shaun Dias and the City of Morden council for participating financially in the Pembina Valley Watershed District and also for setting an example in regional water stewardship in this project," said Brian Minaker, a former council member and a Dead Horse - Buffalo Creek sub-district member with PVWD. "Although it has always been, water is now being fully recognized as the world's most precious commodity."

Greenfield said there was some potential for them to do more sections of the creek bank, though it is somewhat limited.

"In the park area, there is room for this," he said. "In some of the areas further north in the residential areas, there's areas that are pretty tight and there might not be room for this approach."



TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Thank you!

Hon. Candice Bergen, MP
Portage-Lisgar



A tribute to our essential workers

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the courage, resourcefulness and dedication of essential workers who toil day and night to ensure the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens.

Whether you're a delivery person, nurse, mechanic, police officer, psychologist, grocery clerk, teacher,

plumber, doctor, truck driver, social worker, pharmacist, electrician or other essential worker, in your own way, you've helped members of your community make it through this difficult time.

To all of you, we say thank you. You're the reason our community is making it through this crisis.

Water conservation urged at campground

By Lorne Stelmach

Water restrictions amidst this spring's drought conditions are making for a different start to the season at Lake Minnewasta.

Campground users especially are being asked to minimize their water usage including ensuring they come with holding tanks filled and minimizing shower use along with other details such as not watering grass or plants particularly with the seasonal spots.

Campers don't usually use a lot of water, but the city wanted to try to make people aware, said beach and campground manager Brian Thiessen.

"It's pretty evident looking at the lake, but if you're not from the area and coming and you're used to seeing a full lake, you can't quite grasp it until you see how low it actually is compared to typically around this time of year," he said.

"This drought we're experiencing is not just local, it's fairly regional ... you look just south of the border, and they are as dry as we are right now," he noted. "We need to help ease the burden here at the lake."

"Everybody's been positive and cognitive of the conditions that we're under now," Thiessen suggested. "People are following the guidelines we've had to put in place and doing what they can to help out ... people have been good about it."

Because of the drought conditions, there are also no motorized watercraft vehicles allowed on the lake including trolling motors. To help en-

sure compliance, the control gates to the boat dock have been locked until further notice.

"The boat launch was completely exposed. There was no way you could even back far enough to get into the water," noted Thiessen. "The island was very exposed, and there was a second one that hadn't shown itself yet, but it is there lingering just under the surface of the water."

One silver lining with the various restrictions however is that people with any kind of paddle craft are able to enjoy using the lake

"If you can paddle it or pedal it, you're allowed to get on the water," said Thiessen, who estimated one day counting close to two dozen kayaks on the water. "Paddlers have really enjoyed the no boat aspect of what we have in place right now."

Even with the hope of rain this past week, water restrictions overall remained in place for the community, and the City of Morden as well had implemented some changes for the season including:

- Tree planting and watering will be done with non-city sourced water.
- The hanging flower baskets and flower pot program was cancelled.
- The spray park will not operate this year.
- Confederation Park irrigation will not be utilized.
- Ball diamond irrigation system will not be utilized
- Washroom facilities will remain closed at this time, however, could be reconsidered based on COVID-19 restrictions.
- Two more 2,500 gallon tanks were



VOICE FILE PHOTO

One thing that has not been impacted at the lake is the use of paddle craft, and people have been making good use of them.

added to the Access Event Centre rain garden for a total of 10,000 gallon storage capacity for rain captured from the arena roof.

- The two community gardens will have their water tanks filled with non-city sourced water, but users are restricted to watering twice a week.

Correction

An article in the May 20 edition of the Voice (*Morden Collegiate hands out gift bags of encouragement*) should

have stated that in addition to the 40 gift bags all 515 students at the school received a small gift. The school advisory council felt it was important that every student was acknowledged with a gift.

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Front line workers heralded

(Editor's note: As we salute all essential workers for their continued efforts, we highlight this week a feature story that was first published as part of our May 29, 2020 issue of the Winkler Morden Voice.)

Front line workers are being saluted as local heroes in the midst of the pandemic.

Whether it is health care workers or police officers or even staff at the local food stores however, they are simply pulling together to do what needs to be done.

Several of them in interviews echoed the sentiment of sharing the praise that might come their way.

"I think it's through adversity like this that you see people's true colours," suggested Dr. David Chudley, who practices out of Winkler. "I think that it's really been an example of how special the Morden and Winkler community physician group and nursing and health professionals all really are here."

"Everybody's been very accommodating and willing to do whatever we need to do to keep everybody safe and at the same time still provide that level of service to our community," Morden police chief Brad Neduzak said of the commitment of his officers.

"Everyone had a realization of what they needed to do and how they needed to do it and why and just did it, no questions," said Cheryl Shackel, grocery manager at the Morden Co-op.

For the health care providers, there were many things they had to adjust to both at the hospital and at the clinics such as restricting the traffic of patients for a number of reasons such as social distancing.

"That made it a bit challenging to get the people into the clinic that we

needed to," said Chudley.

"Just like any other industry, we've had to be quick on our feet and respond to the changes pretty quickly," he continued. "But we adjusted well to our new normal, which is doing a lot more virtual medicine ... basically doing visits with patients on the phone and with a webcam.

"I think it's been a huge benefit to patients and to us to allow us to still practice medicine and to connect with our patients, who are maybe feeling a bit isolated or who can't leave their residences.

"We've been really happy with how quickly that was rolled out, and it was just within a few days that this was approved and that this virtual medicine option became a reality. I think it's got significant benefit to physicians and to patients in terms of improving people's access to health care."

Chudley also said there has been "a lot of behind the scenes work by our physician leaders at the hospital, and administration has been working hard to make sure we have all of the supplies available. We're having to use a lot more personal protective equipment for every patient encounter.

"Given how quickly we had to do things, I think things have gone fairly smoothly," he suggested. "Going into the pandemic at the beginning, just like everyone else, we didn't know what to expect, we didn't know what things were going to look like two weeks down the line, four weeks down the line. We were kind of hoping for the best but preparing for the worst."

Chudley said he was proud of the entire physician group in Morden and

Winkler.

"We all kind of connected right away and did a lot of conferencing and virtual communication to make sure we were all on the same page and prepared."

As well, he lauded the communities for really doing their part as well.

"I'm very impressed with how the local communities here have responded to public health guidance about social distancing. I think that's really saved the communities from a devastating outcome so far," he suggested.

"The good thing is that we didn't get the influx of cases that we were preparing for," he continued. "I think we all recognize we're not quite out of the woods yet ... I think at least now we're reaping the benefits of the real participation of the community."

For a service like the police, one of the biggest challenges has been ensuring everyone's safety often in situations where distancing is difficult if not impossible.

"That's probably been the biggest challenge is the no face to face contact in an emergency situation," said Neduzak.

"Obviously a big part of our job is communication with the public and proactive police work. We pride ourselves on being proactive, not reactive, so that very much had to be cut back and pretty much eliminated with contact with the public except on an emergency basis.

"We can't stop doing our jobs. We still have to arrest people and process them, but with that we've had to put in all the precautions," he said, noting how they try to screen people about their health if they can. "You always have it in the back of your mind, that even if you ask these questions, the person could be symptomatic, they could have travelled outside, they could be carrying the virus without

anybody knowing.

"We're very fortunate though that our numbers have been low. We've haven't had a lot of contact with people who are symptomatic, so we didn't need a huge supply of PPE (personal protective equipment)," noted Neduzak. "Our situations and our incidents are very low, and when we do go talk to people they are very good and willing to do whatever they need to do to keep themselves safe and everybody else around them."

He also noted they have had to be very strict about disinfecting everything in their office on a regular basis as well as "following a very regimented schedule of disinfecting the police vehicles also ... they are wiped down at the beginning as well as at the end of every shift by each member."

As another precaution, they have also had members on patrol individually other than in extenuating circumstances, and they have also divided up into a platoon system with two separate shifts.

"So we are not crossing over, in the event somebody did become ill or contracted the virus, then we are segregated and at least one half would remain healthy."


Winkler police chief Ryan Hunt said there has been a lot to learn and to adjust along the way through this crisis.


"I think it's been a real challenge for officers ... our policies were changing almost daily for a while there," he said. "We were trying to stay on top of all the personal protective equipment options and what we needed to do to keep our officers safe.

"There's so many times though, as police officers, where we have to just get to a scene and get it under control as fast as possible," he added. "So you don't even necessarily have the op-

Continued on page 18


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AT HOME

Tips for gardening in a shady yard

Even if your yard doesn't get much sunlight, it's still possible to grow a beautiful garden. The key is to select shade-tolerant species. Here are some suggestions.

PERENNIALS

In addition to hostas, which thrive in shady conditions, many perennials don't require much sunlight. Consider planting:

- Leopard plants, whose yellow flowers are sure to brighten dim spaces
- Coral bells, which are great for lining the edges of a flower bed

- Undergrowth ferns such as ostrich, lady and wood ferns
- Bugbane, which has spikes of wispy white flowers on tall stems
- Forget-me-nots, which have beautiful blue springtime blooms here are also a number of ground cover plants that are well-suited for shady conditions such as bugleweed, lily of the valley and creeping dogwood.

SHRUBS

There are several types of ornamental shrubs that can add height and texture to a shady garden, including:

- Holly
- Dogwood
- Squirrel corn
- Rhododendrons
- Some hydrangeas

In addition to looking for shade-tolerant species, be sure to consider the hardiness zone you live in when selecting plants for your garden.

Make your yard a paradise for pollinators

Habitat loss is one of the main causes of decline in the population of bumblebees and other pollinators. If you want to help protect these vital species, consider growing nectar plants in your yard. This will provide a food source for the insects and birds that pollinate your community's gardens, orchards and fields.

CHOOSING PLANTS

There are many kinds of flowering species that can beautify your yard while also creating an inviting space for pollinators. Sunflowers, anemones, goldenrods, echinacea and hydrangeas are all great picks. Pollinators are attracted to a number of annuals as well, including borage, centaury and cosmos.

If you prefer to grow food in your garden, consider planting aromatic herbs like oregano, sage and thyme. Fruit trees and plants, such as apple, blueberry and strawberry are a good source of nectar in spring.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE

If you want to attract pollinators to your yard, be sure to:

- Grow nectar plants in areas that are sheltered from the wind
 - Include white flowers in your garden to attract nocturnal pollinators
 - Provide a source of water such as a small fountain or birdbath
 - Avoid weeding dandelions, clovers and ivy; they're rich in nectar
 - Plant species with varied bloom times so you have flowers from spring to fall
- By following these tips, you're sure to create a welcoming environment for all kinds of pollinators.



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Saying thanks

VOICE FILE PHOTO

Coffee and muffins represented a simple gesture, but there was an important message that came with it last December at care facilities across southern Manitoba. Southern Health-Santé Sud undertook a staff appreciation initiative to show support to frontline workers. Board members and officials paid visits to facilities that included Boundary Trails Health Centre. Southern Health-Santé Sud is a region covering over 27,000 square kilometers and includes 20 rural municipalities, seven municipalities, four cities, four towns, a village and an unorganized territory as well as seven First Nation communities and serves around 208,000 residents. It involves over 6,000 employees including 4,800 Southern Health-Santé Sud employees and 1,200 affiliate and community-owned not for profit sites.

> FRONTLINE, FROM PG. 16

portunity to don personal protective equipment. You show up at a scene where there's people fighting, you've got to get in there and deal with it."

Hunt noted that things had quieted down in Winkler as well for a period of time.

"Our calls for service dropped off quite a bit in the beginning. It's starting to come back again, and we kind of expected it would," he said.

He agreed that reducing the contact with the community has been a challenge for them.

"Closing our office was a big change

as well ... that was completely cut off for a while ... we're slowly getting back to normal," he said. "A big part of policing is connecting with the community and people being able to touch base with the officers, and that part had really changed."

Facing evolving challenges day in and day out as well have been the staff at the Winkler and Morden Co-op stores.

"There were definitely some challenging times that we've experienced. Lots of changes were happening really quickly," said Kaitlyn Hiebert of the Winkler Co-op.

"I've actually really enjoyed it. I

am not somebody who likes to just sit back and relax ... it was really, really busy, but I enjoyed that it kept us busy," said Hiebert, who was enlisted to help with food delivery. "I'm really glad that we are able to do this for our community and our customers as well."

"We had to more deliveries, a lot of them really quick and we had to figure a lot of stuff out, and she really helped us do that," added manager Cam Buhler.

Hiebert noted there were always a lot of details to be worked out as how they could ensure the safety of their customers evolved.

"Some of them we didn't necessarily think were important and then you think about it a little bit more and realize they are really important," she observed.

"For the most part, customers are very understanding," said Hiebert, who felt the staff had very much adjusted now into the routine of the new normal. "I'm sure there could be more changes ... but all of the employees here have been able to adapt, and it's worked really well ... we really became a team."

"And we've had lots of volunteers help us as well. We really appreciate all the help ... and the energy they bring," she added, noting how people donated their time to help stock

shelves after hours.

"Overall, it's been off and on stressful," said Cheryl Shackel, grocery manager at the Morden Co-op.

"Customers have been really, really good about it all," she suggested. "As far as the shortages on our shelves, all of our customers have been understanding, and our warehouse has been trying their best to get us what we need."

Shackel believes their staff overall have really done well and remained committed through it all.

"The first couple weeks, staff were working many, many extra hours; it was changing things every day on them, different procedures and policies. In the last month or so, it's kind of levelled out. We have a new normal ... and it's been better for everyone lately.

"There were a tonne of moving parts to everything ... a lot of trial and error ... but all of the employees and management have all helped each other out; everyone teamed up and got done what we needed done.

"The compliments and the feedback we've gotten from customers on how we've handled it has been incredible," she concluded. "I think they see we've gone above and beyond all the government mandates, and they appreciated that and we appreciated them feeling safe here."

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Motorcycles roar across Manitoba to complete six challenges

By Nicole Brownlee

A local initiative offers patches to encourage Manitobans to travel within the province by motorcycle this summer.

Myles O'Reilly started Manitoba by Motorcycle in 2016 to challenge riders to visit town statues and provincial parks across the province. He thought of the idea after he and his wife April completed a similar route in North Dakota a year earlier.

"We looked around to see if there was anything locally, and there was nothing that I could find in Manitoba or kind of anywhere else in Canada," said O'Reilly.

He wanted to find a way to explore his "own backyard" and reward riders with patches for making the trek. To earn a patch, a rider must submit a photo of themselves in front of specific landmarks. Each region has around 20 locations for motorcyclists to visit, and O'Reilly sends a patch after each completed challenge.

There were over 100 people who submitted photos last season, said O'Reilly.

"Because of [COVID-19] people aren't really travelling, so they're focusing more on local tourism, which is good for me," said O'Reilly with a

laugh. "What I really want is local tourism."

O'Reilly has curated six patches for six challenges this season with the help of local tourism boards.

"I was speaking to Central Manitoba Tourism, and they had the idea of being more kind of hyper-local, finding places within each region," said O'Reilly.

The new challenges feature motorcycle routes in the Interlake, East and Central Manitoba.

"I love finding new places to go and to have new things to look at and visit," said O'Reilly. "I do my best to visit every single location."

Andrew Gagnon is one of the first people to earn a patch this season. Gagnon has travelled Manitoba by Motorcycle routes for three years.

"The last two years I tried the same routes," said Gagnon. "It just never worked out, but this year I was able to do them all."

Gagnon completed the town statues route in early May, visiting 10 statues in one day.

Manitoba by Motorcycle is also available on the Interlake Tourism app called Driftscape. The app highlights different attractions, businesses and eateries for people to visit, said



VOICE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Andrew Gagnon is one of the first people to earn a Manitoba by Motorcycle patch this year. Gagnon completed the Manitoba town statue route in early May, visiting sculptures like this giant turtle in Morden.

Melissa Van Soelen, Interlake Tourism manager.

"It's basically like our travel guide, but we've digitized it," said Van Soel-

en.

O'Reilly will continue to update the routes and add more locations across Manitoba for motorcyclists to explore.

Tips for wildfire readiness from the Cdn. Red Cross

Submitted by the Canadian Red Cross

With dry conditions across the province, the Canadian Red Cross has some tips for keeping your home safe and your loved ones prepared for wildfires:

- Know the risks in your community as conditions can change quickly. The Government of Canada has a fire management information system that monitors fire danger conditions across the country at Canadian Wildland Fire Information System.

- Take steps to keep your house and surrounding area clear. Regularly

clean roofs and gutters, and remove dried out branches, leaves, and debris. It is good practice to maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around the home by raking down to soil, rock, or concrete.

- In case of wildfires, keep a small household item like a rake or shovel handy to tamp down small fires before emergency responders arrive. Ensure that driveway entrances and house numbers are clearly visible for identification ease for firefighters.

- Keep an emergency kit on hand in case of evacuation. A basic kit should include supplies for 72 hours after an evacuation and include non-perish-

able food, cash, a first aid kit, keys, medication, a change of clothes, water, and important documents, such as home insurance information.

Update your kit regularly to discard expired medication and food. Include items to avoid the spread of COVID-19 including masks, hand sanitizer, sanitizer wipes, and gloves.

Go to redcross.ca/ready to learn more about assembling an emergency preparedness kit.

- If an evacuation is imminent, back your car into the driveway with the windows closed and valuables packed. If you have pets, keep them close and under control. Close all windows and

doors in the house to reduce smoke and debris from entering your home. Move all combustibles away from the house, including barbecues, firewood, and lawn furniture.

- Be certain to listen closely for updates on TV and radio including road closures and evacuation routes. Follow instructions from emergency officials and stay safe.

Wildfires are unpredictable and evacuations are never easy, but with some preparation you can give yourself a little peace of mind.

> PLANS FOR REINFELD, FROM PG. 11

opment.

- Creating access for residents to adequate parks, trails, and recreation areas.

The plan incorporates a range of elements including new or extended trails or pathways and pockets of green space while also recognizing the need for the interface with Win-

kler to be compatible

Infrastructure and servicing considerations include encouraging it to be done sustainably, limiting it until the wastewater system is in place, ensuring it does not prevent future extensions and new development does not contribute to drainage issues.

Transportation considerations include ensuring there is a connected network, taking into account future roads and trails, limiting additional traffic flow in the village and improving access points and intersections.

"Before this all really gets going, it's important to have a plan in place that can guide future servicing ... just to make sure that, as the area gets built up in the future, everything is

kind of compatible with each other," emphasized Penner.

"The plan is intended to address current and future housing demands and try to alleviate some of that growth pressure," said Penner. "Southern Manitoba is a hotbed right now. All of the communities are growing; there's a growing demand for new residential development."

Changing minds with understanding, empathy

By Lorne Stelmach

Eric Yaverbaum speaks from both his professional and personal experience when he addresses one of the key challenges being faced now with the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

The 40-year public relations veteran, communications expert, and bestselling author of seven books has survived the virus twice, so that augments his perspective, particularly in addressing the issue of vaccine skepticism.

A regular TV pundit, Yaverbaum has been reaching out across North America to start a discussion about the need to communicate effectively with skeptics, how to change minds, and why empathy is vital in public health communications.

"I'm not a doctor, and I'm not a scientist, but I'm a guy who has COVID twice and gotten vaccinated ... I've learned an enormous amount," said Yaverbaum, who is the CEO of Ericho Communications and author of *Public Relations for Dummies* and *Leadership Secrets of the World's Most Successful CEOs*.

"I'm in the communications field, and I don't think we have done a great job of communicating, one, just what the stakes are and, two, just how safe it is," he said in a phone interview last week. "And we do need to have some empathy for people ... if we show a little empathy and understand what the reservations are, I think it will go a long way."

In the U.S. at least, Yaverbaum observed, vaccine supply has begun to outpace demand, so the questions that need to be asked is what is causing vaccine slowdown and how can it be addressed to reach herd immunity?

Even before the pandemic, vaccine skepticism was on the rise. It's led to the resurgence of diseases like measles, so it's clear that winning over skeptics is a critical public health issue.

That skepticism remains despite the fact all five COVID-19 vaccines with public results have eliminated deaths and drastically reduced hospitalizations, Yaverbaum noted.

"To each his own, but if we all want to get out of this,

we need to take a hard look at the facts and figures and make decisions accordingly ... it's been a really long year," he said.

"I listen to people's fears and concerns, and I'm not downplaying them," he continued.

"I think there are some communities that haven't had positive experiences with medical professionals ... they have reasons for being skeptical, so I think a little empathy and understanding of their fears and concerns is pretty important," Yaverbaum said. "I think work has to be done to earn their trust."

"This will vary a little bit from country to country and culture to culture ... but I do think there are some communities that have not had positive experiences with medical professionals historically, and of course they're going to raise an eyebrow, understandably so. A little empathy goes a long way in helping to explain it."

Yaverbaum touched on how he sees there has been some failures or shortcomings in getting the right messaging out to people.

"The concerns are easily answered," he stressed, citing for example that "it's just a very small percentage of people who are vaccinated who are still going to get COVID-19."

"I think it's important to appeal to the emotions of people. What's important to them; what are they missing out on by not getting vaccinated," he said. "Have a real focus on the positive ... [that] you don't have to worry about infecting loved ones or friends."

"The vaccine is actually the way that life could return to normal, whatever normal is going to be," Yaverbaum said. "I think people need to hear optimism and hope also, the promise of the future we can all have because of the vaccines."

As for his own experience with COVID-19, Yaverbaum has been active on social media through his journey and offered encouraging messages to others.

"While they've always said that happiness was an inside job ... now you're inside in a different way. It's a great time to practice changing the way you look at things ... and I promise you that if you do, the things you look at will change," he said in one of his Face-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Public relations specialist Eric Yaverbaum says vaccine skepticism is a tough nut to crack, but part of the key is not downplaying people's fears and concerns.

book posts.

"Here's all I'll have to say to this nasty and highly contagious virus and unwelcomed visitor ... is that the best you got? Life is a lot like the ocean I love so much. The waves will try to knock you down and push you back to where you started. Not me. Not this time."

"My anti-bodies are off the charts, which is very comforting to me," Yaverbaum noted in conclusion. "I'd like to give a few of them to other people if I could."

Well water testing promoted

By Lorne Stelmach

A safe and dependable supply of drinking water is critical for health, so it is vital to ensure water systems and wells meet all safety standards.

That priority gets a boost each year from watershed districts province-wide offering programs to encourage people to submit water samples for testing.

Good water quality should be a priority for all and if you are concerned about your water quality, you have to assume direct responsibility and test your water.

"We can take things for granted ... and it's such an important thing," said Cliff Greenfield, manager of the Pembina Valley Watershed District, which is offering two upcoming water testing days across the region.

Water samples can be dropped off June 1 and June 8 at a number of locations including the district of-

fice in Manitou by 10 a.m. and the R.M. of Stanley office by 11 a.m. both days.

The district will pick up the samples and assume all shipping costs to transport them to Horizon Labs in Winnipeg where testing for nitrates and bacteria and coliform will be done as well as a basic drinking water analysis.

If you receive a positive test, the district offers a program for shock chlorination of wells, and abandoned well filling is also offered with benefits including maintaining the present groundwater quality and the removal of any hazard to people and livestock.

Drinking water should not contain any coliform bacteria or any E.coli bacteria, so it is recommended people test well water at least once a year or after any type of well maintenance.

A change in taste, odor and appearance of water or an onset of illness are reasons to suspect an abnormality in water. Water containing total coliform

or E.coli bacteria is not safe to drink.

Nitrates in water are also a health concern. They react with hemoglobin in the blood, causing lack of oxygen in the blood. Infants are at serious risk from this problem. Among livestock, ruminants are most susceptible because bacteria in the rumen convert nitrate to the much more dangerous nitrite. Pigs are less susceptible because this conversion doesn't occur to the same extent.

Most water nitrates come from organic material and run-off from heavily fertilized fields.

Greenfield estimated they usually will do around 150 tests through this program annually.

"At least we're raising awareness and helping make this happen for people ... wells should be tested every year," he noted.

"In areas where there are water pipelines, there's less reliance ... for the RM of Stanley, for the most part, its rural areas have access to a pipeline, but definitely not everywhere, and the further west you go, there's most need for this," he said.

If you have any questions or concerns about well water safety, contact the Pembina Valley Watershed District at 204 242 3267.

Stardust opens its gates

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's Stardust Drive-In opened this long weekend, and the local owners of the outdoor theatre are again optimistic about the season ahead.

One of the last two drive-ins remaining in Manitoba along with the Big Island Drive-in of Flin Flon, the Stardust has the experience of operating with pandemic related restrictions last year under its belt.

"For us, it ended up being a good year, though there were downsides to it for sure. It took more of us to work it effectively," noted Marlene Nelson, who is part of the group that owns and runs the theatre that includes her husband Terry as well as members of the Freund family in Morden.

She noted the theatre was not only limited in how many could enter to ensure distancing but also needed extra staff for things like directing vehicles and restricting people coming into the concession for example.

Along with those challenges though came some benefits such as people coming from far and wide to enjoy the experience.

"One thing that was a real benefit was we did see a lot of first timers," said Nelson.

"One thing I really took from it is you saw people enjoying themselves in a safe place. They felt comfortable ... there was a sense of normalcy where nothing was normal.

"Until you experience it, you don't know what you're missing," she said. "One of the good things to come out of the pandemic is that maybe people are

going out and experiencing different things; you try different things."

It's all been another twist in what has been quite a journey for them all since they got involved and took over the Stardust in 2002.

By 2016, the drive-in's future was in question as a result of the pending demise of 35 mm film, but people from all over rallied to support a crowd funding campaign that raised enough to enable it to make the switch to digital.

Nelson has remained very positive since then and even in the midst of the challenges still being faced as a result of the pandemic.

One of those challenges had been the lack of availability of movies, which had made it difficult to plan and schedule for the drive-in.

"Last year, we had maybe two or three new movies," she said, while noting that they now have access to movies that were released through the winter. "We've got some of that lined up. We can catch up on some of those that are still newer.

"So far, we have been able to line up some new movies now, so we are more fortunate that way," said Nelson, adding that a number of new movie releases had been delayed, so that all can come into play when people wonder why a full season schedule may not have been available.

"I literally don't know ... we try to line them up through a booking agent in Toronto, who does a fantastic job for us, but there are delays ... if we had planned too far ahead, we wouldn't have been able to offer what we were able to offer."

"Thankfully, people were on board and people



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Terry and Marlene Nelson are among the Stardust ownership group that also includes members of the Freund family.

were very receptive and understanding," she said, noting as well that they occasionally have brought back old favorites like Grease and Footloose."

A new feature which has also been a boost for venues like the Stardust has been concerts like the Bon Jovi feature that was on the big screen this past Saturday.

"It's as close to live as you can get right now ...

"It was almost like having a front row seat ... it's pretty much as close as you can get," she said, noting another such feature is Florida Georgia Line on June 12. All that adds up to help Nelson continue to feel optimistic about the future of the Stardust Drive-In. "It is a lot of work ... but it is all things we can do, and we can do it effectively," she said. "We had very positive response last year, so that is what gives you hope."

Summer science club offers virtual programming for kids

By Tyler Searle

The University of Manitoba is inviting students between grades three to eight to participate in virtual science summer clubs hosted by Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Kid-Netic Energy this summer.

The week-long summer clubs feature various experiments and activities that teach kids about ecology, engineering, medical science, chemistry, and coding.

"(The summer clubs) provide an opportunity for any kid to step out of their comfort zone and learn about the concepts in a very fun, hands-on way," said WISE Summer Logistics Lead Alora Anis.

The university developed WISE to get kids excited about careers in science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM). The outreach program began focusses on reaching youth with social, economic, and geographic barriers to STEM education.

In a typical year, WISE instructors provide in-person workshops to students across the province—even travelling to Thompson and other more remote communities.

This year, the program is transitioning to a digital format, and kids will attend the STEM-themed summer clubs online.

"The year has been very strange, but we are hoping that this will provide our students and undergrads students an opportunity to learn," Anis said.

The student will spend an hour-and-a-half each

day in a virtual classroom playing games, watching science demos, and interacting with their peers. Then, WISE instructors will leave them with a task or experiment to complete on their own.

Some of the projects are completely independent, while others are collaborative, said WISE instructor Calleigh Gingras.

In the Codemakers club, students use tiny, pocket-sized computers called Micro:bits to learn how to code.

A Micro:bit is an exposed computer chip roughly the size of a credit card with two buttons, speakers, and a cluster of tiny lights on its face. Students program the lights to flash in sequence to form letters and shapes, create music, or play simple games like Pong.

"By far, in everything we've done, it's always coding that kids really, really like," Gingras said.

In addition to the assorted STEM-themed clubs, WISE is also offering a Space Farm club. Kids who register for the space farm will learn how technology and agriculture work together in space.

Participating in the summer clubs is an opportunity to expose kids to science terminology and concepts they are likely to encounter later in their academic careers, Gingras said.

"I've had emails from parents thanking me, saying their children had kind of lost interest in STEM subjects at school, but seeing more real-life applications and doing these experiments really kind



VOICE PHOTO SUBMITTED

WISE Kid-netic Energy has been teaching kids about STEM using fun experiments and activities since 1990.

of brought them back to having an interest again," Gingras said.

WISE is offering the clubs every week beginning July 1 and ending Aug. 20. Registration costs \$100 for the themed clubs and \$125 for the Space Farm club. To register or find out more, visit www.wisekidneticenergy.ca/summer-clubs.

Market season is near

Vendor applications accepted in Morden and Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

The farmers' markets in Morden and Winkler are preparing for another season.

The organizing committees in both communities have put out the call for vendors to apply, and they are anticipating a good response with a solid core of participants who return each year.

"I think we had approximately 15 vendors who were considered full time last year ... I expect a large percentage of them, probably 75 per cent, are usually returning and have been around for a few years," said Matt Fri-

esen, who together with wife Janelle of Heartwood Pastures participates with the Winkler market.

"We've got a strong group of vendors each year," said Morden and District Chamber of Commerce executive director Candace Collins, who noted many of the approximate 20 vendors get first chance at spots. "There's always room for new vendors, so we encourage different vendors to apply. We've already received some interest, so that's good."

The deadline for vendors to apply for the Morden market is June 4, and the start date will be June 24 with the market then going each Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. until October 7.

If you're interested, you can go the chamber website or e-mail execdirector@mordenchamber.com, and you can also stay up to date by following the Morden farmers' Market on Facebook and Instagram.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden farmers market anticipates having another full complement of around 20 vendors once again.

Collins feels positive about the outlook for the season despite whatever conditions or restrictions that may be in place.

"Being an outdoor market and hav-

ing a really great, large space, we're confident we have the room for people to socially distance at our market, so we're feeling very confident our market will again be a very safe place to shop locally," she said.

"With it being downtown, it's very accessible for walking traffic or seniors who live downtown to walk to the market," she noted. "And it's a really committed group that comes every week ... I think that the Morden farmers market has an established clientele as well who look forward to the market each week."

The Winkler market is set to start June 29 and will go each Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. by the Winkler curling club.

There are full and part time vendor options, and people can e-mail winklerfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Friesen said they also do try to have room for new vendors, and they do try to be a bit selective so that there is not too much of any one thing, he noted.

"We try to avoid having too much competition at our market. Obviously having multiples of some things is fine, but you don't want to flood the market," he said.

"We're always trying to diversify the market as much as possible. It's good for everybody to have a large variety. The shoppers enjoy it, and the vendors get the benefit too."

Friesen is also optimistic about the potential for the season ahead.

"Last year was an odd year with maybe a little less enthusiasm from some people with the uncertainty at that time. We're still not certain what the restrictions may look like ... we have to work under some retail restrictions.

"We have a big enough space there ... so I think we should be just fine," he concluded. "Hopefully, as the season goes on, we may be able to fit in some extra things."

Greg Ens park taking shape



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Work on the Greg Ens Memorial Park is moving along in Winkler with a crew of 11 firefighters turning out last Tuesday to assist the Winkler Horticulture Society in building the brick wall in front of the big hockey stick. The first layer of bricks were in place Saturday, and the capstones were being done over a few days with Terry Fehr and former fire chief Garry Klassen helping lead things. "What an inspiration to see these men give of their evening time to come and pay it forward. It's so inspirational to see the pieces of the park come together," commented society rep. Margaret Penner, who noted they hope to plant trees at the end of the month.

Winkler resident grateful for War Amps

By Jennifer McFee

This year, the War Amps Key Tag Service is celebrating a milestone 75 years of supporting amputees across the country, including many who are close to home.

Winkler resident Silas Penner was born a left leg amputee and benefited from The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program. This program provides financial assistance for artificial limbs, adaptive devices and peer support.

CHAMP is funded through the key tag service, which launched in 1946 to provide work for war amputees while also providing a service to Canadians that could generate funds for the organization.

"I think I started with The War Amps at around age five. There are a lot of younger kids who definitely benefit from it," said Penner, who is now 23 years old.

"They helped pay for prosthetics for me growing up and they help with it until this day. Obviously, that's a big thing when they can help you in that way. Prosthetics aren't cheap, so it's a big plus if they can help you with that."

In addition, Penner appreciates the peer support he gained through annual seminars.

"I was been able to go to seminars often growing up. Almost every year, I'd get to go to a seminar in Winnipeg or Regina or Calgary or around Western Canada. At those conferences, they'd help out with tips on how to use a prosthetic. It's also a good chance to go and interact with other people with a prosthetic who you can connect with in a different

way," he said.

"It's probably not something they can do right now with COVID, but growing up it was definitely really cool to go to seminars and build those connections and seminars."

Penner encourages others to consider supporting these initiatives through the key tag program.

Through the program, Canadians receive confidentially coded key tags in the mail each year. These key tags are registered to individuals' name and addresses.

If you have a War Amps key tag attached to your key ring and you happen to lose your keys, the finder can call the toll-free number on the bag of the tag or place them in any mailbox in Canada. Then The War Amps will return the keys free of charge. They never sell, rent, trade or share their mailing list.

This key tag service is free, but anyone can choose to make a donation to the registered charity. Each fall, The War Amps mails donors a thank-you gift of peel-and-stick seasonal address labels, which provides further employment for Canadian amputees and people with disabilities.

"The key tags are really cool. If you lose your keys, whoever finds them can put them in the mail and they'll get mailed back to you, which is a pretty awesome service," Penner said.

"The War Amps is run totally through people donating and helping out that way. There are a lot of people who are in the CHAMP program or in The War Amps who benefit from it. It helps out a lot."

For more information about The War Amps, or to



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Winkler's Silas Penner has benefitted from The War Amps Child Amputee Program most of his life.

order key tags, visit www.waramps.ca or call 1-800-250-3030.

RCMP stress back to basics

Force cites bad trends during National Road Safety Week

Manitoba RCMP were putting extra focus on basic safe driving behaviours for National Road Safety Week from May 18 to 25.

During the pandemic, driving patterns have changed for many people, RCMP noted, and although people are making fewer trips, drivers appear to be engaging in riskier driving behaviours, particularly speeding and impaired driving.

"I live this everyday," said Sgt. Mark Hume, acting enforcement commander with Manitoba RCMP Traffic Services.

"What we are seeing is really concerning. People have forgotten the basics of safe driving – drive sober,

slow down, be alert and buckle up.

"I see people risking lives and taking deadly chances. We've said it before, but it remains true. Our goal is to get everyone home safely. I don't want to knock on anymore doors and tell someone their loved one has died.

"The bottom line is we can't do this alone. We need every Manitoban to make smart choices, to choose to get home safely."

"WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS REALLY CONCERNING. PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE BASICS OF SAFE DRIVING."

Hume.

"This isn't a few kilometres over the

In 2020, there were 1,191 impaired driving charges laid by Manitoba RCMP, and so far in 2021, officers have charged 323.

When it comes to speeding, the numbers are also concerning. In 2020, 20,515 drivers were charged with speeding, and so far in 2021, the force has charged 7163.

"What is really concerning, though, is the high rates of speed we are seeing," said Sgt.



PROVIDED PHOTO

"What is really concerning, though, is the high rates of speed we are seeing," said Sgt. Mark Hume.

posted speed limit. We're seeing a lot of drivers going more than 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit, which results in a serious offence notice.

In March and April of this year alone, RCMP have issued 106 tickets to drivers speeding by more than 50 km/hr over the posted speed limit. That is more than twice those that were charged last year or the year

before during the same time period. In 2020, 48 high speed tickets were issued in March and April, and in 2019, there were 42.

"When you are going that fast, everything about your response as a driver changes – from stopping times, to maneuverability, to steering. This is the behaviour that puts lives at risk, and it is unacceptable."

Local companies honoured

Delayed business awards handed out by Winkler chamber

By Lorne Stelmach

Outstanding Winkler businesses got belated honours last week from the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce.

The 2020 business awards were formally presented to the recipients after the pandemic had prevented the chamber from holding the annual gala last year.

The P.W. Enns Business Awards saw the business excellence award go to Icon Technologies, business builder award to Precision Land Solutions, customer service award to Winkler Plumbing and Heating, community builder award to Canadian Tire and not for profit award to Regional Connections.

"We're obviously very honoured to receive the award," Chris Unrau of Precision Land Solutions said of the business builder award, which honors a business that demonstrates continual positive business growth, superior customer service and embraces an outstanding commitment to quality.

"We had no idea or intention our business would grow to the point where it is today. We're extremely grateful for our community and clients and employees. We absolutely wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for especially our staff," he said.

"We're excited for the future. We think there's a lot of opportunity going forward in the business," he said.

"It takes a lot of persistence and fortitude," he said, recalling advice he received once that you're not in business for next year but for the next 20 years. "That gave me a lot of perspective to push through the tough times."

Canadian Tire was recognized with the community builder award based on overall positive impact on the community as well as the benefits and services they offer to the community through spirit, drive and vision.

"I'm really proud of what Canadian Tire has done in Winkler. We've had some pretty good opportunities here," said David Dunseath.

"It's quite something the footprint that Canadian Tire has here, and I'm quite proud of it," he said, citing the examples of the Jumpstart inclusive playground and support for other local businesses like PJ Trailers as well as the involvement with the ownership of the Southland Mall.

"Winkler and area is a wonderful community with wonderful people ... we're very, very fortunate in this area," he said. "Canadian Tire has certainly shown their confidence in Winkler. This is a wonderful place to do business."

Presented to Winkler Plumbing and Heating, the customer service award is given in recognition of a successful business that has made an exceptional experience in customer service.

"Having been in business in the community and surrounding area here for over 30 years, it means a lot. To be recognized, it means quite a bit," said Steve Kauenhofen, a partner with Winkler Plumbing and Heating.

"Customer service is what we do ... the customer experience is really what it's about these days," he



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Receiving the Winkler chamber's community builder award for Canadian Tire were David and Lori Dunseath.



Receiving the Winkler chamber's not for profit award for Regional Connections were Loren Braul and Steve Reynolds

said. "It takes a team effort ... it's everybody in the entire business from the front end to the back end."

The business excellence award recognizes a suc-



Receiving the Winkler chamber's business builder award for Precision Land Solutions were Charlotte Unrau, Chris Unrau and Garnet Peters.



Receiving the Winkler chamber's business excellence award for Icon Technologies were John Loewen and Harv Giesbrecht.

cessful business that has made an exceptional contribution to Winkler business and community service. Representatives of Icon Technologies could not be reached for comment.

Receiving the not for profit service award was Regional Connections for demonstrating exceptional community service and leadership. Representatives of the organization also could not be reached for comment.



Receiving the Winkler chamber's customer service award for Winkler Plumbing and Heating were Steve Kauenhofen, Abe Peters, Michael Penner and Henry Schmitt.

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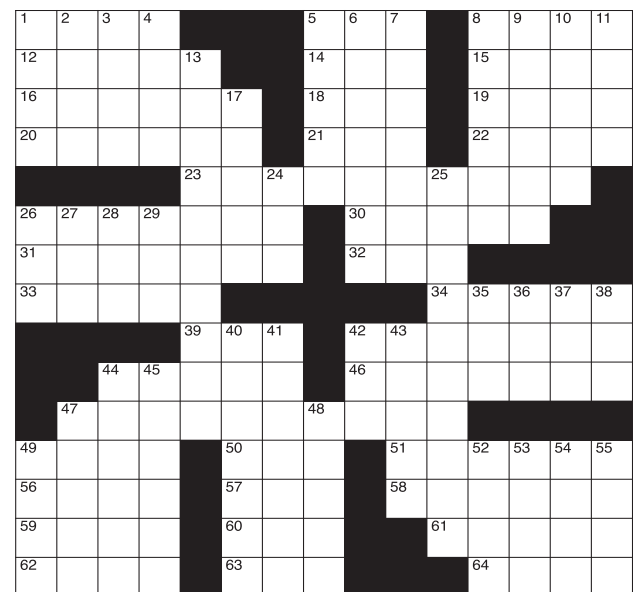
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. A group of sheep
5. Of she
8. This (Spanish)
12. A type of sorcery
14. A team's best pitcher
15. Port in southern Japan
16. Makes very happy
18. Trigonometric unit of measurement
19. From a distance
20. Winged nut
21. Consumed
22. "Heat" director
23. In all places
26. Made improvements to
30. St. ___ Girl: brand of beer
31. A type of "seat"
32. Wood
33. A brief treatise on a subject of interest
34. Approval
39. Basics
42. Where judges sit
44. W. African religion
46. Commentators
47. Having many different functions
49. Member of a Semitic people
50. Flightless, fast-running bird
51. After the seventh
56. Small N. Zealand tree
57. Health care pro (abbr.)
58. Playground mainstay
59. Expressing relief
60. Records brain activity (abbr.)
61. Fishing net
62. Beer
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Japanese beverage

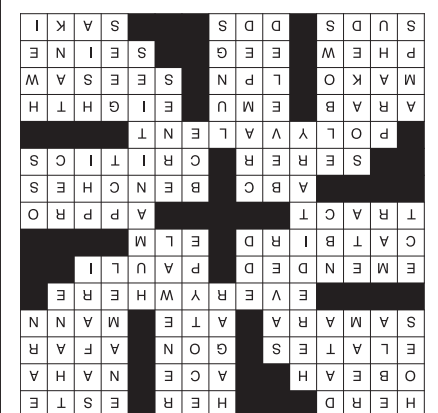
CLUES DOWN

1. Garden tools
2. Early Syrian kingdom
3. 500 sheets of paper



4. Information
5. Beloved comic strip character
6. Distinct form of a plant
7. Replenishment
8. Semitransparent glassy substance
9. Expedition to observe animals
10. One who held landed granted by Anglo-Saxon king
11. Obtain in return for labor
13. Inheritable genetically
17. One who rescues
24. Doctor of Education
25. Liberal arts
26. Shock treatment
27. Disfigure
28. When you hope to get there
29. Peacock network
35. Part of (abbr.)
36. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Not just "play"

38. Former CIA
40. Reduced to a sloping edge
41. Restricted the development of
42. Sciences degree
43. Sea eagles
44. Saturated
45. Joints
47. Sailing boat
48. Respiratory organs
49. Guitarists use them
52. Disco act: Bee ___
53. First Chinese dynasty
54. Intentionally lose
55. Muslim people of China



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Skill Sets and Requirements:

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- Good knowledge of blueprints/able to read blueprints
- General knowledge of set up and operation of power tools common to the welding trade
- Able to use hand plasma and oxy/acetylene torch
- Be self-motivated and willing to learn
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision
- Able to work in a fast paced environment
- Able to work as part of a team or individually
- Fitting experience an asset (parts fitting and tacking)

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Job Types: Full-time, Permanent

Benefits:

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COVID-19 precaution(s):

- Personal protective equipment provided or required
- Social distancing guidelines in place

Salary: From \$20.00 per hour

Schedule: Day shift

Experience: Welding: 1 year (required)

Language: English (required)

Work remotely: No

- Sanitizing, disinfecting, or cleaning procedures in place
- Excellent ventilation due to welding environment.

CAREERS



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OBITUARY



John Walter Giesbrecht
1924 – 2021

On Sunday, May 16, 2021 at Tabor Home in Morden, MB, John Walter Giesbrecht, husband of the late Tina Giesbrecht (nee Penner) formerly of Winkler went to his eternal rest.

John was the second oldest of eight children born to Jacob T Giesbrecht and Elizabeth Brown. He leaves to mourn his passing his three sons, Al (Maggie) Giesbrecht, Doug (Heather) Giesbrecht, Ted Giesbrecht and five grandchildren, Katrina Giesbrecht, Jack Giesbrecht, Lori (Danny) Cooper, Leanne Giesbrecht (Ron Scherman) and Frances (Geoff) Larose. John was blessed with six great grandchildren, Catherine O'Niell, Blake, Cole and Rhae Scherman, Lydia and Hannah Larose. John is survived by two sisters, Ruth and Adelaide and two brothers, Art and Len and their

families.

John's life was dedicated to Tina and their family. He was very proud to be a Manitoba farmer. He looked forward to every spring and fall with the excitement of seeding and harvest. Throughout his life, John enjoyed many wonderful conversations about the farm with family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

The family would like to thank Tabor Home for Dad's wonderful care.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in John's memory to the Tabor Home.

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



OBITUARY



John Harms
1936 - 2021

John Harms was born on December 15, 1936, to Gerhard and Anganetha Harms in Reinland, MB, the youngest of 11 children. In 1945 the family moved to the farm at Snowflake where John enjoyed his childhood and growing-up years with family and friends. He pursued many interests which included playing baseball and hockey, fishing, camping, golf, and in later years coin collecting. John married the love of his life, Katie Tiessen, on August 23, 1964. They shared 56 wonderful years together. They built their lives on farming and God and enjoyed time together as a family, working, playing and enjoying family life. John loved salvaging and working with wood and built a new family home on the farm where they raised three beautiful children – Robert,

Christine and Don. In later years, their children married and blessed them with nine grandchildren who called him Gramps, Papa and Grandpa. Each had a very special place in his heart. The children and grandchildren loved hearing countless stories of adventures with his family and friends. They truly were his pride and joy, and he always greeted them with huge smiles and open arms. John had a very strong faith in God, and cherished being involved in serving in his church and in the community. He loved sharing his faith with others and had a heart for young people, spending many years teaching them in Sunday School. He enjoyed serving on various church committees, chairing boards both in church and the community, volunteering on numerous local and provincial committees. John was instrumental in starting the local Youth for Christ chapter, The Rock, in Pilot Mound. John loved sharing the gift of his incredible baritone voice with family and friends. He often sang at family gatherings and many people were blessed with hearing him sing one of his favorite songs, 'The Holy City'. In the recent months, precious time was spent together with his wife, Katie singing together and remembering scripture while he was at Salem Care Home. On Wednesday, May 12, 2021 with Katie at his side, John made the journey into the arms of His Saviour. We will all miss him so much, but we know he is singing now with the heavenly choir.

John leaves to mourn his beloved wife, Katie; son, Rob (Kimberly), daughter, Christine (Fred) and son, Don (Lavonne); grandchildren, Brady, Cooper (Michelle) and Austin Wiebe, Mikah, Wyatt, Morgan and Dakota Harms, and Teegan and Samara Harms; brothers, Al and Dave; sister, Martha as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Gerhard and Anganetha Harms; brothers, George, Peter, Jake and Henry as well as sisters, Mary, Margaret and Elsie.

A private graveside service was held at the Snowflake Cemetery.

Special thanks to the caregivers and doctors who looked after John so well.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in John's memory to the Youth For Christ Pilot Mound Chapter and the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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The Winkler Morden
Voice

OBITUARY



Agatha Wiebe (Thiessen)
1928 - 2021

In loving memory of our mother, Agatha Wiebe who passed away suddenly at Salem Home in Winkler, MB on Sunday May 16, 2021.

She leaves to mourn her three sons and two daughters: Richard and Geraldine Wiebe, Ken and Laura Wiebe, Ed and Val Wiebe, Bev and Vern Warms, Hedy and Rob Suderman; 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Robert (Bob) and Margaret Thiessen and their family, many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 62 years, John A Wiebe (2013), her parents, one sister and brother-in-law, her parents-in-law, five brothers-in-law and three sisters-in-law.

Mom was kind and had a beautiful soul and she will be deeply missed. Rest in peace Mom. Until we meet again.

We the family would like to thank Salem Home and staff for the great care she received, she loved living in Salem and that made the last three years of her life that much better. A special thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home in care of arrangements. Thank you to family and friends for the prayers and thoughts during this difficult time. Agatha Wiebe Family

A private graveside service was held at Westridge Memorial Gardens. If friends so desire, donations may be made in Agatha's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

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



OBITUARY



Henry B Epp
1928 - 2021

In loving memory of our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Henry Epp, who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 with his wife, Martha and daughter, Carolyn at his side.

Henry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Martha; son, Delmar and his wife, Brenda (Harder), grandchildren, Zachary, Ryan and Rayne, daughter, Carolyn and her husband, Bill Peters, grandson, Tyson and his wife, Megan, great-granddaughter, Briar and grandson, Bryce as well as two sisters, Anne and Mary (John Friesen), six sisters-in-law, Elsie Epp, Agnus Epp, Norma Epp, Laverna Sawatzky, Elsie (Abe Friesen), Agatha Enns and two brothers-in-law, Albert Sawatzky and Waldo Sawatzky (Susan) as well as many nieces and nephews.

Henry was predeceased by his parents, Bernhard and Gertrude Epp (Penner); three brothers, Ben, George and Jack; two sisters, Gertrude and Selma; four brothers-in-law, Henry Wiebe, Henry Kroeger, Herman Sawatzky and John Enns; one sister-in-law, Mary Sawatzky and one nephew, Marvin Epp.

Henry was born in a small farmhouse in Whitewater, Manitoba. Third of eight children. From an early age Grandpa was a part of the church choir and participated in church functions, including a young people's wiener roast where he met his future wife. After dating for 3.5 years, he and Grandma were married for what Grandpa hoped to be "25 good years". 62 short years later, Grandpa and Grandma continued strong, living together at their home in Morden. In 1959, Grandpa and Grandma opened Henry's Bakeshop in Cartwright, MB where they worked side by side for 36 years. While operating the bakeshop Grandpa continued to participate in the church and found a love for golfing. Often putting in long hours at the bakeshop then packing up and going for a round right after work. He took the opportunity to share this passion with his kids and grandkids whenever he could. This passion for games, and spending time with friends and family often extended into the evening, whether it was a game of Triominos, Rummy-Tile or Skip-Bo. Grandpa was always humble in victory but was known to make a subtle remark; he knew he was the best. Bryce often credits playing games with Grandpa as the "reason I learned to count". Grandpa was known in the communities he lived in as a kind and social man, often taking the time to speak with everyone he came across. He loved to make jokes and make people laugh. While he always appeared to be thin and fragile, he often surprised people with his strength when he shook your hand. However, his physical strength paled in comparison to his spiritual strength. An avid church go-er and reader, he shared his relationship with God to all who knew him.

Grandpa's memory will always serve as a strong reminder to be kind to one-another to be selfless when called upon and to always see on the bright side of things when things are dark. We love you Grandpa and will miss you.

A private graveside service was held at Chapel Cemetery in Morden.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Henry's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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