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Supporting Salem

Kathy Wiebe and Judy Klassen were among the volunteers serving up hundreds of meals at the Salem Home fundraising barbecue last Wednesday. For the full story, see Pg. 2.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Salem Home BBQ raises nearly \$27K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community came out in droves last Wednesday to chow down and show their support for Salem Home.

The Winkler personal care home served up 500 barbecue meals and took in nearly \$27,000 in donations.

"We want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting the BBQ," Salem Foundation coordinator Susan Hildebrand shared the next day. "We had a really good turnout, even though the weather was cooler."

"The Janzen Boys music was excellent and enjoyed by all—even a resident in attendance was seen clapping

their hands and singing along. The raffles received a lot of interest and we had some very happy winners."

The funds will be used to upgrade furniture in residents' rooms, some of which have had the same dressers, night stands, and chairs for decades.

The refresh wouldn't be possible without the community's unwavering generosity and the support of local volunteers who make events like this happen, Hildebrand stressed.

"We are so blessed to have the Salem Foundation board, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Salem governing board who so willingly and cheerfully gave of their time to make this a success."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Hundreds of people came out to show their support for Salem Home at its annual spring barbecue last week, which included music from The Janzen Boys (above). Below: The meal assembly line, manned by volunteers such as Marge Redekop, Sharon Froese, and Cornie Redekop.

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Krahn Friesen Neufeld Chartered Professional Accountants congratulates our very own **Brenna Neufeld** who was awarded the Silver Medal in Management (Asper School of Business). The Silver Medal goes to the student with the second highest degree grade point average. Brenna recently graduated from the University of Manitoba with her Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree.

Brenna was born and raised in Morden and has returned to Morden to article at Krahn Friesen Neufeld in pursuit of her CPA designation.

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Western SD sets its sights on a second high school

By Lorne Stelmach

With one long-awaited new school under construction, Western School Division is making its case now for another one.

Trustees recently approved their updated five-year capital plan, and the wish list for the provincial government to consider makes a second high school for Morden top priority.

"We've always had two schools for probably the last 10 years on our five-year capital plan because we knew that once we finally got enough traction to get the first one, a second one was likely not a long way behind," said superintendent Stephen Ross.

"We've grown in Morden basically the same sort of path that Neepawa has grown," he said. "Neepawa a few years ago had a new middle school constructed, and they are currently in the design phase for a new high school."

The division anticipates continued significant growth in the next few years, and it won't all be addressed by the new Discovery Trails School.

A second high school will be needed sooner than later due to the growing population moving up through the schools to Morden Collegiate Institute, which is already near capacity.

"When we look at our projections and the numbers of kids who are coming up, even with the expansion of what has now been the addition of six classrooms at MCI ... it's not enough room. That school probably has capacity for about 600 students, which it's at right now."

Meanwhile, enrollment at the adjoining École Morden Middle School has reached about 730. That number is also going to continue to increase, Ross added.

"The opening of Discovery Trails

should create some space at the other end of the [MCI/EMMS] building, and we do have a couple portables that are currently used by the middle school," he noted. "So there's a good chance those will be used first and transferred over to the high school. Possibly, as we await additional space, the high school may grow further south ... that's all being considered ... it's a pretty complex picture."

Meanwhile, construction has just barely started on the K-8 Discovery Trails School, but the division is already asking for an eight classroom addition to that school to expand its capacity from 600 to 800 students.

"No one knew for sure where enrollment was going to be coming out of the pandemic. We've grown at almost four, five per cent since the end of September," Ross said. "For us to project around a seven to nine per cent growth is very reasonable over the next few years, and in fact it might not even be enough."

He noted Western had the second largest percentage growth in the province over last year at 12.1 per cent, second only to Garden Valley School Division at 12.5 per cent.

"We're really growing for different reasons," he noted. "Garden Valley still is quite a ways from their peak number; they're just getting back a lot of home school kids. We got a few home school kids back too, but the majority of ours are newcomer families."

"It's faster than we all anticipated," Ross said of the challenge of keeping up with that growth. "I think we look at those as opportunities ... it's far better to be figuring out how we're going to have space than thinking about closing schools."

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Works is underway on Morden's newest facility, Discovery Trails School. Western School Division has already asked the province for eight additional classrooms there to accommodate growing enrollment. A new high school is also on WSD's capital projects wish list for the next five years.

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6	leaf lettuce leaves	
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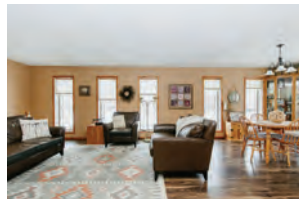
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BTHC gift shop reopens after three years

By Lorne Stelmach

The recent reopening of the gift shop at Boundary Trails Health Centre has been welcomed by both visitors and the volunteers who oversee and operate the space.

BTHC Auxiliary members on the committee that oversees the gift shop have it back in business finally after a three-year absence.

The little store that greets people just inside the main entrance of the regional hospital was shut down in spring of 2020 as a result of pandemic restrictions.

"We closed the day before we would have had to because we were concerned about having the volunteers dealing with all the cleaning and everything," said committee member and manager Jo-Anne Robbins. "We were thinking we would be back maybe in a few weeks."

The gift shop plays an important in supporting the BTHC Auxiliary's efforts to help cover the costs of hospital equipment purchases that might

not otherwise be funded.

Proceeds from the shop are added to the funds raised by the auxiliary overall through their other fundraising initiatives.

The auxiliary provided over \$22,000 for various pieces of equipment in 2019 and over \$40,000 in 2020.

"We've been able to contribute towards some pretty valuable equipment," Robbins said. "It's things that the staff have requested but it doesn't come up in the regular budget."

"Many years ago they bought a doll to practice resuscitation on," she noted as an example. "That was one of the early purchases, I think. Then just recently we paid for repairs on it."

The gift shop is now open from 2-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

"It's staffed entirely by volunteers," Robbins said. "There used to be two shifts a day ... we'll see if there is a need for that then we'll look at it."

"It hadn't had a good going through for quite some time. Things have changed ... it's taken a bit of work, and now we will be ordering some



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: BTHC Gift Shop committee volunteers Mary Anne Krashel, Jo-Anne Robbins, Mary Lilke, and Dawne Mackling at work last week. The shop reopened this spring for the first time since early 2020.

new stock," she added. "It's exciting. of work sometimes but we enjoy it." We kind of missed the place ... it's a lot

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Plum Coulee Fdn. celebrates 20 years of community support

By Lori Penner

The Plum Coulee Community Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary by doing what it does best: supporting local projects, organizations, and events.

Nearly \$25,000 was granted by the foundation to mark the milestone, and at last week's annual general meeting board chair Levi Taylor said it's great to see how they've grown over the past two decades, and how much they've been able to give back.

"When I look back and see the commitment of the board to keep going and the support from the community, it's just fantastic. This year, we've finally been able to get back into the groove of our events, and that's also been great to see."

The foundation manages an endowment fund of about \$700,000. The money granted each year comes from the interest earned on the principal amount.

Among other things, last year the foundation supported a performance by Six String Nation at Plum Fest and added musical instrument play structures at the Main St. park. They also gave back to the Prairieview Elevator, connected with members of the community during Giving Week, and maintained a special relationship with the Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) students at Plum Coulee School.

Made up of Grade 6-8 students, the YIP group holds their own fundraisers to support the foundation, and Taylor said they are important contributors to the community.

"They're developing a real sense of stewardship. These young people are very involved and eager to help. It's teaching them valuable lessons and they are already valuable citizens of Plum Coulee. We see them at every meeting and fundraiser. They are enthusiastic and very aware and focused on the projects they support."

This year's grants from the foundation, together with the YIP group, included \$8,846 to the Prairieview Elevator, \$5,250 to the Plum Coulee pedestrian bridge project, \$5,318 to Plum Fest, \$2,000 to the Winkler Imagination Library, \$1,100 to the Plum Coulee Community Gardens, \$2,250 for the Plum Coulee School playground project, and \$2,000 to The Centre on Main.

Meanwhile, Taylor said they are always looking to improve their events.

"That's been a pretty big topic at our board meetings. Next year, there might be some changes to our Giving Week and even our

AGM. I think we want to continue to build on what's here, and just draw the community here. Make it more of an event. Have raffles and things like that, just to get more people involved."

As always, the focus will be raising awareness of how the community foundation works. Taylor said this is the purpose of combining their AGMs with their soup and pie fundraisers.

"We want people to stick around, talk with the board, and ask questions and get to know us. We want them to know what a foundation is, what we do, and what's the difference between us and a charity. Once people start to

"WE'RE JUST LOOKING TO CONTINUE THAT TREND OF BUILDING INTO PLUM COULEE ..."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Plum Coulee Community Foundation board members with the Plum Coulee School Youth in Philanthropy group. Grants were handed out at last week's AGM.

recognize that and realize what the differences are, they see the benefits and how their donations can go right back into the community year after year for generations to come."

The foundation also held a soup and pie fundraiser last fall in coordination with Giving Week.

"These events were both well-attended, as everybody gets back to their normal routines, and the community came out in droves to support the foundation," Taylor said.

The past year has also seen a few challenges, including the loss of a few board members due to time commitment issues, but Taylor is confident those roles will be filled.

"We're just looking to continue that trend of building into Plum Coulee. It just keeps growing, and as it grows, it continues to support more initiatives. We're a good-sized fund right now, and I'm very optimistic about how this will help our community going forward."



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> WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION, FROM PG. 2

Another priority on the capital plan is improved access for the new addition to Morden Collegiate. Because of a water table issue, the elevator couldn't go all the way to the ground floor, Ross explained.

Otherwise, there are routine maintenance projects that range from roofing and structural improvements to general replacement of systems like the air conditioning unit at the high school.

"There's always stuff when you've got a lot of square feet," said Ross.

As far as timeline for approval

of the new school, Ross expressed some hope that the process could start sooner rather than later.

"We would really like to have design approval as soon as possible ... it would be great to get design approval next spring."

In the meantime, residents will have a chance June 7 to learn more details about Discovery Trails School, including its catchment area, at a public forum that gets underway at 7 p.m. that Wednesday at Minnewasta School.

The Voice

get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



• DON'T MIND THE MESS

A tribute to Mozart

It took me nearly two weeks to write this column, because I burst into tears every time I attempted it.

And while my eyes are still welling up as I sit at my keyboard today, I think my heart is finally ready to share.

People tell you that pets are just pets. That they don't matter as much in the grand scheme of things as the people in our lives, and when they die, our grief for them should be measured accordingly. But this just isn't true. When a creature has been part of the fabric of your days for nearly 18 years, their sudden absence leaves the same aching painful gap that any human would.

After fighting so hard to stay in this world, my Mozart, my warrior, my ageless wonder and the terror of every bird and squirrel and roaming feline in the neighbourhood has crossed the bridge into Heaven. His toys, his dishes, his favourite places to hide and to sleep are still and empty now, and I still find myself waiting to see him perched on my living room window ledge, letting me know he's done with his outdoor adventures and wants to come in.

I still look up, expecting to see his dark stare from on top of my cabinets. We think he must have learned to lev-

itate to get up there.

There's no rascal perched on my counter, waiting for handouts.

He was old for a cat, but age is relative. Our vet often marvelled at the way he bounced back from every ailment that beset him. He fought his medication with the same fervor he fought the wildlife that dared to set foot on my property. I still have the fading scratches on my arm to prove it. It's strange when you actually want to have a scar, just as a reminder that he was here.

His gray stripes and rabbit-soft fur never lost their luster. His deep meow never lost its tone. And I'll never forget the way he nestled right into my arms.

He arrived at my home barely past his kitten years. My daughter loved him first, but her city apartment would not allow pets, so she asked me to take him for a while. He quickly blended in with my other two felines, although he was shown his place very quickly. And my home became his.

It took me a while to bond with this new stranger. And it wasn't until I lost the first two that I really appre-

ciated his company. Mozart ruled the house, and his habits and rituals were threaded into my schedule as tightly as my other routines. His scratches at my bedroom door often woke me before the alarm. And there was no mercy until his dish was filled.

He was my morning coffee buddy, always sitting beside me as we plotted our day's adventures.

He was a healer, and always knew when we needed his listening ear. And when we had pain, he had an uncanny way of carefully kneading just the right spot with his paws.

Winter was hard on the poor guy. He hated snow and cold. He loved the grass beneath his feet, and watching the birds soar overhead. For a Manitoba cat, that meant 6-7 months of sorrow, staring out the window and longing for spring. This past winter was particularly tough, and we did what we could to boost his spirits. And when the first bare patch of dirt finally revealed itself on my lawn, he rolled around in it like it was a summer meadow.

Continued on page 7



By Lori Penner

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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Diversitas speaker series is back with June 20 presentation

Dr. Shelisa Klassen to speak on “Violence, Race, and Settler Colonialism”

By Lorne Stelmach

A series of talks aimed at being a platform for dialogue around issues related to our human diversity is returning this month starting with a speaker from Morden.

Diversitas kicks off again after an extended break during the pandemic with a June 20 presentation entitled *Violence, Race and Settler Colonialism in Late 19th Century Manitoba*.

It gets underway at 7 p.m. at the 500 Stephen Community Centre with a presentation by Dr. Shelisa Klassen, who hopes people will “come away from it with a more nuanced understanding of the history of southern Manitoba.

“History is complicated, and the way that we talk about history changes over time,” suggested Klassen. “History is an ongoing conversation.”

“This is not a presentation designed to make people walk away feeling guilty. It’s designed to provide historically accurate information,” suggested Peter Cantelon, who spearheads the Diversitas series.

His goal for Diversitas has always been to expose participants to the variety and diversity of people to generate greater understanding. There will be times when someone may hear a presentation that they wholly or in

part disagree with, but disagreement is not a bad thing, he noted—it is how we disagree that can be either good or bad.

Not having held any sessions through the pandemic period seemed to be the right choice even just in terms of the initiative needing time to recharge, Cantelon suggested.

“We could have done virtual things. It just hasn’t been the nature of Diversitas,” he said. “Gathering together has been good; it makes for an easier Q & A. It’s more personal, and so I felt it was better just to take that break. Plus it allowed for ideas to kind of come back, because we were running thin on recommendations.”

The idea for this upcoming session was sparked when he saw Klassen has been making a number of presentations on her research of late.

“The content of the research I thought was pretty apt for our area,” Cantelon suggested. “It was a great example of the kind of thing Diversitas was created to do, which was to bring good quality, high level presentations from experts on the subject into the Pembina Valley, where we would normally not see this kind of content.”

He was especially drawn to how it touches on the impact of settlement

on Indigenous populations and connects to an issue which has been very much in the public consciousness.

“I think it’s a gentle reminder of our history, particularly in our region where we don’t often think about the displacement or the impact on Indigenous peoples or anything in regards to colonialism,” said Cantelon. “We’ve often been presented with a region that was empty and then settlers came and populated it ... [but] we know there were settlements in the Pembina Valley, and it was not simply a trade route.”

Klassen, who received her PhD in history from the University of Manitoba in 2022, especially welcomes the chance to be part of a dialogue on this issue here in her hometown.

“It’s a great opportunity for me to speak to an audience outside of an academic setting,” she said. “I’m looking forward to hearing the thoughts of whoever comes to engage in this conversation and I’m looking forward to being able to share whatever knowledge and wisdom that I can bring to that conversation.

“Ultimately, what I want to do is challenge the myth that the land was empty and the myth that, in Canada, settlement was a peaceful process,” Klassen continued.



Dr. Shelisa Klassen

“My ultimate goal is to present some historical evidence to open up that conversation about what was happening here,” she said, adding that it is not about guilt, as “guilt isn’t really a helpful response. It’s about allowing us to open more doors for conversation.

“If we’re going to think seriously about reconciliation, we all have to be on the same page about what we are reconciling ... before there’s any reconciliation, there has to be truth.”

For more information and this and upcoming Diversitas sessions, find Diversitas on Facebook or check out its website at diversitas.wordpress.com.

> PENNER, FROM PG. 6

But it was short-lived. As the new leaves unfurled, he didn’t have the same jolly gait as he roamed the yard. He spent more of his days curled up in a deck chair, and my fearful heart knew what he was trying to tell me.

We were with him at the end, stroking his fur and telling him how much we loved him. And when he crossed over, it was like he took a bit of the sunshine with him. The apple tree we planted with him will re-

mind us that Mozart was here. That he once roamed this neighbourhood. That he once filled our days. And that a small and mighty cat once taught us that love never dies.

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get informed

Genesis House hosting Women Talking screening

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House is hosting a free screening of an acclaimed film in the hopes it will get people talking about violence against women and the local resources available to victims.

The shelter is screening *Women Talking* at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

The film, an adaptation of a book by Miriam Toews directed by Canadian filmmaker Sarah Polley, follows a group of Old Order Mennonite women discussing their future in their community after multiple accounts of sexual assault come to light. It drew inspiration from the real-life attacks that occurred in a Mennonite colony in Bolivia in the late 2000s.

Women Talking was nominated this year for Best Picture and won for Best Adapted Screenplay.

"We've been toying with the idea of screening it, not wanting to stir the pot too much but also not wanting to deny that this movie, this story, is out there," says Ang Braun, Genesis House executive director. "While the movie itself is fictional, we know that there were similar events that hap-

pened as to what's depicted."

The movie grapples with themes of sexual assault, faith, community, and justice—weighty topics that a panel of local community members will discuss after the screening.

"There will be a panel of folks that do some work with survivors of domestic violence out there, talking about how some of those pieces in the movie might resonate locally," Braun says, noting they're still firming up who the panelists will be, but they're hoping for a range of viewpoints and expertise. "What we're hoping for is the focus to look at the perspective of the kids, the perspective of the women, and then the perspective of the men as well."

Braun has seen the film and found it really resonated with her—especially the characters' discussion around the meaning of forgiveness.

"One of the women in the movie says, 'They mistake forgiveness with permission.' That has just stuck with me so much," she says, noting forgiveness is a big thing in the Mennonite culture and in the Christian faith, but it's not a license for continued abuse.

"It's a hot-button topic at the shelter, too, and always



Women Talking screens at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Tuesday, June 13. Genesis House will be hosting a panel discussion afterwards.

WOMENTALKINGMOVIE.CA

has been," Braun adds, sharing how many victims of domestic violence grapple with perhaps forgiving their abuser while also making it clear they have no interest in reconciling with them. "You can forgive them, but it doesn't necessarily mean you want to go back."

In some cases, as depicted in the movie, faith can further complicate matters in a domestic violence situation if a woman feels she can't morally leave a relationship or knows that doing so might mean losing not just her home but her community as well.

"That's a core theme of the movie," Braun says. "It's very powerful."

Admission to the showing is free and advance registration is not required.

Donations can be made that night in support of Genesis House's Low German programming, which includes translated resources and support to make it more accessible to women seeking help.

Braun hopes the event fills the concert hall, "not just because people want to show their support for Genesis House, but because they want to show their support for the Low German families that have really been the foundation for building our community."

May 24, 2023 Salem Foundation & Ladies Auxiliary BBQ

We want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting the BBQ.

We had a really good turnout even though the weather was cooler. The Janzen Boys music was excellent and enjoyed by all, even a resident in attendance was seen clapping their hands and singing along. The raffles received a lot of interest and we had some very happy winners. **We took in nearly \$27,000 in donations at the event thanks to community participation and attendance with 500 meals going out.**

We are so blessed to have the Salem Foundation Board, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Salem Governing Board who so willingly and cheerfully gave of their time to make this a success.

Manitoba RCMP launch anniversary contest

By Voice staff

Manitoba RCMP are asking youth to help them celebrate 150 years of policing in Canada.

May 23 was the agency's 150th anniversary and the Manitoba RCMP marked it by launching a contest to give away 150 Back to School prize packs.

Every child under the age 14 who lives in Manitoba is eligible to take part by sending an email detailing what the Royal Canadian Mounted Police means to them.

"We would also love to hear about any positive experiences you may have had with a Mountie,"

RCMP said in announcing the contest, noting submissions can be of any length.

The prize pack includes a backpack, lunch bag, water bottle, sticky-note notebook, limited edition stickers and tattoos, and a ballpoint pen, all with the RCMP 150 logo on it, as well as Stetson-wearing stuffed polar bear.

Send your email to DRCMP150-D150GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. Make sure to include your name, mailing address, and phone number. Attachments can not be accepted at this address, so make sure your submission is in the body of the email.

The contest closes June 30.

Winkler clinic soon to offer monthly ophthalmology service

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler eye doctor is opening up his clinic to an ophthalmologist this fall to ensure local residents no longer need to travel for treatment.

Starting in September, Clarity Vision Centre will begin hosting Dr. Frank Stockl of Winnipeg's Aqua i Laser for one day every month to administer Avastin.

The drug, which is injected into the eyeball, is used to treat macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, and other problems of the retina, slowing vision loss.

Currently, local patients who need this injection—which is covered by Manitoba Health—must travel to Winnipeg for it as often as once a month.

"If we can get this injection clinic to full capacity of 90 injections every four weeks, over the course of a year that's 1,080 trips there and back for mainly elderly patients in our area," says Dr. Andrew Aiken, who runs Clarity Vision.

Patients generally require a driver to get them home after an injection, so that's two people affected by all those trips into the city.

"I think it's going to save a substantial amount of money and time for a lot of people," Aiken says.

Aiken is offering Stockl the use of his Main St. facility and staff for the monthly clinic. They're going to start



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Dr. Andrew Aiken of Clarity Vision Centre in Winkler is opening up his facility to host a monthly Avastin injection clinic starting this fall.

with 40 injection appointments at the first one Sept. 18 and then hopefully build up to the full 90 in the months to follow.

"There's more than 90 people needing this each time, so there will probably be a bit of a waiting list," Aiken acknowledges, but it's a start.

Avastin was originally used as a drug to treat colon cancer. For the last

30 years though, eye doctors have been using it "off label" for eye conditions based on medical evidence of its efficacy.

"That was a huge breakthrough," Aiken says. "Before the '90s these patients would just essentially be left to go blind. There would be no treatment at all ... now we have these injections that can stabilize, maintain vision."

Aiken has been trying to bring ophthalmology services to the Pembina Valley for some time now.

"This area has supported me in an amazing way and you always want to try to pay it back," he says, noting he's also been heavily lobbying for cataract surgery to be done locally.

"I have been propositioning the government for about four years now and hounding people," Aiken says, sharing optimism that those proposals have been heard and may yield results.

He points in example to the small community of Swan River, which secured a cataract surgical program over a decade ago.

"What the community did is they fundraised the money, put it into the hospital, and now they have it and surgeons have that option.

"The wait times for cataract surgery are not due to lack of surgeons, it's due to lack of operating room time and the funds to pay the surgeons," Aiken says, noting, however, that most of these surgeries for low-risk patients don't need to be done in a hospital operating room, but rather could make use of other clinical settings in a community.

He urges community members who hope to see this service come to the area to write letters to their local MLA or the provincial government to let their voices be heard.

Morden spray park reopens this summer

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden residents can look forward to finally enjoying the spray park again this summer.

The facility on the east side of Mor-

den Park is almost ready to reopen after having had a significant overhaul with the installation of a system to collect and recirculate the water.

The need for it was highlighted when the region faced an extreme drought

two years ago and the spray park had to be shut down due to the amount of water used in its operation.

Last year it faced the opposite problem—too much rain meant the park couldn't operate because of the volume of runoff going into the already over-taxed lagoon system.

Now the city is looking to turn the water back on.

"It's pretty much ready to go. We just need to run some water through it and do some tests to make sure there's no leaks and just finish up a few things, but then it should be fully functional," said Chris Moffatt, director of community services.

"I'm hoping before the end of June, that is my goal, but I can't give a guaranteed date. A few things have to fall into place," he continued, noting they are currently awaiting inspections. "Hopefully everything is all good because we didn't get to test it before it all froze ... but I'm assuming we will

be good to go."

The new recirculation system will help protect Lake Minnewasta as the city's main source of water by reducing the amount of water the park requires to operate, as well as the load on the sewer system.

It's estimated the new system could reduce the water use from about 30,000 gallons on a hot summer day to 2,000 gallons.

"It saves on water consumption, so that's huge for us. It's a significant thing, especially when we were having water concerns," said Moffatt. "Hopefully now we can move forward and people will be able to enjoy this for a lot of years now.

"Even from my standpoint, I've got two young kids and my oldest has been talking about going to the spray park but hasn't been able to for the last couple of years, so I'm sure he will be excited about it."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

After being closed the last two years, the spray park in Morden Park is set to finally reopen this summer.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Plant sale supports BTHC flower gardens

A plant sale and barbecue Thursday at Boundary Trails Health Centre raised money to support the volunteer effort spearheaded by Judy Stambuski to plant the flower gardens at the hospital. "I think we were pretty happy with the sales we had ... I think, all in all, we will fair quite well," said Stambuski, who estimated the annual event has brought in around \$2,000 some years. "It goes to buy all the flowers, all of the mulch ... if we need to replace any perennials or shrubs ... it covers all of the stuff that we need, and if we have a little bit left over, that goes to help next year. As a rule, we have enough money to do what we have to do for the year."

New Reinfeld park a few steps closer to reality

By Lorne Stelmach

The dream of a community park for the village of Reinfeld is moving another step closer with the recent boost of provincial funding for the project.

The Reinfeld park committee received a \$135,802 grant through the Building Sustainable Communities program—one of the largest such grants in our area—and organizers say it puts them over the top to move on with the first phase of the project, with fundraising having already raised about \$200,000 so far.

"We've had amazing community support ... the community is definitely right behind it, and the RM has been great in supporting us," said project rep. Ryan Friesen. "We're excited to get that grant money and get to work now and really show people hopefully what an amazing recreational space we can put together and look forward to seeing people getting out there and using it."

Friesen was approached by the RM of Stanley to help with the project, and it was something he got on board with immediately.

"I thought it was a great idea. I've got three young kids, and I've had to drive them into Winkler for a number of different things that hopefully we can put into this park," he said. "There's been a need in Reinfeld for a recreational space ... for a village that's grown so much over the years. We have a small space now, but the village has kind of outgrown it."

The RM of Stanley purchased the land to be used for the park on the west side of the village coming in from Winkler via Grant Ave East.

There has been some preliminary

work done already at the site, including grass that was planted last year.

Friesen said they've brainstormed in the community to come up with a vision for the park.

"There's lots of things we need as far as the basic services," he noted, citing water, sewer, and electrical as being among them.

The first phase of the project will include a full-sized outdoor rink and a warm-up shack with bathrooms.

They see phase two in the future as including a playground, picnic shelter, soccer field, and hopefully two baseball diamonds.

"Whatever we build, we really want it to connect with the community and be something that the community will really want and use ... and anything that we build, we want to build it really well," Friesen said. "So as years go on, whoever runs or maintains the park isn't hassled with a pile of maintenance and rebuilding things ... we want these things to be built to last for years. Our goal as a group is to build things well enough that we will bring our grandkids there."

Friesen said they are anxious to get to work on it.

"We've worked at this for a year and a half now, so it's exciting to meet the goal for phase one and get to work on it," he said. "Our tagline for the park is a place for us to gather ... we really hope we see a lot of people from the community out there actively using it all the time. We want to do something that the community will be proud of and will last a long time."

People who want to support the project or volunteer can send an email to reinfeldpark@gmail.com.



Dear Patients and Friends of Winkler Pharmacy,

Due to increased media attention to the possible disappearance of Winkler Pharmacy; we wish to disclose that this attention was not initiated by Winkler Pharmacy staff or management. Some staff have commented on social media only in an attempt to answer questions.

Unfortunately, the media contains an element of truth in that Winkler Pharmacy will have to move elsewhere in the community before June 30, 2023. This move was necessitated when the Winkler and District Health Care Board mandated a Request for Proposal (R.F.P.) process on the space occupied by Winkler Pharmacy in peaceful enjoyment for 12.5 years as faithful tenants of the Health Care Board and a further 10 years prior as tenants of the ALG Group.

Winkler Pharmacy placed its bid in good faith after seeking input from leaders in commercial Real Estate and from its supplier group PharmaChoice. Winkler Pharmacy was informed in an email via the broker TekMed, on May 16, 2023 that its bid was rejected. Late Friday, May 19, 2023 the

chairman of the Health Care Board indicated in a brief email that they cannot extend the lease beyond June 30, 2023 due to commitments to the R.F.P. process.

We are asking our dear friends in this community and our clients to be patient with us as we navigate this present challenge. We remain committed to the wellbeing of the people of this community and also its health professionals, and we believe that it is only by working together that we can make the community stronger.

Let it be clear that the staff of Winkler Pharmacy plan to continue to work together as always to strive to provide you with the same service you have been accustomed to receiving with as minimal interruptions as we can manage. Sadly, it will be from a different location. We look forward to your prayers and support. We will make further media announcements as the plan develops to keep you informed.

Sincerely,
Sig and Mary Pfahl
On behalf of the staff of
Winkler Pharmacy

Steps for Pets June 17

By Lorne Stelmach

The upcoming Steps for Pets walkathon in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society is about raising both funds and awareness.

Just as vital though is even just building a sense of community around the work done by the regional organization, say directors.

"It's really important to us. It's our biggest event of the year, so we're hoping to make it a fantastic one," said Caitlin Parr, fundraising chairperson for the humane society. "It really helps to keep our doors open ... it is fundamental to our organization's well-being, and we're trying to make it like a giant community party."

Set for Saturday, June 17 in Morden Park, Steps for Pets is one of the humane society's main annual fundrais-

ing events.

It is a fun, social event where people can meet dogs of all breeds, sizes, and personalities. You don't need to have a dog to participate—just come and enjoy a three kilometre walk and help raise some money.

The funds raised by the walkathon support the work of the humane society to provide veterinary care of the animals, ensuring they are all spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and tattooed before they find their new homes.

"It's going to be a really fantastic day. Last year we had 50 registrants. This year we're hoping we could double that," said Parr. "Last year was record-breaking. Normally this event would make over \$10,000. Last year, it brought in over \$16,000, so we would love to break that record again."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Humane Society's annual Steps for Pets walk takes place in Morden Park on Saturday, June 17.

There are a number of extra features and perks as well to attract people for the afternoon.

"We have these amazing swag bags," noted Parr. "If people register at Canada Helps for the walkathon, and they make a minimum donation and are one of the first hundred registrants, they'll receive a swag bag worth over \$250 in different vouchers and prizes."

And the agility demonstration that went over so well last summer will also be back following the conclusion of the walk.

"The dog show by Extreme Dogs last year was a great success ... it should

be another good one," said Parr. "And we have over 20 different vendors of pet-related items ... and there will be food by Oba Yo."

Participants can register online at pvhshociety.ca to collect pledges as an individual or as part of a team. Those who still prefer paper pledge forms are able to print them off the PVHS website or pick them up at a participating retailer. Walkers can also do a combination of both online and paper pledges.

Registration on the day of the walk starts at 1 p.m. The walk begins at around 2 p.m.


ÉMMS brings The Lion King Jr. to life



SUBMITTED PHOTO

École Morden Middle School students brought The Lion King Jr. to the stage May 24-25 at the Morden Access Event Centre. Dozens of students worked both on stage and behind the scenes to bring the musical inspired by the Disney movie to life.

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WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE

Choice Realty Pays It Forward



Last Thursday saw Choice Realty host its second annual Free Community Barbecue. Managing partner Dave Kasdorf shares that they served over 900 meals in two hours that night, with lots of people already lined up in the Central Station parking lot when they opened at 5 p.m. "We started this last year for the first time in May because we wanted to give back to the community and also be part of Pay It Forward May," he said, noting they intend to make this an annual event. "We really wanted to do something for the community where there's no obligation, there's no cost involved, no donation required—just come out and have a meal together. It's our way of contributing back to the community that we're so lucky to be a part of."

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Pay It Forward May a big success in Morden-Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation and the Morden Area Foundation's Pay It Forward May campaign

wrapped up this week. It was four weeks filled with countless acts of kindness in both communities, with people, businesses, and service groups finding ways to pay it

forward in ways both big and small, publicly and behind-the-scenes.

It's always a bit of a challenge to share stories of all the acts of generosity happening, reflected Winkler Community Foundation executive director Myra Peters on Monday.

"We hear about a lot of it second-hand," she noted. "The sharing has been the hardest part because we're a community that doesn't necessarily like to brag when we're doing something nice for someone else. 'It's not about me,' people will say."

But that doesn't mean people aren't embracing Pay It Forward May—just the opposite, in fact.

"We were very pleased with the community engagement this past month," Peters says, noting there were a number of free barbecues hosted and also things like businesses going around delivering goodies or individuals paying for the order of the person behind them in line at the drive-thru. "There's been so much generosity and kindness that has happened."

"And what I really love to see is how the community has come together," she adds, pointing in example to the Choice Realty barbecue last week. "You saw people visiting and interacting with each other. It just built a sense of community."

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Cutting up the dance floor



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE Carman's Liv Dance Company brought its troupe of regional dance students to the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler for two days of performances last weekend. The "On the Screen" themed recital included, clockwise from top, the Creative Movement Thursday group performing Beyond the Sea, Gr. 1 Ballet students performing Sleeping Beauty's Fairies, the Senior Company Contemporary group doing "What He Wrote" from Peaky Blinders, and Téya Courcelles in a Men in Black junior hip hop solo routine.



Against the Radical Gender Ideology

Max Bernier's Plan for a Healthy Society

On May 23rd I announced my official policy to combat the radical gender ideology, pushed by Cultural Marxists, which is overtaking our schools and media.

In a time when leftist activists encourage children to mutilate their bodies and sterilize themselves in an attempt to "transition" to the opposite sex, concrete action is necessary to protect our children.

Here is my policy:

A PPC Government will —

- Modify the Criminal Code to outlaw the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and any form of bodily mutilation on minors with the goal of "transitioning" to another sex.
- Any person encouraging minors to "transition" will be held criminally responsible.
- Remove the ban imposed by Bill C-4, the so-called "conversion therapy bill", that is preventing parents and counselors from helping minors who suffer from gender dysphoria accept their body.
- Strictly enforce section 163.1(1)(b) of the Criminal Code in order to remove inappropriate pornographic content from schools and libraries.
- Protect women's spaces—bathrooms, changing rooms, shelters, and prisons —from intrusion by biological men.
- Maintain separate competitions for women in which biological men cannot participate in sports regulated and funded by the federal government.
- Abolish federal programs that fund sex change operations for civil servants and prisoners.
- Finally, a PPC government will repeal Bill C-16, the bill that added gender self-identification as ground for protection against discrimination.

Ask the Conservatives about this issue — they won't do anything about it. They're too scared to protect our children from predators in school and they will not fight back against the dangerous cult seeking to abolish basic biological reality.



Authorized by the Chief Agent of the People's Party of Canada

Tabor Home breaks ground on pathway project

By Lorne Stelmach

Tabor Home is starting work on an accessibility path that will circle around the personal care home on the east side of Morden.

It will serve to connect the five units of the facility, but directors also have a larger goal of connection in mind.

"We hope this will be a great way to connect and engage with the community," said Helena Goerz, chairperson of the Tabor Home board. "We thought this pathway would be a good option ... Morden wants a lot of pathways ... hopefully this pathway can eventually connect to other parts."

Goerz said that a pathway had been in mind for the property for some time now, but the idea has grown from what was first envisioned.

They see it as particularly being a good accessible option for residents given their limited mobility.

"Even having Homestead South nearby, there's a lot of people who maybe wouldn't feel safe riding a bike just anywhere, or maybe a family member wouldn't feel safe taking their family member out on just any street," said Goerz. "This pathway will be approximately a kilometre or two long, so for some of the residents, being a two kilometre ride, maybe that's all they can handle."

Work will be getting underway soon, with the board members having done a sod-turning ceremony last Wednesday.

"We will be starting this spring ... and we're hoping to have the hardscape done by fall," Goerz said. "Then there will be planting and things like that to do, so that would probably happen next spring."

"With time, we're hoping that we can add places to sit along the way as well," she added. "Not everybody will be on a bicycle. Some will be in a



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE

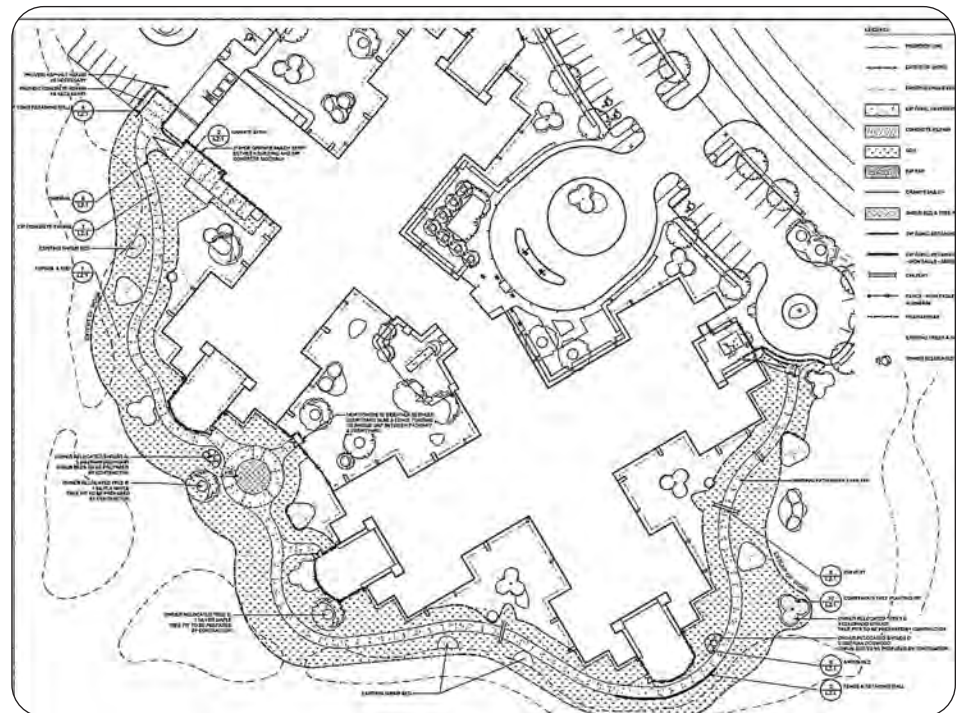
Tabor Home board members last week broke ground on a new pathway that will connect the personal care home's five units.

wheelchair, so whoever is with them can sit down and have a chat. Some people will be out with walkers. In time, we hope to develop this more."

Goerz estimated it will be about a \$500,000 project. They have raised about \$85,000 so far, including a recent \$10,000 grant from Morden Community Thrift Store.

"We are very thankful for that support. It was a very nice surprise ... and the value of the thrift store and what it does is also highlighted by this project," said Goerz.

"We're working on a grant application from the government ... and we're also hoping other businesses will come to the table, so we're getting there."



Anyone wanting to support the project can contact any board member or even just drop off cheques at the personal care home.



Filling the Suncatch with music

BK and the Bad Habits had some of the crowd up on their feet last Friday night for the first Crocus Suncatch Sounds concert of the season. The series continues with Seven Pines June 16, The M'Ladies July 7, Madel Morin and then Jayme Giesbrecht and the Soul Revue Band July 28, Beer Jammers August 18, and Wild Illusion and Standing Strong September 8. The concerts also feature a bar that serves as a fundraiser for the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

sports & recreation

Whips open Arctic Field with a win

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Border Baseball League's Winkler Whips christened their newly revamped Arctic Field with a win last week.

Winkler followed a season-opening 7-7 tie against the Carman Cardinals last Tuesday with a 4-2 victory over the Pilot Mount Pilots Friday night.

Festivities for the home opener began long before the first pitch was thrown, with a free barbecue supper followed by opening ceremonies that shone a spotlight on the many sponsors and volunteers who helped make the improved field a reality.

Upgrades to what was formerly diamond five include a new sod infield, reshaping the pitcher's mound, in-ground dugouts, a new sprinkler system, a concrete backstop, padded fencing, and new protective netting.

Future possible improvements include a scoreboard, new spectator seating, and lights.

The \$500,000 project was made possible thanks to community support and government grants.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler Whips celebrated the grand opening of the new Arctic Field with some pre-game festivities Friday night, including a ceremonial first pitch (above) and hundreds of free barbecue suppers for fans (below, left). Right: Bill Fehr leads off the Whips' hitters with the first base hit of the game. Below, right: The team celebrates after downing the Pilot Mound Pilots 4-2.

The Whips get to further break in their new home next Tuesday, June 6, when they host the Morden Mud Hens at 7 p.m.

This week they were in Altona Tuesday night for the Bisons' season opener. Results were not available at press time.

Altona also hosts the Carman Cardinals Friday night and again next week Tuesday.

The Mud Hens, meanwhile, kicked off their season with a 10-3 decimation of the Baldur Regals Saturday night. They then had their home opener Tuesday against Carman (results were not available at press time) and also host Clearwater Friday.





PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Interlake's Liam Proven steals third behind Pembina Valley's Darius Peters. The Orioles took game one 6-4 but then lost game two 3-1.

Orioles split doubleheader with Interlake Blue Jays

By Voice staff

Both the Pembina Valley Orioles and the Altona Bisons had mostly winning gos of it in Manitoba Junior Baseball League action last weekend

The Orioles downed Winnipeg South 10-7 Friday night and then went on to win game one of their at-home doubleheader against the Interlake Blue Jays 6-4 Sunday afternoon. They struggled in game two, losing it 3-1.

The Bisons, meanwhile, defeated the Legionaries in St. Boniface 3-2 last week Wednesday and then crushed

the visiting Carillon Sultans 9-4 in game one at home Sunday, losing game two 15-5.

With that, both the Bisons and the Orioles are 3-4 for the season thus far. The stats put Altona in fourth place behind the St. James A's, the Blue Jays, and the Elmwood Giants, respectively, and the Orioles in sixth place.

Coming up, the Orioles travel to play the Carillon Sultans Wednesday night and the Bisons Friday before hosting Altona for a doubleheader Sunday afternoon. Altona also travels to play the Giants Wednesday night.

Winkler Storm host first home game this Sunday

By Voice staff

The Winkler Storm fell to Lions FC 4-3 in Manitoba Major Soccer League Premier Division action last week.

Scoring for Winkler was Cornie Sie-

mens with two and Zach Wood with one.

The Storm have their home opener this Sunday against Sporting Club Mosaic. Play begins at the 15th St. soccer pitch at 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, in the MMSL's 3rd Division, the Storm 2 team beat Winnipeg B FC 3-2 to earn their first win of the

season Friday night. Scoring for the Storm in the road game was Janick Ritcher with two and Mathew Wolfe.



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2023 – November 15, 2023, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

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Manitoba Conservation and Climate
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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4**

Chamber serves up a hot dog lunch



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce board of directors rolled up their sleeves Friday to serve a lunch that included hot dogs and french fries at the annual Member Appreciation Barbecue. Executive director Tanya Chateaufneuf explains the long-running celebration is their way of saying thanks to their supportive membership. "It's a thank-you to our members for coming out to all of our events and just being so engaged as chamber members and community members," she says. "It's also an initiative for Pay It Forward May."

Morden celebrates Arbor Day June 11

By Lorne Stelmach

It is, at its heart, a celebration of trees and their importance to our world, but Arbor Day is also an opportunity for public education.

It is perhaps even especially fitting to mark the occasion here in Morden given that the community is so known for its urban forest.

"Second to Corn and Apple, I think Morden maybe is known for its trees and the tree canopy," suggested arborist Shawn Dias, parks and urban forestry manager for the City of Morden. "Arbor Day is a really good opportunity to provide some public education and gather people who are interested in celebrating trees in the community ... and it's a great location in the Morden Park to host the event."

The festivities are set for the after-

noon of Sunday, June 11 from 1-4 p.m. in the park.

There will be a welcome from Mayor Brandon Burley at 1 p.m., a tree-planting demo at 1:30 p.m., and a pruning demo at 2 p.m.

A popular attraction that day will likely be having the chance to take rides rising above the tree canopy in a bucket truck.

Tree experts will be available to give advice throughout the afternoon, and other activities will include face painting, children's crafts, and slack line, wood carving, and saw mill demonstrations.

The afternoon will also honour the winners of an art contest which asked local students to share their interpretation of Morden's urban forest.

The idea to initiate an Arbor Day



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Arbor Day festivities June 11 will include tree-planting demos, bucket truck rides, and more in Morden Park.

celebration in Morden last year arose from Dias being involved with the Manitoba Urban Forest Council, which has a mandate to provide education and outreach from arborists to communities. He saw a good opportunity for Morden to get involved.

"Last year was well attended, and there was lots of positive feedback from the event," said Dias, who noted as well that in the spirit of Arbor Day they are encouraging Mordenites to plant a tree over the weekend.

Check out the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca



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D-Day: The politics involved in how war should be memorialized and remembered

By Geoffrey Bird

Villages and towns along the Normandy coast will fill with visitors this week to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6. Flags will fly to welcome and acknowledge those who fought in the Great Crusade. Over the summer, hundreds of commemorations will take place to mark 80 days of battle.

While not the only contribution by Canadian service men and women, D-Day takes a prominent place in Canada's cultural memory of the Second World War.

As a researcher of war heritage, I have observed and participated in commemorations in Normandy over the years. My focus has been on how the region, as a memorialized landscape of war, is managed and interpreted. I am also interested in the meaning people draw from the histories and stories told at these sites of memory.

The politics of remembrance

The politics of remembrance refers to the many voices engaged in how war and the fallen should

be memorialized and remembered — from the challenges and opportunities associated with memorial design, speeches by heads of state and war art, to the interpretation of a war heritage site.

Politics of remembrance evolve with new interpretations of the past to suit present-day ideological needs. While expected, the politics of remembrance illustrate how the past can unify or divide people in the present. And the forces at play seem to be changing — three issues point to a new politics of remembrance.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED
D-Day: Canadian soldiers disembarking on Juno Beach during the Battle of Normandy.



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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 11

Continued from Previous Page

The passing of veterans: There is the inevitable passing of Second World War veterans. With less than 20,000 veterans remaining, in their passing we lose the voice of witnesses.

New generations will become entirely reliant on learning about the Second World War through various secondary means, like museums, schools, local commemorations and books and films. More funding to support communities to remember and commemorate is important.

Canadian war heritage overseas under threat: In the early 2000s, the Juno Beach Centre was established in Normandy, but it is currently under threat due to condo development. The centre's mandate was ambitious — to not only teach about what happened in Normandy and Canada's wartime involvement, but of Canada as a nation.

Veterans realized the importance of a commemorative hub in Europe for Canada's Second World War story. That vision, and

the centre itself, warrants a national effort to protect and preserve this cornerstone of Canadian heritage overseas.

A moral obligation to remember
Inherent in the politics of remembrance is the belief among many that there is a moral obligation to remember.

The meaning of remembrance is open to interpretation because each person's experience with and connections to war, military and civilian, are different.

Remembrance for the post-veteran generations involves learning about history and trying to comprehend the what, how and why remembering is relevant today. Visiting sites of war memory, such as Normandy, assist in gaining new perspectives while acknowledging that remembrance is also a journey to imagine the past and its context.

Standing in the footsteps of soldiers triggers many reflections, including on the violence of war, responsibility, camaraderie, sacrifice, liberation and freedom. People often think about what they would do, as hard as it is to imagine.

Geoffrey Bird is a Professor of war heritage, memory and culture, Royal Roads University

GVC YIP grants \$2,800 to four local non-profits

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy program wrapped up a busy year by handing out its 2023 grants last week.

The small but dedicated group of Winkler high school students raised enough funds, when coupled with matching funds from the Winkler Community Foundation, to gift out \$2,800.

"The goal of GVC's Youth in Philanthropy is to encourage others and challenge ourselves to do good through educating, volunteering, and fundraising," shared Gr. 11 student and two-year YIP member Jade Hart.

"Educating is simply about becoming more aware of the needs around us," she continued. "Volunteering your time is a great way to help others, meet new people, and participate in your community."

"Fundraising is our way to give back to organizations in our community that are working to help others."

Grants included \$400 to the Winkler Day Care Centre so its can purchase books for its library, \$400 to the Salem Foundation for resources for the care home's activity centre, \$1,000 to the Winkler Family Resource Centre in support of its free early childhood ed-

ucation programming, and \$1,000 to the Central Station Community Centre to help purchase dash cams for its volunteer drivers.

YIP also spent time this spring collecting pet food, toys, and other supplies on behalf of the Pembina Valley Humane Society. The haul was slated to be dropped off at the regional animal shelter soon.

Representatives from the grant recipient organizations sung the students' praises and expressed gratitude for their support.

The day care is eager to purchase new books on "inclusion and empathy and science, because our children love to learn," said executive director Ang Nickel, "so we want to give them lots of tools to be able to do that."

Salem Home's Alana Thiessen explained they'll be using their grant to beef up their volunteer resource centre with activities designed to be used by residents with dementia.

"The money from this grant is going to be used for specialty dementia care games that will make it very easy for volunteers and for the residents to make connections," she said, thanking the students for their hard work in raising funds and selecting such a varied group of grant recipients. "It's

Continued on page 21

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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Garden Valley Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy group presented its 2023 grants to representatives from the Winkler Day Care, Salem Home, Winkler Family Resource Centre, and Central Station last week.

Vance Nevada reflects on 30 years of wrestling

By Lorne Stelmach

A Manitoba born professional wrestler is set to bring his career to an end, but Vance Nevada is hitting the ring for one last tour.

Nevada, who was born Vern May in Souris, returns to the keystone province this month for a four-stop commitment which has a dual agenda that includes promoting his latest book *(Un)Controlled Chaos*, an encyclopedic reference of pro wrestling history in Canada.

The tour also commemorates his 30-year career milestone and will mark his final in-ring appearances in Manitoba before he retires later this year.

Stepping out of the ring for good wasn't a difficult decision for Nevada.

"When you get up from the mat after being body-slammed and drop kicked, you realize that this was much more fun in my 20s," he said in advance of his stop in Morden June 8 with Canadian Wrestling's Elite Cruel Summer Tour. "And my recovery time is much longer. I had a match in Prince George recently, and my shoulder was still suffering.

"I definitely am bearing the scars of it ... but being able to transition out of an active in-ring role, I would say I'm pretty fortunate in that many wrestlers don't get the opportunity to go out the way they want to, and I'm going to be able to do so pretty much intact."

Having spent most of his three decades in professional wrestling's squared circle as a villain, the man known as Mr. Beefy Goodness, Nevada hasn't necessarily endeared himself with the fans.

Behind the scenes, however, he has become one of the sport's most respected historians and

mentors to a generation of emerging talents.

His book *(Un)Controlled Chaos* takes a deep dive into the betrayals, backstage conflict, court room showdowns, and the broken nose of a future Canadian prime minister in addition to the mayhem that has played out between the ropes.

His access as a wrestler offers a unique insight into the critical turning points of an industry that has often been much maligned.

This work—his third book—has been well received by the wrestling community and has been among the top selling wrestling titles in Amazon in recent months.

Now 47, Nevada recognizes the sport is one for young men and knew it was time to take his final bow.

A lower back spinal fusion, a fully torn ACL ligament, and a degeneration of the vertebrae in his neck are all contributing factors in wrapping up a career that has included more than 1,600 matches and 46 championships—an all-time Canadian record.

"It's time to close this chapter," says Nevada, who added he is glad to be able to make a final go of it in his home province. These days he calls Wetaskiwin, Alberta home.

"Manitoba is where I first discovered professional wrestling and learned the ropes, literally. I still have a lot of strong support there and I am looking forward to visiting in June and reconnecting with old friends and colleagues."

He recalled first being drawn to wrestling at age 10 because of the way wrestlers would act and talk, especially the so-called bad guys.

"They say things that are over the top ... particularly the villains would say things that are so outrageous," Nevada said. "For me, the first villain who really drew me in was Paul 'Mr. Wonderful' Orndorff and the things he would say about Hulk Hogan."

There were many standout characters at the time, he added, with people like Rowdy Roddy Piper, who was also born and raised in Manitoba.

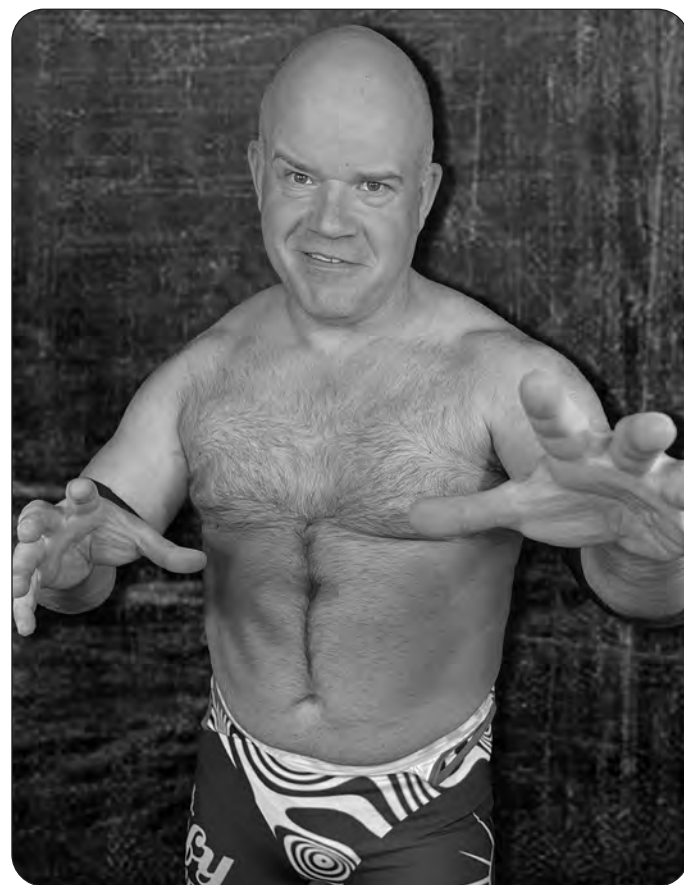
It was another Manitoba connection then that became a pivotal moment for him. He was doodling a wrestling scene in high school when a classmate told him about a cousin who was a wrestler by the name of Chi Chi Cruz. Nevada knew Cruz lived in Los Angeles, but was blown away to learn he was originally from Hartney, Manitoba.

"In that moment, all of a sudden this idea that you could actually become a wrestler became a real goal."

He came to love the opportunities that wrestling afforded him, even the bad as well as the good. For example, he recalled a winter tour on the ice roads to northern Manitoba, where some communities didn't have hotels so he may have been in a sleeping bag in the gymnasium.

"I think the industry is very unique, and some of the things we experience, for the average person, it would be why would you ever want to do that," said Nevada.

"But over the course of that, pretty rough conditions, you also get to see first hand a lot



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Vance Nevada, a.k.a. Mr. Beefy Goodness, is wrapping up his 30-year career as a wrestler this year by taking part in Canadian Wrestling Elite's Cruel Summer Tour, which is in Morden June 8.

more of the country than most people will ever see," he added. "There's also the camaraderie you build when you're sharing those experiences with others from all parts of the world. It's really an unbreakable bond."

He sees a number of factors coming into play in terms of the appeal of professional wrestling.

"First of all, there's the unpredictability of what we do in the ring ... doing the types of things we're doing and taking the types of risk that we take all in the name of show business," he said. "You're engagement and your participation as a fan also has an influence on how the evening is going to play out."

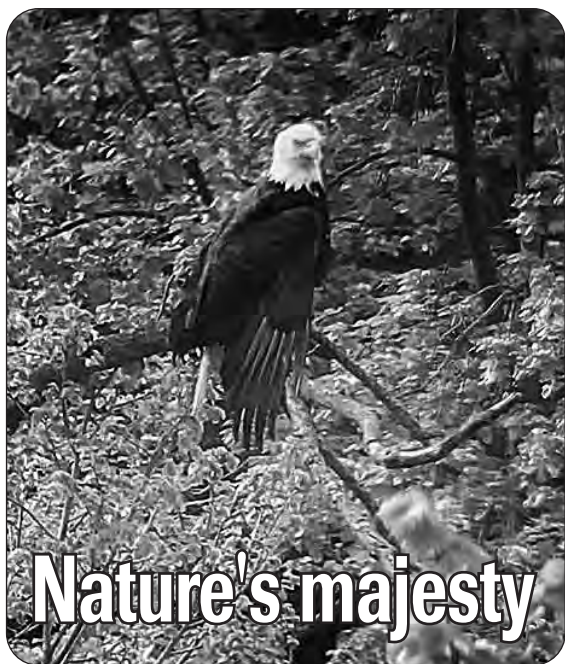
And he added it does seem to have more appeal now in many smaller centres.

"In the bigger cities, there's so much competition for the entertainment dollar ... when you get into the rural markets, you might be fortunate to have a movie theatre, but the opportunities for live entertainment are few and far between," he suggested.

"The numbers that we're seeing now for independent wrestling across Canada, particularly across western Canada, are phenomenal. It's great to get into those communities."

The Winnipeg-based CWE tour also includes stops in Neepawa, Winnipeg, and Souris. For Nevada, these appearances are sandwiched between campaigns to Prince Edward Island at the end of May and Vancouver Island at the end of June.

In Morden, local wrestling fans can enjoy a night of wrestling action headlined by WWE alumni 'The Masterpiece' Chris Masters, CWE champion 'The Zombie Killer' MENTALLO and two time CWE tag team champion Sammy Peppers. Advance tickets are available at Giant Tiger or online at cwetickets.com,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Morden's Peter Hildebrand snapped this photo recently of a Bald Eagle from his Connor Hill Drive home. "We were celebrating a birthday with good food and family when this beautiful eagle graced us with its presence, which was an extra blessing and a gift for my wife, who is an avid bird watcher," he shared.

NPC esthetics students offering father-daughter mini-manicures

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate esthetics students are hosting a special father-daughter charity night to mark Father's Day this month.

On Tuesday, June 6, from 4-8 p.m., the Winkler high school invites dads and daughters to stop by for mini manicures (nail shaping, massage, and regular nail polish).

"To celebrate Father's Day, we've decided to open up the school and provide services," says Gr. 12 student Emma Nickel. "I think it's going to be a fun little event. We haven't been able to have something like this in awhile."

The evening will not only give NPC students the chance to show off their skills but also offer a unique father-daughter bonding experience, adds teacher Brenda Richer.

"We've had fathers in the past ask if they can come do things with their daughters here, but a lot of them are working, so this way they can come in the evening," she says. The school's nail salon usually offers its services during the school day.

"This is the biggest class I've had since this program opened, so I have a lot of eager students wanting to do an actual salon day," Richer notes.

Admission is \$5 per person, with proceeds going to the Central Station Community Centre.

"They have been supporting the entire community for years, so we thought it would be great to give back to them," Richer says.

Appointments can be booked by calling 204-325-9708. Walk-ins are also welcome. The event is open to all ages.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

"It's really great to be able to give back"

From Pg. 19

very encouraging to see them giving back to the community across the generations."

The WFRC's grant is being used specifically in support of their Growing Up Green pre-school program.

"It's an outside program, getting kids outside," explained director Chantal Human, adding the grant comes at a timely moment because "our numbers are through the roof right now, so to be able to provide another program will be very beneficial."

Central Station is using its funds to improve safety for participants in its transportation program, which offers rides to people in need throughout the community.

"For the safety of our drivers and our clients, we thought it was very important to have dash cams in the vehicle," executive director Bev Wiebe said, explaining the YIP funds will pay for two devices.

Hart and fellow YIP member Garrett Hildebrand, Gr. 12, shared it was a challenging year for the student group.

"It's been a little bit harder this year, just because we've had lower numbers," Hart said. "But it's been fan-

tastic otherwise. We did a lot of the programs we did last year again, and they were even better this year."

That included collecting donations for the local food bank, volunteering at the Thanks for Giving charity run, and making and putting up awareness posters around the topic of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"We are trying to ensure that the next generation is interested in community involvement and is focusing on helping with local charities and organizations," said Hildebrand, who came on board midway through the year after YIP put a call out for help with the school's Christmas artisan market.

Deciding where their grant dollars were going to go was another challenge for the group, he noted. They try to support projects that will have a wide impact in the community.

"It's always a hard decision just because everybody's wanting to use the money for a good cause," Hildebrand said. "But I'm glad we could get a good mix of different charities."

"I'm really glad we had these specific organizations because I know a lot of them have had an impact in my life," added Hart. "It's really great to be able to give back."



New four-way stop on Stephen St.

The City of Morden last week announced the installation of stop signs at the corner of Stephen and 7th St., turning the busy intersection into a four-way stop. "This decision was made after careful consideration of the potential benefits and impact on the community," the City said in a released statement. "The City of Morden is committed to ensuring the safety of all its residents and visitors, and this decision is just one example of that commitment." The signs went up last Wednesday.

CITY OF MORDEN PHOTO

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204-324-6400

PROPERTY ONE: Commercial Shop in Plum Coulee

- Roll 401500.000
- 295 Main Ave, Plum Coulee, Manitoba
- Lot B+C Plan 69887 in the NE 2-3-3W
- Certificate of Title 3184917/4
- Zoned CN - Commercial Neighbourhood Zone

PARCEL TWO: Commercial Shop in Plum Coulee

- Roll 197100.000
- 12068 RD 13NW
- Part of NE 1-3-3W
- Certificate of Title 3052567/4
- Zoned RR - Rural Residential Zone

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller. Each property is sold "as is where is".
2. Tenders must be received at or before 5:00 pm on June 15, 2023.
3. Each tender must be accompanied by a \$5,000.00 deposit cheque payable to GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT LAW OFFICE. Deposit cheques accompanying unsuccessful bids will be returned following completion of a binding offer to purchase with the successful bidder.
4. The Purchaser(s) shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
5. Tenders may be submitted for one or both parcels. Tenders for both parcels must set out the price for each parcel separately and be available for acceptance of each parcel separately.
6. Each property is subject to a minimum bid.
7. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale with a closing date of July 12, 2023 (the "Closing Date").
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the Closing Date. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
4. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2023.

To book an appointment to view or inspect the property, contact the Municipality of Rhineland at (204) 324-7510, attention: Craig Smiley.

For further information about the tendering process, contact:

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Public Notice Regarding a Local Improvement Plan - By-Law No. 2303-23 for the Water Treatment Plant

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 13th day of June, 2023 at 6.30 p.m. to the present the following local improvement plan:

Local Improvement Plan No. 42:

The City of Winkler water treatment plant expansion and upgrade will increase plant capacity from ~42L/s to ~113L/s. This will be accomplished by replacing the treatment process with more greensand filtration and two new reverse osmosis (RO) trains with higher recovery rates. The objective is to increase RO recovery from the current 70% to at least 90%. The expansion will also include a new 1.4ML above-ground glass lined storage tank that will match the existing tank in dimensions and features. Estimated construction cost of the WTP is \$13,000,000, less \$5,000,000 from Provincial funding. The net amount estimated to be \$8,000,000 to be financed over a period of fifteen (15) years at an estimated interest rate of 8%. The annual maintenance cost associated with the local improvement proposed herein will be covered under the City of Winkler Utility Operating Fund's annual budget. The annual payment of \$934,636.36. will be raised by the portioned value of all assessable property in the City of Winkler as a mill rate.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager, at 185 main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential ratepayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the local improvement plan.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the local improvement plan are available at the City of Winkler office at 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, and on the municipal website at www.cityofwinkler.ca.

Dated at the City of Winkler this 12th day of May, 2023, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Jody Penner
City Manager
City of Winkler
204-325-9524

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Creditor Notice

IN THE MATTER of the estate of James Michael Cochrane. All claims against the above estate must be sent to the undersigned at: 390E 1st Street, Winkler, MB R6W 2R6 on or before the 12th day of July, 2023.

Dated at the City of Winkler in Manitoba, this 24th day of May, 2023.

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Chief Administrative Officer

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris, with the support of Way To Go Consulting Inc., is seeking an individual that will bring strong leadership skills to this position.

Information on the position is available at rmofmorris.ca. Individuals interested in this position should send a resume and cover letter by email to Ernie Epp, Way To Go Consulting Inc., at ernie.epp@waytogoconsultinginc.ca indicating "Morris" in the subject line.

The selection committee intends to review applications as early as June 16, 2023, however, applications may continue to be accepted until the right candidate is found.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

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- Degrade
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- Polyurethane fabric
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- Vegetarians avoid it
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- Soviet Socialist Republic
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- Comforts
- Needed for yoga
- Ands/___
- South Dakota
- Printing system
- Dramatic works set to music
- Highest points
- Social division
- Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

- Hill or rocky peak

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- Initial public offering
- Type of light
- Test
- Flaky coverings
- Former NFLer Newton
- Part of the eye
- Roman god of the underworld
- Negative
- Indiana pro basketball player
- Replaces lost tissue
- Denotes one from whom title is taken
- Historic college hoops tournament
- Hut by a swimming pool
- Defunct European monetary unit
- Feeds on insects
- Adult male
- Melancholic
- Sheets of glass

- Slang for famous person
- Not good
- "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- The "World" is one
- Used to make guacamole
- Midway between south and southwest
- Wet dirt
- Ancient Egyptian name
- Set of four
- Strips
- Wife
- More dried-up
- Socially inept person
- Clusters on fern fronds
- Bar bill
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- Very important person
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Winkler, MB R6W 4B4

EMAIL: Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca



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IN MEMORIAM



Helena Friesen April 1943 – June 3, 2021 Gone but not forgotten, In our thoughts every day.
-Bill and family

IN MEMORIAM



John Dueck August 28, 1941 - May 30, 2022
We watched you suffer, we watched you sigh. But all we could do, was just stand by. When the time came, we suffered too, For you never deserved what you went through. God took your hand, and we had to part, He eased your pain, but broke our hearts. If you could have spoken, before you died, These are the words you would have replied, "This life for me, has truly passed, I have loved you all, to the very last. Weep not for me, but courage take, And love one another, for my sake."
-Lovingly remembered by wife Nettie and family

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Discovery Trails School & Divisional Catchment Areas

Community Information Meeting

The Western School Division Board of Trustees invites the public to a community meeting on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:00pm** in the Gymnasium at Minnewasta School (1 Academy Drive, Morden). Trustees will share information about the planned configuration for Discovery Trails School, anticipated to open in September, 2024. As well, details of divisional catchment changes to begin in the 2024-25 school year will be presented.

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OBITUARY



**John H Dyck
1930 - 2023**

It is with sadness that we share the passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, John H. Dyck on May 20, 2023 at the age of 93 at Tabor Home in Morden, MB.

Dad was born south of Morden, the 3rd of eight children born to Henry H. and Helena Dyck. Life was not easy during the great depression of the 1930's but the family persevered. When Dad was young, his family moved to a farm in the Arden area. Dad completed Grade 8 and helped out on the family farm before heading out to make his own mark. He married Mary Klassen and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2018. They raised two sons and two daughters while living in Winnipeg and Neepawa. Dad worked in Winnipeg and Prince George, BC before leasing a Texaco gas station in Winnipeg. In 1963, Mom and Dad bought and operated the Neepawa Motel. They owned a gas station-carwash in Neepawa and a hobby grain farm west of Eden. Dad played the violin, guitar and sang with a number of music groups; got his private pilot's licence in the mid-60's; enjoyed restoring old John Deere tractors; custom combining and hunting. They also operated and started up the very successful Yellowhead Nursery in north-end Neepawa from 1977 to 1986. In retirement they moved to Morden in 1988. They wintered in Arizona for over 20 years while living in Morden and then moved to Winkler in 2008. Dad lived at Homestead South in Morden and moved to Tabor Home in December 2021. Mom and Dad worked hard from their early years until retirement. Mom was always the rock of the family. Dad cared for Mom as health issues took their toll on her late in life and she moved to Salem Home in Winkler, MB. Dad was baptised and accepted the Lord, Jesus Christ as a young adult in the Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Dad and Mom were regular attendees at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church for many years.

John is survived by four children: Eric (Liliane), Valerie (Adrian), Greta and Gerry (Heidi); seven grandchildren: Randall, Tyler, Dinah, Pamela, Kevin, Corinne and Quinn as well as six great grandchildren: Brianna, Samantha, Anabel, Charlie, Nola, and Connor; one sister, Marian; four brothers-in-law, six sisters-in-law as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mary (2018); father, Henry H. (1968); mother, Helena (1992); brothers, Donald (1993), Henry (2015) and Jake (2021); sisters, Betty (2016), Helen (2018) and Shirley (2022); seven brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law.

Funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment at Chapel Cemetery, Morden.

Thanks to all the caregivers at Southern Health Home Care, Homestead South and Tabor Home for providing Dad with great care, support and understanding whenever needed.

May you rest in peace, thanks for being our Dad, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" Psalm 23:4

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OBITUARY



**Otto P Hamm
1931 - 2023**

It is with great sadness and tender care that the family of Otto Hamm announces his passing on Friday, May 19, 2023 at the age of 91.

Otto was born in Neubergthal, Manitoba on July 6, 1931 to Peter W and Anna A Hamm. Otto and his future wife, Susan were both baptized on May 13, 1951 in the Rudnerweider Church in Neubergthal. Two years later Otto married Susan Unger of Edenburg, Manitoba on June 28, 1953 and they shared almost 70 years together. They often spoke of their deep gratitude to God for this gift of a long-shared life in God's care. Otto was a man of strong faith, a steadfast supporter of the church and a firm believer in God's extravagant love. And he was Susan's fiercest protector, supporter and steadfast partner through every joy and sorrow of their life together. Otto was always either meeting old friends or making new friends everywhere he went. From young until old, he was intrigued with new things, new ideas, new stories, new people and the world around him. Otto got his first office job starting at Red River Valley Mutual Insurance on December 1, 1954. On December 1, 1960 he started as Administrator of the Altona Hospital. On December 1, 1967 he started as Administrator of the Morden Hospital. And on December 1, 1990 he officially retired.

Otto was predeceased by his parents and all three of his siblings: Willie (1927), John (2003) and Anne (2017), many sisters and brothers-in-law and by his son-in-law, Ken Petkau on May 10, 2023.

Cherishing his memory are his wife, Susan; children: Linda, Loretta (Gord), and Les (Eileen); grandchildren: Andrea (Kevin), Amy (Jon), Adam (Jayda), Janaya (Bob), Kristy (Jason), Kaylee (Bobby), Simon (Emma), and Ellis; and great-grandchildren: Jady, Rylee, Noah, Essa, Ellie, Magnolia, Ivan, Cooper, Theo, Eli, Grady, and Maila.

Service for Otto Hamm was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden.

We wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Kevin Earl and the amazing staff at the Red River Valley Lodge for their wonderful care and kindness.

Donations may be made in Otto's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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



OBITUARY



**Mildred Esther (Ketler) Hildebrand
(nee Gruener)
1937 - 2023**

Mildred Hildebrand, 86 years of Winkler, MB passed away on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

She was born on May, 10, 1937 in Winkler, Manitoba to Otto and Ida (nee Rietze) Gruener.

Mildred joined the Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler at an early age. Mildred began her employment as a teacher at Marquette, MB. She then moved to Toronto where she worked as a bank teller, and convenience store clerk. When she returned back to Manitoba, Mildred worked as a substitute teacher at a Country School, then at Gladstone/Economy Foods until her retirement in 2000. After retirement Mildred served in the community running the Boundary Trails Gift Shop for over 15 years, as well as serving at the Trinity Lutheran Church until her passing.

Mildred is survived by her two daughters, Caroline (Darryl Klatt), Janice (James Gillis) and two sons, Mike (Karen Ketler), Doug (Kamalita Ketler); her grandchildren, Jeremy, Jordan, Anthony, Ezabella, Chloe, Conner and LaDawn; great-grandchildren, Levi, Emersyn and Brynlee. She is also survived by her two sisters, Lorraine Mantey, Marie Doell; two brothers, Richard (Louise Gruener), Don (Anita Gruener); sisters-in-law, Viola Suderman, Irene Braun, Eva (Pete Klassen), and brother-in-law, Alvin (Doreen Hildebrand) and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She was predeceased in death by her two husbands, Menno Ketler, and Bill Hildebrand; one sister, nine brothers-in-law, six sisters-in-law, four nephews and one niece.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2023 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler with interment at Winkler Cemetery.

The family wishes to extend a very special thank you to all the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for the wonderful and thoughtful care they provided Mildred.

If friends so desire and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mildred's memory to the Trinity Lutheran Church and CancerCare Manitoba.

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getinformed

Neubergthol hosting a picnic and games day this weekend

Day includes opening of the Village Sports exhibit

By Lori Penner

The days of one-room schoolhouses and old-fashioned community picnics may be far behind us, but the Village of Neubergthol is seeking to bring all of that sweet nostalgia back with their Neubergthol Picnic & Games event.

Organized by the Neubergthol Heritage Foundation (NHF) in conjunction with the curatorial committee, the event is a nod to the good old days when entire communities would come out to watch sports teams compete, picnic together, and celebrate the end of the school year.

The fun takes place on Saturday, June 3 at the Neubergthol Commons, near the site of the community's original baseball diamonds, where the NB Vets faced teams from surrounding communities in the 1950s and '60s.

The first event begins at 2 p.m. with some traditional picnic games. This will include things like three-legged races, a wheelbarrow race, and many other beloved activities from long ago.

NHF member Marilyn Houser Hamm says it's really a whole village experience.

"We looked at sports in the schools

back then, and how all that fierce and friendly competition often culminated at the village picnic. So, this is the experience we're trying to recreate."

Following the games there will be an official opening of the Village Sports exhibit in the historic Bergthol School building.

Sport in Neubergthol dates back to the early 1900s, when some of the earliest hockey players practised on frozen ponds, puddles and ditches. And from the school teams came competition with other villages, leading to official teams well into the 1960s.

The display will feature many of the early uniforms and jerseys and other interesting sports memorabilia.

"Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this interesting and nostalgic display from the life and times of Neubergthol at play," says prime curator Pauline Villeneuve.

She shares how the idea to create an actual exhibit was sparked when she discovered many of the items stored in the Friesen Housebarn.

"It occurred to me that these truly had sentimental and historical value and would bring back a lot of memories for anyone who had roots in the Neubergthol, or any of these other old villages for that matter."

The collection of memorabilia and the stories that go with them soon began. Realizing that many of the original team members have already passed made the urgency to create an exhibit even stronger.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Neubergthol curatorial committee members Pauline Villeneuve and Marilyn Houser Hamm with some of the sports memorabilia that will be on display at a special exhibit in the Bergthol School building in the Village of Neubergthol. Left: Among the teams celebrated by the exhibit are the NB Vets, which played in the 1950s and '60s.

"It was an emotional trip down memory lane for me, since my dad, Johnny Derksen, was the founder of the NB Vets," Villeneuve shares.

Houser Hamm adds that while this exhibit tells the unique story about Neubergthol sports, it really is part of a bigger story of villages all over the prairies.

"These teams played one another in fierce competitions, and really didn't have the wherewithal to just up and leave the village any time. They didn't have electronics. Some didn't even have cars. They often piled into a truck to get to games with other villages. It wasn't what we have now, where we're entertained by so many facets of life. They had each other, and they played. And we watched and we cheered them on."

This exhibit will be open to the public until the end of September.

Following the exhibit opening, visitors are invited to gather for faspas, another traditional treat, at 4 p.m. Attendees can bring their own sandwiches, pickles, and desserts. Watermelon will be provided.

At 5 p.m., attendees of all ages are welcome to join in a friendly game of baseball.

And if that isn't enough, stick around for a live concert by Nick of Time at the Commons Barn, followed by a bonfire and a wiener roast.

"Everyone is welcome to join us in this traditional summer celebration," Houser Hamm says. "It's a wonderful way to start your summer."

"IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO START YOUR SUMMER."



NB Vets baseball team championship, 1963. Back: Bill Derksen, Reine Schwartz, Jerry Rempel, Ken Braun, Dennis Friesen, Jake Driedger, and Bill Martens. Front: Lawrence Kehler, Garry Braun, John Derksen (coach), Johnny Martens, Menno H. Friesen, Ray Harder, and Bradley Braun

JUNE

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Prioritize your well-being

Men, it's never too late to take control of your health!



Did you know that about 70 per cent of the chronic health conditions affecting Canadian men are caused by lifestyle? Men must pay close attention to their lifestyle habits and stress levels to live a long and healthy life. Organized by the Canadian Men's Health Foundation (CMHF), Men's Health Month invites men of all ages to participate in the Move for Your Mental Health event.

BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Health professionals recommend engaging in 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every week. For example, activities like walking, running, swimming and gardening can positively impact your physical and mental well-being.

Moreover, physical activity has been shown to reduce symptoms of depression and chase away negative thoughts. Moving your body also reduces pain and stress by stimulating the neurotransmitters that release cortisol and endorphins.

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

It's normal to occasionally experience symptoms of anxiety or depression, like difficulty concentrating and low energy. However, if these feelings become overwhelming, don't be afraid to seek help.

The CMHF has a self-assessment tool to help you determine whether chronic stress, anxiety or depression are affecting your health. This resource can be found in the MindFit Toolkit

on the CMHF website. This tool shouldn't be used as a substitute for professional medical advice.

Visit menshealthfoundation.ca to learn more about Men's Health Month and donate to show your support and help the men you love live healthier lives.

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