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VOLUME 14 EDITION 25

The Winkler Morden

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

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LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

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



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June 17 Reinlander Church Fundraiser Auction, Rosenfeld

June 22 *Timed-Online* Lonnie Friesen Farm Retirement Auction, Rosenort

June 23 Live large household & contracting tools for Jon & Mary Krahn 10 Parkmeadow Dr, Winkler

June 24 *Live 10 am*, Large yard, household & shop auction, Schanzenfeld, 2 miles S of Winkler on Hwy. 32

June 26 Timed on-line farm auction for Dudgeon Farms, 3W of Darlingford on Hwy 3, & 1N on mile 43

June 27 *Live* Farm retirement for Les Case 3 south of Oakville & 6 west on mile 60

June 29 Timed on-line Farm Estate for the late Guy Bruneau, 4 miles north of St Claude on Hwy 240.





Together we showed that hate has no place in the Pembina Valley. We can't wait to see you next year!



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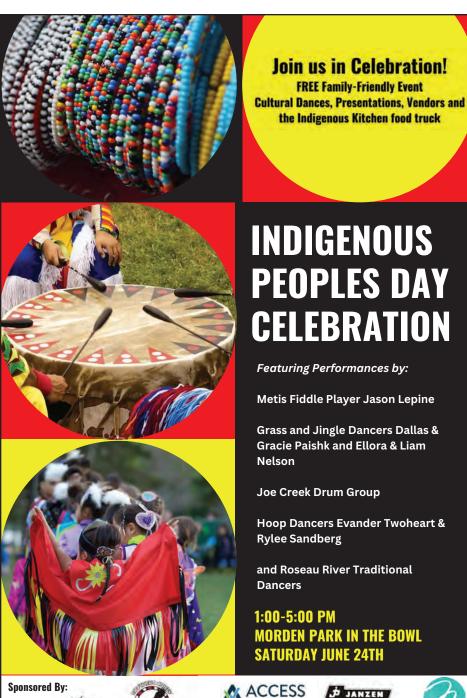
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Environmental Approvals Branch Manitoba Conservation and Climate 1007 Century Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOIC

Morden residents were encouraged to shop locally last week with the return of the Morden Chamber of Commerce's Krazy Dayz promotion. It included a barbecue lunch in the downtown plaza on Saturday, with proceeds to be donated to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation. "It was nice to see some activity downtown," said executive director Clare Agnew, who noted they'll be reaching out to participating businesses for feedback about how the first Krazy Dayz in nearly 30 years went, and whether it should become an annual event once again.



DECOR

Branden Leslie wins Portage-Lisgar seat

Conservatives earn nearly 65 per cent of the vote

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Conservative Party of Canada candidate Branden Leslie won the Portage-Lisgar election by a landslide Monday night.

At press time, Elections Canada's preliminary results (with one of the 248 polling stations still to report) had Leslie earning 64.9 per cent (20,215 votes) of the vote in the byelection to see who would replace Conservative Candice Bergen as the riding's representative on Parliament Hill.

The Portage la Prairie native's nearest competitor was Quebecer Max Bernier of the People's Party of Canada, who earned 5,349 votes (17.2 per

Rounding out the results was Liberal candidate Kerry Smith (2,660 votes, 8.5 per cent), the New Democratic Party's Lisa Tessier-Burch (2,204 votes, 7.1 per cent), and Nicholas Geddert of the Green Party of Canada (699 votes, 2.2 per cent of the vote). Voter turnout was about 45 per cent of registered voters.

Reached by phone late Monday night, Leslie reflected on the responsibility that has been placed before him.

"It just fills me with such immense pride to be chosen by voters to represent them and be a strong Conservative voice in Ottawa," he said. "And it's also extremely humbling, the great weight that has been placed upon me to represent our community's values, our needs.

"Tonight is a big night. It's a time to pause for victory. The real work begins tomorrow, and I am excited to get into the actual job fighting for our communities."

Leslie didn't plan to waste any time getting to work—he was slated to fly to Ottawa Wednesday to take part in the final Conservative caucus meeting before Parliament breaks for the

"And then I'll be back here to start setting things up locally, making sure we have the constituent services continuing to run effectively, making sure that part of the MP office is consistent," he said. "Then I plan to reach out to RMs, councils, reeves, and city councils and just sit down with their agenda ... have them tell me what I need to know, because this ultimately is about taking our voice to Ottawa."

Leslie noted it's clear the Conserva-

tive message resonated with voters.

"Overall, I'm very proud of the campaign we ran. We worked extremely hard. We took nothing for granted. We had a massive team of volunteers that knocked on over 30,000 doors across this riding in towns big and small to make sure that we got our common-sense Conservative message

"It was very clear that there was a high level of excitement for our leader Pierre Poilievre and a strong desire to fire [Liberal Prime Minister] Justin Trudeau."



Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie



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WORK & WESTERN

Winkler council to borrow \$8M for water treatment plant expansion

By Ashleigh Viveiros

At its meeting last week, Winkler city council took the next step in its plan to upgrade and expand the community's water treatment plant.

Council gave first reading to a local improvement bylaw that will allow it to borrow \$8 million for its share of the \$13 million project. The Manitoba Water Services Board is chipping in \$5

"This is a project that is making sure we're prepared for the future," Mayor Henry Siemens said after the meeting.

"Everything that we're planning out for now, we're looking to plan for a population of 25,000 people."

Winkler currently has a population of about 14,000 and is growing by several hundred people a year. It could take us 20 years to reach 25,000, but council wants to ensure the infrastructure is in place far sooner so it's not an impediment to growth.

This project will increase the capacity of the water treatment plant in the north end of town significantly.

Continued on page 5



HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm **Saturday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm







SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Headlining the 2023 Morden Corn and Apple Festival this year is rock band Sloan (above) Saturday night and the Epic Eagles Tribute band (right) on the Friday.

Winkler Pharmacy

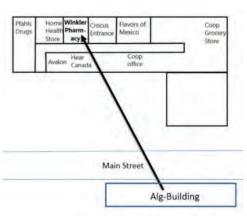


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Sloan, Eagles tribute band to headline Corn & Apple

Ecoline Crush to open for Sloan

By Lorne Stelmach

The Corn and Apple Festival is offering a double bill of 1990s alternative-indie rock acts as the headline show this summer.

The Saturday night concert featuring Sloan as well as an opening performance by Econoline Crush could generate some real buzz for the festival, executive director Tim Hodge suggested after making the announcement last Friday.

The evening before will be an always-popular country night featuring a headline performance by Canada's premier Eagles tribute act Epic Eagles.

"This lineup that we have this year for headliners is just absolutely fantastic. We are thrilled to be featuring so much amazing Canadian talent," Hodge said. "We have been working hard to bring great headliners to the festival, and the pairing of Econoline Crush opening for Sloan is going to make for an unforgettable night."

It was very much influenced by the tremendous response the festival received last year in its first year back post-pandemic, he added.

"It kind of stems from what we did

last year ... the board and the festival made the decision to go big with our main stage entertainment, sort of as a celebration of the festival returning and being more normal.

"We had Big Wreck, and the response we got to moving to a '90s rock group, especially one of that calibre, was remarkable. We were expecting quite a bit of buzz about Big Wreck last year, but frankly we were blown away by the response.

"So we knew we had made a good choice last year and wanted to keep it going ... looking for headliners this year, Sloan was an obvious choice—a high energy, well-known popular band from a similar time frame," he continued. "When the opportunity presented itself to have a performance by Econoline Crush before Sloan, we knew that would take it even beyond last year.

"It opens up so many more options," said Hodge, noting the depth of '90s bands that are available compared to the older classic rock acts that had long been a staple. "Those groups are becoming fewer and far between now."

Sloan is a Canadian rock band that has been entertaining audiences for over two decades with hits such as Money City Maniacs, Underwhelmed, and The Good in Everyone.

Continued on page 5





> WATER PLANT UPGRADES, FROM PG. 3

"At our current plant, we're able to treat 42 litres per second," Siemens said. "When the upgrades are fully online, we'll be at 113 litres per second."

The facility will still be using a reverse osmosis system of treating the water, but the upgrades will increase its green sand filtration capacity, allowing it to successful treat a greater volume of brackish water coming up from the Winkler Aquifer.

"When we pull water out of the aguifer we have two licenses: one allows us to draw fresh water, the other allows us to draw brackish water," Siemens explained.

Right now, the treatment system is able to bring about 70 per cent of that brackish water up to drinkable standards (the rest is released into the wastewater system). With the upgrades, they hope to get that number up to 90 per cent.

It will be a much more efficient use of the water the community has access to, Siemens said, and also lessen the pressure on the wastewater treatment system.

The project also calls for the addition of a second 1.4 million litre aboveground water storage tank, similar to the one at the facility now.

When the Winkler Water Treatment Plant was built a decade ago, it was designed to accommodate future expansions. Siemens noted, however, this will necessitate moving the Winkler Dog Park, which is currently located right beside the plant. No firm decision has been made yet on where in town the park will reopen.

The hope is to have shovels in the ground on the expansion sometime this year.

SCRL RESPONDS

Also at the June 13 meeting, council received a response from the South Central Regional Library (SCRL).

Winkler city council earlier this spring asked the library to review its policies in light of complaints books in its collection contain inappropriate sexual content. Specifically, council requested the library consider the location of said books in terms of how accessible they are to children.

In its response, the SCRL board noted it has reviewed the three books it received formal complaints on as well as its policies pertaining to book complaints and its collection multiple times.

One book was moved to the young adult section as a result of these reviews. The other two remained where they were.

The board noted the library's col-

"[CURRENTLY] WE'RE **ABLE TO TREAT 42** LITRES PRE SECOND. WHEN THE UPGRADES ARE FULLY ONLINE, WE'LL BE AT 113 LITRES PER SECOND."

lections are constantly being monitored by trained professionals. The books in question, they stressed, are "award-winning titles and widely distributed across the world. They are educational materials."

"Following Cataloging Code of Ethics, moving books to another location is censorship and removing books is considered banning," the board said in the letter. "It is the responsibility of the parents to monitor their own children. They are required to do so in any other setting, and we expect it to be the same when they use our libraries."

The board also noted they have updated their patron borrowing agreement, which all patrons must read and agree to upon receiving or renewing a library card. This agreement refers to the patron responsibility and code of conduct policy which is posted in all library branches and states "the selection of books and materials is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian for their own child/children."

"Libraries are the caretakers of democracy and choice," the board stressed. "People may not always agree with the content or placement of a specific book, but they can choose to leave it on the shelf. It is a personal choice which should not be taken away by anyone."

Mayor Siemens said council has not drafted a formal response to the library's letter yet.

He voiced disappointment at SCRL's stance, noting council had hoped they would reconsider the location of sexually explicit books on its shelves, especially when it comes to the children's section.

"We were very careful out of the gate to be crystal clear that we had no intention of asking them to remove books," Siemens stressed. "Our thought was that maybe some books should be in different areas, and we asked them to look at [creating] policy towards that."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler's Water Treatment Plant will be expanded in the year ahead to increase capacity significantly.

> HEADLINERS, FROM PG. 4

The Juno award-winning group has a collection of over 250 songs and more than 30 singles with airplay on Canadian rock radio.

Econoline Crush formed in 1992 and released their breakthrough and ultimately platinum-selling album The Devil You Know in 1997. The band has toured with Alice Cooper and opened for KISS at Madison Square Garden. When The Devil Drives is the group's new album which releases later this year.

Epic Eagles provide a masterful presentation of the Eagles' music. Audiences can expect to be treated to a high energy show with the legacy sound of the Eagles and Don

"This is the premier Eagles tribute act in the nation," Hodge said. "Their harmonies are so tight, and their voices sound so much like the Eagles. It really is just a fantastic show."

Having the entertainment in place is the last piece of the puzzle for this summer's festival, Hodge noted, along with the return of the parade.

"Things are going really well. It's really the first time since 2019 that we're having our first full year to plan Corn and Apple," he said. "We can't wait to get going."

The Morden Corn and Apple Festival runs Aug. 26-28.



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

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS





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Nothing about us, without us

love the phrase "nothing about us. without us." As a concept it expresses a simple, elegant idea of involvement-no one gets to have a conversation about us. without us. No one gets to advocate for us, no one gets to propose solutions on our behalf, no one gets to work for us-without us.

At its core the principle drives allyship and seeks to avoid patronizing efforts, however well-meaning, by those people in positions of power who would like to implement initiatives to help or impact those with less power.

Part of the brilliance of this movement is the simplicity of its intent and philosophy. It says to us, for example, no amount of empathy or compassion will help you understand poverty if you have never been impoverished; no amount of empathy or compassion with help you understand Indigenous issues if you are not Indigenous; no amount of compassion or understanding will help you understand the



By Peter Cantelon

struggle of women or members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community if you are not a part of those communities. You get the idea.

If you really want to understand and design initiatives that help people in

poverty than you must involve people who are or have been in poverty.

The phrase is increasingly heard amongst people of colour, women, Indigenous peoples, and the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. In North America the phrase came into prominent use in the 1990s around advocacy for the disabled.

While the concept is being employed more and more often these days its history as an idea is ancient. The phrase "Nihil novi nisi commune consensus" for instance is the Latin title for a Polish constitutional act from 1505 which means "nothing new without the common consent.'

In this sense the proposal boils down to: "do not create laws and legislation that affect us without involving us" and shows us that, foundationally,

Continued on page 7

etters

DISAPPOINTED

We are writing to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding the hateful ad from the PPC that the *Voice* permitted to be published in the June 8th edition. This ad contains dangerous misinformation and uses inflammatory language like "mutilation" when referring to gender-affirming care and "predators" when referring to people in schools who are simply supporting 2SLGBTQIANB+ students. This has a very real impact on the wellbeing

and safety of the Rainbow commu-

Gender-affirming healthcare is lifesaving care with some of the lowest regret rates (0.3%). In comparison, knee replacement surgery has dissatisfaction rates of anywhere from 6-30%. A 2022 Lancet study done in the Netherlands found that 98% of trans youth who went through gender-affirming healthcare continue their treatment into adulthood. For younger children, transitioning can simply mean a haircut, different clothes, or a different name.

There are systems in-place for anyone who is interested in accessing gender-affirming care in Canada to ensure that they are making the best choice for themselves. To say that children are being "mutilated" is disrespectful of not only trans people and their families but also the doctors who are providing well researched and well respected medical procedures.

Conversion therapy was banned in Canada and in an increasing num-

Continued on page 7

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

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

ber of other countries around the world because of how harmful it is. To repeal the ban would go against more than 50 professional associations including the Canadian Association of Social Workers and Canadian Psychiatric Association, as well as the United Nations, World Health Organization, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, and Amnesty International.

> The Board of Pembina Valley Pride

SCHOOLS MUST BE SAFE AND **INCLUSIVE**

During election season, it can happen that the education system—including schools and school workers comes under attack for what, and how, students are taught. Although Manitoba's schools are provincially legislated and locally run by school boards, the current federal by-election is bringing attention to our local schools.

Garden Valley Teachers' Association is committed to speaking on behalf of members who are abiding by the Manitoba Human Rights Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act by working to prevent discrimination, harassment, and stereotyping in our schools. One of our goals is to "address broad societal issues that promote social justice, cooperation and understanding" (https://www. mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/06/ who-we-are/).

Our members' first professional responsibility is to our students. School must be a safe and inclusive space for students to learn. Education is a right to which students must have access. Manitoba Education acknowledges that students have the right to the removal of "barriers considered to impede equal access to educational programming and services", especially those who have "historically experienced social, political and economic disadvantage" (https://www.edu. gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/aep/human_rights.html). It is unreasonable that a negative light is now being cast upon educators for addressing these historic inequalities.

Manitoba Education's Framework for Learning's Vision is that "All Manitoba learners succeed, no matter where they live, their background, or their individual circumstances." Their "Guiding Principle: Equity" would have teachers "ensure that every Manitoban is valued and authentically represented in an equitable, socially just, anti-oppressive education system and, accordingly, a democratic society" (https://www.edu.gov. mb.ca/k12/cur/framework/docs/ frameworkforlear12ning_eng.pdf).

It is within this context and frame-

work that our teachers perform their work. We encourage eligible voters to vote, and to seek out candidates that support this work within public schools. Public schools fall under the jurisdiction of local school boards and provincial legislation; be mindful of those who are looking to weaponize this work as a federal issue.

> Joel Swaan, president, Garden Valley Teachers' Association

THANK YOU

I just read the column "Who do we want to be?" in the Voice today [Peter

Cantelon, June 15, Pg. 9].

Thank you for being so open about sensitive issues for so many people. I grew up in Balmoral, which is a small hamlet. It wasn't until I went to university where I encountered many wonderful people from all over.

We're all the same in more ways than some can see. More people need to see the whole picture rather than one issue to fester on.

Goodness, empathy, compassion and understanding are so important rather than undermining someone before you really know them.

> Joan Holliston, Morden

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, ad-

dress, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published. We do not print anonymous letters.

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

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

the idea is one that is rooted in democracy or democratic ideals.

It is possible to trace this thread back even to the Magna Carta (Great Charter) of 1215 England which limited the ability of British monarchs to abuse their authority. Frankly, as long as there have been people with differing levels of power this idea has existed.

I think the ideal is embedded in us. Even as children we would have moments where we would feel outraged that limits or ideas were imposed on us without our involvement—like when mum bought me a powder blue, polyester suit for school picture day. Had I been involved in that decision which so intimately impacted me, I might have chosen something different.

Honestly, any parent who has attempted to purchase their children clothing after they have reached a certain age is painfully aware of this concept (as are the kids).

Ultimately the concept is about recognizing the dignity inherent in all people. We do not (should not) get to make decisions about or discuss issues about others without their involvement and consent.

It's a good rule to try and live by because it requires us to be humble; it requires us to be interactive and relational. Ultimately, these are fantastic building blocks for healthy



Public Notice

You're Invited

to share your views about the rate application filed by Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2024 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.

For further details, please contact MPI at inquiries@mpi.mb.ca or visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than October 1, 2023.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Manitoba Public Utilities Board 400-330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4 Phone: 204-945-2638 Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

The Volce

Literacy learners celebrated at Regional Connections grad

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections literacy students stepped into the spotlight last week at the agency's first graduation ceremony in four years.

Students come to the program from all backgrounds, ages, and cultures. Some are newcomers to Canada, while others have lived here most of their lives. All made the decision to attend classes in Altona, Morden, or Winkler to upgrade their English reading and writing skills.

"We are here to celebrate literacy learners," said instructor Jaime Friesen-Pankratz, noting that while every single one of us is honing our literacy skills every day of our lives, these students have been very intentional in their efforts to improve

themselves. "Another way to refer to these classes could be upgrading classes. Many of our students' goals are to get a high school diploma."

Students who complete all three levels of training successfully receive a high school credit.

In the 2022-2023 program year, Regional Connections worked with 94 students across all three levels of the program.

Students work at their own pace, attending day or evening classes a few times a week as their schedules allow.

"The great thing about literacy classes is that we tend to become somewhat of a family," Friesen-Pankratz shared. "It's a wonderful feeling to be in class together and learning together."

Last week's ceremony celebrated the achievements of Tina Neufeld and Lisa Giesbrecht, who both received their Stage 1 certificates, and Margaret (Maggie) Ber-

gen and Sahra Salim, who earned their Stage 3 certificates to graduate from the program.

"I would like to encourage all new students to keep going and not to give up," Salim said, calling the literacy classes, which she has been a part of for the past few years, a life-changing experience. "You will grow as a person."

Bergen first began taking classes at Regional Connections a decade ago, but had to stop when her family life got too busy to continue attending regularly.

She returned briefly in 2020 and then more regularly again in 2021, intent on finishing what she'd started.

Her first stint with the program had "sparked a longing in me for learning,"

"YOU CAN

ANYTHING

MIND TO."

ACCOMPLISH

YOU SET YOUR

Bergen said. "And I promised myself if I ever got the opportunity to go again, then I would."

It's been a long journey, and one with lots of ups and downs, but the end result was worth it.

"The class was not only a great place to learn English, but also a safe place to share, learn, and learn valuable life lessons and to make lifelong friendships," Bergen said, thanking the program's ded-

icated teachers and her classmates for "making my time at Regional Connections one of the best experiences in my life."

Last week's gathering also featured ongoing students demonstrating their growing confidence in their reading skills with short presentations.

"We had a wonderful school year. We have a very good teacher with lots of patience—extra patience," said Nela Penner, who attends classes in Winkler. "She



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Literacy teacher Yolanda Friesen (left) presents Tina Neufeld with her Stage 1 certificate. Neufeld is one of 94 adult students in Regional Connections' literacy program.

teaches us what we need to know."

Altona class member Margaret Janzen shared that continuing her education has long been a dream, and the literacy program is helping make that a reality.

"[It's] a door towards my future," she said. "I have always ... dreamed of one day going to college. However, when I was a child the option was not available for me."

Janzen left school as a pre-teen to help support her family. When she moved to Canada in 2018 and learned about the literacy program, she knew it was something she wanted to pursue.

"I knew it was a chance to start a new chapter in my life," Janzen said. She had to step away from classes for a time during the pandemic, but has been back at it over the past year. "I'm working on my dream goals of getting my Gr. 12 [diploma]. I can see that I'm moving towards that goal."

With the help of a good teacher and a commitment to studying, Bergen stressed that "you can accomplish anything you set your mind to."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above: Program graduate Sahra Salim (far right) shared that her involvement in the literacy program was a life-changing experience. Right: Student Margaret Janzen sees the program as a "door towards my future."



News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888



Steps for Pets raises \$14K for PVHS

By Lorne Stelmach

The Steps for Pets walkathon in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society Saturday in Morden Park was one of the best ones yet since the event's inception.

It set a new participation record with 62 walkers, and came close in terms of fundraising as well, with around \$14,000 in donations (compared to the record of \$16,000 last year).

"We had a goal of \$15,000. We did come up just a little bit short at about \$14,000, but we were still encouraging people to donate over the next couple of days," noted Holly Thorne, PVHS

public relations chair. "The turnout was absolutely fantastic in terms of registrations this year. We have broken records, and that was amazing."

Steps for Pets is one of the humane society's main annual fundraising events. The funds help the regional animal shelter provide veterinary care for its animals, ensuring they are all spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and tattooed before finding them new

In addition to the walk, participants were able to check out a variety of vendor displays and enjoy an agility demonstration by Extreme Dogs.



After the walk, participants got to enjoy an agility demonstration by Extreme Dogs.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A record-breaking 62 participants took part in the Pembina Valley Humane Society's Steps for Pets walkathon on Saturday, raising \$14,000.

"This is always one of our biggest events of the year, and the fact that we have more people wanting to take part ... we even had considerably

more vendors ... it shows us that the community is willing to support what we do and care about what we are doing here," noted Thorne.

Bunge, Viterra to merge

By Voice staff

Bunge Ltd. and Viterra Ltd. are teaming up.

The two companies announced last week that they will be merging to create an "innovative global agribusiness company well positioned to meet the demands of increasingly complex markets and better serve farmers and end-customers."

The agreement, which was unanimously approved by both boards of directors, will see Viterra shareholders receive approximately 65.6 million shares of Bunge stock (valued at around \$6.2 billion U.S.) and approximately \$2.0 billion in cash.

Bunge will assume \$9.8 billion of Viterra debt.

Viterra shareholders will own 30 per cent of the combined company when the transaction is complete, and about 33 per cent after the completion of a \$2 billion repurchase plan by Bunge slated to take no more than 18 months.

"The combination of Bunge and Viterra significantly accelerates Bunge's strategy, building on our fundamental purpose to connect farmers to consumers to deliver essential food, feed and fuel to the world," Bunge CEO Greg Heckman said in a statement. "Our highly complementary asset footprints will create a network that connects the world's largest production regions to areas of fastest growing consumption, enhancing the geographical balance and adaptability of our global value chains and benefitting farmers and end-customers."

"In combining our highly complementary origination, processing and distribution networks, we are better positioned to meet the increasing demand for the food, feed and fuel products we offer," echoed Viterra CEO David Mattiske.

"Together, we will play a leading role in the future of the agriculture industry, developing fully traceable, sustainable supply chains and moving towards carbon-neutral operations, while creating a strong growth platform for our combined business."

The merger is expected to close in mid-2024.



THE FUTURE IS NOW

Construction Begins on Boundary Trails Health Centre Expansion

A partnership between the Regional Health Authority (Southern Health-Santé Sud) and BTHC Foundation will expand BTHC to meet our community's health and wellness needs, from birth to end-of-life. This expansion plan was developed by our community, with input from patients and residents. The \$100 million expansion will add significantly to the diagnostic services, treatments and healthcare you will be able to access close to home.

Last fall, the BTHC Foundation launched its "Future is Now" Capital Campaign with a \$10 million fundraising goal to support bringing exceptional care to the community. This month, the campaign reached a tremendous milestone with construction starting at the expansion site. Now with actual shovels in the ground, the Foundation Board of Directors is excited to confirm that they have received pledges and donations totaling over \$8 million towards the Capital Campaign. The Board would like to thank those municipalities, businesses and individuals who have already committed to the Campaign. We live in a generous community and your extraordinary support, on top of your continuous contributions to the Foundation's annual commitments, is nothing short of incredible.

"The expansion of acute care inpatient beds and the addition of the new community services building at BTHC will ensure that we continue to meet the long-term needs of the residents of Morden, Winkler and surrounding communities," says Jane Curtis, CEO, Southern Health-Santé Sud. "It is thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation and the community for their generous contributions toward these projects. None of this would be possible if it weren't for the outstanding support of this community." Foundation Board Chair, Ben Friesen, agrees. "I would like to personally thank those that have got the campaign to this level, we are so appreciative of the support the expansion project has received. Everyone that has donated or pledged, it's just fantastic to see the enthusiasm and excitement."



Aerial view of the current hospital with expanded facilities, including an additional 24 innationt hods

Scan to Give Securely Online



Contact the Foundation office to discuss multi-year pledges or securities donations 204-331-8808 ext.2 office@bthcfoundation.com



A level-2 infant nursery will be built as part of the expansion, reducing the need for families to travel to Winnipeg or Brandon to receive specialized care. The nursery area will also include a family lounge and spaces where parents who need to stay for extended periods can sleep and shower.

With the campaign nearing its \$10 million target, the Board now invites the community at large to get involved. "We want everyone to feel like they have had the opportunity to be a part of this, to help shape and enhance healthcare in their community for years to come," Friesen adds. While meeting with each of the 220,000 people that rely on BTHC for care is impossible, the Board welcomes your questions and discussion about the expansion project. Watch your mailboxes for your campaign invitation and if you would like to discuss how you can more meaningfully participate in our expansion fundraising efforts, please give the Foundation office a call at 204-331-8808 ext. 2. You can also visit <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/10.

What You'll See in the Expanded Boundary Trails Health Centre

- A new, state-of-the-art operating room
- An expanded Emergency Department
- The Cancer Care unit doubled in size
- Twenty-four additional inpatient beds
- A level-2 nursery for premature newborns
- Dedicated space and increased capacity for palliative care services
- $\bullet\,\,$ An echocardiography suite where over 1,600 scans can be done every year
- An expanded ambulatory care clinic
- A new and advanced hospital pharmacy
- A cutting edge Simulation Lab
- Four physician on-call rooms with private washroom and showers
- $\bullet \;\;$ Child and youth rehabilitation services amalgamated at one location
- Centralized public health, education, and home care services
- Enhanced staff amenities spaces (ex. staff gym, improved locker rooms)
- Spaces for convenient amenities such as commercial food service, a retail pharmacy, home-care supplies, and therapy providers

Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation is a registered charity #86473 4991 RR0001

Yes, I want to support enhanced healthcare closer to home. I'm sending a gift of:				
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Make cheques out to BTHC Foundation with *Expansion Fund* in the memo and send to:

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Morden-Winkler has big plans for Canada Day

Winkler's celebration features CultureFest; Morden's Beach Blast takes over Colert Beach

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's CultureFest is on the move this summer.

The annual celebration of the community's diversity takes place as part of Winkler's Canada Day celebrations at the Parkland hill this year.

It's a change from the past few years, which saw CultureFest run as one of the Harvest Festival events, but co-organizer Shepherd Chiwandire thinks it's going to be a good fit.

"We're very excited about it. We're looking forward to celebrating culture and diversity this Canada Day," he said, noting CultureFest started out as a separate summer celebration before joining the festival lineup several years ago.

Though they enjoyed being part of Harvest Festival, it was decided Canada Day might be a better date for CultureFest, allowing it a bit more room to grow and really shine.

And given the fact that a big part of our nation's identify is being a cultural mosaic—encouraging newcomers to retain their uniqueness while becoming part of the Canadian whole— July 1st is the perfect day to celebrate

multiculturalism alongside national

The CultureFest tent opens at 1 p.m. and will feature a variety of educational displays from countries all over the world. You can pick up a passport on your way in and have it stamped as you travel the globe.

The CultureFest stage schedule runs from noon to 4 p.m. and includes fiddler Jason Lepine, Indian dancers Gurkinpal and Gurvir, Ugandan music from Busiisi Mbabzi, African drumming from Frank Sogbo and Charles Harman, Indian singer Mohit Sharma, and an Indigenous dance

In addition to CultureFest, Winkler's Canada Day celebrations also includes a car show running from noon to 4 p.m, a petting zoo from noon to 6 p.m., and face painting by Enchanted Faces from 2-4 p.m.

Co-op's annual \$5 supper runs from 5-7 p.m. On the menu this year is taco in a bag, a drink, and ice cream sand-

The evening's stage lineup includes a brief opening ceremony at 4 p.m. followed by Latin dancers Notas De 4, the Silas Presley Band performing



rock and roll at 5:45 p.m., and bluegrass from the Stanley County Cutups at 7 p.m

BEACH BASH IN MORDEN

Morden's July 1st festivities, meanwhile, take over Lake Minnewasta for the annual Beach Bash.

Events coordinator Lili Krushel says they have a great mix of activities and entertainment for all ages lined up.

"We're bringing a lot of the favourite things back: face painting, the sand castle competition, a treasure hunt, and an afternoon of musical entertainment."

The first three of those events, all aimed at kids, run from 1-4 p.m. Then, at 4 p.m., the bouncy castles (a new offering this year) will open to

help tire the kids out ahead of the evening's entertainment. Volunteers will also be handing out hundreds of free Canada Day cupcakes at 4 p.m.

For music, local Filipino cover band The Seven Pines takes the stage at 2 p.m. followed by the North Wolf Ojibway singers and dancers at 3 p.m.

After the opening ceremonies at 8 p.m., Hoop & Hat perform their comedy and fire show starting at 8:15 p.m. followed by the Bare Yogis at 9 p.m.

"It's just a good, fun environment for everyone," Krushel said, noting the day will wrap up with fireworks at dusk. "It's going to be spectacular."

The Canada Day celebrations in Morden are free, though be aware there is a \$12 gate fee to enter the lake/beach area by car.

A great day at the lake





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

There were all ages out on Lake Minnewasta Saturday to enjoy the Morden Paddlefest. It offered an opportunity for people to try out canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards for free. The Manitoba Paddle Association was also out with dragon boats. The event ties in well with the efforts of the Morden Paddle Club to promote paddling as a low impact sport for people of nearly all ages and abilities. The club offers rentals at the lake throughout the summer.

Lauren Wolfe wins 2023 Katie Cares scholarship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second recipient of the Kaitlyn Marie Reimer Scholarship wants to make her mark on the world as a teacher.

Lauren Wolfe received the \$2,000 award at a ceremony at the Katie's Cottage respite home last week.

Her application rose to the top thanks to her clear passion for inclusive education and a desire to make a difference in the lives of kids, said Ruth Reimer, executive director of Katie Cares and mother to the scholarship's namesake, the late Kaitlyn Reimer.

"She wants to be a teacher, to teach to everyone," Reimer said, noting Wolfe's essay shared a bit about how her cousin, who has faced medical challenges, wasn't able to fully take part in music class at school because of her disabilities.

Seeing that left an impact on Wolfe, who stressed in her essay that she

wants to create a classroom environment where "everyone feels as though they are capable and confident."

"Those are strong words, and they stuck with us," Reimer said. "I hope you make a difference for many kids."

Wolfe's desire to have a positive impact on the lives of others exemplifies the spirit behind the scholarship, Reimer said, which was created in memory of the work Kaitlyn accomplished before her death, including founding Katie Cares and planting the seeds for what would become Katie's Cottage.

The scholarship's endowment fund was created at the Winkler Community Foundation by Morden's Kerry and Darlene Pollack in 2021. The award is open to graduating students of Garden Valley Collegiate, Kaitlyn's former high school.

For Wolfe, who graduates next week, news that she was this year's recipient came as something of a shock.

"I couldn't believe it. I thought what



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Ruth Reimer of Katie Cares presents GVC graduating student Lauren Wolfe with the 2023 Kaitlyn Marie Reimer Scholarship.

are my chances of actually getting through because I knew there were some very intelligent and amazing individuals picked to apply for this scholarship," she said. "I just felt so honored to be chosen as the winner."

Doubly so since she's long admired the work of Katie Cares.

"They've been a big part of our community, and I've always loved the work they do here, so it's special to

be kind of a part of it like this," Wolfe said.

Wolfe plans to pursue both a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of education at the University of Winnipeg this fall.

She's already gotten a taste for teaching by working in a Gr. 5 classroom through her career development class this past semester.

Continued on page 14



Farmers' market season is here

Winkler, Morden markets begin next week

By Lorne Stelmach

Farmers market season arrives in both Morden and Winkler next week, and organizers are raring to go.

The Winkler market kicks off Tuesday, June 27, followed by the Morden market on Thursday, June 29. Both are open from 4-6 p.m. weekly until fall.

"We have a fantastic lineup of vendors registered offering many different products including vegetables, herbs, flowers, meat, baked good and prepared food," said Mariyam Tsygankova, executive director of the Many Hands Resource Centre, which organizes this year's Morden market.

There are 19 vendors registered in Morden so far, but they may be open to a few more if space allows.

"We want to start the first day and see how everything is going to work," Tsygankovas said, noting interest is high. "We have some people calling who are interested in the farmers market, even some newcomers who just arrived in this area and they want to start their own business to sell some of their baking stuff for example."

To help kick things off, the first day will include a fundraising barbecue in partnership with Co-op.

"It's an opportunity to support a worthy cause while enjoying deli-cious food," Tsygankova said. "And all the proceeds will go directly to the food bank program helping provide for those in need."

The Morden market is again offering the food currency voucher program for families in need, although it's uncertain if it will be ready to go for the very first day.

Direct Farm Manitoba launched the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program in 2020 as a community-building initiative that aimed to empower Manitobans facing food insecurity by providing food currency that can be used to purchase locally produced fruit, vegetables, meat and processed foods at farmers markets.

Community-based social service organizations identify families disproportionately affected by inflation and in need of healthy food.

"It's been a very good program," said Tsygankova. "It's really important for the community. It's also about community spirit ... and it is supporting local businesses, which is very important."

The Morden market runs every Thursday downtown at the corner of Eighth St. and Stephen St.

The Winkler market, which runs Tuesdays in the curling rink parking lot, is joining the food currency program for the first time this year.

"With the government contributing



The Winkler Farmers Market kicks off the season next Tuesday, while Morden's gets underway on Thursday.

significantly to the expansion of the program this year, Winkler is joining that program, so that should add a fair bit of traffic to our market and some new faces," said market organizer Matt Friesen.

'Central Station and the food cupboard together will be our community partners for that and distribute the currency in Winkler," he explained. "We recognize that it helps boost the local small businesses and farm businesses as well. It can a lot of sales for a small business."

Friesen said they have a good mix of returning and new vendors lined up for the summer.

"We're still open to more," he said. "Most weeks for the last couple of seasons we have been between 15 and

20 vendors.

"We've been looking for produce vendors who can fill our produce demand. It looks like we've gotten at least a few new ones for this year, so hopefully we can have a good selection of produce," Friesen said. "We know that people appreciate a good variety of produce at the farmers market. People thinking of a farmers market, they're thinking produce, and anything else is kind of an added bonus.

"We do have a couple of vendors selling prepared food this year ... I expect at least a few weeks we'll have some food trucks there," he noted. "I think we'll try to plan a few things for different points of the season."

Access CU supports Tabor Home

By Lorne Stelmach

Work is underway on an accessibility path around Tabor Home in Morden, and the project received a big financial boost last week.

Access Credit Union made a \$10,000 donation towards the path, which will circle around the personal care home to not only connect the facility's five residential units but the greater community as well.

"It's a huge boost. We're very, very grateful, and it just encourages us that the community also sees value in what we are doing here," said Helena Goerz, chairperson of the Tabor Home board. "It tells us that the residents are valued, and the community at large will even have a place for a walk.'

"It's something that we're happy to support in the community," said ACU regional branch manager Candace

"I think it's a beautiful space and a beautiful addition to Tabor Home,"

she said. "They can promote outdoor activity. Families can take residents for walks. It's important to expand and make use of their outdoor space in a safe way. It's a safe space for residents."

Goerz said they see the pathway as particularly being a good accessible option for residents given their more limited mobility.

The project comes with an estimated \$500,000 price tag. Fundraising is ongoing.

"As the money continues to come in, we are getting started, and hopefully it helps build enthusiasm and others will join the campaign and give some money towards this project," Goerz

There are a couple aspects of the pathway that make it a little more costly but are necessary, she noted.

"There's a little bit of a spot where we will need to do a retaining wall and fences ... so that is something that is just going to take a little extra work and money.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Access Credit Union regional branch manager Candace Collins with Tabor Home resident Jake Wolfe and board chairperson Helena Goerz at a cheque presentation last week.

"And making it eight feet wide also means that we need a bit more money, but it will make it so nice that wheelchairs, walkers or the cycling without age bicycles can pass by each other. Nobody should have to move on to the grass, so it will really make it accessible for everyone."

Anyone wanting to support the project can contact any Tabor board member or drop off cheques at the person-

Council has high hopes for former land titles building

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden's purchase of the former provincial land titles building was seen by council as not only protecting part of its history but also investing in its future.

Buying the building helps ensure however the building is put to use will fit with the city's goals for the downtown, Mayor Brandon Burley said last week.

"We think this is a key corner for our downtown core, and we want to make sure that we have a say in how it is going to be used ... we think it could be special and significant," said Burley.

What was long the Morden land titles office was erected as a general store. It also had a dressmaking business on the second floor as well as a community hall.

The city learned about a year ago that the building was going to be sold off as excess inventory by the province, so it stepped in to buy it.

"We think it is a prudent decision. The purchase price of \$165,000, we thought, made it a no-brainer for us," suggested Burley. "Otherwise not only would there be no guarantee about maintenance or upkeep or preservation of the historical elements of the building, but we would also have little jurisdiction over the use.

"We recognized the historical value of the

building, and we wanted to ensure the history of the building was carried into our future," the mayor noted. "We think it has a lot of potential for culturally significant projects or businesses, and we do have a goal of increasing the vitality of our downtown core.

"Council is keen to see this space developed into something that will promote our downtown and bring people in here while maintaining and preserving the history and the stylistic elements of the building."

elements of the building."

The next step for city will be putting out a request for proposals for the building.

"It won't go straight to sale. We want to see what people bring to the table and how they intend to use it and the price they are willing to pay. Those are all factors that will weigh in on the RFP," explained Burley.

"So far we've got a significant number of people who've expressed an interest ... but it's not out for RFP yet," he said. "We obviously want a highly visible, high traffic tenant ... something that will be a draw to the downtown core. And we also want to see the historic nature of the building brought back to its original design and features and characteristics."

And he noted there are options for the city if it wishes to have some formal protection for the building.

"It has no formal designation right now. The city is interested in protecting its status through a caveat on title. So there will be certain limita-

tions imposed on title by the City of Morden in order to protect the history and the authenticity of the building."

The building will likely need some substantial work, particularly on the main level. If one was to fully restore the building, for example, there are original storefront windows that have been filled with stone over the years.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley in front of the former land titles building on Stephen St., which the City of Morden has purchased to ensure its history is preserved.

"The upside is anybody who wants to do anything with the inside of the building won't have to tear much out on the upper level," Burley said. "A lot of that demo work has already been done. The main level would need some reworking to make it functional for most businesses or commercial applications."

He sees the building eventually having some form of a mixed use development.

"Commercial would be preferred for sure ... restaurants or anything like that would be well received, I think. And the building inside I think has a lot of functional potential. I anticipate the upper level will likely be some variety of residential."

There is no timeline in place as of yet, but Burley expects something to be decided sooner than later.

"We anticipate not holding on to the property for very long."



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> SCHOLARSHIP, FROM PG. 12

"That was really what solidified my dream. I got to work with the students one-on-one and they got to know me and I got to know the class," Wolfe said. "I just I knew that I love teaching and that's what I wanted to do.

"I want to fill the gaps and meet the needs of all the students in my classroom, not just the ones who are easy to teach or understand the material easily," she added. "I want to be the teacher that reaches out to the ones who are struggling more, that need a little bit of a different path of teaching."

Financially, the award will certainly be a help when it comes to moving to Winnipeg to pursue her education, Wolfe noted.

"This scholarship just helps take a little bit of that pressure off, and I'm so excited to receive it."

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Manitoba's Passion Play returns for its 23rd season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Volunteers from across southern Manitoba gather in La Riviere next month to bring the story of Jesus Christ to life.

Manitoba's Passion Play takes the stage for its 23rd season July 7-9 and July 13-15.

The play depicts the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus at the Oak Valley Productions outdoor

It's put on by a cast and crew hailing from a variety of Christian denominations and communities, many of whom have been involved for years.

"We have some people that have been in the play from the beginning," says director Belita Jorge Sanders, who herself has been a part of the production since the very first show. "It's more than just an acting experience for everyone who's involved."

The Passion Play has become an annual tradition for many families, while also drawing plenty of first-timers every year. Sanders estimates over 45,000 people have taken in the performance over the past two decades.

"I think that the story is very appealing, the story of Jesus, and seeing it unfold in such a beautiful setting," she says. "It draws people to come, and come again.

The intimate stage setting makes you feel like you're really there, a part of the story, Sanders says.

"You're very close to the stage ... so you really feel like you're wrapped into the story," she says. "It's a really lovely experience of just being outside and being able to take in the story that just comes to life right in front of you."

It's a huge effort to put on the Passion Play every year, but the dedication and excitement of the volunteers



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Manitoba's Passion Play brings the story of Jesus Christ to life for two weekends next month at an outdoor stage near La Riviere.

is what makes it happen.

"It's become a real explosion of generosity and people putting their effort together to get the story of the passion of our Lord into something tangible and fruitful that we can see," Sanders says, adding it's an undertaking that has become "close to a lot of people's

Shows run nightly at 6:30 p.m. July

7-9 and at 7:30 p.m. July 13-15 at the outdoor stage just east of La Riviere.

Concessions are available at the site. There is also a meditation trail to explore that leads visitors to 14 stations where they can pause and reflect on the Passion of Christ.

Directions and ticket information is available online at passionplay.ca.

Local riders to tackle Cycle, Spirit of Hope

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of local cyclists have been covering a lot of kilometres recently in training for upcoming rides in support of Habitat for Humanity.

Debra Fehr, Nettie Reimer, and Nanzy Bezan are training to take part in

the Cycle of Hope ride in Ontario next month, while Yvonne Stoesz is preparing for the Spirit of Hope ride taking place in Manitoba in late August.

The Cycle of Hope riders will spend 12 days biking 782 kilometres from Little Current, ON to Niagara Falls. For the Spirt of Hope, Stoesz will shores of Lake Winnipeg.

It's a lot of time in the saddle, but spend five days biking along the these four riders are keen to hit the Continued on page 23



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Yvonne Stoesz, Debra Fehr, Nettie Reimer, and Nancy Bezan are embarking on multi-day cycling marathons this summer in support of Habitat for Humanity.



DJ's celebrates 50 years in business

By Ashleigh Viveiros

DJ's Family Restaurant in Winkler celebrated a milestone anniversary in the perfect way last Friday: with owners Lyle and Helen Neufeld and their daughter Regan slicing up a trio of pizzas for invited guests to enjoy.

The pizza cutting came after a short ceremony to mark 50 years of good eats and fond memories.

"It's a milestone for us," noted Lyle, adding that the business's longevity is thanks to the hard work and support of an awful lot of people over the years—owners, staff, and customers alike.

DJ's got its start in 1973 when brothers John and Jake Dueck purchased an existing eatery on land that at the time was just outside of Winkler. The name DJ's comes from the Low German "Duecka Junges" (Dueck Brothers).

In 1979, Jake Dueck sold DJ's to the Warkentins, brothers Wayne and Kal, who ran it until 2017.

"Wayne became the face of DJ's for 38 years," Lyle said, noting, however, that Helen actually predates him—she started working there in 1975. "She was here when Wayne took over and probably trained him."

In 2003 the Neufelds bought into the business as partial owners. They became full owners six years ago.

Reflecting on the past, Helen notes the restaurant hasn't changed all that



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Regan, Helen, and Lyle Neufeld sliced up a trio of pizzas to mark DJ's Family Restaurant's 50th anniversary last week.

much over the years.

"A lot of things are the same, menuwise," she said. "Training, that's different. We're much more efficient than we used to be.

"Other than that, we've wanted to maintain that family-friendly atmosphere that we've always had. That's never changed."

The last few years have been challenging ones, Lyle noted, but thanks to a strong team of staff and supportive customers, the restaurant has pulled through.

"We could not do this without the

help of a strong customer base ...we appreciate them and we thank them for their help," he said. "And we could not have done this without our staff ... I think we have the best staff in southern Manitoba and I wouldn't trade them for anything."

DJ's has built itself into a Winkler tradition for countless families, reflected Mayor Henry Siemens in his remarks.

"I can't even begin to count the number of DJ's pizzas I've had over the years, and am looking forward to many more," he said, noting how rare it is for a restaurant to survive and thrive for generations. "It's fantastic that this tradition continues.

"When we consider what a restaurant means to a community—it helps to identify our community," Siemens added. "We identity with places that are special to us, and DJ's is very special to us as a community, as a region."

Hearing the role the restaurant has played in many people's lives, being the site of countless family celebrations big and small, is humbling, Helen said.

"It's generational. So when you talk with people you hear all these different stories, memories."

"We have people who had their first date here, and then they're married and now they're bringing their kids, their grandkids here," added Lyle.

The restaurant's legendary pizza has also proven to have quite a reach, as Winklerites seek to bring a few slices of home with them wherever they may find themselves.

"It's been everywhere—Arizona, Texas, all across Canada," Helen said. The pair plan to have many more years behind the counter together.

"I'm still enjoying coming to work every day," Lyle said. "It's been a challenge saying we're going to come do this as a family, there's a lot of stress, but I think we feed off each other, we work well together ... it's a team effort."

Darlingford Memorial Service is Sun., July 2

By Voice staff

A century-old community tradition is back for another year this Canada Day long weekend.

Darlingford hosts its 102nd annual memorial service at the Darlingford Memorial Park on Sunday, July 2 at 11 a.m.

The service, which began in 1921 when the park officially opened, is honours local residents who gave their lives in service to their country. The memorial building houses two marble plaques listing the name of all

the men who served and died in the First and Second World Wars.

As always, the ceremony will include the participation of local children who place flowers on two crosses in memory of those soldiers who never made it home.

The guest speaker this year is Morden's Ken Wiebe, who served in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1967-1996 across Canada as well as in Germany and Egypt. His presentation is entitled "Courage and Commitment."

Following the service, lunch will be



FILE PHOTO

available by donation at the Darlingford Community Hall. Proceeds go to the Darlingford United Church.

Donations are also welcome to the Darlingford Memorial Park Commit-

tee. This group of volunteers oversees the upkeep of the park.

In case of rain, the service will take place at the United Church.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

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Firefighter hopefuls put to the test

By Lorne Stelmach

Eleven candidates were put to the test Saturday in their quests to become Morden firefight-

The physical testing at the fire hall was the first step in the latest recruitment process for Morden Fire and Rescue.

"We need to keep up with our numbers," said Chief Andy Thiessen, who explained they have had a few members recently who moved away or retired. "We're looking to get six more to replace those six, and we've got 11 who showed

"The people who were here are prepared to give up some of their time and energy for the community, and it's good to see."

The candidates being put through their paces Saturday ranged in age from their late 20s to one in his 50s.

Marcelo Cavalheiro had personal experiences that played a part in motivating him to give it

"When I was back in Brazil, firefighters helped my life two times in two different accidents ... from that moment, I felt it's my turn now to give back for the help and maybe help other lives just how they did with me," he explained.

"So it's something that my soul wants, and I will do my best," said Cavalheiro, who was the oldest candidate in the group. "I'm not young anymore. It's been hard ... but so far it's a feeling of accomplishment ... I'm tired, but I'm feel-

"I'm so glad to be here in Morden and even more happy to have this opportunity to try to be part of this," he said. "It's definitely not easy, but with a little bit of faith and lots of will, I hope I will be able to pass and be able to give my contribution to the community."

"I've always actually been kind of interested, and I'm a paramedic in the community as well, so it kind of goes hand in hand a little bit as well. It's an extra opportunity to help out the community," said Taylor Rankin, who was the lone female candidate. "Being a paramedic, I work with these guys fairly closely, so I know a bit about their world, but I would like to get a little more into it.

"It's really cool. It's a workout, definitely feeling it," she said, as she paused while being about halfway through the testing. "I hope to finish strong.

"It's difficult. It's definitely not for everybody, but it's rewarding," said Rankin, who was encouraged to give it a try by a fellow paramedic who is also a firefighter. "I like to push myself ... it's been a workout, but it's been a really fun day."

Thiessen noted the physical testing this past weekend was the first step in a long process.

"We then go through an interview process and some background checks ... as a department, we go through all the applicants and see who's



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Eleven Morden firefighter hopefuls were put through their paces last weekend, including Marcelo Cavalheiro (far left) and Taylor Rankin (above).

the best of the best, and we make our choices.

"A big thing for us is their ability to respond during the day. If they work in town, and their employers are allowing them to leave during the day, that's a huge thing," Thiessen said. "That's our lowest response as far as members because a lot of people work out of town or they're not able to easily leave.

"It's definitely also about character. You can tell the character of the person ... if they're going to give up or if they persevere through things. That's big, and even just their interaction with everyone else."

The next step will be interviews in the next week or two, and then the chief expects they will go over the applicants at the department's first regular meeting in July.

"Then we bring on six, and we will have them with us for the summer just to kind of get the feel for what's going on," he said. "They probably won't respond to any calls, but we want them to feel part of the group."

By about the third week of September, the successful candidates will start their Level 1 training to prepare for final testing next spring.

"All I ask of them then is that they give me at least two years," said Thiessen, who added his experience though is that a majority of members remain committed to it. "I think once it's in your blood, you stick with it."

sports&recreation





Holding their own

The Morden Eagles U17 team held their own in an exhibition match against the North American Indigenous Games Manitoba U19 team Saturday in Winkler. The older team ended up winning it 2-1, but the local girls made them work for it. Good practice for the NAIG, which take place in Halifax July 15-23.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Rough weekend for PV Orioles, Altona Bisons

By Lorne Stelmach

The Sunday doubleheaders didn't go well for the Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons.

The Orioles lost 15-4 and 3-2 to the Carillon Sultans at Arctic Field in Winkler, while the Bisons fell 8-5 and 13-8 to the Winnipeg South Wolves at Access Field in Altona.

On Friday, Pembina Valley was also edged 5-3 by the Elmwood Giants, so the Orioles are now in a four-game losing skid. Altona, meanwhile, had snapped a five game losing streak by defeating the St. James As 8-5 Friday night.

The Sultans rode a couple big innings to their game one victory over the Orioles, as Carillon scored six runs in the top of the first and then added five more in the fifth.

Errors cost the Bisons, as they had six in game one and four in game two. The Wolves came back after trailing 8-4 in game two with five runs in the sixth inning and three more in the seventh.

The slumps have Altona and Pembina Valley at the very bottom of the standings with 6-11 records.

Coming up, Altona has a busy week that starts with hosting the Interlake Blue Jays Wednesday before heading to St. James on Friday and then to St. Boniface for a doubleheader Sunday.

Pembina Valley hosts Winnipeg South Wednesday and then welcomes St. James for a Sunday doubleheader.

Winkler Flyers will open season against the Blues

By Voice staff

The Winkler Flyers will open the 2023-2024 season with a home game against the Winnipeg Blues on Friday, Sept. 22

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League has released the schedule for the upcoming season, which will once again see the Flyers compete in the MGEU East Division alongside the Niverville Nighthawks, Portage Terriers, Selkirk

Steelers, Steinbach Pistons, Winnipeg Blues, and Winnipeg Freeze.

Making up the MGEU West Division is the Dauphin Kings, Neepawa Titans, OCN Blizzard, Swan Valley Stampeders, Virden Oil Capitals, and Waywayseecappo Wolverines.

Each team will play a 58-game schedule that wraps up on March 17, 2024.

The 2024 McMunn & Yates Turnbull Cup play-

offs will begin March 22, starting the road to the 2024 Centennial Cup (NJAC) to be held in Oakville, ON in May.

A few other notable dates this season are the MJHL Prospects Camp in Winnipeg July 20-22, the MJHL Showcase Oct. 23-25, the World Junior A Challenge WJAC in December, the CJHL Prospects game in January, and the MJHL/SJHL Showcase Jan. 29-31.

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The Winkler Morden OCCE

Storm 1 earn first win of the season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm 1 team, playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Premier Division, earned their first win of the season over the weekend.

Winkler beat Bonivital 5-4 last Thursday night in Winnipeg. Ilyas Umar and Tobias Morasche both scored twice for the Storm, while William Bergen contributed one goal.

It brings the team's record to 1-4 for the summer thus far, slotting them in eighth place in the 10-team division.

The Winkler Storm 2, meanwhile, posted a win and a loss this past week, falling to the Scorpions FC 5-3 Friday night and then beating Los Guer-

reros FC 7-1 on Sunday.

The list of goal scorers from Sunday's game included Matthew Wolfe and Mosi William with two each and Ziad Hamam, Pah Dah, and Quinton James-Decker with singles.

Winkler is in the top four of their division right now, trailing the Scorpions, Punjab FC, and YFC Saints by several points.

Coming up, Storm 1 has a home game this Sunday at 6:30 p.m. against Lucania FC. They then play an away game against the World Soccer Academy next week Wednesday.

Storm 2 also have a home game Sunday. They play the YFC Saints at 4:30 p.m.

Both games are at the 15th St. soccer field.

Bisons down Mud Hens, **Whips best Cardinals**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona Bisons sent the visiting Morden Mud Hens packing with a loss last week in Border Baseball League action.

The Tuesday night game saw the Bisons come out ahead 11-6, scoring nine runs in the fifth inning alone.

Morden went on to blank the Pilots in Pilot Mound 4-0 Friday night.

The Winkler Whips, meanwhile, narrowly won their home game against the Carman Cardinals 9-8 Tuesday

Winkler remains in first place in the league's East Division standings with a 4-0-2 record. In second is Altona at 3-1 followed by Morden in third (4-2-1) and Carman in fourth and last place (2-4-1).

This week, on Tuesday the Whips hosted the Bisons and the Mud Hens travelled to Carman. Results were not available at press time.

Coming up, Altona is in Pilot Mound on Friday and the Whips are in Clearwater Sunday.



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Altona Bisons beat the visiting Morden Mud Hens 11-6 last Tuesday night.

Two students receive Mike Mutcheson awards

By Lorne Stelmach

The two local recipients of the Michael Mutcheson scholarships this year could not better personify the spirit of the Mordenite whose legacy lives on through the trust fund named in his memory.

Marissa Fehr received a \$3,000 scholarship while Finley Folkett received a \$1,000 bursary, and Michael's brother Ray could not be more impressed with both of them.

"We're just so thrilled ... there's maybe never been better candidates," he said. "They're humble, and they donate time to make their community better ... that's the determining factor.

"They're both top notch athletes, great students and still find time to volunteer in the community, which are all the things we love to see in young kids ... they pay attention to academics, and they are high level athletes.

"I know Marissa helps out with the different summer hockey camps, and Finley does the same with softball," said Mutcheson, noting he heard as well about them helping individual students train and prepare so "those kinds of stories resonate with the board.

"They're going to be solid citizens and contributors, so they emulate

"They're happy, bubbly kids who how Mike lived his life, and that's have volunteered," he continued. what the scholarships are all about for us."

> "It is such an honour and a pleasure," Fehr said after receiving the scholarship last week from Ray and his mother Sylvia at Tabor Home.

> "I've grown up playing sports with Finley, sometimes even against her, so being able to share this recognition with her means everything," added Fehr, who plans to attend Hamline University in St. Paul and play division three college hockey.

> "Having them recognize you for your achievements in athletics and in the community overall is such an honour ... and to help carry on their

> "It's an honour ... it's something I've strived for since Grade 9 when I first heard about it," said Folkett, who plans to attend University of Southern Maine and play division three softball. "I knew I had some pretty tough competition. I really respect Marissa ... it's awesome to see us both

> It's extra special to be receiving the recognition from the Mutcheson family, she added.

> "They care so much for our community, and just hearing their stories is wonderful and having the connection

"AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, MIKE'S LEGACY IS STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... HE LOVED HELPING OUT."

with the family ... I'm so happy to help carry this on for them."

The Michael Mutcheson Memorial Trust was started in 1996 to raise money for scholarship awards to assist worthy high school graduates involved in athletics in Milton, Ontario where Michael lived and in Morden where he grew up.

In addition to the scholarships, the foundation has donated over \$1 million dollars to children's charities across Canada.

"After all these years, Mike's legacy is still making a difference ... he loved helping out," Ray said. "Mike was always ready to step forward and especially help kids. It's really nice that his buddies still do the same to the tune of \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year.

"It's been very healing for mom and for all of us that after all these years. He's still doing good in this world."

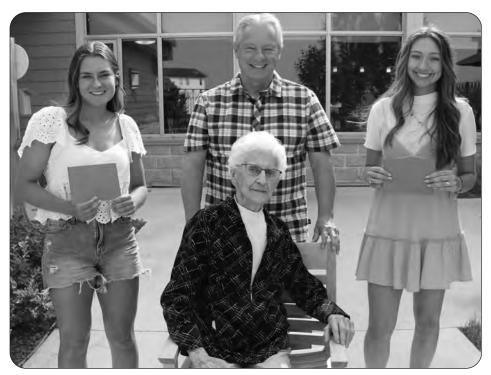


PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Ray Mutcheson with his mother Slyvia and this year's Michael Mutcheson award winners Marissa Fehr (left) and Finley Folkett (right).

Voice

assifieds

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COMING EVENTS



Location: Pembina Valley **Baptist Church** 120 Manitoba Road,

Winkler, MB

(Use south entrance, please) Thursday, June 22, 2023

Fair Hours: 10:00 a.m.—4 p.m.

Date:

All are welcome. Free admission. Contact 204-362-2455 for information.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Mildred Esther Hildebrand, late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT LAW OFFICE

Solicitor for the Estate

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GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT LAW OFFICE Solicitor for the Estate

CAREERS

BUNGE

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

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- The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of closing.
- The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
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Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on June 27, 2023 at:

Cole & Mace Law Office

26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0 **Attn: Adam Mace**

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PUBLIC NOTICE





NOTICE OF APPLICATION **RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY REVISED WATER RATES** STANLEY WATER UTILITY

June 5, 2023

The Rural Municipality of Stanley (RM) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water rates for Stanley Water Utility (Utility) as set out in By-Law No. 08-23, read the first time on May 11, 2023. Rates were last approved in 2021 in Board Order No. 78/21. The current and proposed rates are as follows:

	Current Rates		Proposed Rates	
Quarterly Service Charge	\$	11.33	\$	11.33
Water - Massey (per 1,000 gallons)	\$	6.15	\$	6.55
Water - Other (per 1,000 gallons)*	\$	12.79	\$	13.58
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Massey**	\$	29.78	\$	30.98
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Other**	\$	49.70	\$	52.07

*Includes purchased water costs of \$9.91

**Based on 3,000 gallons

Details of the RM's application are available for review at the RM's office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the RM.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the RM's application for water rates please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the RM.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before July 21, 2023.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process,
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA

Assistant Associate Secretary Manitoba Public Utilities Board

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CAREERS

French Immersion Teachers Needed for Sept. 2023



École Morden Middle school, located in the thriving city of Morden has several openings for French Immersion teaching staff for next school year.

Western School Division has recently announced that Discovery Trails School (currently under construction) will be home to Western School Division's early and middle years French Immersion Program. For additional information please check out the school and divisional web pages at www.westernsd.mb.ca

AUCTION





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CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of Ken Petkau, would like to express our appreciation for all the love and kindness we have been shown by this community during Ken's illness and after his passing. The phone calls, gifts of food, floral arrangements, donations, prayers and visits have meant so much to us. The many kind words spoken about Ken have touched us deeply. Thank you to Wiebe's Funeral Home for your kindness and compassion as we planned the service and to Floral Scents for the beautiful floral arrangement. A big thank vou to Ken's CancerCare Team: Dr. Zhang, Dr. Woelk, Dr. Dhala, ALL the wonderful nurses at CancerCare and the compassionate Palliative Care staff. Each and every one of you have helped us walk this difficult path.

-Linda, Andrea, Kevin, Amy, Jon, Adam, Jayda and grandchildren Jadyn, Rylee, Noah, Essa and Ellie



IN MEMORIAM



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- -Excellent communication skills and a genuine love of people -Willingness to learn
- -Ability to work independently

If you fit this description please email resume to Bigandcolourful@mts.net













SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students got the chance to learn at eight different interactive stations at the Binney Water Festival at the Binney Nature Preserve earlier this month.

Binney hosts water festival

By Voice staff

The Pembina Valley and Redboine watershed districts welcomed students from across the region to the 12th annual Binney Water Festival earlier this month.

The June 2 event, held at the Binney Corner Nature Preserve near Manitou, saw over 200 elementary school students come out to learn at a variety of different education stations manned by field experts and volun-

There was a "dip it" station that allowed kids to go critter dipping, a "name it" station where they got help identifying what they'd caught, and a "drain it" station designed to teach the students about beavers and the effect they have in the environment.

Other stations educated the kids about the types of birds that call Binney home, water conservation and water pollution, the different parts of soil, the plant life cycle, and the journey of a water drop, as illustrated by the creation of a bead bracelet.

"The enthusiasm of the students, teachers, volunteers, and staff drove

this day to be a success," organizers share. "A huge thank-you to all who donated their time and expertise, as well as the staff who laboured in the heat prior to our Binney day to ensure that all went well and that the students had a fabulous time while learning about our environment."

High schools hand out 22-23 athletic awards

By Voice staff

Local high schools have honoured their top athletes in recent weeks.

Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler presented Madden Wiebe with both the Coach's Award and the Female Athlete of the Year Award.

Caleb Hildebrandt was the Male Athlete of the Year while Jackson Friesen and Maria Bergen took home the junior varsity male and female athlete of the year honours, respectively.

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's Athletes of the Year included Brady Hiebert (Varsity Boys), Annika Roberts (Varsity Girls), Amery Roberts (Junior Varsity Girls), and Taya Wall (Junior Varsity Girls).

Morden Collegiate Institute's Male Athlete of the Year was Gr. 12 student Josh Ryckman-Guilford. The Female Athlete of the Year went to Gr. 12 student Finley Folkett.

W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona presented Mia Sawatsky with the Varsity Female Athlete of the Year, Ty Tarnick with the varsity male Athlete of the year, Kate Sawatsky with the Junior

Varisty Female Athlete of the Year, and Ben Dubyk with the Junior Varsity Male Athlete of the Year awards.

The four schools also handed out a host of individual sports awards (most valuable player, most improved

player, hardest working, etc) for its varsity and junior varsity teams, as well letter honours.

> CYCLE OF HOPE, FROM PG. 15

road to support what they see as a worthwhile cause.

"Owning a home changed the direction of my life, and I really want to help other people have the stability and the ability to create a better life for themselves as well," said Fehr as the group wrapped up a practice ride last Thursday.

"I have adult children, and I know the struggles they have had to try to get their own homes ... and I see there is a need," added Bezan.

The two charity rides will help Habitat for Humanity build homes for deserving families in Manitoba, including through the local chapter in Morden-Winkler. Cycle of Hope participants are tasked with raising at least \$3,500 in pledges.

"I enjoy biking, and it's raising funds for an incredible cause, helping people to own their own home," noted Stoesz. "Putting those two together is good for health and good for the community ... and it's nice to do it with friends and to make new friends as well."

"Deb is the one who kind of roped me into it because she talks about it and how much she enjoyed it, so then I thought I would try it too," said Reimer.

She noted there was also the interest in doing something special for turning 50 this year, and this offers the bonus of doing something for the community.

"My first ride I had to rest quite a few times, but now I think I can make it further ... rest and keep going," she said.

"It's nice to have some friends this year. Last year I joined by myself,"

noted Fehr. "It can be a bit grueling. We have two days where we have century rides as a possibility ... I want to do my best, so we've been trying to ride every week and get in shape."

For Bezan, this is her fourth time taking part.

"I'm an avid cyclist, so when I first heard about this I was on board for everything [Habitat] does and stands for, and even happier that they now have the chapter here," she said. "It makes a difference that people can know they are helping people in their own community ... so I'm very much on board with it and

You can find out more and support the participants with a donation online at www.habitat.mb.ca.

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