

The **Voice** Winkler Morden

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Metamorphosis

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Participants in the Gateway Resources senior program have spent the summer learning about the life cycle of monarch butterflies, caring for them from egg to caterpillar to butterfly. Here, Greg Peters and Ruth Peters have some fun with their winged friends before bidding them farewell. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

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 Left: Edward Harder puts a coat of paint on the terrarium Gateway participants made for monarch butterflies to live in through the stages of their life cycle. Right: Lynn Bissonnette releases a monarch as Ruth Peters looks on.



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Gateway seniors raise, release monarchs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

You're never too old to marvel at the wonders of nature.

That's certainly held true for the participants in the Gateway Resources Senior Activity Program, who have spent the summer learning all about monarch butterflies.

"We have a milkweed patch that we put in a couple years ago and nothing ever happened with it. But this year they all came up really, really well and we came across a couple caterpillars one day," says program manager Patrick Simeons. "I thought, let's take them inside and let's watch."

The program's participants built a custom terrarium for the little guys, fed and cared for them, and then observed as they moved through the metamorphosis from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly.

Continued on page 7

ON SEPTEMBER 20TH

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AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR CANDICE BERGEN



“It can feel a little bit like a slap in the face”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Continued low vaccine uptake and large turnouts for multiple “freedom” protests in the Winkler-Stanley area in recent weeks have left many local medical professionals feeling pretty demoralized.

“I think frustration is a good word to use,” observes Dr. Aly Dhala, a family physician in Winkler and chief of staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He points out that the Morden-Winkler team of physicians includes doctors who have cared for the community for years, decades even, and yet the bulk of the community seems intent on ignoring their advice now.

“The Winkler and Morden community has trusted us with their care and their health. That can mean delivering their children, caring for adults, looking after the elderly—all spectrums of care. I think we find it frustrating that our medical advice and opinion is valued and regarded in all of these areas, except when it comes to this one issue.”

That issue, of course, is COVID-19, including the public health measures in place to limit its spread and the push to get as many people vaccinated against it as possible in order to prevent the health-care system from

collapsing under the weight of critically ill patients.

BTHC respiratory therapist Craig Doell has certainly seen more than his fair share of those over the past 18 months, especially when the third wave hit this spring.

“At one point, STARS was coming out one to two times every day for over a week,” he says of the air ambulance, which transports local COVID patients to ICUs in larger hospitals when they can no longer be cared for here.

“I can’t even remember how many intubations that we did,” Doell continues. “I think one of my paycheques I had 244 hours worked in two weeks.”

“As soon as someone would get shipped out it would be another person coming in. It was constant.”

Despite he and other hospital staff working around the clock to keep up, Doell started to hear rumours in the community that it was all a ruse.

“They’d say the parking lot is empty and ... there weren’t people sitting in the [ER] waiting room. But it’s not the waiting room where things are happening—it’s in every [other] room ... filled with very, very ill people.”

Conspiracy theories like this prompted Doell to begin sharing his

Continued on page 4

Boundary Trails Health Centre respiratory therapist Craig Doell keeps a positive frame of mind during a shift tending to local COVID-19 patients. Doell has been speaking candidly on social media about the long hours he and other health care workers have put in through the pandemic, and the impact this area’s low vaccine uptake and resistance to public health orders has on morale.

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Parents lobby to keep COVID-19 shot out of local schools



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A small group set up shop in front of the Garden Valley School Division offices last week to gather signatures for a petition to keep the COVID-19 vaccination shots for youth out of local schools.

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of concerned community members set up a table in front of Garden Valley School Division's offices last week to speak out against the COVID-19 vaccine being administered in local schools.

Traci Nickel was joined by a few others in encouraging people to sign a petition against vaccination.

She said they wanted to show support for the division and show there is community support for this stance.

"We aren't fighting against them; we are fighting for them," said Nickel, noting GVSD has already indicated they have asked the province to consider holding COVID-19 vaccination clinics for students somewhere other than in schools. "The school division mentioned that, so we're just getting the signatures for the petitions to keep the vaccine clinics out of the schools."

Nickel said she was motivated to get involved as a parent.

"You want to keep your kid safe ... it's just safety ... it shouldn't be forced upon anyone ... let us choose."

The group has been encouraged by the response they've gotten thus far, overall.

"We've had a few thumbs up, we had a few thumbs down ... I think we've probably had more people for it," she said.

In an interview last week, GVSD board chair Laurie Dyck touched on not only the vaccination program but also the area of parental consent:

"Overall, we support the importance and the relevance of child immunization. It's an important part of our lives here in Manitoba ... but we also know that it is the parents' right to make those choices for their children," said Dyck, who noted their suggestion to the province is that COVID-19 immunizations be done elsewhere in the community to ensure that "parents can be fully engaged" in the process.

Bathroom Fixtures Survey

Morden

The City of Morden is in the process of planning a project for the replacement of high-flow bathroom fixtures with low-flow fixtures for Morden residents and commercial businesses on a cost-share basis. This will help reduce the potable water demand and also reduce sewage production, which will save Morden on capital upgrades to the water and sewage treatment plant.

Low-flow fixtures are designed to save water over conventional fixtures by having a lower-flow rate while still maintaining satisfactory performance.

At this time, the number of households and commercial businesses not having low-flow fixtures is unknown.

Please fill the survey at the link below to help the City determine the project scope and an action plan for the project.



conservation.mymorden.ca



> SLAP IN THE FACE, FROM PG. 3

very candid thoughts about how the pandemic was playing out in our area on Twitter.

He hopes it has made at least some kind of dent in all the half truths and lies running rampant out there.

"There is a lot of misinformation being circulated around on social media," he says, urging people to talk to their family doctor rather than basing

the important decision of whether or not to be vaccinated on posts they find on the internet or hearsay from people with no medical background.

"The misinformation is killing people," he says emphatically. "We have a very active physician group who are very knowledgeable and have been trying to get out the message about

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“Our goal is to end this pandemic so we can get on with our lives”

From Pg 4

how safe and effective the vaccine is ... we encourage people to ask their physicians first, because they have the real science and evidence behind it.”

It’s a message echoed by Dr. Dhala.

“There’s so much information out there, and it can be very difficult to sort out what’s what,” he says. “I encourage everyone to consider vaccination for COVID-19 if you’re eligible. If you have questions or concerns about it, I encourage you to reach out to your health care provider and to really have a good discussion with them about those concerns.”

Educating oneself is something every individual needs to take responsibility for, but Dhala strongly feels community leaders need to step up as well.

“I can say how beneficial vaccination is, but I don’t and I will never have the same amount of clout as someone who is a faith leader or another community leader or business leader ... and I think the other physicians recognize that too. We can’t do this alone.

“Our plea would be to encourage those leaders to also seek out the right information, and we’re happy to help with that. We’re happy to meet with people and talk about it, answer questions in any way, shape, or form.

“Our goal isn’t sell a product or push anything,” Dhala stresses. “Our goal is to end this pandemic so we can get on with our lives and get back to normal. That’s what we’re working towards.

“It’s actually remarkable the breakthrough that we’ve been able to achieve with COVID-19 vaccination ... it’s a really big win for medical science and it’s truly the only way out of this pandemic,” he says. “The rest of the world has recognized that vaccination is the way out and you can see the difference in the [infection] rates ... other areas are starting to move on from this.”

CALM BEFORE THE STORM

The fourth wave of the virus has already hit British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan hard (they’re seeing thousands of new cases weekly) and the more contagious delta variant has gained a foothold here in Manitoba as well.

Both Dhala and Doell consider the last few weeks the calm before the storm. They’re worried about just how badly that storm is going to hit Morden-Winkler.

“Basically everybody is looking west right now and seeing what happens there and hoping that it doesn’t happen here,” Doell says. “But being very realistic, with our vaccination rate being as low as it is, we’re looking at probably a similar situation to spring and the busyness that it was then.”

“We are bracing ourselves,” says Dhala. “There’s lots of chatter and talk about a fourth

wave but, you know, we’re starting to see it ... there’s that slow rise in cases of patients who have COVID again, and I feel that that number is going to continue to increase unless there’s a drastic change in behavior in the area.”

The frustration is that the force of the fourth wave could have been blunted significantly here in a way earlier waves could not—vaccinations have been available to just about everyone aged 12 and up for months now.

“There’s literally two ways out of this, two ways to get immunization: naturally or with the vaccine,” Doell says. “You know what you get with the vaccine ... you don’t know what you’re going to get from COVID.”

While vaccine side effects and reactions do exist, Doell points out that they are rare and don’t compare to the giant question mark that comes with a COVID-19 infection, no matter how old or healthy you may be. Some people get nothing more than the sniffles or a cough, others find themselves gasping for every breath.

“There’s a lot of underestimating the disease. Yes, there’s a very low death rate. If you look overall, however, at the survival rate [for severe cases] ... define survival. Having a stroke? Having a tracheostomy tube? Being wheelchair-bound? Long COVID is a real thing as well. I don’t know if that’s what I would call surviving.”

Doell has seen firsthand the pain and suffering COVID causes, as patients bid their loved ones farewell before being intubated.

“You have people saying goodbye over the phone ... over iPads. Not knowing if they’re going to wake up again. Trying to communicate, obviously quite scared”

Some patients about to be intubated remain steadfast in their decision not to be vaccinated, but Doell has seen many who were simply hesitant. Some patients, uncertain who to trust when the vaccines first came out, finally did make an appointment for vaccination but then contracted the virus before they could get it.

“They were waiting and seeing and unfortunately waited too long,” he says. “Those are heartbreaking.”

With a huge portion of the local eligible population not yet vaccinated with even one dose—about 60 per cent of Winkler, 76 per cent of Stanley, and 31 per cent of Morden—the area is primed for a very difficult fall.

“There are literally thousands of people—and we’re not even talking about the children, we’re talking thousands of adults—that are unimmunized and only a very small building and a small crew of staff who are working very, very hard to care for everyone,” Doell says of BTHC. He points out that with hospitals overtaxed in other jurisdictions already, it begs the question: “What happens to people if there’s no beds for them?”

Doell also works at Children’s Hospital in Winnipeg, which has 10 pediatric critical care beds. The hospital recently put a call out for respira-

tory therapists in advance of an expected influx of child COVID patients in the weeks ahead.

“Kids under 12 are not immunized, they can’t be immunized,” he stresses, pointing out children are less likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 but it does happen, especially with the delta variant. The vaccine is also not as effective in immunocompromised patients. Given how contagious the virus is, these groups are at risk if COVID-19 is running rampant in the community, spread by people who are lucky enough to have perhaps only mild symptoms themselves but who fail to isolate or take other preventive measures. “I understand people want to have choice. But your choice that you’re making for yourself has an impact, a direct impact, on other people ... for some people that choice that you’ve made can have a deadly impact on them.”

STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS

As the medical community braces for the weeks ahead, Dhala finds a measure in of hope in the commitment and professionalism of his colleagues.

“We were very strained during the third wave, but I’m really proud of the physician group that worked at Boundary Trails in that we didn’t buckle, and we were able to provide the care that we needed.”

The question, perhaps, is whether those dedicated professionals are going to want to continue to call this area home once the pandemic is over.

All the mistrust and the pushes to ignore public health orders are taking a very real toll on our community’s reputation.

“You’re working extra hours and these extra hours are every day, so you’re giving up evening time, time on weekends, time with our families to provide care. And that’s fine,” Dhala says, stressing they all signed up to do whatever it takes to provide the best care they can for patients. “But when you’re doing that and there’s resistance [to medical advice] ... or your competency’s questioned, it’s hard not to feel disheartened.

“I think Winkler is still a very good town and I’ve enjoyed my time here, but I think relationships have been strained. Not every relationship, but a lot of them have.”

“We have been told that we are working under a giant conspiracy ... that people above us are controlling us,” Doell says “Honestly, if you strapped a GoPro [camera] to my gown I don’t know if that would change some people’s minds [about how serious the situation has been at the hospital].”

“This pandemic has unearthed a significant amount of distrust and I think it’s going to be difficult to look past that,” says Dhala. “I do worry about physician retention and future impacts on recruitment. I think it’s something that needs to be considered.”

“I think it’s okay for people to have their opinion and their perspectives on things. Where I struggle is when those opinions and perspectives lead to actions that are

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“THAT NUMBER [OF CASES] IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE UNLESS THERE’S A DRASTIC CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR IN THE AREA.”



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get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest?

Send your letters to the editor to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes. See our letter policy below for full submission requirements.

IF ONLY ...

If only the vaccine for tuberculosis had been available sooner, my mother's favourite cousin, age 22 and in nurse's training, would not have gasped for her last breaths in the sanitarium in Ninette, MB.

If only my husband's parents had taken their three young children to get the new vaccine for diphtheria, they would not have had to watch their firstborn, a six-year-old boy, struggle for his last breaths. The only time I saw my father-in-law cry was when he said to me, "If only I had taken the kids to get the new vaccine."

If only the polio vaccine had been available sooner, a young farm wife with three small children, friends of my parents' family, would not have had to spend the rest of her life on a bed in the farm home, paralyzed, never able to hold her children.

Having free vaccines available to protect us is a privilege, one of the many we receive in this wonderful country. This is not a political issue, it is a health issue.

Two very sad words are the words "If only." You do not ever want to find yourself saying those two words, when you could have saved the health, maybe the life, of a loved one.

Get the vaccine.

Pat Neuman,
Morden

DRIVE-THRU WOES

With my preferred route out of Winkler on 15th Street blocked due to construction this summer, I have often been leaving the city via Main St.

I normally avoid Main St due to the confusion often caused by the spillover of Tim Hortons patrons using both Memorial Drive and Main St. as the waiting lane to get into the drive-thru.

A little courtesy on the part of these people to access the drive-thru from the west on Memorial Drive would go a long way to alleviating this bottleneck.

I am also rather surprised at the lack

of action on the part of the city council to address the issue in a meaningful fashion. A forced entry to the drive-thru from the west along with an extra runoff lane (funded by Tim Hortons) for these vehicles seems like an obvious solution.

Walter Wiebe,
Winkler

HEALTH CARE IS A TEAM EFFORT

It's with mixed emotions that this week I celebrate 32 years of having lived and worked in Winkler. I've had the privilege of working with many exceptional physician colleagues who've been leaders in their field. We try to provide the best care possible for as many as possible, close to home. The community has in many ways been a wonderful place for my family to live, work and attend school. The community has also been very supportive helping to bring the Boundary Trails Health Centre and the CW Wiebe Medical Centre to fruition.

Unfortunately, I feel we have reached a low point in my time here. After attending births, deaths, cancers, and other health needs, most of my colleagues and I feel that our advice is no longer valued. From some, our advice is despised. At the time of writing 60 per cent of eligible folks in Winkler have not had the vaccine and in Stanley it's at 75 per cent!

Health care like many things is a

team effort. You are 100 per cent responsible for your own health. We as doctors can only help and we certainly try to prevent problems if we can. Right now, we don't feel like we are on the same team, which doesn't bode well if we have a common opponent, namely Covid.

Did you know most of the physicians in this community are not from here? Most have very few long-term ties here and the current climate has many weighing up their future options. It would be tragic for us to lose what has been achieved thus far.

I know you all believe in science. You drive cars, use cell phones and computers to name just a few. God created us all with a brain, created us all with different talents to benefit us all, especially scientists.

You elected the government to lead the society as best they can. As far as Covid goes, they take their advice from health experts in order to lessen the impact of the pandemic for everyone and in particular enable the hospitals to continue to function.

None of us likes what we are having to go through, it's hard on everyone. You need to know that many of the doctors and nurses are on the brink of burn-out.

As schools have just opened, please be considerate of all in the education system.

Love your neighbour. Get vaccinated.

Dr. Eric Lane,
Winkler

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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Portage-Lisgar candidates field questions

By Lorne Stelmach

Four of the five candidates vying to represent the Portage-Lisgar riding

made their pitches and fielded questions in an online forum last week.

The session organized by the Winkler and Morden chambers of commerce

> SLAP IN THE FACE, FROM PG. 5

harmful to others," he says, voicing frustration at the flagrant violation of public health orders in this area—restrictions, he stresses, that deal with privileges and not rights.

"There's that sentiment of being in it together, but I find sometimes that sentiment is lost in this area. Because when you don't take the recommended health orders seriously, when you're not masking, when you're not checking for vaccination status in areas where you should be, it's hard not to describe that behavior as anything less than selfish.

"It can be very hard when you go into a small local business and the advice from your profession and from your training is not being adhered to. It can feel a little bit like a slap in the face."

This whole situation is surreal to Doell.

"If you could have told me 24 years ago when I graduated that I would be doing this in a middle of a pandemic, where a vaccine is available

> BUTTERFLIES, FROM PG. 2

It was a chance to see the entire process up close, while also learning a bit about the butterflies' journey down to Mexico and the cultural importance their arrival there has.

"It's definitely been a great distraction during the pandemic, something to look forward to every day because it's always different, they're always changing," Simeons says.

The group have released five butterflies thus far and were waiting for two more to emerge last week.

"That's Laurie and Kristen," shares participant Ruth Peters. "I gave them all names."

Peters has spent a lot of time this summer working on projects near the terrarium so she can keep an eye on what's going on inside.

Seeing the butterflies emerge is a highlight, she says, recalling coming into the room one day to find a chrysalis had broken open and "sure enough, there was a butterfly there.

"And then the butterfly was just stretching out and then he flew all over."

"When they first come out they're small and gradually the wings get

and people are fighting it and fighting it until their dying breath, having to listen to them talk to their loved ones to say goodbye ... and you're doing this again and again and again ... and the common theme with every single one of them is that they weren't vaccinated but they were all eligible ...

"Everybody's trying to be positive, and we're going to keep doing what we do," he says, adding, however, that the medical community is as eager for this all to end as the rest of us are.

"If you're not going to vaccinate for yourself, do it for the kids that can't be vaccinated, do it for somebody else, somebody you love, to prevent them from getting ill," Doell urges. "And if you choose not to do it, then you have to mask up, follow the guidelines, stay home when you're sick.

"If this convinces one person, that's one less person that I need to see [in the ICU]."

bigger ... it's neat how they do it," adds fellow participant Greg Peters, adding that he's also enjoyed being able to release them back into the wild.

Trevor King, Edward Harder, and Lynn Bissonnette were also part of this project, helping to build and paint the terrarium or simply keeping a close eye on its occupants throughout the summer.

"I watched them all grow," says Bissonnette, stressing the butterfly stage was by far her favourite.

Projects like these keep the seniors, who all live with intellectual disabilities, engaged and active, Simeons says, explaining the program serves as a transition for Gateway workers as they move from full-time work to part-time hours or retirement.

"We're a day program for seniors ... people who are later on in life who want to stay active and explore retirement options," he says. That includes activities at the program's facility and field trips out into the community as much as possible. "We're always looking for projects and new things to do."

included incumbent Conservative Candice Bergen alongside challengers Andrew Carrier of the Liberals, Ken Friesen of the New Democratic Party, and Solomon Wiebe of the People's Party of Canada. Christian Heritage Party candidate Jerome Dondo was unable to attend.

Wiebe cited the goal of prosperity for everyone regardless of their status and focused particularly on pandemic issues.

"COVID is the matter of the day," he said. "Our platform involves voluntary vaccination; it involves no segregation based on vaccination status and also involves freedom of movement for all Canadians."

He also touched on health care reform including a mixed public and private system to help provide a better service and level of care.

"We want energy independence so we can stop relying on foreign oil," he added in citing other points from their platform, which also includes taking better care of veterans.

Friesen noted voters "have a choice between parties that have broken one promise after another time and time again or voting for myself and the NDP, who are here fighting for you ... you have a better choice."

He suggested the real concerns of Canadians are things like their jobs and the climate crisis, and he suggested the challenges we have faced have also shown that "thanks to the decisions of the Liberal and Conservative governments, many of the supports that we rely on just weren't there when we needed them.

"If we want different results, we need to make different choices ... what we need now is the courage to act together, to come together as a community," he said. "We can make life more affordable for everyday people by investing in health care, affordable housing, pharmacare and child care."

Carrier cited his broad experience and record of two decades of public service, including particularly with the Metis community.

He pointed to employment as a

key issue as well as early childhood education and the need to ensure accessibility and equality in relation to all social services.

"What I bring to you ... is a voice to understand how Ottawa works," he said.

Bergen stressed that the Liberal government has had more spending, more taxes, more ethical breaches, and taken away more freedoms than ever before, and she urged voters to unite behind the Conservatives to ensure the Liberals can be defeated.

"This election is the most important one of our lifetime, and the outcome will have repercussions that will last for generations," she suggested.

Bergen cited a five point plan that included securing jobs in every sector and getting people back to work, securing mental health, securing Canada, securing accountability, and securing finances.

"Our deficit is spiralling out of control," she said, noting the Conservatives aim to get back to a balanced budget in 10 years. "We also want to ensure that we cut inflation and keep inflation down."

The question and answer session then kicked off with a query about representing one's constituents rather than the party.

Wiebe made reference to donating the entire after-tax proceeds of his salary to a local charity, and Bergen cited the need to balance her constituents and personal convictions with the party platform.

Continued on page 8

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United Way Pembina Valley kicks off fall campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

The United Way movement has a long history in the region, but it marked a new beginning last week.

United Way Pembina Valley officially launched its first fundraising campaign following the merger earlier this year of the Winkler and Morden organizations, and the co-operative approach was celebrated at a kickoff last Thursday.

"The combination of working together as the United Way is very impressive and very much appreciated ... there are many organizations that work in both communities, which makes it ideal to work together," said Winkler Mayor Martin Harder.

"I think, as a community, during the course of this last year and a half we have lost significant unity in our own communities and between communities," he observed. "I think this is an example that we can set to go forward and say yes, we will be united, yes, we will support each other, and yes, we will stand there in the gap to serve the people who most desperately need us."

"As an agency that also serves the Pembina Valley as a whole, it is very exciting to see the merger happen and be a part of it," added Jenelle Neufeld, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley.

She noted how important the support of the United Way is to the mentoring organization.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

United Way Pembina Valley's Terry Gibson (back, far left) and Kim Nelson (front, far right) were joined by Winkler Mayor Martin Harder and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley's Jenelle Neufeld to kick off the 2021 fundraising campaign.

"Without funds from the United Way, we would not be able to do some of the programming that we do," Neufeld said. "We are very reliant on these funds, especially with the year that we've had ... we have not been able to do the fundraising that we normally would."

"It's so important for us to have access to an organization such as the United Way. We are so fortunate to be a recipient of some of these funds."

Morden-based United Way board member Terry Gibson briefly commented on "how happy we are at our end in Morden to join with the crew down here because they are such a great group of people. It just makes it easy to make it happen when you have people who are so interested in the community as a whole."

The name may have changed but the mission most certainly has not, stressed board president Kim Nelson,

adding that the Winkler and Morden United Ways have for decades raised funds to support many non-profit agencies in the area and United Way Pembina Valley will be doing the same for many more years to come.

"Every penny you donate goes to support programs and services used by countless people in Morden-Winkler," she said, noting there were 23 organizations supported last year and she anticipates it will be a similar number this year.

There isn't a firm campaign goal this year, but the more that is raised the more the United Way can give back.

"With the pandemic, it's just so hard to determine what to set as a goal," Nelson said. "Our goal would be just to continue to support the local agencies."

"So keep an eye out for us in the community over the next few weeks," she said. "Please join us in building a stronger community."

Donations can be made in person at any Access Credit Union branch, online at unitedwaypembinavalley.ca, or via mail to United Way, PO Box 758, Morden, MB, R6M 1A7.

Businesses can also get in touch with the United Way to talk about making it easier for their employees to give through their payroll deduction program.

Applications for United Way funding, meanwhile, will be available online at unitedwaypembinavalley.ca with a deadline of Dec. 15.

> FORUM, FROM PG. 7

"It's something I've really worked to do. ... It is a balancing act, and I think the key is to be listening ... always have an open door policy," she said.

"I would have to prove myself every single day," said Friesen, while Carrier responded that "I truly believe in accountability as well as being a strong voice for our people."

The candidates were then asked about putting an end to lockdowns and restrictions, and only two of them replied.

"We have to ensure that you have the security of not only yourself and your family but your community and your neighbours," said Carrier.

"We believe in people's freedom," said Bergen. "We do support a vaccine ... I would encourage everyone to get the vaccine, but I absolutely respect people's choice to make their own decision."

The next topic focused on equality

rights and discrimination because of sexual orientation and specifically on banning conversion therapy.

Bergen explained the Conservatives support a ban but were concerned about the Liberal proposal because the Conservatives want it done in a way that protects conversations between parents and children as well as faith leaders and counsellors, which she said was not addressed in the proposed Liberal legislation.

"Everybody in that community deserves to have a voice," said Friesen, who said he would be an ally and advocate and noted the need for increased funding for community organizations that provide vital services and supports.

"I don't think the government has any business telling people what they can and can't do in their own bedrooms," said Wiebe, who said their policies would be based on mutual respect.

A couple questions then asked the candidates to address the areas of labour shortages and immigration.

"This is one of the top challenges that I am hearing about ... Conservatives are the only party that want to see people working," said Bergen, who touched on such things as incentives for hiring and investing in small business.

"The government's social system that's currently in place incentivizes people not to work," said Wiebe, who suggested the government needs "to end getting something for nothing."

Friesen called for more investment at the community level such as providing more child care to help enable women to be in the workforce. He also highlighted providing a guaranteed living income as well as investment in community infrastructure.

"I think a lot of employers, small employers, appreciate the assistance from the federal government. A lot

of small businesses wouldn't survive without it," suggested Carrier, who also emphasized a need for more job training.

As for immigration, Wiebe said their party prioritizes controlled immigration with a focus on skilled immigrants.

"Everybody deserves a chance to work ... we should open the doors to immigrants in an equitable manner," noted Carrier.

Bergen agreed there is a need to support more skilled labour while also needing to help people who need to find refuge.

"We would like to help immigrants contribute to the economy," said Friesen, who cited the example of improving foreign credential recognition here in Canada so that immigrants can better put their skills to use.

Canadians head to the polls Sept. 20.

CFDC celebrating five decades of science, education

Last week we took a look at CFDC's history. Now we turn to its present and future.

By Lorne Stelmach

Fifty years on since it started as the Morden and District Museum, what is now the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre is working towards the next major step in its growth.

A new standalone building of its own remains the longterm goal for the museum, but for now it is making other moves forward as it continues to emerge from the impact of the pandemic.

"We are doing well now, and we will be doing better ... we will be glad to be able to do more things again," executive director Adolfo Cuetara said recently.

"We need to be prepared for a new facility whenever it comes. We are trying to work towards a new facility, a standalone facility ... but we need to adapt to being a bigger organization, bigger facility, and bigger expectations in the number of visitors and budget and everything."

Cuetara has experienced little else other than operating the CFDC under pandemic conditions, as he stepped into the role just shortly before restrictions came into effect in 2020.

Since then, the museum has some turmoil ranging from staff departures to popular programs being temporarily halted as well as having the facility closed to the public entirely for varying periods of time.

It all actually had more of an impact this year than last, as they were able to open for most of the summer in 2020. That wasn't the case for part of this summer; Cuetara estimates admissions overall will be likely be around half of a normal year.

"This month now, there have been



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre executive director Adolfo Cuetara in front of the new displays in the Mosasaur Hall, which now features the actual fossils of Bruce and his giant prehistoric counterparts alongside the hanging models. Below: The CFDC had to move its main entrance due to the COVID-19 vaccination centre operating upstairs at the Access Event Centre. The move meant more space for the gift shop, now on the opposite end of the museum from before.

a lot of people coming," he noted in August. "We are breaking records ... one Saturday we had 275 people in one day. That means the people who were not able to come in June or July are coming now."

Despite whatever restrictions were in place at any one time, much of Cuetara's work carries on behind the scenes regardless.

"The last year has been really busy, not only with new projects and new

exhibits but also the biggest priority has been working with the new collection management system ... so that is taking a lot of time."

Cuetara believes the system will be ready to go within a month, and he sees it being of great benefit to the general public as well as the centre itself.

"It will basically put all of our fossil collection ... we are talking about 1,500 specimens and that means about 20,000 fossils ... all of them will be available online for everybody. Everyone will be able to see all the information we have about the fossils.

"Everyone will be able to make kind of a personal custom space from the website," Cuetara added, estimating it will involve somewhere around 30,000 images overall.

"It's been a huge project. I don't know of any other museum doing this in this comprehensive way," he said. "It will be an important tool for us as an organization and to work with researchers."

Another highlight is the addition of

what Cuetara is billing as a special unveiling for the 50th anniversary.

In collaboration with Décor Cabinets and with funds from the Signature Museums program, the CFDC has installed 20 custom glass cabinets

in the main Mosasaur Hall in order to display the original fossils of three of their most significant specimens.

"We are able to show the fossils from Bruce, Suzy, and Plesi," said Cuetara, who called it a game changer for the centre, as

visitors can now see the original fossils up close for the first time, as most of those specimens had been kept in storage in the collections room.

"There were a few bones from Bruce in the exhibition in the past, but now we can see practically a hundred per cent of the bones," said Cuetara. "This is something people had really



"WE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR A NEW FACILITY WHENEVER IT COMES ..."

Continued on page 10



Head for the Hills brings in over \$125K for Eden

Eden Health Care Services' annual Head for the Hills cycling fundraiser was a huge success Saturday, drawing 201 riders and raising over \$125,000 for mental health programs and supports across southern Manitoba.

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Family resource centre programming to begin next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The start of the new school year means the return of early childhood education programs at the Winkler Family Resource Centre (WFRC) and Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre.

Registration is on now for programs in both communities, though only Morden will be hosting indoor activities for now. Programs begins next week and run for six weeks.

"It's a chance to get out and meet other people," says executive director Cathy Savage, noting all public health regulations must be followed to attend the indoor programs, including mask use for adults and proof of vaccination.

The fall programs for kids age five and under include Let's Make Music With Mel Tuesday mornings and Kit and Kaboodle sessions Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

After years of bouncing around a few different locations, the Morden sessions will all take place this year in the Morden Alliance Church.

"This is a chance to pull it together and run it all from one place," Savage says, thanking the church for playing host. "It just makes it a little easier for parents ... they know where to go."

Meanwhile in Winkler, the online program sessions worked quite well last year, so WFRC has opted to stick with that route for now.

"We're trying to do our best, whatever we can, under the circumstances and hopefully it works," Savage says. "Our programs online were fantastic last year ... the response from parents and children was amazing. So if it's not broken why fix it?"

The virtual sessions include Mom-

my & Me Baking with Nelly Tuesday mornings, Team Green with Julie Wednesday mornings, and Music with Cassie Thursday mornings.

Winkler's lone in-person program is Fun With Sports, which will run Monday mornings outside at Gateway Resources. Adults will need to wear a mask if they go inside the nearby enclosed gazebo during the session, but proof of vaccination is not required.

Also off and running in Winkler is the new after-school program for kids

in Kindergarten to Gr. 6. It runs until 6 p.m. on regular school days (not on early or noon dismissal days) and includes a walking bus from the Pine Ridge and Parkland schools to the Emmanuel church on 15th St. (parents of kids from other schools will need to find a way to get their kids to the church on their own).

"We've hired some really great staff for the program and we're just eager to get it going now," says Savage.

She notes there has been some con-

fusion as to whether parents need to be vaccinated to have their kids involved in the after-school program.

Parents do not need to enter the building to pick their kids up, she points out, so proof of vaccination is not required. Nor do the kids need to be vaccinated.

For questions about the after-school program, email wfrcaspcordinator@gmail.com.

A full listing of programs, dates, and times are available online at winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com and on both centres' Facebook pages.

There is a fee for the after-school program, but all other programs are free.

"IT'S A CHANCE TO GET OUT AND MEET OTHER PEOPLE."

> CFDC, FROM PG. 9

wanted ... people want to see the real thing," he said. "And normally, you don't find ever a hundred per cent of a skeleton ... it's considered complete at 80, 70 or 60 per cent."

The addition of the new display cabinets also brought about a change in the layout of the Mosa-saur Hall, and it means there will be space for a few additional newer exhibits in the coming months.

One such exhibit could be a display of a different species of shark.

"We have a very special shark in the collection," noted Cuetara, who described it as rare in terms of the degree of preservation, with almost the entire skeleton present.

Visitors to the museum are also able to check out the larger gift shop, which came about in part because the location of the vaccination supersite in the Access

Event Centre forced CFDC to move its main entrance to the south side of the building.

"We had to change a number of things in the museum, and because the exit was now on the opposite side of the museum, we had to put the gift shop there," Cuetara explained.

"Our space was quite small ... so now, we have a bigger space, and we doubled the number of items that we have in the gift shop," he noted. "We also have all of those now online as well."

Its own building aside, planning is also in the works for improvements

to the CFDC's property on the escarpment.

The land had been a bentonite mining site in the past and has been a main dig site for the museum for years, but it is hard to access and has no infrastructure in place.

"We are trying to improve all the connections ... and our goal is to have at the end a permanent field station there," said Cuetara. "We are trying to open the dig sites more and hope that will mean we will be better able to discover new things ... and people will be able to be part of it."

"WE ARE TRYING TO OPEN THE DIG SITES MORE AND HOPE THAT WILL MEAN WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO DISCOVER NEW THINGS."

Locals gather for a very different kind of rally

By Lorne Stelmach

Recent headlines about COVID-related protests directed towards health care facilities and staff prompted a group of local residents to hold a rally of their own here this week.

They gathered with signs outside of Boundary Trails Health Centre Monday and Tuesday to simply show their support and appreciation for the health care professionals at work inside.

There was a need for some positive affirmation, suggested participant Sue Nelson, who recalled a relevant Margaret Mead quote: "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

"This isn't about anything political, not about any particular position," Nelson stressed. "It's just about thanking our health care workers and recognizing the difficulties that they're going through, and it's been a long haul."

"I was remembering back to the times when people were banging pots and putting blue lights on their



People lined up outside Boundary Trails Health Centre this week to thank health care workers for everything they're doing to care for our community.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

porches and thanking health care workers for all that they are doing," she added. "I wasn't hearing about that anymore, and the protests were kind of depressing, so I just thought that we needed something positive."

She had no trouble getting a few friends and others to join her for the occasion, which was timed to try and

catch staff coming and going at the hospital during a shift change.

"We needed some love out there," Nelson stressed. "I know about nursing staff feeling discouraged and disheartened with the way that things are going right now, so I just we could show them some love and show them some community support."

"For the last 18 months there's been a lot of uncertainty in their workplace and a lot of uncertainty in everybody's lives ... so we wanted to show that we're still there for them, we're still supporting them, and we want them to know that they're doing a great job."

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Studio tour, quilt show provide a creative outlet

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden couple who each have creative outlets on their own saw their work come together this past weekend.

George Fieber was among the artists participating in the Pembina Valley Studio Tour, while his wife Nancy was a featured quilter for the Barnswallows Quilt Guild display.

Their respective works of art combined to create a lot of colour all around their Jade Bay home

and yard.

"It's perfect ... George has been a big part of the studio tour ... it's nice to be doing this together," said Nancy in between welcoming visitors.

"George has done the tour for a number of years, but I have never been involved in it," she noted. "And we haven't been able to have the quilt show for the last two years, so we decided we wanted to do something in the fall, and it just worked out to do this together."

"George has his hobby and his studio down-

stairs, and I have my sewing room upstairs ... and we meet now then and sit and watch TV," she laughed.

"We do our work every day, most every day," said George.

"I think it's great having the quilts and the stained glass together, and I'm glad she was chosen as featured quilter," he said. "I just hope people just enjoy the display, and I think it does work well together."

"It always is very nice talking to people," added Nancy, who called it quite an honour to be a featured quilter along with her daughter Kim.

"I've been with the Barnswallows for almost 30 years, so it's nice to be able to be featured with my daughter," she said. "It's just fun, and it's such a nice group of friends, and both of my daughters are quilters, so it's really interesting."

Nancy noted it was interesting for her as well to put her display together.

"I had four really good friends who came and helped me, and they did all this for me and put it out," she said. "I'm a bit surprised I guess that there's so much of it. It's been a long time, and lots of stuff is just in the closet; you just don't pull everything out all the time ... so it's nice to see it all."

George meanwhile has been a regular on the studio tour for at least a decade or so.

"I always look forward to it," he said. "You get a lot of favorable comments ... and it's nice talking to people ... they don't realize how much work goes into making a piece."

The studio tour is the annual showcase of the arts across the region. It ran Saturday and Sunday.

There were many familiar faces and places but also some new highlights for the self-guided tour, which covers an area from Altona in the east to Carman in the north and west to La Riviere.



George and Nancy Fiebert's home in Morden was a stop on both the Pembina Valley Studio Tour and the Barnswallow Quilt Guild's By the Yard outdoor show last weekend.

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BY LORNE
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Funding comes a little late for beleaguered cattle farmers

By Lorne Stelmach

Recently announced government assistance programs for Manitoba livestock producers impacted by drought would have been more welcome much sooner, suggests one area farmer.

The two programs under the Agri-Recovery framework for livestock producers to help with the extraordinary costs incurred for feed and transportation may be coming too late now, said Andre Stepler.

"Unfortunately, the government was too late with it," said the operator of Stepler Farms, which is a third-generation family farm located near Deerwood west of Miami and which encompasses a 3,500-acre grain farm as well as a 600 head purebred Charolais cattle herd and a 1,500 hive honey bee operation. "It's really, at the end of the day, probably not going to make a big difference in people's bottom lines.

"If that announcement was made two months ago, more feed would have been put up for the cows ... and the whole goal of AgriRecovery should be to maintain that cow herd, and it was too late."

"This has been a tough year, and we continue to take strides to support our

producers in any way we can," Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler said recently in announcing two funding initiatives under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. "Manitoba producers care deeply about their livestock, and these programs will help producers buy feed or to help get the feed they have purchased delivered to their animals or get the animals to another location where feed is available."

The Manitoba government's investment of \$62 million under the Agri-Recovery framework to support livestock producers affected by this year's drought conditions is part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement with funding shared on a 60-40 federal-provincial basis.

The Livestock Feed and Transportation Drought Assistance Program will help producers purchase and test feed for livestock to maintain their breeding herds including transporting purchased feed from distant locations. It will offer assistance to help offset freight expenses associated with moving livestock to alternative feed supply areas.

Eligible animals under the program are breeding animals of beef and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Government funding for livestock farmers is welcome but doesn't really much help those who have already seen great losses due to the drought.

dairy cattle, horses raised for pregnant mare urine (PMU), sheep, goats and bison. Producers must be supporting a minimum of 10 animals to qualify for assistance, and the program covers feed and feed transportation expenses between June 1, 2021 and March 15, 2022.

Feed must have been delivered from a supplier at least 40 kilometres away, and assistance is available for hauling feed for up to a maximum one-way

distance of 600 km. Eligible feed purchases are those made between June 1, 2021 and March 15, 2022.

Meanwhile, the Livestock Transportation Program offers help for producers with extraordinary costs to transport breeding animals of beef cattle, sheep and goats to alternate locations to feed up to 1,000 km, however this program does not cover moving ani-

Continued on page 15

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Grasshopper munchers and disease rates could be a good omen

By Nicole Brownlee

After a hard, dry season with unwelcomed winged visitors, experts suggest the problem may persist next year but offer some silver linings.

John Gavloski, an entomologist working with the province, said Manitoba experienced a heavier grasshopper population that hit some areas of the province harder than usual.

"Almost every region had their issues, it seemed," said Gavloski. "The south Interlake seemed to be one of the hotspots, but then I did have reports from the southwest, northwest or areas in the central region that certainly had higher levels."

Manitoba has roughly 80 types of grasshoppers, and four of these are considered pests that can damage crops.

The grasshoppers spread and ravaged crops so aggressively this year mostly because of the dry conditions, which could continue next summer.

"The grasshoppers did have fairly good egg-laying conditions in August and into early September so far," said Gav-

loski.

Through surveys over the past four years, they've seen a rising trend of grasshoppers populations develop in some areas, said Gavloski.

"Unless we get some weather conditions in very late spring that can knock the population back when the young are hatching, I would expect we could be in for another year at least similar to this year in 2022."

Lots of rain in early spring when the grasshoppers hatch and an increase in natural predators may stop the trend from climbing.

"We did notice this year a lot of the predators of grasshoppers eggs," said Gavloski. "Now that we've had a few hierarchies of grasshoppers, we're really noticing increasing levels of this type of fly."

Grasshopper Bee Fly larvae, named after their characteristic high-pitched buzzing sound, feed only on grasshopper eggs. Blister beetle larvae and field crickets also join the feast.

"The combination of preda-

tors might help us out somewhat," said Gavloski.

David Kaminski, a field crop pathologist working with the province, noted the drought also helped decrease some crop diseases.

"Most diseases depend on significant moisture in order for infection to get started and to continue through the season," said Kaminski. "It's a small consolation when yields are so limited by drought conditions and by insect damage."

The past three years have been noticeably dry, encouraging the decline of certain diseases in cereals, canola and other broad leaf crops.

"However, there are a number of diseases which have pretty advanced survival structures," said Kaminski.

He warns that some diseases can lurk in the soil apart from host plants for at least three years.

"We always encourage a good rotation of crops so that we do not have piling up of disease inoculum on crop residues."

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> FUNDING, FROM PG. 13

mals to market or sale.

"There's no doubt the drought has changed a lot of things for us here," said Stepler, who noted they recognized early on there would be a need for a larger amount of feed sooner given the conditions.

Knowing a shortage was coming, they needed to take a number of measures including culling cows early, weaning calves earlier and removing from pastures about three or four weeks ago.

"We did get a rain, so now cows are going back out to our pastures but at a reduced rate," he said, adding the next step was to sell off about 15 per cent of the main herd.

"It definitely has changed things around here just for cow numbers alone," said Stepler, who noted they were fortunate to have had enough rain to get a corn silage crop to help them have the resources to get through into the winter while adding though that "we're budgeting for that two extra months of feeding time.

"The frustration that we had was finding feed or accessing feed," he said, calling it a perfect storm of conditions that was taking a significant portion of the cow herd out of western Canada as a result of the combination of a lack of moisture and high commodity prices.

"We needed these announcements two months ago. The reality of being able to make more feed out here in western Canada is already gone. We needed that ability to access some cereal crops and some grain corn crops ... we needed that a long time ago."

Stepler suggested drought conditions have occurred often enough over time that the province should be better prepared to act sooner when it happens.

"We should have been able to hit benchmarks of temperature and lack of moisture," he said. "Now many times have we dealt with drought ... we should have had a program in place to roll out as quickly as possible."

Manitoba Beef Producers, meanwhile, noted it appreciates the support being offered through the AgriRecovery program, though it agrees that more aid will be needed.

"These programs will help address some of the extraordinary costs beef producers have been incurring due to the drought conditions," said president Tyler Fulton.

"Producers are making important management decisions for their operations heading into the next few months, and having access to these programs will certainly help with that process," he said. "Looking further ahead, we welcome continued discussions with governments about how a herd recovery program will be framed."

"We believe that programs designed to address feed assistance and transportation as well as livestock transportation will be important to the success of Manitoba's livestock sector in the years to come," noted Bill Campbell, president of the Keystone Agricultural Producers. "These programs will help livestock producers with immediate feed and transportation needs as they plan for the long-term recovery of their operations."

Provincial officials noted they are in the process of designing a cowherd-rebuilding program under the Canada-Manitoba AgriRecovery drought assistance framework to help livestock producers forced to sell breeding stock due to limited feedstock in 2021 with the goal to rebuild their herds starting in 2022. The details of this program are currently under development.



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BTHC closes 10 beds due nurse shortage

RHA says the six-week closure should end Oct. 11

By Lorne Stelmach

Health officials were offering assurances last week that care would not be compromised as a result of 10 beds being temporarily closed at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Southern Health-Santé Sud stressed that protocols are in place should there be a sudden increased demand for

care, especially if there's a spike in COVID-19 cases in the region.

"Southern Health-Sante Sud continues to monitor the situation closely, and plans are in place to respond to increased demands on bed occupancy as required," the RHA said in a statement when asked to comment on the situation at BTHC.

It is the latest challenge being faced by the hospital, which serves a regional population of about 50,000 including the RM of Stanley and Winkler—two areas with the lowest vaccine coverage rates in Manitoba.

Few details were offered by the RHA other than that a temporary shortage of nurses led to the decision to close the 10 beds for a six week period.

"As experienced by many health care facilities across the province, Boundary Trails Health Centre has been experiencing nursing vacancy challenges," the statement said.

"Southern Health-Sante Sud has reviewed vacancies, vacation scheduling, and term position return dates to this site and feels that a temporary six-week closure of 10 beds on the 40-bed medical unit will provide some relief to staffing challenges.

"With term positions scheduled to return in the fall coupled with the end of vacation peaks, we anticipate that these beds will be reopened on Oct. 11."

During a recent news conference, Health Minister Audrey Gordon did not directly address the temporary bed closure at BTHC other than to note that the health care system overall has faced challenges as a result of the pandemic, including staffing.

She did note that the province was moving to help address the need by adding 400 nursing education seats throughout the six post-secondary schools in Manitoba.

Southern Health leading the way in new cases

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Southern Health-Santé Sud was leading the way in new COVID-19 cases in Manitoba on Monday.

The RHA is also the region with the lowest vaccination uptake in the province, with 35.5 per cent of the eligible population having not received a single dose.

Continued on page 19

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Art on display last weekend



There was no shortage of beautiful and creative works of art to check out last weekend at both the Pembina Valley Studio Tour and the Barnswallow Quilting Guild's Quilt by the Yard outdoor show. Above, left: Now in its 17th year, the self-guided studio tour offered a showcase of the artistic talent across the region with stops that included

the Morden home of woodworker Walter Dueck and the Beneath the Oaks Gallery in Thornhill. Left: Morden's historic stone homes provided a great backdrop for a varied display of colourful quilts.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

T.T.P.

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Lori's Story



About one year ago my daughter noticed that I looked yellow, so my husband took me to the local emergency room. My platelets were dangerously low, and I was rushed to Vancouver to start emergency TTP treatment. Our anxiety about my situation continued to build, as physicians struggled for seven hours to control the bleeding from the line

in my neck required for TTP treatment.

After 7 days in hospital, hours from home, physicians tried to taper my treatment, but my platelets crashed and both of my retinas detached. I could not see anything. To make matters worse, I stopped responding to the original treatment, so a multitude of chemotherapies, to eliminate my immune system, were added to my already gruelling regime. It took 6 days for my vision to improve, and slowly my body began to heal. I wondered every day if the non targeted TTP treatment would work. Almost a month later I was stable enough to travel home with the promise to return twice a week for bloodwork. I am still dealing with side effects from the treatment. I know it is early in my remission but as I read all the other patient stories on AnsweringTTP.org, I know that I can do this too.

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The Bell Exhibition on now at Winkler Arts & Culture

Scott Bell retrospective exhibit includes work from his daughters

By Ashleigh Viveiros

How do you mark a milestone birthday in a pandemic?

For artist Scott Bell, the answer was simple: host an exhibition featuring some of the work you're most proud of in your career.

"I'm about to turn 50 and so how, in the midst of everything that's going on and everything we've been through this past year, how do you celebrate that?" Bell says. "I wanted to have some kind of a party but maybe something a little more than that, a little more meaningful. I thought an art retrospective would be the way to go."

The Bell Exhibition is on display now at Winkler Arts and Culture and it features not just a glimpse at Bell's art through the years but also that of his teenage daughters, Grace and Violet.

"When the girls heard about it, they wanted in," Bell says. "They've been bugging me about getting some of their work up in a gallery."

And so, Bell's art fills WAC's main gallery room while the work of his daughters have been set up in the upstairs secondary gallery.

"There's a variety," Bell says, noting that in addition to some large-scale oil paintings the Bell trio also have pen and ink work, pencil drawings, acrylic core paintings, copic marker pieces, and more on display. "There's some really big pieces and then some really smaller detailed pieces. There's quite a wide variety of stuff going on."

As an art teacher in Winkler for over two decades now, Bell noted his students inspire him to keep trying new things all the time.

"Sometimes it's my students who encourage me to do that, or my own kids. That's great. It's so nice to have other creative people to encourage you or get you to stretch ... there's continual opportunity for growth."

He found as he went through his art that most of the stuff he's most eager to share was made within the last several years.

"I think the more you do things the more you discover what your strengths are," he reflects, noting he went for quality over quantity in picking pieces for the show. "I was pretty selective ... it's good sometimes to take an account of what you've done."

Continued on page 19

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Bell Exhibition features the varied work of Scott Bell through the years in the main gallery (above) and pieces from his daughter's Grace and Violet in the upstairs gallery.

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> BELL EXHIBITION, FROM PG. 18

Bell's work has been a familiar sight at WAC over the years, but getting the chance to put on a show alongside his daughters makes *The Bell Exhibition* something special.

"It's huge for me. It adds so much more depth and meaning to the event," he says. "To be able to do it alongside my daughters, it means a lot."

It's a special opportunity for Grace, 17, and Violet, 13, as well.

"I've always wanted to have my own show and I thought this would be a good way to try and see if I could do something like that in the future," says Grace, who says she's no stranger to putting her large-scale portraits out there, often sharing pieces online.

Violet is also excited at the opportunity to showcase what she can do as an artist.

She notes she's not really nervous about it but acknowledges "it is a bit crazy knowing that other people are looking at the work you've done."

The Bell Exhibition is on until Sept. 25.

A few pieces of Violet and Grace Bell's work in the upstairs gallery at Winkler Arts and Culture.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Access CU considering a merger with Noventis, Sunova

By Lorne Stelmach

Another potential merger is in the works for Access Credit Union.

Discussions are underway between Access and Noventis and Sunova credit unions, which both initially reached out to Access while it was in discussions with Crosstown Civic about the merger that went on to be approved in 2020.

The three credit unions began discussing the idea again in January, and initial evaluations suggest the potential partnership is worth exploring, said CEO Larry Davey.

"They really like that we initiated from a rural base, and they're both rural based credit unions. So we have that fit around community support and investing in communities and maintaining branches.

"It started as a really good fit around the values and around where we're all trying to go," he continued. "Then we started to put some numbers together, and we did a concept paper as to what the three would look like, and it became an even better fit, and all three boards were very supportive."

Access previously pursued a merger with Assiniboine Credit Union that was voted down by Access members in 2015. The merger with Crosstown Civic was approved four years later and took effect in 2020.

Access is currently the second largest credit union in Manitoba with assets exceeding \$6 billion. It serves 92,000 members at 26 branches across southern Manitoba and Winnipeg.

Sunova is the fifth largest credit union in Manitoba and has grown to serve 49,700 members with \$2.3 billion in assets across 14 branches located in Winnipeg, eastern Manitoba, and southern Interlake region.

Noventis was incorporated in 2010 following a series of mergers and currently serves 28,000 members with \$1.14 billion in assets across 12 branches throughout the Interlake and west of Winnipeg. It is the 10th

largest credit union in Manitoba.

As part of doing their due diligence, each credit union will be engaging with their members and employees as they determine their next steps and the boards prepare to make a recommendation to their respective memberships.

Davey said there will be further discussions as they set out the business case, which he anticipated could be complete this fall, and it could possibly be put to a membership vote in late January and if approved become official next summer.

The new entity would maintain the Access name, and it is expected Dav-

ey will carry on as the CEO while the new board would have six members from Access and three each from Noventis and Sunova.

"We want to make sure we're doing our due diligence, and we really make sure that it is a good fit," said Davey, who reiterated that "a lot of it comes back to our rural roots, and a lot of it comes back to that commitment to community investment."

"All three credit unions have a strong commitment to putting the needs of our members first and to maintain value for our memberships," noted Ingrid Loewen, board chair for Access Credit Union.

> COVID-19, FROM PG. 16

Health officials were reporting a total of 41 new cases of the virus Monday, including 21 in Southern Health, 12 in Winnipeg, five in Prairie Mountain, two in the Northern health region, and one in Interlake-Eastern.

Of the new cases, 32 were in people who were not fully vaccinated (two weeks past their second dose of the vaccine). In Southern Health, 17 of the 21 new cases were not fully vaccinated.

Monday's number represented a bit of a drop from the heights of the

previous few days, which saw 105 new cases on Friday, 72 Saturday, and 58 on Sunday.

It brings Manitoba's active caseload to 569. There were 69 Manitobans in hospital with COVID-19 at press time, including 14 in intensive care (none of whom were fully vaccinated).

The death toll due to the virus is at 1,202.

In the Pembina Valley, Winkler continues to lead the way in cases with 22 followed by Morden with 10, Al-

tona area with seven, Stanley and Lorne/Louise/Pembina with three, and the areas of Carman, Grey, and Red River South with two each.

On the vaccination front, Winkler and Stanley still have the lowest vaccine uptake in all of Manitoba, though Winkler's number improved to 40.4 per cent and Stanley hit 23.5 per cent this week.

Manitoba as a whole has reached 83.6 per cent of eligible residents with at least one dose and 78.7 per cent with two.

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Salem Home celebrates 65 years of care



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Above: Some of the first residents at the new Salem Home for the Aged as it opened its doors in the late '50s. Right: A worker gets a resident from the care home's early days settled into her room.



By Ashleigh Viveiros

When Glen Thiessen's grandparents lived in Salem Home back in the '70s, it wasn't because they needed round-the-clock care.

"They moved in there because Grandma needed insulin. She was a diabetic," the Salem Foundation vice-chair recalls. "We didn't have home care back then ... but she needed that injection and so that's what you did. They sold their house in Altona and moved to Salem together. Grandpa parked the car outside. They still drove around on their own."

Thiessen's grandparents were certainly not alone in retaining a measure of independence while living in the care home in its first few decades of existence.

"Residents would argue about their parking spaces back then," says CEO Sherry Janzen, recalling stories shared with her by past staff and board members. "It was a different time."

COMMUNITY MADE IT HAPPEN

Salem Home for the Aged, as it was

known at the start, welcomed its first residents on March 1, 1956—65 years ago this year.

So many things have changed at Salem in the years since, but some things have stayed very much the same.

One of them being the importance of community support. Just as today the Winkler area routinely rallies behind the home's ongoing improvement projects, so too was its very creation prompted by people seeing a need and setting out to do something about it.

Local Mennonite church leaders started talking about building an "altenheim" (old folk's home) as far back as 1951.

A few years later, the Conference of Mennonites in Manitoba decided it should be built in Winkler.

Thirteen local churches led the charge in getting the 54-bed residence built. Those same churches remain the home's ownership group today, providing representatives for Salem's board of directors.

As the community grew, so did Salem, with major expansions and updates taking place on a pretty regular basis through to today.



A barbecue meal at Salem Home in the 1960s. Note how few residents needed a wheelchair back then.

These days the facility has 145 beds, including Manitoba's only Behavior Treatment Unit for residents struggling to adapt to a normal care environment.

CHANGING NEEDS

From the '50s through to the early '90s, the average Salem resident had very different needs than the residents of 2021.

Thiessen, who first joined Salem's board in 1991, explains residents are categorized as requiring one of several levels of care, from one (the least) up to four.

"It was a balanced scenario in those days," he says. "The reality of today is everybody is level three, level four. The ones and twos home care deals with, the Buhler [Active Living Centre] deals with. We've created places so they can stay in the community longer."

Which is no doubt a blessing for seniors and their families, but it has meant that, over the past 25 years or so, the level of required care at Salem has steadily increased, upping demands on staff and resources.

"When I came in there was an incredibly high percentage of people that walked on their own; now that's incredibly rare," says Janzen, who joined Salem in 1991 as its first female CEO.

Residents are also coming with more health challenges than ever before, including, for upwards of 90 per cent of them, advanced forms of dementia.

ON THE CUSP

Janzen and Thiessen both came on board with Salem during a time of great change for the care home.

The hiring of a woman for the top job certainly created a stir.

"They took a chance on me, they really did," Janzen says, noting the board at the time got more than a few phone calls questioning what they were thinking hiring a woman for a position that had, for 35 years at that point, been filled by men.

"When I moved here people only knew three things about me: I had red

"WE'VE CREATED PLACES SO THEY CAN STAY IN THE COMMUNITY LONGER"



Salem has long been on the forefront of new technologies to improve patient care, including interactive activity boards (left), lifts (right), and electronic records (below, left), to name just a few.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



> SALEM, FROM PG. 20

nails, I wore big earrings, and I drove fast," she chuckles. "That's not quite the reputation that a CEO wants to have."

But her credentials backed up the decision, including degrees in gerontology, business administration, psychology, sociology, not to mention experience in care homes and programs for seniors in the U.S.

"They knew they needed to do something different because the messaging from Manitoba Health was that things were going to change and so they needed somebody that would be able to navigate those changes," Janzen says, noting her hire came just a few years before the regional health authorities took greater control over care home operations in Manitoba.

One of the biggest challenges Janzen had in her first years at Salem was shifting its focus as an organization.

"I think one of the most fundamental things that I saw was that the staff and I think the organization itself felt they needed to be everything to everybody," she shares. "And the community came first. Whatever the community wanted, it came first."

"If churches felt it should be this way, well then everybody tried to accommodate that. But people on the outside don't necessarily see ... what the residents actually need or why things have to change."

"It was a shock to the community because the residents came first for me."

That meant taking a hard look at why things were done a certain way and whether that way was truly best for the people living at Salem.

For example, Janzen recalls it was a battle to extend bath times to include Sundays.

"If care is getting heavier you can't possibly do everything in six days and then literally do nothing on the Sunday," she says.

The board members representing the various churches balked at first but eventually came around to the idea once Janzen figured out how best to address one particular concern they had.

"I realized the board members felt that if we changed the way we were doing things we were changing the

"IF CHOICE IS WHAT WE WANT, WHY WOULDN'T THE RESIDENTS OF TODAY WANT THAT?"



Right: The community has been rallying behind the care home since the beginning. Here, the ladies auxiliary hosts a bake sale to raise funds for programs or equipment at Salem.

values," she says, stressing Christ-centred care has always been and remains at the heart of Salem. "We're not changing the values, but how we do things has to change because our residents are changing, and if we are not responding to our residents then we're not giving the best care that we can."

Moving meals from the central dining space to smaller dining rooms in individual units also proved contentious in the community at large.

"It was another one of those things where it was 'Why are you doing this? You're making all these changes,'" recalls Thiessen.

But while to those outside the home having a centralized dining room sounded like a good way for residents to socialize, most instead found it a loud and overwhelming area to be brought to three times a day.

"It was just a frustrating experience for a lot of residents," Thiessen says. "The crowd, the noise ... they stopped eating or they would become agitated."

"What we came to realize was with these smaller dining rooms people became much more content."

The push to create a more homelike atmosphere at Salem has been behind many of the operational

changes, renovations, and technology purchases of the past few decades.

"We sat down as a leadership group ... and we said, okay, what do we want Salem to be when we get here?" Janzen says.

What quickly became clear is people want to feel they have a choice over their day-to-day lives. That includes things like providing more meal options or letting residents decide for themselves when they want to go to bed or get up in the morning.

"If a resident gets to sleep in, the chances of that resident having a good day are much higher than if you force that person to get out of bed at 6 o'clock in the morning and they're grumpy all day and they respond negatively to everything and they're at risk of falling because they're so agitated," Janzen says.

"We realized if choice is what we want, why wouldn't the residents of today want that? So we started, slowly but surely, we started changing things."

"It was a culture change from that institutional kind of care home, where you had these [undecorated] hallways and you had these mealtimes and you had these bed times and get up times—it was all very structured," Thiessen says, observing

Continued on page 24

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers end pre-season with losses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers wrapped up the Manitoba Junior Hockey League pre-season with one win and a trio of losses last week, bringing their exhibition record to 2-4.

The week started strong with a 4-3 victory over the Steelers in Selkirk Sept. 7

Winkler outshot their opponents 33-23 and were up 4-1 thanks to a pair of goals from Gavin Waltz in the first two frames and singles from Jeremy Dunmore and Trent Penner early in the third before Selkirk rallied to try and close the gap in the game's final 10 minutes. Malachi Klassen got the win in net, making 20 saves.

The tables turned the next night in Winkler.

While the Flyers certainly had no shortage of chances to score—firing 41 shots on net to Selkirk's 24—it was the Steelers who managed to make good on their opportunities, ending the first two periods up 2-1 and 4-2 and then putting the final nail in near the end of the third when Winkler yanked their goalie for the extra man. Selkirk got the win 5-2.

Scoring for Winkler was Josh Beauchemin and Jayden McCarthy. Brock Moroz took the loss in net, making 19 saves off the 23 shots he faced.

The pre-season's final two games against the Virden Oil Capitals were close ones as well, but neither went Winkler's way.



The Flyers split their exhibition games against the Selkirk Steelers, winning the first 4-3 last Tuesday and then falling 5-2 the next night.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Virden took game one 7-4 Friday night. Most of the work was done in the first two periods, which saw the Oil Capitals leading 4-1 and 6-3. Justin Svenson, Trent Penner, and Jackson Arpin scored for Winkler.

Svenson got his second goal of the night eight minutes into the third to make it 6-4, but that was as close as Winkler got before Virden added one more to their tally.

Once again, despite the loss, Winkler had the edge on shots on net, this

time 47-30. Moroz made nine saves off 13 shots while Jozse Gauthier Urmos made 14 off of 17 shots on goal.

Saturday night's game in Winkler needed a shootout for a decision.

Period one was all about the Trents—with Trent Sambrook drawing first blood five minutes in and then Trent Penner adding two in the final few minutes to give Winkler a 3-2 lead heading into intermission.

Cole Mackenzie made it 4-2 just 12 seconds in. Virden responded in kind

six minutes later and then got the tying goal late in the third to force a fruitless overtime and, finally, the shootout.

The Oil Capitals' first shooter found his mark, though not their second. It didn't matter, though, as all three of Winkler's shooters (Gavin Waltz, Nicholas McKee, and Svenson) were denied, giving the win to Virden 5-4.

Continued on page 23

Female Hawks unbeaten in MFML exhibitions

By Voice staff

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks remained unbeaten in exhibition play so far with a win and a tie this past weekend.

The MFML team beat the Westman Wildcats 5-1 Saturday in Brandon and

followed it up with a 2-2 draw Sunday with Pilot Mound Prep.

Coming off an earlier 3-2 win over the Eastman Selects, the Hawks took period leads of 2-1 and 4-1 on Westman with Gracie Carels getting a pair of goals. Annika Braun, Mackenzie Couling and Cambree Martens also

scored for Pembina Valley, while Kaylee Franz stopped 28 of 29 shots on goal.

On Sunday, the Hawks fell behind 1-0 in the second before scoring a pair in the third. Couling had a goal and an assist for the Hawks with the other goal coming from Martens, while Tria

Enns stopped 22 of 24 shots for Pembina Valley.

The Hawks wrap up exhibition play with three games this week starting with the Winnipeg Avros Wednesday followed by a pair against the Rink Hockey Academy Saturday in Winnipeg and Sunday in Carman.

Sport and leisure expo highlights local programming



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Left: Connie Hesom and Courtney and Ryan Thiessen were at the expo to promote the Morden Challenger baseball program. Above: The Danceworks Studios registration table.

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Morden Sport and Leisure Expo last week offered a one stop shop to find out what recreational opportunities are available in the community.

Held last Wednesday at the Access Event Centre, the expo served as a registration evening for a range of programs such as minor hockey, figure skating, and 4H, but it also was a good chance for a number of other programs to raise awareness and interest.

It was particularly valuable for a few newer community ventures such as a local chapter of Cycling Without Age, a non-profit organization first founded in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2012 which by 2020 had expanded into 50 countries serving over 1.5 million people worldwide.

A local group is taking up the mission of the founder, who wanted to help elders get back on their bicycles and found a solution to limited mobility via a trishaw and volunteers to give rides.

"We're just starting up this program here," said Heather Francis. "We have actually had two bikes for just over a year already, but then COVID hit so, especially working with a vulnerable population, we had to delay our start, but we're hoping to get going soon.

"The slogan of Cycling Without Age is the right to wind in your hair ... so it just values getting people out and about in the community. It really values the principles of slowness and taking your time and creating relationships."

Francis said they saw the expo as a good way to get the word out and perhaps recruit a few volunteers.

"It's a fun program and it's a great opportunity for people who want to volunteer ... even if you don't have a lot of hours, it's very flexible," she said. "I think the expo is a great idea to get out and see the opportunities that we have in our community."

Connie Hesom, manager of the Morden Challenger baseball program, also hoped the expo would help them build the program here after its abbreviated first season this spring where they only got in one practice before things were shutdown due to the pandemic.

They did some virtual activities and are now hoping to do a fall season with six weeks of Challenger baseball, which provides an opportunity for children with cognitive or physical disabilities to play.

"We were pleased with the initial numbers we had in the spring; we had nine kids registered ... but I can definitely see it growing in this area," Hesom said. "We definitely want to

see it grow and have more people involved.

"If we can get more volunteers involved, I could see probably even having an adult league next spring and see maybe even another kids league," she added.

She hoped the expo might even help attract a few volunteers.

"They may be interested in being a buddy because in Challenger, each athlete has an able bodied person with them to help them do the practices and play the games."

Brian Thiessen, who is the beach and campground manager for the City of Morden, was also hoping the expo might help get more people involved with the Morden Paddle Club.

"We're trying to expand it a bit, get more of a membership base and introduce some other programming. We're hoping to build it up a bit more," he said.

Having been impacted to some degree during the pandemic, the club is looking forward to a more full and open season next year at the lake, he noted.

"We do still need to be safe but we need to get out and do activities that are fun and enjoyable for us," said Thiessen, who was especially promoting memberships, which can be monthly or seasonal. "It gives you free access to all the equipment if you don't have your own ... and we think there is more interest."

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 22

The MJHL regular season gets underway this weekend as Winkler hosts the Portage Terriers on Saturday and then plays in Portage Sunday.

Tickets are available at the door. The team last week also announced its season pass program.

Individual memberships/passes are \$300 while family memberships are \$600. Each get you into every regular season game and discounts on the playoffs.

Memberships can be purchased at the Winkler Flyers office this Wednesday and Thursday from 1-5 p.m. or at the Winkler Centennial Arena entrance Saturday from 6-7:30 p.m.

Season/VIP passes from last year's cancelled season will be honoured with a discount for this year based on games played.

There is also an option for reserved seating for season ticket holders.

Contact the team for further details

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news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-332-3456

The Winkler Morden
Voice



Youth run MB Marathon

Five local youth ran in the Manitoba Marathon Sept. 5 and were not far off from winning the men's relay event. William Vandenberg of Winkler along with Ben Wiens, Joel Geake, Benji Dueck, and Joshua Hildebrand of Morden recorded a time of 2:50:26, which was just three minutes behind the first placed men's team and 20 minutes faster than the third place mens team.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Twisters kick off season with a win over Twins

By Voice staff

The Pembina Valley Twisters started off exhibition play this past weekend on a winning note.

The MMJHL team beat the Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins 6-4 in Winnipeg.

The Twisters jumped on the Twins quickly with two goals before the game was two minutes old and then held a 4-0 lead after one period.

Scoring for Pembina Valley were Caelan Russel, Zander Carels, Luke Van De Velde, Zach Tetrault, Travis Penner and Jackson Wilson.

Sean Penner made 23 saves with the Twisters outshooting the Twins 49-27.

Pembina Valley pays a visit to Transcona Friday and St. Boniface Sunday to wrap up pre-season play.

The regular season schedule was not yet available at press time.

Morden Area Fdn. now accepting grant applications

By Lorne Stelmach

If your organization has a project in mind for the betterment of the community, the Morden Area Foundation wants to hear about it.

The foundation is accepting applications for its 2021 grants until Sept. 30.

The grants are not meant to support administrative or regular operating expenses, but otherwise the foundation is looking for "absolutely anything that could be exciting for our

community, for our area," said executive director Lynda Lambert.

"They like to see things like partnerships with either other organizations or businesses ... something that may be looks at the bigger picture," she suggested.

"They like to grant to things that are the first, have never been done before or if it's a new concept or new idea," she added as examples. "They love to be able to help get projects like that off the ground."

"It is our care home, the community's care home"

From Pg. 21

that the difference after some of these changes was like night and day. "The residents just became so much easier to work with, agitation was so minimal. It was such a 'Wow, why didn't we see this a lot sooner' moment."

Relationship-based care became a major focus at Salem, and a big part of it has been finding ways to give staff as much quality time as possible to spend with residents.

"Every piece of new equipment that we've built into our facility we're trying to buy staff time. Because if we're asking them to do more and more we have to give them the time to do that," Janzen says, pointing out that workers used to spend hours a day shuttling residents to and from the common dining room, for example. Decentralizing meal times bought them that time back; time that can be spent more meaningfully interacting with the people in their care. "We're always building and adding more and more components to it ... we are literally writing our own model here.

"I think throughout Salem's history the values of Salem have remained true," says Janzen. "How we've accomplished those values has changed, is changing, and will continue to change because our populations are different.

"People come here to live," she adds. "They can no longer help themselves and so they need people to help them. And that's what we do here."

BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Salem has come a long way over the years, but Janzen still has big dreams for the facility before she considers retirement.

They've purchased a number of houses on the block behind their 15th

St. campus with the hope of adding more specialized care beds for residents with dementia and behavioural challenges. The expansion will be built using what's known as the small-house model of care, where residents are part of their own little community and the units are meant to provide both secure spaces but also calming ones.

"They need smaller environments, less stimulating, less anxiety-producing environments," Janzen says. The project is still waiting for provincial approval.

They are also hard at working getting more staff certified in DementiaAbility methods to better help residents living with dementia.

Also in the works is the rollout of a new spiritual care volunteer program to better meet the spiritual needs of residents.

"Salem has become a leader in care and I really hope that keeps going, that we'll stay in the forefront," Thiessen says. "Salem has a core staff that are really, really good at that ... they're aren't necessarily willing to stand still. They're always looking to do more."

Whatever project Salem tackles next, Janzen and Thiessen have no doubt the community will be there, as it always has, to walk alongside them.

"When you lay out what's happening here and that there's something we can do to solve it, people come on board," Janzen says. "I'm always very grateful for that. I personally feel very blessed that we have been part of the fabric of the community."

"The community had been generous in supporting Salem," adds Thiessen. "It is *our* care home, the community's care home."

announced in December.

More information and the application form is available online at www.mordenfoundation.ca/grants. You can also drop off or mail applications to 13 - 379 Stephen Street, Morden, MB, R6M 0G8.

If you have any questions regarding granting or would like to discuss possible projects and needs in the community, contact the foundation at 204-822-5614 or info@mordenfoundation.ca.

It can be a challenging task for the foundation to select the recipients, as they only have somewhere in the range of \$23,000 to hand out each year.

"I think it was a couple years ago we had \$168,000 worth of requests," Lambert noted, "but we can only grant out a little over \$20,000. It's become hard [to choose]."

Applicants will have the chance to pitch their project to the foundation board in October. The final decision will be made in November and then

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ESTATE SALE

Estate sale for Barrie and Lucile Sanders, Sat., Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 31 Boyne Cres., Carman. Furniture, electronics, household items, yard tools, J.D. riding lawnmower, computer, power lift chair & much more.

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CAREERS



Chief Financial Officer

The Municipality of Rhineland is accepting applications for a full-time permanent Chief Financial Officer.

A complete job description is available at our website:
<http://www.rmofrhineland.com/p/employment-opportunities>

Position Summary

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the financial functions of the Municipality along with various other administrative management functions.

Qualifications and experience

Candidates are expected to have a thorough knowledge of accounting through related experience and or training. A professional accounting program (CPA) and/or Municipal experience would be considered an asset.

Pay Package

The salary will be competitive with a comprehensive benefits package.

Please submit your resume and cover letter detailing how your experience and qualifications meet the requirements. We thank all that apply, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The position will remain posted until filled. The candidate being considered will be required to undergo a Criminal Record Check.

Michael Rempel
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Rhineland, Box 270 Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Phone: 204-324-5357 Fax: 204-324-1516
E-mail - Michael.rempel@rhinelandmb.ca

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 7th day of October, 2021, at the hour of 1:00 PM, at Rural Municipality of Stanley, 23111 PTH 14, Winkler MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
77150	LOT 1 PLAN 32794 MLTO IN SE 1/4 8-1-6 WPM EXCEPTING THEREOUT - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 53628 MLTO - 1068 ROAD 34W	L - \$93,700 B - \$154,200	\$10,611.68

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Stanley as follows:
 - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 - iii) A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2021.

Managed by:



Dale Toews
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
Phone: (204) 325-4101
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Scortch Sawatzky and family would like to thank organizer Theo Allen and all the drivers who participated in his birthday drive-by! The cars and firetruck brought back many happy memories! Also, thank you for all the many birthday cards and greetings! Special thanks to the staff at Tabor Home.

OBITUARY



Marie Bartel Plett

1 November 1925, Meade, KS –
4 September 2021, Steinbach, Manitoba

Marie is survived by five sons: Marvin (Alviera) of Winkler, MB, Eldin of Steinbach, MB, Leroy (Liz) of Springfield, MB, Wayne (Patsy) of Grande Prairie, AB, and Eddy (Erna) of Port Colborne, ON and two daughters: Lynette of The Pas and Winnipeg, MB and Sharon (Sylvain Martel) of Laval, QC; 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Marie is also survived by two brothers Henry (Anne) Bartel of Rosenort, MB and Pete Bartel of Meade, KS, three sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, many nieces and nephews and friends. Marie was predeceased by her husband Jake Plett.

Mom's passing will leave an unimaginable void in our lives. We will miss her bright smile, her hearty laugh, her intelligent conversations, her curiosity, and her concern for our overall well-being. However, we will continue to hear her voice every time we read a passage from one of her diaries and feel her warmth from one of the many quilts she embroidered.

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www.birchwoodfuneralchapel.com



OBITUARY



Isaac Peter Kroeker

1925 - 2021

Isaac Kroeker, of Morden, Manitoba passed away peacefully in his 96th year with family members present at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Thursday September 2, 2021 after a short illness.

He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy in July 2015 after 64 years of marriage, as well as an infant son, David Keith in 1965. He was the last surviving member of 13 siblings in his father's family (Peter J Kroeker, of Morden).

He is survived by six children, Ron (Judy) Ottawa, ON, Jeannette (Arnie), Calgary, AB, Brian (Marian), Vernon, BC, Vivian (Arthur), Radium, BC, Beverly, Winnipeg and Val (Howard), Chappell, NE, USA. He has been blessed with 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Born in 1925 near Morden, he worked with his father, who built many of the earliest roads in the RM of Stanley. During the war years, he worked on the Peterson farm north of Morden, followed by several winters working in northern Ontario and Manitoba as a cat-train driver. Long service with Pembina Mountain Clays, as a heavy-equipment operator, strip-mining bentonite clay near Miami was followed by another longer career operating Valley Concrete in Morden until his retirement in 1990. In post-retirement years, he and Dorothy made three volunteer mission trips to Kenya, the longest of which was six months operating a guest house in Nairobi. He travelled to Israel and across Canada from Newfoundland to BC and many American states visiting his children and grandchildren in the various places where they lived. A self-taught carpenter, he renovated numerous houses, including his own several times, as well as building two new houses for himself and one with his son. A significant achievement was being named co-chair of the building program that produced the current Christian Life Centre (of which he was an active life-long member) in Morden. Woodworking was a joy and projects in his shop continued long into retirement; many homes and family members in the area have furniture made by him. A retirement project was to build an heirloom piece of oak furniture for each grandchild, blanket chests for the girls and desks for the boys. Isaac lived a long and productive life, loving his wife and family, quietly serving God in his humble way and faithfully supporting the church and the community in which he lived. He was a man of prayer and will be remembered for that by those who knew him best.

A celebration of life for him and his dear wife Dorothy will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2016 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden.

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



OBITUARY



Melvin Isaac Hoepfner

1933 – 2021

After a long struggle with cancer, Melvin Isaac Hoepfner, beloved husband of the late Lena Hoepfner, passed away at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Thursday September 2, 2021.

Dad was born January 13, 1933 to Anthony and Katherine Hoepfner at their home in the RM of Stanley. He was the first born of a family of seven. Dad attended Valleyfield School and the MCI in Gretna. Dad was baptized June 1, 1952 by Bishop J.M. Pauls. Dad married Mom on July 26, 1953. This union was blessed with eight children. Dad and Mom lived in Winkler for the first few years of their married life. Dad worked at P.T. Friesen & Son in Winkler as a linotype operator. In 1957, our parents bought a farm in the Mason School District. This was the home where they raised their

family and operated a grain and dairy farm until they retired and moved to Winkler in 2005. Dad and Mom worked hard on the farm in order to make a living and provide for their family. They milked cows and seeded and harvested their crops. Besides farming, Dad enjoyed public life. He was a school trustee for 25 years, Reeve of the RM of Stanley from 1988 to 1998, and board member and president of the Pembina Threshermen's Museum. Dad received the Diamond Jubilee Medal for outstanding community service. Besides this, Dad liked frequenting the coffee shop in Blumenfeld and enjoyed visits from his children and grandchildren.

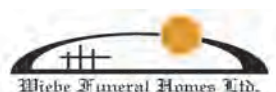
Dad leaves to mourn his passing his eight children, Doug (Elaine), Gwen (Cliff), Renata (Bob), Carl (Janet), Lynda (Earl), Monica (Carl), Angela (Art), Chris (Kathy) and their families. Dad was predeceased by our Mom, Lena; his parents, two brothers and one granddaughter.

Private graveside service was held at the Waldheim Cemetery. The family wishes to thank all of those who have upheld Dad and our family in prayer and good wishes. Special thanks to Dad's neighbours on Cottonwood Bay who helped him, especially during these last few months. A very special thank you to Dr. Kevin Convery and staff on the medical unit at BTHC for their exemplary care of Dad during his last days here on earth.

Dad, your days of pain are over. We love you and miss you. Until we meet again.

-The family

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