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# United Way aiming high with 2025-26 campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

United Way Pembina Valley's annual fundraising campaign is now underway, and the organization is aiming a little higher this year.

At a campaign kickoff last Wednesday at the Winkler Senior Centre, board president Levi Taylor commented on their optimism that the generosity of community members and corporate donors would allow them to up their target this year.

"Last spring, we were able to give back \$110,000 in grants and scholarships," he shared. "This year we're aiming to beat that. Our campaign goal for 2025-2026 is \$125,000. With your help, we know we can do it."

Taylor emphasized he remains eternally optimistic about the generosity of the communities they serve across the Pembina Valley.

"The community never ceases to amaze us with how generous they are, so we're excited to increase our goal," he said. "We're excited to see what this year holds, and ultimately we're just grateful to the entire community for their support."

United Way Pembina Valley was able to distribute a total of \$102,500 in grant funding to 19 local non-profit agencies thanks to the community's support of the 2024-2025 campaign. That support also allowed it to present \$7,500 in scholarships and bursaries to graduates at Garden Valley Collegiate, Northlands Parkway Collegiate, and Morden Collegiate.

Above and beyond these annual donations, the board of directors also dipped into the agency's savings last year

to support the Genesis House transitional housing project with a \$15,000 funding commitment.

"Individual and corporate donations are what allow us to support local non-profits who provide vital programs and services to children, families and individuals in our region," Taylor said, noting a government grant covers the United Way's administrative costs which means every penny donated is able to go right back into the community.

"We give back to different organizations, whether it's sledge hockey or Big Brothers Big Sisters, Central Station or 500 Stephen," he said. "All these different organizations, they use those funds and impact individual people's lives ... you begin to see the ripple effect throughout the community, and it's quite something."

They always like supporting a varied list of organizations and services, Taylor observed.

"We want to meet the needs of the community," he said. "The United Way gives based on need and what is desirable in the community ... we try to spread it out ... we try to support as many different organizations as we can."

Donations to the campaign can be made online at [unitedwaypembinavalley.ca](http://unitedwaypembinavalley.ca) or via e-transfer to [unitedwaypembinavalley@gmail.com](mailto:unitedwaypembinavalley@gmail.com) (include your name and address for a tax receipt). Cheques can be mailed to United Way, PO Box 758, Morden, MB, R6M 1A7.

In addition, the United Way was also accepting donations in person during fundraising barbecues at the Co-op grocery stores in Winkler last Saturday and in Morden on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Businesses can also get in touch with the agency to find out about making it easier for their employees to give



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

United Way president Levi Taylor says the community's generosity never ceases to amaze him. The agency is hoping to raise \$125,000 this fall.

through a payroll deduction program.

Applications for United Way funding will be available soon on the agency's website.



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# Nearly 200 cyclists take part in Head for the Hills

By Lorne Stelmach

Close to 200 cycling enthusiasts gathered south of Morden Saturday for the annual Head for the Hills fundraiser in support of the Eden Foundation.

A final tally was not available at press time, but the event generally raises around \$100,000 for the foundation each year, so it has a tremendous impact.

"This is our biggest event both in terms of the number of participants and the funds raised, so it is one of our flagship events," said Dave Sawatsky, director of development for the foundation.

"We rely on this event and a few others to help fund our programs," he noted. "This is major part of contributing to the mental health of the communities here."

Kelby Friesen of Mitchell was participating for his second time. He says he greatly values the work of Eden, including through his own work as a pastor.

"Our conference is connected with the Eden Foundation, and there's a gentleman from our church who is a board member, so he always encourages cyclists from the church to join in," said Friesen.

"I do quite a bit of cycling," he noted. "And I grew up in this area. This is a lot hillier than Steinbach, so it's a little bit more challenging."

"It's always more exciting to ride with a crowd rather than by myself," Friesen added. "It's fantastic. It's a good thing."

Michael Payne of Morden has also participated a few times now.

"I just love seeing everyone get together here and just see lots of families and kids and communities out and just heading for the hills and getting some exercise and just having fun," he said.

Payne noted it was unfortunate the route had to be changed due to the conditions, but he enjoyed it regardless.

"It's a pity the trail was closed this year, but we still have fun on the gravel."

"It's just good to get outside and in a little bit of nature ... I'm not necessarily a road biker, but I love the trails around Morden ... and I just love being out away from all the hustle and bustle and getting some exercise and being out and about in nature."

"And there's no better cause than the Eden Foundation," he added. "They do some fantastic work."

Sawatsky it is great to see people of



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Hundreds of riders hit the road in support of Eden Foundation at Head for the Hills last Saturday.

all ages and backgrounds out to support the event.

"We have great support from the Hutterite communities," he noted.

"Many colonies are represented here ... and some of them are our biggest fundraisers."



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# Morden thanks Chief Neduzak for 40 years of service

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden paid tribute last week to its retiring police chief Brad Neduzak, who is preparing to step down after 40 years of service, including 25 as chief.

A few speakers honoured Neduzak at a ceremony held last Thursday at the Access Event Centre.

"What sets Brad apart is how he has led ... he has led with humility, with humour and with an unwavering focus on the community," said Scott Halley, who is deputy chief with the Winnipeg Police and president of the Manitoba Association of Police Chiefs.

He commented on recognizing "a man whose name has become synonymous with service, with integrity and with community. Under Brad's leadership, the Morden Police Service grew not just in size but in capability ... Brad ensured that Morden's police officers had the tools, had the training and the vision to serve a growing city."

Morden city manager Nicole Reidle praised Neduzak for serving as "a steady hand, a trusted leader, and a



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Chief Brad Neduzak (third from left) with Morden Police Service members Chris Flook, Scott Edwards, and Sean Aune at his retirement celebration last week.

true advocate for community safety."

She noted the length of his career meant he has worked alongside 31 different members of city council, six mayors, and five city managers, so it is a testament to the respect and trust he has earned.

"Your career has been defined by professionalism, integrity, and a gen-

uine care for people. You built a police service that reflects the values of this city."

Mayor Nancy Penner pointed out that the Morden police department has been around for 134 years, and Neduzak has been there for about 30 per cent of that time.

"I wonder if your record will ever be broken?" said Penner, who called it an honour and a privilege to pay tribute to him and highlighted the special units he helped launch, including the canine unit, tactical team, and the negotiators team as well as most recently a community resource officer position. "You have built a respect and trust and guided your department with integrity and compassion."

"It is an honour to see so many come

out to kind of say goodbye and thank you from the community," said Neduzak. "This is why you stay as long in a community and in an organization like this for 40 years because of all these people. It truly is a big family in a small community, and I couldn't have chosen a better place to live, to work, and raise a family."

Neduzak reflected on how much things have changed over his four decades of service.

"I started with four constables including myself back in 1985 ... now we have a complete staff of 21 with support staff ... so we really have grown especially with the specialty teams we've developed over the years.

"You want to ensure that things are safer and better for the community, safer and better for staff," he said. "It's been a heck of a run, and I'm truly honoured to have been given that opportunity to lead the police service ... council saw something in me way back then, and thank goodness they did, so I appreciate being given that opportunity.

"It's very shocking ... when you say 40 years, you think that's a long time, but in the next breath, it's like it's flown by so quickly. I used to hate when people say time flies, but it is very, very true. I can't even quite believe I'm quite here today."

Neduzak's final days as chief will come at the end of the month.

"We're not going anywhere though," he noted. "We're sticking around in Morden—you couldn't ask for a better place to retire."

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[www.genrising.org/events](http://www.genrising.org/events)

# Bridge out at Brunkild for foreseeable future

By Voice staff

Hwy. 3 travellers might want to find an alternative route into the city for the foreseeable future.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has closed the bridge over the Morris River on PTH 3 near Brunkild until further notice.

"Due to structural instability, an emergency closure is in place to ensure the safety of travellers," the province said last week. "Both west-

bound and eastbound lanes on PTH 3 are closed to traffic, with a detour in place directing traffic to PTH 13 and PTH 2."

Plans are underway to replace the structure, the province has said, though no timeline was provided.

Up-to-date information on highway conditions, including detours, restrictions, and road closures, is available at [www.manitoba511.ca/](http://www.manitoba511.ca/) or by calling 511.

**The Voice** What's *your* story? Call 204-325-6888





## Cruise for Hope raises \$35K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Car buffs from across the region put the pedal to the metal Saturday for the N49 Cruise for Hope in support of the Pembina Counselling Centre.

The parade of wheels started out from Altona midday, stopped in Winkler for a car show and supper at Hometown Service, and ended the day at Morden's Stardust Drive-in for a screening of *F1*.

Executive director Chris Derksen was thrilled to see the numbers grow across the board in the event's second year.

"Last year we had 90 vehicles registered. This year we had 113, and that does not include the people that just showed up in Winkler—we had well over 115 vehicles there," he said.

Financially, the day looked Monday to be on track to have brought in around \$35,000 for the counselling centre, after expenses.

"Last year we did \$25,000, so we're absolutely thrilled," Derksen said.

The funds go to help Pembina Counselling provide affordable mental

health care. Their services are offered on a sliding-fee scale to ensure everyone has access.

"People in our community—and I'm so grateful for them—they need to know that their donations are making a difference in people's lives," Derksen said. "People struggling with addiction, with anxiety, with relational problems, whatever it may be."

The centre has seen the demand for counselling explode in recent years. In 2020, they had about 2,000 appointments; this year they're on track to hit 5,000.

"And our staff has increased, too," Derksen shared. "We had three counsellors back then and now we have 10 and we're actually looking for number 11."

Fundraisers like the Cruise for Hope help the non-profit keep costs low.

"We couldn't do that without the support of the community," Derksen stressed. "So a big thank-you to all our corporate donors as well as everybody that came out to support the cruise."

## Winkler borrowing \$4M less than expected for water plant expansion

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council did some financial housekeeping at its Sept. 9 meeting—namely, updating its borrowing bylaw for the water treatment plant expansion to reflect the fact the community needs to borrow millions of dollars less than originally expected.

When the project was getting underway, council approved plans to borrow \$8 million to pay for the municipal portion of the project. Last week, that required bank loan had dropped to just \$4 million.

The community's part of the \$14.8 million expansion comes to just over \$7.3 million (contributions of \$7.2M and \$323,635 from the provincial government and Winkler Meats, respec-

tively, cover the rest), most of which the City of Winkler has been able to cover through other means aside from borrowing.

"We had a number of things that worked in our favour to help us get here," explained Mayor Henry Siemens. "We had a significant utility surplus in 2024 and we put that towards this project. We've also had the benefit of some large capital projects that the province and the federal government have participated in that have allowed us, as they committed their funding towards it, to put those dollars into savings that have generated some interest revenue. So we were able to use that."

Continued on page 7



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL AND ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Over 100 cars took part in this year's Cruise for Hope Saturday in support of the Pembina Counselling Centre, raising \$35,000 for the non-profit. Drivers

gathered in Altona (above and at right) to start the day, made their way to Winkler (above, left) for a car show and supper at Hometown Service, and then headed to Morden for a movie at the Stardust Drive-in.



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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## The skibidi column

**E**very so often you see something or hear a phrase that makes you panic as someone over a certain age. You instantly ask: "Am I so out of touch that I know longer recognize certain things?"

While I lack a certain amount of rizz, I assure this this column will be as skibidi as anything you've ever read.

(NOTE FROM "MANAGEMENT": We apologize to readers on behalf of the columnist for their having to endure exposure to the previous sentence as he unexpectedly entered goblin mode. We understand that a certain amount of trauma may have resulted and while we accept no legal liability, we want you to know we're here for you. We now return you to your regularly scheduled column.)



**By Peter Cantelon**

What triggered this? Over the past year I have begun to notice a substantial increase in the number of people who hold their phones about half a meter in front of their faces while having a conversation ... usually loudly and often while walking or sitting alone in a restaurant.

Most often the above activity is accompanied by a slew of loud, abrupt inquiries of "What? WHAT? WHAAAAAT? I didn't hear you. Talk louder. What?" as if the user was not

aware that there was a perfectly functional earpiece hidden in the top of the phone (no doubt soon to go the way of the headphone jack).

Rarely does anyone use the old-fashioned hold-the-phone-to-your-ear method anymore. That method has been relegated to the 1900s alongside rotary dialing and the internal combustion engine.

Now I should state for the record I am all for change and the evolution of behaviour. I proudly count myself as an early adopter ... but, I don't know, this particular habit annoys me.

I think it's because I like to see things evolve for the better and this seems like a backward step. It feels less efficient and more disruptive.

At this point there may be numerous readers proclaiming "OK BOOMER" to these complaints, to which I would respond ewwww ... I am not a Boomer, I am a proud member of Generation X. The coolest generation so far and the bridge between the non-technological stone ages of the early 20th century and the technological era we find ourselves in now.

(NOTE FROM "MANAGEMENT": Once again apologies to our Boomer readers for the unnecessary insult in

the previous paragraph. The columnist has been warned and should such an incident happen again rest assured another sternly worded warning will be issued.)

I recognize the irony of complaining about new behaviours in a column printed in a—gasp—print newspaper that you have to hold in your hands (although it is online as a PDF as well, for we are as advanced as any).

The likelihood of anyone in Gen Z and beyond actually reading this is slim (with apologies to the publisher).

(CORRECTION: ChatGPT has just informed me that Gen Z is MOST likely to read their news in print (both on paper and online) at 90 per cent compared with Millennials at 89 per cent, Gen X at 64 per cent (SHAME) and Boomers at a lousy 33 per cent.)

Well, I for one now welcome our child overlords.

Having now forgotten the point of this column given my significantly advanced age I will end on the following note: things change. You cannot stop it. Consider adapting. Kthxbai!

## Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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

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

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

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

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# Ride for Refuge Oct. 4

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second annual Ride for Refuge in support of Genesis House takes place in Morden next month.

Organizers have set a goal of \$20,000 for the Oct. 4 ride/walk.

"That's what we raised last year, which was great," shares Sophie Gerbrandt, resource and community coordinator for the shelter for the victims of domestic violence. "We had a little under 100 people, which was awesome for the first time doing an event like this."

As of press time, 33 participants had already signed up for the 2025 edition, raising over \$8,000 in pledges.

"It's exciting to see," says Gerbrandt, explaining the funds are earmarked for Genesis House's transitional housing project now under construction in Winkler. The 25-unit apartment complex will give women and their children a safe place to rebuild their lives free from their abusers. It's expected to open in 2027.

"The event's called Ride for Refuge, so we thought it would make sense with our project that we have going on to focus on housing with these funds," says Gerbrandt. "We're getting closer to that project actually becoming a reality. Last year it was more of a dream ... this year we can show this is what the money is going towards."

Ride for Refuge participants can pick between 2.5 km or 5 km walking routes or bike routes of 10 km and 20 km. The routes will all be clearly marked and there will be rest stops along the way.

Check-in will begin on the green space north of the spray park in Morden Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. After a brief opening ceremony at 10:45 a.m., the walk will get underway at 11 a.m. followed by a pizza lunch at noon.

If Oct. 4 doesn't work for you, you can still take part by registering to fundraise and participate offsite on a

day and time that does.

Last year's ride drew people of all ages.

"It's a very family-friendly event," says Gerbrandt, "and a really good way to get a different demographic of people involved with what we do at Genesis House."

You can sign up as an individual or with a team. Registration is free; riders are simply asked to collect pledges in support of the cause, if they can.

"We just ask that if people are able to donate, that's great," Gerbrandt says. "But we do have riders and walkers who are coming just to support us, and we welcome that as well."

Everyone who raises \$150 or more (\$75 or more for those under 18) in donations will receive a Ride for Ref-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Last year's Ride for Refuge drew nearly 100 walkers and raised \$20,000 for Genesis House. Organizers are hoping for similar numbers for this year's walk/ride, which takes place in Morden Oct. 4.

uge shirt in thanks for their efforts.

You can register in advance at [en.rideforrefuge.org/location/morden](http://en.rideforrefuge.org/location/morden)

den or simply show up on the day.

"The more, the merrier," Gerbrandt says.

## > WATER PLAN EXPANSION, FROM PG. 5

An additional \$1 million from the province through the Manitoba Water Services Board as the scope and cost of the project changed also helped bring Winkler's debt load down, the mayor said, as did the fact that all three of the major capital projects currently underway in the city—the water plant expansion, wastewater treatment build, and Centennial Arena renovations—are on schedule and on budget.

"So we're on the home stretch on all of these really big capital projects without having to dig into those additional incidentals [funds] that quite often we run into," Siemens said. "We've had, through really good management of our finances through our staff, but also through project management, making sure our projects stay on track, stay on budget, it allows us to come into a bit of a perfect storm of a situation that we're able to pay down a good chunk of this today with savings and surpluses so that we have to borrow way less money."

The \$4M the city is borrowing is on a five-year payback plan, which means lower interest costs as well long term.

Work on the expansion is basically complete.

"We're about ready to flip the switch now," Siemens said, explaining staff are currently doing tests to ensure everything is ready to go.

The upgrades will allow the plant to process 110 litres of water per second—up from 42 l/s previously.

More importantly, though, it will bring efficiency—how much raw water it's able to successfully recover from the aquifer the community draws from—up from about 70 per cent to approximately 90 per cent.

"That's a really positive piece because we don't want to take additional water out of the ground," Siemens said. "We will be taking a little bit more, but not significantly more because we'll be able to be so much more efficient in terms of the water that we treat in not having as much reject water."

The expansion will serve the community to a population size of 25,000.

"Depending on our growth rate, it should take us into the 2040s," Siemens said.

## FATE OF DOG PARK STILL UNDECIDED

With the water treatment plant project nearing completion, the future of the Winkler Dog Park, formerly located right beside the facility, is still a bit up in the air.

The park was closed through the construction process. City staff have attempted to find alternative sites for it over the past couple of years, but have been unsuccessful.

"We haven't found another location yet that's worked," Siemens said, stressing it's still very much on the city's radar as they look to find a suitable long-term home for the park. "It is, I think, a valuable service for our community and it would be great to have another one."

"We will have to take a look and see if there's still enough room there [at the original location]."

# Coin club prepares for fall show

By Staff

The Manitoba Coin Club is set to host its Fall Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show later this month, giving the public a chance to learn more about numismatics and connect with collectors.

The event takes place Sept. 27 and 28 at Access Credit Union in Stonewall. Organizer Larry Dalman said this year's show will feature more dealers, along with opportunities for attendees to learn about collecting, protecting investments and keep-

ing up with trends.

The Royal Canadian Mint will attend both days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering three new coin varieties — two toonies and one loonie. Each individual will be limited to purchasing five coins of each type.

Dalman said the club has grown considerably since COVID-19, thanks in part to its involvement in Mint exchanges and continued support from local media.

## Manitoba Coin Club

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Sun. Sept 28, 2025 10am-5pm

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48 Holland Road West Saint Paul, MB

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# Morris author's first book a bestseller

By Lorne Stelmach

Lorn Bergstresser joined the ranks of bestselling authors on Amazon with his book *Millionaire Janitor: A Tale of Achieving the American Dream*.

Released this spring, *Millionaire Janitor* received much more attention and recognition than would have been expected by the Morris native.

"I had no idea it would bring that kind of response," said Bergstresser. "It's very encouraging."

*Millionaire Janitor* is a story of resilience, love, and ambition that shows true wealth is found in community, perseverance, and purpose.

On the unforgiving streets of south Chicago, main character Horatio Alger Jefferson was born into a world of struggle and survival. Raised by his fiercely determined mother Emily, Horatio learned the values of hard work, faith and perseverance.

From a humble janitor to a man destined for greatness, Horatio's story is one of love, sacrifice, and unyielding ambition. Guided by his steadfast relationship with Melody, the woman who captures his heart, and bolstered by the values instilled by his community, Horatio learns that wealth isn't just a matter of dollars—it's also measured in love, community, and purpose.

As with his characters, Bergstresser's life has been shaped by loving parents and a lifetime of learning experiences.

Starting out life on a farm, then working as a baker, janitor, and maintenance man in college, he went on to attain a BSc and MSc, all of which led him to a career in research and development with an international chemical corporation before eventually re-

turning home to the Morris area.

And not only did he serve as a public school trustee, he also found it a satisfying accomplishment to serve on the governing board of Providence University.

Returning to his roots, Bergstresser ran the family farm for 23 years while also teaching college courses to Indigenous students in Myanmar and helping run a web conferencing company.

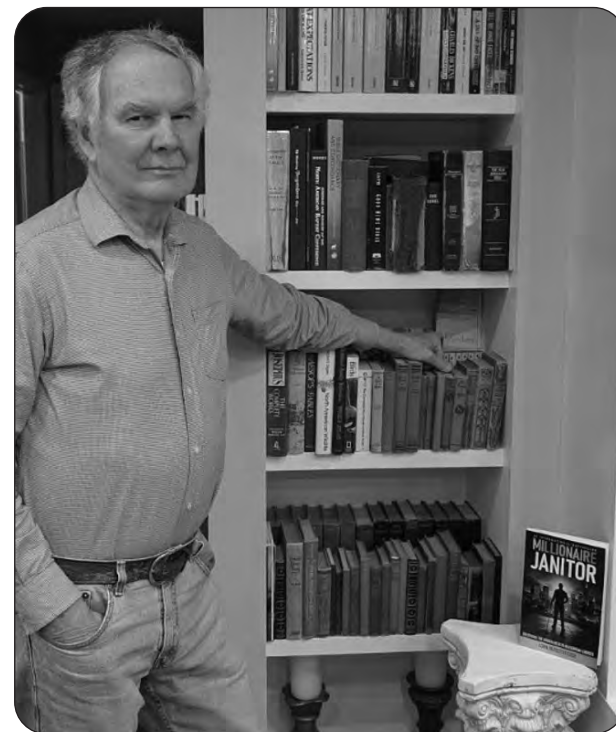
A lifetime sports enthusiast and organizer, today he enjoys working with authors to edit their books while sharing his insights through his own writing and working with the Free Enterprise Warriors organization.

"In various roles, I had to do a lot of writing and speaking ... but writing a book was never on my bucket list," shared Bergstresser, who credited author Joe Glover and his involvement with Free Enterprise Warriors for driving him to write *Millionaire Janitor*. "He said, 'Lorn, I want you to write a book.' He gave me the title *Millionaire Janitor* and he said run with it."

Bergstresser had the idea of having the story set in a poor area where people really had to struggle to survive.

"The whole purpose of the book was to help young people, young couples make wise decisions early in life, because every decision that is made between the ages of 15 and 25 is something that there's almost no turning back on later on," he suggested.

Since its release, *Millionaire Janitor* reached number one international bestseller status in four categories and number one hot new releases status in six categories.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Lorn Bergstresser with *Millionaire Janitor*, his first book. Released this spring, it's already hit the Amazon bestsellers lists.

Bergstresser is now at work on his next book.

"I guess I'm about more than a third and maybe half way through my second book," he shared. "I love doing it ... you just have a sense of satisfaction as you're going through it ... making the creative juices run through your mind."

You can find more information about the book and the author by visiting [LornBergstresser.com](http://LornBergstresser.com).

# Local manufacturers receive federal funding

By Lorne Stelmach

A number of manufacturers in the region recently received significant investments from the federal government.

Among them is Morden's Decor Cabinets, which is receiving \$3.2 million to help increase its manufacturing capacity and efficiency and to enable Decor to supply new markets, increase market share and grow revenue.

Chief financial officer Dave Schellenberg said the funding in the form of an interest free loan helps with the significant expansion undertaken by Decor in Morden. It includes a 4,000 square foot expansion along with a new \$20 million automated production line.

"That's a big project that's been going for us now for a few years," said Schellenberg. "For us, it kind of shows how the government is getting behind companies like ours ... to fa-

cilitate growth for the company and do that also through the higher skilled labour we will require to run the new machinery that we're getting here.

"They're wanting companies like us to be competitive on a global landscape," he suggested. "Showing their support in rural Manitoba and rural Canada and helping us compete on a global scale is really what we are getting out of it.

"We've always known we have a manufacturing hub here in southern Manitoba ... and it's nice to see the support and to see the growth," he said. "It shows they do have a commitment and are supporting local businesses such as ours, which is a great thing."

"We sincerely appreciate the support PrairiesCan has provided for this project. It reflects our shared commitment to growth, workforce upskilling and digital transformation and demonstrates the great results we can achieve by working together," said

CEO Stan Pauls.

In addition to Decor, Icon Technologies Limited in Winkler will receive almost \$5 million to expand its recreational vehicle plastic component manufacturing capacity. Company representatives did not return requests for comment at press time.

Also receiving support is PhiBer Manufacturing, with the Crystal City company receiving \$4.1 million to expand their manufacturing capacity to scale up production of innovative agricultural equipment to meet a growing demand (see story on Pg. 14.).

As well, UKKÖ Robotics in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes is receiving \$529,284 to expand production of automated agricultural equipment and carbon soil sensor technologies, while Schnell Industries in Winkler is getting \$423,699 to design, build, and market a fully electric transloader for granular materials.

Manufacturing is a key driver of Manitoba's economy, noted Eleanor

Olszewski, Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan).

By adopting new technologies and processes, this keystone industry is innovating and supporting Canada's long-term growth while creating well-paying jobs here at home and improved food security internationally, Olszewski said in announcing more than \$21 million in federal investments for nine Manitoba-based businesses.

"These investments will help companies expand, improve productivity and remain competitive on the global stage," she said. "These investments demonstrate the Government of Canada's commitment to developing Canadian supply chains in one Canadian economy, ensuring a future where Canadians can work, innovate and succeed where they live."

**News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888**





## Studio visits

The annual showcase of the arts across the region drew people out this past weekend for the Pembina Valley Studio Tour. Now in its 21st year, it has become a good chance for artists to be able to share their work and the spaces where they create it. There were 24 locations overall, including the studios of Margie Hildebrand (above, right, visiting with tour participant Joni Fuchsmeier of Altona), George Fieber (left), who displayed his stained glass pieces and demonstrated how he makes them, and Kristina Lik (at right) who together with Renee Hildebrand gave people a peek behind the scenes at Winkler Clay Works.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH AND ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



## Leah Klassen elected GVSD board chair for fourth term

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Leah Klassen will continue as the chair of the Garden Valley School Division board of trustees for a fourth year.

The board's reorganization meeting Sept. 9 saw Klassen retain her seat at the helm, joined by John Klassen once again as vice-chair.

John Klassen will also continue to serve as chair of the education committee, while Heather DiFrancesco and Deana Wilson move into leadership roles as chairs of the community connections committee and the operations committee, respectively.

"It's super humbling to have the support and the confidence of the eight trustees around the table," Leah Klassen said, noting the entire board is eager for the year ahead—their final one before the 2026 Municipal Election.

The board has spent the past three years drafting and executing GVSD's strategic plan, and the coming school year will see them hold the course.

"At the beginning of our term, we did a lot of consultations and we set the direction for the next four years," Klassen said. "So we know the path we have to take and we are definitely on that path and moving forward."

Supports to improve student literacy and numeracy skills have been at the top of the division's to-do list for years now and continues to be so.

"We want to make sure that our students are reading and understanding math to the best of their ability," Klassen said, noting the board has also prioritized funds for mental health supports in schools and focused on strengthening communication with the communities it serves.

**"WE KNOW THE PATH WE HAVE TO TAKE AND WE ARE DEFINITELY ON THAT PATH AND MOVING FORWARD."**

"One of the things that I'm really proud of from the last term is the relationships that we've built," she said, noting the board has worked hard to maintain relationships at the municipal and provincial government levels, as well as ensuring the public at large feels informed and heard.

"We have an agenda item every month when we meet in our in-camera session that is feedback from the community," Klassen shared. "It gives trustees an opportunity to talk about what they've heard [from community members] ... that's an incredible tool. Locally-elected school boards have that opportunity to directly impact their school divisions, their community."

"Our community connections com-

mittee is very intentional about creating opportunities for us to be

Continued on page 11

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# getinformed

## Legion unveils eight new memorial banners

By Lorne Stelmach

The roster of commemorative banners paying tribute to area residents who have served their country continues to grow with the addition of eight new ones last week.

The unveiling of the banners last Tuesday at the Morden Legion had family members connected to the service men and women on hand to celebrate the occasion.

"I'm very proud that we are able to honour my grandpa," said Daneen Johnston, who is the granddaughter of Don McNaughton. "His brothers were honoured prior to this, and he deserves this, and it makes us very proud."

"And Grandpa would be proud that

two of his grandchildren were here and two of his great grandchildren were here," she added. "I was only five when Grandpa died ... so I can only vaguely remember Grandpa ... but my dad sort of remembered stories that had been told to him ... like one where he says the sea was red with blood. That kind of sticks in my mind."

"The families remember," said Legion comrade Ken Wiebe, who spearheads the banner project. "Too often, wars happen, but we're now four generations, five generations after World War 2, and so much of that history can be forgotten ... and it's just not right."

Wiebe noted he feels good to now have Winkler getting involved in the project, with three of the eight new



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The family of Harvey Friesen with the memorial banner that will hang in Winkler this fall. It's one of the new banners going up in Morden and Winkler in honour of locals who served their country.



A banner for Ethel Large (Bayless) will be displayed on the streets of Morden in the months ahead. It's one of eight new ones the Legion in Morden unveiled last week.

banners slated to go up in that community for the first time.

"It's just really good because there are quite a number of names on the Winkler cenotaph, and some of those are also on the Morden and Stanley cenotaph, so it's good to see," he noted. "And Harvey Friesen [one of this year's banner honourees] was a big driving force [in recognizing veterans in the community], and I'm glad to have seen that happen."

"It's good that the City of Winkler recognizes that freedom isn't free, and it came at a cost, at a cost for residents in Winkler and people in the RM of Stanley," he added. "The City of Winkler is supporting the program, so the City of Winkler is named on the bottom of the banners as opposed to just Morden, so it's good to see."

Carol Van Wyck, who is a daughter of Harvey Friesen, agreed it will be great to see some banners up on display in Winkler this fall.

"It's been a long time coming, but I'm very glad it's finally happening," she said. "My dad was a tireless advocate for so many things for so many people and for the community that he was so involved in, and we're very proud of it."

"It's an incredible honour. It really is ... so many gave so tirelessly of themselves and in particular in this area with the pacifistic attitudes ... he and many others went to war against their religion ... so it was tough that he did it, and we are so very, very proud that

he did, as did others from this area as well."

She especially cited her father's impact in terms of having experienced the impact of mustard gas testing and his advocacy on behalf of all of those who paid a price for it.

"It was his hard work and research that really brought that all to the forefront and brought recognition to those who deserved it," said Van Wyck.

This unveiling was also extra special for Wiebe, as his own daughter, Mackenzie George, is among those being recognized with a banner.

"I didn't know why I was coming today but that it was for the banner reveal, and I realized they had supported a banner for me," she said, sharing that she served in the naval reserves, though she was never called to serve a term of duty overseas. "I really felt unworthy to receive a banner. I feel like people who have received banners have fought in wars, have really done something to protect our country and our freedom, and I never got a chance to do that."

"[But] my dad was saying when you do join the military, you sign on the dotted line that you would give up your life to protect your country, protect the people you love. And I would have done that if I had the opportunity."

She fully appreciates the value of the banner project.

Continued on page 11



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## > BANNERS, FROM PG. 10

"I think it's important to recognize people. As time goes on, you kind of forget that there was war and that people were involved ... so to be able to see their faces and hear or read their stories is really important."

Wiebe noted it doesn't surprise him that they keep coming up with more people to honour and more stories to tell through the banners.

"When you look at our cenotaph, there's more names on there, and we know there's way more names than that who served," he said, noting they will continue with this project in the years ahead.

He also admitted to being a very proud father.

"I'm very proud of the fact that she served and that she consented to have her banner put up."

Other new banners will honour Rifleman Cornelius Fehr Klassen, Lt./Nurse Ethel Large (Bayliss), Pilot Officer Cornelius Krahn, Pilot Officer Clifford Clarence Reichert, and Sgt./Petty Officer Allan Christian Bjarnason.

## > GVSD, FROM PG. 9

out in the public, or creating or maximizing those opportunities," Klassen added, noting this will be the third school year the committee has been in operation. "So they are also making sure that we have a fair representation of voices."

As the new school year gets underway, Klassen reflected on some of the projects division staff tackled this summer.

The list includes things like sewer relining at Garden Valley Collegiate, gym floor upgrades at Southwood School, elevator door repairs at Winkler Elementary School, and concrete repairs at Southwood and Parkland Schools and Northlands Parkway Collegiate.

They're not big and flashy projects, Klassen noted, but were all important maintenance to keep local schools up and running.

"We will continue to nail through our capital project list ... it's all necessary stuff," she said. "The operations committee is never bored."

With the 2026 election on the horizon, Klassen noted the board will be doing some outreach in spring to let potential trustee candidates know a little bit more about what the job entails.

"We want to make sure constituents know and understand what the school board does and how it functions so if they feel like they might want to run, they know what they're getting into."

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Do you have concerns for the environment and want to support your local economy? Buying local is simple! All you have to do is make a few changes to your routine.

Start by exploring what your region or neighbourhood has to offer. Visit the bakery next door, check out a boutique featuring Canadian designers or explore your local farmers' market. You'll discover unique, high-quality products and meet passionate individuals providing personalized customer service. Pay attention to where the products come from when you're shopping at the grocery store. You'll quickly find out which ones benefit your provincial economy instead of foreign interests.

Don't feel like going out? No problem! More and more local businesses now have user-friendly online platforms and offer fast delivery options. In other words, supporting local enterprises can be just as convenient and efficient as shopping online from large retailers.

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# Winkler girls kick up their heels at national dance competition

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two sisters were light on their feet at the Canadian Ballroom Dance Championships in Quebec last month.

Asenia Plaksina, 15, and Vika Galas, 9, came home from the National Dance Council of Canada event with top 10 finishes in their solo events.

Galas clinched fifth in her age category and Plaksina sixth in jive dance.

The girls got their start in ballroom dancing before moving to Canada last summer. Since then, they've been on the hunt for more advanced competitions to take part in, culminating in this most recent national dance-off.

"I love ballroom dancing—it's my life," said Plaksina, sharing she competes in both European and Latin dances. "I can't imagine my life without ballroom dancing."

She trained at a professional studio back home and currently studies at DanceWorks in Morden in addition to her online classes.

Plaksina puts in countless hours a week training.

"I practice every day," she said, gesturing to the hardwood floor in the living room her family has transformed into an impromptu studio for her and her sister to dance on. "I wake up at six o'clock to dance before

school."

She has high hopes for a future in the field.

"I dream of becoming a champion in ballroom dancing and working as a coach."

Her younger sister isn't looking that far ahead just yet, but she, too, enjoys kicking up her heels. She had fun at the national competition, Galas said, but admits it was the road trip east (it was the family's first time exploring other parts of Canada) and the especially the hotel amenities that really stood out for her.

Proud parents Iurii Galas and Iuliia Plaksina see dance as a perfect sport for their kids.

"We wanted to find a sport the children would like," said Iuliia, noting they tried everything from swimming to yoga to gymnastics before finding ballroom dancing the best fit.

It's a real community feeling at these events, she observed.

"We meet a lot of children, a lot of parents there," Iuliia said. "It's a special atmosphere, community."

They'd love to see an organized ballroom dance association start up in Manitoba to provide dancers of all ages with more opportunities.

"Competition is most important in sport because it's a big motivation,"



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Sisters Vika Galas (above) and Asenia Plaksina (right) competed in the Canadian Ballroom Dance Championships last month.



Iuliia said.

Win or lose, though, seeing the girls dance makes all the family sacrifices—the long hours of practice, travel to competitions—well worth it, noted Iurii.

"They are on the stage, they are confident—it's all about confidence," he said.

The girls' success shows that anyone, if they work hard enough, can succeed, Iuliia added.

"It shows what is possible even without a lot of resources," she said. "I think that passion can break barriers and open doors to new opportunities. It is an example for other stu-

dents who are afraid, who think, 'I can't do it' because I live there instead of there. It's an example of what is all possible."

The family hopes to find the girls dance partners so they can begin to train and compete in couples ballroom dancing in the years ahead.

"We are always looking for opportunities for them to grow," Iurii said. "We live in this community, we like it here ... and we would like to continue [their training] somehow here better."

If you're interested in connecting with the family to talk ballroom dancing, you can email them at yurygalas@gmail.com.

# Wolfe returns as Western SD board chair

By Lorne Stelmach

Darcy Wolfe will continue for another year as chairperson of the Western School Division board of trustees, and he appreciates the vote of confidence as well as the opportunity to continue in a leadership role.

"I was honoured to be chosen again for another year as board chair. I'm

looking forward to it, and I humbled by the fact that my fellow trustees are confident in me to help lead them in a year that's going to be different," Wolfe said after the board's recent re-organizational meeting.

"We have a new superintendent now," he said in reference to Stephen Jaddock having taken over from Stephen Ross. "We have different lead-

"WE HAVE DIFFERENT LEADERSHIP AT THE DIVISION, SO IT'S GOING TO BE A TIME OF SOME CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT ..."

ership at the division, so it's going to be a time of some change and adjustment, but it will also give us an op-

portunity for new growth and adventures."

Finding a new superintendent for the first time in many years was among a few challenges of the past year.

"That is something none of us on the board currently have ever been through ... having had Stephen Ross here for so long, that was a major undertaking for the board, and I think we found someone very capable to take the reins."

Another big focus for the board of course was getting the new École Discovery Trails School up and running.

"Getting that new school was huge for our division and huge for our com-

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Celebrating fall



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The City of Morden welcomed people to Lake Minnewasta Saturday for a Fall Festival. There was a little something for everyone—from a hot dog eating competition to presentations by the Prairie Wildlife Education Centre to a host of kid-friendly activities like barrel train rides, face painting, inflatables, jousting, human hamster ball races, an obstacle course, axe throwing, and a straw bale maze.



> WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION, FROM PG. 12

munity,” said Wolfe. “It has taken a lot of the strain off of the space in Minnewasta and Maple Leaf and even a little bit in ÉMMS as well.

“Now it’s on to the next challenge, which is getting the province to add on to that school already and to also build a new high school,” he said, noting the latter project is very necessary.

“Having growth is always good. It’s a challenge that we are happy to have,” he said. “It’s not a challenge that every community or school division in the province has, and many other divisions in the province are facing the possibility of closing schools.”

Unfortunately, a new high school will still be a bit of a long-term project.

“It’s something that we have been asking for a long time,” Wolfe noted. “Ever since I’ve been a trustee, and this is now going to be my eighth year on the board ... from the moment I’ve been on the board, there has always been two schools on our five-year capital plan.

“The high school space has been on that plan for many, many years,

and it is something we have been advocating for for years, and we will continue to advocate for it.”

Of course, the main ongoing challenge is meeting the needs for programming and resources.

“There’s plenty opportunities for growth but with still remaining focussed on our core directive, which is making sure that the students here in Western School Division get the best education and the most well rounded, holistic education possible,” said Wolfe.

“With more students, it obviously means more staff ... and as a growing community and a growingly diverse community, there’s more demand for more diverse programming as well.”

Finally, Wolfe noted another concern right now is that they are actively looking for more bus drivers.

“It is something that is a super important job in our division ... they are the first people and the last people that our students see every day,” he said. “It’s a job that we value very much, and it’s something we are running short of right now.”

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# Your FARM



## PhiBer breaks ground on major expansion

By Lorne Stelmach

An investment of \$4.1 million in federal funding will be a bit of a game changer for a thriving agricultural manufacturer in the Pembina Valley.

Prairies Economic Development Canada recently announced more than \$21 million in federal investments for nine Manitoba-based businesses, and PhiBer Manufacturing of Crystal City is receiving \$4.1 million to expand its manufacturing capacity.

The company will use the money to

build a new plant that will allow it to produce components it once sourced from U.S. suppliers, explained CEO Derek Friesen.

"We have been going through a ton of growth in the last five years, and this will just help support continued growth," he said. "It just allows us to do so much more and diversify."

PhiBer specializes in spraying systems, baling technology, earth-moving blades, and drone support trailers. It has plants in Canada, the United States, and Australia.

PhiBer was selected for funding through the PrairiesCan Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP) program, which is a Government of Canada initiative supporting high growth companies across the prairies.

PhiBer employs close to 90 people, and Friesen expects to fill more than 80 new positions over the next two or three years. A quarter of those roles will require highly-skilled workers in engineering, robotics and production, he noted, and an additional 60 people will go through the company's in-house training programs and provide



SUPPLIED PHOTO

PhiBer Manufacturing recently broke ground on an expansion that will significantly expand the capacity at its Crystal City plant.

"WE HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH A TON OF GROWTH IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND THIS WILL JUST HELP SUPPORT CONTINUED GROWTH."

production support.

"Training has always been a top priority for our leadership team," added Friesen. "We believe in building not just machines—but people, skills, and strong rural communities."

"The funding we received from PrairiesCan has enabled us to accelerate PhiBer's growth in many ways," he said. "We shortened our timeline on the acquisition of advanced manu-

facturing equipment, brought more production in-house, and expanded our ability to support Canadian farmers—all while creating new revenue streams and jobs in our community."

As part of its 60,000 sq. ft. expansion, PhiBer is investing in advanced manufacturing equipment, robotics, automation, and sustainable infrastructure.

Current developments include:

- The largest roto-moulding equipment in Canada to produce plastic tanks in-house.
- In-house 3D printing for custom tools and parts.
- AI-integrated one-piece flow systems for streamlined manufacturing and accurate order fulfillment.
- Energy capture and recycling systems designed by PhiBer engineers and Manitoba-based contractors.

These advancements not only improve operational performance but also support the company's long-standing commitment to innovation and sustainability.

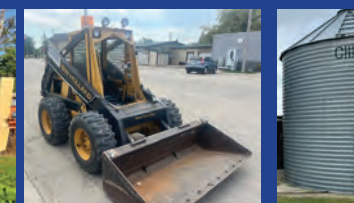
"It does mean a lot to us," said Friesen of the federal show of support in these efforts. "It's an honour that when they looked at all their options that they would choose us."

"This was a plan we had in place before [U.S. President Donald] Trump



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# Your FARM



## Be road safe this harvest season: RM

By Lorne Stelmach

With harvest season well underway, the RM of Stanley is cautioning area residents to be extra mindful of the increased traffic that will be out on the local highways and roads.

It's a message that the municipality puts out every fall to just help remind residents to be a little more aware and careful.

"It's hopefully something everyone will be mindful of, but a reminder can always be good to put out there," said Reeve Ike Friesen. "There's a lot more traffic, a lot more farm traffic especially ... and people are often in a hurry,

### > PHIBER, FROM PG. 14

took office. I had no idea what to expect with him ... but I think the timing couldn't be more perfect now," he went on to explain.

"Basically, we're trying to move a lot of stuff back home. Right now, our two single biggest suppliers are in the States, and this expansion allows us to bring one of them entirely back home and help us mitigate some of this tariff risk and counter tariffs," he noted.

"This is a step in the right direction for us to bring everything back home. There's still one more piece of the puzzle that's not complete, but this does allow us to start in that direction."

Friesen noted they are hoping to get a good start on the expansion.

"We are hoping actually to be moved in in the new year ... but our busiest time of year for our business is kind of Christmas till June," he said, noting they won't want to cause too much disruption during that period. "I think by the end of 2026 we'll be fully moved in. There might be a staged move-in starting January or February."



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The fall harvest is well underway in the Pembina Valley, and area residents are reminded to be cautious on local highways and back roads as farm equipment increases traffic on them.

so we try to promote safety as much as we can."

Friesen said they obviously always hope to avoid having any accidents that end badly.

"Safety is one of the first things we should think of always on any road," he said. "Maybe conditions can be bad ... and if we're aware that it's maybe not really safe ... safety is number one priority."

"Harvest is in full swing, and there's lots of farm trucks on the road, a lot

of equipment, and everybody's working hard and maybe their minds are busy," he said. "So hopefully you think of the safety part of it."

He added that it can perhaps be even more of a concern on some back roads where they may even be some blind spots.

"Any taller crops like corn crops that are still out there can create a bit of a hidden intersection ... and with extra traffic on some of those side roads, you might not expect someone

there."

Friesen observed that expectations are high for a strong harvest this year, so that could even further boost traffic.

"The yields are looking good, so even that will perhaps increase the truck traffic," he noted. "It looks like a good yield, and anything that has been harvested ... I hear that people are happy with the yields."

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# sports & recreation

## Hawks ready to kick off season

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are set to kick off a new season, and it always comes with at least some degree of optimism.

"I'm really looking forward to getting things going here," coach Jeff Andrews said after a week of mixed results in pre-season action.

Those games included a 3-0 loss to Brandon, a 9-3 win over Yellowhead, and a 7-3 loss to Yorkton, but the results are secondary at this point.

"I wasn't super concerned about wins and losses. It was more about giving the kids an opportunity to show us what type of players they are and how they might fit in our group," said Andrews.

The Hawks finished in sixth place last season with a record of 23-17-5-3, but they bowed out of the playoffs in falling to the Winnipeg Bruins in the quarter-finals.

Andrews sees potential with their roster this year with five returning forwards and three returning defencemen along with one more possibly coming back, but they have no returning goaltenders.

"It's going to be a fairly new look group, but we're really excited about the group that we have," he said. "I think we have an interesting group because I think we can score, and I think we're going to be able to defend well. We should have good team speed, and we've got a couple goaltenders that I think are going to be able to do a great job for us."

Andrews noted their new players are usually coming to the team with



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Hawks held their intrasquad game last week Tuesday. The team went on to fall to Brandon and Yorkton but defeated Yellowhead in pre-season action.

strong experience from the U15 level.

"They've played good triple A level hockey," he said, suggesting there are a few key things the Hawks coaching staff are looking for from the players. "Attention to detail is going to be really important for us. We're going to teach them a lot of structure, and our ability to play structured hockey is

going to be important for us. I'm a big believer in structured hockey leading to less goals against. The lower number of goals you give up, the better chance you have to win games.

"It's also the willingness to always come to the rink and do your best ... and I think another big part of it is trying to create a winning culture and be

great teammates."

The Hawks have a couple more exhibition games this weekend against Parkland before starting the regular season with a home game against Norman on Sept. 26.

## Winkler Flyers wrap up pre-season with a win

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers closed out their pre-season with a 4-1 victory over the visiting Winnipeg Monarchs.

The Friday night home game saw the Flyers dominate in the opening

frame, with Griffin Johnston, Idris Alameddine, and Trevor Dalton scoring.

Winnipeg managed to get one past Winkler netminder Leif Ekblad early in the second, but that was the last goal they'd get in a night that saw Ekblad make 18 saves while his team-

mates fired 30 the other way.

Kam Thomas scored midway through the third to cement the Flyers' win.

The exhibition schedule also included a home-and-away against the Steinbach in which the Pistons won

both games.

The Flyers now kick off the regular season this Friday with a home game against the Pistons. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

They then have a rematch Sunday evening in Steinbach.

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



# Unemployment rate rises to 7.1 per cent, economy sheds 66,000 jobs in August

By Patricia Barrett

Employment declined by 66,000 jobs, or -0.3 per cent, in August, according to Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey* released Sept. 5, and the country's unemployment rate rose to 7.1 per cent.

This is the second consecutive month employment has fallen, with July posting a loss of 41,000 jobs. The losses in August were fuelled by a decline in part-time work.

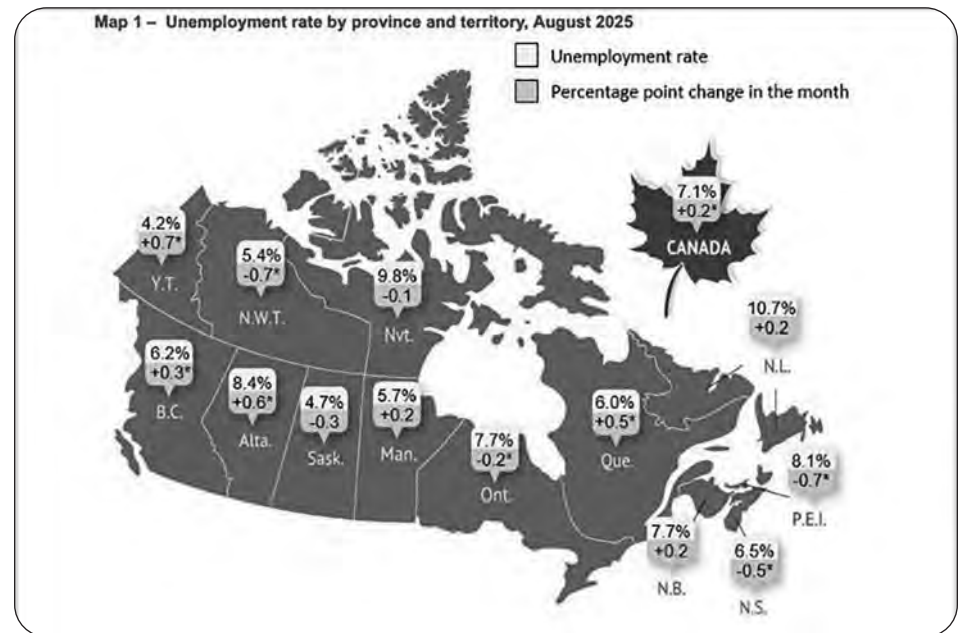
The unemployment rate of 7.1 per cent was the highest since May 2016 (excluding 2020 and 2021 during the COVID pandemic). From 2017 to 2019 Canada's average unemployment rate was 6.0 per cent.

"Those who were unemployed in July continued to face difficulties finding work in August," says the re-

port. "Just 15.2 per cent of those who were unemployed in July had found work in August, lower than the corresponding proportion for the same months from 2017 to 2019 ...."

In August, employment fell for men 25-54 years old by 58,000 or -0.8 per cent and for women in the same age bracket by 35,000 or -0.5 per cent. There was little change in employment for youth aged 15-24 and people 55 years and older.

Statistics Canada said the employment decreases in August occurred in industries such as professional, scientific and technical services, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing. The largest declines were in Ontario – which has faced an uncertain economic climate with the threat of and imposition of tariffs – British Columbia and Alberta.



STATISTICS CANADA

The unemployment rate by province and territory is shown in August 2025.

## Province warns against text message phishing scams

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government is cautioning residents about fraudulent text messages circulating last week that falsely claim to involve provincial fine payments and tax credits.

Officials say the texts are part of a phishing scam. Some Manitobans have reported receiving messages ap-

pearing to be from Manitoba Justice, demanding payment for outstanding fines related to traffic violations. The department stressed it does not send payment requests or any official communication by text.

"Anyone with concerns about outstanding fines or questions about methods of communication should contact Manitoba Justice directly," the

province said. Information is available online at [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/tickets](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/tickets).

Other residents reported receiving texts urging them to finalize their Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC) by clicking a link. Manitoba Finance said it does not verify or finalize tax credits or benefits through text messages. Details about the

HATC are posted at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/hatc.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/hatc.html).

Authorities are reminding Manitobans not to respond, click links, or provide personal information if they receive such messages. Suspicious texts can be reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at [antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

## Hawks join 'Coming Together' campaign in support of Winnipeg player battling cancer

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are tuning up for the regular season, but they also took the initiative with a pre-season game to support a fellow player.

In conjunction with the game against Central Plains Saturday, the Hawks held a fundraiser in support of Payton Chornley, a 16-year-old Winnipeg player who has had to step away from the rink as a result of her battle with lymphoma.

"Everyone is going to come together and try to support it ... and it's great to see it," said Hawks coach Matt Victor, who estimated they brought in just under \$650 for the Cancer Care Manitoba Foundation with the help of a 50/50 raffle.

He suggested there would be the desire to support anyone in the extended hockey community who needs it.

"I know she has a lot of friends even on our team and all the other

teams in our league," he said.

"Her dad reached out to me this last month and asked if we would help support, and it was an easy call for us," Victor said. "It's tough for anyone who has to go through something like cancer ... but for a 16-year-old hockey player, it's super unfortunate."

The Hawks continue to gear up for the new season, and Victor was encouraged by what he saw from the players in a couple pre-season games, including a 4-3 win over Central Plains and a 5-0 loss to Eastman.

"We stayed in there for most of the

[latter] game," he suggested.

"Right now, with our coaching group, we implemented some systems, and I was honestly quite impressed with how quickly they started to pick it up," Victor said. "I was quite proud of them how they were able to execute some of these systems. The consistency is not there yet, but that's going to come with time."

"I'm pretty sure optimistic about this group," he continued. "I always talk about identity, and that's something we've aimed to build right from training camp. Our identity can be built on

compete and grit ... those are controllable by the players themselves, and that is something we really push in practice."

"We're going to need everyone to really step up and deliver night in and night out," said Victor. "With that, I think the skills will come and the outcomes will come ... it's all about growing and gaining that confidence."

The Hawks kick off their regular season with games against Westman Oct. 4, Winnipeg Avros Oct. 5, and Eastman Oct. 6.

## Storm in third as season winds down

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm held onto their spot in third place in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's First Division despite a week of mixed results.

Playing in Winnipeg on Sept. 9, the Storm blanked the home team, UDM, 3-0. Scoring for Winkler was Cornie

Siemens, Marcelo Froese, and Quinton Decker while Sam Fast got the clean sheet in net.

Then on Saturday the team headed to Niverville to take on the Force SC. They narrowly lost that match 3-2. Froese and Emil Rode had scoring honours.

With that, the team's record for the

summer so far is 10-5-2, good for 32 points. At press time Monday, they trailed the first-place Northern United by nine points and the second-place Grant Park SC by just one.

The Storm have their final regular season game at home this Saturday at 4 p.m. at the 15th St. soccer field against Grant Park.



# arts&culture

## Show of Hands on now at Pembina Hills gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

The exhibit featured this month at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden aims to convey powerful human emotions through works created with a natural material.

The *Show of Hands* collection of Franco-Manitoban artist Rosemarie Péloquin features sculpted wool works that show the mastery of creating 3D works with only felt and her imagination.

This is her second collection based around the theme of hands, and she feels a strong connection to the idea behind these shows.

"The other theme in there for me is connection, and what better than

hands to convey connection?" said Péloquin. "We need that connection, and hands hold, hands encourage and they prod ... and there's so many things that hands can do, and so I wanted to put it out there and see what else it could do in an exhibit."

This wasn't really a longtime passion for Péloquin, but she was sold on the medium right from when she first discovered it.

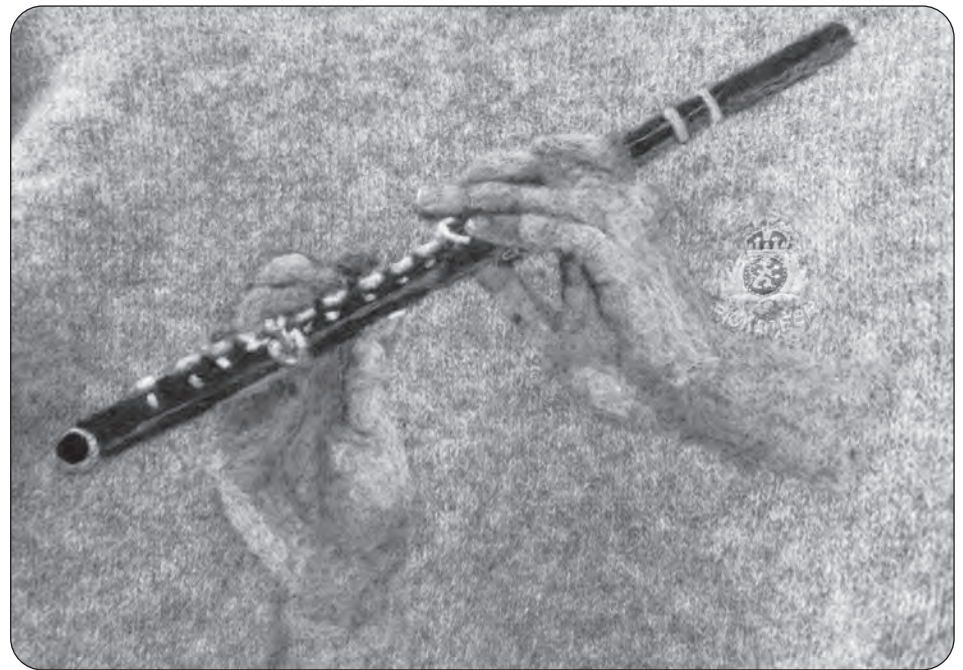
"I have been needle felting for I guess about 15 years or so," she recalled. "At the time, I was looking for a new medium ... and I had tried all sorts of mediums, and I had decided on mosaics, so that was what I was going to do. But then I went to a felting class ... and the last 10 minutes were on needle felting, and that was it. I had picked my medium, and it just took off from there."

She had started off with an idea of making faces as a theme.

"What you do with your work changes over time, depending on where you've been and what you're doing and what your inspired by," Péloquin said. "And so now I am into hands."

This is her second show around the theme of hands, and she suggested it does vary from the first collection.

"The first one I had was all three dimensional work of hands," Péloquin said in explaining her move to more two dimensional work with this exhibit.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Show of Hands, on display now at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden, features the work of artist Rosemarie Péloquin.

"The making of Hands started at an art residency that I did in Alberta, and it happened to be just before the pandemic. I was inspired by the people who were working at the woollen mill there," she said.

"I made a few pieces while I was there, honouring those people, and so I continued after that making hands in three dimensions, and that became *Show of Hands 1*, and that changed into making the hands on a background that was a new canvas, which was reclaimed wool clothing," she said. "Things like old sweaters and scarves."

"I have a few 3D pieces in this show, but it's mostly sweaters and scarves that I have worked on as a background," she added.

Péloquin had a few thoughts when asked what draws her to this medium

and theme as well.

"For me, it's like touching the soul ... what touches us," she said. "The material itself is just so soft. It's clouds of wool that you can, with one small barbed needle, make into a three dimensional object. It's amazing to me."

"To me, the wool even as a material, it sparks the imagination," she suggested, commenting on what she described as the ephemeral aspect of the wool.

"It's using wool as a medium for fine art, which is not mainstream maybe, but it can be used for sculptural work," she suggested. "When I tell people that sculpt wool, they're like okay?"

She even thinks of it somewhat as kind of painting with wool.

Continued on page 19



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# Swan Lake potter opens studio for community workshops

By Lana Meier

This fall, longtime potter and retired teacher Cathy Rondeau will once again open the doors of her farm studio to the community, offering a series of pottery workshops that promise to be equal parts hands-on learning and creative discovery.

From Oct. 1 to 29, Rondeau will lead Wednesday evening classes in wheel throwing and hand building, followed by Saturday sessions from Oct. 4 to Nov. 1. Each five-week program costs \$200 and includes supplies, tools and firing, with participants creating and finishing their own mugs, bowls, vases or decorative pieces.

"I've taught pottery from kindergarten to older adults, and everyone has had success creating something they love," Rondeau said. "In any given class I individualize the instruction so that beginners and experienced students alike are challenged."

For Rondeau, the joy of pottery is lifelong. Born in Swan Lake in 1951, she grew up on the family farm as the eldest of nine children, often leading her siblings to dig clay from the ditches near their yard. "We would spend countless afternoons playing with this natural clay," she recalled. "That's where my passion began."

That early spark grew into more than 50 years of creating and teaching. Rondeau farmed and raised her family with her husband while spending 16 years as a teacher and principal in local schools. After retirement, she continued to share her craft, teaching workshops in schools, recreation centres and galleries across southern Manitoba. Her pieces have been displayed and sold through outlets such as Pulse Gallery at The Forks in Win-



The 2013 "Pitcher and Wash Basin," measuring 12 by 10 inches, highlights Rondeau's craftsmanship and attention to traditional forms.

ipeg, the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba in Brandon, the Inspire Gallery of Fine Art in Minnedosa, the Portage and District Art Centre and the Tiger Hills Arts Association in Holland. For many years, she also held a federal contract to produce crop-impressed ceramic wall hangings for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, gifts that were presented to visiting dignitaries and diplomats. Today, Rondeau has her pottery for sale at Toews Printing and Gift Shop in Carman.

"I love opening people's minds to the creativity within themselves using clay, glass, metal and other mediums," she said. "It's still exciting to see what comes out of the kiln — it's like Christmas as a child every time."

Rondeau said she draws inspiration first and foremost from the alluring beauty of nature on the prairies — along with her upbringing and her



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Cathy Rondeau demonstrates wheel throwing in her farm studio near Swan Lake, where she will host pottery workshops this fall. The longtime potter and retired teacher has been sharing her craft for more than 50 years.

students, who often spark new ideas with their designs. She balances technical lessons — from pinch pots and slab work to glazing and firing — with space for individual expression. "My favourite part is the smiles and joy I see on their faces when their finished items come out of the kiln," she said. "That smile says it all."

Her upcoming workshops will be held at her farm studio at 30026-61W Hwy 34 near Swan Lake. Wednesday classes run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (wheel throwing) and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (hand building). Saturday sessions include wheel throwing from 1 to 2 p.m. and hand building from 2 to 4 p.m. Spots are limited. Registration



The 2015 "Blue Gold" teapot set showcases Rondeau's signature blend of functional design and artistic detail.

is available by calling or texting 204-825-7950 or emailing [prairieallure@gmail.com](mailto:prairieallure@gmail.com)

## Province sets 2026 rent guideline at 1.8%

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba Public Service Delivery has announced the 2026 rent guideline will be set at 1.8 per cent, effective Jan. 1.

Updated annually, the guideline is calculated using a formula based on Manitoba's consumer price index. It applies to most residential rental properties, including apartments, single rooms, houses and duplexes.

The guideline does not apply to:

- rental units renting for \$1,670 or more per month;
- various types of social housing;
- units owned and operated by, or for, provincial, municipal or federal governments;
- units in buildings first occu-

pied after March 2005;

- not-for-profit life lease units;
- co-operative units; and
- approved rehabilitated rental units.

Tenants must receive written notice of any rent increase at least three months before it takes effect. For example, for an increase starting Jan. 1, 2026, notice must be given by Sept. 30, 2025. With few exceptions, rent can only be increased once per year.

Landlords and tenants can contact the Residential Tenancies Branch at 204-945-2476 in Winnipeg or toll-free at 1-800-782-8403 for more information about rent increases and other rights and responsibilities. Details are also available at [www.manitoba.ca/rthb](http://www.manitoba.ca/rthb).

## > PHAC, FROM PG. 18

"It's almost like the same thing as painting except it's with wool ... so it kind of turns the art on its head or the expectations of what art is," she said, adding how she thinks about the feeling that a piece might convey like one where the hands are holding a new born baby.

"With wool, there's a connection to the earth there as well. People want to touch wool. It's the first thing that they want to do," she added.

"I'm hoping that people will see the power of this soft ephemeral material and the storytelling that can happen with it, and I'm hoping

that the pieces will spark discussion," she concluded.

"I love listening to what people say in their comments, and I have learned a lot about my art by doing that," she said. "The viewer brings their own life and their own history to the pieces, and it can be a completely different reaction, and that really interests me because I don't

want to force people to think okay I should think this way.

"People will come at it from their own life experience, and that makes it that much more richer as far as I am concerned."

**"I'M HOPING THAT THE PIECES WILL SPARK DISCUSSION."**



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PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF MORDEN**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICES PLAN NO. 1-25**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to section 318(1) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Morden has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber at the **Morden Civic Centre, 195 Stephen Street on the 14th day of October, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.** Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Special Services Plan No. 1-25.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT,** pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 319(1) of The Municipal Act any person may object to the plan by filing a notice of objection, by mail or in person, to the City of Morden office at 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3 - no later than October 14th, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. A notice of objection must contain the name and address of the person filing the objection, identify the property of which the objection is filed and state the grounds of the objection of the above noted Special Service Plan.

**General Description of Proposed Special Service:** The intent of the proposal is to establish a consistent rate structure for the purpose of levying fees for the collection of solid waste, compost and recycling services within the City of Morden. The proposal includes Waste Collection and Recycling Pickup **Bi-weekly** and Compost Pickup **36 times annually** and will entail the use of 360-L wheeled carts for each of the Waste, Compost, and Recycling.

**Special Service to be levied within the City of Morden:** The special service tax will be levied annually from 2026 to 2030 to all residents, multi-family properties, as well as applicable businesses in the levy area. The levy amounts are as follows:

Year	Levy Amount
2026	\$163.26
2027	\$169.31
2028	\$175.59
2029	\$182.09
2030	\$188.83

Copies of the Special Services Plan are available for review and may be examined by any person at the City of Morden Civic Office at 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM.

Nicole Reidle, CMMA  
City Manager  
City of Morden



**POTTERY WORKSHOP**

Pottery Workshops by Cathy Rondeau. Wednesdays, Oct. 1 – Oct 29: Workshop A – Wheel Throwing 6:30–7:30 p.m.; Workshop B – Hand Building 7:30–8:30 p.m. Saturdays Oct. 4 – Nov. 1: Workshop C – Wheel Throwing 1–2 p.m.; Workshop D – Hand Building 2–4 p.m. Registration fee \$200 per workshop – five weeks (includes tools, supplies). Limited spots. Register now! Call or text 204-825-7950. Email: [prairieallure@gmail.com](mailto:prairieallure@gmail.com) Workshops in my farm studio, 30026-61W Hwy 34 near Swan Lake, MB.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF MORDEN**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE - BOARD OF REVISION**  
**2026 REAL, PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ASSESSMENT ROLLS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the 2026 assessment roll for the City of Morden has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba and is open to public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 and 43 of the Assessment Act:

**APPLICATION FOR REVISION**

**42(1)** A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- a) liability to taxation;
- b) amount of an assessed value;
- c) classification of property; or
- d) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**43(1) An application for revision must**

- (a) be made in writing;
- (b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- (c) state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- (d) be filed by:
  - I. Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the Public Notice given under subsection 41(2), or
  - II. Serving it upon the Secretary, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board of indicated in the Public Notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on Monday, **October 27th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Council Chambers of the City of Morden to hear applications.

The final date on which the Secretary of the Board must receive applications is Tuesday, **October 14th, 2025 by 4:30 P.M. local time.**

Dated at Morden, in Manitoba, this 4th day of September, A.D. 2025.

Ruziel Relatores, Secretary  
Board of Revision  
City of Morden  
100 - 195 Stephen Street  
Morden, Manitoba R6M 1V3




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PUBLIC NOTICE



**You are invited to attend**  
**The Town of Altona**  
**Public Hearing to**  
**Amend the 2025**  
**Financial Plan**  
**Tuesday, October 14, 2025**  
**5:45 pm**  
**Council Chambers of the**  
**Altona Civic Centre**

In accordance with subsection 162(3) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present an Amendment to the 2025 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 5:45 pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The Amendment is required to authorize a transfer of up to \$180,000 from the Millennium Exhibition Centre Building Reserve Fund for the emergency replacement of the Ice Plant Chiller and related costs. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the Tender to complete the work will be available after September 18, 2025 on our website at [www.altona.ca](http://www.altona.ca) or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Manager of Finance or through our email address at [info@altona.ca](mailto:info@altona.ca).

Terry Fehr, CMMA  
Manager of Finance  
Town of Altona  
[terry.ferh@altona.ca](mailto:terry.ferh@altona.ca)  
Box 1630  
Altona MB R0G 0B0  
September 12, 2025





GRAND TRUNK  
NOSTALGIA  
CLUB

40th Annual Vintage  
& Collectible Sale  
SAT, Sept 27, 2025  
10AM – 5PM

Manitoba's **Biggest**  
Indoor Fall Vintage  
& Collectibles Sale  
with over 180 tables  
Admission: \$5.00  
12 & under FREE

Assiniboia Downs  
3975 Portage Ave., Wpg.  
**FREE Parking**  
Early (8AM) admission:  
\$30.00

For Info:  
Ph: 204-990-3463  
or 431-374-6925

Manitoba Women in  
Agriculture & Food  
Presents



**October 9 2025**  
**9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**  
Caboto Centre  
1055 Wilkes Ave, Wpg.  
Lunch, Free Parking  
& Door Prizes!

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Jill Verwey, Pres. Of KAP**  
Collaborative Networking,  
Panel Discussion, Meet Peers  
& Industry Leaders in person!

**For info & to Register:**  
<https://mwaf.ca/services/mwaf-2025-summit/>

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CAREERS

**DOELL**  
LAW OFFICE  
1-655 Main St, Winkler  
204-325-8807

Doell Law Office is looking for an experienced full-time Legal Assistant to be part of a fast-paced work environment in their Winkler office. Experience in Corporate Matters and Real Estate is an asset. Some of the responsibilities of this position include assisting with reception services, communicating with clients, online filings, and preparing legal documents. The applicant must have interpersonal skills, great attention to detail, computer skills, the ability to multitask, and must be able to work well as part of a team. We invite you to forward your resume to:

**Doell Law Office**  
Box 1150, Winkler, MB R6W 4B2  
Or Email: [info@doelllaw.com](mailto:info@doelllaw.com)  
Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of Eva Friesen, late of Altona, Manitoba, Deceased. All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the attention of: Prachi Goel, Acting Estates Officer, at 155 Carlton St Suite 500, Winnipeg, MB R3C 5R9 on or before the 29th day of October, 2025.  
Dated this Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 27th day of August, 2025.

Keri Ranson  
The Public Guardian  
and Trustee of Manitoba  
Administrator

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[ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

CAREERS

Help Wanted –  
Registered Dental Assistant

Gallery Dental in Carman is looking to hire a full time Phase 2 Dental Assistant to join our team.

The position is full time Monday – Thursday  
+ 10 scheduled Friday's per year.

Hours:

Monday 9:30-6:00  
Tuesday 8:30-5:00  
Wednesday 8:30-5:00  
Thursday 8:30-5:00

**NO evenings  
NO weekends**

The position is a salaried position with an average of six weeks holidays. The base salary is \$64,000 with production bonuses to a maximum of \$70,000.00. Wages are negotiable based on experience.

Gallery is pleased to provide a uniform allowance, group benefits, and a pension plan.

For More Information,  
contact Dr. Snidal at:  
[aaron@gallerydental.com](mailto:aaron@gallerydental.com)



GALLERY DENTAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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

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 **16th day of October, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at Rural Municipality of Morris, Council Chambers, 207 Main Street North, Morris, 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
142900	LOT 13 BLOCK 5 PLAN 916 MLTO (W DIV) IN W 1/2 29-6-2 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN, LOT 12 BLOCK 5 PLAN 916 MLTO (W DIV) IN W 1/2 29-6-2 WPM EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN - 28 NEW ST, SPERLING	L -\$5,000 B -\$44,600	\$5,833.26

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 unpaid municipal utilities and 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 MORRIS 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 \$500.85 (\$477 + 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 29th day of August, 2025.

Managed by:



Wes Unrau  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS  
Phone: (204) 746-7300  
Fax: (204) 746-8801



Classifieds Announcements

The Winkler Morden Voice

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AUCTION

Farm Auction Sale

for the Estate of the late Tanas "Dennis" Deneka, Okno, MB

Sale Starts online: Monday, September 29th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Closes: soft close starting at 10:00 a.m., Friday, October 10th, 2025

Viewing: Friday, September 26th, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Contact Sharon for viewing arrangements at (204) 376-5107

From Arborg - 14.8 km North on PR #326 to Road 139NE. Turn west on Road 139NE (PR #326 West and Okno Cemetery) for 2.6 km. Marker #9068, south side of road

Included in the sale: Allis Chalmers Gleaner M & L3 Combines (shedded); Haul-all tote tanks; JD 1830 Tractor w/146FE Loader, 6 ft bucket; Versatile 400 Swather, hydrostatic w/18ft header; (2) NRN Hopper bottom bins, approx. 2900 bu; (2) Friesen Hopper bottom bins, approx. 1800-2000 bu; (Grain bins not to be removed until bins are empty) 1970's Ford F600 Grain truck w/steel box, floor, hoist; Antique machinery, scrap and some misc. items

Check out full listing at: apro.bid or www.globalauctionguide.com

Bergner Auction Service, Ashern, MB

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news?

The Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer who lives in the area to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or English degree.
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of Canadian Press Style

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to: Lana Meier Email: news@carmanstandard.ca

The Carman-Dufferin STANDARD

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Carved into
- \_\_\_ Rogers, cowboy
- Unruly locale
- Edible mushroom
- Influential noblemen
- Rattling breaths
- David \_\_\_ George, Brit. P.M.
- Musician Clapton
- Small Eurasian deer
- Invests in little enterprises
- Perimeter
- Chicago ballplayer
- Animal body part
- It's everywhere these days
- Fictional ad exec
- Mr. T character Baracus
- Against the current
- Subway rodent
- Armor plate
- Hair on the head
- Strong insect
- Swollen lymph node
- A way to lessen
- Walter White poison
- Sleeveless garment
- Long accompanied song
- Without features
- Yankee great Mattingly
- Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

- Root of taro plant
- Those ones
- Appliances have one
- A way to sing
- Midway between east and southeast
- Animal dwelling
- An object that as survived from the past
- Oil cartel
- Affirmative
- Foul smell
- Brisk tempo
- S. American indigenous person
- Restored
- Official
- Skin lesions
- Electroencephalograph
- Middle Eastern country
- Extremely angry
- Title used before a woman's name
- British thermal unit
- By the way (abbr.)
- Anger
- Nullifies
- Ones who acquire
- Time zone
- Arabic name
- Protein in mucus
- Ballpoint pen
- Mimics
- Humans have a lot of it
- Expressions of good wishes
- Cool!
- One point east of due south
- City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- A way to save for retirement



OBITUARY



Justina Fehr-Sawatzky

It is with sadness and hope in Christ that the family of Justina Fehr-Sawatzky announces her passing.

Justina was born March 5, 1928 in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Peter and Justina Dyck, Canadian Mennonite emigrants from Manitoba. In 1935, the family returned to Canada, settling near Morden.

On July 6, 1947 Justina married Jacob (Jake) Fehr, and together they raised seven children on their farm west of Morden. She was the heart of her home, known for her faith, generosity, delicious cooking, and remarkable seamstress skills. A devoted member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she instilled in her family a deep love for Jesus, scripture, music, and education.

She is survived by children Justina (Ron), David (Loretta), Sara (Richard), Betty (Rudy), Cornelius (Joy), and Paul (Cindy); 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Jake (2008), her second husband John (Scotch) Sawatzky (2022), and her son Kenneth (Debbie).

Her final hope was in the resurrection morning, when she will see her Savior and be reunited with her loved ones.

A Celebration of Life Service took place on September 10, 2025 at the Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden, with a private burial at the Southside Cemetery in Morden.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
in care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



# Classifieds Announcements

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OBITUARY



Katherine Krahn

Katherine Krahn (nee Olfert) of Winkler, formerly of Miami, passed away peacefully at the age of 93 at the Peter George Dyck Villages on September 1, 2025, the same day her husband Ben passed away seven years earlier. We are assured that her mind and body have been renewed and that she is spending eternity with Jesus, her beloved Savior, her husband Ben and her sons Gerald and Lyndon.

Katherine will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Joyce (Tony) and son Eldon (April); grandchildren, Kristin (Marv), Michael, Timothy, Evan, Jaiden; her great-grandchildren, Emma and Benjamin and two sisters and one brother.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ben (2018), son Gerald (2018) and son Lyndon (1990). She was also predeceased by her parents, four sisters and three brothers.

Katherine was born on March 8, 1932 to Herman and Elizabeth Olfert. She was the third child in a family of 10 children. She spent her growing up years on a farm in the Blumstein district. She quit school as soon as she could because she didn't like it. So, after completing Grade 7 she began working seasonal jobs such as hoeing beets. It was here that she met the love of her life, Ben Krahn. She fell in love with him and when he moved to Winnipeg, she followed him and began working at a coat factory. They married October 18, 1953. They made their home in Winnipeg, where their daughter, Joyce was born. Their desire was to farm so when they had saved up enough money, they purchased a farm near Miami and moved there in 1961. Their family was completed with the addition of three sons, Gerald, Eldon and Lyndon.

Through all the financial ups and downs and weather conditions that affected the farm, her passion for farming became strong. It was here, she developed a passion for landscaping and making the farm beautiful with different shrubs and flowers. She loved working alongside Ben. She never considered work on the farm because she and Ben loved it so much.

Katherine accepted Jesus as her Saviour at a young age. She and Ben served the Lord with passion. This was exemplified by the way they served in the Graysville Mennonite Church, and later in the Grace Mennonite when they retired to Winkler in 1990. In Winkler she spent 15 years volunteering at Salem and doing Meals on Wheels together with Dad. She also had more time to expand her creative passions, painting, doll making, and taking many other craft courses.

She enjoyed travelling with Ben in their retired years. Yuma, Arizona became a favourite. From there they would travel up to Oliver, BC and volunteer at the Gleaners, packing dry fruits and vegetables to be shipped to needy countries in the world. Being there also gave them the opportunity to visit their sisters on the weekends.

She loved her family and went to great lengths to care for their sons, Lyndon and Gerald before their passing. After Gerald's and then Ben's passing four weeks later in 2018, she was left in a state of lostness and trauma. Her family surrounded her as best they could. She was in severe hip pain which had gone on for many years. She was finally able to have it replaced in April of 2019. She recovered well. During her recovery it was decided to move her from Garden Park to the Buhler Active Living Center. She loved her little one-bedroom apartment that her family set up for her. But she had only spent four days there when she fell and broke that same hip.

This was trauma that her body and mind could not tolerate. She could no longer live on her own and take care of herself. The Lord provided with a home at the Peter George Villages at the Buhler Active Living Center. She would spend the next six years there.

Though she never knew where she was, she was loved and cared for by all staff right up until the day of her passing. Family was always told she was such a blessing to each one of them and even the life of the party at times.

She will be missed by all who loved and impacted their lives.  
Thank you to Dr. Lane, who was willing to do home visits at the Villages to care for her medical needs. Her eyes would always light up when he entered her room. She loved holding his hands while he was talking to her.

We appreciated the care of the Palliative Care team, who became involved in the last weeks of her life. They were so compassionate.

Thank you to family and friends who were faithful in visiting and supporting her till the end of her life.

We, as a family, can't say enough about the care she received at the Villages. Silver Lining Care staff took such amazing care of her till her last breath. She will be missed by them, and Katherine's family will miss all the staff who also became a huge part of their lives. Friends forever!!

And to Kiley Wilson from Wiebe's Funeral Home who once again did an excellent job of walking along side us and helping us with all the arrangements for Katherine's celebration of life.

Praise be to the Lord, for He showed His wonderful love to me. Psalm 31:21  
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Buhler Active Living Centre - The Villages.

A Funeral Service was held on September 6, 2025 at the Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler, with burial at the Winkler Cemetery.

Wiebe Funeral Homes, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



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Firearms-Ammo & Accessories  
Sept. 23 @ 7:00PM

Man Cave  
Oct. 28 @ 7:00PM

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www.mcna.com

COMING EVENTS



## Fundraiser Soup & Pie Supper

Friday, September 26, 2025  
from 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
at the

Bethel Bergthaler Church

4130 MB-32, Hochfeld, MB  
Call: 204-325-4086 for more information

Freewill Offering

All Proceeds going toward the ministry of Faith Mission  
Everyone Welcome!



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



- 1/2 frozen banana
- 3 tablespoons pumpkin puree

## Pumpkin Pie Kefir Smoothie

- 1 cup Maple Hill Creamery Vanilla Kefir, plus additional for serving
- 20 grams unflavored collagen peptides
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/4 cup ice
- ground cinnamon, to taste

In high-speed blender, blend banana, pumpkin puree, 1 cup vanilla kefir, collagen peptides, vanilla, pumpkin pie spice and ice until smooth.

In glass, add drizzle of additional vanilla kefir then layer smoothie on top. Sprinkle with ground cinnamon, to taste.

Photo courtesy of Shutterstock



## Fresh Salad with Grilled Strawberries and Celery, Berries and Burrata

make dressing. In jar, mix orange juice, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, honey, olive oil and salt.

Cut grilled and remaining raw celery sticks at angle into 1/4-inch pieces.

In mixing bowl, toss celery, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, burrata, arugula and hemp seeds with dressing. Mix well.

Recipe courtesy of Marie Reginato on behalf of Duda Farm Fresh Foods

Servings: 2

Salad:

- 4 sticks Dandy Celery, divided
- 4 strawberries, cut in half
- 1 handful blackberries
- blueberries
- raspberries
- 1 medium burrata ball, cut in half
- 3 cups arugula
- 1 handful hemp seeds

Dressing:

- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey or maple syrup
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pinch sea salt

Using grill pan or directly on grill, cook two celery sticks and strawberries until soft with grill marks on either side.

While celery and strawberries grill,



# What makes weight loss so challenging for some people?

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

After I stepped away from training competitive athletes for fitness contests, it seemed nearly every client who walked through my door had the same goal: weight loss. It's common to struggle to shed fat—especially around the midsection—and research shows it can be more difficult for some people than for others.

Fair or not, genetics plays a major role in body composition and response to food. Some genes are linked to a higher risk of obesity, while others affect fat storage, appetite or metabolic health. Age is another factor you can't control; it influences the rate at which your body converts food into energy (your metabolism). Hormonal imbalances can slow metabolism and lead to weight gain. So can alcohol use, stress, poor sleep and chronic inactivity.

Rather than feel discouraged about what you can't control, use this information as motivation to focus on what you can—your nutrition. Working with an expert can help you identify the dietary choices that support your individual goals.

Regular exercise and healthy daily habits also make weight loss easier. If behaviour change has such impact, it's a no-brainer to build movement into your routine. Environment matters too, but Manitoba offers plenty of options—great hiking trails and fun indoor classes



Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

for all fitness levels. If you're navigating other barriers, such as limited access to healthy food or a tight budget, ask for help. Two brains are better than one when it comes to finding creative ways to get fit and break through plateaus.

Discuss your health goals or fitness challenges by booking a free online consultation: [www.calendly.com/juliegermaine](http://www.calendly.com/juliegermaine), or email me at [julie@juliegermaine.com](mailto:julie@juliegermaine.com).

*Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to lifelong health. She is an active mom, a registered personal trainer, a two-time pro fitness champion, and a certified nutrition expert and fitness specialist. She has helped thousands worldwide improve their health since 2005.*

## Thai Lime Chicken Salad

Servings: 4

- 4 stalks Dandy Celery, sliced on bias
- 1 cucumber, split, seeded and sliced on bias
- 2 carrots, peeled and julienned
- 2 cups Jasmine rice, cooked and cooled slightly
- 1 bunch scallions, green section finely chopped and white ends julienned
- 2 cups poached chicken breast, shredded
- 3 tablespoons avocado seed oil
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon palm sugar
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

- 2 tablespoons tamari
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed chili flakes (optional)
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 cup roasted peanuts or cashews, crushed
- 1 cup fresh cilantro sprigs
- 4 lime wedges

In medium bowl, combine celery, cucumbers, carrots, cooked rice, scallions and shredded chicken.

In another bowl, whisk avocado seed oil, rice vinegar, palm sugar, sesame oil, lime juice, tamari, fish sauce and chili flakes, if desired, until sugar is dissolved. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper, to taste.

Pour mixture over celery and shredded chicken mixture; toss to mix.

To serve, portion out salad and top with crushed nuts, cilantro sprigs and lime wedges.