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# Honouring fallen heroes



Winkler's Remembrance Day service went virtual this year due to the pandemic, but the wreaths were laid, as always, at the memorial in Bethel Heritage Park. See Pg. 10 for more. PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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

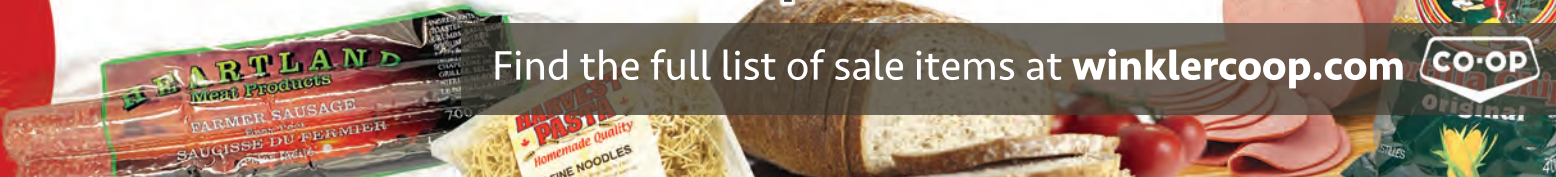
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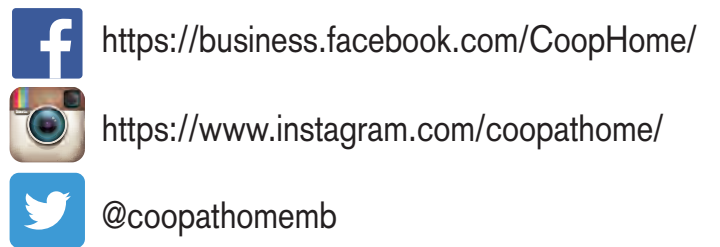
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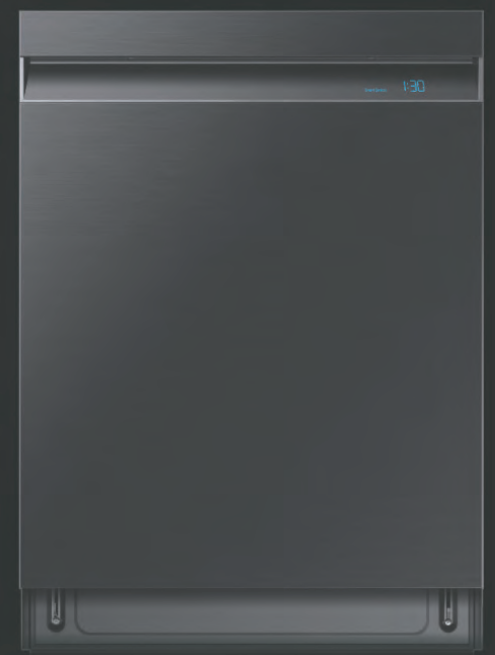
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# Pandemic doesn't put much of a damper on Giving Challenge

By Lorne Stelmach

Local community foundations saw their funds grow last week through the Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge.

The organizations were pleased with the level of support that came in through the week despite the challenges being faced as a result of the pandemic.

"We're very happy with the support," said Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation. "Under the circumstances, I was very impressed with the contributions that we received. I was excited to see some new donors we had come in this year in addition to the donors who support us annually."

"None of us really knew whether it was going to affect it or not ... and it really didn't much," said Lynda Lambert, executive director of the Morden and Area Foundation.

The annual fall fundraising initiative always provides a significant boost to the local endowment funds, but what is usually a one-day event instead this year took place throughout the week of Nov. 9-15.

Thanks to partial matching funds

from the Winnipeg Foundation, the Manitoba government, and several local businesses, donations made last week were stretched.

In Winkler, the foundation raised \$43,000, including \$16,000 in "stretching" dollars. That's pretty close to the \$50,000 they raised in 2019.

"We were very excited about the response, and it was definitely a good week for us," said Peters. "I think the one thing we missed this year was the chance to talk with the community members and talk about the work the foundation does here."

The campaign in Morden brought in over \$33,000 last year including the stretching dollars, and the total this year was only down a little at about \$30,000.

"This is very good for us ... especially for the smaller foundations," said Lambert.

In Plum Coulee, where the community foundation had to cancel its drive-thru soup and pie fundraising supper Saturday, the campaign still brought 33 donations that totalled \$11,960, with the stretching dollars taking it to just under \$16,000—not down much from the \$20,000 raised last year.

"Absolutely we are happy with that



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

While in-person donations weren't possible this year, the Winkler Community Foundation's van was still parked around the community last week to remind people about the Giving Challenge. The foundation raised \$43,000 through the campaign.

... considering we weren't able to go ahead with our event, so I think those are great numbers," said chairperson Heather Unger.

"It means a lot to us ... it's been a very challenging year for everyone, so we really appreciate them coming for-

ward," she said. "The giving challenge seems to be something that everyone looks forward to every year. They actually hold off on their donation to give at this time because they really like that stretch opportunity."



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# GVSD trustees standing by mask protocols

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division's board of trustees are standing by their decision to require a note from a medical doctor for a mask exemption in local schools.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the school division offices last month to protest the mandated use of masks in schools for Manitoba students in Gr. 4-12.

Inside the building, presenters asked trustees to reconsider the medical note requirement (something that was not required by Manitoba Education) and instead let parents weigh in more on whether wearing a mask was in the best interest of their child.

At their Nov. 10 meeting, board chair Laurie Dyck said they've decided not to make any changes to the policy.

"The board has discussed and we will not be changing our stance on that," she said.

In an interview after the meeting, Dyck further explained the decision.

"We still believe that we as educators ... just do not have the expertise to assess the very defined exemption criteria" laid out by the province in its mask mandate material on a case-by-case basis.

Dyck stressed that a medical doctor remains the best person to do that to ensure exemptions are only given to the few students who truly qualify for one.

She noted there has been some discussion as to whether face shields might be an acceptable compromise, but thus far Manitoba Education and Public Health have not indicated those are acceptable means of preventing the spread of COVID-19 by themselves.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

A few hundred people gathered outside the GVSD offices last month to voice their concerns about the mask use requirements in local schools.

## HOCHFELD SCHOOL DECISION POSTPONED

Also at last week's meeting, the GVSD board decided to hold off on its planned assessment of Hochfeld School.

Parents from the village appealed to the board earlier this year to consider turning the small Gr. 1-8 school into a Gr. 1-6 school. Junior high students would then be sent to Prairie Dale School in Schanzenfeld where they'd have greater access to extracurricular activities and elective courses.

The board had agreed to consider the matter by this fall, but COVID-19 derailed those plans.

Now, with everything else administrators are dealing with and in light of the fact a detailed assessment could not be completed in time for 2021-2022 budget planning, the board has decided to put off the decision for the time being.

"It is something that the board wants

to review, but right now there are just so many other things going on," Dyck said. "As soon as we have time and our administrative leadership has time, we will tackle that request."

## READING ASSESSMENTS

While the pandemic created a great deal of upheaval in schools this spring, the division's reading assessment results for Gr. 1-4 didn't drop as much as administrators had feared they would.

Interim superintendent Janice Krahn reported to the school board that the

year-to-year assessment results held pretty steady in some grades and dropped somewhat in others.

"The spring learning from home has definitely played into our numbers this year, and we expected that," she said. "But I think that we did expect lower numbers than we received, so that's good news."

As of September, 60 per cent of Gr. 1-4 students in GVSD are reading at or above expectations for their age group.

That's a six per cent drop from the 2019-2020 school year, though Krahn noted the division is seeing an increase in home school students this fall, which may have skewed the numbers to some degree. The assessments were also done later than usual due to the pandemic.

Twelve per cent of students across the division are "approaching expectations" but require a little more help to get there.

Excluding about two per cent of special needs students exempt from assessment, that leaves 26 per cent of kids who need ongoing support to improve their reading skills.

"I know that our teachers have been working really, really hard at this, so it's good to see that we're maintaining it, but we also understand that there's going to be all sorts of fluctuations [this year]," Krahn said.

## Morden-Winkler-Stanley hit 77 active COVID-19 cases on Monday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

COVID-19 cases are on the rise across Manitoba, and the Pembina Valley is no exception.

At press time on Monday, the Morden-Winkler-Stanley region had a combined total of 77 cases of COVID-19—a marked change from just weeks ago when active reported cases here were negligible.

Elsewhere in the region, Carman is dealing with 11 cases and an outbreak at the Carman Memorial Hospital, Altona has 41 cases, Morris is at 13, and the Lorne/Louise/Pembina area is at 16 active cases.

Provincially, health officials on Monday announced 392 new cases, bringing the total lab-confirmed cases to 11,339 and the active case number to 7,011. They also announced 10 more deaths, bringing the total number to 172.

In just seven days Manitoba added 2,844 new cases and 63 deaths to its COVID-19 totals.

"We continue to see high numbers of cases," said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer in addressing the public Monday afternoon.

"In the last three days we've announced more than 1,000 cases. We can't sustain this number of cases in our health-care system. We need to bring these numbers down and we need to work on that starting right now.

Continued on page 8



# City of Winkler turns down COVID-19 ticket revenues

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler police and bylaw enforcement officers will be ticketing people flagrantly violating the COVID-19 public health orders, but the City of Winkler won't see a penny from those fines.

City council last week unanimously voted in favour of turning down the province's offer of revenue from the Municipal Enforcement Support Program.

The provincial government has promised that municipalities will receive 100 per cent of the revenue from COVID-19 related tickets issued and upheld by the courts.

While the council is on board with ensuring local law enforcement receive the necessary training from the program to enforce pandemic restrictions where needed, they're not comfortable accepting this particular revenue stream, says Mayor Martin Harder.

"We believe that, as far as the community is concerned, it sends the wrong message,"

he says. "We have been blessed with thousands of immigrants who have moved here over the past 20 years, some of whom have come from countries where the governments have been noted to be on the take for any number of fines."

Harder stresses that council firmly stands behind the provincial government's attempts to slow the spread of COVID-19 by ramping up enforcement efforts, but tying revenue to the amount of tickets issued by municipalities doesn't sit right with them.

"It's not that we won't give fines. We will give tickets ... we will get the training [to do so]," he says. "But we don't want anybody to accuse us of issuing tickets for the [financial] benefit of the City of Winkler."

There have been postings on social media in recent weeks where people accused provincial and local governments of being "on the take" when it came to COVID-19 fines. Harder hopes council's decision will put those complaints to rest once and for all.

He also hopes Winklerites will step up and do what it takes to protect each other, fines or no fines.

"I would encourage everybody to please comply with the restrictions that are in place," Harder says. "We need to, to get through this. We know perfectly well, looking at

**"IT'S NOT THAT WE WON'T GIVE FINES ... BUT WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO ACCUSE US OF ISSUING TICKETS FOR THE [FINANCIAL] BENEFIT OF THE CITY OF WINKLER."**

the numbers ... it's shocking to see the [Morden-Winkler case] numbers growing. It isn't missing us. It's here.

"It's time to get down to work and to make sure that we protect those around us. If we stick together as we always have, we will get through this."

In related matters, council also gave approval at its Nov. 10 meeting to a variation application from Salem Home so the care home can have its temporary visitation shelters made out of old shipping containers on-site for the duration of the pandemic.

The city doesn't generally allow shipping containers, even modified ones, to be parked around town indefinitely (the zoning bylaw calls for less than 90 days), but "this is an extreme case," says Harder, noting the units will allow for family visits in a safe environment.

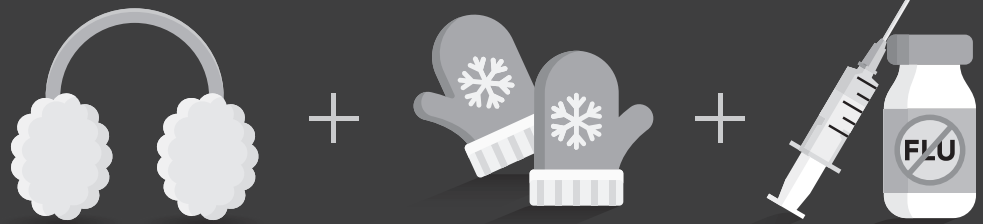
The variation, which passed unanimously, al-

lows Salem to use the temporary visitation centres for up to two years, though the hope is they'll be in place far less than that. Council will reassess as needed next year.

"They're not there for the long haul," Harder says. "They're just there until we can get through this virus."

Council didn't receive much in the way of negative feedback to the variation request, though one area resident did stand up at the public hearing to ask whether anything would be done to make the units look less like shipping containers.

The health authority is focusing on the interiors more than the exteriors of the units, Harder says. Each unit has been insulated for year-round use and is equipped with easy-to-clean furnishings and a UV light system for disinfection procedures after every visit.



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## Our mistake

In our Nov. 12 edition, a pair of photo cutlines running alongside stories about the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce's annual business awards incorrectly referred to the chamber president as Scott Hildebrand.

Presenting the awards was in fact, chamber board chair Scott Hoeppner.

We sincerely regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Learn more at [manitoba.ca/flu](http://manitoba.ca/flu)





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Winkler Morden Voice

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• **GUEST COMMENTARY**

**The time for patience has passed: teachers need help**

It's said that patience is a virtue, and for the most part I agree. Some things are worth waiting for. Acquiring the discipline to bide your time cultivates maturity and no small amount of wisdom. I am a patient person.

Manitoba's 16,000 public school teachers are a patient lot as well. They wait for students, for homework, for funding to help students in need. They wait for clinical consultations. Sometimes they even wait for contracts. And while they wait, they teach.

They extend themselves for that "light bulb moment", when suddenly all they've worked for, all they've waited for, comes shining through a child's eyes.



**By James Bedford**

Those are the moments for which teachers patiently strive.

There is a time, however, where patience doesn't serve us. When waiting has consequences—dire ones. Truly, there is a time when we must see the writing on the wall—read the clear signals that the time has come to act. Such wisdom is the mark of an evolved, mature individual. It's the mark of good government, too.

Late last August the prime minister announced \$85.4 million in funding to support Manitoba schools as they address added and obviously unanticipated needs arising from COVID-19. Thus far, only \$15 million of those funds have been distributed, province-wide.

While we wait, our schools bend to the point of breaking. MTS and its members have cited over and over a lack of educators required to ensure physical distancing—increasingly, teachers' classes are spread out over two and sometimes three separate rooms. Often these individuals are required to teach both in-person and remotely. It is simply not sustainable.

We have spoken repeatedly of deteriorating mental health—the result of relentless change in protocols, si-

multaneous teaching both remotely and in person, a burgeoning workload, and the lack of substitutes for teacher absences. Delays receiving COVID test results and contact tracing, as well as limited access to vital PPE persist.

Manitobans have witnessed the pandemic steadily claim the lives of vulnerable seniors in long-term care. And last week we watched in horror as COVID-19 raged through Maples Personal Care Home, overwhelming staff and triggering an emergency response of unprecedented proportions. This is the price of waiting.

On Monday [Nov. 9], the education minister announced remote learning and professional development supports—and for that we are grateful. Three non-instructional days have been restored for teacher collaboration. These are positive steps by Manitoba Education. But they must not stop there.

A safe and sustainable public education system is the bedrock upon which our community and economy will recover and grow. To simply salve the strain on our teachers, school

Continued on page 7

**Letters**

**Responses to last week's complaints about COVID restrictions**

In response to Mr. Bueckert's many frustrations with public health orders, I have a few of my own frustrations for him to consider.

What must it be like to have your child and other family members go to work each day in a hospital or a nursing home and worry about their health and safety as they take care of people who didn't like the rules either?

What must it be like to be a member of government trying to keep the people safe by asking them to follow

a few simple rules, and then having to add more rules as people ignore them?

What must it be like for people to politicize something that is a matter of common sense? And for people to care so little about anyone other than themselves and how they are being inconvenienced rather than caring about the good for all of us?

What must it be like to think that you can only find God in a church when, really, He is everywhere? The same God who calls us to love our

neighbour and work together. The same God who tells us he is with us when two or more are gathered in His name.

What must it be like to have your elderly father with dementia in hospital and not being able to visit him? When he doesn't understand why his wife of 60 years and his children do not care to come see him and your heart is breaking? Or an elderly family member dies alone in hospital?

Continued on page 7

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

# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

> Got something you want to get off your chest?

Send your letters to the editor or random acts of kindness to [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca). Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

## > BEDFORD, FROM PG. 6

leaders and staff is too little too late if not backed up by meaningful investment in the root cause of crisis. If not addressed, and swiftly, the repercussions may be catastrophic.

Despite the government's claim that additional teachers have been hired this fall, numbers are inadequate to the task. Sufficient staffing to permit physical distancing and substitute coverage is essential. Furthermore, substitute teachers must be assured

of paid sick leave.

These asks are not new, and are paramount to ensuring an effective learning environment and the safeguarding of students and staff alike. Increased access to public health support, including PPE, enhanced turn-around time for COVID test results and swift contact tracing efforts are essential as well to maintaining the safe environment schools have thus far provided.

Additionally, any educators hired for the announced remote learning resource centre must not come at the expense of teachers in the classroom. Clear delineation and supports are required for teachers working with students in person and those teaching remotely.

MTS and its members have not been silent. The situation in our schools is no secret. This week alone almost 500 individuals working in Manitoba

schools penned an open letter to the premier and education minister articulating the perfect storm gathering before our eyes. Exhausted teachers are using their voice. What must we do to be heard?

Our teachers need support now. Not in a week. Not in a month. Now.

Patience, Mr. Pallister, is no longer a virtue.

*James Bedford is president of The Manitoba Teachers' Society*

## > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

What must it be like to feel free to ignore the rules and complain about being inconvenienced when 240,000 people have died and thousands and thousands more are getting sick every day? I guess the U.S. knows.

What must it be like to be a small business owner and have to close down because people can't follow the rules? To wonder how you will pay your bills and provide Christmas for your kids?

I no longer have to wonder about all of these things anymore because I am living them every day.

My heart breaks that we are so divided on this issue, but I go to sleep at night knowing I am doing my best to make things better.

I never wanted to live in such a place as this either, Mr. Bueckert, but here we both are.

Lynn Riddell,  
Morden

Re: Voicing frustration at public health orders, the letter in last

week's issue.

Every day I see the rising case numbers and rising number of deaths due to COVID-19. These are not just numbers, these are grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters. Many of them are our elders.

This is a time when we can care for each other and "love our neighbours" by following the public health COVID-19 related restrictions.

It is a challenging and often frustrating time, but rather than pushing back at the restrictions we need to come together to protect the most vulnerable amongst us, as well as each other.

Carol Toews,  
Morden

### LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Day 2020 will be one to truly remember as the Provincial Red Zone regulations came into effect. These regulations very much put an end to any Royal Canadian Legion or community planned

Remembrance Day Services.

We, three veterans, decided to attend the cenotaph on our own and pay our respects to our fallen comrades. We were at the cenotaph early and as we were planning the service and the time neared 1100 hrs, unbeknown to us, several veterans, Legion members, and a fair number of Morden citizens began to arrive. What was particularly encouraging was the attendance of parents with their children.

Our impromptu service was made

even more meaningful by the participation of all those in attendance at Confederation Park and, by my observation, social distancing was maintained.

On behalf of my fellow veterans and Legion members, thank you very much for attending, participating and respecting provincial protocols.

Chief Warrant Officer  
Kenneth W. Wiebe, MMM, CD,  
Ret'd, Morden

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

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

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

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

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# Explore Morden Winkler has found its first exec. dir.

By Lorne Stelmach

The region's tourism agency is now set to build for the future with its first executive director in place.

With the announcement Monday of the hiring of Cheryl Link, Explore Morden Winkler is being spearheaded by someone with a longtime passion and dedication to the region.

"Tourism is in my blood. It's always been there. It's always been impor-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Cheryl Link has been hired as Explore Morden Winkler's first executive director.

tant," said Link, who comes to the role with more than 36 years of involvement and experience, including with the Morden Corn and Apple Festival and Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

"I have been involved with tourism before tourism was even a thing in this area," she said, recalling many trips to Winnipeg to promote the festival. "Eventually, more people came and more attractions were represented, and it became a real thing for us.

"It is the number one growth industry left in the world, and I'm really happy to be a part of it," added Link, who acknowledged it is a challenging time for the industry but also "an interesting time to prepare and to come

up with and create new opportunities and new ideas for our area ... and have it all laid out and operating and then ready to take it to the next step once COVID is over.

"And this region does have a lot to offer, and I don't think we've even scratched the surface yet," she said. "There is so much here, and I want to make sure the province, the country, and the world know about it."

Link will start in her new role later this month.

Explore Morden Winkler board chair Reg Braun sees great potential for her to help bring things to the next level in terms of raising awareness and implementing initiatives in the region.

"Combined with her significant ex-

perience working with not-for-profits, we believe Cheryl will be instrumental in helping us achieve big opportunities for the region," he said.

"We are not simply sitting back and waiting for COVID-19 to go away," Braun added, noting for example the recent success of the Burger Week promotion. "This is our current reality and even now there are great opportunities to grow and develop tourism in our region from amazing restaurants that offer takeout and delivery to safe outdoor attractions like Discovery Nature Sanctuary, Stanley Park, and Lake Minnewasta, not to mention other safe and exciting initiatives we have brewing."

## Teen facing drunk driving charges

By Voice staff

A 17-year-old is facing a litany of charges after driving his vehicle into a tree in Winkler last week.

On Friday, Nov. 13, just after 11 p.m., emergency crews were called to a single vehicle collision on Main St. between Mountain Ave. and South Railway Ave.

Police found that a northbound Chevrolet pickup truck had driven off the road and onto the sidewalk where

the vehicle collided head-on with a tree.

Officers determined that the 17-year-old male driver of the vehicle was impaired by alcohol and that both he and the 16-year-old female passenger had been injured during the collision.

The male youth was placed under arrest for impaired driving and both he and the passenger were transported by ambulance to Boundary Trails Health Centre, where they were treated and released.

The driver was released from police custody on an undertaking with various conditions and a court date in early 2021.

He will be facing charges of impaired operation of a conveyance causing bodily harm, unlawful transportation of liquor in a motor vehicle, and possession of liquor by a minor.

The incident remains under investigation, with additional charges pending.

## "We need to act right now to keep bringing these numbers down"

From Pg. 4

"Our hospitals are near capacity," Roussin continued. "We have over 40 people in ICU with COVID-19 right now. Our health-care providers are becoming overwhelmed."

The entire province remains at critical or red on the pandemic response system, which restricts which and how businesses are allowed to be open and makes masks mandatory in all indoor public spaces.

Public and private gatherings are also capped at five people, in addition to the number already in a household, though health officials have been strongly urging Manitobans for weeks not to get together at all with those outside their households.

Staying home as much as possible is the most effective thing people can do to help stop the spread of this virus, Roussin stressed.

"I know many Manitobans are worried. Many Manitobans are scared right now. But we do know what to do. We can act right now to keep bringing

these numbers down," he said. "We need to stay home, socialize only with members of our household, only go out for essential purposes."

Not everyone is following this advice. Anti-mask and anti-lockdown protests were held in both Winnipeg and Steinbach over the weekend and Roussin said they've received reports of stores operating "as if there is no

such thing as COVID" by disregarding the mandated 25 per cent capacity limits and physical distancing requirements.

"We saw packed parking lots, we saw crowded stores," he said, noting there are far too many businesses circumventing the spirit of the shutdown orders by trying to remain open with the token sale of essential items,

even though most of their products would be considered non-essential. "This hurts Manitobans. Right now Manitobans need to be staying home, not looking for ways to go out."

Individuals and businesses ignoring public health orders run the risk of being fined. Tickets are \$1,296 for individuals and \$5,000 for businesses.

## Salem Home addresses outbreak concerns

Public health officials on Saturday reported a COVID-19 outbreak at Salem Home in Winkler, but the personal care home was quick to clarify on its website and social media that there have been no active cases of COVID-19 within their walls.

A Salem staff member did test positive for the virus a few days earlier but they had not been in the facility during the period of transmission.

Still, that positive test was enough to qualify for outbreak status under the province's reporting criteria, even though no residents nor at-work staff had tested

positive for COVID-19 at press time.

"We understand that this is unsettling news for both our residents and their loved ones," the care home said in a statement online Saturday afternoon. "Salem Home is now under the guidance of the province's Chief Public Health Officer and has implemented additional precautions in accordance with the directions provided to those already in place.

"Above all, the care staff are working hard to ensure your loved one's well-being and care."

—Ashleigh Viveiros



# Winkler Imagination Library hopes to raise \$3K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Imagination Library is holding an online fundraiser this month in conjunction with the global premiere of a movie detailing the literacy program's creation.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will be showing *The Library That Dolly Built* on Facebook on Dec. 9.

The film details how the country music superstar created the non-profit to get free books into the hands of kids and the impact that mission has had on families and communities around the world.

Closer to home, Winkler's Imagination Library has sent out books to hundreds of children since starting up six years ago.

Committee member Judith Baerg says they currently have 800 kids living in the Garden Valley School Division catchment area receiving age-appropriate books in the mail each month.

The entire program is supported via community donations, so when the Dollywood Foundation reached out with an idea to do some fundraising alongside the movie premiere they jumped at the chance.

"They said they recognized that

times have been tough lately with everything going on and they thought with this new Dolly Parton movie coming out it would be a great platform for Imagination Library organizations around the world to partner with them to do some fundraising," Baerg said.

People are asked to visit the Winkler Family Resource Centre & Imagination Library Facebook page from Nov. 23 to Dec. 13 to make a donation to the program.

If you're not on social media or are not comfortable with online donations, you can also support the Imagination Library by calling 204-332-9418 or sending an email to [winklerfrc@gmail.com](mailto:winklerfrc@gmail.com) to make other arrangements.

They hope to raise \$3,000 with this campaign.

"That will help a lot," Baerg said, explaining that a donation of \$65 is enough to cover the costs of one child for an entire year.

As of this month, Winkler Imagination Library has had 1,119 students graduate from the program (kids age out once they start kindergarten).

The effects of getting children reading or being read to from an early age



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Big smiles are the name of the game for the Winkler Imagination Library program, which sends out free books to 800 children in our area every month.

is already being seen in local schools.

"We've heard from the division that it's definitely been helpful for kindergarten kids to be exposed to that," said Baerg, who has taught kindergarten.

She says the kids are coming to class more comfortable with books and reading. "We've seen the literacy rates go up as a result."

## Local chambers optimistic region can weather the storm

By Lorne Stelmach

Businesses are now facing a second round of closures and restrictions, but local business leaders are cautiously optimistic the commercial sectors in Morden and Winkler will be able to cope with it.

Further restrictions are in place province-wide with the move to critical or red on the #RestartMB pandemic response system last week.

The hope is that having gone through this already earlier this spring may have businesses at least somewhat better prepared for it this time, suggested local chamber of commerce representatives, although they also hope for recognition from government that small businesses are hit harder than others.

"We would like to see some of this inequality addressed," said Scott Hoepfner, chairperson of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce, who stressed there was "a recognition on the part of the chamber that the recent restrictions have had an inordinate impact on both the small and mid-size businesses.

"The chamber is aware of that and will continue to advocate on its members behalf to request that the government implement measures to address this inequality," he added, "whether that's through a change in the restrictions or various funding models or grants or other methods of assistance."

"They're certainly feeling it ... it's frustrating," agreed Darren Heide, president of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce. "I do think though we have some of the most creative and adaptive entrepreneurs out there, and our businesses are doing a great job of adapting and finding creative ways of continuing to do business with their customers.

"I do think they're a lot quicker to adjust now. A lot of businesses have upgraded their websites or social media accounts where they're able to provide their products and services

and be able to do curbside pickup or delivery ... and many have continued to do that all along," said Heide. "Even some newer things that they have done that they hadn't done before ... like restaurants offering family style pickup meals instead of ordering individual meals off the menu."

"I don't know if you want to call it a trial run in the spring ... but there were a lot of lessons learned in that time frame," said Hoepfner. "Everyone kind of has an idea of what they want to do and how they can best live with the own business model in the new environment."

The impact of course will vary from one type of business to the next.

The restrictions range from bars and restaurants being closed except for take-out and delivery to retail stores reduced to 25 per cent capacity. Other businesses, such as theatres or enter-

tainment centres, have had to close entirely.

"Certainly there will be some concerns, but I also think that people are rallying together and thinking we're going to get through this ... the same way that we did in spring, we're going to carry on now," suggested Hoepfner.

"I think that it's perhaps going to be extra challenging now that the additional restrictions are coming into play again, so that is another hurdle to jump over," he continued, "but I think that everyone is resilient, and we'll do our best to deal with it because we don't really have a choice.

"I'm sure that in any business or any industry, there are going to be difficulties that some people perhaps can't overcome, but I think that people have been learning to be flexible," Hoepfner said. "Obviously, we would love to be back to normal ... but everyone I think has been doing their best to adapt and to make it through to the next stretch."

"Every workplace is being affected

"PEOPLE ARE RALLYING TOGETHER ... WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS."

# “We will remember them”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler’s Remembrance Day services went virtual this year.

The Winkler Veterans Association teamed up with local students to put together a video of the ceremony and post it online the morning of Nov. 11 for people to watch from the safety of their homes.

“2020 has posed many challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic,” noted Carol Enns in her remarks. “For us as a committee, our hearts were filled with mixed emotions about how we could still honour our past veterans and those who continue to serve our country and make sure that we keep everyone safe.”

A pre-recorded ceremony seemed the best option, she said, especially given the uncertainty of tightening restrictions on public gathering sizes.

The 30 minute video followed the same path as past Winkler Remem-



ABOVE PHOTO BY PETER CANTELON/VOICE

An impromptu socially-distanced outdoor service was held at the Morden cenotaph on Remembrance Day led by a small group of Legion members, including veteran Ken Wiebe. Winkler’s service was posted online this year and wreaths were placed at Bethel Heritage Park, which houses the city’s memorial cairn and walkway (right).

brance Day services, including a reading of the Honour Roll, Last Post and Reveille, shots of local dignitaries laying wreaths at the cenotaph in Bethel Heritage Park, and remarks from a local pastor.

“Why do we remember this day each year?” asked Pastor Sean Harder of the Grace Mennonite Church. “It provides us with an intentional way of remembering the past in a manner that hopefully informs us of what we would like tomorrow to look like.

“In a world today where there’s so much argument and division over what are often trivial matters, we can be reminded of what’s truly important. That we often take peace for granted until it is abruptly taken away,” he continued. “In a world where I think more about myself than others it can remind us that peace and love need to be strived for. That they don’t happen without awareness and effort.

“Today is a recognition of the people in our country that, not unlike Jesus, felt called



to sacrifice their lives for the sake of others,” Harder said, adding it is also a day to recognize the toll war takes on the soldiers who make it home forever changed. “It’s estimated that the ratio of emotional casualties to deaths in veterans is at least 3:1. And so we remember that even though many physically survive the tragedy of war, they are often forgotten and live with the ongoing effects.

“By remembering these things we can hopefully say no more, never again. We can consciously as a human race, as individuals do everything we can to prevent these casualties in the future.”

In Morden, the Legion had planned to host a small, invite-only gathering on Remembrance Day to be streamed to the community online, but that had to be cancelled due to increased pandemic restrictions.

An unplanned gathering of community members did end up taking place at the cenotaph downtown. They paid their respects at 11 o’clock with a minute of silence, prayers, singing, and a reading of the names of the community’s war dead.

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# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Chamber is launching its Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas campaign this week. While in-store shopping might look a little different this year, the promotion of shopping local is more important than ever.

## Morden chamber launches annual shop local campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual campaign aimed at promoting local businesses and encouraging people to shop locally will obviously look different this year.

With tougher restrictions in place again due to the pandemic, there is an even more urgent need for something like Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas, say organizers.

"This year, it is especially important to support all of our local businesses," said Candace Olafson, executive director of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce. "Traditionally it has been a one-night shopping event. Obviously we have to switch it up and do something different this year, but we certainly didn't want to not have Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas."

Now in its seventh year, the modified promotion launched Monday and continues for five weeks to Dec. 18.

Shoppers are asked to post any sort of photo of their shopping excursion in support of a local business to Facebook or Instagram and tag it #shop-

morden. Doing so will make you eligible for a chance at a cash reward.

"No matter where or how you shop ... it could be a curbside pickup, it could be an online purchase, it could be a delivery purchase," said Olafson. "No matter what local business you're supporting, let's shout it out there."

There will be \$1,000 in prize money up for grabs, including five weekly \$100 gift cards to the business featured in your photo and a grand prize of \$500 in gift cards to Morden businesses at the end of the campaign.

The campaign was designed before the entire province went to code red on the pandemic response system, however it's important to continue to encourage shopping locally, Olafson stressed.

"We really have to find ways to support our local businesses ... they're going to find unique ways to serve their customers," she said. "They're going to be online, they're going to be on social media, and many will offer delivery or curbside options. They're going through a lot of change and putting in a lot of extra effort."

### Attention Kids...

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4. Write a story that begins with: "Asher struggled to keep his eyes open as he sat watching his father's sheep. Suddenly, a bright light split the night sky ..."

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**One K-4 and one Gr. 5-8 student will each win a free movie party at the local theatre for them and five friends, complete with snacks.\***

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Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length.

Send your story to:  
christmasstories@winklermordenvoice.ca

**DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 4, 2020**

\*Due to the pandemic, this year's prizes will be handed out as gift cards for the value of a movie party.

### > WEATHERING THE STORM, FROM PG. 9

by the pandemic and the new restrictions. The retail restaurant and service sectors are being the most directly affected, but still the manufacturing and professional services are also being affected as well but just in different ways," noted Heide.

He said the most important factor for these businesses is "if our community continues to support them.

"Please continue to think of them and do your best to support your local businesses through the many different challenges they have now. These are our neighbours. They need us, we need them ... they are our employers," he said.

Heide also urges customers to "understand, be patient, and respect our local businesses with the decisions and with the restrictions that are put in place.

"These are not decisions the local

businesses have put in place," he noted. "Please work with our local business owners. It's not easy for them, so let's help them out the best we can."

Hoepfner also stressed the importance of the local chambers being strong advocates.

"We want to be a voice for business, so any concerns that our members have, we want to raise them with the province ... and get our views across and see there is any additional help or assistance or concerns that we can communicate," he said.

"I think the Manitoba Chamber has been pretty proactive in both going to the government and speaking with them and disseminating that information.

"We're all in this together, and we're going to have to figure it all out as we go."

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# Coffee-flavoured doughnut a win for two Reinland students

By Ashleigh Viveiros

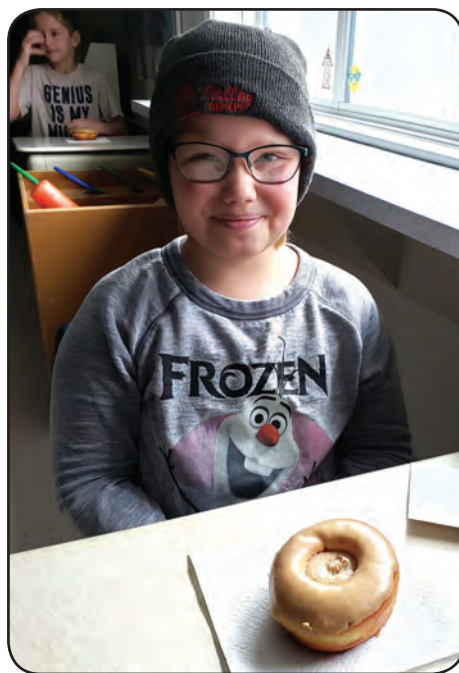
Two Border Valley School students got the chance to see their culinary creations brought to life this past week.

When Gr. 5 teacher Heidi Franz heard about Valley Bakery's Custom Donut Competition she knew it would be the perfect way to engage her students.

"They were inviting people to submit ideas and so I thought, hey, it's a fun little writing project for my students," she said. "They each had to submit what they thought would create the best doughnut. The different flavours of doughnut, the filling, the icing, all that stuff."

The competition was open to the community at large and Valley Bakery had intended to pick just one winner, but two of Franz's students happened upon a similar suggestion and were selected as co-winners.

And so, until Nov. 21, customers can sink their teeth into the Cole and Michelle Coffee Donut, created by students Michelle Sawatzky and Cole Rempel.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Michelle Sawatzky and Cole Rempel from Border Valley School won Valley Bakery's Custom Donut Competition last week with their idea for a coffee-flavoured doughnut.

"They were very excited, like over the moon excited," Franz said of her class. "Everything is so hard these

days, especially in schools, so it's just nice to have a little boost like this to everyone's spirits."

In addition to receiving a pair of toques and gift cards to the bakery, the winners also got the chance to taste their doughnut alongside their classmates last week.

"I was so excited," said Sawatzky when asked how it felt to find out she'd won.

It's a sentiment shared by Rempel, who explained they came up with their respective coffee-flavoured doughnuts simply "because we like coffee."

And how did the first bite of their custom treat taste?

"It was soooo good," said Sawatzky.

Valley Bakery reps did not return requests for comment as of press time, but on social media last week they noted they'd received 66 submissions in the contest.

Coffee and doughnuts "go so well together already, why not skip the middleman and combine them?" they wrote, explaining the Cole and Michelle Coffee Donut consists of a yeast doughnut glazed with Other Brother coffee-infused icing surrounding a cinnamon vanilla mousse filling and topped with whipped cream.

# Winkler chamber invites you to play Holiday Bingo

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The pandemic is keeping the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce's Elf on the Shelf at the North Pole this year, but the agency has come up with a new campaign to en-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winkler chamber executive director Tanya Chateauneuf with the bingo card that encourages people to shop local.

courage people to support local businesses this holiday season.

The chamber launched its Enjoy Local Holiday Bingo competition this week, with cards available at winklerchamber.com and in the *Voice* in the weeks ahead.

"We've partnered with Community Futures Heartland to encourage people to shop local and spend time in our community in many different ways through the holiday season," says executive director Tanya Chateauneuf.

The bingo card encourages Winklerites to do everything from shopping at a business they've never been to before or buying gift cards to a restaurant to paying for the person behind them in the drive-thru or donating to a local charity.

"There are tons of different ways that you can support businesses during this time," says Chateauneuf, noting they've also included several spaces that cost nothing at all to fill, including writing a positive online review for a business or thanking a service provider for all they do. "Overall, we just really want to create a feel-good activity that families can participate

in that will be beneficial for hopefully the entire community."

Anyone getting a total card blackout will be entered into a random draw to win \$500 cash. Participants are asked to include receipts or photos of receipts with their entries where applicable.

"\$500 in cash just before Christmas is a really great gift, I think, for anyone," notes Chateauneuf.

Also up for grabs are eight gift cards to area businesses valued at \$25 each. To be entered to win those, you simply need to complete one line on the card.

The deadline to submit cards is Tuesday, Dec. 15. Winners will be selected on Dec. 18.

With the Elf on the Shelf program—which in past years has encouraged shoppers to visit Winkler businesses to hunt for the tiny Christmas elf doll—simply not feasible this year thanks to the pandemic, this is the next best thing, Chateauneuf says.

"That would be really hard to do this year, especially with the new restrictions," she says. "So we thought what else can we do that's going to encourage people to get out still safely in our community and support or enjoy lo-

"THERE ARE TONS OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT BUSINESSES DURING THIS TIME."

cal?

"We know that so many small businesses are struggling ... if we can find creative ways to support them, such as buying gift cards for future use, making sure we're using their curbside pick-up services, it goes a long way ... it has a ripple effect."

Chateauneuf stresses participants are asked to follow all provincial public health orders in place at all times while attempting to fill up their bingo squares.

People are also encouraged to use #supportwinkler on social media to further get the word out about the campaign and inspire others to shop local.

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

# Koats for Kids on hold

Organizers hope to hold more distribution nights once COVID-19 restrictions ease

By Lorne Stelmach

The province-wide shutdown to get the spread of COVID-19 under control for now brought a halt to a charitable effort to help clothe local families for the winter.

The annual Koats for Kids campaign spearheaded by the Morden United Way had to postpone the next distribution night this week, but they remain hopeful it could be resumed down the road.

"When this all settles down again we'll be back at it and have another night down there," said United Way board member Terry Gibson.

"We've had increased response the last couple of years," added Koats for Kids organizer Audrey Armstrong, noting the United Way earlier on had weighed whether to continue with the campaign this year given the restrictions that had already been in place before the province moved to critical status last week. "When we

were weighing the safety issues, we thought the need is important. People need to not be cold this winter."

The United Way was partnering with The Hub Community Centre this year for the annual effort to collect gently used winter clothing to be distributed to families in need.

Armstrong estimated they had over 200 coats donated. The first distribution night earlier this month had about 30 people come to the Morden Mennonite Church to get outfitted for winter.

"If its colder, that might get people thinking about winter gear," said Armstrong, noting they are hopeful they will be able to continue sometime in the near future as they have an ideal partnership with the support of The Hub and the Morden Mennonite Church.

"Everybody has to adjust for COVID-19, so we've adjusted. We had the opportunity to partner with The Hub and Morden Mennonite Church,



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Audrey Armstrong organizes the selection of jackets available for the Koats for Kids campaign of the Morden and District United Way, which hopes to resume the effort once gathering restrictions are eased.

who have made available to us a long hallway with a long coat rack," she explained.

"It really provided an ideal atmosphere for us to be able to invite people to come in and look but be able to keep the numbers under control, and it provides an atmosphere where people don't have to be close together; we can maintain distance.

"We can only have a few people in

the building at a time ... and it had worked out well so far," she said. "And generally, whatever coats we've had left, we have donated them to The Hub, and they can continue on to make them available to people."

The project is a great way for the United Way to return the favour for the financial support it receives from the community each year, noted Gibson.

# Planned Morden Santa Claus parade cancelled

By Lorne Stelmach

Santa Claus had hoped to make an advance appearance in Morden, but the pandemic has grounded the jolly old elf.

Aiming to fill a void left with the can-

cellation of community events such as the Morden tree lighting, Dylan Maksymic had been pulling together plans for a Santa Claus parade.

Due to the continued restrictions, however, the Morden resident learned from the city late last week that the parade scheduled for Dec. 1 could not go ahead.

"A lot of hours were put into this with meetings and planning, but it's just not possible this year," said Maksymic. "We need to try to continue doing community events like this when it is safe ... and the response that I was getting for it shows that people want to see something like this happen."

It all started when Maksymic saw a post on social media a few weeks ago from someone

Dylan Maksymic, who last year dressed as St. Nick on Christmas eve to spread some holiday joy, had hoped to hold a Santa Claus parade in Morden Dec. 1. His plans have been foiled by the pandemic.

asking if there would be anywhere to get photos with Santa this year. It got him thinking of what alternatives could be done in light of physical distancing requirements.

A parade with Santa at the helm seemed the perfect solution and one the community quickly rallied behind.

"I knew people were going to want to step in and help or put a float or something, but I was thinking maybe 10 floats, if that ... I wasn't thinking this many floats within three or four days of planning," Maksymic said. "Surprisingly, I had a really good

response. I had about 21 floats. The turnout and the support that I had been getting was phenomenal.

"I would like to continue doing this and make it a yearly thing," said Maksymic, noting the response has encouraged him to try again for next year.

"I thank all the businesses and everyone that had donated and helped in anyway possible and to those who had responded for float entries," he said. "This isn't a complete loss, as I will take everyone's suggestions and use them to make next year a much bigger and better event."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

# United Way putting call out for grant applications

By Voice staff

The Winkler and Morden United Ways are putting the call out for grant applications for their 2020-2021 campaign.

The two agencies, which are in the midst of a merger to form the new

United Way Pembina Valley come January, urge local non-profits to download the grant application form and get it back to them as soon as possible.

"We encourage organizations having an impact on our communities

# Settlement Workers in Schools program comes to GVSD

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections is excited to be expanding its Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program into the Garden Valley School Division this school year.

The immigrant support agency has had staff working in schools in the Western and Border Land school divisions for over two years now.

"Those were good fits and it was the right time to start there," said executive director Steve Reynolds, noting the delay in coming to GVSD tied into figuring out how the program best fit with the division's existing liaison workers.

SWIS staff work specifically with immigrant students and their families to ensure they're able to navigate what is often an unfamiliar school system.

"SWIS is there to support newcomer students and their families in the K-12 system, to help them integrate and be successful academically and socially at school," Reynolds explained. "You want students and their families to be more engaged so that the kids are more successful."

Immigrant students face a host of barriers as they move through the Canadian education system.

"There's the language barrier for some students," Reynolds pointed out. "So even just socializing and meeting other kids and getting to know people can be a challenge."

Immigrant parents also might struggle in helping their kids adjust to life in Canada.

"School systems can be really dif-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Settlement Workers in School staffers Aubrey Krahn (left) and Agnes Reimer are excited to be bringing the program to the Garden Valley School Division catchment area.

ferent in other countries," Reynolds noted. "The whole structure of it, how it works, how parents connect to it can all be different. Newcomer families don't know about all those differences and the division doesn't always know all the differences either."

"So it's a lot of providing information for parents and families to help them navigate it all."

The success of the program in Morden and Altona made its expansion

into the Winkler area possible.

"The timing was just good now to start here, and so we've worked out how SWIS will complement the existing supports the division has," Reynolds said.

Manning the Winkler SWIS program are Agnes Reimer and Aubrey Krahn.

Reimer has been with Regional Connections for a few years now in other roles. Krahn is new to the agency but

comes with a background in child and youth care.

Helping immigrant families is a real passion for Reimer, who knows all too well how difficult it can be to adjust to life in an unfamiliar culture.

"I was a newcomer 10 years ago and I still remember how it felt. All the questions I had, the fear, and how different it was," she said. "The school system I was used to, parents were not actively involved in the education of the children. Here, specifically in our area, it is wanted. That's kind of like a learning curve."

She hopes she and Krahn can be "a tool, be a bridge to help them to get all the answers they need and to feel they're part of this whole community."

"Everyone is coming here with a dream and to make that dream real they need help to settle," Reimer added. "It's not just about buying a house or knowing where to buy food, but also how to navigate everything else."

Krahn explained they're working right now on accessing the needs in the area.

"We're working on a focus group, reaching out to parents to ask them some questions about how they felt when their kids started school, what information they could have used," she said, stressing she wants to get the word out to newcomer families that "it's okay to ask for help. That's what we're here for."

If you'd like more information about the Settlement Workers in Schools program, contact Regional Connections at 204-325-4059.

"IT'S A LOT OF PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE IT ALL."

## Flu shot finder tool launched in Manitoba

By Voice staff

The provincial government has launched a Flu Shot Finder tool to make it easier for Manitobans to find a location to receive their flu vaccine, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced Nov. 9.

"It's important to get the flu vaccine every fall, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, this year it's even more important," said Friesen. "This new tool will make it easier for Manitobans to find a location near them to get a flu shot and to add an extra layer of protection this fall."

The Flu Shot Finder, developed in collaboration with GeoManitoba, uses an interactive map to show where people can find the vaccine close to them, including physicians'

offices, pharmacies, and public health offices.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people to get their flu vaccinations this year," said Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer. "I also encourage people to focus on the fundamentals, such as staying home when sick, practising good

cough etiquette and hand hygiene, and making sure to maintain a physical distance from others to prevent spreading influenza and COVID-19."

Manitoba has already begun shipping vaccines to providers and is expected to receive the full provincial vaccine allotment over the next several weeks, barring any external sup-

ply or delivery disruptions. People are reminded to call ahead to confirm a given site is still able to offer the vaccine.

For more information on influenza in Manitoba, to find an influenza vaccine clinic near you, or to access the new tool, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/).

### > UNITED WAY, FROM PG. 15

with their programs and services to reach out to us by the application deadline: Dec. 15, 2020," says Winkler and District United Way board president Kim Nelson.

The Morden and Winkler United Ways are running joint fundraising campaigns this year in the lead-up

to the merger.

"We're excited to be coming together as United Way Pembina Valley and eager to distribute funds as one in the new year," says United Way of Morden and District board president Alex Fedorchuk. "Together we hope to help as many local non-

profits as possible, but they need to get us those applications."

Applications for United Way funding are available at [unitedwaywinkler.com](http://unitedwaywinkler.com) or by email to [mordendis-trictuw@gmail.com](mailto:mordendis-trictuw@gmail.com).



# Event centre staff keeping busy serving holiday meals

By Lorne Stelmach

The Access Event Centre is usually abuzz with holiday season celebrations, but the city facility has fallen silent and empty as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

Staff are hoping to at least fill some of the void by offering the next best option when a Christmas banquet isn't possible.

The Access Event Centre kitchen is now preparing holiday meals for contactless pick up.

The offer, which runs until Dec. 23, includes your choice of turkey, ham, or meatballs with all the trimmings and cheesecake for \$23 plus taxes.

"We're just trying to provide an easy way for members of the community or businesses to pick up a hot, fresh dinner. We're just trying to make it easier for people who are having a tough

time right now," said facility events co-ordinator Owen Klippenstein.

The idea came through head caterer Edith Penman with the thought to create and maintain some work for the staff at a time when they are normally so busy with large events.

"Our catering staff has had very little work since March ... so part of it for her was to keep her staff working. She wanted to offer this service," said Klippenstein.

"We're hoping that maybe some larger businesses might want to order and pick up and drop off at their staff homes," he suggested. "We thought it might be a way for them to provide some Christmas spirit and a little bit of community spirit."

For further information, you can contact Klippenstein at 822-5431 ext. 205 or e-mail at oklippenstein@my-morden.ca.



# Local community foundations joining forces

Morden's Lynda Lambert hired to head up five regional community fdns. in pilot project

By Lorne Stelmach

Five community foundations in the region are taking a collaborative approach that they see helping them advance their collective cause.

For the next five years, the foundations in Morden, Morris, Plum Coulee, Miami, and Pembina-Manitou will jointly benefit from the expertise of a shared staff person to help support their work and their communities.

Taking on the role in the pilot project



Lynda Lambert

is Morden Area Foundation executive director Lynda Lambert. She sees it as a unique and innovative approach to advancing the community foundation movement.

"I think it's absolutely awesome," said Lambert. "I simply love Manitoba, and it absolutely thrills me to be part of the community foundation movement. Through the combined efforts of these participating community foundations, we are building a stronger south central Manitoba for current and future residents."

Lambert will still devote three days a week to Morden but now will also spend half a day each working for the other local foundations.

The foundations are pooling their financial resources and, through a \$10 million Endow Manitoba trust funded by the provincial government, are able to employ Lambert in the role full-time. Her salary is paid half by Endow Manitoba and half by the foundations.

Having a dedicated staffer will allow the volunteer board and committee members to focus their limited time on other priorities, explained Lambert.

"They were starting to find that for some of the smaller foundations that don't have any administrative help, the boards are doing all the work," she said. "Now, if I can help them, that will

hopefully alleviate more stress so they can get back to focusing on what's important ... growing their funds.

"It turns out they're all kind of in the same space where they're needing bylaws and policies looked at and updated, and they're needing better procedures in place for their granting," Lambert added. "They're all kind of in the same place, so that's exciting ... they can all learn from each other and grow together, and they will all be on the same page."

It's a big step forward for the operation of regional community foundations, say local reps.

"The Plum Coulee Community Foundation has created many wonderful opportunities in our local region thanks to guidance from talented community builders in the foundation movement," said Heather Unger, Plum Coulee Foundation board chair. "Endow Manitoba reached out to us with the potential to take our foundation to new heights. We know from past experience an employee's focus is highly beneficial. We look forward to this initiative and to working with Lynda."

"Bringing us all together under the leadership of Endow Manitoba can only make us stronger and more successful in supporting the needs in our communities. I look forward to sharing and learning from each other," noted Allison Braun, Morden Area Foundation board chair.

Endow Manitoba, which represents the province's 56 community foundations, is pleased to be helping to make this new support role a reality, said director Alan Goddard.

"Community foundations contribute to the resiliency of their local communities," he said. "Manitoba leads the nation in terms of sheer number and from a per capita basis leads all of North

America.

"While each Manitoba community and community foundation is unique, there are consistencies and opportunities for collaboration, so it makes sense to share operational expertise and best practices so the community foundation volunteers can get down to what they do best: developing ways to help their communities thrive."

**"IT ABSOLUTELY THRILLS ME TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MOVEMENT."**



## Cheer Board collectors

From left: Lucy Janzen of the New Leaf Garden Center with Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board reps Karen Klassen and Kris Derksen and the donation box set up at the greenhouse Saturday to collect support for the 2020 campaign. The greenhouse also donated the proceeds that day from the sale of several small stocking stuffers. If you weren't able to stop by, you can make a donation in person at the Winkler Co-op grocery store the last two weeks of November or give online at [winklercheerboard.com](http://winklercheerboard.com). Due to the pandemic, the Cheer Board is accepting only monetary donations this year and will hand out grocery gift cards in lieu of food hampers to families in need next month.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Tax break welcome news to Morden Legion

By Lorne Stelmach

Legion branches across rural Manitoba will be getting a welcome financial break in the new year.

A private members' bill becoming law Jan. 1 will grant organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion and the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans (ANAVETS) the same property tax exemptions and local improvement levies that they have in Winnipeg.

Those organizations have always enjoyed an education tax exemption, but Winnipeg went further to exempt them from all property taxes.

"Our Progressive Conservative government understands the significance of preserving these important hubs," said MLA for Waverley and Manitoba's Special Envoy for Military Affairs Jon Reyes, who sponsored the private members' bill to extend the tax breaks across Manitoba. "Providing tax relief to veterans' associations is another way we can give back and show our appreciation to veterans."

Property tax costs are significant for veteran organizations, but they form only a small portion of the budget for the municipalities in which they are located, Reyes noted. The financial impact on municipalities will be minimal, averaging less than \$3,000 per municipality involved, but it means veterans' organizations across the province will have an extra \$96,000 annually to put towards supporting veterans.

In addition, the Manitoba government has also provided more than \$50,000 in funding to boost the Military Memorial Conservation Grant to \$100,000 annually for projects across Manitoba.

The increased support is most welcome in what has been a difficult year.

"Anything is a nice break when you can save quite a bit of money," said Tammy Petkau, president of the Morden Legion. "For us, we always have upkeep for the building, and now especially with us being closed, this will be a great break for us and for all rural Manitoba Legions."

"It's been challenging ... but we've been extremely fortunate here with the community support that we've received," noted Jason Evert, second vice-president and treasurer for the Morden Legion. "There were still people coming in regularly, and they were following the rules. It really made life easy for the board and made

life easy for the employees here, and it show us the support that we have behind us."

"We couldn't rent the hall at all this year, so that's lost revenue there," added Petkau. "And we do so much fundraising for our building to keep it going, but this year we couldn't do anything like that ... so trying to get people involved is a little bit harder."

"When we did open, they certainly came around, and we actually had some generous donations from members, which was fantastic," she said, noting as well that they continue to promote membership, which has remained strong at just under 400. "We know there's still some new memberships coming in now."

"It's definitely a community here, and that's been the most challenging thing is not being able to have that same community atmosphere," noted Evert. "The legion is part of their week; they come out a few times a week."

"Our veterans have made an invaluable contribution to society, and we recognize and honour their sacrifice," said Reyes. "Manitobans know and appreciate the impact that veteran's organizations have as hubs in their communities and Legions have never faltered in trying to improve the lives of veterans and ex-service members, so our government cannot falter on them."

## Central Region Juried Art Show to return in spring

### Accepting applications from artists now

By Lorne Stelmach

A popular regional art show returns in 2021 after having been yet another victim of the pandemic this year.

The Central Region Juried Art Show is being revived for next year with a touring schedule that will include both Morden and Winkler.

Many artists will welcome back the exhibit, suggested Laurie Wiebe, administrative co-ordinator of the Pembina Hills Arts Council in Morden.

"A number of artists had been disappointed that the juried art show wasn't held in 2020. They found the show to be a rewarding experience," she said. "Some artists take the op-

portunity to learn from the jurors comments to improve their artist skills, and it is an event for new artists to aspire towards as well."

The Central Region Juried Art Show is organized by the Central Cultural Council, which is made up of Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment, Golden Prairie Arts Council, Pembina Hills Arts Council, Tiger Hills Arts Association, Winkler Arts and Culture, and the Manitoba community development branch in the central region.

The exhibit often features a diverse range of mediums—everything from painting, drawing and photography to sculpture, ceramics, and textiles.

It provides an opportunity for artists to receive a professional critique from jurors on their work and display their work in a professional setting. The jurors will also select 30 to 40 pieces to tour the region from May to October 2021.

The central region show is hosted this year by Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment, which will host an artist reception and public opening April 29 in Portage. The gallery will host the exhibit through May.

The touring schedule will then take the show to Golden Prairie Arts Council in Carman in June, Pembina Hills Arts Council in Morden in July, Tiger Hills Arts Association in Holland in August, and Winkler Arts and Culture in October.

Continued on page 20

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Hawks finding ways to keep players engaged

By Lorne Stelmach

With no chance of hockey or even any ice time now due to the pandemic restrictions before the new year, teams like the two U18 AAA Pembina Valley Hawks are finding other ways to keep connected and stay sharp.

The online platform Zoom is proving to be a key tool for both of the squads right now.

"We've been doing some workouts with them, just giving them some tasks to focus on hockey and continue the learning process," said Reid Sloan, coach of the male Hawks. "They're keeping up to date on things, and hopefully when we can return to hockey in the new year, hopefully we're ready to go."

"We're doing a lot of things as a team still," said Dana Bell, coach of the female Hawks. "We did a Zoom meeting on Tuesday night and then the girls after that did a Zoom workout with Tim Shantz [of Morden Physiotherapy]. We're going to continue to do that every week. We're going to do workouts on Tuesday nights over Zoom and then Wednesday nights we'll do Zoom meetings."

"We'll do some fun stuff and try to keep everybody's spirits up ... and hopefully we can get back on the ice in a month and carry on," said Bell. "When we do go back, we definitely want to be in shape and we want to have everyone's mindset in the right place. The biggest right now is keeping them interested and keeping



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

It's going to be awhile before the male (above) and female (left) Pembina Valley Hawks teams are able to take to the ice once again. In the meantime, coaches are reaching out to players online and encouraging them to keep on training on their own.

them focused."

The female Hawks had dropped three of their first four games before earning a hard-fought split with the Winnipeg Ice starting with a 4-2 loss followed by a 2-1 shootout win.

Their record of 2-4 had them fifth out of eight teams. Their scoring was spread out among the lineup with five players having recorded four points, including veterans Abbey Bourdeaud'hui and Quinn McLaren having each posted three goals, while Regan Durand was leading in goal with a 2.75 goals against average and .904 save percentage.

"We were definitely building. I felt with those two games [against the Ice], we were starting to peak as a team," said Bell. "The girls were pumped up and in the right frame of mind and ready to go. I liked what I was seeing ... a super hard-working team."

Meanwhile, the male Hawks also had a rough start to the season, dropping

all three games of their opening set with Eastman, but they had rebounded with a 4-1 win over Interlake before play was halted.

Their 1-3 record had them sitting in 11th place out of 13 teams when the season was paused due to COVID-19.

Tyler Parr was leading the way offensively with five goals and eight points through four games, while Logan Enns led the way in net with a 2.75 goals against average and .927 save percentage.

"I thought we got off to a slow start, trying to figure everything out ... then we won the game against Interlake, and that was our best game," said Sloan.

"We managed one practice before being shutdown, and the boys were still energetic and ready to go," he said. "I think it will take a couple games after the break to get going again ... but I think we're on the upswing and could make a push."



## MJHL pulls plug on remaining 2020 games

Hopes to resume season in January, pandemic restrictions allowing

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There will be no junior hockey in Manitoba until at least January, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced last week.

In light of the entire province being at code red until, at a minimum, mid-December, the MJHL has decided to pause all its activities for 2020.

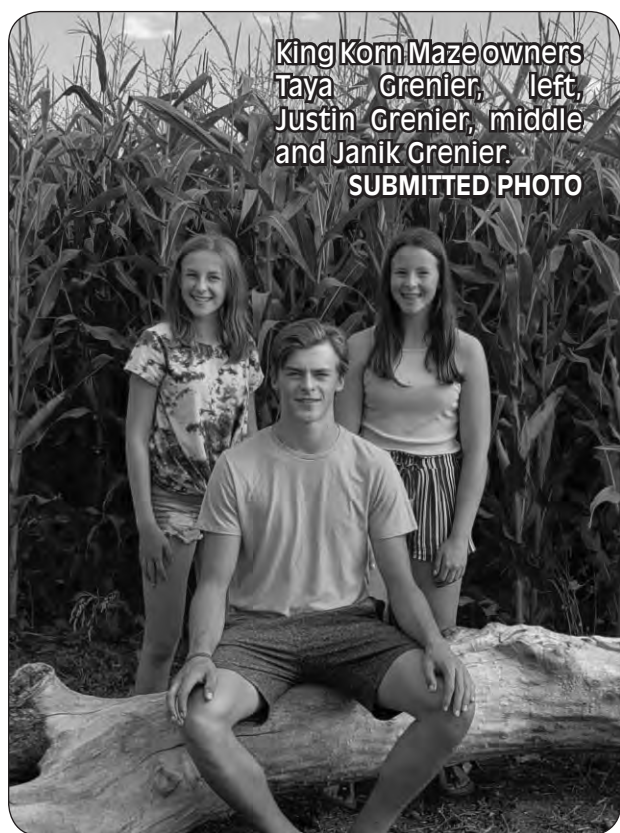
"The tentative date planned for hockey activities to resume is Friday,

Jan. 1st, 2021, which would be dependent upon public health guidance as outlined in the #RestartMB Pandemic COVID-19 Response System," the league said on its website last Thursday. "Thank you for your continued

support and understanding as the MJHL along with entire province of Manitoba works through this challenging time."

Continued on page 20

# King Korn Maze wraps up most profitable year yet



King Korn Maze owners Taya Grenier, left, Justin Grenier, middle and Janik Grenier. SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Becca Myskiw

Notre Dame de Lourdes's corn maze recently wrapped up their best year yet thanks to COVID-19 and good weather.

Justin Grenier co-owns King Korn Maze with his two sisters, Janik and Taya. He said the maze started because they wanted to bring something to the area that they didn't already have.

Based on what the family had and could actually do, the siblings came up with the idea of creating a corn maze. Grenier said they always liked going to them as children, and the nearest one was far, so it seemed like the perfect idea.

"We kind of just went into owning a corn maze blind," he said.

They seeded a couple bags of corn, used their mom's lawnmower to groom the land—which she's still mad about, said Grenier—and King Korn Maze was born.

The maze is cut into four smaller sections, each with an escape, for people who don't want to do the whole large maze. But the siblings didn't stop at growing corn. Their maze also has an 18-hole mini golf course, a bale pyramid, human hamster balls (made from bale feeders), and a tire playground.

They call these their "hillbilly activities."

They've also recently added a combine lookout tower, a shack with old tractors and cars, and a walking path lined with sunflowers.

They've only been in business since 2018, and though they "aren't in it to get rich," Grenier said they weren't sure what this year would bring.

"We knew with COVID, it would be a strong impact," he said. "We just didn't know if it would be positive or negative."

The impact was positive. As the maze is an open field, they didn't have to make any changes except offer on-site hand sanitizer. Because of the nature of the business, too, they were one of the few businesses that could stay open and operate normally throughout the summer.

King Korn Maze has an entry fee of \$5 with most of the money from the maze going back into it. Grenier said he's glad they could offer an affordable family activity to parents who may have been out of a job.

The perfect weather also allowed them to stay open until the near end of October, unlike the last two years which closed them down early. Grenier said it's nice to know their corn maze brought the Pembina Valley happiness when it was needed most.

## 'The hope is to play every game we were supposed to'

From Pg. 19

The decision didn't come as a surprise to Winkler Flyers head coach Kelvin Cech.

"When Manitoba got put on code red, that's four weeks where you can't play games and you can't practise," he said. "Coming back a week before Christmas didn't really make a ton of sense, so this is the best way to do it."

Out-of-town Winkler Flyers were already headed back to their homes across the country late last week.

"Everyone's gone home," Cech said. "A lot of them have gym setups and whatnot at home that they can use. It's better than having them sit at their billets for the next seven weeks."

"The guys are annoyed [at the season's postponement] but they recognize there's a much bigger picture here," he said of the mood in the locker room as the players were

dismissed for the time being. "I say this all the time: sports are a reward for a functioning society. Things aren't functioning so hot right now and the guys understand that."

Flyers coaching staff will be staying in constant communication with the players for the duration to encourage them to stay fit and ready to hit the ice again when it's safe to do so.

"We've got a couple different tools that we use for the guys to check in," Cech said. "We have some experience with this because we did the same thing when things shut down last season."

"We have Zoom calls that we're going to start scheduling for next week to make sure everyone's checking in and maintaining those relationships."

Pandemic restrictions allowing, Cech hopes to have the team back on the ice for a sort of mid-season training camp after the holidays.

The hope is for the revised schedule in the new year to work in the missed games rather than further shortening the season.

"They're working on that right now," Cech said. "The plan is to play all 40 games still. The way the schedule was, there's room to do that."

"That's the hope, for sure, is to play every game we were supposed to."

Looking back on the pandemic-restricted season thus far, Cech said he's pleased with the progress he's seen from the team.

Though they're third in their division of four teams with a 3-5 record, the win-loss ratio doesn't tell the whole story.

"Our process has been good," Cech said. "The results haven't shown it ... we'd like to win every single game."

"Our record doesn't reflect our process right now," he continued, noting they're working on building up the team's strengths while also addressing the weaknesses. "There's a lot of new things to learn and we're learning those things. It's just kind of one step at a time. We've got a lot of good things to build on."

"We're really eager to get back out there."

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The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

### > JURIED ART SHOW, FROM PG. 18

Artwork entered into the show is also eligible to be selected for the Manitoba Rural and Northern Juried Art Show hosted and organized by the Manitoba Arts Network. Each year, 10 pieces are selected from the central region with the option to participate in the provincial show in September.

The Manitoba Rural and Northern Juried Art Show introduces Winnipeg audiences to the artistic work generated by visual artists from all over rural Manitoba.

While selected pieces from the central region are featured as part of that show, the remaining central region pieces will be shown at Winkler Arts and Culture in October.

Registration for the Central Region Juried Art Show opened Nov. 16 with an early bird deadline of February 15, 2021. After February 15, the \$20 fee increases to \$25 per piece of artwork to a maximum of three pieces. The final entry deadline is March 1, 2021. Contact your local participating gallery for further details.

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The Winkler Morden Voice

# Announcements

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The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

## ANNIVERSARY



Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary  
to Bill & Anne Zacharias  
of Morden

November 19, 1950 - November 19, 2020  
God's richest blessings to you.

## IN MEMORIAM



Kristine Friesen (née Penner)  
1933 - 2018

Lovingly remembered and dearly missed  
precious wife, mother, grandmother,  
sibling, aunt, teacher and friend.  
Psalm 103

## CAREERS



**Walinga Inc. in Carman, MB  
is looking to fill the  
following positions:**

### CNC Machinist

- Red seal certified machinist
- Minimum 1 year experience.
- Able to read and understand drawings
- Team player with effective interpersonal and organizational skills, reliable and time management capability, organized and flexible.

### CNC Machine Operators

- Some experience with operating a CNC or manual machine is an asset.
- Willing to train the right candidate.
- Team player with effective interpersonal and organizational skills, reliable and time management capability, organized and flexible.

### Long Haul Truck Driver

- Ability to work various and long hours. Home every weekend, with the odd exception.
- Must be able to work without supervision
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- Minimum 1 year experience
- Passport
- Computer literate
- Good physical health, ability to lift 50 lbs
- Assist in load and unload activities if and as required.
- Team player with effective interpersonal and organizational skills, reliable and time management capability, organized and flexible.

Walinga offers competitive wages, full benefit packages, pensions and a great work environment.

Pay will reflect on skill set and we are willing to train the right candidate for any of the positions listed.

If you are looking for a rewarding career in any of the following areas or would like to share a resume please contact:

Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 ext 440 or [ray.beukema@walinga.com](mailto:ray.beukema@walinga.com)

## OBITUARY

### LOEWEN, Leslie John 1946 - 2020

Sadly, the family of Les Loewen announces his passing on October 30, 2020 at the Sechelt Hospital in Sechelt, BC.

Les was an active member of the Morden community until his move to Sechelt in 1999. Les will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 54 years, Iris; sons Gary and Kevin; granddaughter Anais Loewen Young; mother Katherine; sisters Ginny (Ron Peters), Lyn (Steve Boswell), Cindy (Dave Neufeld); nieces, nephews and friends.

Les was predeceased by his father, Frank G. Loewen in 1974.

## OBITUARY

### Mary Hildebrand Stirling (nee Heppner) 1929 - 2020



With heavy hearts we announce that Mary Stirling passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at the Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler, MB.

Mary was born on November 28, 1929 in Saskatoon, SK to Anton and Katherina Heppner. Mary was predeceased in 1975 by her husband, Cornelius Hildebrand, who was a loving father to their nine children and loving husband to Mary for 28 years. Mary remarried Ron Stirling in 1978 and they spent 32 happy years together until his sudden passing in 2010. Together, they shared many wonderful memories with their children, grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

Mary's personality will be remembered by all. She was witty, humorous and cheeky. She loved to entertain and laugh. Mary was very gifted with cooking skills, dancing and she loved to sing. Many friends were made over the years through her musical barn parties. Many beautiful years were spent on the farm near Miami, MB. That is where she raised her children and grandchildren. Mary took pride in taking care of her yard, her gardens and animals and spent many peaceful nights around the fire. Mary also spent many years at the Collingwood in Miami where there was music, singing and playing games; she had a lot of fond memories with friends.

Mary was a fighter until her last day. She passed away surrounded by her nine loving children: Judy (Terry), Linda, Neil (Susan), Elaine, Dora (Gordon), Karen (Brian), Gary, (Karen), Walter (April), and Raymond. She was a wonderful mother, and we are all saddened to have to let her go. But we take comfort in knowing she is making beautiful music in Heaven and using her witty humor making jokes with the angels above.

A private graveside service was held at the Miami Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank staff at The Village West for the loving care they provided for Mary. If friends so desire, donations may be made in Mary's memory to the MS Society Manitoba Chapter.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
in care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## AUCTION

### Timed ONLINE Auction for Electrical Contractor Larry Dale.

His tools and items are at Bill Klassen Auctions, 9 mile south of Winkler on Hwy 32 and 1.2 mile west on road 3 north yard # 22027. You may come and look at the merchandise offered for auction.

Please wear mask and practice social Distancing.

Auction bidding closes Nov 26, 6 pm.

Payment and pickup will be Friday, Nov 27 and Saturday, Nov 28, 9 am - 9 pm.

Register at [billklassen.com](http://billklassen.com)

See more at info. & pics at [www.billklassen.com](http://www.billklassen.com)



Ph: (204) 325-4433

Cell: (204) 325-6230

Fax: (204) 325-4484

## AUCTION

### Timed Online Auction. Yard, shop and household items for Corny Froese Family, 62 Reinfeld Ave. in Reinfeld.

Register at [billklassen.com](http://billklassen.com), you may see items 4:30 pm to 8 pm any day. Please wear mask and practice social distancing. These folks are moving, all must sell.

See more at info. & pics at [www.billklassen.com](http://www.billklassen.com)



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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Delight your guests with individual appetizer plates this season by considering color, texture and presentation. Remember, this is the prelude to the meal, so small portions are perfectly fine. Consider this starter list:

- Cheese
- Nuts
- Fresh grapes

## Create the Perfect Appetizer Plate

- Olives
- Hummus
- Marinated artichoke hearts
- Salami slices
- Spinach or other dips
- Dolmades (stuffed grape leaves)
- Roasted red peppers
- Crackers
- Pita triangles
- Thin breadsticks
- Pretzels
- Jam or honey



## Grape and Apple Sheet Pan Pie

flour, sugar and salt. Add butter and toss with flour mixture. Smash each butter cube flat then use fork to stir in cold water. Knead lightly until dough comes together in ball. Transfer to floured work surface and use well-floured rolling pin to roll into 10-by-15-inch sheet. Fold each short side into middle and close like a book. Fold once more to make thick block and cut in half. Wrap each piece in plastic and chill at least 30 minutes or overnight.

To make filling: In large bowl, combine apples, grapes, sugar, flour, lemon juice and salt; set aside.

To assemble pie: Heat oven to 375 F. Roll one half of dough out to 18-by-13-inch rectangle. Transfer to 10-by-15-inch heavy baking sheet; place in refrigerator to chill while rolling out top sheet. Roll out remaining dough to 18-by-13-inch rectangle and use pastry cutter to cut into 1 1/2-inch wide strips.

Transfer filling into chilled pastry and spread evenly. Lay dough strips on top of filling in lattice pattern and crimp sides together. Mix egg with water and brush top of pie. Sprinkle with demerara sugar and bake until filling is bubbling, and crust is nicely browned, about 45-50 minutes.

Prep time: 1 hour  
Cook time: 50 minutes  
Servings: 16  
Dough:

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 3 1/2 sticks cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

1 cup ice water, plus additional if needed

Filling:

- 3 pounds Granny Smith or other tart apples, peeled and thinly sliced (about 9 cups)

- 4 cups black California grapes
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water

demerara sugar, for garnish  
To make dough: In large bowl, whisk

## Warm Farro Salad with Grapes and Delicata Squash

Prep time: 20 minutes  
Cook time: 30 minutes  
Servings: 8

- 3 pounds delicata squash, cut lengthwise, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 3 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

- 1 teaspoon coarse salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 cups farro
- 2 cups water
- 3 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 1/2 cups halved California grapes

- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- Heat oven to 425 F.

On sheet pan, toss squash with 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper and cayenne pepper. Spread into single layer and roast 10-15 minutes, or until bottoms are browned. Turn squash and roast 10-15 minutes, or until browned and tender.

While squash is cooking, combine farro, water and remaining salt. Bring to boil, reduce to simmer, cover and cook until farro is tender, 25-30 minutes. Drain leftover water and transfer to large bowl. Add squash, remaining olive oil, remaining pepper, lemon juice, lemon zest, grapes and parsley; toss.

Note: Acorn or butternut squash may be substituted for delicata squash.

## A Teensy Nudge Towards Better Health

Can I share a secret with you? Usually I don't disclose this part of my coaching process to my clients, but I want to help you take steps to improve your quality of life starting right now, with easy choices today.

To achieve any goal requires you to take action, and more than likely, to make some changes in your life. This is absolutely true when it comes to health-related objectives, such as weight loss.

Do you know what stage of change you are in? Probably not, since many people are not familiar with this concept. Most of my new clients are in the contemplation, preparation or action stages, which means they are either thinking about improving their fitness level or are actively working out and eating well with their goals in mind. This is excellent! I admire everyone who wants to better themselves and puts a plan together that will help them achieve success. When you are less than six months into a new exercise routine or diet, you are particularly vulnerable to barriers and setbacks. For this reason, continuous monitoring, support, and encouragement is important. Clearly defining your motivations and having rewards for positive efforts will increase your likelihood of sticking with it.

Change is not easy for anyone... In fact, it's bloody hard! Unfortunately, even after losing 20 pounds, for example, it is common for people to relapse and regain those inches by falling back into bad habits. This means that they did not have the support they needed to stay in the maintenance phase of their fitness journey, which leads to a stable, active lifestyle.

Before we wrap up, I skipped a step. I feel particularly excited today for those of you who are reading this who may be in the very first stage of change, which is the pre-



Health and Wellness Fitness expert Julie Germaine

contemplation phase. It is entirely possible that you had not been worried about your health, but now are thinking, 'Should I try getting into better shape?' The answer is YES! Taking care of your body by participating in regular physical activity and eating healthy, nutritious foods is easily the right choice for all of us. I hope this article acts as a call-to-action and leads you to start thinking about small ways you can change today, which will quickly add up to big results! Here are three things you can do right now to achieve better health:

- Eat more fruits and vegetables every day
- Get active a few times per week
- Subscribe to my FREE fitness tips at [juliegermaine.com](http://juliegermaine.com)

It's said that you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with, so I welcome you to add me to your inner circle to be influenced by my fitness advice, inspiration, and passion for health on the daily! Even if you aren't ready to take action today, set yourself up for future success by taking in information bit-by-bit to prepare yourself for lasting change.



Prep time: 20 minutes  
Servings: 8  
8 cups fresh baby spinach, washed  
4 1/2 cups California grapes  
1 1/4 cups mandarin orange segments, drained if using canned

## Grape and Spinach Salad with Raspberry Balsamic Dressing

- 1/3 cup thinly sliced red onion
  - 3/4 cup bottled light balsamic vinegar and oil dressing
  - 1/4 cup orange juice
  - 3 tablespoons raspberry jam
  - 3/4 cup crunchy chow mein noodles
- In large salad bowl, combine spinach with grapes, oranges and onion.

Whisk together dressing, orange juice and jam. Pour over salad and toss until greens are coated with dressing. Divide among eight plates and top with crunchy noodles.

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