

The *Winkler • Morden*

Voices

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Grinch sighting

There were several colourful Christmas characters in attendance at the Morden Tree Lighting festivities Friday night. For more photos, see Pg. 13.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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Winkler, Pilot Mound breweries win nat'l awards

By Lorne Stelmach

Two of the region's brewing companies were honoured with awards at a recent national competition.

The Canada Beer Cup celebrates independently owned and operated breweries across Canada with awards in a variety of beer styles as well as packaging and cider categories. This year's winners were honoured at a gala in Quebec City Nov. 10.

Wooden Gate Cider of Pilot Mound earned gold for its Slow Burn in the barrel aged or speciality cider category and bronze for its Orchard Queen cider in the heritage cider category, while Winkler's Heritage Farms Brewing Co. earned bronze for its Hired Hand brown British ale.

"It's phenomenal to be included in such an amazing group of beverage producers," said Clint Cavers of Wooden Gate. "This is the first year for ciders in the Canada Beer Cup ... there were some very big names in the cider world in the competition."

Wooden Gate partners with local farmers and wild harvesters across Manitoba to create premium small-batch craft ciders that really show-

case the pure flavors of the region. The family farm and cidery located in Pilot Mound is where they grow, harvest, press, blend and age their beverages.

"We use all Manitoba apples and all Manitoba fruit, so we don't source anything from outside the province. For us, that's a really key component," said Cavers.

Slow Burn is a relatively new cider just released this past summer, and a key aspect of it is being finished off with "wood smoke" to make it more unique.

"There's a number of smoked ciders made around the world that I know of, but it's not a common thing," Cavers noted.

Orchard Queen meanwhile has been a stalwart product for them.

"That one has kind of been my favourite cider," shared Cavers. "It's made with 100 per cent crabapples which were originally developed at the Morden research station ... so it grows really well in Manitoba, and it's a unique flavour and aroma profile."

He noted ciders are really gaining in popularity.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The products of Pilot Mound's Wooden Gate Cider (above) and Winkler's Heritage Farms Brewing Company (right) were honoured at the Canada Beer Cup earlier this month.

"Some people are maybe a little bit tired of beer and they're looking for another alcohol option. Some are moving away from wine, which is higher alcohol," he said. "And the focus on local is incredible."

He appreciates the recognition even in terms of bringing more attention to

cider in general, noting Wooden Gate and Dead Horse Cider near Winkler are among only three cider producers that he is aware of in the province.

"These kinds of awards bring us a little bit of notoriety not only across

Continued on page 5



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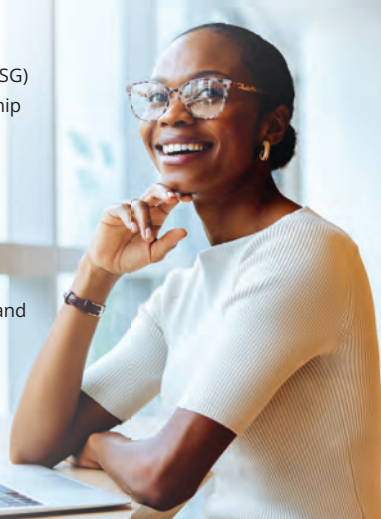
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MB Angel Dresses donate ComfortCot to BTHC

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre's obstetrics unit received a donation last week that will be a welcome support to families experiencing infant loss.

Representatives from Manitoba Angel Dresses presented the hospital with a CuddleCot, a bassinet that comes with a cooling system to allow families to spend as much time as they need with their child.

Susan Bruce, co-director of Manitoba Angel Dresses, says they've previously donated these units to hospitals in Thompson, Neepawa, and Steinbach and are pleased to be able to now do so at BTHC as well.

"Unfortunately, it's probably used more than we think," she said, noting it's just one way the organization works to support grieving families.

"What we provide is little layettes for all the babies that pass away, right from 12-14 weeks right up to newborn," Bruce shared. "It's for them to be dressed in, because it's so hard to find little outfits out there."

The care packages also include caps and blankets as well as a keepsake pouch with a memory card for the family to take home.

The group's 50 or so dedicated volunteers knit or crochet the items, or make them out of donated bridal and grad gown fabric.

The group funds its work through the sale of an annual fundraising calendar as well as sewing material donations from supporters. Bruce said they use what materials they can and sell the rest online to raise money.

"We do what we do because there's a need for it," she said. "We've all lost or we know someone who's lost a baby and we think it's important that the baby is recognized."

The CuddleCot is BTHC's first, noted obstetrics clinical resource nurse Jamie O'Brien.

"It's a very welcome addition to the equipment that we have," she said.

"When a family loses a baby, the staff, the medical team, we really let the families lead the way through their care," O'Brien explained. "What that means is that we provide them with options of how they want to be

"IT'S A VERY WELCOME ADDITION TO THE EQUIPMENT THAT WE HAVE."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett, BTHC staff Karla Kuhl, Jess Russell, Jamie O'Brien, Kristi Krahn, and Joel Nelson, and Manitoba Angel Dresses co-directors Susan Bruce and Diane Monkman with the ComfortCot the organization has donated to the hospital for families experiencing infant loss.

cared for during and after the birth of the baby.

Continued on page 4



Some of the outfits Manitoba Angel Dresses volunteers make for families to dress their lost little ones in.



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Interactive nativity brings the Christmas story to life

From Everywhere to Bethlehem runs Nov. 28-30

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Christmas story comes to life next weekend in Winkler Park.

The Winkler Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church is teaming up with a few other local faith communities to perform the annual living nativity, *From Everywhere to Bethlehem*, Nov. 28-30.

It's a chance to take a stroll through ancient Bethlehem and hear the story of the birth of Jesus in a way like no other, says spokesperson Cyndie Toews.

"It's an in-person thing, a personal way to experience it all," she says, noting the cast and crew—a couple hundred volunteers strong—are encouraged every year by the thousands of people who attend, many of whom share that this has become a family tradition to launch the holiday season. "You see so much excitement in people. They say it isn't Christmas

until they go to *From Everywhere to Bethlehem*, which tells me that it's a very important part of not just the church but of reaching people in the community."

The performance is an interactive one, casting visitors as people travelling to Bethlehem for the census.

As you make your way through town you'll encounter Roman soldiers, shopkeepers, shepherds, and nobility, all of whom share rumours about the birth of a special child.

It all culminates in a stable where a tiny babe in a manger receives gifts from wise men from the East.

"It's the beauty of the season," says Toews of what keeps people coming back year after year, noting it gives audience members a real-life peek at "a version of how it could have happened those many thousands of years ago."

Admission is a non-perishable food item for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard—your "tax" for the census-takers. Past years have brought in upwards of 2,000 pounds of food for families in need.

There's also a sale with baked goods and crafts in a tent at the end of the



VOICE FILE PHOTO

From Everywhere to Bethlehem runs in Winkler Park next weekend. Admission is a non-perishable food item for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard.

performance, with funds raised going to support various local charities.

The show runs from 6-9 p.m. on the Friday and 5-9 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday.

New this year will be parking on the grassy area off Grandeur Ave., south of the Meridian Exhibition Cen-

tre (the former Stanley Ag Society grounds). The show's entrance has also moved—it will be at the northeast corner of the new parking area, rather than the campground entrance.

"Come and dress warm and enjoy the ambience of everything that's going on," Toews urges.

Stanley man killed in single vehicle rollover

By Voice staff

A man from the RM of Stanley was killed last week in a

single vehicle rollover near Winkler.

Emergency crews were called to Highway 14 between Road 19 and Road 20W, near Icon Drive, on Nov. 11 at approximately 6:45 a.m.

RCMP officers arrived and were met by the Winkler Fire Department, who advised them the driver was deceased on scene.

The investigation determined that the truck driven by the man was travelling eastbound

on Highway 14 when it slid into the oncoming lane, then veered back before striking numerous trees and rolling into the ditch on the south side of the road.

The 22-year-old driver was found outside the vehicle. There were no other occupants.

Pembina Valley RCMP along with a RCMP Traffic Analyst continue to investigate.

> COMFORTCOT, FROM PG. 3

"Having options of how to manage, cope, spend time together as a family are options they should be entitled to, and one of those would be to keep their baby close to them in the room for as long as they want. This will provide us with that opportunity because of course the baby can now be in the CuddleCot for as long as the parents choose.

"Sometimes it's minutes and other times it can be a day," she noted. "And if it needs to be longer because there's family members that want to come and spend time with the grieving parents in the room, then we would want to provide that. We haven't really done a lot of that—we haven't been able to—and now we

can."

Manitoba Angel Dresses' donations of clothing for lost infants go a long way as well toward helping families feel the community's love during a terrible time, O'Brien said.

"They are showing these families who are hurting that they aren't alone, and that there are people who can understand their grief and loss, and this is their way of showing that they care," she said. "Aren't we lucky that we have these women, these angels, to support these families? They are a community. That's what it's all about here."

You can learn more about Manitoba Angel Dresses, including how to get involved or make a donation, online at manitobaangeldresses.com.

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Winkler chamber's Sneak Peak into Christmas on this Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce is giving shoppers a Sneak Peak into Christmas this weekend.

The second annual shop-local promotion runs Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 20 different businesses throughout the city.

"We switched it to a Saturday this year so that people have more time during the day to just come out and enjoy everything that our local businesses have to offer," says chamber executive director Tanya Chateauf. "There's lots of great deals happening."

Some businesses will be handing out tasty treats while others will be offering discounts on a variety of goods and services. There's also \$2,000 in prizes up for grabs, with each business providing a prize valued at \$100.

"It's the same format as last year where we have a passport and you need to get it stamped at each location

that you visit," Chateauf explains. Simply hand in your passport when you're done and you'll be entered into the prize raffle.

Last year's inaugural Sneak Peak was a big hit, with many of the participating businesses returning this year, along with several newcomers.

"It was really well received, and people enjoyed going all over to get their passports stamped, connecting with local businesses, finding out about all the great deals that are right here in our own backyard and just really getting their Christmas shopping started," says Chateauf, noting that's the focus of the event: to encourage people to keep their holiday spending at home in the weeks ahead.

"Now more than ever it's really important for us to keep our economic benefits local, and we can do that easily by shopping right here in our own community and supporting the independent shops that we have at our fingertips," she says. "Aside from that, I think it's really important to



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Twenty Winkler businesses are taking part in Sneak Peak into Christmas 2025.

discover the treasures that we have here, because we have so much to offer in Winkler."

Businesses taking part at press time included Clay Owl Studio, Soul Iris, Fehrway Feeds, Willow Creek, Pure Anada, Winkler Arts and Culture, Supplement King, Dead Horse Cider Co., Amorakin, Canadian Tire, LA Gold, Mulligans Restaurant and Lounge, Sawatzky's Furniture and

Appliances, Avalon Day Spa, Copper & Sparrow Boutique, Avalon Beauty & Barber, Morden Nurseries and Garden Centre, Co-op@Home, Bloom, and Valley Bakery.

"Thank you to the participating businesses for offering great deals and holiday ambiance as we kick off the holiday season," Chateauf says.

Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund gearing up for holiday season

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund is gearing up to support families and individuals this holiday season, with organizers anticipating a rise in need once again.

"Our main goal is simple," said chairperson Ang Dueck. "We want to help families and individuals have a special Christmas this year. That's what this program has always been about."

Dueck shared that requests for Christmas hampers have grown by just over 40 per cent in the last three years. Last year the organization received 240 hamper requests and operated with a budget of \$75,000, ultimately supporting 822 individuals.

"Our gifting is based on the number of people in each household," Dueck explained. "We do what we can to make sure every individual we serve feels included and supported."

The program provides Christmas gifts for children and grocery gift cards for households, offering families a chance to enjoy the holiday season without the added financial strain. The campaign serves residents throughout the Municipality of

Rhineland.

Registration for the 2025 program is now open. To sign up, call 431-342-0525 or email rhinelandesf@gmail.com.

"If you get a voicemail, please leave your name and phone number," Dueck said. "We will call you back."

The registration deadline is Nov. 30.

Hamper deliveries will take place the morning of Dec. 13.

With demand continuing to rise, community support is more important than ever, Dueck noted.

Donations can be dropped off at the Access Credit Union branches in Altona or Plum Coulee or sent by e-transfer to rhinelandesf@gmail.com. Those

requesting a tax receipt should include their name and address in the message field.

"We really rely on the generosity of the community," Dueck said. "Every contribution, no matter the size, helps make Christmas brighter for a local family."

> CANADA BEER CUP, FROM PG. 2

the province but across the country but even internationally," he said. "It's a good thing for all ciders and particularly Manitoba cider."

John Trinke of Heritage Farms Brewing noted the recognition is especially nice for them as a newer company.

"We've only been selling in liquor stores for about 13 months now and to have already received this kind of recognition on a national stage is remarkable. I feel honoured," he said. "We were competing against hundreds of breweries from across the country ... so for them to decide that we had one of the top three British brown ales in Canada meant a lot to us."

Trinke said it took them quite a few months to develop and refine their recipe for the brown ale and to create one that would not be as thick in terms of body and would be approachable.

"And something that could be enjoyed year round, whereas a lot of darker maltier beers are pretty heavy," he said, noting the challenge was to not sacrifice the complex flavour.

"It took us a long time to find that balance where we were still able to showcase the coffee chocolate caramel ... while still having it be accessible," Trinke said. "It was quite a journey, so that's why out of all of the beers we could have been recog-

nized for, I'm pretty pleased that it was this one."

He agreed that locally brewed and sourced beers and ciders is a really growing industry in Manitoba.

"I think we're seeing now, more than ever, people are opting for local options and looking for a sense of connection to the brands they are purchasing," he suggested. "There's definitely been a shift ... and we're seeing more and more craft beverage companies lasting more than they would have in the past."

"I think some people connect with what we are trying to do in the community and for the community, and I think we're seeing some positives from it."

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

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



To speak of need

As our communities grow, so do the various needs of its members. When I arrived in the region in 2005 needs were obviously still present, but they were spoken of as “invisible” needs. Perhaps they were invisible only to people like me who may not have been looking.

This has changed. The needs in our community are visible. Hunger, homelessness, and addiction are but a few that continue to grow.

Traditionally, small, rural communities, either consciously or subconsciously, have tended to not focus too much on social infrastructure to help meet those needs. After all, the truly needy can go to the big city (in our case Winnipeg) to access all the services they could possibly want.

The effect of this approach is to create an ever-growing vortex of social infrastructure needed in Winnipeg, requiring greater and greater funding. This tends to siphon funding away from rural and northern communities (who tend not to ask too hard for it anyhow) for such infrastructure. After all, those in power only see the most obvious need in the larger voting block of a city like Winnipeg.

Of course, the need continues here and elsewhere despite what people may or may not see.



By Peter Cantelon

Did you know that in Winnipeg’s annual homeless census it was noted that more than 52 per cent of the 2,469 homeless people come from outside the city? They come from rural and northern Manitoba.

While some certainly go to the city seeking opportunities or escaping violence, many go because they have no support infrastructure in their local community, especially affordable housing. They are forced to say goodbye to all that is familiar, all they have grown up with, family and friends, and become strangers in a strange land.

Leaving the familiar reduces the chance of overcoming struggle and increases the odds of being preyed upon.

We in rural Manitoba must work harder at supporting our fellow citizens by demanding infrastructure funding from municipal, provincial and federal sources. After all, these are not strangers and statistics—these are our neighbours, our sons and daughters, nephews, nieces, parents, siblings, grandchildren, coworkers, classmates and friends. They are fellow human beings.

Some good work is happening, largely being led by residents and non-profits. In Winkler, Central Station has led the charge for non-market affordable housing. Genesis House is

on the verge of building what will be the largest transitional housing for women in all of Manitoba.

There are long-standing food cupboards like Many Hands in Morden. But the journey to be able to do these things was and is not easy. The road to secure enough ongoing funding to ensure the most vulnerable are supported has been exceptionally difficult.

This is backwards. This is a shame.

We need more addictions treatment options and facilities, more transitional housing, more truly affordable, non-market housing, more women’s shelters, and, believe it or not, our region needs a homeless shelter.

Churches and mosques: Do you have extra land? Are you currently using it for parking? Ask yourselves, are we doing enough? Are we doing anything? Consider spearheading the construction of affordable housing instead. There will be obstacles ... overcome them.

To our government representatives, municipal, provincial, and federal: do not wait for your residents to break their backs building much needed supports. Proactively get out into your communities, speak to the social infrastructure leaders and develop a funding plan to meet needs and grow infrastructure.

In the meantime, dear reader, if you can, please consider donating to any of the many shoe-string service organizations in your community. The food cupboards or the women’s shelter, for example.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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• FAITH FOCUS

Looking for milestones

A few years ago my wife and I travelled to the United Kingdom to explore places where our grandparents and other ancestors had lived before coming to Canada.

We did a lot of walking and as we walked in older communities, we sometimes came across stones with numbers and arrows to indicate a distance in miles



By Randy Smart

and, where appropriate, an indication of the direction we should travel.

These were literal milestones used long before the days of large highway signs and electronic bulletins. Sometimes the same information was “posted”—provided on a wooden post—which was called a milepost.

In the English language there is a wealth of words from the past which have been adapted to describe life in the present. “Milestone” can be used to describe a point in time that becomes a marker in our life story.

Are you aware of the milestones in your life? These would be experiences and situations that provided a place to stop and measure our purpose and direction. Familywise, marriage and the arrival of children became markers in our journey. Spiritually, I would

think of the occasion when I chose to be baptized as a follower of Jesus Christ. That action defined my sense of identity and purpose.

The year that I left my first career to pursue training which ultimately led me to become a pastor was significant as well. There have been other milestones in my journey—some were more a new awareness within me than a literal change in my situation.

In the Bible we can read many examples of a milestone. It has been summarized that Moses’ life as described in the Old Testament was forty years in a palace in Egypt, then forty years as a shepherd—in part running from his past and also learning many life lessons. And then, forty years entrusted by God to lead the Hebrew people into a new land they could call home.

In the life of Jesus there was his birth and all the events that surrounded his arrival, and then almost 30 years of preparation in a smaller community away from the hustle and bustle of Je-

rusalem and three years of travel and teaching to bring God’s message for all people.

In Acts 9 we read of how Paul was pointed by God in a new direction. It was a milestone that forever changed his life and values. In Acts 26 we can read his testimony of how God gave him a new sense of what was true about Jesus, and how he needed to redirect his life and work.

As you think about the milestones that have been part of your life so far, have you allowed God to direct your path? In Psalm 16 we read David’s words “Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge... You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Keep looking for the milestones that provide certainty that you are on the right path.

Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.

Letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

THANK YOU

As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) that attended the Remembrance Day service in Morden this past week it was encouraging to see the Access Event Centre near capacity. What was particularly pleasing to see were people who have immigrated here in the last number of years and elected to attend the service to better understand what it is we do and why. In speaking with a Royal Canadian Legion Member, involved with the Winkler service at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall, they too were near capacity and there was a noticeable immigrant attendance.

To all the residents of Winkler, Morden, and the R.M. Stanley, thank you for continuing to support the veterans programs that are funded by your purchases of wreaths and poppies and your attendance at the Remembrance Day services.

Ken Wiebe,
Morden

WHEN HUNGER BECOMES REAL

As winter holidays approach, many of us look forward to gathering around full tables, sharing meals,

and celebrating with the people we love. I work at our local food bank, and every day I meet people who don’t have that certainty—whose fridges are empty, whose children rely on school lunches to eat, who have to choose between paying rent and buying groceries. I thought I understood their fear. I talked about it often.

And then this fall, something happened that made me feel—deeply—what it means to have no access to food.

My family was travelling in another country. While visiting a tourist site, our rental car was broken into; our valuables, documents, and all our credit cards were stolen. We managed to block the cards immediately, but in the process, the cards we still had were also frozen.

We didn’t realize it until hours later, exhausted, hungry, with our young daughter in the back seat. We stopped at a gas station and collected groceries—just basic things to get us through the evening. When we tried to pay, every card failed. We tried again. And again. Nothing worked.

I remember standing there, holding bags of food, knowing my child had barely eaten all day. At the hotel, all we had was one banana and one ap-

ple. Suddenly, the problems felt unsolvable. The fear was overwhelming—cold, paralyzing. My daughter was hungry, and I had no way to feed her.

If I had been alone, maybe it would have felt different. But in that moment, I felt the sharp terror that many parents feel every day:

What if I can’t feed my child?

Eventually, of course, we resolved everything. We were safe. We found help. We went back to normal life.

But that moment stayed with me.

Because working at a food bank, I talk about hunger all the time. I know the statistics. I know the reasons—illness, job loss, high housing costs, unexpected life changes. I know how quickly anyone can find themselves struggling.

But knowing about hunger and feeling it are two very different things.

For so many families in our community, that fear is not hypothetical—it is their daily reality. Nearly 400 households—almost 1,000 people—are registered with the Morden Food Bank. That means more than 10 per cent of our town needs help putting food on the table. Many are working families, seniors, or people living with disabilities.

As the holiday season begins, I want

to encourage everyone to pause and consider:

Is there a way you can help someone who is struggling to put food on the table?

It might be:

- making a donation to your local food bank or church,
- checking the box to support school hot lunches for children who need them,
- choosing to give instead of buying an extra gift this year.

No act is too small.

A single meal can be the difference between despair and relief.

A bag of groceries can restore dignity and comfort.

A moment of care can give hope.

Life can change quickly. It only takes one crisis to shake a family’s stability.

As someone who briefly felt that fear, even in a very temporary and privileged situation, I can say: No one should have to face hunger alone.

Please, this season, consider helping your neighbours who need it most.

Mariyam Tsygankova, executive director, Many Hands Resource Centre, Morden

getinformed

Morden PD promotes Flook to inspector

By Lorne Stelmach

Another member of the Morden Police Service is moving up the ranks following the promotion of Sean Aune to the role of chief.

Chris Flook is assuming the role of inspector, which had been filled by Aune before he took up the reins of the department following the retirement of longtime chief Brad Neduzak.

Flook began his career as a constable in Morden in 2007 and was promoted to sergeant 2018. He welcomes the opportunity to continue to advance his career in the community.

"It's a proud moment," said Flook. "I feel like we've all worked really hard here at the service ... and I feel like there's some confidence and some trust in what I can bring to the role and how I can help the members going forward in the service."

In his role of sergeant, Flook provided operational supervision and direction on a variety of major investiga-

tions and projects. He also served as a member of the regional support tactical team for over 10 years, gaining experience in high stress situations and developing the ability to plan and execute operational plans.

In addition to his policing experience, Flook has pursued ongoing professional development, including completing the advanced program in management, leadership, and strategy through the Asper School of Business in 2021 and earning a certificate in police leadership from Dalhousie University in 2024.

This will now be a different role for Flook, as it means he will be less directly involved in the day-to-day patrolling of the streets of Morden.

"It will be working closely with the chief and supporting him with what we need to do," said Flook, who also said he sees the role as helping support the police service members to do their jobs better

Flook added that he sees Morden benefitting from having an experienced team of police service members.

"I think it makes a huge difference, and we've all worked together for so long now that we know each other very well. I've been here for 18 years, and Sean has been here even longer," he said. "We've all had a lot of time here including the constables, so I think it's a seasoned group which I think is a benefit to the community."

Chief Aune noted he's pleased to see Flook take up this new role.

"His academic achievements have further strengthened his leadership skills, strategic thinking and ability to contribute to organizational goals," he said. "The Morden Police Service is proud to welcome inspector Flook into his new role and look forward to his continued contributions in supporting our members and serving the community."



Inspector Chris Flook

Morden fire dept. nearing its rink fundraising goal

Needs about \$6K more to meet Dec. 1 matching grant deadline

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden fire department is about two-thirds of the way to meeting their fundraising goal to fix up the outdoor rink near the Morden courthouse.

For the past 25 years, the rink has

been more than just a place to skate, suggested Chief Andy Thiessen—it's been a space for community connection, family memories, and even firefighter training.

"We never thought of it having been going that long ... 25 has gone by

fast," said Thiessen. "When we set up the rink initially, it was for the community, but selfishly it was for us as well to practice pulling water in the winter time. It's a totally different thing than in the summer, so I wanted my pump operators to learn how it works and what needs to be done extra so that things don't freeze up.

"Rather than just spraying it out in the middle of nowhere, we thought we could make it useful, so we thought why not make a rink ... so it was kind of a win-win situation."

Fixing up the aging rink is expected to cost around \$36,000. The department launched a fundraising campaign earlier this year, with the Morden Area Foundation pledging to match donations if \$18,000 could be raised by Dec. 1.

Thiessen estimated last week that they had about \$12,000 in so far, and he's optimistic the community will get them across the finish line in the last few weeks before the deadline.

"We are hopeful. It always helps to

have some people step up to the plate for us," he said, noting the Thornview gas bar was planning to do a December event where 10 cents from every litre of gas sold would be donated to the project.

Thiessen observed that the rink is important to the community, as the options for public skating and ice use otherwise are limited.

"It gets a lot of use," he said. "There's a lot of people who are maybe in their 30s or 40s ... they actually grew up and used that rink ... they now have some young kids who use the rink. That kind of demographic is special. That was a bit of a surprise for me, and it makes you feel good about it.

"When I was involved in looking after it more hands on, it was a joy for me just to be out there and see kids skating and playing and just having a great time," he said. "The workload that goes into it then feels quite light all of a sudden."

Donations can be made directly to Morden Fire and Rescue or at the Morden Area Foundation or Access Credit Union.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Fire Department is raising funds to repair the aging boards at their outdoor ice rink. They're two-thirds of the way there.

Thunder Christmas Cheer game coming up Dec. 8

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual tradition returns with the upcoming charity hockey game that supports the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

The Morden Thunder high school hockey team will face off with the Guns 'N Hoses team of Morden police and firefighters at the Access Event Centre on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

Admission is free with donation of an unwrapped toy or non-perishable food item for the cheer board. The donations and proceeds from a silent auction table will also all go the Christmas hamper campaign.

"This is one of those win-win situations. We're playing hockey and having fun, and we're supporting the cheer board," said Morden Police Chief Sean Aune.

"We want this to be an annual thing due to the success that it has had

in supporting the Christmas cheer board," he said. "They've been happy with it, and we've been happy with it, and so is the hockey team.

"It's always been fun, and the main thing is that it's for a good cause," Aune said, while admitting there is still some competitive spirit that comes into play.

"These young kids keep getting better and better, and us other guys keep getting older and older," he joked. "The balance has swayed a little bit, so we're going to have to come up with something to beat them, some sort of strategy."

Grade 12 student and Morden Thunder team captain Tyson Mullin is participating in the game for a second year, and he loves having this opportunity.

"It's great. We get to be able to help out in the community, help generate some money and support for people



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder hockey team is squaring off against the Guns 'N Hoses team, made up of local firefighters and police officers, Dec. 8 in support of Morden Christmas Cheer.

in need and bring the community together to enjoy a fun hockey game," he said.

"You still kind of want to win, but you know it's for charity, so you're just out there to have fun," Mullin added. "It's just a good fun time for everybody ... but the Thunder got

their first win ever against the Guns 'N Hoses last year, so we're hoping to make it back to back."

People who want to make donations of items in advance can drop them off at 215 Second Street in Morden or at the fire hall or police station.

Red Moon Road returns to Carman on Dec. 5 for holiday concert

By E. Antonio

It's going to be a jolly holiday celebration at the Carman United Church on Dec. 5 as Red Moon Road fills the halls with festive tunes from their album Simple Kind of Christmas.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., and this family-friendly event is the perfect night out for people of all ages to get into the holiday spirit. The show will be hosted by the Golden Prairie Arts Council (GPAC), and executive director Nigel Bart says he's looking forward to continuing a Carman tradition.

"It's about gathering as a commu-

nity and enjoying each other's company over the holiday season," Bart said.

He added that the Carman Chamber encouraged GPAC to carry on this annual concert tradition to help keep the community's festive spirit alive.

"GPAC has a lot of experience hosting artistic performances like this, so it's a great fit," he noted.

Red Moon Road is an acoustic folk trio with Winnipeg roots that has performed at more than 1,000 concerts since 2012. During the height of the pandemic, the band released Simple

Continued on page 11

Attention Kids...

What's Your Christmas story?

Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

1. A sack of presents accidentally falls off Santa's sleigh. What happens next?
2. Julie shook the snow globe and found herself transported to a magical winter wonderland! What's this new world like and what adventures will she have in it?
3. What does Christmas mean to you?
4. You find a set of mysterious tracks in the snow and start following them. What do they lead you to?

We have TWO grand prizes up for grabs!
One K-4 and one Gr. 5-8 student will each win a free movie party at Landmark Cinemas for them and five friends, complete with snacks.

Please include your first and last name, age/grade, town, and full contact information on your entry. Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length. Send your story to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca
DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 5, 2025

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RCMP investigate arson at Morris business



RCMP PHOTO

RCMP say arsonists ran a loader into this RM of Morris business Oct. 10 and attempted to start a blaze. They were then successful in their second attempt on Nov. 7 (above).

By Voice staff

RCMP are investigating a pair of arsons that occurred at the same business in the RM of Morris this fall.

On Oct. 10, at 2:40 a.m., Morris RCMP responded to a commercial alarm at a property on Road 6W. The property owner indicated that someone had driven a front-end loader through the front door.

Police responded immediately and, upon entering the building, noted a strong odour of diesel fuel and observed jerry cans filled with diesel on pallets loaded onto a forklift. Upon closer inspection of the area, it appeared that someone had tried to light the building on fire but was unsuccessful.

On Nov. 7, at 2 a.m., Morris RCMP once again responded to a commercial alarm at the same property. The owner confirmed with police that the building was on fire.

Officers arrived to find wood pallets completely engulfed in flames close to the building that had been deliberately set on fire. The damage to the property was extensive.

RCMP are asking anyone with information in relation to this incident to contact the Morris RCMP detachment at 204-746-2323, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

Morris RCMP, along with the Office of the Fire Commissioner, continue to investigate.

Stanley interim CAO to stay on permanently

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Stanley has a new chief administrative officer with experience in the role in serving other southern Manitoba municipalities.

Council last week announced the appointment of Luc Lahaie as the new CAO effective Nov. 17. Lahaie said he looks forward to getting to work for

such a growing municipality.

"The region is just well known across the province for its prosperity and collaboration, and right there and then I decided I want to be part of it," said Lahaie. "I'm honored to join the RM of Stanley and look forward to working with council, staff and residents to build on the municipality's successes and to continue with the strong regional collaboration with the neighbouring cities of Winkler and Morden."

Lahaie brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously served as CAO in the RM of Hanover and the RM of De Salaberry, where he led initiatives in strategic planning, infrastructure development, and community engagement.

He left his job in Hanover in what he describes as a mutual parting of the

ways, and it was then through Way To Go Consulting that he stepped in on an interim basis to replace former Stanley CAO Terry Penner.

"We always looked across the river and said, 'Wow, what's in their water? What do they do different than the Hanover/Steinbach region?'" shared Lahaie. "After the first week here, that's when I decided I want to be part of this."

As CAO, Lahaie will oversee the day-to-day operations of the municipality, provide strategic guidance to council, and ensure the effective delivery of services to the community. He sees it as an exciting and challenging opportunity.

"My experience has been with southern Manitoba municipalities. It's all stuff that I was close to when I was in Hanover," he said, noting

how he had experience there working towards a regional wastewater treatment project. "Working on regional projects is my forté."

He is ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work.

"There's always different dynamics in every corner of the province. I see that these municipalities here are really involved in things like immigration, health care, and professional recruitment, and that is something we never really did so much on the other side of the river."

"We are excited to welcome Luc Lahaie to our team," said Reeve Ike Friesen. "His expertise and commitment to public service will be invaluable as we continue to grow and serve our residents."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Luc Lahaie is Stanley's new CAO.

Conservatives refresh brand, choose new leader

By Lana Meier

The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba unveiled a new logo and elected a new party president during its annual general meeting this month, signalling what party officials described as a "new era" for the PCs.

The redesigned logo incorporates a stylized "P"

formed within the negative space of a "C," which the party says represents progressive values within a conservative framework. The "C" features a gradient of classic blue to sky blue to reflect movement between tradition and renewal, while a red charging bison is centred between the letters to symbolize forward momentum and Manitoba identity.

"When the logo was unveiled, the room erupted in cheers. It gave me chills," said Obby Khan, leader of the PC Party of Manitoba. "Delegates, guests, supporters, and their friends



SUBMITTED PHOTO



Continued on page 16

Morden student takes part in Youth Parliament in Ottawa

By Lorne Stelmach

A local student was recently part of a program designed to inspire a new generation of engaged citizens and future leaders.

The Youth Parliament of Canada aims to help young people better understand their country and their role within it by bringing together 75 youth between the ages of 16 and 20 for a four-day bilingual parliamentary simulation in Ottawa.

Aqeelah Daibu, who serves as the youth representative on Morden city council, was happy to be part of the program, which is fully funded and organized by an organization called Civix.

It aims to have a broad representation from federal ridings across the country. Daibu was there representing Portage-Lisgar.

"Something that stood out for me was just the connection with people from all across Canada," Daibu observed.

Being selected for the program came with round trip travel to Ottawa along with four nights of accommodation and all meals during the event.

Delegates took part in authentic parliamentary activities inside the Senate chambers including legislative debates, committee work, and question period. The program also featured the opportunity to meet with politicians, political staff, journalists, and civic leaders.

Daibu said she enjoyed participating in the debates in one exercise. They got divided into committees, and each committee had to have discussions and make amendments to a mock bill.

"It's trying to find that baseline between everyone to come to a conclusion to see if the bill would be passed or not," Daibu said. "It was really just that connection with people and having an open mind to learn."

Daibu is motivated to be involved in the community. In addition to her role on city council, she is also a member of a provincial advisory council.

"It's something where I always look for opportunities to learn and to give back as well," she said. "This was a



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Aqeelah Daibu was in Ottawa this month to represent Portage-Lisgar at the Youth Parliament of Canada.

great opportunity to learn ... apart from the debating, it was even having the chance to watch question period at the House of Commons."

She sees herself as being interested

in taking on leadership roles now and in the future.

"I feel like if you want to see the change you want to see, you have to be in a position where you can help affect those changes."

> CONCERT, FROM PG. 9

Kind of Christmas, a trilingual holiday album featuring traditional favourites as well as two original songs.

Guests of the show will be treated to a 90-minute performance of Christmas hits performed by Sheena Rattai, Daniel Jordan and Daniel Pélouquin-Hopfner, accompanied by their 20-piece instrument lineup.

"The show has all the beloved earmarks of a classic Red Moon Road live show — three-part harmonies from some of Manitoba's finest musicians, lovingly arranged musical offerings woven masterfully together with stories sprinkled with family-friendly repartee," wrote Daniel Jordan of Red Moon Road.

Tickets for the Dec. 5 performance at the Carman United Church are \$25 each and available through the GPAC website, goldenprairieartscouncil.com, at the GPAC front desk, and at other select locations to be announced. Tickets will also be sold at the door starting at 7 p.m. on the night of the concert.

GPAC is also seeking event sponsors to help host the band. Those interested can contact GPAC at 204-745-6568 or email contact@gpaccarman.ca.

Raise the Woof raises \$23K



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

There were lots of laughs Saturday evening at the Access Event Centre as the Pembina Valley Humane Society held its annual Raise the Woof comedy night fundraiser. The lineup included Michael Green (left) and Rick Logan (right) along with host and emcee Tyler Kotowski. It was estimated the evening overall brought in about \$23,000 for the organization.

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Morden-Winkler remembers



PHOTOS BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS
AND LORNE
STELMACH/VOICE
The Remembrance
Day ceremonies
in both Winkler
(above, left) and
Morden (right) saw
the communities
come out in full
force to pay their
respects to the
men and women
who have served
our country.



Morden under boil water advisory starting Nov. 24

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden will be going into a boil water advisory for possibly several weeks as a result of a major project at the water treatment plant.

The precautionary boil water advisory will start Monday, Nov. 24 at 8 a.m. as a result of construction on the new standpipe at the water treatment plant. As part of the construction, the standpipe will be connected to the existing water system, but this work will briefly disrupt the water system on several occasions. Because of these disruptions, the province must issue a precautionary boil water advisory.

"We're not quite sure how long it

will be, but we're putting that [several weeks] time frame out," said Mayor Nancy Penner. "When we go to tie in the new stand pipe with the existing system, we're not quite sure how long that will take.

"They put us into a boil water advisory just as a precautionary measure, and with that comes steps that we have to follow," she continued. "So we're just giving our residents a heads up because it not only affects not only our residents, we have to be aware that our restaurants, our health care facilities, our schools, and Tabor Home are all impacted. Anybody who is on the city water."

The advisory will be rescinded once

construction is complete and water quality testing can confirm the water system is safe. Updates will be posted online at morden.ca.

Until the all-clear is given, residents are advised to bring all water to a rolling boil for at least one minute before drinking, preparing food or baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables, brushing teeth or making ice. More details about living under a boil water advisory is available at manitoba.ca/drinkingwater.

Penner said they appreciate the understanding and cooperation of residents as they complete what will be a critical infrastructure upgrade to improve Morden's water storage and

supply system.

"The new standpipe will be bringing better quality water to the city," she said. "It will be providing better pressure and helping with the quality and safety of our water ... and it will help ensure we can continue to meet all of the standards that are required.

"We're just not sure how long switching over will take," she said, adding they are also asking residents to do their best to conserve water in the weeks ahead. "We are also asking the public to conserve water during this time because the water supply will be reduced."

The **Voice**

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Kicking off the season

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The City of Morden ushered in the holiday season Friday with the annual tree lighting celebration downtown. People gathered outside the Morden Civic Centre to enjoy a student choir from École Morden Middle School, fixings for s'mores handed out by Morden Christmas Cheer, bonfires overseen by Morden firefighters, greetings from Mayor Nancy Penner and Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, and a countdown to the flipping of the switch that lit up the Christmas tree. The night wrapped up with fireworks.



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MANITOBA

Your FARM



Linear Grain purchases Fannystelle grain elevator from Bunge

By Haley Cvar

A long-time local grain company has expanded its footprint in southern Manitoba with the acquisition of the Fannystelle grain elevator.

Linear Grain Inc., based in Carman, confirmed this week it has purchased the elevator from Bunge. The transaction closed Nov. 5 and operations are already underway under Linear Grain ownership, with both existing employees retained to ensure continuity of service.

President and merchandising manager Ryan McKnight said the acquisition aligns with the company's long-term growth plans and strengthens delivery and marketing options for producers.

"We have been wanting to expand our storage capacity over the past few years in Carman and have plans to do so in the future," McKnight said. "When this opportunity came up, we were very interested. We have also been looking to get on the CPKC rail line for many years, and this gave us that opportunity. This will add additional marketing options for us and for the customers we purchase grain from."

Linear Grain currently ships on the CN through Central Manitoba Railway and also has access to BNSF. McKnight said adding CPKC broadens the company's ability to reach new markets and offer additional program flexibility.

The Fannystelle location will work closely with the company's Carman facility.

"This location being close to Carman will allow us to share company resources, equipment and staff very easily," McKnight said.

"The catchment area will allow us to purchase from further north and along Highway 2 from new customers we are currently either not working with or seldom working with. We'll leverage each facility's advantages, including which commodities are handled where, and offer flexibility and farm pickup options to keep grain moving."

Both staff members previously employed at the elevator have been retained, including the new facility operations manager who brings 24 years of experience in the grain industry and 10 years working at Fannystelle. Linear Grain expects to add an additional employee as operations ramp up.

"The elevator is currently in good shape and we will repair, maintain and replace equipment as needed," McKnight added. "We will likely add storage capacity and look at increasing receiving and shipping capacity. There is room on the site for expansion."

McKnight emphasized that local ownership remains central to Linear Grain's identity and approach.

"Local service means the owners and decision makers live and work here and care deeply about our communities," he said. "My family has deep roots in this region going back six generations. When you do business with a company like Linear Grain, you can get hold of the decision makers and build working relationships that you might not be able to with a larger or foreign corporation. If our company continues to be successful, we are investing money back into our business locally, donating to community causes and keeping jobs and economic benefits in the region."

McKnight said maintaining a competitive grain handling sector means ensuring space for privately owned Manitoba companies.

"The agricultural commodities business is dominated by large multinational organizations," he said. "To continue to have a vibrant and competitive marketplace, it's important that local entrepreneurs can compete and add value — rather than the industry continuing to consolidate."

For McKnight, the move also comes with personal connection to the community.

"We have many customers in the Fannystelle area that we have purchased grain from for many years. We look forward to cultivating more business in the area and have an additional tool with the Fannystelle elevator to meet their needs," he said.

Producers interested in receiving Linear Grain's bid texts and emails may contact the Carman office.

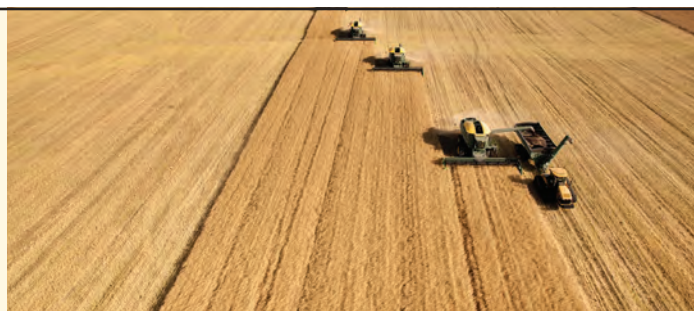


SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ryan McKnight of Linear Grain Inc, at the Fannystelle grain elevator following the company's Nov. 5 purchase from Bunge.

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Your FARM



Russell Prairie Market finds Manitoba success with locally grown beans

By E. Antonio

Tyler Russell says there is a particular pride that comes from seeing something grown on his own land sitting on a grocery store shelf.

Russell and his family grow, prepare and package black and pinto beans on their farm west of Carman, marketing them under their homegrown label,

Russell Prairie Market. Their products are now stocked in about 20 Manitoba grocery stores, including the Carman Co-op, and have begun finding customers outside the province.

"There's this sense of importance of knowing where the food you eat comes from," Russell said.

Continued on page 16

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Russell Prairie Market grows, harvests, prepares and packages black and pinto beans on their family farm near Carman before selling them in Manitoba grocery stores and to international customers. The Russell family—Heidi, Tyler, Blake, Rhett, and Hanna—pictured during the first day of this year's bean harvest.



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Bridge the Seasonal Gap with a Cash Advance

Now is a good time to take stock; not just of what's in the bin or pasture, but of your farm's financial needs heading into winter. Whether you're growing grain, raising cattle, or managing a mixed operation, fall is a smart time to consider an Advance Payments Program cash advance from Canadian Canola Growers Association.

A cash advance provides farmers with access to up to \$1,000,000 in financing, including up to \$500,000 interest-free. Any amount above that is at CCGA's interest rate of prime minus 0.25%, resulting in a blended rate that's well below prime on every advance.

Available on over 50 commodities – including grains, oilseeds, pulses, honey, and large and small livestock – a cash advance is designed to fit the needs of Western Canadian farmers.

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Just starting to farm? No problem. You can apply as long as you own, store, and sell your inventory separately from others.

Every farm is different, but post-harvest planning often means bridging the gap between this year's work and next year's plans. A cash advance can provide flexibility, helping you make confident decisions as you prepare for the next growing season.

Our team of experts offer service and guidance to make applying easier. **New customers can call 1.866.745.2256.** Returning customers can call or apply online.

The Advance Payments Program is a federal loan program administered by Canadian Canola Growers Association. It offers Canadian farmers marketing flexibility through interest-free and low-interest cash advances.

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Discover cash advance



Your FARM



> RUSSELL PRAIRIE MARKET, FROM PG. 15

"And I know exactly what area of our field the beans were grown in."

The idea for Russell Prairie Market took shape during the height of the pandemic, when the family began researching canning procedures and exploring ways to bring their beans directly to consumers. They wanted to offer a simple, local product without fillers or preservatives found in many larger commercial brands.

Their logo — a sketch of a prairie farmyard — is taken from a photo of his wife Heidi's family farm near Elm



Locally grown black and pinto beans from Russell Prairie Market are prepared and packaged for sale at grocery stores across Manitoba, including the Carman Co-op.

"RIGHT NOW WE ARE STARTING SMALL AND LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF THIS ALL."

Creek.

"We didn't know this would be possible when we started out, but we have proved to ourselves that we can do this even amidst raising our three kids," Russell said. Their children, aged six, nine and ten, play a role in the business from planting to harvest to packing.

"From putting the seeds in the ground to crop production and eventually seeing our products on the shelves helps them understand the business at a wider scale," he said. "It also makes them feel proud because they can say, 'I helped make that.'"

Russell has farmed for 25 years and says beans are only one part of the operation. The family also grows grain corn and soybeans, and they intend to grow the bean business slowly and sustainably.

His long-term goal is to create a viable farm that can be passed on to the next generation.

"There are a lot of moving metrics and different market environments



A combine works through a field of beans on the Russell family farm near Carman.

which can make it challenging, but that is all a part of making a good business and helping the farm succeed," he said. "We will try to push and expand our business as time moves on, but right now we are starting small and learning the ins and outs of this all."

Russell acknowledges that some small food producers struggle to compete for shelf space against larger national brands. For now, he says his family is grateful to have found a supportive customer base and retailers willing to make room for local food.

"We will continue staying small,

learn the game, hang out and enjoy it so we can continue to bring a safe and sustainable product to Manitobans," he said.

> BRANDING, FROM PG. 10

and families could see elements of the old logos carried over into the new design. Everyone really appreciated the blending of tradition and a bold new look for a bold new era of the PC Party."

Delegates also elected a new party president. Peter Smith, a Navy veteran and business and community leader, will take over from outgoing president Brent Pooler.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that my fellow Progressive Conservatives have put their trust in me," said Smith. "We have to be ready for the next election and I look forward to shifting the PC Party to an election-ready footing."

Members elected additional board and regional representatives, including: James Teitsma, first vice-president; Sean Kopytko, second vice-president; Katya Labelle, secretary and Kai Jassal, youth representative.

"Progressive Conservatives are united going forward," Khan said. "This weekend, PCs demonstrated that we are a big tent party ready for the future. We have the passion, energy, and momentum going forward. The new era of the PC Party is here."



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sports & recreation

Winning weekend for Flyers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers had a winning weekend at home.

The MJHL team blanked the Wolverines in Waywayseecappo 5-0 Friday night and then trounced the Stampeders in Swan Valley 6-2 Saturday.

Lief Ekblad got the shutout in net for Winkler Friday, making 19 saves while his teammates fired 42 the other way.

Liam Carlone, Trevor Dalton (with two), Niklas Gudmundson, and Aidan Grant lit up the scoreboard for the Flyers.

Liam Russell was in net for the team the next night against the Stampeders, making 28 saves as Winkler outshot Swan Valley 37-30.

Drowning out the visitors' two goals were markers from Tanner George, Kam Thomas, Dalton, Carlone, Graeme Pickering, and Gudmundson.

The weekend victories came following a close 3-2 shootout loss to the Portage Terriers on Remembrance Day.

Goals from Carlone in the first and Kaeson Fisher in the third had the



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler captain Kam Thomas tries to tip a point shot in front of Waywayseecappo's Jase Wareham in Friday's 5-0 victory.

game tied at 2-2 at the final buzzer.

After a scoreless overtime, things went to a shootout for a decision. There, the first two Terriers' shots found their mark, while only Winkler's first round shooter—Connor Rieger—did the same.

Ekblad made 26 saves in net this

night as the Flyers outshot the Terriers 35-33.

With that, Winkler moves into fifth place in the MGEU East Division on the strength of a record of 8-9-1-1, good for 18 points. Leading the division in Niverville (36 points), Steinbach (31), and Portage (29 points).

This week, the Wolverines got another crack at the Flyers Tuesday, this time on their own home turf. Results were not available at press time.

The Flyers host the Viriden Oil Capitals Saturday before heading into Portage to face the Terriers Sunday.

Female Hawks fall to Avros, best Capitals

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a weekend of mixed results for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

Pembina Valley first fell 6-2 Friday at home to the fourth-place Winnipeg Avros but rebounded then for a 2-0 shutout of the Central Plains Capitals

Sunday.

The Hawks trailed 2-0 and 3-0 at the intermissions before trying to get back into the game in the final frame, closing the gap to 3-1 and 4-2.

Payton Manness and Casey O'Brien scored for Pembina Valley, while Madison Froese made 29 saves as the Avros held a 35-31 edge in shots on

goal.

A pair of first-period goals were all the Hawks needed Sunday as Froese earned the 20-save shutout. Pembina Valley fired 30 shots on goal and got markers from Claire Boyd and Bree Pearce.

The Hawks remain in seventh place at 4-5-0-1 for nine points, but they are

just one behind Yellowhead and Central Plains and two points away from the Avros, with Westman just three points ahead in third place.

Pembina Valley has just one game this week when they host Yellowhead Saturday evening.

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

Male Hawks fall to Bruins, defeat Thrashers



By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks had an up and down go of it last week against two of the top teams in the league.

It began last Wednesday with a 7-2 loss in Winnipeg against the third-place Bruins but then ended on a high note Sunday with a 5-4 overtime victory in Winnipeg against the second-place Thrashers. In between those two games was a 4-0 shutout of the Interlake Lightning in Teulon.

Four unanswered second-period goals had the Bruins take firm control of a game that they had led 2-1 after 20 minutes.

Carson Hiebert and Caden McMahon scored the lone goals for the Hawks, who were outshot 40-29. Goalie Koen Bleznuk gave up five goals on 18 shots before being replaced by Brody Peters, who gave up

two goals on 22 shots.

Peters then had a 29-save shutout against Interlake as the Hawks fired 45 shots on the Lightning goal. McMahon led the way with a pair of goals while the other markers came from Ocean Fehr and Mason Leite.

Cole Secord was the hero with his 11th goal of the season three minutes into overtime against the Thrashers.

Hiebert, Fehr, McMahon, and Paxton White scored in regulation time for Pembina Valley, who were outshot 43-38, but Peters had a solid game in net with 39 saves.

The Hawks sit in fifth place at 11-6-0-1 for 23 points, which has them in a log jam in points with the third-place Bruins, fourth-place Brandon Wheat Kings, sixth-place Parkland and seventh-place Southwest.

The lone game this week for Pembina Valley is Saturday when they visit Dauphin to take on Parkland.

PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks' Ocean Fehr opened the scoring for his team in their 4-0 victory over the Interlake Lightning in Teulon on Nov. 14.



Royals shut out Northstars in penalty-filled SEMHL matchup

By Annaliese Meier

The Winkler Royals kept their strong start rolling with a 5-0 shutout victory over the Île des Chênes Northstars in a heated SEMHL contest that featured multiple misconducts and a steady parade to the penalty box.

Winkler opened the scoring just 42 seconds into the game when captain Mitch Dyck buried the eventual game-winner off a setup from assistant captain TJ Matuszewski. The Royals took a 1-0 lead into the intermission after a first period marked by several minor penalties.

The Royals doubled their lead late in the second when import forward Brett Stovin struck at 17:09, finishing a play from Adam Henry and Braden Hildebrand. The period ended with a flurry of penalties, including 27 minutes assessed to Northstars forward Miguel Rondeau and a game misconduct issued to Winkler goal-

tender Matthew Thiessen—an abrupt end to his 39-minute, 28-save shutout effort.

Winkler broke the game open in the third with three goals in just over three minutes. Justin Augert scored on the power play at 2:15, followed by another man-advantage marker from veteran forward Aaron Lewadniuk at 3:19. Henry capped the scoring at 5:27 with Augert drawing the assist.

The Royals finished 2-for-10 on the power play, while Île des Chênes went 0-for-3. Mike Heppner stopped all 14 shots he faced in relief to complete the combined shutout. Northstars goaltender Mason Swerdyliak was busy throughout, making 51 saves in the loss.

Winkler remains at the top of the SEMHL standings and will look to keep momentum rolling when they host Carman on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Mudbugs drop back-to-back games

By Annaliese Meier

The Red River Mudbugs were handed two tough losses in Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League action last week, falling 5-1 to the Grunthal Red Wings on Friday before dropping a 7-1 decision to the St. Anne Aces on Saturday.

The Mudbugs battled hard in the opener but couldn't slow a balanced Grunthal attack. The Red Wings struck late in the first period with goals at 15:51 and 19:50 to take control early.

Grunthal added another midway through the second before Red River mounted a push in the third.

Braison Penner got the Mudbugs on the board at 2:34 of the final frame, converting a feed from assistant captain Ty Tarnick. But Grunthal responded with goals at 11:54 and 17:46 to put the game out of reach.

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Local youth wins provincial Snoman award of excellence

By Siobhan Maas

Twelve-year-old Morris resident Carson MacGregor received Snoman's Excellence Award for Outstanding Youth at the provincial snowmobile association's 50th annual congress in Gimli on Nov. 8 for his contributions towards the continued development of family snowmobiling.

Snoman is a non-profit organization representing 53 snowmobiling clubs that maintain and groom over 13,000 kilometres across the province.

The award recognizes young people under 18 who show dedication to snowmobiling through their involvement in a Snoman-affiliated club. Recipients demonstrate commitment to the growth of the sport by participating in activities that promote safety, family involvement, and environmental awareness.

MacGregor is the youngest person to ever receive the honour. A member of the Border Valley Snow Goers, the local club serving Morris and the Pembina Valley, MacGregor has dedicated hundreds of hours to maintaining trail signs between Morris and St. Jean with his grandfather, Doug Godard.

Nominated by his mother, Samantha, MacGregor is "honoured and happy" to have received the award. His mom kept the honour a secret until his name was called at the banquet.

"I was nervous but it felt good because my grandpa gave me the award," he said. Godard has served on the organization's board since 2010.

"Carson's attention to detail with trail planning and the fact that he's the first one outside and always on the look out, to make sure the signs are up helped him



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Left: Carson MacGregor with his grandfather, Doug Godard, receiving Snoman's Excellence Award for Outstanding Youth and, above, out on the trails putting up signage to guide snowmobilers.

win," said Samantha MacGregor. "And his willingness to maintain the signs with Grandpa."

"He spends hundreds of hours putting up signs and taking them down again," added his dad, Jeff MacGregor. "We're so proud of him for doing this. He is the future of snowmobiling and without him Snoman won't survive. We need more kids like Carson to volunteer and make this happen and keep it going every year."

MacGregor has already installed signs for this upcoming season along the 75 south of Morris and the river trails after recently completing a trail sig-

nage course to understand what signs go where, how soon ahead to place warning signs, and how to mark trails for safety, which is integral to prevent riders from getting lost or confused. He isn't sure how many signs he's put up, but with over 600 kilometres of trail maintained by the Border Valley Snow Goers he figures, "It's a lot."

As part of Snoman's 50th anniversary celebration, MacGregor's photo will be included in a time capsule to be opened in 25 years.

Mullin's four-goal night powers Bombers past Mercs

By Annaliese Meier

The Morden Bombers put together one of their strongest offensive performances of the season Saturday, rolling to a 10-2 road win over the Warren Mercs in SEMHL action.

Evan Wuerch opened the scoring at 3:37 of the first, but Warren briefly tied it when Braydon MacDonald struck at 9:42. The Bombers responded quickly with goals from Cade Kowalski and Collin Shirley just minutes apart to take a 3-1 lead into the break. Shirley's marker stood as the game-winner.

Morden took full control in the second period, erupting for four goals, including two from Jory Mullin scored only 11 seconds apart. Mullin completed his hat trick late in the frame and went on to finish the night with four goals in a dominant offensive outing. Tyler Campbell added another at 13:38 as the Bombers built a 7-2 cushion after 40 minutes.

The onslaught continued in the third as Mullin notched his fourth of the evening, Logan Christensen struck 45 seconds later, and Jessi Freund added a late tally at 19:23 to round out the



Morden Bombers forward Jory Mullin drives hard to the net during SEMHL action Saturday night. Mullin led the Bombers with a four-goal performance.

scoring.

Christensen recorded a three-point game, while Campbell, Shirley, Owen Van Robaey and Sawyer Leite all produced multi-point efforts. Goaltender Reed Peters turned aside 41



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Morden Bombers goaltender Reed Peters deflects the puck aside after turning away a shot from a Warren Mercs forward stationed in front during SEMHL action Saturday night. Peters finished with 41 saves in Morden's 10-2 victory.

shots to secure the win.

Special teams had little impact, with Morden going 0-for-2 on the power play and Warren not receiving an opportunity.

The Bombers improve to 4-2 on the season and will continue their climb in the SEMHL standings when they return to home ice on Friday, Nov. 28 to host Portage at 8 p.m.

Hawks host Hockey Fights Cancer game in Carman

By Lana Meier

The Pembina Valley Hawks U17 AAA hockey team is gearing up for a special night in support of cancer awareness and care. On Saturday, Nov. 22, the Hawks will host their annual Hockey Fights Cancer game at the Carman Arena. Doors open at 5 p.m., with puck drop set for 6:30 p.m. against the Westman Ice Bandits.

There will be no admission fee — instead, fans are encouraged to make donations in support of Manitoba Camp Quality, a camp for children affected by cancer, and the Boundary Trails Cancer Foundation, which serves families across the Pembina Valley and neighbouring communities.

The Hawks launched their U17 AAA program in the 2024-25 season and chose the Carman Arena as their home base. In their inaugural year, the team raised more than \$6,000 for the same two beneficiaries through their Hockey Fights Cancer event, supported by the sale of Mary Reimer's popular chocolate moustaches.

Organizer Pamela Hartmann said this year's fundraiser is again deeply rooted in community generosity.

"This entire event is organized by our Hawks parents and coaches," Hartmann said. "Everyone knows someone who has fought, is fighting or will fight cancer. The connections are very personal."

The Hawks are also participating in the Manitoba Moose's sponsored Hockey Fights Cancer program, which provides "I Fight For" signs, lavender hockey tape and signed items to 40 minor hockey teams across the province. Money raised and forwarded to True North Sports + Entertainment goes toward the Moose's contribution to Camp Quality. Once the Hawks reach a certain fundraising threshold, all players receive complimentary tickets to a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Hawks U17 AAA team will host their annual Hockey Fights Cancer game on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Carman Arena. Back row: Rheel Legall (assistant coach), Sam Mitchell (La Salle), Jaxon Lister (Oak Bluff), Alexander Hartmann (Elm Creek), Kaleb Peters (Winkler), Brody Kervel (Morden), Keenan Legall (Morden), Ben Cowan (Morden), Graham Friesen (Winkler), Noah Prejet (Notre Dame), Cole Prejet (Notre Dame). Front row: Alex Jones (Domain), Ryan Hutton (head coach), Komnino Sofillas (assistant coach), Jaxon Baete (Holland), Rome Loewen (Winkler), Easton Hutton (Morden), Danny Brick (La Salle), Levi Hill (Morden), Easton Holman (Crystal City), Hayden Tkachyk (Elm Creek), Ezra Peters (Winkler), Tim Morison (assistant and goaltending coach), Cole Doty (strength coach) and Carson O'Connor (Carman).

Moose game. Any remaining funds will be directed to the Boundary Trails Cancer Foundation.

Each of the team's 20 players has filled out an "I Fight For" sign, with a group photo to be taken ahead of the game.

Fans attending the Nov. 22 matchup can take part in a silent auction before and during the game, with draws held in the final period so winners can take their prizes home that night. Reimer's well-known

chocolate moustaches will once again be available for \$2 each, with all proceeds going to cancer support.

Hartmann said the goal is simple: to bring the community together for a cause that affects nearly every family.

"Everything about this event comes from a good place to fight cancer," she said. "We hope the stands are full and the spirit of giving is strong."

> MUDBUGS, FROM PG. 18

Red River goaltender Connor Parago turned in a strong performance despite the loss, making 36 saves while the Mudbugs went 0-for-2 on the power play. Grunthal also finished 0-for-3.

The following night, Red River faced the league-leading Ste. Anne

Aces and were unable to contain their high-powered offence. The Aces jumped ahead early with two goals in the first eight minutes and extended their lead to 3-0 before the Mudbugs answered.


Alternate captain Caleb Boulanger cut into the deficit at 19:02 of the first,

finishing a setup from Gavin Hildebrandt. But Ste. Anne took over from there, scoring once in the second and adding four in the third—including two shorthanded markers—to seal the victory.

Goaltender Tyler Blanchette faced 45 shots in the loss, stopping 38 before being relieved late. Red River struggled to generate momentum,

going 0-for-5 on the power play, while the Aces also went scoreless on six opportunities.

The Mudbugs will look to regroup with a pair of home games at the St. Jean Arena. They host Warren on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. before welcoming Niverville on Saturday, Nov. 22.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. Swiss river
15. It can be straight or curved
16. Edit
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Gotten up
23. Sea vessel
24. Agents of one's demise
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot
30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
31. Promotions
34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Nightstand item
39. The content of cognition
40. Arab ruler
41. Northern U.S. state
42. Chewed in small bites
48. Hawaiian island
50. More thin
51. Of one
52. Rigid bracelet or

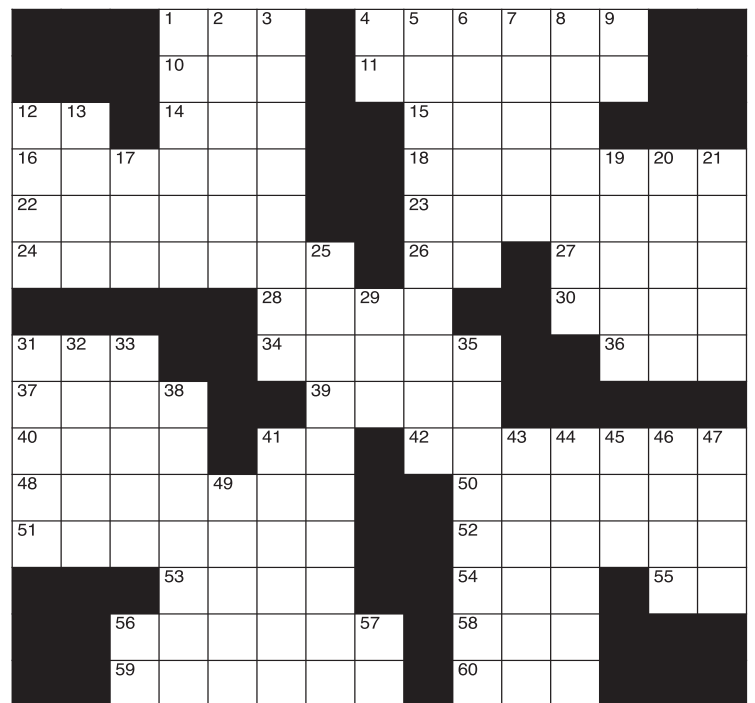
anklet

53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposing factions
60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

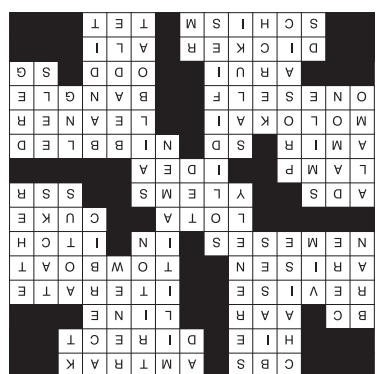
1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sour or bitter in taste
9. Songwriter Tunstall
12. Husk of wheat
13. Flexible covering in some birds
17. Energy
19. Night monkey genus
20. Small nails
21. Colorless volatile liquid
25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
31. Remember it
32. "Good Will Hunting"

X CROSSWORD



- lead man
33. Pleasant facial expression
 35. Sea vessel
 38. Lacking poetic beauty
 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
 43. Sports personality Michelle
 44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snakelike fish
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
49. Crimean seaport
56. Bad grades
57. Popular S. Korean rapper



Crossword Answer

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PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46

- BY-LAW NO. 2357-25 FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL ARENA

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 9th day of December, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to present the following local improvement proposal and to consider giving first reading:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46

The proposed design concept for the redevelopment of the Winkler Arena is to demolish much of the interior of the existing arena and redevelop it into an approx. 1300 seat arena. Entrance into the redeveloped arena would be from the Meridian Centre at the Southwest corner. The proposed general scope of the renovation is to redevelop and modernize the existing arena by implementing energy efficient systems, constructing extensive code upgrades, and providing safe spectator viewing and inclusive public amenities. The recently constructed link connecting the Meridian Centre to the Centennial Arena would be expanded to enlarge the concessions, concession seating, and staff room.

The building envelope walls and roof will be upgraded to improve energy performance for a deep energy retrofit to meet the requirement for funding incentive programs including the Infrastructure Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program Grant (GICB) and the FCM Community Building Retrofit Program (CBR). The existing mechanical and electrical systems are dated and past service life and will require full replacement. As per the Building Condition Assessment Report, a complete electrical distribution system replacement is recommended.

The estimated cost of the Local Improvement plan is to a maximum of \$28,500,000.00. The Government of Canada has committed \$7,962,240.00, the Province of Manitoba has committed \$3,137,500.00 and FCM has committed \$2,500,000.00 towards the redevelopment of the Arena. The City of Winkler has committed \$7,400,260.00 from the Recreation Reserves towards the project. The balance of up to \$7,500,000.00 is to be funded by borrowing. The term of the proposed borrowing is 10 years at an interest rate estimated for the time being up to 6.00% per year.

The annual debt payment of \$1,019,009.69 is to be raised by a local improvement tax calculated on the basis of the portioned assessed value of all taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties within the City of Winkler.

Based on the 2025 Assessment Roll of \$1,264,153,400 an estimated mill rate of 0.806 mills will be required. Calculated on a residential property valued at \$300,000 (portion valued of \$135,000) a \$108.81 local improvement tax will be levied annually for 10 years.

The annual operating and maintenance costs associated with the proposed project will be covered under the City's annual recreation maintenance budget.

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

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

Copies of the Local Improvement Plan No. 46 are available at the City of Winkler office at 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, and on the municipal website at www.cityofwinkler.ca.

Dated at the City of Winkler this 31st day of October, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

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

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in



EMPLOYMENT

WALINGA INC.

Job Posting

Job Title:

Painter

Division / Team:

Carman, MB

Department:

Aftermarket Parts & Service



Job Brief: The Painter is responsible for producing a high-quality, durable paint finish on various industrial surfaces and equipment.

Role Responsibilities:

- Prepare surfaces for painting by cleaning, sanding and scraping to remove dirt, rust, old paint, or contaminants. Ensure surfaces are smooth, dry, and free of defects before applying coatings.
- Select and mix appropriate paints, primers, and coatings based on surface type, substrate material, environmental conditions, and project requirements. Consult technical data sheets and specifications for compatibility and application instructions.
- Apply coatings using various methods, including spray guns and brushes to achieve desired thickness, coverage, and finish. Employ proper painting techniques to ensure even application and adherence to safety and quality standards.
- Operate and maintain painting equipment, including spray guns, in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and safety regulations. Cleaning to ensure optimal performance and longevity of equipment.
- Adhere to safety protocols and procedures to prevent accidents, injuries, and exposure to hazardous materials. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as respirators, gloves, goggles, and protective clothing, when handling paints, solvents, or abrasive materials.
- Inspect painted surfaces for defects, runs, or inconsistencies and make necessary adjustments or touch-ups to ensure a uniform finish and meet quality standards.
- Maintain accurate records of work performed, including surface preparation, coating application, material usage, and equipment maintenance.
- Collaborate with supervisors, and fellow tradespeople to coordinate workflow, prioritize tasks, and meet project deadlines. Communicate effectively with team members to ensure smooth operation and successful completion of projects.

Requirements:

- 2+ proven work experience as an industrial painter
- Good knowledge of the methods and standard practices of automotive painting
- Experience using tools and equipment common to industrial paint facility
- Knowledge of relative safety standards and ability to report unsafe conditions.
- Willingness to use protective gear
- Ability to give attention to detail
- Safe handling of chemicals, GHS program
- Decision making capability - problem solving
- Attain precise standards, follow work instruction
- Read and Interpret product information
- Ability to work in fast-paced work environment
- Ability to work independently and in a group
- Physical requirements:
- Work in various positions (flat and vertical planes, overhead)
- Lift from floor to waist, waist to shoulder and above shoulder height; a minimum of 20 lbs
- Work in various temperatures, cold and heat
- Ability to work with or around chemicals

Academic and Trades Qualifications:

- High school diploma or one year of equivalent work experience.

If interested in this position, please email hr@walinga.com

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OBITUARY



Marilyn Doris Mulligan (nee Lacroix)

Marilyn was born on July 29, 1950 and was raised on the family farm east of Poplar Point, Manitoba. She died peacefully at home on November 9, 2025 at the age of 75.

Marilyn loved her family deeply and was immensely proud of all of them. She attended countless theatre, music and dance performances over the years and her children and grandchildren were, of course, the stars of every show.

Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, Walter and Lucille, brother Lou and sister-in-law Marlene, and parents-in-law Helen and Jim Mulligan.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years Joe, children Mike (Megan) and Erin (Joel) Klassen, grandsons Joseph, Milo and Jude, brother Gene (Janet), sister Evelyn and brother Marc. She is also survived by brothers and sisters-in-law Dan (Ria), Mickey, Diane

(Al), Bob (Kelley), Roy (Carrie) Ruth (Michel) and Barb (Shelley) along with numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Celebration of Life will be held at 12:00 p.m. November 26, 2025 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 2 Academy Dr. Morden.

The family would like to thank the CancerCare Team and the Palliative Care Team at Boundary Trails Health Centre along with Dr. Martin, Dr. Woelk and Dr. Dhaliwal for their excellent care over the past year.

In lieu of flowers, if friends so desire, donations can be made to South Central Cancer Resource or the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation in Marilyn's memory.

Wiebe Funeral Homes, Morden
in care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



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Tammy

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PUBLIC NOTICE HEARING



**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the date, time and location shown below, a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held pursuant to Section 46 of *The Planning Act of Manitoba* to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect of the following matter:

THE MSTW PLANNING DISTRICT BY-LAW 1-2025 TO ADOPT A REVISED MSTW PLANNING DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO REPLACE BY-LAW 1-2014, AS AMENDMENTED.

HEARING LOCATION: RM OF STANLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
23111 MB-14 #1, Stanley, MB R6P 0B1

DATE AND TIME: JANUARY 7, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW 1-2025: The primary goals of this development plan are to provide a framework to guide decisions on the management of land use, infrastructure, environment and transportation to meet the needs of the citizens of the Planning District. The Plan's vision includes preserving and enhancing the district's livability through principles of land use management, sustainable development, conservation of agriculture and natural environmental assets, economic development and nurturing regional partnerships.

AREA AFFECTED: All lands within the boundaries of the City of Morden, RM of Stanley, RM of Thompson and City of Winkler

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Glen Wieler, MSTW General Manager
180 5th Street, Unit D
Morden MB R6M 1C9
Phone (204) 822-6223

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LORI HELEN EVELYN PENNER, late of Altona, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 14 Main Street South, Box 1670 within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

DATED at the Town of Carman, in Manitoba this 20th day of November, 2025.

MCCULLOCH MOONEY

JOHNSTON SELBY LLP

Attention: HARLEY J. SHEPHERD
Solicitors for the Administrator

CAREERS



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For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

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STK# 25U113



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