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A small group of newcomers gathered in Morden last week for a multi-cultural holiday celebration. For the full story, see Pg. 3.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A taste of the holidays

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



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A multicultural celebration

By Lorne Stelmach

A small gathering last Friday celebrated both Christmas and the multicultural diversity of the region.

Regional Connections hosted a Taste of the Holidays event at its Morden location, and while the pandemic and space meant it was restricted to a small group, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm and spirit of those who came together for the occasion.

It felt important to do at least something on a small scale because events like this play a vital role in helping build a greater sense of community for the people they work with, said Olesja Schwabauer, who is a settlement co-ordinator at Regional Connections.

"We love to see people happy and interact with each other and get to know other community members," said Schwabauer.

The event featured a number of people who were invited to talk about their holiday traditions from their home country, and the meal featured a variety of multicultural dishes including Filipino fruit salad, Vietnamese spring rolls, and Russian potato salad, among other delicacies.



"We started this event, I believe, in 2011. We used to have it in churches and prepared cultural entertainment," Schwabauer said. "Since COVID hit, we didn't have anything last year, only something for the children online. This year we decided to use our office space and just prepare together four different cultural meals and play some games."

"The main reason we started this event was to bring people together, to share this time of celebration with our great community. It was the chance to show different cultural foods and entertainment to the people who have welcomed us," she said. "It's impor-

tant because it brings the community together, and they can learn from each other. I think the stories create an awareness, and the more people share it, the more integrated they can be."

There is an aspect of such events that can overcome language and cultural barriers in the midst of a social gathering and a meal.

"Food connects people. It brings people in and they connect around a

good meal. It makes everyone happy," Schwabauer said. "We hoped people can get to know each other, maybe even make new friends, and we hoped they learn about different cultures in the process. Because especially newcomers are more isolated right now and a lot of them don't have family here, so our hope is to connect them to others and have that night of interaction and fun."

Continued on page 7

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Combine all ingredients and mix well. Let sit for 30 minutes for flavours to combine. Coat either a whole turkey or turkey cuts (breast, drumsticks or thighs) with rub. Roast or barbecue turkey at 350°F (175°C) until a meat thermometer reads 170°F (77°C) in the thigh away from any bones. Allow turkey rest for 15-20 minutes before carving.

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8-10lbs (3.5-4.5kgs)	3 1/4-3 1/2 hrs	2 3/4-3 hrs
10-12lbs (4.5-5.5kgs)	3 1/2-3 3/4 hrs	3-3 1/4 hrs
12-16lbs (5.5-7kgs)	3 3/4-4 hrs	3 1/4-3 1/2 hrs
16-20lbs (7-9kgs)	4 1/4-4 3/4 hrs	3 3/4-4 1/2 hrs
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*Allow the turkey to stand for 20 minutes before carving.

Find more recipes and cooking tips at turkey.mb.ca



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Christmas Cheer Board volunteers spent two days last week wrapping gifts and preparing gift card envelopes for this year's hamper campaign. A total of 400 families got a helping hand.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board volunteers were hard at work last week bringing holiday cheer to local families.

Christmas Cheer board members set up shop in the Meridian Exhibition Centre last Tuesday and Wednesday to assemble hundreds of gift cards and presents for distribution throughout the community.

Once the dust had settled, a total of 400 care packages went out, filled with grocery gift cards and presents for the kids.

It's on par with what they were expecting, said board president Kris Derksen, and 24 hampers more than last year.

"We were pretty close to our guess," she said. "There's definitely more need out there. Each year it jumps up a little bit."

Thanks to the pandemic, the Cheer Board wasn't able to open things up to anyone who wanted to volunteer to help pack and deliver hampers. Normally the community comes out in

droves to lend a helping hand.


This and last year, however, it was mainly the organizing committee who tackled the prep work, Derksen explains, and only a limited number of delivery drivers who were invited to volunteer. A number of families opted to pick up their hampers themselves at the MEC Wednesday evening.

It is a loss to not have as many volunteers as they did in past years, Derksen said, but handing out gift cards instead of hampers filled with food has actually proven to be incredibly popular with recipients.

"We just heard such good things last year about people being able to buy their own groceries instead of us bringing the groceries to the house," she said. "That really resonated with us ... they were so grateful that they could pick their own groceries. It empowers them."

While gift cards have replaced food hampers, the Cheer Board still sends out wrapped toys for the younger kids (teens receive gift cards).

Continued on page 8



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Community comes through for Genesis House

By Ashleigh Viveiros

November was a busy month indeed for the Genesis House shelter for the victims of domestic violence—but in a very good way.

In honour of it being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the shelter had several awareness and fundraising events on the go.

Chief among them was the annual Power of PJs clothing drive, which executive director Ang Braun last week shared had collected a total of 162 PJs for women and children seeking safe haven at the shelter.

"Everybody that comes through the shelter, they get a pair of pyjamas when they come in," she said. "Most people don't have a lot of stuff with them when they come, so pyjamas are the first thing we do to make sure people are comfortable, know they're welcome."

The PJs collected every November last the shelter for months.

"I think we'll have enough to get through the year, and that's the big thing," Braun said, thanking every person and business who made the campaign such a success.

The main drop-off site for the pyjamas was once again the South Central Regional Library branches throughout the Pembina Valley.

Winkler branch administrator Jess Martens said they're always happy to help out in this way.

"We love being able to give back to the community," she said as Braun stopped by to pick up the donations

from all five branches. "The library is someplace where it's a neutral drop-off point. It's not dependent on what church you go to or what store you shop at. Anybody is welcome and we've got hours in the afternoon and in the evenings and on weekends, so it's a pretty accessible place.

"And because we've done it for several years now, we get pretty consistent donations. People look forward to it. Generally about mid-October they start asking if we're collecting for Genesis House again."

In addition to Power of PJs, shelter staff were also on hand at several businesses throughout Morden-Winkler last month to collect donations and answer questions about the work of Genesis House.

These events proved to be a big success as well, filling the shelter's shelves with some much-needed non-perishable food items and hygiene products.

"Those went super well," Braun said. "It was a different way for us to try and engage with the community, because we haven't been able to do our usual events."

Another new way they set out to connect with the community at large was



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Genesis House executive director Angela Braun (left) with the Winkler Centennial Library's Jess Martens and some of the pyjamas the South Central Regional Library branches collected for the women's shelter.

through an online auction that ran the last two weeks of November.

"We raised just over \$5,000 through that, which is terrific," Braun said, noting all of the prizes were donated by generous local sponsors.

The community always seems to come through for the shelter.

"Every time. They just support us every single time," Braun said, stressing that the generosity of the Pembina Valley is unmatched. "We are so much more fortunate than anybody else. When I talk to any of our sister shel-

ters [across the province] there's not even a comparison.

"The fact we don't have a storefront makes it more challenging for all of us, and yet out here people just seem to remember us year after year."

You can make a donation to the shelter online at genesishouseshelter.ca.

If you're in an abusive relationship and need help, or if you know someone in that situation and need advice on what to do to help them, you can reach Genesis House anytime at 204-325-9800 or toll-free at 1-877-977-0007.

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Here comes Santa Claus

Maksymic family keeps the tradition going



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Father-son duo Dale and Dylan Maksymic gearing up to take the Santa truck out on the town last weekend.

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been an especially challenging year for Dale Maksymic, but that made it even more important for the Morden resident and his family to make sure Santa would make an appearance in the community this Christmas season.

Having been diagnosed with cancer in March, Maksymic wasn't sure if he would be able to man the popular Santa truck again this year, so it felt good to be able to hit the streets starting this past weekend.

"By the grace of God I'm able to do it, so hopefully we can carry on ... I'm still battling, but I'm still well enough that I can do it, so that's good," Dale said last week as he and his son Dylan finished preparing their truck.

"Last year there were a lot of people excited to see Santa, and it was really good to see all the kids and even a lot of adults—a lot of the adults had a great response," he noted. "Santa never gets old."

The Santa truck started last year after Dylan had to cancel his plans to organize a Santa Claus parade in Morden

because of pandemic restrictions, so he and his father worked together to parade around Morden on their own.

It was also carrying on a family tradition for Dale, for whom putting on the Santa Claus suit is more than just holiday merriment.

He recounted how his mother at just four years of age was diagnosed with asthma, and her parents were told she wouldn't live to see her sixth birthday. Dale's grandfather decided to get a Santa suit and play Santa Claus at Christmas because he wanted her to see Santa at least once before she passed away.

She survived, and her father kept the Santa suit and ended up playing Kris Kringle in the parade in Neepawa for over 35 years until he retired. Dale's uncle took over then and played Santa in the parade for another 25 years or so.

Since then, Dale has taken up the Santa duties. It has always had deep personal meaning for him when he puts on the red suit, but it perhaps feels even more meaningful for him this year.

Continued on page 7

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PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL

Grandeur

Crossing the border? Make sure you use ArriveCAN app before returning

Or risk a 14-day quarantine, even if you're fully vaxxed

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If you're headed south to the United States to do some last-minute Christmas shopping over the next few weeks, make sure you double-check the requirements to get back into Canada without having to quarantine.

People across the country are running afoul of Canada's pandemic re-entry policies, which require all travellers to use the ArriveCAN program (either online or via an app on a mobile device) prior to arriving at border crossings.

The program has people submit their contact details, travel plans, health information such as proof of vaccination, and a scan of their passport.

But many travellers have simply not been aware this requirement exists, instead believing having their COVID-19 vaccination records and passport would be enough to show customs agents. Others have struggled to get the app to work properly at all.

Some Canadians have been turned away at the border until they've completed the digital paperwork, while others found themselves facing a mandatory two-week quarantine despite being fully vaccinated.

The issue was touched on by Conservative public safety critic Raquel Dancho in the House of Commons last week.

The need to use ArriveCAN has been "poorly communicated, to say the least," she said, resulting in MPs across the country receiving hundreds of complaints in recent weeks.

"The ArriveCAN app has crashed for some users. Many can't access it from poor cell service. Many seniors don't have smartphones. For others costly data plans are out of reach for them," Doncho said. "Something needs to be done about this and something needs to be done about it now."

Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino stressed the Liberal government is committed to protecting Canadians and that strict border control is more important than ever in light of the new, more contagious omicron variant of COVID-19.

"It's absolutely necessary that we exercise an abundance of caution at the borders to protect everyone so that we can protect the progress that we've

made thus far," he said.

Further direction will be given to customs officers when it comes to ArriveCAN, Mendicino said.

"I've spoken with the CBSA [Canada Border Services Agency] so that there's additional guidance to provide the opportunity for travellers to provide the information that is necessary on ArriveCAN in person at the borders."

News of greater leniency when it comes to ArriveCAN comes a little late for some local families.

Plum Coulee businessman Jack Wiebe contacted the Voice last week after his brother-in-law landed himself in quarantine for popping down to Walhalla to pick up a package.

"He went across the border to pick up a parcel and he was double-vaxxed and all that, but he went across not aware of the ArriveCAN app," Wiebe said. "He comes back and they gave him a test kit and he has to quarantine for 14 days."

The retiree has since spent the past two weeks in his home in Morden as punishment for a short trip that, pre-COVID, most people living near the border wouldn't have thought twice about making.

Wiebe said he and his family have been doing what they can to help his brother-in-law through the quaran-

tine period, but it's galling to him that the ArriveCAN requirements weren't better publicized prior to recent news reports about all the problems they've caused.

"There's no signs at the border ... not everybody's computer literate, not everybody's aware of all this stuff with the apps and all that," he said, voicing concern not just for older Canadians who may not think to look into such digital requirements for reentry but also immigrants for whom language barriers might prove a challenge. "People need to be warned. You need the ArriveCAN app to come back without grief."

As the government continues to sort out the issues with ArriveCAN, travellers are advised to educate themselves as to the current reentry rules, make sure the app is working on their phones, and/or fill out the form online in advance and print out or screenshot the receipt just in case it's not working when you arrive at the border. ArriveCAN data can be submitted up to 72 hours before returning to Canada.

Details about ArriveCAN are available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>. You can also find it on the Google Play and Apple app stores.

> TASTE OF THE HOLIDAYS, FROM PG. 3

Armando Hernandez, who moved here from Mexico and has only been in the area for about three months, very much appreciated being made to feel welcome.

"It's a big adjustment. This is great ... to come to a another country, a new place where you don't know anyone and feel like you are a part of the community.

"I think it's great to meet different people in the community and learn about their backgrounds and how they celebrate Christmas," he added.

"It is very important to have some-

thing like this," agreed Zina Mas-yutenko, who is originally from Ukraine but came here from Israel.

She especially expressed appreciation for all that Regional Connections does for newcomers to the area.

"It's very important because this is the first place where you can come and make some friends, make some connections," she said. "For me, it was really helpful for the first days when I came and now I keep coming because I want to give back to the people who helped me."

> SANTA TRUCK, FROM PG. 6

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't think I was going to be able to do it, but as the year progressed, I was still feeling able," he said. "We had such a great response last year, I really wanted to do it again. It's encouraging to me to carry on the tradition. It's something I really want to do."

"It definitely has been a challenging year," agreed Dylan.

"I was going to plan the Santa Claus parade, but with where we're at now with the pandemic, it still was not going to be a possibility. I still plan next

year to do the Santa Claus parade," he noted.

"It does feel encouraging to me. I'm community-oriented," Dylan said. "I like to do stuff for the community, and seeing the response last year and the excitement was great ... and it brightens our day as well."

Their plan is to go out on weekends following the order of the city garbage zones, so they began last Friday with zone one, Saturday with zone two, and so on continuing to Christmas.

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Merry Christmas, here's your bill

Recently the City of Morden announced a substantial increase in water and sewage rates as a result of increased costs primarily related to the drought.

Thankfully the province is contributing millions toward increasing capacity to the region via the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative.

Unfortunately, this enormous increase, which is necessary by the way, comes after a year of unprecedented costs increases across the board. 2021 has an average cost of living increase of around 4.7 per cent where previous years hover between 1-2 per cent on average.

Merry Christmas.

Of course, there will be a lot of lamenting from decision makers along the lines of "what else could we do?" and "what would you do?" and "we had no choice" along with the wearing of sackcloth and ashes and the gnash-

ing of teeth.

These kinds of sudden increases in costs to the ratepayer are rarely without warning and this is no different.

We in the city of Morden have known for A VERY LONG TIME that our water supply at Lake Minnewasta was inadequate for our rapidly growing population.

Typically, however, politicians like to "hold the line" on taxes and spending and boast about how they have not increased taxes in X years or have kept them low. The same goes for other costs like water and sewer.

I want to make it clear that this is wildly irresponsible.

It's a little like a condo corporation knowing they have to replace the roof and all the windows in 10 years but never increasing rates in hopes that future owners will just "figure it out." Then 10 years later they are saddled with a bill that could choke an elephant.

Of course, condo corporations are no longer allowed to legally do this because they must maintain a contingency fund for capital asset replacement that is of a realistic size and reflective of future costs.

Politicians and administrators: stop winning points by refusing to raise rates and taxes in a slow and measured way over time to cover future expenses. This is BAD management.

This same scenario is likely to play

out once again in the not too distant future with sewage water treatment, as we have known for well over 10 years now that a plant is required and it will cost tens of millions of dollars.

As is typical, we wait on funding from other levels of government (I'm looking at you, Feds) as we have for more than 10 years (so this is not simply one party's problem).

I sincerely hope that we have been stashing away money every year for the past 10-15 years for this so that we will not experience a sudden 20 per cent increase in sewage rates when we can no longer wait.

These kinds of sudden increases hurt. And do you know who they hurt the most? Those on the edge. Those people living paycheque to paycheque. Those people who cannot pay every bill when they come in but must pick and choose.

There are a lot of those people and these kinds of increases are what push them to food banks and shelters. These increases can be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Good contingency planning and slow saving for infrastructure costs 20 years in advance can alleviate this and make increases not simply more palatable but survivable.

We have to implement the infrastructure measures that are causing these rate increases, but this could have happened in a less crushing way.



By Peter Cantelon

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.

> CHEER BOARD, FROM PG. 4

Derksen figures they wrapped about 700 presents, about half of them with special pillowcases.

"Shari Dyck from Road 17 N [quilt shop] in Winkler put it out there if anyone wanted to sew pillowcases for this," she says, noting Dyck is a Cheer Board board member. "It had to be new fabric and there was a pattern they had to follow."

"She had people making pillowcases from all over Manitoba. They were just beautiful and a huge variety [of fabric patterns]."

It was a fun way to give two pres-

ents in one and also use a fair bit less wrapping paper.

While the hamper part of the campaign is now behind them, the Cheer Board's work isn't quite done.

At press time, they were still a few thousand dollars short of their fundraising goal for the year.

"The other day we were at around the \$97,000 mark," Derksen said. "We're hoping that by the time year-end comes around that we'll have the \$100,000 we need."

You can donate in-person at the Winkler Christmas Market being

held in the New Leaf Garden Center this weekend. Or head online to winklercheerboard.com to make an donation online.

The Cheer Board also has an endowment fund, the Winkler Cheerboard Fund, at the Winkler Community Foundation. Go to winklercommunityfoundation.com for details.

"I want to say a huge thank-you to the businesses and individuals that have supported us," Derksen said, thanking as well everyone who asked if and how they could help this year as a volunteer.

BTHC Fdn. campaign nearing its goal

The "Donation Conversation" has raised \$167K and counting; aiming for \$175K

By Lorne Stelmach

A social media campaign to help support Boundary Trails Health Centre is about to reach its fundraising target in its second year.

The BTHC Foundation's Donation Conversation initiative had reached \$167,000 last week, so representatives were optimistic they would equal the amount brought in last year.

"We will definitely reach our goal of \$175,000 or better," suggested foundation board chair Ben Friesen.

"It has been successful again. We have really good uptake from the community ... considering there are so many options and places that people can donate their money," he said. "And it's important because we get all our money from the community."

Pandemic restrictions meant the foundation in 2020 was not able to hold its two major events—the golf tournament and annual gala. This year, only the golf tournament was possible.

The Donation Conversation campaign was created to help fill that void, and the result exceeded their expectations.

It helped them not only maintain but expand their palliative care and spiritual care programs, which represent significant parts of their budget at over \$200,000.

The three month campaign once again has focused on the three areas supported by the foundation. It began in October with palliative care, which takes up the biggest portion of the annual budget at about \$150,000. It continued in November with a spotlight on equipment followed by December's emphasis on spiritual care.

The campaign got significant boosts from a number of sponsors who matched the initial \$30,000, includ-

ing Greenvalley Equipment, Access Credit Union, BP and Sons Grain, Meridian Manufacturing, Precision Land Solutions and Triple E - Load King. Little Morden Service also kicked things off with \$15,000 right at the start.

"So we are getting close ... it ends Dec. 31, so there is still time for people to get in their donations," said foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

"It's been great. I find it has really helped project us out into the community, using the social media," she said, noting that raising awareness is as important as raising funds.

"It's important to share who we are and what we do because not everyone understands that not everything is paid for by the government, so the foundation steps up for those extras and to support the people in the community and especially the health care workers."

"It's not just a fundraiser ... it's really an eye opener. I've had people come up to me on the street saying I didn't know you guys do so much," said Friesen.

"It's been very gratifying to hear people talking about it," agreed Samatte-Folkett. "It's a way to educate the public and the community about what our hospital foundation does for Boundary Trails Health Centre."

There is still time to make a donation to the Donation Conversation campaign as well as support the 50/50 fundraising raffle.

Also done for the first time last year, the jackpot was over \$38,000, so the winner took home over \$19,000. This year's raffle had reached just over \$23,000 as of last week.

You can get more information and purchase tickets online at bthcfoundation.com/50-50-affle.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

BTHC Foundation board chair Ben Friesen and executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett are optimistic this year's Donation Conversation campaign will reach its goal of \$175,000 by year's end.



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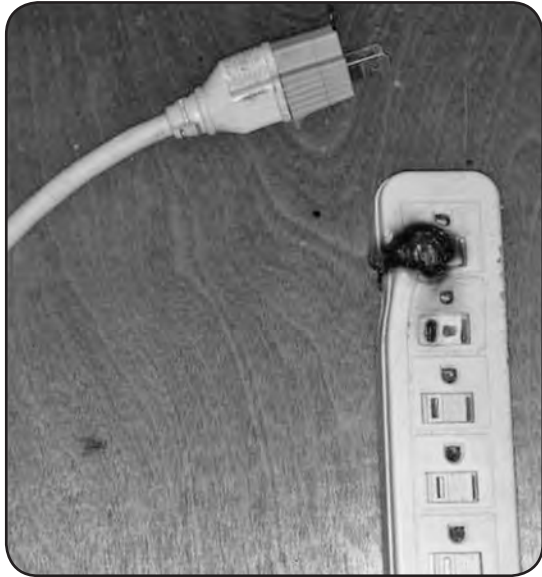
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Chief provides some holiday, winter fire safety tips

By Lorne Stelmach

Local residents are being asked to be mindful of fire safety this holiday season.

There are always a number of potential risks



MORDEN FIRE & RESCUE PHOTO

Morden's fire chief reminds people to take care this winter with their electric devices. This includes avoiding hooking up space heaters to power strips or extension cords—they should be plugged in directly to a wall outlet.

that especially come with this time of the year, Morden fire Chief Andy Thiessen noted recently.

Many of those possible hazards are related to holiday decorations, including Christmas trees.

"There's always stuff to be aware of ... and most of the time, people just need to take the extra second to think about what they're doing," he said. "It's just when they're maybe in a hurry or they're not thinking about how much stuff they are plugging in and things like that when it does cause problems."

"One of the things that I really want to make sure people are aware of is overloading of electrical circuits. With all of the Christmas lights, everyone is looking to plug in to decorate their homes ... they may have displays up," he said. "A lot of those things don't draw a lot of power, but if you overload an circuit, it does cause a problem. The wires can start overheating, and then you've got issues."

Thiessen also encouraged people to be aware of the age and condition of their lighting and decorations.

"A lot of things now, which is fortunate, are LED lighting, which takes very little power," he noted. "However, we buy these things, we pack them and we use them year after year, maybe not realizing some of these we've had for maybe 10, 15 years, and those aren't LEDs and they draw more power."

He also touched on a couple other potential concerns that come with the season, such as leaving cooking unattended

"Maybe you get distracted, with the kids or just with the stuff of the day, and you forget about something on

the stove.

"The other one is the use of candles," Thiessen added. "Just make sure when you do light a candle that you're aware of it and don't forget about it, and keep the area around the candle clear for combustible material and other things."

As far as Christmas trees, it was noted that one in four tree fires are started when a tree is too close to a heat source, and one-third of tree fires are due to electrical failures.

There are other things that come with the winter season in general, added Thiessen, who cited examples of people letting their cars run in the garage or even unnecessarily having their vehicles plugged in inside the garage.

As well, there is always a risk that comes with using electrical heating appliances. Be sure that they are plugged directly into a wall socket. Space heaters can generate a lot of energy, which means when hooked up to a power strip or extension cord, the outlet can overheat, causing it to short-circuit or catch fire.

And, of course, always ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly.

"We always encourage people to do that when they change their clocks ... but it's always a good idea to check them."

He hopes that all these kinds of measures will help contribute to a quiet season for the fire department.

"Normally during the Christmas season we will have a few calls, but people generally speaking are really good and aware of things."

Winkler Dynacare location closed temporarily

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler area patients will need to get their basic medical tests such as blood work done elsewhere for the time being as a result of the local lab being shut down as of last Friday.

Dynacare confirmed its lab in the ALG Professional Cen-

tre downtown has temporarily closed due to a staffing shortage.

Mark Bernhardt, corporate communications manager for Dynacare, said it was a difficult but unavoidable decision given the circumstances.

"Since November, we have had a number of staff on leave and were able to continue operations by contracting a nurse to provide phlebotomy service," he explained. "After Dec. 10, this nurse was no longer available, and a replacement was not able to be sourced in time."

The Winkler Dynacare location sees anywhere from 60-100 patients a day. For the time being, those patients will need to go to another location, either the Dynacare lab at the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden or the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"Although we have a full complement of staff at our Morden location, customers may experience a delay in service due to the overall capacity of this location," Bernhardt cautioned.

CW Wiebe Medical Centre clinic administrator Jim Neufeld echoed that warning.

"It's certainly going to be a disruption for our patients ... it's a significant number of people who use that service on a regular basis," he said.

"There will be some services that will be able to be provided by Boundary Trails, but with the current [pandemic] situation also we're trying to not overwhelm that situation either," Neufeld continued. "Our patients can certainly make

use of the Dynacare facility in Morden as well, but there again, it's a limited service, and while there will be some capacity there to help out, it would be difficult for them to take it all on.

"We were left to believe that there could be a resolution early in January," he added. "Obviously they didn't give us an exact date at this point ... they're doing what they can to get properly trained people and get them back into the facility."

Bernhardt stressed that Dynacare "is deeply committed to providing health care services to the Winkler community. We apologize to the residents of Winkler for this inconvenience and would like to thank the community for their patience while we work to staff the location."

He expressed some hope that they would be able to address the staffing and reopen soon, but could not estimate exactly when that might happen.

"We are currently working to recruit replacements for this role and anticipate being able to open as soon as a candidate is hired. We will continue with our recruitment efforts to secure the services of a trained medical laboratory assistant," said Bernhardt. "We can't put a timeline on the reopening because it is dependent on us hiring a new team member, but we are working on this and hope that we can reopen as soon as possible."



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Calf sales multiply in support of CancerCare

By Jennifer McFee

One good deed deserves another — and another and another and another.

A chain reaction of generosity began when 13-year-old twin sisters Heidi and Allison Braun decided to auction off one of their calves earlier this month and donate the proceeds to CancerCare.

The cause is close to their hearts since Heidi has been battling brain cancer for the past seven years.

The sisters chose their best calf and arranged to bring young Braunco to Winnipeg Livestock Sales in Rosser on Dec. 3.

That's when their remarkable donation inspired nearly a dozen more acts of generosity, raising approximately \$40,000 for the cause in less than 30 minutes.

Scott Anderson, manager of Winnipeg Livestock Sales, said they spread the word in advance to try to generate as much attention as possible.

"Lo and behold, we had a pretty fair group of people all here looking to buy a calf, so it worked out well. It was

bought and resold 11 times," he said.

"One woman walked in to buy the calf. She stepped up to the plate and paid more than \$9,000 the first time. Then she resold it and bought it back the seventh or eighth time for about \$3,000. So she ended up spending \$12,000 and left without a calf."

Mark Braun, the twins' dad, said Heidi makes frequent visits to Winnipeg for medical appointments from their southern Manitoba community of Gnadenthal near Plum Coulee.

"She would like to raise money for cancer awareness. Due to the nature of her cancer, they can't seem to get a grasp on it," he said. "She's been doing some trial drugs to try to find a cure and she continues to battle with it."

The family operates a mixed farm where they raise cattle, and they also have some hogs, chicken and grain. The twin sisters raise several calves themselves.

"We were very thankful that the girls made the decision to donate their calf. It was good to see that they were willing to put in the effort as well," Braun said.

"We were also very thankful for the livestock community that showed a lot of support. There were people that we knew and people we didn't know, and they all wanted to pitch in and help."

For Heidi, it was an emotionally charged experience.

"She was very overwhelmed. She had tears of joy and she had a lot of mixed emotions. As a farm kid, we all know that animals become pets very quick, so that part was difficult," Braun said.

"Then with all the support, she was very overwhelmed by all these rough and tough cattle guys that were will-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Heidi Braun, 13, of Gnadenthal has been battling brain cancer for the past seven years. She and her twin sister Allison auctioned off their calf Braunco, raising about \$40,000 for the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

ing to help a 13-year-old girl."

Sherelle Kwan, manager of community events and development at CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, said all funds raised by Heidi's calf sale go toward pediatric research and clinical trials at CancerCare Manitoba.

"Fundraisers like Heidi's are so important in helping us understand the daunting reality of this disease, which knows no bounds and plays no favourites. We are so grateful for her efforts and to those who fundraise and donate on our behalf to advance research and treatment," Kwan said.



"Heidi and her family are always coming up with creative ways to fundraise from lemonade stands and scrunchie sales to selling a steer in a live auction. Heidi personally knows the importance of advancing research

Continued on page 12

Southern Health accounts for half of all COVID-19 ICU beds

By Voice staff

The unvaccinated continue to fill Manitoba's limited ICU beds.

On Monday, public health officials reported that a total of 142 Manitobans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, including 90 with active (infectious) COVID-19 and 52 who are considered no longer infectious.

There were 34 people in intensive care at the start of the work week, including 26 with active infections. A total of 96 per cent of patients in ICU are either completely unvaccinated (92 per cent) or only partially vaccinated (four per cent).

Southern Health-Santé Sud, which

includes the entire Pembina Valley region, is one of five regional health authorities in Manitoba but it currently accounts for half the total COVID-19 ICU patients with 17. The region also has 50 total hospitalizations.

The district has the lowest vaccination rate in the province (62 per cent) and the highest test positivity rate by a wide margin (15 per cent at last report Dec. 1, compared to 5.7 per cent for the province as a whole on Monday.)

Monday's report added eight new deaths to Manitoba's tally since the pandemic began, bringing it to 1,353. The list included five men and women from Southern Health, ranging in age

from 60s-90s. Comparing the statistics over the past week, two of the recent deaths were in Winkler.

To date, 66,926 people have recovered from COVID-19.

With 478 new cases coming in over the weekend, Manitoba's total COVID-19 caseload Monday was at 1,700. Five of those cases have been identified as being the new omicron variant of the virus.

In the Pembina Valley, the case breakdown includes 44 in Winkler, 24 in Altona, 21 in Morris, 16 in Morden, 13 in Carman, 10 in Lorne/Louise/Pembina, six in Stanley, six in Roland/Thompson, five in MacDonald, and three each in Grey and Red River

South.

As the fourth wave of the pandemic continues, public health officials are encouraging Manitobans to get their booster shots for COVID-19 as soon as they are eligible.

It was announced last Friday that anyone age 60 or older or those age 18 or older who live in a First Nations community who received their second dose on or before July 10 are now able to receive their third shot of vaccine.

A six month timeframe between second and third doses continues to be recommended for all other Manitobans age 18+. Visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html> to book your appointment.

PVLIP calendar shines a spotlight on diversity in the workplace



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon made the rounds recently dropping off the agency's 2022 calendar, including stopping by the Morden Civic Centre to hand some over to Mayor Brandon Burley (above) and Winkler City Hall to meet with Mayor Martin Harder (below).



By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership's annual calendar is back to shine a spotlight on the diversity of the Pembina Valley in 2022.

PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon travelled to communities across the region over the past few weeks to drop off stacks of complementary calendars for residents to enjoy.

"This is our gift to the community," she said. "We can ask a lot of our communities. This is one way we can give back."

The calendar was first created for 2021 to make use of funds that went unused due to so many community events being cancelled thanks to the pandemic.

"None of the usual cultural events in any of our communities could happen, so it was an idea that came out as to how can we raise awareness around the diversity in the region," said Burton Saindon. "We got started on it very last-minute and it turned out to be really successful and it was such a positive impact, so we did it again."

They had a bit more time for the 2022 calendar to round up both photos and sponsors.

"Last year we were able to cover the costs because so much programming had been cancelled and so we could shift that funding," Burton Saindon explained. "This year that didn't happen, so we started earlier, in the spring, with looking for sponsors to help us cover the costs."

They managed to secure 19 sponsors at three levels of financial support, including 11 gold tier sponsors who could claim a specific month (De-

cember was earmarked for a special Christmas collage).

Given the number of businesses making the calendar possible, it was clear what the year's theme should be.

"We thought focusing on diversity in the workplace would be a good option for this, because we have so many organizations and businesses that employ newcomers in the region," said Burton Saindon.

Some gold sponsors sent in photos of their own while others welcomed a professional photographer from PVLIP to come snap shots that fit the theme.

The result is a glimpse at the profound impact newcomers have on the economy of the Pembina Valley.

"They each really have their own interpretation," Burton Saindon said of the photos. "Sometimes it's a group photo, some of them are actively working and showing the diversity that different workplaces have ... it was a fun way to embrace how the communities have expanded their workforce."

The calendars are also unique in that each page includes far more holidays marked than a normal Canadian calendar.

"Each month has multiple listings of cultural celebrations from around the world ... things you might not even know about—celebrations, holidays, religious observances," Burton Saindon said. "So it's more than just the pictures; it's to show the variety of cultures throughout the world."

Calendars are available for free while supplies last (only 1,500 were printed) at the various sponsors' storefronts or any Regional Connections office in Winkler, Morden, or Altona.

Morden Activity Centre hosting WSO virtual concert next Monday

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Activity Centre is offering a special Christmas season event next week.

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra has teamed up with sponsor Manitoba Hydro to put together a presentation that is being made available for viewing, and the centre will host a watch party this coming Monday.

"We are thrilled to host this event. What a great opportunity to enjoy the sounds and wonders of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in Morden. The show is online and will be shown on our screen," said centre manager Barb Heide. "With all the cautions of the last two years, we are trying to create

a safe and positive event for people to gather and enjoy the holiday season."

Each season, the Manitoba Hydro Holiday Tour visits communities to bring holiday magic to rural Manitoba. With the pandemic, this year's tour is a virtual one.

The show will present a "made-in-Manitoba" Christmas celebration

complete with song, drums, dance and aerial displays along with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Julian Pellicano. Special guests include the Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Ray Coco Stevenson, Raine Hamilton, Ça Claque! and Momentum Aerial.

The event is open to the general

public but under restrictions, including proof of vaccination.

It is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 20. Tickets are \$15 or \$90 for a table of six or \$120 for a table of eight, including an appetizer plate.

For more information, call the centre at 204-822-3555.

> CANCERCARE, FROM PG. 11

and clinical trials here in Manitoba, and we are so grateful for her and her family's fundraising efforts."

For anyone looking to contribute towards Heidi's fundraising efforts, donations can be made online

through the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation website. For more information, visit www.support.cancercarefdn.mb.ca and search for "Heidi's Calf Sale" or go directly to her donation page, which is part

of the steer sale, at https://support.cancercarefdn.mb.ca/site/TR/communityevents/General?team_id=4964&pg=team&fr_id=1633.

Looking to the future

Regional landfill's lifespan set at a century, but it's up to us to see it makes it that long

By Ashleigh Viveiros

"We don't sell anything here at SWAMP except the volume of space that we have. That's it. That's all we've got. And once that's full, we're done."

Those words came from Brent Kletke, manager of the Solid Waste Area Management Project (SWAMP), in last week's article on the regional landfill.

SWAMP was created by the municipalities of Morden, Winkler, and Stanley 25 years ago when it became clear that separate, smaller landfills weren't a long-term solution to the growing region's waste management needs.

It only took a handful of years for the three communities to fill SWAMP's first cell (basically, a giant hole in which the garbage is piled into and compacted down).

Today, SWAMP is working on filling up cells two through five. It's likely cell six will need to be built within the next decade. Beyond that, they have room to build all the way up to cell 10 in the distant future.

How distant? That depends on a lot of factors, Kletke says.

"There's population growth, amount of recycling and diversion that all of our partners are doing—all of that has to be considered when you look at the landfill's lifespan," he says.

When SWAMP first opened, it was

projected to last a century or more.

"That seems like a long time, but that could change drastically if we start growing faster," Kletke observes, adding that he's "feeling really positive moving forward. We have a lot of capacity in the cells that we have currently, so we're in a good position."

Increased diversion of recycling and organic materials over the past few decades has had a huge impact on the life of SWAMP, as has improved equipment.

"We upgraded our compactor," Kletke says, gesturing to a behemoth sitting atop the garbage pile, waiting to be put to work stomping down trash. "It's twice as heavy, though we don't quite get twice the compaction, but we do get an immense more compaction of our waste, which will help increase the life of the landfill."

When the wind cooperates, staff run the compressor about once a week. Garbage comes out the other side unrecognizable—and takes up far less space than it would uncompressed.

Still, SWAMP gets between 20,000-25,000 metric tonnes of waste coming in every year. It all adds up.

"Even with all the diversion that we do, we still get a lot of waste coming in every single day," says Kletke, noting they're currently working on more closely estimating just how long it will take to fill up the remaining cells, assuming projected growth rates for the



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

SWAMP manager Brent Kletke in front of just some of the trash that comes into the regional landfill on a daily basis.

region stay on course.

"We've partnered with the RM to do drone flyovers so that we can map [cell usage]. We know how many tonnes come in across the scale, it's just we don't know how that translates into actual waste on the hill compacted and finished."

While it's likely most adults today won't be alive to see SWAMP filled, there will come a time when it reaches the end of its usefulness.

It's up to all of us to make sure that day is as far away as possible.

"As a landfill, we are the destination of last resort," Kletke stresses. "After you have gone through and you've done all of your recycling, your composting, we are the destination for the non-recyclable material ... it has to go somewhere and it has to be dealt with in a safe manner."

Could SWAMP do more to ensure recyclables stay off the pile? Perhaps banning recycling and organic waste outright? Kletke pauses in answering—there's a lot of considerations that come into play on that front.

"We can encourage our customers to do a lot of recycling and that type of thing, but as a landfill we can't be patrolling absolutely everything that comes in," he says. "If we do say that we don't accept it ... part of the problem is where we have a truck that has an enclosed box, it's not until it gets ejected and it's sitting on our lot that we can see what's in it."

"I know some landfills what they do is, at the tipping area, they sort a lot of their waste. Unfortunately, with the size that we are and with the amount of trucks that we have coming

"WE NEED TO BE GOOD, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS ... WE NEED TO GET INTO THE GROOVE OF DIVERSION."

in so frequently, we can't effectively and safely run something like that at this time," Kletke says, pointing out SWAMP's staff includes him and just four others, one of them a seasonal position. "But that's not saying that we can't move to something like that in the future."

In the meantime, the focus is on encouraging customers to be more mindful before tossing something in the bin.

"It's the education, it's the motivation, and the drive for people to say we need to do this, we need to be good, responsible citizens ... we need to get into the groove of diversion," Kletke says.

"Our customers, certainly on the residential end, have been listening ... they want to recycle, they want to bring whatever needs to go to household hazardous waste [instead of to the landfill]."

"Oftentimes if I find out about an avenue that some of our customers could bring things to we'll say, 'Hey, why don't you try this?'" he says. "Things of that nature change so frequently ... we're always keeping an eye out for new opportunities for diversion."



This monster compactor is used to compress garbage so it takes up less space in the landfill.

Holiday shopping fun



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The first annual Winkler Christmas Market has taken over New Leaf Greenhouse the past two weekends, offering up goods from artisan vendors of all types, visits with Santa Claus, and performances from local artists, including the Flatlands Theatre company (above, right). There's one more weekend to get in on the fun. The market is open this Thursday from 4-9 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Winkler Police investigating retail store robbery

By Voice staff

Winkler Police are on the hunt for a suspect in a robbery that took place at a retail store last week.

Officers were called to the store in the 500 block of 1st St. just after noon on Thursday, Dec. 9.

While responding, police were advised that the suspect, wearing a black jacket, had fled the scene westbound on foot towards 1st Street. A search of the area didn't turn up the suspect.

The investigation has revealed that the suspect had entered the business, told the clerk he had a weapon, and demanded cash.

No weapon was displayed and the man fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured.

Police continue to investigate. They

urge anyone who might have seen the suspect fleeing the scene or have any other information that could assist investigators to contact the Winkler Police Service at 204-325-0829.

A few other items of note in the weekly police reports from the Morden and Winkler departments include:

- A three-vehicle accident took place at the intersection of Roblin Blvd. and Hwy. 32 Dec. 6.

A northbound vehicle attempted to make a westbound (left-hand) turn on a green light when it was hit by an approaching southbound vehicle, causing the turning vehicle to spin into an eastbound vehicle stopped at the red light. All three vehicles had to be towed from the scene.

The northbound driver was fined

\$143 for failing to stop and take reasonable steps before proceeding.

- A resident of Prairie View Drive in Winkler reported Dec. 8 that her vehicle was stolen from her driveway while it was running with keys inside. Police were advised the following day that the vehicle had been recovered by another police agency. Anyone with information is asked to contact the department at the number above.

- A 25-year-old Mordenite was taken into custody Dec. 12 after police were called regarding a man walking down Gilmour St. at 1 a.m. yelling.

The man was found to be heavily intoxicated. He refused to give police his name and was arrested under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act.

After learning the man's identity, police found he had several warrants

out for his arrest from other agencies. He was also on conditions to reside at a specified address.

The man was charged with one count of failing to comply with a release order and was released on a release order to appear in Morden Provincial Court in January.

- At 2:15 a.m. Dec. 12, Morden officers received a call regarding a stolen vehicle.

The caller advised he parked his vehicle in a parking lot behind a business and left the keys in the ignition. When he returned to his vehicle approximately 15 minutes later, it was gone.

This vehicle was later located by the RCMP. Police are continuing their investigation.

Morden Christmas Cheer looking for board members

By Lorne Stelmach

As the Morden Christmas Cheer Board wraps up this year's campaign, it is also looking ahead to the next.

The board is looking for a few more people interested in helping to spread holiday cheer and provide a helping hand for those in need.

While Christmas cheer is still more in mind for people right now, the board is hoping it might help them get at least four new board members to volunteer for next year.

"We cannot make the holiday magic happen without dedicated board

members to provide direction, share their energy, and devote their time," said volunteer co-ordinator Marilyn Sandercock.

Giving the ongoing concerns around COVID-19, the 2020 and 2021 campaigns have been done in a different way than usual, with the board adapting to bypass the large army of volunteers to prepare and pack the hampers and instead distributing gift cards.

Still, the organization helped out over 300 families in need in the Morden area last year and are anticipating a similar amount this year.

"WE CANNOT MAKE THE HOLIDAY MAGIC HAPPEN WITHOUT DEDICATED BOARD MEMBERS ..."

The plan is to return to the more traditional hampers for 2022.

"It is our hope that, in 2022, we will be able to return to the collection of toys and food from our community and surround ourselves with the 500 volunteers who assist in making Christmas a little brighter for many families in our area," said Sandercock.

The committee meets monthly from September to February. If their mandate of community service and public relations interests you, reach out to a board member, call 204-823-4444, or e-mail Marilyn Sandercock at msandercock@mymts.net for more information.

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Customers are saying great things about Xplornet's Xplore 50/10 UNLIMITED package in Manitoba.

Customers are saying great things about Xplornet!

Like, Jonathon from Sprague who recently switched from DSL.

"Switched from another DSL provider earlier this year and not looking back! Our rural area struggles to get good service out of some of these other providers that haven't upgraded their services in 15 years. Happy to see a company willing to invest in our community. Thank you Xplornet," he said.

Xplornet District Manager, Rhonda Adair says that Xplornet is proud of the investments that have resulted in happy customers like Jonathon.

"We have spent millions of dollars to improve infrastructure, upgrading our towers to expand the capacity and reliability. In Manitoba we're building fibre and new towers not to mention our Wi-Fi mesh product which is coming out soon. All of that leads to faster speeds and more availability," she said.

Rhonda noted that Xplornet's new Xplore 50/10 UNLIMITED is allowing locals to stream at a fast speed.

Customers like Daryl in Ridgehill, Manitoba have appreciated the increase in speed paired with unlimited data.

"Living in rural Manitoba leaves limited options for a high-speed Internet. After shopping around, I chose Xplornet because of the higher download/upload speeds that the competition couldn't touch. We can stream or play games online with ease! Prices are great and unlimited Internet is just what anyone needs. Happy happy," he said.

Rhonda knows that unlimited data is a big selling point because customers need to be able to use the Internet worry-free, especially now.

"It's super important now because that's how we are communicating and staying connected through this pandemic. With unlimited data, you can talk to your loved ones on video for an hour a day and you don't have to budget your data," she said.

Unlimited data has been making a big difference for James in Carman, Manitoba.

"With unlimited data it has been nice for online meetings and at-home learning. Also, for streaming purposes," he said.

Terry Penner owner of Authorized Xplornet Dealer, Volan Links & Lines thinks that truly unlimited data is one of the things that sets Xplornet apart.

"It gives customers a worry-free experience. You can stream high quality content at full speed and not worry about going over a data limit," he said.

Terry has been helping Xplornet customers for over seven years. He and his wife Lynessa are raising a family in their home community of Rosetown. His passion for bringing Southern Manitoba up to speed can be seen, like his Xplornet truck, all over the region. He regularly travels to install rural Internet services for members of the community.

"Most of the customers assume you come from a large city and people find it interesting when they find out that the person from Xplornet lives in their neighbourhood," he said.

Terry says that being local, and knowing the area intimately is what makes a dealer such a good resource to the customer.

"We know the territory and what service is available in the area. A lot of time, we even know the people we're visiting," he said.

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



The Winkler Bible Camp had an impressive display of lights this past weekend for Christmas Glow in the Country. From the comfort of their vehicles, visitors could tune in to the camp Christmas station while enjoying the festive displays along a two kilometre route through the grounds. Also serving as a fundraiser, the event continues this week from Thursday to Sunday between 6-8 p.m. each day. There's a fee of \$10 per vehicle (cash preferred). For more information, visit winklerbiblecamp.com or call 204-325-9519.



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Immigrant responses needed for PVLIP survey

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) has put a call out for immigrants to Canada to share their experiences.

The PVLIP Immigrant Survey went live online earlier this month. It will remain open to submissions until Jan. 15.

"The immigrant survey is a way to understand our region better and how newcomers are settling into their communities," explained PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon. "We're covering multiple topics, from housing, transportation, finding employment, accessing services, and also how the pandemic has maybe impacted people accessing services and has that created barriers or challenges?"

PVLIP has consulted with newcomers about these and other topics on a smaller scale before, but this study is the largest research survey it has undertaken since it was created a few years ago.

It will help them identify the gaps, challenges, and opportunities that exist, Burton Saindon explained.

"All of these different components

of the survey will provide hopefully enough feedback to help improve services and access to them," she said, noting the data will be shared with PVLIP's partners (local municipalities, businesses, and service providers) and will aid in advocating for funding and programming for newcomers.

"Your voice and your opinions and your experiences will translate back to the communities in additional resources and expanded programs," Burton Saindon said, urging newcomers to take the time to complete the survey.

The survey is open to all immigrants age 16 or older who were born outside Canada and now live or work in the Pembina Valley. This includes permanent residents, temporary workers, international students, refugees, and Canadian citizens. Answers are anonymous and untraceable.

To fill out the survey, scan the QR code in the image at right or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/65GPM3F>.

Those who fill out the survey will be eligible for a gift card. Burton Saindon hopes that, coupled with the opportu-

PVLIP Immigrant Survey
A survey for all Immigrants, Refugees, International Students, Temporary Workers in the Pembina Valley

Scan QR code with your phone to access the online survey

nity to share experiences, will see the project draw at least 300 entries.

While the survey has the ability to load in different languages depending on how your smartphone is set up,

you can also contact PVLIP for help if you're unable to complete it in English. Email info@pvlip.ca or call 204-325-4059.

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WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Tye Dandridge-Evancio's art talk at the Morden gallery this week looked at how Christmas has been depicted in art, including through Christmas cards. Above: The first known Christmas card from 1843.

Art talk tackles early Christmas card imagery

By Lorne Stelmach

Looking back into the origins of Christmas cards as part of his preparations for this week's Third Thursday art talk offered Tye Dandridge-Evancio some surprises.

The Pembina Hills Arts Council programs and outreach co-ordinator aimed to explore the theme of the holidays in art, and the history of the greeting card brought up an interesting glimpse into how much the artistic aspect has changed over time.

He found a lot of the earliest cards were very different if not even some-

what disturbing, such as those with the image of a dead bird, for example, which was somehow believed to signify good fortune.

"I would imagine though that there's probably tons of things now that we would think of as normal that others will look back on and think why did they think that way?" said Dandridge-Evancio. "A really interesting thing is a lot of the cards I came across in a lot of the traditions I was researching was religion wasn't as heavily featured as you think it might be."

Evancio realized from the outset that the theme of the holidays as represented in art could be pretty broad topic, so he had to narrow it down. That led him to the mid 19th century when *The Christmas Carol* story came about the same time as the introduction of the first Victorian era greeting cards.

"In my research, one of the things I tried to focus on was what led to what we kind of view now as the Christmas traditions," he said.

"One of the biggest things actually was that, prior to the 1840s and even more so into the 1860s, Christmas didn't seem to be celebrated that much in urban centres. It was more so kind of viewed as a more rural celebration."

Dandridge-Evancio draws a connection to what is known as the Oxford Movement that sought a renewal of Catholic thought and practice within the Church of England in opposition

Continued on page 19

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Dec. 28 - CLOSED (in lieu of Boxing Day)

Dec. 29 - 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Dec. 30 - 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Dec. 31 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Jan. 1 - CLOSED • Jan. 2 - CLOSED

Jan. 3 - CLOSED (in lieu of New Year's Day)

WALK-IN:

Dec. 24 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am

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Jan. 1 - CLOSED • Jan. 2 - CLOSED

Jan. 3 - 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

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WALK-IN:

Dec. 24 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dec. 25 - CLOSED • Dec. 26 - CLOSED

Dec. 27 - 8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Dec. 28 - 8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Dec. 29 - 8:00 am - 7:30 pm

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> ART TALK, FROM PG. 18

to the church's Protestant tendencies.

"It wasn't until people read *The Christmas Carol*, which was heavily inspired by some of the traditions that were coming back as a result of the Oxford movement, that a lot of people started celebrating Christmas more in these urban centres again. That kind of lit the fire for a lot of the traditions to kind of take off the way they did, and it really exploded in the 1860s."

Then came the introduction of the first more mass produced Christmas cards, the earliest of which featured influences both Christian and secular in nature, but much of it was more seasonal imagery than necessarily religious-based.

"There's been a lot of interpretations of *The Christmas Carol* for instance," said Dandridge-Evancio, who wondered about the impact of the Oxford movement trying to promote religion again in urban centres.

"It was interesting to see that while this was happening, there was still that kind of unspoken resistance almost to religion being featured in some of the more popular traditions and imagery," he said.

One other aspect of it that he noted was that the greeting cards early on became a way for artists to make a living even, with Christmas greeting

card competitions held, and it also provided an opportunity for women despite the societal norms of the time.

"It was a way for them to pursue art and also make a bit of a profit from it," he suggested.

Of course, the imagery continued to evolve over time, and the conflict between the spiritual and the secular of course continues right to this day.

"It came from these origins of people wanting to make it about charity and trying to promote taking care of the poor and giving back to the community," said Dandridge-Evancio. "It of course eventually catapulted into a more commercial aspect."

"There is a statistical increase in donations at this time of year," he noted. "And when *The Christmas Carol* came out, donations to the poor skyrocketed ... so it also strangely came into conflict with this commercialized aspect of it."



Victorian Christmas cards were certainly ... interesting. Still, the sentiment at least is familiar: the note reads "Peace, joy, health and happiness" in French.

Merry Christmas
from all of us!

With warm wishes and gratitude to our friends and neighbours at this joyous time of year.

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What's *Your* Christmas Story?

It was no easy task to pick just two winners from the many creative entries we received this year! But here they are, along with a few other favourites:

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MYSTERY REINDEER

One day I woke up to scratching at my patio door. I thought it was my dog Baxter, but then I realized he was peacefully asleep in his doggy bed. So I opened the door and to my surprise I saw a ... baby reindeer!

He was so cute. He also had a glowing red nose. He had a name tag and it said, "I am Rudolf. I live in the North Pole."

"Wow," I said. "This is amazing, you're from the North Pole! Can you fly?"

The reindeer sadly shook his head side to side.

"Well, I will teach you how to fly. How hard can it be anyways?"

So I started thinking of ways I could help the baby reindeer learn to fly. First I thought I could make paper wings, so I cut some out of paper. But that didn't work, so I thought of something else.

What if I put a parachute on him so

he can get the idea of flying? Wait, that will never work.

Hmmm ... I know! What if I write a letter to Santa and say what had happened so he can help? I got started right away. I got a pencil and a paper and got writing as fast as I could. This is what I wrote:

Dear Santa,

I'm not going to ask for presents this year. I found a baby reindeer out by my patio door. His tag said his name is Rudolf and that he is from the North Pole, which is why I'm talking to you about it. He can't fly and I thought you could help. I also was wondering how I could get him back to you. Please write me soon.

Love, Zaharra

I waited a few days, and Santa finally wrote me back! I opened the letter and it said:

Dear Zaharra,

I'm so happy you found Rudolf! I have a way to help him learn to fly. None of my reindeer actually know how to fly. Every year I feed them special reindeer food to make them fly. So I packed some along with this letter. Feed this to him on Christmas Eve and I will pick him up then.

See you soon.

From, Santa

Continued on page 22

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Special Thanks to all of the un-named people who have donated funds and volunteer hours to make this project possible - our community thanks you for your generosity!

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Tips to ensure holiday road trips are safe and stress-free

After a 2020 holiday season in which the pandemic forced the postponement or cancellation of festivities, families are planning to get together once again in 2021. Many people will head home for the holidays this year, and the vast majority will take to the highway to do so.

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics says the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year's holiday periods are among the busiest for long-distance travel. The highways will be busy with motorists criss-crossing the country to visit loved ones. Holiday travel may require covering a long distance in a limited amount of time. Finding ways to be efficient in regard to time management can reduce stress and improve safety.

Travel at night

If you can safely manage it, you may experience considerably less traffic in the evening hours than during other times of day. In addition, if kids are in tow, they may sleep much of the way, helping to reduce the number of times they ask, "Are we there yet?" Share driving responsibilities with another person so that each driver can take a break to prevent drowsy driving.

Get a vehicle maintenance check

No one wants to get stranded on the side of the road with a car filled with gifts and treats. It's well worth the investment to have a mechanic give a vehicle a checkup prior to leaving. Get an oil change even if it's a little early to do so. Look at tire tread wear and ensure that you have the right tires for the road conditions where you'll be headed.

Plan your route

People often rely on mobile phone or dashboard GPS systems to get where they need to go. However, it helps to have a general idea of the route so that if service drops out you can still find your way. Scout out rest stops or acceptable restaurants online prior to leaving so you have a plan for making stops in safe areas.

Stock the car

While presents may be taking up valuable real estate, pack a cooler with snacks and beverages to help reduce how many times you need to get off the highway. Also, games or other forms of entertainment can keep children occupied on long trips.

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Want
for

Christmas

Slow down in inclement weather

The holiday meal can be reheated if you're late, so don't feel compelled to speed or drive erratically when the weather is stormy. It's not worth the risk of getting into an accident that can cause serious injuries. Travelers United,

a nonprofit organization that represents all travelers, also warns that quick storms that pop up after a long dry spell can immediately make road surfaces extremely slippery. Use caution.



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> MYSTERY REINDEER, FROM PG. 20

Since Christmas is four days away, I can just have fun with Rudolf. So I decided to try and feed him marshmallows. I put them up to his mouth and ... he ate the marshmallows! It was kind of a random thing to do, but it was funny.

It was already 8 o'clock so I started to get ready for bed. Then I realized that Rudolf had to sleep somewhere. I made a bed out of newspaper. Then we both went to bed.

The next day Rudolf and I went to play in the snow. Rudolf got snow all over his face and he looked like Santa. It was so funny!

Speaking of Santa, there's only three days till Christmas!

After we played in the snow we went to the Minnewasta Lake and went skating. Rudolf was a better skater than me. It was amazing! Now it is time to go to bed once again.

Now there is only two days till Christmas and tomorrow is Christmas Eve, then Santa will pick up Rudolf and bring him home.

Today I'm baking Christmas cookies! I don't think Rudolf can make cookies, so he is going to wrap the Christmas presents ... we'll see how it goes. After that we made Christmas

wreaths. They did not look very good; it was still fun, though. We lost track of time and it was nine so we got to bed fast.

Now it is Christmas Eve. I am so excited! I don't know what to do. I know, we could just watch Christmas movies all day! So we did.

It is dark now so Santa must be coming soon. Five minutes later I heard a knock on the door ... it was Santa!

I got Rudolf and gave him to Santa. Santa thanked me and took off. It felt like the perfect Christmas.

**GRAND PRIZE, GR. 5-8:
RACHEL HESOM
GR. 7, WINKLER**

**AN ORNAMENTAL
PERSPECTIVE**

The first thing I remember is warm hands, moulding me, massaging life into my slumbering clay. And that voice—it resonates with me to this day. A melodic reverberation, gentle as a lullaby, yet powerful as a warrior's cry, sweetly sounding, "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright."

Giggles erupted from a round-faced little girl as her soft hands grabbed me. Her bright blue eyes widened as she traced her tiny fingers over my every delicate etch. She looked up at the woman with the sweet voice. "Can I hang it on the tree?"

The woman smiled, taking me in her hands once more. "In a little bit, baby."

I was placed back on smooth wood, the warm hands once again reaching out to soothe me.

I was jolted from my peaceful dream when I was scooped up precariously by those familiar sticky hands. I was tossed up and down as she skipped, singing all the way, to a majestic green tree in the corner of the room. Its protruding branches beckoned to me, welcoming me to a place I had never been and yet instantly felt like home.

I knew right then and there that this was where I belonged.

Every Christmas, I was hung on that same spot on the tree. I learned that the kind-hearted woman's name was Mom, and that the bubbly little girl was named Clara.

I watched over the years from my humble spot on the tree as Clara grew up. I was there when she, smiling, opened a box to find a mischievous little bundle of fur that took great pleasure in climbing the evergreen's spindly branches. When Clara squealed after discovering the keys to a rumbling beast which she called her car,

Continued on page 23

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE
WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!"
LUKE 2:14

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Blessed New Year

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HONOURABLE MENTIONS

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The stars have fascinated me ever since I was young. So, I have memorized the patterns they make. It was because of this that I noticed a new star ... one that was brighter than any I had seen before.

Curious, I thought over the star's appearance. My discovery gave me too much excitement to sleep immediately, so I laid awake until slumber came. Suddenly I was jolted awake in the middle of the night by a dream. In my dream, God told me that He had placed that star in the sky to lead me to His son, the Messiah. I was stunned, God had chosen to reveal Himself ... to me!

In the morning, I was determined to start on my journey as soon as possible. But before I could begin, I was visited by some friends. They had also had dreams like mine. Now we knew that there was no time to waste. We had to see the Messiah.

In our excitement we began to talk of what we would bring. My friends all spoke of taking large and valuable gifts for Him. That made me pause. What could I bring? What earthly thing did I possess that I could give Him ... what could money buy? Any

idea I had I immediately decided against. There didn't seem to be anything worth enough to gift to my God. A few days later, I was still pondering what to bring. I had already made my companions wait, and we all knew it was time to begin our journey, so I packed all my gold and we left. I

had decided to see if ideas came to me while we were traveling, and if

Continued on page 24

> AN ORNAMENTAL PERSPECTIVE, FROM PG. 22

I was an eyewitness. And I was there when Mom and Clara, both teary eyed, packed up lots of worn brown cardboard boxes. Clara moved out a few days after that Christmas.

Over time, Mom's health began to deteriorate. Her face turned white as snow, her skin as cold and clammy as the winter wind. She got weaker and weaker until Clara, trying to put on a brave mask, drove her away to the hospital.

I never saw Mom again.

A few days later, Clara came back to the house. Her ice-blue eyes were rimmed with the colour of fresh holly berries, her eyes as shiny as a decorative crystal snowflake. Suppressing muffled sobs, she cleared out the house. I was stuffed in a musty old box and stored in a claustrophobic attic. She closed the lid on me in more ways than one.

I don't know how long I was trapped in that box. The days, weeks, months, years, passed in a blur. The only thing I could do was hang on to the hope that Clara would one day return for me.

One particularly crisp autumn morning, I began to feel something changing in the air. There was a sense of anticipation and excitement; something I hadn't felt in a

very long time. Footsteps echoed in the crevices of my mind. I brushed it off as movement downstairs. If Clara hadn't come for me yet, it was unlikely she ever would.

But then I heard voices. "Woah! Can we put all this stuff on the tree?"

A gentle laugh. "Maybe not all of it."

The footsteps got closer and closer until I was sure it wasn't just my imagination.

"I wanna open that one!"

A crack of light fought its way inside the box, as auspicious as the first hint of dawn on a summer morning.

A little girl stretched her big blue eyes wide. "So pretty!" she whispered.

A woman came up behind her. "What did you find, Ivy?"

Her eyes widened as they settled on me. She reached into the box, her wonderfully familiar ice-blue eyes glistening slightly. An overwhelming sense of peace washed over me, as warm as a fireplace when you come in from the cold. The moment I had been waiting for had finally arrived.

A few hours later, my Clara was hanging me on the tree once more.

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Merry Christmas

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HONOURABLE MENTIONS

From Pg. 23

any did, I would simply buy the item at the next city. My resolution reassured me. With all the time I would spend on my camel plodding through barren land, surely a gift would come to me, and I would reach the Messiah with a worthy treasure.

For the first leg of our trip, I felt confident in the fact that

my answer would come, but with each day, as we drew closer to the star, I grew increasingly unsure of what to bring. In each city we passed through, I looked at all the markets. I asked the vendors what the best gift would be for a king. No one else's answers were the answer I needed.

When we came to Jerusalem, we visited Herod's palace to ask where the baby was. The King called his chief priests and after hearing their answers we were sent to Bethlehem. I thought that seeing all the finery of the palace would give me my idea, but it only solidified my doubts. Now more than ever, I was sure that no riches were good enough. But what else was there to give?

With each step towards Bethlehem, my hopes sank further. There was no chance now. We had already passed the major cities, and if I hadn't thought of anything by now,



then I never would. I wrestled with the idea of not going farther than Bethlehem, my friends could tell me of seeing the Messiah. I finally decided to go, but my decision still held with it the disappointment of not having any gift to offer.

These were the last few moments of our quest. We had dismounted and were approaching the house. As I stepped through the door, I finally realized I did indeed bring a gift. Approaching the baby, I whispered to Him, "I didn't bring any riches to give you, but I will spend the rest of my days faithfully serving you. So instead of gold, I give you my life." The baby's mother looked at me, unshed tears sparkling in her eyes, "I have seen the gifts given today, and I know that to the Father, your gift is worth more than riches."

—Alia Kreiser,
Gr. 8, Thornhill

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and a Happy
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best that the
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HONOURABLE MENTIONS

ANGIE THE ANGEL

Hi, my name is Angie, and I'm the prettiest ornament out of the whole box (in my opinion of course).

You probably want to know why I'm the prettiest, don't you? Well I'm an angel. I have a long white dress, a gold halo, and (what easily makes me the best ornament) my shiny wings.

And it's finally that time of year, CHRISTMAS! When everyone can admire me on the lovely evergreen tree.

It's finally happening. Two hands reach down and carefully lift me out of the box. Finally I'm placed right in the center of the tree.

"She's beautiful," a little girl says.

"We got her when I was your age," another says.

I stood up straighter and put my hands together in a neater position. At the corner of my eye, I saw my friend Kandy. She is a bulb. Not just any bulb—she has a very nice candy cane painted on the front of her.

"You look amazing!" Kandy whispered.

"I know," I replied.

Soon, the girls went to bed, and everyone in the tree celebrated the start of Christmas, and soon we all went to bed.

The days passed and everyone had calmed down. Soon it was Christmas Eve and the whole family was coming over! More people to admire me!

I heard the doorbell ring, but then

barking came after it.

"Buster is here," I yell. "Hold on!"

Everyone held on to their branches, and Auntie Lina's golden retriever came racing around the corner and started shaking the tree.

Most of the ornaments were holding on well, but I saw Kandy slipping off her branch. I had to do something! Kandy would never survive that fall.

I wiggled off my perfect spot on my branch and then fell right under Kandy as she fell. I caught her as we hit the floor.

"Angie?" Kandy asked, "are you okay?"

"I think so," I replied.

"Your wings," Kandy said sadly. I looked at the floor and it was covered with pieces of glass. I felt sad, but not really. I had saved Kandy. That's what mattered.

"Oh no," one of the girls yelled. "Angie's broken."

"Well, we can still hang her up," Dad said. He put me in Kandy's spot and her in mine.

"Oh, what a lovely ornament," Auntie Lina said, looking at Kandy.

"What!" I thought I was no longer good enough; it was all too much to handle so I went to bed.

I woke up after midnight. Everyone was asleep. I was about to fall asleep again too, but then I heard a thud in the fireplace. It was Santa, he stood up and looked around and saw me.

"It was a very brave thing you did, Angie, so here is my gift to you."

He took out something from his pocket. It was a pair of wings. He attached them to my back and smiled, then he put the last presents under the tree and left.

"Thank you, Santa!" I whispered.

—Madelyn Toews,
Gr. 8, Winkler

PICKLES THE DOG & TINA TINSEL

My name is Tina Tinsel and I'm an ornament. I am a fairly large ball. I'm gold with gold sparkles and a sparkly gold ribbon to hang me on the tree.

I was stuck inside a box for nearly a year, but I had heard from some other ornaments that soon the day would come we would get out of our boxes. I couldn't wait until I would get out of the dark, cramped box and see light again.

A young girl grabbed my box and I was brought up a bumpy hill. Oof! Sorry, just hit my head, it's so bumpy. Once I was up the hill, I was set on a table and my box was opened!! I could barely contain my excitement! I was even picked up first!

The girl examined me, then read aloud, "Noelle, 2016. What's this, Mama?"

Her mother replied, "It's your name

and the year you got it."

"Oh, I don't remember choosing this one! It's so sparkly!"

She hung me on the tree and I was so excited to be a part of the beautiful decor.

Once the tree was full of other ornaments, ribbon, and twinkling lights, the people tidied up and cleared out of the room.

Suddenly this big thing came running at me! It was furry, had long floppy ears, and four big legs! It ran right up to me, knocked me off the tree and picked me up in its slobbery mouth.

It started to run but dropped me and I was knocked under this thing, I think it was called a couch. I was stuck under the couch, but the creature remembered I was there. It was digging at the bottom where I was.

Someone came and hollered "Pickles! Stop!" Then the person came over, bent down to the floor, looked under the couch and saw me!

He grabbed me, and scolded the creature saying, "Stop! Bad Dog!"

I was put back on the tree and I felt safe again. But then the creature, who the human called Pickles, came running at me, yanking me off the tree again. It ran happily to this cushy, pillowy, soft bed, and there I was, being chewed on.

The same man came to the dog and spoke, "Pickles, stop it! Drop it!"

Continued on page 26

Thank you for
allowing us to serve
you this past year.



Merry Christmas and
Best Wishes for 2022

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HONOURABLE MENTIONS

From Pg. 25

The dog didn't drop me, it ran away with me out the back door buried me in this white, cold stuff outside, and then ran back in, without me. And there I was, forgotten, it seemed.

It was cold and damp, more cold little white flecks began to fall on me. It became dark, the wind was cold on my ribbon. But soon it became light out, and this fiery hot ball rose in the east and it warmed me up the slightest bit. The white flecks were still cold,

though.

Noelle and her older brother came outside to play in the white stuff and when Pickles came out, he found me right away, put me in his mouth and ran inside happily. I was thrilled to be out of the cold white stuff but sad to be back in the dog's mouth.

When the man saw me, he grabbed the dog and ripped me out of the dog's mouth. He warmed me with liquid he called water and dried me with a soft cloth. I had never been so shiny and sparkly. He hung me up nice and

high, out of reach of Pickles.

Noelle was happy to have me back on the tree and exclaimed, "I think Pickles has a favourite ornament!" But she held me close and promised that she wouldn't let the dog get me again!

—Emma Chamberlain,
Gr. 6, Morden

RANDOM SNOW DAY

There was this random day. I wished it to be winter with snow higher than my own house.

I went to bed and I woke up to see white specks falling out of the sky and wondered what it was. I went to look out my window and saw snow everywhere. I burst out with joy. I was happier than when it was my birthday, and believe me I was happy.

So I cruised down the stairs and woke up my mom and told her to look out the window. She did not want to so I kept begging her until she went and took a quick peek and yelled, "Wow! Yesterday it was sunny and humid and now there is snow in June." That makes no sense but it was worth it.

I ran and got my jacket and ski pants on and I did not want to forget my mittens so I went and got those on.

I had trouble opening the door but I did and had the best thing happen to me: my dog dug through all the snow and ended up exactly at my front door.

It was hard to fit through the tunnel but I made it and jumped in my ditch

and yelled, "Best snow day ever!"

—Rylan Neufeld, Gr. 4, Schanzenfeld

MY WINTER WONDERLAND

My perfect winter would be a huge snowstorm. It would blow me to Antarctica and I could build a big snow house out of snow blocks.

I could build a snowman and my family would come and help me. We would build the most biggest, whitest, fluffiest snowman ever!

We would go in our snow house and eat 20 snow blocks. Then, if we get thirsty, we would drink the water out of the snow blocks.

We would get ice and carve it into a cone shape and we would put a clump of snow on top. Then we would make a snow cone for dessert. Yum!

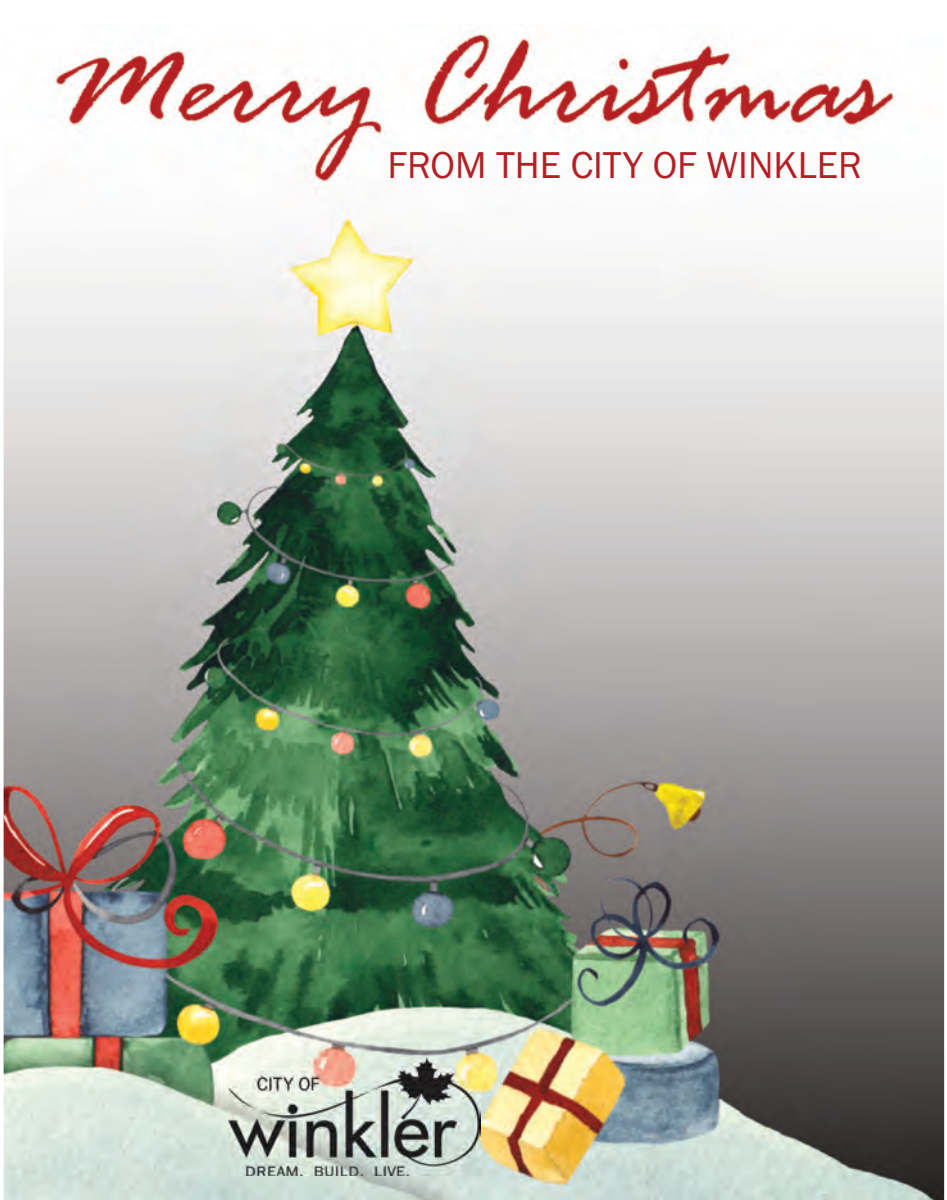
Then the wind would start to blow and my family and I would blow all the way home and when we get home we would build the biggest, fluffiest, whitest, softest, sparkliest snowman in the world. Then my perfect winter would not be just perfect—it would be a perfectly perfect winter wonderland!

—Kamdyn Goertzen, Gr. 4, Winkler

ORNAMENTS

It was really close to Christmas and we were decorating our Christmas tree.

Continued on page 27



What's *Your* Christmas Story?

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

From Pg. 26

I asked my brother, "Why do the ornaments keep moving?"

"Because they want you to go to bed," said my brother.

I went to bed. So did my brother.

I could hear the ornaments clanging, then they came in my room and started singing ...

"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born."

The next morning I looked out the window and the ornaments were flying high up in the sky.

—Gabriel Pohl, Gr. 4, Hochfeld

THE BABY REINDEER

Jen woke up with a start. It was Christmas Eve! She slipped on her reindeer slippers and went downstairs for some hot chocolate.

Then Jen's best friend Tess rolled into the kitchen with her wheelchair.

"Good morning!" Jen said in a cheerful voice. Before Tess could say good morning she was interrupted by a scratching on the back door.

"What's that?" Jen asked.

"We should look," Tess said.

Jen nodded. Tess rolled in front of Jen and opened the back door. There it was: a baby reindeer just learning how to fly!

"Wow!" Gaspd Jen.

"We have to find Santa," Tess said.

"But how? Santa is in the North Pole!" Jen asked.

"Let's go talk in the living room, I'm cold," Tess said while picking up the baby reindeer.

The baby reindeer curled up in Tess's arms and yawned as Tess stroked its head. When Jen and Tess got into the living room, the baby reindeer jumped off of Tess's lap when it saw the Christmas tree. It started to climb under the tree.

"What are you doing little fellow?" Jen asked.

"Look! There are two snow globes under the tree!" Tess said while rolling to the Christmas tree and picked up the two snow globes.

She handed a snow globe to Jen and then said, "It says to shake the snow globe and we will transport to the North Pole!"

"It must be the magic of Christmas eve!" Jen said. The baby reindeer jumped on Tess's lap. The girls shook the snow globe and vanished!

Santa was waiting for them.

"Hello Tess and Jen!" Santa said in a jolly voice.

"We found your reindeer!" Tess said.

"Thank you! You should keep those snow globes. You never know when you might need them," and he winked.

—Peyton Bueckert, 10, Stanley

MY LIFE AS A CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT

Well, hello. I'm Bob. I'm a Christmas tree ornament. Part of the year I'm stuck in a dusty old box with nothing to do in the basement. The other part

I'm hanging on a Christmas tree.

Well, it's Christmas time and I get to be out of this dusty old box and I get hung on the Christmas tree. I like it out here much better.

The people who live in the house seem to be making something that looks like my friend, Jim (he is a gingerbread man ornament). Maybe the mysterious things are more ornaments for the tree! But why are they putting the things in the hot, metal box in the kitchen? (An oven.)

Twenty minutes later the people seemed to be putting the things (cookies) in their mouths. Weird.

"Hey, Jim," I whisper to Jim who is right beside me. "What are they doing?"

"How am I supposed to know?" grumbled Jim. "If you don't know how would I know?"

Good point, Jim.

The next morning the people are all excited about some shiny wrapped stuff that's under the tree (presents). The things were red and green.

I wonder why the people are taking the wrapping stuff off? Inside the things are toys. The people screamed at whatever they saw.

"Tell those people to pipe it down. We Christmas ornaments have ears too," grumbles Jim.

Then the people play with the toys. After that the people ate some good looking food. The people finished eating the food and went outside to play in the snow. Then all the sudden; CRASH! The front window smashed and I saw a kid standing on the sidewalk, wide mouthed. The kid stood there, looked at the mess, screamed and ran. The snowball had missed the Christmas tree, which was good. Close call.

Eventually the people came inside and to their surprise, they saw a Christmas catastrophe! If only I could tell them what just happened. Sigh. But hey, I'm just an ornament on a Christmas tree.

What a day this has been. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

—Jonathan Falk, Gr. 5, Winkler

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS WAR

BAM! BANG! BOOM! CRRRRRRRASH!

The Christmas tree fell and almost landed on the perpetrator—the family cat. He was the meanest, grumpiest, litterbox pooper in the world ... and he was out to get me. (Well, to be fair, I was out to get him too.)

And yes, I know, Christmas Ornament VS Family Cat is TOTALLY unfair, so I made myself an army. We were going to take him down once and for all! We had everything we needed to do it. (As well as few gingerbread cookies.)

Later that evening ...

"All right peeps, let's review our plans, shall we?" I said, excitement building. "First, Blue will put the sleeping gas into the living room so that the cat and anybody that's in there will be asleep. Don't forget the oxygen masks. Then they'll signal us when they're done."

"Second, Green will get those cupcakes that are in the freezer. The ones that have the brown icing, don't forget."



"Third," I continued. "Red will transfer the first round of cupcakes to the basement by the litterbox and the second round will go to the living room."

"Finally, White will spread the icing all over the rooms that we have selected. Then our plan is complete!"

"Whoop, whoop!" everyone yelled.

And just like that our plan was set. And it worked almost as planned...

The next day ...

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!" The biggest human yelled when he got up for work the next day.

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!" he yelled again.

Soon the whole family was up and VERY surprised. The whole living room was smeared with the brown icing.

"We HAVE to get rid of that cat!"

Then they went to the basement.

"HERE TOO?!?!?"

And that was the cat's last day in the house.

All was good ... until they got the dog.

—Addison Suderman,
Gr. 7, Border Valley School

CHRISTMAS FINALLY COMES

A long time. Years, actually. My friends and I have been abandoned for years. Then suddenly a kind face opened the box. I am a pretty, round, purple Christmas ornament. I was finally going to be hung up! I was the last one to be put up on the tree. I was hung up by a little girl. She backed up to join the rest of her family, her little brother, her big sister, and her parents, and admired me and my friends on the tree.

Over the next few weeks I watched dinners, fights, and their mom wrapping presents for Christmas morning. Then it was finally Christmas! The children were joyful and grateful for what they received, and I was too. I witnessed all this joy! Then, it happened. I fell.

Down....

Down...

Down.

The little girl that hung me up cried out and ran to get the glue, tears in her eyes. She glued me back together carefully. I didn't look my best, but I felt loved. And that's all I needed for Christmas.

—Shylynn Connor,
Gr. 5, Winkler

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

It would be a perfect winter day!

—Rhianna, Gr. 2, Winkler Elementary School

THE LOST LITTLE REINDEER

After I found the baby reindeer I knew I would have to teach him to fly. But how?

I would get a ladder and get to my roof and kick the ladder down. And then I would take out a carrot and lead him up till he eventually starts to fly.

We finally finish training so we tried to find Santa. We go into the forest and get stuck in a blizzard! And then we find Santa!

—Noah Banman, Gr. 4, Winkler

WHERE'S THE REINDEER

Once upon a time there were three kids named LeBron, Lionel, and Tom, that were all named after professional athletes.

They woke up one morning surprised to see three inches of snow on the ground. It was eight in the morning on a weekend in December.

LeBron had been wishing for snow for one month now and finally LeBron got what he wanted.

Tom hated snow. He would stay inside if he could.

Lionel and Tom wanted a reindeer.

Suddenly they heard a noise at the back door. When they got there nothing was there. After that they had breakfast. LeBron and Lionel checked the front yard and then the back yard. They didn't find the reindeer, though.

Tom thought he saw a reindeer but LeBron and Lionel did not believe him. When Tom was walking to his room he saw a baby reindeer trying to fly. LeBron and Lionel came down and saw the reindeer.

They went and asked their mom if they could keep the reindeer, but their mom said no.

Tom went outside in the snow and took the reindeer to the heater. Tom built the reindeer a shelter.

Tom went back inside. His mom said they can keep the reindeer! Tom was so excited he jumped five feet in the air.

Finally Tom was ready for bed. LeBron and Lionel had been asleep for five minutes and missed the exciting part. LeBron woke up and Tom told him all about what happened.

And they lived happily ever after.

—Diego Sheldon, Gr. 4, Maple Leaf School

WINTER

I like winter when there is a white layer of snow on the ground. In school, there is a winter fun day sometimes. I make snowballs and snowmen. I jump in the snow. I'm also learning how to skate. This is why I love winter!

—Esharvir Dullat, Gr. 5, Parkland School

A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

As the box opened and the light beamed into my shiny container full of my friends and family, I see three children take me out of my box with glee and joy!

I see these faces every year, and it always surprises me on how much they grow and how each year they look so much older!

As I start to fly high in the air with my hook on my

head, they place me next to my friend, Sparkles the star. She and I go way back! I first saw her in my old home which was where I and Sparkles were both born. The first time I laid eyes on her I felt a magical feeling. It was something I had never felt before in all years of my time at the shop. Once Sparkles and I got home, we were both placed gently on the forest green tree that was soon to be the life of the house! The tree's name was Terry; we call him T-tree for short. Anyways, back to my story.

As I get hung up next to Sparkles, I get a bird's eye view of the whole house. I'm not just any ordinary ornament, I'm a special one. I have a crisp glow of my metallic gold shine, with my black hook at the very top of my head right underneath my silver top. I have glitter dusted over me to give me my glowing shine.

Can you believe that it's only one more night till Christmas?? The look on the kid's face each year after my dear friend Claus delivers handmade wooden toys each year for them! I can smell the crisp smell of the sugar cookies baking in the oven! They always have crispy edges and the gooey middle of the cookies. It makes my imaginary mouth water just thinking about it. It's getting past my bedtime now so I will see you tomorrow!

Christmas Eve Day...

Good morning everyone. It is now Christmas Eve, and the kids are already asking to open up presents.

Today the whole family is coming for a Christmas party!

DING DONG. That's them! I love seeing all these faces because it's a big change from only seeing my family all day long, but I can't complain because I love my family!

It is now dinner time; after everyone is done praying, they all dig in! The smell is wonderful! Oh, how I wish to be down there to eat it with them!

Once they are done, everyone packs up and leaves for their house. Once the kids set up cookies and milk (and you can't forget the veggies for the reindeers), they head off to bed.

Later in the night, I hear the clicks and the clacks of the reindeers on the roof. And there he was, Santa Claus! He gives me a warm welcome and he gives the first cookie a dunk and a nice crunch.

"Delicious!" he says.

Since he is a busy man he only eats one cookie and starts unpacking the presents. I can faintly tell what some of them are since they are wrapped tightly. I can see a bike which I know for sure the little boy asked for. I can't wait to see the look on his face when he gets to see it!

Morning comes. They all come running down the halls with tons of excitement. The parents come out with a garbage bag, like they always do, hahaha! They are all holding up their toys, all so happy! It brings a smile to my face to see them all so happy!!

Once they are done opening presents, it is time for me to say my goodbyes! I'm sad to go but I have to. Goodbye kids! Till next year!

As Sparkles and I get taken down and gently get put into each of our cozy little homes, I see the lid of the box slowly close.

What a Christmas!

—Lincoln Cantlon, Gr. 7, Morden

Check out next week's Voice for a few more of our favourite Christmas stories from our youngest readers!



THE BABY REINDEER

It was December 24th when I was in my house walking in the hallway to see what my dad was doing when ... I heard a scratching noise at the door.

At the door there was a baby reindeer who looked like Rudolph. He also has tiny antlers.

It looked like it didn't know how to fly because it was whimpering while it was looking up at the sky. He tried desperately to jump high, but it didn't work.

Next I made a ramp with extra bouncy springs. He ran up it and jumps! It works! He did it! Yay! Go, go! Soar! Go! Bye, bye!

The baby reindeer was thrilled to be flying!

—Mateo K., Gr. 4, Maple Leaf School

AN ORNAMENT'S VIEW OF CHRISTMAS

Hi! I'm Bob. I don't know why but that's what the other ornaments call me.

Anyway, I don't understand why humans put me in a box for 10 and a half months every year. We look so pretty! But I also don't know why they put us on a tree when we're out of the box. You've got to give it to humans: they're just weird!

Almost every night when I'm out of the box the TV is on. The humans are always watching a Christmas movie. It's boring.

Every morning they get up and have food. Do they ever share? Nooooo!

And every time I'm out of the box people put little, medium, or big boxes under the tree. It's strange.

Anyway, I like my life and that's how it's going to be. I don't think I'll ever understand humans, but that's okay.

—Rowan Buhler, Gr. 4, Emerado Centennial School

SNOW DAY!

On a perfect winter day first I would make the biggest snowman ever!

Next I would go sledding down a slippery, silvery hill.

Then I'd make a little snowman.

Finally, my whole family would go to my grandma's house! We'd build snow angels together.

CFDC teams up with Rendezvous for special anniversary brew

By Lorne Stelmach

An idea that played a part in getting the business started up has continued to provide ongoing benefit to Rendezvous Brewery and Taproom.

The regular rotation of special sponsored beers featured on the menu is not only a draw for Rendezvous but can also be a nice promotional tool for those who sponsor the brews.

The latest example has been the "pALEontologist" crafted in partnership with the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in honour of the museum's 50th anniversary.

"The beer is wonderful ... the taste is powerful and is really good. We are really happy with the results," executive director Adolfo Cuetara said last week of the pale ale that is available for a limited time on tap and in cans.

"We were happy to partner with the fossil discovery centre. We were wanting to get that one in this year ... got it done just in time," said Mark Von Riesen, one of the partners behind Rendezvous.

The idea of the sponsored beers started with the crowd-funding campaign that helped get the business off the ground. When you backed Rendezvous with a certain level of financial support, one of the perks was that the donor would get their own custom small batch of beer.

The sponsor can choose what kind of beer they would like as long as it

is something that they can make, said Von Riesen.

"They get to name the beer and choose the style of beer," he said. "We can about a third of the batch ... it ebbs and flows based on demand. With that too, they get their own custom designed label, which we do in-house."

Von Riesen said they have done about 20 sponsored beers so far, and the demand does not seem to be lessening at all.

"We've been trying to keep up with it. There's been lots of demand out there," he said.

"It's a little tricky. It's not something we can easily do with our brew schedule, and the turn-around time for beer is about three weeks, so that's also hard to predict. And there's ordering ingredients, which is three weeks prior ... so we're talking six weeks.

"We've been getting really good feedback from our sponsors, and many are saying they would do it again," he added.

Von Riesen sees it very much being beneficial for both themselves and the sponsors.

"It's been a very good mutual partnership ... for us, it's been really good in connecting our beer to other audiences as well. It often reaches people who maybe don't normally come in here."

"It is something we had been thinking about," said Cuetara. "It is part of



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

CFDC executive director Adolfo Cuetara and Rendezvous Brewery and Taproom's Mark Von Riesen with the "pALEontologist" special brew in honour of the museum's 50th anniversary.

the plan we had been developing over the last number of years to have more involvement with local businesses.

"We want to not only be asking for things but to also give something as well. We are trying to receive and give," he said. "It's a win-win for both. It's good marketing for both sides. We are bringing people from outside the community as well, and that also is a goal."



Elks 50/50 winners drawn

Three lucky winners had their names selected Friday in the annual Elks Lodge Cash Is King raffle. Duncan Andrew, Merle Block, and Dave Sheldon took home the first, second, and third place cash prizes, respectively. A major fundraiser for the club since 2013, the raffle brings in \$30,000, with half of that going to a community project. This year's proceeds will support a picnic shelter at the BSI Skate Park. Over \$100,000 has been put back into the community since the raffle's inception.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



New emergency generator installed at event centre

By Lorne Stelmach

The Access Event Centre is now better equipped to serve as an emergency centre for the region.

The City of Morden recently installed a generator that can be used for power outages in emergency situations.

It will be especially key with the Access Event Centre serving as the designated emergency evacuation site not only for the city, local health care, and schools but also as the primary reception center for the Southern Emergency Response Committee, which includes the RM of Stanley, Winkler, and Morden.

"We've talked about the need for this for a long time and being able to purchase a reliable used one locally made it possible," said Clare Agnew, director of community services for the City of Morden. "It's one of those things that are necessary, but you hope you never need it."

The generator became available to the city because it was no longer needed at Tabor Home, which installed a new generator as part of the construction of its new facility. It was essentially new as it had only operated for about three hours as emergency support and for monthly testing.

The Access Event Centre otherwise has the required space, parking,



CITY OF MORDEN PHOTO

From left: Clare Agnew, director of community services, with Morden Police chief Brad Neduzak, facility manager Tim Harsant, and Fire chief Andy Thiessen and the new emergency generator at the Access Event Centre.

kitchen facilities, showers, and meeting room space if there was a power outage or disaster in the region, so the generator will ensure the facility has power to meet emergency needs.

"It's a relief to have this generator in

place. During emergencies, it is helpful to have an alternate location for our team to work from," said Morden police Chief Brad Neduzak.

"This project has been in the works for over eight years. Some good things

are worth the wait. I'm glad to see that the generator can be used as a benefit as a shelter for people displaced from their homes in emergencies," said Morden fire Chief Andy Thiessen.

"This was a great opportunity for the city to secure our safety now and into the future," added Mayor Brandon Burley.

Agnew noted they had hoped to have it in place last spring, but there were some challenges with delivery times on some parts of the project, which also involved local trades including Bob Gionet Construction, Bernie's Backhoe Service, Cross-Stream Carriers and True North Electric.

"We worked with local trades in moving the equipment on-site, securing it in place and connecting it to the facility. It was a big task, and the trades were great to work with," said facility manager Tim Harsant, who added the unit was tested Nov. 22 and put under some load to ensure everything was in working condition.

The project received financial support from a number of sources including the provincial Manitoba Building Sustainable Communities grant of \$60,000 as well as the Morden Thrift Store with \$50,000, Enbridge with \$7,500 and Access Credit Union with \$5,000.

Snowmobilers urged to be safe this winter: RCMP

By Voice staff

Snowmobile season is upon us and Manitoba RCMP are reminding riders to be safe out there.

Already this past month, three people have been killed in snowmobile accidents in Manitoba. In 2020, eight Manitobans died in snowmobile collisions.

Police urge Manitobans to do what they can to make it home to your family safely, including:

- Know your abilities and ride within your limits. This will allow you to always be in control of your snowmobile.
- Always check the weather conditions before you leave.
- Always ride in groups and let people know where you're going, the route you will be taking, and when you expect to return.
- Always wear protective clothing, including a helmet, gloves, and eye

protection. Wear layers of clothing to keep warm and dry.

- When possible, avoid crossing bodies of water. If you are crossing bodies of water, be cautious of ice thickness, never ride in single file, and wear a life jacket over your outer clothing.

- Ride sober. Don't drink or consume drugs before or while snowmobiling.

Riders are also reminded that when operating a snowmobile or off-road vehicle on public land (ditches, Crown Land, roads, groomed snowmobile trails, etc.) the following laws apply:

- The vehicle must be registered
- Drivers must be at least 14 years of age to operate without supervision. Youth age 12-13 may only operate under the direct supervision (within direct sight) of a parent.
- You must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid driver's licence in order to operate across a roadway or shoulder.
- The vehicle may not operate with

more passengers than it is designed to carry.

- Everyone riding must wear an approved helmet, unless the ORV is equipped with occupant roll-over protection and seat belts, and the seat belts are being used, or the ORV is being used for farming, commercial fishing, hunting or trapping operations.

- Must not operate on roadway or shoulder (see Section 34 of the Off-Road Vehicle Act for exceptions for agricultural purposes)

- May only cross a roadway or shoulder at an intersection or designated crossing such as a snowmobile trail crossing, and must hold a valid driver's licence (see Section 35 of the Off-Road Vehicle Act).

- Must not carry open liquor or cannabis.

- Must operate in a safe and prudent manner.

- Must have headlights and tail

lights on from 30 minutes prior to sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise.

If you're riding on private land, police remind you to ensure you have permission of the landowner and keep in mind the fact the Criminal Code of Canada still applies on private property—operating while under the influence is illegal as is driving in dangerous manner.

"In the past five years, Manitoba RCMP have responded to 23 fatal snowmobile collisions where 65 per cent involved alcohol and/or drugs," said RCMP Staff Sergeant Kyle McFadyen. "In 15 of the 23 fatal collisions, the operator was found to be driving too fast and either lost control or struck an object. Of those killed in collisions, eight were not wearing a helmet. All of these deaths could have been prevented."

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers, Titans split games

Winkler faces OCN this weekend in final games of 2021

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers went up against the Neepawa Titans last weekend, and neither team managed to come out ahead.

The Titans took Friday night's game in Neepawa 3-2. The Flyers returned the favour two nights later in Winkler, winning it 6-4.

Neepawa did the only scoring of the first 40 minutes in the opening frame Friday night, adding a second midway through the final period to cement a 2-0 lead.

Winkler's Jackson Arpin returned the favour less than a minute later, but the Titans got that one back with less than six minutes to go on the clock. A late goal from Jayden McCarthy brought Winkler within one of tying, but it wasn't enough.

Dylan Meilun went the distance in net, making 21 saves off 24 shots. His teammates fired 21 shots on Neepawa's goal.

The tables turned two nights later at the Winkler Centennial Arena.

Goals from Josh Beauchemin and Derek Wiebe had the home team up 2-0 before the Titans scored their first midway through the second. They added a second to send the game into the final period tied at 2-2.

Winkler added four more goals to Neepawa's two in the third to take the win. Jacob Sargent and Kyle Crewe scored singles while Justin Svenson added two.

Meilun made 25 saves this night. Winkler outshot Neepawa 40-29.

The Flyers heads into their final two games of 2021 in third place in the MJHL's East Division. Their record is 15-11-1-1 for 32 points, which puts them just three points behind the Winnipeg Blues in second place and 11 short of the Steinbach Pistons in first.

This weekend the Flyers host OCN Friday and Saturday night.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

On a breakaway, Winkler's Derek Wiebe gets the puck past Neepawa's Gavin Renwick to score the Flyers' second goal of the game Sunday. Winkler got the win 6-4.

Bombers, Royals suffer losses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler and Morden both found themselves on the losing side of things in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action last week.

The Bombers dropped games to the Warren Mercs and the Notre Dame Hawks while the Royals fell to the Carman Beavers.

In the Dec. 9 game in Carman, Winkler was down 2-0 at the top of the second period when Remi Laurencelle scored two in 21 seconds to tie things up. The tie didn't last long, though, as Carman pulled ahead to 3-2 half a minute later.

Marlin Froese evened the score a minute into the final period, but Carman retook the lead a few minutes later and managed to hang onto it through to the end for a narrow 4-3 win.

Travis Klassen made 16 saves in net for Winkler as the Royals outshot the Beavers 37-20.

The Morden Bombers had their own close lost against the Mercs in Warren Dec. 7.

Warren drew first blood with the opening period's lone goal. Adam Hughesman got that one back for Morden with the second period's only point.

The final frame saw Warren add two in the first two minutes. One more Morden goal from Hughesman with 30 seconds to go on the clock just wasn't enough. The Bombers lost 3-2.

The Bombers put two goalies in net that night. Reed Peters made 34 saves off 37 shots in his 54 minutes between the posts. Ted Lea was in for five minutes and saved all five shots sent his way. The Bombers, meanwhile, had 39 shots on net.

A few nights later the team welcomed the Notre Dame Hawks to town.

Continued on page 33

Bruins best Hawks 4-1



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Bryson Yaschyshyn had his work cut out for him in the Dec. 8 game against the Winnipeg Bruins. Winnipeg outshot the Hawks 39-17 and got the win 4-1.



By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are mired in a three-game losing streak after falling to the Winnipeg Bruins last week.

Their lone game of the week Dec. 8 in Morden nearly saw them shutout for a third straight time until Keston Worley finally scored with just 10 seconds remaining to make the final 4-1 for the Bruins.

Winnipeg was the stronger, more aggressive team for much of the game, taking leads of 2-0 and 4-0 to the intermissions. They outshot the Hawks

39-17, and Bryson Yaschyshyn took the loss in goal with 35 saves. Winnipeg was one for seven on powerplays, while the Hawks came up empty handed on two man advantages.

It was a missed opportunity for the Hawks, who were bumped to ninth place at 9-13-2 for 20 points while the Bruins moved into eighth at 9-12-3 for 21 points.

The Hawks return to action this week starting with a visit to Winnipeg to take on the Thrashers Wednesday. They are home in Morden then for a doubleheader with Eastman Friday and Saturday.

Hawks hold their own at Saskatchewan tournament

By Lorne Stelmach

They may have not had the best results, but a game female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were competitive against some very tough teams at a weekend tournament.

The Hawks were in Wilcox, Saskatchewan to take part in the Mandi Schwartz Memorial Tournament, which is billed as the largest U18 female hockey tournament in western Canada.

Held in memory of a young athlete who played at the Athol Murray College of Notre Dame, the tournament saw the Hawks go winless in their three round robin games and then bow out after their second elimination game.

They started Thursday with a 4-0 shutout loss to Swift Current. Kaylee Franz made 42 saves as the Hawks were outshot 46-15.

Friday morning saw Annika Braun score a third period powerplay goal for the Hawks in game two, but that was all they could manage in what ended up being a 3-1 loss to Edmon-

ton. Tria Enns made 31 saves, with Edmonton holding a 34-13 edge in shots.

Game three also on Friday saw the Hawks take a 3-2 lead in the third before a pair of late goals gave St. Mary's the 4-3 win. Scoring for the Hawks were Cambree Martens with one and Caitlin Anderson with two, while Franz made 30 saves out of 34 shots on net. The Hawks had 18 shots.

Everything came together then in

the first elimination game, with the Hawks rolling to a 5-0 shutout victory over their Manitoba league rivals Westman. Mya Pearce scored twice while the other goals came in from Mackenzie Couling, Gracie Carels, and Jessica Anderson. Enns stopped all 24 Wildcats shots. The Hawks managed to send 29 the other way.

Their tournament ended Saturday evening with a 3-1 loss to Calgary.

Pearce scored the lone goal for the Hawks, who got a heroic performance from Franz with 56 saves as Calgary held a huge edge in shots at 58-28.

Pembina Valley returns to league play with a pair of home games against Yellowhead Saturday and Central Plains Sunday afternoon. They go into the weekend in fifth place at 7-8-0 for 14 points.

Twisters earn three points on the road

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters gained three of a possible four points on their weekend road trip.

They fell 3-2 in a shootout loss Friday against River East and then rebounded to edge St. Boniface 2-1 Saturday.

Royal Knights goaltender Jarret Unrau saved the day for River East by stopping 49 of 51 shots on goal from the Twisters. Across the ice, Logan

Enns stopped 34 of 36 for Pembina Valley.

Curtis Rebeck and Ben Hillhorst scored in regulation time for the Twisters, who were then blanked in the shootout won by River East on their third shot.

On Saturday, a pair of goals by Caelan Russell was all that Pembina Valley needed to earn the victory. He fired home his 12th and 13th goals of the season, including a powerplay

marker.

The shots on goal were 44-32 in favour of the Twisters, so Martin Gagnon got the win in net with 31 saves.

Pembina Valley remains in third place at 15-3-3 for 33 points, trailing St. James in second place by six points and Transcona in first by seven.

Pembina Valley is at home in Morris for a pair of games this weekend against St. Vital Saturday and St. James Sunday.

Snowkickers waiting for more snow to open snowmobile trails

By Becca Myskiw

The Pembina Valley Snowkickers hope for more snow to get out on the trails.

The snowmobile club maintains and grooms the trails in the Pembina Valley. They cover 482 km of trails from Cartwright to Morden and up to Notre Dame, complete with signage and all.

The last couple of years has been unlucky for the snowmobilers in the area, who've been lucky if they got out for two months. President of the Snowkickers Kory Van Damme said they didn't groom any of the trails last year and in 2019 got out in January only for the snow to melt soon after.

He said they can't start marking the trails or grooming them until there's at least—at the bare minimum—six inches of snow. He said the ditches probably have around four feet right now, but flat land has next to nothing.

"Ideally a foot or more would be great but out in southern Manitoba it doesn't seem all that often we get that," he said. "If it's anything like the last couple of years, probably no grooming is going to happen."

According to the Farmer's Almanac, December should be a milder month in the prairies with 15mm more snow than usual. January will be three degrees Celsius below average in the eastern prairies and bring 20mm more precipitation than average. They don't yet have the predictions for February and March but expect February to be mild and dry and March to be mild and wet.

If the Farmer's Almanac is any indication of how the winter will go, snowmobilers will be able to get on the trails in no time. Van Damme encourages everyone—new or not to the pastime—to take the snowmobile safety course online. It informs riders of potential hazards of various trails, what to do if you get caught on open water, the different signs you might come across, and more.

He also reminds everyone to follow the signs and go the posted speed limit.

"The biggest thing when you're not familiar with the area is slow down," he said. "The maximum speed limit is 60 km/hr on a straight and 30 or less if you're in town or a heavily wooded



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Snowmobile trails in the Pembina Valley aren't open yet as the Snowkickers are waiting for at least six inches of snow before grooming trails.

are doing lots of turns and curves. Speed is the number one issue when it comes to snowmobile safety. When you go slow, you're a lot less likely to get hurt if you do hit something or get yourself into an issue there."

Snoman Inc. also has an interactive

app for riders that show them where they are, which trails are open, and the condition of said trails. To keep up to date with trail status, go to www.snoman.mb.ca.

> SEMHL, FROM PG. 31

Morden scored a goal in each period courtesy of Andrew Clark, Steve Baker, and Kirby Bridges, but saw those goals drowned out by the seven the Hawks managed.

Lea was in net for the 7-3 loss, making 38 saves. The shots on goal was 48-45 for the Bombers.

At press time, Morden was in fourth place in SEMHL standings with a record of 5-3 for 10 points, trailing the top three teams (Carman, Warren, and Portage) by two points each.

The bottom part of the standings includes Notre Dame in fifth place with seven points, Winkler in sixth with six points, and Altona in last place with a lone point to their name.

Coming up, the Royals travel to play Portage Wednesday and then close out 2021 with a home game against the Beavers Sunday. The Bombers' final game before the holidays is against Altona Thursday night in Morden.

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Please share your story ideas at news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-332-3456

The Winkler Morden
Voice

Morden students give back



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Collegiate students pitched in recently to help two local organizations. They collected food and items for donation to Genesis House and Many Hands Community Centre, and the two organizations were on hand Monday to receive the donations as well as \$250 for each that was raised by the French Immersion Global issues class that hosted a hot dog fundraiser.

• A LOOK BACK

A special Christmas

On December 21, 2019, Ron and I would have been married 56 years. We met when we were 16 and 17 years old and we were married in 1963 when we were 19 and 20. I guess you could say we grew up together.

Some of our 56 Christmases were more memorable than others. The Christmas of 1975, we experienced our worst fear and our greatest joy.

I'll start at the beginning. It all began in March. I, who pride myself on never getting sick, had a severe case of the flu. It lasted for weeks.

Finally, I made an appointment to see my doctor.

He said he would do a pregnancy test.



By **Florence Dyck**

Really? We already had three boys and had no plans of having another one.

The next day the nurse phoned to excitedly inform me my test had come back positive. Having never done a test like that before I hesitantly asked, "Positively not pregnant?"

"Pregnant," was her joyful response.

I was not joyful and neither was my husband. Ron was away so much that I was practically raising our sons as a single parent.

Later, after some complications and a hospital stay, we were on our way to acceptance and almost joy. When I discussed our situation with my mother, she wisely said, "An unwanted pregnancy does not have to mean an unwanted baby." And she proved to be so right. No baby was more loved and more wanted by his parents and his three older brothers than was our fourth son.

I told my new doctor in our new town that our previous baby had been born severely jaundiced and needed to go under the ultra-violet light. The condition is called ABO incompatibility. Old doctor said that if I ever got pregnant again, I would need to go to a larger center to have the baby. New

doctor just patted me on the back and said in a most condescending manner, "Don't worry, little Mother! We'll take care of everything." He sent me for some blood work and told me everything was fine. Everything did go along smoothly! My early days of feeling sick and tired disappeared.

We moved to a larger home. I continued to be involved in our boys' activities. Our six-year-old son won a ball-throwing contest at his school and was invited to a larger all-school meet. When he saw me trudging across the field to where he was, he ran to meet me. Again, I heard, "Don't worry, Mom! I told all the kids that you're not really fat, you're just pregnant." Thanks!

In November, Ron came home, happy his good sales record had won us a trip to Hawaii.

"Fantastic! I responded. "When?"

"The second week of December," was his reply.

"Impossible! I exclaimed, "I'm due on Nov. 28 and our babies are always late."

The day I went into the hospital, my five-year-old niece in Morden prayed, "Dear God, Help Aunt Florence have a baby girl. You know she already has enough boys." Her prayer was nine months too late!

Fourth son was born later that evening, exactly on his due date. When the doctor told me I had a son, I fell back on my pillow and sighed, "Oh, no! We wanted a girl."

I had sent Ron home earlier as our three boys had been with a sitter all day. When I phoned to tell him we had another son, he exclaimed happily, "That's wonderful!" Those were the exact words I needed to hear.

I fell in love with our new baby the moment I saw him. A nurse introduced me to a mother who had just had her fifth girl. They named her Dawn after her father, Don. She suggested we switch babies. I laughed and said we would take her little girl but we would not give up our boy. The other mother said the same thing.

Later that day, I mentioned to the nurse that our baby's skin was quite yellow and that the whites of his eyes were beginning to turn yellow. She pinched his skin and said she would mention my concerns to the doctor.

That afternoon, baby was placed under the lights and by evening he was whisked away by a special helicopter and flown to the neo-natal unit in the

Saskatoon Children's hospital. His bilirubin level was not going down. In fact, it had risen since the previous day. I was not well enough to go along and I found out years later they never take both the mother and baby together. Again, my doctor said, "Don't worry! They have excellent facilities in Saskatoon. Your baby will have the best care possible."

We were all incredibly sad. Our five-year-old simply could not understand why I came home without his baby brother. The boys had not even been allowed to see him. Our hearts and arms felt so empty. We walked by his nursery all decorated in baby pinks and blues. Those were the days before it was possible to find out the sex of your unborn child. We went in to touch his soft sleepers and blankets. Tears flowed freely! Friends and

relatives sent flowers but waited for more news before they sent other gifts.

I phoned his pediatrician every day. They had done a liquid exchange. They were waiting to see if a complete blood transfusion was required. They were running other tests. He was doing fine. I was not to worry. "That word again! Why, oh why, had I not insisted on going along?"

Finally, the phone call we had waited for came! We could bring our baby home. The day we were called was also the first day I felt comfortable enough to drive the 300 km from Yorkton, Saskatchewan to Saskatoon.

Our Christmas shopping had been completed in November. Now, I wanted to shop for a gift for the baby. My ever practical husband thought a helicopter ride for a three-day-old was probably enough of a gift for this year.

In the hospital nursery, our baby was surrounded by the sickest babies I had ever seen. His nurse assured us of his good health and how blessed we were to have him home for Christmas. Other parents were not as fortunate.

The week before Christmas, we brought our fourth son home. He was pink and beautiful and he even had some smiles for us. That was our best Christmas ever!

Florence Dyck is a former Mordenite now living in the Okanagan



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Baby Ronnie's first Christmas in 1975, alongside brothers Michael, James, and Charles and cousins Jonathon and Stephen.

May Every Day Be Merry

Here's hoping your season is filled with all the delights, both big and small, that make Christmastime so special.

We really appreciate everything this community has done to help us through the challenges of this past year, so we can be here to celebrate the season with all of you.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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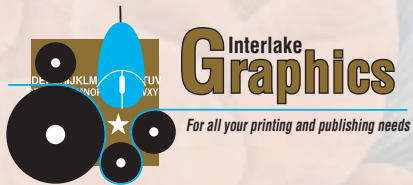
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PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Morden is projecting to increase the amount of water purchased from Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) from 5% (2020 figure) to 23% due to the current drought situation. The existing City of Morden rates were set considering that only 5% of the total water demand will be purchased from PVWC in 2014. City of Morden has not increased their "pass through" rate or increased water rates since 2014. PVWC received rate increase approvals from the Public Utility Board for the years 2018 through 2022 for a total increase of \$1.37/1000 gallons.

Whereas the City of Morden must increase their "pass through" rate to account for past and current increases and for the increased volume of water to be purchased from PVWC. The calculation is as follows/1000 gallons:

\$0.07 -	on account of PVWC rate increase (5% of \$1.37 for the years 2018 through 2022) at the purchase % of 5%
<u>\$1.97 -</u>	on account of increasing the purchase volume from the current 5% to 23%
\$2.04	

Public notice is hereby given that the water rate increase will be \$2.04/1000 gallons effective for March 1, 2022 quarterly billing in the City of Morden. That being from the present water rate of \$11.61/1000 gallons to \$13.65/1000 gallons. The sewer rate will remain as it presently is, being \$12.60/1000 gallons.

Nicole Reidle
City Manager

CAREERS

DRIVER WANTED

to deliver *The Winkler Morden Voice* to the City of Winkler and Morden along with surrounding communities.

We rent the truck, which is picked up in Winnipeg Tuesdays at 4:30 and returned Wednesday nights once delivery is complete.

Must be physically able to load and unload papers from the truck and follow directions.

Valid driver's license a requirement.

If interested call Brett at 204-485-0010 or email: bigandcolourful@mymts.net

Deadline to apply is January 9, 2022.



CAREERS

WESTERN
School Division
Morden, Manitoba

"Rooted In Caring,
Committed to Learning"



Western School Division -
serving the City of Morden and the surrounding area - invites applications from aspiring and visionary leaders for the following position:

- Principal
Morden Collegiate Institute
Dual Track Grades 9 - 12 (550 students)
1.0 FTE Principal
Closing Date: January 7, 2022 at 12:00 pm noon

Western School Division, serving the City of Morden and the surrounding area, invites applications from aspiring and visionary leaders for the position of Principal of Morden Collegiate Institute.

Western School Division fosters collaboration and joint planning among its stakeholders and is proactive in its approach to literacy and numeracy development, curriculum implementation, the inclusion of special needs, and technology for learning.

The successful candidate will demonstrate abilities and positive experiences as instructional and educational leaders, school-community facilitators, visionaries, and data-informed problem solvers. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to manage within the cultural and educational context, including possessing experience with personnel management, as well as budget and resource allocation.

Applications received prior to Jan 7, 2022, are assured of careful consideration. An eligibility list may be established to fill similar positions and will remain in effect for 4 months.

For more information and how to apply, please refer to the link below and follow the application instructions:

<https://www.westernsd.mb.ca/Employment/Pages/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx#/>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Rural Municipality of Roland

Request for Proposals -

Roland Railway Property

Go to rmofroland.com or

contact the RM of Roland

Office for a copy of the RFP.

In person: 45 3rd St. Roland

By mail : Box 119

Roland MB ROG 1T0

Phone : 204-343-2061

E-mail: caormofroland@gmail.com

Proposals Due - January 31, 2022

55+ LIFE LEASE CONDO

CROCUS VILLAGE 55+ LIFE LEASE CONDO IN WINKLER

730 sq. ft. 1 bedroom affordable Condo in a well maintained building. Condo is on the 3rd floor facing east, includes taxes and all utilities, other than internet, TV and phone. Underground parking and indoor access to a grocery store, pharmacy, hairdresser, and hearing specialist. Conveniently located downtown, across the street from the clinic, 2 banks and the Senior Centre. Lease price is \$106,136.00

Available Dec. 1st. Please call 204-325-8634 or 204-325-6412 for more information.

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. You fry food in it
4. Pesky insect
8. Gets older
10. ___ Dern, actress
11. Uncouth man
12. One who sulks
13. Napoleon's king of Naples
15. One who swims underwater
16. Make amends
17. Expressions
18. Document format
21. What a beaver makes
22. Limb
23. Photograph
24. Golf score
25. Moroccan mountain range
26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar ___
27. 20th century sex symbol
34. Remedy for all diseases
35. Bluish greens
36. Moved swiftly
37. Type of units
38. Madames
39. Indian religious god
40. Potentially hazardous asteroids
41. Leak slowly through
42. An association of criminals
43. A way to push content (abbr.)

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or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

The Winkler Morden
Voice

CAREERS



Owner Operators needed for our Deck and Van divisions.

Odanah Truck Line is located in Brandon, Manitoba and has been in business since 1999. The most common lanes we run are from the Mid-West USA to Alberta but not specifically. Owner Operators are paid a percentage of the load rate, and 100% of any fuel surcharge, tarping and layover time that is collected from the customer. Providing your own trailer would provide you with a higher percentage.

We strive to have the drivers' home for a good work/home balance.

Two years' experience would be preferable however would be willing to make an exception for the right candidate.

All drivers must supply their own personal protection equipment and all equipment necessary for securing the load. We must be compliant with all rules and regulations for border crossing, so drivers must have a passport, drug and alcohol testing, knowledge of ELD's, double vaccinated and the use of the ArriveCan app.

Please email ken@odanah.com or admin@odanah.com
with your current drivers abstract if you
are interested in joining our family.



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www.mcna.com

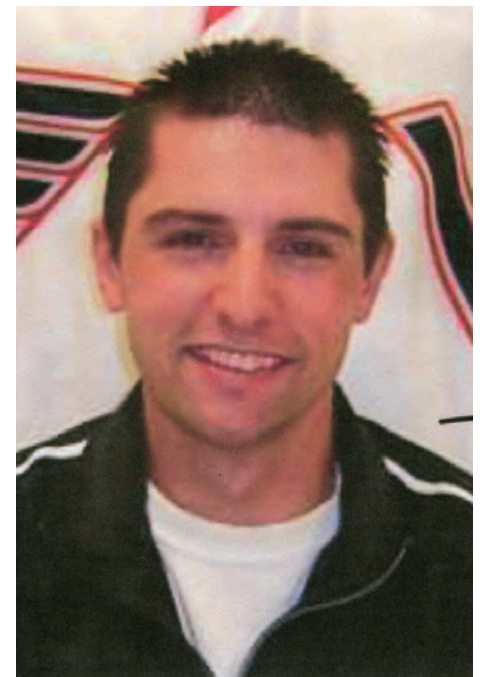
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The Winkler Morden
Voice

CALL: 204-467-5836

IN MEMORIAM



Russ Friesen
1980 – 2018

Although it's been three years since Russ has gone to Heaven, we still miss him dearly every day.

-Rick, Gloria and family

CAREERS



Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc
Carman, MB. is now hiring for a

111 Lyle Drive Carman, MB, R0G 0J0

Inventory Service Coordinator ('ISC')

The ISC is responsible for the control, management, and planning of all inventories.

Must be flexible to work 40+ hours per week and weekends as required.

Reporting directly to the Plant Manager, responsibilities of this position include, but not limited to:

- Work Safety and follow all safety policies and procedures
- Monitor customer orders and maintain clear communication with Production, Logistics, CSR's & Sales as required and have full grasp of inventory
- Communicate with all ADS facilities to procure inventory
- Lead and maintain cycle count of all finished goods, resale and BOM products
- Reconcile inventory discrepancies
- Review and partner with Production to ensure schedules and orders are fulfilled
- Monitor and communicate back orders
- Practice Continuous Improvement and 6S, including facility housekeeping
- Achieve expectations to meet standard production efficiencies and KPI's
- Oversee yard storage, as well as monitor yard operations

Job Skills:

- Knowledge of inventory and supply chain management principles and techniques
- Strong math skills, ability to perform intermediate calculations
- Capacity, lead time and production planning and scheduling understanding
- Clean, transparent communication with various levels within the company
- Ability to work without day-to-day direction and manage time independently to meet team goals
- Team player, with a positive can-do attitude

Educational Requirements:

- High School diploma or equivalent
- Post-secondary degree/diploma is preferred

Preferred Experience:

- Inventory management systems (Oracle)
- Manufacturing background
- Basic knowledge of logistic and shipping

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to sit and work on computer for 8+ hours per day
- Work outside (25%) in all weather conditions

Please email resume to Gord Unger at gord.unger@ads-pipe.com

FARMLAND TENDER

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY

Sealed tenders in writing for the purchase of the property described below will be received by McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby LLP as follows:

McCULLOCH MOONEY JOHNSTON SELBY LLP
309 Stephen Street,
Morden, MB R6M 1V1

PROPERTY FOR SALE:

PARCEL I: (Approximately 80 total acres (67 cultivated acres, 13 acres of hay meadow))

THE ELY 1320 FEET IN WIDTH
OF NW 1/4 19-2-5 WPM

EXCEPTING – AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN ALL MINES AND
MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 83160

PARCEL II: (Approximately 160 total acres (110 cultivated acres, 50 acres of pasture))

THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 5-2-5 WPM

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.
2. Tenders may be placed on both or one of the above described parcels of land.
3. Tenders must be received on or before 3:00 p.m. on January 7, 2022.
4. A deposit cheque in the amount of \$20,000.00, payable to McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby Trust, must accompany each Tender. Deposit cheques accompanying unacceptable bids will be returned.
5. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the date of closing which shall be February 4, 2022, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender. Once arrangements acceptable to the vendor have been made, the successful bidder may have access to the property for seeding and other farming purposes.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2022.
5. The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
6. The land is not subject to a first right of refusal.

For further information, contact Julie Toews

Phone: 204-822-6588

Fax: 204-822-1009

Email: julie@mmjslaw.com

Please Label Envelopes: "RM of Stanley Tender"

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OBITUARY



Harold John Gillies 1949 - 2021

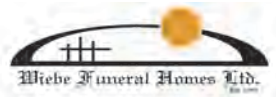
On Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Harold John Gillies, aged 72 years passed away peacefully with people who loved him by his side. Funeral service was held on December 13 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden.

Harold was born to a young lady, Jean Gillies on June 24, 1949 in Gladstone Manitoba. Harold moved to the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Friesen at the age of six where he lived most of his life. He attended the ARC school in Winkler. Harold was one of the original participants when Valley Rehab (now Gateway Resources) opened in 1969, working in the workshop. In the late 80's when the recycling department opened, he began his career there. Working the recycling line was a job that gave him great pride. Harold was

a hard worker and was never ready to fully retire. He did enjoy semi-retirement when he spent some time at the senior program, watched as many sporting events as possible and became an avid gardener and neighbourhood walker. Harold was a man who was easy to love. He loved his people whole-heartedly and expressed himself through a contagious smile that spread over his whole face. Harold had a family that spread far and wide, it was impossible to meet him and not develop an immediate connection with his kind spirit.

In lieu of memorial donations in Harold's name, we would like to encourage you to pay it forward this month. Spread joy like Harold would; make it something that would bring on his smile and chuckle.

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



OBITUARY



Peter Hildebrand 1938 - 2021

After a brief battle with a failing heart, Peter Hildebrand passed on to be in the presence of his Lord on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Peter was born July 28, 1938 to Jacob and Pauline (Kuhl) Hildebrand of Greenfarm.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, Brad and wife, Sharon, their children, Kevin and Melanie, Ryan and Sydney, Carley and Bernie Sawatzky, all of Manitoba; son, John Harv and wife, Lin, their daughters, Kelly and Jon Neufeld, Taylor and Jake Koetler, all of Alberta; five great-granddaughters, Elise, Elizabeth, Eversyn, Annora and Aarti. Peter is also survived by one brother, Donald and wife, Anne of Calgary; one sister, Judy of Sylvan Lake, and their families.

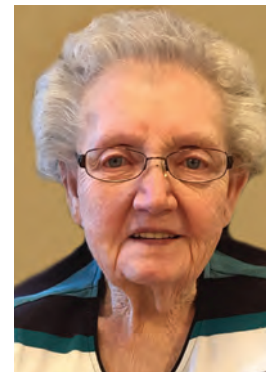
A private family service was held at Westridge Memorial Gardens on Wednesday December 8, 2021 with Rev. Gerald Neufeld officiating.

Special thanks to Dr. Convery, staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre and the Silver Linings staff who provided excellent care allowing Peter to spend his last days in his own home.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Edna Joyce Thiessen (nee Friesen) 1927 - 2021

It is with sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Edna Joyce Thiessen passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at the age of 94 years.

Edna was born in Morden, MB to Henry H Friesen and Katharina (nee Derksen) of the Langevine District on July 17, 1927. She was the oldest child of four. Mom was baptized upon the confession of her faith on April 5, 1948 in the Sommerfeld Gemeinde by Bishop Peter Toews. She married Dave Thiessen from the Mason District, south of Morden on December 20, 1951. They raised two children and farmed in Weidenfeld, MB for 38 years. Mom worked at the Altona Sewing Factory and CSP Foods. On October 13, 1990, Mom and Dad retired from farming and moved to Winkler, MB. Dad passed away on March 1, 1999 and Mom continued living in her home until September 10, 2017. She had just celebrated her 90th birthday on July 17th. On June 14, 2018, Mom was admitted to Tabor Home, Morden. She enjoyed her stay and interaction with staff and her friend across the table always showing her appreciation for everything done for her. Mom's favorite saying was "I love my life; you should always love everyone." Before admission to Tabor. Mom faithfully watched Pastor John Hagee and Pastor Joel Osteen. She loved their messages and was hoping they could officiate her funeral someday.

We are very grateful for our strong-willed mother who was always cooking, baking and shared her hospitality with great joy. Mom will be remembered by all who knew her as a strong and capable

woman who always gave to others without asking for herself. The giving brought her great joy. Her children and grandchildren were the highlight of her life.

Remaining to cherish her memory is her two daughters, Patsy and Jack Unger, grandchildren, Kimberly and Vern Derksen and Klinton Unger, great-grandsons, Jadan and Cordel Derksen; her daughter, Holly and Adrian Delorme, grandchildren, Amber and Ben Plett, Autumn and Barry Knutt, Harley and Chelsea Delorme, great-grandsons, Carter Plett and Sage Knutt. She is survived by her sister, Gladys Wiebe and sister-in-law, Truddie Friesen and many nieces and nephews as well as nieces and nephews from the Thiessen family. She was predeceased by our Dad, Dave Thiessen on March 1, 2005; sister-in-law, Agnes Friesen 1999; brothers, Henry Friesen 2013, Edward Friesen 2015, Allen Wiebe 2016.

We would like to thank Wiebe Funeral Home for helping with all the arrangements and Pastor Gerald Neufeld. Private funeral service was held with interment at the Winkler Cemetery. 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

MY MOM

Your Mom is YOUR MOM. Nobody can replace her. Nobody should replace her. Nobody can do half the things she does or has done for you. Nobody can compare to her. Only God can love you more than she does. She's only one person but she's the person that matters the most. LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOUR MOM...In Heaven or here on earth.....I LOVE YOU MOM!!

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Stephen John Eveleigh 1948 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Steve Eveleigh, at the age of 73, on December 5, 2021 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Steve was loved and will be missed by his wife, Judi, his children and stepchildren, brother, foster family, friends and fellow volunteers.

Originally born in Buchans, Newfoundland, Steve later moved to Nova Scotia at the age of four, lovingly fostered and raised by Hazel Kennedy and family. At the age of 15, he moved to Manitoba where he created a life full of memories, including starting a family, riding his motorcycles and giving back to the communities he lived in. Steve gave countless hours volunteering at the Red

Cross Blood Donor Clinics, becoming a high miler raising thousands of dollars in funds for Ride for Site and participating with the Children's Toy Runs. In 1997, Steve met Judi and together they continued supporting the Ride for Site from coast to coast, then having countless other adventures together, side by side, for the next almost 25 years, until he suddenly lost his battle with lung cancer.

As per Steve's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no formal service at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Steve's memory to the Canadian Lung Cancer Association.

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



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Brian Derksen



Konrad Friesen



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STK# W10690F

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ALERT, HEATED SEATS, 10,000 KM'S,
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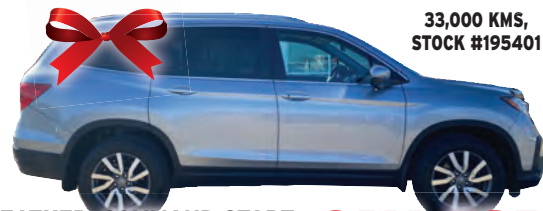
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