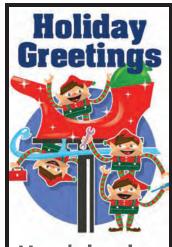




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## Morden Cheer steps up to meet increased need

### Hands out gift cards to 300 households

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Christmas Cheer Board saw the community rally to meet an increased need this holiday season.

The volunteer board had anticipated they would see more need than last year when they delivered 245 hampers.

When the campaign wrapped up last week with the delivery of envelopes with gift cards in place of the traditional hampers, the tally topped 300.

"Our hamper numbers were significantly higher this year," said chairperson Lesley Andrew.

"Our hamper numbers continued to grow, knowing the need was there due to loss of jobs, child care, shutdowns due to no fault of their own," she said. "We could not have provided our generous support for food, toiletries, and toy gift cards without the support of our generous and caring community. We want to thank each and every one."

Public health concerns led directors to rethink a number of aspects of their plans this year.

The biggest change was moving away from the traditional hampers filled with food and the large army of volunteers needed to pack and deliver

With the need to ensure physical

distancing and limit gathering sizes, the Cheer Board instead accepted only monetary donations to purchase gift cards for recipients to use on groceries and toys for the kids.

"We suspected very early in our planning that our hampers would look very different this year due to COVID-19," said Andrew. "We made the decision to go with food coupons from our local grocery stores, thinking that we could still purchase toys, school supplies, and books.

"As we all know, going into the fall season and closer to the Christmas season, it was becoming more difficult to shop for these items in person," she added. "Our Christmas Cheer campaign changed as we continued to go into lockdown with business and fundraising events being cancelled.

"Our delivery day looked very different as well," Andrew continued. "Keeping our delivery teams safe, wearing our masks, staying our social distance, we delivered our envelopes on Dec. 16."

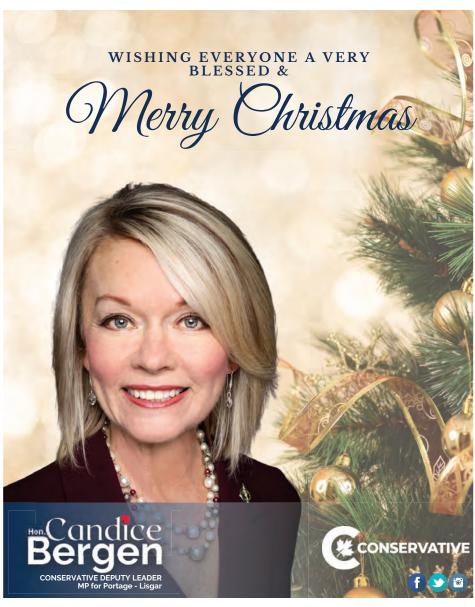
She noted the response from recipients in the days since has been heartening for the volunteer board.

"We received numerous texts and phone calls thanking us for the gifts. It was a very rewarding day for all of us."



**SUBMITTED PHOTO** 

Morden Christmas Cheer's Brian and Lesley Andrew at work delivering gift cards last week.







### **HOURS OF OPERATION:**

**Monday - Friday** 9:00 am - 5:30 pm **Saturday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm





390 1ST ST. WINKLER

## Schanzenfeld pulls together to upgrade community rink

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A group of Schanzenfeld residents are working to improve the village's lone outdoor public ice rink this winter.

Group member Isaac Martens says the rink, located behind Southwood School, is over a quarter-century old and has needed upgrades for some time now.

"About four years ago nobody was really using it anymore and so they were actually looking at just letting it run down and leaving it alone," he says.

He and a few other residents reached out to the school and the RM to get the green light to take over the rink's upkeep so Schanzenfeld families wouldn't have to leave the community looking for ice.

"With Schanzenfeld growing more and more all the time, we figured this would be a great place for families to get together ... to get out and go skating and just have something local in the community for the kids to enjoy," Martens said.

Their first task was fixing up the dilapidated warming hut.

"With the help of donations from all over town and with the help of people putting labour in at no cost we were able to put in a new floor for the shack," Martens said.

This year the group is installing new boards, once again collecting commu-

"WE'VE GOT DONATIONS FROM A LOT OF THE BUSINESSES RIGHT HERE IN THE VILLAGE."

nity donations to cover the costs.

"We've got donations from a lot of the businesses right here in the village," said Martens. "It's just been a great outreach for a lot of the businesses that have reached out and helped us like crazy."

He estimates they've raised upwards of \$20,000 for the boards.

"Now we're looking to do some additional funding to do more," said Martens. "What we're planning on doing is we want to get rid of the grass underneath there and put crushed rock down for a nice base so that we can actually get good ice in there."

They also hope to install working lights.

"Some of the lights, they pick and choose a day they decide to work," Martens said. "So we want to replace them with brand new ones.

"If we can get the funds together this winter, then we're planning on doing everything this year."

The group will need another \$10,000



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

Community donations and volunteer labour have breathed new life into the outdoor rink in Schanzenfeld, which got new boards this winter. Organizers also hope to put in new lights and, at some point, a crushed rock base for better ice. They're looking to raise a few thousand more dollars to make it all happen.

or so to complete the project.

If you'd like to make a donation towards the Schanzenfeld rink, contact Martens at 204-325-8176 or reach out to him by messaging the Schanzenfeld Online Facebook page.



## BTHC Fdn. campaign exceeds \$150,000 in donations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation's Donation Conversation campaign successfully reached its fundraising goal last week.

Actually, the campaign surpassed the initial \$135,000 goal set by organizers hoping to fill the shortfall left by the cancellation of the foundation's golf tournament and gala banquet.

"Our first goal was to meet what we would raise from those events, which we weren't able to hold this year," explained executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett. "But, of course, we hoped to exceed that by reaching \$150,000, which we did."

The campaign's mid-December tally in fact hit \$153,000.

"This is great—we're not even at the end of the year yet," Samatte-Folkett said, reminding supporters there's still plenty of time to make a donation or to purchase tickets for the 50/50

raffle

All through this month the foundation has been drawing the winners for the raffle's early bird prizes, generously donated by Co-op@Home.

The grand prize cash pot exceeded \$27,000 at press time and organizers were hoping it would hit at least \$30,000 by the time the winner is drawn on Dec. 31 (ticket sales close that day at 9 a.m.).

To purchase tickets, head online to www.bthcfraffle.ca or contact the foundation office at 204-331-8808.

### REACHING OUT

With the Donation Conversation campaign proving to be such a success, the foundation is on track to raise the \$420,000 needed to meet the palliative care, spiritual care, and equipment needs within BTHC for the year.

"I don't even really have the words ... there's been a lot of uncertainty and stress this year about not having our

usual fundraisers and how are we going to go about raising funds for these programs that we are committed to," said Samatte-Folkett. "I've gotten emotional seeing the numbers grow. I cannot believe the generosity of our community."

The campaign also served another very important purpose: getting people talking about the work the foundation does.

For the past three months, the foundation has through advertising and social media posts shone a spotlight on the impact the programs and equipment purchases it supports has on hospital staff and patients alike.

"It's been a chance to reintroduce ourselves to the Pembina Valley," Samatte-Folkett said. "We've been around for 20 years and we just felt it was a great time to do that and reach out.

"We've reached so many new people and they're learning about the pro-

"THE FEEDBACK
WE'VE HAD AND THE
DONATIONS THAT ARE
COMING IN, IT'S JUST
OVERWHELMING, IT'S
HEARTENING."

grams we fund that they didn't know the foundation supported, they just assumed it was government funding.

"The feedback we've had and the donations that are coming in, it's just overwhelming, it's heartwarming."

You can learn more about the work of the BTHC Foundation and make a donation online at bthcfoundation. com.

## **Providing a taste of** home, closer to home

"WE ARE

THIS."

**GROWING SO** 

FAST HERE. IT

WAS TIME FOR

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new grocery store in Winkler aims

to provide a more accessible taste of home to our area's growing Asian population.

The Stop & Shop Continental Grocery and Store Convenience opened its doors to the public at 600 Memorial Drive (just west of Tim Hortons) last week.

"We have lived in Canada for 10, 11 years now ... and it is kind of

a struggle when you come here and then every weekend or every other weekend you have to go to Winnipeg

or to Brandon to get your basic Indian groceries," said Bosky Patel, who runs the family shop alongside husband

Deven and brother-in-law Kunal Patel and his wife

The pandemic has made that situation even worse, she noted, and it became clear a more local option was needed for the area's diverse immigrant communities.

"We are growing so fast here," Patel said. "It was time for this."

Stop & Shop's shelves are packed full of all manner of Asian grocery and convenience products everything from everyday snacks and

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder and wife Valerie (centre) congratulated Bosky and Deven Patel and Kunal and Urvi Patel as they celebrated the grand opening of the Stop & Shop Continental Grocery and Convenience Store last week.

beverages to spices, dry beans, rice, and flours. They also include the usual convenience store basics, including milk, eggs, and cheeses.

"We also have a lot of frozen stuff, such as samosas, naan, ready-to-go vegetarian meals and, coming soon, meat ones too," Patel said.

The response in just the first few

days of operation has already been overwhelmingly positive, with customers eager to make requests products they've long had to go without.

"We will try our best to get everything we can,"Patel said.

Mayor Martin Harder welcomed the Patels to the Winkler business community at the store's grand opening last Wednesday.

"This is going to be a great addition to our community," he said, "to be able to service a culture we appreciate in Winkler. Congratulations.





### **Candlewick hosting online variety show**

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's local theatre company is not letting the holiday season pass by without offering something for the community.

Unable to do any live public performances thanks to the pandemic, Candlewick Productions is instead putting on an online Christmas variety special this weekend.

The Candlewick Variety Show: Christmas Special will be available for viewing this Sunday, Dec 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The event will be hosted by Chuck Fefchuk and Robyn Wiebe, and they are planning a show with a range of local talent featuring music, comedy, drama, readings, dance, and more.

"The lineup includes performers from across south central Manitoba ... and possibly even a couple special guest presentations," said executive director Richard Klassen. "It will all be volunteer submissions from a host of local community entertainers from La Riviere, Manitou, Morden, and Winkler."

Klassen hopes the show will help fill a void for the company and the community alike.

"Unfortunately with Candlewick, we have not had much in the way of revenue with no shows this past season, however we still wanted to get our creative juices going to present a positive event this holiday season," he said.

"The special is free to the public and is being put together in the spirit of joy and community. Even though everyone may be celebrating Christmas a little alone this season, we thought to bring a little cheer online."

The show link will be released on Candlewick's Faecbook page and website (candlewick.ca). You can also receive an email with the link by sending a request to richard@candlewick.ca.



Parents and/or guardians are asked to contact one of the following schools:

École Carman Elementary School Cecile Affleck, Principal (204) 745-2623

**Elm Creek School** 

Leslie Howard, Interim Principal (204) 436-2354

Miami School

David Langill, Principal (204) 435-2441

**Roland School** 

Brandy Chevalier, Principal (204) 343-2023

St. François Xavier School Marc Tellier, Principal (204) 864-2868

École St. Eustache Lindsay Noël, Principal (204) 353-2869

St. Laurent School

Crystal Millar-Courchene, Principal (204) 646-2209

Your child's birth certificate or Manitoba Health Card MUST be presented at the time of registration.

Registrations will be accepted between January 11 to 15, 2021, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## The Winkler Morden Morden







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# Sethens > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## We certainly live in interesting times

ry buff. It doesn't take much for me to lose myself down a rabbit hole of documentaries on all manner of topics or time periods—from ancient Greece to the Space Race.

But most of the big historical events in my lifetime have either happened when I was too young to have a real appreciation of what I was seeing

on the news (the Berlin Wall coming down comes to mind here) or else it was stuff happening so far away that it had very little impact on me personally, though I might have watched rapt and aghast at man's inhumanity to man



By Ashleigh Viveiros

(9/11 and the ensuing wars being the key "before and after" events of my generation).

Aside from a childhood dream to

join the first Mars mission (I think it's safe to say that one's not going to happen for me), I've never really had any urge to actually live through a watershed historical event, the kind that future generations would read books deconstructing how it all played out and the long-lasting impacts.

And then 2020 happened. Good grief.

It hasn't been an easy year for anyone. There's been worry and stress and tears ... so many tears. So much loss and grief and anger and frustration

But you know what else there's been? Hope. Community.

As I was putting together this week's paper, I started to notice a trend: it was a Good News week. The kind of week where story after story was about how people were stepping up to help others, to feed the less fortunate, to make sure people stuck in isolation or coping with difficult jobs felt loved and appreciated.

Even the weekly COVID-19 story (an article I've come to loathe the necessity of writing week after week) got to be a positive one for a change, thanks to our extra-early holiday deadline making a statistics recap pointless.

Instead, I got to write about how the vaccine is here. Hope is here. (And

there I go crying again.)

We're not out of the woods yet, of course. The calendar doesn't flip to 2021 and—poof—COVID-19 goes away. It's going to take months to vaccinate enough people to make a difference, and we all still need to do our part for the greater good until it's safe to finally take off our masks and embrace each other once again.

But you know what? I don't care. I choose to head into the final weeks of 2020 proud of the global scientific community who worked their butts off to find a solution. It's an historic moment. One I'm glad to be alive to see. Others this year weren't so lucky.

I choose to look back on 2020 and remember the countless acts of kindness I was honoured to record for our community, the many ways we pulled together, even as we had to stay apart.

However you are celebrating the holidays this and next week—whether it's alongside loved ones in your own household or virtually with video chats and phone calls—I hope you find joy in the not-so-simple fact that you and they are still here. We are the survivors of 2020. And that is reason to celebrate.

Merry Christmas to all our readers, and here's hoping for a somewhat less historic 2021.

# letters

### Kudos to care home staff for all that they do

Salem Home is a place I have visited most every day and sometimes three times a day for the past six years. First my mom went to Salem and sometime later my dad went too. The staff is always friendly, kind, and helpful. They have become like family to me.

As my mom's dementia progressed, the disease changed her behaviour and she became increasingly abusive, and quite unmanageable at times. One day after a pretty

difficult day my dad said, "They are always so nice to Mom, even when she gets so mean." My dad noticed and that spoke volumes to me. For years this was routine, and I really enjoyed going there and visiting my parents and other residents, going to programs and playing games with them.

Now suddenly we are in a pandemic and everything has changed. The past few weeks have become a whole new reality for me. I see very

tired and exhausted faces after working 14 hour shifts. I see tears of sadness after a caregiver comes out of a resident's room. A place that was buzzing with people has become very quiet, and I see staff now working endless hours trying to keep up. Yet they are still smiling and cheerful, saying we will get through this.

For months we have been asked to wear our masks and take precautions to avoid the spread of this ter-

Continued on page 7

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

## Giesbrecht, Ens honoured by MB Choral Association

By Lorne Stelmach

Two Winklerites have been honoured for their contributions to choral music in Manitoba.

In handing out its inaugural awards of distinction earlier this month, the Manitoba Choral Association selected Philipp R. Ens and the late Karen Giesbrecht as the first recipients of the MCA Spirit Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have made it their life's commitment to support the choral community in many ways, including contributions such as outreach, service, education, diversity, sponsorship, or other significant advocacy for the choral arts.

Ens couldn't be reached for comment on the award, but he was cited for having made significant financial contributions to the association over the years as well as for often citing his appreciation for opportunities and events planned for rural communities and in learning how his gifts will benefit all choral groups in Manitoba.

During her lifetime as a conductor

and volunteer, Giesbrecht made a tremendous impact on the association and Manitoba singers, and she was cited for having left a legacy that continues to inspire and guide musicians on their journey to create a vibrant choral community in Manitoba and beyond.

The association also presented the MCA Award for Artistic Excellence recognizing outstanding artistic achievement, innovation, and significant leadership in choral music to Winnipeg choir Camerata Nova and Westman region conductor Michelle Chyzyk.

Presented as well was the MCA New Voice Award recognizing emerging artists who inspire new projects or ideas or display artistic potential in choral music. This year's awards went to Winnipeg-based chamber choir NUOVOCE, directed by Sarah Sommer and Justin Odwak, and Brandonbased community choir Konektis, directed by Michelle Chyzyk.

"We are thrilled to have such accomplished conductors and choirs in the Manitoba choral community," said



#### PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A charitable program of Cargill in Winkler resulted in a \$10,000 donation being made last week to South Central Cancer Resource. Money comes in from the various chemical companies to be donated back to the community and they "leave it up to our farmers. Our farmers get to vote according to how much herbicide they book ... and this was by far the winning charity," explained Jeffrey Wytinck, who made the presentation to board member Dianne Mestdagh and resource co-ordinator Coral Doherty. "It is very significant. We're thrilled," said Mestdagh. "We're just so grateful to be the recipient. We will put it to good use for the support of our clients."

Jenny Steinke-Magnus, Manitoba Choral Association executive director. "These awards are a way to recognize

their valuable contributions to the choral arts scene across the province."

### > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

rible virus. Some people are compliant and willing to do whatever it takes and others are not. Some people think it's a hoax while others don't. It's not a hoax, it's very real. I was very sad when the anti-mask rally happened in Winkler, with people carrying Trump banners.

There haven't been any programs or church services held in the Salem chapel since last March. This time of year children from different schools always came to sing for the residents at Salem, and many different groups would come and present Christmas music and readings. The kids from Winkler Day Care were a highlight all

year and these kids brought such joy to the residents playing games and singing with them.

Now there is an empty chapel with chairs placed six feet apart where they do training sessions on how to put on the PPE with the people who come to visit their loved ones.

The management has done an excellent job in preparing for this crisis so that when it did come the plan on how to manage it efficiently was in place. It has become very clear to me that "we are not stuck at home, we are safe at home."

> Clara Peters, Winkler

### **Letter policy**

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.



## "Expressions of love"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community is certainly making sure the residents of Salem Home know they are loved this holiday season.

Therapeutic recreation manager Julie Ruban Mc-Donald says the Winkler personal care home has

been overwhelmed by all the gifts and cards that have poured in for residents this month.

"We've had cookdonated every single resident got a cookie and they were all wrapped up with little notes," she "WE FEEL VERY **BLESSED BY THE** COMMUNITY."

says. "We've received handmade crafts for each one of the residents, we've gotten special painted signs, homemade cards.

"There are so many people in the community who are doing so much for us," Ruban McDonald says, adding the residents "are quite touched that children, that people in the community are remembering them. They are lonely, they are miss-

info@cameronfriesen.ca



**SUBMITTED PHOTOS** 

Salem Home in Winkler has received an unprecedented number of homemade cards, gifts, and baking this month as the community does its level best to ensure residents and staff alike know they are remembered, loved, and appreciated this holiday season.

ing their families right now, but these are expressions of love that people are sending their way, and they certainly do appreciate it."

While it's not unusual for people to reach out to Salem over the holidays, this year the pandemic has put things on another level.

"It's almost like every day there's another box full,"

says Ruban McDonald. "And even just the recognition that people are giving the health-care

workers at the facility, sending muffins and cards ... it's been overwhelming."

The residents' families have also been asking what they can do for their loved ones at Christmas, and that has led to several items from the "wish list" Salem posts on its website being donated in recent weeks.

"We feel very blessed by the community," says Ruban McDonald. "All of the residents and the staff feel the love that the community is offering and the



By Lorne Stelmach

Closed to the public as a result of

pandemic restrictions, local librar-



ies thought they were going to have to cancel their annual Fines for Food campaigns.

But library patrons thought other-

"We weren't going to do it this year, but we were finding people were still putting money in an envelope and putting their name on it and saying, 'Here's my fine' and putting it in the book drop," said South Central Regional Library director of library ser-





www.cameronfriesen.ca



### Happy holidays and best wishes to you and your loves ones!

We hope this Christmas holiday brings an abundance of hope and happiness to your home. We're so very thankful for friends and customers like all of you, and we wish you the best at Christmas and always. Your unwavering support through a difficult year has been most appreciated. Thank you for making work a pleasure for us at the holidays and all year. Sincerely,

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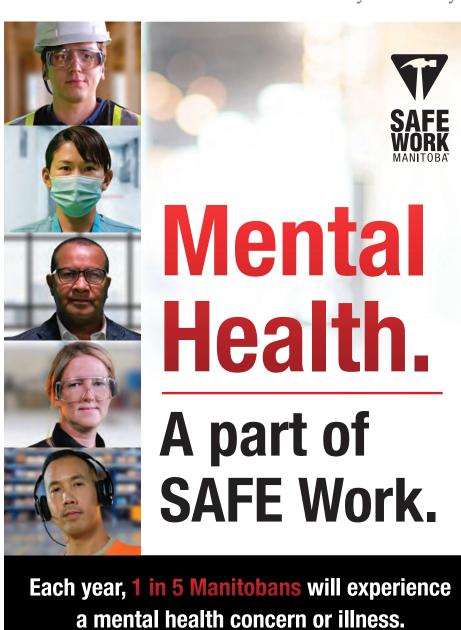


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## **Culinary students donate 10 lbs of cranberry sauce**

Central Station hosted a free drive-thru Christmas meal for the community Monday



Find community resources at safemanitoba.com



**SUBMITTED PHOTOS** 

NPC culinary arts students Max Dell and Janessa Heinrichs helped whip up 10 pounds of cranberry sauce for the Central Station community Christmas meal on Monday.

#### By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's culinary arts students did their part to help fill the plates for the community's Christmas dinner this week.

The students made and donated 10 pounds of cranberry sauce to Central Station for Café 545's free drive-thru Christmas meal, which took place on Monday.

Teacher Paul Henderson says the

program routinely gives back to the community whenever it can.

"The students and I were talking about the general hard times and how they are exacerbated during the pandemic," he said via email last week. "We talked about our excess of cranberries and the idea came up."

He said his students are very community-minded and were excited to be able to lend a hand.







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CHRISTMAS
from our Board to All!

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DECEMBER 31

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## Biz students make gifts for **Cedar Estates residents**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate business management students put the skills they're learning in class to the task of generating some Christmas joy last

The students in the Gr. 12 course have spent the past month tackling a very special project.

"I asked the students to apply what

they've learned about being a manager by actually doing something that a real manager would do," explained teacher Susana Hawryshko.

Once the teens identified their task—spreading Christmas cheer—they had to come up with a strategic plan, implement that plan, and, finally, assess how it all went.

The mission they came up with for themselves was to provide gifts to all

94 residents of the Cedar Estates seniors apartment complex in downtown Winkler.

Every resident received a custom painting, a crafted paper angel, a handmade card, and a candy cane with a joke attached.

Student Erica Lepp handled the angel-making and said the entire assignment proved to be very reward-

"It was a wonderful opportunity to spread the joy of Christmas and to see how we could reach out to the community in this time of isolation," she

"IT WAS A

WONDERFUL

TO SPREAD

THE JOY OF

**OPPORTUNITY** 

CHRISTMAS ..."

Figuring out what they wanted to do and how to do it in an efficient manner was perhaps more time-consuming than the students had thought it would be.

"I think they realized it was a lot harder than they initially thought it was going to be, it was a lot more work," said Hawryshko, noting she wanted the teens to learn first-hand

"the importance of having a strategic plan" when it comes to project management.

"Our teacher definitely emphasized the importance of planning," Lepp said. "I feel that through this project we developed our skills on planning and we were able to put them into practical use."

Knowing it might put a smile on the recipients' faces made all the

work well worth it, added Laurena Pohl, who did all the paintings, adding a personal touch in each by including the recipient's name somewhere in the scene.

With the pandemic, many seniors have had to keep their distance from

"They're probably not getting a lot of visitors so I hope this is something that will bring a little happiness into their lives, especially around Christmas," Pohl said. "Something that will make them feel that they're special."

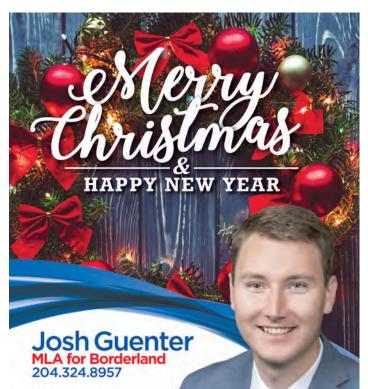


**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

GVC business management students Dmitrij Polishuk, Laurena Pohl, Erica Lepp, Anya Shkavritko, and Nick Wiebe made Christmas gifts for every resident of Cedar Estates.







## A perfect pair of photo ops

Artist Margie Hildebrand, below with husband Charlie and dog Ruby, has created a pair of photo boards for people to enjoy. They're set up at the Morden Civic Centre and the PHAC art gallery.

**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 



By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is providing another fun avenue for families to enjoy and share some Christmas spirit.

They have had two photo op stations set up downtown outside of the Morden Civic Centre and in the suncatch beside the Pembina Hills Arts Council gallery for people to pose with for a fun seasonal photo.

The wooden Christmas card images with holes cut out for people's faces came about one day as artist Margie Hildebrand was leaving the Access Event Centre just before the facility went back into lockdown due to the pandemic.

"We were thinking about our tree lighting ceremony that we would normally have with pictures with Santa and not being able to do that this year in person," said rec. programmer Stephanie Dueck.

"We just thought we could provide a fun opportunity for families to take pictures," she said, while noting that people are asked to only make use of them as individual family groups, given public health considerations.

"It was fun to work on," said Hildebrand, who had the assistance of her husband Charlie in constructing them.

"I drew up some sketches ... years ago, I used to paint Christmas windows and I had lots of old Christmas card ideas to work from," she noted. "It took us, I would say, about five or six afternoons."

Dueck hoped that they might in some small way be "adding to our festive spirit in Morden.

"We had a great artist to paint them for us, and we used durable materials so it's something we will be able to use again," she said.

"I think it's just like what you're seeing everywhere with people upping the game with decorating and just doing little things to put smiles on people's faces," said Dueck. "There's been so much taken away in terms of events and activities, so you want to add a little something to make up for all the losses."



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### Province declares Santa Claus an essential worker

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Province of Manitoba has deemed Santa Claus an essential worker, which means he'll be able to make his stops this Christmas Eve without any problems.

Manitoba's top doc Dr. Brent Roussin announced last week that St. Nick has been given the green light to delivery his gifts unimpeded.

"Santa Claus is certainly an essential worker, which means that he is allowed to travel to Manitoba and able to come to anyone's house," he said,

Continued on page 14

## **Furry holiday greetings**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

What better way to put a smile on the faces of pandemic-weary pet-lovers this holiday season than with a cute pet photo?

That's the idea that prompted dog trainer, groomer, and pet-sitter Carol Derksen of JCA Canine Inn in Miami to host a Christmas pet photo contest this month.

"With everything going on, so many people are just not in the Christmas spirit this year," Derksen says. "So we decided to put on a Christmas pet photo contest ... just to get something out there that might make people smile and not feeling so down and by themselves."

Judges poured through the 32 entries that came in from all over the region and last week crowned three winners, each of whom received a prize pack of pet supplies and gift cards for their efforts.

Taking first place was Pebbles and owner Nancy Rempel from Clearwater for their snowman-themed shot.

Second went to Miami's Nicole Parisien and her pooch Max, who donned a Santa

And third place went to a bow tie wearing third. dog named Hunter from Morden, owned by Tannis Collins.

Derksen said they also got a few cat photos and even one bird photo in the contest.





**SUBMITTED PHOTOS** 

The winners of JCA Ca-

nine Inn's Christmas photo

contest included Pebbles

dressed as a snowman in

first place, Max donning a

Santa costume in second,

and Hunter decked out in a

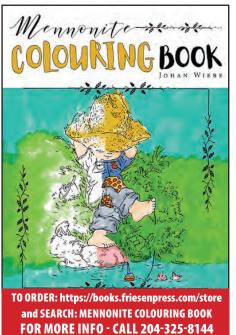
bow tie and a festive hat in



### **WANT for CHRISTMAS!**



Give something TRULY UNIQUE this Christmas!





### First COVID-19 vaccines administered in Manitoba

By Voice staff

Last week Wednesday saw the very first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered to Manitoba health-care workers.

"Today is a monumental day in Manitoba and a long-awaited day of hope as we begin to deliver the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine nine months after our first positive case in the province," Premier Brian Pallister said in a statement.

Those doses were the first of about 900 scheduled to be administered over three days at the University of Manitoba's Rady Faculty of Health Sciences beside the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) in Winnipeg.

When it comes to rolling out the vaccine, the province has given first priority to health-care workers of a certain age who have close contact with COVID-19 patients and Manitobans most vulnerable to the virus.

"Our front-line health-care workers have been stepping up throughout this pandemic and we know that stepping up now to protect them first is the right thing to do so that we can



**PROVINCE OF MANITOBA PHOTO** 

Boundary Trails Health Centre registered nurse Sherry Plett was one of the first health-care workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine last week.

protect them and the patients they look after," Pallister said.

Receiving Manitoba's very first CO-VID-19 vaccine was Dr. Brian Penner, who works in internal medicine at **HSC** 

"I am now safer for my friends and colleagues, and I hope everyone does their part to stop the spread," he said. Not far behind Penner was Sherry Plett, a registered nurse who works at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"It's important for me because I'm a front-line worker, I work in the emergency room," Plett said. "I just feel like I need to be there, I need to be healthy so I can be there and look after people in the community."

The recipients of these first doses will need to get a second shot in three weeks. That will take place at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, the "super-site" the province is setting up for the storage and administration of the vaccine. Additional vaccination sites are planned for communities across Manitoba in the new year as more vaccine arrives.

Currently, the Pfizer vaccine arrives in 975 doses that must remain in the same location where it is delivered. Manitoba expects to receive other COVID-19 vaccines in the future that can be broken down into smaller amounts and be transported, which will allow for mobile vaccination teams and, gradually, a more conventional immunization program in the year ahead, the province has said.

## "It's not a huge amount, but any little bit helps"

From Pg. 8

vices Cathy Ching. "Some people were just putting in money without having fines as well, so we thought let's make something good out of this."

The Fines for Food has been held the first week of December for the last four years, and it is based on the idea that patrons could come in and pay their overdue fines and have the money put into a jar for donation to charity. "Every community has a need, and our staff are community-minded, so somebody brought up the idea and we said let's go for it," Ching said. "Each community then sends that money to their own local food bank or Christmas Cheer.

"It's not a huge amount, but any little bit helps," she said, noting this year's tally was \$350 divided between the Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami, and Manitou branches.

"It could be just a two dollar fine here or perhaps five dollars there," noted Ching, "but it adds up a bit. "I think with everything being so scaled down this year, there's concern that a lot of people aren't going to get a lot at Christmastime, so we want to do whatever little we can do to help. Our patrons really stepped up."

Meanwhile, the library is also looking to move ahead to a lesser extent with another initiative that is usually done around the holidays.

Despite not officially launching the annual pyjama collection drive on behalf of Genesis House this fall, the branches have still been receiving more than a few donations for the women's shelter.

As a result, Ching said they are making plans to formalize the clothing drive in the new year.

"We're going to do something after Christmas because around the end of January is usually our family literacy night pyjama party," she explained. "We have bins set out, and if people want to drop it off into the book drop, we'll put them in for them."

### > SANTA, FROM PG. 12

explaining the government is making special allowances for the jolly old elf.

Speaking directly to Manitoba's children, Roussin said he knows the past several months haven't been easy for them.

"We know that this year there's been a lot of new rules. We have to wear masks, we have to continue to wash our hands, we have to keep our distance from friends and others," he said. "You can't play with your friends as much, maybe you haven't been able to visit grandparents or other family members.

"We needed these rules to protect ourselves and the people around us, but we know they've been hard."

He reminded Manitobans of all ages of the importance of celebrating only with members of their households this Christmas, staying connected virtually with other loved ones.

"Right now I need to remind ev-

eryone to stay safe at home with the people you live with," Roussin stressed. "We can't have people visit right now, even over the holiday season. We have to stay safe.

"These rules have been very difficult, but they're not going to be forever. We can see right now, with a vaccine here in Manitoba, that it's not going to be forever. We are going to get back to the things we love doing, but right now we have to stay very safe."







A long-awaited day arrived last week for Morden teacher Rosemary Zahn, who spearheaded a project starting in 2019 to raise funds to send a large shipment of books to Africa to help set up a library in her hometown. The books finally began their journey, which should see them arrive in the Kenyan capital of Mombasa by February. "it does really feel good. It was really exciting to see it come together, but I found myself feeling a bit emotional," said Zahn, who saw 53,393 books loaded up with the help of the Morden fire department (above). "I am very thankful," said Zahn, noting how so much support came from her fellow Western School Division staff as well as a number of volunteers and businesses, including Home Hardware owner David Janzen, who allowed them to store the books in their former Morden location for over two months. "The whole community really came together," Zahn said.

## Reaching out to check in on local seniors

"SOME ARE HANDLING

IT BETTER, SOME ARE

THE ONES WHO ARE

NOT, ESPECIALLY

ALONE."

By Lorne Stelmach

The board of directors of the Morden Activity Centre and Services for Seniors have been reaching out to members recently to find out firsthand and how they are faring amidst the pandemic.

The various challenges that come normally with isolation for many seniors are only further heightened right now with increased restrictions cutting them off even more, so the recent wellness checks were a small but significant step to address it.

It's important not only for seniors to have the contact but also to make sure that they are getting the support that they need, said Kimberly Klassen, who is the community resource co-ordinator for Morden Services for Seniors.

Klassen estimated the wellness checks involved close to 270 phone calls, and at least 15 per cent were identified as needing further and regular follow-up.

"Some of them are very lonely," she said. "Just the phone calls alone were pleasing everyone. They were saying they can't believe you're taking the time to call. It's very meaningful."

"The thought just came that we wonder if there are any who are fallsaid board member Brian Minaker of what sparked the initiative. "So we divided them into blocks of 25 or so and phoned them to find out.

"There are some sad, hurting people in Morden ... they are lonely."

Minaker cited for example how even making a good meal for themselves can be challenging, and some may not necessarily be able

to just easily order in food.

"There's some people who don't even really have the money to do that," he suggested, noting many people would normally come to the centre for its meal program, which serves up not just food but fellowship.

"They are facing challenges," agreed Klassen. "Just like any age, some are handling it better, some are not, especially the ones who are alone."

Many seniors don't have access to or even the technical know-how to connect virtually, she noted, and some maybe even have a hard time reading. Some also don't get around very well,

ing through the cracks, so to speak," so common chores around the house can be difficult.

"There's so much that can be taken for granted by most of us," Klassen said in noting it is hard to fully appreciate"what someone is going through when they are completely isolated ... and maybe they are physically unable to take care of themselves the way they want."

The meal program has at least been able to ensure anyone who needs it can get a good meal Mondays to Fridays, though those meals have to be delivered until public gatherings are allowed once again.

Klassen noted they got a good response to a recent appeal for more volunteers,

with six people stepping forward to help deliver the food.

The meals cost \$8.50 each. Klassen urges anyone who might know of a senior who could use a regular, healthy dinner to bring the service to their attention.

"We've had an increase in people

ing people can also purchase gift certificates to cover the costs of a meal for someone else.

Meanwhile, the senior centre has been finding little ways to help spread some seasonal cheer this month, including sending out Christmas cards and having staff out singing Christmas carols.

"It's the small things that will make all the difference in the world for them," said Klassen, noting she has also heard how many people are stepping up to help, such as one woman who moved in with her family to care for elderly loved ones. "People are doing what they need to do and adjusting, so we're just an extra resource ... for those who don't have family, we're their family."

Minaker said they will be continuing on with their wellness checks in some way well into the new year.

"We don't know where it's going from here, but it's something," he said. "What's easier than a phone call? If you're thinking about somebody, just phone them ... it doesn't have to be a big deal or present, just reach out so they can hear a friendly voice."

For more information about Services for Seniors, call 204-822-5663, e-mail mordensfs@gmail.com, or go online to www.mordenservicesforseniors.ca.

signing up for meals," she said, add-

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## ACU amalgamation has been a team effort: CEO

By Lorne Stelmach

Access Credit Union is set to be officially merged with the Winnipeg-based Crosstown Civic Credit Union as of Jan. 1.

There has been months of planning involving many people from both organizations to prepare for the amalgamation "so that we're fully ready on day one," said CEO Larry Davey.

There have been 30 to 40 teams of staff involved in various aspects of the planning for the merger, said Davey, adding there has been the additional challenge of doing all of it remotely as a result of the pandemic.

"We have had numerous people from both sides on various teams that have been working to make the process as seamless as possible," he said. "The other area that we have focused on a lot is bringing both sets of employees together and the type of culture we're going to have going forward. We've also brought the boards together in various meetings to deal with all the governance side and the



policies."

After being delayed earlier in the year, member voting on the merger took place in June. The proposal passed with a thumbs up from 87 per cent of Crosstown members and 77 per cent of ACU members.

The two institutions stressed that amalgamating provides the opportunity to take advantage of shared technology and member service channels while continuing to invest in technological enhancements to continue to deliver local, personalized financial services to members.

The merged credit union will have a combined \$5.5 billion in assets, over 89,000 members, more than 400 em-

ployees, and 26 full-service branch locations.

The Access Credit Union name remains and there will be no impact on staffing in terms of people having to relocate, Davey said.

"Probably one of the biggest aspects staff were concerned about early on was, 'I might be reporting to some-body that isn't in the same location," he said. "Once COVID hit and so many people had to work from home, that went totally by the wayside. Through the team approach, everybody got to know everybody, and everybody has become so much more comfortable with it

"It also fell by the wayside in terms

of where the corporate office is going to be; it didn't really matter," he said, while noting offices will be maintained in both Winnipeg and the Morden-Winkler highway corridor.

"So it's going to be good to go, and it's going to be truly beneficial for the membership," said Davey. "There's been a lot of support from both sides to maintain support for our communities. All of that will continue unabated."

"Our shared values and approach to member experience is part of what made this merger such a good fit," added ACU vice-president of marketing Adam Monteith, who suggested ACU's new logo and colour scheme "represents who we are, what we stand for and who we work for," he wrote by email.

"Going forward, the new Access Credit Union will continue to keep members at the centre of everything we do by communicating, building relationships and being there when they want, how they want."

## Valley Fiber says it's "at the finish line" in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Valley Fiber is getting closer to the day it will flip the switch to turn on its high-speed internet service in Morden.

Much of the infrastructure is in place, although company representatives could not reveal a specific target for a community-wide start-up date at this point.

"They want to make sure that it's all set and ready," said director of marketing Viktor Karklins earlier this month, adding that "we're looking at days, weeks ... it's not months at this point. We're right there at the finish line.

"We're not going to say yes until it's ready ... they'll never rush that piece; they'll make sure it actual works and it's live and tested and ready to go."

Morden is a key part of Valley Fiber's expansion into a number of municipalities throughout the region, and company officials earlier this year had expressed hope that it could largely be ready to go by year-end.

Karklins said they are not too far off from that projection, though the process of getting final

connections complete will continue into 2021.

"The majority of Morden has the conduits constructed to their homes," said Karklins, noting the aim was to get that first phase of getting the line in the ground done before freeze-up.

"We wanted to get that done as fast as possible before the winter hits ... and we have the majority of Morden dug and connected that way."

The next phase of extending the lines up to each individual home will continue into the new year

"There's definitely more of that install piece to be done ... they can do that all through the winter months," said Karklins.

"The last big piece then is the actual going live with the central office building there in Lions Park ... that has to be active," he said. "I think we're in the final stages of testing and making sure that is all up and running, and then very shortly we will have some big news."

Karklins said the company has had an amazing response from Morden and that it shows the community has been thirsty for better service.

"We're really excited to help bring that connectivity and help bring dedicated fiber to this community that has been aching for high-speed internet," he said. "It's a huge leap in difference in terms of technology. It's night and day in terms of what that can mean ... and we've seen that excitement from people signing up all throughout Morden."

### What's You'v story?

### We want to hear from you.

The Winkler Morden Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday?

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### A LOOK BACK

## Remembering a humble family Christmas

e were looking through an old photograph al-bum, my young daugh-

Suddenly she stopped and pointed to a faded black and white photo. "Who are those children, Mommy?" she asked. "Why do they look so

"Why indeed?" I wondered. My mind raced back in time to a memory long hidden and thought forgotten. "I'm the one in the middle," I answered slowly.

"That's your Uncle Jim and your Aunt Jeanne," I said, as I pointed to the siblings on either side of me. We stood, three sleepy-eyed, bedraggled children, beside

a small calf. Behind us stood a cattle truck.

The year was 1950. The place was a small southern Manitoba farmyard. We awakened early to say goodbye to our pet calf. First to go had been our faithful work horse, Stout. Next had been our good milk cow, Polly, and now her yet unnamed calf. Our secure world was turning upside down.



Dyck

We knew everything would be sold before our move to Ontario. But the reality of those words sank in slowly. An auction sale was held. We watched as our furniture and toys were moved out. We listened as indifferent strangers made rude comments about our meager possessions. But most of all, we searched the faces of our parents. Perhaps there we would find some hope.

Our father seemed jovial enough as he joked with friends and relatives. But our mother looked sad and anxious. Our own tears didn't fall until we were forced to part with our beloved little dog. The confusion and the losses of the past few weeks proved to be too much. We now knew what moving meant!

Father had been struggling to make a living for his young family. He had suffered his first heart attack three years earlier when I was four. Now he learned both he and our mother could work in a fruit canning factory in Grimsby, Ontario. He was also told the milder winters there would be better for his health.

The journey to Grimsby lasted three days and two nights. We travelled in our very first car, an older Chev. We drove through the United States as most of their highways were already paved. The ferry ride across

Lake Michigan was a source of wonder for three awestruck country children. I even told a Grade 3 teacher I had crossed the ocean when she asked if any of us had ever been on an ocean vessel. Prairie children did not often see such large bodies of water.

The effects of that trip lasted much longer than three days. We arrived, late at night and tired, to a dirty, cramped apartment in an army barrack-like building that housed many families. The one filthy bathroom was down the hall. This was to be our new home!

If Mother had tried to feel optimistic about the move, her optimism left her now. She soon regained her composure, though, and began cleaning and organizing us. Later, she even organized the other families by making up a schedule for cleaning the community bathroom.

When their seasonal work began, we were left on our own for the day. Mother didn't like it but she had no choice. Often she hurried home on her coffee break to make sure we were all right. We had never had babysitters or even neighbourhood friends before. Now we learned to look after each other among rough, streetwise older children. When school began in September, Jimmy entered Kindergarten while Jeanne was in Grade 4 and I was in Grade 3.

More hardships lay ahead! Mother had a severe gallstone attack which required hospitalization and time off work. Father, unable to tolerate the moist cold of Ontario, developed pneumonia and bronchitis and was hospitalized for a few weeks. Any money saved from the sale of our farmyard, auction, and factory work soon went to paying doctor and hospital bills.

The canning season ended and we moved to a rented apartment in a small house in the rural area of Beamsville. It was close to Christmas. Jeanne and I had been promised dolls to take the place of the ones left behind. Now we were cautioned not to expect anything. We could see the worry in our parent's faces and knew better than to plead.

We delighted in the few Christmas decorations Mother had brought along. The smells of Christmas baking also brought back memories of a happier time and place. We assured Mom that we didn't need anything and that the small gifts we were expecting at our school and Sunday School concerts would be enough.

Christmas morning arrived and we bounded down the stairs. We were not disappointed! Two beautiful dolls sat in the living room. They had real blonde hair and eyes that opened and shut. They were not large or expensive by today's standards, but to us they represented a miracle. Jimmy was happy with a shiny new



**SUBMITTED PHOTO** 

The author with her siblings in 1950, just before moving across the country.

truck and a hockey stick.

We had been prepared to spend Christmas Day alone. Most of our friends and family lived in Manitoba. Our Toronto relatives could not drive that distance for a day and we certainly could not afford to visit them. Then came a knock on the door. We opened it to find our landlord and his wife standing there with small gifts for each of us and an array of oranges, nuts, and candy. Their grown children were not coming home until the next day and they missed seeing the excitement of young children at Christmas. We invited them in and they spent the afternoon.

Jeanne and I together with the adults finished a puzzle while Jimmy played outside with his hockey stick. Mother served a delicious lunch of home-baked buns and cake. We had an unexpected wonderful time!

Many Christmases have come and gone since that memorable one. Now children make long lists. Some gifts they receive, others they do not. Often I reminded ours of the most precious gift of all, their family. Living with illness and poverty taught us to care for one another and to be thankful for small pleasures. The happiness new toys bring soon fades but the love in a family lasts a lifetime.

> *Florence Dyck is a former Mordenite* now living in the Okanagan

## Postponed Manitoba Games now cancelled

By Voice staff

The 2020 Manitoba Games have been cancelled.

Earlier this year, COVID-19 forced Sport Manitoba and the Dauphin Host Society to delay the Games to

Now, with the end date of the pandemic still up in the air, organizers have pulled the plug on the multisport youth event entirely.

Dauphin will instead host the next available Summer Games in 2024.

"The decision to cancel these Games was not an easy one, but it was necessary as we all want the event to be the best and safest it can be for the thousands of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, sponsors and spectators

from across the province," Sport Manitoba president and CEO Janet Mc-Mahon said in a statement earlier this month.

The work Dauphin area organizers have already done will hold them in good stead for 2024, noted Host Society reps Carla Wolfenden and Clayton Swanton.

"With our Games venues being

primarily completed at the time of putting the 2020 Manitoba Summer Games planning on hold to do our part in fighting against COVID-19, our host committee is excited to be given the opportunity to wait in the wings for safer times and we will be ready to showcase the amazing City of Dauphin and our Parkland Region's recreational assets in 2024."

# > MEAL IDEAS



Centering your holiday meal around a turkey cooked to golden perfection is the ideal way to serve a feast. Without the right preparation and execution, however, your bird could fall short. To ensure your holiday dinner centerpiece lives up to expectations, follow these simple tips, from purchase to plate:

1. Buy the right bird. Finding a turkey that's just the right size for your expected party is the start to a successful gathering. One common rule of thumb is the buy 1 pound of turkey per person - so, for a 10-person meal, purchase a 10-pound turkey. Don't forget that nearly everyone loves leftovers, so you may consider buying a few pounds more

### **One Terrific Turkey**

than necessary.

2. Be patient. If you opt for a frozen turkey, don't rush the thawing process. For larger turkeys, it can take days to defrost properly.

3. Timing is everything. Finding the right amount of time for your turkey to spend in the oven is crucial but not always the easiest thing to do. For an 8-12-pound bird, aim for 2.5-3.5 hours; 12-16 pounds for 3.5-4 hours; 16-20 pounds for 4-4.5 hours, and so on. The key is bringing the turkey to a temperature reading of 170 F.

4. Let it rest. Instead of pulling the turkey out of the oven and immediately carving it, give it a chance to rest for 20-30 minutes, which allows the juices to soak into the meat and moisten it up.



Total time: 30 minutes Servings: 10

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

2 cups (8 ounces) finely shredded cheddar cheese

1 can (2 1/4 ounces) sliced black olives,

2 tablespoons minced green onion 2 tablespoons minced red bell pepper Cheeseball

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce 1/8 teaspoon pepper

2 packages (4 ounces) Buddig Beef or Ham, chopped, divided

1 package assorted crackers

In large bowl of mixer on medium speed, beat cream cheese and cheddar cĥeese until creamy.

Mix in black olives, green onion, red bell pepper, Worcestershire sauce, pepper and 2 ounces chopped beef until well combined.

Form into ball. Wrap in plastic wrap. Chill at least 2-3 hours to allow flavors

Just before serving, roll in remaining chopped beef until completely coated. Serve with assorted crackers.



Bernice Baran Prep time: 30 minutes Cook time: 10-12 minutes Yield: 24 cookies 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted but-

ter, softened 1/2 cup C&H® Dark Brown Sugar

1 large egg 1/4 cup molasses

Recipe courtesy of

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/8 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/8 teaspoon ground cloves royal icing

Ask the Money Lady

To My Money Lady Readers,

This time I wanted to ask you a guestion - something that I have discussed with readers many times through email.

Have you ever noticed how we encourage, support, and tell others to "go for it" yet we let fear hold us back and never take the advice we so freely give out? Why is it that we often don't apply the same encouragement to our own situations; or is it, we just have trouble "practicing what we preach?"

By the time you reach your mid-fifties you have probably suffered greatly with either personal, financial or career challenges. Have you ever noticed how you can see the problems, or more importantly the solutions for others due to our own life experiences; but often cannot recognize it for ourselves? Perhaps it is our own personal or perceived insecurities about how to address difficult decisions that many Canadians today are selling themselves short, especially when it comes to saving for retirement.

Yes, I know that life is expensive and there are a lot of demands on your wallet. However, to become debt-free and wealthy the solution is very simple: set a goal, make a plan, work your plan, reassess your outcome and have the courage to make the necessary changes to achieve your goal. Consistent determination is the only way people have improved their lives and become financially successful.

I meet people all the time that I am overwhelmingly amazed at how they have overcome hardships, started a business (maybe failed more than once) and then triumphed to success.

I have helped clients who have lost everything after a divorce or career failure and have seen their unwavering desire to get back on top and be successful again. I have clients that are in their 70's who have saved too much money to spend in retirement, who never made a large income during their working careers but simply saved consistently and lived below their means. In contrast, I also have tried to help many people that look like they have it all on the outside with the fancy cars, expensive homes and clothing, yet underneath it all, they are racked in overwhelming debt and are facing a negative net worth situation. Money is emotional. To save for retirement you can either make excuses why not to, or you can find a way to make life changes and sacrifices to ensure your independence and security as you age. Remember that true success is not measured by material things that you have purchased, but instead should be defined by what you have overcome in your life. It is about how many times you got back up after you've been knocked down and never stopped trying to succeed to accomplish the things that other people said you could never do. Take back your inner power and control. Refuse to settle for less and make sure you retire debtfree and wealthy!

Good Luck and Best Wishes,

Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" and a new book Don't Panic – How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus" available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: www.askthemoneylady.ca

### **Gingerbread Cookies**

In large bowl of electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream butter and sugar about 2 minutes on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg and molasses; mix until well incorporated.

In separate bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Use mixer on low speed to add to butter mixture until combined and dough is formed.

Divide dough in half, wrap with plastic film and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 F and line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Flour clean work surface. Roll dough 1/8-1/4 inches thick. Cut out shapes with desired cookie cutters.

Transfer cookies to lined baking sheets and bake 10-12 minutes, or until firm. Let cookies cool on baking sheets 2-3 minutes then transfer to cooling rack. Cool completely.

Decorate cookies with royal icing.

Serves: 6 Orange Hollandaise:

2 egg yolks

1 orange, juice only

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted water

1 tablespoon white vinegar 8 eggs

1/2 cup butter, softened

6 French baguette slices, 3/4-inch thick

6 thick slices ham

1/2 cup orange marmalade orange zest, for garnish

To make Orange Hollandaise: In small bowl, blend egg yolks, orange juice and salt until combined. Gradually add melted butter into egg mixture while blending. Set aside.

In skillet, add water halfway up sides. Add vinegar. Bring to simmer. Break

### **Orange Eggs Benedict**

eggs into water to poach. Cook 3-4 minutes until whites are cooked through and yolks are still runny. Using slotted spoon, remove eggs and drain on paper towels.

Spread butter on one side of bread slices. Place bread in skillet and cook until golden brown. Add ham to same skillet and cook until browned on both sides.

To assemble, spread bread slices with orange marmalade. Top each with one slice cooked ham and one poached egg. Pour hollandaise over eggs and garnish with orange zest.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images (Holiday table)



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#### **OBITUARY**

#### **Cornelius Wiebe** 1939 - 2020

Cornelius (Cornie) Wiebe age 81, of Winkler, MB passed away at Salem Home on Monday December 14, 2020

He is survived by his wife, Katharina; daughter, Verna (Roy) McGuckin and their children, Amber, Tyler, Colleen; daughter, Annie (Don) Hamm and their children, Scott, Jessica (Ben) Plett, Mark, and daughter, Susie (Colin) Enns and their children, Allison, Brooke, Lauren. He was predeceased by one son, Willie.

Cornie was born in New Bothwell, MB to Jacob and Margareta Wiebe on February 23, 1939. In 1948, his family moved to Paraguay, South America. On November 14, 1963, Cornelius married the love of his life, Katharina Hildebrand. They were blessed with four children. While in Paraguay, he was a truck driver but also owned a sawmill and had a cattle ranch. In 1974, they moved to Winkler,

MB. There he spent his entire employment years working at Berdick Windows and Doors Mfg. In 1983, they suddenly lost their only son, Willie at age 18. Cornie had a true passion for travelling and as a family, we grew up spending our summers camping. In 2001 Cornie retired at age 62 and he and Tina spent any chance they could get to travel and visit their kids and grandkids. They were the biggest supporters to all the grandkids by going to sports games, concerts, and musical events. Cornie was always willing to lend a hand to anyone and loved his volunteer time with their church and MCC. With the onset of dementia Cornie went to Swan Lake Hospital in spring of 2020 until he entered Salem Home on November 6, 2020. In early December, Cornie tested positive for COVID and that ultimately took his life on December 14, 2020.

We want to thank the incredible staff at Salem Home for the amazing care and love they showed to Dad and our family during his stay at Salem. We cannot thank you enough.

Private graveside service was held at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Donations may be made in Cornie's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

We also want to thank all the amazing staff at Swan Lake Hospital for their incredible care and love they showed to Cornie. Thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home and Rev. Art Wiebe for helping quide us through this difficult time.

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



#### CAREERS





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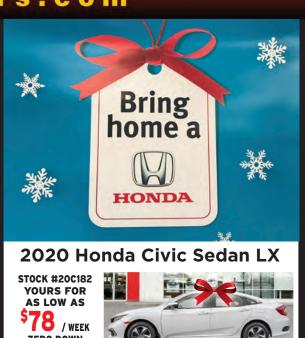
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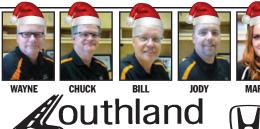


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