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STANDARD PHOTO BY DENNIS YOUNG

Monique Georgeson of Carman makes the most of the warm spring weather with a sunny stroll, pulling her children Carter, 3, and Layla, 1, in a wagon. Temperatures soared well above seasonal averages across the region.

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## LET'S RESTORE THE PROMISE OF CANADA

VOTE ON MONDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

# BRANDEN LESLIE



AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR BRANDEN LESLIE



# Carman Grade 6 class earns national spot in Ag challenge

By Annaliese Meier

A group of Grade 6 students at Carman Collegiate has put their creativity and teamwork to the test—and it's earned them a spot on the national stage.

The 6R Cougars recently placed first in their region in Ag in the Classroom's Mission Explorium challenge, a cross-curricular competition designed to inspire students to explore agriculture and its many connections.

The month-long challenge saw students tackle four themed quests—ecosystems, agriculture, food sustainability and culture—while working in small groups on rotating challenges tied to language, art, math and science, and careers.

"We learned a lot about the climate, growing and harvesting crops, food chains, how humans impact the environment, and our possible future careers in agriculture," wrote students Hadley Enns and Asilyn McFarlane-Dunn, who helped summarize the experience. "The most challenging part was keeping our groups on task and on topic. The most fun part was discovering new things and being creative with our ideas."

When asked what their favourite topic was, several students pointed to

the food challenge. "We love food and we got to create a recipe," they said.

Teacher Amanda Rheault, who co-teaches the class, said the project offered an opportunity for students to showcase their literacy and numeracy skills while building teamwork and a strong classroom community.

"They were so creative and worked really hard to collaborate and ensure everyone's ideas and needs were met," Rheault said. "They exhibited some outside-the-box thinking and I'm really proud of their commitment to completing the challenges."

Students said the Kareero app, part of the careers component, gave them insight into their strengths and how those might relate to future jobs.

"The app figured out our personality traits and recommended jobs," said Aislyn. "One area it told me I was high scoring in was creativity, which makes sense to me as I'm creative."

Collaboration played a big role in their success, and the class had several strategies for working well together. They used encouraging words, reminded each other of time limits, and pointed out how important it was not to let the group down.

Creative ideas often started with one



suggestion, then grew as teammates built on it.

"Someone would suggest something, then we would use it as a jumping off point and kept adding to the idea," one student explained.

Having topped classrooms from Grades 6 to 8 across the region, the Carman team is now competing in the national contest, where the grand prize is an indoor garden for their school.

"It felt exciting and nervous because we still need to compete at the national level," the students said. "We really want to win, but know if we don't we

still did really good."

If they win, the students hope to place the indoor garden in the school's canteen, where it could be used year-round.

"Our canteen staff could grow vegetables and herbs even during the winter," they said. "Martha is a great cook and we are lucky to have her in our building, so anything we can do to help her would be great!"

The national competition wraps up April 24, and the students are hopeful their creativity and hard work will help them grow into the next stage of success—literally.



## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF DUFFERIN PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing in the

**Rural Municipality of Dufferin  
Memorial Hall, 12-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW, Carman, MB  
Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

The proposed capital project or purchases that will be undertaken for the fiscal year 2025 as follows;  
Road 22W Bridge Replacement at cost of \$2,370,034  
with a borrowing of \$1,185,017 for 10 years.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person on our website  
<https://www.carmanmanitoba.ca/duf-finances/> or during the regular office hours of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin office at 12-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S.W., Carman, please call ahead for pickup at (204)745-2301. Dated at the Rural Municipality of Dufferin the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 2025.

**Sharla Murray, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Dufferin**



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# Miami School PAC brings Easter cheer with colouring contest

By Ty Dilello

The Miami School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is celebrating the Easter season with a colourful contest aimed at engaging young students and the wider community.

The PAC, made up of dedicated parents and volunteers, launched the Easter-themed colouring contest this month, inviting students to submit their best holiday artwork. The entries are posted on the PAC's social media pages, where members of the Miami community can vote for their favourites.

The event follows a successful holiday colouring contest held at Christmas, when the PAC also distributed goodie bags to students in Kindergarten through Grade 4.

"We've also treated the senior students to snacks during exam week and ensured that our teachers had a fantastic Teachers Appreciation Week, with warm meals prepared daily by parents," said PAC member Filomena Murray. "We didn't forget our bus drivers either, as they received a



STANDARD PHOTO BY FILOMENA MURRAY

Miami School's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) currently has a fun Easter-themed colouring contest going on this week. Here is young Parker, a student at Miami School, with his Easter entry. Also pictured are the winners of the Christmas colouring contest, Paisley, middle, who got first place and Ayla, far left, who earned second place.

gift every day as a thank you for their hard work."

The PAC has had a productive year supporting Miami School. Thanks to a successful online auction and gener-

ous contributions from local foundations and grant programs, the group raised over \$17,000 toward the installation of a new swing set.

To cap off the school year, the PAC is

planning a barbecue to celebrate both Track and Field Day and the achievements of the past year.

FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28

f i c x in  
#ItsOurVote

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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

news@carmanstandard.ca

## The audience is listening

By Cam Dahl, General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council

Movies in theaters used to start with an advertisement that used the tag line “the audience is listening.” Politicians are our audience for agriculture policy and on March 23, they really started listening. Now is the time for agriculture to speak to our politicians with a common voice. That voice begins at the farm gate and carries forward throughout the entire value chain.

On April 28th, Canadians will elect 343 Members of Parliament, with 14 coming from Manitoba. Every one of these MPs will influence, for good or bad, what happens on farms and processing facilities across the province, our access to international markets, and the regulations that will govern the industry.

The voices of farmers matter during an election. Now is the time for individual producers to actively participate in the political process. Farmers should ask themselves a basic question: “what message do you want your next Member of Parliament to deliver to Ottawa?” Then, they should get out to meet with each federal candidate in

their riding to make sure this message is understood.

Agriculture drives the economy in both urban and rural centres. For example, the hog sector delivers jobs and growth in places like Winnipeg, Brandon, Neepawa, Roblin, Killarney, Notre Dame de Lourdes, and their surrounding areas. New homes, schools and churches, recreational facilities and daycares would not be built if it were not for investments made in agriculture growth. This is a story that producers need to directly deliver to political candidates. I ask farmers from across the province to make the investment of time before April 28th to meet with candidates from all parties, at all-candidate town hall meetings, scheduled one-on-one sessions, and at your door when they come knocking.

Don't assume that your candidates understand the importance of agriculture, even if you are in a rural riding. Engagement by farmers, and telling the story of agriculture, will help to drive candidates, and the parties that they represent, to openly acknowledge the significant role that our industry plays in the economy and the makeup of our communities.

What agricultural issues should farmers raise with candidates? There are many policy areas we could talk about, but tariffs and trade are the

overriding immediate concerns. Manitoba exports approximately 90% of the eight million pigs raised annually in this province, either through processed pork or live animals. Overall, Manitoba exports \$9.3 billion worth of agriculture and food products every year. Tariffs, and the potential for tariffs, from the two key markets of the U.S. and China are the largest threats facing our industry today. If trade restrictions last without mitigation, jobs and income in every part of Manitoba will be impacted.

U.S. and Chinese tariffs are not the only trade issues facing agriculture. For example, Europe uses non-tariff barriers to restrict trade, even though we have a free trade agreement with them. Now is the time to clear these blockages.

What do we need to hear from political parties? We need a plan to deal with trade threats. I have three questions for candidates and their parties. One, “what is your plan to mitigate the impact of tariffs in the short term?” Two, “what is your plan to work with our trading partners to eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers?” Three, “what is your plan to diversify markets for Canadian agriculture?”

There are other critical policy questions to discuss. For example, reform

Continued on page 5

## This week, the way it was through the years

By Dennis Young

**100 years ago — April 24, 1925...** Town council purchases a uniform for the town constable; a bylaw is passed requiring all businesses to close Thursday afternoons; the Carman Curling Club holds its annual divine service at the Methodist Church; a meeting is held in Graysville to form a women's section of the United Farmers of Manitoba; a new committee called the Carman and Dufferin Board of Trade is formed — possibly the community's first chamber of commerce.

**75 years ago — 1950...** Average hospital patient numbers are 28.8 per month, with four per day in the nurs-

ery; tenders are invited for the Roland Hospital under the leadership of Reeve A.E. Wakely; Sperling Curling Club shows a good profit under president Trier Anderson; Madeline Sylvester is elected president of the Ladies Curling Club; Gerald Aubin is named president of the Carman Swim Club.

**50 years ago — 1975...** Cyndie-Lynn McKay wins the national five-pin bowling title in Calgary; the Carman Flying Club reorganizes with Don Barga as president; Sperling Pool Elevator celebrates its 50th anniversary; Aubin Nurseries expands its display and office space to 1,200 square feet;

an Altona Maroons player sues a Carman player following a fight during a SEMHL game; Miami plans to host the one and only Canadian Mule Championship Races.

**25 years ago — 2000...** Ed Belfour and Kelly Hand have streets named after them; Coming soon: A Daisy A Day Florists; Doug Wilton is honoured for 30 years of service with DCU; the junior Goldeyes begin their quest for a four-peat while the senior team folds; GIC rates at Roland Insurance sit at 5.75 per cent for one year; Midland Adult Education Centres offer high school courses and diplomas.

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*The Winkler Morden* **Voice** *The Selkirk Record* *Stonewall Teulon* **Tribune** *THE EXPRESS* WEEKLY NEWS

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# Flashback... Canada goes metric 50 years ago

By Dennis Young

Today, we take it for granted that our distances, weights and volumes are measured in the metric system. But a half-century ago this year, Canada broke away from the United States and its Imperial measurements, moving us out of the comfort zone we once knew.

The metric system was first legalized in 1871 by Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, but it never caught on. The need for an international measurement system became increasingly apparent to many English-speaking countries, however, as the Imperial system began to disappear by the 1960s. Prime Minister Trudeau released a white paper and a revised Weights and Measures Act in 1970 to establish a Metric Commission that would oversee export trade and industry standardization. That commission organized over 100 sector committees with the daunting task of preparing for its implementation.

Much confusion and misunderstanding would follow, and of course, change creates unrest—affecting many businesspeople, not to mention the millions of dollars spent on all types of equipment, books, tools and what have you. The transition began quickly, however.

In 1972, the provinces agreed to make all prepackaged food labeling declare their volume and mass in metric units by 1976. The general public had been conditioned to the conversion by hearing weather forecasts in both, but Fahrenheit temperatures, rainfall and snowfall were no more by 1975. April of 1976 brought wind speed, visibility and barometric pressure labelled in metric units.

Every speed and distance sign in the country was changed from miles to kilometres on Labour Day weekend of 1977. It was then legislated that every new vehicle sold in Canada had to show speed in kilometres. The change from gallons to litres at the pumps would be completed by 1979. Fabrics, home furnishings,

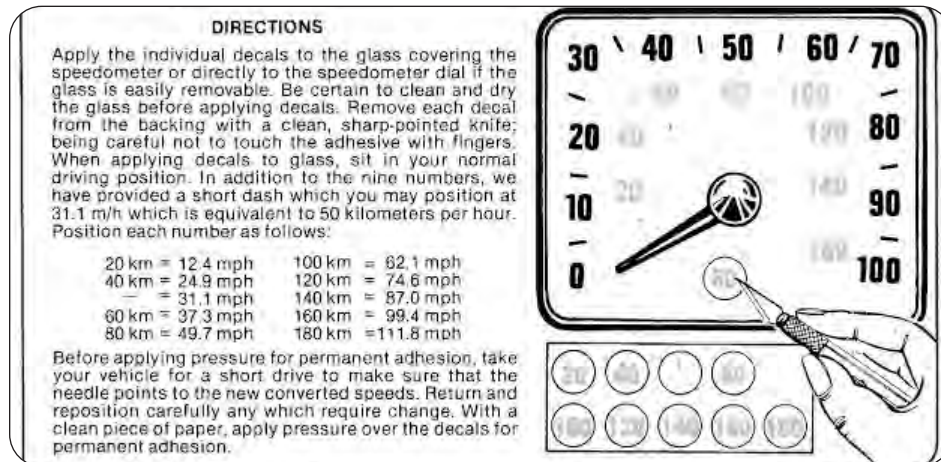


PHOTO SUBMITTED

In the 1970s Radio Shack beat the manufacturers to the "drawing board" and sold adhesive metric conversion stickers for Canadian vehicles.

shoes, grain scales and generally all retail sales were required to advertise and sell only by metre and centimetre by 1980.

There was a great deal of opposition to the move to convert Canada to the metric system, and the Progressive Conservatives abolished the Metric Commission in 1985, making the switchover voluntary.

Therefore, we have our mixed bag of tricks.

Canadians buy clothes in inches, gas by the litre, fight our weight by pounds, yet measure food by grams. We drink millilitre beer cans, eat subs by the foot, and use feet and inches for our height. Cooking is no different—using litres to measure liquid volume, while cups are used for bulk.

Most Canadians use Celsius to measure air temperature, but Fahrenheit for cooking. CFL games are played on fields measured in yards, and golfers still try to hit 300 yards... straight. Children in kindergarten from September 1976 forward were exposed to metric only and have an advantage over their parents. A yard to them will be something to play in, and a foot would be in their shoe.

Here is what some Carman residents had to say in 1975:

**Earl Van Wyck – mechanic:**

The big trouble for us is with small

items like nuts and bolts. The thread sizes are different in the new system, but the difference is so small that it's hard to tell just by looking at the bolt. The only way to be sure is by measuring with a gauge each time you pick up a bolt. It's very easy to spoil an expensive part by inserting a wrong-sized nut onto a bolt and ruining the thread.

**Nina Strachan – housewife:**

It's going to take some time to get used to. We seemed to get along all right before, but it looks like everything must be changed these days. It makes it more difficult being situated so near the U.S. I'm sure it's going to be terribly expensive to change over. If we are hoping our country will someday join the Common Market, it will eventually pay off.

**Earl Clearwater – Porter's Garage:**

Most things we work on can be measured by either system. The time when we run into trouble is working on crankshafts, pistons and cylinders that are measured in thousandths of an inch, and it takes time to adjust to this. It's more of a nuisance than a problem. My main objection is Canada changing when the U.S. is not, as most of our parts are bought from the States. It just gives a lot of busy people more to think about!

## > PORK, FROM PG. 4

of regulatory agencies like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and ensuring a science-based regulatory environment. We need to continue to prepare for foreign animal diseases like African Swine Fever and Food and Mouth Disease. Farmers need political parties to commit to providing incentives to adopt new sustainability practices instead of inhibiting regulations like the carbon

tax. Are political parties considering reform to business risk management programs? We can have these important discussions with political leaders when we know their plans to mitigate and address immediate trade threats.

Agriculture has always faced market volatility and production risk. The situation is different today. The largest risks that farmers face today are political. These risks put the long-term financial sustainability of the industry in peril, and limit

opportunities for additional investments. Governments need to act decisively and rapidly to address trade restrictions. Now is the time, during the election period, for farmers to get involved. After all, if producers don't speak for agriculture there will be others who will, and while they may not understand our industry, they will become the ones who will influence those who will be going to Ottawa.

**worship**  
with us > FAITH

## Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

This is the phrase we joyful sing and shout during at Easter.

Yet, we don't find the disciples shouting Alleluia! Instead, they're afraid and hiding.

Some of them found it hard to believe that Jesus was alive. Some of them fled when Jesus was arrested, and perhaps they were afraid of Jesus' reaction to that. But even after they see Jesus and realizing that Jesus isn't angry at them, there's still a sense of fear.

One person once said, "people don't fear change – they fear loss." If you sense that a change will bring about loss – physical loss, or even the loss of the way things had been going in your life – that may bring about a sense of fear as you wonder what will happen next.

And I think that was part of the experience for the first disciples. Jesus was alive! But now what? Life wasn't going back to the way it was before. They were going to have to "see" Jesus in new ways. They were going to have to "follow" Jesus into places they hadn't been before.

And for us, too, the new life we have in Jesus can be scary sometimes. Like those first disciples, Jesus is alive among us and ushering us into new life. That new life may mean giving up old things and attitudes with which we have become comfortable. It may mean being open to doing things we hadn't considered before.

It calls us to do more that just shout "alleluia". If we're a little uneasy with the journey forward, maybe it means that we really are following Jesus into new life, instead of just settling back into the way things used to be. And if we're open to the stories of Jesus' Resurrection bringing both "amazement" and "terror" to us, then perhaps those stories will become real for us in our lives in ways that also transform us and bring us into the kind of new life that Jesus promises.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Pastor Trudy Thorarinson  
Grace-St. John's Anglican/  
Lutheran Church

# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > CARMAN > ELM CREEK > ROLAND > FANNYSTELLE > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Manitoba invests \$13M in downtown agriculture tech hub

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitoba government is investing \$13 million in a new Global Agriculture Technology Exchange (Gate) to be developed in Winnipeg's Exchange District, Premier Wab Kinew announced Friday.

The funding will support construction and equipment costs for the Cereals Canada-led project, which will provide research, innovation and training facilities to help grain producers and processors expand into global markets.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Manitoba's economy, and this invest-

ment will protect jobs as farmers and producers are facing a trade war on two fronts," said Kinew. "This new exchange will help showcase Manitoba's grains to the world and help drive up global demand for high-quality Canadian grain products."

Gate is set to feature space for specialty milling, a pilot bakery, pasta extrusion, as well as training and office areas. The new centre aims to attract international buyers and investors while retaining Cereals Canada's headquarters in Winnipeg.

"Canada produces some of the highest quality grains in the world

and that gives us a unique advantage," said Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn. "Retaining Cereals Canada in Winnipeg will solidify Manitoba as the centre of the Canadian grains industry and a hub for global trade."

Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation Minister Jamie Moses said the government is working with Cereals Canada to bring more investment to the province.

"This partnership will protect Manitoba jobs and deliver opportunities for long-term growth," said Moses.

Cereals Canada CEO Dean Dias said the centre will help diversify markets

and reduce trade risk.

"Gate is an essential investment in providing global buyers with trusted technical knowledge and expertise, and maintaining Canada's leadership as a supplier of high-quality cereal grains," said Dias.

The province said the investment aligns with its commitment to downtown revitalization, which includes funding for Portage Place redevelopment, the Your Way Home homelessness strategy, upgrades to the downtown YMCA and support for community events such as Winnipeg Jets whiteout celebrations.

## Manitoba earmarks \$4.5M for tourism, with boost for Indigenous sector

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitoba government is investing \$4.5 million in Travel Manitoba to promote the province as a tourism destination and spur economic growth, Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Nellie Kennedy said Monday.

Ten per cent of the funding will go directly to Indigenous Tourism Manitoba.

"Tourism is a key part of what makes Manitoba such a dynamic place to live, work and visit," Kennedy said at

an event at Qaumajuq at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. "With this significant investment, our government recognizes the importance of tourism and the role it plays in the economic well-being of our beautiful province."

Tourism generates \$373 million annually in provincial tax revenue, Kennedy said, which supports infrastructure, health care and education. The sector employs more than 25,000 Manitobans.

Colin Ferguson, president and CEO of Travel Manitoba, called the fund-

ing an investment in the province's people.

"Manitoba is home to incredible, heart-stirring tourism experiences that attract travellers from across the country and around the world," Ferguson said. "Travel not only creates unforgettable memories but also supports businesses, jobs and investment in communities throughout Manitoba."

The province welcomed 10.4 million visitors in 2023, who spent a combined \$1.82 billion.

Kennedy said tourism offers more than economic benefit. Festivals, cultural experiences and outdoor recreation help residents connect with their communities and appreciate Manitoba's heritage and natural beauty, she said.

The minister presented Travel Manitoba and Indigenous Tourism Manitoba with an official proclamation to mark the start of National Tourism Week.

### ATTENTION STUDENTS:



#### TWO \$500 BURSARIES

Carman Legion Ladies Auxiliary #18 is offering two bursaries of \$500 each to a child, grandchild or great grandchild of a Veteran, Carman Legion Branch or Auxiliary member, leaving High School this year to further their education. The Bursary must be used within one year from the day it is awarded.

Application forms are available at Carman Collegiate, Elm Creek Collegiate, Miami Collegiate, Dufferin Christian School or by contacting the Auxiliary Secretary directly at (204) 745-8222.

Applications must be clearly marked Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Bursary and must be received by the Auxiliary Secretary, PO Box 98, Carman, MB. R0G 0J0 no later than Friday, June 6, 2025.

## letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: [news@carmanstandard.ca](mailto:news@carmanstandard.ca)

### Bill 43 sparks concern over rights, gender language

Bill 43 is set to be passed at lightning speed - a bill that makes using the wrong pronoun a violation of the law.

Bill 43 undermines our civil liberties and holds potentially serious implications for Manitobans

who stand on the biological truth that there are only two genders - that a man is a man and a woman is a woman. Under Bill 43, you will lose the right to freedom of speech, to freedom of conscience and to freedom of expression.

You will be forced to deny your beliefs, values or religion to satisfy an ideology.

Never before has the Manitoba government dictated which words a person must use, under threat of legal sanction. Regardless of how they spin it, Bill 43 is compelled speech.

This Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m., any Manitoban can express their opinion

at the Legislature in Winnipeg. Register to speak by calling the clerks' office @ 1-204-945-3636 or by registering in person upon arrival.

Free speech is not just another value. It is the foundation of Western society. And it's worth defending while you still have the chance.

- Jennifer Friesen, Gretna

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

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



# Prairie Soundscape kicks off another season of music

## Adult, middle years choirs open to new members

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Prairie Soundscape launched its 2025 season in the choral room of Northlands Parkway Collegiate last week, but it's not too late to join in.

The Winkler-based adult choir held its first Wednesday night rehearsal April 9, and their middle years choir was slated to meet for the first time this week. The group also runs a small ensemble choir.

All three choirs will rehearse weekly through to the end of May, when they'll take the stage on Saturday, May 31 at St. Paul's Church in Morden at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The "Night at the Cinema" theme will feature popular songs from the movies. Admission is by donation.

The choir has been providing vocalists with an inclusive, non-auditioned space to share their love of music together since 2018, says Melanie Urichuk, artistic director and adult choir conductor.

"Karen Giesbrecht and I started it, and I think we had 15 singers that first year," she says. "It's grown pretty consistently ever since."

Last week's opening rehearsal saw about 30 people of all ages and skill levels come out to raise their voices together in song, which was music to Urichuk's ears.

She and the late Giesbrecht began Prairie Soundscape to give their former students a much-needed musical outlet.

"We were both high school directors here in Winkler and it was so

hard to grapple with the fact that we had these incredible students with so much passion for music who would then graduate and there weren't really many opportunities for connecting with music and continuing that learning," she says. "We just wanted to create spaces for more singing and more joy and more community."

Even if it's been years since you've sung in a choir, you are most welcome at Prairie Soundscape, Urichuk stresses.

"Our adult choir is very much intended as a place to connect and get comfortable," she says. "We're all about creating access and opportunity for people who don't necessarily have it in other places ... we want to make sure that experience levels aren't stopping people from the joy of making music."

The adult choir is open to anyone in Gr. 12 and up, while the middle years choir is aimed at Gr. 5-8 students.

"We need lots of voices still," shares Courtney Yeo-Thiessen, coordinator of the youth choir, who notes they had about five kids pre-register but hope to see more come out this week. "If parents have a kid that they know likes to sing in the shower, maybe give them a nudge to come join us so they can grow their voice and make some musical friends."

Palmer Toews, who is on the board as a creative consultant this season, has been involved with the adult choir from the get-go. He finds the sense of community to be invigorating.

"A lot of people's schedules are so full and they feel so drained. For me, I found coming back to it, it's something that fills me," Toews shares.

"We have such a cool community that we're building," adds Heidi Friesen, who heads up fundraising for



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

Prairie Soundscape's adult choir gathered for its first rehearsal last week. The group meets Wednesday nights in Winkler and is looking for more voices.


the group. "It's very inclusive, very welcoming and come-as-you-are. It's very positive and uplifting. It's a nice community to be a part of."

If you'd like to get involved, simply connect with organizers through the Prairie Soundscape website ([www.prairiesoundscape.ca](http://www.prairiesoundscape.ca)) or stop by an upcoming rehearsal night (the middle years choir meets in the NPC choir room at 5:30 p.m. followed by the adult choir at 6:45 p.m.)

There is no cost for middle years vocalists to take part, but adult members


are encouraged to make a \$40 donation to help cover the costs of rehearsal space rentals, if they can.

"It's very important to us that everybody be able to participate, regardless of financial situation, so we have a pay-what-you-can model," stresses Friesen. She notes people are welcome to give more than \$40, if they wish, to sponsor other singers unable to make a donation. "We don't want anyone to not be able to sing with us if they want to."



## Permanent Gas Tax Relief

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BUDGET 2025




## Decorating with egg-tra flair

PHOTO BY JUSTIN MAJOR

Kelly Morissette, cake decorator at Homestead Co-op in Carman, shows off her festive bunny cake as local businesses marked Easter with colourful treats and celebrations.



# Fish, funds and facts: Roland students dive into aquarium adventure

By Becca Myskiw

What started as a persuasive writing assignment at Roland School turned into a full-on class mission—complete with fundraising, research and fish care. The Grade 3/4 students didn't just argue their case for a classroom pet; they made it happen, raising enough money to welcome 12 fishy friends into a brand-new aquarium they now proudly care for.

In another class, she introduced the idea of a classroom pet more broadly, and the Grade 3/4s held a debate. They then submitted their arguments to the school principal, who visited the class to discuss the idea.

Some students were concerned about having a pet in the classroom due to allergies or general discomfort. After addressing those concerns and discussing the responsibilities involved, the class, their teacher, and the principal agreed they could care for fish instead.

De Jaegher submitted an application to PetSmart for fish and brought in an aquarium she had at home. The class researched beginner-friendly species that could live well together, learning about water conditions, food types and fish compatibility. De Jaegher created information sheets on the short-listed fish, and students presented them to the class before making a final decision.



Their aquarium has three different types of fish and 12 fish total.

They chose three species for the aquarium:

- Zebra Danio (Zebrafish): A peaceful, community fish no more than two inches long. They prefer 17 to 23 C water, are easy to care for and eat almost any type of food.
- Platy Fish: Colourful and adaptable, platys thrive in 21 to 27 C water, eat a wide variety of foods, and get along with other similarly sized fish.
- Cory Catfish: A bottom-dweller that primarily eats algae. Cory catfish are hardy and ideal for beginner aquarists.

The students ensured the species were compatible and researched water parameters such as temperature and acidity. In total, the class welcomed 12 fish: five zebra danios, four platy fish and three cory catfish. Their aquatic friends live in a 50-gallon tank that arrived



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Roland Grade 3/4 class recently fundraised for a class aquarium.



shortly after spring break.

To fund the project, the students organized a bake and craft sale during parent-teacher night. They sold donated baked goods, handmade keychains, bookmarks, bracelets and more. Their goal was to raise \$250—but they brought in \$375.

After purchasing the fish and their food, the students donated the remaining funds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Clean the Seas.

The aquarium remains in the classroom full-time. Each student has assigned duties such as feeding the fish, cleaning the tank and monitoring water levels. De Jaegher said she's unsure where the tank will go during school breaks, but she's prepared to

take the fish home if needed.

"It provides great directed learning," she said. "They have to take on the responsibility of having a class pet. There are lots of good learning opportunities to add to our units—research and animal care."

She said the aquarium supports learning across many subjects, including science, English, math and research skills.

"[The students] love [the fish]," said de Jaegher. "Whenever they have a spare moment during breaks, they like to sit and watch them. The fish are very interactive and social with each other too, which is very entertaining for the kids to watch."

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# Cargill boosts Elm Creek arena with \$30K donation



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Picture left to right: Justin Williment, Laura Sytnyk, Daniel Lepp (Arena Board member), Scott Owen, Bethany Hansen.

By Lana Meier

Cargill has donated \$30,000 to support upgrades at the Elm Creek hockey arena, including the installation of artificial ice. The donation was made through Cargill's local Cargill Cares Council, an employee-led initiative that funds community projects in areas where

the company operates. Cargill says the arena is a popular facility enjoyed by its customers, their families and the wider community. The company hopes the improvements will enhance the rink's longevity and ensure it remains a hub for local activity for years to come.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Dubbed the "Easter Hound Dog," Ivan was born on Easter Sunday two years ago and now celebrates each year with the Akmentins family near Sperling—this time posing proudly among their hand-painted Ukrainian eggs.

Merger Announcement

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Manitoba community foundations distributed more than 1,800 grants in 2024!

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# Access CU reports on another year of steady growth

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Access Credit Union reported on a year of growth and fielded questions from concerned members about changes connected to that growth at its annual general meeting last week.

The meeting, held virtually April 16, saw board president Curt Letkeman go over some of the highlights of 2024.

"Following two years dedicated to amalgamations—Noventis and Sunova in 2022, and Casera, Carpathia, and Amaranth in 2023—2024 focused on aligning business processes from the legacy credit unions and building the culture of the new Access," he said. "This process has been exciting and has opened new opportunities that we all can be excited about. Opportunities such as the corporate sponsorship with the Blue Bombers, support of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation, the Children's Hospital, Elm Creek Arena, and many more."

Letkeman stressed that community-building remains a core focus of the financial institution, and they were honoured for prioritizing that by being named as the Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist for the year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Manitoba.

"[It's] an honour all members can be proud of," he said.

On the business front, Access CU continues to strive to offer competitive rates and services, Letkeman said, delivered by dedicated staff members.

"We're proud of our employees who greet you with a smile and are happy to serve our more than 200,000 members across Manitoba."

Looking to the future, Letkeman acknowledged the uncertainty looming from the effects of tariffs, global conflicts, and cyber threats.

"Spending on technology is becoming more crucial and expensive," he noted. "In fact, in 2023 one of the big five banks spent roughly \$725 million just on AI research alone. These costs are going to continue to increase, making it difficult for smaller financial institutions to compete."

Manitoba's credit union network has seen an increasing number of amalgamations in recent years—there are just 15 credit unions right now, down from 70 a few years ago—and it's expected more mergers are on the horizon.

"We expect amalgamations both provincially and nationally to continue," Letkeman said. "As we move ahead, know that your board's focus is on providing our members with excellent service and creating a credit union we can all be proud of."

In his report, retiring president and CEO Larry Davey highlighted the organization's work, post-mergers, on providing a consistent level of service across all its branches as well as on its online and mobile platforms.

"We're immensely grateful for the patience that all members provided us during that transition and we expect that they will continue to benefit from that work for many years to come," he said.

Access gave back over \$2.2 million this past year to support a variety of projects and causes in the communities it operates in, Davey shared.

"Whether it was capital investments in hospitals across our area or investing in community centres that enable a wide demographic of participants, we know that our members hold great value in these initiatives and we are pleased to play a significant role in supporting, promoting, and championing these exceptional opportunities."

He also shone a spotlight on their financial literacy program, which reached over 1,200 people in 2024.

Access saw strong growth this year, Davey noted.

"We are reaching more Manitobans than ever before, and in building those relationships we continue to see our business expand," he said, noting they've also been working to

control expenses and increase efficiencies across their service network. That has included consolidating or closing branches in communities where there are other nearby locations able to serve members.

The decision to close the Lowe Farm branch drew questions from members at the meeting, who stressed its value to the community, expressed frustration at the decision to shutter it without consulting members, and asked if the board might reconsider.

"The board looks at all branch closures and branch operations," Letkeman said in response. "The reality is we are operating in a very unique system. When we look at some of our competitors, the largest competitor in Manitoba would probably have three branches, whereas Access has 50+."

"We really look to see a lot of things that go into these closures. One of the realities is also traffic. In some of the smaller branches, we run the numbers and in some cases we have fewer than 10 members a day coming into some of these branches, which really makes it challenging to operate."

"And also it provides some security challenges, as we've had some unfortunate instances of robberies in the past few years, which has jeopardized the safety of our staff. So these are all things that play into it. Proximity to other branches in the nearby area plays into it."

"Branch closure are something we continue to take seriously," Letkeman said. "We look at all aspects of it."

Davey noted their data shows many members living in communities with

small branches are already making regular trips to larger markets for shopping or work.

"We don't take [closures] lightly," he said, echoing Letkeman, "but at the same time we're trying to provide the same competitive rates that are put forward by credit unions with much fewer number of branches."

"The reality is ... we have a responsibility to all 200,000 members of Access," Letkeman said in response to the impact the Lowe Farm closure specifically will have on that community. "When we make a decision, it's taking the overall organization into account."

Davey noted Access has reached out to the large account members potentially impacted by this particular closure and have found they are generally understanding of the metrics behind the decision.

"To date, we have not seen any sort of large impact," he said in response to concerns members may move their business to other financial institutions.

The meeting saw the board announce a combined member rewards payout of \$5.7 million in 2024, paid out to members as a dividend in the form of surplus shares.

Further financials shared include the \$13.4 million in assets Access CU currently has—an increase from \$12.3 million the year before—as well as \$11.5 million in members' loans, \$11.6 million in deposits, and a net income of \$48 million (down slightly from \$49.3 million the year before).

Gross operating expenses came in at \$181.5M, up from \$152.3M the year before. Davey noted the increase reflects the fact the expenses of Casera CU and Carpathia CU were only on the 2023 financial statement for six months of that year, whereas it's for the full year in 2024.

He noted administrative expenses also increased, owing largely to increases in technology costs and in prices-per-transaction on payments, which were anticipated.

"Technology costs continue to rise, which is again [one of] the benefits of being a larger organization. Allowing us to absorb and spread these costs has really been beneficial to Access," Letkeman noted.



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# Get a smile, give a smile, help SCCR April 28 to May 4

## Smile Cookie Week in support of cancer resource group

By Annaliese Meier

We are pleased to announce that everyone's favourite week — Smile Cookie Week — is back this spring from April 28 to May 4.

The South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR) Board is incredibly grateful that Tim Hortons owners Jeff and Linda Doerksen have once again chosen their organization as the recipient of proceeds from Smile Cookie sales at the Carman location — for the fourth time.

SCCR provides service and support to individuals and families undergoing a cancer journey throughout the South Central region. As the organization is not government-funded, community initiatives like Smile Cookie Week are vital to its operations, offering a fun and simple way for the public to show support.

Last year, more than 6,000 Smile Cookies were sold at the Carman Tim Hortons, with SCCR receiving the full amount from each cookie sold. This year, cookies are \$1.50 each and the goal is to sell 7,500.

To help boost fundraising, SCCR is once again inviting Carman-area busi-

nesses to sign up as "Cookie Match" sponsors — matching the day's total cookie sales with a donation to SCCR.

For example, if 400 cookies are sold on May 1, participating businesses would collectively donate \$600. Businesses can also cap their donations; for instance, choosing to match up to 500 cookies sold for a maximum donation of \$750.

Businesses that sign up will be recognized on SCCR's website and social media pages, and will receive donation receipts for the full amount contributed. (See attached form for details.)

Alternatively, workplaces can pre-order Smile Cookies for delivery in Carman — a great way to treat your team while supporting a great cause. (Pre-order form also attached.)

This iconic week-long event sees Tim Hortons guests and restaurant owners nationwide come together in support of local charities, including SCCR.

During the campaign, Tim Hortons will offer its famous Smile Cookies at every restaurant across the country. These delightful chocolate chunk cookies, adorned with cheerful pink and blue icing smiles, not only bring joy to customers but also contribute to the well-being of local communities.

100 percent of the proceeds from each Smile Cookie sold will be donated to charities operating within the respec-



tive communities of Tim Hortons restaurants. This initiative is part of Tim Hortons' longstanding commitment to giving back, with over 25 years of fundraising for local charities. Last year alone, Tim Hortons raised an impressive \$18.8 million for charities and community groups nationwide, adding to the Smile Cookie legacy of over \$150 million since the program's inception. New this year is an ooey, gooey chocolate chunk cookie!

SCCR deeply appreciates the continued support from the local community and Tim Hortons. Your participation goes a long way in helping them provide crucial services. Get a Smile, Give a Smile and Make a Difference!

For more information or if you need a delivery, contact Jack Pethybridge, SCCR board member at 204-750-8140 or email: [jpethybridge@gmail.com](mailto:jpethybridge@gmail.com)

## MPI launches online appointment booking to reduce wait times

By Annaliese Meier

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) has introduced online appointment booking for many common transactions to help reduce wait times by lowering volumes of walk-in appointments at all of its service centres throughout the province. Using the new system, customers can book appointments for the most popular customer transactions, including renewing a driver's licence or registering a vehicle.

"Our customers are increasingly looking to book and manage service appointments online, and our new system is helping us offer that convenience and flexibility to Manitobans," said Jeff Sass, MPI's Interim Vice President & Chief Operations Officer. "This new tool makes it easy to book a time for our most common services and it will cut down on the time spent waiting for assistance."

Building on the Corporation's existing booking options for Class 5 and 6 driver licensing knowledge and road

tests, MPI expanded its online offerings with a successful pilot program in November 2024 that has now become fully operational. Since November, more than 90 per cent of customers have been seen within 10 minutes of their appointment time. Previously, only 62 per cent of customers were under that threshold. Walk-in service remains available at all MPI Service Centres, with customers being assisted in between booked appointments.

Self-serve kiosks are also available in MPI Service Centres. Customers can use the kiosks to book and check in for appointments, helping to ensure everyone receives timely assistance as they access MPI's frontline services. Since the launch, 93 per cent of MPI customers have booked an appointment online or through a kiosk. Thirty-five per cent of those appointments were made by rural customers.

Customer feedback on the online booking system and kiosks has been extremely positive, with more than 90



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

MPI Winkler staff are helping roll out the Crown corporation's new online appointment system, which aims to reduce wait times by letting customers book common transactions in advance.

per cent of customers saying the tools are easy to use and 80 per cent say-

ing the wait time for service met their expectations.





## How to successfully transition to retirement: make a plan

If you've been working for several years, it may soon be time to retire. Whether you're looking forward to it or feeling anxious, these strategies can help you navigate the transition smoothly.

### TAKE A GRADUAL APPROACH

Do you love your job? Are you in good health? If so, you don't necessarily have to stop working overnight. Talk to your employer about the possibility of gradually reducing your working hours over a few years.

This way, you can enjoy having more free time to care for your loved ones, pursue hobbies or take courses. The more familiar you become with your new routine before fully

retiring, the less anxious you'll feel about the change.

### FINANCES

Transitioning to retirement can significantly impact your income. Therefore, it's essential to carefully manage your finances before altering your work schedule. Speak with a financial expert to ensure you can achieve your retirement goals while maintaining your quality of life.

Retirement is a significant milestone that requires proper preparation. Your thoughtful planning can help you face this transition with confidence and peace of mind.

## Stay in shape by gardening

If winter causes you to shift into a sedentary lifestyle, the arrival of spring is the perfect time to embrace a more active way of living. Are you looking for an activity that offers physical and mental benefits during the warmer months? It's an excellent time to give gardening a try.

### Start slow

Gardening involves various movements like walking, bending and stooping. If you want to enjoy this hobby pain-free, try a little pre-gardening warm-up. Before putting on your gardening gloves, take a few minutes to stretch and rotate your wrists, ankles and shoulders.

As you slowly familiarize yourself with the different movements involved in gardening, you'll engage all your muscles and joints more effectively. Don't forget to take breaks.

### Better physical condition

Gardening helps improve and maintain your physical fitness. Activities like lifting and digging strengthen your thigh and arm muscles and increase bone density. Weeding also enhances flexibility and supports good posture. All these activities contribute to improving your overall stamina.

### Boost your mood

Working with plants is an effective way to distract yourself from your daily worries. Focusing on the present moment and the small tasks at hand can help lower your stress levels. Gardening will certainly make you feel calmer, which is excellent for preventing anxiety and depression.

## Heavenly care agency and new home care facility in Neuenberg

When it comes to finding ways to keep an elderly or disabled family member in their own home and communities longer, safely, every bit of help is a blessing.

Heavenly Care agency has opened a new Care home facility in a small town called Neuenberg located south of Winkler.

This facility will allow for families to keep their family member within the community and not having to be displaced far away from home.

To that end, Heavenly Care Agency CEO and president Celma Pinto lauds the concept behind the Manitoba government's Self/Family Managed Care (SFMC) program, which provides financial support for individuals or families who accept responsibility for managing personal home care needs themselves or

want to supplement provincial home care services.

"This program is giving options for those families who want more care or want to get more involved in the care of their loved ones," she said.

When families apply for SFMC funding, an assessment is done by provincial staff to determine their eligibility.

They can then use that approved funding to hire an agency like Heavenly Care to provide their loved ones with home care that best fits with their needs and schedule.

Heavenly Care prides itself on providing a caring, nurturing, and respectful environment for anyone who requires some level of support to improve their quality of life. Their staff are available around the clock to aid with everything from

meal preparation to grooming to light house-keeping.

The SFMC program is a vital one, Pinto stressed, in terms of empowering families when it comes to a loved one's care.

"The good thing about this program is it is adaptable," she noted. "It gives the flexibility for a family."

As the cost of living rises in our province, Pinto hopes to see the program's funding and approved hours of care increase to help lessen

the financial strain on families and individuals who need care.

"Improving the SFMC program will keep seniors at home instead of occupying a bed in a care home," she stressed. "It's really a win-win solution for the resident and the over-burdened care homes."

You can learn more about the Self/Family Managed Care program at [gov.mb.ca/health/homecare/nonprof.html](http://gov.mb.ca/health/homecare/nonprof.html). To connect with Heavenly Care Agency about the services it offers, visit [heavenlycare.ca](http://heavenlycare.ca).

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# Boyne Book It Fun Run returns to Carman on May 24

By Ty Dilello

The Boyne Book It Fun Run is back for its sixth year, and organizers are hoping for sunshine and strong turnout when the event hits the streets on May 24.

The annual community run encourages active living for people of all ages and abilities, with 2, 5 and 10-kilometre route options through town and along scenic community pathways. Registration is now open, and early sign-up is encouraged—last year's event sold out.

"Our registration numbers are up this year, most likely due to the great spring weather that we are having," said race director Michelle Froese. "It is exciting to see a lot of out-of-town registrations, and we are priding ourselves on an event that will bring people to our town."

Organizers are urging participants to register before May 1 to secure a spot and take advantage of special youth pricing of \$25 for those 17 and under. Registration and volunteer sign-up are available at [www.boyne-bookitfunrun.com](http://www.boyne-bookitfunrun.com).

This year's proceeds will support two local causes: the Carman Community Pathway and Carman Dufferin Communities in Bloom.



STANDARD PHOTO BY MICHELLE FROESE

The sixth annual Boyne Book It Fun Run is set for May 24 in Carman. Organizers are aiming for the event's biggest year yet and are hoping for clear skies. Register by May 1 to guarantee a spot.

ferin Communities in Bloom.

After last year's event was challenged by stormy weather and route changes, organizers are hopeful for smoother conditions this time around.

"Last year, Carman received a lot of rain the night before the race—so much that we had to change the race route in multiple locations," said Froese. "The event itself was so windy and cool that our inflatable finish line arch was unable to stay in place and we had to make the decision to

deflate it for safety reasons. We can't control the weather, but I'm going to imagine great running weather is in our future."

The course itself will see some improvements this year, as the race committee is finalizing a new five-kilometre loop that incorporates more of Carman's community pathways.

"With this change, we feel the best route for our 10 km run will be to do this loop twice," Froese said. "We're excited to be offering this, as now our

amazing volunteers will get to see all participants in the 5 and 10 km."

The event is made possible by a dedicated committee of volunteers: Carly Cox, Leslie Pethybridge, Victoria Froebe, Chris Dick, Warren Hoffman, Val Tournier and Abbie Gardiner.

"Everything starts with the heart and passion of this group," said Froese. "We are all very excited to continue to offer this event in our community."

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## Have you heard about the power of meditation?

The body's natural aging process brings about changes that can cause issues like aches and pains, slower metabolism and sleeping difficulties. These physical changes can also impact your mental well-being. Fortunately, meditation can help reduce many of these symptoms. Here's a quick overview of this ancient practice and its proven benefits.

### The principle

Meditation can take many forms, but

they all focus on breathwork. By concentrating on inhaling and exhaling, you can achieve a calm state that enables you to view your thoughts and emotions more positively. Meditation also promotes stress release, resulting in a deeper sense of peace.

### The benefits

Numerous studies have investigated the effects of meditation. Many findings indicate that it can alleviate physical pain. Meditation has also been shown

to lower blood pressure and slow heart rate, which can help prevent cardiovascular diseases.

The positive impacts of meditation on mental health have also been well-documented. It can help improve concentration and stimulate memory. Meditation also supports management and prevention of anxiety and depression - challenges commonly faced by older adults who sometimes experience feelings of isolation.



If you'd like to start meditating, look for group activities in your area or visit your local library for inspiring books on the subject.

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# Anabaptist heritage on display in Altona

By Lori Penner

A unique traveling exhibit exploring the rich and often misunderstood history of the Anabaptist movement is currently set up in Altona, offering visitors a deep and interactive dive into the origins of groups like the Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites.

Through artifacts, recreated historical displays, and powerful storytelling, the exhibit traces the journey of early Anabaptist believers from their radical beginnings in 16th-century Europe to their global presence today.

Jonathan Krause and Andreas Harder, members of the Ebenezer Mennonite Brethren Church in Altona, are part of the local organizing team bringing the exhibit to town. The display was originally designed in Germany as a commemoration of the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement—marking the first adult baptism of faith in 1525.

“Our churches here are connected to the German churches that developed this exhibit,” explains Krause. “We were given permission to recreate it for our region, and now eight churches from Southern Manitoba have come together to make it accessible here.”

The result is a detailed and immer-

sive showcase featuring panels in both English and German, original 3D-printed replicas of historical artifacts, and stories of faith, courage, and persecution.

“The first baptism of faith, rejecting infant baptism, was a bold stand that cost many their lives,” says Harder. “But these early believers felt strongly about returning to a life modeled after Jesus’ teachings. That conviction spread through Europe, despite much persecution.”

The exhibit is arranged in a series of themed rooms that walk visitors through different eras of Christian history—from the early days of the Reformation and Renaissance, through the martyrdom of early Anabaptists, and into the modern era. It explores how Anabaptist communities were often forced to scatter and regroup due to persecution, yet maintained a focus on peace, scripture, and community living.

One display highlights a decision made by Anabaptist leader Conrad Grebel, who refused to baptize his infant daughter in 1525.

“This was a key turning point,” says Krause. “They believed that baptism should be a conscious decision made by an adult, not a tradition imposed on babies.”

Another section features a tradition-



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER

Andreas Harder and Jonathan Krause produce a printed page on a model of the original Gutenberg press, on display as part of the “500 Years of Discipleship” exhibition on Anabaptist history touring the region this spring.

al farmhouse scene, representing the clandestine Bible study gatherings that were crucial in preserving Anabaptist teachings. Visitors can also learn how the Bible was once so rare that towns might only have a single hidden copy, read in secret by candlelight.

A portion of the exhibit is devoted to the suffering and martyrdom faced by early Anabaptists.

“We take our freedom of faith for granted,” says Krause. “But these people risked—and often gave up—everything to follow what they believed was God’s truth.”

“This exhibit isn’t just for Mennonites,” notes Harder. “It’s for anyone

curious about why there are so many churches in Southern Manitoba or interested in learning more about religious history. It’s for people who appreciate the sacrifices others made for faith and truth.”

The exhibit, titled 500 Years of Discipleship: From the Anabaptist to Us, will be available to tour at EMBC in Reinfeld, where the German version will be displayed from April 26 to May 7 followed by the English version from May 8-11. It will also be available at GMBC in Schanzenfeld later this spring.

Admission is free, and tours run Sunday to Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., with alternative hours available upon request.

To book a tour or learn more, visit [onfireforchrist.ca](http://onfireforchrist.ca), call 204-325-7277, or email [altona@onfireforchrist.ca](mailto:altona@onfireforchrist.ca).



Above: The Farmer’s Parlour depicts the first Anabaptist meetings where communion was served and the Bible was studied. Right: The sculpture Hiker Facing Headwind represents the persecution and perseverance of the early Anabaptists.



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# Sixteen13 hosting gospel music nights, Brother Yun

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Sixteen13 Ministry is having a busy spring, with a trio of special events coming up over the next few weeks.

First up is the first of two gospel music nights raising funds for the ministry's programming.

"We're planning to do music nights every year," shares president Harold Espinosa, explaining it's a chance to get together for an evening of worship and celebration, all while supporting programs and services making a difference in the lives of people in need both close to home and abroad.

Taking the stage for the evening of bluegrass worship music April 25 are the Blue Water Brothers (Rudy Knelsen, Johanna Harder, Johnny Knelsen, Jonathon Penner, and Lorne Abrams).

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church (252 6th St.). Admission is by donation.

The music will ring out again a month later, on May 23, at the same time and location but this time featuring the Glencross Quartet.

In between the concerts, Sixteen13 is teaming up with the Bergthaler church to host a stop on the Back to Jerusalem cross-Canada tour May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

The event will feature a presentation from Brother Yun, the author of *The*



Blue Water Brothers take the stage in support of Sixteen13 Ministry on April 25. A few weeks later, on May 2, the ministry and the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church host Brother Yun, author of *The Heavenly Man*, for an evening of fellowship and inspiration.

*Heavenly Man*, which details his life of faith.

"I've always wanted to do something where believers are encouraged and inspired, and that's why we got involved to bring Brother Yun here," says Espinosa, noting Yun's stories of spreading the Christian faith in China are a "mind-boggling example of



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

what God can do."

The evening will also feature worship music led by Nathan Keys.

Admission is free, but people are encouraged to reserve their seat in advance at [concertsonrequest.ca/tickets](http://concertsonrequest.ca/tickets).

"There are 600 seats, but we also have the ability of an overflow room,"

Espinosa notes, which should allow for some same-day attendees to enjoy the show. "If it went up to 800, we could do it."

Donations will be accepted at the event in support of Sixteen13, The God Who Sees Me Missions, and Back to Jerusalem.

## Community weighs in on roundabout proposal for PTH 2 and 13 intersection

By Becca Myskiw

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has provided an update on the functional design of the intersection at PTH 2 and PTH 13.

PTH 2 is a two-lane undivided highway running east to west, and PTH 13 is a two-lane undivided highway running north to south, connecting to the Trans-Canada Highway. The two highways intersect at Elm Creek, and the junction has been the site of numerous accidents and near-misses, raising safety concerns for local residents.

The engagement summary report from the second phase of the intersection improvement project states the intersection "features free-flowing traffic on PTH 2 and stop sign control on PTH 13" and "requires improvements." The design team proposed three alternatives, includ-

ing a roundabout, which was identified as the "preferred alternative." The proposed roundabout would be located slightly east of the current intersection, with a new access route running by Ma's Drive-In.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure engaged WSP Canada Inc. to conduct a study and assist with intersection improvements. The report from the preferred alternative presentation has since been shared with the public, stakeholders, and potentially impacted landowners. Engagement methods included meetings, newsletters, newspaper ads, open houses, comment sheets, and phone and email discussions.

In meetings, stakeholders said a roundabout would improve safety by forcing vehicles to slow down through the intersection. They also

emphasized the importance of snow clearing, adequate lighting, and visibility. Additional feedback included interest in speed reductions near the Scotswood Links Golf Course and the need for oversized commercial vehicles to navigate the roundabout. There were concerns that proposed right-turn-only access to Ma's Drive-In could discourage large trucks from stopping, impacting the business's viability.

Landowners agreed a roundabout would improve safety but requested more information on a traffic lights option and questioned the need for right-turn-only access to Ma's Drive-In. They also stressed the importance of maintaining both existing accesses during construction.

The public raised concerns about the roundabout's turning radius and its impact on large commer-

cial vehicles. Some felt traffic lights would improve safety more than a roundabout, as they could reduce speed and be enforced. Concerns were also raised about current speed limits due to the high number of children walking in the area.

Overall, respondents preferred the roundabout be located further northeast to reduce the impact on local businesses and residences. There was also interest in lowering speed limits on all approaches, ensuring oversized traffic is accommodated, and re-evaluating access plans for Ma's Drive-In.

The feedback will be considered during the preparation of the final functional design, which is expected to be submitted to Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure for review later this year.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## U19 Central Energy aiming high in 2025 softball season

By Ty Dilello

The U19 Central Energy softball team is heading into the 2025 season with momentum and big aspirations, including a push toward qualifying for Nationals.

The squad opened its season with a strong showing at a preseason tournament held April 4–6 at Papillion Landing in Omaha, Nebraska, posting a 3-1 record and seeing contributions from the entire roster.

“The Nebraska tournament was a fantastic way to start the season,” said head coach Kassidy Cunningham. “It felt great to be back on the dirt and it gave us a good look at where we’re at and what we need to keep building on.”

The U19 Central Energy roster includes Delaney Penner, Maddy Friesen, Emma Klassen, Ava Sanders, Nelia Fehr, Molly Conrad, Christina Van De Velde, Bria Bonik, Karli

Toews, Heidi Reimer, Ella Harkness, and Rory Lumgair. Cunningham and Mark Friesen coach the team, while Cheri Klassen serves as team manager.

Cunningham, who has been involved in the Central Energy program for several years, said she’s excited to lead this particular group.

“I’m really enjoying this group of girls,” she said. “They’re naturally positive and full of energy, with non-stop chit-chat—which I love. It’s great for building team chemistry and keeping the vibe light and fun.”

The team’s goals this season include staying competitive in league play and earning a spot at the year-end National Championships. Cunningham believes the talent and commitment are there.

“Expectations are high,” she said. “But we’re all in and excited to see where the season takes us.”



STANDARD PHOTO BY BOBBI-JO GUFFEI

U19 Central Energy posted a 3-1 record at its recent preseason tournament in Omaha, Nebraska. The team is pictured celebrating after one of its wins at Papillion Landing.

## Farm Fest puts call out for auction item donations

May 31 music festival  
raising funds for  
local causes

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Please share your story ideas with **Dennis Young** at [denjohnyoung@gmail.com](mailto:denjohnyoung@gmail.com) or **Lana Meier** at [news@carmanstandard.ca](mailto:news@carmanstandard.ca) or call 204-467-5836.

*The Carman-Dufferin*  
**STANDARD**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The spring edition of Farm Fest is coming up soon, and organizers have put a call out for donations towards the event’s fundraising auction.

The music festival takes place on a yard just south of Winkler (head down 14 St. South and follow the signs) on Saturday, May 31 starting at 2 p.m. Admission is free; bring a lawn chair to sit on.

Festivities will include country gospel and bluegrass performances from Just Passing Thru at 2 p.m. and Glorybound Quartet at 3 p.m. followed by Elvis and Johnny Cash impersonator Adam T. Elvis singing songs from the ‘50s and ‘60s from 6:30-9 p.m.

There will also be barbecue food available for purchase, a 50/50 draw, and a fundraising auction from 4:30-6:30 p.m., the latter of which already has a few choice antique furniture items up for grabs, shares organizer Betty Hiebert.

“Henry Penner, retired auctioneer, will be leading that, and we already have a couple of pieces,” she says.

They’re open to any and all donations of new or

gently used goods to auction off.

“Sometimes people have a desk or a table and chairs or whatever just kind of sitting there and they’ve been wanting to get rid of it but haven’t had a chance to bring it to thrift store yet ... let us know and we can come pick it up for the auction.”

If you have items you’d like to donate, contact Hiebert at 204-362-4589.

Proceeds from the day will go to local charities and to help cover the costs for future festivals. The next one is planned for fall.

Farm Fest has been running since 2021, raising funds for a variety of local charitable causes.

“It just keeps growing,” shares Hiebert. “Our last fundraiser we raised \$25,000.”

If you haven’t been before, she encourages you to “come check it out for the free music—everything is by donation, except for the food, which is available for purchase.

“It’s just about getting together with other people and enjoying the great outdoors, relaxing and listening to some good music.”



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Savory Street Tacos

queso, for serving  
Cover chuck roast with taco seasoning then place in slow cooker. Pour beef consommé over roast and cook on low 6 hours to braise.

Heat oven to 425 F.

Use fork to shred roast.

Brush outside of tortillas with avocado oil and fill with meat and shredded cheese. Place in casserole dish and bake 10-15 minutes until tacos reach desired crispiness.

Place on tray and serve with salsa, guacamole and queso.

Tip: Recipe can be doubled for large crowds.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6

- 1 chuck roast (2-3 pounds)
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 can (10 ounces) beef consommé
- 16-20 street taco tortillas
- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded cheese
- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- salsa, for serving
- guacamole, for serving



Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup  
Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6

- 2 carrots
- 2 celery stalks
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 cups cooked, chopped chicken
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons lemon pepper
- 6 cups broth
- 1 cup orzo
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder

## Hot Honey Chicken Rice Crackers and Ranch Dip

1 tablespoon thyme  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 cup heavy cream  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
cucumber sandwiches, for serving  
Chop carrots and celery. In pot, saute with butter.

In bowl, mix chicken with lemon juice and lemon pepper then set aside.

After carrots and celery are tender, add broth and orzo to pot. Then add garlic powder, onion powder, thyme and sugar. Simmer 10 minutes then add chicken and cream; simmer about 5 minutes.

Add salt and pepper, to taste. Serve with cucumber sandwiches.



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6

- 3 pounds tomatoes
- 1/2 onion (optional)
- 1 garlic bulb (optional)
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon mesquite seasoning
- avocado oil
- 1 1/2 cups broth of choice

## Roasted Tomato Soup

1 cup heavy whipping cream  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
grilled cheese sandwiches, for serving (optional)

Heat oven to 375 F.

Slice tomatoes. Slice onions and garlic, if desired. Place in baking dish.

Sprinkle garlic powder, onion powder, sugar and mesquite seasoning over tomatoes. Drizzle avocado oil over top and mix well.

Bake about 1 hour. Blend until smooth.

Pour into pot and mix in broth and whipping cream. Bring to simmer and add salt and pepper, to taste.

Serve with grilled cheese sandwiches, if desired.

## Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady,

I am now finally retiring at 66 after working all my life in retail, since I was 15 years old. I am looking forward to not working, but I am still worried about not having enough money. My condo is paid for, I don't have any debt, but I also only have \$120,000 in savings. Do you think that is enough?

- Gemma

Dear Gemma – it might be enough. You will now be receiving your OAS and CPP, plus any LIRA/LIF income from company pensions. The fact that you own your condo free and clear and have no consumer debt is also a very good thing. Let's talk about the costs of aging since I know many Canadians may also be wondering if they have saved enough as well.

If we look at the time you will be retired based on a standard life expectancy for a single woman, you would need to plan for about 25 to 30 years (that would make you 91 to age 96). Planning for out-of-pocket expenses must be something you keep in mind as you age. The three most common expenses for seniors today are dental, hearing loss, and vision. I know many will think these are not important, but these are needs that can lead to many other issues if overlooked or ignored. Thankfully the Canadian government has many programs available for their aging population.

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is available for all seniors over 65 and children under 18. Aging is hard on the teeth, and everyone should go to the dentist once a year to ward off tooth decay and oral cancer. Hearing loss as you age doubles your risk of dementia and severe hearing loss makes dementia five times more likely to occur. Almost 50% of Canadians over 75 have significant hearing loss. In Ontario and Alberta seniors are covered for hearing aids and other provinces have different programs, for example, Manitoba seniors receive \$2,000 towards hearing aids – so it's a good idea to check what is available where you live. The days of the obnoxious, oversized hearing aids are now gone. Today you can join in on conversations by using a small, discrete hearing device. Glasses are a fact of life for most seniors and the Canadian government helps out with this expense too. Here is a link for those interested.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/healthy-living/your-health/lifestyles/seniors-aging-vision-care.html>

The key to not running out of



Christine Ibbotson

money for all seniors is to try to find ways to create multiple streams of income and keep your expenses to a minimum. And this should be easy enough to do, since by the time you get to retirement, you really should not be needing to buy the "big-stuff" anymore. The government security benefits will make up one stream of income, but then you will need to find more. This could include a part-time job, having a boarder in your basement, company pension plans, rental income, RRSPs and TFSA's, or annuity strategies. As a single in retirement with a small retirement savings, (less than \$400,000) why not consider a straight-life annuity that protects against longevity risk and will provide a guaranteed income for life.

A solid fixed, straight-life annuity with a good rate of return would be a great option for you Gemma. The annuity will provide you with a guaranteed monthly income for life from your \$120K investment. My worry would be that you might make excessive withdrawals from these savings in retirement for expensive hobbies, travel or just simply increasing your lifestyle, and then find that the funds deteriorate faster than you thought. The annuity will provide you with a life-long income that you can plan your new retirement budget around (along with other incomes: pension, OAS, CPP, etc.). Another tip before you retire would be to also take out a secured line of credit on your condo. I know you don't need it, but having this available in the event of an unseen emergency will make it easier to use some of your home equity if you are short on funds. Good planning and forward thinking will always ensure you live comfortably your way.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,

Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, Syndicated National Radio Host, and now on BNN Bloomberg News and CTV News every day in every province. Send your money questions, (answered free) to [info@askthemoneylady.ca](mailto:info@askthemoneylady.ca)



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## CARMAN FARMERS market AGM

**Monday April 28th, 2025 at 7:00 pm**  
Basement meeting room at the Carman Memorial Hall - All welcome to attend  
For more info call Joyce 204-626-3310 or Elsa at 204-751-0233

### Online McSherry Auctions

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## TOWN OF CARMAN PUBLIC NOTICE

### REGARDING THE 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Carman intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing in the

**Town of Carman**  
**Memorial Hall, 12-2nd Ave SW, Carman, MB**  
**Monday, May 12th, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Town of Carman at 12-2nd Avenue S.W., Carman. Dated at the Town of Carman the 10th day of April, A.D. 2025.

**Susan Stein, CMMA, CLGED**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Town of Carman**

Notice of Request for Proposals for the Purchase and Development of a Lot in The Town of Carman formerly known as the Water Tower Lot.

Closing Date: **May 18th, 12:00:59 P.M.**

Proposals must be received by Susan Stein at the Town of Carman Municipal Office at 12-2nd Avenue SW on or before the Closing Date. Proposal packages may be picked up at the Town of Carman Municipal Office or viewed on the municipal website at <https://carmanmb.web.catalisgov.ca/town-financials>. All proposals should be in a sealed envelope, signed and marked as follows: **"Purchase and Development of the Lot described as "Lots 3-9 Block 5 Plan 33408"**. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be returned unopened and will not be considered. The Municipality will not accept proposals by fax or email.

Don't miss this opportunity to invest in Carman's future!

**Susan Stein**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Town of Carman**  
[cao@townofcarman.com](mailto:cao@townofcarman.com)



## PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINANCIAL PLAN

**Thursday May 8th at 6:00pm**  
**Roland Memorial Hall**

For the purpose of: holding a public hearing for the 2025 proposed financial plan and to allow persons to make a representation, ask questions or register objections. The information about the matter and the procedures of the hearing are available for review at the RM of Roland office (45 3rd St Roland) or by emailing [cao@rmofroland.ca](mailto:cao@rmofroland.ca)

## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON PUBLIC NOTICE 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of the Municipal Act that Council for the Rural Municipality of Thompson intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing located at:

**Miami Civic Centre - Council Chambers**  
**530 Norton Avenue, Miami, MB**  
**Thursday May 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Municipal Office at 530 Norton Avenue, Miami, MB.

Melissa Brunel, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
R.M. of Thompson  
[info@rmofthompson.com](mailto:info@rmofthompson.com)  
204-435-2114



## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF DUFFERIN PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Pursuant to Section 194 of The Municipal Act, notice is given that the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, for the Rural Municipality of Dufferin are available for inspection by any person during the regular office hours of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin office at 12-2nd Ave SW, Carman or on our website at [www.carmanmanitoba.ca](http://www.carmanmanitoba.ca). Dated at the Rural Municipality of Dufferin this 8th day of April, A.D. 2025.

**Sharla Murray, CLGM, CMMA**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Rural Municipality of Dufferin**



WEDDING SHOWER



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## NOTICE TO FARMERS AND RANCHERS

**ASHERN AUCTION MART SALES FOR MAY AND JUNE**

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**MAY 28, 2025**  
**JUNE 11, 2025**

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**MAY 7th, May 14th or JUNE 4th**

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# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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Level: Intermediate

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

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

Sudoku Answer

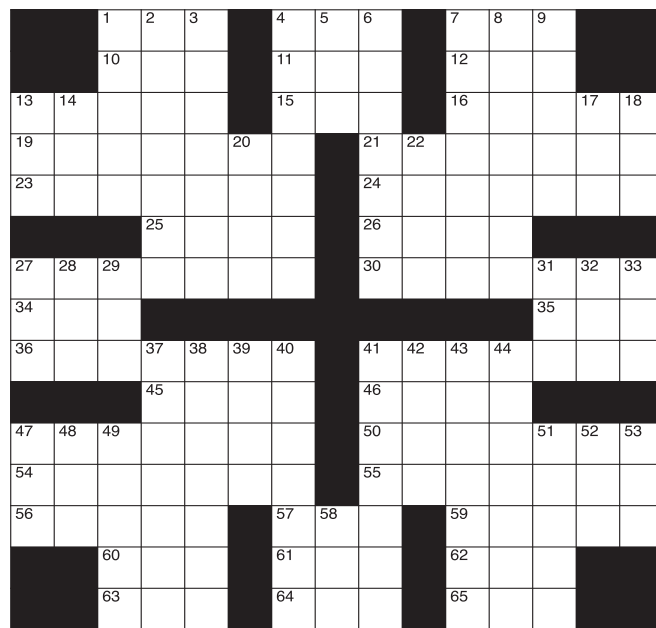
A	R	I	V	E	D	E	H	
M	E	R	V	O	E	O	V	
O	E	M	T	O	B	A	N	O
E	S	U	O	P	S	E	I	V
E	U	G	V	E	R	S	E	T
	V	E	T	E	S	S	E	M
E	O	V	O	S	V	O	N	E
K	V	O					V	F
E	B	B	E	I	N	E	S	E
	J	O	O	T	E	B	I	G
S	E	S	V	T	L	V	S	E
O	E	T	O	D	V	S	E	N
V	A	I	E	N	N	V	N	
V	R	V		E	N	E	O	V
T	P	S		S	V	G	C	B

Crossword Answer

# CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station
4. It fuels cars
7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Midway between northeast and east
12. Small Milky Way constellation
13. Fritz \_\_, Austrian chemist
15. A Brit's grandmother
16. Colombian city
19. Visualize
21. Charged
23. People's assets
24. Informative books
25. Jeer
26. You can do it with your horn
27. Agents of your downfall
30. Central Uganda city
34. Supervises flying
35. Type of tree
36. Alfalfa
41. Dishwasher soap brand
45. Hall where military eats
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Speaks incessantly
50. Discuss again
54. Extreme greed
55. Adopt or support
56. Fantasy writer Russell
57. Seize
59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
60. Noted pet detective Ventura
61. Automobile
62. Georgia rockers
63. Color opposite green
64. Amount of time
65. Attempt



## CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound
2. Some can be emotional
3. Inflammation of colon lining
4. Origins
5. Comedienne Gasteyer
6. Perceived by the senses
7. A place to play ball
8. Occur before
9. Animal body parts
13. Thanksgiving dessert
14. Root mean square (abbr.)
17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
18. Promotional materials
20. One point east of northeast
22. Piers Anthony protagonist
27. Popular sports league
28. Cologne
29. Partner to cheese
31. Constrictor snake
32. Not good
33. Supplement with difficulty
37. Hug with fondness
38. Enforced again
39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
40. Substance
41. Anterior parts of the brain
42. Brews
43. Where ships load cargo
44. Holiday season singer
47. "\_\_\_ humbug!"
48. Monetary unit of Macao
49. Popular children's book elephant
51. Glutinous
52. Function
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river



• VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION • VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION •

How to show your appreciation for volunteers

National Volunteer Week takes place this year from April 24 to 30. This annual campaign promotes volunteerism and celebrates the contributions of millions of Canadians who donate their time and energy to making their communities better places to live. This year's theme is Empathy in Action, which highlights how volunteering helps develop strong connections among people with diverse backgrounds and fosters genuine care toward others.

Volunteers are often mobilized by empathy, but their efforts are best sustained by demonstrations of appreciation. When volunteers feel recognized, they're more likely to remain connected to your cause and continue to give back. Here are some ways your organization can say thank you to its volunteers.

- Create a video. Collect footage of your organization's volunteers at work with a smartphone or other device. Then, string the clips together and incorporate some music into the mix. Once the video is edited, you can share it on social media or on your website.
- Plan a social event. Consider bringing the volunteers in your organization together with a social event. You could host a movie night, put together a meal or throw a party. Social events help encourage your volunteers to connect with each other, the cause and the organization.



CARING CONNECTS US AS A COMMUNITY!

VOLUNTEER

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated volunteers for their generous work in our community.

Town of Carman Dufferin Rural Municipality

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SUPERSTARS!

THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

GREENHOUSES VANDERVEEN'S

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WALINGA INC.

Helen Keller