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VOLUME 5
EDITION 44

THURSDAY,
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Stitching for comfort

STANDARD PHOTO BY DIANE COHOE

Boyne Regional Library volunteers Doreen Dick and Lorraine Moncado assemble packages of knitted and crocheted squares that will later be joined into cozy afghans. Once completed, the blankets are donated to Carman Palliative Care to bring warmth and comfort to those in need. See story on pg. 3.

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How a local artists listens to nature’s story

By E. Antonio

An acclaimed artist with roots in the Carman area continues to share his work across North America.

Victor Klassen was born and raised on a farm near Carman and has built a career around woodcarving and acrylic painting from his home in Mexico, where he moved in 1984.

“Mexico is very conducive to art,” Klassen said. “I moved there many years ago just for its hospitable artistry, and I got my artistic ground being there.”

Over the past four decades, Klassen’s sculptures have appeared in exhibits across Canada and Mexico. Most recently, approximately 50 pieces were shown at the Canadian Mennonite University Art Gallery in Winnipeg in a showcase that wrapped up Oct. 25.

His love for woodcarving began with a piece of driftwood he found near Moose Lake, Man.

“It had developed such interesting patterns,” he said. “I started to get lost in the wood’s intriguing design and became passionate about bringing this piece of wood to life.”

Klassen says the wood itself guides



Victor Klassen, a woodcarver and acrylic painter who grew up in Carman, now lives in Mexico where he lives out his dreams as an artist.

his creative direction, shaping the forms and stories he reveals.

“There is so much I feel when I am working with wood,” he said. “It’s like I am communicating with a source of life with a story who has gone on for millions of years. I do my



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Sculptural wood pieces by artist Victor Klassen, whose work blends organic form with natural grain. Klassen was raised near Carman and now lives and works in Mexico.

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Acrylic painting by artist Victor Klassen, whose current work focuses on colourful, abstract forms.

best to follow the wood. I let it tell me where I should carve.”

His carvings range from miniature pieces to sculptures more than eight feet tall. He primarily works with ash, Mexican tropical red cedar and oak—often selecting trees that are beginning to rot. He gathers wood from the forested area behind his home or purchases it from local suppliers.

Each sculpture can take anywhere from a few days to several years to complete.

“I often get lost in time when I am carving,” he said. “But it’s seeking the wisdom and beauty of the wood that keeps me going each day.”

Klassen shapes his pieces using small chainsaws, hand chisels and grinders, sanding and finishing them with oil or varnish.

In recent years, his focus has shifted more toward acrylic painting. He now creates colourful, abstract works that feature prominently in his current exhibitions.

Going forward, he hopes to continue creating art as long as he can.

“It brings me joy,” he said. “It makes my life feel complete.”

Anyone interested in purchasing one of Klassen’s pieces will need to visit Mexico, where his work is available through his permanent galleries.

Volunteers stitch together comfort for palliative care patients

By Lana Meier

Two of Boyne Regional Library's dedicated volunteers, Doreen Dick and Lorraine Moncado, are putting their talents to work one square at a time.

The pair recently spent an afternoon assembling packages of knitted and crocheted squares, which will later be joined together to create cozy afghans for those in need. Once all the square bundles are prepared, the library will be seeking additional volunteers to help stitch them into 5-by-7-square afghans.

Each completed blanket is donated to Carman Palliative Care, offering

warmth and comfort to patients and families during difficult times.

Library director Diane Cohoe said the project continues to bring the community together through generosity and creativity.

"We're so grateful to everyone who has donated squares, yarn and time to help keep this wonderful community project going," Cohoe said. "Every piece that's contributed helps us create something that brings warmth and comfort to others."

The library continues to accept donations of knitted or crocheted squares and wool throughout the year.



STANDARD PHOTO BY DIANE COHOE

Volunteers help keep a heartwarming community project alive at Boyne Regional Library, organizing knitted and crocheted squares that will be stitched together into afghans for Carman Palliative Care patients.

RCMP respond to fatal single vehicle rollover

By Lana Meier

A 47-year-old man has died following a single-vehicle rollover in the Rural Municipality of Victoria on Oct. 30.

At about 4:05 p.m., Treherne RCMP received a report of a crash on Road 40 North near Road 71 West. When officers arrived, emergency medical services were already on scene performing CPR on the driver, who was the lone occupant of the vehicle. He was pro-

nounced dead a short time later.

Investigators determined the man had been travelling westbound on Road 40 North when his grain truck began to drift into the ditch on the right-hand side. He overcorrected in an attempt to regain control, causing the truck to flip.

RCMP said the truck was not equipped with seatbelts.

Treherne RCMP and an RCMP traffic analyst continue to investigate the collision.

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Where are they now? Catching up with Dr. Sultan Baloo

By Dennis Young

For more than two decades, Dr. Sultan Baloo was a familiar face in Carman's business and community life, serving as the community's optometrist and an active volunteer.

"I made Carman my home from August 1975 to August 1996," said Baloo, who was born and raised in Uganda, East Africa.

Before his move to Manitoba, Baloo developed a strong love for both sports and learning. "I participated in sports—particularly tennis, badminton and table tennis," he said. "I developed a love for photography at a very young age as well as a passion for reading."

As a student, he worked several part-time jobs. "I was a mail sorter during the Christmas rush, worked for a university professor on a science project and gathered traffic statistics for the Motor Vehicle Branch," he recalled.

Baloo chose optometry as his profession. He left Uganda for the U.K. at the age of 16, completed his O- and A-levels and graduated in 1963. "Yes, I moved to Carman for my career," he said, "but first I worked in the U.K. for a year, then returned to Uganda and opened my own practice. Political upheaval forced me to leave in 1972 with my family to Canada. I spent two years at the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, which was a requirement to practise in Canada, before graduating."

During a visit to Winnipeg to see his sister, Baloo heard of a retirement

opening in Carman. "In August of 1975, I purchased Dr. Reid Cochran's business," he said.

Once settled, Baloo quickly immersed himself in the community. "Soon we joined the Kinsmen, the Masons, the Chamber of Commerce and the Young Citizens Group (average age 70!)," he laughed. "I was also a Boyne Lodge board member for a year. I continued with my education courses to keep up with the ever-changing profession."

After more than two decades serving Carman, Baloo decided it was time for a change. "After 21 years practising in Canada and 10 in Uganda, it was time to semi-retire," he said. "My business was taken over by Dr. Doug Holroyd in August 1996, and we moved to Vancouver."

Baloo met his wife, Roshi, in Uganda, and the couple married in 1966. Together they raised two children. "Our son Moezin attended K-12 and graduated from the Collegiate in 1987. After studying chiropractic in Minnesota, he is now in a group practice in Vancouver. Our daughter Shaliza graduated from Shaftesbury High School in Winnipeg in 1985 and she too works in Vancouver," he said proudly.

Even after moving west, Baloo stayed active in his profession. "I joined a group practice and worked part-time until I fully retired in 2013," he said.

These days, photography and video editing keep him busy. "I play table tennis with a group of seniors and walk regularly," he said. "Lots of travel, too—all over the Eastern African countries, South Africa, India, the Middle East, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Cuba, Turkey, Greece, Mexico, Alaska and on Caribbean cruises."

Now 88 years old, Baloo says his plans are simple. "It's time to spend quiet time at home with family and friends, make short holiday trips within Canada and catch up on reading."

He and Roshi made an emotional and nostalgic return to Carman in 2019. "The friendly nature of the



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Dr. Baloo now retired and living in Vancouver, still fondly recalls the warm welcome he and his family received when they arrived in Carman nearly 50 years ago. The Baloo family, left to right, Shaliza, Roshi, Sultan and Moezin



Dr. Sultan Baloo practised optometry in Carman from 1975 to 1996. Pictured Roshi and Sultan Baloo in their office in 1996.

townspeople was amazing," he said.

"From day one we were accepted in the community. The eye care that I provided—not just to the people of Carman, but all the surrounding towns and villages—was ap-

preciated."

"Fifty-three years ago, my wife, children and I left all our possessions behind in Uganda and made our way to Canada. Destiny was on our side. We settled down in the best country in the world—and to top it all off, the most welcoming and friendly town on the Prairies... Carman, Man! Dare I say, the forced migration was a blessing in disguise."

— Dr. Sultan Baloo



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Manitoba Hydro inspecting Natural Gas meters and regulators

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba Hydro employees and contractors will be visiting homes and businesses over the next 12 to 14 months to conduct a province-wide audit of natural gas meters and regulators.

The audit will take place in communities across Manitoba — both urban and rural — and will include about 90,000 residential and commercial customers, the utility said.

If Hydro personnel need to enter a premises to inspect a meter, customers will not have to provide their names, account numbers or any other type of personal information. Personnel will also be displaying a Manitoba Hydro identification badge.

"Meters measure the volume of natural gas consumed. Regulators control the pressure. The meters and regulators may be located together, or in separate places outside or inside a residence or business," said Manitoba Hydro in an Oct. 9 news release. "This audit is critical for the continued safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to our customers. It is a separate process from meter reading."

In addition to their identification badge, Manitoba Hydro employees and contractors will be wearing specific Hydro-branded high-visibility shirts or vests.

"The personnel will inspect natural gas meters and regulators if they are readily accessible, but if necessary, they will come to the door and ask to be directed to the gas meter and regulator," states the release.

Customers should be aware that Manitoba Hydro employees or contractors performing this work will display their identification, be working from sunrise to sunset (as adjusted to the season) and may also work later hours in rural areas, may ask to enter a private residence or business for the purpose of auditing gas meters and regulators, and will not ask for names, account numbers or any other personal information.

Customers can contact Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376 with any questions about the gas meter and regulator audit.

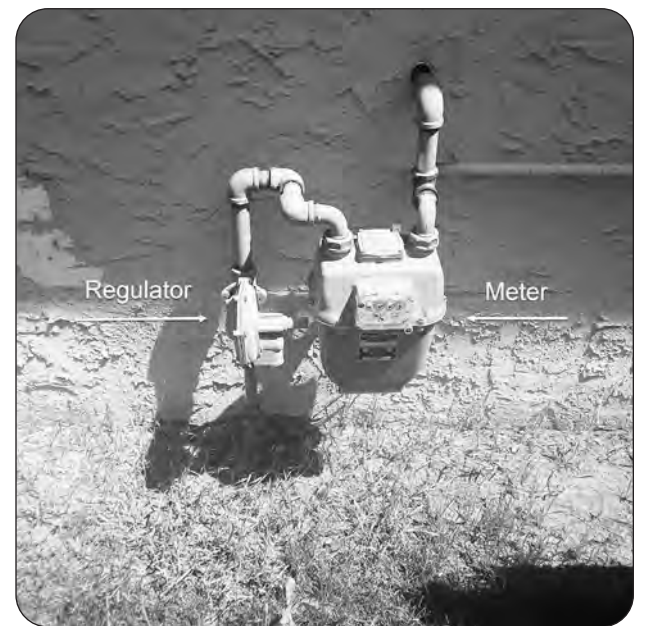


PHOTO BY MANITOBA HYDRO

A gas meter and regulator located outside a building.

Province accepts all recommendations in planning review

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government has accepted all the recommendations in the final report of the independent review of the Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act (Bill 37), announced Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard.

"The previous government's changes to the Municipal Planning Act were intended to squash local-community voices and centralize top-down control over municipal decisions," Simard said. "We don't think local communities should be dictated to by the provincial government. We believe municipalities should have the freedom to choose their own plan based on what's best for their citizens."

Simard said the review addresses criticisms raised by municipalities, and "builds on the work we've already done to reverse decisions made by the previous government. We look forward to working in partnership with municipalities to build a stronger, more responsive planning system."

The review began in November 2023 after the province introduced an amendment to The Planning Act that granted municipalities the right to opt-out of Plan 20-50, a regional growth plan for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region that many municipalities outside Winnipeg opposed. According to the government's notice, over 250 participants representing more than 95 municipalities, development stakeholders and the public

were involved in the consultation process.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) welcomed the tabling of the Statutory Review Report. "We look forward to the Manitoba government's implementation plan and working together to strengthen Manitoba's planning framework. It's essential that any changes continue to respect local autonomy, as municipal councils are best positioned to make decisions that reflect their communities' priorities," said AMM president Kathy Valentino.

The Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM) also offered support. "As trusted partners, we will continue to work closely together to plan for sustainable and inclusive growth, harnessing our province's unique bilingual advantage to strengthen our communities," said AMBM president Ivan Normandeau. "We also underscore the importance of fully supporting municipal action and equipping municipalities ... with the necessary tools to fulfil their mandates in service of residents."

Under Bill 37 (originally proclaimed May 20, 2021), key changes to the provincial planning framework included new mandated timelines for planning decisions, expanded appeal rights to the Manitoba Municipal Board, the establishment of regional planning mechanisms (including the Capital Planning Region), and steps to streamline development approvals and reduce red tape.

A government bulletin notes the review aligns with the province's commitment to ensure local voices are respected and timelines for approvals are sped up.

The next step will be for the prov-

ince to outline an implementation plan for the accepted recommendations — a process AMM said it looks forward to.



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The Carman-Dufferin Standard is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication through Canada Post to 3,457 homes by BigandColourful Printing and Publishing.

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Historic landmarks gain new signs at Dufferin Museum

By Lana Meier

Two local landmarks received a touch of history this week as new interpretive signs were installed at the Dufferin Historical Museum.

The Boyne School and the Town Whistle, both cherished symbols of Carman's past, now feature signage explaining their origins and significance. Visitors can learn how each piece played a role in the community's development and daily life.

"The signs add another layer of storytelling to our museum grounds," said museum volunteer Dennis Young. "They help people understand not just what these artifacts are, but why they mattered to the people who lived here."

Museum volunteers Mike Kippen, Dennis Young and Ted Wiebe helped oversee the installation.

Tours will resume next summer when the museum re-opens for the season.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured left to right: Mike Kippen, Dennis Young and Ted Wiebe with the newly installed signs in front of the town whistle at the Dufferin Historical Museum.

The way it was this week: November 5

By Dennis Young

100 years ago — 1925: Interest grows in establishing a new curling rink at the Palace Livery Barn. Carmania special: Nielson's Milk Chocolate, regular 25¢, now 15¢. A palm reader entertains guests at the Ryall Hotel. The Dufferin Agricultural Society reports a net profit of \$4,022.68 for the year. A new Ford Touring Car sells for \$625 at Porter's Garage. Halloween antics are cleaned up by students working alongside the constable.

75 years ago — 1950: Town council considers taking out a \$50,000 debenture for improvements. Safeway ground beef is 55¢ a pound. New Method Tailors advertises repairs and alterations. The sixth annual Old

Time Fiddlers' Contest offers \$85 in prize money. Carman Frosted Foods rents meat lockers for \$15.50 a year. Council discusses upgrades to the road north of the cement bridge to provide another exit from town.

50 years ago — 1975: See Norm King at A & M Soil for soil sampling. The Royal Bank opens its doors in Carman. Minor Hockey Association president Frank McKinnon sets registration fees at \$10 per player or \$25 per family. The town receives a \$12,000 provincial grant toward CNR station renovations. MTS raises rates by 12.3 per cent. The SEMHL adds Pilot Mound to the league. Bert Klos moves Pethybridge's South End Grocery to the west side of Skelton's Hardware

building. Elaine Jenkins is named president of the Ladies Section of the Dufferin Agricultural Society.

25 years ago — 2000: Chicken Chef staff are robbed during a night deposit. The Active Living Centre surpasses \$100,000 in fundraising. Parkland Interiors promotes Flo Form Countertops. The newly renovated and expanded Miami School celebrates its grand opening. Seventy-two students participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day. The annual Mistletoe Ball features the Shriner's Orchestra at the community hall. Dufferin Christian School students raise money to support an adopted orphan in India.

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Monday 4:00 pm prior
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Grey council backs fibre expansion, community funding

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Grey council approved support for two RFNow fibre optic expansion projects and awarded several community donations during its Oct. 15 regular meeting.

Council voted unanimously to endorse RFNow's plans to extend fibre service along Roads 38W, 48N and 49N, with the company responsible for locating all existing utilities before work begins.

Council also approved nearly

\$48,000 in community support funding under The Municipal Act. Local organizations receiving grants include the Elm Creek Skating Rink, Elm Creek Cemetery, Elm Creek Stay N Play, St. Claude & Haywood Curling Rink, the RM of Grey Fire Department, and several 4-H, library and community groups in Elm Creek and St. Claude.

Bo-Russ Contracting's \$22,631.25 quote was accepted for water service upgrades for A. Kroeker and R. Froese. Safety and emergency coordina-

tor Micheline Painchaud was authorized to attend a Workplace Safety and Health Committee course in Winnipeg on Nov. 14 at a cost of \$195 plus expenses.

Council also received reports from public works, utilities and local urban districts in Elm Creek, Haywood and St. Claude, and entered a closed session to discuss a human resources matter.

The next regular meetings of council are scheduled for Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. in Elm Creek.

Thompson approves financial statements, grants and zoning applications

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Thompson council met Oct. 9 to review financial statements, approve community grants and consider two land-use applications.

Council approved the 2024 audited financial statements prepared by Sen-sus Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd. and authorized the reeve and CAO to sign the documentation.

A total of \$20,690 in third-quarter grants was awarded to local organizations, including \$15,000 for the Miami Golf and Country Club, \$1,400 for the Miami and Area Foundation, and \$1,000 each for the Miami Arts Association and Dunston Church.

Council also approved two planning applications. A conditional use was granted to Westroc Colony Farms Ltd. to allow for an abattoir in an Agricul-

ture Restricted Zone, and a variation application was approved for two residential-related farm lots to reduce minimum site area and setback requirements.

A development permit for tree removal under zoning bylaw section 29.10 was also approved, and council agreed to reimburse \$110.16 to a resident for water used at the cenotaph grounds.

The municipality voted to terminate its existing mattress processing agreement as it continues to explore options to divert mattresses from the landfill. Council also discussed potential expansion at the waste disposal grounds and possible equipment purchases to assist with mattress handling.

Council supported a resolution urging the province to increase the Mani-

toba Water Services Board's annual capital budget from \$24 million to \$100 million beginning in 2026, citing the board's critical role in supporting municipal water and wastewater projects.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- Maple Park grass seeding planned this fall, with tree planting scheduled for next season.
- Fall cleanup set for Oct. 27.
- Updates received on grant feedback and the library recycle shed.
- Reeve Brian Callum reported on emergency management and transportation correspondence.
- Councillor Travis Reichert provided reports from the Morden Vet District and Miami Fire and Rescue meetings.

Project seeks to make workplaces more inclusive spaces

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A project underway in the Pembina Valley aims to make workplaces across Manitoba more inclusive spaces.

Empowering SMEs to Identify and Prevent Hate in the Workplace is being funded by Canadian Heritage through Regional Connection Inc.'s Manitoba Immigrant Employment Council (MBIEC) program.

"We're developing tools and procedures to improve fair hiring and ensure culturally safe responses to hate incidents," said project consultant Dana Bergman, explaining the project is aimed specifically at helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) create more culturally safe workplaces.

Bergman is a familiar face in local immigration circles; she previously helped the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership develop inclusivity resources for communities across the region.

Now she's working on this project alongside a colleague in Ottawa. So far, they've worked through the first two phases: the research phase to gain some insight into exactly what Manitoba businesses need and want when it comes to workplace supports, followed by the development of the relevant toolkits, procedures, and other resources.

"Our phase one was really around collecting information, knowledge gathering. What do people think and feel about their workplace integration experiences? From both sides, from the newcomer side as well as from the employer side," Bergman shared. They received more than double the hoped-for responses, and held several focus groups to further flesh out the needs.

"The great thing was that we had significant feedback from employers. We had agriculture and manufacturing and social services and educational services," Bergman said. "There

was a really broad response across all sectors."

They then took all that information and used it to create practical toolkits and procedures companies can adapt to suit their specific needs.

"We're talking about checklists, self-reflection checklists, and policy templates and memo templates and training outlines," Bergman said. "We've created a very robust toolkit that addresses a large amount of the things that employers and newcomers felt that they were struggling with as they worked through the integration process here in Manitoba and in Canada."

"Racism might not be intentional," noted Bisi Adebayo, the outreach & partnerships manager at MBIEC. "There are lots of policies, procedures, processes in place at the workplace, but most times we try to look away from racism and discrimination. We're trying to point employers in this direction to have that support in

Continued on page 8

worship

with us > FAITH

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:6)

Remembrance Day

Each year on November 11, our nation takes time to celebrate our freedoms. We do that by remembering those who sacrificed their lives at a time when the world was at war against aggressive take-over bids from one tyrant or another. We are truly thankful to those who sensed the danger our world was in, and who put their lives on the line so that our freedoms would not be lost. Truly, something to be thankful for!

Lasting Peace?

I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that the peace enjoyed today is fragile, at best. For instance, we hear of a peace agreement in the Middle East and in a matter of days, military strikes are ordered on the accusation that the other party has not kept to the terms of the agreement. That's an extreme example, but closer to home, how often do we hear our politicians hurl insults and innuendo at each other? It seems too difficult to have peaceful discussions and debates.

The Reformation

The Reformation pointed us back to the message of true peace and reconciliation between God and man as found in the Bible. The Apostle Paul states it succinctly, "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). Peace with God is true and lasting peace because, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). We may live in peace since, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). Jesus Himself promised, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Go in God's true peace.

Len Lodder, Canadian Reformed Church Carman East

Carman Dufferin Grey district reviews development changes

By E. Antonio

The Carman Dufferin Grey Planning District in partnership with Landmark Planning and Design hosted a public open house on Oct. 22 to allow community members to share opinions and hear about upcoming plans and by-law changes.

Brennan Johnson, planner, explained district development plans, and details on zoning by-law changes were shared for the town and municipalities. The organization hosted three separate open houses — Carman, Elm Creek, and St. Claude — and in total, approximately 25 residents, landowners and business owners attended the sessions.

“The update/review process is partially a formality as regular reviews

are required by the Province, but are also to accommodate the incorporation of the RM of Grey into the planning district since the adoption of the existing development plan and zoning by-laws,” Johnson said. “The majority of changes being made are related to formatting, modernization, and creating a consolidated set of zoning categories that will apply district-wide rather than only in individual municipalities.”

Johnson and senior planner, Andrei Friesen, attended on behalf of Landmark Planning and Design. Johnson noted the most common questions they received were in regard to land use and zoning permissions on individual properties. Other questions were related to policy adoption time-

lines and the next steps.

“It is important to ensure that community members have an opportunity to provide input into how they would like to see their municipality or planning district grow and develop, understand what types of land uses they would like to see accommodated, and be able to support community goals through development plan policies and zoning regulations,” he said.

This was the second round of open houses after initial events took place in 2023. Feedback from previous sessions helped make informed decisions about the plans that were discussed in 2025.

“The purpose of the events held last week was to share the draft plans and demonstrate how earlier feedback

has been considered, addressed, and incorporated into these documents,” Johnson added. “The updated documents will make it easier not only for the planning district and municipalities to administer the development plan and zoning by-law, but will also make it easier for landowners to be able to read and interpret zoning regulations that apply to their properties to help them make decisions.”

All draft documents are available for public viewing on the Carman Dufferin Grey Planning District’s website, and comments, questions, or concerns can be submitted through an online survey at www.landmarkplanning.ca/cdgplanningdistrictdevelopmentplanreview.

Dufferin council focuses on safety, infrastructure at fall meetings

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Dufferin council moved ahead on infrastructure and community safety items this fall, giving final approval to a new camping and encampments bylaw and supporting funding applications for joint projects with the Town of Carman.

At its Sept. 16 regular meeting, council voted to apply to Manitoba’s Growth, Renewal and Opportunities (GRO) program to help fund a Carman-Dufferin fire hall expansion, with Dufferin committing 25 per cent of the total cost and the province to cover up to half.

Reeve Cor Lodder said the project represents a key step in strengthening emergency response and supporting those who serve the community.

“This expansion will enhance our fire hall to meet the growing needs of our dedicated staff and provide opportunities for health and wellness care,” he said.

Council also approved two tile drainage projects for Oakridge Holdings and an irrigation pipeline installation for Owen Potato Farm, aimed at improving agricultural water management. A water-line connection request from a local ratepayer was also approved.

Council further confirmed PIER Solutions as construction manager for the Carman Concrete Bridge rehabilitation — part of an ongoing infrastructure renewal effort — and renewed its snow-removal agreement with the Province of Manitoba for the 2025–26 season.

Lodder said feedback from residents and partners about Dufferin’s forward-looking approach has been encouraging.

“It has been positive. Promoting a strategic growth plan is essential for generational planning,” he said.

The meeting also included discussion on the Carman-Dufferin Airport

expansion proposal, local recreation concerns, and various inter-municipal reports.

At a special meeting on Oct. 14, council gave second and third readings to By-law 2042, regulating camping, encampments and temporary shelters within the municipality. The bylaw is intended to promote resident safety and community well-being.

“A safe and beautiful community must have structure and livability guidelines for living,” Lodder said.

Council also approved the joint purchase of a new floor scrubber for the Carman-Dufferin Arena at a cost of \$7,895, with the old unit to be reassigned to the community hall. Fuel purchases will continue through

DMM.

Lodder said such shared initiatives strengthen community connections.

“Team efforts build a stronger and more vibrant community for all,” he said.

In addition, Dufferin council endorsed a resolution urging the provincial government to increase the Manitoba Water Services Board’s annual capital budget from \$24 million to \$100 million beginning in 2026, citing the growing need for rural water and wastewater infrastructure support.

“A more stable and effective planning system helps with economic development opportunities,” Lodder said.

> INCLUSIVE, FROM PG. 7

place and the tools and resources in place for them to be able to address it when anything comes up.”

The project is now looking for employers to partner with to roll out all these resources out and receive feedback.

“We’ve been reaching out to employers,” Bergen said, explaining their target was to work with at least five SMEs (businesses with an employee base of under 500 workers).

They’ve heard from several more than that already, including a few larger employers, and are keen to see what other interest is out there and how the project resources could potentially be used by a wider number of businesses than originally expected.

Participating companies will receive an environmental scan by Bergman (a

structured review of their current inclusion practices to identify strengths and opportunities for development), access to the toolkit resources, and one-on-one consultant support for things like toolkit customization, staff training, and implementation support. There is no cost to businesses to take part.

“I’m really excited to work with these employers,” Bergman said. “All of the support that I’m going to be giving them through the implementation phase is really customized to their needs.”

She encourages business owners or human resource leaders to reach out to her to learn more about how their company can get involved. Bergman can be contacted by email to danabergman28@gmail.com or 204-324-4218.



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Auditor General says CRA's service to taxpayers needs improvement

Canadians trying to get help with their tax questions are still facing long wait times and receiving inaccurate guidance from the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) call centres, according to a new report from Canada's auditor general.

The performance audit, titled Canada Revenue Agency Contact Centres and released Oct. 21, found that most callers could not get through to an agent within the agency's own service standards, and that when they did, the information they received was often incomplete or incorrect.

"The Canada Revenue Agency has a duty to help individuals and businesses meet their tax obligations and access benefits," auditor general Karen Hogan said in a news release. "I am concerned that in spite of a new telephony system and other improvements, Canadians are still waiting too long to get answers to their tax questions."

The auditor general's office examined eight CRA contact centres between February and May 2025 to assess how quickly agents were responding to calls and how accurately they were answering general tax, business tax, and benefits questions.

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the CRA's target was to answer 65 per cent of calls within 15 minutes or less. The audit found that only 18 per cent of callers reached an agent in that timeframe. In June 2025, just 5 per cent of calls met the 15-minute standard. On average, callers waited about 31 minutes to speak to someone, nearly double the wait time from the previous year.

The report also found that 12 per cent of taxpayers waited on hold for more than an hour. Of the roughly 32 million calls made to CRA call centres in 2024-25, only about 10 million reached an agent. Roughly 8.6 million calls were "deflected," meaning callers were diverted to online self-service tools and not given the option to speak with a person. For the remaining calls, it is unclear how taxpayers ultimately had their questions resolved.

The audit also highlighted issues with the accuracy of the information taxpayers received once they did get through. Responses to general individual tax questions were accurate only 17 per cent of the time, meaning 83 per cent of answers contained errors or lacked necessary information. Responses to business tax and benefits questions were accurate just over half the time.

"Canadians are trusting the Canada Revenue Agency to provide answers to their tax and benefit questions that

Areas of enquiry	Accuracy of response	Completeness of response
Individual taxes	17%	17%
Benefits	56%	33%
Business taxes	54%	31%

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA

Canada's auditor general found CRA agents providing a high percentage of inaccurate information.

are accurate and complete," the report states. "Errors in taxes and missed deadlines can be costly to taxpayers."

Call centre staff receive feedback from "quality evaluators" who review selected calls and provide written assessments. However, the auditor general found that these evaluations tended to focus more on meeting performance targets—such as call length—than on the accuracy or completeness of the information being provided. As a result, errors were often overlooked and not addressed in training or coaching.

The CRA's artificial intelligence tool, known as Chatbot Charlie, also fell short. When auditors asked it six general tax questions, Charlie provided accurate information only one-third of the time. The report noted that the chatbot provides only general guidance and cannot assist with account-specific inquiries.

The report recommends that the CRA improve staffing levels at its call centres to reduce wait times, revise training and evaluation processes to prioritize accuracy, and refine the tools agents use to gather information. It also recommends separating questions related to MyAccount—the agency's online portal—from broader tax and benefit inquiries to better direct callers.

In its response, included in the audit findings, the CRA said it is undertaking service improvements and plans to transition to a new contact centre engagement platform in fall 2026. The agency said it has already begun reviewing processes and technology "to allow better alignment of resources and the reduction of wait times," including expanded use of artificial intelligence.

To improve the accuracy of information provided to callers, the CRA said it will strengthen training and coach-

ing for call centre staff and revise performance evaluation frameworks "to ensure more focus on completeness and accuracy versus other evaluation criteria."

The federal government has also announced new measures to simplify tax filing for some Canadians. Beginning with the 2026 tax year, the CRA will introduce a pre-filled return option for about one million lower-income Canadians with simple tax situations. The program is expected to expand to about 5.5 million people for the 2028 tax year.

In an Oct. 21 joint statement responding to the auditor general's findings, Minister of Finance and National Revenue Francois-Philippe Champagne and Secretary of State (CRA) Wayne Long said the agency is

making progress.

"In early September, we directed the CRA to implement a 100-day Service Improvement Plan designed to strengthen services, improve access, and reduce delays," the statement said. "As we near the midpoint of this plan, we're pleased to announce that it has already yielded significant progress. Since September 8, the CRA has extended term contracts and hired more employees."

The CRA said a quality monitoring program launched in 2024 is helping improve response accuracy. "This program has already led to significant improvements in the accuracy of taxpayer-specific responses, which make up 80 per cent of all calls," the ministers said.

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Manitoba Hydro hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search (online registry) pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act described herein and its description.

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of the said Act, **Manitoba Hydro** has deposited a notification of a minor work in accordance with the requirements set out on the External Submission Site, on the online Common Project Search Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>) and under registry number **13922**, a description of the following work:

- **Installation of buried natural gas pipeline under the La Salle River, east of Starbuck.**

Posted in Carman Dufferin Standard,
Thursday November 6, 2025

To request accessible formats
visit hydro.mb.ca/accessibility.



Province adds 323 staffed hospital beds to boost capacity

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government has expanded hospital capacity with 323 fully staffed beds since October 2023 — including 10 new intensive care unit (ICU) beds this year — as part of efforts to shorten emergency wait times and prepare for seasonal demand, Premier Wab Kinew announced Monday.

“After years of cuts it was critical we staff up Manitoba’s health-care system,” Kinew said. “With 3,400 more people working in health care, we’ve been able to open beds and boost capacity across the province. More beds in wards means less access block and lower wait times in the emergency room.”

Since April 2025, the province has opened and staffed 10 new ICU beds — six at the Health Sciences Centre

Children’s Hospital, two at St. Boniface Hospital and two at Grace Hospital. Additional medicine, surgical and transitional-care beds have been added in Winnipeg, Brandon, Selkirk, Dauphin and Steinbach.

Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara said the added capacity is helping hospitals prepare for the annual surge in respiratory illnesses.

“Every fall and winter, we see how hard respiratory virus season hits our hospitals and in turn, the patients and staff who rely on them,” Asagwara said. “When we came into office, the system was under real strain. But every year, we’re entering this season stronger — with more staffed beds, more nurses on the floor and a co-ordinated plan to keep care moving when demand peaks.”

The province has also funded and staffed 141 personal care home beds since taking office, with more under construction. Asagwara said those investments help improve patient flow by allowing individuals ready for discharge to move into appropriate care settings, freeing up hospital beds for others.

The added capacity builds on last year’s expansion of more than 100 acute-care beds ahead of the 2024 respiratory virus season.

Manitoba’s chief provincial public health officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, said the province’s planning supports public-health measures aimed at reducing the spread and severity of respiratory viruses.

“Respiratory virus season is always a difficult time for hospitals, families and communities,” Roussin said.

“The planning and investments made by the province strengthen our ability to respond. Manitobans can help reduce the spread of illness by staying home when sick, washing hands often and getting vaccinated against influenza and COVID-19.”

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available at medical clinics, ACCESS Centres, pharmacies, nursing stations and public-health sites across Manitoba. The province is also offering free respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines to seniors aged 60 and older living in long-term care homes and has launched a provincewide campaign encouraging all Manitobans to get vaccinated.

For a list of vaccination locations, visit manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/vaccinefinder.html.

Nominations open for Excellence in Education Awards

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government is celebrating World Teachers’ Day by opening nominations for the 2025-26 Excellence in Education Awards, which recognize outstanding teachers and school leaders across the province.

“Educators play a vital role in shap-

ing the future of our children and our communities,” said Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Tracy Schmidt. “These awards honour the dedication, creativity and leadership of teachers and school leaders who go above and beyond to

help students succeed.”

The awards celebrate exceptional contributions within Manitoba’s education system and highlight the province’s commitment to recognizing excellence in teaching and leadership. Nominations close Dec. 4, and recipients will be honoured at a ceremony in spring 2026.

Award categories include:

- Teaching Excellence Award
- Outstanding New Teacher Award
- Outstanding Team Collaboration Award
- Outstanding School Leader Award
- Premier’s Award for Excellence in Education

The premier’s award is chosen from

nominees across the other four categories and honours those whose work has made a remarkable and far-reaching impact on students and their school communities.

Eligible nominees must hold a valid, permanent Manitoba teaching certificate and work directly with kindergarten to Grade 12 students. School leaders must be principals or vice-principals. Nominations can be submitted by parents, guardians, students, school trustees, teachers, or administrators.

World Teachers’ Day, established by UNESCO and Education International, has been celebrated globally on Oct. 5 since 1994.



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Manitoba 

More measles exposures reported

Staff

Public health officials have identified new measles exposure sites in southern Manitoba, including four in Winkler. Anyone at these locations on the listed dates should monitor for symptoms and ensure their immunizations are up to date. The exposure sites include Dairy Queen in Winkler on Oct. 24 (5–11 p.m.), Oct. 25 (1–7 p.m.) and Oct. 28 (5–10 p.m.); the Boundary Trails Health Centre emergency department on Oct. 26 (5:30–10:30 p.m.); Garden Valley Collegiate on Oct. 22–23 (8:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.); and Northlands Parkway Collegiate on Oct. 22 (8:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.). Those born in 1970 or later who are unvaccinated and have never had measles should receive the vaccine

and reduce contact with others—especially those who are immunocompromised or unimmunized—from five to 21 days after exposure. Infants under six months, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems should contact a health provider for advice or preventive treatment. Symptoms appear seven to 21 days after exposure and include fever, cough, red eyes and a blotchy rash that spreads from the face downward. Measles can cause serious complications, including pneumonia and brain inflammation. For more information, visit gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html or call Health Links–Info Santé at 204-788-8200 (Winnipeg) or 1-888-315-9257.



A bright red poppy blooms in front of Carman United Church, with two more buds ready to open — a fitting tribute with Remembrance Day approaching on Nov. 11.

12:00pm Laying of Wreaths



A red agricultural machine, possibly a harrow or plow, is parked in a field. The machine has a large, curved metal frame and a single large wheel on the left side. It is positioned in the foreground, with a green tractor and other farm equipment visible in the background. The ground is muddy and uneven.

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Carman theatre group prepares to debut *The Horizon*

By Leora Collingridge, BOC producer

The cast and crew of Carman's Back on Cue Theatre are in their final crescendo putting the finishing touches on their latest production, *The Horizon*, which takes the stage at Carman Collegiate Community Theatre on Nov. 7 and 8.

Susan Mooney, a production executive for Carman's local theatre organization Back on Cue (BOC), said she loves theatre people for their special joy of living that shines through in their personalities. She added that they make her laugh, think and sometimes even bring her to tears, and she is impressed by the vast array of artistic talent in the small community.

The comedic drama is set in a personal care home where seniors are discovering and creating their new normal lives. BOC actors and actresses, many of them younger performers, are taking on the daunting task of portraying 80-year-old residents.

Actresses Evelyn Hoogerdijk, Lisa Pinkerton and Christian Froese trans-

form themselves completely in voice, tone, movement, appearance and facial expression. It is an interesting phenomenon to watch the performers lose their own personas — even their names — as they transition from reality to their stage characters. The director and crew begin referring to the cast by their character names without even realizing it, and the actors naturally respond.

Elderly male residents are portrayed by Jim Robson and Craig Blagden, whose characters are polar opposites yet share many circumstances in common. The care home staff, played by Deana Gauld, Jeff Knight and Jaclynn Knight, take

on equally challenging roles. Jaclynn, a high school student, plays a young woman, while Jeff Knight and Deana Gauld also portray younger people convincingly. Gail Aubin rounds out the cast.

The expression "becoming your character" is no exaggeration in this gripping story of hilarity, tense drama and adventure. Director Faye Harms draws inspiration from a favourite

Red Skelton quote about how laughter can help ease heartache, even if only for a few seconds.

In partnership with the Golden Prairie Arts Council and the Boyne Lodge Campus Charity, BOC invites audiences to come, laugh, cry and reflect with the talented cast and crew of *The Horizon*.



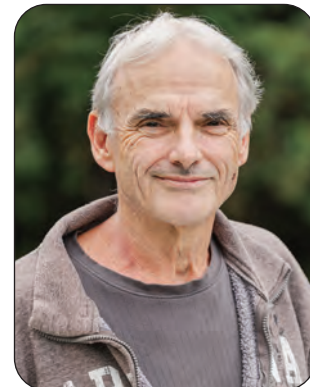
Susan Mooney- Production Executive.



Evelyn Hoogerdijk plays Claire St. Claire (if you please).



Lisa Pinkerton is stellar, as Thelma, a good friend and devoted Gramma.



Jim Robson plays Vern who is Milton Meadows newest inmate



Deana Gauld plays the part of unlucky in love caring nurse Kate.

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Growing Old is Inevitable, Growing Up is Optional

Where: Carman Collegiate Community Theatre
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REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11

Looking beyond the uniform: Honouring the service and sacrifices of Canadian soldiers

By E. Antonio

For Chuck Ross, Remembrance Day is an opportunity to honour the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for Canada — in the past, present and future.

As the service officer for the Carman Legion, and as a veteran himself, Ross carries a deep connection to the military. His family's history of service spans generations.

"Some families farm — my family goes to the military," Ross said.

His great-grandfather is buried in Flanders Fields. Both of his grandfathers served in the army, his parents were in the air force, and his son is now in his 21st year of service. Even his ex-wife spent several years in the military, and his grandson is already expressing interest in following the family tradition once he finishes school.

From 1978 until 2013, Ross worked as an aviation assistant technologist with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) — a role he describes as equivalent to an aircraft maintenance officer "in normal people terms." He fixed and serviced military aircraft all over the world, often putting himself in extreme situations for days on end.

"One thing the military has presented me with was challenges and the opportunity to do

different things in different places. It's not just a job — it's a lifestyle that is kind of its own concert," he said.

Ross noted that the job often pushed him to his limits, requiring him to navigate worn-down equipment in harsh environments. Yet each day brought a new and unique experience for him and his colleagues.

He recalls his time in Europe during the Cold War, where he underwent chemical warfare training — something he never had to do in Canada.

"You had to meet the expectations of your job while wearing a rubber suit with a gun hanging around your neck," he said.

Back home, Ross worked in countless locations across Canada.

"You go wherever the aircraft needs you," he said. "For me, it was always about service. It might sound cliché, but there's a dignity that comes with that — it's about rising to that level of dignity."

Not all of his memories are easy ones. Ross has faced personal loss throughout his career.

"It highly affects you because it's people you know. In any type of situation, you don't really think about people dying — yet it's something that happens every day, and it affects everyone on different levels," he said.



Photo from Ross' graduation parade in 1978.

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Carman Dufferin

REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11

One of his hardest losses came in the 1980s when a plane crashed south of Calgary, Alta., killing all crew members on board.

"These are just some of the things we have to deal with along the way," Ross said. "You're warned this job will take you to places where you'll be in smoke, solvents, fuel and explosions, where things will go wrong. It's one thing to read the warning — it's another to experience it."

Despite the hardships, Ross said the relationships he built have been the greatest gift of his military life.

"Everyone in uniform is basically your family," he said. "The very best people I have ever met in my life have been through the military. We are all part of a family trying to do one job. Whether you're in a position where you're constantly being put on the end of a pointy stick or being shot at, or you're part of that supply chain from behind — you rely on each other."

"It takes a huge number of people to ensure a soldier makes it through their day. Those people, at every level, you rely on them. You go to war, live and work with these people knowing they're your family and friends — and that your life might rely on them someday."

He described each relationship as a memory forever etched in his mind, no matter how small or big the interaction. Recently, he crossed paths with a woman he had worked with 35 years ago.

"It was like I just saw her yesterday for the first time," he said. "All of your history just flows in."

Ross continues to work with the CAF as a quality assurance representative with the Department of National Defence, a role that keeps him connected to the military community.

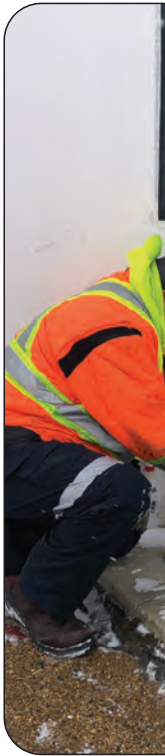
"It's boring some days, but other times it can be really interesting with all the cases we face and the commodities that brings," Ross explained. "It's our job to provide the boys and girls in uniform with the very best things we can get for them — it's all about supporting the whole military mission."

This Remembrance Day, Ross hopes Canadians take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of service.

"It's not just for those who were killed in war — it's for every Canadian Armed Forces member because their jobs were equally important," he said. "Everyone deserves to be honoured and remembered. They stepped up during a time of need and put their life on the line. Everyone in a uniform has made a commitment to serve, but not everyone in a uniform will come out alive. They gave their guts, care, bravery, willingness and commitment for the millions of Canadians back home."

Ross will be involved with several Remembrance Day ceremonies around town, including one at the Carman Community Hall on Nov. 11. Doors open at 10 a.m., with the service starting at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

"We are all on this spaceship together, and we owe it to each other to step up and work together toward a common goal of respect and peace," Ross added. "This is a huge and varied adventure we took on, and it's important that we take a moment to honour this journey."



Ross, right, conducted an audit in Moose as a quality assurance representative with the Department of National Defence.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11



... completing a quality assurance
ose Jaw in 2023. He currently works
assurance representative with the
t of National Defence.



Ross' hero shot after recovering a Lancaster
aircraft — its first visit to Winnipeg in 1989.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Chuck Ross, veteran and service officer for the Carman Legion, works as an avian
assistant technologist with the Canadian Armed Forces in Baden, Germany, in
1981.

They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.
Laurence Binyon



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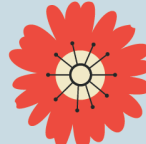


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CARMAN Legion
Thank-you for supporting our Poppy Campaign

LEST WE FORGET


Dead Horse Creek Speedway celebrates top drivers and community support

By E. Antonio

The Dead Horse Creek Speedway welcomed 100 guests to the Miami Event Centre for their Awards & Appreciation Banquet.

Every year the speedway honours their top drivers and individuals who go above and beyond on and off the track.

“It was an exceptional evening and it was nice to see our numbers grow compared to last year,” said Jason Fraser, Dead Horse Creek Speedway manager. “It’s an opportunity for us to recognize those guys who have put in piles and piles of hours, effort and money into performing. Their support for us throughout the year is strong and it’s awesome to be able to give something back to them to show that their efforts are worth it.”

Guests also had the opportunity to try and win one of their 20 raffle prizes, graciously donated from business across southern Manitoba. Fraser noted it was really neat seeing all the prizes together in one space and described the room to be like a “small world.”

Eight awards were handed out to deserving drivers, sponsors and volunteers while enjoying a deliciously catered meal arranged by Brian and Ardelle Unger.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS WERE:

- Friesens Corporation Deadhorse Stocks - Tyler Fehr
- Super Trucks - Gerry Poirier
- Wissota Sunvalley Tire Midwest Modifieds - Brenden Luschinski
- Wissota Rosenort Credit Union Modifieds- Ward Imrie
- Wissota Wiebes Steel Structures Late Models - Scott Greer
- Community Support Champion - Centennial Supply Ltd.
- Sportsmanship Champion - Nick Audette
- Volunteer Champion - Alex Wiebe

It’s important to Fraser to recognize people’s efforts beyond the wheel, which is why they present three community support awards. “They go the extra mile to give us the support we



Jason Fraser, Dead Horse Creek Speedway manager



STANDARD PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT
Friesens Corporation Deadhorse Stocks champion Tyler Fehr accepts his award during the Dead Horse Creek Speedway Awards & Appreciation Banquet at the Miami Event Centre. The event recognized top drivers, sponsors and volunteers from the 2024 racing season.



Super Trucks - Gerry Poirier, second from left.



Wissota Sunvalley Tire Midwest Modifieds - Brenden Luschinski, second from left.



Volunteer Champion - Alex Wiebe



Sportsmanship Champion - Nick Audette



Wissota Rosenort Credit Union Modifieds- Ward Imrie



Wissota Wiebes Steel Structures Late Models - Scott Greer



Community Support Champion - Centennial Supply Ltd.

Local leader celebrates 40 years with Carman Scouts

By E. Antonio

For four decades, Edwin Pritchard has been a steady and inspiring presence in the Carman Scouts program.

What began as a volunteer position on the troop's group committee when his son was a Beaver has grown into 40 years of dedicated leadership, mentorship and service.

"They were looking for parents, and my son was the right age to start getting into it, so it took off from there," Pritchard said.

To mark the milestone, the troop hosted an outdoor dinner in King's Park, where about 30 members—past, present and future—came together to celebrate his commitment. Pritchard was presented with a 40-year pin and a commemorative plaque.

"I definitely didn't expect—or need—anything like this, but it was nice to get together with everyone," he said. "The pin and plaque are just a nice added touch."

A lifetime outdoors

An avid outdoorsman, Pritchard said one of his greatest joys is helping children discover nature for the first time.

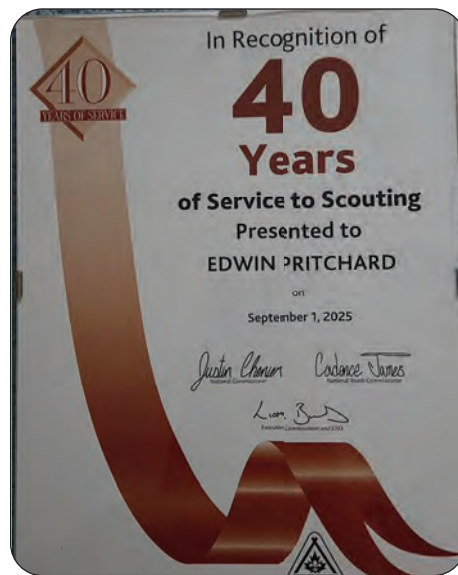
"It's a learning experience for both them and me, and I've really grown to enjoy it," he said. "I like getting to plan their events like camping and outdoor trips and seeing the young ones become fascinated with the environment."

One of the highlights of his Scouting career came in May 2007, when he attended the 100-year celebration of the Baden-Powell Scout Movement at Island Park in Portage la Prairie. More than 1,000 Scouts from across Manitoba gathered for the event.

"It was something different for sure—especially seeing 1,000 people in tents," he recalled with a laugh.

Another unforgettable moment came when he saw a bald eagle swoop down and catch a fish from the river during a boating trip.

"With Scouts, you get to experience



Pritchard's plaque recognizes 40 years of volunteer service and leadership with Carman Scouts.

things most people will never get to see," he said.

Over the years, Pritchard has taken part in winter Klondykes, Kub Kar rallies, sleepovers and canoe trips. He said his goal has always been to make the outdoors an enjoyable experience for everyone, because "there's so much to do and learn."

While his enthusiasm remains strong, Pritchard said membership numbers have dropped significantly since he began in the 1980s.

"There was a time when we had 45 Beavers, 35 Cubs and 17 Scouts just from the Carman area," he said. "Now there are only 22 kids from across southern Manitoba, as the Carman division is one of the few that remains."

He noted that changing family schedules, organized sports and the rising cost of living have all played a role in the decline.

"It's really disappearing, and it's been quite the change since I started," he said. "It would be great to keep picking up numbers instead of having them fall away."

Fellow volunteer Lynne Melvin said



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Carman Scout volunteer leader Edwin Pritchard accepts his 40-year anniversary pin and plaque from fellow volunteer Lynne Melvin.

it's Pritchard's leadership and motivation that have kept the program alive.

"This is such a good program for kids, and he has been such an integral part of it," she said. "The positive impact he's had on kids—mine included—is too much to measure."

Melvin described him as "the backbone of the program," always willing to lend a hand and share his experience.

"I hardly even have the words to explain how much he has done," she said. "He's always there and willing to help, and that has been such a great asset."

Melvin helped organize the dinner in his honour and said the event was a small way to say thank you.

"It almost feels too small of a recognition," she said. "He's a huge part of our community, and our program would truly suffer without him."

Looking ahead, Pritchard hopes to gradually pass the torch to a younger genera-

tion of leaders—something he's confident will happen naturally.

"There have been many exceptional leaders who've come and gone over the years, and I definitely wouldn't have been able to do this without them," he said. "It's not about me—it's about the group we've all created."

He expressed special gratitude to Melvin, his volunteer partner of 20 years, for her dedication and shared passion for keeping Carman Scouts strong.

Pritchard also hopes to see more outdoor activities added to the program and encourages other adults to get involved.

"Anyone who enjoys working with kids and being outdoors should give it a try," he said. "There's so much to explore, and this experience has truly been an integral part of my life. I'd do it all over again."



Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from the past and present gathered for an outdoor dinner at King's Park to celebrate Pritchard's milestone.



Carman Scouts take part in the 100-year celebration of the Baden-Powell Scout Movement in Portage la Prairie in May 2007, one of Pritchard's career highlights.

PVHS trap-neuter-return cat program seeing success

By Lorne Stelmach

Initial efforts to help control the feral and stray cat population in Morden have been successful, and there is hope to be able to continue the program and even perhaps expand it.

The Pembina Valley Humane Society has now run its trap-neuter-release program a couple times over the past two years, and they feel it has shown its potential to be very beneficial.

With trap-neuter-return, they maintain they can help stabilize the population humanely, improve the cats' lives, save taxpayer dollars, address neighbours' concerns, and help the entire community reach a solution that benefits everyone.

After a successful 2024, where they trapped and spayed/neutered over 40 community cats, it's estimated this year they've trapped another 23 cats and were able to sterilize 20 of them (three were too ill).

"We ended up bringing in 16 kittens," added Jennifer Young, shelter manager for the Pembina Valley Humane Society. "All of those kittens because they were young enough, we were actually able to intake them into the shelter and then adopt them out."

"Doing it all like that, we prevented about maybe 120 kittens from being born and put into the population just this year ... that is a lot, but it could definitely be more."

Young suggested their first go-round with the initiative was a learning experience.

"This past spring was a little bit better organized just because we had all that we needed to learn from the first year."

They have only been able to do it in Morden so far with limited funding of about \$3,000, which covers the costs for about months. They've focused their efforts at the beginning of what is seen as "kitten season" from May to July.

"Although it happens all year round, it does seem to be a lot more in the beginning of spring," said Young, explaining they had three traps which "we put in specific areas where we know they have a colony of cats."

"When we put a trap out, it is checked regularly by our volunteers, like every day ... and then we get them to the vet as soon as we can so they can get spayed or neutered. They are given a rabies vaccine and an ear

notch so if they are captured again, we will know they had already been taken care of."

After a couple days to make sure there's no infection, they are released back where they were trapped because familiar territory is best for the cat and there are limited other feasible options, Young noted.

The humane society emphasizes that there are many reasons to embrace and promote the trap-neuter-return system, noting it:

- Stabilizes feral cat colonies: colonies that are involved diminish in size over time.
- Improves the lives of community cats: relieves cats of the constant stress of mating and pregnancy and their physical health improves.
- Answers the needs of the community: once it stops production, and therefore mating behaviours, the cats' relationships with residents improve; colonies become quieter as behaviours like yowling or fighting stop, calls to authorities about the cats decrease significantly and community morale improves.
- Protects cats' lives: the number one documented cause of death for cats in



PVHS PHOTO

The PVHS trapped, fixed, and released dozens of cats this summer, and also took in 16 kittens for adoption. This little guy is Brahms, who will be looking for his forever home soon.

North America is being euthanized in pounds and shelters. For decades, animal control policy has wasted

Continued on page 20

National Senior Safety Week

November 6 to 12, 2025

3 safety issues that particularly affect older adults

As you get older, certain aspects of daily life can become more challenging for you and pose risks to your physical, psychological and financial health. Here are three key safety concerns that affect older adults, along with simple ways to reduce the risks.

1. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Many older adults take multiple medications daily. Managing different prescriptions can be tricky, as dosage errors and missed doses can have serious consequences. Using a pill organizer, asking a loved one for support or choosing a pharmacy that offers medication preparation services can help prevent mistakes.

2. TECH FRAUD

Fraudsters often target seniors through phone calls, emails or social media, attempting to

steal money or personal information. Educating older adults about these scams and encouraging them to be cautious of urgent or unsolicited messages can help keep them safe.

3. AT-HOME FALLS

Statistics show that falls are a leading cause of serious injuries, such as hip fractures, among seniors. Installing grab bars in bathrooms, wearing proper footwear and keeping walkways free of clutter and amply lit all reduce the risk. Regular balance and strength exercises also play a key role in fall prevention.

By staying proactive and aware, you can help create a safer environment for the older adults in your life.



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Youth-led fundraising gala focuses on next generation of Manitoban leaders

By Jennifer McFee

Youth resilience is in the spotlight at an upcoming gala fundraiser that will share the stories of Manitoba's future leaders.

CanU will host its annual youth-led Imagine Stories Gala on Thursday, Nov. 13 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg-based charitable organization offers mentorship to kids in grades 5 to 12 on post-secondary campuses.

Each week, students from across the city are bused to campus to take part in fun, educational programs led by university students who volunteer as mentors through CanU's Leadership Development program.

"The experience creates a powerful two-way impact; youth gain confidence, curiosity and a sense of belonging, while the university mentors develop leadership and empathy through giving back," said Christina Wood, chair of the CanU Imagine Stories Gala. "Together, they're building a stronger, more connected Manitoba."

For Wood, the cause is close to her heart.

"This event is deeply personal for me. I grew up in poverty and moved between foster homes. At one point, even finishing high school felt out of reach. But I was lucky to have people who believed in me — teachers and mentors and my foster mom who helped me believe in myself," she said.

"CanU is about giving young people the chance to be seen, supported and inspired to believe in themselves. It's a program I wish had existed when I was growing up, and that's why I'm so passionate about helping it grow."

The Nov. 13 gala is geared for anyone who believes in the potential of Manitoba's youth — including community members, the business community, educators and supporter who want to make a difference.

"It's also for people like me, who see a bit of themselves in some of the CanU students and know what having a safe place to grow and learn can do for your confidence and your future," Wood said.

"Many of our guests come year after year because they leave inspired by the students and the stories

they share."

The goal of the gala is simple: to raise awareness and funds so more kids can participate in CanU.

"We want every student who dreams of joining to have the chance, regardless of their circumstances. It's one of our main fundraisers of the year. All proceeds go directly toward CanU programming, covering transportation, meals, scholarships and the costs that make it possible for almost 700 students to attend and thrive," Wood said.

"It also supports the processes involved in selecting, training and coordinating almost 800 post-secondary volunteers who are developing their professional and leadership skills and convictions. The gala is what keeps the program accessible to families who might not otherwise be able to participate."

For Interlake residents, the program can also make an impact.

"Even though the Imagine Stories Gala takes place in Winnipeg, the message behind it resonates across the province: when we invest in our youth, our whole province grows. In fact, CanU is working with several partners to develop and provide opportunities to youth in northern and remote parts of our province," Wood said.

"Through our CanU's Leadership and Development program, post-secondary students volunteer as mentors, tutors, program designers and facilitators for grades 5 to 12 participants, and many of those mentors come from communities outside Winnipeg, including the Interlake and Pembina regions. In many ways, the impact travels home with them — back into the communities they come from and eventually return to."

At the same time, the CanU team is also working to grow their reach and share what they've learned.

"Beyond raising funds and awareness for CanU, our story might inspire others to start their own local initiatives that connect youth, mentors and education," Wood said. "And we'd be happy to share our experience and insight with anyone who wants to make that happen in their own community or help us bring CanU into theirs."



The Imagine Stories Gala takes place on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (85 Israel Asper Way in Winnipeg).

"The Imagine Stories Gala is our annual celebration and fundraiser. It's a powerful evening where CanU youth take the stage to share their own stories — stories of hope, confidence and growth. Alongside that, we host a gourmet cocktail-style dinner, online auction, 50/50 draw and VIP reception. It's one night that brings together community, inspiration and impact," Wood said.

"There are lots of ways to get involved; sponsoring the event, donating to the online auction, volunteering or simply helping spread the word. We're always looking for mentors, supporters and community partners who want to help create opportunities for youth."

Visit trellis.org/2025imaginestoriesgala for more info about tickets and sponsorship opportunities. The event usually sells out, so it's best to buy tickets early.

PVHS Raise the Woof 2025 coming up Nov. 15

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Raise The Woof comedy night has become an integral means of fundraising support for the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

"It's grown tremendously," said fundraising chairperson Caitlin Parr of the event, which they've hosted for over a decade. "When we first started, we were in half of the basement of the Quality Inn, and last year we sold out the Access Event Centre with over 350 people."

"It has a lot of repeat attenders. I've never invited somebody who hasn't wanted to come back the next year," she said, suggesting it is an ideal event that offers a fun night out while also giving back. "It's always lovely to have your entertain-

ment attached to a good cause."

Parr noted the comedy night is an essential part of their sustainability.

"Usually it raises around \$11,000," she estimated. "For the humane society, fundraising probably makes up a majority of our budget ... and between our golf tournament, the 50/50 and our comedy night, that's where most of our operating revenue comes from each year."

Parr noted the humane society is facing an additional challenge right now with a ringworm outbreak among some of its cat population in the shelter.

"We are currently dealing with some medical issues at the shelter ... and so we need a lot of

additional supplies and a lot of additional support to help."

Raise The Woof 2025 will feature three comedians—Michel Green, Tyler Kotowski and Lori Ferguson—and live music from One Night Only.

It is set for Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Access Event Centre. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with music and a buffet dinner until 8 p.m. followed by the comedians.

Early bird tickets were still available at \$640 for a table of eight or \$100 per person. You can grab your tickets at pvhsociety.ca/events.

Flashback... The day the Rex Café burned – Part 1

By Dennis Young, with Wah family notes

After 78 years, the building known to Carman residents as the Rex Café was destroyed by fire on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1976.

A passerby noticed smoke around 4 p.m. and alerted staff. The workers and family members living upstairs quickly evacuated, escaping with only the clothes on their backs.

The fire began in the southwest corner of an annex attached to the main building. Within minutes, the entire structure was a blazing inferno, gutted within an hour. The Carman Fire Department received assistance from neighbouring crews in Morden, Sanford, Elm Creek and the RM of Macdonald. But the flames weren't the only concern that day.

Hundreds of spectators gathered and had to be held back by officers as the heat grew so intense that windows across the street at Parkland Floor and Laycock Motors cracked. Hydro poles at the rear of the building were repeatedly doused until Manitoba Hydro crews could cut power to prevent a north-end blackout.

An explosion — caused by rapidly expanding air inside the café — blew out the front windows, showering glass across the street into the crowd of onlookers. Const. Witherspoon, who was on duty at the scene, was treated for a leg cut from flying glass.

Gin Wah and his family — wife and four children (Ken, 16; Henry, 13; Allan, 12; and Meling, 8) — lost all their personal possessions that day. The loss of stock was estimated at \$35,000 (about \$193,000 today), while the family's total loss was valued at \$100,000 (roughly \$555,000 today), only partially covered by insurance.

While temporarily staying at the Ryall Hotel, Gin commented, "I hope to re-establish a restaurant in Carman, and with financing I am considering a first-class one too."

In the meantime, the family received clothing and essentials from private citizens, businesspeople, the Red Cross and through the Carman Chamber of Commerce's fundraising campaign. By Christmas, more than \$4,000 had been raised and presented

to the Wah family. The "first-class restaurant" Gin hoped to build never materialized, however, and he later "retired" to British Columbia.

FAMILY RECALLS THAT DAY

Allan: The fire was on Grey Cup Sunday, late in the afternoon. I was over at Paul Dunbar's, and Mr. Dunbar said, "Get in the truck, I'll drive you." The fire was out of control by then. Henry was knocking on doors upstairs, making sure everyone got out. They must have shut off the gas, but the heat was so hot that it blew out all the windows. I remember that explosion and seeing it happen.

Dad was trying to help the fire department by pulling off the galvanized steel siding. I remember him coming back to Mom and saying they couldn't do anything. He was stoic — not angry, just resigned to the loss. Mom was worried about Meling not being found, and when Meling came home she began to cry because the birds — our budgies — were still upstairs.

Ken: I think it started in the back near the kitchen and spread extremely quickly. Several of us ran through to ensure everyone was out. Mom was crying because Meling was unaccounted for. Fortunately, no family members or workers were hurt. There was no time to grab family photos or mementos. We all remember, with fondness, the generosity of the town.

Henry: Once outside, I just had a T-shirt on. I was cold and shaking, and someone — I never knew who — gave me his jacket. I'll be forever grateful. What I remember most vividly, though, was the natural gas explosion.

Ken and Allan: Mr. Dunbar of Harris Clothing brought all of us in and outfitted the whole family with new clothes, jackets and shoes. We stayed at the motel first and then at the Ryall Hotel for free until we could regroup. Unfortunately, Dad was underinsured, and it took a while to get back on our feet. The town helped immensely through fundraising. A year later, Gin received a box of donation receipts from everyone who contributed. The generosity brought tears to



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The heat from the fire blew out the front windows of the Rex Café, hurling glass and brick across the street.



The Rex Café in the 1960s.

his eyes. We still look back on it with gratitude and fond memories.

Henry: I remember all the support from the town. I still think about the people of Carman with gratitude, and it brings a warmth to me whenever I recall that time in my life.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The building was originally constructed by Ed Watson in 1898 for the Sons of England Lodge, which used the upstairs hall. The main floor's south side was rented by Hemming-

way & Waller General Store and the north side by Loree Real Estate. Over the years, the north half was occupied by McFarlane and Adams Bakeries, Bert Klos Fresh Vegetables and Fruits, and a Rex novelty shop.

Prior to Gin Wah's ownership, the café had been operated by Mar Jack, Leu Pon and Dan Jack. In 1977, the Livingstons built what is now the Carman Home Hardware on this and the adjacent vacant lot to the south, formerly the site of Hardy's Garage.

See Part 2 for life after the fire.

> NEUTER, FROM PG. 18

millions of dollars catching and killing outdoor cats, but populations of cats are still there, just as they always have been, so these programs reduce the spending of taxpayer dollars and is a humane solution to needless euthanization.

Overall, it is seen as a solution that

works, as attempts to permanently remove cats from an area always fail because of a natural and scientifically-documented phenomenon known as the vacuum effect. In basic terms, whenever cats are removed, new cats move in or the surviving cats left behind breed to capacity.

Young hopes the humane society is able to get funding to continue with

the initiative.

"It takes some time to see, but over the years we'll notice the decrease in the kitten and cat population," she said. "If we could get other communities to help fund a little bit, we could maybe reach out to these other communities and help prevent another 120 kittens or so.

"We definitely want to continue

with it," she said. "If we could go into Winkler, that would be another great thing. If we could go into more rural areas, that would be amazing if we could do that as well.

"Our plan is to continue doing this as long as we have the funding for it," she said. "So if we could even have it more often, even twice a year, that would be amazing as well."

Recovery of Hope adds new counsellors

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Health Care Services' Recovery of Hope counselling program continues to grow as it works to meet the mental health needs of southern Manitoba.

The agency has recently expanded its counselling therapy team with the addition of Charlie Enns, who comes to the role as a Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality candidate and with particular interests men's mental health, addiction, and grief and loss support.

Enns' hiring comes just a few months after the program welcomed counsellor Gaylene Dueck to the team, shared program director Kim Thiessen.

"We're always looking to grow," she said, noting they have nearly two dozen counsellors operating from Recovery of Hope's offices in Winkler, Steinbach, and Winnipeg.

"Expanding our team isn't just about adding appointments," Thiessen said. "It's about expanding fit and choice so people can find the right counsellor and the right approach for their needs."

And while in-person counselling sessions are of course offered at all three of those sites, the program also provides its virtual services province-wide to ensure people have access to counselling even if they live in remote rural areas or have other challenges that make getting out to a session difficult. As long as you have stable internet service, you can sign up to connect with a counsellor.

"We've had counsellors do counselling with people that are living internationally, and certainly across Canada. But our focus obviously is in Manitoba," Thiessen said. "All of our counselors offer virtual counseling as well as in-person."

It's an option that is especially appealing to the younger generation, Thiessen observed, though people of all ages certainly got used to virtual meetings during the pandemic.

"We've had quite often folks calling us from smaller centres that just don't have access to counselling services or the counselling services in their communities are really busy, so they reach out to us and we can set them up with counsellors in Winnipeg, Steinbach, wherever we have a counsellor that is available and taking on new clients."

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the program logged just over 6,000 counsel-

ling sessions.

"The need is not slowing down," Thiessen said. "When I started in this role we were averaging about 4,400 to 5,000 a year, so in the last three years it's really shot up."

Recovery of Hope's base fee is \$125 per session, but they also offer a sliding fee scale based on annual household income to ensure financial hardship isn't a barrier to receiving care. That scale system is subsidized by the donations that come from such community events as Eden's annual Tractor Trek or Head for the Hills.

"We're a non-profit, so we do a lot of fundraising just to be able to cover the difference between what our sliding fee scale is and what our actual costs are," Thiessen said. "That's kind of the yearly struggle, making sure that we've got enough money in that pot so that people can continue to access counselling when they need it."

The addition of new counsellors means shorter wait times across the Recovery of Hope network (the average wait is two or three weeks) but it also provides access to a greater range of professionals with differing specialties.

"All of them are Masters-trained counsellors—that's kind of the bare minimum that we require—but they all come with various different training," Thiessen said, noting some focus on working with children, others on couples counselling, and still others on topics like abuse, trauma, or addictions. "Everybody offers something just a little bit unique."

Thiessen noted their counsellors approach their work from a patient-led perspective. While Eden is a faith-based organization, all its counsellors are accredited and follow standard practices for care.

"There is no discrimination in terms of whether someone is religious or not religious or what background they come from," she stressed. "If a client does come in and want that kind of spiritual support, faith-based support, our counsellors can provide that and are happy to do so. But really, it's client-driven and whatever the client is most comfortable with is the direction that the counsellors will go."

Thiessen hopes people won't let the stigma that often surrounds mental health challenges stop them from reaching out for help.

"There isn't one person in this world



Eden CEO Brad Unger at the Recovery of Hope office in Winkler, which was renovated in the past year to provide a more private, comfortable space for counselling.

that isn't impacted by mental health," she said. "We all are on our own journey somewhere. And some of us are struggling at different times than others. We all need support sometimes."

GREATER COMFORT, PRIVACY

On a tour of the Winkler location earlier this month, Eden CEO Brad Unger shared some of the upgrades the site has made of late.

"We've renovated quite extensively in the last year or so, because we didn't even have a dedicated door," he shared of the space, which is located in the ALG Professional Centre on Main St. "We really tried to take some steps for greater confidentiality and making it a better space, because it was less ideal than before."

The Winkler office now features a waiting room with frosted glass so people passing by can't see who's inside, as well several private counselling rooms with comfy couches and chairs.

The Recovery of Hope program is a big part of the work of Eden, which also runs the regional psychiatric hospital along with supportive housing and employment programs.

"Recovery of Hope offers a really essential and critical service in the mental health system," Unger said. "Counselling therapy is really a backbone service."

It's one that allows the agency to reach the greatest number of people needing care.

"At a time when mental health services are sometimes hard to access, we're proud that we have a service that is so accessible," Unger said. "We work really hard to make it affordable and to have our wait lists at manageable levels so that we can be there and meet people with the service where they're at, when they need it."

You can learn more about Recovery of Hope's services online at eden-healthcare.ca/roh or call 1-866-493-6202.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

One of the welcoming counselling spaces at the Recovery of Hope offices, located in the ALG Professional Centre in downtown Winkler.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Hawks rally late but fall in shootout in MFHL

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Hawks mounted an impressive third-period comeback but came up just short, falling 4-3 in a shootout to the Central Plains Capitals in Manitoba Female U18 AAA Hockey League action Wednesday night at the Access Event Centre.

After two periods of frustration, the Hawks found themselves down 2-0 heading into the final frame as Central Plains built their lead on goals from Taylor Terin, who scored twice

— including one on the power play.

Pembina Valley roared back in the third, striking for three goals in just over six minutes to erase the deficit. Casey O'Brien started the rally with a power-play marker at 7:19, assisted by Sophia Cox and Claire Boyd. After Central Plains' Ava Mirrlees briefly restored the two-goal cushion, O'Brien responded again at 15:24 with her second of the game and fifth of the season. Sinead Convery and Payton Manness drew the assists.

Then, with less than a minute to play, Cox buried the equalizer from Mia Brass and Delaney Darby, sending the game to overtime tied 3-3.

Neither side could find the winner in extra time, and the game was decided in a shootout. O'Brien scored on her attempt for Pembina Valley, but goals from Kaylin Lins and Ainslie Zubec lifted the Capitals to victory.

Goaltender Hannah Bannister made 14 saves on 18 shots for the Hawks, while Central Plains' Bailey Schwartz

turned aside 31 of 34 shots to secure the win.

With the shootout loss, Pembina Valley moved to 3-5-0 on the season, while Central Plains improved to 5-5-0.

UPCOMING GAMES:

The Hawks will look to bounce back on home ice Friday, Nov. 14 when they host the Winnipeg Avros at the Access Event Centre in Morden. Puck drop is set for 8 p.m.

Hayward wins inaugural MJCT title



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Team Hayward of Carman captured the championship at the inaugural Albert Bazinet Open on the Manitoba Junior Curling Tour, held at the Heather Curling Club in honour of the late Albert Bazinet, a longtime supporter of junior curling in Manitoba. The Carman rink will take a short break before competing in the Brandon Sunlife Junior Challenge from Nov. 13-16. From left: skip Shaela Hayward, third Keira Krahn, second India Young, and lead Dayna Wahl.

Hawks grounded by Wild in road defeat

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Hawks couldn't hold off a late surge from the Winnipeg Wild on Wednesday night, falling 3-1 in Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League action at the Hockey for All Centre.

After a scoreless opening period, Ocean Fehr put the Hawks on the board early in the second when he buried his fourth goal of the season from Parker Henderson and Ragnar Gillis at 2:24. The Wild responded late in the frame when Anthony Bedard evened the score with his ninth of the year to make it 1-1 heading into the third.

Winnipeg took control in the final period as Ryan Strilchuk scored twice — including an empty-netter in the dying seconds — to seal the win.

Despite the loss, Pembina Valley goaltender Koen Bleznuk turned in a strong performance, stopping 35 of 37 shots as the Hawks were outshot 38-30. Winnipeg's Ardan Downey

earned the win with 29 saves.

The Hawks' power play went 0-for-4, while the Wild also failed to capitalize on six man-advantage opportunities.

With the result, Pembina Valley dropped to 4-3-0-1 on the season, while the Wild improved to 4-0-0-1.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Pembina Valley returns to home ice Friday, Nov. 7 when they host the Winnipeg Bruins at the Access Event Centre's Huron Arena in Morden, with puck drop set for 8 p.m. The Hawks then hit the road for a two-game series against the Kenora Thistles, playing Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre. The team will wrap up the stretch on Wednesday, Nov. 12 with a rematch against the Winnipeg Bruins at Southdale Community Centre in Winnipeg starting at 7 p.m.

Beavers split weekend series against Red River and Morden

By Annaliese Meier

The Carman Beavers opened their South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League (SEMHL) season with a split weekend, following up a dominant win over Red River with a tough road loss in Morden.

Carman kicked off its home opener with an 8-3 win over the Red River Wild on Friday night, led by a four-goal performance from Kale Ilchena.

After trading early goals — with Aiden Sotas scoring in the first period to tie the game 1-1 — the Beavers pulled away in the second and third. Ilchena netted his first midway through the second, assisted by captain Tyler Park and Noah Skorpad, to give Carman the lead.

In the final frame, the Beavers exploded for four goals in just over four minutes. Jackson Reimer put Carman ahead at 8:21 before Ilchena scored the eventual game-winner at 12:29. Everett Bestland added a goal 25 seconds later, and Ilchena completed the natural hat trick at 16:14 before capping his night with a fourth tally late in the game.

Bestland and Reimer each recorded multi-point nights, while goaltender Luke Zacharias turned aside 26 shots for the win. Red River's Jayden Catellier faced 50 shots in defeat. Both teams went scoreless on the power play.

The following night, the Beavers ran

into a sharp Morden Bombers squad that piled on the offence in a 15-3 result.

Carman's Dane Halstead and A.J. Nychuk scored in the opening period, and Park added another in the second, but Morden's top line took control as Jory Mullin and Tyler Campbell each netted multiple goals. Goaltender Aaron Brunn stopped 41 of 44 shots for the Bombers, while the Beavers used both Brock Moroz and Dan Wenham in net.

Despite the lopsided score, Carman's power play generated several strong chances, finishing 0-for-3, while Morden went 0-for-1.

Through two games, the Beavers sit in the middle of the nine-team SEMHL standings with a 1-1 record, even with Morden, Warren and Ile des Chênes, each at .500. Springfield leads the league with five points from three games, followed closely by the undefeated Notre Dame Hawks at 2-0. Winkler has also won its lone game to start the year, while Portage and Red River remain winless.

Carman returns home for back-to-back games this weekend, hosting the Notre Dame Hawks on Friday, Nov. 7, at 8 p.m., followed by a rematch against Morden on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m. The Beavers then visit Portage on Wednesday, Nov. 12, for a 7:30 p.m. puck drop.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT

Carman Beavers assistant captain Dane Halstead delivers a heavy hit on Morden Bombers forward Derek Wiebe during South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action Saturday night in Carman. The Beavers split their opening weekend, defeating Red River 8-3 before falling to Morden.



Beavers goaltender Luke Zacharias slides across the crease in an effort to block a tip from Morden Bombers forward Jory Mullin. The puck narrowly missed the net and went wide.



Beavers forward Noah Skorpad carries the puck up ice despite defensive pressure from Bombers forward Cade Kowalski.

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**NOTRE DAME HAWKS AT CARMAN BEAVERS
FRIDAY, NOV 7 AT 8:00 P.M. AT CARMAN ARENA**

**MORDEN BOMBERS AT CARMAN BEAVERS
SATURDAY, NOV 8 AT 7:30 P.M. AT CARMAN ARENA**

Check semhl.net for the full schedule!



sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

A Carman product has earned a place on the national stage

By Lana Meier

La Salle resident and former Carman Cougar Mike McAulay will help lead Canada's top Junior A players on the international stage this winter.

McAulay, the general manager and director of scouting for the MJHL's Niverville Nighthawks, has been named Director of Operations for Team Canada West at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge, taking place December 7-13 in Trois-Rivières, Que. The announcement was made by Hockey Canada earlier this month.

The World Junior A Challenge is one of the key showcase events in Canada's junior hockey pathway, featuring elite talent from across Canada, the United States and Europe. This year's four-team field includes Canada West, Canada East, the United States and Sweden, with all games to be streamed on HNLive.ca and the gold medal game airing on TSN+.

McAulay says the appointment is meaningful not just personally, but for the league and communities he represents.

"It's a tremendous honour to be a part of Hockey Canada," McAulay said. "Any time you can pull on a Team Canada jersey is a special moment. It's special for the players, and for the organizations they come from in the MJHL."

McAulay has played a central role in building the Nighthawks from the ground up since the franchise

joined the MJHL in 2022. The team has developed a reputation for strong involvement with Hockey Canada West. In 2023, Nighthawks forward Nathan Brown, head coach Kelvin Cech and physiotherapist Justin Giesbrecht all represented Canada West, helping the team secure a gold medal with a 7-2 win over Canada East.

"The Nighthawks have been well represented on this stage in the past, both as players and staff," McAulay added. "I'm really excited to continue this run."

A product of Carman minor hockey, McAulay skated for the Carman Collegiate Cougars before continuing his playing career in Crookston, Minn. After returning to Manitoba, he completed a business degree and went on to work with RBC, CIBC, HSBC and Canadian Western Bank, while staying active in junior hockey scouting and operations. He also scouts for the WHL's Penticton Vees, helping identify emerging talent across Western Canada.

McAulay and his wife, Leah, live in La Salle with their three children — Olivia, Liam and Ewen.

Joining McAulay behind the Canada West bench is fellow MJHL representative Josh Gratton, head coach and general manager of the Winnipeg Blues, who has been named an assistant coach for the tournament.

Canada West has won gold six times since the tournament began in 2006.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Niverville Nighthawks general manager and former Carman Cougar Mike McAulay has been named Director of Operations for Team Canada West at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge, taking place Dec. 7-13 in Trois-Rivières, Que.

Twisters fall short in weekend doubleheader, extend winless streak to 10 games

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters are still searching for their first win of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League season after dropping back-to-back games over the weekend.

The Twisters opened with a 5-0 loss Friday on the road to the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins at Century Arena. Despite keeping the game scoreless through the first period, Pembina Valley couldn't find their footing in the final 40 minutes.

The Twins built a 2-0 lead in the second period on goals from Luca Buoncore and Jayden Lamoureux, then added three more in the third from Noah Friesen, Karst Gruener and goaltender Alex Pauls, who scored into an empty net.

Pembina Valley goaltender Rowan Cherkas faced 38 shots and turned aside 33, while Pauls earned first-star honours with a 24-save shutout for the Twins.

Back home Sunday at the Morris MultiPlex, the Twisters came out strong against the River East Royal Knights, grabbing a 3-2 first-period lead before falling 6-3.

Aidan Younghusband, Josh Guilford and Vlad Stepic scored for Pembina Valley in the opening frame, but River East's offence took over from there, striking for four unanswered goals over the final two periods. Liam Urciuoli scored twice for the Royal

Knights, while Layne Richardson contributed a goal and two assists.

Twisters goaltender Darion Penner stopped 31 of 37 shots in the loss.

With the pair of setbacks, Pembina Valley sits at 0-9-1, last in the 10-team MMJHL.

The Twisters will look to regroup when they host the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club Friday at 8 p.m. in Morris before visiting the Transcona Railer Express Sunday afternoon.



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Land for Sale by Tender RM OF THOMPSON

Completed Tender and a **\$10,000.00 deposit** of the Tender Price are invited to be **received up to 12:00 PM (noon) on November 13th, 2025** (the "deadline") on the property described below, which Tenders and Deposits shall be received at:

PKF Lawyers

326 Stephen St, Morden, Manitoba R6M 1T5
Attn: Stéphane Warnock
Ph: 204-822-4463

LAND FOR SALE BY THE ESTATE OF ALBERT F. JANZEN

1. NE ¼ 18-4-6 WPM-EXC ELY 1131 FEET PERP OF THE SLY 618 FEET PERP

146.81 acres CT #2181210/4

2. PT OF NW ¼ OF 18-4-6 WPM

0.04 acres CT #3051710/4
(the "Land")

Parcels are being tendered together.

Conditions of Tender:

- Financing must be pre-approved.
- Tender to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Tammy Bisschop at tbisschop@pkflawyers or call 204-822-4463.
- Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
- Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- The Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be December 15th, 2025.
- The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of the Land, Land quality, Land use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to the Land.
- Submit Tender and certified cheque in a sealed envelope marked "Janzen Estate".**

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON 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, 2024, for the Rural Municipality of Thompson are available for inspection by any person and that a copy thereof or extracts therefrom may be made at your own expense, during the regular office hours of the Rural Municipality of Thompson office at 530 Norton Avenue, Miami or on our website at www.rmofthompson.com. Dated at the Rural Municipality of Thompson this 31st day of October 2025.

Melissa Brunel
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Thompson

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND

Completed tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit are invited to be received up to 2:00PM on the 21st day of November 2025, for the land described below, at:

PKF Lawyers - 71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0
Attn: Mona Brown/Meghan Bennet Ph: 204-745-2028
mbrown@pkflawyers.com mbennet@pkflawyers.com

LAND FOR SALE:

Title No. 3142859/4 (109.12 acres)
LOT 1 PLAN 68799 MLTO IN N 1/2 2-2-3 WPM

Title No. 3156470/4 : (71.02 acres)
LOT 2 PLAN 68799 MLTO IN N 1/2 2-2-3 WPM

Title No. 3031671/4 (39.23 acres)
THE W 1/2 OF THE E 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 2-2-3 WPM EXC ROAD PLAN 1664 MLTO

Tenderer must bid on all 3 parcels / titles of land. The land will NOT be broken into separate parcels / titles.

Conditions of Tender:

- Financing must be pre-approved.
- Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. **To obtain tender form or more, contact Meghan Bennet or Mona Brown at 204-745-2028.**
- Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00. Deposit, of tenders not accepted, will be returned to the Tenderers.
- Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- Vacant possession shall be the 15th day of December 2025. Tax adjustment shall be the 31st day of December 2025.
- The maker of any tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the land, independent of the representations made by the Vendor or the Solicitor and Agent of the Vendor. The land will be sold "as is" and the Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.



Carman Legion Ladies Auxiliary Remembrance Day Tea

Saturday, November 8, 2025

2 - 4 p.m.

Legion Auxiliary Hall

Bake table, fun auction and raffle

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

Level: Intermediate

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FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER
RM OF GREY

Completed tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 2:00PM on the 19th day of November 2025, for the land described below, at:

PKF Lawyers - 71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0
Attn: Mona Brown/Meghan Bennet Ph: 204-745-2028
mbrown@pkflawyers.com mbennet@pkflawyers.com

LAND FOR SALE:

Either or both of the following bare farmland parcels:

OPTION NO. 1: (148.43 acres)
Title No. 3373206/4
PARCEL ONE: THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 30-8-7 WPM EXC PLAN 75446 MLTO SUBJECT TO SPECIAL RESERVATIONS AS TO MINES, MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS AS PARTICULARLY DEFINED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN

OPTION NO. 2: (160 acres)
Title No. 3373206/4
PARCEL TWO: THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 19-8-7 WPM

OPTION NO. 3:
ALL 308.43 ACRES

Conditions of Tender:

- Financing must be pre-approved.
- Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more, contact Meghan Bennet or Mona Brown at 204-745-2028.
- Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposit, of tenders not accepted, will be returned to the Tenderers.
- Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- Vacant possession shall be the 12th day of December 2025. Tax adjustment shall be the 31st day of December 2025.
- The maker of any tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the land, independent of the representations made by the Vendor or the Solicitor and Agent of the Vendor. The land will be sold "as is" and the Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.

Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication
Please Call 204-467-5836

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed bids for the purchase of the following parcels of land, located in the **RM of Norfolk Treherne, Manitoba**, will be received up to **5:00 pm on November 28, 2025** at the offices of Junior Thevenot
Box 306 Somerset, MB R0G 2L0
Re: RM Norfolk Treherne
juniorthevenot@royallepage.ca

Please confirm receipt if sent by mail

Parcel Number	Legal Description	Acres
1	DESC NW 24-8-8W	157.55
2	DESC SW 24-8-8W	78.78

The following will apply to all tenders:
Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property or for additional information contact listing agent **Junior Thevenot at 204-825-8378**.

- Interested parties can offer on any or all parcels.
- The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Purchaser will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.

All offers are to be submitted in sealed envelopes accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft payable to **"Royal LePage Riverbend Realty in Trust"** of **\$10,000 per parcel**. Successful bidder will be notified by **December 8, 2025**. Cheques will be returned in respect to tenders that are not accepted by **December 8, 2025 or sooner**.

Successful bidders will be asked to enter into a formal Purchase agreement. The purchaser(s) shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.

Buyers should clearly state their order of preference of tender parcels. Tenders will be held in confidence and not be released to the public.

Any questions regarding these parcels or this tender can be directed to: **Junior Thevenot**
REALTOR at **204-825-8378 (cell)**
juniorthevenot@royallepage.ca



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8	8	2	9	6	9	4	2	1
1	2	6	8	2	4	8	9	9
2	1	9	4	9	2	8	6	8
6	9	8	2	1	8	2	4	9
2	4	8	8	9	6	9	1	2
4	6	1	2	8	9	9	2	8
9	8	2	6	8	2	1	9	4
8	2	9	9	4	1	6	8	2

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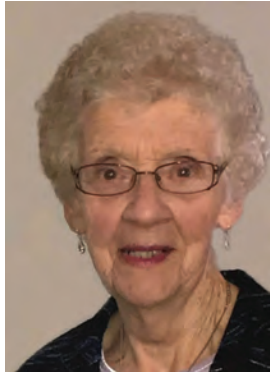
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OBITUARY



Minnie Margaret Lucilda Woods (nee Brown)

At Misericordia Health Centre on Saturday, October 25, 2025, Minnie Margaret Lucilda Woods (nee Brown) passed away at the age of 90 years.

Minnie will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her sons Bradley (Judy) and Daryl (Stacie), her grandchildren Jeremy, Emily and Mitchell and Mitchell's Mom, Robyn. She is also remembered by her brother-in-law Donnie Woods (Helen) and by her nieces and nephews.

Minnie was predeceased by her husband, Garth in 2023, her parents Henry and Pearl Brown, brother John (Kathleen), Garth's parents Dave and Hazel Woods and sister-in-law Ruth (Peter) Harris.

Minnie was born on January 13, 1935 and raised on the family farm in the Stephenfield district. At the age of 17 Minnie moved to

Elm Creek where she worked at Eddy's Café and Grocery and where she would meet her future husband, Garth. She later moved to Winnipeg and in 1958 Minnie and Garth were married and began life together in the city. In 1965 they purchased their home on Cavalier Drive, raising their two sons, making many neighbourhood friends, and where Minnie would live for 59 years.

During her early years in Winnipeg, Minnie worked at Dominion Insurance. She became a full-time home maker with the arrival of Bradley in 1964 and in 1971 Daryl would complete the family. As the boys grew older, Minnie re-entered the workforce at CRA's Taxation Data Centre retiring a few years after Garth's retirement in 1989. In 2024 Minnie moved to Sturgeon Creek II Retirement Residence.

Family and friends were core to happiness in Minnie's life. For her, there was nothing better than time spent together. She loved organizing and hosting holiday celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries, family dinners and just general get-togethers – whether large or small. Over the years, Minnie also enjoyed trips with Garth to eastern Canada, Palm Springs and the western Prairies as well as bus trips to casinos with her long-time friend Joan McCrea.

But at the top of Minnie's list were her grandchildren. Bake days with Emily, attending Mitchell's sporting events and visits with Jeremy were all highly treasured times. She was unabashedly proud of them, and no one ever went home without some of Grandma's baking.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 2 p.m. at Crossway Church, 146 Poplar Ave., Elm Creek, MB.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION Operational 2026-2027 Budget Community Consultation

Each year, Prairie Rose School Division's (PRSD) Board of Trustees consults with parents/guardians and community stakeholders of PRSD as they develop the annual Operational Budget for the following school year. This year, PRSD is hosting an in-person/virtual General Community 2026-2027 Operational Budget Consultation at **St. Laurent School on November 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in joining the conversation on what should be the Board's focus in the 2026-2027 Operational Budget, please register online by visiting our website at www.prsdmb.ca or contact us by email at prsd@g.prsdmb.ca. A virtual meeting link will be sent via email to those who pre-register. The questions will be posted online prior to the consultation date.

The suggestions and recommendations shared with the Board each year by our parents/guardians and community stakeholders are greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing your voices on November 19th.



Box 1510, 45 Main St. S. Carman, MB, R0G 0J0
www.prsdmb.ca prsd@g.prsdmb.ca
Ph: 204-745-2003 Fx: 204-745-3699

OBITUARY

Maria Janzen



Maria Janzen was born on May 1, 1942 in Morden, MB, to John and Elizabeth Janzen, the eighth of 12 children. She passed away on November 1, 2025 at the Boyne Lodge in Carman, MB.

Mari is survived by her husband, John Friesen, and her two daughters, Joanne Zoppa (Ken) and Erin Stanhope (Trevor). Her grandchildren, Nicholas Zoppa (Kaitlyn), Lauren Zoppa, and Julianne Anseeuw (Zachary), also survive her. Additionally, she is survived by her sister, Anne Sawatzky (Vic), and brothers, Leonard Janzen and Menno Janzen (Linda), along with many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

Mari was predeceased by her parents, John and Elizabeth, and her siblings, Katherine Giesbrecht (John), Elizabeth Froese (George), John Janzen, Henry Janzen (Della), an infant sister, Ben Janzen, Peter Janzen, and Helena Epp.

Mari had many fond memories of growing up in a large family, first in Morden and then in Graysville. Her father, a farmer and pastor, and her mother, a homemaker, instilled in her and her siblings the values of hard work, family, fun, and faith in God. Mari often recounted stories of milking cows, working in the garden, and cleaning up, while her older sisters did the cooking.

She attended schools in Morden and Graysville, completing her Grade 12 at MCI. With her graduation certificate in hand, Mari moved to the city for three years of nursing school at Grace General Hospital, alongside her older sister Elizabeth. She graduated with her RN in 1963, and her first job was in Crystal City. Mari's nursing career included positions at Carman Hospital, a Public Health nurse, Director of Nursing at Boyne Lodge, and finally as the Carman Home Care Coordinator and direct service care provider after retirement.

Mari and John married on June 11, 1965 and lived north of Elm Creek until 1967, when they purchased a farmyard west of the Elm Creek Cemetery, where they remained until 2005. Upon retiring from the acreage, they moved to Starbuck, MB, where John still resides. Mari spent a few months at the Pilot Mound Care Home in 2023 before spending the remainder of her days at the Boyne Lodge in Carman.

The family cherished many years together, working on the yard and tending to various animals, with horses holding a special place in their hearts.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at the Pilot Mound Care Home and Boyne Lodge for the excellent care and kindness Mari received.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Boyne Lodge Campus Charity.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Crossway Elm Creek. Private family interment will take place at the Elm Creek Cemetery.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of the arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

Cornerstone Christian Care Society thanks the following businesses and individuals for their support with our annual golf Tournament. Thanks also to all participants and everyone who donated items for our online auction.

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Barkinglot Dog Boarding
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Thank You

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Roasted Cauliflower with Grape Gremolata

To make grape gremolata: In medium mixing bowl, stir grapes, parsley, garlic, lemon zest and salt. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 1 day ahead.

To make roasted cauliflower: Heat oven to 450 F and line baking sheet with foil. Discard leaves and stems from cauliflower and cut into 1-1 1/2-inch florets. Place in large bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, to taste, and toss well to coat. Transfer to prepared baking sheet and spread in single layer.

Roast 15 minutes. Stir well and roast 15 minutes, or until golden brown on edges. Serve warm with grape gremolata.

Servings: 6
Grape Gremolata:
1 cup finely chopped green Grapes from California
2 tablespoons minced Italian parsley
1 clove garlic, minced
1 large lemon, zest only
1 pinch sea salt
Roasted Cauliflower:
1 large head cauliflower
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
freshly ground pepper, to taste



Sesame-Roasted Grapes in Crispy Won Ton Cups

spray. Press into 24 mini muffin cups, gently pressing into bottom to form flat base. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until lightly browned; let cool.

Increase oven temperature to 425 F and line small baking sheet with foil. In medium bowl, stir sesame oil, honey, soy sauce, vinegar and ginger. Add grapes and toss well to coat.

Spread mixture in single layer on baking sheet and roast 30 minutes, or until grapes are cooked but still holding shape, stirring occasionally. Let cool then spoon a few grapes into each won ton cup, adding any leftover juices. Garnish with sesame seeds and cilantro.

Servings: 24 (1 cup each)
24 square won ton wrappers, at room temperature
olive oil cooking spray
2 tablespoons sesame oil
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon rice vinegar (unseasoned)
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
3 cups red Grapes from California
sesame seeds
snipped fresh cilantro, for garnish
Heat oven to 350 F. Spray won ton wrappers on both sides with olive oil



Sheet Pan Roasted Grapes and Sweet Potatoes

3/4 cup thinly sliced onion
freshly ground pepper, to taste
snipped fresh basil

Heat oven to 425 F. In large bowl, combine oil, vinegar, salt, grapes, sweet potatoes and onion, tossing well to coat. Place on large baking sheet and spread in single layer.

Bake 30 minutes, or until potatoes are tender, stirring halfway through cooking. Sprinkle with freshly ground pepper, to taste, and fresh basil.

Servings: 6
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
3/4 teaspoon sea salt
3 cups red Grapes from California
1 pound orange sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch slices

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady Readers:

I want to talk about something I hear from readers all the time. Many Canadians want to feel more “in control” as they age. Many want to be more prepared and knowledgeable when facing the financial, health, and lifestyle changes that come with getting older. I don’t think we talk enough about how empowering knowledge can be in later life. When we’re equipped with the right information, we not only protect ourselves, but we also thrive as we age. We stop being afraid of change and start meeting it head-on, because now we have the tools to do so. Ultimately, there’s no rulebook for getting older. Some people ease into retirement. Others are pushed into it before they’re ready. While many others spend decades dreaming about it, only to arrive and think — now what? That’s where continuing to stay active and broadening our minds becomes so important.

That belief is the foundation of the Vibrant Living Speaker Series, a brand new initiative I’m proud to officially launch across the country. Over the last few months, we’ve been working on the pilot program with a number of wonderful organizations and community centres across Ontario to build an event series that’s designed specifically for older adults, bringing together expert advice, practical knowledge, and a good dose of inspiration. The series focuses on three key areas: financial literacy, health and wellness, and social wellbeing. Why these three? Because they’re the pillars of a strong and vibrant life. We need to feel financially secure. We need to take care of our bodies and minds. And we need connection, joy, and purpose. These aren’t just “nice to haves” — they’re essentials. They’re what allow us to age with confidence, security and dignity.

Through the Vibrant Living Series, we bring in professionals and specialists to speak on topics that



matter. You’ll hear about how to avoid financial scams, how to manage chronic health conditions, how to stay socially active in your community, and even how to plan for long-term care in retirement. Of course, I’ll be there too, offering guidance and sharing what I’ve learned from helping Canadians navigate their finances for over 35 years. This is more than just a presentation series, this is a chance to gather; which is also an essential component of social wellbeing, and it will allow you to find ways to make your life the best it can be.

If you’ve been reading my column for a while, you know I’ve always been a big believer in practical advice. No fluff, no nonsense, just real information that makes a difference and that’s exactly what vibrant living is all about. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. If you can’t attend in person, don’t worry, I’ll be bringing you the highlights and lessons from the series right here to the pages of your newspaper, because everyone deserves the tools to live well—at every age.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer and Syndicated Money Coach on BNN Bloomberg. Christine is also part of the everyday lineup on CTV Your Morning in every province. No AI. Follow Christine on Instagram @askthemoneylady, or on Facebook (Christine Ibbotson) AND JOIN ME AT OUR VIBRANT LIVING SPEAKERS EVENTS !!

Zucchini Spice Bundt Cake

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

1 box spice cake mix
2 cups grated zucchini
1/3 cup melted butter
3 eggs
1 cup chopped walnuts, divided
1 cup chopped white chocolate chips, divided
1 cup powdered sugar
milk

Heat oven to 350 F.

In bowl, mix cake mix, zucchini, butter, eggs, 3/4 cup walnuts and 3/4 cup white chocolate chips. Pour into greased bundt pan and bake 40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Let cool about 10 minutes then remove from pan to finish cooling.

Mix powdered sugar and milk, about 1/4 cup, to reach desired consistency of frosting. Pour over cooled cake then sprinkle with remaining walnuts and remaining white chocolate chips. Cut and serve.