

The Carman-Dufferin **STANDARD**

VOLUME 6
EDITION 2

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 22, 2026

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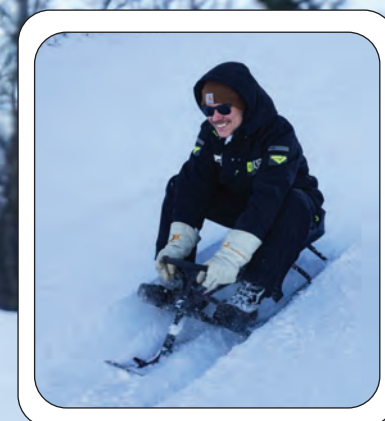
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Museum calendars flip the page on fundraising success

By Lana Meier

A calendar fundraiser has proven to be a timely boost for the Dufferin Historical Society, generating strong community support and much-needed revenue for upcoming museum projects.

Inspired by the success of a Homecoming 2000 calendar, the society revisited the idea and found it well worth repeating. With sponsorship support from Carman Ford, Janzen GMC and Toews Printing, and sales driven by board members, local businesses and volunteers, a total of 1,050 calendars were sold, raising approximately \$6,000.

In addition to sales, the society donated 10 calendars to the PCH/Lodge, providing one for each house as a way to share the project with residents.

Board member Dennis Young said the response exceeded expectations, particularly given changing habits around printed calendars.

"It blew me away really, since the use of a calendar is almost a thing of the past," Young said. "That being said, when we added the historic content, people actually wanted it. This is just one way of us attempting to keep the museum 'in your face,' so to speak."

Young said the museum attracted more than 600 visitors over the summer but noted there is still room to grow.

"We did attract over 600 this summer, but there are still days and weeks when we could use more visitors," he said. "If we had a dime for every time a local said, 'You know, I've never been in there,' we would not need fundraisers," he added with a laugh.

The proceeds come at an important time for the museum, as storage space for existing and newly acquired artifacts remains limited. The society is exploring the possibility of a nearby storage facility, with approvals being sought from both the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin.

Accessibility upgrades are also a priority. The current walkway does not meet required wheelchair width standards, and the interlocking brick surface has become a tripping concern. A cement walkway is being considered as a longer-term solution.

"We have so many plans for our museum and we are always looking for more," Young said. "Things like improving the walkway for wheelchairs, adding a storage facility and reconfiguring artifact displays all



Members of the Dufferin Historical Society display the 2026 museum calendar, which raised approximately \$6,000 through the sale of 1,050 copies in support of ongoing museum projects.

point toward providing patrons with a tour they will enjoy, remember and tell others about."

Young said preserving local history remains central to the museum's mission, even if it does not appeal to everyone.

"Local history is not for everyone—we get that—but on the other hand, we have no future without a past to reflect on," he said.

As part of its ongoing work, the

museum will also re-seal the Homecoming 2000 time capsule later this month after adding updated articles. The capsule is now designated to be reopened in 2050.

The Dufferin Historical Society continues to welcome new members. Annual memberships are \$10 for individuals or \$25 per family. More information is available at info@dufferinhistoricalmuseum.com.

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Habitat combines Valentine's fundraiser with family selection process

By Lana Meier

Habitat for Humanity Carman-Dufferin is launching the new year with two interconnected initiatives aimed at advancing affordable housing in the region — a Valentine's Day fundraiser and the start of its local Family Selection process.

The Valentine's fundraiser, themed Home is Where the Heart Is, will take place Saturday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Active Living Centre in Carman. The evening will feature live music by the Tangled Strings Quartet, desserts, a wine and craft beer bar, and a 50/50 draw.

The theme was chosen not only to align with Valentine's Day, but to reflect the broader values behind the event.

"Beyond the romantic notion of Valentine's Day lies the deeper idea of compassion, empathy and selflessness," said Ernie Bart, Carman Dufferin Habitat chairperson. "These are the qualities our community has shown time and again in support of Habitat's work, and they're what we want to celebrate during this evening."

Proceeds from the event will support the construction of a new Habitat home planned for 146 1st St. SE in Carman.

Habitat Carman-Dufferin has raised approximately \$70,000 through previous local fundraisers, but must raise an additional \$200,000 to move the build forward.

Brief presentations will be delivered during the evening by the Hon. Bernadette Smith, minister of housing, homelessness and addictions; a representative from Habitat for Humanity Manitoba; build sponsor Calvin Polet, president of Neptune Properties and partner of True North Foods; and a member of the Family Selection committee.

Community-driven fundraising is essential to keeping Habitat projects moving forward, organizers said, noting that engagement and volunteerism are the foundation of each build.

"The house build itself is only one part of a much larger community effort," organizers said. "There is significant work that goes into preparing, supporting and encouraging a family as they move into homeownership."

The fundraiser coincides with the official launch of Habitat's Family Selection process, which must be completed before construction can begin. Habitat is seeking applications from families who live and work in the Carman-Dufferin area, have children, and are interested in owning their first home.

Since the chapter's last build in 2015, social and economic conditions have changed significantly, with rising housing costs and a recognized housing shortage affecting families locally and across the province.

In a letter of support, Carman CAO Susan Stein wrote that the chapter's work "contributes significantly to community well-being by strengthening neighbourhoods, supporting economic stability, and fostering a sense of pride and belonging."

Organizers note there are common misconceptions about Habitat homes, particularly around who qualifies.

"People don't get Habitat homes — they buy them," said Christina Falk, Regional Manager Habitat. Qualified families purchase their home at fair market value through a no-down-payment, no-interest mortgage, with payments structured so housing costs never exceed 27 per cent of household income.

Mortgage payments are reinvested into future builds, allowing Habitat



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Tangled Strings Quartet will provide live music during Habitat for Humanity Carman-Dufferin's Valentine's Day fundraiser Feb. 14 in Carman.

to support additional families over time.

Information sessions and events will be held in the coming weeks to explain the Family Selection process and application requirements. More information is available by watching for local posters or by emailing H4HCarmanfamilyselection@gmail.com.

Habitat officials encourage residents to attend the Valentine's fundraiser and support the chapter's dual goals of fundraising and family selection.

"This is truly a community endeavour," said Lorraine Girouard, Carman Dufferin Habitat treasurer. "By coming together, we can help ensure everyone has a decent, safe and affordable place to call home."

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

RM of Thompson loses court appeal in councillor dismissal

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba Court of Appeal has sided with an RM of Thompson councillor in a case that dealt with her dismissal from the municipal council.

The municipality made the appeal in its effort to disqualify Donna Cox, despite a court ruling that had reinstated her and ordered Thompson to pay most of her legal costs.

In October 2023, a Court of King's Bench judge ruled in favour of Cox, ordering the RM to pay \$45,000 toward her legal fees and allowing her to remain on council. The judge found the RM had acted improperly in trying to remove Cox for missing three committee meetings.

The RM filed an appeal, arguing the judge misinterpreted Manitoba's Municipal Act and should not have ordered the municipality to pay Cox's legal expenses.

In the written court decision, it was noted "the application judge considered the following factors in exercising his discretion: the absence of any neglect or irresponsibility on Cox's part, the disingenuous excuse offered by the reeve of the RM for changing meeting times, the legitimate employment reasons of Cox for missing the meetings, Cox's genuine unawareness that missing LUD committee meetings could result in her disqualification, the LUD committee's failure to entertain the possibility of excusing Cox from one or more meetings and the failure of the applicants to consider that Cox was the voters' elected representative and that the actions of the applicants effectively obstructed Cox from acting as a councillor and disenfranchised voters.

"In my view, these were all appropriate considerations and the application judge made no errors in principle in exercising his discretion. To summarize, in my view, the application judge correctly interpreted the act and made no reversible error in exercising his discretion to dismiss the application."

Cox declined to comment on the decision.

The municipality through Reeve Bri-

an Callum declined to be interviewed but did issue a statement:

"We were disappointed and confused by the decision. We followed the municipal act and the legal advice we received. The decision says the municipal act is open to liberal discretion by the court. It doesn't say that in the act," it read. "Going forward, we are concerned about the strength of the municipal act for all municipalities.

"One thing the court couldn't seem to figure out was the change in council meeting times. This wasn't the problem and was not related to the case. She was attending most meetings and council was not concerned about this at all. This had no bearing on the missed meetings. The meetings she missed were LUD meetings, of which the time didn't change from previous term. And to say in the decision leave was not granted for those meetings, well, it was never asked for.

"But we need to move past this. As a council, we are moving forward as we have many projects on the go. We have obtained funding for several and continue to work together for the municipality. This council is proactive and has generated outside revenue to help taxpayers over the years. This will continue. While the cost is more than we would have liked, we have planned for this situation over the last three years."

The RM of Thompson and the Local Urban District of Miami previously applied under the Manitoba Municipal Act to disqualify Cox and declare her council seat vacant. The attempt followed her absence from three consecutive committee meetings, all held at 9:30 a.m. while she was working at her full-time job.

Cox, who was first elected as a Ward 2 councillor in October 2022, said her employer would not grant unpaid leave for the morning meetings. Shortly after her election, the RM council passed a bylaw changing regular council meeting times from alternating 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to only 9:30 a.m. meetings.

Cox was the only councillor to vote against the change and informed council she would only be able to attend one meeting per month if the new schedule was adopted. Callum testified in court that the new schedule simply worked better for most councillors.

In the original court decision, it was noted that "in dismissing the application, the application judge stated that "[a] municipality cannot, in a situation such as this, in effect, obstruct a councillor and disenfranchise voters, by taking actions it knows, or should reasonably know, will preclude the elected representative from fulfilling their function." The judge concluded that the applicants had "failed miserably" to foster "communication, collaboration and compromise."

The appeal court decision found that "[m]issing meetings [was] not the same class of offence as conflict of interest. I agree with this distinction," the judge said. "The municipal council conflict of interest act provides that 'where a judge finds that a councillor violated a provision of this act unknowingly or through inadvertence, the councillor is not disqualified from office, and the judge shall not declare the seat of the councillor vacant, in consequence of the violation.'

"A council member must be given adequate notice of a meeting in order to be considered absent from it. Otherwise, the meeting will not be 'properly constituted,'" the decision continued.

"In this regard, procedural rules will be applied strictly and a failure on the part of the council to closely observe them will negate the consequence of a councillor's absences. Before council can successfully obtain a declaration of disqualification, there is an expectation that the council will afford a level of procedural fairness to the councillor," the judgement stated "This may include making reasonable accommodation to a councillor in scheduling meetings."

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Carman council approves funding, fees and staffing

By Haley Cvar

Council for the Town of Carman approved more than \$838,000 in payments, adopted a new fees and charges policy, and confirmed provincial funding for a major fire hall expansion during its December meeting.

A new municipal fees and charges framework was established with the approval of Policy 029, which sets updated rates for services and rescinds the previous Policy 025.

"There were minor changes to some of the recreation costs. The affected fees increased by 2%. Hall rentals, Arena, programs, baseball and soccer," said CAO Susan Stein.

Staffing matters were addressed with council approving wage step increases for two public works employees, advancing one position from entry-level to operator level and another from wa-

ter plant entry-level to utility operator level.

Council also adopted a formal employee service recognition program effective Jan. 1, 2026. The program provides escalating gift values for continuous service milestones ranging from five to 40 years, with recognition to take place annually at the town's Christmas dinner. Federally regulated leaves, including maternity and parental leave, will not be considered a break in service.

Council reviewed an error on municipal promotional materials and agreed they could still be used, subject to a reduction on the supplier's invoice.

A request for a new no-parking designation was reviewed, with council deciding not to proceed.

Garbage, recycling and compost services were discussed, with council

directing administration to continue discussions with the service provider regarding proposed rate increases.

Council amended the town's 2026 tax sale date, moving it from Oct. 12 to Oct. 19, 2026.

Provincial funding was confirmed through approval of the 2026 Manitoba GRO Grant, with the province contributing \$301,784 toward the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department fire hall addition.

Council also approved the Carman-Dufferin Emergency Response Plan for 2026.

"There were only minor updates done to names/phone numbers. We have a new Emo Officer and are looking to expand the Volunteer EMO committee if any public would be interested contact Melissa@townofcarman.com," Stein said.

Grey approves lagoon funding, interim budget

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Grey council adopted its 2026 interim operating budget and approved additional funding for the St. Claude lagoon upgrade during its regular meeting on Dec. 17.

Council approved an interim operating budget totalling \$1.11 million to ensure continuity of municipal services until the full 2026 financial plan is adopted. The largest allocations include \$300,000 for transportation services, \$260,000 for the utility fund and \$250,000 for general government services. Council also authorized a \$325,000 withdrawal from reserves to support operations.

Significant infrastructure discussion centred on the St. Claude lagoon upgrade, where council approved allocating up to an additional \$700,000 to address rising construction costs. The funding will be drawn first from the municipality's CDI Reserve and then the St. Claude Reserve. The Manitoba Water Services Board has agreed to extend its 50-50 cost-sharing arrangement to cover the additional funds required. Administration was granted signing authority for all related contracts and documentation.

Emergency services funding also advanced with council authorizing Manitoba GRO program dollars to be

deposited into the fire truck reserve for the purchase of a new pumper truck for the St. Claude Fire Station. The CAO was authorized to sign all applicable agreements related to the funding.

During a closed session, council accepted the resignation of Fire Chief Anton Borst, effective Jan. 31, 2026, and approved new fire department appointments through March 31, 2026. Leen Blok was appointed fire chief, with Troy Esau named deputy chief and Harley Dewitt appointed captain at the Elm Creek station. Patrick Massinon was appointed deputy chief at the St. Claude station.

The way it was this week in: Jan. 22

By Dennis Young

100 Years Ago — 1926...

Carman Bible and Business School provides training in Karam Short-hand; Roland and Carman tied for top spot in the S.M.I.H.L.; Barnsley Baseball Club holds a Hard Times Dance at Forest School; a Robbie Burns Night is planned with Rev. Lyons speaking on the poet's life; ad: Make your own soap and save! All you need is Gil-lert's lye flakes; Roland Union Sunday School averages 246 in attendance; B. McInnis named top Grade 11 student with a 90 per cent average.

75 Years Ago — 1951... School budget set at \$47,000, up from \$12,000 the previous year due to construction of a new school; Gerry Kuik seeks contacts interested in sponsoring Dutch families to Canada; Carman Plumbing & Heating offers furnace conversions to oil; Jack Ross says mosquitoes

are biting at the new school now that the furnace has thawed the ground; Carman's entry in an amateur radio contest featured Elaine Hand, Carol Cochran, Darlene Friesen, Ralph McIvor and Ken Takvam singing By the Light of the Silvery Moon; Safeway McIntosh apples priced at 12¢ per lb.

50 Years Ago — 1976... Eaton's terminates its mail-order catalogue; RM appoints Stan Carr, George Gary and Charlie McCullough to the Recreation Committee; Laycock Motors lists a 1975 Dodge D200 for \$5,700; White Bookkeeping offers income tax services; CN Station House Committee plans fundraising drives and events; council distributes child-care surveys to schools; Chamber honours retired business owners Betty Woods, Ted Brown and Ed Wiebe Sr.; Ian Tyson named top Canadian country

TV show performer and outstanding singer.

25 Years Ago — 2001... Airbags save Mr. and Mrs. Les Allison during a three-vehicle collision; Carman Hospital surgical program reduced to a three-day week; Roland teacher Don Mowbray recognized for 25 years of service in Midland; minimum wage set to increase to \$6.25 in April; NDP Minister of Family Services speaks at the Carman Family Resource Centre; Jack Pethybridge plans to revive the Beavers after the team folded prior to the season; Cougars win the G.V.C. Hockey Tournament; Carman Music Academy promotes DVD rentals at \$3.50; Colin McRae sits second in scoring with the Wheat Kings; 25 women graduate from the first nursing program offered in rural Manitoba.

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"Better is the end of a thing than its beginning..." (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

Did you have a good Christmas? I love this question. I always want to stop for a spell to discuss the answer. The life of the baby we celebrated at Christmas proves the preacher's words to be true. It's a wonderful story.

Loved as an infant

I love Christmas: the music, the words, the get-togethers, the laughter, all in celebration of the coming of the little baby boy born in a manger. How friendly people are at Christmas! The manger is such a humble beginning, and yet, listen to the angelic hosts sing of His birth, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14) People of faith understand the angels' message as "good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). A humble, but promising beginning.

Despised as a man

Alas, as prophesied by Isaiah many centuries prior to His birth, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). Imagine that. The beautiful face of this child becomes a horror to us. We can't even look at him. We accuse him of being a criminal. We had such high hopes! Oh, how distorted our view of his purpose, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37).

Revered as King

Christ's work of redemption was completed on the cross, but the story of restoration begins there. He lives again! "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Consummation: his imminent return as King. The end of a thing is far better than its beginning!

I had a wonderful Christmas, thank you. Did you?

Len Lodder, Canadian Reformed Church Carman East

Remembering Delia Power and her community impact

By Dennis Young, with family notes

Delia grew up in the St. James area with her parents, Parry and Frankie, and five siblings. At St. James Collegiate, she was heavily involved in student council and the yearbook committee, performed in high school musicals and was rightfully named valedictorian.

After graduation, she attended the University of Winnipeg, where she earned her Bachelor of Science and received the silver medal for science. She then changed direction and became a chartered accountant in 1975, at a time when she was one of very few women in her CA classes.

After meeting and marrying Hellar Nakonechny — whom she met while articling at Deloitte, Haskins & Sells — the couple decided they wanted both a family and a business in rural Manitoba. They chose Carman in 1977 and opened their first office in the Carman Library tower.

Soon came family — Alana, Lauren and Aaron — and with that, the balancing act of work and parenting. Child care was not available in Carman at the time, so Delia, always one to find solutions, worked with Fern Kerr to establish a daycare that still exists today. Delia and Fern put in countless hours to build and open the Wee Care Child Centre, which continued to grow and expand over the years.

Parkland Floor was a startup business launched during the high interest rates of the 1980s. They managed to stay afloat only because Delia in-



Delia Power is remembered for her leadership, community spirit and decades of service to Carman and area.

roduced them to the Small Business Development Bond, reducing their interest rate from about 20 per cent to roughly 10 per cent. A strong business mind, she was also co-owner of Women's World with Shirley Thevenot.

Over her 33 years in Carman, Delia became deeply involved in community life, dedicating many hours to causes she supported. Her activities included the Kinettes, Chamber of Commerce, Ducks Unlimited, the ladies' golf league, recreational ringette and competitive bridge in the American Contract Bridge League.

As her children discovered their own activities, she was there with full encouragement — at hockey, ringette, rugby and soccer games. She even took figure skating lessons alongside her kids and served as president of the Carman Skating Club. When Aaron took an interest in poker, she followed along and eventually outperformed him in a qualifying tournament in Vancouver. That win led to her television appearance on TSN in Niagara Falls for a national competition.

Her family remembers her talent and passion for yarn and fabric. She spent countless hours sewing, knitting and mending. Her children — and later her grandchildren — could always count on the best Halloween costumes and lessons in textiles.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Hellar Nakonechny and Delia Power celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

For several years she was part of the St. Claude and Crescentwood quilting groups, no doubt expanding her circle of friends.

Delia's life and work were interrupted several times as she battled cancer. A determined fighter, she gained many years of good quality life after receiving a one-year prognosis, but eventually had to step away from work in 2009. On Nov. 9, 2010, at age 59, she lost the fight.

As a founding partner of Nakonechny & Power and a dedicated member of the community, her legacy continues through the businesses and organizations she helped establish. Everyone who knew Delia benefited from her joyful approach to life and her warm smile.

Mona Brown - "She was meticulous with her files and, since we had many mutual clients, we would walk at lunch discussing them. Like most working women, Delia became an expert in multitasking while working full time, raising three children — I remember her having Alana in a bassinet beside her at work — and supporting their endeavours.

"Most of all, she was a true friend who deeply cared and valued her relationships. Delia is deeply missed by her clients and colleagues. Not a month goes by that I don't spot her beautiful handwritten corrections or comments on a mutual file and remember what an extraordinary person she was."

Jennifer Fischer (employee since 1995) - "If calculator speed races were in the Olympics, Delia would have won the gold medal. She was so fast on her old Victor calculator — that beast is probably 30 years old and un-

like anything else in the office — but she loved it and swore by it.

"The after-tax-season wind-down was just another display of Delia's gratitude for the overtime hours and sacrifices her staff made. There was a mutual loyalty between Delia and the team. Even though we were paid for our overtime, she never took us for granted and always showed her appreciation when it was all over.

"She often wondered where Hellar was and joked that if he ever disappeared on one of his hunting or fishing trips, she wouldn't have a clue where to start looking for him — and he'd just have to 'stay lost.'"

Wendi Wood (employee since 1990) - "Everyone knows family meant the world to Delia, and it was evident in the way she ran the office. She gave 100 per cent to her career but also balanced work and family life, with the kids spending a lot of time at the office. The lunchroom had a TV, and they would hang out there until Mom was ready to go home. During tax season, the long hours made the balancing act even more impressive. I always knew it was 8 p.m. when the phone rang — it was Aaron calling to say goodnight.

"She also served as the de facto computer-tech support. She was a self-taught computer expert who amazed all of us, and like everything she did, she made it look easy.

"Delia successfully maintained a thriving business, was unwavering in her commitment to her family and recognized the family obligations of her staff. She encouraged all of us to balance work and home."

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CDFD opens new regional firefighter training site

By E. Antonio

The Carman Dufferin Fire Department (CDFD) has a new training site to celebrate as it heads into 2026.

Located one-mile north east of Carman next to the RM of Dufferin shop, the four-acre training site is expected to be an, "invaluable asset" to the CDFD and the community, said fire chief Chris Lemky.

"It is a place that the CDFD can practice and hone our skills for all types of emergency scenarios so that when the community needs us we can ensure we are physically and mentally able to serve them the way they deserve to be."

The CDFD began planning, fundraising, and building the training site in 2019. The facility was designed not only for the CDFD, but also for the entire Boyne River Mutual Aid District. It hosts safety courses, training nights, and practice sessions for all district members. Previously, firefighters had to travel to Brandon for hands-on training—something they can now do locally.

The site features several sea-container structures, including a five-container stack used for search and rescue training, ladder training, roof rescues, and high-angle rescues; a three-container stack designed to simulate a structure fire for live-fire training; a single-container unit also used for live-fire training; and a concrete pad for vehicle extraction and vehicle fire scenarios.

Funded in part by the Province of Manitoba, along with donations and community fundraising efforts, Lemky said the department is proud to have completed the site in 2025—a goal they had long been working toward.

"There are many more plans in the future to keep the training site growing, including windows, doors, and stairs in the three-stack, electricity to the property, and constructing or moving in a building that will house

a classroom and washroom facilities," he added. "These future plans are ongoing and will be completed as money is raised."

A significant contribution to the site's success came from memorial donations made in honour of the late Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Bell. His wife, Donalda, and family collected donations to support the project.

"Dennis served on the CDFD for 27 years and was an integral part of the department's growth and commitment to training," Lemky said. Although he worked with Bell for only four years before Bell's retirement in 2007, Lemky praised his dedication and work ethic.

"During my time working with Dennis, I remember he was always pushing for training," he recalled. "Whenever there were courses or opportunities available, he encouraged participation—especially for new members. He always took extra time to teach us, whether it was operating the pumper truck, properly donning gear, or using safe and effective techniques during vehicle extrication."

Lemky added that the memorial donations allow Bell's name and legacy to live on through the CDFD, and he expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed.

In 2026, Lemky shared his top priority of the year: keeping up with the training and service for its community. CDFD is also in the final stages of planning of the expansion and renovation of the fire hall, with construction anticipated in the spring. Additionally, Lemky is excited for their third annual Carman Dufferin Firefighters Association ball at the Carman Community hall Feb. 7. "It's going to be an amazing evening once again," he said. The ball will feature a dinner, comedian, live band, silent auction, live action and more—all in support of the CDFD's projects and operations.

"The CDFD would like to thank



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Carman Dufferin Fire Department's newly completed training site, located northeast of Carman, provides hands-on training opportunities for firefighters from across the Boyne River Mutual Aid District, allowing crews to practice search and rescue, live-fire, ladder and vehicle-extraction scenarios locally.

everyone in the community for their support in 2025 and we look forward to the support in 2026," Lemky added.

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Your FARM



Manitoba bug expert tracks rising insect threats to crops

By E. Antonio

Bugs are no strangers to Manitoba — especially for farmers and agronomists who deal with them every growing season. Helping those producers understand which insects pose a risk and which are beneficial is the job of John Gavloski, provincial entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture, based in Carman.

“A huge part of my job is educating farmers and agronomists about insects,” Gavloski said. “I spend a lot of time fielding questions, collecting insect data, and producing relevant information about insects that may harm or benefit crops.”

While Gavloski always knew he wanted to work with animals, his interest in entomology took off during university after enrolling in an entomology class taught by what he described as a “very enthusiastic instructor.” One course quickly turned into two, which eventually led to a summer job in the field — and a career that has now spanned nearly three decades.

This week, Gavloski is sharing his expertise at Ag Days in Brandon, where he is delivering two presentations focused on insect concerns in Manitoba crops.

The first presentation addressed insects commonly found in canola crops. A major focus was the cabbage



Cabbage seedpod weevils are a growing concern for canola fields. Pictured is a cabbage seedpod weevil found in a canola crop near Carman.

seedpod weevil, an insect that had not previously raised alarm in the province.

“I have been tracking the cabbage seedpod weevil since its arrival in Manitoba in 2017, and the levels were never reaching problem status,” he said. “But last year, the population completely exploded. Now it’s my job to inform farmers how to scout for it, how many is too many, and what steps they can take to control it.”

He also emphasized the diversity of weevils. Worldwide, there are more than eight times as many species of weevils as there are birds, with some weevils being beneficial to agriculture.

His second presentation highlighted several insects that were abundant



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

John Gavloski, provincial entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture, poses with a New Guinea spiny stick insect. Gavloski is attending Ag Days in Brandon this week, where he is presenting on insect concerns in Manitoba crops.

across a variety of crops in Manitoba in 2025. Gavloski discussed three different weevils, how to correctly identify them, and effective strategies for managing them. Flea beetles in canola, grasshoppers, and beetles that feed on stored grain were also covered.

The session concluded with a “Crop Talk,” allowing attendees to ask questions, similar to the weekly Crop Talks he serves as a panellist on during the summer.

“I want to make sure farmers and agronomists are getting the information they need,” Gavloski said. “I try to address most of the questions they have. I want what’s best for them, and Crop Talks help with that process.”

During the growing season, Gavloski also distributes weekly insect survey results through the Manitoba Crop Pest Updates newsletter. Anyone interested in subscribing can email crops@gov.mb.ca with the subject line “Subscribe to Insect Report.”

Despite his focus on pests, Gavloski emphasized that not all insects are harmful. Many play important roles in agriculture, including pollination, decomposition, and natural pest control.

“To put it simply, if you don’t have the good guys, the bad guys will quickly take over,” he said. “The

constant battle is ensuring populations don’t get out of hand. It’s about knowing how to manage insects, and that’s where I can help.”

According to Gavloski, farmers and agronomists are generally appreciative of his work, often sharing positive feedback about receiving early warnings on emerging insect issues and having opportunities to ask questions.

When it comes to crop vulnerability in Manitoba, Gavloski identified sunflowers and canola as being particularly susceptible to insect damage. Several insects feed exclusively on sunflowers, and some can be quite damaging to sunflowers grown for seed consumption.

Canola faces its own challenges, especially from flea beetles. When early crop growth is delayed, flea beetles can feed heavily on seedlings, creating what Gavloski described as a “real problem” for producers.

More information on insects and agriculture — including past seasonal reports and insect identification guides — can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/.

Gavloski noted pest populations can fluctuate dramatically from year

Continued on page 9



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Your FARM



Cover crop survey looking for your thoughts

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's been five years since the Prairie Cover Crop Survey looked into farmers' thoughts on the practice, and it's time for an update.

Researchers from the University of Manitoba, Manitoba Agriculture, and the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee are teaming up for a new survey now open to all farmers and crop advisors across Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

The last round of surveys, held in 2020 and 2021, was "the first Canadian survey looking at cover crops," shares Callum Morrison, who was a PhD student involved with the project at the time and is back again for this new round, this time in his role as crop production extension specialist with Manitoba Agriculture.

"Dr. Yvonne Lawley [head of the previous study] at the U of M has continued to study cover crops, but this group as a whole, it's been five years since we met up and put [results] out."

Cover crops are those grown when the land would otherwise be left bare, often during the shoulder seasons of spring or fall when the cash crop is not on the field. They're planted mainly for environ-

mental benefits such as improving soil health or preventing erosion.

"Five years ago when I was talking to Prairie farmers, I quite often had to explain what a cover crop was," Morrison said, noting it was a relatively newer practice in North America. "I haven't found myself having to do that now."

Still, cover crops are much more popular in Ontario than on the Prairies, he observed.

"There are definitely a lot more people utilizing cover crops out there, just because they have longer growing seasons, they tend to have more moisture in the fall, whereas out here we're kind of at the edge of where it is possible."

The survey five years ago found that of the 150 or so Manitoba respondents about a third had been growing cover crops for three to five years, while 24 were planting their first such crop. Thirteen per cent had been growing cover crops for more than 10 years.

Most producers were putting their cover crops in after spring wheat. Oats was by far the most popular choice for a crop, followed by peas and clover.

Many producers at the time reported an increase in their profits thanks to cover crops, though most



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Manitoba Agriculture's Callum Morrison is part of a group of researchers putting out a new cover crop survey—five years after the last one—to find out what producers think about the practice.

identified our province's short growing seasons

Continued on page 11

> BUGS, FROM PG. 8

to year, depending on factors such as weather conditions and the presence of natural enemies like predators, diseases, and parasitoids.

Over his career, he has seen a noticeable increase in the number of pest species in Manitoba, adding to the number that must be monitored. Some introduced insects arrive through natural movement, but many are human-assisted. For insects of concern on crops and trees, many arrive in the province through vehicle transportation or the movement of firewood — something that is strongly discouraged nationwide.

"Bugs are awfully good hitchhikers," he said. "Always be conscious if you are transporting plants or soil into the province, and make sure the insects we don't have — and don't want — stay out."

Looking ahead, Gavloski expects to add more invasive species to his watch list over the next few years and is already monitoring several insects that have yet to arrive in Manitoba.

While insect populations are changing, the technology used to track them in provincial surveys has re-

mained relatively stable. Although newer, more automated traps and synthetic lures are available that can capture a wider range of insects, Gavloski still finds simpler, traditional trapping methods cheaper, easier to deploy, and at times more accurate

than complex mechanical systems.

For backyard gardeners, Gavloski offered one key piece of advice: use insecticides only as a last resort. When practical, physically removing insects is often easier and cheaper, and overuse of chemicals can lead to

resistance.

"All you need is a few individuals with genetics that allow them to survive the insecticide," he explained. "Those survivors reproduce, spread their traits, and eventually the chemicals no longer work."

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ALC hosts three-part healthcare ethics and decision-making series

By E. Antonio

Knowing where you stand when it comes to making healthcare decisions — for yourself or for a loved one — can be challenging, especially when ethical questions arise.

Carman's Active Living Centre (ALC) aims to make those decisions easier by hosting a three-part healthcare ethics and decision-making series from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 4, 12 and 26.

The sessions will be led by Carman's own Katarina Lee-Ameduri, Director of Ethics for the Réseau Compassion Network and a clinical ethicist based at St. Boniface Hospital. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Manitoba and chairs the ethics councils for both St. Boniface Hospital and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

The series is open to all community members, regardless of age, profession or background.

"Everybody will be involved in healthcare at some point in their life," Lee-Ameduri said. "Whether it's as a patient or while caring for a loved one, it's important that everyone understands these issues and has the same access to information as healthcare professionals."

According to Lynne Wilkinson of the

ALC, the idea for the series came from a desire to expand evening programming and offer meaningful opportunities for community engagement.

"Short, themed series have been well received in the past, focusing on topics such as history and film," Wilkinson said. "To get people out on a cold winter evening, I was looking for something that would interest many people and be beneficial, and we all have to navigate the healthcare system at some point."

Wilkinson described Lee-Ameduri as a "gifted speaker," having heard her present at previous events. "I am grateful to Katarina for sharing her expertise on such relevant topics," she added.

Each session will include an informative presentation, a fictional case example and a question-and-answer period designed to help participants gain confidence in navigating healthcare ethics.

The first session will focus on the basic principles of ethical decision-making, including autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice, and how these concepts relate to informed consent. Lee-Ameduri described it as "an introduction to understanding how decision-making works."

"I want people to understand how to make ethical choices and how to

advocate for themselves or others in healthcare settings," she said. "It's about feeling more comfortable with the decision-making process when the need arises."

The second session will explore advance care planning and surrogate decision-making—topics that become especially important when individuals are no longer able to make medical decisions on their own.

The final session will focus on ethics in long-term care, particularly the concept of the "dignity of risk." Lee-Ameduri noted that long-term care is a growing and unique community, and she hopes to shed light on the challenges healthcare workers face when balancing safety and personal autonomy.

"The dignity of risk means allowing someone to make choices, even when there is some level of risk involved," she explained. "It's a tension between dignity and paternalism."

Examples include decisions around food choices, medication, personal care, or whether a resident should be permitted to go outdoors when conditions are less than ideal.

Overall, Lee-Ameduri hopes participants leave the series feeling confident in their role as decision-makers and with a greater appreciation for ethics as an accessible and engaging topic.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Active Living Centre is hosting a three-part healthcare and ethical decision-making series on Feb. 4, 12, and 26. Sessions will consist of an informative presentation, a fictional case example, and a question-and-answer period, led by Katarina Lee-Ameduri, Director of Ethics for the Réseau Compassion Network and a clinical ethicist based at St. Boniface Hospital.

All sessions are free to attend. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m., 15 minutes before each presentation begins.

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Winter storm forces closures

By Lana Meier

A powerful winter storm brought travel to a standstill across much of Manitoba over the weekend, with widespread impacts felt in the Interlake region.

Large sections of the Trans-Canada Highway were closed due to blowing snow and near-zero visibility, while several other provincial highways in and around the Interlake were also shut down or reported hazardous conditions. Manitoba RCMP urged motorists to avoid travel unless absolutely necessary, warning that deteriorating weather made highways unsafe.

The storm had significant local impacts, including the cancellation of hockey games, flight delays and closures across multiple school divisions. Schools were closed Monday in the Lakeshore, Lord Selkirk, Red River Valley, Evergreen, Interlake, Sunrise and Prairie Rose school divisions, including Prairie Rose's Hutterian colony schools. Division scolaire franco-manitoba-

ine (DSFM) also closed École Aurèle Lemoine in Saint-Laurent and École Saint-Georges.

School bus service was cancelled for Prairie Rose School Division, Portage la Prairie School Division, and several DSFM communities, including Lagimodière, Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Sainte-Agathe, Réal-Bérard, Saint-Joachim, Pointe-des-Chênes and Gabrielle-Roy.

RCMP reminded motorists that travelling on a closed highway is both illegal and dangerous, not only for drivers but also for emergency crews who may be called to respond to collisions or vehicles stuck in snow. During Friday's storm, Portage la Prairie police issued 25 tickets to motorists who ignored highway closures. The offence carries a minimum fine of \$298 and two demerit points.

Motorists are encouraged to check road conditions before travelling by calling 511 or visiting Manitoba 511 online.

Winkler hosting Synchronized Skating Championships

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Figure skaters from across two provinces will be in Winkler next week as the Winkler Skating Club hosts the 2026 Prairie Regionals Synchronized Skating Championships.

The Skate Manitoba event will see 24 teams of all ages lace up their skates Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"We have 282 skaters coming from Manitoba and Saskatchewan," shares club president Gina Klassen, noting this is by far the largest event the club has hosted in years.

In addition to the many out-of-town teams, the homegrown Pembina Pizazz will also have their chance to shine.

"We have six of our girls skating with the Pembina Pizazz teams ... and three of our coaches actually skate on the adult Pizazz team," noted Klassen. "That program is based out of the Morden Figure Skating Club, but it is a regional team."

The Winkler Skating Club is also putting together its own synchronized skating team for the weekend, dubbed The Precision.

"They're a Star 3 team, so they don't have a program but they go out there and they'll do some elements," Klassen said.

sen said.

The kids have been hard at work preparing for the competition.

"They're really excited," she said, noting the Star 3 skaters are "just getting into competing singly, too, so hopefully it will grow our program."

Figure skating is already booming in Winkler, with 13 youth taking part in the advanced StarSkate program and another 70 or so in the CanSkate and RisingSTAR programs.

"Our programs are full," Klassen noted.

The schedule for the two-day competition was expected to be released this week. The skating club will be posting the performance times on their social media pages.

"The second we know, everyone else will know," said club vice-president Charmaine Enns, urging people to come cheer on the local skaters. Admission is \$5 a day for adults and \$3 for kids (children six and under get in for free).

Winkler skaters and their parents will be filling a lot of the volunteer positions required to put on an event of this size, but there are still a number of areas where community volunteers are most certainly needed.

"We are needing volunteers, any-



STANDARD FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Skating Club is hosting 24 synchronized skating teams from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan next week.

one wanting to come be part of it and watch some amazing skating," Enns said.

The positions available truly run the gamut, but there are a few areas they're especially in need of right now.

"We're looking for someone to look after the turf area, just to make sure people are following the rules there and to keep the general public off it.

That's where all the teams are going to be to warm up," Enns explained. "We're also looking for first aid volunteers. You just need your first aid CPR certificate to do that."

For details about these and the other positions and time slots available, check out the Winkler Skating Club on Facebook or Instagram.

> COVER CROP, FROM PG. 9

and a lack of moisture as major obstacles.

Morrison is curious to see how things may have changed in the intervening years—have more producers embraced the practice? What benefits do they see? What challenges?

"This is your opportunity to tell us what you've actually experienced, what works, what doesn't work, what barriers exist on your farm for this integration," Morrison said. "And we want to hear from anyone, just your honest feedback."

To that end, the survey is open to any type of producer or crop advisor, whether they've grown or advised on cover crops or not.

"We're not trying to promote or say that you should or shouldn't be growing cover crops," Morrison explained. "We're here to allow farmers to share what they've actually done, to inform other

farmers as to what happens so they can benchmark and know what the industry is doing.

"We have some questions specifically for people who used to cover crop by no longer do," he noted. "We need to also understand that there are limitations which make integrating cover crops a challenge and we need to identify what they are ... we want to tell the whole story."

The data will be invaluable to researchers and policy makers as well, he noted, ensuring work they do under the scope of cover crops takes into account what's actually happening out on the fields.

To take the survey, head to <https://gfo.ca/cover-crop-survey/>.



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Female Hawks best Lightning, fall to Avros

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks have been having a rough go of it lately, including having now lost five of their last six games.

The lone bright spot came last week as the seventh-place Hawks earned a 3-2 shootout victory Wednesday over the eighth and last-place Interlake Lightning. That was followed by a 5-2 loss to the third-place Winnipeg Avros this past Saturday.

Pembina Valley had been trailing 2-1 going into the third period against Interlake, but Casey O'Brien's second of the game and ninth of the season evened it up at 2-2 just 3:11 into the third.

Overtime solved nothing, so it went to a shootout that lasted five rounds and saw Payton Manness and Clare Boyd connecting for the Hawks to earn the extra point. Shots on goal were 42-26 in favour of the Hawks, with Madison Froese earning the win in net.

On Saturday, Pembina Valley had grabbed a 2-0 lead on the Avros in the second period but couldn't keep the momentum, as Winnipeg had it even at 2-2 after 40 minutes and then put it



STANDARD PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Pembina Valley's Bree Pearce attempts to tip a point shot in front of Interlake goalie Joslyn Tetlock in last week's 3-2 SO Hawks victory.

away with three goals in the third.

O'Brien scored her 10th of the season while Sophia Cox got the team's other goal. In net, Froese made 37 saves as the Avros held a 42-29 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley's record has now

dropped to 7-13-0-1 for 15 points, which leaves them nine ahead of Interlake and two back of Central Plains.

Coming up, The Hawks are participating in the 13th annual Female World Sport School Challenge tournament Jan. 22-25 at the Hockey For

Life Centre in Headingley

They return to league play with a pair of home games Jan. 31 against Yellowhead and Feb. 1 against Westman.

Sanford edges Springfield in Free Press Division play

By Annaliese Meier

Sanford edged Springfield 3-2 in Winnipeg High School Hockey League Winnipeg Free Press Division action on Thursday, Jan. 15, at Sanford Arena.

The hosts opened the scoring on an early power play when Cooper Rodewald converted at 2:52 of the first period, assisted by Dyson Dilk. Springfield responded in the second period, with Dylan Zubert tying the game at 12:42.

Sanford regained control in the third with a pair of goals, including another power-play marker from Dilk at 9:41, before Springfield pulled within one

late in regulation on a goal by Taigan Newton. Liam Jones turned aside 36 shots in net for Sanford.

With the win, Sanford improved to 7-8 on the season and sit eighth in the Free Press Division standings with 20 points, remaining in the middle of a tightly packed race behind division leaders Collège Louis-Riel, Dakota and Springfield.

Sanford returns to action Tuesday, Jan. 20, visiting St. John's-Raven-scourt at 3:20 p.m., followed by road games Wednesday, Jan. 21, against Dakota at 3:10 p.m., and Wednesday, Jan. 28, at Kelvin at 4:15 p.m.

SANFORD GIRLS REBOUND WITH OT ROAD WIN

The Sanford Sabres went 1-1 last week in Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League West Division play and sit fourth in the division with a 12-6 record.

Sanford opened the week with a 4-2 home loss to the Warren Wildcats on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Warren scored early and carried a two-goal lead into the second period before Sanford answered with goals from Mackenzie Jeffery and Mikalah Grant, the latter coming on the power play. Warren regained the lead later in the period and

added an early third-period marker to seal the win.

The Sabres rebounded Wednesday, Jan. 14, with a 4-3 overtime road victory over the Sturgeon Heights Huskies. Grant scored twice on the power play in the second period, while Halle Penner added another before Sturgeon Heights forced overtime with a goal just 14 seconds into the third. Penner then netted the game-winner 1:18 into overtime.

Sanford returns to action Friday, Jan. 23, travelling to face Garden City at 3:35 p.m.

Beavers fall to Winterhawks in tight SEMHL matchup

By Annaliese Meier

The Carman Beavers came up short in a closely contested South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League game Saturday night, dropping a 5-2 decision to the Springfield Winterhawks.

After a scoreless first period, Springfield struck twice early in the second to take control before Carman responded with a pair of quick goals to even the score. AJ Nychuk opened the Beavers' scoring at 5:12, finishing a play set up by Dean Gorchynski and Jack Lotscher. Eric Klassen followed just over two minutes later, converting a pass from Lotscher to tie the game 2-2.

The Winterhawks regained the lead midway through the third period on a goal from Keith Grondin, which stood as the game-winner. Springfield

sealed the result with two empty-net goals in the final minute.

Goaltender Luke Zacharias made 40 saves for Carman in the loss, while Springfield's Ashton Howarth stopped 39 shots to earn the win. Special teams were scoreless on the night, with Carman going 0-for-3 on the power play and Springfield finishing 0-for-1.

The Beavers will look to rebound as league play continues in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League.

Carman is back on the road Saturday, Jan. 24, visiting Springfield for an 8 p.m. puck drop. The Beavers then return home Monday, Jan. 26, to host

Portage in an 8 p.m. start.

HAWKS FALL IN OVERTIME TO PORTAGE

The Notre Dame Hawks picked up a point but came up just short Saturday night, dropping a 3-2 overtime decision to the Portage Islanders in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action.

After a scoreless first period, Portage opened the scoring early in the second before the Hawks responded late in the frame. Jake Carels tied the game at 17:07, finishing a play set up by Sean Christensen and Karl Conrad.

The teams traded goals in the third period. Portage regained the lead just over a minute in before Roux Bazin answered for Notre Dame with a short-handed marker at 7:46, sending the game to overtime.

Portage's Craig Fournier scored his second goal of the night at 2:10 of the extra frame to seal the win.

Goaltender Christopher Lesage made 39 saves for the Hawks in the overtime loss, while Portage net-minder Jacob Gnidziejko turned aside 39 shots to earn the victory. Portage went 0-for-5 on the power play, while Notre Dame did not receive a man advantage.

Notre Dame returns to action later this week as SEMHL play continues.

The Hawks are on the road Friday, Jan. 23, visiting Warren for an 8 p.m. start, before travelling to Red River on Sunday, Jan. 25, for a 3 p.m. puck drop in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League.

Swarm explode for 12 goals in rout of Steinbach

By Lana Meier

The Macdonald Swarm erupted for a dozen goals in a decisive 12-3 road win over the Steinbach Huskies on Saturday night at the Southeast Event Centre.

After Steinbach opened the scoring early in the first period, Macdonald took control in the second with a six-goal outburst. Carson Park got the

Swarm on the board with a power-play marker before Baylen Dilk scored twice in the frame. Goals from Talon Weselak, Gavin Rondeau and Austin Spicer helped Macdonald carry a commanding 7-2 lead into the third.

The Swarm showed no signs of slowing down in the final period, adding five more goals including tallies from Spicer, Park, Weselak, Colton Plaitin,

Carter Campbell and Tyler Van de Velde. Steinbach's lone third-period goal came on the power play from Seth Bergman.

Spicer finished the night with a multi-point performance, while Dilk and Weselak each recorded two goals. Jack Martin earned the win in goal for Macdonald, stopping 21 shots. Steinbach used two goaltenders, with

Aaden Boulay taking the loss after allowing nine goals.

Macdonald went 1-for-1 on the power play, while Steinbach finished 1-for-4.

The Swarm return to action Friday, Jan. 23, when they travel to Sanford to face Red River, before hosting Ste. Anne on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Maurice Chaput Arena.

Hawks struggle through four-game losing stretch

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are mired in a four-game losing skid after dropping a trio of games this past week.

After being edged 4-2 by Eastman last Thursday in Steinbach, the Hawks didn't fare any better on home ice in Morden as they fell 3-2 and 5-3 to Parkland Saturday and Sunday.

Koen Bleznuk went above and beyond to keep Pembina Valley in the game against Eastman, as the Selects outshot the Hawks 58-28 including 23

in the final frame alone.

Carson Hiebert scored for the Hawks in the second period to even things up at 1-1. Casey Magarrell then did the same partway through the third to make it 2-2. Eastman got the winning goal just 13 seconds later and then put it away with an empty netter.

Pembina Valley led 2-1 after 40 minutes against Parkland Saturday, but the Rangers tied it up early in the third and then got the extra point when they connected for the winner 4:52 into overtime.

Hiebert and Cole Secord scored for the Hawks. Shots on goal were 39-38 in favour of Parkland, with Bleznuk taking the loss between the posts with 36 saves.

Allowing a pair of power play goals made the difference in the second game Sunday as those markers helped propel the Rangers to a 4-2 lead after 20 minutes.

Secord, Hiebert, and Magarrell scored for Pembina Valley, while Bleznuk stopped 30 of 34 shots before Parkland put it away with an empty

net goal. Total shots on goal were 44-36 in favour of the Hawks.

Pembina Valley now sits in eighth place at 18-13-1-1 for 38 points. They are three back of Parkland and Southwest and five in front of Yellowhead.

After visiting Eastman Tuesday, the Hawks were scheduled to head to Brandon Friday and then to Shoal Lake for a weekend doubleheader with Yellowhead.

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take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

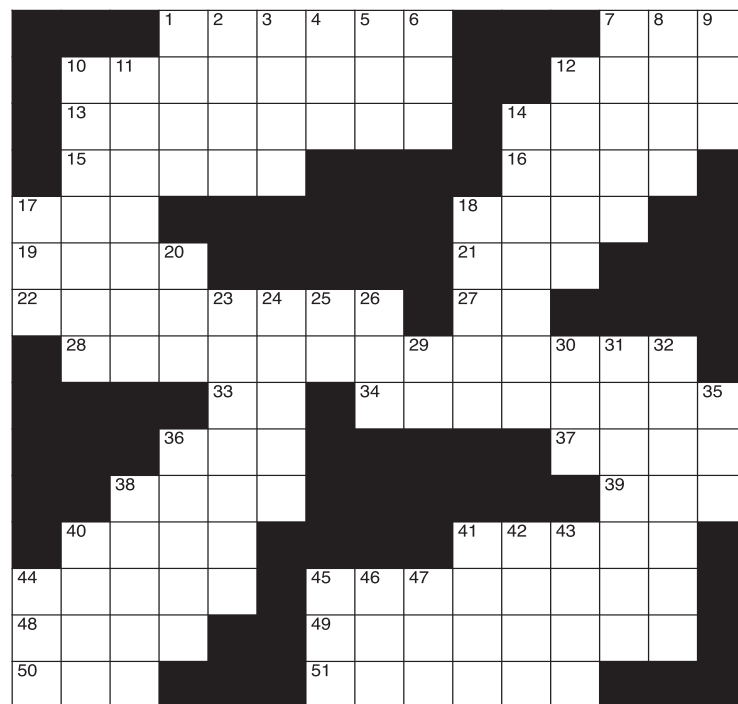
Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever
 7. Rocky peak
 10. Leave a country
 12. Discount
 13. D.C. ballplayer
 14. Partner to "oohed"
 15. Engine sound
 16. Japanese ornamental box
 17. Fido is one
 18. Amounts of time
 19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 22. Make secret plans
 27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
 28. "His Airness"
 33. Morning
 34. Perfected
 36. Winger guitarist Beach
 37. Abba __, Israeli politician
 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
 39. A way to save money
 40. Pulpit
 41. Make ecstatically happy
 44. Once more
 45. Works on
 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
 49. State again
 50. Expression of disappointment
 51. Type of door
- ### CLUES DOWN
1. Yugoslavian communist leader
 2. Exchange rate
 3. High school dance
 4. Peter's last name
 5. When you anticipate arriving
 6. Israeli city __ Aviv
 7. Goat-like mammals
 8. Margarine
 9. End-of-the-spectrum color
 10. Make poisonous
 11. Popular beverage
 12. Actress Lathan
 14. Where planes land and depart
 17. Political fundraising entity
 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
 20. Buffer used in microbiology
 23. Light, open carriage
 24. Metrical feet
 25. Email subject line feature
 26. A street with lots of nightmares
 29. Rapper Rule
 30. River in Scotland
 31. One who settles a dispute
 32. Most chummy
 35. We all have our own
 36. Arab tribe
 38. Slap
 40. Ottoman military commanders
 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
 42. Emit coherent radiation
 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
 44. Inclined to
 45. Olfactory reference syndrome
 46. Chest muscle (slang)
 47. Body part



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OBITUARY



Ronald Blake Russell

Peacefully, with his loving family by his side, Ron Russell passed away at his home in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on January 11, 2026, at the age of 83 years.

Ron will be forever cherished by his beloved wife of 57 years, Joan Russell, and by his children Denise Raduloff (Yuri) of Calgary and Murray Russell (Gail) of Portage la Prairie. He was a proud and devoted grandfather to Khale (Yaro), Tianna (Ethan), Jady (Maddy), and Rio, each of whom brought him great joy and meaning. He is also lovingly remembered by his sisters Janet Braun of Vancouver and Bonnie Ressler (Dennis) of Calgary, along with his many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and a wide circle of friends who were touched by his kindness, humour, and genuine care for others.

Ron was predeceased by his parents James Webb Russell and Alice Evelyn Anderson; sisters Faye, Ruth, and Gwen; brothers Gary, Blaine, Jim, Dale, and Gordie; and mother and father-in-law, Lyle and Dorothy Sylvester.

Ron married the love of his life, Joan, in 1968 in Carman, Manitoba, beginning a life together rooted in love, hard work, and deep devotion. From an early age, Ron learned the value of work and responsibility on the family farm. Though farming was always close to his heart, his passion also extended to the machinery business, where he built lasting relationships and eventually opened AgWest Equipment in Portage la Prairie.

More than his work, Ron will be remembered for the way he lived. He was a fun-loving, strong, and caring man who truly valued people. He made friends easily and kept them for life - through curling, ball, business, farming, and time spent with friends in Silver Ridge, Mesa, Arizona. To know Ron was to feel welcomed, respected, and cared for.

Above all else, Ron loved his family. His children and grandchildren were his greatest pride, and the people in his life meant everything to him. His strength, warmth, and steady presence will be deeply missed, but the love he gave so freely will live on in all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Herman Prior Centre in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The service will be livestreamed, to register and view visit Ron's obituary page at www.mckenzieportagefuneralchapel.com. A family interment will take place at Evergreen Memorial Gardens Columbarium at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Nurses Foundation, in gratitude for the compassion and care nurses provide to individuals and families during life's most tender moments.

A tree will be planted in memory and cared for by McKenzies Portage Funeral Chapel. www.mckenzieportagefuneralchapel.com



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Duties would include monthly bookkeeping, personal and corporate income tax return preparation, preparation of year end working papers for businesses and other accounting related tasks. Must be comfortable dealing with farm clients and must possess strong computer skills (specifically Microsoft Excel). Knowledge of Quickbooks would be an asset. Wage will be dependent on experience.

Tax Return Data Entry Clerk

This job entails data entry for basic personal tax returns. The job will require approximately 10 hours per week during the months of March and April. The hours worked are very flexible but the successful candidate needs to be able to work every 2-3 days. Knowledge about personal tax return is not required but would be an asset. Wage will be dependent on experience.

Forward resume by Monday, February 2nd to:

Nakonechny & Power, Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd.

Attention: Lauren Nakonechny

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Boyne Care Holdings plans 50-unit assisted living residence in Carman

By Lana Meier

Boyne Care Holdings is moving ahead with plans for a new assisted living residence in Carman, aimed at filling a long-identified gap in seniors' housing and care in the region.

The Boyne Assisted Living project will be a 50-unit, three-storey residence offering assisted living services, with construction scheduled to begin in spring 2026 and completion planned for fall 2027.

Executive director Tyler King said the need for assisted living was identified during the early planning stages of the Boyne Lodge Personal Care Home.

"We had recognized from the start that assisted living was missing in the region," King said. "Adding this facility was always part of the longer-term plan once the personal care home was established."

King said the project represents the second phase of Boyne Care Holdings' broader vision for seniors' care in the Carman-Dufferin area, with a focus on matching residents to housing that fits their changing needs.

"Our focus is on seniors housing and making sure people are in the right type of housing for where they are at," he said.

The new residence will be physically connected to Boyne Lodge, creating what King described as an aging-in-place campus designed to support easier transitions in care.

"Being connected makes a real difference, especially in winter," he said. "It allows for easier mobility and helps families remain close as care needs change."

The facility will be attached to the west end of Boyne Lodge and will feature three floors, each with shared amenities. The main floor will house the dining area and a multi-purpose



A rendering shows a typical suite planned for the Boyne Assisted Living residence in Carman, which will offer one- and two-bedroom units designed with accessibility in mind.

space overlooking the Boyne River, along with a meeting space for families and access to an outdoor patio.

Two elevators will serve the building, supporting accessibility throughout. The second and third floors will include common areas for games, visiting and planned activities, while the third floor will also feature an outdoor terrace and indoor lounge overlooking the river. River-facing suites will include balconies.

The residence will offer a mix of one- and two-bedroom suites, with accessibility incorporated into the design to support comfort and ease of movement.

Residents will receive brunch and supper daily, along with light housekeeping, linen and towel laundry services, and planned recreation programming as part of the service package. Additional services will be available as needed.

Assisted living, King said, provides a level of support that sits between independent living and a personal care home.

"Independent living doesn't include supports, while a personal care home provides full care," he said. "Assisted living offers meals, housekeeping,



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

An exterior rendering shows the planned Boyne Assisted Living residence in Carman, a 50-unit, three-storey building that will be connected to Boyne Lodge. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2026.



laundry and recreation, with the option to add supports as needed."

The project will not receive provincial or municipal funding and will be fully supported through resident fees. Boyne Care Holdings is a not-for-profit organization, with staffing coordinated internally.

Projected monthly rent and service packages are expected to start at \$3,500 for a one-bedroom unit and \$3,995 for a two-bedroom unit. Affordable suites are planned to start at \$2,995 per month. An additional \$700 per month will apply for a second resident in the same suite to cover service costs. Final pricing is still under development.

King said affordability has been a central consideration throughout the design process.

"The goal has been to create something that is both appealing and affordable," he said, adding that pricing will continue to be refined as construction approaches.

Boyne Care Holdings recently opened a priority waiting list and has already received applications and de-

posit cheques.

"The early response has been encouraging," King said. "We would like to see all suites spoken for prior to construction."

Once approved, applicants may secure a suite with a refundable \$1,000 deposit, with priority based on the date deposits are received.

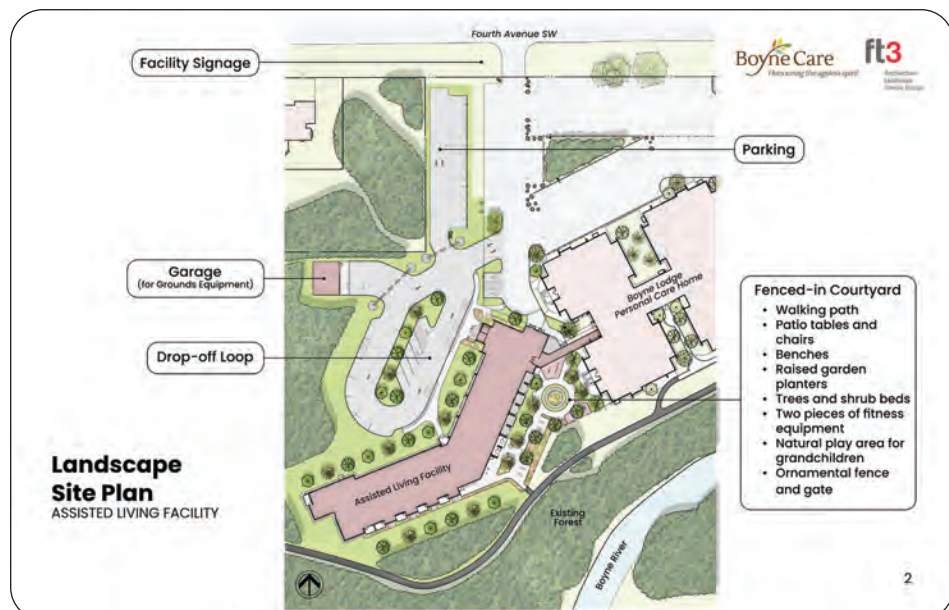
King said the project will help families keep aging parents in the community rather than having to seek assisted living options elsewhere.

"This allows people to stay closer to home, near family and friends, and in a place where supports are available," he said. "That peace of mind is important."

He added the development strengthens Carman's ability to support residents as they age.

"This fills a gap in the community and helps ensure Carman remains a place where people can continue to live as their needs change," King said.

More information and application details are available at www.boyne-care.ca.



A site blueprint outlines the design of the proposed Boyne Assisted Living project in Carman, as part of an aging-in-place campus.