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STANDARD PHOTO BY JEFF WYTINCK

Rowen Major earned second place in the youth walleye category with a 21.50-inch catch at the Carman & District Game & Fish Club's annual banquet held Jan. 24.

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Second annual Seedy Saturday coming up

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The first annual Seedy Saturday was such a success last year that this year's event is moving to a larger location to allow for more participants.

"The energy we had there [at the library last March] was great, it was a really neat vibe," shares Yolanda Friesen of Prairie Harvest Flowers, who is heading up the day alongside Tiffany Hemphill of Hemphill Seeds. "Everyone was so excited to be there, just talking and sharing, and all the gar-

deners were itching to start on their planting. It was a lot of fun."

But the unexpectedly robust turnout did make for cramped quarters, which is why this year they're setting up instead at Winkler Arts and Culture on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They're all set to fill the larger space with local vendors of honey, flower and vegetable seeds, and other gardening products—they already have a wait list for vendors interested in



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

Tiffany Hemphill (left) and Yolanda Friesen are looking forward to Seedy Saturday at Winkler Arts and Culture Feb. 21. It'll be a day of connection and education.

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Grace-St. John's congregation adapts after church fire

By Lana Meier

One year after fire destroyed its church building, Grace-St. John's Anglican/Lutheran congregation continues to gather, worship and serve — even without a permanent home.

The March 13 blaze that fully ravaged the 60-year-old Carman church forced the congregation into a season of adjustment, but not retreat. Over the past year, members have continued regular worship, community meals and ministry, adapting how they operate while remaining united in purpose.

"It has meant continuing to do the things we have always done, but in a different way," said Rev. Trudy Thorarinson. "The congregation has come together and worked together to continue to be Grace-St. John's."

Since the fire, worship services have been held in multiple locations, including the Great Room at Boyne Lodge and the common room at Boyne Towers. While the setup requires weekly transport of worship materials, the shared spaces have also opened the door to new connections.

"It has provided an opportunity for residents at Boyne Lodge and tenants at Boyne Towers to join us for worship," Thorarinson said, adding the congregation is grateful for storage space made available for smaller items.

Grace-St. John's has also continued its longstanding partnership with Carman United Church. When either congregation's pastor is away, members gather together — a practice that carried on this year as Grace-St. John's temporarily held services at the United Church during Rev. Harold Kenyon's holidays.

As a result, there is no single worship location, but Thorarinson said attendance has remained steady, with a few new faces joining along the way. Participation in worship and congregational events has remained strong.

Over the past year, maintaining connection has been a priority alongside worship. Thorarinson said she has focused on keeping members informed through regular email updates and social media, ensuring everyone knows where services and activities are being held each week. Informal gatherings, including weekly coffee and conversation times at a local restaurant, have also helped sustain relationships during the transition.

Despite the loss of the building, Grace-St. John's has continued its regular ministry and community events. The congregation hosted its annual spaghetti supper and is preparing to

hold its pancake supper at the Legion Auxiliary Hall, maintaining traditions that remain central to congregational life.

In the weeks immediately following the fire, the loss of the building felt devastating. Over time, that sense of loss has shifted.

"What seemed so devastating has become the reality that we are still Grace-St. John's, even though we have not had a place to call home," Thorarinson said.

Support from the wider community and beyond has played a major role in that transition. Other congregations provided hymnals, banners, paraments and communion ware. The Legion Auxiliary Hall hosted church suppers, while Carman United Church offered office and meeting space. Local businesses and individuals also stepped forward in the days following the fire.

"We are overwhelmed by the support given locally and beyond," Thorarinson said.

While some members initially felt displaced, a new rhythm has taken hold, particularly since the decision was made to rebuild.

"A new sense of looking forward to having our own building again has set in," she said, noting plans are underway to rebuild a single-level church on the original site.

Looking ahead, Thorarinson said the past year has reshaped how the congregation understands church and community.

"Wherever we gather, we are Grace-St. John's," she said. "It is more important now to stay together."

Her hope for the next chapter is that the congregation continues to focus on ministry beyond the walls of any building, while remaining positive as rebuilding moves forward.

"What started out looking like an ending has turned into new opportunities for how we operate as a congregation," she said.

The fire that destroyed Grace-St. John's Anglican/Lutheran Church broke out in the early morning hours of March 13, 2025. Carman firefighters were dispatched shortly after 4 a.m., but were unable to enter the building due to extensive fire damage and structural collapse. Flames had already burned through the main floor, forcing crews to attack the fire from outside.

The church building, which had served the congregation for roughly 60 years, was later deemed a total loss.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Rev. Trudy Thorarinson speaks during a Grace-St. John's Anglican/Lutheran worship service on Sunday morning. The congregation continues to meet at various locations in Carman one year after a fire destroyed its church building.

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get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Dufferin council advances bridges, emergency planning

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Dufferin is moving ahead with major infrastructure and emergency preparedness initiatives, approving an \$800,000 bridge purchase and advancing updates to its emergency response planning during its Dec. 16 council meeting.

Council approved the purchase of the McEachern Bridge from ARMTEC at a cost of \$801,965.39 plus applicable taxes, and authorized TTES Consulting to prepare the project's tender package. Council also received an update on the Carman Concrete bridge project.

Emergency preparedness also moved forward with council's approval of the municipality's 2026 Emergency Response Plan. Chief Administrative Officer Sharla Murray said the plan includes only minor revisions at this stage.

"The 2026 Emergency Response Plan includes several minor updates, primarily to contact information, addresses, and available resources," Murray said. "There were no major

structural changes made at this time."

Murray noted further improvements are anticipated under the guidance of the municipality's new Emergency Coordinator, Melissa Cruickshank, who began in the role in September.

"Looking ahead, the RM anticipates further improvements to the plan under the guidance of the new Emergency Coordinator," Murray said. "As part of this work, Melissa intends to test the plan in 2026 through a tabletop exercise to help identify opportunities for enhancement."

Council also adopted updated water rates through second and third readings of By-law No. 2044. The bylaw reflects a pass-through rate increase from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative in accordance with Public Utility Board Order No. 138/22.

Planning for recreational infrastructure advanced with council approving surveying work for the Carman-Dufferin Campground at an estimated cost of \$4,500 to \$5,500 plus disbursements. Murray said the surveying is required to facilitate subdivision of

the property, allowing the municipalities to proceed with its purchase from the Dufferin Agricultural Society.

"The Carman-Dufferin Campground is an existing facility currently owned by the Dufferin Agricultural Society and leased by the two municipalities," Murray said. "The current surveying work is being undertaken to facilitate the subdivision of the property, which would allow the municipalities to proceed with its purchase."

She said no major improvements are planned for the campground in the coming year, noting previous upgrades have included washroom improvements, accessible sidewalks and railings, and electrical services. The facility will continue to be maintained at its current service level.

Road and drainage matters were also addressed, with council approving two project work orders and multiple tile drainage proposals in the Corduroy Plains area affecting more than

Continued on page 7

The way it was this week in: Feb. 5

By Dennis Young

100 years ago, 1926... Ladies' High School hockey team taking shape; J.G. McGowan Co. sells 30 lbs. of onions for \$1; Sperling Carnival held, including races and costume judging for fancy and comic classes; Royal Bank encourages poultry for profit; Harry McKnight toasts the dads at the Homewood Father and Son Banquet; UGG Elevators sell binder twine; 200 fans catch a train to Swan Lake to watch a hockey game in which Don Shilson and Karl Watson star, but lose 2-1.

75 years ago, 1951... Chamber elects Hank Churchill president and Ben Reynolds vice-president; 24-year-old Johann Van Dijk arrives in Homewood from the Netherlands; the C.C.I. Messenger collegiate publication is

launched with Joan Proulx as editor; Game and Fish memberships cost \$7; Westinghouse Super Deluxe electric range at Skinner and Bishop sells for \$379; Carman United Church has 1,400 members; Safeway 16-oz. Polly Ann bread, sliced or unsliced, is two for 21 cents; Bangs disease in cattle is the topic at a YMS meeting; Catherine Loepky chairs Carman Drama Club meeting and play planning.

50 years ago, 1976... TD Bank opens; Carman has five rinks win zones and advance to provincials; Jan's Gulf accepts beer bottles for gas at 60 cents per bottle; get your RRSP from Fred Salter at DCU; Miami Develop Corp. invites a plastic stick factory and local share purchases; recent retirees Ted Brown, Ed Wiebe Sr. and Betty Woods are honoured; Skelton's Hardware

building sold to Bert Klos; experimental "open-area classrooms" walled up at the Collegiate; Co-op sells Tack skates for \$74.95.

25 years ago, 2001... Lt.-Gov. Peter Liba visits Carman Elementary; the 32nd Cougar Tournament gets underway; Midland receives a \$96,000 increase from government but it won't offset fixed costs, says Supt. Fred Colvin; grand opening of Fas Gas features draws for a year of gas; Collegiate performs HMS Pinafore; Corn Growers Association moves to the Industrial Park from the hall basement; Daisy a Day offers roses starting at \$3; figure skaters Monique Martin and Gillian Vanderveen bring home gold at regionals; Kraig MacLean rents out Tub Tyme.

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Thompson to seek provincial support for water system study

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Thompson is seeking provincial assistance for a comprehensive review of its water treatment and distribution system, a move council approved during its regular meeting Jan. 15.

Council voted unanimously to apply to the Manitoba Water Services Board for a full engineering study examining plant capacity and performance, system pressures, flow rates, distribution piping and related infrastructure. The study would be funded through a proposed 50-50 cost-sharing arrangement between the municipality and the province.

Administration was authorized to submit the application and supporting documentation on behalf of the municipality. The decision was part of a

broader agenda focused on risk management, governance and long-term municipal planning.

Council adopted both an artificial intelligence policy and a cybersecurity policy and protocol, formalizing guidelines for the use of emerging technologies and measures to protect municipal systems and data.

Governance appointments were also confirmed, with Councillor Wayne Gall appointed deputy reeve for 2026 and Dianne Swain named senior election official for the upcoming municipal general election. Remuneration for election officials will be determined at a later date.

Council also designated 2025 as the municipality's tax sale year, meaning properties with outstanding taxes from 2024 or earlier may be offered for sale

by public auction. Costs associated with tax sales will be limited to actual expenses incurred by the municipality.

Community funding decisions were also addressed, with council approving its final round of 2025 grants for the Lloyd Orchard Arena, Miami Arts Association, Miami Christmas Cheer, Miami Fire and Rescue and the Miami Friendship Centre.

Looking ahead to 2026, council authorized applications to the Urban/Hometown Green Team program and the provincial From the Ground Up grant program, including a submission for upgrades at the Miami Cemetery.

Additional approvals included authorization to enter into an agreement with Way To Go Consulting Inc. to provide post-election council orientation and governance training.

Grey council advances broadband, approves community funding

By Haley Cvar

Council for the Rural Municipality of Grey moved this month to strengthen essential rural services, advancing broadband expansion, formalizing participation in a regional veterinary district and approving more than \$100,000 in community and recreation funding.

At its Jan. 7 meeting, council approved two proposals from RFNow to expand fibre-optic infrastructure near Elm Creek. The projects involve directional boring along Market Road 27W, Road 51N and Road 38W, with the service provider responsible for locating existing utilities prior to construction.

Council also approved a one-year by-law enforcement services contract with Commissionaires Manitoba, authorizing the reeve and chief administrative officer to sign an agreement covering April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Steps were also taken to support rural veterinary access. Bylaw No. 01-2026, establishing the municipality's participation in the St. Claude Veterinary District, received first reading Jan. 7 and was given second and third readings and formally adopted at the Jan. 21 meeting.

Infrastructure compliance and emergency preparedness were addressed as well. Council approved updates to the municipality's emergency plan and moved ahead with mandatory installation of meter interface units in St. Claude. Administration was directed to issue reminder letters to remaining properties, with potential water shutdowns identified as an enforcement option if compliance is not achieved.

Council also approved a slate of community and recreation grants over the two meetings. Funding authorized Jan. 7 included support for local fire departments, arenas, libraries, seniors' groups

and community organizations.

Additional recreation grants approved Jan. 21 included \$55,000 for the St. Claude-Haywood Curling Rink, \$17,000 for the Elm Creek Skating Rink and \$7,000 for the Elm Creek Curling Club.

Other decisions included acceptance of the 2026 municipal recycling funding schedule from Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba, a \$250 dona-

tion to Agriculture in the Classroom and approval of membership fees for Fire Chief Leen Blok with the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs. Council also approved several membership renewals, including the Hudson Bay Route Association and the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association.

Council heard from Lauren Stone, who appeared before council for an open discussion at the Jan. 21 meeting.

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Groundhog or Candlemas

February 2nd the day the groundhog sticks its head out of the ground to inform us how much longer winter will last. Did you know that February 2nd is also known as "Candlemas Day" and the two are related.

Luke 2:22-40 describes the custom of the time, that 40 days after birth, the firstborn son and his mother are presented at the temple. Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth (December 25th – February 2nd). We call this 'The Presentation of the Lord.'

When they entered the temple in Jerusalem, it was the first time Jesus had come to God's house. In the temple were Simeon and Anna, two elderly prophets dedicated to prayer and fasting. Their strong religious spirit enabled them to recognize their Messiah.

In some faith traditions this day is also called Candlemas that includes the blessing of candles because of Simeon's reference that Jesus is the "light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32). The candles represent Jesus as the light of the world.

So I did some reading on how did Candlemas Day become Groundhog Day? It started with a saying:

"If Candlemas Day is clear and bright, winter will have another bite.

If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter is gone and will not come again."

So, as we are reminded that Jesus came as a light to the world, I encourage you light a candle and reflect on Jesus as the light coming into our lives. You might even want to say the prayer below as a blessing for your candles in your home.

We give You thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; You have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Send your blessing on these candles for our home; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

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

Full house turns out for Carman Game & Fish banquet

By E. Antonio

The Carman & District Game & Fish Club held its annual banquet Jan. 24, drawing a sell-out crowd of hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

Club vice-president Jeff Wytinck described the event as a "fantastic evening" enjoyed by all in attendance. The night featured member awards, a catered meal by the Carman Golf and Curling Club, multiple gun draws and a silent auction.

Participation in the club's big game head and large fish categories more than tripled from last year, with 17 entries in the big game category and 41 fish submissions.

Wytinck said the club is pleased with its continued growth and the opportunities it brings to the community, while also thanking sponsors and supporters for their contributions. The club's next event is the Stephenfield Ice Fishing Derby, scheduled for

March 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Further details will be shared on the club's Facebook page.

GAME & FISH AWARD WINNERS:

- Largest rifle season deer and largest overall: Jason Rheault, 148 3/8"
- Largest rifle season deer (youth): Hudson Davis, 131 4/8"
- Most even over 100": Hudson Davis
- Largest non-typical: Greg Snider, 134 6/8"
- Largest perch: Matthew Leith, 14.25"
- Largest perch (youth): Ezra-May Leith, 14.25"
- Largest walleye: Luke Lowen, 30.25"
- Largest walleye (youth): Nixon Nakonechny, 23"
- Largest pike: Matthew Leith, 42"
- Largest pike (youth): Chayston Major, 25"



Hudson Davis captured first place overall in the youth category with a score of 131 4/8 inches, a result that also earned him a spot in the Manitoba Big Game Trophy Association record books.



Erika Nussey was the lucky winner of the Charles Daly 101 Single Shot Shotgun. Presented by Wayne Nussey.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Left to right: Pauline-Emerson Froebe (presenter), Jason Rheault (winner of the Giesbrecht Trophy for first place in the largest rifle season deer category and largest overall, 148 3/8 inches), and Evelyn Froebe (presenter) are pictured during the Carman & District Game & Fish Club's annual banquet held Jan. 24, which drew a sell-out crowd of hunting and fishing enthusiasts.



Carrie Olson was the winner of hunting package raffle.



Big game entries are displayed for a group photo



Young attendees pose for a group photo during the Carman & District Game & Fish Club's annual banquet.

Synchronized skating showcased at Prairie Regionals



STANDARD PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT

Members of the Notre Dame Silhouettes synchronized skating team captured a third-place finish in the Adult SYS I Synchro Free Program at the 2026 Prairie Regional Synchronized Skating Championships on Jan. 31 in Winkler. Representing the Notre Dame de Lourdes Figure Skating Club, the Silhouettes competed at the Meridian Exhibition Centre – Icon Arena against four other teams: Wheat City ConnXion of Skate Brandon, Winnipeg Revival of the Seine River Skating Club, University of Manitoba Ice Intrepid of the Hazelridge Figure Skating Club, and Genesis of the Regina Synchronized Skating Teams. The regional championship was hosted by Skate Manitoba in partnership with the Winkler Skating Club and drew synchronized skating teams from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Often referred to as "synchro," synchronized skating is a team-based discipline of figure skating that emphasizes precision, speed, formations and unison through choreographed programs performed on the ice.

> DUFFERIN, FROM PG. 4

470 acres. Murray said the municipality monitors cumulative drainage impacts using long-term technical data and local expertise.

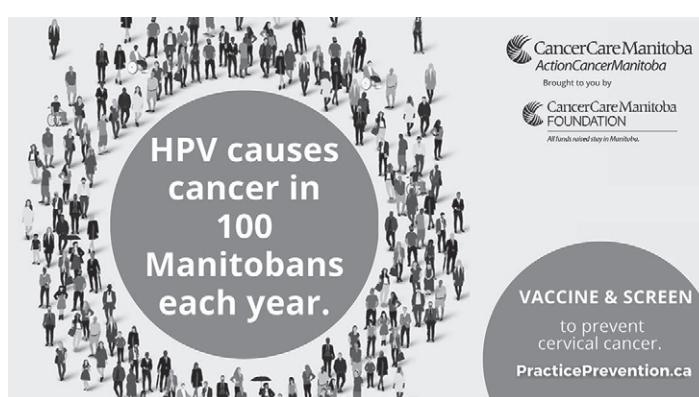
"The municipality monitors cumulative drainage impacts through a combination of long-term data collection, technical tools, and local knowledge," she said. "The Public Works Foreman maintains a comprehensive GIS system that includes over 20 years of collected drainage data, along with other municipal asset information across the jurisdiction."

She added that input from local farmers and councillors helps assess land conditions and historical drainage behaviour, while all tile drainage projects are also subject to licensing and review by Manitoba Stew-

ardship.

Council approved accounts totaling \$791,924.14 and authorized a \$4,192 grant to the St. Claude Veterinary Board for 2026.

In other business, council approved a letter of intent to host the 2028 Manitoba Summer Games, endorsed Commissionaires rates and agreements for bylaw enforcement services in 2026, and approved a subdivision application allowing the separation of an existing residential parcel from agricultural land in the northwest quarter of Section 5-6-5 WPM.



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Measles exposures identified at four Carman locations

By Lana Meier

Public health officials with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care are notifying the public of four new measles exposure sites in southern Manitoba, including multiple locations in Carman.

Anyone who was at the following locations during the specified dates and times is asked to monitor for symptoms until the corresponding date:

Carman 5 Pin Bowl, 120 Main St. S., on Jan. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 15.

Homestead Co-op Food Store, 61 Main St. N., on Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 16.

Carman Golf and Curling Club (curling rink), 225 4th Ave. SW., on Jan. 26 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 17.

Carman Community Health Centre, 360 4th St. SW., on Jan. 28 from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 19.

Public health is also asking anyone who was at these locations during the specified times to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with a measles-containing vaccine (MMR or MMRV).

For individuals born in 1970 or later who were exposed at these locations and have never received a measles vaccine or had a measles infection, public health recommends receiving the measles vaccine. These individuals are also advised to reduce contact with others—especially those who are unimmunized or have weakened immune systems—from the fifth day after exposure to the 21st day after the latest exposure, and to watch closely for symptoms until the listed monitoring date.

Certain people should not receive the measles vaccine, including infants younger than six months, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems. These individuals should contact their health-care provider or public health, as they may be eligible for preventative treatment if it can be given within six days of exposure. Close contacts may also be asked by public health to isolate and consider vaccination.

Symptoms of measles typically appear seven to 21 days after exposure. Early symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes, followed by small white spots inside the mouth or throat. Sev-

eral days later, a red blotchy rash usually appears on the face and spreads down the body. Measles can lead to serious complications such as ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia and encephalitis.

Anyone who develops symptoms and may have been exposed is advised to isolate at home and contact their health-care provider, advising them of the potential measles exposure. Health officials recommend calling ahead so clinics can take steps to reduce the risk of exposing others.

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease spread through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. A person can transmit the virus from four days before the rash appears until four days after. The illness can be severe and, in some cases, life-threatening, particularly for infants and young children.

Immunization is the only effective protection against measles. In Manitoba, a two-dose measles vaccine program is routinely provided for children at one year of age and again between four and six years. In exposure situations, a second dose may be given earlier, and some children aged

six months to under 12 months may also be eligible during an outbreak.

More information on measles, exposure sites and immunization is available at gov.mb.ca/health/public-health/diseases/measles.html, or by contacting Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg or 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.

Public health officials say the situation continues to be monitored, with updated case numbers posted weekly on Fridays.

Our mistake

Our story last week on author John Warms' new book, *The Girl Who Met Sasquatch*, repeatedly included an error when referring to one of his earlier books.

His second book is *Strange Creatures Seldom Seen*, not *Stranger Creatures Seldom Seen*.

We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Focus on FINANCE

Thinking of switching financial institutions?

Are you feeling dissatisfied with your current financial institution and considering moving your money elsewhere? If so, consider these factors before making your next move.

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Before making any changes, assess your finances. If you have substantial assets, you'll be in a better position to negotiate attractive deals with a new financial institution. It's also crucial not to overlook the importance of your credit rating. If your credit score has declined in the past few years, it could impact the benefits you're eligible for with a new institution.

THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROCESS

The idea of switching to a new bank may be appealing for the prospect of better interest rates, waived transaction fees and enticing rewards programs.

However, changing over isn't a quick and easy task. You'll have to notify your employer, the government, your service providers, creditors and anyone else who automatically deposits or withdraws money from your account.

POTENTIAL FEES

Some banks charge fees and withhold taxes when they release funds to be transferred. The amounts vary based on the nature of your accounts (whether they're investments or savings accounts, for example). Keep a few hundred dollars as a buffer in each of your accounts so you have enough to cover any pre-authorized payments you may have overlooked. Defaulting on payments could result in penalties, so it's important to stay on top of your financial commitments.

Once your move is complete, be sure to close your old accounts. Many institutions charge fees for inactive accounts, so it's best to tie up loose ends.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

If switching financial institutions seems too tedious, there are other ways to improve your satisfaction with your financial services. For example, you can speak up about your dissatisfaction with your current institution. By expressing your willingness to switch institutions, you could negotiate better terms or a more attractive transaction package. Your feedback can make a real difference.

Tip: Before starting a conversation with your financial institution, review the fees associated with each of your accounts. These fees could be silently eating away at your money, adding up to hundreds of dollars a year. Don't be afraid to negotiate!

Consider doing business with more than one institution. You could keep your current accounts with one and let another handle your investments. This way, you might snag advantageous rates without having to completely switch everything around.

Do you need help finding a new institution or renegotiating with your current one? Contact a financial expert in your area.

Catan national qualifier in Winkler Feb. 14-15

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Calling all Catan fans: Louis Riel Day weekend is your chance to shine.

Sixteen13 Ministry is hosting its second Manitoba Catan Tournament on Saturday Feb. 14 and Sunday, Feb. 15 at The Bunker in Winkler (545 Industrial Dr.)

But there's much more than just local bragging rights on the line.

"This is a qualifier for the Catan National Championship," explains organizer Harold Espinosa, noting this year the only other Manitoba qualifier, so far as he knows, is in Brandon.

The winner of the Winkler event will have their hotel and airfare to the Canadian championship in Toronto covered. That tournament's dates are still to be determined, but it's expected to take place sometime in late spring.

The last time the ministry hosted this event was 2024, and its winner—Morden's Natasha Kroeker-Ortiz—made it all the way to the semi-finals at nationals.

"We had almost 40 people out last time," Espinosa says. "I'm hoping for 100 this time around."

Every registered player will get six games, running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Sunday, followed by the playoffs that evening. Lunch on Saturday and supper on Sunday is included with your registration fee of \$50.

You can register online at etherlan.ca. You must be 18 years old or up to take part.

While only the last player standing will win the trip to nationals, every player will be entered to win raffle prizes, including a 3D Catan game and expansions.



STANDARD FILE PHOTO

Catan players will go head to head in Winkler Feb. 14-15 for a chance to win a trip to the Catan National Championship in Toronto later this year.

Proceeds from the weekend go to support Sixteen13 Ministry's work helping those in need both close to home and around the world.

"Whatever is left goes to the ministry to help families. So we're going to be buying groceries so we can bring it to them, show we care, get to know their families, and just pray with them, invite them to church, just be an encouragement to them," Espinosa says of their food ministry program—one of several support programs they operate across southern Manitoba.

Connection is a big part of what the ministry is all

about, Espinosa notes, so it's quite fitting to host a board game weekend to support its work.

"It's interactive—people can talk, have some fun, share their thoughts," he says of the big draw of Catan, which has been getting people into modern board gaming since the late '90s. "It's just that relationship that people have, that common ground to just play a game and relax."

"I think the second draw is the strategy of it—everybody plays until one person wins, so everybody has a blast and a half."

Central Region Crop Meetings in Carman, Portage and Austin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba Agriculture's 2026 Central Region Crop Meetings are coming up in three locations this month.

Specialists will be sharing information on pest, weed, and disease issues and management at talks in Carman, Portage la Prairie, and Austin.

"Winter is a key planning time for producers, and these meetings provide an opportunity to hear directly from extension experts, ask questions, and discuss challenges and opportunities with others in the region," said Callum Morrison, crop production extension specialist with Manitoba Agriculture. "The focus is on practical, research-based information that farmers can apply on their own operations in the coming year."

Morrison's own presentation will provide pest monitoring updates and share a bit about the recently launched Prairies and Ontario cover crop survey.

Also speaking will be entomologist John Gavloski, who will provide updates and forecasts on the insects producers can expect to deal with this year, as well as scouting and manage-

ment tips.

Rounding out the morning will be weed specialist Kim Brown with her tips on what weeds to watch out for and how to control them.

This is the third year these meetings have been held, Morrison shared, and past sessions have been well-received.

"We try to switch it up a little bit every year so it's different topics," he

said, noting two of the meetings rotate between different locations across the region as well, giving all producers easy access to them.

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Manitoba 55+ Games is coming to Morden-Winkler-Stanley

Organizers put call out for athletes, volunteers, and sponsors

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's the biggest sporting event of the year for older athletes, and it's coming to Morden-Winkler-Stanley this spring.

The 2026 Manitoba 55+ Games will bring hundreds of athletes to the region, shares sports co-chair Dale Ready.

"It could be between 1,000 or 1,200 people," he said. "We have 14 events that we're hosting between the communities."

Curling—two-person stick and four-person team—will be first up, taking place at the Winkler and Morden rinks March 17-19. The other events run June 9-11 with competition in five-pin bowling (at the rink in Carman), bocce ball, disc golf, 9- and 18-hole golf, horseshoes, pickleball, predicted walk/run, slo-pitch, pool, swimming, contract and duplicate bridge, and cribbage.

It's going to be a great opportunity to highlight all three communities, Ready noted, and the region as a whole.

And if past Games are any indica-

tion, it's also going to be a blast for everyone taking part.

"I've competed twice, in pickleball, and while there is competition, there is also just a huge amount of fun and social pieces to the Games," he said. "It's about being active, whether it's physically, mentally ... at 55+, we want our seniors to remain engaged and vital."

The Manitoba 55+ Games have been in operation since 1983, growing from 365 participants that first year to over 1,600.

Morden-Winkler's last time hosting the competition was back in 2002 (in Morden) and 1995 (in Winkler).

As always, an event of this size requires a lot of community support, and local organizers are working hard to get the word out.

"We're really in the beginning stages of promoting and getting people thinking about it," Ready said.

"We have a number of people that have stepped forward already as volunteers for different areas ... but we will be looking for more people that are interested in helping out, whether



STANDARD FILE PHOTO

Local athletes are invited to take part in the Manitoba 55+ Games, which this year take place in Morden-Winkler-Stanley. It's been decades since the region hosted the event, but there are always a host of local athletes participating, including this group from several years ago.

it's one day, whether it's an afternoon, whether it's all three days," he said. "Volunteers are a huge part of the Games."

The organizing committee has also begun reaching out to area businesses to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

"Hopefully people will get behind the Games and see this as a real value for the communities that are involved," Ready said.

Registration for curling and volunteering is available now online at activeagingmb.ca. Registration for the other events in June should open shortly.

Head to the website above or contact Active Aging in Manitoba at 204-632-3947 or info@activeagingmb.ca for more details.

Snow Goers derby supporting Segue Career Options

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second annual Border Valley Snow Goers Poker Derby sets off from Plum Coulee later this month for a day of snowy fun all across the region.

The club have once again selected Segue Career Options as the recipient of partial proceeds from the day, with the rest going to support the ongoing maintenance of the hundreds of kilometres of snowmobile trails the Snow Goers oversee every winter.

Last year's inaugural derby saw upwards of 80 riders come out, shares club president James Wall, and they're hoping for similar success this time around.

"If it's decent snow conditions and temperatures ... hopefully we'll get a good turnout," he says.

Registration runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Co-op gas bar in Plum Coulee on Saturday, Feb. 14.

From there, riders will embark on a 120 kilometre route that takes them to

the Four Winds in Altona, the South Border Shack, Mr. Mike's in Winkler, and finally back to Plum Coulee at the arena where dinner and a silent auction will take place starting at 6 p.m.

At each stop on the route, participants will get cards to build up their poker hands, which need to be in by 5 p.m.

"The best hand wins," explains Wall, noting there are \$1,500 in prizes up for grabs. Participation is \$10 per hand or three hands for \$25. Tickets to the dinner are \$25 each.

All the snow we've gotten this winter had made for some pretty good trail conditions, though the warm weather a few weeks ago really did a number on them, Wall shares.

"We haven't had a lot of snow since then, but we're hoping for a little bit of snow in the near future—we don't need a lot to bring them back into decent shape."

Volunteers maintain the trail network, and they'll be out in full force

in the weeks leading up to the derby.

"We cover from Morden all the way to the Red River and then from the border to the Hwy. 23," Wall says. "We have lots of volunteers for signing all those trails, a really good bunch of supporters."

Segue, which is a program of Eden Health Care Services, is thrilled to be partnering with the Snow Goers again on this event, says program director Lavonne Kroeker.

The agency helps those with various challenges in their lives overcome them to find meaningful employment.

"We help individuals that are looking for work," Kroeker says. "We support people in all aspects of their job search, particularly those who have some type of employment barrier. That can range from being out of the workforce for a number of years to potentially having a physical disability that maybe makes it more challenging or you need to kind of look longer in order to find an opportunity that's

a good fit for you.

"We work one-on-one with folks as well as have group sessions where people can come and learn together with other people and help them to know that they're not alone in their job search."

Segue will be using their portion of the proceeds from the derby in a few different ways.

"One thing we have been wanting to do for awhile is replace some of our signage outside our building," Kroeker says. "We've had a new logo for awhile and so we want to make sure it all lines up."

Kroeker shares they will also use some of the funds to support ongoing training opportunities for their staff.

"There's always other opportunities ... over and above what we are funded for," she explains. "So with this we can register for some specific training that can be helpful for us in the services that we provide."

Where are they now? Catching up with: Nikki Beare

By Dennis Young with files from Rebecca Sandulak

A former Carman athlete who helped shape the earliest years of Canada's national women's hockey system has built a quiet life on Vancouver Island — but the roots of her story remain firmly planted in the community where her determination first took hold.

Nicole "Nikki" Beare moved to Carman in 1992 from Souris and lived there until 1997, years that would prove pivotal both personally and athletically. She attended Carman Collegiate, though her final years of schooling were split between Manitoba and Calgary as she trained with Canada's emerging women's hockey programs.

Even then, Beare stood out.

As a teenager, she immersed herself in nearly every sport available — soccer, badminton, cross-country running, basketball, volleyball and baseball — but hockey quickly became her defining pursuit. She still laughs recalling her brief introduction to ringette, a single game that ended with her sitting on the red line in tears until her father helped her off the ice.

The next day, she joined a boys' atom hockey team in Souris.

"I wasn't going to let the fact that I was a girl stop me," she said.

That determination carried her through the Carman Cougars program and onto Team Manitoba, where she represented the province at the 1994 Canada Winter Games. At just 16, Beare took another historic step. In 1996, she was selected — and named captain — of Canada's first national under-19/junior women's team, launched by what is now Hockey Canada.

The program marked a turning point in the women's game, providing a national development pathway that had never before existed. Beare's selection placed her among the first generation of players to wear the Maple Leaf at the junior level, at a time when women's hockey was still fighting for recognition, funding and ice time.

Her roommate during that national team experience was future Olympic and Hall of Fame star Caroline Ouellette, a reminder of just how foundational those early rosters would become.

Beare's national journey continued as she trained in Calgary and Montreal during the lead-up to the 1998 Winter Olympics, skating alongside some of the most influential figures in women's hockey history. Among them were Manon Rhéaume, Angela James and France Saint-Louis — players who were redefining what was possible in the sport.

That same year, Beare reached the summit of senior club hockey. Skating with the Calgary Oval Xtreme, she helped capture the Abby Hoffman Cup — Canada's national women's club championship — setting up the game-winning overtime goal in the gold-medal game while working the play with Dana Antal and Jennifer Botterill. The gold medal national championship roster also included Hayley Wickenheiser.

For Beare, the moment represented both achievement and affirmation — proof that the long hours,



Nikki Beare was the captain of the first Canadian Junior Women's National Team in 1996.



Caroline Ouellette and Nikki Beare were roommates in 1996 during the Canadian Junior Women's Championships.

sacrifices and barriers overcome by her generation were helping move the game forward.

When her playing career ended, Beare took an unexpected turn. She became a professional truck driver, hauling ammonium nitrate through the Rocky Mountains — a demanding job that reflected the same grit and independence she showed as an athlete.

Today, she lives in Port Alberni, B.C., where she facilitates outreach and community service work, helping others while enjoying the slower pace and natural beauty of Vancouver Island.

"It's a permanent vacation when it is so beautiful here," she said.

Beare credits a wide circle of mentors for shaping her path. She admired NHL forward Russ Courtnall's skating style and chose to wear No. 9 in tribute to Maurice "Rocket" Richard. Greg Lacombe, her Canada Winter Games coach, challenged her to recognize opportunity, while Murray Arnold instilled fundamentals and respect for the game's toughness. With the national program, she learned under Hall of Fame coach Danièle Sauvageau, alongside pioneers Shannon Miller and Wally Kozak.

Her parents, she says, were the constant.

"Of course, my parents were a huge part — financially and putting up with my intensity throughout the years," Beare said.

Her family lived on the Sandulak farm west of Carman. Her father, Ed, worked closely with area farmers at the grain elevators and coached extensively in the community, helping guide her brother Troy and his Goldeye teammates to a provincial baseball championship. Her mother, Trish, worked at the Valley Leader, forging deep ties within the town — connections that still resonate with Nikki today. Her niece, Ashtyn Sandulak, continues to live in the region.

Although Beare has not returned to Carman since moving away, she remains in touch with lifelong

"I WASN'T GOING TO LET THE FACT THAT I WAS A GIRL STOP ME."



Carman's first female hockey player has made it to the Hall of Fame in the arena. Just recently Hall curator Dennis Young, was made aware that Nikki Beare, a Cougar alumnus, was Captain of the 1st Canadian Junior Women's team in 1996. She would go on to compete internationally winning a gold medal.

friends, former teammates and teachers. She still follows sports closely, cheering for the Toronto Blue Jays and Montreal Canadiens, and reflects fondly on growing up in a town where sport was part of everyday life.

"There are fond memories of dressing up in costumes with my best friends to ride on the newspaper's float in the Carman Fair parade with my mom," she recalled. "There's a special connection to this publication because of her."

Now, Beare has taken her rightful place in the Carman Arena's Hockey Hall of Fame — recognition not only of her on-ice success, but of her role as a quiet pioneer in women's hockey.

As for the future, she's content.

"Simply enjoying a quiet life," she said.

Yet her story continues to matter — a reminder that long before the spotlight reached women's hockey, athletes from small towns like Carman were already changing the game.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Macdonald Swarm stay perfect with weekend sweep

By Annaliese Meier

The Macdonald Swarm continued their perfect season with back-to-back dominant wins, defeating the Warren 67's 9-0 on Friday before rolling past the East St. Paul Gators 8-1 on Sunday night at the Sanford Recreation Centre.

Against Warren, Macdonald erupted for four first-period goals and never looked back. Tyler Van de Velde scored twice in the opening frame, including the game-winning goal, and completed a hat trick later in the game. Hunter Mangin added two goals, while Cade

McCallum, Adam Bossyut and Carter Campbell also scored. Ethan Wiebe made 20 saves for the shutout, while Scott Mailloux faced 62 shots in the loss. Warren went 0-for-8 on the power play.

The Swarm followed that performance with another lopsided victory Sunday, scoring eight unanswered goals around a lone second-period marker by East St. Paul. Van de Velde continued his hot streak with two goals and two assists, opening the scoring late in the first period and

adding the game-winner early in the second. Cooper Rodewald, skating as an affiliate player, scored three times, including a power-play goal, while Cade McCallum, Kayden Robertson and Brady Mattys also found the net.

Jack Martin stopped 30 of 31 shots to earn the win in goal for Macdonald, while Aiden Poseluzney made 54 saves for East St. Paul. The Swarm finished 1-for-4 on the power play, while the Gators were held scoreless on two opportunities.

With the two wins, Macdonald im-

proved to 27-0-0 on the season and remains firmly atop the Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League standings with 54 points, holding a perfect 1.000 winning percentage and a league-best goal differential. Warren sits 11th at 2-23-0-3, while East St. Paul is ninth at 8-18-0.

Macdonald is back in action Tuesday night at the Gateway Rec Centre against East St. Paul, followed by a home game Friday against Warren and a road matchup Saturday in Landmark.

Sabres sweep week in boys and girls high school hockey

By Annaliese Meier

The Sanford Sabres picked up a pair of wins last week to remain third in the West Division with a 14-6 record in Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League play.

Sanford edged the John Taylor Pipers 3-2 on the road Jan. 28, with Halle Penner scoring twice, including the game-winner with 59 seconds remaining in regulation. Mikalah Grant finished with two assists, while John Taylor's goals came from Eve Moose-tail and a power-play marker by Vera Yushkevich.

The Sabres followed up with a 3-1 home win over the SMA Flames on Jan. 29. After SMA opened the scoring, Sanford responded with goals from Sadie Spicer, Liza Bestland on the power play and Penner, who again struck in the third period. Grant added two assists and Kaili Ward recorded helpers on the final two goals.

Sanford returns to action with back-to-back home games, hosting Oak Park on Feb. 2 at 3:30 p.m. and Churchill on Feb. 3, also at 3:30 p.m.

Sanford also collected two wins

last week to remain seventh in the Winnipeg Free Press Division with a 9-10 record in Winnipeg High School Hockey League play.

The Sabres edged Kelvin Clippers 5-4 in overtime on the road Jan. 28, erasing multiple deficits in a back-and-forth contest. Austin Iliffe scored twice, including the overtime winner, while Brayden Strydhorst, Koston Laramee and Cooper Rodewald also found the scoresheet. Sanford's tying goal came late in the third period before Iliffe ended it 3:38 into overtime.

Sanford followed up with a 4-2 home win over CPET Spartans on Jan. 30. Iliffe opened the scoring early, while Strydhorst, Rodewald and Jake Johnston added goals as Sanford built a multi-goal cushion. CPET struck late in both the first and third periods, but Sanford held on for the win.

Sanford faces a busy stretch ahead, travelling to J.H. Bruns Broncos on Feb. 2 at 2:30 p.m. and Gabrielle-Roy Les Roy on Feb. 4 at 3 p.m., before returning home to host CSLR Raiders on Feb. 6 with a 4:15 p.m. puck drop.

Beavers battle but drop pair; Hawks split busy stretch

By Annaliese Meier

The Carman Beavers showed flashes of pushback but were unable to slow surging opponents last week, while the Notre Dame Hawks earned a statement win at home after an overtime setback.

Carman fell 7-3 to the Portage Islanders on Jan. 26, with Portage capitalizing twice on the power play to seize control early. The Islanders built a 4-0 lead before Everett Bestland put the Beavers on the board midway through the second period.

Carman carried momentum into the

third, as Jackson Reimer scored just 64 seconds in to trim the deficit, but Portage answered quickly and pulled away. Dean Gorchynski added a power-play goal late in the third. Luke Zacharias finished with 37 saves in the Carman net.

The Beavers were competitive again on Jan. 31, but a late third-period push by the Red River Wild handed Carman a 4-3 home loss. Carman scored three times in the opening half of the game, with goals from Scott Atkins, AJ Nychuk and captain Tyler Park to take a 3-1 lead.

Red River responded with three unanswered goals in the third period, including Troy Lehmann's game-winner at 15:18. Dan Wenham made 42 saves in the loss.

Carman sits ninth in the SEMHL standings and is set to host Winkler on Feb. 6.

Notre Dame dropped a tight 5-4 overtime decision to the Ile des Chenes Northstars on Jan. 29, rallying multiple times to force extra time. Goals from Connor Hamonic, Ben Grift, Jake Carels and Max Collet kept the Hawks within reach before Tyler Swerdyliak

ended it in overtime.

The Hawks rebounded emphatically on Jan. 31, skating to a 6-1 win over the Winkler Royals. Notre Dame struck four times in the first period, with Collet scoring twice, and never looked back. Richard Lesage, Nicolas Vigier and Jeff Michiels also found the scoresheet, while Christopher Lesage stopped 32 shots to earn the win.

Notre Dame sits seventh in the SEMHL standings and faces a busy road stretch, visiting Portage on Feb. 4 and Morden on Feb. 7, before hosting Ile des Chenes on Feb. 10.

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- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad
Today - Call 467-5836

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

GLBC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

February 5-8, 2026

Thursday & Friday – 7PM

Sunday – 10:30AM with potluck to follow

Sunday – 7PM to wrap up the conference



Host Pastor – Mike Giesbrecht

Gospel Light Baptist Church

Guest Speaker – Benjamin Reimer

Serving in Liberia, Africa since 2016



Jake Friesen

CanAmara Baptist Missions

163 2nd Street SE, Carman, MB 204-745-2078



26-27 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open! If your child was born in 2021, they are eligible to attend kindergarten beginning in September 2026. Parents/guardians may use

PRSD's electronic registration form or contact schools directly using the information below:

www.g.prsdmb.ca/studentsparents/student-registration

École Carman Elementary School

(204) 745-2623

vgiesbrecht@g.prsdmb.ca

École St. Eustache

(204) 353-2869

steuoff@g.prsdmb.ca

Elm Creek School

(204) 436-2354

ecadmin@g.prsdmb.ca

Miami School

(204) 435-2441

miamischool@g.prsdmb.ca

Roland School

(204) 343-2023

mbenner@g.prsdmb.ca

St. François Xavier School

(204) 864-2868

sfx@g.prsdmb.ca

St. Laurent School

(204) 646-2209

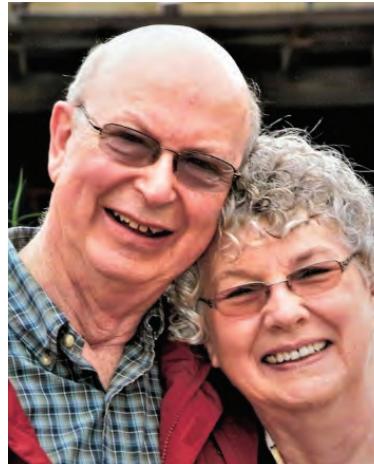
loricombot@g.prsdmb.ca

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

Please contact the school by phone or email to make attendance arrangements and with any questions.

IN MEMORIAM

Bonnie Jean (Strachan) Froebe
1942 - 2020



As the song goes: "Some enchanted evening, when you find your true love" so started our love affair. My sweet angel has gone to sing in the celestial choir six years ago. It seems like yesterday. She was the centre of my universe. We were so good together. The cold wind of February reminds me of how cold I felt when she passed. My heart stopped. I still miss her so, especially on these cold nights when we would keep each other warm. I have a cold empty space in

my heart where there used to be a passionate glow. We held hands as often as we could after I finally got up the nerve to hold her hand at the Carman Fair signalling my love for her on our third encounter. I finally understood the enchantment that she conveyed.

Oh, how we miss her guiding light. She was such a calming soul, she kept so many settled in their roles passing through their lives. Through her counselling as a wife, mother, grandmother, singing teacher, Sunday school teacher, and her many other roles in the community.

She was always a good cook. She achieved excellence in managing food for the Carman Fair dining hall, Carman United Church Fall Supper "take out", and many other occasions as well as our own home.

Her "Cowboy" cookies enthralled the neighbourhood kids. Whenever they got a whiff of her cookies they were at our home. There was love in those cookies.

Her smile filled my soul. We often danced the night away in the living room in brighter days, and when she was overcome with her Parkinson's and I helped her out of her chair, we would always have a hug, and, if she was able, we would do a little dance. Oh, be still my soul.

I encouraged her to blossom as we travelled along life's trail together, as she did for me. We could not have accomplished the many things that we did without each other's constant support. Her common sense, which she had in spades, was a constant reminder to keep me grounded. I supported her many activities and encouraged her love of singing. We worked so well together; on the farm and in the Canola Cash Advance business that we started together in the spare room of our house in 1983.

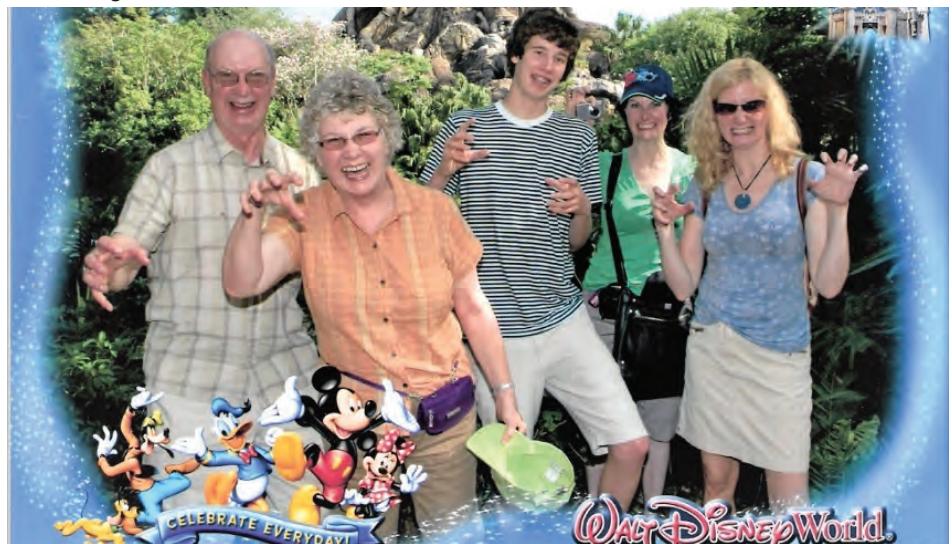
She ultimately gave up her singing group of local kids that she was so proud of, and her singing pupils who appreciated her so terribly much, not just for their singing lessons, but also for her ability to counsel them through their life's quandaries. She was a very remarkable person.

We were fortunate, along the way, to have two lovely daughters. They have both grown and excelled in their professions. We have a wonderful grandson who is working hard in the computer graphic design field and is a wonderful artist. They miss their mother and grandmother very much. Bonnie and I were strong supporters of them in their pursuits.

Unfortunately, her Parkinson's got her so fatigued that it took her prematurely. The world that I knew with her was gone. I call her name, and I still keep her with me. I reach for all the loving memories that resonate in my heart that light up my life. We were so good together. I still wake up in the morning and reach for her. The days go by, but the ache remains.

It was hard watching her leave. In the dark of the evening in the hospital, Reverend Harold Kenyon came, visited, and gave a last prayer. We were left alone. I held her hand as I always loved to do. We acknowledged the wonderful life that we had together. We expressed our great love for one another. We kissed and she was gone. I fell into an immense black hole. My soul yearned for her. I didn't want her to go. I had tears in my heart. It was the end of a truly incredible love story. She spread her wings and rose to the heavenly choir. I can still hear her lyrical singing as my mind roams in memory of her. We had three special songs that she would sing for me. The ultimate love song "Ah Sweet Mystery of Love" by Victor Herbert, the haunting "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arden, and the grand aria "Si mi chiamano Mimi" from Puccini's opera "La Bohème". I would end up with tears in my eyes. Oh, how I miss her singing. We would go see "La Bohème" wherever we could. We held hands during the opera and when Mimi dies in the end. Every time! And Rodolfo, her lover, cries out "Mimi! Mimi!" and the curtain comes down, and we weep.

She is now a bright angel singing sweet harmony in the celestial choir. Be still my heart. The world I knew is gone. The days go by, but the grief doesn't fade. Goodbye my sweet angel, until we meet again.





And they
LIVED HAPPILY
ever after...

WEDDING SPECIAL

6 essential elements for planning a successful wedding

Just got engaged and ready to start planning your big day? Organizing a wedding is exciting, but it also requires you to make a lot of decisions. Here are five key things to keep in mind.

1. SET A BUDGET

Start by deciding how much you're willing to spend on the event. You don't need an exact figure right away, but you should try to estimate costs for essentials like the venue, cake, dresses and suits.

2. CHOOSE AN OFFICIANT

Depending on whether you want a civil or religious ceremony, you'll have to hire someone who is legally authorized to declare you married. This could be a priest, a notary or even a family member who obtains the proper authorization.

3. SEND OUT INVITATIONS

Whether you send your invitations by post or email, get them out as soon as possible. Ideally, you should do this at least four months before the wedding. This will help you confirm the number of place settings, chairs and other arrangements that need to be provided on the big day.



4. PLAN THE MENU

One of the keys to a successful wedding is undoubtedly serving good food. Take the time to explore your catering options. Some caterers, for example, offer complete buffet menus that include vegetarian or lactose-free dishes.

5. BOOK AN ENTERTAINER OR MUSICIAN

Music sets the tone for the celebration. Depending on your budget and preferences, hire a DJ or live band to play appropriate music at the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception. Always ask for references from satisfied customers before booking.

6. PLAN THE HONEYMOON

When planning your honeymoon, consider booking a private cabin or lakeside stay, exploring nearby resorts or boutique hotels, and choosing a destination that allows time to rest and reconnect. Prioritize comfort, privacy, and a pace that suits you both.

Planning a wedding involves many details, but careful preparation will ensure nothing gets overlooked as you create a magical moment that reflects who you are. Hire a specialized company in your area.

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hello@earthbudsflorist.com
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585 1st St unit 5B



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