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STANDARD PHOTO BY VICKIE JOHNSON

Last Tuesday, Mr. Clace (Prairie Rose School Division superintendent) had to join the Carman Cougars' captain and assistant captain for a lap around the Carman Collegiate after losing friendly wager with Ms. Reimer. Ms. Reimer believed that her Carman Cougars would finish ahead of the Morris Mavericks, which includes Clace's son, in the Zone 4 hockey finals.

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Carman Elementary celebrates Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

By Becca Myskiw

Ecole Carman Elementary's Advisory Council for School Leadership (ACSL) made sure school staff felt appreciated last week.

In a letter from Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Manitoba government proclaimed Feb. 9 to 15, 2025, as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week in the province.

This annual proclamation celebrates Manitoba teachers and staff's hard work and contributions to the well-being and success of Manitoba students," she said in the letter. "Manitoba teachers and staff are at the forefront of advancing the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning's vision that from every part of Manitoba, from every background, all children and youth matter, belong, are respected, successful, and safe. For this, all teachers and staff deserve recognition."

The official proclamation says the Manitoba government values the contributions of Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers and staff across the province and goes on to cite five main points for recognizing the week:

- Teachers and staff create safe and inclusive learning environments
- Teachers and staff foster curiosity and critical thinking skills, help prepare Manitoba learners to be active in their communities
- Teachers and staff model kindness and leadership daily and help learners to understand and engage with the diverse world
- Teachers and staff encourage students to learn with and from others
- Teachers and staff walk with students on the path toward Truth and Reconciliation

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is to have Manitobans "reflect on the importance of teachers and staff to the wellbeing of students, and to thank and honour the teachers and staff in their communities for their continued dedication." Ecole Carman Elementary's ACSL tries to make school staff feel appreciated more often than once a year, but they did something extra special for them this year.

"Usually we do something every year for the staff," said Chelsea Kozak of ACSL. "This year, we decided to do something bigger. Because we have some extra funds, we thought we'd



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Carman Elementary School 2024-25 staff were treated to a gift card lottery for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

spend them on the staff. With the help of local businesses, it came to life."

The group decided to do a gift card lottery for staff this year, even getting local businesses involved in the initiative. On Friday morning, ACSL hosted a pancake breakfast for the school, and before they turned on the grills, they dropped off 47 envelopes in the school staff room. In each envelope was \$15 worth of gift cards to local businesses.

Each staff member took home an envelope, many of which contained donated gift cards. The gifts were to local businesses like Spin Sisters, Carman Floristas, Hometown Car Wash, Evensong, Toews Printing and Office Supply, The Prices Rite, Cut of Class, Knockabouts, and Tim Hortons.

"We went to the businesses with the idea to purchase all the gift cards, but a lot came back wanting to do a donation," said Kozak. "Which was really awesome."

Some businesses donated extra gift cards in addition to what ACSL purchased, while others donated a portion of the group's total purchase. Hometown Car Wash upgraded each car wash to a platinum one, and Carman Tim Hortons donated everything.

ACSL often plans and pays for endeavours for Ecole Carman Elementary's students. This week, they're sending students to *Festivale du Voyageur*, funding a skating day for the children, and running a pancake breakfast—and that's just this week.

"We do like to spend some of our funds on the teachers when we can," said Kozak. "We do a lot for the students but it's also nice to let the staff know we want to work collectively with them as a group. It's important they know how much we value and

appreciate them."

ACSL used to make dinner for teachers during parent-teacher conference nights and they often bring in goodies like candy, donuts, and coffee to brighten their days. Kozak said they usually try to do things for staff and students.

"They're shaping the lives and the minds of the future generations," she said. "So, they have a pretty important role."

She added that ACSL members see firsthand how Ecole Carman Elementary teachers and staff go the extra mile for their children, so they've been trying to get all parents within the school involved in Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Kozak said last week, she saw a student bringing a gift for their teacher to school and a mom walking in with a homemade cake. Small gestures like that, she said, are important.

"I hope the teachers feel loved and appreciated all the time, but this is a time when we can ensure they get the support they deserve," said Kozak.

ACSL is thankful to the local businesses for their support in this initiative. Kozak said they like to support local as much as they can, and to encourage keeping money within the community is an extra win.

"It's awesome they recognize how important it is to appreciate our teachers too," said Kozak.

"THEY'RE SHAPING THE LIVES AND THE MINDS OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS."

Public Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that the Dufferin Weed Control District and The Town of Carman Public Works intend to conduct the following Pesticide Control Program during 2025:

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances and drains
2. To control grasshoppers and mosquitos

The projected dates of application will be from May 1st 2025 to October 31st 2025 and the following herbicides and pesticides may be used:

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Any person wishing to complain against the proposed program may send a written submission within 15 days of this publication to the department Below:

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Sustainable Development
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W4



carmanmanitoba.ca

Ecole Carman Elementary students go to Festival du Voyageur

By Becca Myskiw

Ecole Carman Elementary students were recently immersed in Franco-phone culture for a day.

About 100 students from the elementary school travelled from Carman to Winnipeg and back last Tuesday, Feb. 18, to attend the 55-year-old Festival du Voyageur. The winter festival, which happens every February for 10 days straight, is now the largest French-speaking event in Western Canada, with more than 75,000 attendees each year.

Festival du Voyageur "offers the public artistic and educational experiences inspired by the 1815 Voyagers era." It features music, dance, ice sculptures, visual arts, traditional food, family activities, handcrafted souvenirs, and more, prioritizing French-speaking and Indigenous artists.

The festival started with an idea from a few St. Boniface citizens in 1967. The first winter festival to celebrate the Manitoba Francophonie took place in 1970, and it had grown in popularity so much by 1977 that it then moved to Whittier Park, where it still happens today.

At the festival site (233 Provencher Boulevard), the Traveler's Shop is also open year-round, where people can buy festival products.

Ecole Carman Elementary's Advisory Council for School Leadership (ACSL) funded the entire trip, including bus transportation and registration. Grade 4/5 French immersion teacher Jon Jonasson was one of the teachers accompanying students on the trip. He said the students had so much fun that when it was time to catch the bus home, they didn't want to go.

Students got to pour maple syrup on a popsicle stick on a bed of snow and roll it to enjoy maple taffy. They went on a sleigh ride, attended a concert at lunch where they could get up and dance, looked at ice sculptures, and took a tour of Fort Gibraltar.

Fort Gibraltar was built in 1810 at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. The settlement was home to upwards of 20 voyageurs, canoe guides, interpreters, tradesmen, clerks, and fur trade partners and buyers. Because of fierce competition with the Hudson's Bay Company, they burned the original Fort Gibraltar to the ground in 1816. Fort Gibraltar was re-



Rolling maple taffy was a highlight for the students.

built in Whittier Park in 1978 by Festival du Voyageur.

Jonasson said next time the school goes to Festival du Voyageur, he'll plan more time for the students within Fort Gibraltar. There, they get to walk through rooms depicting 1815, seeing authentic artifacts and designs from the days of Fort Gibraltar.

"The museum staff teaches them so much," he said. "The students were super into it. Maple taffy was probably their favourite, but Fort Gibraltar was second."

He said the students hear the French language here and there and learn about Manitoban and Canadian history, but being immersed in it is something else entirely.

"They get so much more out of it," said Jonasson. "They got to see a place they learned about. I can sit in my classroom and talk about it but to have the opportunity to actually go there and see the buildings that existed in that time and to hear people speak in French is important for them."

He added that for many students, Jonasson is the only person they hear speak in French, so to hear other people use the language is rewarding for them, especially when they understand the conversation and can partake in it.

"Getting to hear other people speaking in French and getting to see the places we learned about is valuable



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ecole Carman Elementary students went to Festival du Voyageur last week.

for them," said Jonasson.

Ecole Carman Elementary is going to make the trip to Festival du Voya-

geur a semi-annual thing, taking students every second year so everyone can at least go once at one point.

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Ty Dilello
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Hospitals, schools and post-secondary institutes to receive child care

By Annaliese Meier

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are partnering to expand high-quality child-care spaces for children up to six years old. Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jenna Sudds and Manitoba's Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning Tracy Schmidt announced this initiative last Monday.

Sudds said child care is a vital support for parents, families and communities.

"We'll continue to work with Manitoba to find new innovative solutions to creating more affordable child-care spaces, to reduce waitlists and to grow the early childhood workforce, to fit parents needs, where and when they need it the most."

"We're investing in child-care spaces to meet parents and caregivers where they're at to make life easier for families," said Schmidt. "Our government continues to build the child-care system as a whole – creating spaces that meet the needs of families, offering programming to attract and support

child-care professionals and investing in learning outcomes for a quality early education experience."

As part of the action plan signed in February 2025 under the Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund, Manitoba will invest \$20.9 million in federal funding over three years to create approximately 324 child-care spaces in health-care facilities.

Minister Uzoma Asagwara emphasized the importance of these flexible spaces for health-care staff and families, helping them balance work and child care while supporting the recruitment of new health-care professionals.

Through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, there will be 256 new child-care spaces in six schools, along with a total of over 2,600 new infant and preschool spaces across the province. Additionally, 128 new spaces will open at Red River College Polytechnic and University College of

the North, part of an overall investment of \$60.5 million across post-secondary institutions.

Minister Renée Cable highlighted that improved child-care options will enhance access to post-secondary education, ultimately strengthening the workforce and economy.

In addition to expanding spaces, investments will support training programs, including funding for the Manitoba Métis Federation to assist Ukrainian newcomers and the Urban Circle Training Centre to train Indigenous students for child-care careers. The Outdoor Early Childhood Education Grant will help enhance outdoor programming for licensed facilities.

The Tuition Reimbursement program offers up to \$5,000 per school year to assist Manitoba students in early childhood education programs. Since 2022, the program has provided over \$6.1 million in support. To date, the partnership has opened over 4,300 child-care spaces for children aged zero to six across Manitoba.

Students invited to apply for 2025-26 Student Advisory Council

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government is actively seeking applications for the 2025-26 Student Advisory Council, targeting students in grades 9 to 12. Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Tracy Schmidt has reaffirmed the

vital role of student voices in shaping educational outcomes across the province.

"Our government continues to put students at the forefront of our decision-making – and what better way to ensure their voices are heard than

from them directly," said Schmidt. "Consulting with our young people helps us make better decisions that support student success and address what matters most to the next generation."

Continued on page 5

This week, the way it was through the years

By Dennis Young

100 years ago, Feb. 27, 1925... Goalie Don Shilson records 6-0 over Roland and 6-1 over Elm Creek in hockey; Wall paper is introduced by local merchants from .12-.37 a roll; CPR Agent Kellett offers rail or ocean travel through his office.

75 Years ago, 1950...new School by-law passes 440-154 out of 1216 enlisted voters; Up for Carnival Queen were Shirley Armstrong, Shirley Lalonde,

Jocelyn Loree and Ethal MacDonald; Berkley Newman Realty advertises 7 room house for \$3000 and 6 room for \$2500.

50 Years ago, 1975.....Dr. Regehr says new hospital would only need 23 beds; Kinsmen sponsor a 10 year old Chinese girl; Gerry McCullough wins the Agassiz Toastmistress Club's speech contest with "Waite Not, Want Not"; Parkway Motors (1972) sells 1975 Chevy Novas for \$3950.

25 Years ago, 2000.....Fundraising for a 9,600 sq/ft Active Living Centre is started; CAO Cheryl Young announces tax revenues jumped from \$27,000 to \$52,000 due to development & new homes; a drop of 46 student enrollment adds up to \$279,000 budget shortfall for Midland; Legions plan for 75th by selling tulips bloom in 2001; Valley Leader promotes Homecoming 2000 Souvenir Edition.

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



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Flashback... Carman Public School teaching staff 1961-62

By Dennis Young

In 1951, Carman students moved into a newly constructed steel and renovated brick school, which provided them with the space they needed to learn comfortably. However, within two years, the "baby boom" began to have a significant impact on class sizes.

In September 1953, total enrollment reached 432 students, but by the following September, it skyrocketed to 532 students crammed into just 17 classrooms. This resulted in a ratio of over 31 students for every teacher, making it clear that something needed to be done.

In June 1960, Midland electors passed a much-needed high school bylaw with a convincing vote of 1,486 to 602. Students moved into the Carman Collegiate right after Easter in 1961, marking the first time the Collegiate was separated from the Elementary school. The teachers can be forgiven for breathing a sigh of relief!



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Left to right: Miss Maureen Underwood, Mrs. Catherine George, Mrs. Grace Downie, Miss Mary Bruce, Mrs. Elsie Metcalfe, Mrs. Kathleen Laycock, Mr. Fraser Whiteside, Mr. Gladwyn Scott, Mr. Melvin Enstrom, Miss Elizabeth McIvor, Mrs. Erma Strong, Mrs. Louise Johnston, Mrs. Elsie Clearwater and Miss Anne Funke.

letter to the editor

Letter to the Editor: news@carmanstandard.ca

Why it is even more important to shop Canadian

With the very real threat of tariffs and open insults of claiming Canada from the US, it is increasingly crucial to shop Canadian. Not only does it help strengthen our economy, every dollar spent on Canada sends a message to our neighbours to the south that we are proud to be Canadian and we come together,

stronger, united, rather than break. Putting money toward Canadian made products means we are less reliant on America, and it keeps money in our country, our local communities for us to build, flourish and grow.

Of course, there will be undermining messages that it is pointless or difficult, but we are already seeing a positive impact, and you, as a shopper, make a difference.

We need to take pride in our local co-op, our local flour mill, our honey farms, lumber mills, vegetable growers, butchers, and farmers.

Read the labels, and if a product isn't clearly marked, ask a fellow shopper for help. There are many ways your fellow Canadians are making it as easy as possible. Download an app that scans it for you, visit madeincanada.ca. Tell your local stores to clearly mark Canadian products, to create displays of Canadian goods, or ask staff when shopping in the store.

We are in this together. We are already seeing a positive effect, and we've only just started.

- Shelley, Homewood

> STUDENT, FROM PG. 4

tion."

The Student Advisory Council consists of 30 students from diverse backgrounds across the province who meet regularly with education leaders from the Manitoba government and other stakeholders. Council members provide student-centered perspectives and input on current and emerging issues that affect students, contributing to positive change at the provincial level. This council also helps youth

develop leadership and advocacy skills, build networks, and work collaboratively as a team. Previous council members have influenced initiatives related to remote learning, anti-racism, technology in the classroom, and mental health, among others.

"Joining the Manitoba Student Advisory Council has been a transformative experience, allowing me to grow as a leader, listener and advocate for youth voices in edu-

cation," said Harisharn Bahra, a two-year Student Advisory Council member.

The council will begin meetings in August for a one-year term. Previous participants who still meet the criteria can apply again.

Applications are open until midnight on March 21. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/studentadvisorycouncil/index.html>.

worship
with us > FAITH

GOD IS LOVE...

During the month of February, we have had Groundhog Day, then, there was the holiday that grabs a lot of attention; Valentine's Day. Historically, this is the feast day commemorating St. Valentine, a 3rd century Roman clergyman who often ministered to persecuted Christians. The connection of his feast day to romantic love did not come into effect until the 14th century. Now we have more modern traditions for February 14th; red and pink decorations, and heart-shaped candies. In a month that celebrates love, as well as being Black History month, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on the kind of love that is at the center of our faith, the love that Christ demonstrated for us on the cross.

As people of God, love means more than warm and fuzzy feelings. Love is a gift from God. Our faith is rooted in God's love for us. We read in 1st John that God is love and God comes to us, to transform and save us. John's words echo the greatest commandment given by Jesus, to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. However, this command is more than acting kind or gentle toward others—it is an invitation to participate in God's love - a love that challenges us to live differently. As followers of Christ, we are called to love not just those who love us, but also those who may be difficult to love, those who are different from us and yes even our enemies. Not only love them but pray for them.

This kind of love has no boundaries, it heals wounds, and break down barriers. As this month comes to a close, may we boldly, graciously and abundantly love all people, as God has loved us. May the love of God flow through you, making God's presence known in all that you do.

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

Local MP Branden Leslie staying busy in Portage-Lisgar riding

By Ty Dilello

Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie of the Conservatives would usually be at Parliament in Ottawa during February. However, with Parliament effectively in limbo until March 24, Leslie has been spending his time at several key events in and around his riding.

On Feb. 5, Leslie attended the fifth annual Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration hosted by the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP).

The keynote speaker at the event was Linh Huynh, whose journey to Canada started at age four when she and her family fled Vietnam. Linh, a professional speaker, author, and educator, has since gone on to complete marathons across the globe, including in Antarctica and the North Pole. The PVLIP also launched their 2025-2030 Community Action Plan at the celebration.

"The PVLIP does very good work in effectively ensuring that newcomers to the area can be integrated and find a home here," said MP Branden Leslie. "They had a really interesting keynote speaker at the event, Linh Huynh, who spoke on their family's difficult journey leaving Vietnam, and the speech was very uplifting at the same time. Being there was a chance for me to speak with newcomers in the area and ask questions on what we can do to make their lives easier or what's becoming difficult. It's just a good opportunity for me to understand what their challenges are."

On Feb. 15, Leslie presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal to 30 deserving recipients in his constituency. The recipients represent a diverse group of individuals who have made significant contributions to their local community.

"There were about 200 people there on the day to celebrate the 30 recipients," said Leslie. "These are

kind of the unsung heroes of the area, as they were nominated by fellow community members. None of these folks are out there looking for accolades or excessive applause for what they're doing. They are just trying to help their community. It's humbling for me to be there and hand out the medals, and this should hopefully inspire everyone in our community because this makes our rural communities what they are."

Leslie was also pleased with the results of the Four Nations Cup in ice hockey last week, which featured the NHL's best players from Canada and the United States. Amid all of the political drama going on right now with Donald Trump, the tariffs, and the 51st state nonsense, Leslie noted that the final game that Canada won in overtime was more critical than usual.

"It was a big sigh of relief when Canada won. With this disintegrating relationship with our neighbours to the south going on in the background, which is our largest trading partner, largest border, etc, we need to find solutions. And with us winning as Canada, it defended our honour almost. It was a fantastic hockey game, and I loved every minute of it. The fact that we came through and won that, I think it's going to give an extra stiffening of the spine to every single Canadian to recognize that we should be proud of our country and something to rally around right now."

When he's at home in his riding, Leslie tries to get around the area as best he can. He needs to keep tabs on and stay in touch with locally elected individuals.

"Ottawa is a long way away, and frankly, I don't trust when Ottawa is making decisions that should be made by local folks. So I view myself as a conduit for local representatives to this big government."

After two years on the job since he was first elect-



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

On Feb. 5, MP Branden Leslie, pictured with keynote speaker Linh Huynh, attended and spoke at the fifth annual Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration hosted by the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership. Huynh spoke on her family's difficult journey leaving Vietnam.

ed, Leslie enjoys every day as he represents the Portage-Lisgar riding at Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

"I am so proud to go to Ottawa and defend our rural way of life, which encompasses so many ways that we live our life. I love that riding is full of entrepreneurial, independent-minded people in southern Manitoba, and I happily go and brag about my constituency to everyone that will listen."

Morden airport cleared for CANPASS travellers

Staff

It took a few years, but Morden's airport has finally achieved CANPASS designation from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

The City of Morden announced last week that the application they submitted in spring of 2019 has been

approved.

Effective Feb. 7, the Morden Regional Airport can welcome aircraft carrying passengers enrolled in the Canadian Passenger Accelerated Service System (CANPASS) from the United States.

"This allows for the clearance of private aircraft

entering Canada directly from the United States to now land at the Morden Airport and clear customs and immigration quickly and securely," said Morden Mayor Nancy Penner. "Achieving this designation has been a long journey for us, but it is a very welcome development."

"We are pleased to join the Winkler Municipal Airport as a CANPASS designated airport of entry."

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MP Leslie announces recipients of the King's Coronation Medal

By Ty Dilello

During a ceremony held in Carman on Feb. 15, Branden Leslie, Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar, presented the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal to thirty exceptional individuals from the constituency.

These recipients were honoured for their outstanding contributions to their communities, reflecting the values of service, compassion, and dedication. Nearly 200 guests—including recipients, nominators, friends, and family members—gathered to witness the official medal presentation, followed by a reception celebrating the accomplishments of the honourees.

"It was a privilege to present the King's Coronation Medal to these thirty remarkable individuals," said Leslie. "Their selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to helping others have made a lasting impact. They represent the very best of Portage-Lisgar, and they inspire us all to give back to our communities and our country."

The King's Coronation Medal, created to commemorate King Charles III's coronation in 2023, honours individuals who have demonstrated exceptional public service, leadership, and dedication to improving their communities.

Canada has a long tradition of celebrating royal milestones by recognizing the achievements of extraordinary citizens. The King's Coronation Medal continues this tradition by celebrating those who have worked tirelessly to uplift others and strengthen their communities through charitable efforts, public service, and leadership.

Leslie received nearly 100 nominations from across the constituency, each highlighting stories of extraordinary commitment and selflessness. He noted that a committee of three people from Portage, Carman and Altona selected each recipient after assessing each application by going through and ranking them. MPs are usually allotted 20 medals to disperse, but due to a high number of applications this year, Leslie asked the Governor General's office for 30, which was fortunately approved.

Some of the locals to receive the Coronation Medal include Kelvin Vanderveen (Carman), Bob McMillan (Miami), Estelle Thomson (Starbuck) and David Wilson (Sanford).

Robert (Bob) McMillan is a devoted member of his community, volunteering for 67 years as an organist, 62 years with the Austin Historical Village, and seven years as a driver for cancer patients. He is recognized for his philanthropy and visiting those in need.

Estelle Thomson is an active member of the Starbuck and Elie communities. Her numerous contributions to local organizations reflect her selfless dedication to her family and community. Thomson continues to be a role model to those around her.

David Wilson has spent a lifetime as a community volunteer and 25+ years volunteering in his community. With over forty years of military service in the reserves, Wilson's volunteerism is widely recognized and commemorated by his community.

Finally, **Kelvin Vanderveen** is the owner of Vanderveen Greenhouses in Carman and has been operating his business in town for approximately 55 years. His parents first moved to Carman in 1953 and raised a family in this area and the Vanderveen name continues to stay strong in the town.

Vanderveen provides the flowers along the town's



Kelvin Vanderveen- Carman



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Robert (Bob) Andrew McMillan - Miami



Estelle Jean Thomson- Starbuck



David Michael Wilson- Sanford

Main Street each year and is an active member of his church. He is recognized as a valuable and generous member of his community.

"It began on a very small scale and with God's blessing it has expanded many times over the years," said Kelvin Vanderveen. "We have also been supplying the flowers along Main Street too for about 20 years. As a large producer of flowering plants, it just seems natural to beautify our town with flowers. I travel through many towns in the prairies, and it is wonderful to see the beauty in Carman and how well the plants are maintained by the town employees."

Vanderveen was pleasantly surprised to hear that he would be receiving the Coronation Medal, but is still elated to be honoured.

"I was surprised to hear that I would be receiving a Coronation Medal," said Vanderveen, "especially since I feel there are many people more deserving than I am."

These thirty recipients who earned a Coronation Medal in the Portage-Lisgar riding now join a distinguished group of Canadians who have been recognized for their exceptional service. They join past recipients of the Queen's Jubilee Medals and other royal honours.

"Congratulations to all nominees and recipients," said Branden Leslie. "Your work is truly a testament to the spirit of service, compassion, and selflessness that thrives in Portage-Lisgar."

FULL LIST OF MEDAL RECIPIENTS:

- Dawn Marie Froese - Portage la Prairie
- Nahid Rahman - Portage la Prairie
- Eric John Fast - Portage la Prairie
- Valerie Hill - Portage la Prairie
- Betty-Jean Checkley - Portage la Prairie
- Charles (Chuck) Ian Ross Smith - Portage la Prairie
- Dennis Galbraith - Oakville
- Michael (Mike) Vaughn Jarvie - Elie
- Cornelius (Neil) Schmidt - Winkler
- Paulette Nicole Martel - St. Léon
- Robert (Bob) Andrew McMillan - Miami
- Patricia Gibson - Morden
- Eva Unger - Reinfeld
- Jenn McStravick - Elie
- Peter Cantelon - Morden
- Kelvin Vanderveen - Carman
- Isaac Dyck - Winkler
- Maurice George Butler - Morden
- Harold Espinosa - Winkler
- Jason Hoshowski - St. Francois Xavier
- Estelle Jean Thomson - Starbuck
- David Michael Wilson - Sanford
- Gennadiy Sharapov - Morden
- Rob Wesley Wiebe - Winkler
- Kenton Dyck - Winkler
- Marvin (Jack) Heppner - Altona
- Callum Lewis Morrison - Altona
- Rodney (Rod) James Hutter - Cartier
- Linda Fehr - Morden

Carman Garden Club begins speaker series for 2025

By Becca Myskiw

The Carman Garden Club kicked off their year of presentations this week with a look at propagating and how to make your own hardwood cuttings.

Every year, the local garden club runs a program where they bring in one speaker each month to present on a different topic. The presentations happen at the club's monthly meetings, starting with refreshments and chit-chat, then going into club business and a speaker at 8 p.m. The first speaker of 2025 was Doris Verhaeghe on Feb. 24, greenhouse manager and propagator at Aubin Nurseries.

Verhaeghe presented on propagating and how to make hardwood cuttings, which are used for propagating trees, shrubs, and vines. By taking cuttings from the woody stems of plants between fall and spring (when they're dormant) and planting the cuttings, roots will develop, and the plant will multiply.

On March 24, Leah Olson of Morden's Nurseries will give a presentation on planning and/or refurbishing a perennial bed, and on April 28, the Carman Garden Club will tour Vanderveen's Greenhouses. On May 26, John Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture entomologist, will speak on the good and bad garden insects. The

presentations will then stop for the summer to allow everyone time to be in their gardens.

Presentations will resume on Sept. 22 with John Heard, a soil fertility specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, speaking on testing the productivity of your soil. They will end on Oct. 29 with a presentation from Lyle Myers on growing and caring for amaryllis. Each meeting is at the Carman Pentecostal Assembly, with doors opening at 7 p.m.

Though the garden club encourages new members, anyone can attend the speakers at no cost. Debbie Vanderzwaag of the club said it's a great place to learn, meet like-minded people, and generally have a good time. This year, most speakers are local people, which Vanderzwaag said isn't common. She's excited to bring in local specialists for the group.

"We just love to learn, and the more we can learn, the better," she said. "We learn from each other as well but it's just great to have someone who that's their thing and they want to share it with us. Gardeners just love talking over the fence."

The Carman Garden Club has been going since 1929, and though membership has ebbed and flowed throughout the years, they currently have around 30 members. Member-



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

To propagate shrubs from hardwood cuttings, you can take cuttings in the dormant season, prepare them, and plant them in a pot or in the ground.

ships cost \$30 for one person for the year or \$45 for a couple. That fee pays for the speakers to come out and present, as well as for the junior gardening program and the club's outings.

"There's a lot more focus on growing your own food these days," said Vanderzwaag. "And that's another thing we like to encourage too. It's not just flowers; it's growing anything."

She also encourages anyone interested in gardening to attend a meeting and join the club. Members are knowledgeable and constantly learn from each other.

"Everybody starts somewhere, so don't feel intimidated because these people have been gardening for years," said Vanderzwaag. "It's just a fun way to do something you love."

The club's annual plant sale is coming up at the end of May, where Carman MCC Thrift will be full of home-grown plants for sale for three days. On July 19 is the Garden Celebration Tour, which puts tens of local gardens on display for the public to visit and ask questions about.

To keep up with the Carman Garden Club, follow the group on Facebook.

Tickets on sale now for SCRL 60th anniversary quiz night gala

The Carman-Dufferin STANDARD

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By Lorne Stelmach

The South Central Regional Library is celebrating its 60th year with an upcoming gala event and the chance to win incredible prizes.

People are invited to test their knowledge at a quiz night Friday, March 21 at the Access Event Centre in Morden, and the evening will also launch a special big prize raffle featuring prize packages including a Blue Bombers ticket pack as well as Via Rail vouchers.

"We're not booking a specific trip for someone, but we are providing tickets for a return trip ... we've kind of figured out what the value of the trip might be if somebody wanted to go Winnipeg to Montreal return," explained director of library services Cathy Ching.

The fun and games package includes Winnipeg Blue Bombers tickets and related goodies, while the lawn and garden package has equipment including a chainsaw, leaf blower and weed whacker as well as lawn chairs and a barbecue. Then there is the "Bling" package including a bottle of bubbly, chocolates, and a spa package.

"So we have lots of good things there," said Ching, who also noted the anniversary celebrations had kicked off with a 50/50 raffle that saw the winning ticket drawn Tuesday. Half of the proceeds will go toward supporting library

projects, and the other half will go to one lucky winner.

She is particularly excited though about bringing people together for the quiz night.

"It's our gala event, so people are encouraged to bring out their fancier clothes. It's not formal, but its semi-formal," said Ching.

"It would be great if people could get a team of eight together," she said, encouraging people to gather their friends, family, or coworkers to compete in teams, but you can also just register individually and be teamed up.

"They can go to their local library and have their name put on a table list," Ching noted.

Ching said their idea was simply to offer people something different for fun as opposed to a formal evening and banquet. The \$35 tickets cover the costs of the trivia competition and a charcuterie platter that will be served to each table.

"The proceeds from this evening will go to a variety of projects," she noted. "Each library wants to do something with the some of the proceeds ... everybody's got a different project."

The Altona branch will use the funds for an extension to its front desk, Manitou wants to update its seating areas with comfy couches, Miamia is teaming up with the train station museum

Continued on page 10

Roland Read and Run Book Club is a raving success

By E Antonio

Miami Recreation and Play Spaces offers free weekly programming for children ages 0-6 years and their caregivers in Miami and Roland.

The charitable organization strives for children to learn through play and encourages all community members with young children to stop by their free, hour-long play groups. Each program runs for 6-8 weeks before changing themes. Early literacy programs are beneficial to a child's development and transition to school.

"The benefits of the program are helping children be ready for school through learning and socialization with others. The first five years are very important in establishing a lifetime of success," explained board co-chair April Hildebrand.

Miami Recreation and Play Spaces is hosting the Read and Run Book Club in Roland until March 28. This is a new program for the group, and it has proven to be a success in the community.

"The Roland program has definitely grown over the past two years," said Amber Elias, facilitator of the Roland programs.

The Read and Run Book Club meets at the Roland Memorial Hall from 10-11 a.m. on Fridays.

Children begin their hour of fun with some free play, "to help the kids all get comfortable and get some wiggles out," added Elias.

She sets out a variety of stations to encourage play and movement. Some of the stations include a miniature ball pit, bean bag toss, and balance beam.

Once the little ones have expended some energy, the group meets for circle time, during which they

sing songs and poems, read a book, and have a snack. They then typically round out the hour with a game and a craft related to the theme of their book.

"One week we read a book about pirates, then did a treasure hunt where the kids followed instructions such as 'run to the heart,' or 'tip-toe to the triangle' until we found our treasure boxes. (For the craft) we decorated the cardboard treasure boxes with markers and stickers."

Before the end of Read and Run Book Club, everyone gets together and sings their goodbye song. What is most exciting about the club is that at the end of each session, every child gets to pick out a new book to take home.

Picking a new book to read is always exciting for the participants and is one of Elias' favourite parts of the program.

Once Read and Run Book Club finishes, a new program Kit and Kaboodle will be starting up in April at the Blair Sharpe Miami Active Living Centre. Exact program dates are still to be determined, and you are encouraged to stay tuned to their Facebook page for updates.

For any of Miami Recreation and Play Spaces programming, advanced registration is preferred so they have a general idea of how many participants to expect. You can register by emailing miamirecan-dplay@gmail.com or by messaging their Facebook page of the same name.

Drop-in visitors are always welcome, but please be sure to check their Facebook page ahead of each session in case of any cancellations.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED
Miami Recreation and Play Spaces offers free weekly programming for children ages 0-6 years and their caregivers in Miami and Roland on Fridays from 10-11 a.m. Pictured, Lincoln and Phoenix with their Mom, Sydney, decorating plant pots at the Read and Run book Club.

Two-vehicle collision on Carman's Main St.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY DENNIS YOUNG

On the morning of Feb. 19, the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department (CDFD) responded to a serious two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Main Street and Third Avenue in Carman. Fire Chief Chris Lemky reported that one vehicle attempted to cross Main Street and was struck by a northbound vehicle. Both occupants of the vehicles received medical attention from EMS, with only minor injuries reported. Main Street was closed for much of the morning to facilitate the cleanup of the vehicles.

Bringing smiles with a little canine therapy

By Lorne Stelmach

A dog therapy program has been proving its worth on a regular basis at Boundary Trails Health Centre and Tabor Home.

Sheila Reimer and her Golden Retriever named Piper do regular visits to both facilities, and Reimer sees all the time how it brightens the day for not only patients and residents but even staff as well.

"At the hospital, the staff are very welcoming to her," said Reimer, who recently brought Piper to the Morden Activity Centre as part of what are regular grief and bereavement sessions organized through the BTHC palliative care program.

"They have some tough days, so the staff are always very happy to see her and give some pets," she said. "And people at Boundary Trails are not always feeling the greatest, so not everyone wants to have a pet with her, but there's even a lot of families that are visiting, so they like to see the dog."

Reimer and Piper go to BTHC every Wednesday morning. They also go every other Wednesday afternoon to Tabor Home, where she said they always receive a warm welcome.

"A lot of the people there love to see her, and it's a nice change of pace in their day," said Reimer, who recalled one story about a resident who never left her bed and remained quiet, but a visit from Piper suddenly had her up and dressed and excited for the next visit. "And Piper loves to go. I have to wait to put her shirt on until I'm ready to go because she knows where we're going."

She became involved in the St. John Ambulance therapy dog program because she works at a medical centre and saw firsthand how so many people were struggling in the midst of COVID.

"I had realized a lot of people really needed a little bit of joy after the pandemic," said Reimer, who got certified with Piper and began their visits at BTHC not long after.

A lot of dogs would not be a good fit for the pro-

gram, but there are a few factors that make Piper perfectly suited to the role.

"That's why they test you. They tested her and I, and she passed it very easily," Reimer shared. "It was just the dog's nature, so I knew that she would be a good fit to go visit people."

"[Therapy dogs] can't jump on people. She doesn't bark unless you ask her to," she noted. "The worst thing she does is lick you. So the key things are just the calm demeanor and always being happy to be pet by people."

"You just have to show them that she's suited to go into any situation ... she had to be around wheelchairs, and we are around a lot of wheelchairs where we go," added Reimer, who noted the dogs also have to show that they can handle the bustling environment you often find in care centres.

"They put us in a scenario where there's lots of people and talking, and it didn't bother her at all. She didn't get anxious or anything," she said. "She's a good family dog, and we knew she would be good around anybody."

Linda Fehr, a volunteer who is involved with the palliative care program, recognizes the value of therapy dogs.

"I think it's a marvellous program, and it even gives people the chance to maybe remember days when they had a pet, and it brings back memories," she suggested.

"It's just very, very calming ... you can see that she is just very delightful, and you haven't heard a peep from her. It's a great program, and I think more and more we realize how much pets bring to our lives."

"A lot of people have reached out to see if I could do more, but I work full time as well, so I just can't go to every place," Reimer noted. "I wish I could, but I just can't. It is rewarding to see that she's making a difference in people's days. I'm always glad that we can help some people who are



STANDARD PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH
Shelia Reimer and Piper make the rounds at BTHC and Tabor Home every week as part of the St. John's Ambulance therapy dog program.

in some tough circumstances.

"I see that there's a need for more people," she added. "I would encourage more people to consider it. If there's other people who are interested in doing the same thing that her and I are doing, they can reach out to the St. John's therapy dog program."

You can learn more on the organization's website: sja.ca.

> RAFFLE , FROM PG. 8

to develop a joint green space, Morden is going to renovate its meeting room, and Winkler is adding a coffee corner.

Ching noted they will also be applying for a grant from Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries with the hope that "it will give us with some seed money so that

we can apply for some grants to do some bigger projects in each of our branches."

Doors open for the quiz night at 6 p.m. with the activities starting at 7 p.m.. Teams can register online at www.scr160.com.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the quiz night as well as in all five branches of library

and online starting March 21.

"I am looking forward to our 60th year as a regional library because we have many things to celebrate, and we know that we would not be successful without all of you," Ching stressed of the communities SCRL serves. "Join us in recognizing our many achievements."



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Where are they now? Catching up with Kevin Murray

By Dennis Young

This feature will attempt to renew some acquaintances with those who called Carman and the area home at one time or another. I have randomly selected people to answer questions about their past and present so the readers can be brought up to speed on their lives.

Q. Firstly, let's get familiar with you again. When did you live in Carman?

I was born and raised on the family farm in Graysville from 1964-1985.

Q. Did you attend school here?

I attended Graysville Elementary, grades 1 to 6, and Carman Collegiate, 7 to 12.

Q. What did you do for jobs as a student?

I mostly worked on our family farm and odd jobs for farmers nearby. I also had part-time jobs with Vanderput Apiaries, Fireside Inn, and Ed's Tire.

Q. What activities did you participate in as a student?

I played hardball, fastball, hockey, bowling, curling, and basketball, and I was on the athletic council in high school.

Q. Did your family live here? Who and what did they do for a living?

My dad, John, was born and raised on the family farm, farmed until 1981 and then went to work for A&M Soil in Miami. My mom, Madeliene, was raised in the Miami and Carman area, married dad in 1959, and they lived/worked on our farm until they moved to Carman.

Q. What was your chosen career after school?

I was accepted into the RCMP in 1989 and completed thirty years of service.

Q. Did you move around a lot

in your career or life?

I attended French language training in Montreal, then completed RCMP Basic Training in Regina. I was first posted to Prince George, BC, and then transferred to McBride, Kimberley and Gold River before accepting a teaching position at the Training Academy in Regina. I was promoted to Corporal at Port Alice, then Sergeant/Staff Sergeant at Port Alberni, and commissioned to the rank of Inspector at St. Albert. In 2015, I was promoted to Superintendent and worked as the Assistant District Officer for Central Alberta District out of Leduc, AB. In 2016, I transferred to Edmonton HQ and oversaw the Informatics Program for Alberta. I retired in 2019 and reside in Kimberley.

Q. Did you meet your spouse here or where?

I met my spouse while working as a Park Patrol Officer in the Provincial Parks at Falcon Lake.

Q. Did you raise any children? Names, where now and doing what?

Our daughter Kris lives in Kimberley and is the Corporate Director for Aboriginal Health and Wellness with BC Interior Health. Stuart also now lives in Kimberley and is a Career Marketing Advisor with BC Interior Health. Both work from home.

Q. Do you have extended family living here?

My dad passed away in November 2024. He was the only family living in the area.

Q. What do you do now?

I am retired and now volunteer. I am a driver and general handyperson with the Healthy Kimberley Food Recovery Program and a Cancer Society Wheels of Hope driver, and I was recently elected to the Metis Nation of British Columbia Senate for a four-

year term.

Q. What passes your leisure time? Hobbies? Sports?

I am a prolific cyclist, an avid cross-country skier, and a snowshoer. Throughout the year, I also golf, do yoga and weight training, and help family and friends with renovation projects.

Q. Have you travelled for leisure and where?

Over the years, our family has traveled to Disneyland and Disney World and taken summer camping trips. My wife and I have been to London, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Paris, Switzerland, Venice, Cinque Terra, and Milan. I took my daughter to Paris, Venice, Rome, Edinburgh, and London and my son to Amsterdam, Brussels, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Paris.

Q. Any future plans? Do you have a to-do list?

I am taking my son to Montreal in February to watch the Canadiens play. My family surprised me with a bikepacking trip to Norway in July so my daughter and I will be doing that together. Our goal in 2025 is to spend two months travelling to and from the East Coast of Canada. There are some other places I would like to visit within Canada, including the Yukon and Haida Gwaii. I am also hoping to do more bike-packing trips in the coming years.

Q. Do you ever return to Carman?

I have made trips back with my sister Pam each year for my dad's birthday in January; however, since he has passed, I am unsure how often I will return.

Q. What are some of your fondest memories of your Carman days?

Growing up and working on the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kevin Murray served with the RCMP for 30 years in Western Canada.

farm is number one. Fortunately, my dad's parents lived in the same farmyard, so I was very close to them. My gramps would always let me go with him on the tractor or play catch whenever Dad was busy. Golfing at Carman and Roland, the Carman Fair, Stephenfield Lake, Fall Suppers, playing baseball and fastball over the years.

Q. Any last words you wish to send to our readers?

I often reminisce about growing up on the prairies, on a farm, and in a small community. Although I have lived and worked in some city environments during my career, I gravitated towards the smaller communities, as that was where I felt most at home. We chose a small one-stoplight town for retirement, as that is where I belong.

GIFF marking International Women's Day with free Icelandic documentary

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli International Film Festival will celebrate International Women's Day with a free screening of an Icelandic documentary on collective female action for equality.

GIFF is screening U.S. director Pamela Hogan's 2024 documentary "The Day Iceland Stood Still" at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. Hogan will be on hand for a Q&A session after the screening.

The film was part of the 2024 festival's Social Justice Film Series and was voted the winner of the Audience Choice Award.

Fifty years ago, on Oct. 24, 1975, a majority of Iceland's women "walked off the job" in an inspiring collective message and in sync with a

wider solidarity movement for pay equality and recognition of females' economic contributions. Icelandic women refused to work, cook and care for children, bringing the country to a standstill and leading to a movement for social change.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Mauro Family Foundation for making this special screening possible. At the Gimli International Film Festival, we are committed to supporting women filmmakers and amplifying stories that address social justice issues worldwide," said GIFF executive director Teya Zuzek. "Given the overwhelming response to Pamela Hogan's The Day Iceland Stood Still—which won our 2024 Audience Choice Award—we knew this film would be a perfect fit for an encore presentation on an important holiday like

International Women's Day."

Since 1911, International Women's Day has celebrated the social, economic, cultural and political contributions of females. It has also raised awareness of discrimination against and exclusion of females because of their gender. The day is dedicated to advancing women and a call for action to accelerate gender equality around the world.

The free screening will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

People can register through the Eventbrite link on the GIFF's website or email GIFF: info@gimlifilm.com

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Carman's Sydney Last off to NCCAA basketball regionals

By Ty Dilello

Carman's Sydney Last is excelling in her second season of university basketball at Providence College in Otterburne, Manitoba.

Last has been playing basketball for eight years, starting at the age of 12 in Grade 7, following in the footsteps of her two older brothers, Cody and Bailey. After graduating from Carman Collegiate, Last joined the Providence College program last year and is now well into her second season with the school's basketball team.

During her high school years at Carman Collegiate, Last played as a point guard. However, since joining Providence, she has primarily played both as a point guard and a shooting guard.

This season, the Providence Pilots have a record of 12-11 in league play. Last spent time training with the school's men's basketball coach over the summer to improve her skills, and this has contributed to her being one of the team's top scorers this year.

"My personal basketball journey this year has been going very well, and the season has been going great," said Sydney Last. "It's definitely not a straight upward trajectory this season with lots of ups and downs and upsets against us along the way. But even with those upsets, we have a very strong team, who I have a lot of belief in, and I know we can accomplish a lot of great things in the next few weeks of playoffs."

Last and her Providence squad competed in the NIAC Championship this past weekend in Minne-

apolis, Minnesota, where they lost a tightly contested game 71-58 to their rival, Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), in the championship match.

Next up for Providence is the MCAC Championship game this Thursday, where they will face CMU again, this time in Winnipeg. Following that, they will head to Ankeny, Iowa, to participate in the NCCAA Regionals, which begin on March 3.

"After our game on Thursday, we then have the NCCAA, which is a whole different pool of competition," said Last. "Even harder competition, so we are looking to win Regionals for the first time in our basketball program history. If we win Regionals, then we will come back to Minneapolis for NCCAA Nationals the week after, which is our ultimate goal to make it there. These goals are high but realistic, given the belief our team has in each other. We are a very close team and are together through it all, so we have big hopes for the rest of the season."

Through all of the basketball and her schooling program, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies with a certificate of TESOL, Last has been loving her Providence experience and going to school away from home.

"With it being my second year, it truly feels like my second home now. I worked at Providence sports camps this summer and connected with even more people from other sports teams. And with it being such a small school, I know most of the people I see in the halls, so it's all just been amazing."



STANDARD PHOTO BY RICH FOCUS MEDIA

Carman's Sydney Last is headed to Ankeny, Iowa, at the beginning of March as a member of the Providence Pilots women's basketball team to take part in the NCCAA Regionals, where they hope to qualify for the National Championship.

Twisters to face off against former coach

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters are nearing the conclusion of a historically disappointing season after losing two more games over the weekend.

The Morris-based Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League team now has a record of 3 wins, 37 losses, and 2 ties, placing them at the bottom of the league standings.

On Feb. 21, the Twisters were on the road and lost 9-1 to the Stonewall Jets in a game where they struggled right from the start. Gage Ferguson scored the only goal for Pembina Valley, while goaltender Darion Penner made 40 saves.

Just a few nights later, on Feb. 23, the Twisters faced another defeat, this time losing 4-1 to the St. Vital Victorias.

Ayden Lazarenko scored the lone goal for the Twisters, and Jordan Armstrong recorded 31 saves in the loss.

"We actually played pretty well in spurts against St. Vital," said Twisters head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "They are a very good team, and we were able to stay competitive and skate with them for much of the game, which is a positive for us."

The Twisters will wrap up their season with a final home game on Feb. 28 against the St. James Jr. Canucks. Twisters' former coach Ryan Dyck will be the bench boss for the Canucks.

"We just want to end the season strongly with hopefully one more win," said Beernaerts. "St. James will be tough but we want our guys to get up for this one and play hard."

Do-or-die game for Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were fighting to stay alive in the playoffs this week.

They were facing elimination as they took to the ice Wednesday against the Winnipeg Ice after falling behind 2-1 in the best-of-five quarter-final.

Sixth-place Pembina Valley had surprised the third-place Ice by edging Winnipeg 2-1 in game one last Tuesday, but the Hawks then fell 2-0 in game two last Thursday and then 8-2 in game three on Saturday.

Jessica Anderson's second goal of the game early in the third period broke the 1-1 tie in game one and proved to be the winner for the Hawks. Pembina Valley also got a solid performance in goal by Kasia Rakowski as the Hawks were outshot 32-18 by Winnipeg.

Game two was another close contest, but the Hawks were stymied by Ice goaltender Gina Plett. Winnipeg sealed the deal with the insurance goal with just 1:36 remaining. Rakowski kept the Hawks in the game with her 32-save performance as the Ice outshot Pembina Valley 34-23.

Things unfortunately then came apart for Pembina Valley in game three as the Ice took period leads of 3-0 and 6-2 with the help of a couple power play goals.

Leah Klassen and Abigail Brigg scored for the Hawks, while Rakowski made 34 saves as the Ice outshot Pembina Valley 42-24.

If Pembina Valley are able to extend the series in game four in Morden Wednesday, the series will be decided Saturday in game five in Winnipeg.

Cougars battling hard in Zone 4 high school hockey playoffs

By Ty Dilello

After a very successful regular season, the Carman Cougars high school hockey team is currently competing in the Zone 4 playoffs. The Cougars finished the regular season in second place in the Zone 4 league standings with a record of 18 wins and 6 losses.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Cougars quickly eliminated the W.C. Miller (Altona) Aces, winning their two-game series with scores of 10-1 and 3-0.

The league semifinals are ongoing, with the Cougars locked in a best-of-three series against the Morris Mavericks, currently tied at one game each. The Cougars won Game 1 with a score of 4-2, but the Mavericks bounced back to dominate Game 2, defeating Carman 7-1.

Game 3 is scheduled to take place on February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Carman. Regardless of the outcome in the Zone 4 playoffs, the Cougars will still participate in the provincial championship, which they are set to host later in March.

Additionally, the Zone 4 High School Hockey League awards will be presented prior to Game 2 of the championship series, scheduled to start on March 3. The Cougars are expected to take home most of the awards. The Heavy Metal Designs League MVP Award will go to Josh Hiebert, a Grade 12 student from the Cougars who led the league in scoring with a total of 53 points during the regular season.

"Josh's ability to skate, finish on scoring, and set up other teammates makes him a threat every time he's on the ice," said Cougars' head coach Michael Hetherington. "He's also very responsible in his own end, rarely on for a goal against as he leads our

team in +/- with +43 this year. In the faceoff circle, Josh has been hovering around 70% all season. He is relied upon in all situations for us, whether it be powerplay, penalty kill or trying to get a goal/prevent a goal late in the game. When Josh is at his best, which has been constant this year, he gives us a chance to win every night. To finish, Josh has seven of our 16 game winning goals which shows he's our game breaker and MVP for this season."

The Zone 4 Top Scorer Award also went to Hiebert for his 53 points (26 goals and 27 assists) achieved over the 24-game regular season. The runner-up for this award was fellow Cougars forward Ryder Delaquis, who scored 43 points in the same number of games.

The Lloyd C. Orchard Most Sportsmanlike Player Award was awarded to Grant Friesen of the Cougars. The Grade 11 student is a key player for Carman in all aspects of the game.

"Along with his scoring ability, Grant plays the game hard, leading our team in hits with 148, which is 50 more than the next player on our team," said Hetherington. "He has done so while doing a great job staying out of the penalty box, only having eight minor penalties on the year. This shows that he plays the game the right way, physical but clean. Grant's 71% in the circle and a +30 in league play. Grant has been someone that the rest of the team looks to when the game is on the line many times this year, and he has answered that call numerous times this season. Grant is relied on in all situations. He's a key member of our powerplay, penalty kill and is also relied upon late in a game when trying to hold a lead or finding a late goal."

The Coaching Staff of the Year Award was also presented to the Carman Cougars, along with the



STANDARD PHOTO BY MICHAEL HETHERINGTON
Carman Cougars' high school hockey player Josh Hiebert has won the Zone 4 Heavy Metal Designs League MVP Award for his impressive season that saw him lead the league in scoring with 53 points in 24 games.

Charlie Maykut Fair Play Award for the Least Penalized Team, which recognizes the team that accumulates the fewest penalty minutes during the regular season. The Cougars averaged just 6.6 penalty minutes per game.

Sanford's Lewko makes WHL debut with Saskatoon Blades



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED
Sanford's Cohen Lewko made his WHL debut earlier this season with the Saskatoon Blades

By Ty Dilello

Sanford's Cohen Lewko made his WHL debut at 15, playing in two games earlier this season with the Saskatoon Blades.

Lewko began skating in Sanford with his dad Kyle when he was three years old.

"My dad was the one who got me into hockey as we would play mini-sticks, and he would skate around with me," said Cohen Lewko. "I grew up playing minor hockey with MacDonald from when I was seven until 13, and then one year with the Pembina Valley Hawks and two years with the Rink Hockey Academy now. When I was 10-12, I started going to the arena in Sanford and shooting pucks before school started too."

Last season, the 5-foot-11 forward lit the lamp 19 times and assisted 23 times in 26 games with the Canadian Sport School Hockey League's (CSSHL) RINK Hockey Academy Winnipeg U15. Lewko tacked on 26 penalty minutes during the regular

season and added one goal and two assists in four playoff games.

Lewko was drafted by the Saskatoon Blades in the fourth round (77th overall) of the 2024 WHL Prospects Draft. Saskatoon promptly signed him to a Western Hockey League (WHL) Scholarship and Development Agreement.

This 2024-25 season, Lewko has 34 points in 30 games with the Rink Hockey Academy U18 squad, in which he has been named assistant captain of his team for the season.

"This season has had many ups and downs as we started off very hot, winning six games in a row, and we were at the top of the league," said Lewko. "Unfortunately, since then, we have dropped to fifteenth on the power rankings, and we will be going into the playoffs as underdogs. However, we still hope to win the CSSHL championship. Personally, my season has been going pretty well. I am above a point-per-game and have been able to play lots of minutes every game."

Lewko's season was made special when he was called up to make his WHL debut with the Saskatoon Blades on Dec. 28. He would play two games with the big club before being sent back down to this Rink Hockey Academy club team.

"Playing in the WHL has been a dream of mine for many years, and finally having it come true was unbelievable. Saskatoon's organization is great, and you are treated like a professional. The fans and community are amazing, and they support the team very much. I am only able to play 10 games with them as a 15-year-old, but getting in another game this season would be really cool. I will work really hard this spring and summer and hope to make the Blades next season."

As he bides his time waiting for another WHL call-up, Lewko will continue to play for the RHA U18 Prep team and hope to win a CSSHL championship in Penticton, B.C., at the end of the season.

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TOWN OF CARMAN

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 194 of the Municipal Act of Manitoba, the audited financial statements for the Town of Carman for the year ending December 31, 2023, have been completed and are available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the Town of Carman Administration Office, 12-2nd Avenue SW, Carman, MB.

Susan Stein
Chief Administrative Officer

News Tips? Story Ideas? Call the Standard 204-467-5836

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NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GREY

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Rural Municipality of Grey will be taken to elect a Ward 2 Councillor from the following duly nominated candidates:

OFFICE:	SEATS AVAILABLE:	NOMINATED CANDIDATES:
COUNCILLOR WARD 2	ONE (1)	MARTIN, BRANDI VAN DER STEEN, BERT

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Thursday the 20th day of March, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at:

Ward Two (2) – Elm Creek Community Hall, 70 Arena Road, Elm Creek, MB

IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

VOTERS LIST

An eligible voter whose name is not on the voters list is entitled to have their name added to the voters list by: a) attending a voting place where they are qualified to vote; b) taking an oath that they are an eligible voter; c) establishing their identity by providing valid government photo identification or at least two other documents that provide proof of their identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on Election Day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at:

R.M. Of Grey Municipal Office – 27 Church Avenue East Elm Creek and will be open on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person or in writing to the Senior Election Official at R.M. of Grey, Box 99, 27 Church Avenue East, Elm Creek, MB R0G 0N0. Photo identification will need to be presented in order to receive a sealed ballot package.

If applying in person, a voter may apply between February 20, 2025 and March 17, 2025. A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email, a voter may apply between February 20, 2025 and March 17, 2025. A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the Senior Election Official.

Kim Arnal, Senior Election Official
Rural Municipality of Grey
204-436-2014 (phone)
info@rmofgrey.ca (email)



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Tyler Slawinski at 204-672-0450
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OBITUARY



David Bourgeois
July 28, 1958 – February 21, 2025

David Phillip Bourgeois was born in Winnipeg on July 28, 1958. He was predeceased by his brother Roy and sister in-law Linda; his brother Jack and his mother Irene.

Mourning David's loss is his wife of 49 years, Brenda; his children, Jason (Jeannie) and Cindy (Earl) plus nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Also, his father Ernie, sister in-law Dale, brother Jim (Linda), sister Sharon (Dennis) and brother Dan (Linda).

David was a "Jack of all Trades", repairing anything brought to him. He constructed the garage, barn and also basements for family and friends.

David worked for the RM of Dufferin for 10 years, and then the Town of Carman for seven years. David and Brenda farmed, raising cattle, chickens, turkeys and pigs.

He took his family on fishing trips and travelled throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In the past years David suffered with alcoholism and struggled to overcome it. Then in 2021 David was diagnosed with three types of cancer. It took a toll on him and so did the alcohol. He couldn't beat either one.

The real David was gone a long time ago, but we could see that twinkle in his eyes telling us a part of him was still with us.

We will miss him dearly. Your loving family.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the staff at Carman Hospital for the care during this difficult time.

Private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to Carman Palliative Care, Box 610, Carman, MB, R0G 0J0.

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

OBITUARY



Wilfred Mutcher

Wilfred Mutcher was born March 19, 1938 to Elsie and Reinhold Mutcher. His childhood was a happy one with siblings Ruth Dunlop, Freda Collins, Albert Mutcher, Bernice Last and Ray Mutcher.

At a young age the family moved from Mowbray to Bird's Hill, then to Winnipeg and finally to Homewood. It was there he met Deanna McCutcheon. In 1963 they were married and started farming West of Carman. Their family grew to include Ronda (Kelly Stout) Holly, Eric (Sherri). Over the years grandchildren appeared. Kaitlyn, Cody (Martina) Brayden, Dylan and Taryn. Next came great-grandchildren Greyson, Olivia, Maverick, Scottie and Hunter.

Highlights in Wilf's life was learning to fly, playing cribbage once a week for about 40 years, going fishing in the Pacific Ocean, being a Councillor and Reeve in the Municipality of Dufferin and working with young students at the University Experimental Farm.

One quirk he had was planting his garden ridiculously early and another was hiding money each time he visited his children.

On February 17, 2025 Wilf took his last breath. Left to mourn are Freda Collins, Albert Mutcher and his immediate family.

The Mutcher family is grateful to the staff at Carman Memorial Hospital for their tender care.

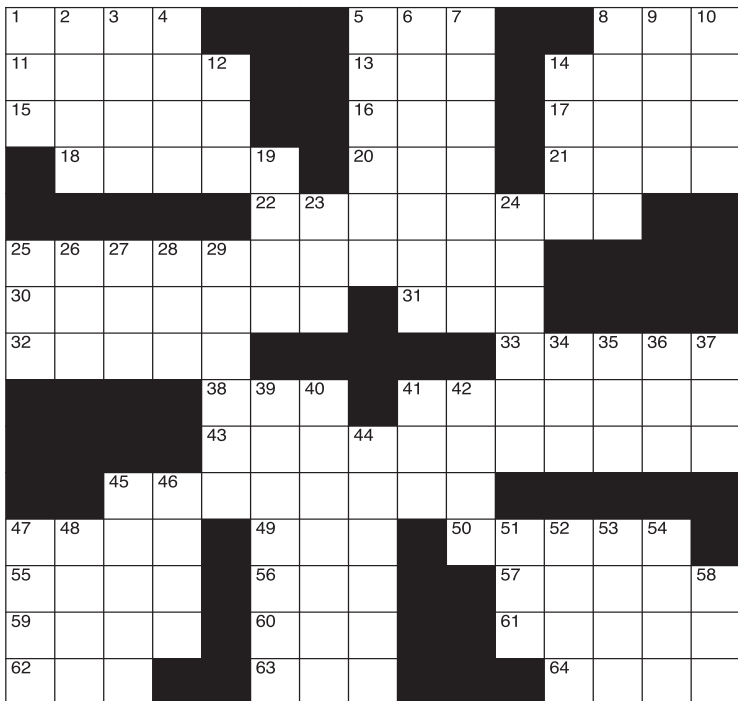
If so desired, donations can be sent to South Central Cancer Resource, 400 - 34 Stephen St., Morden, MB, R6M 2G3.

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Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

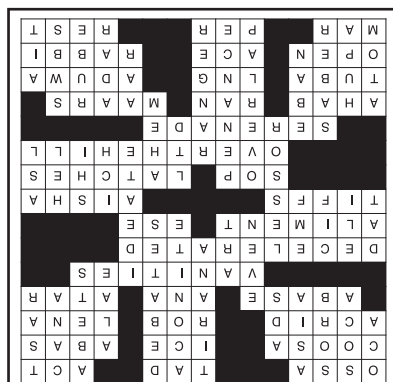
take a break

> GAME



- 45. Song sung to one's lover
 - 47. Whale ship captain
 - 49. Moved quickly on foot
 - 50. Volcanic craters
 - 55. Large musical instrument
 - 56. Liquefied natural gas
 - 57. Ethiopian town
 - 59. Not closed
 - 60. A team's best pitcher
 - 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - 62. Disfigure
 - 63. Prefix denoting "in a"
 - 64. Sleep
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. S. American plant
 - 2. Soul and calypso song
 - 3. Fruit of the service tree
 - 4. Continent
 - 5. Albania's capital
 - 6. Poisonous plant
 - 7. Argues
 - 8. Assists
 - 9. Town in Galilee
 - 10. Russian leader
 - 12. Promotional materials
 - 14. Wings
 - 19. Not odd
 - 23. Expression of creativity
 - 24. Conceptualize
 - 25. A digital tape recording of sound
 - 26. Peyton's little brother
 - 27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
 - 28. Difference in potential
 - 29. Owner
 - 34. I (German)
 - 35. Chinese conception of poetry
 - 36. The world of the dead
 - 37. Sign language
 - 39. Coincide
 - 40. Religious observance
 - 41. Confined condition (abbr.)
 - 42. Polite interruption sound
 - 44. Texas ballplayer
 - 45. Type of sword
 - 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 47. Basic unit of a chemical element
 - 48. Native American people in California

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Greek mythological figure
 - 5. Small amount
 - 8. Play a role
 - 11. River in Georgia and Alabama
 - 13. Water in the solid state
 - 14. Ancient Greek sophist
 - 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
 - 16. Fleece
 - 17. Writer/actress Dunham
 - 18. Behave in a way that belittles
 - 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
 - 21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 - 22. Conceits
 - 25. Slowed down
 - 30. Nourishment
 - 31. Midway between east and southeast
 - 32. Fights
 - 33. Comedienne Tyler
 - 38. Standing operating procedure
 - 41. Locks
 - 43. Old



Crossword Answer

- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. Easily swindled person
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

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get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Loaded Hamburger Potato Casserole

salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
chives or green onions, for topping
Heat oven to 375 F.

In skillet over medium heat, brown ground beef with garlic powder; drain and set aside.

Cut potatoes into small pieces. In casserole dish, mix beef; potatoes; soup; sour cream; milk; fried onions, if desired; cheese; and bacon pieces. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake, covered, 50 minutes then uncover and bake 10 minutes.

Top with chives or green onions.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4-6
1 pound ground hamburger
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 bag (1 1/2 pounds) tri-colored baby potatoes
1 can (10 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup fried onions (optional)
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 1/2 ounces bacon pieces



Barbecue Chili

pepper, to taste
sour cream, for serving
shredded cheddar cheese, for serving
corn chips, for serving

Place pork loin in slow cooker. Cover with diced tomatoes and green chilies, 1 cup barbecue sauce and water; cook on low 4-6 hours.

Cut up cooked meat and place in Dutch oven along with juices from slow cooker. Add remaining barbecue sauce, tomato sauce, chili beans, chili seasoning, barbecue seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Cook over medium heat 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with sour cream, shredded cheese and corn chips.

Tip: Add can of beans if serving bigger crowd.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 8-10
1 pork loin (2-3 pounds)
1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies
2 cups barbecue sauce, divided
1 cup water
1 can (29 ounces) tomato sauce
2 cans (27 ounces each) chili beans
1 package chili seasoning
1 tablespoon barbecue seasoning
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 tablespoon garlic powder
salt, to taste

Easy Enchilada Casserole



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 6 (12 as appetizer)

1 pound ground beef
1 tablespoon minced onion
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 cup rice
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes
1 can (10.7 ounces) enchilada sauce
1 can (15 ounces) rinsed black beans
1 can (15 ounces) whole corn
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
2 tablespoons mesquite seasoning
cilantro, for topping (optional)
green onions, for topping (optional)
Heat oven to 350 F.

In skillet, brown ground beef with minced onion and garlic powder. Drain

Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady Readers: I have had many emails from Canadians wondering what to do with their investments if Trump enforces his tariffs on Canada in February.

Tariffs on Canada, I believe is a foregone conclusion, however we must remember that the Canadian stock market tends to be manipulated more by the global economy not just by the USA. We shouldn't expect a rapid fall like we witnessed with COVID. What is more likely, is that we will go into a recession and retail stock picks will be the hardest hit. If you are invested in a long term financial plan using dividend blue chip stock, I would probably suggest you stay the course. Why not use the anticipated downward swings as buying opportunities to beef-up your portfolio with good securities that will go higher after we come out of this economic funk (perhaps in 3-4 years). Since this tariff ban is aimed at Canada and Mexico let's look at the numbers together.

Trade between the USA and Canada is worth over \$910 billion per year. Exports to the USA average \$428 billion and imports from the USA average \$482 billion. (Office of the United States Trade Representative 2024).

Trade between the USA and Mexico is worth approximately \$865 billion per year. Exports to the USA average \$362 billion and imports from the USA were \$493 billion. (Office of the United States Trade Representative 2024)

Clearly a lot of money on the table, right? So, while we wait for the politicians and economists to work it out, we all must deal with the aftermath and potential upcoming changes to our finances. So how best can we handle a looming recession? Recessions are a fact of life, you are bound to go through a couple of them during your lifetime, so here are the top 3 tips to weather this economic storm.

1. Review your spending. Keep a tight budget. Make sure you have an emergency fund should your job change. Secure any consumer debt and lower your spending.

and set aside.

Cook rice according to package instructions.

In casserole dish, mix meat, tomatoes, enchilada sauce, black beans, corn, rice, 1 cup cheddar cheese and mesquite seasoning. Bake, covered, 20 minutes.

Top with remaining cheese, cilantro and green onions.



Christine Ibbotson

If you have debt, now is the time to refinance it into an existing or new mortgage. You could also consider a consolidation loan. Basically, you want any debt you have secured in a product with a fixed rate so the interest can't fluctuate higher, and you know exactly what your expenses are month-to-month.

2. Review your income. Don't be blind-sided to a job cut. Keep your eyes open to what is coming and ask your employer about your job stability. Look for ways to increase your income through a part-time job or side-hustle. If you have one spouse not working or just working part-time, now might be a good time for them to get back into the workforce to earn more money.

3. Stay invested. Keep to your financial plan and do not withdraw investment funds because the market goes down. Remember, what goes down in the market, always goes back up (as long as you are diversified and invested in blue-chip stock picks). Don't panic. We most likely will experience a robust bull market after this slow down.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

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

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