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Former Carman resident Bob Smith is an experienced skydiver, camel racers and world traveller. Pictured is Smith as he feeds his friends camel a carrot. See full story pg. 8.

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Artist's Alley, Back on Cue launch acting classes in Carman

By Annaliese Meier

A former Carman resident is returning to his roots to help grow the local theatre scene through a new collaboration with Back on Cue.

Brent Buchanan, an actor, director and acting coach with more than 25 years of experience, will lead a series of acting classes in partnership with Artist's Alley and the Carman-based theatre group. The bi-weekly sessions will run from May 4 to June 4 and are open to both current members and newcomers.

The initiative is being organized locally by producer Lee Collingridge, who said she is excited to welcome Buchanan back to Carman, where his theatre career first began.

"Back on Cue is a group that promotes local talent and works toward an artistic goal, and Brent really embodies that," Collingridge said. "He's local, he started here, and he's gone on to achieve a high level of excellence in his theatrical career."

She noted that several members of Back on Cue worked with Buchanan in his early years in Carman and are eager to learn from him again.

"People are really enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn new

skills, collaborate on a presentation with Brent and see beyond our own creative community," she said. "It's about broadening our horizons."

Buchanan's career has taken him to stages across Canada, beginning in Carman before continuing his training at the George Brown Theatre School in Toronto.

"It has been my calling," Buchanan said. "It is where I face my biggest challenges and reap the best rewards."

He said the classes are rooted in a deep appreciation for local storytelling and community engagement.

"Carman is my first home and I hope to cultivate a space for connection and shared experience," he said. "It is the community aspect that I strive to bring together — the ultimate nature of acting."

Collingridge said creating a welcoming and supportive environment is a key priority for organizers.

"The environment we're building is one of kindness and calm, where we can learn, support and share," she said. "There are no mistakes — only creativity — and it's open to all skill levels."

The program will focus on acting techniques while also highlighting the

mental and physical benefits of performance. Participants will explore movement, expression and collaboration in what organizers describe as a supportive, low-pressure setting.

Collingridge added that Buchanan's connection to the community makes him uniquely suited to lead the sessions.

"He is our own — he is Carman — and he's succeeded in the larger theatrical world," she said. "He's personable, and he draws from rural community in his creative work. We feel safe and comfortable with Brent leading us."

The sessions will culminate in a performance night, where participants will have the opportunity to showcase their work for friends and family using lights, sound and simple staging.

While details of the final showcase are still taking shape, Collingridge said participants can expect a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their growth.

"It's a bit of a mystery to us as well at this point, but we expect we'll be able to showcase some of the skills we've learned," she said. "There will be plenty of chances for growth and



Brent Buchanan

achievement that we can build on to entertain Carman going forward."

The classes are open to participants aged 18 and over, with a cost of \$220 for the full session. Organizers say a limited number of spots remain available. Those interested in registering can contact Collingridge by email at leecollingu@gmail.com.

The collaboration reflects Back on Cue's goal of supporting the growth of the local theatre community while encouraging participation from residents of all backgrounds and experience levels.



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carmandufferin.com

Unexpected greeter



STANDARD PHOTO BY HAROLD KENYON

A snowman, complete with hat and scarf, appears outside Carman United Church after a spring storm on Tuesday, April 14 left snow and slush across Carman.

Carman Smile Cookie campaign returns supporting SCCR

By Lana Meier

The Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign is set to return April 26 to May 2, with South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR) once again selected as the local charity partner at the Carman location.

The annual campaign, held at participating Tim Hortons restaurants across Canada, donates proceeds from every Smile Cookie sold to local charities and community groups.

This marks the fifth consecutive year SCCR has been chosen as the Carman recipient, a partnership that continues to grow.

SCCR board member Jack Pethybridge said the organization is grateful for the continued support and encouraged by the campaign's steady growth.

"We are thrilled to be chosen for the Smile Cookie campaign for our fifth year," he said. "Each year Tim's contribution has increased, with more than \$11,000 raised last year. We are hoping to continue to grow it this year."

SCCR has set a goal of raising \$15,000 during this year's campaign.

Funds raised through the initiative play a critical role in supporting the organization's services, particularly as demand continues to rise.

"With no government support, we rely on our fundraising," Pethybridge said. "Last year's funds were mainly used for our transportation program, and our transportation costs were nearly \$200,000."

He added that SCCR has already seen an increase in new clients in 2026 compared to last

year, placing additional pressure on resources.

"We are pleased to be able to support clients through our several programs, but this means we need to continually work hard at our fundraising efforts," he said.

SCCR provides support to individuals and families facing cancer across southern Manitoba, offering services that include financial assistance, transportation and wellness programming.

To help reach this year's fundraising goal, the organization is also encouraging local businesses to get involved.

"We are looking this year to ask businesses for their support," Pethybridge said, noting SCCR is offering free pickup and delivery for bulk cookie orders.

Orders can be placed directly at the Carman Tim Hortons, or arrangements for delivery can be made by contacting Pethybridge at 204-750-8140.

The Smile Cookie campaign has become a key annual fundraiser for many community organizations, with volunteers often helping decorate cookies and promote the initiative throughout the week.

Pethybridge said SCCR is optimistic the community will once again rally behind the cause.

"We look forward to a successful campaign," he said.

Residents can support SCCR by purchasing Smile Cookies at the Carman Tim Hortons throughout the campaign week.

Tim's
April 27 to May 3
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*Pre-tax Smile Cookie purchases. At participating restaurants in Canada for a limited time. ©Tim Hortons, 2026

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

United front needed for agriculture's future

By Cam Dahl, GM, Manitoba Pork

A former boss once told me something that has stayed with me for 25 years: "Often you have a choice between being seen to be trying to get something done or actually getting something done." Collaboration, which is critical to achieving key objectives, can mean credit for hard work is unevenly recognized. However, now is the time in agriculture when getting things done must take precedence over recognition of individual organizations.

Almost all agricultural commodities are facing existential threats and significant uncertainty. War has disrupted supply chains and driven up input costs. The review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), along with the threat of U.S. tariffs, has created uncertainty for North American trade.

Protectionism is rising globally, not just south of the border, with Chinese tariffs on pork and Europe's non-tariff trade barriers among the leading examples.

Agriculture must take a "whole plate" approach to these challenges rather than addressing them commodity by commodity. By stepping outside individual commodity silos and regional perspectives, the industry can not only respond to these threats but also realize the vision of making Canada a global food powerhouse.

There are positive steps in this direction. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has brought together a coalition under the banner "Let's Grow Canada" to support policies encouraging investment in research and development. CropLife Canada's "Grow Canada Strong" initiative has similar objectives. Canada currently

ranks last in agricultural research investment among the top seven countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This must change if we are to weather current geopolitical challenges.

Canada is at an inflection point. Agriculture has an opportunity to present governments with a vision for attracting private-sector research and development investment that partners with industry, farmers and governments, rather than relying solely on public-sector solutions.

Farm Credit Canada has launched a "Let's Grow Canada" website aimed at showcasing the stories of Canadian farmers and food producers. The goal is to promote a better understanding of the strengths of Canadian agriculture and help drive investment from both domestic and international sources. While initiatives from the CFA, FCC and CropLife demonstrate leadership, this level of collaboration is not yet standard practice.

Continued on page 5



Cam Dahl, Manitoba Pork

The way it was this week on April 23

By Dennis Young

100 years ago, 1926 — Carman to Winnipeg bus line opens, departing from the Ryall Hotel at 8 a.m. daily except Sundays; Singer sewing machines available at Carman Millinery Parlour; fair to feature a full three-day event with a large contingent from the Wpg Young Men's Section; Dr. Cunningham can be reached at office call 1, residence call 17; Roland United Church reports 334 in attendance; district school field day to be held in Elm Creek; Carman Curling Club elects A.S. Bowes as president; Dave McLaren of Roland to host a plowing match competition.

75 years ago, 1951 — Carman Frosted Foods offers sides/carcass at 39¢/lb, cut, wrapped and frozen; 70 couples attend YMS formal dance with music by Mel Hardy's six-piece ensemble; Carman Baseball Club to

sell booklets with photos and bios to raise funds; Sperling Girls Softball Club holds dance in school hall with Dan Peckover as floor manager; Carman Motors hires Harry Ferguson in parts and Cornie Epp in service; catcher Aylmer McKerlie to return to the Cards this summer; Clark's Red & White announces new cash-only policy; Mrs. C.C. McGill wins \$1,500 on the Robin Hood Musical Kitchen CBW show; community auction at The Palace Barn with auctioneer Cam Johnston.

50 years ago, 1976 — Three dikes built in the event of flooding (hospital, hall and 1st St. SE) cost \$10,000; Colin Rothwell appointed to the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission; Dufferin discusses 50/50 cost-sharing with the town; fence around nuisance grounds to prevent off-hours dumping estimat-

ed at \$4,000; Jesse Heaman, secretary of the Provincial Tourist Association, urges the chamber to expand promotions; Church of Christ's Joy Bus picks up children for Sunday school; town requests return of more than 6,000 sandbags or a charge of 25¢ each.

25 years ago, 2001 — CEO Rene Comte reports that within three years, 64 nurses will retire, potentially rising to 193 by 2011 in the region; Dufferin Credit Union returns \$260,000 in 2000; Jack Pethybridge drives effort to restart the Beavers after the 2000-01 folding; Odds n Ends win Morden Rec Hockey League; sports therapist Charlie Guarino operates Soma Therapy; Elm Creek hires Barb Lepp as principal; Miami/Elm Creek Senior High Band heads to Minneapolis to perform; Campus Manitoba and Myrna Snider offer 50+ courses.

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Carman approves \$8.4M budget, boosts reserves

By Haley Cvar

The Town of Carman has approved its 2026 financial plan, outlining \$8.4 million in municipal spending while increasing reserves and continuing investments in infrastructure and core services.

Council finalized the balanced budget earlier this spring, with total municipal revenue and expenditures both set at \$8,447,979.

The financial plan was reviewed in March, followed by a public hearing on March 26 that gave residents an opportunity to provide input before final approval.

A key decision during the budget process was to increase the town's general reserve, a move Chief Administrative Officer Susan Stein said reflects a stronger focus on long-term financial planning.

"Council recognized the importance of long-term financial planning and proactive asset management when reviewing the 2026 financial plan," Stein said. "Increasing the general reserve helps ensure that the Town is better prepared to fund future infrastructure projects and address unexpected costs without placing additional pressure on taxpayers."

She added that maintaining healthy reserves also aligns with provincial expectations.

"In addition, the Province of Manitoba has guidelines related to reserve balances and withdrawals, and strengthening our reserves helps ensure the Town remains aligned with those expectations," she said.

The town has also budgeted \$195,800 in transfers to reserves in 2026, supporting future capital needs and financial stability.

To support ongoing operations, council approved additional reserve transfers totalling \$211,784 from general and utility reserves to general chequing.

Municipal revenue for 2026 is projected at \$8.4 million, including \$4.5 million from municipal taxes and grants in lieu of taxes, along with \$3.7 million in other revenue such as user fees, grants and service charges.

As part of the tax structure, the town will collect \$2.55 million in education taxes on behalf of the province and school divisions.

On the spending side, transportation services account for the largest share of the budget at \$1.77 million, covering road maintenance, snow clearing and drainage work.

Recreation and cultural services follow at \$1.82 million, supporting local facilities and programming, while protective services—including policing and fire protection—are budgeted at just over \$1.1 million.

General government services are projected at approximately \$1.12 million, with additional investments in environmental health, development and public health services rounding out the operating budget.

Fiscal services, including debt-related costs, are set at \$1.67 million, reflecting the town's ongoing infrastructure investments and financial obligations.

The 2026 capital budget totals approximately \$1.54 million and includes several major projects, such as \$603,568 in fire hall upgrades, \$225,446 for trestle bridge work and \$178,825 for improvements to the community pool and recreation facilities.

Additional capital spending includes \$150,000 for a front-end loader, \$250,000 toward a lift station project and \$90,000 for a potential purchase of land for the airport.

Council also approved several related expenditures during its March 3 meeting, including \$112,875 for new boilers at the Carman-Dufferin pool and the purchase of a John Deere 1445 unit for \$5,000.

Annual grants totalling \$294,729.77 were approved for local organizations, including the Boyne Regional Library, Boundary Trails Health Centre, Carman Handi-Van and the Golden Prairie Arts Council.

Council also passed a bylaw to implement a water rate pass-through, reflecting increased costs from the Pembina Valley Water Co-operative that will be applied to local users.

In addition, an agreement with Bell Canada to implement enhanced 911 services was approved.

Stein said the upgrade will improve emergency response times and accuracy.

"The implementation of enhanced 911 services will significantly improve emergency response capabilities in our community," she said. "With this system, a caller's location and phone number will be automatically provided to dispatchers when calling from both landlines and mobile devices."

"This allows emergency services to respond more quickly and accurately, particularly in situations where a caller may be unable to clearly communicate their location."

Other decisions tied to the budget process included declining participation in Central Manitoba Tourism for 2026, with council opting to prioritize local initiatives.

Council also gave first reading to a new unsightly properties bylaw aimed at improving community standards.

Utility operations remain balanced for 2026, with revenues and expenditures both projected at approximately \$2.07 million, funded primarily through user fees.

Overall, the 2026 financial plan reflects a steady approach focused on maintaining core services while strengthening reserves and investing in infrastructure to support future growth.

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The Greatest act of self-sacrifice

There is a bridge over the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. named after Arland D. Williams Jr. In the winter of 1982, Williams boarded a flight bound for Florida.

The flight never made it.

Shortly after takeoff, the plane failed to gain altitude and crashed into the freezing river. Six of the seventy-nine passengers aboard survived the initial crash, including Williams. Stranded in icy waters, they struggled to stay alive as rescue crews rushed to the scene.

A helicopter quickly arrived and lowered a rope. It reached Williams first. But amazingly, instead of taking it for himself, he passed it to another passenger. Then another. The another. Until all five were safely rescued.

When the helicopter returned for him, he was gone. The wreckage had shifted, pulling him to his death.

His story endures because it reflects one of the greatest forms of love: self-sacrifice. Williams gave up his life so that another could live.

On Good Friday, Christians reflect on the greatest act of self-sacrifice. The cross was no accident in history, but a deliberate act of sacrificial love. Jesus willingly gave up his life to save sinners. As the bible says in Romans 5.8, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Like those stranded in icy waters, we need someone to save us. Jesus gave His life to do just that.

Today, many cross that bridge with no thought to the sacrifice behind its name. Similarly, it's possible to enjoy Good Friday without considering the sacrifice that makes it good.

The question is - will we turn and receive the life he offers, or will we pass by, as if it's just another day?

Pastor Dathan Pleiter, Elm Creek Canadian Reformed Church

> FARMING FUTURE, FROM PG. 4

The review of our most important trade agreement, CUSMA, is underway, with major implications for Canadian agriculture. These include the risk of new tariffs and origin rules that could disadvantage Canadian exports such as live animals, red meat and biofuels. The shift in U.S. trade and foreign policy in recent years, across political lines, signals that renegotiations will be challenging.

Agriculture must be better prepared. Export-oriented sectors need to come together to develop a unified strategy for these negotiations. This includes delivering real-time, consistent advice to negotiators, engaging effectively with U.S. partners, and being willing

to present governments with difficult truths. Commodity groups cannot afford to act alone and hope for favourable outcomes. Achieving a united front will require leaders willing to step outside traditional commodity and regional silos.

Labour is another critical issue requiring a unified approach. Most sectors face labour shortages, and new Canadians play an essential role in meeting these needs. While immigration policies are under scrutiny due to pressures in major cities, rural Canada and processing facilities have distinct labour requirements. Agriculture must clearly communicate how stable employment in the sector supports

community growth nationwide.

Rather than relying on short, social media-driven messaging, governments need thoughtful immigration and labour policies tailored to regional and sectoral needs. Achieving this will require agriculture leaders to deliver clear and consistent messaging.

The Canadian economy faces significant threats from geopolitical instability and rising protectionism. Agriculture and food production can play a key role in mitigating these challenges. To seize this opportunity, the sector must present governments with unified, consistent policy solutions. Agriculture must lead rather than wait for others to act.

Run, walk fundraiser supports Habitat build

Habitat fundraiser run set for May 30

By Lana Meier

A community run and walk event set for next month aims to support affordable housing efforts in Carman-Dufferin, with local long-distance runner Chris Dick helping lead the initiative.

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba's Carman-Dufferin chapter will host a Run & Walk Fundraiser on Saturday, May 30 at Ryall Park in Carman, with activities running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will bring together runners, walkers and families in support of Habitat's ongoing work to build safe, affordable housing in the region.

Dick, also known locally as the "Carman Runner," is helping champion the fundraiser and will take part in the day's activities, including an ambitious personal goal of running 50 kilometres in support of the cause.

"My willingness to get involved with this Habitat for Humanity fundraiser mainly comes from motivation to just help my community," Dick said. "I think Carman is a great place to live and if I'm going to push my efforts to run 50 km, I'd

like to do it for a good cause locally."

Dick said the cause resonates personally, particularly with a Habitat build planned close to his home.

"The fact that the future site for the new build is just a street over from where I live, I kind of feel a special connection," he said. "If I can make a small impact for a family to get a start to owning a home, especially when it's in my neighbourhood, then it's a win for me."

Dick's involvement builds on a lifelong passion for running that began growing up on a family farm and continued through school track and cross-country programs. Over the years, he has competed in dozens of races ranging from five- and 10-kilometre events to marathons across Canada, the United States and Europe. More recently, he has taken on trail races and ultra-distance challenges, including a 50-kilometre run in Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

The "Carman Runner" identity has also become a recognizable presence in the community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when Dick highlighted local businesses through social media posts, and continues today through his involvement with youth running programs.

Organizers say the event is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all ages and abilities, with participants encouraged to walk or run at their own pace while supporting a meaningful cause.

Dick said he hopes the event will strengthen com-



STANDARD PHOTO BY ERNIE BART

Chris Dick (right), known locally as the "Carman Runner," and Lorraine Girouard are helping lead a Habitat for Humanity Manitoba Run & Walk Fundraiser set for May 30 at Ryall Park in Carman. Proceeds from the event and an accompanying e-bike raffle will support a local Habitat build.

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munity connections while highlighting Carman's local trails and spirit.

"I hope this event will give a feeling of camaraderie to our community — when we come together for a common purpose, good things will happen," he said.

Participants are invited to join for part or all of the day, with Dick completing five-kilometre loops that pass through Ryall Park.

"I would say, 'come on down to join me on a walk or a run,'" he said. "Come for a while or come all day ... encouragement of any sort would be appreciated to get me to 50 km."

In addition to the run, the event will feature a raffle for an e-bike valued at \$3,000, with tickets available for \$20. The e-bike will be on site during the run. The raffle draw is scheduled for 4 p.m. on July 11 during the Carman Fair.

A barbecue and lunch service will also be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., along with on-site registration,

mini donuts and family-friendly activities. Donations will also be accepted throughout the day at the Ryall Park stage.

Funds raised will go toward Habitat for Humanity Manitoba's efforts to provide affordable homeownership opportunities in the Carman-Dufferin area, with organizers hoping the event will help build momentum for future projects in the community.

Dick said community support is key to making both the event and future builds successful.

"I think events like this are really important for ways the community can offer support," he said. "It's another way to keep the awareness moving along towards the fundraising goal."

More information about the fundraiser or raffle tickets is available by contacting the Carman Runner at carmanrunner@gmail.com or by following his Instagram account @carmanrunner. Tickets will also be available at Toews Printing.

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Farmers invited to share what's working in new Manitoba wellness study

By Annaliese Meier

With flood risk rising in parts of the Interlake and ongoing pressures from input costs, labour shortages and unpredictable weather, a new Manitoba study is looking to farmers themselves for answers on what supports mental wellness in agriculture.

Researchers with the Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health at Brandon University are inviting farmers and agricultural service providers across the region to take part in interviews and focus groups aimed at identifying what is already working in farm communities.

The project takes a strengths-based approach — focusing not only on challenges, but on the tools, supports and strategies producers are already using to manage stress and maintain well-being.

"This research is about listening to farmers and ag service providers and learning from what's already working," said Tracy Young, research facilitator with the Centre. "Hearing directly from farmers and those who support them is key to shaping meaningful approaches to wellness."

Young said the study grew out of her experience working directly with producers and farm families.

"Over the last number of years in my work as a mental health clinician in agriculture, I've become increasingly familiar with the industry hardships and the risks to mental health for farmers and farm families," she said. "At the same time, I've also seen the importance of reminding people of their purpose — their connection to the land, the animals and the work they do."

"We hear so much about the downside. Why not take a closer look at the good — the positive, the strengths in farming — and what works to keep the industry growing and thriving?"

Farm families continue to navigate long hours, financial uncertainty and the increasing complexity of modern agriculture, all of which can take a toll on mental health. In regions like the Interlake, those pressures are often compounded by weather-related concerns such as flooding and delayed seasons.

Young said the study is not ignoring those realities, but instead aims to highlight resilience within the industry.

"We're not intending to overlook the pressures farmers are facing," she

said. "We want to gather the voices of strength and hope and help raise them up, so the industry can be reminded of the promise that agriculture still holds."

In practical terms, the strengths-based approach means focusing on what is already helping farmers cope and succeed.

"We want to know what's working for you — what brought you strength, what gave you purpose, how you keep going and who supports you," Young said. "From there, we can build on those ideas and develop tools that are truly relevant to the industry."

The study will collect stories from both farmers and agricultural service providers, with the goal of identifying supports that can be expanded and shared more widely.

Those insights will be compiled into narratives that highlight resilience in agriculture and used to develop tools and resources for producers in Manitoba and beyond,

in partnership with the Do More Agriculture Foundation.

Young said participation from farmers across rural Manitoba is critical to the success of the project.

"Everyone's voice is important. Everyone has a story to tell that could

"WE'RE NOT INTENDING TO OVERLOOK THE PRESSURES FARMERS ARE FACING."

BRANDON UNIVERSITY **CENTRE FOR CRITICAL STUDIES OF RURAL MENTAL HEALTH** **The Do More Agriculture Foundation**

Wanted: Voices From the Field
Farmers & Ag Service Providers Needed for Manitoba Study
What Works: A Strength-Based Approach to Farmer Wellness

WHY JOIN?

- By sharing your strengths, strategies, and stories of success, you can help grow a culture rooted in resilience and grounded in real farm experience
- Together we can harvest hope and create meaningful solutions and supports for farmers of the future

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Farmers, Adult Farm Family Members, or Farm Employees
- Ag Service Providers

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WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Farmers:

- In-person interview at location of your choosing
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Ag Service Providers:

- Join a focus group to discuss farm strengths, strategies, supports and wellness
- Refreshments provided
- 60-90 minutes
- Brandon, Carman, Russell

From Soil to Soul: What Works for Farmer Wellness This Project is approved by BUREC #23638

help someone else," she said. "Agriculture can be isolating at times, and if this study can help share that strength across the miles, that alone is a reason to take part."

Farmers, farm employees, family members and agricultural service providers are all encouraged to participate.

Participants are being asked to share

their experiences, wellness strategies and perspectives on what supports mental health within the agriculture sector.

More information about the study and how to participate is available online at: youngt@brandonu.ca or by contacting Tracy Young – Principal Investigator for the project at 204-571-8532.

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From Carman's riverbank to the world stage: Bob Smith's unlikely journey

By E. Antonio

Long before he was leaping from airplanes over Europe or racing camels across the Australian outback, Bob Smith was a Carman kid flying down a toboggan hill near the old oxbow of the Boyne River.

Born at Carman General Hospital and raised on Fournier Avenue, Smith's early world revolved around school sports, part-time work and the simple freedom of small-town life. Now retired in Victoria, B.C., he reflects on a journey that carried him far beyond the Manitoba prairie — though never far from its influence.

"Carman is the best place to grow up in the world," Smith said. "Everyone knew everyone — it was the place to be, and you can't ever take Carman out of my heart. It's a part of me."

His father, Willis, worked for Hank Churchill for years, while his mother, Jean, first worked at Harry Malcolmson's store before moving to the post office. From them, Smith learned lessons that would guide him well beyond Carman's borders.

"They showed me the right from wrong and the good from the bad," he said. "I gained nothing but respect for them and others."

After school, Smith stocked shelves, swept floors and helped with deliveries at Dorfman's General Store. What he remembers most isn't the tasks but the people. He enjoyed talking with customers and being part of the everyday rhythm of town life.

When he wasn't working, he filled his days with baseball, football and curling. Winters meant toboggan runs down what he still calls the "best hill in the world," before Highway 13 was straightened through town. Spring



Smith as a coach for the Swedish National Team with a VCR camera on top of his head to record the jumps.

and summer brought rabbit hunting, endless bike rides and afternoons at the swimming hole. It was, he says, a childhood lived with "no regrets."

That chapter shifted in the 1960s when his family moved to Prince George, B.C. The close friendships of Carman gradually stretched thin.

"Moving further and further apart," he said, describing how distance slowly changed those relationships.

He still returns to Manitoba every few years to visit friends and family, but he admits the feeling has changed. New buildings have risen, new families have put down roots, and the rhythm of town life feels different. His visits have grown shorter and less frequent. Still, he credits Carman with making an "influential difference" in shaping who he became.

Ironically, it was Carman that first pointed him toward the sky.

Before leaving town, Smith met Bob



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A 25-person diamond formation taken over Medicine Hat, Alta. in 1981. Smith is on the end of the far left.

Diemert, who had purchased the Boyne Theatre and was commuting from Winkler. Smith helped keep the furnace running during winter shut-downs — a small responsibility that opened unexpected doors. Through Diemert, he learned to ski and was introduced to aviation. One day, he watched three parachutists step into open sky.

"When I saw those three people make the jump, I just thought, 'I would like to try that.'"

It would take five years after moving west before he figured out how to make it happen. A co-worker finally pointed him in the right direction, and Smith took his first leap.

That first year, he completed 13 jumps. By his third year, he had logged more than 100.

What began as curiosity quickly became commitment. He left steady mill work for construction, which offered

the flexibility to train and compete. On a whim, he tried out for Team Canada — and made it.

The gamble paid off. Smith won medals at provincial and national competitions before representing Canada at three world championships: Warendorf, West Germany, in 1975; Gatton, Australia, in 1977, where his team secured gold; and Châteauroux, France, in 1979, earning silver.

In 1979, his squad was named Team of the Year by the Sports Federation of Canada, and in 1980 he was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame as a skydiving athlete with 1,700 jumps to his name and several international titles under his belt at the time. He lived in Alberta from January 1976 to November 1985, when he moved back to B.C.

Looking back, he describes his first jump as almost anticlimactic.

"It was rather forgettable. It just went so fast you can barely remember it."

The second jump brought more fear, but over time the thrill consistently outweighed the nerves — even after breaking his foot five times.

More than medals, skydiving opened the world to him.

"It got me into exploring the world," he said, noting his childhood self would never have imagined such a future.

In total, he represented Canada three times at world competitions. Practice typically consisted of two to three weeks of multiple jumps daily at parachute drop zones where teams could access an aircraft.

Smith competed in four-way, eight-way and 10-way maneuvers, making aerial formations with his teammates as they leapt from a plane together,

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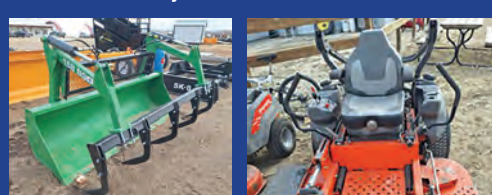
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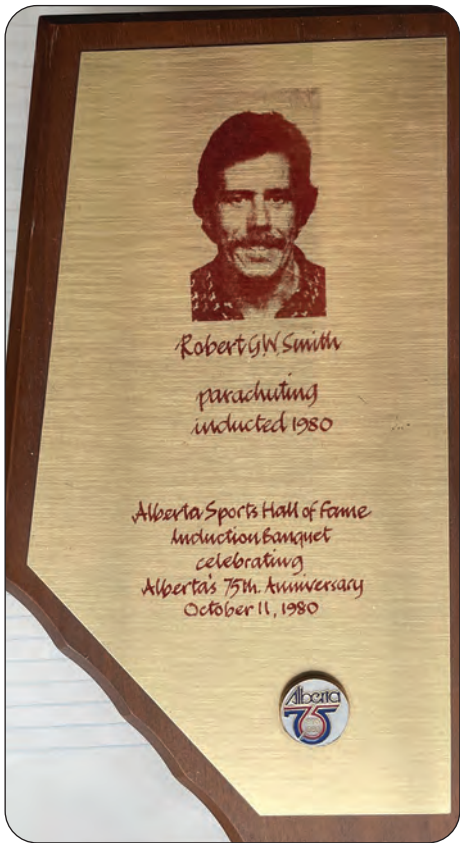


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Continued on page 9

> PARACHUTING, FROM PG. 10



Smith's plaque from his induction to Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.



The 1977 Canadian Team 12,000-feet above Casa Grande, Arizona. Smith is in the very front on the wing.

falling at 120 miles per hour. When he competed, judging took place from the ground, with officials viewing teams through telemeters similar to large binoculars. Eventually, judges upgraded to using cameras, which provided better opportunities to observe each team.

After retiring from competition, he continued in the sport as a coach, working in Denmark, Sweden and Venezuela. He served as Sweden's national coach at the 1981 world meet in Zephyrhills, Florida. A path that began with a furnace check in Carman had taken him across continents.

Construction work carried him even farther, across Canada and overseas into Southeast Asia, Africa, the jungles of Borneo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Travelling opened my eyes to so many things," he said. "Like camel racing."

Through skydiving connections in Australia, Smith became involved in endurance camel racing in the outback. What began as supporting a friend honouring his late brother's dream soon became a pursuit of its own. Smith helped catch and train wild camels, organized short-track races and competed in endurance events spanning 3,360 kilometres, 1,700 kilometres and 1,400 kilome-

tres across some of the continent's most remote terrain.

The sport brought him back to Australia dozens of times — for the races, the friendships and the warm climate.

"Life is an experience and it's about chasing those opportunities," he said.

Comparing skydiving and camel racing, he says, is nearly impossible. Each carried its own challenges and rewards. What stands out most, however, are the friendships formed along the way.

His one regret, he admits, is not having a family. Though he had meaningful relationships, constant travel and commitment to sport left little room for long-term stability. Now settled in Victoria, life is quieter.

"But I wouldn't change one little thing about what I have done," he said. "I'm still here and everything has worked out — most people can't say they've ever lived a life close to mine."

From the banks of the Boyne River to world championship podiums and the deserts of Australia, Smith's story is proof that even the most extraordinary journeys can begin in the most ordinary places.

His advice remains simple.

"You only live once and you are only young once, so you should enjoy it," he said. "Live life, have fun, don't be too serious and take time to enjoy yourself."

Back on Cue gives back



STANDARD PHOTO BY LEE COLLINGRIDGE

Back on Cue Theatre is continuing its tradition of community support following a successful 2025 fall production. The Carman-based group donated \$1,000 to the Golden Prairie Arts Council (GPAC), which promotes and supports local artists, performances and youth programming in the region. Back on Cue treasurer Craig Blagden (left) presents the cheque to GPAC representatives Nigel Bart and Rita Bisht.

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COME SAVE WITH US

Animato hosts music fundraiser on April 30

By Annaliese Meier

A local vocal ensemble known for its rich harmonies and community focus is inviting residents to an evening of music in support of a local build.

Animato will host a fundraising concert Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at Carman United Church. Admission is by donation, with proceeds supporting the Habitat for Humanity Carman project.

Formed about 15 years ago, Animato is a mixed group of men and women who came together for the love of singing, the challenge of performing complex arrangements and a shared desire to give back to the community.

The group's name means "with spirit," something members say defines both their sound and their purpose.

Based in Carman, Animato has drawn members from across the region, including Starbuck, Morris and Morden. The ensemble currently includes 10 singers, though it has had as many as 14 over the years.

Colleen Reimer, a vocalist and one of five original members, said supporting community causes has always been central to the group's identity.

"Anyone that has ever joined our group has always been in favour of giving back," she said. "We don't sing

for the money. We just cover our expenses and give the rest back. People seem to enjoy hearing us sing and we love to do it. Win-win."

Over the years, Animato has supported organizations including Carman Palliative Care, the Carman Resource Centre and Katie Cares. Reimer said this year's decision to support Habitat for Humanity reflects the group's interest in contributing to a cause they had not previously supported.

"It was a cause that we had not supported up to this point and each member considered it a worthy one," she said.

The concert will feature a variety of performances highlighting the group's versatility. The full ensemble will perform eight songs, with additional numbers including a duet, a piano solo, a men's-only piece and smaller family group performances connected to Animato.

Known for incorporating four- to six-part harmonies, the group performs across a range of styles, from pop and country to folk and nostalgic selections, and occasionally sings a cappella. This year's program will also draw from music spanning several decades.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Animato members prepare for their upcoming fundraiser concert in Carman. From left: Ray Phillips (pianist and vocalist), Lori Ann Kaminski, Dave Kaminski, Ian McInnon, Colleen Reimer, Sheila Wiebe, Esther Schroen, Brent VanKoughnet, Jeff Knight (director, guitarist and vocalist), and Faye Harms. *Denotes original members.

Adding a unique element to the evening, members of Carman's Back on Cue Theatre group will introduce each selection.

"Back on Cue will be announcing our repertoire, so even we don't know what to expect from them," Reimer

said.

Organizers say the concert promises a fun and engaging evening for all ages, while continuing Animato's long-standing tradition of supporting local initiatives.

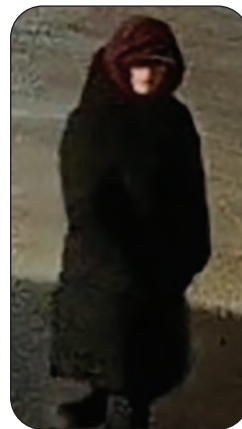
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Pembina Valley RCMP searching for stolen truck, female suspect

By Haley Cvar

Just before noon on April 12, Pembina Valley RCMP received a report that a truck with a flatbed and fork lift hooked to it had been stolen from a commercial property located on Fourth Avenue SE, on the outskirts of Carman.

The theft is believed to have occurred at 4 a.m. earlier that day. Officers learned a suspect or suspects had gained



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

access to the truck – a 2019 Ford F-550 SD XLT – that was parked behind the business and drove it away. The trailer and forklift were located

the next day in La Salle, but the search for the truck remains ongoing.

RCMP are asking for the public's help in locating the truck. Officers are also looking for a female who was walking in the parking lot near the truck just prior to the theft. The female was wearing a red hoodie, with a long black parka, black leggings, a baseball cap and white Adidas shoes with black stripes.

Anyone with information on the truck or the female is asked to contact Carman RCMP at 204-745-6760, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a secure tip online at www.manitoba-crimestoppers.com.



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New 19-unit apartment building on track for October occupancy

By E. Antonio

The second phase of Hamilton Court Apartments is nearing completion, bringing 19 new rental units closer to opening as demand for housing continues to grow in Carman.

Developer Frank Klassen of K Block Developments Inc. said construction on the new three-storey building with a basement is progressing well, with occupancy anticipated in October.

Describing the work as “moving along nicely,” Klassen said the project remains on budget and will include nine one-bedroom suites and 10 two-bedroom suites. Each unit will feature in-suite laundry and its own air-exchange, heating and cooling system, while some suites will also include private balconies.

Klassen said the exterior walls and windows are now in place, with plumbing and electrical rough-ins underway. Drywall installation is expected to begin in the coming weeks, with landscaping planned once weather conditions improve.

He said the project is intended to help address Carman’s housing needs.

“You’re doing a community well if it’s short on housing,” Klassen said. “I get excited thinking about the need it will be meeting and knowing we can

provide a new, affordable housing option.”

Expected monthly rent will be announced later, along with details regarding included utilities, which will be determined by the property manager.

The building will offer a range of suite sizes, with one-bedroom units measuring 504 or 508 square feet, while two-bedroom units will range from 738 to 780 square feet.

Located next to École Carman Elementary School, the development is within walking distance of a playground and nearby walking paths.

Klassen said efficiency has been a major focus of the design. The building will use on-demand gas water heating, with all water heaters located in the basement to reduce the risk of in-suite water damage caused by leaking tanks. Other efficiency features include Styrofoam insulation on the building’s exterior and ductless split heat pumps. Hamilton Court is enrolled with Efficiency Manitoba and is expected to be 43 per cent more efficient than the standard building code.

So far, construction has not faced any major unexpected challenges, though minor delays occurred last fall due to a shortage of tradespeople, as well as



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Construction continues on the Hamilton Court Apartments in Carman, with occupancy expected in October.

the typical slowdowns associated with winter construction and heating requirements.

With occupancy still on track for October, Klassen said securing a property manager by July will allow leasing to begin ahead of move-in.

He added that support from the Town of Carman and the wider community has been strong.

“They have been very receptive to us working there,” Klassen said. “Council

has been exceptionally good to work with, and community members are expressing their interest in the suites.”

While no additional phases are currently planned, Klassen said completion of Hamilton Court could help spark future residential development in the community.

For more information regarding Hamilton Court, contact K Block Developments at: hello@kblockinc.com

Celebrating the Vibrant Heart of Our Seniors’ Communities

In the sun-dappled corridors of Morden and Winkler, there is a warmth that has nothing to do with the thermostat and everything to do with the spirit of the people who reside there. While much is written about the rapid growth of our region’s industries, the true crown jewels of the Pembina Valley are our seniors’ residences. These aren’t just buildings; they are flourishing ecosystems of wisdom, laughter, and lifelong friendship that prove the “golden years” are truly the most radiant.

To walk through the doors of facilities like Morden’s Homestead South is to witness a masterclass in community building. There is a palpable sense of “home” that greets you at the entrance—a blend of the comforting aroma of fresh coffee and the

lively hum of neighbors sharing stories. These residences have become the heart of our twin cities, offering a beautiful tapestry of support and independence that allows our elders to shine.

What makes the Morden-Winkler corridor so special is the seamless way these homes integrate with the local culture. Our seniors are not “retiring” from life; they are leaning into it. From organized choir practices that fill the halls with song to the fiercely competitive (yet always friendly) games of shuffleboard and crokinole, these spaces are buzzing with energy. It is a joy to see our community’s builders—the farmers, teachers, and entrepreneurs who shaped this soil—enjoying the fruits of their labour in such dignity and comfort.

We must also pause to celebrate the incredible staff who breathe life into these residences. The caregivers, culinary teams, and activity coordinators are the unsung heroes of the Pembina Valley. Their dedication turns a suite into a sanctuary and a meal into a social event. They don’t just provide service; they provide kinship. In an era where the world can feel increasingly disconnected, the intergenerational bonds formed here—where grandchildren visit and volunteers share their time—serve

~ Seniors Residences Feature ~

as a beautiful reminder of our shared values.

As we look to the future, there is much to be optimistic about. The continued investment in seniors’ living in our region is a testament to our commitment to one another. We are creating a legacy where no one is left behind and where every stage of life is celebrated with flair.

In Morden and Winkler, we aren’t just building apartments; we are cultivating joy. Our seniors have given us so much, and it is a privilege to see them live their best chapters in environments that are as vibrant, welcoming, and comfortable as the communities they helped create.

Nestled against the rolling beauty of the Pembina Hills, these havens offer more than just a place to stay—they provide a front-row seat to the breathtaking sunsets and sprawling horizons that define our home. It is a picturesque, peaceful retirement, where the landscape is as beautiful as the community itself.

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Prairie Rose board hears enrolment, honours update

By E. Antonio

The Prairie Rose School Division board of trustees received updates on student enrolment, staffing changes and recent school activities during its April 7 meeting.

Senior administration reported that division enrolment for March 2026 stands at 2,313 students.

Among the highlights shared with trustees was the recognition of Carman Collegiate student Nathan Froebe, who was selected as a 2026 Loran Scholar. Froebe is one of only three students in Manitoba to receive the award this year, chosen from more than 5,400 applicants across Canada.

The scholarship includes a four-year leadership development program and post-secondary tuition support valued at \$100,000.

The board also received an activity report from the superintendent and chief executive officer, along with communications from the Auditor General's office regarding provincial cloud vendor management controls and Manitoba's child-care access and inclusivity commitments.

Trustees were also updated on recently approved off-site school trips.

Both Elm Creek School and St. Laurent School sent their varsity girls basketball teams to the MHSAA 'A' Varsity Basketball Championships in Ste. Rose from March 19 to 21.

Elm Creek's team was recognized for capturing the provincial championship title. The superintendent also highlighted several individual honours, including provincial all-star selections for Leila Miller and Lexi Jones, provincial MVP honours for Kamryn Lepp, and graduating all-star coach recognition for Christine Wolf.

The board also received information on Bill 38, The Public Schools Amendment and Manitoba School Boards Association Amendment Act.

In staffing matters, trustees were presented with revised job descriptions for the positions of school secretary and library technician, as well as a new literacy leader position.

The board approved the appointment of Laurie Anne Vermette as interim principal of St. François Xavier School, effective Sept. 8, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The next Prairie Rose School Division board meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 7 p.m. in the division office boardroom.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED
MLA Stone recognized Nathan Froebe at the Legislature with a Private Members' Statement on April 15, 2026 for being awarded a Loran Scholarship.

Registration for Manitoba 55+ Games is coming up May 9

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The registration deadline for the 2026 Manitoba 55+ Games in Stanley-Morden-Winkler is coming up fast.

Older athletes wanting to take part in the June 9-11 sporting competition need to sign up by Saturday, May 9.

There are a host of both individual and team sports and activities happening across the region that week, but volunteer Al Wirth has his sights set on one special category: track and field.

A longtime high school coach, Wirth is thrilled the 2026 Games will offer running events (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m) as well as shot put and standing long jump.

While predicted walk and runs have long been a staple of the Games (and they are back again this year), the other track and field categories are rarely offered, Wirth shares.

"There have been in some years but it's hit and miss, depending on who wants to take it on at the host community," he says. "They've only really had track events when there is a good track in the town hosting."

With Morden's École Discovery Trails having a top-level track, it made sense to add them to the roster this year.

As with all Games categories, track and field athletes will be competing with others in their age group. And if it's been perhaps a few decades since you've ran, jumped, or hurled a shot put—or even if you've never done those things competitively at all—

Wirth hopes you won't let that be a barrier to participation.

"I've talked to some people and they've said, 'Well, I've never thrown a shot put before.' That's fine—I'll teach you," he says. "It's not that hard ... come give it a try, see what you can do."

To help people get the rust out, Wirth will host a pre-Games practice on Sunday, June 7 at the ÉDT track (1079 Parkhill Dr.) from 1-3 p.m.

"There should be an advantage to having home field here," he says, chuckling. "People can just come out and practice, see what it's like—if you want to use the blocks you can, or see what the long jump looks like, just to familiarize yourself with it."

This will be Wirth's first time at the Games as an athlete, and he's looking forward to it.

"I haven't thrown competitive shot put or discus or anything in probably 30 years," he says. "But I'm going to try it. I used to throw in high school and I know I'm not going to be in the ballpark of what I could do back then, but I want to just do it."

"I just want to have some fun with it, and I think that's really the message of the whole Games—nobody at 55 or 65 or 85 is an Olympic athlete, but why not try something new?"

In addition to the track and field events, the sports line-up includes bowling, pool, snooker, cribbage, disc golf, regular golf, horseshoes, swimming, predicted run and walks, bocce ball, contract and duplicate bridge,



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS
Al Wirth at the École Discovery Trail track where running, shot put, and standing long jump events will take place for June's Manitoba 55+ Games.

floor shuffleboard, pickleball, lawn bowling, arts and crafts, slo-pitch, and even horseback riding (though that last one is at Bird's Hill Park).

Lois Dudgeon has been an athlete at the Games for decades, competing in both golf and pickleball, and was also the longtime leader of the Pembina Valley team. Her first foray at the event was in 2002, when Morden hosted it for the first time. Winkler has also hosted it once before, back in 1995.

Dudgeon is thrilled to see the Games coming back to her own backyard, and eager to see old friends.

"What I enjoy the most about it each year is all the people—it's one of those events where you keep running into

the same people year after year that you may not see at any other time of the year," she shares.

Whether you're a returning athlete or a newcomer, it's a welcoming group, Dudgeon says, one whose focus is less on being uber-competitive and more on simply having fun together being active.

"The competition part of it is really not a big deal," she says, noting the Games' longtime slogan spells it out. "Fun, fitness and friendship—three good reasons to keep participating in the Games."

To register or check out the full list of sports, head to activeagingmb.ca, email info@activeagingmb.ca, or call 204-632-3847.

Winkler gym hosting novice strongman competition Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

StrongManitoba and The Forge Gym are hosting a Novice Showdown in Winkler this weekend, and anyone interested in seeing budding strong men and women show off their skills is welcome to come check it out.

The day—which starts at 11 a.m. at the gym at 319 Manitoba Rd. on Saturday, April 25—is an opportunity for those new to the sport to flex their muscles.

“This is for the people who haven’t been doing it for very long. They don’t need any experience coming into it,” says Ryan Froese, gym owner and one of the organizers of the event alongside fellow accomplished local strongman competitors Ariel Griffith and Eryn Penner.

“We typically keep the events fairly simple. Things that, honestly, if you’ve been in a gym or you’ve been even in a blue collar work environment, you’ve probably done things similar to it,” Froese said.

The lineup kicks off with a truck pull followed by a log clean and press for reps, a wagon wheel axle deadlift, farmer’s carry, and a sandbag and keg carry and load medley. There are male and female, teen, and non-novice 50+ categories.

At press time, they had around 30 people registered to take part, so it should be a great day of competition, Froese says.

“It should be a pretty entertaining show. If people want to come and watch, the doors will be open,” he says, noting admission is free. “Anyone can just waltz on in and come and

check it out.”

“I’VE BEEN HOOKED EVER SINCE”

Froese got into competing in strongman events over a decade ago at the urging of a friend.

“I got tricked into it,” he says, laughing. “A friend of mine who was coaching me at the time, he kept telling me I should really try strongman. I kept telling him no, I didn’t want to.”

But one day at the gym this friend and some others were lifting and moving around a heavy keg, and they challenged Froese to give it a try.

“This happened a couple more times where he kept getting me into different events, and I was finally like, okay, okay, I’ll try it. I did a competition and I’ve been hooked every since.”

He in turn got Griffith, now his wife, into it in much the same way.

“We started dating and I was already going to the gym a bit, so he was like, ‘Let’s lift heavier’ and I went, ‘Sure,’” she shares. Griffith has since competed at numerous events, ranking sixth at nationals last year.

The mix of personal accomplishment and a supportive community is what’s kept her at it.

“I like continuously trying to improve the weight that I’m lifting, ... I like seeing those numbers go up,” she says. “If you like seeing improvement, it’s fun to do, because you can always see more improvement in this sport.”

Penner, meanwhile, is heading into her third season of competition. She



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

From left: The Forge Gym owner Ryan Froese, Ariel Griffith, and Eryn Penner are organizing a novice showdown this Saturday at the Winkler gym. All are welcome to come watch beginner strongman competitors showcase their skills.

placed first provincially last fall and third nationally, and also competed in the Arnold Pro-Am competition in Ohio last month, ranking 12th.

“Apparently I’m pretty strong,” she jokes. “I was following The Forge on Instagram and saw they had posted the weights for a novice competition. I had been lifting weights for about six months leading up to that and realized I was already moving those weights.”

She got first place at that novice event, and the rest is history.

“I fell in love with the community,

the support, the engagement,” Penner says. “And like Ariel said, also just seeing the continuous improvement ... there’s always room for improvement. And the community is great. They’ll keep encouraging you to keep growing and getting stronger.”

“It’s a really great environment,” agrees Froese. “The culture is good, the crowd is always really welcoming. It’s just an easy place to be and you can always strive to be better.”

You can check it out for yourself this weekend at The Forge Gym.

Flashback... Sperling Hotel destroyed by fire in 1986

By Dennis Young

Built during Prohibition in the early 1900s, the establishment originally operated as a grocery store run by Amos Robordy, with Al Brockman and Chas. Land serving as managers. In 1928, it was converted into a hotel, passing through the hands of many owners, including Tom Shore, MacLean, Carr, Bean, Porteous, Gunn, Sherbeth, Strutt, Schroeder, Lobchuk, Harris and Pearce (the specific years of their tenure remain unverified).

Bill Pearce and his wife purchased the business in 1974 when it was still one of the last men-only establishments. Anticipating a change in licensing laws, they faced challenges in 1976 when a referendum put to Morris-Macdonald ratepayers — despite strong support in Sperling — was defeated due to polling imbalances between municipalities.

However, in the spring of 1974, M.L.A. Warner Jorgenson introduced a private member’s bill in the Manitoba Legislature that allowed individual votes, enabling Sperling’s approval to stand and permitting women entry for the first time. With

the licence secured, the Pearces began renovations to meet new Liquor Commission regulations for mixed use.

By December 1975, the 47-seat restaurant had been redecorated, and beverage room renovations were completed in 1976. The exterior was painted, and the four guest rooms were refurbished. A grand reopening was held in January, drawing a crowd and receiving support from local dignitaries.

Other than an advertisement naming Gordon Harris as owner in 1982 and a mention of Neil Linkletter in a 1986 fire story, no further ownership records were found for that decade.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, 1986, at around 11:15 a.m., firefighters from Sperling, Rosenort, Sanford and Lowe Farm battled a blaze at the Sperling Hotel. Fire chief Wendal Fewster recalled, “The wind was getting strong, and I was worried about keeping it contained. At 3:45, we were still not sure if we had it licked.” Crews remained on site until 7 p.m. while the owners were out of town.

The fire destroyed the interior and collapsed the



STANDARDPHOTO SUBMITTED

The Sperling Hotel served refreshments for 58 years before being gutted by fire in 1986.

roof of the two-storey structure, though the walls remained standing. Nothing could be salvaged, and the following year, the remains were demolished and the property levelled. After 58 years, Sperling became dry once again.

Announcements Classifieds



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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GREY NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION



Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT candidate registrations will be received:

- For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026
- For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Rural Municipality of Grey office, 27 Church Avenue East Elm Creek, MB between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO by email at seo@rmofgrey.ca or by visiting the Rural Municipality of Grey Municipal Office located at 27 Church Avenue East in Elm Creek, MB.

Dated at Elm Creek on April 15, 2026.

Kim Arnal
Senior Election Official
Rural Municipality of Grey

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CARMAN FARMERS market AGM
Monday April 27th, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Basement meeting room at the Carman Memorial Hall - All welcome to attend
For more info call Joyce 204-626-3310 or Elsa at 204-751-0233

NOTICES

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NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Town of Carman

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026, and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026, and September 22, 2026

at the Town of Carman Municipal Office, 12-2nd Avenue SW, Carman, MB during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Susan Stein, SEO
1-204-745-2443
cao@townofcarman.com

Dated at the Town of Carman on April 15th, 2026



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Rural Municipality of Thompson

Please be advised that a General Municipal Election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with an Election Official during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that candidate registrations will be received:

For the office of Head of Council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of Councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Rural Municipality of Thompson Municipal office located at 530 Norton Avenue, Miami MB during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact an Election Official at the email or telephone number listed below:

Dianne Swain
Senior Election Official (S.E.O)
204-435-2114
info@rmofthompson.com

Announcements

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IN MEMORIAM



Donna-Rae (Cowan) Bargen
1961 - 2024

It has been two years since I lost the love of my life, Donna-Rae, and not an hour goes by that I don't think of her. Last summer, we gathered with family and friends to celebrate her life. I thanked everyone for coming, and it was a great day, but when it came time to speak about Donna-Rae—her strength, her positivity, and the many stories that made her who she was—I just couldn't do it. I knew I would break down, and I wanted to keep it a celebration. I want you to know how much your presence that day meant to my family and me. Your kindness and support brought comfort that continues to this day. Donna-Rae faced her journey with incredible courage and strength. No matter what she was dealing with, she carried herself with a positivity and grace that was truly inspiring. She showed me what it means to endure with dignity, to live with heart, and how to stay positive no matter what life hands you. On her good days, she would do a little dance and sing "la te da." I sure miss that little dance. That spirit stayed with her through everything. How she remained so positive when so much was being taken away still amazes me. She loved to paint and sketch—it was a part of who she was. I see that same creative spirit and talent in her grandchildren, which makes me smile. Being a grandma brought her so much joy, and I see her in their smiles, their strength, and in the love we share. She left me with a beautiful family—her greatest legacy. I still cry at times when I think of her and the love we had, and I think... how did I get so lucky? Maybe not being able to speak about her that day says more than words ever could. She may be gone but the love will never die.

-John

*Your memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts*

CARD OF THANKS



In Loving Memory of
A dear wife, mother, grandmother, sister,
aunt and friend
Alice Wiebe
Aged 80 years

Beloved wife of Rollin Wiebe
Alice passed away Easter Sunday, April 5 at Boundary Trails Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Rollin; four children, and spouses; six grandchildren; one brother and many relatives and friends. She will be remembered as being loving, kind, generous and fun loving. Impossible to thank all who should be thanked but you know who you are. Will mention a few. The medical and support staff at Carman and Boundary Trails Hospitals for their kindness and their effort to help Alice. To Pastor Bob Pauls, for being there for us and the memorial service, for the beautiful flowers. To Tracey for creating the visual tribute. To my children for picking up all the loose ends. To Craig at Doyles for his steady hand in the midst of all the confusion, and to everyone who expressed their condolences, brought food and so much more.

-Thank you
Rollin Wiebe

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OBITUARY



George Malcolmson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Dad, George Malcolmson, on April 7, 2026 at the age of 82.

He will be lovingly remembered by Jane; daughter Kelly and son Andrew (Nicole); grandchildren: Cam Penner (Lindsay), Julia, Zach, Pierce, Estelle, Clark and Marveille Malcolmson; sisters Susan, Janet and Penny; his favorite cousins Karen, Judy and Linda; the Owen family; close friend Bonnie and many friends and extended family.

He was predeceased by his parents Harry and Phyllis and sister Barbara.

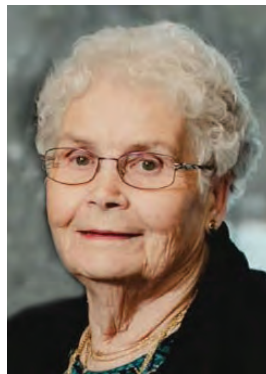
Thank you to the compassionate staff at Carman Hospital who cared for our Dad in his final weeks with kindness and good humour.

A Celebration of his Life will be held May 7 at 2:00 at the Carman Legion 28 - 1st St NW, Carman.

If friends so desire, they may make a memorial donation to War Amps Canada or a charity of their choice.

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

OBITUARY



Catherine (Cathy) Cummer

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Catherine Mable Cummer on April 14, 2026 while surrounded by her loved ones.

Cathy was the beloved wife, of 67 years, to Edgar Cummer. She was the mother to Allan Cummer, Ivan (Liz) Cummer, Karen (John) Ingram. Grandmother to Christie (Daniel), Ryan (Dallas), Dustin (Catherine), Ashleigh (Tim), Sam (Aaron), Katie (Will), Dallas, John (Jess), Jeff (Cortni) and Erin (Dylan). Great-grandmother to Kara, Abbey, Carrick, Rosheen, Sadie, Max, Evelyn, John Joseph, Lexxi, Cole, Owen, Finnley, Kash, Jace, Rhett. Brother Jim (Elaine) Colvin, sisters-in-law Velma Cummer and Jenny Cummer, as well as many special nieces and nephews will miss her dearly.

Cathy was predeceased by her parents Allan and Myrtle Colvin; sisters Jean (Clarence) Nixdorf, Idris (Bert) Johnson, Margaret (Joe) Neuman; brother Bill (Carol) Colvin, and sister-in-law Norma Colvin. Her mother and father-in-law, Ida and Amos, and in-laws Vi (Albert) Corydon, Arley (Jean) Cummer, Lloyd (Edna) Cummer, Wilf (Edie) Cummer, Elsie Cummer, Evert Cummer, Chloe Norman and Bert Cummer.

The family would like to thank the Boyne Lodge Care Facility, especially the nurses, aids and activity staff for keeping Cathy entertained and well cared for.

Interment will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 12:45 at the Miami Cemetery, Miami, MB. Funeral service will be on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Carman United Church. A time of visitation will take place on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Doyle's Funeral Home.

Donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.
Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of the arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca



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All concession proceeds will support the Collegiate's outdoor schoolyard project

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get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Seared Strip Loin with Linguini

garnish
pepper, to taste
Pat steak dry and season generously with kosher salt. Heat grill pan or grill to medium-high heat. Grill steak until medium-rare (135-140 F), turning halfway through cooking, about 8 minutes total. Set aside.

Bring large pot of salted water to boil. Cook linguini according to package instructions. Reserve 1 cup pasta water before draining linguini in colander.

In same pasta pot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Cook fennel, red pepper flakes and 1 teaspoon kosher salt over medium heat, stirring, until fennel is tender, 5-6 minutes. Add chopped olives, garlic and orange zest. Stir in orange juice and stir to combine. Set aside.

Return drained linguini to pot. Crumble goat cheese on top and add reserved pasta water. Stir until pasta is evenly coated.

Serve with slices of steak on top and garnish with fresh parsley.

- Prep time: 15 minutes
- Cook time: 30 minutes
- 1 Niman Ranch Strip Loin Steak (6-8 ounces)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional to taste, divided
- 1 box (16 ounces) linguini
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cups chopped fennel
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/3 cup chopped Castelvetrano (green) olives
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 orange, zest and juice only
- 1 goat cheese log (4 ounces)
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley, for



The Protein Powerhouse

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
Heat griddle to medium heat. Butter bread. Layer cheeses and chicken on top of bread.

Place bread on griddle and cook until lightly toasted. Flip and cook other side.

Remove sandwich from skillet or griddle.

To make powerhouse sauce: Mix Greek yogurt, Dijon mustard, garlic powder and smoked paprika until well blended. Slice sandwich in half and drizzle with Powerhouse sauce.

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 slices bread fortified with protein and fiber
- 2 Borden Mild Cheddar Slices
- 1 slice Borden Mozzarella Melts
- 5 ounces sliced chicken breast (deli-shaved or thinly carved)
- "Powerhouse" Sauce:
- 2 tablespoons non-fat Greek yogurt



The Classic

Spread butter on one side of each slice bread.

Place cheese slices on unbuttered side of bread. Top with other slice of bread with butter facing upward.

Place sandwich on skillet or griddle and cook 3-4 minutes on each side. Using spatula, lightly press sandwich down gently while cooking to melt cheese better.

Remove from skillet or griddle and slice in half.

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 slices white bread
- 2 slices Borden Extra Sharp Melts
- 2 slices Borden American Singles
- Heat skillet or griddle over medium heat.

Eight sustainable careers young people should consider

By News Canada

Making long-term career plans can be a daunting process, especially for someone just starting out. With so many options to apply your skills and talents, consider the many industries in this country advancing sustainable solutions.

Canada is home to dynamic, growing sectors that contribute to sustainability. Here are some of the energy and natural resource industries that are looking for new employees:

Mining and critical minerals. Canada has been a leader in the global mining and minerals industry for decades. Today, the sector is becoming more sustainable: mitigating environmental harm from old mines, adopting green mining practices and adapting water management, to name a few changes.

Nuclear energy and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). These are two key energy sources for Canada, given our rich uranium and natural gas deposits. Both require advanced technology and trained specialists to manage risks and access them sustainably. Wages in the nuclear sector are as much as 30 per cent higher than other jobs in the same community.

Renewable electricity. Electricity generation from wind, water and solar sources is a fast-growing sector in Canada. There are career opportunities in every aspect of renewable energy, from developing technology to building and installing systems, as well as planning and management required for those projects. Electricity sector jobs come with competitive wages and attractive benefits, even for entry-level workers.

Forestry. Responsible forest management is more than laws and policies. It requires skilled workers, from technicians and millwrights working in sustainable lumber, to arborists monitoring and managing forests' health.

Transportation. Electric vehicle (EV) technology is making Canada's transportation sector more sustainable and lowering emissions. There are multiple opportunities in the construction and maintenance



of EVs and energy storage systems, as well as for operators, bringing essential goods to communities across the country.

Construction, energy efficiency and green buildings. Throughout Canada, there are construction or renovation projects to reduce buildings' environmental impact. This means job opportunities in designing and constructing new buildings, as well as projects to retrofit existing structures.

Carbon management. This emerging sector is key to Canada's net-zero emissions goals. It includes a variety of connected technologies and initiatives to capture, store or make use of carbon dioxide. It's a diverse sector generating a wide range of career opportunities, from facility and field operators, geologists and data analysts, to instrumentation technicians and regulatory affairs professionals.

Climate adaptation and environmental management. Effectively adapting to climate change requires skills, knowledge and talent from a wide range of sectors and disciplines, including Indigenous guardians and environmental data and mapping specialists. This area of work will continue to grow and evolve and presents an opportunity to build a career that helps protect Canada's future.

Practical skilled trades education, such as an apprenticeship, can prepare you to make the most of these opportunities. Choosing a career in advancing sustainability in Canada can contribute to the country's future while building your own. Learn more at canada.ca/sustainablejobs.

www.newscanada.com

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