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Dancing up support

Donna Martin (left) and Val Tournier (right) and join in the fun as Winnipeg-based belly dancer Kevla engages guests during a lively performance at the Boyne River Keepers' fundraiser on April 25.

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Carman fundraiser supports Boyne River conservation efforts

By Lana Meier

Laughter, dancing and community spirit filled the Carman Active Living Centre on Saturday night as 118 guests came together for an evening of fun in support of local conservation efforts.

The Boyne River Keepers' "An Elegant Ladies' Evening," held April 25, raised funds for the group's Birds of the Boyne Project.

The semi-formal event featured wine and appetizers, with catering provided by Tracy Bernard, along with live music and an interactive belly dancing performance by Winnipeg-based dancer Kevla, which had guests on their feet, sharing laughs and joining in throughout the evening. Music was provided by Nathan Strange of Carman.

Members of the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department volunteered their time to serve appetizers, while Royal Bank staff assisted by selling tickets at the door.

Organizers also hosted a silent auction and raffle, with guests contributing through bids and ticket purchases toward conservation initiatives focused on protecting bird habitats along the Boyne River.



Winnipeg-based belly dancer Kevla performs during the Boyne River Keepers' "An Elegant Ladies' Evening" fundraiser.

During the program, Boyne River Keepers member Steve Doell spoke about the inspiration behind the Birds of the Boyne Project, which stems from a 1995 ecological report docu-



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Guests laugh, dance and take part in the Boyne River Keepers fundraiser at the Carman Active Living Centre on April 25, which drew about 130 attendees in support of local conservation efforts.

menting the area's biodiversity.

"In one observation session, they recorded 127 plant species, 13 mammal species and more than 90 species of birds along the Boyne River," Doell

said. "There is an abundance of nature stories to tell along this trail, and that's really what inspired us to share

Continued on page 3

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> LADIES EVENING, FROM PG. 2

those stories with the community.” Doell said the group is working to install interpretive signage at Ryall Park this summer, highlighting local bird species, along with a mobile-friendly website that will allow visitors to access information through QR codes placed along the river pathway.

“It’s about helping people build a renewed connection with the land and discover the incredible diversity we have right here in Carman,” he said.

The project will feature locally created content, including writing, photography and artwork, and is expected to grow over time into a broader digital field guide highlighting the natural diversity found along the Boyne River.

The Boyne River Keepers group works to preserve and enhance the local watershed through environmental stewardship, education and wildlife protection. Initiatives like Birds of the Boyne aim to connect residents and visitors alike with the environment through both education and interactive experiences.

Saturday’s turnout reflected strong community support for those efforts, with guests enjoying a lively night out while contributing to a cause closely tied to the region’s natural environment.

As the evening wrapped up, organizers shared that the fundraiser would mark the final ladies’ night hosted by the Boyne River Keepers, with the event set to continue under new leadership.

The group announced they are passing the torch to the Carman Wellness Centre, where future events will be coordinated by Lisa Lehmann. Organizers thanked attendees for their support over the past several years, noting how much they had enjoyed bringing the community together, and expressed confidence the tradition would carry on.

They also acknowledged the continued support of volunteers, including the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department and Royal Bank staff, who helped make the evening possible.

Funds raised from the event will go directly toward ongoing work within the Birds of the Boyne Project.

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Trustees approve spending, advance Prairie Rose capital plan

By E. Antonio

Prairie Rose School Division (PRSD) trustees approved more than \$2.1 million in monthly expenditures and advanced a proposed five-year capital plan during their April 20 board meeting, while also addressing staffing updates and ongoing provincial education developments.

PRSD superintendent Kevin Clace explained divisions update their five-year capital plans annually with the Manitoba Capital Project Planning and Delivery Branch to identify large-scale capital needs.

“Prairie Rose School Division has benefited extensively over the past two years from approved capital plans totalling more than \$10 million,” Clace said. “These projects have included the Carman Collegiate roof replacement, St. Laurent School boiler replacement, St. François Xavier HVAC upgrade and the Elm Creek science lab renewal.”

Top priorities in the 2027 to 2031 capital plan submission include a new gymnasium for Elm Creek School, envelope replacement and improved accessibility at École St. Eustache, a Miami School science lab upgrade, a Roland School roof replacement, a Carman Collegiate power mechanics and welding shop renovation, and construction of hygiene and life-skills rooms in several schools.

The board also received a personnel and staffing report welcoming several new hires, including Jack Phillips and Fraser Mirrlees as term classroom teachers at Carman Collegiate, and Samantha Kopp as an educational assistant at Miami School.

Clace said rural divisions face staffing challenges, particularly in recruiting teachers and French immersion staff. He added the division is exploring a partnership with the University of Winnipeg to provide educational assistants with opportunities to complete a bachelor of education and become certified teachers.

Trustees approved a request from the Prairie Rose Teachers’ Association to second its president, Melissa Benner, from the division on a 0.5 full-time equivalent basis for the 2026–27 school year.

Benner will represent the association at the provincial level with the Manitoba Teachers’ Association as part of the annual secondment outlined in the collective agreement. There will be no impact on school staffing, and the association will reimburse the division for all salary and benefit costs. Details of the release time will be finalized between division administration and school leadership.

Senior administration also presented the superintendent and chief executive officer’s activity report, along

with updates on recent provincial communications.

Items shared with trustees included a Manitoba K-12 data dashboard enrolment update, an Education Week proclamation for April 13 to 17, a report from the commissioner of teacher professional conduct, and notice that the Manitoba Teachers’ Society has opened provincial bargaining.

“The division no longer negotiates directly with Manitoba Teachers’ Society to establish a collective agreement,” Clace said. “The Manitoba School Boards Association is the employer representative for provincial bargaining.” He added the letter from the society was shared as information only.

Trustees were also informed of an upcoming off-site activity involving Miami School students.

The school received approval for a year-end outdoor education canoe trip at Caddy Lake, scheduled for June 18 to 21. The trip will include 13 students, three staff supervisors and one volunteer.

The field trip is organized through the outdoor education course, providing students with opportunities to learn skills outside the classroom. To receive credit, students must complete an outdoor camping or educational experience in a safe and supervised setting.

Manitoba introduces tougher impaired driving penalties

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government is strengthening impaired driving laws, including introducing lifetime alcohol restrictions and licence suspensions for repeat offenders.

Justice Minister Matt Wiebe announced the measures, which target drivers convicted of impaired operation offences that cause bodily harm or death. Under the changes, certain offenders will be permanently prohibited from driving with any alcohol in their system.

“Drinking and driving has no place

on our roads or in our province,” Wiebe said in a release. “Impaired driving is a serious threat to public safety, and these measures will increase road safety and protect people in communities across the province.”

The province said violations of the zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) condition will carry penalties similar to those under Manitoba’s Immediate Roadside Prohibition program. That includes additional licence suspensions and fines ranging from \$400 to \$600, depending on prior offences. Repeat breaches could also

lead to vehicle impoundment, mandatory driver assessments or participation in the ignition interlock program.

The changes stem from Bill 5, the Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Impaired Driving Measures), introduced in December 2024 and proclaimed into law in June 2025. The legislation increased penalties for repeat offenders, including an automatic lifetime licence suspension for individuals convicted of impaired driving twice within a 10-year period, replacing the

Continued on page 5

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The way it was this week May 7:

By Dennis Young

100 years ago, 1926 — Autos lined up at the Ryall Hotel depict a number of travelling salesmen stopping by; the first baby of the year is a son born to C. Park of Park Café; greens are ready at the Carman Golf Course; Sanders promotes the Rexall one-cent sale; Miami is out of the SMIA Ball League; 12 horses train at the Carman track; J.G. Carroll of Graysville is a local real estate and loan agent; the town baseball league has three teams; Carman Creamery sells frozen treats made from Trifolium ice cream.

75 years ago, 1951 — RM of D pays \$100 for a page in the ball club's booklet; T.J. Stow and Sons buy a Shorthorn bull from James Richardson Farms for \$2,500; a family of 12 from Holland begins work at Nel Langtry's beet farm; Shilson's Grocery sells SunRype apple juice (48 oz) for 35 cents; Treasure Island shows at the Boyne The-

atre; the Legion and Auxiliary march in a church parade; D.R. Woods is the Massey-Harris dealer in Elm Creek; a spring fashion show featuring local merchants' apparel is held at the Legion Hall; listeners tune in to CKRC Radio.

50 years ago, 1976 — Midland offers teachers an eight per cent increase on their 25 per cent request; the first house in the 24-lot Grundy subdivision is built; the Park subdivision receives approval for 12 of 50 lots until fire requirements are met; all 13 lots in the Bishop subdivision are sold, with many homes built; construction begins on one of 11 lots in the Co-op subdivision, with two more sold; 150 veterans and family members attend the Legion veterans dinner; Jean Cretton and Evelyn Griffith receive life memberships in the Sperling Ladies Curling Club; Carman Collegiate places first in Zone 4 of the Canadi-

an Junior Math Contest; Wendy and Winston's Carman Taxi closes after two years.

25 years ago, 2001 — Lawson Insurance of Miami sells to Call Insurance; the Tempo Festival of the Arts is a success; Roland's Bailey Watt and DCS's Hanna Pol receive Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Journey of Canada literary awards; the RHA trims its budget by \$2.8 million; Holly Graham becomes Carman Royal Bank's personal services representative; Tracy Drabek is the new home economist; the skate park gets approval to build; Chris Miller is the PLP Terriers' top scorer, while Travis Wight is named top rookie and best defenceman; The Village Salon offers perms in the Co-op Food Centre; Girl Guide Cookie Day is held; the Sisters of the Holy Rock entertain at the Collegiate.

MPI flags five major fraud cases in 2025

By Lana Meier

Manitoba Public Insurance uncovered nearly \$2 million in attempted fraud through five major cases this year, part of almost \$17 million in total savings generated by the Crown insurer's Special Investigation Unit in 2025.

Manitoba Public Insurance says it investigated more than 2,600 physical damage and bodily injury claims suspected of fraud this year, highlighting the most significant cases to demonstrate the impact insurance fraud has on ratepayers.

"Insurance fraud has a cost, and that cost is borne by all of us in Manitoba," said John Bowering, MPI's vice-president and chief claims officer. He said the SIU's work protects the integrity of the public insurance system while keeping rates affordable.

Among the cases was a claimant who reported severe injuries after a minor collision and received income replacement and personal care benefits, but was later observed lifting heavy weights at a gym. Benefits were ter-

minated, saving more than \$300,000.

In another case, a claimant injured in a truck fire claimed to have been hurt while trying to extinguish the flames. Video evidence later showed the fire had been deliberately set, with the explosion causing unplanned injuries. The claim was denied, saving about \$1 million.

MPI also cited a staged vehicle theft in which a vehicle was reported stolen only after it had already been shipped to Ontario and loaded into a container bound for Dubai. MPI is seeking to recover more than \$51,000 paid on the claim.

One of the more complex cases involved a collision with a Porsche, where investigators found the incident was intentional. MPI said the driver of another vehicle passed the Porsche owner's residence, then returned and accelerated toward the Porsche as it was backing out of the driveway, despite the Porsche attempting to take evasive action. Conflicting accounts were provided by

both drivers, and evidence from the scene did not match their statements.

Following the collision, MPI said the Porsche driver ran into the residence and returned with additional people, later reporting that the fully licensed registered owner had been driving with passengers. Investigators determined the registered owner was not in the vehicle and that a lone driver with a learner's licence was operating the Porsche illegally. It was also discovered the parties involved knew one another. The claim was denied, saving ratepayers approximately \$154,000.

Another claimant who reported being unable to work due to pain was later observed lifting and transporting large quantities of beer and equipment without assistance. Benefits were terminated, saving more than \$480,000, with MPI attempting to recover additional funds already paid.

MPI is encouraging the public to report suspected insurance fraud through its TIPS line or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

pand safety measures further, including a zero BAC requirement for drivers operating Class 1 to 4 vehicles, which include commercial licences.

The Manitoba government said the changes are part of ongoing efforts to reduce impaired driving and prevent serious injuries and fatalities on provincial roads.

> IMPAIRED, FROM PG. 4

previous 10-year ban.

The act also created a zero BAC requirement for certain offenders, which has now been fully implemented through accompanying regulations.

MADD Winnipeg welcomed the changes, calling them an important step toward improving road safety.

"This legislation is a significant victory for road safety in Manitoba," said Trevor Enns, president of the organization. "By implementing stricter long-term licence restrictions and permanent suspensions for repeat offenders, the province is ensuring the consequences of impaired driving reflect the gravity of the harm caused."

The province has also introduced additional legislation that would ex-

worship

with us > FAITH

Assurance

*Can I know for certain
that I am saved?*

So many religions have uncertainty based on a balance of good and bad works, yet Christianity is founded on the principle that Christ did all the work to save us. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us that 'by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.' The key to understanding your position before God then has to do with your understanding of the word FAITH. Hebrews 11:1 explains that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' In other words it is a belief in the work of Jesus Christ so strong that it affects every part of your life.

If you live like you believe it, then you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tells us "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." Belief in the heart, not just the mind, leads to confession. This is agreement with God regarding the truth ... out loud.

If you agree with God out loud, then you are saved.

Many of the New Testament books were given a specific purpose. 1 John 5:13 says, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." John's gospel (20:31) agrees saying, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." So, how do I know if my heart truly believes this? 1 John 4:13 explains, "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit." The evidence of the Spirit in you is given by the fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), conviction, and confidence.

If you have God's Spirit in you, then you are saved.

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Carman couple honoured for decades of dance tradition

By Annaliese Meier

More than five decades of teaching, preserving and promoting old-time dance has earned a Carman couple a place among Manitoba's most respected contributors to fiddle culture.

Larry and Irene Stevenson were recently inducted into the Manitoba Fiddle Association's Wall of Fame in the builder and promoting category, recognizing their lifelong commitment to keeping traditional dance and music alive in their community and beyond.

"Larry and I were recognized for our 50-some years of teaching old-time and pattern dance music," Irene Stevenson said. "We taught the old and the young."

Their journey began in the early 1970s, when they were approached by the Dufferin Agricultural Society in Carman to share their knowledge of traditional dance styles.

"We had been taught and knew the polkas, the waltzes, the schottisches and many, many more," Stevenson said. "We knew the moves to the old-time square dances as well."

What started as a local opportunity quickly grew into a decades-long effort that reached far beyond Carman. The couple taught a wide range of groups, from small classes to large community gatherings, including 4-H dance programs and special events.

"We taught large groups, smaller groups, 4-H dance, and communities celebrating 100-year anniversaries," Stevenson said. "We taught in many

communities surrounding our own community of Carman."

Their contributions also extended to choreography, helping shape the tradition they worked to preserve. The Stevensons created dance patterns for several well-known pieces, including the Waltz of the Angels, Irene Good Night, Gram Lee's Waltz and the Carman Waltz.

Behind the scenes, Larry Stevenson has also played a key role in supporting Manitoba's fiddle community through sound production.

He has run sound for the Carman Fiddle Festival for approximately 25 years and has been responsible for sound at the Manitoba Fiddle Association's Wall of Fame ceremonies since its inception in 2004.

That connection makes the honour especially meaningful, as the couple now joins the very group of individuals celebrated at the Carman Community Hall display.

The Wall of Fame itself was spearheaded by the late Winston Simpson, along with committee members Joe Salwinsky, Lorne Flurry and Dave McMillan, with the goal of commemorating Manitoba fiddle players and those who contribute to the tradition.

The builder and promoting category recognizes individuals whose work ensures the continuation of fiddle music and dance through teaching, organizing and community involvement.

For the Stevensons, that work has always been rooted in sharing knowl-



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Larry and Irene Stevenson of Carman were recently inducted into the Manitoba Fiddle Association's Wall of Fame in the builder and promoting category, recognizing more than 50 years of teaching and preserving old-time dance traditions across the region.

edge and keeping traditions accessible to all ages — a legacy that continues to resonate across generations of dancers.

Their induction serves as a lasting recognition of the role they have played in preserving a vital part of Manitoba's cultural heritage.

Bombers partner with Access CU to boost financial literacy in schools

By Haley Cvar

Students across the province could soon be learning how to manage their money with help from a professional football player, as Access Credit Union launches its annual classroom financial literacy program in partnership with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The "Tackle Your Finances like a Pro" initiative invites Manitoba schools to apply for a 60-minute, in-class workshop led by Access Credit Union fi-

ancial literacy trainers alongside a Blue Bombers player. The program aims to deliver practical money management skills in an engaging, interactive format.

According to Access Credit Union, the sessions are designed to help students build a foundation for financial decision-making, while also incorporating games, discussion and prize giveaways to keep participants involved.

"These workshops are a major highlight for the Financial Literacy team each year. We are continually impressed with the engagement from the students and their curiosity to learn about money management and how to start preparing for their future," said Emily Suderman, financial literacy specialist with Access Credit Union.

Suderman added that the involvement of a Blue Bombers player helps strengthen student engagement and excitement.

"It has also been amazing to see the interactions with the students and a Winnipeg Blue Bombers player. A big thank you to Nic

Demski for joining us once again. We are excited to bring these workshops to schools in the 2026-27 school year," she said.

The partnership reflects a shared goal of community impact, according to Winnipeg Football Club president and CEO Wade Miller.

"The continued momentum of the Financial Literacy Program is a testament to the meaningful impact it's already having in our community," Miller said. "Our football club is proud to be a part of this important program and to support efforts that create lasting, positive change alongside Access Credit Union."

Schools that are interested in the workshop are asked to apply by visiting accesscu.ca/tackle. Applications are to be received by June 12, 2026.

Access Credit Union, the largest credit union in Manitoba, serves more than 208,000 members and manages approximately \$14.2 billion in assets. The organization says programs like this are part of its broader commitment to supporting communities and building financial confidence among youth.

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Elm Creek 4-H duo reels in first-place provincial win

By Jessica Eblie

Two Grade 6 students from Elm Creek School are celebrating a first-place victory after transforming their passion for the outdoors into an award-winning presentation at the 4-H Manitoba Provincial Communications Extravaganza, held at the Victoria Inn Hotel & Conference Centre in Brandon, Man., on April 18.

Twelve-year-old Byron Lepp and 11-year-old Tate James captured the top prize in the Two-Person Junior Visual category. Their presentation focused on ice fishing, impressing judges with a lively, hands-on delivery that brought the experience to life.

"We really like ice fishing," said James. "We thought about doing it for the topic and the speech."

James, who comes from an avid outdoor-oriented family, brought firsthand knowledge to the project, while Lepp focused on delivery and audience engagement. Together, they created a presentation that balanced information with entertainment.

The presentation went beyond explaining the basics. Instead, Lepp and James recreated the experience using props and a creative interview-style format to captivate their audience.

"We had different props and tools you'd use in ice fishing," said James. "We had a lure, rods, and we used a white tablecloth to simulate the ice," added Lepp.

The pair structured their presentation with Lepp asking questions and James responding as the "expert." The format allowed them to break down complex information in a natural, engaging and conversational way.

They said they drew inspiration from various podcasters.

In the Junior Visual category, competitors deliver a three- to six-minute oral presentation supported by visual aids designed to enhance and clarify the message. Judges assess how effectively the visuals complement the topic, along with vocal projection, organization, ideas and overall development.

The annual provincial competition brings together 4-H club members from across Manitoba. Participants advance through multiple rounds, beginning at the local level, then moving to area competitions before reaching provincials.

Lepp and James placed first at both the local and area levels before advancing to provincials.

Their 4-H club leader, Kari-Ann Friesen — who is also the school secretary at Elm Creek School — said the duo's presentation highlighted both boys' interests and strengths. She added that the achievement reflects their growth, particularly in confidence and communication skills.

"I wish I would have taped Tate's first year because he wouldn't even recognize himself," Friesen said. "He has come so far."

Speaking about Lepp, Friesen said "he has finessed his skills and noticed that the details do matter."

Friesen said the project is a strong example of how the 4-H program encourages youth to explore their interests while developing communication skills.

"Learn to do by doing is the motto," she said.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Byron Lepp (left) and Tate James pose with their first-place trophies at the 4-H Manitoba Provincial Communications Extravaganza, held in Brandon on April 18.

For Lepp and James, their experience at provincials has strengthened their confidence in public speaking — a skill they believe will serve them well in the future.

"If you practise enough, anyone can get better at it," James said. "It just takes time."

Looking ahead, both say they hope to return to the provincial competition next year and possibly tackle another topic they are passionate about. Along the way, the duo learned that whether waiting for a fish to bite or standing in front of a crowd, patience, confidence and preparation can make all the difference.

Spring golf season begins



STANDARD PHOTO BY DENNIS YOUNG

Golfers took advantage of the season opener at the Carman Golf Club on Sunday as temperatures reached 21 C, five degrees above average, though cloudy skies and wind gusts up to 54 km/h made it feel closer to 14. Readers are invited to help the Carman Dufferin Standard track the temperature of the week by submitting photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors to news@carmanstandard.ca.

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Students bring Secret Garden to life

École Carman Elementary production draws strong community support

By Lana Meier

Students at École Carman Elementary School brought a classic story to life last week, presenting *The Secret Garden* through the Missoula Children's Theatre program.

The production featured 55 students, along with three assistant directors, an accompanist, a tour director, a tour actor and a lighting and sound technician. Over the course of the week, participants learned lines, songs and choreography before staging two performances at the Carman Collegiate theatre. More than 400 tickets were sold, helping to cover most of the production costs and reflecting strong community support.

Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, this Missoula adaptation offers a lively and imaginative retelling of *The Secret Garden*, following Mary Lennox's (Shelby Dales) journey from India to her uncle's home in England. Along the way, she encounters a cast of colourful characters — including geese, fireflies, and moor folk — helping bring a sense of joy and playfulness to the story.

Mary, a lonely young girl sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven (Niko Lubkiwski), discovers a hidden, long-neglected garden on the estate. With the help of new friends — including Dickon (Harrison Norquay) and her cousin Colin Craven (a.k.a. Aria McIntosh) — she begins restoring the space. As the garden comes back to life, so do the spirits of those



STANDARD PHOTOS BY MACKENZIE GAULTIER PHOTOGRAPHY

Students from École Carman Elementary School bring *The Secret Garden* to life on stage at the Carman Collegiate theatre last week, including a lively ensemble of garden creatures such as geese and birds. The production featured 55 students through the Missoula Children's Theatre program.

around her, with the production highlighting themes of healing, friendship and renewal throughout the entire household.

Shelby Dales, who played the lead role of Mary Lennox, said stepping into the character came with both challenges and rewards.

"I played the lead role Mary Lennox. My character was rude, sarcastic and sad because her parents both passed away," she said.

"I liked acting the part. It was a challenge even though my mom says I was a natural."

Like many Missoula productions, the show was learned in just one week — something Shelby described as both demanding and enjoyable.

"Stressful, but the whole week was a lot of fun. The Missoula teachers were really nice and helpful," she said, noting memorizing lines was the most difficult part.

Despite the pressure, she felt comfortable performing in front of a large audience.

"It was easy for me. I also compete in front of large crowds for dance and show horses," she said.

Shelby said the story's message resonated with her.

"The garden was dying because no one was looking after it — just like Colin was getting sick because he wasn't

Continued on page 9



ATTENTION STUDENTS:



TWO \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS

Carman Legion Ladies Auxiliary #18 is offering two scholarships of \$500 each to a child, grandchild or great grandchild of a Veteran, Carman Legion Branch or Auxiliary member, leaving High School this year to further their education. The Scholarship must be used within one year from the day it is awarded.

Application forms are available at Carman Collegiate, Elm Creek Collegiate, Miami Collegiate, Dufferin Christian School or by contacting the Auxiliary Secretary directly at (204) 745-8222.

Applications must be clearly marked Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Scholarship and must be received by the Auxiliary Secretary, PO Box 98, Carman, MB. R0G 0J0 no later than Friday, June 5, 2026.

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> MISSOULA, FROM PG. 8

being looked after," she said. "I learned to care for everybody and to make sure they are healthy and strong."

Her favourite moment came during the transformation scene.

Harrison, who played Dickon, said he connected closely with his character.

"He was happy and funny, and showed Mary that if you care for the earth, the earth will care for you," he said.

"I think he resembled me. I thought he was funny and helpful."

He said learning the production in such a short time was a challenge, particularly memorizing lines, but experience helped ease the pressure.

"The first three times I did Missoula I was scared, but now I've gotten used to it and it's like a breeze. It is fun — I liked making people laugh," he said.

Harrison said he was less nervous this year and appreciated the opportunity to perform.

"I actually wasn't sure if I wanted to be a character this year and thought about being assistant director. But I am happy that I chose to act in the play as Dickon," he said.

His favourite moment came early in the production.

"The madhouse scene at the beginning when Mary arrives and everyone was crazy busy," he said.

The production also featured a lively ensemble of garden creatures, helping bring the hidden garden to life. Through choreographed movement and group songs, the performers visually showed the transformation of the garden from a neglected space into a vibrant one.

Heidi Russell, Missoula committee lead and chair of the advisory council for school leadership, said the program continues to be a highlight for the school community.

"It means we're able to bring a truly unique and enriching experience back to our students and community," she said. "This program goes far beyond a typical school play."

Russell said the week-long residency challenges students to step outside their comfort zones.

"The kids take on a challenge, step outside their comfort zones, and create something truly special together. Watching their confidence grow day by day has been the best part," she said.

She added that the program builds important life skills. "They build confidence, teamwork, responsibility and resilience. It also creates a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment."

One of the most noticeable improvements this year was the addition of microphones for the main cast.

"It greatly enhanced the sound quality in the theatre and made the performance even more enjoyable for the audience," Russell said, adding the upgrade was made possible with support from Back on Cue.

"It also helped boost performers' confidence."

Community support, she said, remains essential to the program's success.

"Missoula is a very expensive program, and it truly takes a village — from sponsors to volunteers to families — to make this happen," she said. "Without that backing, an experience like this simply wouldn't be possible."

Russell said the production remains a personal favourite. "It's truly my favourite school event," she said.

The Missoula Children's Theatre program brings professional tour directors into communities for a week-long residency, culminating in a full-scale musical production involving local students — an experience that continues to leave a lasting impact both on stage and beyond.



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Boyne River
Bistro

Carman Burger Week returns with bold new flavours



By Lana Meier

Burger lovers have reason to celebrate as Burger Week 2026 officially gets underway, running May 3–10 with five local restaurants serving up creative, one-of-a-kind feature burgers.

Organized by the Carman Chamber of Commerce, the annual event encourages residents and visitors to explore local dining while sampling unique menu creations and

supporting small businesses.

This year's lineup offers a mix of classic comfort food and inventive twists.

Scotswood Links is serving "The Crispy Porky Putter Burger," a crispy pork cutlet topped with salsa, mozzarella, banana peppers, red onions, lettuce, tomato and chipotle sauce on a ciabatta bun.

Syl's is offering "The Poutine Burger," combining a beef patty with mozzarella

cheese, fries and gravy — all stacked on a bun.

At **Carman Golf and Curling Club**, "The California Dreaming Burger" features a three-ounce beef patty (single or double) topped with fried onions, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato and the club's signature sauce on a toasted bun.

Boyne River Bistro is pushing the boundaries with its "Barn Yard PB & J Burger,"

built with a Wagyu beef smash patty, crispy chicken burger, bacon, Swiss and cheddar cheese, finished with a sweet and savoury peanut butter and jelly sauce.

Meanwhile, **Chicken Chef** is serving a "Jalapeño Popper Burger," pairing a grilled jalapeño popper patty — made with cream cheese, bacon, pickled jalapeños and cheddar — with a beef patty, cheddar cheese, pickles and home-

STANDARDS PHOTO SUBMITTED made burger sauce.

Voting opens at noon on May 4, giving diners the chance to choose their favourite after working their way through the lineup.

Residents are encouraged to make a plan with family, friends or coworkers, try as many burgers as possible and take part in the community-wide celebration of local food.



Five injured in head-on crash south of Sanford

By Lana Meier

Headingley RCMP are investigating a serious two-vehicle collision that left five people injured on Highway 3, just south of Sanford, on the evening of May 1.

Police, along with fire and emergency medical services, were called to the scene around 9:30 p.m. after reports of a head-on crash. Investigators say a northbound vehicle had been swerving across the roadway prior to colliding with a southbound vehicle.

A 52-year-old man driving the southbound vehicle sustained minor,

non-life-threatening injuries. His two passengers, both 14-year-old girls, suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries and remain in hospital.

The occupants of the northbound vehicle — a 25-year-old man from St. Adolphe and a 19-year-old male passenger — were transported to hospital in critical condition, where they remain.

Headingley RCMP, along with a forensic collision reconstructionist and members of the RCMP Traffic Services criminal collision investigation team, continue to investigate the incident.



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'Trailblazers in Politics' event to shine spotlight on female leaders

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A gathering next month will shine a spotlight on the work of female leaders in our community—and hopefully inspire more to step into the world of politics.

Pembina Valley Women in Leadership are hosting *Trailblazers in Politics* on Tuesday, June 9 from 7-9 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Boundary

Mother's Day Tea set for May 9 in Miami



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A selection of dainties and sweet treats will be served during the Miami Arts Association's Mother's Day Tea on May 9 at the Miami Centre for the Arts.

By Annaliese Meier

The Miami Arts Association is inviting the community to celebrate Mother's Day with an afternoon tea event at the Miami Centre for the Arts.

The Mother's Day Tea will take place Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the centre, located at 102 Blight St. in Miami.

Organizers say the event will feature a light luncheon including sandwiches, tea and coffee, along with dainties and sweet treats. Gluten-free options will also be available. Admission is by donation.

This year's gathering will include a special invitation for children, with young attendees encouraged to dress up in their favourite princess outfits.

The Miami Arts Association said the event offers an opportunity for families to come together and celebrate mothers and grandmothers in a relaxed, community setting.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

From left: Eileen Clarke, Kathy Valentino, Karina Bueckert, and Hilda Froese will share their experiences as women in politics at an event in Morden-Winkler next month.

Trails Health Centre's new community services building.

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert will facilitate a panel discussion featuring fellow Conservative MLA and provincial minister Eileen Clarke, City of Thompson councillor and Association of Manitoba Municipalities president Kathy Valentino, businesswoman and former Winkler city councillor Karina Bueckert, and former Garden Valley School Division trustee and Manitoba School Board Association vice-president Hilda Froese.

It's an opportunity to hear real stories of real impact from female leaders, says Leah Klassen, one of the members of the recently-formed Pembina Valley Women in Leadership group.

"Every woman on that panel is a pioneer in their own right," she says, noting they've all found themselves

in often male-dominated spaces and have had to contend with all the challenges that can entail.

Inspired by similar groups and panel discussions in other areas, and given the fact the 2026 municipal election is coming up this fall, it seemed the perfect time to bring women together for a frank discussion about some of the roadblocks and rewards of a career in politics, be it at the school board, municipal, or provincial level.

"We want folks to have an avenue to explore that in a way that is real and impactful, to hear about other leaders that have journeyed down that path and what being a woman in politics meant to them," Klassen says. "Looking at some of the barriers, some of the challenges, but then also how can we better support women in politics? What does that look like?"

Along those lines, Pembina Valley Women in Leadership intends to

branch out beyond this event, hopefully hosting similar discussions, guest speakers, and mentorship activities in the future.

"We would really like it, the group, to go on and have more women in leadership roles coming to support one another," Klassen says. The group currently includes Klassen, Ang Braun, Sally Marsolais, and Carolyn Friesen. "We're a grassroots group that just got started. It's a handful of women that are involved who thought, you know what, we need to make space for women in leadership, recognizing that there are maybe some gaps in mentorship and collaboration."

Next month's talk is the best way to connect with them, Klassen says, especially if you're interested in getting involved with future events.

The night is open to all. Admission is free.

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Clearwater Place on track for 2027 opening, fundraising continues

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House's new Clearwater Place is on track to open next year, the shelter for the survivors of domestic violence shared with project supporters last week.

Work is moving along full speed ahead on the 25-unit transitional housing complex going up in Winkler.

When it's complete, it will provide safe, longer-term housing (one to two years) at a subsidized rate to women trying to get back on their feet after leaving an abusive relationship. The facility will also offer support services and resources to help tenants develop skills needed to maintain employment, get established financially, become self-sufficient, and begin to cope with their trauma.

Ground was broken on the build last summer, and a great deal of progress has been made in the months since, shared Catherine Dahl, project manager with Bockstael Construction.

The last several months have seen crews get the foundation in place, install the steel framework for the two-storey building, and begin work on enclosing the facility.

Many of the larger-scale materials were pre-fabricated off-site and then could be put together like giant Lego sets to allow for faster progress through the winter months.

"The progress you see today, getting the project off the ground, establishing a strong structural base, and moving steadily into the work of construction is possible because of your support and your commitment," Dahl stressed to the assembled community leaders.

Sophie Gerbrandt, who heads up community and resource development for Genesis House, echoed that statement, stressing it is only through community support that this dream has begun to become a reality.

Last fall, the agency announced it was looking to raise about \$600,000 for the \$15 million project, which has received funding commitments from various levels of government.

"Since the beginning of November, I am happy to share that we have raised approximately \$250,000," Gerbrandt said, noting it represents a host of personal donations as well as corporate support. "That is remarkable, so thank you. For us it's a reminder that when people believe in something, they will take a step forward to help make it happen."

"Every gift, every sponsorship, ev-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS
Work on Clearwater Place, Genesis House's new transitional housing complex in Winkler, is moving along nicely, the agency shared with supporters last week. Right: A look at what the completed complex will look like when it opens next year.



ery conversation we have shared about this project has helped us to get closer to the finish line."

While they still have about \$350,000 to go, Gerbrandt said they're confident they'll get there.

"While that is still a significant amount, we are very energized and committed to this final push," she said, "because this final stage of fundraising is about more than the walls and the windows of the building—it's about transforming this space into a home for the women and children who will stay with us."

Each of the units will come fully furnished with everything a family who may have fled with little more than the clothes on their backs will need to

thrive.

"Clearwater Place was never meant to be a sterile apartment complex," Gerbrandt said. "It was designed as a place of comfort, a place of dignity for fresh beginnings."

Only about 12 per cent of women leave Genesis House's emergency shelter for their own housing. The rest remain temporarily housed or return to their abusers for a lack of other options.

"We're already getting one or two inquiries a week asking to go on the wait list," Gerbrandt said, noting they have not opened that application process just yet. "So the need continues to be there, more than ever as housing prices continue to increase. We're excited that this will be a reality in our area very soon."

Genesis House has two major fundraising events coming up this fall that they hope will help push them over the top. The third annual Ride for Refuge will take place in October while the second annual radiothon airs in November.

You can also donate to the cause online at genesishouseshelter.ca or by mail to Box 389, Winkler, MB, R6W 4A6.

Gerbrandt said that they expect to be moving the first families into Clearwater Place in March of 2027.

"IT IMPACTS YOU"

Also speaking at last week's project update was Peter Cantelon, who provided a personal insight into the importance of stable, affordable housing can have for families fleeing abusive



At a project update to local supporters last week, Genesis House unveiled the new logo for Clearwater Place. The turtle was selected by the family of Amanda Clearwater—the Carman woman who, along with her three children and teenage cousin, was murdered by her domestic partner in 2024 and for whom the transitional housing facility is named—to represent home, protection, and healing.

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> 2027 OPENING, FROM PG. 13

living situations.

Cantelon's mother was 19 years old with two young children trying to provide and survive with very few supports.

"Relationships were not great. They were abusive. They were violent," he shared. "In my own experience and my sister's, from basically the age of zero until about 12, it was saturated in violence in the household. Physical violence, emotional violence.

"You don't really forget that. It impacts you. It's generational. And I think it's important to understand that as valuable as a shelter is, what Clearwater Place is going to provide is miles beyond the valuable services that Genesis House has already been providing.

"Clearwater Place brings wrap-around supports, services, safe and affordable housing to women who have been traumatized beyond our

capability to understand, and any associated children," Cantelon said.

It wasn't until his mother qualified for housing assistance that he and his sister finally had a place to call home, and stability in which to feel safe.

"With that, things transformed," Cantelon said. "Housing is the fundamental stabilizing factor in anyone's life. Most of us take it for granted."

The transitional housing Clearwater Place will provide families will change lives, Cantelon stressed, leav-

ing behind an impact that will live on for generations.

"It will provide the foundation to be able to secure more long-term, safe, affordable housing, life skills that can then be brought into place to ensure that these things can be continued," he said. "It really is community change ... this is as proactive as you can get in the lives of women who have been traumatized again and again and again, and the children who may be a part of that journey."

National POLICE Week

MAY 10-16, 2026



and faith leaders in your area, they're better informed and can make decisions in the best interest of the local community.

- **Reduced pressure on the criminal justice system.** When conflicts and problems are resolved at the local level through effective community policing, it lessens the load on provincial and federal courts.

National Police Week takes place from May 10 to 16, 2026. This year's theme, "Committed to Serve Together," serves as a reminder that everyone has a role to play in supporting local police forces to help keep communities safer for everyone. Community policing works best when everyone in the community cooperates.

In contrast to traditional views of the police as enforcers and investigators, community policing reframes the role of police officers. Rather than being the people who show up after a crime has been committed, police can work with their fellow citizens to solve local problems, protect the vulnerable and, ultimately, help prevent crime.

- **Enhanced trust.** By working together to create a safer community, police officers and civilians gain more understanding of each other and can see each other as allies rather than opponents.

- **More support for at-risk people.** Police

work with social support groups to help people find solutions to the problems that might lead vulnerable individuals into criminal activity.

- **Increased local knowledge.** When your local police officers have strong relationships with businesses, volunteers



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BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

This shift in the role of the police officer offers several advantages within the community.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Red Kiwi Yogurt Parfait

- 2 Zespri RubyRed Kiwifruit
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/3 cup nutty granola

Dice one kiwi and thinly slice one. In bottom of tall glass, layer 1/4 cup yogurt, kiwi and granola. Continue layering with remaining ingredients.



Red Kiwi Ice Pops

- 4 Zespri RubyRed Kiwifruit, peeled
- pineapple juice (or fruit juice of choice)

Dice three kiwis into small cubes. Thinly slice remaining kiwi and reserve. In blender, blend kiwi cubes and pineapple juice until smooth. Put sliced kiwi in ice pop mold and pour juice mixture over top. Freeze until chilled.



Summer Berry Panzanella Salad

- Prep time: 25 minutes
- Servings: 4-6
- Bagel "Croutons:"
- 3 Dave's Killer Bread Summer Berry Bagels
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- Berry Salad:
- 1 pint strawberries, hulled and sliced (reserve 1/2 cup for dressing)
- 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1/2 cup raspberries (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Berry Dressing:
- 1/2 cup strawberries
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- Serving:

3/4 cup plain Greek yogurt or vanilla yogurt
 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
 fresh mint (optional)
 Heat oven to 350 F.
 To make bagel croutons: Cut bagels into 3/4-inch cubes. In bowl, melt butter; stir in brown sugar and salt. Toss bagel cubes in butter mixture. Spread on baking sheet and bake 15-18 minutes, flipping once, until golden and crisp. Let cool.
 To make berry salad: In large bowl, combine sliced strawberries; blueberries; raspberries, if desired; lemon zest; and lemon juice. Toss gently.
 To make berry dressing: Place reserved strawberries in bowl. Add brown sugar and salt. Using fork or potato masher, mash until juicy and chunky.
 To assemble panzanella salad: Add cooled bagel cubes to berry salad. Pour in mashed strawberry dressing. Toss slightly so bread absorbs juice. Let sit 5-10 minutes so bagel pieces soften while staying textured. Serve in bowls with yogurt, poppy seeds and mint leaves, if desired.

From burnout to barbell

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

For many women over 40, especially busy working moms, getting back into shape can feel far more difficult than it once did. Even with consistent workouts, balanced eating and strong discipline, progress often slows. This is not simply a lack of effort — your body is operating under different physiological conditions.

One major factor is the natural decline in estrogen during perimenopause and menopause. Lower estrogen levels have been shown to reduce muscle protein synthesis — the process responsible for repairing and building muscle after exercise. As a result, recovery becomes slower and building strength takes more time, even with consistent training.

At the same time, age-related muscle loss — known as sarcopenia — begins as early as the mid-30s and accelerates after 40. Women may lose about three to eight per cent of muscle mass per decade, with more significant losses occurring after menopause. This reduction in lean muscle directly affects strength, endurance and overall body composition.

Metabolic rate also gradually declines with age. Because muscle tissue burns more calories at rest than fat, losing muscle contributes to a lower basal metabolic rate. A decrease of two to three per cent per decade after age 30 can make fat loss more difficult and increase fat storage, even when lifestyle habits remain consistent.

Add in limited time, inconsistent recovery and competing priorities — and it can feel overwhelming. But getting into shape is still achievable with a targeted approach.

- Prioritize strength training: Resistance training two to three times per week is essential to maintain and build muscle. Incorporating progressive overload — gradually increasing weight or resistance — helps stimulate muscle growth despite hormonal changes.
- Increase protein intake: Supporting muscle protein synthesis requires adequate protein. A



Fitness Expert, Julie Germaine

daily intake of about one gram per pound of body weight can improve recovery.

- Allow for adequate recovery: Slower recovery means muscles need sufficient rest between sessions. Allow at least 48 hours between intense workouts, and prioritize sleep.

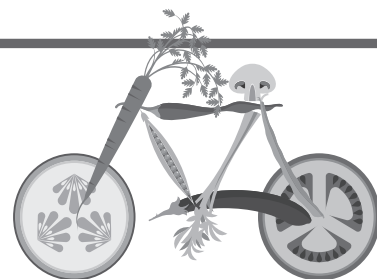
- Focus on efficiency and consistency: Short, structured workouts performed consistently are more effective than sporadic, longer sessions. This approach is especially important for those balancing multiple responsibilities.

Although getting into shape may feel like an uphill battle, the challenge lies not in effort but in adapting to the body's changing needs. With the right combination of strength training, nutrition and recovery, women can rebuild muscle, improve fitness and regain a strong, capable body after 40.

To discuss your health goals or fitness challenges, schedule a free online consultation at www.calendly.com/juliegermaine or email julie@juliegermaine.com.

Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to lifelong health. She is an active mom, registered personal trainer, two-time pro fitness champion, certified nutrition expert and fitness specialist. She has helped thousands worldwide improve their health since 2005.

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Call open for Canada's Volunteer Awards nominations

Virtual information sessions will be held
May 20

By Annaliese Meier

Manitobans are being encouraged to recognize the people and organizations making a difference in their communities as nominations open for the 2026 Canada's Volunteer Awards.

The national program celebrates volunteerism across the country, with nominations open from April 22 to June 17.

Brenda Martinussen, a federally appointed member of the program's National Advisory Committee, said

the nomination process plays a key role in ensuring Manitoba's volunteer efforts are recognized on a national stage.

"It's important for Manitobans to nominate individuals and organizations because nominations are how Manitoba's volunteer leadership is recognized nationally," she said. "Many contributions are done quietly, and people are only celebrated if someone takes the time to tell their story well."



The awards are open to individuals, groups, businesses, non-profit organizations and charities that have made a meaningful contribution to addressing social challenges in their communities. Individual nominees must be at least 18 years old and be Canadian citizens or permanent residents, while an Emerging Leader category

recognizes those aged 18 to 30.

Martinussen said some of the strongest nominations are those that clearly outline both the volunteer's role and the impact of their work.

"The strongest nominations make it easy to understand what the nominee

Continued on page 16

SSMA reflects on a busy year of tree planting, other efforts

By Lorne Stelmach

The work of the Stanley Soil Management Association largely goes somewhat unnoticed by the public at large, but it is important work nevertheless.

The various projects of the organization were highlighted last Wednesday at its annual general meeting.

"For our organization, our bread and butter throughout all of our activities has been tree planting," said technician Richard Warkentin. "We first were founded by a group of six farmers. The mandate has always been to plant trees and to maintain shelterbelts and so on, and we are still focusing on those things."

For over 112 years, tree seedlings were offered free of charge to prairie landowners through the federal tree nursery at Indian Head, SK, but federal funding was discontinued in 2013.

Since 2014, then, the association has been offering tree seedling sales to area landowners on a cost recovery basis. In 2025, they sold about 36,000 trees and shrubs, and 65 per cent of these trees were planted at Pembina Valley Watershed District sites.

In his annual report, Warkentin noted there was over 13 miles of new tree shelterbelt rows planted using 9,436 trees and 18 different varieties. In addition, there were 2,897 trees planted with a spade in gaps over 12.6 miles.

"Our most activity has to do with supplying trees for the watershed district. That's what keeps up busy for most of the winter and into spring. That's one of our biggest things," he said. "We only plant about a quarter

of what we actually supply. A lot of people find their own way to plant or they plant on their own.

"We do planting all over the place ... and everything is done on a cost recovery basis. We are a not for profit group, but we don't go into a hole. We try to do it at a reasonable rate."

Warkentin also noted how closely they work with the watershed district is a very positive thing for them, as they are able to play a vital supporting role considering the district goes all the way from Boissevain in the west to Letellier in the east.

"It's a big, wide area," he said. "We have almost sort of become an arm of the watershed district to provide services more in the eastern parts of the district."

Warkentin also touched on some of their other ongoing efforts:

- Spraying: directed spraying can be effective for weed control in shelterbelts. This year, 5.45 miles were sprayed.

- Mulch: plastic mulch provides weed control and helps conserve moisture for the trees for at least five years. The plastic mulch is placed over the trees after planting, and the operator pokes a hole in the mulch during application, and the tree is pulled through the hole.

In the past year, 9.81 miles were covered with plastic mulch, and maintenance was done by hoeing and tilling. Trees survive better if kept weed free for at least three years, so 2.45 miles were hoed and 1.25 miles were tilled.

- Abandoned well sealing: the association seals abandoned wells in the R.M. of Stanley through the Pembina



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Stanley Soil Management Association planted over 13 miles of new shelterbelt trees in 2025.

Valley Watershed District well sealing program. Landowners are charged \$150 to have the well sealed properly, while the average cost to seal a well is \$800. Wells on the Winkler aquifer are sealed free of charge. In 2025, five wells were sealed in the R.M. of Stanley and two on the Winkler aquifer.

- Educational activities: Presentations on the value of trees were done at five schools in the R.M. of Stanley, and they distributed 340 tree seedlings to students.

- Public awareness: There was a display and presentations made at various festivals in the area.

Finally, another ongoing effort is focused on diffuse knapweed monitor-

ing.

Diffuse knapweed is an invasive weed that is only found in the R.M. of Stanley in all of Manitoba. With assistance from watershed district summer staff, the association spent some time monitoring and spraying diffuse knapweed. They found more plants than they had for years, so they collected the plants and burned them.

"Diffuse knapweed is this weed that's been around for about 40 years in the RM of Stanley, and the goal is to eradicate it, but it's still kind of there," said Warkentin. "We need to bring that element of awareness that it's still there, and we need to still work at eradicating it."

CFDC wins Tourism Award for dig tour marketing

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (CFDC) has added another feather to its cap.

Last Thursday, the Morden museum took home the award for Marketing Campaign of the Year at the fourth annual Tourism Awards organized by Travel Manitoba.

The honour came in recognition of CFDC's work in promoting its Fossil Dig Adventure Tour, which gives visitors the opportunity to help paleontologists unearth 83-million-year-old fossils at its dig site in the Pembina Escarpment.

The museum really ramped up its marketing efforts for this unique experience during the 2025 dig season, shared executive director Adolfo Cuetara.

"So this award is huge for us," he said. "It's recognition of all the effort that we did last year.

"We are really honoured because there's so many incredible tourism businesses in Manitoba, so to be selected as the best between all of them, that's incredible."

Behind-the-scenes videos showcasing the dig tours racked up tens of thousands of views last summer, and the museum made national news for discoveries dug out by visitors. CFDC also signed a new agreement with travel company GetyourGuide to help it attract even more people to



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

CFDC's team—from left, paleontologist and board member Dr. Kirstin Brink, board member Monica Rodriguez, executive director Adolfo Cuetara, paleontologist and board member Dr. Melina Jobbins, paleontologist Bruno Costa, and board chair Henry Penner—at Travel Manitoba's Tourism Awards last week, where the Morden museum was honoured for best marketing campaign for its dig tours.

the tours.

"Last year we had more than double the amount of visitors than the year before," Cuetara shared. "And especially from outside the country—we have visitors coming from Australia, New Zealand England."

Bookings are already starting to fill up for the 2026 season, which Cuetara predicts will see even more growth.

"We have a lot of room to improve in the future," he said, noting they're limited to just 12 seats per tour due to the size of the current transport vehicle, but increased interest could see them find ways to boost those numbers with more vehicles or dig days.

The tours give people the chance to get truly hands-on with prehistory.

"They are actually digging up a skel-

eton. It's not like they're just looking for fossils in a field," Cuetara said. "They are helping us in a professionally established dig site to really dig out most of the skeleton. So every visitor is uncovering a new vertebra, a new tooth, a new limb element.

"We are very lucky to own those acres in the escarpment that are so rich in fossils."

> VOLUNTEER AWARDS, FROM PG. 15

actually did — whether they organized an initiative, mobilized others or mentored people — and then back it up with concrete results," she said.

She added that strong submissions clearly describe the need being addressed, who benefited and how widely the impact was felt, while also highlighting challenges such as limited resources, geography or stigma. Nominations that demonstrate sustained impact, partnerships or programs that can be replicated tend to stand out.

The Canada's Volunteer Awards program includes 21 awards, including the national Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement Award for individuals with more than 20 years of service, as well as 20 regional awards presented across five regions, including the Prairies.

Regional awards are presented in four categories: Community Leader, Emerging Leader, Business Leader

and Social Innovator.

While Martinussen said she could not speak to specific statistics, she believes Manitoba could be better represented in nominations.

"I would like to see more representation from Manitoba," she said. "Sometimes people feel they need to be from large urban centres to have reach and impact, but that's not true. Often the biggest impact is in smaller or rural communities where resources are limited."

She said a lack of awareness about the awards, along with the time required to prepare nominations, may also contribute to fewer submissions. In many cases, volunteers are focused on their work rather than seeking recognition, and may not see themselves as award-worthy.

For those unsure whether someone is "worthy" of being nominated, Martinussen said to move forward anyway.

"Often the people who feel the least worthy are the ones doing the work most quietly and consistently," she said. "These awards are about meeting a real need and making a meaningful difference, whether that's in a small community or within one organization."

Beyond recognition, the awards can have a lasting impact on recipients and their communities.

"Recognition can boost morale, raise the profile of an issue and open doors to new partnerships and volunteers," Martinussen said, noting recipients can also direct grant funding of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to a non-profit organization of their choice.

She added that the benefits often extend well beyond the individual recipient, helping organizations grow their volunteer base, strengthen partnerships and support future fundraising efforts.

To submit a nomination, applicants

must complete an online form and include between one and three letters of support from individuals with direct knowledge of the nominee's contributions.

Martinussen encourages nominators to be clear and specific, tying submissions closely to the program's criteria and including measurable examples wherever possible.

"A strong nomination is clear, specific and backed by real examples," she said. "Explain what they did, who benefited and what changed."

Virtual information sessions will be held May 20 (English) and May 21 (French) to help guide applicants through the process.

"Ultimately, nominating doesn't just celebrate one person or group — it strengthens a culture of service by showing volunteers that their time and impact truly matter," Martinussen said.

Flashback... It's all uphill for skateboarders

By Dennis Young

Following a presentation from five Collegiate students, town council approved a skateboard park in King's Park in 2001. The town not only donated the land but also provided \$1,000 toward surfacing the area. The facility was planned to cover a 40-by-90-foot space next to the tennis courts.

Mayor Rinn, at the time, said, "It's another way to keep our children busy. Right now, there is no place to skate other than on the roads, which we don't want."

Adult supervisor Candice Boxshall agreed and said she was encouraged by the support of council members. "That's great of the town to show faith in us," she said.

Leading the group, Tyler Forrest said, "Now all we need to do is fundraise." To do that, committee members launched a Purchase-a-Foot campaign. Donors could buy one square foot of the park, with their name displayed on a sign, for a tax-deductible \$100. Members also worked three bingos at the community hall.

After three months, and with the help of a \$4,000 Community Places grant, the official opening featured speeches, a ribbon-cutting, free hot dogs, music and boarding demonstrations.



A young skateboarder catches air at the King's Park skate park.

The next phase, according to Forrest, was to construct additional equipment in conjunction with classes at the Collegiate. "We're not quite sure what we will build during the winter," he said. "Just expand and improve what we have now, including bigger ramps."

After 25 years, the skate park has recently been approved to be replaced with a basketball facility.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The King's Park skate park, approved by town council in 2001 after a presentation from local Collegiate students, served as a community-built space for youth for 25 years before recently being approved for replacement with a basketball facility.

Big Brothers bringing Reese Ketler to Winkler May 21

Wheelchair rugby athlete to speak on resilience

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley is bringing a speaker to town next month with an inspiring story of resilience to share.

Six years ago, Winnipegger Reese Ketler was playing junior hockey when he collided with an opposing player and hit the boards headfirst. The resulting spinal cord injury left Ketler a quadriplegic.

In the years since, he's shared his journey of healing and independence on social media, becoming a popular content creator with hundreds of thousands of followers around the world.

Ketler will be at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre on Thursday, May 21 to share his thoughts on how a positive mindset, a strong support system, and role models can all change the direction of your life, no matter what obstacles life might throw in your way.

"He has experienced a lot of hardships, and he's a very, very inspiring individual," says Jenelle Neufeld, executive director of the local Big Bros. chapter. "He'll be speaking to the experiences he went through and the perspective that he had to have in order to come out the other side of it the way that he has."

Neufeld feels Ketler's story will certainly resonate with a lot of people.

"We're a very big hockey community, and he talks a lot about how he put a lot of his identity into being a hockey player, or just sports in general," she says, noting Ketler had to come to terms with losing the abilities he once had and discover a new path in life. Today, he is training to compete in wheelchair rugby at the 2028 Paralympic Games.

The evening, dubbed Big Resilience, will begin at 6:30 p.m. and include beverages, charcuterie, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$60 each at pembinavalley.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/big-resilience, or find the link on the agency's social media pages. Seating is limited, so book your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

Funds raised that night will go to support Big Brothers Big Sisters' ongoing mentoring programs for local youth.

"He's going to be speaking a lot about resilience, and I think a lot of our youth that we mentor are very resilient as well," observes Neufeld, noting Ketler also touches on the importance mentorship has had in his life.

If you can't make the evening but still want to support the cause, you can stop by the art gallery at 547 Park St. when it opens at 1 p.m. that day to take part in the silent auction. Auction prizes will be revealed in the days leading up to the event.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Reese Ketler was paralyzed during a hockey game six years ago. In the years since, he's shared his journey on social media with hundreds of thousands of followers.

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

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 RM of Roland office, 45 3rd St. in Roland during the regular hours of business, Monday to Friday 8:30a.m. till 12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m. to 4:30p.m.

To obtain a registration form, contact the municipal office at 204-343-2061 or by email to admin@rmofroland.ca

Dated at Roland on April 30, 2026.
Amber Klassen
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)
Rural Municipality of Roland
Box 119 Roland MB R0G 1T0
Phone: 343-2061
Email: admin@rmofroland.ca



Rural Municipality of Roland

Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant will be required to act as receptionist, cashier, and be able to perform basic accounting procedures. The ideal candidate will have excellent customer service skills, experience dealing with the public and excellent computer skills. Please see www.rmofroland.ca for full details on the job posting.

We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted. If you have questions please contact Jodi at 204-750-3229. Applications will be accepted until 4:30pm on May 22nd, 2026

Direct Applications with the cover letter and resume to:
reeve@rmofroland.ca
or Personnel Committee
RM of Roland
Box 119, Roland, MB R0G 1T0



Rural Municipality of Roland Chief Administrative Officer

The RM is looking for an Interim CAO for approximately 12 months of time, with possible extension. Open to discussing a part-time schedule with flexible hours. Start date as soon as possible. If position is part time duties would be prioritized.

The CAO is responsible for providing leadership for the general management of the municipality. Working cohesively with elected officials, rate-payers, community organizations, neighboring municipalities and interested stakeholders. The ideal candidate will be an effective communicator, with a strong background in municipal administration, financial management and human resources.

Please see www.rmofroland.ca for full posting details.

We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted. If you have questions please contact Jodi at 204-750-3229. Applications will be accepted until 4:30pm on May 22nd, 2026

Direct Applications with the cover letter and resume to:
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Sudoku Answer

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



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> GAMES

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

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NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROLAND

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at: the R.M. of Roland Municipal Office, 45 3rd Street, Roland, Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Senior Election Official (S.E.O.) will be available to update the Voters List by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- a resident of the Rural Municipality of Roland for at least 6 months prior to election day,
OR a registered owner of land in the Municipality for at least 6 months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION

A voter may apply in writing to the S.E.O. (at the address below) no later than September 22, 2026, to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or by email and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the Voters List must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

Amber Klassen
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)
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- Duties other than craning
 - Operate powered/hand tools (rigging, drills, grinders, cutting torches)
 - Load/unload construction materials and general job site duties.



SPRING

Home and garden TLC time

SPRING IS HERE! Have you prepared your home and yard to welcome it?

As the excitement of warmer weather returns, it is the perfect time to tackle essential spring-cleaning tasks around your home and yard. Taking proactive steps now ensures you make the most of the season while avoiding unpleasant surprises or costly repairs down the line. Here is a comprehensive checklist to help you inspect and prepare your property.

Start by testing your air conditioner to ensure it is in good working order before the first heatwave hits. Cleaning filters and evaporator coils according to the manufacturer's instructions will optimize efficiency. Next, examine your window screens for winter damage and replace them as needed to help regulate indoor humidity. Ensure all windows open and close properly for optimal ventilation.

Inspect your attic and ceilings for signs of water damage, such as stains, peeling paint, or mould. While there, check for animal infestations and remove any nests. Move to the exterior to examine your roof for missing shingles or pooling water. Similarly, clear debris from gutters to ensure water drains away from your foundation, checking for leaks that could compromise their efficiency. Finally, look for foundation cracks; while you can seal hairline cracks yourself, hire an expert for any gaps wider than one centimetre.

Check outdoor faucets for hidden pipe leaks by covering the spout with your thumb; if you can stop the flow, there may be a leak. For the yard, sharpen blades and check oil levels

in your lawn mower and other power tools. Finally, manage your vegetation by clearing broken branch-

es and trimming greenery away from your siding to deter pests. Pruning your perennials now will also

encourage healthy growth.

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