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GAZETTE-REPORTER



Rejuvenated Ag Days fills the Keystone



Farmers, suppliers and Ag industry supporters flooded the Keystone Centre in Brandon this past week as Ag Days has come back stronger than ever. The facility had Ag displays in every corner, much to the delight of suppliers and customers. The main arena was a hub of activity. In addition to government officials, there were numerous speakers on every topic imaginable.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE WADDELL
Students crowded around Ag Days booths including the University of Manitoba booth at Ag Days. Ag Days was held January 18-20.

New guidelines announced

When I was quite young, that is in the early 1960s, our school had a number of speakers come in to our school. I don't remember if the one particular speaker was from the government or perhaps from Alcoholics Anonymous but I do remember the message. The man said, "The only way to avoid becoming an alcoholic is to never take the first drink." The sheer logic struck me quite clearly. The implication was that if you never start drinking alcohol you can't become an alcoholic. Fifty years ago, alcoholism was a problem and it's still a problem today. Everybody has seen or been affected by alcoholism.

In the many years in between now and the 1960s, the pressure to consume liquor has become a mainstay of advertising. You can't go very far without being bombarded by how good the party will be or how good you will feel if you consume alcohol. The government also advertises how to cope with drinking and living, drinking and driving and how to get help for alcoholism.

New alcohol consumption guidelines were released Tuesday by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, or CCSA. Their studies recommend a huge reduction in consumption, down to two drinks per week. The implication

is that alcohol consumption causes cancer and other diseases. Many people who have observed the onset of dementia will relate it to heavy alcohol usage. These types of warnings come in addition to the usual cautions against weight gain, possible harmful behaviour and the devastation to individuals and families due to alcohol addiction.

While all this information, both old and new, is helpful and it may actually curb consumption somewhat, it is still all about individual decisions. The information should be put out there for all to see, but I hope the government doesn't get too involved in the process.

Already there are pleas for more government restrictions on the sale of alcohol. Some want to see pictures put on booze bottles in the same way as pictures on cigarette packages. Pictures showing all kinds of grim health results from smoking.

People know that smoking tobacco is both expensive and harmful. People know that alcohol consumption can be devastating. I doubt that pictures will have much effect, but I may be wrong.

Anyway, the key message in the recent recommendations, that more than two drinks a week increase health risks. Seven drinks a week apparently raises risk quite high for cancer, heart

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



attacks and strokes.

Some people already avoid these stated risks by not smoking or drinking and that's a good thing. Some use tobacco or alcohol in moderation, but everybody knows that both are addictive. Some will say the alcohol and tobacco aren't nearly as bad as illegal drugs, and that is true.

The point is that whatever we put into our bodies has an effect and often harmful ones. In addition to the above named products, there are many prescription drugs and ordinary foods that can be harmful as well. I daresay, obesity probably wears down more people than alcohol.

That all said, my school days speaker's advice to never take the first alcoholic drink was good advice. I admit, I have not always followed it. The never take the first one applies equally to tobacco, marijuana, illicit drugs and many other substances.

The advice doesn't apply to food of course. Not eating isn't an option but healthy food choices are an option, and need to be sought out.

I just hope that governments restrict their activities and public expenses to putting out accurate information and not get into mountains of regulations and expense. Put out accurate information and let people make their choices. Save us the wearisome blather and public expense.

Let people decide and please cut the regulations.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner staff.

We were born that way

The second half of Genesis 3 contains words of condemnation to which we can easily relate; because we have been living with the effects of those words ever since.

In response to the sins of our first parents; God evicted them from the earthly paradise that had been their home. They left a world in which they lacked nothing and entered a world that had become chaotic, turbulent and violent; a world in which the components fought each other instead of working together.

That's the world into which you and I were born and in which we live. It is not a safe world. At any moment, at any place on earth, someone can become a victim of violence.

Sometimes it comes in the form of a flood, blizzard, earthquake, tornado, wild fire or similar natural disaster that damages property and with it, the hopes and dreams of those who invested a lifetime of effort in building it.

Sometimes, the violence is caused by the deliberate actions of those who take the law into their own hands and exploit, abuse, misuse, torment, torture and sometimes cause the death of other human beings.

So from the moment we enter this world, we are locked in a life-and-death struggle for survival. And just like the contestants on the TV show Survivor, we

must "Outwit, Outlast and Outplay" other humans and nature itself just to survive. Human history is filled with accounts of people who have extreme measures to ensure that they, their descendants, and those like them can live in a land they dominate and control.

Was it always that way? No. In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and put the first two people on this planet, all of creation lived in peace and safety under God's command. But when our first parents decided to turn to their own way (see Isaiah 53:6), their selfish acts brought chaos into their own lives, into their relationship and into the beautiful world that God had created.

That chaos, fueled by selfishness, has been with us ever since. In a fit of jealous rage Cain, the first child born to human parents murdered his brother Abel. Why? Because God accepted Abel's sin offering and rejected Cain's. One act of jealousy, selfishness and anger was all it took to reduce the world's population by 25 per cent.

Not much has changed since then. The selfishness and self-centeredness that Adam (the father of us all) displayed was passed on to his son Cain. He passed those traits on to his descendants; and every generation since then has done the same. Our parents passed those traits on to us and we passed them on

FAITHFULLY YOURS NEIL STROHSCHNEIN



to our children.

Long before they were able to speak a word, we could tell by how they cried whether our children were hungry, needed a diaper change or throwing a temper tantrum. The first word they spoke was "No!" They learned it from us-and learned that if they didn't want to do what we asked them to do, all they had to do was say "No." That's when we learned that the clash of wills that began in Genesis 3 was alive and well in our homes.

That selfish, self-centered attitude exists in all of us. We were born that way. But we don't have to be bound by it. We can learn to be selfless and to put others ahead of ourselves; and we must-if we want to help save our world from total collapse.

More on that next week.

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HOME BODIES
BY RITA FRIESEN
DON'T BE A SHELDON...

The Sheldon to whom I am referring is a fictionist character, the beloved quirking genius from The Bing Bang Theory show. He lacks social skills, despises change- of any type- and is quite self-centred. We(I) can chuckle indulgently when he fixates on ‘his’ spot on the couch, or rushes to provide a hot beverage when someone appears distressed. Yikes...what spot on the couch of mine am I protecting and defending? It’s a place to sit- all metaphorically. Parts of our society have become egocentric, placing their wants above the needs of others. And it is way easier to pour a cup of tea or hot cocoa as the situation demands, than to respectfully and fully listen to the burden another needs to share. I know a show is simply a show. It is however an accurate portrayal of human nature, and some days I am a Sheldon, some days a bossy Bernadette and very seldom am I a Howard!

Be a Harry....
Harry was/is a real life person. My friendship with him began after the death of his beloved wife and when Ed began singing in the choir. It was easy to sit beside Harry and chat lightly as we waited for the service to start. As life moved on and Harry

became dependant on assistance, while maintaining his independence in thinking, our relationship changed. I would pop by the care home and invite him to join me for a drive. He always checked at the desk for permission, informing them of our expected time of return, and then thank them. After one such exchange, as we walked away, Harry gently said- a little thank you goes a long way. We would go for a drive and then stop at his preferred coffee shop. People would stop by and exchange pleasantries, never having the time to truly stop and visit. One day I mentioned it was nice to get out and talk with old acquaintances. With true Harry wisdom, and with a sad smile, he replied- they talk at me, not to me. And then, when I dropped him back at the care home, walked to the door with him, he would always turn and say- thanks a million. That was a thank you from the heart. The day I dropped in and invited him out, and he declined, I saw, too, that his sight had now turned inward...

Harry was the salt of the earth, and he could be the pepper when needed. He worked tirelessly for his family and his community, stepping into public positions, introducing change, and taking flack. Enjoying life as he lived, sports especially, and always humble.

There are times when we/I need to hold up the mirror, in glaring blaring daylight, and see what others see when they see me. It is easy to be a Sheldon, perhaps not even aware of the blessings of life we are missing with our narrow vision. It is a gift to others and ourselves when we are thankful, serving, humble and caring. We have the choice. I choose to try to be like Harry.

Additional Provincial Child Care funding

Submitted
MANITOBA GOVERNEMENT

As part of the Manitoba government’s ongoing commitment to provide affordable and accessible child-care services for Manitoba families, the province is investing an additional \$600,000 in the expansion of the child-care centre at the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) of Brandon’s Y Downtown Early Learning Centre, Premier Heather Stefanson and Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Wayne Ewasko announced here today.

“Our government continues to be a national leader in providing affordable child-care services, which is critical to ensuring Manitobans can participate in the workforce, support their family and play an active role in the growth of our communities and economy,” said Stefanson. “This expansion project will double the number of spaces at the Y Downtown and ensure families in the Brandon area have access to high-quality child care in their community.”

In July 2022, the Manitoba government announced \$600,000 for the project through the Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund, which provides recipients with capital grant funding for child-care centre development projects, the premier noted, adding this investment doubles that commitment and brings total government investment in the project to \$1.2 million.

Recently, the Manitoba government increased the contribution under the building fund to 60 per cent from 40 per cent of total eligible project construction costs supporting its commitment to create 23,000 child-care spaces by 2025-26. Under annual provincial funding, eligible capital projects will receive capital funding up to a maximum of \$1.2 million.

“This change will enable more spaces to be developed and improve access to licensed early learning and child-care programs for all children, regardless of where they live,” said Ewasko. “Working with our federal and sector partners, we remain committed to strengthening the system and ensuring affordable, accessible child care is available for Manitoba families.”

The Y Downtown’s child-care capacity will double to 96 from 48 spaces once the project is complete, creating 12 new infant spaces and 36 preschool spaces, helping more families in need of child-care services.

The expansion of the Y Downtown’s child-care facility is part of a larger project underway at the YMCA of Brandon. In addition to increasing accessibility to child-care spaces, the project features initiatives that will enhance community services, especially for youth, seniors and families. These initiatives include increasing space for supportive programming and creating two outdoor play areas. The centre expansion is expected to open in November 2023, the premier noted.

“The YMCA of Brandon appreciates the continued investment by the Manitoba government to address the significant need for child-care spaces in Brandon and throughout Manitoba,” said Lon Cullen, chief executive officer, YMCA of Brandon. “Every additional space means that more families will have access to quality care. With the opening of Y Downtown in the fall, parents from over 40 families will be able to work, contributing to the economy of our region, knowing their children will be well cared for.”

More on page 7

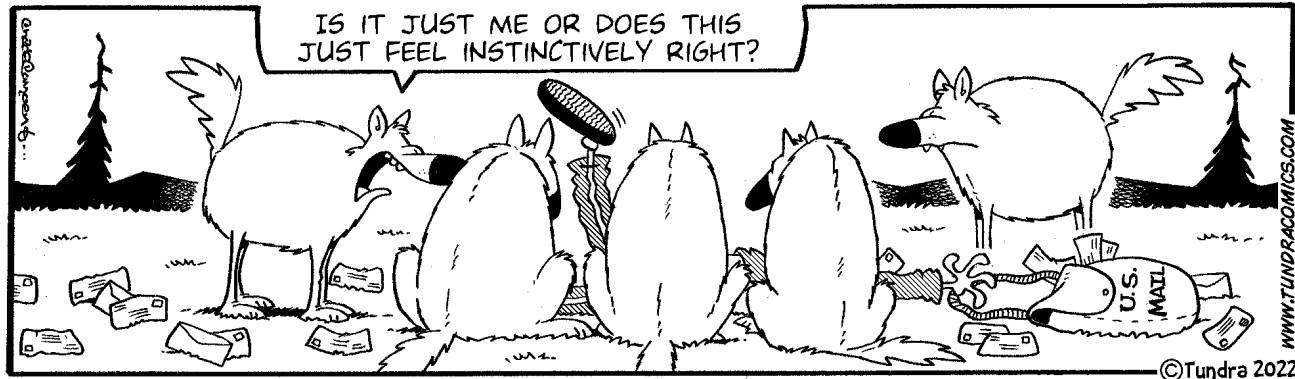
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Submitted
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Look around you. Do you see small keys to your happiness?

If you're at home, you should. Our homes, their intricacies and contents contribute a lot to our overall sense of well-being. The light that comes through the kitchen windows in the morning, the ability to talk to your friends in the living room while you're preparing dinner, and the coziness of the spot where you go to rest are all key examples of why our homes are so important

to our lives.

All these things shape the way we interact with our immediate environment and are a subtle, even subconscious, probe of either positive or negative information. Does your favourite reading spot remind you of the nook where you found your passion for books? Does your ability to create a beautiful holiday scene in your open living space bring you a small smile each time you see it? These seemingly small details can add a lot of love and positivity to our lives.

That's why building

the right home for you is so important.

If you're looking at or considering building a home, choosing the right builder can be the difference between a nightmare and bliss both during and after the process. The Better Business Bureau advises checking all prospects with your local home builders' association.

Members of the Manitoba Home Builders' Association must adhere to a higher level of conduct and professionalism in order to remain in good standing. They have a deep understanding of

what policies and permits must be considered and tend to be reliable.

When it comes to the space in which you'll be spending the majority of your life, you want to everything is completed in the manner you desire. You also want to ensure the home won't experience problems in the near to mid future due to builder neglect or inferior workmanship. Unfortunately, trusting someone with this task is a task in itself. The BBB also recommends getting references from family and friends and checking companies' profiles on bbb.org.

Once you have a list of potential builders, the BBB recommends discussing three

major pillars with the prospective companies: style, experience and licensing.

If you have a particular style in mind, ask for examples of other homes they've constructed in this style to ensure they're a fit for you. Find out how long they've been in business as a way to check their track record of success. And check in about permits. You should do some of your own research here to ensure you have the required licensing you need before proceeding.

While discussing these things with companies, take note of how they respond. If you feel you can easily communicate with them, they're quick to respond, and they

display transparency, take this as a good sign of a potential partnership. You can also ask how they will deal with changes or issues that arise to ensure you're on the same page as the process moves forward.

Remember, always check bbb.org before you buy!

Building a home can be a stressful process, which is amplified by builders who are unethical with their customers. Save yourself the stress and create a home that will keep you happy by doing your diligence before deciding on the hands that will do the work. For more advice or to review company profiles, visit bbb.org/Manitoba.



PHOTO FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

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Manitoba 

2023 - Year of risk management

Cam Dahl
MANITOBA PORK COUNCIL

"Goodriddance" is the most common response I hear to the passing of 2022. It was a year of uncertainty. We saw disruptions to supply chains, reverberations from COVID-19, the war in Ukraine impacted markets, and African Swine Fever (ASF) jolted traditional supply and demand. Will 2023 be any better? Many of the market disruptors from last year will continue. However, this year, we can see these uncertainties in advance and mitigate some of the associated risks.

What uncertainties face the pork value chain at the start of 2023? The war in Ukraine is going to continue to cause significant disruption, resulting in high feed prices and price instability. What will the price of corn or soybean meal be in six months? If someone gives you firm answers to these questions, don't believe them. Accurate prediction is challenging under the current market conditions.

Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 continue to introduce volatility. As a result of the pandemic, we shifted from a logistics system that was "just in time" to one that is "just in case". A "just in case" logistics chain increases the cost of inputs and pushes up the cost of getting pork to market.

There are also

significant economic factors building uncertainty into the global demand for pork. Rising inflation, especially for food, will impact pork demand. By how much? This is an open question that has no easy answers. Related to rising inflation is interest rate uncertainty and exchange rate volatility.

There are other market impacts to consider. To what degree has China recovered from ASF and what will this mean for their pork demand? What about other ASF impacted countries like Vietnam and the Philippines? What will happen to European production, in light of ASF pressure, escalating feed cost and restricted feed availability, driven by the war in Ukraine? These are very big market questions for 2023.

Disease will continue to be a significant production risk in the year ahead. Will Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) be an issue this year? Will Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) enter Canada in a substantive way? Outside of ASF, are there other diseases that we should be paying attention to?

Economics has been called the dismal science. Not hard to see why when reading this introduction to 2023, but the outlook is far from gloomy. The positive hog prices we see coming into the new year have support going forward. Pork

consumption, both at home and abroad, remains strong. Pork supply is tight internationally, with European production slipping, U.S. hog numbers on a downward trend, and Asian production below average because of ASF. However, risks and uncertainty are real, and risk management is critical to realizing positive potential and securing profitability.

Where should producers focus their risk mitigation efforts? Currency fluctuation is one area. Ninety percent of the 8 million pigs produced in Manitoba are exported, either as animals going into U.S. feeder operations or as pork shipped around the world. All this production is priced in U.S. dollars. International volatility, both financial and political, drives fluctuations in the spread between Canadian and U.S. currencies. If there ever was a time for producers to look for advice on protecting themselves from currency risk, 2023 is that time.

Long term hedging of inputs makes sense for 2023. Forward feed contracts are one tool that can accomplish this goal. This may be an area where individual operations can benefit from additional third-party expertise. The same comment applies to examining ways of protecting prices for future hog production. This can be achieved

through forward contracting with processors or using the futures markets. Again, there are professionals who provide advice on how best to manage anticipated price volatility and mitigate risk.

Disease pressure is one of the biggest threats to profitability. This is a risk over which we do have some control, even if that control is not complete. We mitigate disease risk through rigorous adherence to biosecurity protocols, whether that risk is from diseases like PED or PRRS, or the more threatening foreign animal diseases like ASF. Animals that are brought into barns must be screened to be free of new diseases, as should feed. Pork producers also should restrict contact with the outside world through carefully limiting barn access to only those who provide animal care. Potential for exposure through ventilation equipment or loading facilities needs to be examined. Together with the Canadian Pork Council, Manitoba Pork is offering biosecurity evaluations for producers. Plugging potential biosecurity holes is one of the most important risk mitigation efforts that producers can undertake to prepare for 2023 (and beyond). I encourage producers to call to set up an assessment.

There are reasons for pork producers to be optimistic for 2023, but

there are also levels of risk and uncertainty that we have not seen before. Greater attention to risk mitigation, especially in terms of hedging input costs, hog prices and marketing conditions, and reducing the risk of disease spread will reduce the downside margin potential and flatten volatility. This is a year where time and attention to risk mitigation will be money well spent.

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Obituary

VIOLET BOWMAN



Violet "Vi" Ann Bowman
passed away peacefully,
with family by her side, at
Riverdale Personal Care
Home on Friday January
6th, 2023 at the age of 93.
Violet was born the second
oldest of five children to
Sylvia and Frederick Mansky
in Reddit, ON on March 28th,
1929. Violet spent her younger
days working at a candy factory,
as a hairdresser and later at Bollman Brothers Print Shop
in Winnipeg before eventually making her way out to the
Rosemeath Farm near Rivers, MB. The farm is where she
spent the majority of her life and where she raised her three
girls with her husband Ted. Violet retired at the age of 50,
from Leech Printing - she and Ted spent some of their
early retirement time travelling and taking long road trips
to Chicago, Texas, Nevada and BC. Vi loved to knit and
was very talented in doing so. She kept her children and
grandchildren well stocked with toques, mittens, scarves
and sweaters. Gardening was another one of her passions
and she spent countless hours pulling weeds, hauling water
by hand, harvesting vegetables, canning and pickling and
was always sure to share her bounty with family, friends and
neighbors. With her love of gardening, it is of no surprise
that Vi had a passion for all things food - restaurants,
cooking, and groceries. She was known for putting the miles
on every week making her rounds throughout the small
towns of Western Manitoba in search of the freshest buns,
sausages and eggs - often with at least one grandchild in
tow. Vi had a special knack for turning everyday errands
into adventures when her grandchildren were with her,
"no" was rarely an answer, and fun was sure to be had.
Violet loved spending time with her grandchildren - from
babysitting, to sleepovers, to sporting events and school
activities, she made sure to be there. She loved more than
anything spending time with her family and was always
looking for the next reason to get everyone together for
a feast and a few laughs. The footloose and fancy-free
lifestyle she lived has left us endless stories to laugh about
and reminisce over. She taught us that laughter truly is the
best medicine, and for that we are forever grateful. "It's not
goodbye, it's we'll see you later." Violet is survived by her
daughters Debbie (Morris), Heather (Blair), Brenda (Fred),
seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Her
family will hold a private Celebration of Life at a later date.
Violet's family would like to thank Dr. Anita and the staff at
the Riverdale Personal Care Home for the excellent care
she received during her time there. Donations in Violet's
memory can be made to a charity of choice.

In Memory

James F Irvine

March 12, 1950 - January 20, 2016



They say time makes it easier
but not for us. We still miss you
everyday. Remember and loved
by Dora, Jamie and family, John,
Auntie Mary, family and friends.

Obituary

ANNA KRAHN



Anna Margaretha "Anne" (nee
Penner), age 94 years, entered
the presence of her Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ, on Sat-
urday, December 24, 2022 at
the Riverdale Health Centre,
Rivers, Manitoba. Born April 5,
1928, in Gretna, Manitoba, to
Jacob and Margaretha Penner,
German Mennonite immigrants
from Ukraine. She was the fifth of
seven children and the first to be born
in Canada. Various communities in eastern
Manitoba and the Interlake became the family's home because
of Jacob's work as a schoolteacher, including Grunthal, Dallas,
and Steinbach. Due to the shortage of teachers during World
War 2, and before she had finished high school, Anne was asked
to teach for a year at the one-room Cedar Grove School, near
Marchand, MB, a task for which she felt woefully unprepared.
The following year she attended Mennonite Collegiate Institute
in Gretna for Grade 12 where she met George Krahn of Rivers.
This began a love that endured through four years of letters
and 66 years of marriage. After high school, Anne worked as
a housemaid in several prominent Winnipeg homes, sending
money home to her parents and saving for a treadle sewing
machine of her own. She took a course in sewing to hone her
skills and enjoyed creating detailed and delightful clothes for
herself, for children and grandchildren, and most memorably,
for dolls. Anne and George were married October 7, 1950 and
moved to the Krahn farm east of Rivers where they farmed for
60 years. Their disappointment that the car they hoped to use
on a honeymoon was wrecked the morning of their wedding
turned to excitement in 1966 with a trip to Disneyland, California
accompanied by dear, fun-loving friends. For Anne, farm life
meant growing flowers as well as garden produce to freeze
and preserve, and enjoying the beauties of nature. She often
expanded the family table to include anyone who arrived to
work or visit. She became well-known for her delicious fruit pies
which often found their way to people in distress, and for her
sympathetic ear and encouragement for many a downtrodden
soul. Four children were born to George and Anne - Rudy, Becky,
Eleanor, and Ted - and these were always assured of their mom's
love, interest, and supportive prayers. Besides raising a family in
the Christian faith, some of Anne's greatest achievements were
overcoming. She overcame shyness beginning with the book
How to Win Friends and Influence People, eventually perfecting
the art of drawing out and listening to people. She overcame
her fear of water when, in her forties, she enrolled in a "scared
spitless" swim class. And she overcame a long-standing fear
of driving when she passed her driver's test for the first time
at age 65. Most importantly, Anne overcame a deep personal
depression in the early 1950s when God prompted her to make
certain her eternal destiny. She took Jesus at His word when He
said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me,
though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes
in Me shall never die." John 11:25, 26. Anne began to regularly
listen to Back to the Bible radio broadcasts and enrolled in their
Bible lessons. From there, her hunger to know Jesus increased,
helped by a Bible study with others in the community. Her joy
grew into a love of teaching children in summer Vacation Bible
school as well as decades of teaching Sunday School to 4-
and 5-year-olds. The love of learning never left her and despite
poor eyesight in recent years, she carefully studied Scripture
until the day her faith became sight. Anne had a phenomenal
memory, beginning with memorizing 300 Bible verses to earn
a week at summer camp as a youngster, and continuing into
adulthood when she spent several years participating in the Bible
Memory Association program. She could recite many poems
and knew the birthdays of all extended family which she used
as reminders to pray for them. Anne loved children, jokes and
puns, spelling gaffes, and word games like Scrabble, and often
used her creativity to write rhyming thank you notes. Kindness
and selflessness personified Anne - a woman of deep faith and
great love - and her children and grandchildren "rise up and call
her blessed." Anne is survived by four children, Rudy (Marena)
Krahn, Becky (Keith) Magill, Eleanor (Mike) Bertin, and Ted
(Rhonda) Krahn; sixteen grandchildren; Krystena (Ian) Herbert,
Anna (Ben) Larson, Catherine Magill, Stephen (Megan) Magill,
Esther (Chris) Crane, John (Rebekah) Magill, and Elizabeth
(Valeri) Birnbaum, Ben (Christy) Bertin, Dan (Cara) Bertin,
Tommy (Erika) Bertin, Becky (John) Hurst, Jonny (Kass) Bertin,
and Timothy Bertin, Alyssa (Derek) Friesen, Josh Krahn, and
Heidi (Alex) McPherson and thirty-two great-grandchildren; one
sister, Erica Lepp; four sisters-in-law, Katherine Penner, Lydia
Penner, Helen Krahn, and Helen (Tony) Klassen, as well as many
nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband,
George in 2016; parents, Margaretha and Jacob; sister-in-law
Annie Krahn; sisters Margaret Martens and Mary Wiens, brothers
John Penner, Rudy Penner, and Jake Penner, brothers-in-law
John Krahn and Henry Krahn, and grandson Paul Bertin. Anne
will be laid to rest beside her husband, George, in a private family
graveside service at Rivers Mennonite Cemetery, Rivers, MB. A
memorial service will be held in Brandon, July 2023. Donations
in memory of Anne may be made to
..... Expressions of sympathy may be made at
www.memorieschapel.com.

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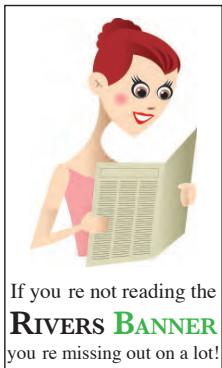
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Childcare improvements for the Westman area

Continued from page 3

While the Y Brandon project is funded by the province, the Manitoba government has partnered with the federal government to invest in a number of significant investments in child care as part of the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and the extended Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, both launched in 2022.

Child-care investments under this partnership include:

Almost \$37 million to support wage equity for early learning and child-care staff;

\$6.6 million to help recruit and retain staff by providing a one-time retroactive wage supplement for the lowest-paid child-care assistants and early childhood educators;

more than \$1 million for a child-care pilot project in Winnipeg that will help newcomers find reliable child care and maintain employment;

more than \$4 million to reimburse tuition of early childhood educator students by up to \$5,000 per school year;

more than \$1 million to support a community-based capital project to create 40 new child-care spaces at a new centre in Oakville; and up to \$70 million in capital funding for new child-care facilities, creating more than 1,200 new, regulated non-profit child-care spaces with a focus on rural and First Nations communities.

To learn more about the Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund at: https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/resources/building_fund.html.

For more information on early learning and child care in Manitoba, visit: <https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/>.

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Winter survival in the garden

Patricia Hanbidge
SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE

Trees being so visible in the landscape are also the most exposed. I am always amazed by trees in the landscape but especially on the coldest days of winter. Days that are so cold that cars won't run and the human factor hardly strays outside. Those days of -40C with a windchill that makes the temperatures outside deadly.

In order for trees to survive the winter to again grow in spring it is really kind of miraculous! However, they must have adaptations in order to survive the cold of winter but also the severe drying conditions. Unlike the animals (and humans) they cannot change their geographical location and they certainly can't put on or grow a winter coat. They meet winter head on without any clothes on at all. They therefore must rely on physiological and structural adaptations in order to survive.

In summer, the height of trees is advantageous as there is nothing in nature that competes for sunlight at

that level. However, in the winter that same height is a liability as tissues become extremely exposed to the weather. In order to survive the trees need to use a variety of strategies.

Trees will either shed their leaves or in the case of evergreens will adapt strategies for leaf retention. The leaves are a major source of water loss and would be difficult to protect in winter conditions. Deciduous trees will therefore drop their leaves to aid in winter survival. This leaf drop is stimulated by changes in the photoperiod or daylength which is followed by a radical change in the chemical and hormonal make up in the tree itself. There is a complex process where abscission layers between the leaves and stems are formed which essentially causes the leaf drop itself. You will notice that all trees do not drop their leaves at the same time which is because the processes that occur within the tree are specific to the tree itself. Evergreens will also shed their leaves but not all of them at the same time. The exception to this are the deciduous evergreens like

Tamarack and Larch who lose their leaves seasonally. Most evergreens also have a thick coating on the leaves (cutin) that assists in reducing the amount of water lost. They have a few other adaptations that include a tighter stomatal closure (pores that allow air and water to pass in and out of the leaf) which further reduces winter water loss.

Trees that are able to survive the winter have acclimatized to the climate. This cellular process helps to exploit the physical properties of water which aids in survival through the winter. However, each species and in fact each individual specimen will have a killing temperature. Within the cell itself there are changes that can slightly reduce the freezing point by changing the solute concentrations within the cell. This concentration change within the cell further helps with survival by causing the area outside the cell (which has a higher concentration of water) to freeze first which in turn releases a small amount of heat energy which also aids in individual cell survival.

For deciduous trees, the biomass

above ground is relatively water tight as stems and buds lose very little water. However, for evergreens, even in winter there is water loss through the leaf tissues. On sunny days the sun shining on the leaves can increase the temperature significantly enough to be above the ambient air temperature. As a result, metabolic rates rise; the internal vapour pressure increases and even with all the protective measures will cause the net loss of water and desiccation of the leaf tissue. Hence, the importance of ensuring that evergreens go into winter in a well

hydrated state. So the next day that is bitterly cold, take a moment to think about the trees that surround you and the wonders of nature and its adaptations that allow survival outside without any clothes on! I cannot take credit for the image of the tree trunks festively wrapped in crocheted blankets in South Korea, but I enjoyed it and hope you do as well. Take a moment to enjoy the video about this as well at <https://www.almostmag.co/south-korea-crochet-blanket-trees-seoul/>



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