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FEBRUARY 28, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 120 NO 28 / ADVANCE: VOL 139 NO 30 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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Skate Virden show features chocolatey theme



Skating to 'A World of Your Own': Mia du Plessis, Bailee Dane, Evie McAdam, Luke Greenbank, Gracy Russell, Ainslee McGregor, Emma Errington.



Skaters perform 'Never had Chocolate Like This': Aliyah Bouchie, Avayah Casson, Braylee McConnell, Emma Irvine, Esme Johnson, Maycee Dryden, Rhyleigh Langlois, Riatta McKinnon, Kendrix Campbell, Willow Nugent.



Skate Virden's Willy Wonka On Ice opens with 'I've Got a Golden Ticket' featuring Luke Greenbank in the lift and other skaters: Kaylee Malcolm, Mia duPlessis, Bailee Dane, and Evie McAdam.



PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISON

Star 4 Synchro Team with Annabelle Russell, Ava Murray, Avery Anderson, Aviana Hall, Brynlee Boyd, Callie Bennett, Elizabeth Soroka, Finley Ross, Locklynn Hayward, Nuala Harkness, Robyn Hayward, Sada Woolridge, Sarah Warkentin, Sophia Bailey.

By **Anne Davison**
 EMPIRE ADVANCE

The arena became a magical place with Willy Wonka balloon bubble décor inviting the audience into Willy Wonka On Ice. The Friday evening Skate Virden ice show where four-years-

olds through competitive skaters and the adult synchro team performed.

Music from the 1971 American musical fantasy film Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory set a mischievous tone.

Graduating skaters Addison Cousins and Rory Greenbank performed in their final

Skate Virden ice show. At intermission, most improved and dedicated skaters in each level were awarded and volunteer skating helpers were recognized.

Celebrity figure skater Kurt Browning with vocalist Geoffry Tyler topped off the show with Sing In The Rain.



VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
TUESDAY, MARCH 4
VS. NIVERVILLE
NIGHTHAWKS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



SCOUTS MEET THE MAYOR

P11



FARMERS' ADVOCATE

P12-14



PHOTO BY SKATE VIRDEN

Figure skaters graduating from Grade 12 this year, Rory Greenbank and Addison Cousins are flanked by Skate Virden coaches Patricia Hole (left) and Cindy Mahoney (right).



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Kurt Browning took time for everyone and especially for a figure skater who travelled 12 hours to bask in figure skating glory in her home province. Browning and Eileen Olson share some fun.

Skaters reunite

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Friday evening Skate Virden ice show and Kurt Browning's performance stirred memories of skating glory, and for members of the figure skating community in particular, it was a stellar evening.

A fan and former figure skater, Eileen Olson, drove from southern Nebraska to be in the audience Friday night. Eileen (nee) Mustard had grown up in Killarney, Manitoba and as a skater in the early '70s she was acquainted with members of the sport from southwest Manitoba including Joan Peel (Berry), Terry McSorley and Kim Howell, while the well-known Hamiota born skater Lyndon Johnson was her dance partner.

Hearing there was a member of the skating community who'd driven 12 hours to be there, Browning invited Eileen to come and say hello following his performance. Olson was thrilled to be at Tundra Oil & Gas Place and it was a special moment when she came from the stands to say hello to this champion of the skating world.

Her decision to reconnect with skating friends was inspired by Kim Howell who had initially introduced her to Patricia Hole. And it turns out Patricia's husband, Howard Hole, was a hockey player from Boissevain. "The Hole boys were really good hockey players," Eileen recounted. And so goes the web of connections.

Eileen became a skating instructor, and is now a trial judge in Omaha. She admires Patricia's continued on-ice involvement in the sport. Hearing of Browning's part in Skate Virden's weekend and talking with Patricia and friends such as Joan, Eileen decided to make the trip.

Basking in the enthusiasm of the Willy Wonka On Ice show, and remembering her own busy skating life as a youth, she noted that it's different in Nebraska. "It's not a big sport in the mid-west, like it is here." But she hopes her four-year-old granddaughter in lessons in Lincoln, Nebraska, will develop a passion for the sport.



Kurt Browning made a special effort to assist the youngest of the skaters at the Virden Ice Show.

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It's this Cowboy Carpenter's (Joe Alexander) 80th Birthday on Feb 27th!



Happy Birthday Uncle Joe!
Love the Horns and the Chisholms

Browning thrills audience, recharges skaters' batteries

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Kurt Browning's cameo performance to Singin' in the Rain capped off Skate Virden's entertaining ice show. Umbrella in hand, he depicted the love smitten 'Don' from the 1952 movie. Accompanied on ice by soloist Geoffrey Tyler, the skater's spins and dashing pantomime presentation brought the house to their feet.

Browning clearly enjoyed performing but he was in town to help young skaters not only grow in their skills, but in the love of the sport.

During the Willy Wonka On Ice presentation he assisted in one of the final performances by the smallest skaters, the Oompa Loompas, stopping to set one or two upsets back on their feet during the very cute routine.

Kurt Browning took time for an interview with the Empire-Advance.

Q & A: *What do you hope to accomplish over the next two-day seminar you are here for?*

I know Elvis Stojko was here recently...he's very funny, and the kids have a great time, but he's also very technical.

My seminars are much more orientated towards the joy of skating, and making sure that it's almost like recharging their batteries. There's skating skills, and of course we touch on jumps, all those traditional skating elements that are important. But I feel like my seminars are even more about self-awareness, self-worth, and enjoying your skating, because I think people keep comparing themselves to something they've seen on TV, or something they think they should be, and then they forget to enjoy what they really are already. They have worked hard.

The little tiny Oompa Loompas, they worked really hard to be able to get across the ice. And it's a big ice when your legs are little like that.

Beyond skating, what do you do for fun?

"Happily married, I spend all my time I can with my wife. We are moving to Niagara Falls, and we'll be building a house. So, I'm really looking forward to having a few trees around me, and getting out of the city, and getting back to who I was when I lived in Alberta. That's where I grew up. (Born in Rocky Mountain House, in 1966, Browning grew up in the remote Alberta town of Caroline.)

Tell us about your wife.

Alissa Czisny, she's a U.S. skater... two-time U.S. champion, so we met through skating, and have been together ten years. [She's] my second wife. So, when you say, what do I do when I'm not skating, I mean, this is just my best friend.

Geoff Tyler, a man with a marvelous voice, brought reality to the performance. Is he a longtime colleague?

He's a pretty handy friend to have. Actually, coincidentally, I'm moving within a staggered walk away



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Kurt Browning performs Singin' In The Rain at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. Photos could not do justice to Browning's spins, fancy footwork and charming presence.

from Geoff.

Your performance was fantastic, heartwarming.

I'm glad you liked it. That's not the way I used to skate when I was younger, but that's what I have to offer now, and because it's live, it's appreciated. It's a beautiful song, it's a beautiful sentiment, to play a man who just changed his life by falling in love. And he knows it. He just fell in love that night. And he doesn't care that it's raining. It's such a wonderful sentiment of being in the moment and enjoying what life has to offer.

You've met Skate Virden club, what did you notice?

I saw a lot of creativity in the show. The people who were making the decisions made a lot of creative decisions, like the bed and the blueberries. I just thought that it was an above-average club carnival for sure. You just sort of get a feeling for a place, right? It doesn't come from a beautiful building, which this is, but it comes from the people. And usually when I do seminars, I get on the ice, they skate around, and I stop, and I go, 'Hi, my name's Kurt.' But not here. We performed together. So tomorrow morning, I'm going to get on the ice and go, 'You were in the

Oompa Loompas, and you were a blueberry,' and it's going to be a bond.

And we have this extra day where we can come back and solidify some of the things we worked on the first day. So, yeah, I take it pretty seriously, but it's serious fun.

What does skating do for kids, even if they never earn a paycheck from skating?

The long story for me is that when you learn a sport as a youngster, you learn perseverance and sharing and losing and winning. You learn a lot of things that you need to know. In skating... people decide. It's not a puck crossing the red line, you know what I mean? And I think that's an important thing to learn, that it's not necessarily fair, and you have to learn how to overcome that adversity, and you're alone out there. You might have a partner, but you're alone out there.

You have to make decisions about what you look like out there. The costume, how you wear your hair, what music you skate to, do I smile, do I not smile? The same things you have to make up your decisions on for a job interview someday. I think it's a good sport to give kids a real lesson on what real life is.

Cocquyt received International Club Key



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BARRY O'GRADY

Virden Lion Suellen Cocquyt is receiving a Lions Club International Key award from 2nd Vice-President Lion Paul Pennycook at a recent Virden Lions Meeting. Lion Cocquyt opened the door of Lionism to at least two individuals. Since joining she has slowly but steadily increased her involvement, never hesitating to get involved in Lions' activities. She assisted in getting Virden Lions Club involved in the Very Virden Christmas along with the two individuals she brought into the Club. Suellen Cocquyt always wants to learn more, is very helpful in her Den's activities and has become a very valuable member of the Virden Lions Club.

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Weebles Wobble...

This past decade, heck, my whole live long life!, I have felt like a Weeble. What is a Weeble? For my generation, and I concede that in today's world the world may have an entirely different connotation, a weeble was/is a child's toy person that had a weighted bottom. They rocked, swayed, staggered and rolled but always ended upright. The other comparison would be a toy my children played with; an inflated clown with a weighted bottom and could be punched and whacked and after ducking and weaving, returned to the upright position. Ours was known as Boppo. Commonality is, of course, the weighted bottom providing stability!

The weighted bottom is also one of my commonalities with both the Weeble and Boppo. There have been times in life when I have definitely identified more strongly with the clown! Times when life went so sideways that rather than crying, hysterical laughter erupted. The Weebles were a much more sedate image than the clown, appearing more real than ludicrous. Much like vast portions of my life, and probably of anyone's life.

How many times does life go according to our plan? So many of my generation grew up with the dream of secondary education, marriage, family, career- not always in that order. Tried as I might, and I wrote the blessed exam for European History 100 three times! I was not able to have a diploma for completing grade twelve. That, and choices, changed the trajectory of my life. My first marriage, ended in divorce, and I became a single parent with two dependants. I was in no way aware of abusive or alcoholism, until it became a part of my life. I choose to live in safety. First in my family, my faith family and my community to be an official single parent. A heck of a lot of bobbing and weaving, all Boppo!

Second marriage, combined households, four children aged six to thirteen, no real courting time, simply married with children. Thankfully my husband, not only older than I, was wiser than I! Negotiating those years we were a family of Weebles! How do you adjust to have siblings you don't even know, changing your place in a family unit, using the terms 'mom' and 'dad' for strangers? Yup, I recognise there was a whole lot of swaying, staggering and bobbling, for all of us.

I keep thinking that life must get easier. And there are smooth places— delightful lengthy even paths I wander- however the challenges simply change. Years ago the sciatic nerve on my right side was damaged by a misplaced medical injection. Part of my daily routine includes a particular set of exercises to allow me continued easy, pain free, use of my leg. That's a Weeble I live with. Now I am, like many others, waiting for an appointment to have the progress of my cataracts. More swaying, not dangerously, just a bit off balance. All things considered, for an older person I'm in wonderful condition with a fabulous support system!

The weight that keeps me grounded, keeps me upright, and ready for the next assault, is always my faith in a loving God. That's grounded.

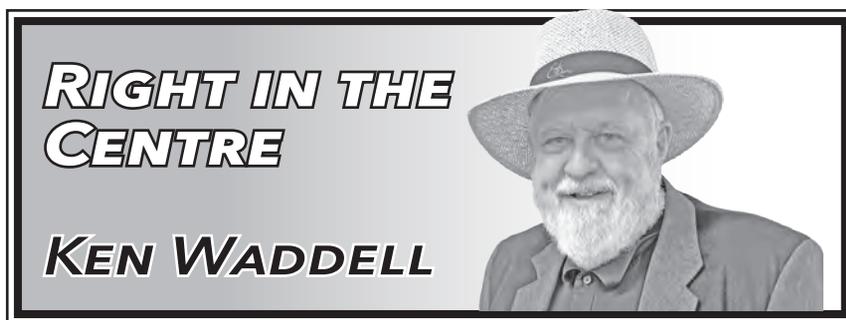
I'd rather see ice in the rink, not on the road

It's the peak of hockey season at every level in this part of the world. Earlier this month, millions of Canadian hockey fans held their breath while Canada beat the United States at the Four Nations Face-off. Canada beating the U.S. at hockey always sits well with Canadian hockey fans but given the political tension being caused by the American president, the Canadian victory was just that much sweeter.

The older level teams in our papers' coverage are all hitting the ice with vigour these days. At the time of this writing (Feb. 23, 2025) the Virden Oil Capitals are battling for a playoff spot, while the Neepawa Titans have already secured their place in the MJHL's post-season.

As for over in the Tiger Hills Hockey League, the Rivers Jets, Minnedosa Bombers, Virden Oil Kings and Neepawa Farmers are all still involved in their league's post-season play. And all still representing their communities proudly.

On this particular day, my wife and I were planning to drive two hours to see a great-grandson play in his league tournament. Unfortunately, heavy fog and ice made the decision to keep us two old(er) folks off the road. Guess we will try and keep in touch by way of the newly acquired Live Barn video service that is in most rural arenas now. It's not the same as being there, but it sure beats driving two hours in the fog. It's a busy week ahead for me and when I heard that a second vehicle in our family succumbed to a deer strike, that pretty much made the decision to make the stay-



at-home call.

And speaking of deer versus vehicles, our first vehicle in the family this year to be victimized by a wayward deer will have been out of service for four months by the time we get it back on the road. I am told that body shops are backed up with dozens of vehicles at this time and I have also been told it's all across the province. It is partly because MPIC (Autopac) has made some bad computer decisions and wasted \$millions in the process. I knew Autopac, and by extension their customers, were in trouble when Autopac decided to downplay the role of their agents and offer a computerized on-line service so customers could renew policies themselves, make claims and changes. Yeah right! That's all we need is less personalized customer service and more automated on-line junk. It didn't work, it annoyed Autopac's very important agents and was a total flop for customers. A recent, relatively simple policy cancellation that I had to make took at least 20 minutes at the agent's office and two phone calls to the Autopac help desk. The final answer was new and unusual even for the help desk person and was very difficult to put

into effect. I am not the brightest bulb when it comes to computers but I have been using them to make a living for over 35 years and there's no way I would have gotten that transaction done without an agent and the help desk.

Anyway, back to hockey, it's more fun than wrecked cars and Autopac.

In every arena at this time of year there are playoffs and tournaments. Local and regional hockey has been a great way to get past the chilling days of January and February for decades now. This season is good for families, for communities and for business. Arena lunch counters, restaurants, hotels and gas stations can all thank hockey for a bit of mid-winter prosperity.

So from International hockey to the TimBits and every age in between, I wish you a good safe hockey and travels. Spring is coming, you can tell by the weather and by the season's activities we all love.

Drive safe and play safe.

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 newspaper staff.

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Police called about threats uttered

Westman RCMP Service Report, Feb. 16 to Feb. 22

Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 49 calls for service including 7 traffic, 1 drug impaired operation, 3 coroner act, 6 mischief, 3 wellbeing check, 1 fail to attend court, 2 utter threats, 2 fraud, 2 assault, 1 assault with a weapon, 1 break and enter and 1 fail to comply with order.

On Feb. 16 RCMP received a dispatch to an assault in progress in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, where it was reported the victim was being assaulted with an axe. RCMP attended the location, located both the victim and the suspect. The victim appeared confused by police presence, was in good physical health and stated no assault took place. Police investigated and determined the call was unfounded and had been reported by a third party.

On Feb. 16 RCMP received a report of threats uttered in Virден. Police attended the complainant's location and spoke with her. The complainant stated her partner had threatened her and had left the residence. RCMP attended a local establishment, located the suspect, arrested him for uttering threats and transported him to Virден RCMP Detachment. He was re-

leased the next morning on an undertaking with an April Court date as well as conditions not to communicate with the victim.

On Feb. 17 RCMP received a report of a semi-truck on fire on Highway 1 near Oak Lake with the driver unconscious. Police and the fire department attended the scene. RCMP determined the semi was not on fire but was experiencing a mechanical breakdown. The driver and passenger were both outside of the truck when police arrived, no medical attention was required.

On Feb. 17 RCMP were conducting speed enforcement on Commonwealth Drive in Virден when they observed a vehicle traveling 81 km/hr in the 50 km/hr zone. RCMP conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle and conducted a roadside drug test where samples showed a result of positive for THC (marijuana). The driver was served a \$456 fine for speeding, as well as a 72-hour licence suspension.

On Dec. 18 RCMP received a report of threats uttered in Reston where the caller stated someone threatened to kill them. Police attended and spoke with the complainant. The

complainant did not provide a statement or wish to pursue charges; it was reported to RCMP for information purposes.

On Dec. 19 RCMP received a report of an intoxicated female causing a disturbance at a residence in Sioux Valley community. Police attended, located the intoxicated female and arrested her for breach of the peace and lodged her overnight. She was released once sober the next morning with no charges.

On Feb. 20 RCMP received a report of mischief to a vehicle in Virден. It was determined the gas tank had been drilled out and drained. RCMP are continuing to investigate.

To report a complaint or non-emergent incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call the administration line at 204-748-2046 Ext. 3. To report an emergency please call 911.

If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. The tip line is not traceable and they do not subscribe to caller ID or call display.

Suspects charged in Birdtail violent home invasions

By Empire-Advance staff

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

All three suspects connected to home invasions in the community of Birdtail Sioux First Nation on Feb. 13 have been located and charged. The Birdtail community is located 15 minutes northwest of Miniota.

Two separate home invasions at Birdtail on Feb. 13 were reported to Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS). In both incidents it's alleged that a group of individuals committed violent home invasions on two separate residences resulting in assaults causing bodily harm to three different men.

Christopher Wasteste (34) was arrested on scene and faces three charges of assault causing bodily harm and two charges of break and enter

with intent. He was taken into custody to appear in Brandon Provincial Court.

Eric Chalmers (23) was arrested at a later time and faces similar charges. He was brought before a Justice and released on conditions.

A warrant was issued for another individual involved in the attacks and MFNPS was actively searching for that person.

On Feb. 19, MFNPS report the arrest of the third person in connection with the Feb. 13, home invasions by Brandon Police Service (BPS). The found and arrested 32-year-old Faith Bunn.

Bunn has been charged with one count of assault causing bodily harm and was released by way of an undertaking to ap-

pear in Virден court at a later date.

MFNPS thanks BPS for their assistance.

Anyone with information regarding these serious assaults is asked to come forward to police.

Community safety is a top priority for MFNPS, and they are working closely with Chief and council to take swift and effective measures to address the situation.

If you have any information that could assist investigators, contact MFNPS Birdtail Sioux First Nation Detachment at 204-569-4621 or the MFNPS TIPS line anonymously at 1-833-978-0048 or email TIPS@mfnp.ca. The MFNP TIPS line is accessible 24/7, 365 days a year, and monitored regularly.



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Virден Empire-Advance



**RM OF SIFTON
PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING THE 2025
FINANCIAL PLAN**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of the Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Sifton intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing that will be held:

Oak Lake Community Hall
474 Cameron St., Oak Lake, MB
Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Persons wishing to make a presentation in person at the hearing must register by contacting the Municipal Office (204-855-2423 Ext. 1) no later than 4:00 p.m., April 9, 2025.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during regular office hours of the municipal office.

RM of Sifton

Phone: 204-855-2423 Ext. 1, Email: cao@rmofsifton.com
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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

In years past winters had more annual snowfall than they have today. As a child on the farm I remember lots of "snow days" as the snow plows could not clear the roads because the snow was too high. Eventually the municipal caterpillar came and cleared the road. In our yard the packed snow banks were wonderful for make forts and tunnels. Since the prairies have been settled there were times when roads were closed for days on end before the snow could be cleared. There were drifts literally deep enough that they would bury a train on the tracks.

Canada's railways were important to open Canada from sea to sea. The biggest challenge to maintain the rail lines was the harsh Canadian winter. Snow and ice have a big effect on the movement of trains. In the earlier years thousands of men were hired each winter to clear snow from the tracks with shovels. In the mid-1800s, rail ploughs made of steel were fitted to the front of locomotives like cowcatchers so they could remove snowdrifts as they made their way up and down the line. How well they worked would depend on the trains' speed and weight and the type of snow. Powdery snow would basically blow away. The large hard packed snow drifts could stop a train and they would have to back up and hit the drifts again. On occasion the snow derailed the trains and sometimes the trains got caught in the drifts and had to wait to be rescued.

So what to do with all that snow on the tracks? In 1869, Canadian dentist J.W. Elliot invented the rotary snow plow. A few years later the Leslie Brothers improved on the design and began production of them. Powered by a locomotive-sized boiler, the rotary snow plow had several rotating steel plates, like a propeller. The snow was ejected by centrifugal force through an opening at the top clearing the tracks.

From The Canadian Encyclopedia: "The worst blizzard in Canadian railway history occurred between January 30 and February 8, 1947, when 10 days of blowing snow buried towns and trains from Calgary to Winnipeg. Some Saskatchewan roads and rail lines remained impassable until spring." To add insult to injury on Feb. 3, Regina set a North American record with a temperature of - 60 C. 60 degrees celsius

When the storm ended railway lines across the Prairie Provinces had to close operations for weeks. Most of the train tracks over the flat prairies were entombed under twenty foot snowdrifts. One train was buried in a snow drift 1 km long and 8 m (26 feet) deep. This of course caused supply issues. Between the snow and the cold, it was almost impossible to get deliveries or to go out for home essentials, like food and coal. Farmers had to chop holes in the barn roofs to be able to get to their livestock or dig out tunnels to their barns. Talk about getting snowed under!

Today snow clearing is still an important part of running railways in Canada every winter. Every storm sees plows clearing the tracks but there is still occasions when the tracks get snowed under despite the plows best efforts.

This easy, semi-homemade baked beans recipe uses canned beans instead of the dry type, so it is quick and easy to prepare. These savory beans fill the house with wonderful aroma on a cold prairie day.

My "cheater" baked beans

- 8 slices bacon, cooked and diced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4- 398 mL cans pork and beans, not drained
- 1- 540 mL cans six bean blend, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 2 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Stir well. Transfer to a large baking dish or roaster. Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 325 F. Place in oven covered and bake for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Uncover and bake for 10 minutes.

Spicy, hearty, and oh-so-satisfying, chili is the perfect dish to combat the winter chill.

Pork Chili

- 2 level Tbsp. flour
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. powdered garlic
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper, if desired
- 1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper
- 3 Tbsp. oil, divided
- 2 pounds boneless pork, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1- 540 mL can diced tomatoes, with liquid
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 2- 540 mL cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup water

In a large plastic bag combine the flour and spices. Add the pork pieces and shake to coat. In a large frying pan add 2 tablespoons of the oil. Add half the meat and brown stirring the meat pieces. When browned remove the meat, add remaining oil and meat and repeat. Place the meat in a large heavy bottomed Dutch oven. Add the remaining ingredients, bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until pork is tender.

Letter to the Editor

Re: Zebra Mussels
- Virden Empire-
Advance, 21 Feb.

Despite all-out effort to keep them out, highly invasive mollusks have infiltrated Clear Lake on their westward march.

Zebra Mussels were first detected in Canada's Great Lakes in 1988.

Just another faux pas (blunder) by our government(s)

The best time to act was more than 3 decades ago.

My concern is that zebra mussels will eventually be transferred to other western & northern waters by hitch-hiking on amphibious aircraft / helicopters and planes with floats.

-John Fefchak.



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Funding for these programs is made possible through partnerships with Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives and the Conservation Trust.


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Community Volunteer Income Tax Program underway in Virden and area

Submitted

PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is scheduled to begin on March 3 in Virden and other rural areas. This is a free service to help low-income individuals with simple tax situations complete and file their income tax and benefit return.

Clients can drop off their material at Virden Health unit, 480 King St. E. from March 3 – Apr. 30, 9am – 12pm and 1- 4:30pm; Elkhorn - Border Regional Library Elkhorn Branch, drop off between March 3 to May 2, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 9am to 5pm; Reston Health Centre, drop off March 3 to Oct. 30, Monday – Friday, 9am to 3:30pm. In Hamiota, drop off at the Hamiota Health unit from 8:30 – 4:30pm at the Health Unit, 177 Birch Ave. East between March 3 - Oct. 30.

CVITP is a collaboration between the Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations such as PMH, who bring together volunteers who prepare income tax returns for free. This program helps ensure that seniors, newcomers, students and all low-income residents maintain access to all the benefits to which they are entitled. This includes GST refunds, Canada Child benefit, MB Rent assist, Disability Tax credits, Pharmacare deductibles and more.

Fact: income and health are directly related.

Better income can lead to better health, education and well-being. Completing an income tax return can improve income by providing access to federal, provincial and local benefits and programs such as:

- GST refunds
- Canada Child benefit
- MB Rent assist
- Disability Tax credits
- Pharmacare deductibles and more

Eligibility for this free program
You can get your income tax done free through this program if you fall

under one of the categories below:

1 person with income under \$35,000

2 persons with income under \$45,000 (each additional dependent add \$2,500)

3 persons with income under \$47,500 (each additional dependent add \$2,500)

If you have any questions regarding the Community Income Tax Volunteer Program or would be interested in volunteering and having the program come to your community, contact us at CVITP@pmh-mb.ca or 204-578-4812 or 7th Street Health Access Centre at 204-578-4800.

What do I bring?

T3, T4, T4a, T5, T5007 forms

Receipts for: daycare expenses, charitable donations, rent, tuition, medical expenses (not paid by insurance company.)

If any of these conditions apply to you, you are not eligible to participate:

- 1 person over \$35,000
- 2 persons over \$45,000
- 3 persons over \$47,500
- 4 persons over \$50,000 (add an additional \$2500 for each additional person in family)
- Business income
- Self-Employed
- Deceased in year above
- Bankruptcy (Pre- or Post-)
- Employment Expenses
- Rental income
- Capital Gains
- Farm Income
- Investment income over \$1000

To find locations offering this service throughout Prairie Mountain Health, check availability at prairie-mountainhealth.ca If there is not one in your community, we encourage you to go to one of the other sites. Note: If you have accessibility issues for any location please call (204) 578 – 4800 or email CVITP@pmh-mb.ca for options.

The Three Brains: Unlocking the power of mind, heart, and gut

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS CERTIFIED
HYPNOTHERAPIST**

MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Did you know you have not one, not two, but three brains? Yep, you read that right! Science has been blowing our minds (and our guts and hearts) with discoveries that show we are way more complex than we ever imagined. While we have always given our head brain all the credit, it turns out that our heart and gut have a lot to say, too. Ready for a fun deep dive into your inner intelligence network?

The Head Brain: The Mastermind

First up, we have the head brain. The one that gets all the glory. It is the boss of logic, problem-solving, and creativity. It takes in all the information from the outside world, processes it, and decides what to do next. The head brain is not the only decision-maker in the body. In fact, our heart and gut have a much bigger influence on our emotions and intuition than we ever realized. The head brain is great at calculations and rational thinking, but sometimes, it overanalyzes, creating doubt. That is when the other two brains step in.

The Heart Brain: The Feelings Expert

Next, meet the heart brain, the one that makes you feel all the feels. Ever had your heart race when you see your crush? Or felt a literal ache during a heartbreak? The heart sends more signals to the brain than the other way around! That means your heart is influencing your mood, stress levels, and even your gut instincts more than you think. Ever heard the phrase “follow your heart”? Well, it turns out, there is

science behind it!

The Gut Brain: The Ultimate Wingman

And now, let us talk about the gut brain, or as some call it, your “second brain.” With millions of neurons running along your digestive tract, this brain controls digestion, metabolism, and immune function. But here is the real kicker: it produces most of your serotonin, the happy chemical that keeps your mood in check. Ever had a “gut feeling” about something? That is your gut brain in action, trying to steer you in the right direction. Your gut is literally helping to keep you happy!

These three brains do not work in isolation. They are in constant communication through the vagus nerve, which connects them like a superhighway. When they are in sync, you feel great. You are balanced, clear-headed, and emotionally strong. But if one is off, it can throw everything out of whack. This explains why stress can cause stomach issues or why feeling emotionally drained can make thinking clearly a challenge.

Turns out our three brains are working together every second of the day, shaping how we think, feel, and move through life. When we listen to all three, we make better choices, feel more balanced, and navigate life with greater ease. So next time you get a gut feeling, a heart-pounding moment, or a genius idea, take a second to appreciate the magic happening inside you. Your body is way smarter than you give it credit for!

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You can still have your say

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Residents of the RM of Wallace-Woodworth and the Town of Virden got a look at the development plan for the area last week at an open house held at the Virden Wellview Golf Course clubhouse. The Trans Canada West Planning District (TCWPD) presented the results of a survey that will guide their review of the planning by-law. Representatives of the planning firm Scatliff-Miller-Murray as well as development officer Cory Nixon were on hand to answer questions and provide the details.

According to their website, TCWPD is a partnership between the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth and the Town of Virden with the mandate to “provide direction for future land use and development throughout the district that will minimize conflicts and be in the best interests of the planning district, its residents, businesses and landowners.”

The current planning by-law, dating from 2019 was the first to be created since the amalgamation that formed the RM of Wallace-Woodworth ten years ago. The purpose of the plan is to assist in managing the transition zones between urban settlements and rural areas, setting land aside to support more local businesses and industry, designating areas for new neighborhoods and protecting agricultural lands and natural resources. The provincial government requires these plans to be reviewed every five years.

The review process began with the preparation of a background report based on data from the last census that revealed demographic trends like land use and development patterns, housing needs, environmental conditions and natural resources.

The report showed a median income of \$71,000 in Virden and \$83,000 in Wallace-Woodworth compared to \$79,500 in Manitoba. There were 2,556 occupied dwellings within the district with 1,449 in Virden and 1,107 in Wallace-Woodworth. With the predicted population increase there will be 214 new dwellings needed by 2049.

Last fall, the district asked community members to participate in the development plan process by filling out a survey. People were asked to identify challenges and opportunities to be addressed within the development plan, and priorities for the future. When asked how they hope the community will be described in 20 years a Virden resident replied, “Well planned and managed, with long-term sustainability and affordability in mind” and a rural resident of Wallace-Woodworth said, “A great place to work, live, and play. A place that is safe to raise a family.”

The survey revealed that all residents prioritize improved services and infrastructure, coordinated planning efforts between the Town and RM, improved mobility options and increased recreation options. Residents of Virden added that a diversified housing supply will be important and those from the RM said that protecting nature is a priority.

The review process that began in May of 2024



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Development officer Cory Nixon explains the plan.

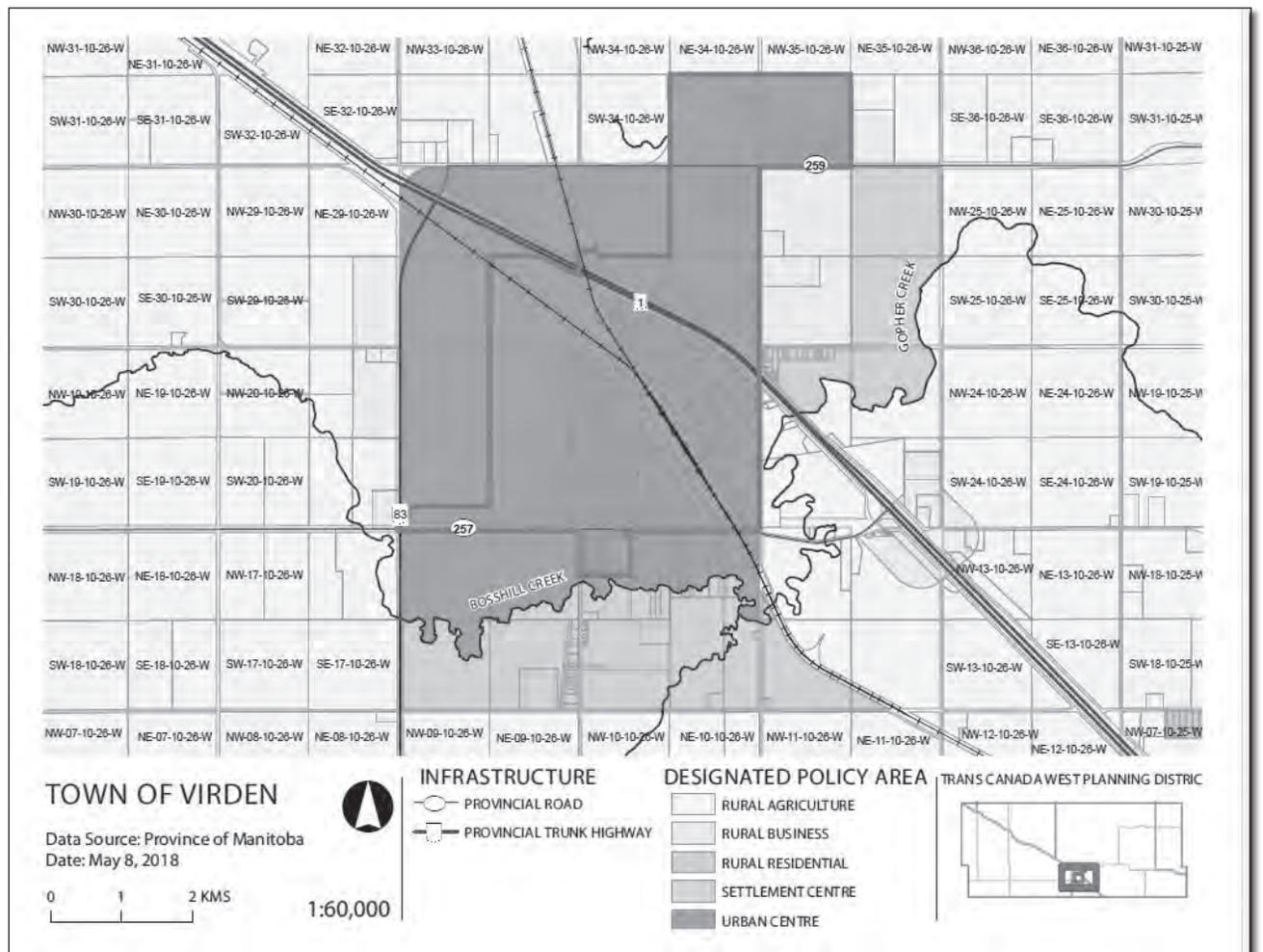


PHOTO BY VIRDEN PLANNING ZONES

The Virden planning zone map from the current development plan. Zoning maps of the LUDs of Elkhorn and Kenton, as well as the settlements of Kola, Hargrave, Lenore, Harding and Kirkella are also included in the document found at <https://www.tcwpcd.ca/>

is expected to be complete by late summer this year but there is still an opportunity to have your say. Currently there have been 76 responses to the survey representing 3 per cent of households, but responses are still being gathered and will be used in the final phase of the review. You can find the survey on the planning district website at <https://www.tcwpcd.ca/>.

THE HAMIOTA DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION INC. SCHOLARSHIPS

- \$2000 scholarship for 4th or 5th year university students enrolled in a medically related field
 - \$1000 scholarship for graduating high school students seeking further education in a medically related field
- Information available from vwilson@inetlinkwireless.ca



DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2025

empireadvance.ca

- Breaking News
- Local News
- Provincial Updates
- National Headlines
- Obituaries
- Photo Galleries

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Public Hearing announced for garbage costs

Prairie View Municipality meeting minutes, Feb. 11

Condensed By Empire-Advance staff

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Reeve Wilson called the council meeting to order at 9am. Minutes of the regular council meeting held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 were adopted as circulated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Manitoba Waste Management for a Special Service Levy 2025-001- Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Urban, motion by Morley Butler, seconded by Delbert Cole:

WHEREAS Prairie View Municipality is committed to providing effective and sustainable waste management services to its residents; and whereas the Birtle and Miniota landfills serving the municipality are nearing capacity, requiring the implementation of measures to extend their lifespan and reduce overall waste volumes; AND WHEREAS rising regulatory requirements and associated costs for landfill operations, waste diversion and environmental compliance have significantly increased the financial burden on the Municipality; AND WHEREAS transitioning to a user-pay system for garbage and recycling services would create a more equitable approach to cost recovery by aligning fees with individual waste gen-

eration and disposal habits, encouraging waste reduction and increased recycling participation; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Prairie View Municipality authorizes the CAO to draft a Special Service Plan for the purpose of Curbside Waste & Recycling pickup for the urban areas of Foxwarren, Birtle & Miniota and give public notice to all those affected properties of the Special Service plan for the Public Hearing scheduled for March 19, 2025. CARRIED

Resolution No: 2025-031 moved by Morely Butler and seconded by Delbert Cole gave second reading to the Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Urban. CARRIED; and third reading was given as Resolution No. 2025-032 moved by Michael Fulcher, seconded by Linda Clark. CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No: 2025-035 Moved: Linda Clark Seconded: Delbert Cole Western Financial Group - Liability Question

FINANCIAL REPORT

Accounts for Approval Resolution No: 2025-036 Moved: Michael Fulcher, Seconded: Mor-

ley Butler; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following accounts issued in the month of January totalling \$499,841.39 be hereby approved: Payroll \$110,009.21; Council \$5882.40; Other-AP \$72066.58; EFT \$75,172.33; Cheques \$236,711.27 CARRIED

BY-LAWS/POLICIES

Policy GG-001 Policy Development Policy Resolution No: 2025-038; Moved: Linda Clark; Seconded: Michael Fulcher; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council hereby approves the review of Policy GG-001; to provide a standardized system of developing, recording, approving, distributing, reviewing and archiving policies and procedures. CARRIED

Policy TS-008 Use of Municipal Graders to Tow; Resolution No: 2025-039 Moved: Darcy Oliver; Seconded: Delbert Cole; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council hereby approves the review of Policy TS-008; a policy to establish regulations and procedures for municipal graders assisting in towing or pulling out of privately owned equipment and vehicles. CARRIED

Council moved in camera to discuss personnel

Out of Camera, Council adjourned.

Miniota and Isabella News

Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Team Howard of Katie Howard, Jocelyn Brown, Alivia Flannery and Blair Howard on their 2nd place finish in the U12 Man Sask Sliding Stars bonspiel held at the Virden Curling Club on February 22.

Khloe Brown, a member of the U18 Bruiskies Female hockey team, is to be congratulated in placing first in the shootout competition at the Rural Provincial tournament held at Rivers. Congratulations Khloe!

Delbert and Pat Cole enjoyed a holiday with their daughter and son-in-law, Cathie and Kelvin Hollier from Brandon to Cabarete, on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. They report beautiful sandy beaches, lots of sun, refreshing breezes, and very friendly people who used scooters and motorcycles as their main transportation.

In these troubled times we are living in the win of our Canadian team over the US team at the Four Nations Tournament certainly gave us a proud Canadian moment. A boost to the spirit.

Each weekend our Miniota Community Centre has seen lots of action from our hockey teams, but this coming weekend it is time for our annual ice skating show when our figure skaters will take the spotlight. We have come through the coldest part of winter hopefully, and are enjoying the warmer temps, with some beautiful hoarfrost. Shoutout this week to our rink staff, Danny Argue on the skating ice and Bob and Tristan Gardham on the curling side, along with Sonya Cameron who keeps our waiting rooms in tiptop shape. Job well done folks! We also cannot forget the many parent volunteers who keep things moving to support the MCC (Miniota Community Centre).

"There may be times when we are Powerless to Prevent Injustice But There Must Never be a Time when we fail to Protest." - Elie Wiesel

Isabella News

Our community extends sympathy to Marcie Harrison and Larry Shannon, Sarah and Jenny on the death of Marcie's Mom and the girls Grandma Anne Lambert. Anne has been a resident of a Winnipeg personal care home these past years. Her death occurred on Feb. 19.

The Virden Empire-Advance is
now available for FREE

Find the newspaper at the following locations:

Alexander store, Sioux Valley Petro, Valleyview Co-op - Oak Lake, RM of Sifton office, Joe Dandy's (seasonal), Miniota, Lenore Post Office, In Kenton at Valleyview Co-op, Whyte's Lumber, Woodworth Dodge and Briarwood Cafe. In Elkhorn at Twin Valley Co-op, Elkhorn Library, KT's Kitchen (seasonal) and the Auto Museum (seasonal), Traci's Place-Kola, Cromer Valley Store. In Reston at Reston Fine Foods and Reston Drugs, Reston Library and Willowview Care Home. Turnbull's Sales in Sinclair, Irwin Automotive Ltd. and Service at Pipestone.

Virden:

Drop Box at Flower Attic, Drop Box at Virden Empire advance and in the newspaper office, Sooper Daves, Fountain Tire, White Owl, Virden Golf Course, Stillwater Adventures, MJ's, Valleyview Co-op Grocery, Valleyview Co-op C-Store, Town of Virden, Custom Creations, Virden Dental, Super Thrifty, Prairie Dentist, Virden Footwear, HiWay Grocery, Virden Sport and Fashion, Alex Hotel, Virden Drugs, Central Hotel, Virden Train Station, Red Apple, TJ's, Chicken Chef, Home Hardware, Kullberg's, Nu-Art, Shear Expressions, Swift Oil Field, Kola Store, Virden Ford, Virden Dodge, Apex, Advance Hearing Centre

Plus the Virden Empire Advance is made available to residents of the seniors homes and care homes.

If you would like to have the Virden Empire Advance delivered to your place of business, please contact the VEA office at 204-748-3931.

Mark your calendar, Konektis is coming

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With Konektis choir due to perform on Saturday and Virden & District Youth Choir also next week, the AUD Theatre will enjoy an embarrassment of riches during the first week of March.

The **Sponge Bob Musical** performed by the Youth Choir has two showings mid-week, March 5 & 6. With two different casts, you might want to take in two nights of this extravaganza. It will be fun community theatre with performances by grades 4 to 9 students under the direction of Luke Munchinsky, Susan Martens, Monique Waller and Kelsey Brown.

Through song and dance you will be plunged into this drama where the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home. Sponge Bob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up.

Tickets are available at Flower Attic & Gifts.

Konektis Choir collection of top-notch vocalists bring music and story together, live on stage. This dynamic adult choir based in Brandon features many local performers including VCI graduates.

Konektis shows are different every season and with Michelle Chyzyk, Clint McLachlan and Marla Fontaine directing, the Saturday matinee performance promises to be thrilling.

This spring concert includes lots of instrumentation with “a full swing band prepped by Justine (Gould) Burke,” says Chyzyk, and “some very exciting choreography.”

The pieces come in many flavours. Bollywood style, folk, a Shaker tune and a Swing medley in this program.



PHOTO BY DANSO OF KEYWEST PHOTO

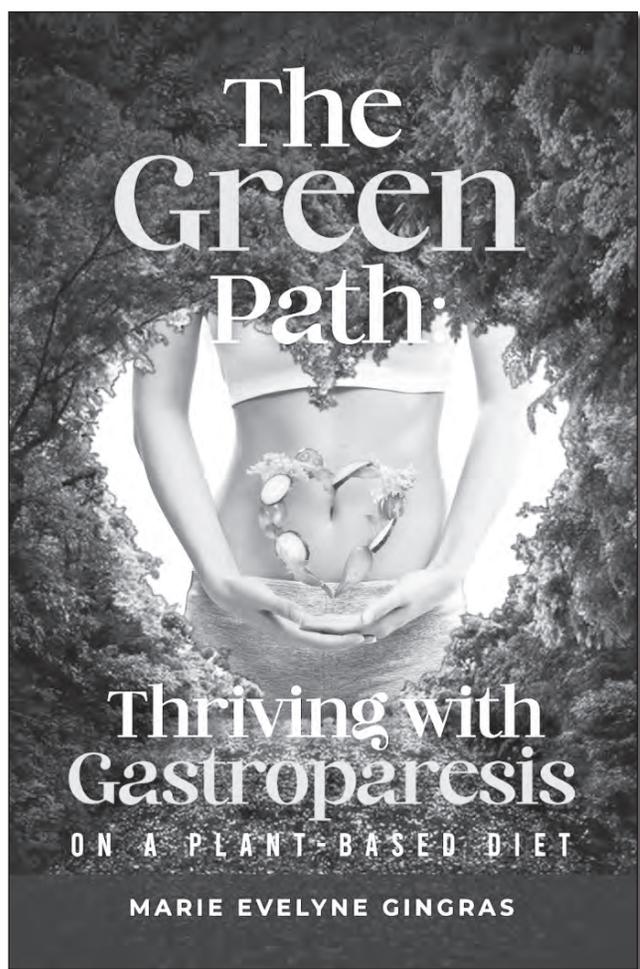
Konektis recent performance in Brandon.

“It’s a spectacle, so much movement. We’ve involved three different choreographers,” says Fontaine. “It’s almost a movie script.”

You will hear music from around the world - a first-class performance - right here in the AUD

Theatre’s new comfy seats, Saturday, March 8 at 3pm.

Tickets will be available at the door, or ahead of time through Eventbrite.



Submitted
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Marie Evelyne Gingras Shares a Personal Journey of Managing Gastroparesis in a Holistic Way
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada – Gastroparesis

New Book “The Green Path: Thriving with Gastroparesis” reveals a natural path to healing

can feel like an uphill battle, with traditional treatments often leaving patients frustrated and searching for alternatives. In the groundbreaking new book, *The Green Path: Thriving with Gastroparesis*, author Marie Evelyne Gingras shares a deeply personal journey of overcoming the condition using holistic, non-medical approaches that have restored her quality of life.

Refusing to accept that medications were the only option, Marie Evelyne explored alternative methods, including hypnosis, food alternatives, relaxation techniques, pressure points, and more. In *The Green Path: Thriving with Gastroparesis*, she reveals the strategies that have helped her regain control of her health, offering hope and practical guidance for others facing the same struggles.

“I wanted a different path – one that supported my body’s natural ability to heal,” says Marie Evelyne. “*The Green Path: Thriving with Gastroparesis* is the book I wish I had when I was first diagnosed. It is about more than just managing symptoms; it is about reclaiming your life.”

This book is a must-read for:

- Anyone diagnosed with gastroparesis looking for natural and sustainable solutions

- Individuals seeking holistic approaches to digestive health
- Those interested in mind-body healing and alternative wellness practices

With a compassionate and encouraging voice, *The Green Path: Thriving with Gastroparesis* empowers readers to take charge of their health and explore natural methods that can make a real difference. It is not just about survival – it is about thriving.

The book will be available on February 20, 2025 in paperback, eBook, and hardcover formats. For more information, interviews, or review copies, please contact Marie Evelyne at (204-512-0573).

About the Author

Marie Evelyne Gingras is a certified holistic hypnotist and advocate for holistic healing who has successfully managed Gastroparesis in a holistic way. Through extensive research and firsthand experience, she has discovered alternative methods that work and is passionate about sharing her story to help others on their journey to better health.

Virден's Scout and Guide groups



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Mayor Tina Williams met with members of Virден's Scout and Guide groups to declare Founders Week. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the world Scouting movement shared a birthday on Feb. 22, and they are recognized every year at this time. The local Scouts and Guides recently had a banquet, a winter campout, an enrollment of new members and a ceremony in honour of the Baden-Powells.

Back (L-R): Nicholas Roach, Karys Douglas, Maisie Clarke, Mayor Tina Williams, Scouter Michael Tapp.

Front (L-R): Slater Sholdice, Nicholas Tapp, Jordin Sharp, Korbin Sholdice, Olivia Krohn, Ruby Draper, Desmond Flannery, Logan Krohn

Arts Mosaic to welcome Teagan Verner exhibition



PHOTO BY TEAGAN VERNER FINE ARTIST

Beautiful examples of Teagan Verner's work. More may be seen on her website: teaganvernerfinearts.com.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Arts Mosaic presents a new exhibition with a reception on March 7, at 7pm. It's an opportunity for the community to meet the artist, view her works, enjoy some jazz along with snacks.

"Teagan Verner is the featured March artist... and will be displaying her artwork as well as being the musical guest at the opening," says Alix Potrebka, the Station gallery director.

The music that will be featured at the opening reception will be live jazz! The band is comprised of Westman community members, a handful of which are BU music students," says Verner. "This band for my opening reception is different from other opening receptions in the fact that I am the one who put the band together, and will also be playing in the band. You'll be able to catch me playing baritone saxophone. The tunes we will be playing are Blue Bossa (written by Kenny Dorham), Billie's Bounce (written by Charlie Parker) and Sandu (written by Clifford Brown)."

She says that while art is mainly a hobby at this point, she does take on commissions every now and then.

"The exhibition title is "Vivid Reflections" and in the main

gallery will have the 15 pieces that belong to Vivid Reflections. The second gallery will have miscellaneous pieces, including my 10 from AP Art (Advanced Placement)."

Verner is a mixed-media realism artist with a focus on portraiture. Art became an area of interest for her at the age of 12 in 2014, and she has continued to practice since.

Her works explore colour more than anything else, using limited palettes, bright colours, or colours one wouldn't expect to see while remaining naturalistic. Most of Verner's concen-

trations focus on self-portraiture, with self-reflection being a main focus within the theme.

Mostly self-taught, her only formal art training was in high school art classes and two semesters of figure drawing at Brandon University, where her learning confirmed much of what she already knew. Verner completed the Advanced Placement Art program through Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School in 2020, where she received a 5 out of 5 on her portfolio, earning her a university credit in grade 12.

Open House

Drop in. Have a coffee and donut.
Learn about DUC incentives.

MELITA Legion Memorial Hall	March 05
DELORAINE Community Hall	March 10
VIRDEN New Horizons Centre	March 11
STRATHCLAIR Community Centre	March 11
OAK RIVER Memorial Hall	March 12
BALDUR Argyle Drop-In Centre	March 13

11 am to 7 pm in each location.
Door prizes and grand prize draw.

Funding for restoration programs is made possible through a partnership with the Conservation Trust.

This year, DUC will provide nearly \$12 million in financial incentives to farmers and ranchers in southwestern Manitoba.

We'll pay you to:

- conserve wetlands + grasslands
- restore wetlands
- seed forage
- grow winter wheat
- improve marginal acres



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Farmers' Advocate



Oak Lake rancher awarded producer of the year

By Ken Waddell
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Manitoba Angus Association 2024 Commercial Producer Of The Year: The Sawatsky Ranch

The Sawatsky Ranch is located south-west of the town of Oak Lake. It has always been a family venture beginning in 1930 when our grandfather bought it and our grandmother had a market garden to help support it. Jake and Rosie Sawatsky took over the operation in 1950 and their seven children all participated in agricultural activities.

The five girls have families and live in Manitoba, coming out frequently to make themselves useful.

Dan received a heifer calf from his uncle when he was born, drove tractor at the age of nine, and has been on the place full time since the mid-seventies.

David started by buying a bred heifer from proceeds of his trapline. He works the first part of the year as a tax professional and the remainder on the ranch. David's sons grew up doing chores and working with 4H calves and are part of the labour pool.

Nathanael is studying at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon and working at Heartland Virden while building a cow herd.

Oliver is employed at Brandon Bearing's rebuild shop.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left to right are Dan, Nathanael, David, Oliver receiving the Commercial Cattle Producer of the year award for 2024. Presenting the award is Taylor Ginter, Director on the Manitoba Angus Association board.

The operation consists of three-bull pastures with stocking rates of twenty pairs per quarter. Most years cows graze until late November. Beginning in 1970 there was usually an Angus bull

are sold in mid-October with thirty replacement heifers retained.

We attended 23 consecutive Cattleman Connection sales and have also bought bulls from Stewart Cattle

in the herd, and in 1990 we began buying only Angus bulls. The branding program being developed showed potential and we recognized the calving ease as well as the maternal strength of the breed.

Calving starts in mid-March and is mostly done in six weeks. The calves are sold in mid-October with thirty replacement heifers retained.

Co., Ramrod, Youngdale, and the Swindon Ranch.

Manitoba Angus breeders have done an excellent job of developing good cattle which have increased in popularity throughout the years. Manitoba feeder cattle have gained a reputation for quality, and Angus beef is a top tier product.

The above article was written by Dan Sawatsky and taken from the Manitoba Angus Association website.

Nominations for the Commercial Producer of the Year are accepted from the membership each year and are decided on by the board. The winner is presented with their award at an MAA event. Dan, David, Nathanael and Oliver were all able to be at Ag Days 2025 where they were presented with the sign.



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Neepawa Gladstone
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Neepawa-Gladstone

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SIMMENTAL

BLACK ANGUS

RED ANGUS

Farmers' Advocate



Manitoba Beef Producers concerned for US trade



IMAGE COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

By Ken Waddell
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Manitoba Beef Producers believe the threat of tariffs applied to the Canadian Beef industry could be very harmful. MBP General Manager Carson Cowan said in an interview with The Farmers Advocate, "Tariffs would harm the integration of the Canadian and United States beef industry. They would increase prices on both sides of

the border and be detrimental to producers and consumers."

Carson said, "Feedback from US producers indicates they know the importance of the integration." Beef is produced, processed and consumed in both countries.

Canada exports 50 per cent of live cattle and processed beef and 75 per cent of the exports go to the US. Canadian exports amounted to about \$6 billion in 2024

Keystone Agricultural Producers announces hiring of new General Manager

Submitted
KAP MEDIA RELEASE

"Following an extensive recruiting process, I am pleased to announce that our Board of Directors has selected Colin Hornby as the new General Manager of Keystone Agricultural Producers," said KAP President, Jill Verwey.

Hornby has been with KAP since June 2022 in the role of Manager, Communications & Stakeholder Relations. Prior to this, he worked in government at both the provincial and federal levels, serving elected officials and providing strategic advice to senior staff and cabinet

ministers. He also had a previous career working in human resource management.

Hornby is a graduate of the University of Manitoba, where he achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree, as well as RRC Polytech where he received a certificate in human resource management.

"I am thrilled to be taking on this new opportunity with KAP," said Hornby. "Since joining the team in 2022, I have been focused on ensuring KAP lives up to our vision of ensuring a prosperous future for all Manitoba farmers. I look forward to serving them in this new role and

advancing their interests through our continued collaboration and forging of partnerships across the agricultural landscape."

Plant a seed in your customers' minds... Put your ad here to cultivate their interest!



6TH ANNUAL

SATURDAY MARCH 8TH 2025 AT 1PM
IN NEEPAWA, MANITOBA | LIVE ON DLMS

DLMS Direct Livestock Marketing Systems

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Farmers' Advocate



Ducks Unlimited Canada rewards Manitoba farmers for outstanding agronomy

Submitted

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has recognized five farms in southwest Manitoba for exemplary techniques in establishing perennial forages.

The winning fields were judged to have the highest plant density, height, diversity and lack of weeds in new acres seeded in 2024 through DUC's Forage Program. Landowners shared \$10,000 in bonus incentives.

"To help make farms more profitable and sustainable, DUC provides programs and incentives for farmers who choose to restore and conserve habitat," explains Alex Griffiths, lead agrologist for the Forage Program in Manitoba. "We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of these top producers who increased biodiversity on their land by converting cropland to grass."

The Top Five

In 2024, landowners in DUC's Forage Program seeded 5,200 acres in southwest Manitoba and received over \$750,000 in incentive payments. Among the 47 farms which participated, these five were deemed to have the best establishments:

- Bridgeman Land & Livestock, Rapid City, Man.
- Bill and Nina Cowan, Hartney, Man.
- Ekford Ranch, Rosburn, Man.
- Blaine, Hilary and Van Damme family, Baldur, Man.
- Greg and Pam Wesley, Carroll, Man.

"We truly live in pothole country," says Blaine van Damme, who operates a mixed grain and cattle farm with his family. "For us, there's a ridge that's always disappointing with grain farming so that's what we wanted to get rid of. We did seed at a heavy rate which, I



SUBMITTED PHOTO

think, really does give you a better stand. I watched the DUC video on seeding tips and used all the varieties recommended so there's lots of different species. And it turned out really well! We appreciate all the help we got from DUC."

"We were struggling with some sour, salty areas and looking at options to get it back where we wanted and decided to go with grass," explains Del Cowan, who accepted the Top 5 award with his father Bill. "We did not do a cover crop, but historically, we would have. Based on input from DUC, we didn't. It turned out pretty good."

A record of forage success

Farmers use perennial forages to feed livestock but environmental benefits include reducing soil compaction, building organic matter and increasing water-holding capacity. Perennial forages also capture and store more carbon than annual crops, which helps mitigate climate change. Research shows DUC's Forage Program is helping bring back declining populations of grassland birds and waterfowl.

The Forage Program is a partnership with Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives and funded in part by Manitoba's Conservation Trust. Participating farmers receive \$125 per acre to plant forages with top-up incentives awarded for best agronomic practices. Custom seed mixes and on-farm advice are also offered. The average producer payment in 2024 was \$12,500.

"We sowed a North-Star seed blend at the end of May," explains Dallas Kominko from Ekford Ranch. "I work for an ag retailer and sell three to four thousand acres of grass seed a year and I preach the importance of putting the seed in the soil without a nurse crop. We went with a real high rate - 17 pounds per acre. We got a good catch. Cut it in mid-August and we had a heck of a regrowth."

DUC's Forage Program is offered in all prairie provinces. Introduced in Manitoba in 2015, the program has helped 433 farmers establish 39,000 acres of forage. DUC also funds research into hay establishment practices evaluating variables including seeding rate, use of cover crops and phosphate application.

"DUC is led by science," explains Griffiths, "and our success with forages is science-backed and field tested."

To apply for the 2025 crop year or find out more about DUC programs, call Alex Griffiths at 204-848-0514 or visit ag.ducks.ca/programs/manitoba/.

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It was definitely the horses that inspired me to want to take over and be more involved with the farm and the breeding program that my dad, grandfather, and great-grandfather worked on."

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SPORTS

RAMPTON SHINES IN FIRST SEASON FOR MIDLAND

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Kenton's Natalie Rampton has quickly proven herself to be an impact player in the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

The daughter of Cameron and Sheri Rampton is splitting time in net in her first year playing and studying at Midland University. The Fremont, Neb. institution's women's hockey team was ranked No. 5 in ACHA Division I, as of Feb. 21.

"Natalie is very athletic and she is technically sound," Midland University head women's hockey coach Jason White said. "Her ability to move side to side and challenge shots makes her one of the top goalies in the ACHA."

As of Feb. 19, Rampton had an 11-2-0-0 record. Her goal against average was 1.00 and her save percentage was .946.

"I think the support from my team and coach has allowed me to be successful ... Jason White has given me many chances to play and prove myself, which can be rare for a freshman goaltender," Rampton said. "My teammates are always excited to have me behind them in net: their trust and positivity has allowed me to leave any nerves behind and just play my game."

Before heading south, she developed her game with the U18 AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. Rampton has noticed some differences between the AAA and ACHA levels.

"I have found that university hockey is much more intense than my past experience in AAA," she said. "The players are faster and shoot harder, and as a

goaltender I had to advance my game to meet those standards. I feel as a goaltender at this level you have to limit the amount of mistakes you make, as the game is more structured and players capitalize on rebounds or bad angles much more."

In addition to the factors mentioned before, another key aspect of Rampton having success this season is the ongoing support of her parents.

"They enrolled me in hockey at the age of four and I started full time goaltending at the age of eight," she said. "My dad was a goalie when he was young so he was my coach and taught me everything he knew."

"My parents have always been my biggest supporters, they drove countless hours to get me to the rink and spent even more time in the stands cheering me on. This is harder now that I am so far from home, but I know they are watching every single live stream and they make the long trip to come watch me play when they can."

Off the ice, Rampton is studying mathematics. She earned a spot on the President's List during the fall semester.

"Being at Midland has opened up a whole new world of opportunities for me, it has allowed me to explore new places and meet new people from all kinds of backgrounds," Rampton said. "The intensity of the hockey program here at Midland is something that I have always craved, everyone works exceptionally hard and pushes each other to get better. Most of all I have enjoyed my team. I have made lasting connections with every one of my teammates. I feel that we have a very special and tight-knit group of girls this year."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Natalie Rampton.

OIL KINGS DISPATCH BISONS



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

The Virden Oil Kings line of Bradley Bowles, Jeremy Johnson, and Ty Lewis is dominant in game three of their playoff series versus Melita. They were part of eight of Virden's nine goals in the win.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings are headed to the Tiger Hills Hockey League Western Division finals.

The senior squad swept the Melita Bisons, 3-0, in their best-of-five THHL divisional semifinal series. Bradley Bowles and Ty Lewis paced Virden with 13 points. Lewis scored eight goals while Bowles had five.

"With a short bench for most of the series, we had some guys making a second effort to get to games," Oil Kings stalwart Keifer Johnston said. "Our goaltending, (Eric) Reid and (Tristin) Rinn, stepped up and made some big saves to keep the momentum our way."

"Our top guys were also our top guys the whole series, stepping up and putting games away for us."

The Oil Kings now wait to see who triumphs in the other Western semis matchup - Boissevain versus Hartney. The Hartney Blues led their foe 2-1, as of Feb. 24. The Oil Kings split their two regular season games with Hartney and defeated Boissevain twice.

Game One

Oil Kings 11, Bisons 1

The Virden Oil Kings' offensive onslaught was relentless on Feb. 19. The hosts led 3-1 after the first period. The Oil Kings were on top 7-1 at the second intermission. While the goals came often, the Virden defence allowed only 13 shots. Reid made 12 saves.

Lewis racked up eight points on the night, He

lit the lamp four times. Bowles had a hattrick and three assists for six points. Derek LeBlanc's four points included two goals. Dillin Stonehouse found the back of the net once and picked up two assists for three points.

Virden's other goal came from Colin Cook. Tanner Koroscil had four assists.

Lucas Oliver scored Melita's goal. Dez Ramsey made 32 saves for the Bisons.

Game Two

Oil Kings 4, Bisons 1

The visiting Virden team was able to get out to a 2-0 lead on Feb. 21. Eric Lemoine opened the scoring and Bowles made it 2-0 in the final second of the period.

The Bisons got on the scoreboard when Mike Tilbury scored just 52 seconds into the second period. LeBlanc put the lead back up two, 3-1, before three and a half minutes were gone by in the frame. In the third, Elisha Bambridge scored with the man advantage for Virden.

Reid stopped 25 shots for the Oil Kings. Ramsey had 30 saves.

Game Three

Oil Kings 9, Bisons 4

Back at home on Feb. 22, the Oil Kings' offence was once again firing on all cylinders. Virden led 4-1 after the first period. It was up 7-4 after two.

Lewis scored four goals and collected five points. Jeremy Johnson had three goals and an assist for four points. Bowles scored once and assisted on five goals for a team-high six points. Joel Cosens had Virden's other goal. Jackson Orr recorded two assists. Rinn made 23 saves for the Oil Kings.

Ramsey fended off 37 shots. Scoring for Melita were Oliver (two), Cole Oliver, and Nial Mills.

SPORTS

OIL CAPS PLAY PACKED SCHEDULE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals have been very busy. The Manitoba Junior Hockey League team played four games in six days last week. Veteran defenceman Tyler Dodgson said:

“Weeks like these are great because it gets us in a rhythm of playing games basically every other day, similar to what the schedule is like in playoffs. This week is especially playoff-like as we are playing some of the top teams in the league while fighting for a playoff spot, allowing us to get in the playoff mindset before they even start.”

The team was 0-4 last week. As previously reported in the Empire-Advance, it fell 8-2 to Winkler. The Oil Capitals then lost 5-4 to Portage, 5-3 to Neepawa, and 4-1 to the Steinbach Pistons.

Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said the team’s focus is “to continue to compete for a playoff spot. The last five have been up and down for us and we have been unable to get things done in games that we have played well in. We just need to keep our heads down and grind for every point we can get.”

The team had two mid-week contests this week. They were in Waywayseecappo on Feb. 25 and on the road against the Winnipeg Blues on Feb. 26. Both games were after the Empire-Advance deadline. The Oil Caps’ next home game is on March 4 when they host the Niverville Nighthawks.

Pistons 4, Oil Caps 1

After the Pistons took a 1-0 first period lead on Feb.

22, Oil Capitals forward Bryce Bryant tied things up in the second. The host Pistons scored three in the third period, including one into an empty net.

Virden goalie Loic Moron made 32 saves. Christian Green had 20 for Steinbach. Scoring for the Pistons were James Fuchs, Connor Paronuzzi, Brayden Barnett, and Brayden Berg.

The contest was played at La Broquerie’s HyLife Centre. The Pistons are playing there while awaiting completion of the Southeast Event Centre.

Titans 5, Oil Caps 3

The Oil Capitals held a 2-1 lead early in the second period at home on Feb. 20. The Titans were able to take a 3-2 lead by the end of the frame. They outscored Virden, 2-1, including an empty net goal in the third period.

Scoring for Virden were Noel Englot (two) and Bryant. Morin made 20 saves for the Oil Caps.

Neepawa got its goals from Mason Hartley, Logan Paquette, Caden Hegarty, Jack Clark, and Dawson McCann. The Titans’ Mason Lobreau stopped 28 shots.

Terriers 5, Oil Caps 4

On the road on Feb. 19, the Virden team led 2-1 and



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps took on the Neepawa Titans on February 20, 2025.

3-1 at the intermissions. The Terriers outscored the Oil Caps 4-1 in the third to secure the win.

Dodgson, Englot, Liam Goertzen, and Marshall Light lit the lamp for Virden. Virden goalie Gavin Renwick stopped 21 shots.

Scoring for Portage were Nolan Nenow (two), William McKay, Adam Belzil, and Caleb Lepitre. Ryan Velan started in goal for the Terriers and made three saves on six shots. Mitchell Kathler came on in relief and had 15 saves on 16 shots.

RENWICK, BOURDON HELP OIL CAPS



Gavin Renwick.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Luc Bourdon and Gavin Renwick are two of the Virden Oil Capitals’ unsung contributors this season.

Bourdon is a rookie defenceman battling to earn ice time and help his team. An experienced Manitoba Junior Hockey League goalie, Renwick is always ready to guard the net when called upon.

“Both guys have improved their game by working hard in practices and being ready for their opportunities when they arise,” Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. “They are great teammates and work hard off the ice to get better. They have really added to the depth of our team.”

Gavin Renwick

The 2005-born Renwick is in his fourth MJHL sea-

son. The Wellwood product spent two campaigns with the Neepawa Titans before competing for the Portage Terriers last season. The Oil Capitals acquired him last summer. He billets with Tyler and Serena Strachan and their daughters Emery and Austyn.

Renwick enjoys his position because it “is different than any other position in hockey. There is a lot of thinking and repetition involved and it’s always fun to always be learning new things about the game and new techniques and pick things away from other goalies. I also think it’s cool how no two goalies are the same and different things work for different guys, the position is unique to each individual.”

He is one of four Oil Capitals’ netminders who have played at least seven games this season. Renwick started the season partnering with Nik Trakakis. Peyton Shore later joined the Oil Capitals from Western Hockey League’s Red Deer Rebels in October. At that time, Renwick stepped away from the squad. However, he stayed ready.

“Throughout October and November I skated with the senior team in Carberry a bit and skated with a local guy in town that used to play in the MJHL,” Renwick said.

The Rebels eventually recalled Shore and Renwick re-joined the team. Trakakis was swapped to the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League’s Nipawin Hawks and Loic Morin joined the team. On the season, the 5-foot-10, 180-pound Renwick had a 4.37 goals against average, as of Feb. 23.

Luc Bourdon

Hailing from Prince Albert, Sask., Bourdon joined the Oil Capitals after three U18 AAA seasons with the Tisdale Trojans. He said that Junior A has been different from U18 AAA on and off the ice.

“In junior, you have a lot more obligations to various volunteering opportunities and a lot more games throughout the season,” Bourdon said. “In terms of play on the ice, the game gets faster and more physical at this level for sure, so I definitely had to make adjustments to handle the speed and physicality that we see in games.”



Luc Bourdon.

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound defenceman had three assists in 24 games, as of Feb. 23. He said that playing in Virden for the Oil Capitals has been “awesome so far”.

“The people that you get to meet and relationships you get to build in a small town atmosphere like Virden, are definitely a part of what makes being an Oil Cap so special. We’re also very fortunate to have lots of great people in our organization, helping us to grow as people and as players.”

Bourdon billets with Diana MacDonald. He said, “Her and her family have been great, always extremely positive and very welcoming. It’s been pretty awesome to live out in the country and learn about how they operate their farm. It really makes it a lot easier to move away from home when you get to live and spend time with great people like them everyday.”

REF MEMORIES

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



In 1995 I was having big time issues with my back. I had missed the last couple of weeks in the playoff games last season and I started to think of calling it quits.

In the new season, my sciatic nerve started to hurt.

It was hard to bend over to tie my skates and tougher yet when you got bumped along the boards or breaking up a scuffle. I started to cancel assignments and really started to come face-to-face with retiring from officiating.

When I was younger, I saw too many guys stay on the ice to officiate when their prime was well past. I did not want that to happen to me. I was going to leave when I was ready.

One night in Elkhorn when I was doing lines I was breaking up a scuffle and my back spasmed. I could barely move. I thought, why am I out here? This is no fun anymore. This was in November of 1995.

With a lot of hard thought, I knew it was time and I was okay with that. I had done probably 2000 games and considered myself fortunate to work

as many games as I had. I had met so many wonderful hockey people in that time. I was blessed to work that long.

January 10, I refereed my last game in Birtle. They were playing Miniota. It was the 20-year anniversary of the Birtle arena

The game in itself was a walk in the park, just 2 teams playing the game. I had also started letting people know I was hanging up the skates and putting away my whistle.

January 17 was my last game. It was in Virden, as Virden was playing Minnedosa that evening. The

game was a very easy game, no silly stuff going on.

As I was skating off the ice I thought well I am done, it has been a slice and headed to the official dressing room.

After the game many of my fellow officials from Virden came in to shake hands and congratulate me on a solid career. It was a great way to leave the game that I love so much! I think that night I even sold my referee sweater to Cory Flecknor, so there was no turning back.

A few days after my last game, I received a phone call from Garth Mitchell in

Elkhorn. He said I hear you are not going to officiate anymore. I said yes that is right. He asked me if I was sure about that, and I said yes, I am sure. His next sentence to me was one I have never forgotten. Garth said, "Well that is sad, we need more officials like Gerry Nolan not less."

This was without a doubt the biggest compliment I had ever received. Garth is one of the most respected hockey people in all of Manitoba. Brings a tear to my eye just thinking about that phone call. Thank you Garth!

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Elkhorn cheers Sanheim on to gold

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Strongly cheered on by his hometown, Elkhorn's Travis Sanheim helped Team Canada win gold at the 4 Nations Face-Off.

In the final, at 8:18 of overtime, against the United States, Connor McDavid took a pass from Mitch Marner and fired home the winning goal in the gold medal game. Canada triumphed 3-2 in a contest that, according to the NHL, was watched by 6.3 million people in Canada and 9.3 million in the United States.

"That was unreal. Hard to describe," Sanheim wrote in the final of a series of blogs he penned for NHL.com. "That moment that Connor McDavid put that puck in the net, I am going to remember that moment for the rest of my life. To be a part of this is something so special. Not only to represent your country, but to have the result happen the way it did in overtime against our biggest rival. It's a dream come true."

The son of Kent and Shelly Sanheim played his role well while helping Canada to victory. The Philadelphia Flyers defenceman played 18:29 over 31 shifts in the gold medal game. He had one shot on goal and a zero plus-minus rating.

Sanheim was paired with St. Louis Blues' Colton Parayko in the final. Nick Tricome of the PhillyVoice wrote in a Feb. 21 article that they "were constantly stepping in the way of pass attempts to the inside, used their size to their advantage in the corners, and then put their puck-possession prowess along the blue line to work to hold possession in the offensive zone."

Back home, Sanheim had huge support from family, friends, and the community at large. Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth Reeve Clayton Canart said:

"On behalf of our community, I want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Travis on his well-earned selection to Team Canada for the 4 Nations Tournament. To be chosen among the best hockey players in the country is an incredible honour, and it speaks volumes about his skill, dedication, and mindset as an athlete.

"Hearing Travis Sanheim from Elkhorn, Manitoba on the broadcasts certainly represented our community with pride. His performance on the ice has shown why he belongs at this elite level. His hard work and perseverance are inspiring, and we are so fortunate to have him as a role model for our young athletes.

"It has been truly exciting to see the overwhelming support from our community—painted windows in storefronts, jerseys hanging in windows, and a buzz of excitement as everyone cheered on Travis and Team Canada. The timing of the win and barn burner of a final exemplified the experience. The pride we feel is undeniable, and we will continue to stand behind him as he wears the Philadelphia Flyers crest on his chest.

"He has spoiled us now and we all look forward to watching him in action again the next time he represents our country, and we know he will continue to make us proud. Congratulations, Travis!"

In one of his blogs, Sanheim noted that his wife, parents, twin brother and two older sisters were all at the event. On Facebook, his mother posted:

"From the Sanheim Family....Words cannot be enough to show our community, family & friends the appreciation we had from all of you! Special moments with every picture, text, video of our community showing support for Travis & Team Canada. We are not surprised by the love and support shown to our son and family! We have always said and it holds truer today than ever....'It takes a village to raise a child!'"

Elkhorn's pride for Sanheim and Team Canada was on display thanks in part to an effort led by the Elkhorn Community Action Report steering committee. The school, businesses and home owners decorated with Canadian flags, Team Canada jerseys, the maple leaf, homemade signs saying "Go Travis" and "Sanheim 6", and more. Local female Yellowhead Chiefs hockey players helped decorate at the Elkview Lodge and Elkwood Manor.

The Elkhorn and District Community Center ice cleaning machine was decked out in Canada flags. At Elkhorn schools, the Grade 4 and 5s created player bios for Team Canada and hung them up on the hallway bulletin boards. These are just a few of the expressions of support that were displayed in the community.

Tanner Kyle grew up with Sanheim and was his hockey teammate for many years. He said:

"It was pretty amazing watching Travis play for Team Canada in the 4 Nations final. If anyone knows Travis personally, you know how much being on that team, let alone winning, means to him. He has been extremely dedicated and worked his whole life to be where he is today. As someone who played alongside him until he jumped to the next level, it's no surprise to see him earn a spot wearing the Canadian sweater for Team Canada. When you spend that much time together on and off the ice, you almost become broth-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local female Yellowhead Chiefs hockey players spent their day off school helping to get the Elkview Lodge and Elkwood Manor ready for the 4 Nations Face Off. The seniors were ready to cheer on Travis and all of Team Canada. L to R: Bryeigh Barnes and Kimberlee Malcolm.

ers and it shows with all of his buddies that travelled to watch him play. Even at a young age he was always a step above everyone else and you knew he'd be going the places he is now. It's no surprise to anyone and he belongs in that room full of great Canadian NHL players and on the ice playing with the best of the best in the world. I feel he's just scratched the surface of what he's capable of in his career with his skill and work ethic, along with the support of his family, friends, and community of Elkhorn around him. I am incredibly happy to see him lift that trophy and will be forever proud to call him a brother."

The 4 Nations Face-Off will be a huge highlight of what has been arguably the best season of Sanheim's professional career. As of Feb. 22, he had six goals and 21 assists for 27 points. Heading into the 4 Nations event, Sanheim led the Flyers in ice time with an average of more than 24 a game. He is a crucial part of his NHL team's penalty kill – including earning two shorthanded assists. As of Feb. 22, Sanheim was seventh in the NHL with 128 blocked shots.

At the start of the 4 Nations Face-Off, Sanheim was scratched for Team Canada's 4-3 overtime victory against Sweden in Montreal. With Shea Theodore injured, Sanheim stepped into the lineup for Canada's second contest – a 3-1 loss in Montreal to the United States. In Boston, Sanheim helped Team Canada to a 5-3 win over Finland. With Canada leading 3-0, Sanheim took a shot on net. It was stopped but he got an assist as Brayden Point scored on the rebound.

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YOU COULD STILL PLAY IN THE NCAA IF THAT'S YOUR DREAM

MJHL HOCKEY

DEREK HOLTOM

Some interesting news to the west of us as a long-time SJHL franchise is on the move.

The Notre Dame Hounds, who have played out of Wilcox, Sask., since 1987, have tentatively been granted permission to move the team to Warman, Sask., which is a small but fast-growing city just north of Saskatoon (think of it like you would Steinbach, except much closer to the largest city in the province – in this case, Saskatoon).

The Hounds are known for some famous alumni, including Curtis Joseph, Rod Brind'Amour, Jeff Ulmer, Wendel Clark and Vincent Lecavalier. But in the ever-

changing economy of junior hockey, having a junior A team play in a community of just 260 or so people just isn't feasible.

The community, roughly 30 minutes south of Regina, is known more for its school, which also includes robust sports programs. The majority of the fans in attendance are students, and they are not paying to come watch their schoolmates play – in fact they're probably too busy with their own sport to be at the rink much.

The financials of a team like that are ever-harder to justify. Consider the price of fuel, food, staff, etc. – it's only going in one dir-

ection (especially with inflationary taxes that go up every year such as the carbon tax). But there's another aspect of the changing game that was more than hinted at by the Hounds.

"The current financial picture is not sustainable and our ability to make the operation sustainable is limited," President Charlie Skipper told Darrell Romuld and Donovan Maess of CTV Regina. "Particularly, in light of the uncertainties in junior-level hockey given changes in leagues and systems of Canada and the United States."

What I take that to mean is previously you could attract some top-level talent to the junior A level with the hope for a NCAA scholarship, something that would not be possible if you played major junior hockey. That's not the case anymore as the NCAA is now allowing major junior hockey players to earn scholarships.

And if you're a top-end player, why wouldn't you play in the WHL given the chance? You could still play in the NCAA if that's your dream. Or you could get drafted and go pro. You could even take the scholarship money and play for a Canadian university after your junior career.

You can see what's happening in real time this year in terms of talent moving around. The WHL started to scoop up top junior A talent wherever they could, including several players from the MJHL (Jackson Kostiuik from the Pistons- now with the Prince Albert Raiders- being a more recent example). The WHL also poached several players from the break-away BCHL league, who then in turn also starting drawing players from other junior A leagues to replenish their rosters, including the MJHL (Wayway's Dru Mushmanski being an obvious example).

Factor in other junior leagues down south, including the USHL and the NAHL, attracting Canadian players, and you can see how it could be difficult to recruit and ice a strong team in many junior A communities. The MJHL taking away the draft (likely out of necessity due to recent lawsuits in other leagues) and providing players with a veto on trades further complicates matters.

And finally, the growing cost to simply play hockey at the grassroots level, with the corresponding decline youth actually playing hockey (despite the population in Canada growing) adds its own difficulties to the economy of running a junior A hockey teams.

Fans from The Pas to Winkler and everywhere in between enjoy coming out to cheer on their junior team. But in light of recent events, it's clear some changes are going to be needed all across the board to keep

hockey viable in many communities long term. And frankly I just don't see those changes happening anytime soon. We may soon see more teams not relocating but ceasing to exist, and that's a shame.

Forward Connor Paronuzzi from the Steinbach Pistons leads the charge this week for the MJHL's Original 16 Players of the week. In three games, Paronuzzi lit up the opposition, scoring five goals and adding seven assists for 12 points to add to his league-leading point total.

Teammate Grady Hoffman from the Steinbach Pistons was also recognized after he scored twice and added six assists in three games.

The final winner for the week is forward Havryil Simchuk from the Dauphin Kings. In three games Simchuk scored three goals and also added three assists for a six-point week.

Four Nation Cup

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



For a few days in February, Canadians got to witness our national pastime at its best. It was well worth the wait, and it was worth all the hype. The 4 countries involved really put on a show of their talent. Teams from Canada, United States, Sweden and Finland were dynamic in the effort put forth in this tournament.

Some wondered what the hockey would be like? Well, I think the answer was game 7 every single game. You will not see any better hockey than what we saw.

With the NHL so watered down with so many teams, this event was the creme de la creme. The players on all teams really laid it out there on the

line, for the enjoyment of hockey fans all over the world. The entertainment was out of sight. The speed of the games was, I really have no words for it. Making plays at top speed was unbelievable. Super hockey, I cannot wait for the Olympics, when we get to watch these players display their talents one more time.

At one time because of the 1972 summit series, it was always playing those hated Russians. With Russia not able to compete at this time the United States vs Canada matchup has taken on a life of its own.

Canada as we all know was victorious, again. Our team led by Sidney Crosby our captain followed Crosby's lead. Crosby is one of the most humble leaders you could ever ask for. We deal with our opponents with RESPECT. We do not shoot off our mouth, telling others how great we are. We just win!

The United States felt they should have won this game, but they did not.

Politics got involved through this series as well, and with all that is going on between the 2 nations, it just added fuel to the fire. I felt many of the players from the United States like Trump are very disrespectful and love to shoot their mouths off. Anyway, being second is not all bad.

We won, that is all that matters. What did we

learn from this tournament as a hockey nation. Well we are still the best, that is a fact.

I found Canada coach Jon Cooper so refreshing in his post game comments. Some of which is so true.

First thing he said is how well we check and forecheck, and we did. Give our opposition no time and space.

Scotty Bowman, a legendary Canada coach used to say you need to be able to check if you are going to win. Perhaps our national junior program needs to listen to their peers as this was obviously one of the biggest problems with this edition of our junior team.

A huge congratulations to Elkhorn native son Travis Sanheim on the gold medal win for Canada, you make us all proud of your accomplishments. Travis would look really good with Morrissey for the Jets. I look forward to seeing Travis play with the Olympic team next year.

We are sitting at the top of the hockey world. The boys gave our nation a huge lift when we needed it most, thank you Team Canada!

Cactus Jack Wells, who covered the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for years had an expression he used after a Bomber win that we can apply to team Canada and their fans. Jack used to say, "and it turned out nice again!"



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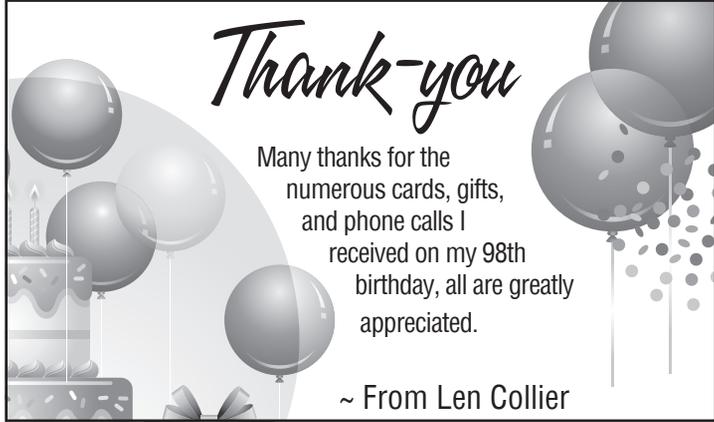


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CLASSIFIEDS

Thank-you



Thank-you

Many thanks for the numerous cards, gifts, and phone calls I received on my 98th birthday, all are greatly appreciated.

~ From Len Collier

In Memory

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Audrey Collier

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

*Although the world keeps turning
And the sun comes up each day,
Life has never been the same
Since you were called away.*

*You were a special person
So gentle, good and kind
And have left the sweetest memories
And thoughts of you behind.*

*We only wish there was a way
That we could see you a few more hours
To thank you for the joy you brought
Into this life of ours.*

LOVE FROM LEN,
BEV, BRIAN, RAYMOND, PATRICIA, JANICE
& FAMILIES

For Sale

Farmland for Sale in RM of Pipestone

	2025 Assessment	2024 Taxes
NW 12-7-27 WPM	\$134,100	\$333.18

Land is located on Road #2 Highway and Huston Road in the RM of Pipestone. Frontage or Area: 139.68 Acres as per 2024 Property Tax Bill. Land has been used as hayland (alfalfa/brome) for past several years. Land is fenced. Manitoba Hydro Meter on property to old yard site.

NW 12-7-27 WPM: MTS Caveat in place (MTS Tower situated on property).

*EXC Road Plan 1353 BLTO; EXC Plan 43187 BLTO; EXC ALL that portion taken for the Right of Way of the Canadian Pacific Railway to SS Plan 42411 BLTO.

Mineral and oil rights are exempt.

Interested parties should rely on their own inspection.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

2024 taxes are paid, 2025 taxes will be paid by the purchaser.

Deadline for offers is Friday, Mar. 7, 2025.

For more information, call or text 204-918-3840.

Offers to be mailed to:

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Reston MB
R0M 1X0

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Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Job Description

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual with excellent administration and finance skills for the position of **Assistant Chief Administrative Officer**. Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer will assist the CAO in performing all duties as directed by the CAO and to act on behalf of the CAO in their absence; providing services to all residents and ratepayers in an efficient and effective manner. The successful candidate should possess excellent financial and managerial attributes.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist the CAO in the daily operations of the Municipality
- Develop reports, by-laws, and municipal policies
- Develop, manage, and administer annual and multi-year capital and operating budgets
- Create strategic and long-range people resource planning for the Municipality - ensuring an engaged workforce resulting in optimal people performance
- Coordinate approval process of subdivisions, conditional use orders and variation orders with conditions from Council
- Act as the Municipality's FIPPA Officer and Senior Election Official
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Holds a Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration, or Professional designation in any related filed of the assigned portfolio will be an asset.
- Work experience with Muniware or similar municipal accounting software will be an asset
- Knowledge of Manitoba municipal provincial and federal legislation relating to municipalities
- Knowledge and experience of the Manitoba Planning Act and processes
- Strong communication, people management, and organizational skills

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT

Job Description

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the maternity leave term position of **Municipal Accountant** at the Virden Municipal Office. The position starts immediately with a projected end date of March 31, 2026. The successful candidate will be responsible and accountable for the overall financial management of the Municipality. This position will report directly to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist the Municipality with long term financial and strategic planning, and risk management strategies
- Assist Council with the preparation and implementation of the Annual Financial Plan, as approved by Council
- Ensure that all programs and services are delivered to all residents and ratepayers in a manner making best efficient and effective use of the financial resources of the Municipality and as outlined in the Municipality's Financial Plan
- Manage the ongoing control of the accounting, budgeting, credit, insurance, tax, and borrowing issues of the Municipality
- Manage payroll administration and submission of all documentations required for the municipal benefits plan; Workers Compensation Board and other relevant legislative requirements
- Supervise the day-to-day financial operations of the Municipality and continually strive to improve financial operating procedures and improving upon the control systems in place where possible
- Maintain the Municipality's ledger accounts and be solely responsible for their ongoing review and any/all changes
- Ensure that all external reporting is completed in a timely manner as required within Provincial and Federal legislation
- Uphold a strict level of confidentiality
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Previous work experience in a financial management capacity, preferably working in a municipal environment is required
- A Chartered Professional Accountant designation will be an asset
- A Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be an asset
- Experience with the Muniware Accounting Program will be an asset

WEED SUPERVISOR

Job Description

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the full-time seasonal position of **Weed Supervisor**.

Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer and Council, the Weed Supervisor is responsible for the Enforcement of the Noxious Weed Act and other weed control activities in areas under the Municipality's jurisdiction.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Monitor, mow, and perform herbicide application on properties and roadsides in the Municipality.
- Operate weed control equipment and vehicle with sprayer.
- Keep daily records of all activities performed and prepare weekly and annual reports to the municipality and Province.
- Develop and maintain positive internal and external communication. Takes appropriate action to address issues pertaining to weed and pest control issues. Must have the ability to deal with public concerns and inquiries.

Skills and Qualifications

- Must be eligible for and capable of obtaining Provincial applicators license (Rural Municipal) and permits pertaining to the use of pesticides and herbicides under the Manitoba Pesticide and Fertilizers Control Act (license), the Manitoba Environment Act (pesticide use permit) and Canada Pest Control Products Act (product label uses)
- Valid Class 5 licence (Class 3 or higher would be considered an asset)
- Familiarity with noxious weeds, their identification, biology, and control as well as the implications of soil and other conditions in the area is considered an asset
- Knowledge and application of various pest control methodologies
- A familiarity and good working knowledge of related statutes and regulation
- Computer proficiency (MS Office)
- Ability to learn department specific software including ESRI, Field Maps, Mobile App
- A degree or diploma in Agriculture is considered an asset
- Proven analytical problem solving and conflict management skills
- Will work mostly unsupervised, must have excellent time management, and organizational skills
- Ability to work successfully with the Transportation Superintendent and co-workers

A complete job description is available upon request. The successful candidate can expect a salary reflective of their experience and qualifications. Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by:

E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0
Resumes will be reviewed as they are received.

This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located.
Only those selected for an interview will be contacted

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Municipality of Two Borders would like to invite applications for:

1 Seasonal Full Time Mower Operator

Qualifications: Ability to operate a tractor and a commercial ditch mower, perform minor repairs to equipment, operate two-way radios and other communication equipment. Ability to conduct pre-operational checks on equipment, clean and lubricate equipment. Ability to take direction from the Foreman and to work alone.

Pre-requisite: Valid driver's licence.

Hourly wage: Wage Negotiable, approximately 50 hours per week.

Anticipated start date is approximately June 2, 2025.

Applications will be accepted until March 21, 2025, or until suitable candidates are found. We appreciate your interest in this position, however, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

To obtain more information and a complete job description contact the CAO Grace Carr at 204-522-3263 or inquire by email at info@twoborders.ca or cao@twoborders.ca.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Green Team – Summer Student Positions

The Municipality of Two Borders would like to invite applications for Summer Student Positions, under the Green Team Program.

Position Description:

- Planting and watering of flowers & trees, tilling, weeding, mowing grass.
- Landscaping, painting, maintenance of Municipal facilities.
- Maintenance of motorized equipment power mowers and other landscape maintenance equipment.

Pre-requisites:

- Valid Class 5 driver's licence is preferred

This position is eligible to Youth aged 15 to 29 years, who reside in Manitoba and are legally entitled to work in Canada.

This position will commence on or before, May 12, 2025.

The deadline for applications will remain open until suitable candidates are found.

To apply, please submit your resume and indicate your available starting date:
Mail to: PO Box 429, Melita, Manitoba, ROM 1L0
E-mailed to: info@twoborders.ca

Only those applicants chosen for interviews will be contacted.
Thank you for your interest.

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Help Wanted



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Employment Opportunity Administrative Assistant/Legal Secretary

Our law firm has an opening for a full-time position for an Administrative Assistant/Legal Secretary. The duties of this position include:

- Preparation of legal documents including, reports, invoices, affidavits, land titles and court applications
- Organize and maintain client files
- Take messages from clients and schedule appointments
- Perform data entry for client database and accounting system
- Respond to phone enquiries, messages and emails
- Maintain records and confidential files electronically and manually
- Review documents for completeness and accuracy
- Make photocopies of correspondence, documents, and other printed matter
- Organize envelopes, postage and mail for clients
- Perform other related office duties as assigned

The successful applicant will have experience with Microsoft Office programs, excellent communication skills, a strong work ethic, be detail oriented and efficient at multi-tasking. The ability to maintain client confidentiality is essential.

Our firm is a busy general law practice serving our client base in southwest Manitoba. We invite interested applicants to submit a resume by mail or email to our office in confidence by Friday, March 21, 2025 to:

McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell
Box 520
Viriden, MB ROM 2C0
Attention: Anique Timmerman
or by Email to: anique@mhmlaw.ca

While we thank each applicant for their interest, only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Full Time Music Teacher Wanted

Boundary Lane Colony School is seeking a full time music teacher applicant to teach music at school for grades 1 through 12 near Elkhorn MB.

- Looking for singing teaching but instrumental talents also very welcome.
- Preferably 2 different sessions for the different age groups of students. - Flexible times available.
- Would preferably like someone with a Christian faith background willing to teach in a Hutterite context setting.

Contact Jason @ 204-851-3965 for any inquiries.

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MLA Wayne Ewasko to represent MB in Laboratories of Democracy Initiative

Submitted
MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

WINNIPEG — MLA Wayne Ewasko, Leader of the Official Opposition, will represent Manitoba at this year's Laboratories of Democracy Initiative, an international forum where legislators from Canada, the United States, and Germany work together to find solutions to common challenges facing democratic societies.

The 2025 forum will be held in Dresden, Germany, from February 25 to March 1. Legislators will look at ways to bridge political divides, bring people together, and build stronger communities. The group will develop practical, non-partisan recommendations, which will be shared later this summer.

"This initiative is a great opportunity to bring fresh ideas back to Manitoba while sharing our province's successes and challenges on the world stage," said Ewasko. "By working with leaders of all political stripes across Canada, the U.S., and Germany, we can find common ground and solutions that will strengthen democracy and make life better for Manitobans."

Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives believe in a free and democratic society, Ewasko said. Taking part in this year's forum also ensures the province has a voice in promoting and supporting democracy around the world, he added.

"Good leadership means looking beyond our borders for the best ideas and bringing them home," Ewasko said. "This initiative is about learning from each other and making sure Manitoba remains a leader in building strong, united communities."

Virден Legion Ladies Auxiliary Report

Submitted
MARJ MACDONALD

The Virден Legion Ladies Auxiliary met on February 5, 2025. President Tracy Pappel welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open for the transaction of business. Financial Report, Correspondence and Committee Re-

ports were all dealt with. Donations made to Virден Music & Arts Festival, also to a couple of families to help with medical expenses. The District #2 annual meeting will be held March 1st, 2025 in Oak Lake Legion Hall. Just a reminder that memberships are due. Next auxiliary meeting will be March 5, 2025 at 1:30pm.

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Summer Employment Opportunities

- * Lifeguard Instructor
- * Assistant Lifeguard
- * Assistant Head Lifeguard
- * Green Team
- * Program Events Leader & Assistants

Spring Thaw Reminder

As spring approaches, please use extreme caution around creeks, culverts and drainage ditches within the Town of Virден and surrounding areas.

For everyone's safety, please keep children, pets, and yourselves out of danger, and off of thin ice.

Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virден offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2025 property taxes.

Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2024 property taxes.

The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

Month of Payment	Discount Rate	Savings on \$1000.00
February	2.00%	\$ 20.00
March	1.75%	\$ 17.50
April	1.50%	\$ 15.00
May	1.25%	\$ 12.50
June	1.00%	\$ 10.00
July	0.75%	\$ 7.50

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par.

Tax prepayments can be made by mailing a cheque with the tax roll number written on the reverse to the Town of Virден, Box 310, Virден, MB, ROM 2C0, e-transfer to clerk@virден.ca, via online banking, or by attending the Town Office in person during normal business hours.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440.

Employment Opportunity Municipal Clerk/RCMP Detachment

The Town of Virден is accepting applications for a full-time, permanent position for a Municipal Clerk at the Westman RCMP Detachment, Virден. The successful applicant will report to the Staff Sergeant. The applicant will be required to perform all clerical duties as well as learn all aspects of the computer systems utilized by policing.

The successful applicant must possess:

- a grade twelve diploma (relevant post-secondary education is an asset);
- strong communication skills and the ability to deal with other government organizations and the public in a positive, friendly and open manner, often in stressful situations;
- the ability to work co-operatively and independently in a small office setting, while dealing with distractions and interruptions;
- the ability to perform varied and multiple tasks within deadlines;
- knowledge of various computer software systems;
- the ability to respect and promote confidentiality

The successful applicant must be able to be security cleared.

Detailed job descriptions are available at the Virден Town Office or the Westman RCMP Detachment.

Detailed resumes marked "Municipal Clerk/RCMP" will be accepted by:

Faye Pope, Office Manager - Town of Virден
236 Wellington Street West, Box 310
Virден, Manitoba, ROM 2C0
Ph: (204)748-2440 Fax: (204)748-2501
Email: office.manager@virден.ca

The hiring panel will accept and review applications as received, and interview as early as **February 24, 2025**, with applications continuing to be accepted until the right candidate is found.

The Town of Virден thanks all those who apply, but only those who are selected for an interview will be contacted.

Upcoming Council Meetings:
March 11 & 25

Please Note:
Town of Virден Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM

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Empire-Advance tribute to past newspaper owners

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Empire-Advance has served Virden and area for fourteen decades and will, this spring, commemorate the 140th anniversary of this publication. The enduring nature of this publication has been made possible by those who stepped up to own and operate the weekly newspaper in both good times and tough times. For their part in the Empire-Advance's legacy we pay tribute to the late Marlain and Grant Shoemaker. Grant passed away on Jan. 17, 2025, predeceased by wife Marlain nearly two years earlier, on April 12, 2023.

The Shoemakers were Virden residents and their purchase followed joint ownership by Greg Nesbitt (Nesbitt Publishing Ltd. of Shoal Lake) and Gary Struth (Struth Publishing Ltd. of Kilnarney).

Front page of the Jan. 6 issue of the 2001 Empire-Advance records: "Grant and Marlain Shoemaker became sole proprietors of the newspaper as of January 2. The Empire-Advance had been owned by a three-person partnership since November 1999, with Marlain Shoemaker as publisher. Grant Shoemaker said he and his wife bought the paper because they wanted it to be locally owned and operated. He said they want the paper to be a community organ that reflects events and issues of importance to

the residents of Virden and area."

Dianne Hanson, a current member of the Empire-Advance team, was hired by the Shoemakers to work in sales at the Empire-Advance. "Having never worked in the newspaper business, they were very quick to teach me all about it. Dealing with deadlines can be very stressful, but the Shoemakers always found a way to make going to work a fun experience," said Hanson. She poured herself into the work and had great success.

Eva Wainess, a longtime friend of the Shoemakers, was their advertisement designer for many years.

Empire-Advance sports reporter Robin Wark began to write for the paper during the Shoemakers' tenure, in 2005. Wark recalls those years and says, "I always found Grant and Marlain to be supportive personally and professionally. As they came to newspapers from different businesses, they brought a different perspective that I found helpful as a reporter and also just as a young person growing up. Their network certainly helped keep me informed on developing news events. As well, they were fun to be around."

Another front-page story in the Feb. 2nd issue of 2008 announced the newspaper's next chapter, a sale to a corporate owner, Glacier Ventures International with Boundary Publishers Ltd. (Estevan, Sask.).



Marlain and Grant Shoemaker.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gail Longmuir became managing editor.

Glacier, and what became known as the Prairie Newspaper Group, continued as owners/publishers from 2008, for 16 years, until Ken and Christine Waddell purchased the newspaper in June of 2024.

The Empire-Advance tips its hat in memory of Grant and Marlain Shoemaker for their years at the helm.

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Proud to support the Miniota Community Centre

Dillon Stonehouse, Luke Lelond, Trevor Armitage, Jason Lewis (Tundra - Senior Surface Land Representative), Jeff Poppel, Ashleigh Poppel, Frank Stonehouse, Brooks Lelond, Kade Lelond, Cole Armitage, Evan Armitage, Mason Poppel, Emmett Poppel, Noah Poppel, Rhett Lelond, Logan McKean, Traci McKean, & Brae McKean



**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY
20TH -
MONDAY,
MARCH 3RD,
2025**

10 DAY SALE

For one day everyone will get their
**FURNITURE, ACCESSORIES,
AND MATTRESS SETS**
FREE!
excluding appliances & electronics

COULD BE YOURS
FOR FREE!

5 PIECE DINING SET
4 UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS, DINING TABLE
WITH BUTTERFLY LEAF



WAS \$2,199.99 NOW \$1,699.99

COULD BE YOURS
FOR FREE!

5 PIECE DINING SET
UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS



WAS \$799.99 NOW \$588.00

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7 PIECE DINING SET
SOLID WOOD (STOCK ONLY)



WAS \$2,249.99 NOW \$1,599.99

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WAS \$599.99 NOW \$449.99

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RECLINING SOFA
MANUAL, FABRIC COVER
(STOCK ONLY)



WAS \$1,699.99 NOW \$1,288.00

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MATCHING LOVE SEAT
MANUAL, FABRIC COVER
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SOFA SLEEPER WITH STORAGE
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WAS \$1,549.99 NOW \$1,149.99

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ENTERTAINMENT STAND
WITH STORAGE



WAS \$549.99 NOW \$419.99

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PALLISER STATIONARY FABRIC SOFA
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WAS \$2,299.99 NOW \$1,399.99

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LOVE SEAT
AS A SET
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SAVE EVEN
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FABRIC RECLINER
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WAS \$1,199.99 NOW \$768.00

**TWIN OVER TWIN
METAL BUNK BED**

WAS \$899.99 NOW \$599.99

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**TWIN OVER DOUBLE
METAL BUNK BED**

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FOR FREE!

Due to the nature of this sale, we feel a brief explanation is essential. At closing on Monday, March 3, 2025 we will tally the 10 days of sales on all furniture, accessories and mattresses, excluding appliances and electronics, and divide by 10 to get the average daily sales. The day which is the closest to this daily average, without going over it, will be the day for which all purchasers will receive their purchase amount back, taxes excluded. In the case of credit card purchases, we will issue a credit immediately. We are tremendously overstocked right now. We must reduce our inventory. To ensure we do, we will even give it away for one day!

10 DAY SALE QUALIFYING PURCHASES: FURNITURE, ACCESSORIES, AND MATTRESSES ~ IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY APPLY

BRANDSOURCE

Kullberg's

HOME FURNISHINGS

LAYAWAY
OPTIONS

ASK YOUR SALES ASSOCIATE



Fairstone

FINANCING AVAILABLE BY TEXTING
KULLBERGS TO 75837
FROM YOUR SMART PHONE

**FREE
DELIVERY**

within 200km
from Brandon, MB
(Manitoba only).

Ask our Sales
Associates about
Delivery Options!

SALES RULES

1. All sales must be paid in full or approved financing.
2. Credit cards accepted.
3. Sale starts Thursday, February 20th and ends Monday, March 3rd, 2025.
4. All qualifying purchasers of furniture, accessories, and mattresses, on free day will

be notified and receive their full refund excluding taxes

5. Commercial sales, appliances and electronics excluded in tallies and free day.
6. All taxes excluded in tallies and refunds.
7. No returns or substitutions for these 10 sale days.
8. All sales are final for these 10 sale days.