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FEBRUARY 21, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 120 NO 27 / ADVANCE: VOL 139 NO 29 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS FIGHTING FOR LAST PLAYOFF SPOT



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

Inside...



KINDNESS OF ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

P2



HEALTH CARE WORKER PREPARED TO STRIKE

P8

Oil Capitals sported special edition jerseys for the afternoon game on February 17 against the Flyers. These jerseys were created by Brooks Freeman, a talented local designer. The design was an inspired vintage look of the 1920s to 1930s. Read more about the Oil Caps on pages 10 and 11.

PHOTO BY OIL CAPS

Be On Time!

Advertising deadline:

12 Noon on Tuesday



Empire-Advance
serving virden & area since 1885

Espresso machine bolsters Virден coffee shop



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michelle Davies with her espresso machine that was donated to MJ's Coffee Bar and Bistro

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

MJ's Coffee Bar & Bistro received a heartwarming anonymous donation, an espresso coffee machine.

It was a wonderful surprise for owner Michelle Davies. She and her fiancé Cory Nixon "were amazed and grateful for the gift that they received. For a small-town business owner, this meant a lot to them," said MJ's employee Hayley Davis.

Michelle said "It has to be one of my regulars who won't admit to the good deed."

Commercial restaurant equipment is fantastically pricey. MJ's original espresso machine (currently out for repair) cost \$9,000. The newly acquired machine came from one of the Second Cup coffee shops in Winnipeg. It's valued at about \$15,000.

The bistro at 143 Nelson St. West opened on Virден's rodeo weekend (August) 2022. This coffee bar serves downtown Virден from 10am breakfasts to lunches and then afternoon treats until 5pm closing time.

"Coffee is definitely one of our main sales. It's the core of my business," Michelle states. Forbidden Flavours in Brandon is her source and for good reason. "The coffee is roasted the day I pick it up." It doesn't get any fresher than that.

The new heavy duty espresso machine is bigger and faster, important features for a food service.

The original espresso machine, once fixed, may become part of MJ's mobile canteen, planned for outdoor summer events in the area such as Canada Day in Victoria Park.

MJ's Coffee Bar & Bistro boasts made from scratch actual whipped cream toppings and in-store baked items. Michelle employs five staff who come up with specialty flavours of coffee, lattes and teas. She also features special dishes beyond the basic menu.

Health Auxiliary starts fundraising blitz

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virден & District Health Auxiliary have taken on a project that will place a point of care ultrasound in Virден clinic and emergency room.

Last year, the Auxiliary raised \$42,335 for equipment for the hospital and lab, the Sherwood Home, the West-Man Nursing Home and for EMS.

This year their main project is expected to cost \$72,000 and they are getting right into fundraising.

The Auxiliary's annual meeting was held on Feb. 10 and plans are already underway. President Thelma Quinn says, "We have special funds set aside for this project." And they will hold their regular Spring Luncheon in May or June.

While the group is starting with a nest egg, never-the-less, this year's goal is almost twice that of previous projects and the group has fundraising plans underway.

Quinn says, "We are appealing to four different area foundations as well as several community clubs and organizations. We also use memorial funds from individuals which we can apply to projects such as this." There were 41 'in memorium' donations.

Their work last year included funds for the purchase of:

- for the lab - 2 portable Holter BP monitors
- for the Sherwood - 6 plastic folding tables, 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gwen Clarke (treasurer) and Thelma Quinn (president) have over 20 years volunteering with the Virден & District Health Auxiliary.

- doff n' donner cone, 1 doff n' donner sleeve, 1 whiteboard, and 1 blanket/towel warmer
- for the West-Man - 12 plastic folding tables, 5 toilet risers, 2 electric lift chairs, 1 Broda chair and 2 BP machines with stands and brackets
- for the Hospital - 1 Qube monitor, 1 recliner for the IV room, 3 IV

- pump kits and drug library
- The Auxiliary also provided a \$2000 scholarship to a VCI graduate with preference to a student entering any aspect of the medical field.
- "I've had very good feedback from the letter to the editor and I am very optimistic that we will fulfil our dream thanks

to our community and surrounding area," says Quinn. Donations may be made to Virден and District Health Auxiliary, Box 2526, Virден, MB. R0M 2C0. For more information, please contact Thelma Quinn at 742-2006 or Gwen Clarke at 748-7103

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Virден doctors train for ultrasound



STOCK PHOTO

Shown here is a generic picture of an Ultrasound machine. The one being sought out for Virден Hospital may appear different from this photo. Ed:Note-KW

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

While Virден & District Health Auxiliary is rising to the challenge of fundraising for an expensive diagnostic device, Virден doctors are taking training to be ready to use the new technology.

A letter was published in the Feb. 7 Empire-Advance from the president of the Auxiliary, Thelma Quinn, telling the community of their fundraising goal of \$72,000 to purchase an ultrasound – an item on the wish list for Virден Health Centre.

Virден doctor Jennifer Hammell explains what it would mean to medical staff to have such an ultrasound device available for patient/emergency care.

In a recent presentation to the physician recruitment and retention group she said:

“The community support of Virден and area is so gratefully appreciated by the Virден medical staff. We are currently looking to upgrade our ultrasound for the emergency department. The one that we currently have doesn’t have the detail for emergency scans that we need.

“The new technology would allow us to emergently diagnose collapsed lungs, blood in the abdomen from trauma,

uterus) can be life threatening and the sooner we are able to diagnose this the sooner people can get the care they need. Having ultrasound available at the bedside further improves the care that we can provide in emergent situations. The support to raise the \$72,000 needed to purchase this machine is greatly appreciated.

“Currently the doctors are taking the advanced ultrasound training, costing each doctor about \$7,500 and a week of their time, so that they are ready to be able to offer this service to our patients.

“We all can think of situations, be it sick patients, car accidents, victims of violence, where the ultrasound would have been helpful in expediting the diagnosis and treatment of patients and advocating for their best care. We realize that this is a lot of money and appreciate each of the donations towards the Health Auxiliary fund-

raising for this project.”

Virден is the largest centre in southwest Manitoba outside of Brandon. Located on Hwy #1 at the junction of Hwy #83, and surrounded by agriculture and oil field industries, it’s important for the town, the area and highway traffic to have a fully equipped and capable medical centre. Virден is designated as a 24/7 emergency service provider. Prairie Mountain Health explained that Virден hospital does not have an ultrasound unit in their lab and x-ray area. A Point of Care Ultrasound is used by emergency room physicians, and is an excellent tool for the quick diagnosis of potential trauma complications, insertion of lines in patients, and for the diagnosis of some health issues.

fluid around the heart and the muscle movement of the heart wall. Emergent situations such as ectopic pregnancy (baby forming in the tubes rather than the



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Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change invites public comment on the following proposal:

GRAYCAN INC. - IRRIGATION PROJECT – FILE: 6226.00

Graycan Inc. proposes to build and operate an irrigation reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic decametres on SE 26-8-26 WPM within the Rural Municipality of Pipestone. They plan to use the spring flow from Pipestone Creek Diversion to fill the reservoir and annually irrigate up to 162 hectares (400 acres). If approved, they plan to fill it by using the 2026 spring runoff.

Anyone likely to be affected by the proposal and who wishes to comment, should contact Jay Mak, Senior Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Jay.Mak@gov.mb.ca no later than March 23, 2025. Further information is available from the Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

Information submitted in response to this proposal will be available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-8069
Fax: 204-945-5229
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries



MONEY MATTERS

Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth

Tanner Lewis
Financial Advisor
Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth

FEBRUARY: "RRSP DEADLINE"

Last-Minute Tips to Maximize Your Tax Savings for 2025

The Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) is a cornerstone of retirement planning in Canada, offering significant tax advantages that can help you grow your savings more efficiently. Contributions to an RRSP are tax-deductible, meaning that when you contribute money to your RRSP, you can deduct that amount from your taxable income.

This reduces the amount of tax you owe for the year, and any income earned within the RRSP is tax-deferred until it is withdrawn, typically during retirement when you are likely in a lower tax bracket.

The contribution deadline for RRSPs is usually the first week of March, and this deadline is crucial for optimizing your tax savings for the previous year. For example, contributions made by the deadline in early March can be applied to your tax return for the previous year, offering an immediate tax benefit. Missing this deadline means you miss out on the potential tax savings for that year, so it is important to act promptly.

Maximizing your RRSP contributions can significantly enhance your retirement savings and tax benefits. The maximum contribution limit for the year is 18% of your earned income from the previous year, up to a specified maximum dollar amount. This limit can also be increased by any unused contribution room from previous years. To make the most of your contributions, consider the following last-minute deposit strategies:

1. Lump-Sum Contribution: If you have a significant amount of cash available, making a lump-sum contribution can help you reach your maximum allowable amount quickly. This is especially useful if you receive a year-end bonus or have been saving up for this purpose.
2. Borrow to Contribute: Some financial institutions offer RRSP loans designed to help you maximize your contributions. While borrowing to invest may seem counterintuitive, the tax refund you receive from the contribution can often be used to pay off the loan, making this a viable strategy for some.
3. Spousal RRSP: Contributing to a spousal RRSP can be beneficial if one spouse has a higher income than the other. This strategy allows the higher-earning spouse to claim the deduction, while the funds grow tax-deferred in the lower-earning spouse's account, potentially resulting in lower taxes upon withdrawal.
4. Automated Contributions: Setting up automated contributions throughout the year can help you avoid the last-minute scramble and ensure you are consistently saving for retirement.

When considering RRSP contributions, it is also important to compare them with Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA). Both RRSPs and TFSAs offer tax advantages, but they serve different financial goals. Contributions to a TFSA are not tax-deductible, but any income earned within the account is tax-free, and withdrawals can be made at any time without penalty or tax implications. This makes TFSAs ideal for short-term savings goals or as an emergency fund.

On the other hand, RRSPs are specifically designed for retirement savings, with tax-deductible contributions and tax-deferred growth. Withdrawals from an RRSP are taxed as income, which can be advantageous if you are in a lower tax bracket during retirement.

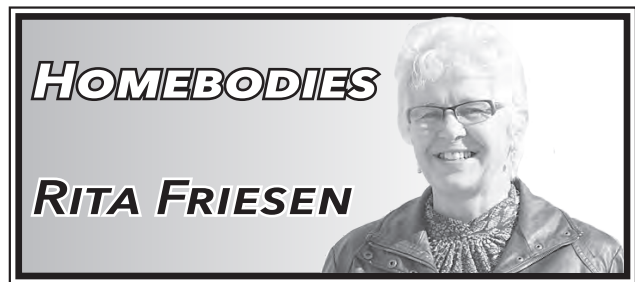
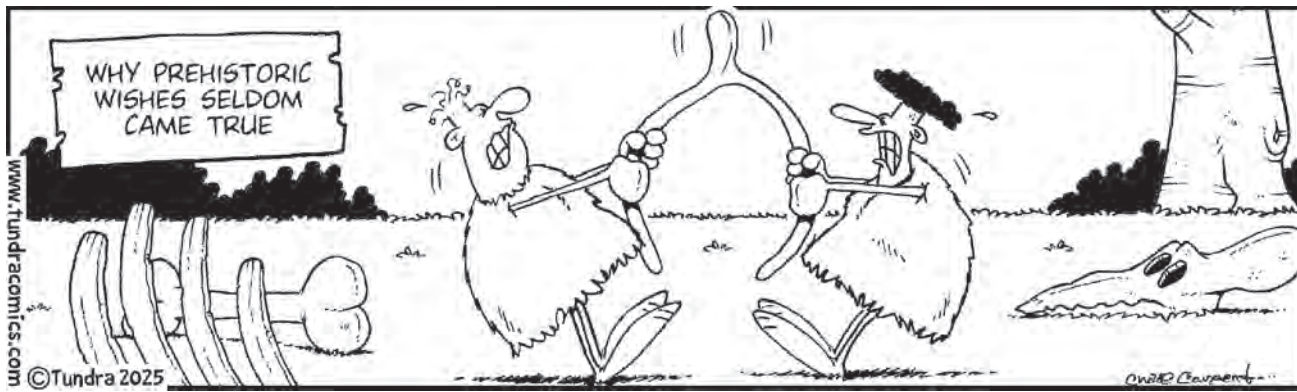
In conclusion, understanding the basics and tax advantages of RRSPs, adhering to the contribution deadline, maximizing your contributions with strategic planning, and comparing RRSPs with TFSAs for different financial goals can help you make the most of your retirement savings. As the deadline approaches, take advantage of these last-minute tips to ensure you are optimizing your tax savings for 2025.

Mutual funds and other securities are offered through
Aviso Wealth, a division of Aviso Financial Inc.



Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



HOMEBOODIES

RITA FRIESEN

Still learning!

By the time you are reading this I will have celebrated my 79th birthday. Really quite an achievement. I am now older than my mother was when she died. I have outlived friends and classmates. With a quick research on line I see that in many countries the life expectancy of a woman is in the mid 80s, and there are too many countries where that number is under 60. There are so many determining factors: culture, heredity, affluence and location for example. What I do know is that I am so blessed to live in Canada, am able to eat well, live safely and enjoy recreation and entertainment! But that's not the learning I'm referring to! (The learning to which I am referring... for the editors out there!)

I admitted, out loud, that I do not like washing my face. I do, regularly, but I don't like it. As I shared this with a family member they were not at all surprised— 'you don't like water'. I do to drink it. I do enjoy a shower. I do not enjoy swimming pools, lakes, water skiing and anything else that requires me to be in the water. I have done my share of all of the above to be a brave parent and grandparent. I could not, would not, show the children how afraid I was to be in a boat, or on the water skis. It took a very long time for me to trust a life jacket. There may be a story of early childhood trauma. When speaking to another family member of another generation, my admission about not liking to wash my face elicited the very same reply, 'you don't like water'. Hah, my family know me and they love me.

I have learned, am learning, that it's okay to accept one's limitations. Reading had always been important to me. After the surgery on a brain aneurism way back in 2002, I needed to re learn to read. I went back to easy reading, old familiar books from my childhood, and was able to recover enough to keep up with my studies— the reading was assigned well in advance and I realized that reading 20 pages at a time allowed me to retain more information— and up side. Now I need to read books with large print while awaiting cataract surgery. The great thing is that our library has an incredible selection of large print books, knowledgeable staff that directs me to the type of reading I enjoy, and can order in books I need to read, in large print!

I am certain that as I age, I will find that I will continue to need to learn to adapt. I am learning to adapt! I have embraced chair yoga for seniors for flexibility. I have a set of exercises to strengthen the sciatica and expanded them to maintain flexibility in my ankles. They work. I did a graceful four point landing on the icy street. Not quite a tuck and roll, but when the force of momentum ceased, my face was inches from the ice. Not bruises, no sore spots, a little humiliation. What will my next lesson be?

Thinking before acting might have been better

I have been watching various news releases about Zebra Mussels in Clear Lake for a couple of years now.

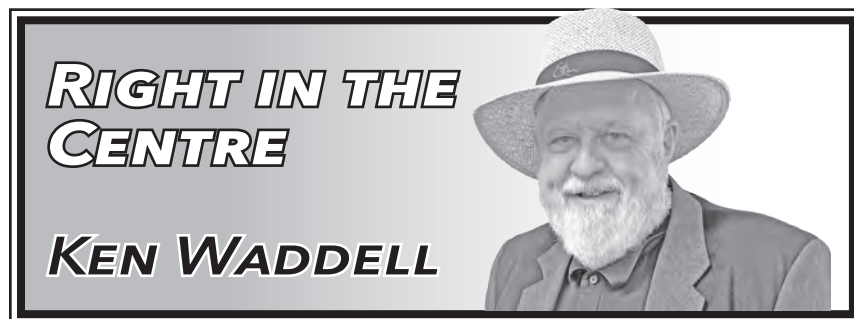
Initially, government officials vowed to fight off the mussels by insisting that boats be scrubbed between uses. I laughed inside a bit about that. For the last 40 years or so, few, if any, jurisdictions, have been able to control these nasty little, pipe clogging, boat encrusting, sharp-shelled critters.

First, the government restricted boats, even boats that never left Clear Lake. They restricted rental paddle boats for heaven's sake and they don't leave Clear Lake either. Then they put up a dam around the infestation, but they forgot to get permission from the wind and waves and the plastic dam was destroyed in a matter of days.

The whole affair would be quite laughable actually if it weren't so serious and sad. The government wasn't going to be able to contain the mussels, they spent a lot of money trying and they placed a whole batch of restrictions, causing havoc with the tourism business at Clear Lake. I think the government and Parks Canada were pretty dumb on this issue.

Then, just last week it was reported in the Winnipeg Free Press that, "In a late-January news release, Parks Canada announced it would reopen the lake to boaters in 2025, albeit under a "one boat, one lake" program, after finding hundreds of young zebra mussels on the eastern side of the lake — a couple of kilometres east of the main marina where staff first found evidence of the invasive species.

"Data gathered in 2024 demonstrated that zebra mussels are much more spread out in the lake than



RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL

“As such, an eradication attempt would not be feasible”

initially thought,” Parks Canada said in an email.

“As such, an eradication attempt would not be feasible.”

I think anyone with an ounce of intelligence had that “more wide spread” statement figured out long before the Parks Canada people did.

At a press conference on August 12th, 1986, US President Ronald Reagan said, “The nine most terrifying words in the English language are ‘I’m from the government and I’m here to help.’”

That statement still rings true unfortunately!

This whole Zebra Mussels debacle at Clear Lake didn't stop the mussels and most of us knew they wouldn't stop them. The government spent a whole lot of money for nothing and cost Clear Lake people a fortune in lost business.

It's still a matter of discussion, but it is reported that Zebra Mussels may actual clean up lakes, but perhaps

Clear Lake doesn't need cleaning. Just the same, an internet search shows that “Mussels are filter feeders, which means they feed by clearing nutrients from the water passing through them. The rate of reproduction and spread of zebra mussels make them efficient cleaners of Great Lakes water, but whether that's a positive or negative thing depends on who you're asking.”

There is no doubt that Zebra Mussels are persistent in reproducing, they clog water intake pipes and encrust just about everything they come in contact with. They can be controlled by using potassium in the water but that topic would need some more research. That would be a good idea in the same way that it would have been better if Parks Canada researched how ineffective their efforts of the past two years have been.

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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Parenting as a Team

**MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS
DELSIE MARTIN**

The parenting alliance is the component of the marriage that involves parenting together. It is how spouses provide support and respect for one another in their parenting journey. A satisfying intimate relationship is the foundation for a strong parenting alliance. Parenting in and of itself can challenge an individual's self esteem and ability to regulate. Having a strong parenting alliance with your partner can help you to feel more secure in your personal role as a parent. It helps you both to respond to your children warmly and empathetically because you feel confident in your role as a parent due to the support from your partner. Good listening skills are your number one tool to survive this period. When your partner needs to talk, stop everything and attune yourself to them. Physically turn your body toward them, maintain eye contact and give minimal encouragers like head nods. Even if there are little ones creating chaos around you, these small things in the moment can show that your partner's needs are important. Do ask open ended questions to encourage your partner to share more and try to avoid planning what to say next to your partner. Listen to understand, not to respond.

Do talk about your hopes, fears and frustrations with your partner. It can be helpful to begin your sharing by saying what you need from them. As an example, "I'm feeling really frustrated right now and I just need to vent and for you to listen to me". Sometimes its hard as the receiving partner to know what you need from them and many turn to providing solutions when this isn't what you actually need. Your partner may share these hopes, fears and frustrations but be too scared to vocalize them with you. When you and your partner connect at the end of your days, ask, "what was good about your day" and "what was challenging". When your partner talks about their good, react enthusiastically and show interest. When they talk about what isn't so good, validate their emotions, normalize the difficulty and provide them a compliment or affirmation about why they are an amazing human. These things help to build emotional connection and friendship which will keep you going during periods of time were connecting emotionally is especially hard.

Disagreements in parenting will come up, that's inevitable. Talking about each other's perspective can really help this process. Don't enter a disagreement with the goal of being correct, rather, enter with a mind of curiosity to try and understand your partner's perspective. Also ask yourself, is this disagreement worth pursuing? If this isn't a serious life or death parenting disagreement, can you find any points of commonality? Can you compromise? Can you agree to disagree?

Effective co-parenting is key in maintaining the health and well being of your entire household. Effective co-parenting can have better outcomes for behavioral regulation in your kids because you are able to maintain consistent boundaries. Difficult moments are temporary and will pass and I know that you can get through this.

Cost of convenience

**FAITH &
FAMILY
TARA KAUEHOFEN**



My great grandmother was 100 when she graduated to heaven in 2015.

I can remember visiting her and the smell of her green coated peppermints on the coffee table that had been left open knowing we were coming, homemade pickles and bread, the Chinese checkers board set out with care ready to whoop our butts with her many years of practice are all fond fond memories!

But as I ponder back on these memories, I think of the stories she told of years gone by, a lifetime ago, another world it would seem from the one I knew and was growing up in.

My mind would be flooded with images of horse drawn carriages, one room schoolhouses, railways being built, horses hauling steam engines across the raw and wild prairies.

Pushing, pulling progress forward into the future whether it was kicking and screaming

Or with joy.

Progress was inevitable.

But what I have realized now as an adult, looking back, is that for all the progress made, we lost so much in the process.

In two generations of growth there was a whole way of life that was lost.

Growing food and working hard with your hands to provide.

Hunting and gathering.

Fellowshipping as a family.

Trading posts and community.

These things have thankfully started to slowly make a comeback in some circles and for some (like myself) I was blessed enough to have parents who taught me these values and this way of life and how carrying on these skills was actually a way to honour those that came before me.

Making sure the legacy of those who bled and died for this country, who poured their blood, sweat and tears out on the soil to tame this wild and raw land and work along side it to make it a home is kept in tact.

My deep fervent prayer is that more people come to an equilibrium when it comes to progress and honouring our ancestors and history.

That we start to explore with deep curiosity the way of life that was the steppingstones to getting us where we are today and in our own way, adopt some of these ways back into our lives.

Bring back deep friendship and fellowship, bring back trading skills to bless others, bring back teaching a friend a skill they don't have, bring back community suppers and gratefulness.

Bring back remembering and honouring the legacy of how progress became.

Hydrotherapy The Secret Weapon Against Low Energy

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS CERTIFIED
HYPNOTHERAPIST**

MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Feeling like a zombie dragging through the day? No matter how much coffee you chug or how long you stare at your to-do list, some days, your energy just refuses to show up. If that sounds familiar, it might be time to ditch the caffeine and try something a little more... refreshing. Enter hydrotherapy, an ancient yet surprisingly effective way to wake up your body, boost circulation, and kick fatigue to the curb and all with the power of water.

We all have those moments when exhaustion hits, and it feels impossible to power through. Whether it is stress, poor sleep, dehydration, or just life being extra exhausting, low energy is your body's way of waving a white flag. Instead of pushing through with another energy drink, imagine stepping into a warm, relaxing bath or even better, shocking your system awake with a quick blast of cold water. Sounds extreme? Maybe, but hydrotherapy has been used for centuries, and science backs up its incredible benefits.

So, how does it work? Think of it like a wake-up call for your circulation. When you soak in warm water, your blood vessels expand, helping nutrients and oxygen flow more freely. Add a splash of cold water, and your blood vessels tighten, pushing everything along even faster. It is like giving your body a gentle workout without moving a muscle. And that little rush of cold? It triggers a boost in oxygen intake, firing up your brain and muscles for a natural energy lift.

If you have ever felt stiff and sluggish after a long day (or a long nap), hydrotherapy is also a fantastic way to loosen up. A warm soak or even a hydrotherapy massage with water jets can relax tight muscles, reduce inflammation, and get rid of that heavy, weighed-down feeling. Add in some endorphins, your body's natural mood boosters, and suddenly, you are feeling lighter, happier, and way more awake.

The best part? You do not need a fancy spa or expensive equipment to make this work. A contrast shower, where you switch between warm and cold water, is an easy way to start. If you are not ready for the full cold shower experience, even splashing your face with cold water or soaking your feet in alternating warm and cool water can give you a quick pick-me-up. For a nighttime routine that helps you wake up refreshed, try an Epsom salt bath to relax your muscles and improve sleep quality because better rest means more energy the next day.

Hydrotherapy is nature's way of hitting the reset button, and it is totally customizable to fit your comfort level. Whether you are easing into it with a warm bath or diving straight into an icy shower challenge, it is a fun, refreshing, and completely natural way to bring your energy back to life. So, the next time you feel like a walking nap, skip the coffee and let water do the work. Your body will thank you!

**Greg NESBITT
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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Can you imagine life before the development of electricity and power lines? Before the advent of refrigerators and deep freezers? To keep food cold to prevent waste people had ice houses. The ice house was a cellar dug in the ground with a building built over it. The earth's insulating properties and coolness created an ideal environment. In the depth of winter the team of horses were hooked up to the sleigh and out to a river, lake or dugout. With a huge ice saw large blocks of ice were cut. The floating blocks of ice were pulled out of the water with ice tongs. With considerable effort the blocks of ice were hauled out of the water. Care had to be taken so the heavy weight of the blocks of ice did not pull you into the water. The large blocks of ice were loaded on the sleighs and hauled back home to the ice house. Straw or saw dust from sawing the winter wood was layered between the blocks of ice and layered on top of the ice. A ventilation system with an air shaft allowed for the circulation of cool air within the ice house, preventing the buildup of moisture. This method was so effective that the ice was often still frozen the next winter. Cream cans were stored on the ice blocks as it was essential to keep the cream cool enough so it would not sour before shipping.

In the house were ice boxes that kept the food cool. They were usually made of wood or metal, lined with tin or zinc, and insulated with sawdust or straw. The ice was placed in a compartment at the top of the box and cool air from the ice would circulate downward into the main compartment where food was stored. As the ice melted, it would drain into a tray at the bottom of the box and needed to be emptied regularly. Ice boxes needed more ice every couple of days. The ice box would keep your milk, meat, butter and other food items cool so it would last longer.

In towns and cities the iceman would drive a horse drawn "ice wagon", and deliver blocks of ice with ice hooks into a customer's homes and lift it into the ice box. Kids would chase the iceman's horse-drawn ice wagon down the street, hoping for a small chunk of ice on a hot summer day. The first electric refrigerator was made in 1913. It wasn't until the 1930s that they became more reliable and affordable and by the late 1940s, refrigerators had become a common household feature in most city and town homes. As electricity came to the farms the fridge was usually the first appliance purchased.

We all have deepfreezes try these yummy treats for your favourite people. Ice cream nestled between two cookies is hard to beat. This recipe makes a small amount and can be doubled easily or more.

ICE CREAM COOKIE SANDWICHES

1 1/2 cups flour
 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/2 cup butter, at room temperature
 2/3 cup light brown sugar
 1/4 cup white sugar
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 large egg
 2/3 cups mini chocolate chips
 chocolate ice cream or ice cream of choice

With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 375 F (190 C). Line the cookies sheets with parchment paper. In a bowl, stir the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together. In another bowl, combine the butter and both sugars together. Stir in the vanilla and egg. Mix in the dry ingredients, then and chocolate chips. Using a small ice cream scoop, or tablespoon spoon balls of dough on the baking sheets at least 2 inches apart, spacing them out evenly. Bake one sheet at a time for 9-12 minutes or until lightly browned all over. Let cool for a few minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. To assemble, scoop 1/3 cup ice cream onto the flat side of half the cookies. Top each with another cookie. Freeze until firm, about 4 hours.

Miniota News

Submitted
 BY LINDA CLARK

Our sympathy is extended to David and Angie Strachan, Doug and Karen Strachan and their families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Shirley Strachan at her residence at The Sherwood in Virden. Shirley was a long time Miniota community resident and friend, a supporter of the church and community activities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephanie (Walker) Rewerts and her sons Gage and Caden on the death of her husband and the boys' father, Jerrett Rewerts. Our thoughts also go out to Alan and Janine Walker, Lacey and Walter Lavalee, and Colby and Kacie Walker and their families at this sad and difficult time.

The Birtle Collegiate

Falcons hockey team held their annual Stick It to Cancer fundraiser, with all funds being divided and donated to the Hamiota Chemo Unit and the Russell Chemo Unit. Miniota players on the team are Baker Bryant, Clayton Judd, Logan Armitage, Maddox Couvier, Rain Gies, and Aiden Lewis, along with one of their coaches Trevor Lewis. The Falcons lost their game to the Hamiota Huskies. Michelle Bryant spoke of her parents, Brian and Gail Salmon's journey with cancer, and Monelle, Baker and Hadley Bryant dropped the puck to begin the evening. A great event sponsored and supported by many.

I Love to Read was celebrated at the Miniota School on Valentine's Day with each student inviting a guest to come and share their

reading with. A full house for sure!

Saturday saw the Miniota Community rink a busy spot with the Snowflake team playing Virden, U7 against Birtle and U9 against Virden.

Sunday the Miniota/Elkhorn/Birtle U15 team hosted a one-day tournament with teams coming from Brandon, Dauphin and Portage. The B Side event went to Brandon Senators over the Dauphin Kings. Our C-Hawks took the A side in overtime against the Portage Terriers. Congratulations to the boys, their coaches and the parents!

Saturday, Feb. 15 was the 60th anniversary of our maple leaf flag. Many residents had flags flying to celebrate this anniversary.

"Keep Calm and Love Canada" - Facebook Post.



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Manitoba 

FOURTH AND FINAL PLAYOFF SPOT STILL UP FOR GRABS

MJHL HOCKEY

DEREK HOLTOM

The British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL) was the beneficiary of adding five teams from the Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL) last year in a move that rocked the junior hockey world. Now they themselves could soon be hit with a high-profile defection of their own.

The Penticton Vees are widely rumoured, as reported in several other media outlets, to be leaving the BCHL and join the Western Hockey League – who are a major junior league - as an expansion team next season.

Losing the Vees would be like the MJHL losing the Portage Terriers or Steinbach Pistons – bedrock teams that are always competitive. The Vees have been in the final every year since they came back from a two-year absence due to COVID-19. They have also won the Interior Division for 13 straight years.

It would be more than a little ironic for the BCHL to lose a team after poaching five others the year prior. One can't help but think this is in response to the NCAA ruling that major junior players can now play college hockey, whereas before they could not, which drove those players to the junior A level (and very often, to the BCHL, who prided themselves on moving players on to American schools).

As for how those breakaway AJHL teams are faring in the BCHL, the Brooks Bandits entered this past weekend third in the Interior East Div-

ision, two points back of the Penticton Vees. Brooks has traditionally been the franchise team in the AJHL so it's not a shock to see them doing well in their new league.

The Sherwood Park Crusaders sit fourth in their divisional standings, the Okotoks Oilers are eighth, the Spruce Grove Saints are ninth, and the Blackfalds Bulldogs sit in 11th and last place in the Interior East Division.

Junior hockey has never seemed as chaotic as it has been the past couple of years. If the BCHL loses their top team, one wonders if that will be a catalyst that leads to yet more changes across the country. Only time will tell.

The MJHL Original 16 Players of the Week are led by Miguel Bouvier from the Northern Manitoba Blizzard. In four games, Bouvier netted five goals and five assists for a monster 10-point week, moving him into third in the league in scoring.

Next up is Caden Hegarty from the Neepawa Titans. In a trio of games, Hegarty scored three times and added five assists for eight points.

And rounding out a rare week where no goalie was honoured is defenseman Isaiah Peters from the white-hot Winkler Flyers. In four games Peters scored twice and chipped in four helpers for six points.

Four teams punched their playoff tickets officially last week – Winkler, Steinbach, Portage and Dauphin

are all officially in. Just one point separates Winkler and Steinbach, with Portage five points back of first, so there is still plenty to settle for those three spots.

Niverville's magic number is down to four for them to clinch – any combination of Night-hawk wins or Selkirk Steelers losses totaling four will complete the East Division bracket. That a stunning fall for the Steelers who started the season 10-0, and are just 11-21-3-1 since then.

In the West Division, the Dauphin Kings are in the driver's seat, up seven points on the Northern Manitoba Blizzard. But with two games left between those two teams, it's far too early to call that race. Neepawa is two back of Northern Manitoba but the Blizzard has two games in hand, making their bid for second place a bit more challenging.

At the bottom three teams are still vying for the final playoff spot. The Swan Valley Stampeders refuse to go away and are now just five back of fifth-place Waywayseecappo and eight back of fourth-place Virden. With two games remaining against the Wolverines and one against Virden, and with Wayway and Virden facing each other one more time this year, it's still up in the air who gets the fourth and final playoff spot in the West Division.

That we're even mentioning the Stampeders in the playoff race is a testament to them not quitting earlier in the season following their horrific start. The Stamps have points in eight of their last 10 games heading into the holiday Monday game against the Wolverines, going 5-3-1-1 in that stretch.

Vandalism damages windows in Virden

Westman RCMP Service Report for Feb. 9 to Feb. 15

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 51 calls for service. Some of the 51 calls for service were, 9 traffic, 2 disturb the peace, 2 animal calls, 1 well being check, 1 missing person, 1 intoxicated person detention, 3 failure to attend court, 2 uttering threats, 1 possession for the purpose of trafficking, 1 fraud and 1 theft of car file.

On Feb. 11 Westman RCMP received reports of damaged windows at the Virden Red Apple and Virden Library. RCMP are continuing to investigate.

On Feb. 12 Westman RCMP received a report of a missing male from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. He had not been seen in 20 hours. RCMP investigated and safely located the missing male.

On Feb. 12 Westman RCMP received a report of a window being broken at the Funshine Daycare Centre. The suspect was identified as a youth. The youth and a parent were spoken to, no charges were laid at this time.

On Feb. 14 Westman RCMP were dispatched to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for a report of a wanted person. RCMP attended the provided address and were told the person was inside the residence. RCMP entered the residence and located the male, known to police to have a warrant for his arrest. He was also on conditions not to be at this address or be in contact with the person inside the residence. The male, from Sioux Valley, was arrested and charged with two counts of failing to comply with a release order, operation of a vehicle while prohibited and one count of uttering threats. He was remanded into custody.

On Feb. 14 Westman RCMP were conducting patrols in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP observed a vehicle with B.C. licence plates operating with a burnt-out head-

lamp. RCMP conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle and observed open liquor in the front of the vehicle. The driver and passenger were arrested for unlawful transportation of liquor. Police located 13.15 grams of methamphetamine on the driver during a search conducted during the arrest. A further search of the vehicle resulted in police finding 43.15 grams of pre-packaged crack cocaine, a weigh scale, multiple cell phones and two manufactured firearm suppressors (silencer). The driver, who is from Brandon, was charged with two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, possessing weapon contrary to an order, two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon and two counts of failing to comply with a release order. The passenger, who is from Bird-

tail, was charged with two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, possessing weapon contrary to an order and two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon. Both were remanded into custody.

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. If you are reporting an emergency please call 911.

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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone in Virden and area who have supported The Virden and Area Food Cupboard with food and monetary donations throughout last year. We want to thank the following for their support this past year through sponsoring food drives, monetary donations, food donations as well as providing space for us to store our food and give out hampers to the less fortunate in our community.

- * Mary Montgomery School
- * Sunrise Credit Union
- * Virden Junior High School
- * MLCC Staff
- * St. Paul's United Church
- * Mary Montgomery School
- * Virden Collegiate
- * Valleyview Coop
- * Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- * Twin Valley Coop
- * St. John's Anglican Church
- * Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- * Manson Church of Christ
- * Oak Lake United Church
- * Tundra Oil & Gas
- * Peters Market Gardens
- * Oak Lake Mennonite Church
- * Virden Dodge
- * Town of Virden
- * C. P. Holiday Train
- * Parrish & Heimbecker
- * Kola Evangelical Church
- * Greg & Diane Penner
- * Virden Lions Club
- * Wilson Autobody
- * 7 – 11 C Store
- * Corex
- * BDO
- * St. Marys Anglican Church
- * Sparwood Family
- * Derrick Theatre
- * Jays Inns & Suites

Thank you to those donors who contribute to the Food Cupboard through Benevity Fund, Abundance Canada, United Way and Canada Helps. The clients at the Food Cupboard appreciate all the home gardeners who contribute fresh vegetables for them throughout the year. The volunteers at the Food Cupboard appreciate the support of such a caring, giving community which allows us to assist those in need in our community and surrounding area.

Submitted Op-Ed: Health care workers prepared to strike

Editor's note: The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) sent out a multi page press release this past week with the intention of raising alarm bells about the state of health care in Manitoba. MAHCP states they are the only union in the province solely dedicated to representing allied health, with more than 7,000 members working in more than 45 disciplines. MAHCP members have been without a contract for more than 10 months and took a strike vote in January 2025, delivering a 96 per cent strike mandate. Of particular concern is the

ever longer wait times for ambulances. Call volume averages are up by 64 per cent.

MAHCP claims that due to staffing shortages, ambulances were out of service for an average of 30,000 hours per month.

Following is the full text of the MAHCP press release.

Rural Manitobans are waiting longer for emergency medical services and more ambulances are sitting idle as paramedic staffing shortages remain at a critical level, according to new data obtained by the Manitoba Association of Health Care Profession-

als (MAHCP) through a Freedom of Information request.

"Despite the Manitoba Government's commitment to fixing health care, ambulance response times in rural communities are still getting worse," said Jason Linklater, President, MAHCP. "Paramedics are committed to providing care, but they are struggling with ongoing staffing shortages combined with higher call volumes and intensifying social challenges, including on-the-job violence."

Key findings

- Rural ambulances were out of service, on average, almost 30,000

hours each month due to staffing shortages in 2024 (i.e., two paramedics were not available to staff the ambulance), a 400 per cent increase since 2020.

- Maximum response times at the 90th percentile have reached over 50 minutes in Western Manitoba (Prairie Mountain Health region) and Interlake-Eastern, a new record – target is under 30 minutes.

- Response times increased year-over-year in Prairie Mountain (+12 per cent) and Northern (+39 per cent) Health Regions from November 2023 to November 2024. There was no significant change or improvement in response times for Interlake-Eastern and Southern Health Regions.

- Since 2018, overall call volumes have increased an average of 64 per cent across the four

health regions, with the Northern Health Region seeing the highest call-volume increase at 85 per cent.

- An estimated 28 per cent of Shared Health paramedic positions are vacant – over 200 of roughly 800 positions – representing only a slight improvement from 30 per cent in January 2023.

While Budget 2024 set a goal of adding 90 net new paramedics, the province's data reveal a net gain of only 14 paramedics between April 1 and December 31, 2024. MAHCP is calling on the Government of Manitoba to take immediate steps to not only retain the experienced paramedics working today, but also begin rebuilding rural Emergency Medical Services, by:

- Working with front-line paramedics and the union on common-sense

solutions to improve working conditions and work-life balance;

- Settling a fair, competitive collective agreement for allied health professionals, including paramedics, who have been working under an expired contract for 10 months;

- Developing and fast-tracking new, accessible primary care paramedic (PCP) training opportunities for rural Manitobans; and,

- Promoting and supporting careers in paramedicine to ensure training seats are filled.

"Manitobans living and traveling in rural areas deserve equal access to medical care," said Linklater. "No one should be waiting this long for help in a medical emergency, nor should they be waiting this long for meaningful action to address wait times that are still rising. Solutions are in reach."

Manitoba Government renews agreement on sustainable use of nutrients in crop production

Submitted
By MB Gov

The Manitoba government has signed a fifth 4R Nutrient Stewardship memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Keystone Agricultural Producers and Fertilizer Canada, Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn and Environmental and Climate Change Minister Mike Moyes announced today.

"Every day, Manitoba farmers and agricultural producers work tirelessly to feed the world," said Kostyshyn. "This tri-partner agreement represents our collaborative commitment to a sustainable use of nutrients that maximizes fertilizer performance while minimizing effects on the environment."

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship (Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place) is a science-based framework for nutrient management practices that improve agricultural productivity while mitigating risks to the environment. Established by Fertilizer Canada, the framework's principles optimize the source, rate, timing and placement of fertilizer to maximize crop uptake and reduce adverse impacts to the air, soil and water.

The framework is a highly adaptable tool that can be customized to fit a farm's specific climatic, soil, landscape, cropping and operational conditions, added Kostyshyn.

"The 4R approach aligns with our government's objectives to take meaningful climate action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and safeguards the health of our province's waterways," said Moyes.


"By working co-operatively with industry partners, we can achieve a mutually beneficial balance of agricultural production and environmental, economic and social sustainability."

The new MOU will be valid through Dec. 31, 2030


"The renewal of this MOU demonstrates the long-standing joint commitment by government, industry and producers to continuous improvement and the expansion and adoption of 4R Nutrient Stewardship's sustainable on-farm practice," said Jill Verwey, president, Keystone Agricultural Producers. "Whether it's soil testing, banding or variable rate, the commitment to enhance the acres in Manitoba where 4R practices are utilized will continue to enable Manitoba producers to do their part in maintaining the healthy soil that our livelihoods depend on."

"We are pleased to see the renewal of the MOU with the government of Manitoba and the Keystone Agricultural Producers, reflecting the strong commitment to increase fertilizer efficiency through 4R Nutrient Stewardship," said Karen Proud, president and CEO, Fertilizer Canada. "We look forward to continuing to work together to bolster economic and environmental benefits to farmers and the wider community."

The 4R MOU implementation committee, which includes staff from Manitoba Agriculture and Manitoba Environment and Climate Change, will continue its work supporting farmers and agricultural producers to adopt and refine sustainable solutions, noted Moyes.



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SPORTS

OIL CAPS BATTLING FOR PLAYOFF SPOT



PHOTO BY OIL CAPS

On Hebert Grain Ventures hockey card night, the players signed their cards for fans.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals continue to try to secure a playoff spot.

As of Feb. 17, the squad was in fourth in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's MGEU Western Division. If the season ended that day, the Oil Capitals would be playoff bound. They had 42 standings points with a 20-25-1-1 record. The Waywayseecappo Wolverines lurked just one point behind with 41 points. The team had a 19-27-2-1 record.

The Oil Capitals were 1-2 in their last three games. They beat the Wolverines 3-1. The Virden team fell 4-2 to Neepawa and 8-2 to Winkler.

This week the team has four games in six days. It started

on Feb. 17 against Waywayseecappo. Then the Oil Capitals played in Portage on Feb. 19 and hosted the Neepawa Titans on Feb. 20 after the Empire-Advance deadline. They are in Steinbach on Feb. 22.

Oil Caps 3, Wolverines 1

On Feb. 11, goalie Loic Morin and the Virden defence held the hosts at bay before the Oil Capitals' offence got going. Morin finished with 21 saves.

In the second period, Luke Robson scored his 11th goal of the season to get his team on the scoreboard. Cole Robertson made it 2-0 for Virden less than four minutes into the third. On a powerplay, Sebastian Stone pulled the Wolverines within one, 2-1. With about four minutes left, Brooks Siemens lit the lamp to make it 3-1. Waywayseecappo goalie Mariko Mercier stopped 24 shots.

"I thought all parts of our game were good," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "We defended well, we got through the neutral zone with speed and were able to forecheck pucks back to extend offensive zone time. We got goals when we needed them and our goaltending was solid."

Titans 4, Oil Caps 2

In Neepawa, on Feb. 15, the teams were knotted at 2-2 after two periods. The Titans scored twice in the third to get the win.

"I thought the first period was just OK, then in the second and third I felt we were the better team," Ramsey said "We did not make things hard enough on their goaltender or finish to the net enough to score and then one missed assignment in our end winds up in the back of the net."

Robertson scored, on the powerplay, less than six minutes into the contest to give his team a 1-0 lead. The Titans scored twice, including one with the man advantage, before the end of the period. Oak Lake Beach product Tyson Draper tied things up at 2-2 in the second.

Morin made 25 saves, while Mason Lobreau had 28 for Neepawa. Scoring for the Titans were Tim Tychonick (two), Talen Wallis, and Cooper Kasprick.

Flyers 8, Oil Caps 2

On Feb. 17, the visiting Flyers, who had the league's best record, led 1-0 and 5-1, at the intermissions. Draper continued his hot streak. He scored both of Virden's goals. Draper has hit the lamp five times over the past five contests. Morin stopped 24 of the 29 shots he faced. Gavin Renwick came on in the third and made three saves.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The Oil Caps played the Titans in Neepawa on February 15.

The Oil Capitals sported special edition jerseys for the afternoon affair. Created by talented local designer Brooks Freeman, they were a "fauxback" style. On the Oil Caps' Facebook page, Freeman explained, "Basically a 'what if' the Oil Capitals were a team in the 1920s or 30s. The logo and jersey design are based off of multiple hockey designs from that era with a simplistic logo and lots of stripes on the body and arms of the jersey. The cream off white color helps bring across the vintage aesthetic as well. The oil drops on the outside of the logo are a call back to the old look of the Virden Oil Kings senior team and minor hockey programs in Virden."

It was also Hebert Grain Ventures hockey card night. The players stuck around after the game to ink their cards for fans.

Winkler's Liam Ernst had 18 saves. Scoring for the Flyers were Andrew Morton (three), Owen Wallace, Isaiah Peters, Brody Beauchemin, Niklas Gudmundson, and Nicholas Mckee.

Virden Bears vs. Neepawa Tigers basketball



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

NACI hosted a varsity Tournament over the weekend (Feb. 14 & 15). Virden won its first game against Boissevain 73-42, and then played Neepawa in the semi-final. NACI won 103-61. Virden ended up in the bronze medal game and lost to Margaret Barbour 80-57. Souris won the tournament, beating Neepawa 94-88 in overtime

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SPORTS

DAVIDSON LOVES PLAYING FOR HOMETOWN OIL CAPS



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps Player #8 Hudson Davidson

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Hudson Davidson has embraced the opportunity to play Junior A hockey in his hometown.

The son of Karla and Craig Davidson is in his first season with the Virden Oil Capitals. The defenceman is earning playing time in his 17-year-old campaign.

"Being able to get the luxury of playing in my hometown has let me continue my school and keep my everyday life more like it has always been," Davidson said. "As well, it allows me to fulfill what my childhood self has always grown up seeing. It allows for a connection with the community that I've grown up in and allows me to give back to the same people that have helped me in the past. I can also help those who are new to the team and the town with different things they may need."

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound blue liner has one goal in 19 games, as of Feb. 17.

"Hudson is a competitor," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He brings everything he has every day on and off the ice. He has improved his skating and understanding of when to jump up and join the offence and when to be a little more conservative. He defends hard and he is physically strong. He does a great job of getting

pucks through to the net offensively. Hudson is also an outstanding teammate and ambassador for our team in the community."

Davidson had a successful season in 2023-2024 with the U18 AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. During that campaign, he got a taste of the Junior A level as he earned an assist over the two contests he played as an affiliated player with the Oil Caps. Moving up to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League this winter required some adjustments.

"The jump from U18 to junior is something that's always talked about and was definitely noticed by me," Davidson said. "The speed skill and overall environment jumps up a level and takes a different mindset to deal with."

He said that his parents have had a huge impact on his hockey career.

"They have been tremendous in supporting me throughout my hockey filled life," Davidson said. "If it be drives to the rink or anything hockey related, they have both given me their undivided attention and support."

He emphasized that his grandparents have been huge supporters. Davidson also said, "my teammates and coaches, who have always kept life in and out of the rink a great time, have also been a factor."

LIGHT LIGHTING LAMP CLOSE TO HOME

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Moosomin's Marshall Light's hockey journey has taken him to a key contributing role close to home.

The 19-year-old forward is tied for third, as of Feb. 18, in goals on the Virden Oil Capitals. His 11 goals had him knotted with Luke Robson behind Noel Englot's 14 and Liam Goertzen's 15. In his first full season with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League club, Light has brought more than just his scoring touch to the Oil Capitals.

"Marshall thinks the game really well and has good offensive skills," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He has an ability to score and create chances to score. He has a good stick and is a good faceoff guy. Marshall brings experience to our group and is a great teammate on and off the ice. He has played very well as of late and we are excited to see his growth down the stretch."

Through 47 games, Light had 11 goals and 21 points. Those numbers surpassed the nine goals

and 15 points he posted in 2023-2024 in a campaign split between Virden and the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Battlefords North Stars.

"What has been allowing me to produce points this season is the work I've been putting in, my teammates, and my confidence," Light said.

Over the past six seasons, Light has suited up for five different teams. He played U15 AA for the Melville Millionaires before heading to Caronport's Prairie Hockey Academy in 2020-2021. The next season Light had 30 points in 41 games for the U18 AAA Estevan Bears. During that campaign, he suited up twice for the North Stars as an affiliated player.

Light joined the SJHL squad fulltime the next season. His junior rookie season was affected by injuries. However, Light gained valuable experience being part of a league championship squad. He was swapped to Virden partway through the 2023-2024 campaign.

"Playing for different coaches over the years allows me to take the dif-



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps Player #29 Marshall Light

ferent things they have all said and taught and put it into one," Light said.

Now in Virden, Light billets with Ryan and Kelli Potter and their daughter. He said, "I enjoy playing in Virden because of the great support we have from the community."

Throughout his hockey journey, Light has had the backing of his parents, Greg and Jaime Light. With him being closer to home, they have

become familiar faces at the Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

"They have season tickets this year and haven't missed many home games," Light said. "They have been a huge part of why I'm playing hockey at a high level, to the driving every week to practices in Melville or my dad coaching when I was younger or sacrificing quite a bit to send me away at 15 to pursue what I love."

Open House

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DELORAINÉ	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

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SPORTS

ACC COUGARS VS BOTTINEAU LADY LUMBERJACKS

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Sunday afternoon February 9, we went to the ladies college hockey game in Brandon, between the ACC Cougars and Dakota College at Bottineau Lumberjacks. The night before ACC had defeated the Lumberjacks 4-2 in Bottineau. The re-match was played the next day.

The first period ended in a 1-1 tie with ACC outshooting their opponent 16 -8. The second period saw the ladies ACC team explode for 4 goals as they badly outplayed the opposition, outshooting them 18-4. The third period was again dominated by the Cougars. Final shots on goal was 52-20. The Cougars scored once in the third period for a 6-1 victory.

The Lady Cougars are in first place in their division and have only a few games left in the regular season.

This game was very fast paced with lots of real good passing, playmaking and stickhandling. These ladies are good skaters and make quick plays as well. They play as a group and from what I hear all the players get along very well.

I was very impressed with both teams. Fast skating, some really good passing, going to the net and heads up plays. There were also a couple of body checks.

There is no body checking in the ladies but you can ride off an opponent into the boards, sort of cut them off. Well there were two of the better body checks handed out that I have seen all year. Both were penalized. Both teams did not stand around

telling the other team how tough they were, they just kept playing. It is all part of the game.

A comment about the officials

There was 1 referee and 2 linesmen for this match. They were awesome. Their signals were clear, clean and precise. They verbally communicated to the players when the puck got jammed up along the boards and they HUSTLED! It was so refreshing to see. These three individuals showed real professionalism! Congratulations boys on a job well done.

As a young lady, if you are looking to continue your hockey career and get some education. ACC is a college not that far from you with a great hockey program. Be part of a great team!

This year the Lady ACC Cougars will be going to St. Louis, Missouri for Nationals. Last year they were in St. Louis and the year before that in Boston.



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Miniota's own Cougars #11 Kasey Fouillard faces off against Lumberjacks #10 Macy Wither.

ACC are the only ladies team in Manitoba. They travel to Ontario and the United States to play their regular season games.

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SPORTS

OIL KINGS READY FOR PLAYOFFS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings are hoping for this week to continue their winning ways as their Tiger Hills Hockey League playoffs begin.

The local squad ended the senior TTHL regular season as winners of their last nine contests. The Oil Kings finished first in the league's Western Division with a 13-2-0-1 record. They will compete against Melita in the divisional semifinals.

"We are in a good spot coming into the playoffs on a nine-game winning streak that started with an

OT win in Melita and most recently a 4-1 win in Rivers," Virden coach and general manager Ryan Mathieson said. "Finishing the season on a high, we are hoping to carry that momentum into the playoffs. With Melita coming off a series win over Deloraine and us having a first-round bye we will be looking to have a good start on Wednesday when Melita comes to town."

On Feb. 19, after the Empire-Advance deadline, the Oil Kings were slated to host the Bisons. The teams meet in Melita on Feb. 21. Game three in the best of five affairs is Feb. 22 in Virden. If required, game four would be in Melita on Feb. 26.

A fifth contest would see Virden host on Feb. 28. In the regular season, the Bisons had a 7-8-1-0 record. They finished fourth in the Western Division.

"Melita always plays us tight," Mathieson said. "We have had plenty of battles with them since joining the TTHL and we expect more of the same this series. Melita

has a strong core who have been together for a number of years and play well together. They play a physical brand of hockey that we will need to match. If we are able to distribute the puck and keep the pace of play up our speed and skill should prove the difference maker. We expect an entertaining series with both teams having passionate fan bases and a well-developed rivalry the atmosphere at games will be electric."

The Bisons swept Deloraine, 2-0, in a best of three Western Division quarterfinal matchup. The Melita team triumphed 8-4 and 9-5. Former Virden Oil Capitals junior player Lucas Oliver paced the series with four goals and seven points.

Oliver led the Bisons in the regular season with 25 points and 16 assists in 14 games. He, Ryan Creeple, and Will Brown each scored a team-high nine goals. Andrew Greig led the team with five wins.

In the regular season, the Oil Kings beat Melita, 6-5, in overtime with Dillin Stonehouse scoring the game winner, and 10-2. During the regular season, Oil Kings forward Bradley Bowles led the league with 54 points and 39 assists in 15 games. He was second in the TTHL with 15 goals. Jeremy Johnson was tied for third with 14. Virden goalie Tristin Rinn was second in goals against average at 1.95.

HOCKEY MEMORIES, PART 2

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



One day I got a call from a player rep from Angusville and he was complaining about always seeing Russell officials at their home games. I explained what I was doing about the cost of games. He said he did not care about the cost, he just wanted someone different than the 3 guys out of Russell. I told him the next 2 games have already been assigned, but I would see if I could change them.

I am sure you can all figure out what happened next and where this is going.

I called Billy down in Shilo and asked him if he would like to go to Angusville and work the game this weekend as well as the next weekend home game that they had.

Billy was more than happy to go, he said he had never been there before and that he would have a good time.

After Billy went to Angusville for the second time, I got another call from the Angusville player rep. He said, "message received!" Furthermore, they would be delighted to have any officials from Russell to come do their games. Mission accomplished!

Being introduced to Billy opened another door. Billy was the Referee In Chief of the Brandon Tournament of Champions tournament where all the best teams came to compete for all the hardware. I believe the age groups were from 9 and under up to midget hockey. The understanding between Billy and I was that I would not work any final games unless he could not fill the need for officials. He did not want to upset any of the Brandon guys. That was no problem for me as I got to watch some of the Brandon officials work games and they would later begin working for me in the NCHL.

Some were referees, others worked lines. Many of these officials worked hard in their effort to gain trust from

Billy and myself as they would get more assignments.

Several of the officials had summer jobs and collected U.I. in the winter. They were able to work games in the day time and late nights on the road, which was a big help especially when there were Friday tournaments.

I worked many times at the then called Keystone Centre back in the day. It was always fun and I met some great men as well.

I earlier mentioned Razor. Razor really worked hard on his game. He was always wanting to improve on his game. Positioning, skating and penalty selection which would ultimately lead to consistency!

Razor was a really good official. Razor would always ask me how he was doing in a game. I gave him compliments and encouraged him. I think Razor was harder on himself, as he wanted to be the best official he could be. He was good!

I liked working with Razor. He was easy to work with and we always had fun in the games we worked together. I would tell him, you got this game in your hip pocket, relax and enjoy the game.

When I refer to working hard at their game, I meant reading the rule book, talking about the game between periods. What would you do in this situation? How is my positioning? What can I do differently? Am I being consistent? We all liked one another but we would be truthful with a fellow official because we were not only a team but best of buds as well. We would not have wanted it any other way. We would all take a look in the mirror and were the best evaluators of ourselves.

I really liked working games with the Sarg and Razor. Wish I could do that one more time One night, one game! Anyway see ya all next time

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Natural gas contracts to merge

RM of Wallace-Woodworth Feb. 11 council meeting

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

CENTRA GAS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

The council gave first reading to a by-law that will consolidate three existing franchise agreements with Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. into a single agreement covering Elkhorn, Wallace, and Woodworth and merge them into a single contract. The bylaw will be forwarded to Centra Gas who will submit it to the Public Utilities Board for approval.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The council approved a progress payment of

\$26,671.75 to Manitoba 10056830 Ltd. for the Ward 2 shop project as well as a culvert order to Atlantic Industries Ltd. of \$61,864.06 and a bridge signage order from Air Master Signs for \$10,294.40.

WATER UTILITY

The council authorized a water connection service agreement with Marvin Elder.

During the fall of 2024 Trevor and Jody Gompf experienced issues with their water meter package. The RM accepted shared responsibility for the resulting water bill discrepancy due to procedural errors and authorized a credit of \$2455.15 to their utility

account in full and final settlement of the error.

The RM will submit the five-year capital plan to Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB).

Council approved payment of an invoice from MWSB totaling \$482,099.53 including \$4,273.58, for ground-water investigations and \$477,825.95 for supply system upgrades, and rural waterline extensions.

A second invoice from MWSB of \$5,153.16 for rural water pipeline extension was also approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Council considered amendments to the

policy regarding rural approaches and discussed ways to clarify how costs were calculated for approaches that are wider than standard. Coun. Lyle Kinnaird noted that the guidelines for determining these extra costs are unclear and that this could lead to disputes. Factors like culvert size and material are significant and the council considered revising the policy wording before passing it. The matter was tabled for further review by staff.

The invoice from J.Q. Built of \$9,519.06 for the Elkhorn RTM Child Care Facility was approved for payment.

The RM will apply for

a grant under the "From the Ground Up: Safe and Healthy Communities for All" program for the Elkhorn New Facility Project. The grant would help fund a feasibility study, and the council agreed to commit funds from the budget if the grant is received.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Coun. Mark Humphries reported that a museum meeting was held on Jan 31. The museum made a preliminary profit of \$22,000. Some glass in a display case had to be replaced, and there was a grant project with unused funds, requiring \$10,000 to be returned unless another project could be proposed. The museum board decided to increase the manager's wage to \$20 per hour in hopes of attracting a suitable candidate, as the previous rate was barely

above minimum wage.

Coun. Barb Stambuski attended the Southwest Business Expo held in Oak Lake on Feb. 5. The keynote speaker, Hayley Jeffries created Prairie Fava, a company that makes high protein flour from fava beans and markets it internationally. Jeffries gave an engaging talk about expanding internationally, cash flow challenges, and navigating government regulations.

A breakout session at the Expo was led by James Chambers, who discussed the role of artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT in business operations. Chambers, who teaches at Assiniboine Community College and whose wife owns Chez Angela Bakery, shared insights on how AI can improve efficiency in scheduling and operations.

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Council amends zoning by-law

Town of Virden Council Meeting

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A public hearing was conducted during the Town of Virden council meeting on Feb. 11 with Deputy Mayor Mark Savy in the chair. He outlined the purpose of the hearing, which was to consider an amendment to the Town of Virden's Zoning by-law and to hear public reaction to the proposed amendment. Development officer Corey Nixon provided an overview of the proposed zoning by-law amendment, explaining that it includes several key changes.

Two parcels of land on the west side of town, currently mapped as cul-de-sacs and zoned as residential single-family or two-family, are being reclassified as residential-commercial-institutional (RCI). This change allows for a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional developments. The new zoning will permit single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, and multi-family dwellings within the designated area as well as small commercial

stores, dental offices, or strip malls that support residential use.

Zach Penner, one of the property owners said, "The purpose or reason for doing what we're doing there is just to add a little more flexibility for any proposed new development in that area."

Members of the public were then invited to speak about the proposal and Len Morgan asked whether development would take place soon. Penner responded that while development is hoped for, there are no concrete plans at this time. Morgan also expressed concern with the removal of trees in the subdivision and the resulting snow buildup in nearby yards.

Shelby Rampton asked if zoning changes would affect setback requirements for a multi-unit complex and development officer Cory Nixon confirmed that multi-family buildings require a 25-foot setback.

Hank Kyle said that the area was previously considered for development but concerns over traffic on 7th Ave. meant that the lot to

the south was chosen to establish Bolton Bay and the three-story Bolton Place building. Kyle said, "I really don't wish to see multi-apartment blocks there (in the new development) ... I don't mind duplexes and things of that nature, but once we start getting into high-rises, Bolton Place has already cut off my view of the sunset."

Chad Scharff asked if the current lot division and road layout could change under the new zoning. Nixon clarified that while the current subdivision layout has been legally established, the developers could apply for a new subdivision to change lot shapes. Any proposed changes to road placement would trigger additional public hearings.

In other items covered by the hearing the requirement to obtain a permit for building a fence within the town is being eliminated by this amendment. All regulations regarding fences will remain but a permit will no longer be required.

Food establishments in highway commercial zones previously had to

undergo a public hearing to receive approval for a drive-through. The proposed amendment changes this by making drive-through food service a permitted use instead of a conditional use in this zone. This change will allow the approval of drive-throughs without requiring a public hearing.

Having dealt with all questions from those who attended Savy closed the public hearing, and the regular council meeting resumed. In the next order of business council gave second and third reading to the by-law. The amendment was passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The council reviewed and approved the revised constitution for the Virden Area HandiVan Committee.

Virden Area New Horizons, a local non-profit organization supporting seniors, was added to the Town's insurance policy. New Horizons will reimburse the town for the insurance premiums.

In 2023 the Town deferred payment of \$107,649.26 in retroactive pay increases for

RCMP officers under the municipal policing contract. Most other jurisdictions have already paid. Administration recommended that payment be made before March 2025 to avoid interest charges. Council approved the payment and applied it to the 2024 budget for policing services.

Council received a request from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers for support of their submission to the Industrial Inquiry Commission that is reviewing their dispute with Canada Post.

Canada Post has incurred large losses in recent years and council members debated whether to formally take a stance on the issue. They agreed that municipalities should be consulted before any major changes are implemented to postal service and the Town will draft its own resolution to be discussed at an upcoming meeting to make sure that Virden's concerns are formally expressed.

Several events were declared as community events for liquor licensing and provincial grant

applications including a fundraising concert for a local resident, the 125th Virden Bonspiel, Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Days, and a Virden Oil Kings Event.

The Virden Veterinary Services District board has requested an increase in their funding for next year. Virden's representative on the board Coun. Lynette Grumpelt said, "The board feels that the percentages and shares of the operating costs for the Vet District Board need to be adjusted, and I am in agreement as long as it is fair and equitable to all partners." Council agreed and CAO Rhonda Stewart said, "They require the payment before our budget is done in order to get their matching funds." Council approved the payment.

Sadler's Creekside Greenhouse will supply flowers for the Town's flower beds this summer at a cost of \$4,747.

A motion was made and approved to accept the amended Chief Administrative Officer Rhonda Stewart's contract.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Pipestone is seeking an individual that will bring strong leadership skills to this position. If you are looking to make an impact with a progressive, dynamic Municipality, we are looking to hear from you.

Key Responsibilities:

- Direct the general administrative affairs of the Municipality and perform all duties and responsibilities in accordance with The Municipal Act.
- Recommend objectives, policies and programs to Council and provide support and advice on new initiatives and fiscal matters.
- Direct the implementation and monitor the progress of policies and programs approved by Council.
- Recruit and develop all municipal management and administration employees and develop a plan to attract and retain quality employees.
- Provide responsible financial planning and management of a budget of over \$13.6 million.
- Develop positive relationships and maintain open communication with all stakeholders and constituencies of interest to the Municipality.

Strong communication, analytical and leadership skills are just some of the requirements of the position. Ideally, you will possess technical skills and experience in organization oversight, human resource management, and municipal administration. Candidates who have post-secondary education in a relevant discipline bring an educational advantage to the position.

The Rural Municipality of Pipestone has a population of 1422 and features the communities of Reston, Sinclair, Cromer and Pipestone. Agriculture and oil provide a strong economic base. The developed recreation facilities, businesses, and housing make the municipality a desirable place to live.

The right candidate can expect a comprehensive salary and benefits package. Individuals interested in this position should send a resume and cover letter by email to hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com.

The selection committee intends to review applications as received and interview as early as March 10th, 2025, with applications continuing to be accepted until the right candidate is found. We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted. Disability accommodations available upon request.

How to Apply:

- Mailed to: c/o Human Resources, RM of Pipestone, Box 99, Reston, MB, R0M 1X0
- Emailed to: hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com
- Or faxed to: 204-877-3999

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted. Disability accommodations available upon request.



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.

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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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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:

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- 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
Virden, MB R0M 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.

Help Wanted



**CASUAL EVENING TRANSFER/
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Carscadden Funeral Chapels Ltd. are looking for compassionate and reliable individuals to join our team as **Casual Evening Transfer/Removal Staff**. This is an on-call position with **hours outside of regular operating hours, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM**. Covering Virden and Moosomin area.

In this role, you will provide respectful and professional assistance in transferring deceased individuals, including working closely with the **RCMP** and the **Medical Examiner's Office**, ensuring the highest level of care and professionalism.

Key Responsibilities:

- Perform dignified and professional transfers of deceased individuals from various locations to our facility.
- Collaborate with external agencies, including the RCMP and Medical Examiners Office, when required.
- Safely operate a company-provided vehicle to ensure timely and efficient transportation.

Requirements:

- Valid drivers license with a clean driving record.
- Ability to work on a casual, on-call basis during evening and overnight hours (5:00 PM - 9:00 AM).
- Strong attention to detail, professionalism, and respect for confidentiality.
- Physical ability to perform transfers safely and respectfully.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 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. Take appropriate action to address issues pertaining to weed and pest control issues. Must have the ability to deal with public concerns and inquiries.

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

Skills

- Knowledge and application of various pest control methodologies
- A familiarity and good working knowledge of related statutes and regulation
- Computer proficiency (ie. 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

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

www.wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

Tenders

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba
R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

SE 1/4 4-6-28 WPM excluding mines and minerals

Pasture land with creek running through it. There is a gravel pit that will transfer with the land. No current gravel contracts.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **March 3, 2025** in an envelope marked "TENDER".
3. Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. The closing date of the sale shall be April 7, 2025 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
4. Land is in the Torren's Title system.
5. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2025.

For further information contact 204- 264-0023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS TO RENT

PARCELS FOR RENT:

Cultivated Acres: SE 23-7-23 WPM (approx. 118 acres)

SW 24-7-23 WPM (approx. 155 acres)

Exclusive of: mines and minerals, farm buildings, grain storage and residential house and yard

The following conditions will apply:

1. Tenders shall close February 28, 2025, and shall be submitted to Laura McDougald-Williams, Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address noted below; marked "tender"
2. All persons submitting a tender shall rely on their personal knowledge and inspection of the property;
3. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted;
4. Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque representing one half (50%) of their proposed annual rental amount;
5. All unsuccessful Bidders shall have their tender cheques returned following the closing of tenders;
6. Starting dates for the lease to the successful Bidder shall be April 1, 2025 for both parcels.
7. The successful Bidder shall be responsible for half the costs associated with the preparation and signing of a lease.

Address for Tenders:

Meighen Haddad LLP
Box 1149
4 Crescent Ave., Souris, Manitoba R0K 2C0
Phone: 204-483-1556 or Fax: 204-483-2321
lwilliams@mhlaw.ca
Attention: Laura J. McDougald-Williams

For Sale

WANTED

COIN COLLECTIONS



CASH FOR COIN COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS OF COINS! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, OLD COINS, OLD PAPER MONEY, SILVER COINS, GOLD COINS, RARE COINS ETC.

Also buying all Silver, Gold, Nuggets, Scrap, Coins, Old Jewelry, Bullion, Ingots, Sterling Silver, Old Quality Watches working or not, Rolex, Omega ++

**Todd
204-904-9705**

For Sale

**BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING!
50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK**

*Auto *Farm *Truck
*Construction *ATV
*Motorcycle *Golf Carts
*Rechargeables *Tools
*Computers *Medical
*All phones *Chargers
*Marine *RV & more
Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN
1390 St. James St.
Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca

Auctions

Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving
Feb 26th @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
March 8th @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or **204-886-7027**
mcsherryltd@gmail.com

Service

Will Do Custom Snow Blowing Of Driveways

204-748-5144

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of

such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.mcna.com. **URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guar-

antee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for **ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST**. Call **MCNA (204) 947-1691** for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details. **NEED CLASS 1 DRIVERS? SEASONAL HIRING? SELLING SOME-**

THING? Jump on our great prices and start getting responses! Book your blank classified ads, seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please **Call THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community

Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228
www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

What happens when you don't advertise?

VERY LITTLE.

Letter to the Editor

RE: Canada Post – progress?

Canada Post is Modernizing, but after 173 years, is this progress?

Recently just mailing a letter cost user a lot more money for stamps. Ever wonder why?

Letters to neighbouring towns and villages used to be separated and sent off to their destination by rural Canada Postal employees.

Not any more! Now, all those local letters are apparently routed to Winnipeg, sorted, cancelled and re directed back to (for instance) Hargrave, Elkhorn, Reston, Kenton, Oak Lake, etc. that were mailed at Virden.

I have been informed this is necessary to keep that huge, costly, sorting facility in Manitoba's capital at full production and keep the jobs there.

Normal service, a 3-day hopeful wish, now becomes a challenge to be 4 or even 5 days, and many of those addressed places are only 10 to 40 kilometres away! Users are the ones being afflicted; paying for this extra 600-kilometre, letter transport adventure, and the consolidation of a work

force in Winnipeg? Will this eventually lead to reductions in rural postal workers. Who knows?

A First-Class postage stamp cost 3 cents in 1945, and some may recall, the postal delivery service was quite efficient back then as mail was sorted and tended to within the Royal Mail cars as the trains made their way across Canada. Local mail was advertised as next day service for many areas then. Makes one wonder about progress, doesn't it?

John Fefchak, Virden
204 748 2521

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Town of Virden intends to conduct the following pesticide programs during 2025:

1. To control noxious weeds within the Town limits of the Town of Virden. The projected dates of application will be from April 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. The herbicides to be used include one or more of the following:
Picloram * Amitrol * Target * Transorb * 2, 4-D Ester

2. To control noxious weeds at the waste disposal grounds and surrounding area in the R.M. of Wallace, located on SE 24-11-26W. The projected dates of application will be from April 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. The herbicides to be used include one or more of the following:
Picloram * Round-up * Target * Primatrol * 2, 4-D Ester Atrazine * Amitrol

3. To control rats at the waste disposal grounds at various times during the coming year using the rodenticide **Bromadiolone**.

4. To control the following insect pests including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, elm bark beetles, canker worms, etc. within the limits of the Town of Virden. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. The insecticides to be used include one or more of the following:
Cygon 480EC * Vectobac * Cholorphyrifos

Objections to the proposed program may be submitted in writing within fifteen (15) days of the publication to:

**Manitoba Environment and Climate
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6**

Request for Pricing

The Town of Virden will accept pricing for the 2025 season up to 4:00 PM on Friday, February 28, 2025, for the following:

1. Supply of Construction Equipment and Materials
2. Sidewalk Repairs and Asphalt Patching
3. Supply of Septic Vac Truck and Hydrovac
4. Tree Trimming and Tree Removal
5. Dust Control

For additional details please contact the Virden Town Office.

Forms are available at:
<http://www.virden.ca/p/tenders-and-requests>.

Phone: (204) 748-2440
Fax: (204) 748-2501
Email: executive.assistant@virden.ca

Request for Proposals

Animal Control/Pound Keeper

The Town of Virden is requesting proposals for contract animal control/pound keeper services for the community.

Responsibilities would include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Enforcement of all provisions of the Town of Virden Animal Control By-law.
- Apprehension and impoundment of any animal as referred to in the By-law, as running at large in the municipality, in a timely manner.
- Provision of proper care for any animal impounded.
- All record keeping as required under the By-law and requested by Council.
- Enforcement of fines, as provided under the By-law.
- Patrolling the Town at regular intervals to ensure compliance with the Town's By-law.
- Provision of an alternate for response, if not available in a reasonable amount of time.
- Trapping of wild animals such as skunks, which become a nuisance, except those specifically exempted under agreement.

The contractor will be required to provide their own vehicle and a cell phone, or answering machine available to the general public, and carry current Workers Compensation coverage or similar insurance.

A complete listing of the specifications for contracted animal control and pound keeper services is available at the Town Office. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Friday, February 28, 2025, in writing, to the following:

Faye Pope, Office Manager - Town of Virden
236 Wellington Street West, Box 310
Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0
Ph: (204)748-2440 Fax: (204)748-2501
Email: office.manager@virden.ca

For further information, please contact Faye Pope at (204) 748-2440.

Employment Opportunities

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

Employment Opportunity

Municipal Clerk/RCMP Detachment

The Town of Virden is accepting applications for a full-time, permanent position for a Municipal Clerk at the Westman RCMP Detachment, Virden. 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 Virden Town Office or the Westman RCMP Detachment.

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

Faye Pope, Office Manager - Town of Virden
236 Wellington Street West, Box 310
Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0
Ph: (204)748-2440 Fax: (204)748-2501
Email: office.manager@virden.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 Virden 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 Virden Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Oak Lake Care Centre update

Submitted
By KAYLA MOORE & TAMMY HALL

The Oak Lake Care Centre opened the first

three rooms in our new centre (OLCC2), providing 50 spaces for kids on Dec. 16. The daycare also welcomed new staff.

All our staff worked hard to get the rooms furnished and ready for kids.

Would you believe Oak Lake needs even more daycare? We still have plans to open the two remaining rooms. We have been open for a month now and it is going well. The children are enjoying all the new creative rooms to play and learn in. The staff are getting to know each other, and their roles now that there are different rooms, rather than one large open room like OLCC 1.

Parents are getting to know their way around to get to the right classroom for their children. We have also been busy making plans for our original building (OLCC1), which is going to be home to our school age program as well as casual care and nursery school. The building will need some minor renovations to house the kids, so we are raising funds for this as well.

We are also making good on our promise to use our recently added staffroom for community support. Home Counselling and Wellness will be using it as a safe space for their clients starting in February.

We have been busy fundraising, with our Trivia night in the fall that raised about \$3000 (thanks to everyone who came out and purchased pies), an In Good Taste fundraiser just in time for Christmas, and Bingos in November and January that paid out

over \$1500 in prizes combined! These will help us to purchase eight more cribs for another infant room as well as tables and chairs.

On Feb. 15 the care centre hosted a social fundraiser with the theme 'Dress as a famous couple'.

We have Bingos planned for March 8 and May 10, both at 2:30 pm. They have been fun so far and the nachos are delicious. Hope to see you there.

Also, in March we will be looking to renew tickets for our 150 Draw which we use each year to purchase supplies for the centre.

We thank you, the community, so much for your support of our events. We try to add some fun and entertaining options in Oak Lake. We have been incredibly grateful to receive a number of personal and business donations towards our project, with grants from Fusion Credit Union, Sunrise Credit Union, Tundra Oil and Gas, Brandon and Area Foundation, and Oak Lake and Area Foundation.

*Kayla Moore is Board President
Tammy Hall is Executive Director*

See how we're doing good together, Manitoba!

Every day, the people at Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries strive to make positive contributions to Manitoba's economic, environmental, and social well-being. Read how we're doing in our recently published **2023-24 Environmental, Social, and Governance Progress Report** by scanning the QR code below or visiting MBLLGoodTogether.ca.

\$732.5 million
to provincial government programs and services

8,057 hours
volunteered by MBLL employees

\$9.4 million
to addiction, support and prevention services

21% reduction
in carbon emissions since 2017

\$3.7 million
to 418 community, non-profit and charitable organizations

37% reduction
in vehicle fuel consumption since 2015



SCAN TO READ



MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

#MBLLGoodTogether

**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

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



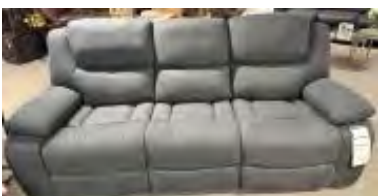
7 PIECE DINING SET
SOLID WOOD (STOCK ONLY)
WAS \$2,249.99 NOW \$1,599.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



OFFICE COMPUTER DESK
WAS \$599.99 NOW \$449.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



RECLINING SOFA
MANUAL, FABRIC COVER (STOCK ONLY)
WAS \$1,699.99 NOW \$1,288.00

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



MATCHING LOVE SEAT
MANUAL, FABRIC COVER (STOCK ONLY)
WAS \$1,599.99 NOW \$1,329.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



SOFA SLEEPER WITH STORAGE
FABRIC COVER
WAS \$1,549.99 NOW \$1,149.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



ENTERTAINMENT STAND
WITH STORAGE
WAS \$549.99 NOW \$419.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



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

PURCHASE THE SOFA & LOVE SEAT AS A SET AND SAVE EVEN MORE!
Only \$2,299.99 for Both!



MATCHING LOVE SEAT
STOCK ONLY
WAS \$2,249.99 NOW \$1,379.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



FABRIC RECLINER
MANUAL (STOCK ONLY)
WAS \$1,099.99 NOW \$799.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!



FABRIC SWIVEL GLIDER/RECLINER
MANUAL (STOCK ONLY)
WAS \$1,199.99 NOW \$768.00

TWIN OVER TWIN METAL BUNK BED

WAS \$899.99 NOW \$599.99

COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!

TWIN OVER DOUBLE METAL BUNK BED

WAS \$999.99 NOW \$649.99

COULD BE YOURS 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

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.