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Freaky Friday packs a punch



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Fletcher Blake (Corbyn Waller of Lenore) was missing - a crisis point in Freaky Friday that brings his sister Ellie Blake (Avery Praznik) and his mother Katherine Blake (Ramey Praznik) to embrace him and to recognize the importance of family. Mike (Rob Lovatt) prospective new husband to Katherine cares for this entire family.



Dr. Ehrin (Oak Lake's Mike Thiessen, left) the school counselor raises issues about Ellie Blake's behavior at school; Senor O'Brien (Darrell Corbel) the Spanish teacher participates in the counselling session, the two singing 'Somebody Has Got to Take the Blame' and Mrs. Luckenbill (Monique Waller) as Ellie's English teacher pitches in with her empathetic version of the song.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Freaky Friday A New Musical was a powerful show on Virden's AUD Theatre stage last week. Along with elements of conflict that every family knows about, it was so darn funny!

In the Blake family, a hurting teen-aged girl has lost her father and is nauseated by her society conscious mother's upcoming marriage to 'Mike'. They butt heads! Along with some FREAKY magic, when the piled high wedding cake lands on the floor, you know rocky times are ahead. And then little brother Fletcher goes missing...

The voices of Katherine and daughter Ellie (Ramey and Avery Praznik) meld in amazing, often rapid fire, musical numbers.

read more about the Freaky Friday play on page 2...



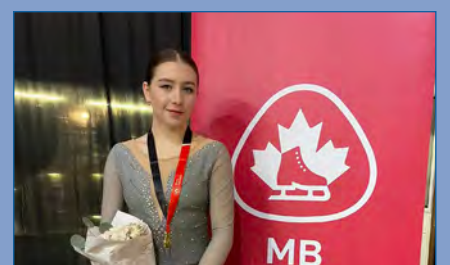
HOME GAME
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
VS. SWAN VALLEY
STAMPEDERS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



REMEMBRANCE
DAY
CEREMONIES

P9-10



SKATE VIRDEN
SUCCEED AT
SECTIONALS

P14

Freaky Friday draws acting talent from across Manitoba



The entire cast of Freaky Friday A New Musical pictured here.

PHOTO BY ROB LOVATT OF KEYWEST PHOTO

continued from page 1

Director Michelle Chzyk has drawn together, and in many cases also helped train, a wealth of music, acting and dance talent with Westman actors from Elkhorn, Virden, Lenore and areas beyond.

Rob Lovatt originally from Souris, now from Brandon, is a seasoned stage performer and part of several bands - a star vocalist in Freaky Friday he says, "I am very appreciative once again to be part of an incredible show courtesy of Virden Theatre Productions. There's always an element of magic that accompany these shows (a double entendre as magic happens and is key)," He continues, "If you've had the pleasure

of seeing them in the AUD Theatre in Virden, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about."

He aptly describes the flavour of Freaky Friday: "This particular show adds a beautiful element of the special relationship between a mother and daughter bridging a generational gap to find understanding. And I kid you not, I can't imagine a better duo that bring this to life than the real-life mother-daughter team that not only encapsulate the intended tension and chemistry of the show, but the love that prevails. There are moments that will literally bring a tear to your eye..." And did on opening night.

The artistic team of Chzyk, Dean Munchinsky, JaysaLee Davies, Shelby Rampton, Katey Rogowsky

and Paul Archambault gave this show wings.

Not only is there 'magic' in the script, but Lovatt says, "Layers of magic. The countless hours of practice, precision, experience, and dedication in everything from vocal work to acting coaching, from lighting and sound professionals to the army of volunteers to bring it all together. At the heart of it all is the very definition of community and a level of co-operation that is rare."

He gives Virden Theatre Productions high marks. "It has been said that the quality of the shows in Virden are comparable to Rainbow Stage in Winnipeg. It's true and then some."

All this in the AUD's new comfortable seats.

Lions donate to Minor Ball



PHOTO BY BARRY O'GRADY

Virden Lions Club President Lloyd Williams presents Kevin Reimer, Vice President of Virden Minor Ball, with a cheque to help pay for new bases. Minor ball is happy to receive this donation toward the purchase of new bases and plugs for all the minor ball diamonds. Reimer explains, "We are in need of new bases anyways,

so these will be more durable. They will come with permanent anchors in the ground so we don't have to measure base distances each time the diamonds get used. We are still looking for additional donations in order to complete the project."

Royal Purple donation to Kyle family



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY GIBSON

The Virden Royal Purple presented a cheque in the amount of \$500 to Bree Kyle on November 7, 2024. Brad and Bree Kyle and their son Xavier have been dealing with travel expenses and other expenses while their almost four year old son has been having medical appointments and recent surgery in Edmonton. "We wish them well and better health ahead for Xavier" say Shirley Gibson, Virden Royal Purple representative.

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Sports Therapist resides in Kenton

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Dillon Hunter of Kenton had a dream! He wanted to work in high performance sports as a certified strength and conditioning coach and do physiotherapy which he is currently finishing up and will write his final exam in July.

He also hopes to add acupuncture treatment to his resume as well.

Upon graduating from high school in Hamiota, Dillon went to Regina University. Dillon had shadowed Cam McGhee who was with the Brandon Wheat Kings thus the desire to get into that field of occupation.

Dillon worked with the Regina University as a sports student trainer for 3 years before advancing to Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, for 1 year. He then went back to Regina University to finish his degree!

Currently Dillon is a certified athletic therapist graduate and will finish the program this year.

In 2018 Dillon went to Austria to work, then back to Calgary from 2020-2023. He worked at a hockey training facility doing Crash Conditioning.

While in Austria, he worked through the Okanagan hockey academy with the national U18 program. There were 4 teams there, so he worked with kids from Denmark, Latvia, Slovenia and, of course, Austria.

While in Austria, he met Mr. Eller, father of NHL player Lars Eller, of the St. Louis Blues!

When Dillon returned to Calgary, he began to work with the Stockton Heat players an affiliate of the Calgary Flames. Also, in Calgary he worked with Andrew Birchley who was the Calgary Stam-

peders of the Canadian Football League. He also worked with Junior B teams in Calgary. Dillon has worked with some familiar names in the NHL such as Jake Neighbors of the St. Louis Blues, Justin Kirkland, of Calgary Flames, Morgan Frost of the Philadelphia Flyers as well with Martin Prospilil.

Dillon has also worked with Pro Canadian Rodeo and continues to go to Rodeo events in Manitoba. He also helps out with the Yellowhead Chiefs U18 team based in Shoal Lake.

Dillon, and his wife Morgann, whom he met in Calgary moved home to Kenton as his parents' farm is located just south of the village.

I asked Dillon what he would prescribe for Conor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers who recently suffered a high ankle sprain. First he said he would diagnosis it. The sprain is the ligament that spreads between the tibula and the fibula around the joint area. Very informative info as I didn't know exactly what it was.

In Dillons spare time he does do house calls to work with injured people, not just athletes.

He is also the student rep on the Manitoba Physio Therapist Association as he is completing his training in Winnipeg.

Dillon also helps out on the farm, processing cattle and chores on weekends.

He is also secretary for the Manitoba Limousin Association.

Looking down the road a bit Dillon would like to have his own clinic and training centre facility for rural athletes with more of a rural touch.

Dillon indicated while he can certainly help people with injuries, people have to be willing to invest the time to exercise take treatment and rest when necessary. I would say with Dillon, the Weekend Warrior, he is helping people with their injuries. I can attest to this as he has worked on my back and helped me get back on my feet quickly!

It is nice to know that Dillon is only a call away to help with injuries.

Hopefully some day his dream will continue to come to pass where he could have his own business in our rural town as it would certainly be welcome to grow the town!

You can call Dillon at 825-994-5612.



Prairie Mountain Health holds Annual General Meeting



PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH
SANTÉ PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN

Submitted

BLAINE KRAUSHAAR, PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) wrapped up its 12th full year of operations during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) October 30, 2024. PMH Board Chair Lon Cullen said reviewing fiscal year 2023-2024 allowed interested community representatives, health stakeholders and partners, staff and residents to learn more about the region's strategic priorities, objectives and financial position.

"Communication with our partners and stakeholders regarding health care within our communities and region as a whole is a top priority," Cullen stated. The AGM is another way we are able to provide a status report on PMH activities and an opportunity to keep residents and communities engaged at the same time."

Prairie Mountain Health CEO Trenea Slate says the AGM also provides the opportunity to reflect back on accomplishments, acknowledge the challenges and opportunities for improvement that lie ahead, and move forward with a focus on future program and service planning.

"We're making great strides in several areas as our recent Accreditation Report notes although we know there is much more work to do," Slate said. "We acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the commitment of our staff—our most valuable resource. They continue to give of themselves with unwavering dedication, care and compassion. To our staff, thank you for all that you do!"

This past year saw the region undergo its third national

accreditation survey, which found PMH met 97 per cent of surveyed criteria. Other AGM highlights noted were:

- The Region focused on its Strategic Plan (2023-2028) that identified the health region's four key priorities aimed at building a healthier population and creating a quality, integrated and sustainable health system through collaboration and informed-decision-making.
- Patient and family engagement, along with patient-centered care, remained key objectives for PMH.
- Several key capital projects were in varying stages, including construction on the new Neepawa Health Centre, clinical spaces renovations at Brandon and Dauphin Regional Health Centres and Western Manitoba Cancer Centre.
- A building addition for a new cancer care unit in Russell and enhanced space for a new CT Scanner in Swan River were finalized in the spring of 2024. Both of the projects received significant financial contributions from local communities.
- Emergency Department renovations in Virden, Killarney and Souris were completed. These refreshed treatment spaces now provide dedicated space for registration and triage, greater privacy, wayfinding and better sight lines for staff.
- Various recruitment and retention strategies for physicians, nurses and other health care-professionals remained a priority area and several activities to sustain, enhance and develop capacity within the workforce continued. The region has seen some recent recruitment success including new specialist and nurse practitioner hires.
- The region continues making strides on improving mental health and addictions services. Enhancements to in-house treatment services, support and treatment programs and community mental health improvements were continuing throughout the year.
- PMH's Mobile Clinic passed a significant milestone in February, marking 10 years since the first primary care bus in the Province began providing access to services

where some care barriers remain. Currently, the Indigenous communities of Birdtail Sioux First Nation, Ebb and Flow First Nation, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation and Keeseekoowenin First Nation receive regular visits. The communities of Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation, Skownan First Nation, Sioux Valley First Nation, Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation and Waterhen also receive regular Nurse Practitioner services from Mobile Clinic providers.

• PMH experienced an operating deficit in 2023/24 of \$29.7 million after having balanced its operating budget the previous year. This was largely related to the increase in salary expenses related to the use of agency and overtime to maintain current service levels. A financial accountability working group has been established to look at fiscal sustainability initiatives and cost savings opportunities going forward.

The complete 2023-2024 Annual Report, which includes a link to the year's audited financial statements is available on the PMH website, under the Regional Reports section at www.prairiemountainhealth.ca, or here. The recorded version of the entire AGM is also available on the website.

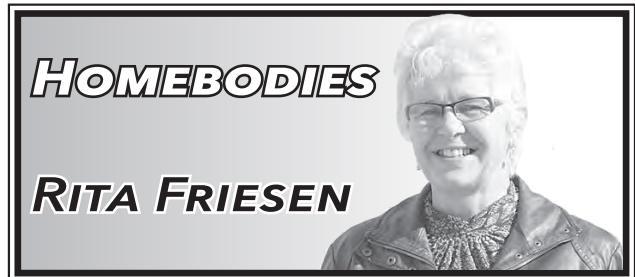
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



On a lighter note...

How the U.S. election was lost

In my column just prior to the US election, I outlined why, if Trump were to win, why that would take place. That column was in no way meant to be an endorsement of Donald Trump.

I said was, "if Donald Trump is elected, it will be because people are sick of the stands taken by the Democrats who are shamelessly backed by the majority of the media and the entertainment industry."

With the majority win by Trump, the people who operate and who back the Democratic Party are in shock and mourning about their defeat.

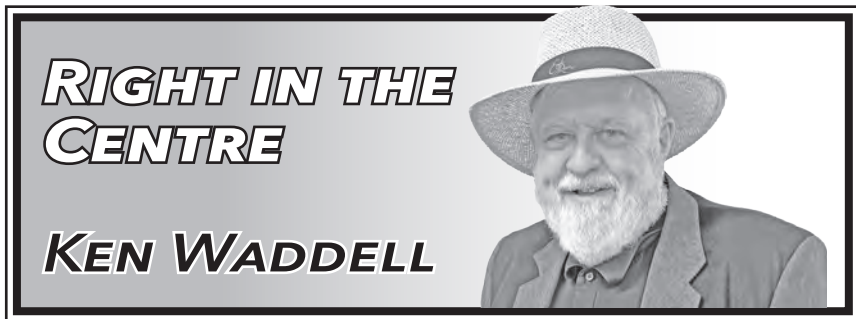
When all the mistakes come out in full view, the Dems should not be surprised. Here are some reasons why their shock is misplaced.

Most of Kamala Harris' previous election campaign experience was in California, a place where the majority of people think like she does. She was not battle-hardened. Without that "battle" experience, Harris did not get a high level of comfort and experience with handling media interviews. She was invisible for much of the campaign and it left voters not knowing who she was and what she believed.

She refused to illustrate how she would do things differently than Joe Biden. That and the fact that it's very difficult to be an incumbent and claim you are going to make big and needed changes. People asked the obvious question and that was "Why didn't you change things when you had the chance?"

The loss wasn't due to a shortage of money as Harris backers raised \$1 billion and spent it all and then some in 107 days. I think that's about \$10 million a day.

The Democratic Party went way into the ditch by waiting so long to "retire" Joe Biden. It was obvious



“ The Dems appeared to abandon the working class in favour of suburban university educated people. ”

to all that time had caught up to Joe Biden at age 80 or so, how could they be surprised. Even now, at times, Biden speaks well but many times he doesn't and it's sad.

I have said many times, and written it a few times, that if Joe Biden and Donald Trump are the best that the Americans can come up with for president, the country is in big trouble. I also wrote that the parties should find a black female lawyer and set them up as candidates for the task of US president. The Democrats did that but a chosen young black female lawyer needed to also do and say the things that people need to hear from their president and Harris clearly didn't do that. Harris insulted Trump and Trump insulted her but Trump said what he intends to do in easier to understand language than Harris was willing or able to do. Trump picked a young and vibrant VP candidate, some would say JD Vance is a handsome guy. Harris picked an old looking 60 year old man, Tim Walls, who unfortunately looked as worn out as Joe Biden.

Trump made wild and outlandish promises but they were about issues the public wanted to hear, the economy, energy self-sufficiency, border and immigration control. Harris talked about social issues that while, people care about them, they are not issues that put food on the table and clothes on kids backs.

After the election was over, Independent Senator Bernie Sanders said two basic things. One, the Dems appeared to abandon the working class in favour of suburban, university educated people and US election laws allow the very rich to finance the elections. In contrast, in Canada, political donations to a party are limited to individuals, not businesses, and I believe the limit in Canada is only \$1,750 per person.

What Canadians also need to be aware of is how Trump decisions will affect Canada. Lots to watch for.

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.

When I regretfully released Henry Hoover and Miss Daisy from their aging and ailing bodies I vowed never to have another dog. Hoover failed first, at about eleven years of age, and Miss Daisy needed to join him within the next year. I washed their beds, bedding, towels and dishes, cleaned their collars and leashes, and gave it all away. I was so done with dogs and all that is associated with their care and keeping.

And then my daughter-in-law asked me if I wanted another dog. I kind of did, but I wanted an older Sheltie. So she sent me a picture of Arie, an almost one-year-old Yorkie Poodle cross. Nothing remotely like an older Sheltie! That's all it took. One picture.

In September, it was one year since Arie has become mine. She is now two and perfect. She never chewed on anything and never peed or puked in the house. Arie is as smart as they come and high energy. Her arrival coincided with my becoming a widow, filling the home with vitality, and she needed me. The first few times my daughter-in-law visited Arie would lay at the door and cry when she and her dog left. I wondered if Arie would ever really be mine. This Thanksgiving Arie was briefly reunited with the lovely young woman who first owned her. Circumstances and life made it impossible for that relationship to continue and hence the re-homing with my DIL caring for, and training Arie for several weeks before bringing her to me. The reunion between Arie and the young lady was touching, Arie choosing to sit with her rather than my DIL or me. The farewells were tearful. The gathering itself—the twenty people and six dogs—had Arie flitting between many people— BUT when she had enough it was my bed she found and curled up on. Going home from Slave Lake, I knew that Arie picked me.

We go for long walks. She knows at which houses we stop and chat and is puzzled when the owners aren't available. She knows who gives her treats and she knows the trails. Arie actually sits down, or turns around when she doesn't want to go a certain direction. And sometimes I listen! Her preferred walk doesn't allow us to return on the same path we walked leaving the house. New additions—like decorations—set her into a tizzy. Those objects weren't there, and now they are, something's very wrong! We walk a great deal; we also play. We play hide and go seek. Imagine if you will an old lady sliding around corners to duck into a closet before she is spotted. Or tossing a toy in one direction and rushing to get out of sight. Arie has a keen nose. At day's end, she waits in the garage while I hide fifteen to twenty pieces of kibble all around the house. She knows when she has cleared a room I put the light out. And if she misses one, I simply stand nearby and she returns to complete the hunt.

One little, strong willed, brilliant dog. Perfect!

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Fraud Protection presentation

By Oliver Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Thursday, Nov. 7, the RCMP made a fraud protection presentation to local and rural businesses. The meeting was held at Tundra Oil and Gas Place and sponsored by the Town of Virden. The presentation was made by Cst. Ricky Perkins and Cst. Grant Kummen.

Topics such as how to help prevent it, and what different signs to look for

when you suspect fraud in your business or simply in everyday life. This presentation took place at Tundra Oil & Gas Place in Virden MB. This presentation took place to make business owners and employees aware about what precautions to take and just how present fraud and scams are. They did this due to the sheer amount of fraud and scam cases since Covid-19. Cases have greatly risen through different methods, technology, and techniques.

A few examples being

able to copy voices, make similar emails, finding specific IP addresses, and getting into different businesses email systems. The presentation was very thorough about specific details, plans, and strategies to help you or your business not fall victim to fraud attempts.

In addition to various business fraud scams, the RCMP discussed some personal scams including the now famous "Grandparent Appeal" scam. For a full discussion on that, please see the Virden Empire Advance issue of Nov. 8, 2024, on page 6.

The luncheon meeting was attended by about 70 people including business people and private citizens.

RCMP continue to receive a number of Fraud reports

Westman RCMP Service Report for Nov. 3 – Nov. 9 2024

Submitted
By WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 34 calls for service. Of the 34, 6 were Traffic Related. Also included in the calls for service were 2 Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property files, 2 False Alarms, 5 Mischief files, 2 Theft files, 1 Assault file, and 2 Failure to comply with order files.

On Nov. 4 RCMP received a report through Child and Family Services of a 40-year-old-male failing to comply with the conditions of his release order in the town of Virden. RCMP and CFS attended the home and the male was placed under arrest and was remanded into custody for two counts of Adult Fail to comply with release order conditions. He was then released by the court and will appear in court again later this month.

On Nov. 6 during a routine traffic patrol being conducted in the town of Virden. RCMP conducted a traffic stop where the driver and passenger of a vehicle were both issued a traffic offence notice for unlawful transportation of cannabis in or on vehicle, which carries a fine of \$237.

On Nov. 7 RCMP received a report of a domestic disturbance in the Town of Pierson. Police attended and learned that both parties had assaulted each other. Both parties were arrested and charged. The 34-year-old male will appear in court in January on two counts of Adult Assault Causing Bodily Harm. The 38-year-old female will appear in court in February on two counts of Adult Uttering threats against a person and one count of Adult Assault.

RCMP continue to receive a number of Fraud reports. Please keep these tips

in mind to avoid falling victim of Fraud:

- No information should ever be given to a person over the phone until you are satisfied they are who they say they are. Look up the phone number to the police agency/government agency they say they are calling from and confirm it by calling there yourself.
- A real police officer would not ask to have money sent on behalf of your relative/friend.
- Ask for help from a member of your family or a trustworthy friend if you are unsure about a call or request received requiring payment.
- Verify identities or whereabouts of the caller.
- Don't feel pressured and do not send money before doing your own investigation.
- Don't disclose personal financial information.

No police agency or other government agency will request you send monetary payments to them by way of mail, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, gift cards or QR codes. This is a scam, and the callers usually use pressure tactics and threaten the victim if they don't pay forthwith.

If you receive suspicious telephone calls or emails requesting money, please hang up and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or through their online reporting tool. If you have been a victim of fraud where you have lost money, please report it to your local police.

To report a complaint or non-emergent incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquires 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.

Retired RCMP Corporal shares Remembrance perspective



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

RCMP Cpl (ret.) Al Porter addresses Remembrance Day in the AUD Theatre.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

RCMP Cpl (ret.) Allan Porter not only served on Canadian soil but with the United Nations Peacekeeping corps. As guest speaker at the Virden Remembrance Day service, he shared the RCMP perspective.

Cpl. Porter joined the RCMP in 1973, serving throughout Manitoba. Virden became home to the Porters, Allan and Cheryl, after he was first posted at Reston and then to Virden RCMP in 1993, where their sons attended Virden schools. In 2001 he completed a 10-month UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo. In 2006 Porter retired from the RCMP to enter private business.

He shared how the RCMP and the traditional role of the Canadian Armed Forces has become entwined beginning in the 1880s with what is known as the North West Rebellion.

Abroad, RCMP served alongside members of Canadian military in South Africa's Boer War of 1899-2002.

Members also served in The First World War in Belgium and France, in the Second World

War mainly at Dieppe and during the Italian campaign, where major losses were suffered in the region of the ancient city of Ortona (Christmas of 1943).

RCMP members have participated in UN peacekeeping missions around the world and do so to this day.

Porter explained that RCMP members were needed both at home and on the battlegrounds of the World Wars.

He said, "RCMP members were seconded to the military, but the Canadian government of the day was reluctant to release serving members from their duties at home and the reason was primarily because there was an at home increased security element to be addressed due to the state of war."

Canada was a young nation, "full of new arrivals, many of them came from the British Isles. They were eager to join up as it was their former homes and families that were under direct attack at that time."

So, despite the need for wartime vigilance within Canada, he said, "There was an increased call for the force to allow members to enlist. Ultimately, the Commissioner of the

Force threatened to resign if members were not allowed to enlist. The government conceded...."

A military court was set up, 150 RCMP members were called to serve in what became known as the first Provost Court.

Along with soldiers RCMP personnel saw injury and casualties, and Victoria Crosses were awarded to several ex-RCMP members.

For Porter, there's a deeply personal side to Remembrance. He recalls the first day he saw the medals his father had received for his service in Korea. "My mother's explanation of why he had received the service medals answered a few questions of a 7-year-old boy, but precipitated many more over the years. Some, I found the answers to myself, but a lasting impression was left. As usual, my dad had little to say on the topic."

It was years later, attending services at the Korean Wall of Remembrance with his father, and family when he saw his father react to the names of comrades listed on that wall.

RCMP Cpl (ret.) Allan Porter said, "Remembrance, on that day, became clear."

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

The beauty of a slow cooker is how it simplifies meal preparation. Whether you need a recipe that cooks all day, or meals that simply don't require your attention at the stove, the slow cooker has your back. When we think of slow cookers we think soups and stews, hearty chilies and pulled pork. The slow cooker is surprisingly versatile. There is almost nothing your slow cooker can't do. When I want to sew all day I just get my slow cooker out, fill it up with wholesome food, set it and forget it. At the end of the day I have the satisfaction of a home-cooked meal ready to enjoy.

A slow cooker pork stew is the perfect meal for when you want something hearty and delicious. If you're running low on time, you can simply skip the browning of the meat.

Pork stew

- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 lb. boneless pork loin, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 cups butternut squash or sweet potatoes cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 stick celery, cut into one inch pieces
- 2 medium carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, diced in 1 inch pieces
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 tsp. dried thyme leaves
- 1 tsp. dried sage leaves

Cooked egg noodles or mashed potatoes, for serving

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Combine the flour, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Coat the cubed pork in the flour. Add the pork cubes to the pan (work in two batches if needed) and cook for several minutes until slightly browned. Add the pork to the slow cooker. Add the remaining ingredients. Stir everything to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours until the pork is cooked through and the vegetables are tender. If you want the stew to be thicker, add 2 level tablespoons of cornstarch to 3 tablespoons of cold water, add mixture to stew, cover and cook on high for 15 minutes or until thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve over cooked egg noodles or mashed potatoes.

This Slow Cooker chicken thigh recipe is loaded with vegetables and makes an easy meal. Chicken thighs are great for slow cookers because they stay moist and juicy through the long cooking process.

Lemon chicken with veggies

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 medium onion, diced | 3-4 medium potatoes, quartered |
| 2-3 carrots, cut in 3 inch pieces | 2 sticks celery, cut in 2 inch pieces |
| 3 garlic cloves, sliced or minced | 6-8 boneless chicken thighs, w/skin |
| 1 cup chicken broth | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 tsp. pepper | 1/2 tsp. paprika |
| 1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning | 1 tsp. Dash |
| Zest of half a lemon | Juice of one lemon |
| Fresh parsley for garnish | |
| 1/4 tsp. crushed red chili pepper flakes (optional) | |

Place the veggies in the slow cooker and top with the thighs. Combine the chicken broth, salt, pepper, paprika, Italian seasoning, Dash, lemon zest and lemon juice. Pour the broth over the chicken. Cook on low for 7-8 hours or on high for 3 hours. Remove chicken and vegetables to a serving platter, garnish with fresh parsley, if using, and serve.

Slow Cooker Rice Pudding is a simple old fashioned dessert. If you love your rice puddings to be creamy use the whole milk or replace some of the milk with cream. I love my rice pudding with raisins and cinnamon. If you do not like raisins and cinnamon just leave them out.

Rice pudding

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Cooking spray | 3/4 cup long-grain rice |
| 3 cups whole milk | 1/2 cup white sugar |
| 2 Tbsp. butter | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 cup raisins | |

Spray the slow cooker stoneware with cooking spray. Rinse the rice under water. Combine all of the ingredients in the slow cooker. Cook on high 2 to 3 hours or low 4 to 5 hours. Spoon into individual bowls or cups and serve warm, or refrigerate to chill to serve cold.



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NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie will be taken to elect Councillors from the following duly nominated candidates:

COUNCILLORS:

Ward 3: **PETHICK, Monica**
FLANNERY, Lee

VOTING PLACES

Voting place will be open for voting on:

Wednesday the 11th day of December 2024 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
 at the McAuley Chambers, 318 Railway Ave, McAuley, MB

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE: A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example – driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on Election Day, an advance voting opportunity will be open for voting on:

Tuesday the 3rd day of December 2024 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
 at the McAuley Chambers, 318 Railway Ave, McAuley, MB

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing or by email to the senior election official at RM of Ellice-Archie, 331 Main Street, St. Lazare, MB. Email: stlazare@rmofellicearchie.ca

If applying in person, a voter may apply **between November 13th, 2024 and December 9, 2024.**

*A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email, a voter may apply now and **before November 30, 2024.**

*A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangement with Senior Election Official.

Constance Tanguay, SEO
 Rural Municipality of Ellice – Archie
 Box 100
 331 Main Street
 St. Lazare, Manitoba R0M 1Y0
 Tel: 204-683-2241

MLA apologizes for his inadvertent non-disclosure

By Greg Nesbitt
MLA OF RIDING MOUNTAIN

The saying in politics is that if you are explaining you are losing, but in the interests of full transparency I am going to give it a try.

I would like to explain to my constituents the result of an NDP complaint to the Ethics Commissioner that became public and was reported in the media on Nov. 5 and 6.

On August 9, 2024, the NDP alleged that I had contravened Section 44(1) of The Conflict of Interest Act, by having an interest in a private corporation which has a contract with the Government of Manitoba, and for failing to disclose the contract.

On November 5, 2024 the Ethics Commissioner, Jeffrey Schnoor, ruled that I did indeed contravene the Act by failing to include the contract in my Disclosure Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Sources of Income that MLAs have to file yearly prior to the start of a new session of the Manitoba Legislature.

This is where I want to give my constituents a little background information.

The contract in question was signed by the Russell Inns Ltd. and the Government of Manitoba in December 2023, that allows provincial employees to use Russell Inns Ltd. for rooms at established rates.

Since being elected in 2016, I have declared each year my corporation's interest in the Russell Inns Ltd. Under the old Conflict of Interest legislation, contracts a company had signed with the government did not have to be disclosed.

In May 2018 I sold my common and voting shares in the Russell Inns Ltd. to my business partner but continue to hold non-voting shares as security until all payments for the sale are completed in 2029. Since May 2018, I have not been an officer nor director and have had no involvement in the daily business of the Russell Inn

group of companies.

Fast forward to October 2023, and new Conflict of Interest legislation took effect requiring MLAs to disclose any contracts they or their companies may hold with the Government of Manitoba. I filed my disclosure statement as usual, saying there were no contracts.

Because I have no involvement with the Russell Inns Ltd., other than receiving yearly financial statements, I was unaware any contract had been signed and therefore did not update my disclosure statement in December 2023 as I was required to do.

From the date the complaint was filed with the Ethics Commissioner, I accepted full responsibility for this oversight. Mr. Schnoor, who I have thanked for his work in investigating the complaint and understanding the unique situation I find myself in, had discussions with my former business partner and also with a lawyer at the legal firm that completed the sale transaction in 2018.

Mr. Schnoor accepted the facts as outlined above but ruled I did inadvertently contravene the Act. The penalty options in the Act include a reprimand, a fine not exceeding \$50,000, a suspension, or that the member's seat be declared vacant.

However, the Ethics Commissioner also has the power to recommend there be no penalty if he is of the opinion that a contravention occurred even though a member took all reasonable measures to prevent it; or a contravention occurred that was trivial or that was committed through inadvertence or an error of judgement made in good faith.

Mr. Schnoor concluded that no penalty should be imposed, as he determined the contravention occurred as a result of inadvertence.

As well, under the Act, the Commissioner can provide an exemption for an MLA to hold an interest in a company that has a contract with the Government of Manitoba providing that the contract is unlikely to affect the exercise of the member's powers, duties and functions.



I asked for this exemption and Mr. Schnoor granted the exemption on November 1.

I apologized to the Legislative Assembly and to Manitobans at a media conference on Tuesday, November 5, taking full responsibility for my inadvertent non-disclosure.

With this column, I am apologizing to the residents of the Riding Mountain constituency who I am proud to represent each and every day.

Greg Nesbitt is the Member of Legislative Assembly for the Riding Mountain constituency. He can be reached at 204-759-3313, toll-free 1-844-877-7767 or by email at gregnesbittmla@mymts.net. When writing to MLA Nesbitt, please include your address and phone number.

The elephant sneezed

By Cam Dahl, GM
MANITOBA PORK COUNCIL

Pierre Elliott Trudeau once noted that living next to the United States is "like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, one is affected by every twitch and grunt." On November 5, the elephant did more than twitch, it sneezed, and Canada is likely to catch a cold. The electorate south of the border has voted and the impact is going to reverberate throughout the Canadian economy, including or even especially, in agriculture.

In some ways it does not really matter which party won the White House and Congress. Protectionism is on the rise in the U.S., and I don't see Canada being prepared to respond. President Trump called for massive tariffs on the campaign trail. In the past, he has threatened to rip up the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA, the former NAFTA). Vice-President Harris was one of only 10 Senators to vote against CUSMA when the agreement was ratified. She has stated that the CUSMA agreement made it far too easy for companies to outsource jobs and that she would use the 2026 CUSMA review to address her concerns.

Now we know which version of protectionism we are facing. Mr. Trump will be President again. He has vowed to bring manufacturing back to the U.S. by applying tariffs to imported products. He is also tying political goals to U.S. market access. For example, increased defense spending by Canada is likely going to be a condition of ongoing Presidential support for CUSMA. Agriculture, particularly dairy, is going to be a target for U.S. negotiators. How is Canada going to respond?

The first step would be to have a strategic plan for agriculture and food trade going into the 2026 CUSMA review. I cannot find evidence of the existence of such

a plan. The Government of Canada has a responsibility to call together farmers, processors, and provincial governments to develop a strategic response to U.S. policy makers who are calling for limits on agriculture and food trade. There can be no further delay.

What are the key elements that need to be included in this strategic plan for agriculture and food trade? The first component is that we must not be trading off one commodity group or region of the country to protect others. We saw the potential for this to occur when the Chinese government instituted an investigation into canola exports from Canada, as a response to Canadian tariffs on electric vehicles, aluminum, and steel.

Second, Canada needs to stress the benefits to U.S. national security that are created by our open trade. In an uncertain world, agriculture and food trade can be used as a weapon in political disagreements between countries. Canada and the U.S. are each other's largest market for food and agricultural products. We need to be able to demonstrate to U.S. negotiators that this trade will not be threatened by diplomatic disputes, something that may happen when trading outside of North America. It is in the national security interest of both countries to secure trade between us and to limit any political uncertainty within the North American market.

Third, Canada needs to be ready to demonstrate the cost to U.S. consumers that will result from growing protectionism. For example, recent changes to U.S. country of origin labelling regulations will discriminate against Canadian pigs, cattle, and red meat exports. This will introduce new costs into the North American supply



chain, which in turn will raise the price for consumers and lower the return for farmers. Why is the Government of Canada not aggressively pushing back on this legislation? At a minimum, we should be advocating for alternative means of informing consumers while protecting the integrated North American market, "a product of North America" label for example.

Fourth, going into the CUSMA review, Canada must stress the importance of unified national standards. We have negotiated a trade agreement with the United States of America, not with 50 individual states. Recent actions from state governments have reached beyond their own jurisdictions. For example, Proposition 12 in California not only sets out the conditions under which animals will be raised in the State, but imposes conditions on other jurisdictions, including Canada. Other states are contemplating similar measures. Moving away from national standards will be a further fragmenting force on North American trade and will cost consumers and farmers on both sides of the border.

Finally, Canada must be speaking with a common voice across governments, industry, and farmers. Many voices delivering the same message to Washington and State Capitols throughout the U.S., which gets back to the importance of calling all stakeholders together to develop a national trade strategy for agriculture and food trade. Time is of the essence.

Oak Lake newspaper celebrates 50th with community



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A list of Oak Lake Town & Country News top stories from over five decades are displayed

Submitted

By WENDY TAYLOR

On a sunny Saturday Oct. 26 at the Oak Lake Community Hall local residents and past and current volunteer Board members of the Oak Lake Town & Country News gathered to celebrate the 50th Golden Anniversary Tea of the paper. As the crowd arrived, they were greeted by Clare and Donna Couling former board members at the guest book table. Smiles, hugs and laughter could be heard as the coffee and tea were hot and the conversation warm.

A short program commenced at 2:30pm with Wendy Taylor – President of the Board, welcoming guests and thanking all of the volunteers past, present and future. Without these volunteers the paper would not exist. Reeve of the RM of Sifton- Cyril Druwe, spoke with congratulations on the 50th year, a milestone for the paper.

Wendy then went on to recognize a legacy project created by Jennifer Gross, a current board member who vigilantly combed through 50 years of editions to place top stories of each decade in print along with flowers that were depicted with the decade. A beautiful display and snapshot of our Oak Lake Town & Country News. Again, Thank you Jennifer from the Oak Lake Town & Country News Board members and volunteers. This work will be a legacy tribute to our town.

After the congratulations, the beautifully decorated cake in 50th Anniversary golds and hues of yellows along with the logo created through the collaboration of Malachi, Rowan and Ezra Thiessen was cut by longtime volunteers of the paper Marion Harvatt and Karen Anderson. The cake delicious, was then distributed to the guests as they watched a PowerPoint presentation of the past 50 years. Sara Taylor the youngest guest in attendance was called upon to pick the winning ticket for the 50/50 draw and door prize. The 50/50 pot was \$2,625 and winner Jared Buckley received half \$1,312.50, congratulations Jared. A door prize which was a one-year subscription to the paper was Mrs. Bonnie Sangster. Again, congratulations to our winners.



Karen Anderson & Marion Harvatt cut the anniversary cake.

Happy 50th Anniversary Oak Lake Town & Country News, and Happy Anniversary to all of the volunteers who have made this paper a living reality.

Miniota and Isabella News

Submitted

By LINDA CLARK

The Enhancement Committee for the Rink and Sports Grounds held a public meeting on Nov. 7 to inform the community of their plans and progress to date. About 30 people attended in person with another 23 watching the livestream. Chairperson Jeff Poppel shared that the project was well received by the community and those in attendance. Door to door canvassing will begin this next week. The public is welcome to reach out to a com-

mittee member with their donation or you can wait for a visit. The committee is very hopeful for a successful canvassing campaign.

Miniota School students and staff held their annual Remembrance Day program on Nov. 8 with community members in attendance. This school service is much appreciated by community members as a service is no longer held. Following the service, family members were pleased to view the Remembrance Day posters which students have created for the annual Legion con-

test, and we wish our students well for their endeavours.

Doreen Clark is now a resident at Birch Lodge PCH in Hamiota and we wish her well in her new home.

Joan Taylor and Elizabeth Hargrave travelled from Alberta home to Miniota, staying with Edward and Beth Lelond. They attended the funeral of their uncle Gerry Heapy at Oak River along with other family members.

Our Miniota community extends our deepest sympathy to Barry Stamford and his sons Colby and Riley on

the death of his wife and their mother Barb, and also to extended family members. Our thoughts are with you at this sad time.

I, Linda, enjoyed a visit to Ottawa to spend time with Julie and Kevin Halichuk, Aidan, Reese and Carley. We all enjoyed a weekend at the Jay Peak Resort in Vermont, USA. November 11th saw Julie and I at the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day service. A warm memory from 25 years ago - my late mother, late husband Bill and myself along with our daughter Julie attended the service on Parliament Hill. I recall feeling very emotional watching the veterans of World War

1 and 2 file past us. Bill recognized Wilf Wasteste from Birdtail Sioux as he marched with the native contingent. Bill called out his name and Wilf turned, giving us a smile and a wave. This year, 2024, in Ottawa, it was good to stand amongst the huge crowd of approximately 35,000 to pay our respects and remember. Certainly, the service with the veterans, the 21-gun salute, the fly-over, the bands and the many different groups of armed forces elicits much gratitude for the freedom we hold in our country. As we walked away from the ceremony, we often heard folks thanking a veteran for their service.

“They gave their tomorrows for our today. We Remember.”

Isabella

Word has been received of the death of John Heise of Calgary. John was the youngest son of Russel and Thirza Heise and raised on the farm (now the farm home of Kendall and Angie Heise) at Isabella with his siblings Dave, Doug, Art, and Lawrence. John loved to return to Isabella for community and family celebrations. We extend our sympathy to his children in Calgary, his brother Lawrence and Lynn Heise of Winnipeg and sister-in-law Margaret L. Heise of Hamiota and his many nieces and nephews.

Virден remembers the cost



Colour Party under the command of Sgt. At Arms Marc Savy marches in return to Virден Legion following the service.



President Virден Royal Canadian Legion No. 8 Comrade Curtis Smith, at the podium, RCL Legion No.8 Officiant Rev'd Marcel Archambault (background, left) and members from Shilo base.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Virден Guides Macey Clark and Kara Douglas lay a wreath at the cenotaph in Virден AUD Theatre.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At 10:30 on Remembrance Day morning Virден AUD Theatre began to fill with community members, meanwhile, in the cool, almost misty November the Colour Party assembled outside Virден Royal Canadian Legion No.8, for their march to the AUD. Members of CFB Shilo C Battery along with Legion members marched at Sergeant at Arms, Marc Savy's command.

President of RCL No. 8 Curtis Smith opened the ceremony of Remembrance, Legion Officiant, Rev'd Marcel Archambault conducted the service. He said of Canadian's service in war

and peace keeping, "Their sacrifice has long lasting impact on the lives of people in this country and on many people around the globe."

Youth participated. Virден Collegiate Band under the direction of teacher Tyra Zander played the anthems, accompanied hymns led by Krista Pederson and performed a Scottish folk-song, 'Over the Sea to Sky.'

Adults and youth from the community representing Virден organizations, businesses, the RCMP and CFB Shilo laid wreaths at the stage cenotaph, each accompanied by service personnel from CFB Shilo.

Michelle Gervin's clarion trumpet call, Last Post, symbolized a soldier's last duty. Two minutes of silence

followed by Reveille symbolized the soldier's rising above mortal duties.

Grade 8 student Zaree Routledge, read John McRae's 'In Flanders Fields.'

Rev'd Archambault said, "People seek to live their lives... to be able to see their families grow and prosper, to have shelter, and harvest the fruits of their labour and to be part of a caring community. I think that's a universal desire of everyone." He added that those living with war desire to have "peace and justice and to be able to live their lives, unafraid."

Guest Speaker RCMP Cpl (retired) Allan Porter explained the active role of the RCMP in war and peace keeping from early days of 1880 to today.

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Kenton Remembrance Day Ceremony



PHOTO BY GERRY NOLAN

The Woodworth Ladies Auxiliary were all dressed in their best and getting ready to head to the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Kenton Memorial Hall.



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Preparing the desserts for the Woodworth Legion Potluck lunch on Remembrance Day.

Oak Lake Remembrance Day Ceremony



The Oak Lake Legion members are being piped out of the Remembrance Day Ceremony.



PHOTOS BY OLIVER NOLAN

Several Oak Lake Legion members are reminiscing at the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

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November 19 - 23

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No Stone Left Alone in Elkhorn



PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISON

Representing Elkhorn Legion Kevin Tutthill presents the account of the Duxbury family.

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Elkhorn cemetery located on a hill south of town is usually a quiet spot overlooking the surrounding prairie, but on Nov. 5 it was the site of a lesson in remembrance for Elkhorn students.

The students joined representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Legion, Canada's youth and the Government of Canada in a brief ceremony followed by the laying of wreaths.

After the ceremony the students spread out to identify the graves of veterans and mark them with poppies.

Captain (Ret'd) Kevin Tutthill, CD led the group to an old moss-covered gravestone. There the students

listened, enthralled by his story of the Duxbury family members buried there.

The Duxbury family has been in the Elkhorn area since 1885, and they have a long and storied history with Canada's military. Thomas Duxbury Jr. joined the Canadian Cavalry in 1899 and served in South Africa in the Boer War where he was taken as a prisoner of war.

Tommy Duxbury joined the RCAF in 1940. In 1941 Tommy headed to Europe and on his 21st mission over Bremen Germany his bomber was shot down. He was killed in action.

Bernard J. Duxbury joined the Seaforth Highlanders and was part of the assault on Sicily and the Italian



Representing youth, Elkhorn School students Zoe Johnson and Lane Jebb lay a wreath during the NSLA ceremony at Elkhorn Cemetery.

campaign. He was in Holland when the war ended in 1945.

Oscar B. Duxbury joined the RCAF in 1940 and was part of an aircrew serving throughout the war. He was discharged in February of 1946.

However, the focus of Tutthill's story was Charles Bruce Duxbury who was born in England in 1895. In 1916 he was an engineering student at the University of Manitoba when he enlisted to the 2nd Canadian Machine Gun Company, 196th Western Universities Battalion. He left Halifax Nov. 1, 1916, onboard the SS Southland and landed in Liverpool on Nov. 11, 1916. He arrived in France in July of 1917, was awarded the Military Medal in March 1918 and died of a gunshot wound on April 11 of that year, a few months before World War One ended. Although Charles is memorialized on the family stone in the Elkhorn cemetery, his body was buried in France.

After the ceremony the students returned to town and gathered at St Mark's Anglican Church to visit the grave of a veteran buried there.

The group then gathered at the Elkhorn Legion Hall for hot chocolate and lunch prepared by the Legion ladies.

RM of Sifton is embracing Christmas spirit to the fullest

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The RM of Sifton launched a new campaign on November 12 to bring the thrill of Christmas back to the community. The theme is Hometown Country Christmas. The RM office is inviting everyone in the community to start decorating with the inspiration being old style trucks, wreaths, and an abundance of lights.

The idea of having a Christmas theme "Hometown Country Christmas" came from the contest the RM of Sifton hosted where community members sent Sifton's EDO, Rachele Stannage, ideas on what they thought a great theme would be. "I wanted to have Christmas last more than a few days, or week, as our communities could really use the cheer! We had many ideas come in, but this one I felt really spoke to our Municipality. I also liked this idea because people were not having to change their decorations necessarily but could add a little "country charm" where they can," said Rachele in an interview on November 8.

The RM of Sifton would like to help everyone be a part of the decorating the community part of the campaign. In order to help, if someone needs assistance putting up their decorations due to mobility reasons, Stannage has stated that they can give her a call at the RM office, and she would be more than willing to find a few helpers to assist. Also, for anyone who feels they might not have the means to get decorations, they are welcome to call. "Everyone deserves to have a bright, and merry Christmas," said Stannage. Her office number is

204-855-2423.

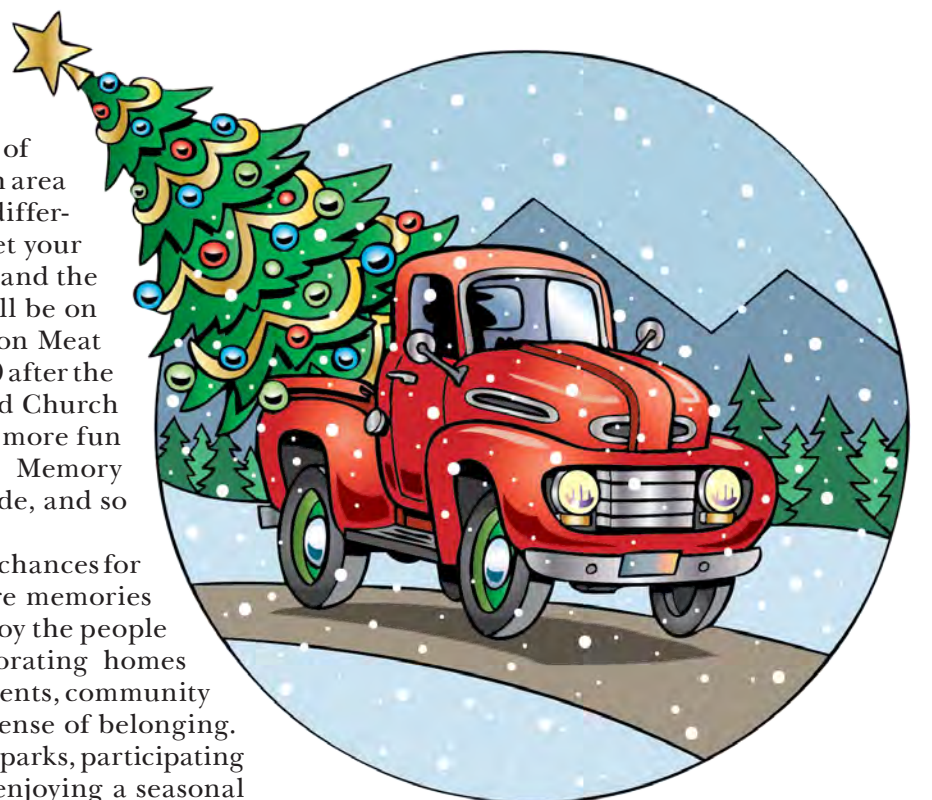
The RM of Sifton has many ideas for the next month and more. The communities really know how to put on events, and activities. There were just a few blank spots to fill. They used to have a "Winter Festival" where everything was jammed into one weekend, and it became a lot on people to attend. The goal is to spread out the events more evenly to give everyone a chance to attend as much as they like.

Some up-and-coming events in November are a Christmas Ladder Craft hosted by local Karen Brown of Oak Lake, a family photo booth area set up in Oak Lake with two different dates to choose from to get your family Christmas photos done and the 29th Annual Santa Brunch will be on November 24. There is a Legion Meat Draw taking place November 30 after the Oak Lake and Griswold United Church Craft Sale. There will be even more fun in December with the Town Memory Tree Light Up and Santa Parade, and so much more!

"A large event like this offers chances for people to come together, share memories or make new ones, and just enjoy the people in our communities. By decorating homes and participating in themed events, community members can feel a stronger sense of belonging. Walking through beautifully lit parks, participating in community events, or just enjoying a seasonal

treat can lift the spirit and contribute to overall well being. Not only will our community members enjoy but it will attract those from surrounding areas to come to check out what our area is all about," stated Stannage.

Please be sure to follow "Sifton Hometown Country Christmas" on Facebook for all our announcements!



Innovative food business serves Miniota

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Little Kitchen on the Prairie served a classic meal for Miniota's sports banquet held just a couple of weeks ago. According to reports from that banquet, "It was awesome." Miniota resident, Candice Armitage owns and operates this food service. Married and a mother of four kids, this business of her own fits the bill.

She says that cooking and baking were her interest all along and at first, she worked from home. "I used to do baking for farmers' markets and craft sales. I took culinary arts in college and always wanted to do something with cooking."

Now, she's five years into the food service business that she began in November of 2019, but it's a little unconventional.

"I always wanted to have my own little café but there isn't much for buildings available in Miniota, so I went a different route and decided to make and sell prepared frozen meals."

Armitage had to find a location and looked about 10 minutes north of Miniota to Beulah where she began her business in the Beulah Hall, gradually adding catering into the offering.

Looking for a more convenient location, closer to her home, by 2023 Little Kitchen on the Prairie had relocated to the Miniota Hall kitchen where the 'take out' service is thriving.

"I sell frozen, prepared meals, and also do catering, which has gotten a lot busier over the last year or two," she explains adding, "When I am in the hall working, I put on a lunch special that I advertise and people can come pick up."

The sports banquet, which she has served for several years, is a large order to fill but Armitage engaged help. "For the hockey banquet, my mom came and helped me for about five hours earlier in the day and then Courtney (Muir) came after lunch and stayed until the end." Another Miniota girl helped out, which drew her mom into the kitchen too. "Elly Priestley came and helped clear dishes for volunteer hours for school, so her mom Tiffany helped us do dishes for the evening."

Day to day work means a regular run of cooking: "I usually go in to the hall twice a week and work on prepared meal orders, or make perogies, which I spend a lot of time doing. I just got asked to provide perogies to a new restaurant that's opening in Brandon! So that's exciting but also a little overwhelming."

Little Kitchen on the Prairie is filling a niche in the growing town of Miniota and in the surrounding area. Candice Armitage makes good use of Facebook to let people know what's cooking. With almost 800 followers, the business has customer interest.



PHOTO BY LOREE GARDHAM

Little Kitchen on the Prairie owner Candice Armitage (right) and her helper, Courtney Muir have served the meal at the Miniota Sports Banquet.

Radon infiltration a dangerous secret



PHOTO BY FUSION CREDIT UNION

Sebastian Leimhofer presenting his information in Dauphin, Oct. 24.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Some Manitoba homes have dangerous levels of an odourless, colourless, radioactive gas. Radon gas is the second highest cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. But who knows this?

When Sebastian Leimhofer of Parkland Radon, in an on-stage business pitch asked the crowd in Dauphin, 'how many of you have heard of radon?' virtually no one raised a hand.

Leimhofer entered his radon testing / remediation business in Fusion Credit Union Community Infusion competition and was one of five finalists; that brought Leimhofer to the stage to tell a crowd at the Community Infusion awards about how his company works for the health of Manitobans.

In an interview, Leimhofer explained that Canada has the highest radon levels in the world, Manitoba has some of the highest levels in Canada and the parkland region is one of the worst within the province.

A study in the fall of 2023 where Take Action on Radon (TAOR) conducted a home test kit challenge of 139 homes in Dauphin, an astonishing 92 per cent of the town's homes tested above Health Canada's accepted limits of 200 bq/m3. For perspective, an average of only seven per cent of homes in all of Manitoba have levels exceeding 200bq/m3. However, the USA has set their radon safety limit at 150bq/m3 and the World Health Organization has an even lower safety limit of 100bq/m3.

Leimhofer is from Inglis, Manitoba, the area where he began Parkland Radon which he describes as a family

business. They now serve Virden, and the Westman region with clients calling from as far away as Saskatchewan to Winnipeg.

At just 23, he's now four years into running his own radon testing / remediation business. "I was 18 when I first heard about radon gas. It was brought up in a conversation I had with my friend's mom at the time, about entrepreneurship and she brought up radon gas. Curious, I decided to test my home for radon gas and when I got the test results back at an astonishing 1600bq/m3, I knew I had to do something about it. I went online to research more about radon and to find some mitigation companies who do this kind of work and was surprised to find the only companies who work in the radon remediation business are out of Regina and Winnipeg."

Straight from high school he'd already taken steps toward becoming a plumber. Fixing radon gas contamination in commercial and residential buildings fit into a skill set Leimhofer was developing. He said, "Growing up on a farm I was no stranger to hands on physical labour and I've always had an entrepreneurial mindset."

He took the course to become certified in radon testing and mitigation, the Canadian - National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP), in the fall of 2020 to be certified in radon testing and mitigation. And he didn't let the grass grow under his feet.

"I returned to Inglis where I started my business, Parkland Radon - Testing & Mitigation," he said, adding, "It started off as a side hustle to make a little more money on the weekends as I was also working as a full-time apprentice plumber in Roblin at the time. Fast forward four years, radon measurement and mitigation is my fulltime job. My older brother Lukas, who is a journeyman carpenter, decided to join the team and now also has his radon certifications. We've since expanded and provide services to all of Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan."

Educating people about this invisible but all too real threat to lung health is one of his purposes. Parkland Radon has partnered with lung organizations such as LungSask. There was a plan for a M.A.R.C.H. on Parliament Hill. The acronym

stands for Movement to Advocate About Radon in Canadian Homes.

"I was actually supposed to be there today," he told the Dauphin audience. "We were planning on going there on Oct. 21st -23rd."

With turmoil in the political climate this fall and a possible snap election, the group felt it was bad timing to bring this cause to parliament and have a revised date to visit Parliament in the summer of 2025.

"What we're planning on doing [in Ottawa] is build a team of lung cancer ambassadors, radon mitigators, and lung health charity groups...host an evening reception for the MPs and advocate about radon awareness, policy and action."

Some policies TAOR and lung health groups will be asking for include a \$10,000 tax credit linked to radon mitigation as well as changes to the 2025 building code to implement more radon protection in new builds.

To find out more go to: www.parklandradon.ca.

Sebastian Leimhofer did not win the business pitch but as a finalist, received a \$2000 cash award. His presentation is on YouTube: Fusion Credit Union Community Infusion 2024.

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SPORTS

FORMER TERRIERS FAN IS NOW OIL CAPS ROOKIE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Growing up, Maddox Shindle attended Portage Terriers games and cheered on his hometown team.

Things are obviously a bit different now. The Portage la Prairie product is a Terriers' foe as a rookie defenceman for the Virden Oil Capitals. Manitoba Junior Hockey League contests between the Oil Caps and Terriers are special occasions for Shindle.

"Playing in my hometown will always feel like an extra important game for me," he said. "I always have many grandparents, aunts and uncles, so I'm always wanting to play my best in the few games they get to see."

Back in the 2023 exhibition season, Shindle's first point as an Oil Capital came against the Terriers. During the 2023-2024 regular season campaign, he played two games, collecting an assist, for the Virden club as an affiliated player before earning his spot in the lineup this season. On Nov. 3 against Waywayseecappo, the 6-foot-4, 195-pound defenceman scored his first MJHL goal.

"Maddox is a big strong guy," Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He plays with a very good stick and this makes him hard to play against. He sees the ice really well and when he does things quickly, he is a great puck mover. He has been good on our powerplay, and it was nice to see him rewarded with his first MJHL goal."

As of Nov. 11, through 17 games, Shindle was 14th

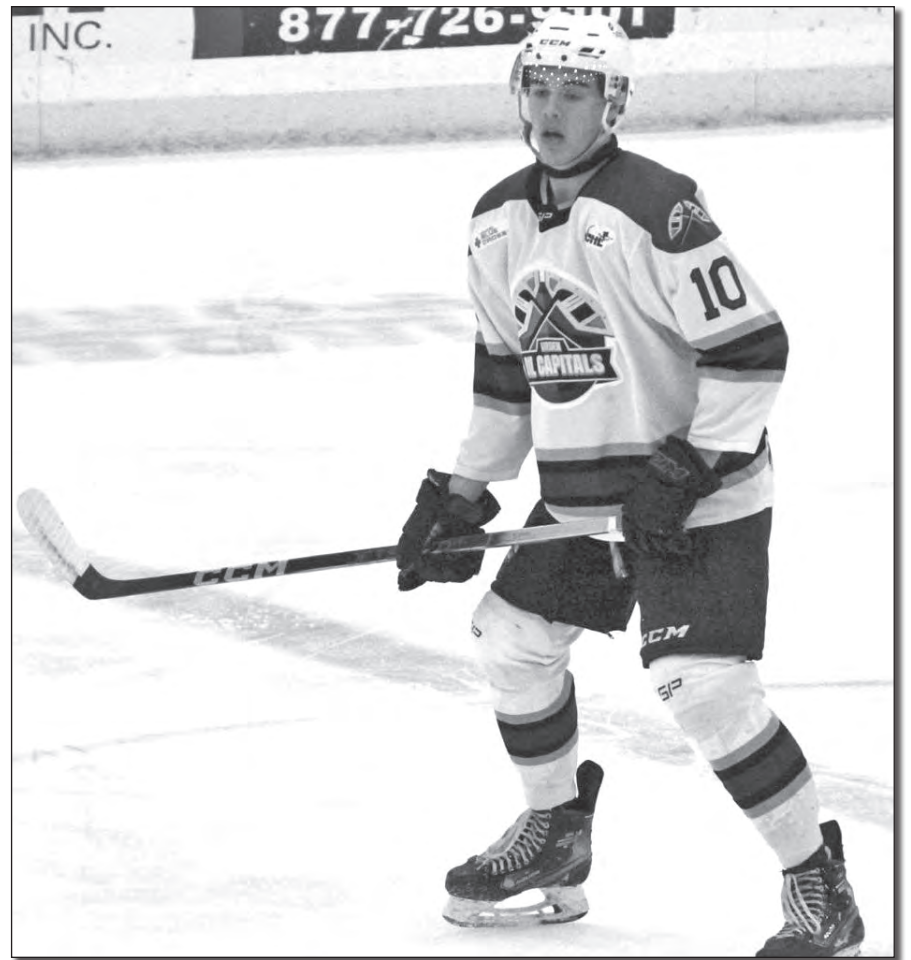
among MJHL rookies with eight points. That total placed him fourth among first-year defencemen. What has allowed him to put up some points early in his junior career?

"I've been able to chip in some points even strength, but being given opportunities on the power play is where I've really gotten to tack on some points," he said.

Shindle's goal and four of his assists have come with the man advantage. The Oil Capitals have trusted him to play those important on-ice minutes. Shindle is also fitting in off the ice. He is billeting with Chad and Rita Scharff. They are family friends, and he has known them since he was young.

In 2022-2023, Shindle played high school hockey for Portage Collegiate. He was named the Zone 4 Top Defenceman. Last winter Shindle left home and developed his game with the Dauphin-based U18 AAA Parkland Ranger. He believes that experience helped prepare him for this season.

"Last season moving away and billeting in Dauphin to



play U18 was almost exactly like playing junior," Shindle said. "I had a whole group of new teammates and found out what it was like to move in with a different family. That experience made the start of this year easier for me."

OIL CAPS SEEKING WINS AT HOME



PHOTOS BY OIL CAPITALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

this week.

The team plays host to two Manitoba Junior Hockey League games this weekend. The Swan Valley Stampeders are in town on Nov. 15. The Winnipeg Freeze visit the next day. The Oil Caps are in Selkirk on Nov. 19. What is the focus for the team heading into this week?

"We need to be more consistent in terms of our compete level and improve on all facets of our game. So we have a lot of work to do," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said.

Last week the Oil Caps lost to the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, 5-0, and the Winkler Flyers, 3-1, to give them a 7-12-0-0 record. On Nov. 9 in Virden, Oil Caps goalie Nik Trakakis stopped 29 of Northern Manitoba's 34 shots. The Blizzard were two-for-six

on the powerplay. Virden was zero-for-two with the man advantage.

Scoring for Northern Manitoba were Quincy Suprien (two), Loughlan McMullan, Max Collyer, and Miguel Bouvier. Blizzard goalie Alex Reedy stopped all 22 shots he faced.

On Nov. 10 in Winkler, the Flyers led 1-0 and 3-1 at the intermissions. Trakakis made 16 saves on 19 shots. Peyton Shore stepped in and stopped all three shots he faced.

Flyers goalie Liam Ernst made 22 saves. Scoring for the Flyers were Kam Thomas, Liam Carlone, and Brody Beauchemin.

Miller Added

The Oil Capitals traded last week for Winkler Flyers forward Marek Miller. The La Salle product was the first player selected in the 2022 MJHL Draft. The

5-foot-7, 160-pound forward had two goals and 10 points through 11 games with Winkler this season.

"Marek is a highly skilled forward that skates well and thinks the game extremely well," Ramsey said. "He will increase the skill level of our group five-on-five and on the powerplay. We are very excited to add him to our lineup."

For the 2006-born forward, the Oil Capitals sent to Winkler the Canadian Junior Hockey League rights to Nolan Chastko and the MJHL rights to Haiden Friesen. Chastko is a 2005-born former Oil Caps forward who had two goals and four points through 18 games this season for the Western Hockey League's Everett Silvertips. Friesen, a 2007-born forward, is playing for the U18 AAA Pembina Valley Hawks this season.

Warrener at Showcase

Oil Capitals athletic therapist Dana Warrener was selected to work for Team MJHL at the Western All-Star Showcase. The event held in Warman, Nov. 4-6, pitted Team MJHL against a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League squad. The teams split their two contests. Virden's own Bryce Bryant was selected for the event but did not attend due to an injury.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity I was given in order to represent for the Virden Oil Capitals and be chosen to represent for the MJHL," Warrener said. "I enjoyed talking and working with new coaches, trainers, and players. Networking with new people was great and you always end up learning new tricks of the trade."

The showcase served as pre-selection camp for Team Canada West. That team will play in the World Junior A Challenge in Camrose later this year.

Honours

Damian Smith-Barre was recently recognized as the team's October Volunteer of the Month. Smith-Barre plays music at the Oil Caps games. The team posted on Facebook that he "brings energy and excitement to our games with his music selection."

Captain Ethan Guthrie was named the Oil Capitals' CD Oilwell Services Player of the Month. He collected a goal and five points in 10 October contests.

SPORTS

SKATERS SUCCEED AT SECTIONALS, FALL OPEN



Skate Virden's Rory Greenbank won the junior ladies championship at the Skate Manitoba Junior Senior Sectionals Championships.



Mia du Plessis of Skate Virden won the pre-juvenile (U13) women's at the Fall Open.



Moosomin's Emma Errington and Elkhorn's Kaylee Malcom placed second and first, respectively, in the juvenile women (U12) category at the Fall Open.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Skate Virden's Rory Greenbank certainly impressed at the Skate Manitoba Junior Senior Sectionals Championships and Fall Open.

She won the junior ladies championship at the Nov. 2-3 event in Morden. Greenbank's score at sectionals earned the Moosomin area resident a spot at the Skate Canada Challenge in Winnipeg on Nov. 28-Dec. 1.

"It's been a very positive season for her," said Skate Virden coach Patty Hole.

While the weekend served as the sectionals for the junior and senior levels, the sectionals for other levels will be held

later this season. However, those age groups still were able to take to the ice in Morden in the Fall Open portion of the event. Skate Virden saw strong performances from many of its skaters and those associated with the club.

Hole said it was nice to have many skaters at the competition and for them to do well. She noted that the competitors are dedicated and are skating five days a week.

"They are all training well, skating well," Hole said. "Everyone was pleased, but they were ready to get back to work."

She said it is important for the skaters to get their score-sheets. The next week they were studying them and looking at ways to improve.

Virden's Mia du Plessis skated to gold in the pre-juvenile (U13) women's competition. The juvenile women (U12) category was won by Kaylee Malcom, skating for her hometown Elkhorn Figure Skating Club. Placing second was Emma Errington of the Moosomin Skating Club. Both athletes train with Skate Virden. As does Ainslee McGregor, who skated for her Waskada Figure Skating Club. She placed fourth in the pre-novice women competition with personal best scores.

Skate Virden's male skaters also did well. Luke Greenbank won in pre-juvenile (U11). His brother Nate claimed was tops in the pre-novice ranks.

PITZ JOINS BU SPORTS WALL OF FAME

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The success that Virden's Tara Pitz had on the basketball court and in the classroom at Brandon University has earned her recognition from her alma mater and played a role in the impact she has made in our community.

The former Tara Dale was part of the Brandon University Sports Wall of Fame Class of 2024. She was honoured along with the rest of the class on Nov. 2 at Brandon's Victoria Inn Imperial Ballroom.

"This award means the world to me," said Pitz, who is a Virden Junior High School teacher and coach. "I was very honoured to be inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame alongside so many other great players. Brandon University has a rich history and I was very grateful to be awarded this recognition. I'll never forget the ceremony. There were over 260 people in attendance. Former teammates, family, friends, current university athletes, and so many other amazing people shared in the moment. It was so special and it touched me in a way that's hard to put into words. Moments like this have a way of sneaking up on us, bringing emotions of gratitude and pride. You realize how deeply those experiences and relationships have become a part of who you are."

Originally from Hamiota, Pitz was a part of that community's girls high school basketball dynasty. She was inducted into the Manitoba Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007 as a member of the Huskies, who won seven provincial championships between 1987 and 1994. She went on to play for the BU women's basketball team for five seasons. The 5-foot-11 forward had an impact in various ways during her playing and academic career at the university.

"Tara was a student-athlete that wanted to be better every day in every way," said Don Thomson, who coached her on the Bobcats. "She was an extremely gifted athlete, but her work ethic and passion to be successful was infectious. In her last few years, her leadership skills started to truly shine. She always was a player that led by example on the court in practice by being the hardest working player, but her voice began to be heard and by her fifth year was a teammate that made others better. She was extremely selfless and always put the needs of her teammates and

the success of the team ahead of any individual needs.

"This work ethic and her passionate will to make other better around her is what your community is witnessing first hand."

Bobcats Career

Pitz played in 1995-2000 for BU. She said there are many great memories.

"I will always remember the games, the feeling of playing in front of a huge crowd, the atmosphere, and my teammates and coaches," Pitz said. "I still dream about basketball and I never want to forget those moments. Receiving this award has brought back many memories and it's been fun to relive them. I loved playing in front of my mom and dad and all of the fans. I am forever thankful for amazing teammates and coaches."

In 1999, Pitz was fifth in rebounds per game in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. She was also a tournament all-star at a Palm Springs, Fla. event.

During her final Bobcats campaign, Pitz earned various honours. She was a GPAC second team all-star, Brandon University's Female Athlete of the Year, and received the BU's H.S. Perdue Award. According to the university's website, the latter honours "the female student-athlete that best exemplifies the characteristics of athletic ability, academic performance, leadership and sportsmanship."

Pitz was also recognized for her academic accomplishments. She was an Academic All-Canadian and was presented with the Harvey Young Award, a prestigious honour for academic excellence. During her playing career, Pitz earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Education After Degree. She later earned a Post-Baccalaureate Degree at Brandon University.

Teaching and Coaching

As a teacher, Pitz has established herself as a leader in math education.

"Tara has been a leader and mentor in the implementation of the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium (mRLC) Numeracy Achievement Project," Virden Junior High principal Tracy Ramsey said. "Tara is an excellent presenter and champion of quality math instruction to improve student achievement. The focus of the mRLC is responding to student needs and providing professional



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Coach Don Thomson and basketball player Tara Pitz.

development and support for teachers. Tara has supported teachers in our school, our division, and across Manitoba by sharing her knowledge about best practices and teaching strategies to help students with their math skills. She works collaboratively with staff, reflecting on school data to help make decisions that drive our instruction."

Ramsey said Pitz has presented on numeracy for Fort La Bosse School Division teachers. In addition, she has presented at the Manitoba Teachers Association Professional Development Day for the past four years. Pitz has twice given presentations at BYTE (Building Your Teaching Experience) and has been a spotlight speaker at BYTE on Student Engagement, Ramsey said.

"Tara is a very caring, positive, hard working teacher who is committed to professional growth," the principal said. "She has high expectations of herself and her students. We are very fortunate to have Tara at the Virden Junior High and appreciate her dedication to her students and her contributions as a mentor to other teachers in our school and our division."

During her school years, Pitz was a standout in a variety of sports in addition to basketball. She was a provincial all-star in soccer and volleyball and pitched in three fastpitch national championships. During her teaching career, Pitz has coached various sports.

"I really love to see the athletes progress," she said. "They work so hard and you can see it pay off. I also love to see their passion for the game and feel a part of it again. I enjoy teaching them and trying to be a role model and a coach like I was so lucky to have growing up."

Council sponsors Very Virden Christmas

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Town of Virden Council met on Oct. 22 with Mayor Tina Williams, Bruce Dunning, Travis Penner and Marc Savy present. Jessie Cruikshank, Lynette Grumpelt, and Tara Maxwell were absent. Town staff CAO Rhonda Stewart and ACAO Jared Jaffray attended.

Army Cadet League of Canada and the Virden Dragoons Cadets new Commanding Officer from Shilo made a presentation where they explained the value of cadets to a community. They said Virden Cadet Corps needs volunteer leaders and asked for an endorsement from council.

Councillors examined the financial report including the payment of cheques.

They reviewed the bill for the garbage receptacles and benches for the streets noting the cost is much less than they originally thought it would be. Some assembly is required which town staff

will do over the winter to make these ready to place about town in the spring.

Council voted to pay the bills.

CORRECTION: In error we reported that Town of Virden representation is not meeting with representation from Manitoba's RCMPD Division at the AMM convention this fall. However, Town of Virden has arranged to meet with the RCMP representative at the upcoming Association of Manitoba Municipalities fall convention coming up in Winnipeg. The AMM Fall Convention is the annual general meeting of the entire AMM membership. Over 800 municipal delegates will gather in Winnipeg Convention Centre from Nov. 25 – Nov. 27.

Virden is requesting a meeting with Minister for Municipal and Northern Affairs Ian Bushie at the convention. They met with him last year, regarding Virden's municipal airport expansion project, but Coun. Marc Savy said, "We need to move forward and get

some more information. So, whether it's the airport, whatever we talk about, we do need to make a meeting." Council decided to finalize their requests for meetings at the Nov. 5 council meeting.

The Manitoba Crime Stoppers program is a volunteer driven, community owned, not-for-profit organization that serves the citizens of rural Manitoba. The Town of Virden is an annual contributor to Crime Stoppers and last year's contribution was \$500. This year council decided to increase the amount to \$800.

Council discussed the proposed installation of a fence on the west side of the landfill site. The fence will make the site more secure and keep garbage from blowing around. CAO Stewart said, "The existing barbed wire fence is in need of serious repair." Proposed changes to the plan will be within the project budget of \$40,000.

The Town received a request to sponsor the

Very Virden Christmas event and agreed to dedicate \$3000, the same as last year. Coun. Savy said, "I love the idea of lights at the Lions campground. If we can get enough folks to do that, wouldn't that be awesome?"

The Town will also sponsor the Pancakes with Santa breakfast that features pancakes and sausage, along with kid's activities including coloring and face painting. All money raised at the event goes towards the 2025 VCI Grad class.

Coun. Penner requested permission to be absent from, or attend electronically, council meetings for November. The request was granted.

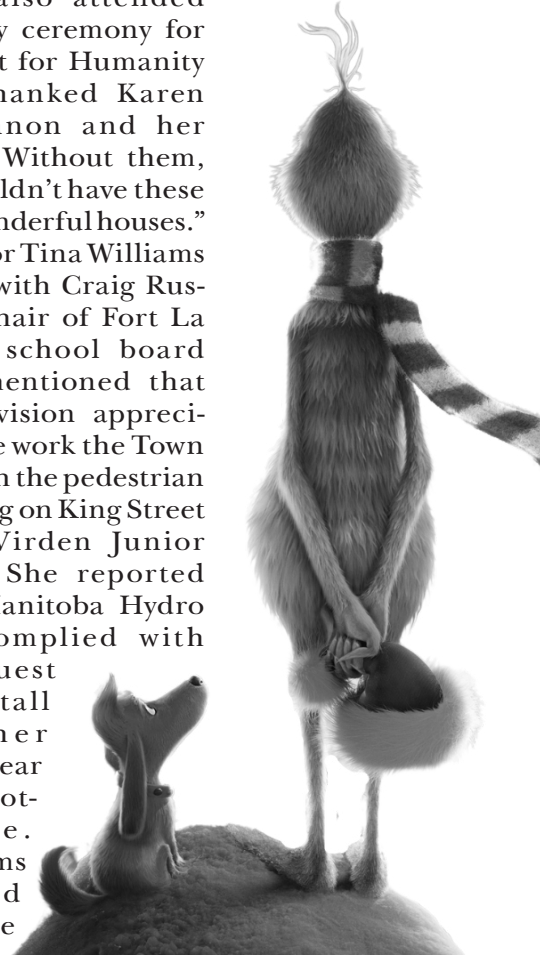
Councillor Savy reported on the Manitoba Disaster Management Conference (MDMC) in Winnipeg Oct. 16-18. The purpose of the conference is to increase the level of emergency preparedness in Canada and promote the principles of disaster management planning and public awareness. Savy commented on

the severe weather presentation he attended. He said, "If people hear an alert that says there's a tornado coming, please shelter in place, because most folks who unfortunately died from this are the ones who went outside their house to look for the tornado."

He also attended the key ceremony for Habitat for Humanity and thanked Karen McKinnon and her crew. "Without them, we wouldn't have these five wonderful houses."

Mayor Tina Williams spoke with Craig Russell, Chair of Fort La Bosse school board who mentioned that the division appreciates the work the Town did with the pedestrian crossing on King Street near Virden Junior High. She reported that Manitoba Hydro has complied with a request to install another light near the footbridge. Williams said these

things are important for improving the safety of the community, but she believes more needs to be done, saying, "I actually watched two vehicles go at road speed up the footpath to go fishing the other day."



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Citizen of the Year

Nominations are now open for this year's award!

Nominate a deserving citizen or community group for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline for nominations is **November 15, 2024**.

Visit virden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year or call the Town Office for more information.

Noon Hour Shinny

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Seasonal passes at the Town Office: \$125 + GST or \$5 for drop-in (paid at the rink).

Virden & Area Food Cupboard

Non-perishable food donations now being accepted at the Town Office.

Water Meter Reminder

If you received a notice and have not yet had your water meter changed, please call **Skulmoski Plumbing at 204-851-8157** to schedule your appointment.

Employment Opportunities

* Utilities Foreman

Virden Christmas Cheer

Donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted at the Town Office until December 6.

Upcoming Council Meetings:
November 19 & December 3

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

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Tender

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Scaled, written tenders to purchase the land in the Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie and the Rural Municipality of Moosomin described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP
110-11th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 4J4
Attention: Stephen K. Branigan

Property:

- Parcel One (Title No. 1806320/2) NW 19-14-29 WPM1, EXC All Mines and Minerals, located in the RM of Ellice-Archie (Manitoba) consisting of approximately 154.17 acres of farmland.*
- Parcel Two (Title Nos. 106093289 and 106093278) SE 24-14-30 WPM1, located in the RM of Moosomin (Saskatchewan) which consists of approximately 100 acres of Arable Land 35 acres of Pasture Land and 25 acres of Waste Land.* Parcel Two includes a Conservation Easement held by Ducks Unlimited Canada and registered as Interest Register Number 124999150 which limits the use of the land.**

all acreages have been taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Report or Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency

** a copy of the Conservation Easement registered as Interest Register Number 124999150 can be provided upon request.**

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 vendor.
2. Interested parties may submit a tender for the purchase of both parcels together or one parcel individually. If tendering on both parcels, the tenders shall set out the price tendered for each parcel separately.
3. The seller shall, in their sole discretion, decide whether the parcels will be sold together to one purchaser or individually to separate parties.
4. Tenders must be received at or before 3:00pm on November 15, 2024, at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, 110 – 11th Street, Brandon, Manitoba, attention: Stephen K. Branigan.
5. Bidders shall rely on their own inspection of both parcels, which shall be sold in “as is, where is” condition.
6. The successful tender shall enter into an Offer to Purchase with the seller by December 1, 2024, and the closing date of same shall be December 16, 2024, or a such date to be agreed upon (the “Closing Date”).
7. Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP representing 5% of the tendered purchase price. Deposits accompanying unacceptable tenders will be returned following the close of tenders.
8. The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The bidder or bidders whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale by December 1, 2024.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the Closing Date. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid by the Closing Date, or no evidence is provided that the balance will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
4. Meighen Haddad LLP will prepare a formal Offer to Purchase with standard provisions for the purchase and sale for the accepted tender.
5. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2025.
6. Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
7. In the event that harvesting and marketing conditions prevent the Vendor from delivering grain grown and stored on the lands prior to the Closing Date, the Vendor shall have the right to store and access grain on the lands until July 31, 2025.
8. The Mines and Minerals Rights for Parcel One will be retained.
9. Successful bidders shall be responsible to pay Land Transfer Tax (if applicable).
10. Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees to complete the sale.

For further information, please contact Stephen Branigan at 204-727-8461 or sbranigan@mhllaw.ca.

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

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Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer will assist the CAO in performing all duties as directed by the CAO and to act on behalf of the CAO in their absence; providing services to all residents and ratepayers in an efficient and effective manner.

The successful candidate should possess excellent financial and managerial attributes.

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- Create strategic and long-range people resource planning for the Municipality - ensuring an engaged workforce resulting in optimal people performance
- Coordinate approval process of subdivisions, conditional use orders and variation orders with conditions from Council
- Act as the Municipality's FIPPA Officer and Senior Election Official
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Holds a Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration, or
- Professional designation in any related field of the assigned portfolio
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- Knowledge of Manitoba municipal provincial and federal legislation relating to municipalities
- Knowledge and experience of the Manitoba Planning Act and processes
- Strong communication, people management, and organizational skills

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT

Job Description

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

Duties and Responsibilities

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

Skills and Qualifications

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

WEED SUPERVISOR

Job Description

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

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

Duties and Responsibilities

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

Skills and Qualifications

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale or Rent

Farmland for Sale or Rent in RM of Pipestone

| | Taxes | 2025 Assessment |
|------------|----------|-----------------|
| NW 23-8-27 | \$778.96 | \$314,200 |
| NE 23-8-27 | \$519.11 | \$208,500 |
| SW 23-8-27 | \$808.16 | \$325,200 |

Land is located on Road 46N and 157W. Approximately 400 working acres, classified as E on crop insurance.

Taking offers for purchase.

Taking offers for 3 years lease.

Mineral and oil rights are exempt.

Interested parties should rely on their own inspection.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

Deadline for offers is Friday, Nov. 29, 2024.

For more info call 204-748-5178 or 204-854-2543.

Offers to be sent to
Stewart Farms
Box 9
Pipestone MB
R0M 1T0

Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GENE EDMOND THIRY, late of the Rural Municipality of Sifton, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 27th day of December, 2024.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 8th day of November, 2024

LARISSA SOSNOWSKI –
MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK
MCCONNELL SOLICITOR
FOR THE EXECUTOR

Coming Events

2024 Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze Annual General Meeting

Date: November 25, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Virden Legion
540 8th Ave S

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November 27th @ 7:00PM

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

Savy to continue as deputy mayor

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Town of Virden council met on Nov. 5 and to begin their third year in office they considered details of committee organization and councillor responsibilities. The transportation, sewer and water committee which had previously consisted of Couns. Cruickshank, Penner and Savy will now be a committee of the whole.

Coun. Marc Savy was confirmed as the deputy mayor.

Development Officer Cory Nixon presented Community Planning's draft zoning by-law amendment. This amendment would change drive-through service from conditional to permitted in the commercial highway zone, and multifamily, two-family and single-family dwellings would be added to the commercial, residential, institutional (CRI) zone.

New fences will be a Class A development, so no permits will be

required, and the new developments at Roddy Place and Coleman Place will be a CRI zone.

The amendment was approved.

Coun. Penner had a question regarding the fire safety upgrade at 223 Hargrave Street. He noted that the upgrade would cost \$4.3 million and wondered what the upgrade would include. Nixon explained that the Prairie Mountain Health project would add sprinkler systems, fire doors and fire separations to the Sherwood, Evergreen and Westman senior residences, adding, "They're going through the building and making it compliant to fire codes."

MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AT AMM

A meeting will be requested with Minister of Justice Mark Wiebe.

Lisa Naylor is the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Ian Bushie, is the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations. Meetings will be

requested with both these cabinet ministers regarding funding for the airport project and to point out, "the fact we have not received to date any provincial money for our airport despite applying and speaking to them several times," according to Mayor Williams.

Coun. Grumpelt requested a meeting with Bernadette Smith the Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness and Minister responsible for Mental Health. Grumpelt said, "We want to see if there's any idea of any funding coming our way to deal with that type of stuff in our area? Because we're not just dealing with the mental health crises of the people of Virden. We're also dealing with the mental health crises of all the small communities that feed into Virden when these people come here."

The Town office will be closed to the public Friday Dec. 27 and the two prior days as statutory holidays to allow staff additional time

with their families this holiday season.

The airport committee discussed placement of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan commemoration of World War II elementary and service flying training schools, one of which was located in Virden. The committee recommends that the British Commonwealth Air Training site signage be installed adjacent to the terminal building at the Virden Regional Airport.

Council approved a \$1,000 one-time donation to STARS air ambulance.

CAO Stewart summarized the progress made on the new perimeter fence at the landfill. She said the fence contractor was asked to submit a further quote to include sections of the fence that were not in the original quote. The new quote was for \$38,923, about \$8,750 over the previous quote but still within the \$40,000 budget. Council approved the spending.

CORRECTION: Lions Peace Poster contest



We incorrectly stated that Lions Peace Poster winners were on display in Virden Legion. You can view the students' winning work in the Virden Lions Peace Poster contest in the Lions Hall, 230 Nelson Street, West. The story was featured in the Nov. 8 Remembrance Day issue, section B, pg. 8. The photo caption named teacher Mrs. Ramsey as VCI principal. Mrs. Ramsey is the principal of VJH (Virden Junior High School).

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McCONNELL
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P.O. Box 520, Virden, MB R0M 2C0
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Donate to your community through the Giving Challenge



PHOTO BY VAF

Foundation grant: Virden Collegiate delivers a Family Studies Course at a Grade 10, 11 and 12 level. These courses cover the development of humans from conception up to adulthood. As part of these courses students are responsible for caring for a simulated baby for a period of time. This allows the students to experience the challenges and responsibilities that come with being a 'parent'. The simulator babies at the VCI were 15 years old and discontinued. The Virden Area Foundation Inc. provided a grant of \$3000 to VCI to purchase new simulators.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Did you know that a donation, large or small, to your local community foundation by or before Sunday, Nov. 17, will be stretched with support from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government? Not only that, several local businesses are adding to the pot.

Reflect on area projects such as skate parks, school yard play areas, Kenton Park bandstand, AUD Theatre seats, walking trails, Eternal Springs swinging bridge, community hall

upgrades, Princess Lodge kitchen reno. These features and needs within our communities have been recipients of Foundations grants. These and many more community benefits including health centre equipment and even student scholarships have been made possible by Foundation grants over the years.

VirdenAreaFoundation (VAF) holds Grant Night where funds are presented to non-profits from the area. "This year the Virden Area Foundation has granted over \$137,000 to various community projects and designated funds," says Pam McLeod, community

relations officer.

Endow Manitoba's Giving Challenge from Nov. 12 - 17 is the opportunity to do something for your community above and beyond the amount of your donation.

Here's how the Giving Challenge played out last year through VAF. McLeod said, "Last year we received \$8,680, with the match it resulted in \$12,152." With just a nudge upward in giving, VAF can make the most out of this window of opportunity. "This year our

goal is \$10,000 to maximize our stretch," she said.

Every gift this week, by or before Sunday, Nov. 17, will be boosted by The Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government and your community foundation can receive up to an additional \$4,000.

You can even give in person at the upcoming hockey game. Volunteer VAF board members will have a table set up at the Virden Oil Capitals game on Friday, Nov. 15. Or you can give online at virden-area-foundation.com. If you prefer to pay by cheque, call or text 204-851-6769 and VAF will pick up your cheque.

McLeod explains that Endow Manitoba is a province-wide initiative in which The Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government are committed to the growth of community foundations across Manitoba, each providing a maximum stretch of \$2,000 per foundation. The Virden Area Foundation can receive up to \$4,000 in stretch funding

plus an additional \$2,000 in stretch funding from local supporting business—LRB Electric, Keystone Wealth Management and ERCO Worldwide.

The Giving Challenge extends through the weekend and includes every area Foundation. Find your Foundation at www.endowmb.org

All donations received by the foundation stay invested in perpetuity – only the interest is granted out. The original bequest of approximately \$600,000 from Murray and Jean Thomas has grown to just over \$3,000,000 in assets, with the assistance of many generous community members.

2024 VIRDEN CHRISTMAS CHEER

We appreciate all the support we have received from our community and the surrounding area in the past years. Because of you Virden Christmas Cheer is a success! 130 Hampers were given out in 2023.

Monetary Donations can be mailed to Box 2282 Virden, MB R0M 2C0, e-transferred to virdenchristmascheer@gmail.com or dropped off at Custom Creations. Located at 479 Seventh Ave S in Virden, MB.

We are NOT accepting food donations for the 2024 campaign.

However, donations of toys (approximate value \$25) ARE accepted for this campaign and can be dropped off at Sunrise Credit Union in Virden as well as at the Town of Virden office in the Christmas Cheer box in the foyer until December 6.

If you are aware of someone who would benefit from receiving a hamper, please call Carol at 204-851-2972 between November 15 - December 6, 2024. Please direct any questions to: Kathy 204-851-0506 or Lisa 204-748-5440



New Direction with New Leadership

**Royal Canadian
Legion Branch #8
Elections, from President
to "all positions"**

**7:30 pm
Wednesday,
November 20th 2024
In Legion Club Room.**

**Must have your
Membership card
-A must in order to vote.**

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Nov. 12-17, 2024

Now is the time to help your
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Give to your local community foundation between
November 12-17 and help them reach their Giving
Challenge goal. Every gift made during this week will
be stretched by The Winnipeg Foundation and the
Manitoba government – increasing the amount your
foundation receives. Contact your local community
foundation for details and giving options.

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A PROGRAM OF THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

Go to endowMB.org to give!



Decorating Contest

| VIEWER'S CHOICE CATEGORY | JUDGED CATEGORY |
|---|--|
| RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS & DECK THE DOOR | 1ST ★ 2ND ★ 3RD PLACE PRIZES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUBMIT ENTRIES by December 8 • VOTE ONLINE December 9 to December 15 • WINNERS NOTIFIED December 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUBMIT ENTRIES by December 8 • JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE December 9 to 15 • WINNERS NOTIFIED December 16 |
| OVER \$1400 IN PRIZES TO BE WON! | |
| <i>Visit the website for full details and to submit your entries.</i> | |

November 21 – LATE NIGHT SHOPPING KICK OFF:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>DOWNTOWN DANCE PARTY, FEATURING MUSIC & LIGHTS</p> <p>BONFIRE & SMORES WITH SANTA</p> <p>ARTS MOSAIC, OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>RED APPLE, MOONLIGHT MADNESS</p> <p>CUSTOM CREATIONS, SELFIES WITH THE GRINCH</p> <p>FUNSHINE EARLY LEARNING CENTRES, CHRISTMAS MONEY TREE DRAW</p> | <p>MEET & GREET WITH LOCAL MASCOTS & VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS PLAYERS</p> <p>MJ'S COFFEE BAR & BISTRO, SPECIALTY BEVERAGES</p> <p>MEMORY TREE LIGHT UP</p> <p>SHEAR EXPRESSIONS, HOSTING PERMANENT JEWELRY BY JESS BECKER</p> | <p>T'S DINING & LOUNGE, PRIME RIB SPECIAL (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED) & BEER FLIGHTS</p> <p>THE SWEET SPOT BAKERY, POP-UP & \$5 COOKIE DECORATING</p> <p>BORDER REGIONAL LIBRARY, HOLIDAY STORYTIME WITH MRS. CLAUS</p> <p>SHOP LOCAL & LATE TO 8PM!</p> |
|--|--|--|

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