

# Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

JANUARY 24, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 120 NO 23 / ADVANCE: VOL 139 NO 25 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

“

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

Charity Martin Thevenot  
Boulder Bluff Clydesdales, Strathclair, MB



Martin & Thevenot Family

Contact Sunrise Credit Union to meet with an expert for your Farm Transition goals!

Contact Sunrise Credit Union to meet with an expert for your Farm Transition goals!

SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

READY IN 20 MINUTES OR LESS

## LUNCH

MAIN + SIDE + DRINK



Boston Pizza VIRDEN, MB

## Dean Munchinsky has key role in MindWave



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Their first day on the set: MindWave law enforcement characters Dean Munchinsky (right) as Deputy Commissioner Stephan Bellanger and Steve Thackray (Inspector Roberts).



Dean Munchinsky (left) with MindWave director/producer Leon Lee (right) and co-producer/casting Jacey Shi (centre).

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Virден's Dean Munchinsky landed a major role in a

political/sci-fi thriller that aired in theatres in the US this past December. The movie MindWave, a product of Canada's west coast film industry is also digitally available in Canada, and as relevant as today's news headlines. "A race against time. A world on edge. When a global tech ban threatens to shut down one of the world's biggest social platforms, a framed cyber security expert finds himself at the center of a plot that could shake democracy to its core. Watch him uncover the truth before time runs out."

By day Munchinsky runs his business, Scotsmun Steel & The Nut House, however the entertainment industry has been an outlet for his dramatic talent. For a couple of decades, he's been involved in the Manitoba theatre and music scene, rigging stages for outdoor festivals, designing sets for Virден Theatre Productions and acting/directing/character coaching the musical theatre

that Michelle Chzyk has made famous in Westman.

Playing Stephan Bellanger, the Deputy Commissioner in MindWave, represents a major breakthrough for Munchinsky. "Pretty fun. I'm in six scenes... and part of the main plot. Being part of something like this is really powerful. It is my largest role in a feature production..."

Following his interest Munchinsky has attended seminars and acting sessions in Winnipeg and elsewhere, but he says, "Hands on seems to work well for me." To that end he has been in a few Manitoba film productions including the 'short' -Plaansh a Roo-directed by Christopher Beyette about a Metis skate boarder turned fiddle player.

To land the role in MindWave he applied online in 2023. The casting agency saw something they liked and as is commonly done, invited him to present a "self tape audition."

Director Leon Lee of Flying Cloud Productions said Munchinsky fit the bill. "The police commissioner requires both gravitas

and nuance, which Dean brought masterfully to the character," said Lee. "His interpretation captured the internal conflicts and complexities we envisioned for the role."

Lee has received accolades for his work as noted on the industry site IMDb: "His latest, MindWave, probes China's social media reach and its ripple effects across Western societies." In 2016, Canada recognized Lee, "naming him one of the country's Top 25 Immigrants for his contributions."

Lee's work provides a rare glimpse into hidden worlds, while screen writer Michael Fine is known for thought-provoking stories questioning societal values in genres from thriller to comedy.

The independent production didn't pay on par with union movies, but Munchinsky says, "I loved every minute of it. I would do another movie for Mr. Lee in a heartbeat. It was an excellent experience."

### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Don't be deceived by MindWave's rating on IMDb. Lee describes what he calls a "disturbing pattern of rating manipulation" on the industry site.

He notes, "Our previous films that exposed issues the Chinese Communist regime wanted hidden received the same treatment." He explains, "Despite being prohibited in China, these films saw floods of 1 and 2-star ratings from Chinese accounts. MindWave shows similar signs. Of all IMDb ratings, 16.4 per cent are 1-star votes, but only one such rating comes from the US or Canada where the film is available."

However, actual audience reception tells a different story. Lee says, "The audience response to MindWave has been compelling. The film's clean, story-driven approach keeps audiences invested in the narrative."

So what can you expect in this cyber crime thriller? This film sparks conversations about freedom of speech, digital privacy, and government control with a plot that unfolds through "unexpected twists and turns without losing momentum," says Lee. "The technical aspects of cyber security are presented in an accessible way that connects with both tech-savvy viewers and general audiences."

Dean Munchinsky continues to audition for roles in film as they come available and this spring he's in a Brandon theatre comedy, Unnecessary Farce.

### WATCH

MindWave is available for rent or purchase on Amazon and digitally on Apple TV, Google Play and via cable/satellite/telecom: Comcast / Xfinity, DirecTV / AT&T Internet, Dish, Verizon, Frontier and more.

**VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS**

HOME GAME  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31  
VS. DAUPHIN  
KINGS  
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

## Inside...



**KELLI POTTER  
MOVES TO THE  
BENCH**

P2



**BLACK HAWK  
HELICOPTER  
PATROLS MB**

P19

# Kelli Potter moves from the Bar to the Bench

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In mid October of 2024, lawyer with Patersons LLP Kelli Potter was appointed to serve as a judge on Court of King's Bench (Family Division). Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada made the announcement and said, "I wish Justice Potter every success as she takes on her new role. I am confident she will serve Manitobans well as a member of His Majesty's Court of King's Bench of Manitoba." Justice Potter now serves on the highest trial court in Manitoba dealing with family and child protection proceedings.

Potter grew up on a family farm in Dauphin, Manitoba, where she was the fourth generation to live and work. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Resolution Studies at the University of Winnipeg before pursuing a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Manitoba. She was called to the Manitoba Bar in 2005. For a number of years, Kelli and her husband Ryan Potter have lived in Virden.

In the following Q & A, Justice Potter speaks of her journey, her new role and what it means for her.

**Q:** Was it your life's ambition to become a judge?

**A:** When I graduated from law school 20 years ago, my goal was to become the best lawyer possible. Becoming a judge was never a specific goal early on. This was something that I started to give thought to as my career progressed.

**Q:** To become a judge is a demanding journey. Was there something that kept you motivated?

**A:** I grew up on my family's farm, just south of Dauphin. Anyone who has ever farmed knows that it is a very demanding profession and in so many ways, it was the perfect foundation for a career in law. In both jobs, details matter and days can be long and unpredictable. Whether doing chores at the farm or practicing law, my motivation was always to end the day feeling like I had given my best to every task.

**Q:** Where did you article?

**A:** I article'd with a small firm in Beausejour. When I was in law school, I knew that I wanted to practice in rural Manitoba and that's where I decided to get my start.

**Q:** Has your work with Patersons meant regular cases in court?

**A:** Throughout my career as a lawyer, I appeared in all levels of court in Manitoba. For the majority of my career, the focus of my practice was family law which meant not only going to court, but also participating in negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

**Q:** How did you feel when you realized you were appointed to Court of Kings Bench as a judge?

**A:** When I received the call from the Attorney General of Canada, to advise me of my appointment, it was rather surreal and very humbling. As luck would have it, my husband was with me when the call came in. Ryan has always supported my legal career and that moment was made even more special because he was there to share it with me. As far as the job itself, it is a big change going from being a lawyer to being a judge. It's early days yet, but I absolutely love the work. It is interesting and meaningful, and I am grateful for the chance to serve Manitobans in my new role.

**Q:** Does this appointment mean that you will move?

**A:** For the past 14 years, I have been very lucky to call Virden my home. Our family has loved living in Virden, and Ryan and I have found it to be a terrific place to work and raise our family. We have had the good fortune to form so many friendships and connections through the years, including being a billet family for the Oil Caps and being involved in various community and volunteer activities. Even though my new position is based out of Winnipeg, and we have started to get settled into a new life there, we intend



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Justice Kelli Potter beside a painting of Virden Town civic building and Courthouse, painted by the Brandon artist Weiming Zhao. She says, "I purchased the original painting not long before my appointment, expecting to hang it in my law office in Virden. But, it's here (Winnipeg) now!"

to stay connected to Virden and the people and organizations that we have come to cherish.

In addition to her legal practice, Potter has held several leadership positions within the legal community. She was a life council member of the Manitoba Bar Association, served as a bencher for the Law Society of Manitoba, and was president of the Western Manitoba Bar Association. She has also been an active volunteer with several sports and arts organizations, demonstrating her commitment to both her profession and her community.

The Family Division hears adoption and guardianship applications, protection order proceedings, inter-jurisdictional support and variation applications, and Hague Convention applications for the return of a child.

## GoFundMe campaign supports Troy Gabrielle

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A fundraiser was begun for Troy Gabrielle following a tragic fall that has hospitalized him. Gabrielle has Virden roots had an accident last week that has left him partially paralyzed. He's in therapy in Brandon hospital. He and his wife Erin live in Brandon. Son of Bruce Gabrielle and Gwen Dillon, Troy has deep Virden roots, his grandparents, Leo and the late Lillian Gabrielle.

Angela Hamm started a GoFundMe for Troy. Hamm's post says: "On Tuesday January 14th life changed for the Gabrielle family when Troy took a terrible fall at work. Upon arriving at the hospital here in Brandon it was determined that he would need to be airlifted to HSC and undergo spinal surgery. Let's pull together as a community and help in every way we can."

Hamm continues, "As many of you know Troy from the gym and owning Fitness Fanatics with his wife Erin, they are parents to six amazing children. With the uncertainty of what the future looks like we are asking for donations to help keep financial burdens at bay during Troy's time of healing."

Erin explains what Troy is facing. "Due to the severity of the spinal cord damage unfortunately Troy will be paralyzed from the waist down. He may gain some sensation back over time but will not be able to walk. They are seeing if they will have to do surgery on his broken scapula, and collarbone. Because he will be

in the hospital for several weeks, they may just leave it heal on its own.

"Troy is a very strong person we know if anyone can master this it's him."

### The Journey

More recently Erin writes: "When we woke up last Tuesday, it was just another cold January day. None of us thought in less than 12 hours our entire lives would change. Never take your health for granted, never take your loved ones for granted because you never know how life will change in a blink of an eye.

"Troy is doing a little better, still in a lot of pain but they are making strategies to make him as comfortable as possible. Sounds like they will be moving him to a regular room and out of ICU. (He has since returned to Brandon medical centre).

"They come and do range of motion exercises with him to keep his legs moving. They sure get a workout themselves since Troy's legs are not light. It's not easy on him to watch them move him around and not being able to feel it.

"Another focus of his is to keep his upper body strong so he can manage his body on his own, or at least help. It's a very emotional time with a lot of feelings for him trying to accept that he requires help, he's not very good at that. He loves when I come and sit with him... he finds great comfort when I'm around which fills my heart. He is my forever. I will do everything I can to help him through this process.

"My brain is tired, so much to process and focusing on making sure everyone is ok, we are slowly getting



SUBMITTED PHOTO

back into routines so my days will be a little more structured again. Thank you again to everyone for your love, support, donations and messages. It really helps lift our spirits knowing we have so much support and love during this time."

In conversation on Jan. 21, Erin said she appreciates the many people's prayers, "prayer from around the world."

Donations for Troy and Erin may be made through GoFundMe.

# 8th Business Expo brings fava bean entrepreneur to podium

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Coming right up, the Southwest Business Expo in Oak Lake on Feb. 5 is an event to promote entrepreneurship and business development in Westman.

Now in its eighth year, this one-day event has boosted many local start-ups such as the Elkhorn unique ladies dress shop Samantha's Boutique, Joe Dandy's Drive-In restaurant, and itelliFARM where consultants create customized grain marketing plans, just to name a few of the many success stories.

This well attended expo sees over 100 potential and growing entrepreneurs per year, so it's a great place to network and learn from each other.

Every year new guest speakers bring expertise. This year the organizers are pleased to announce that Hailey Jefferies of Prairie Fava is the keynote speaker. Prairie Fava is a vertically integrated company that contracts with fava farmers across Canada, processes fava beans at its plant in Glenboro, and sells fava ingredients to food processors and makers across North America, Japan, and South Korea.

Under her leadership, the company has gained recognition as an up-and-coming agri-food processor, earning awards including "Start-up of the Year" in 2019. In building the



Cale and Hailey Jeffries.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

company, Jeffries has been instrumental in securing significant sales and funding, working with organizations such as Protein Industries Canada and PrairiesCan. She is also actively involved in industry support committees, including the Canadian Special Crops Association and the Prairie Grain Development Pulse and Specialty Crops.

"We sought out Hailey because her company is so relatable to our local entrepreneurs. She is a leader in bringing Fava Beans from farm to consumers," says Rachelle Stannage, economic development officer for the R.M. of Sifton. "Her story fits really well with the base of entrepreneurs we have in the community. We have been able to build an entrepreneur panel of local business people that also have experience with food

products including Trevor Gompf of Bison Spirit Ranch, Jolene Thiessen of Enjoy Real Spice, Mike Hatfield of Cornerstone Coffee Roasting Co. and Kristi-Lyn Buckley of Deer Meadow Farmacy."

The expo will also feature sessions on Navigating the Path from Idea to Market: Exploring the programs, resources, and tools available for Manitoba food entrepreneurs; Financial Tools for Small Business Owners; and Mental Health Strategies for Small Business Owners.

The event opens at 8:30am and is over at 4pm with a noon lunch. You can register online at [www.swbusinessexpo.com](http://www.swbusinessexpo.com).

The event includes a trade show and an opportunity to meet municipal reps and find information relevant for business management. It's perfect for job

seekers and business people looking to gain inspiration.

Later in the day, business pitch winners will be announced, always an exciting moment.

Sponsorships are available and an opportunity to promote your own business or municipality while sponsoring a new business in the area.

Communities involved include Melita, Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester, Municipality of Souris-Glenwood, Municipality of Pipestone, Virден, Municipality of Grassland, Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, Municipality of Brenda-Waskada and the Municipality of Two Borders. By working together, they seek to create opportunities for growth in the region with prizes available each year in excess of \$10,000.

## Look who dropped into Virден Curling Club



PHOTO BY MAUREEN SENFF

On her way home to Selkirk from a tournament in Saskatchewan, Kerri Einarson paid a visit to the Virден Curling Club during the MCT Shootout. Bob and Maureen Senff, were there to cheer on Jace Freeman's rink and second, Nick Senff during a men's bonspiel and greeted the unassuming 'top notch' women's event curler.

Need help with your photo mess?  
Not sure what to do with your VHS, Reel to Reel videos, Slides, Photos, Negatives?  
Forever offers Digitization and Storage Services to help you get your memories in one safe place!  
Marlene Hunter  
Certified Forever Ambassador  
Photo Coach and Organizer  
204-838-2132 or 204-851-7000  
Perfect for Personal, Business, Estates and Organizations!

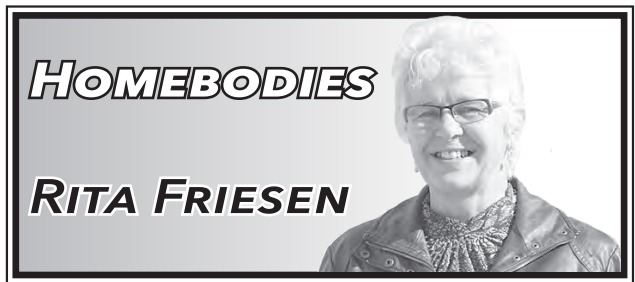
Greg NESBITT  
MLA for Riding Mountain  
204.759.3313  
Toll Free 844.877.7767  
gregnesbittmla@mymts.net  
#7 - 515 4th Avenue  
Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

Lenore Curling Club's  
**ANNUAL BONSPIEL**  
*Home Cooked Meals Served Every Evening*  
Thursday **Ham & Scalloped Potatoes**  
Friday **Roast Beef**  
Saturday **Turkey & Trimmings**  
from 5pm to 7pm  
Thursday, Jan. 30 -  
Saturday, Feb. 1  
\$100.00 entry Fee  
For more info, please call or text Mike 204-851-1157

THE ANNUAL  
VIRDEN LEGION'S CURLING  
**FUNSPIEL**  
DRAWS AT: 9 AM • 11 AM • 1 PM • 3 PM  
With every rink getting two games.  
Legion  
Saturday, February 22  
@ Virден Curling Rink  
Registration: \$120.00 PER RINK!  
Registration Deadline: February 16 or ASAP!  
Contact Barry: (204) 748-2189 or (204) 851-6027  
... SWEEP HARD! HARD! HARD!...  
"The Funspiel Supper" will be at the Royal Canadian Legion Club Room which is close to the water tower. The cost for extra Supper Tickets would be \$20.00 and is open to the Public. Order your tickets ahead of time ... we need a number for groceries.  
DRESS UP IF YOU WISH  
Need Help then contact the Costume Closet for a fun outfit.  
**MAKE IT A FUN DAY!**

# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



**HOMEBODIES**

**RITA FRIESEN**

## 'Beyond my ken...'

The universe is filled with marvels and mysteries, many of them well beyond my understanding or knowledge, 'beyond my ken'. Two incidents that occurred while residing on the acreage surfaced in my overflowing memory bank this week. I still marvel at the occurrences.

It was a grey early spring day as I glanced out the kitchen window. The view, though never changing- grass stretching back to a row of evergreens with an ancient granary as focus-was ever changing. This day, standing in the open doorway of the weathered outbuilding, stood a wolf. Our eyes met, neither one of us uncomfortable or challenging. After a few moments of simply meeting each other, I turned to the young adults sharing our home and asked one of them to take the gun, escort the creature off the main yard and release it from its pain and agony. There was a bit of uncertainty among the three young adults hearing my words, and after discerning who would be the better one at a quick and clean shot, my request was honoured. The grey animal of prey carefully walked off the house yard, into the field north of the home and stood on the crest of a slight rise. One shot, one clean shot, and the animal dropped. Examination showed that the wolf was riddled with mange, and gaunt. To this day I acknowledge that there was an unspoken request for help.

Looking out that same kitchen window, a different spring, I noted a vixen and her kits had taken up residence under that same granary. They provided entertainment as I watched the mother teach her young how to pounce and dodge. She would have two of them sit and watch as she gave one on one instruction to the other one. She taught them to run zig-zag through the row of evergreens. I'll admit that I left food scraps in the building, hoping to entice the young to show themselves while mom was away hunting. They never did, and the food was always gone the next day. As the kits became the size of my two little dogs, I had a chat with the mother. I explained how much I loved to watch her, how much I appreciated that there were no moles or snakes while she was on duty, but it was time for them all to find a new home. Within days I watched her teach the kits to cross the highway by using the concrete culvert. And within the week, they were all gone. And then a few days later I was woken by the cry of a kit, under the bedroom window. Opening the window, I explained that mom and siblings had found a new home and it was time for me to have the yard back, but thank you for saying good-bye. I never saw, nor heard from them again.

(As an aside, the snakes and moles were back with a vengeance in a week!)

I don't believe I am an animal whisperer. I do believe that all creatures think, and feel, and understand. I felt/feel honoured to have been entrusted with communication. Beyond my full ken.

## Let's just cut out the crap!

If anyone is offended by that headline, toughen up and hang on.

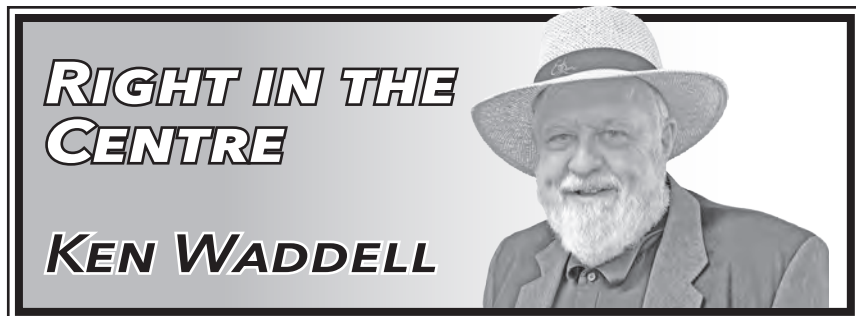
A couple of weeks ago Winnipeg (and Manitoba) was subjected to yet another notice to the public. It was one of many and likely won't be the last. A picture was posted in various media of a man who had a criminal record as long as your arm, a violent sexual re-offender and murderer who was, as they often note, "was likely to re-offend and would be dangerous to women and children." The man in question re-offended in a few days and ended up back in jail. That's likely good news but I have a few questions.

Why, with his 30 year record, was he ever allowed out of jail? What if during the four to five days of freedom, he had beat upon or killed another woman or child? How can the public interest be served by allowing this type of criminal to ever see the outside of a jail-ever? This particular notice was one of many that are posted every year.

Just last week, an individual, known to the police and who had an active arrest warrant at the time of a car crash. It was with a stolen vehicle and the crash killed a young woman near Portage la Prairie.

Why do we even have to tolerate this over and over again? Put them in jail, and yes, leave them there. It would save lives, maybe sometimes even the offender's life, save a lot of police time chasing around and hunting for people who seem intent on doing as much harm as possible to others and themselves.

I recently had a discussion with a wise man and we came to some poignant conclusions. We don't believe in capital punishment. The death penalty didn't seem to be an effective deterrent, many times there have been wrongful convictions and it can be argued that someone who commits murder should have to live



**RIGHT IN THE CENTRE**

**KEN WADDELL**

“There comes a point in a criminal's life that jail, long term, forever jail is the only logical answer.”

with the consequences.

So what about the jail time. There comes a point in a criminal's life that jail, long term, forever jail is the only logical answer. When in jail, or an institution, if you like, they could be gainfully occupied in educational upgrades or working. We both agreed that closing down the federal prison farms was a big mistake. In the prison farm system, many prisoners improved their lives greatly, working with livestock was a great learning and living experience. Many prisoners helped themselves, helped other prisoners and were gainfully occupied raising food for the prison.

My wise man said let prisoners become authors, artists, teachers, skilled workers, basically anything they want but with one clear limitation. They will always be in jail.

So more jails, institutions, prison farms or even prison factories will cost money. But how do you put a price on saved police costs, efforts and even police lives. How do you put a price on the safety of dead kids and

adults. Or damaged and abused kids and adults. It seemed to us that we need major changes and we believe those changes would bring benefit to everybody.

The defenders of capital punishment, of the death sentence, will say that it eliminates repeat offenders. Executed criminals don't re-offend. That's true, but as noted above, what about wrongful convictions, there's been many?

And, there are many criminals out and about that committed crimes where today's courts would never get a death sentence but they are very dangerous to the public, to the police and even to themselves.

We need to expand our institutions and keep dangerous people off the street. Our population deserves much better protection than we have been offered. Put repeat violent offenders in jail and keep them there!

*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.*

**Empire Advance**  
Serving Virden and area since 1885

204- 748-3931 | virdenempireadvance@outlook.com  
www.empireadvance.ca | Drop box @ 305 Nelson St W Virden, MB  
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada  
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Members of:  
**mcna** Manitoba Community Newspapers Association

**News Media Canada**  
**Médias d'Info Canada**

**STAFF**

Sales/Media/Design: Jessica Coulter | Reporter: Anne Davison | Office Manager: Oliver Nolan | Reporter: Dale Davison | Sports Reporter: Robin Wark | Reporter: Gerry Nolan | Sales: Dianne Hanson | Owner/Publisher/Editor: Ken & Christine Waddell

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 12  
PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

Empire Advance does not guarantee publication of any submitted articles or pictures. Such submissions, if printed, will appear at the discretion of the managing editor or publisher and only when time and space permit. We are not responsible for fax and e-mail transmissions which are not confirmed either in person or by phone.

# Miniota and Isabella News

Submitted  
By LINDA CLARK

Sympathy is extended to Stan and Bonnie Bryant and their family and Sheila Lockhart and her family on the death of their brother-in-law, Colin Campbell of Abbotsford B.C. Our thoughts are with Judy (Bryant) Campbell and her sons and their families on their loss.

We also extend sympathy to Gerry and Dorothy Gow and their family on the death of Dorothy's brother Bill Rowan, formerly of Elkhorn.

Congratulations to both the girls and the boys curling rinks from the Birtle Collegiate Institute on successfully placing first in zones last week at Hamiota. Curling from Miniota were: Tiffany and Lexi Brown, Quinn Bryant, Carson Brown, Baker Bryant and Aiden Lewis. Both the boys and girls rinks go on to provincials at Beausejour next month. Good luck!

The Valley Viperz Volleyball team playing out of Birtle travelled to Regina this past weekend for their first tournament. Miniota players are Reese Lelond, Quinn Bryant and Tiffany Brown and the assistant coach is Tricia Lelond. The Viperz came home with bronze medals. Congratulations!

A very busy weekend once again at our community centre with the open curling bonspiel and the Skunkies hockey tournament. The bonspiel was played on points with each rink curling three games. Winners were as follows: 1st Trevor Clark, 2nd Jason McKenzie, 3rd Jason Heaman, 4th Anesha Heaman, 5th Nick Young, and 6th Murray Foster. Six teams entered in the tournament with A side going to Miniota, B Side to Kenton and C Side to Elkhorn. Lots of good food and fellowship despite the cool temps.

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." -Thomas A. Edison

## Isabella

Our Isabella community extends its deepest sympathy to Amy and Jamie Bell, Spencer, Corbin and Reagan on the death of Amy's mom and their grandma Connie Ellis. Connie died on Dec. 21, 2024 at the Elkwood Manor PCH in Elkhorn. We also extend our sympathy to Amy's dad, Harry Ellis and her sisters Stacey and Craig Lane and Kari and Steve Haggarty and their families.

Don Clark and Julie Moroney, Victoria, B.C. shared the news of the death of their oldest brother Brian Clark on Jan. 14. We extend our sympathy to Don and Julie and her family. Brian was raised at Isabella, the oldest son of the late Russell and Eileen Clark, moving to Victoria with his family in the early 70's. He spent a large part of his career in the Yukon managing an airport. He loved life up north enabling him to participate in his favorite sport of fishing. Several of us will remember Brian's return visits to Isabella on his Harley Davidson.

A successful Buck Night was held in the Isabella Hall on Friday evening with a good crowd in attendance to enjoy the supper, and for the many prizes available. This evening was organized by the Dushnicky family. Well done folks!

# RCMP make an arrest for assault

## Service Report for Jan. 12 to Jan. 18

Submitted  
By WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 66 calls for service. Of these, 25 were traffic related including 10 speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were 2 assault files, 1 wellbeing file, 4 mental health act files, 3 failure to comply with court orders and disobeying the court, and 6 false alarms.

Jan. 9 during a routine traffic patrol in the RM Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 139 km/hr in a 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted and driver was issued a speeding ticket, which carries a fine of \$429.

Jan. 12 during a routine traffic patrol on highway 21 in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community a traffic stop was conducted resulting in a 31-year-old male being issued a traffic offence notice for driving while disqualified which carries a fine of \$672, and a traffic offence notice as a novice driver, operating a motor vehicle after having consumed drugs detected by drug screening equipment, at or above the screening threshold which carries a fine of \$113. The vehicle was towed and impounded for 30 days and a license suspension for 7 days.

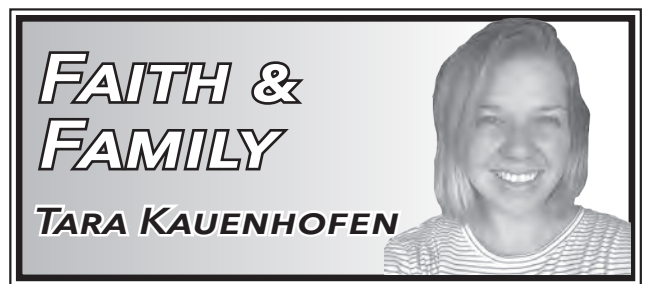
Jan. 13 Westman RCMP received a report that there was 35-year-old male at a residence in Sioux Valley where he was on conditions not to attend. Members received permission to enter the residence and located the suspect in a bedroom closet. The man was arrested and transported to the Virden RCMP detachment where he was remanded into custody. He next appears in court in February for other matters as well as the additional charge of failing to comply with a probation order.

Jan. 18 Westman RCMP received a third-party complaint of an assault in the Sioux Valley community. Members attended the residence and spoke to the victim. A 29-year-old male was placed under arrest and transported to the Virden RCMP Detachment without incident. He was remanded into custody; he next appears in court later this month for Assault.

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.

If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Crime stoppers is entirely confidential and completely anonymous.

# True wealth



## More than a paycheque

Sometimes I truly detest winter.

Don't get me wrong, there are absolutely beautiful parts of it, but the -50 days that leave your bones chilled I could leave behind and never experience again!

But as my kids and I sat cozied up by the fire, tea in my hand, hot chocolate in theirs, a favourite movie playing on the tv, I was suddenly struck with overwhelming gratitude for the wealth we had.

Money is a hard topic and hard thing to get our heads around. Especially with social media at the tips of our fingers ready to show us the next fancy car someone bought, the expensive vacation someone went on or the house someone built from scratch.

But what if we could shift away from looking at wealth as simply monetary and the 'I need more' mindset.

Wealth is so much more than a paycheque or cash in hand.

Wealth is healthy kids, wealth is heat to stave off the -50 days, wealth is a meal on the table, wealth is tiny giggles and snuggles from our babies, wealth is looking across the room and seeing our spouse smiling at us.

Wealth is having friends and family who love and champion us, wealth is being able to worship God in a country that doesn't send us to jail for doing it.

Wealth is cozy blankets, it's food in the fridge, it's clothes on our backs, it's a book to read and curl up with when it's cold, it's clean drinking water, vehicles to drive to the store in.

When we start looking beyond a paycheque, to see the amount of wealth we truly have that has NOTHING to do with money, we can switch from a never enough mindset to a thank you God for all You've blessed me with mindset and find contentment and peace with what we have and start to believe it is truly enough.



## Journey For Sight 2025 Saturday, January 25



The Virden Lions Club to welcome Lions Journey for Sight Snowmobile riders at Tim Hortons on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

Come out to the Virden Lions Club Hall at 230 Nelson Street, Virden, Manitoba, on Saturday, January 25th, 2025 and donate to this most worthy cause. Local Lions members will be there to receive your donations from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

All proceeds go to the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Objectives: procurement and evaluation of eye tissue to be used for Corneal Transplants.

Come on out and have coffee and cookies while you make your donation. Income Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 and above.

Used eyeglasses will also be accepted when you come with your donation on January 25.

Come one come all! See you Saturday, the 25th, at the Lions Hall!!!!!!

----- We Serve -----

Visit our website  
[www.empireadvance.ca](http://www.empireadvance.ca)

# HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

### The Alphabet Line

In 1903, the Grand Trunk Railway from eastern Canada established a subsidiary, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTPR) to build a transcontinental railway running from Fort William, (now Thunder Bay) Ontario to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. The CPR had been given generous land grants from the Canadian government but because the GTPR received no federal grants, it purchased forty-five thousand acres of land for eighty-six town sites. It advertised them as "towns made to order." The first mention of the new town of Rivers in the media came on July 22, 1908 when the Brandon Sun headline declared: "RIVERS WILL BE GOOD TOWN." Rivers was just the right distance from Winnipeg to be designated as a divisional point. It would require a large station, a roundhouse and a host of storage, maintenance and house facilities.

Construction on the track proceeded west to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1907, Edmonton, Alberta in 1909, and through Jasper, Alberta into the Yellowhead Pass crossing the Continental Divide in 1910-1911. The last spike ceremony celebrating the completion of the rail line across the prairies, and through the Rocky Mountains to the new seaport at Prince Rupert, British Columbia was held on April 7, 1914.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway faced severe competition from the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian Northern Railway, both of which had excellent branch and feeder lines on the prairie. The CPR occupied the more populous southern route in the prairies. Construction costs, war time restrictions, a decline of people using train travel, and the lack of worthwhile branch lines brought the GTPR into receivership. As the Canadian Northern Railway was also in difficulties, a Royal Commission was appointed by the Government in 1916 to investigate the railway situation in Canada. On January 31, 1923, both railways were acquired by the Government and integrated into one system to form the Canadian National Railway system. (CN)

When the GTPR built their railway across the Prairies, they chose the alphabet as the way to name either sidings or stations and operating points east to west starting in Manitoba. I am sure some letters of the alphabet presented a challenge, especially X and Z. Today, the section of railway between Portage la Prairie and Jasper is fondly known as the Alphabet Railway. Some of the alphabet stations have become towns and villages, others have faded into obscurity. Starting with a wee speck on the map close to Portage La Prairie was: Arona, Bloom, Caye, Deer, Exira, Firdale, Gregg, Harte, Ingelow, Justice, Knox, Levine, Myra, Norman, Oakner, Pope, Quadra, Rea, Stenberg, Treat, Uno, Victor and into Saskatchewan was Welby, Yarbo, Zeneta, Atwater, Bangor, Cana, Elroy, Fenwood, Goodeve, Hubbard, Ituna, Jasmin, Kelliher, Leross, Mosten, N?, O?, Punnichy, Quinton, Raymore, Semans, Tate, Undora, Venn, Watrous, Xena, Young, Zelma, Allan, Bradwell, Clavet, Duro, Earl, Farley, Grandora, Hawoods, Ivana, Juniata, Kinley, Leney, Mead, Neola, Oban, Palo, Reford, Scott, Tako, Unity, Vera, Winter, Yonker, Zumbro, Artland, and so on. My husband Allan, was an elevator agent in the little town of Pope. There he learned all the names on the train line during the slow times in the winter. Several Saskatchewan communities along the main line bear the names of GTPR executives: Biggar is named for the Railway's general counsel William H. Biggar; Melville for president Sir Charles Melville Hays; and Watrous for vice-president and general manager Frank Watrous Morse.

In tribute of the Alphabet Line is an alphabet soup recipe. I made this for my kids when they were young. I did not use the canned tomatoes as they did not like them and substituted a can or two of tomato soup instead. This soup is super flexible. If you don't like a particular vegetable, swap it out for another.

### Alphabet soup.

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced small
- 2 celery stalks, diced small
- 1-2 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 2-3 cups frozen or fresh mixed vegetables; carrots, corn, peas, green beans
- 1 tsp. dried Italian herbs
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp. Dash
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper, or to taste
- 1-540 mL can diced tomatoes, not drained
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup dry alphabet pasta
- Garnish if desired:
- fresh parsley, minced
- Parmesan or shredded mozzarella cheese

To a large Dutch oven, add the olive oil, onion, celery, and sauté over medium-high heat until they begin to soften. Add the garlic, and cook for 1 minute; stirring. Add the remaining ingredients except the alphabet pasta. Bring to a boil; put a lid on the pot, reduce heat to a simmer and cook for about 15 minutes. Add the alphabet noodles and cook for about 7 to 9 minutes; do not overcook. Top bowls of soup with garnish if desired.

## Is there too much self-in mental health?

By Delsie Martin  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Self-maintenance, self-compassion, self-love...

Self-care. Self-care is a foundational element of any good mental health care plan. It is the cornerstone of wellness clinics, spas and gyms. It is a massive cultural movement toward self-love and positivity. It's part of workplace initiatives, education practices, religious and spiritual practice and advocacy to name a few. Self-care is a multi-billion-dollar industry that only continues to grow and doesn't show any signs of stopping. So, something this wonderful, this groundbreaking, this important couldn't be bad right?

I wonder if you've noticed a lack of human connection as of late. Have you noticed that people don't genuinely ask you how you are for no reason? Have you noticed that folks are less likely to volunteer for community events? Do people just seem to be less.... Giving? Why is this happening?

We live in an individualistic culture which is one that values independence, autonomy and personal decisions are made based on what is best for the individual. We are a group of humans who are overtaxed, overscheduled and downright exhausted. These are all good reasons why people haven't been giving to others. There are even more reasons though. The rising cost of living has made life a heck of a lot more expensive to live in than our parents' generation making people feel like they have zero resources to give. It makes us feel like we must be more focused on survival than generosity. Due to the digital world we live in there is much less in person community engagement and it creates a comparison culture

where we all come out feeling inadequate leading us to give less.

Is it possible that our culture of self-care and prioritizing self is making us less community minded? Are we worst friends because of it? Are we losing our connection with our families because of it? Prioritizing self-care might lead you to decline babysitting a family member's child, which could negatively affect that family member and potentially strain your relationship. An increased focus on self-care might result in fewer individuals volunteering for community events, potentially affecting the success of these events or leading to a shortage of volunteers in some communities. If all we are thinking about is ourselves then who is thinking about you? Are our relationships transactional? Maybe those people pleasers who made the chicken soup for the sick friend even though they were exhausted, who attended the family reunion even though they didn't really want to, who decided to go and clean their friends house even if it was their only day off, maybe they were doing something right.

This is not to say that self-care is a bad thing. Self-care is a wonderful and very necessary thing, I just wonder if we are putting too much emphasis on it and forgetting those other important influences in our lives, friends and community. To nourish our friends in the way they deserve, to nourish our community in the way it needs requires ordinary acts of selflessness, not something that is part of your typical self-care routine. The question I ask is, how do we balance self-care with selflessness? How do we prioritize ourselves while taking care of our friends and community?

## NOTICE

### Under the Oil and Gas Act Daly Sinclair Oil field

Tundra Oil & Gas Limited has made application under The Oil and Gas Act for approval to form Daly Unit No. 18 and within implement a Waterflood enhanced oil recovery (EOR) operations, within the Bakken-Torquay formation. The inset map shows the proposed boundaries.

If no valid objection or intervention is received in writing by Manitoba Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation, Petroleum Branch, at Suite 360 - 1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2 before

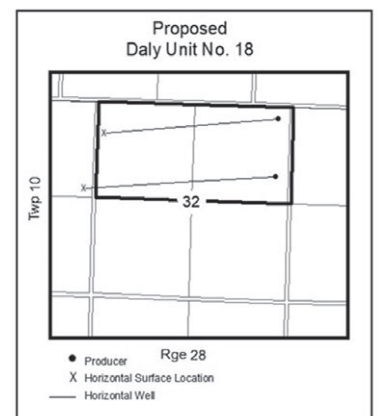
**February 14, 2025**, the Minister may approve the application.

Copies of the application can be obtained from:

McKenzie Large  
Tundra Oil & Gas Limited  
Suite 1500 East Tower  
525 8th Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 1G1  
(403) 513-1014, McKenzie.Large@tundraoilandgas.com

The application may be viewed in full at:

[manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html](http://manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html)



# Community Tragedy Requiring Action

By Sharilyn Knox

MAYOR OF CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

On January 15, 2025, our community lost a vibrant, promising young woman, Kellie Verwey, in a senseless and preventable tragedy. This loss has shaken our city to its core, and it demands immediate attention and action.

The incident that claimed Kellie's life is both devastating and infuriating. According to the RCMP, a stolen vehicle driven recklessly by James Lorne Hilton caused the chain of events that led to her death. This individual, known to the police, had an active arrest warrant at the time of the crash. He should have been in custody, not behind the wheel of a stolen truck on our highways. This is a systemic failure, plain and simple, and it cost an innocent young woman her life. Her dreams, her future, and her contributions to our world were stolen in an instant.

Kellie was not just a name in a report; she was a cherished member of our community. As our Tourism Coordinator, Kellie was a driving force behind initiatives that showcased the beauty and vibrancy of Portage la Prairie. Her dedication went far beyond her professional role. She was an active community volunteer, always ready to lend her time and talents to make our city a better place. Beyond her public service, Kellie was an entrepreneur, passionately building a future alongside her fiancé, Travis, with their business, Roast and Toasts. Together, they created not just a business, but a vision for connection, warmth, and community spirit.

She was full of life, ambition, and hope, with a future as bright as the morning sun. Her family, her friends, and her city are now left to grapple with the unbearable pain of her absence, all because our justice system failed to protect her and others like her.

I cannot overstate the frustration and anger felt by our community. This tragedy exposes glaring deficiencies in our system:

1) Repeat Offenders Allowed to Roam Free: James Hilton, a known offender with an active arrest warrant, was free to wreak havoc on innocent lives. How can this be acceptable? The lack of accountability for individuals with a history of criminal behaviour is appalling.

2) Failure to Prioritize Public Safety: The current system allowed a dangerous individual to evade justice repeatedly. This prioritization of bureaucratic inaction over public safety is unacceptable and must change.

3) A Broken System Lacking Courage for Reform: For too long, our justice system has enabled individuals like James Hilton to slip through the cracks. Where is the courage to stand up and say, "Enough is enough"?

I also ask, how can we keep putting our frontline responders our RCMP, police, firefighters, and paramedics through the trauma of dealing with these preventable tragedies, knowing that the consequences for those responsible are so often inadequate? These dedicated individuals bear the weight of these horrific situations, only to feel as though their efforts are met with systemic inaction. Kellie's death is a call for urgent, systemic reform.

Our community demands answers and action. We demand a justice system that prioritizes the safety of law-abiding citizens over the convenience of leniency for repeat offenders. This cannot and must not be allowed to happen again.

I implore you, Minister, to act decisively and immediately:

- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to ensure individuals with active warrants are apprehended and kept in custody.
- Prioritize public safety in sentencing and parole decisions, especially for repeat offenders.
- Increase resources and accountability within the justice system to prevent known criminals from endangering innocent lives.
- Consult with communities and families affected by crime to develop meaningful, impactful reforms.

As leaders, it is our duty to protect the people we serve. Kellie Verwey and her grieving family deserved better. Our community deserved better. It is now on all of us to ensure her death is not in vain.

This letter is more than a plea for change; it is a demand for justice. I ask you to stand with us, to take the necessary steps to reform a broken system, and to honour the life of Kellie Verwey by ensuring no other family has to endure this pain.

I look forward to your prompt response and to hearing how you will address this urgent matter. Please know that the City of Portage la Prairie is prepared to work with you in any way necessary to drive meaningful change. I can be reached at 1 (204) 871-3391.

## Co-ops of Westman Future Farmer Contest

By Amber Vandale Torrance

PR / MARKETING MANAGER, VALLEYVIEW CO-OP

announce the launch of the Co-op Future Farmers Contest, a celebration of young agricultural enthusiasts and their connection to farm life. This exciting initiative is open to families across the region and offers a unique opportunity to showcase the future of farming while competing for a \$500 gift card!

How to Enter: Parents or guardians can submit a photo of their child (ages 0-17) in one of these categories:

1. Farm Life in Action: A picture of the child engaged in activities on the farm.
2. Through Their Lens: A photo taken by the child that captures the essence of life on the farm.

Along with a photo, you must write one sentence answering the question, "What kind of farmer do you want to be, and why?" Entries will be accepted until March 7, 2025. Submit your photos via [www.coopsofwestman.ca](http://www.coopsofwestman.ca).

Prizes: One qualifier from each trading area of Valleyview, Boundary, Twin Valley, Pembina, and Heritage Co-op will receive a Co-op prize pack, including a Co-op Future Farmer hat, tickets to the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair and a \$25.00 gift card. One lucky winner will receive a \$500 gift card from the Co-ops of Westman.

Why Participate? The Co-op Future Farmers Contest highlights young people's critical role in sustaining and advancing agriculture. This contest also highlights the unique bond between families and their farms, fostering community pride and recognizing the dedication of farmers across Manitoba.

About the Co-ops of Westman: The Co-ops of Westman include Heritage, Boundary, Twin Valley, Pembina and Valleyview Co-op. Together, they inspire and support the next generation of farmers in celebrating their agricultural heritage.

Get Involved: Spread the word—invite your friends, family, and neighbours to this meaningful celebration of farming heritage. Join us in honouring the future of farming in Westman!

For more information, visit [www.coopsofwestman.ca](http://www.coopsofwestman.ca) or contact:

Amber Vandale Torrance

PR / Marketing Manager

Valleyview Co-op

(204) 748-6700 ext. 311

[memberrelations@valleyview.coop](mailto:memberrelations@valleyview.coop)

Christine Wright

Sponsorship Coordinator

Provincial Ex of Manitoba

(204) 726-3590 ext. 1005

[sponsorship@provincialex.com](mailto:sponsorship@provincialex.com)

The Co-ops of Westman and the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

## Thank You

The Virden and District Health Auxiliary would like to extend its most sincere thanks to the following donors for their financial support in 2024. We continue to assist with providing the needs and desires of the West-Man Nursing Home, the Sherwood Home, The Virden Health Centre and Lab, and the Emergency Medical Services.

Thank you also to the following donors

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ Virden Royal Purple #220</li> <li>☼ Nield Family Trust</li> <li>☼ Lenore W.I.</li> <li>☼ Canada Helps (Workplace Donation Plan)</li> <li>☼ Virden Area Foundation</li> <li>☼ Elkhorn Area Foundation</li> <li>☼ Virden Lions Club</li> <li>☼ Royal Canadian Legion – Oak Lake Branch #79</li> <li>☼ Donors Choice</li> <li>☼ Virden Oilmen's Golf Tournament</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Private Donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ Anonymous</li> <li>☼ Jean and Gerry Gatey</li> <li>☼ Mary Anne and Keith Hagan</li> <li>☼ Ray Harper</li> <li>☼ Dawn and Gordon Joseph</li> <li>☼ Brad Lee</li> <li>☼ Jeff Morton</li> <li>☼ Lynn and Stan Ward</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

We gratefully acknowledge 41 receipts through "in memoriam" donations.

With your generous donations, we have been able to purchase the following for a total of \$42 335.79:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>For the Hospital</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ 1 Qube Monitor</li> <li>☼ 1 recliner chair for the IV room</li> <li>☼ 3 IV pump kits and drug library</li> </ul> <p><b>For the lab:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ 2 portable Holter blood pressure monitors</li> </ul> | <p><b>For the Sherwood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ 6 plastic folding tables</li> <li>☼ 1 Doff n' Donner cone</li> <li>☼ 1 Doff n' Donner sleeve</li> <li>☼ 1 whiteboard</li> <li>☼ 1 blanket/towel warmer</li> </ul> | <p><b>For the West-Man:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ 12 plastic folding tables</li> <li>☼ 5 toilet risers</li> <li>☼ 2 electric lift recliners</li> <li>☼ 1 Broda chair</li> <li>☼ 2 blood pressure machines, stands and brackets</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

We also provide a yearly Virden Collegiate Scholarship of \$2000, with preference to students entering any aspect of the medical field.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

# MJHL NEWS

Submitted  
By DEREK HOLTIM

The best of the SJHL and MJHL will clash later this month in Winnipeg for an inter-league junior A hockey all-star event.

Players from all 13 teams will take part, including several from Parkland based teams in Neepawa, Swan Valley, Northern Manitoba and Waywayseecappo.

The 18 and under teams are perhaps the most heavily scouted, and there are some solid names from the West Division on this squad. This includes Northern Manitoba Blizzard members Tye Timmerman (goaltender), Esteban Cinq-Mars (defenseman), and Marlen Edwards (forward); and Dru Mushmanski (forward) from the Waywayseecappo Wolverines).

The 20-and-under Team Black features a pair of Swan Valley Stampeders – forwards Will Brown and Landen Gulutzan.

And finally, the 20-and-under Team Red squad features five more players from the Blizzard – forwards Miguel Bouvier, Keenan McNeill and Quincy Suprien, and defensemen Cheechoo Lathlin and Brett Ward. Additionally, Neepawa is represented by forward Caden Hegarty.

For a full list of all players, please visit [www.mjhlhockey.ca](http://www.mjhlhockey.ca)

The Showcase will take place Jan. 28-29 at Seven Oaks Sportsplex in Winnipeg.

The first suspensions of 2025 are in the books, with Winkler

and Waywayseecappo both losing a player for three games. Tootoo Fotheringham from the Wolverines and Charles M. Bernier from the Flyers each earned a three-game break due to taking part in a staged fight on Jan. 14.

The MJHL Original 16 Players of the Week are lead this week by forward Nolan Nenow from the Portage Terriers. It was a week to remember as Nenow scored five goals and added six assists for 11 points in four games, jumping him up to fourth in league scoring in the process.

Former Blizzard and newly-acquired goaltender Loic Morin from the Virden Oil Capitals is the second winner. He won both games, posting a 1.92 GAA and .925 save percentage.

For the final winner we go back to the Terriers, as forward Koy Funk earned the nod thanks to his three goals and three assists in four games.

With two months left in the regular season, the playoff races are heating up to incredible levels.

By far the most intriguing race is in the East Division, where one single point separated the top three teams heading into this past weekend.

The Winkler Flyers moved into a tie for first place thanks to an 11-game winning streak. They haven't lost since Nov. 29.

That tied them with the Steinbach Pistons with 56 points, with the Flyers actually holding two games in hand. The Pistons are 8-4-1 in the same span as the Flyers winning streak – not exactly a bad record but not enough to hold the defending champs off.

And you can add the Portage Terriers to the mix – they're

just a single point back of both teams heading into the weekend.

The Terriers are a rock-solid 9-1-1 in their last 11 games. The only two losses can at the hands of, wait for it, the Winkler Flyers.

Two of these teams will meet in the first round of the playoffs, which probably doesn't seem fair to any of these teams, who all have more points than the first-place team in the West Division.

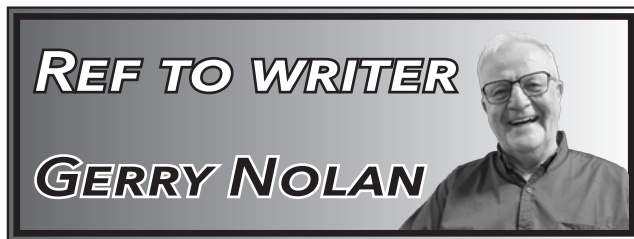
Niverville holds a five-point edge on Selkirk for the final playoff spot, though the Steelers hold two games in hand. They only have one more game against one another this year, so the Steelers – who started the season with a lengthy undefeated streak – have some work to do to get back into the post season.

In the West Division the Dauphin Kings lead the Northern Manitoba Blizzard by two points with three games in hand. Neepawa is seven points back of the Blizzard after almost tying them in the standings next month.

The other big race in the West Division is Virden and Waywayseecappo. The Oil Capitals led the Wolverines by two points while holding a game in hand heading into the weekend. Those two teams have three games left against one other so that race is far from settled.

The Swan Valley Stampeders had pulled to within four points of those two teams in early January, but have since fallen 10 back of the Oil Capitals. They'll need to win five more games than both of their opponents down the stretch to sneak into the post season. That's a difficult, but not impossible, scenario.

# REF MEMORIES



A referee is like a player, you have your ups and downs. You do not always have a good game but you keep trying your best. Sometimes you lose your confidence and it can be difficult to get it back. For me it was to go do a minor hockey game usually bantam hockey. Quite often the down time came in the new year after the holiday season. With MAHA playoffs coming up you needed to be sharp. I found, to have a game where there were lots of penalties would help me reset for the rest of the season.

I did have a really good season and with one game left to go before the end of my season and get ready to play fast ball I was looking forward to the end of another winter. So my last game that season was in Rivers.

It was a MAHA game between Gladstone and Sioux Valley. I was ready to go and was looking forward to the game. This was the deciding game in this series.

About 5 minutes before the game, the coach and a couple of assistant coaches, came into the dressing room and asked me what I was going to call as I had not officiated them before. I said the usual, the stick penalties and punches to the head. He said okay and left. The game starts and I come out flat. I was behind in everything all night long. I could not seem to push past it. At the end of the period the linesman assured me that all was going well as there was lots going on in the game. It was frustrating and did not seem like it would get any better even after the second period.

Finally, the game is over. I go home, look in the mirror and like after most games I ask myself did you give your best? The answer was I really sucked in that game. I was so disappointed in myself that night and it was all I thought about all summer. I really do not know what happened that night for me to come out that way and fall short of my expectations. I did not ever figure it out. It was a long summer. I could not wait for the new season to begin and get rid of the memory of that game.

Along the way, I had some injuries with one injury in particular ending my days of officiating. I had hurt my back and actually 20 years later I found out I had actually broken two vertebrae in my back. You were getting hit by

pucks, sticks and bodies but usually just accepted it as part of the game.

My back had hurt for a long time. I had a pinched nerve in my back, the sciatic nerve and got to a point where I could not bend down to tie my skates. Another season I had a badly pulled groin muscle, that was a long few months to get that healed. One night in Foxwarren I was trailing behind Blair Lee. He turned to go to the other end of the ice. I was too close to him and as he swung around his stick came up underneath my visor and cut my eyelid. I thought at first, I had lost my eye. I went to Birtle Hospital where the doctor came and sowed my eyelid back up. It took a few stitches, but I still had my eye.

Another night in Kenton, Barry Miller was mad at me, and he passed the puck from behind his net to just outside the blue line where I was standing. Barry always passed the puck low, and his shot was ankle high like a rocket. It felt like my ankle was going to explode. It hurt like hell! I probably cursed him, and he gave it to me back. It stayed on the ice and it was never spoken of again. I had done something to make him mad but did not know what it was. I think I probably made a bad call. Anyway seemed like we were even.

Another night in Hamiota, Mel Smith was standing just off to the side of the Hamiota net and was attempting to pass the puck up to his left winger. I was standing about the top of the faceoff circle over by the boards, Mel stepped out and fired a pass up to his left winger. The winger never got the pass. It hit me square in the chest! It hurt a lot and someone behind me said he never saw you, he did not do it on purpose. Mel came over to me and asked me, "Are you okay?" to which I replied, "yes." Mel said, "I never saw you standing there. I am sorry."

"No problem, Mel," I replied, "I should not have been standing there."

There were other bumps and bruises. One night a slapshot hit me on the outside of my knee. That hurt too. Completely unintentional but still hurt.

I used to referee without gloves and now that I am older my hands cannot take the cold. I believe I was warned of this on numerous accounts but needed to be tough. Not so smart Gerry! Coming up next and it may take awhile to get through, but I want to give some time to all the volunteers that work hard to keep their rinks and communities going. There will be some mention of players as well. Some guys I really respected. Until next time.

## NOTICE

### Under the Oil and Gas Act

#### Pierson Oil Field

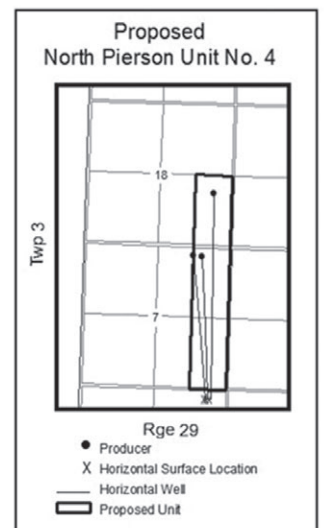
Burgess Creek Exploration Inc. has made application under The Oil and Gas Act for approval to form North Pierson Unit No. 4 and within implement a Waterflood enhanced oil recovery (EOR) operations, within the Mission Canyon 3 formation. The inset map shows the proposed boundaries.

If no valid objection or intervention is received in writing by Manitoba Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation, Petroleum Branch, at Suite 360 - 1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2 before **February 14, 2025**, the Minister may approve the application.

Copies of the application can be obtained from:

Kory Galbraith  
Burgess Creek Exploration Inc.  
1000, 520 – 5th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3R7  
(403) 930-3915, [Kory@burgesscreek.ca](mailto:Kory@burgesscreek.ca)

The application may be viewed in full at:  
[manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html](http://manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html)





# SPORTS

## LOCALS PLAY FOR IMPROVING ICE BANDITS



Colton Rapley.



Will Ludlam.



Kyle Ryder.

PHOTOS BY SHARLA GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHY

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With four local players contributing, the Elkhorn-based Canadian Ice Bandits have made great strides this season.

The male hockey team competes at the U17 level in the Winnipeg AAA Hockey League. Now in its third season, the Ice Bandits program has had players be drafted or auto protected by junior teams. Regarding the current Ice Bandits team, head coach Mike Robertson said:

“The group has showed tremendous improvement both as a team and individuals. This is what the program is about. It’s providing an excellent development league for young 15/16 year-old boys to go onto the next level, which is U18 midget AAA. They work very hard at dryland and practices as well as the games.”

The Ice Bandits draw players from three different regions: Southwest, Yellowhead and Brandon. Robertson said, “they have bonded together very well and play for each other. A

very dedicated group.” He praised the team’s work ethic as one of its strengths.

Elkhorn’s Gavin Drake is a returning player for the club. The versatile forward plays on both wings. Robertson said he works hard and is a “fast skater and good penalty killer.” This season Drake has an assist in five games.

Fellow Elkhorn product Ryder Kyle is in his second year with the Ice Bandits. The right winger has a goal and an assist in 27 games.

“Ryder is very smart player who sees ice well and makes excellent passes,” Robertson said. “Plays powerplay as well as regular shift.”

Kenton’s Colton Rapley is one of the team’s top defencemen, Robertson said. He plays big minutes every time out. The head coach said Rapley is “Fearless and goes into corners, blocks shots, plays penalty kill, powerplay and regular shift. Gives his best effort all the time.” In 28 games so far, Rapley has a goal and four assists.

Goaltending is one of the Ice Bandits’ strengths thanks to Nate Brown (Wawanesa) and Will Ludlum (Reston).

Robertson said they are among the best in the league and “They face a lot of shots in practice and games and give us the opportunity to win.”

Ludlum had a .860 save percentage this winter. Listing off the netminder’s strengths, Robertson said “Very good goalie, big kid yet moves very well in net. Positionally always in right spot to stop pucks. Works hard in all situations.”

The Virden duo of Coleton Koop and Recklan Gabrielle have served as affiliated players for the Ice Bandits while playing for the U15 AAA Southwest Cougars. Koop has one goal in nine games. Gabrielle has played two games for the Ice Bandits.

While wins have not come often this season, Robertson emphasized the team’s improvement. As well, he said, “The parents have been excellent and supportive to the boys and team. We have seven games (as of Jan. 20) before the regular season ends so we will be pushing hard to get a few wins under our belt. Then playoffs start February 26th, which are best of five.”

## Toonie Transportation a win-win idea

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Three days a week the Virden & Area Handi-van is planning to offer rides for a Toonie, thanks to a heavily subsidized new program, starting Feb. 4.

Krista Pederson, a Virden Seniors Access to Independent Living (SAIL) resource coordinator, is enthused by the prospect of more seniors being able to get out and about this winter and says it’s a win-win for clients, their families and for the town.

The Community Collaboration Grant for Age Friendly Communities is providing a \$7,500 grant which requires three community organizations to be included in its use.

While the fund is distributed through municipal councils, Pederson explains, “It has to be collaborative. Three different entities are included. SAIL is one, the Virden and Area Handi Van is another and New Horizons Centre is the other.”

While the handi van is predominantly used by 55+ it is also available for anyone with mobility issues. Dedicated handi van transportation began in the late 1980s in some Manitoba towns and the program has grown. Seniors play a significant role in community life and handi vans have become important means of mobility.

Toonie Transportation in Virden is planned for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, to include ongoing activities in town. Tuesdays will be downtown errands, including grocery shopping, Wednesdays will be a lunch outing, and then to the New Horizon Centre for card games. Thursday’s destination will be the walking track at Tundra Oil & Gas Place, with a coffee outing afterwards.

Enhancing transportation, particularly during winter months, provides opportunities for people to connect with each other and that can have far reaching effects.

Pederson says, “A lot of seniors’ organizations are looking at and talking about loneliness and isolation.” For this reason, SAIL wants to help people to get out and about. “Small things, can make a big difference. When we’re getting the support we need by connecting with one another, the benefits will be evident in other areas in our lives as well. So the connections we make are a big deal.”

Operating the handi van is expensive, but both Virden and Wallace-Woodworth councils agreed in 2023 not to increase user fees. The van is specially equipped to accommodate walkers and wheel chairs and as such it’s a key mode of transportation for many community members. The service has run a small deficit for several years which has meant dipping into the vehicle replacement fund to continue operating and paying the driver. However, this new Community Engagement grant targets programs such as Toonie Transportation rather than handi van general use.

Pederson says there are many who could benefit from Toonie Transportation. The two SAIL coordinators, Peder-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Community Collaboration grant is presented to Virden groups to enhance senior mobility and participation: (l-r) Walter Heaman (New Horizon Centre), Krista Pederson and Julie Mason (Virden SAIL), Brenda Tonn (Age Friendly Manitoba), Bruce Dunning (Virden councillor rep to Handi Van committee), Mayor Tina Williams, Candace Murray (Virden economic development manager).

son, along with Julie Mason, will be making phone calls to their clients, “older adults who have traditionally had a harder time getting out for financial or other reasons.”

Pederson says, “We will also be looking for volunteers, which is another way to get people involved.”

Contact details for Toonie Transportation are posted around town.

# SPORTS

## OIL CAPS NOTES: ENGLOT PACES TEAM, SQUAD SPLITS GAMES LAST WEEK

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**R**acking up points at a career-best clip, Virден Oil Capitals forward Noel Englot is leading his Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad in scoring.

As of Jan. 20, the second year forward paced the team with 30 points in 37 games. That was already four more points than the Candiac, Sask. product collected in 49 contests last season as a rookie.

"I've just been more confident with the puck, making plays, capitalizing on my chances and some nice plays from my teammates," Englot said of his increased points production.

The 19-year-old shared the team lead in goals with Liam Goertzen. Both had 12. Goertzen joined the Oil Caps this month from the Winnipeg Freeze. As of Jan. 19, he had lit the lamp three times over four games with the Virден team. This season Englot has one four goal game and two two-goal outings.

"Noel works really hard to put himself in areas to score," Virден head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is an intelligent player and unafraid to go to hard areas to create scoring chances. He has also worked hard to improve his shot, getting it on and off his stick quicker with some heaviness to it."

### The Week

Last week, on Jan. 14, the Oil Capitals defeated Selkirk, 3-1, for its third straight road win. The team's Jan. 17 tilt with the Niverville Nighthawks was postponed due to bad weather. The host Winkler Flyers got past the Oil Caps, 4-1, on Jan. 18.

As of Jan. 19, the Oil Capitals had a 15-22-0-0

record. They sat fourth in the MJHL's MGEU West Division.

The team was to host the Waywayseecappo Wolverines on Jan. 21 and the Winnipeg Freeze on Jan. 23 after the Empire-Advance deadline. The Oil Capitals play in Dauphin on Jan. 25.

### Three Oil Caps Head to Showcase

Two local players and a newcomer will represent the Oil Capitals on the ice at the MJHL-Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Showcase. The Jan. 28-29 event at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex will match teams of top players from each league against each other. Each league will have three squads.

Virден's own Ty Plaisier, a defenceman, has been selected for Team MJHL 20U Red. Fellow hometown product Bryce Bryant, a forward, will suit up for Team MJHL 18U White. Blue liner Nathan Schaefer, who the Oil Caps added at the Jan. 10 trade deadline, was also picked for Team MJHL 18U White.

The team will also have three staff members participating. Head coach Tyson Ramsey will lead Team MJHL 18U White. Assistant coach Curtis Brolund will help with Team MJHL 20U Black. Athletic therapist Dana Warrener has been selected to work the event.

### Oil Caps 3, Steelers 1

The visiting Virден team scored two third period goals to extend its road winning streak to three. The contest was tied at 1-1 after two frames. Carson Wright scored first to give the Oil Caps the lead. Goertzen added another marker.

"I thought it was one of our most complete games of the season to this point," Ramsey said. "We played

with pace, we defended well, our goaltending was very good and we were aggressive offensively."

A Schaefer goal gave Virден a 1-0 first period lead. Luke McCarthy answered in the second for Selkirk.

Virден goalie Loic Morin made 41 saves. Noel Olsonawski stopped 46 shots for the Steelers.

### Flyers 4, Oil Caps 1

A strong third period lifted the Flyers past the visiting Oil Capitals. Winkler scored four goals in the final frame. The scorers were Jayce Legaarden (two), Isaiah Peters, and Andrew Morton. Legaarden's second goal came shorthanded and was into an empty net.

Schaefer scored his first goal as an Oil Cap in the second period. That gave Virден a 1-0 lead.

Morin stopped 26 shots. For the Flyers, Liam Ernst made 11 saves.



## WRIGHT HELPS OIL CAPS IN COMMUNITY, ON ICE



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virден Oil Caps #14 Carson Wright

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**I**t has not taken long for Carson Wright to embrace being a part of the Virден and area community.

The 18-year-old Virден Oil Capital's rookie forward has taken on a big role in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League team's volunteer efforts. He recently was named the team's MJHL RBC Community Ambassador.

"Being from Calgary and moving to Virден, it was a big change, but here in Virден there is a sense of community unlike the big city of Calgary," said Wright, who billets with Avery, Jax and Brett Braybrook. "I enjoy being a part of a supportive community, which

makes giving back to the community so easy and enjoyable.

"My favourite thing about volunteering around town is meeting new people and being able to help them out even if it's just to put a smile on their face."

Wright will be honoured with a donation by RBC to a local school. One of the league's community ambassadors will be named the winner of the RBC Community Award. An additional donation will be made in that player's name.

"Carson is a very polite and respectful young man who really appreciates helping out whenever he can," Oil Caps head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He volunteers for everything he can

without being asked or encouraged. He understands the importance of the Oil Caps in our community, and he is an outstanding ambassador for our team."

Wright has been a part of various community efforts - and, he said, he has enjoyed them all. Some of his favourites have been playing intramural soccer at Mary Montgomery School, board games at the Sherwood Nursing Home, and hockey with Reston youth.

Wright has been able to contribute on the ice this winter while learning the junior game. As of Jan. 19, he had four goals and 12 points in 30 games.

"The staff, the group of guys in the room and the supporting

community have made it easy to enjoy the time at the rink," Wright said. "Due to these great people, I am able to contribute on the ice and in the community."

The Oil Capitals have certainly appreciated being able to add him to the lineup.

"On the ice, Carson works extremely hard. He is an elite skater and has some of the best puck skills on our team," Ramsey said. "He is a dynamic player who, when he plays the right way, can be very dangerous. He is an excellent teammate and exactly the kind of person we want to build our team with. We are very lucky to have Carson be a part of our organization on and off the ice."

# SPORTS

## FORMER C-HAWKS BOLSTER STRONG OIL KINGS SQUAD

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After being involved in plenty of intense battles between the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks and the Viriden Oil Kings, three Elkhorn products are now playing senior hockey for their former Highway 1 rivals.

With the C-Hawks taking a year's leave of absence from the Tiger Hills Hockey League, brothers Bradley and Jason Bowles decided to suit up for the Oil Kings. Standout defenceman Dillin Stonehouse opted to join the two high-scoring forwards in Viriden partway through the season. It is an arrangement that Oil Kings veteran Andrew Gerrand, for one, has certainly appreciated.

"I have really enjoyed being able to play alongside the three of them," he said. "They are all great guys on and off the ice. They bring it their all every single night and always contribute to every win and have a huge impact on our team. Over the years while they were playing with the C-Hawks, they made it so hard to play against them every game. They are all very skilled players and hard to compete against. It's definitely been a pleasure to be able to put the same jersey on this year."

The trio joined an already strong Oil Kings crew that tangled with the C-Hawks in the THHL West Division finals last season. As of Jan. 19, the Oil Kings had a 10-2-0-1 record and topped the West-

ern Division. The Viriden squad was idle last week. The team hosts the Deloraine Royals on Jan. 24.

The Bowles brothers and Stonehouse helped the Miniota-Elkhorn squad win the last two THHL titles after claiming a number of championships in the now defunct North Central Hockey League. That championship experience can certainly help the Oil Kings.

"Having Jason and Brad Bowles and now Dillin Stonehouse on our side has been huge for us this year," Viriden coach and general manager Ryan Mathieson said. "They are all guys who've both played at a high level and had success in senior hockey. Game in, game out they bring a high compete level that's infectious to the rest of the group. Having skill guys make unselfish plays and be willing to do the work to get to the defensive side of the play is noticed by the whole team as much as the skill plays and big goals. This is the type of hockey that drove the C-Hawks to success and is the game we will need to find if we are going to achieve similar success."

As of Jan. 18, Bradley Bowles topped the THHL in points with 40 in 12 games. The playmaker also led the circuit in assists with 28. That was nine more than second place, which was held by Killarney's Reid Gow, a former Viriden Oil Capitals assistant coach. Bradley Bowles' 12 goals placed him second in the THHL behind Killarney's Ty Enns' 17.

Jason Bowles' 22 points, including six goals,

through 11 games put him fifth in the THHL. Although Stonehouse had only played six games as of Jan. 18, his points production placed him in the THHL top 20. He was 17th with 16, including seven goals.

Four other Oil Kings also were in the top 20 in the league scoring race. Jeremy Johnson was seventh with 20 points in eight games. Ty Lewis was 14th with 17 in five contests. One spot behind was another Lewis, Tanner, who had 17 points in seven games. Sitting 19th was Elisha Bambridge, who had recorded 16 points in 12 games.



**BE ON TIME!**  
Advertising deadline:  
**12 noon Tuesday**

## SPORTS NOTES: BREZDEN SKATES TO FIFTH AT NATIONALS

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Skater with Viriden ties placed fifth in the senior women's ranks at the 2025 Canadian National Skating Championships.

Breken Brezden hails from Dauphin and represents her local club. She trained for several years with Skate Viriden under the guidance of Patty Hole.

At the national competition, which was held in Laval, Que., Jan. 14-19, Brezden placed seventh in the short program. She was four points away from second place. Her strong free skate performance moved her up to fifth overall.

Marty Haubrich and his partner Cristina Lyons placed sixth in the senior pairs. Haubrich, who is originally from Dubuc, Sask, is now based in Ontario but used to train with Hole in Viriden.

### Charles Earns Spot

On Monday, Softball Manitoba announced the roster for the provincial team for the 2025 Canada Summer Games. Viriden's Kendall Charles, an

outfielder, was selected to the squad. The team will represent the province at the Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador from Aug. 8-16.

### Team Toba Skating

Four athletes who train with Skate Viriden have been selected as members of Team Toba: Mia du Plessis of Skate Viriden, Kaylee Malcom of the Elkhorn Figure Skating Club, Moomin area resident Luke Greenbank of Skate Viriden, and Julia Wray of the Russell Figure Skating Club. Through Skate Manitoba, they will have training and development opportunities.

### Westman Super League

Two rinks with local representation have qualified for the Westman Super League playoffs. Jay Kinnaird's rink qualified with a 7-4 record. He said he is "looking forward to a chance at winning the league." His rink includes Brayden Stewart, Kris Kinnaird and Sean McKean.

Carberry's Team Marnoch qualified with a 6-5 record. That rink includes Cromer's Branden Jorgensen and Viriden's Brooks Freeman.



Settle In For A  
*Worry-Free Lifestyle*

*Tired of Winter*  
**MOVE-IN SPECIAL**  
Call  
**204.202.1871**  
*Schedule Your Tour Today!*

Ask About Our **Blossom Living Support Program** for Residents with Mild Cognitive Decline

**VICTORIA LANDING™**  
*Retirement Residence*  
10 Victoria Ave. E, Brandon, MB

[www.allseniorscare.com](http://www.allseniorscare.com)    PROUDLY  CANADIAN 

# Water on the farm: a 66-year success story

## Southwest Manitoba farmer recalls Ducks Unlimited Canada project



PHOTO BY DUC

Dodds and Janssens walk along the rebuilt DUC water control structure on their farm near Kenton.

By Glen Kirby

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST MANITOBA, DUC

As a young boy in the 1950s, Cam Dodds watched Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) build a dam on the family farm near Kenton MB. In the fall of 2024, he saw that same life-giving dam refurbished.

“Without water, you just don’t have anything,” says Dodds, who operates Hales Creek Farm with his partner Bea Janssens. “It’s just been a great thing to be able to have that resource there when we need it. It’s important.”

The 450-foot earthen dam is clearly visible from the front window of Dodd’s farmhouse, past the cattle pens, hay bales and barn buildings; a short walk from the bronze plaque celebrating his ancestors who came from Ontario in 1881 to establish the farm.

“This has been home for me for all my life,” explains Dodds. “I guess farming is in your blood. It’s in your heritage. Every year is a challenge but some years are better than others. And a farmer is always trying to make improvements. He wants to improve his livestock. He wants to improve his land, his cattle, and that’s what

keeps you interested.”

Dodds says his family first dammed the creek running through their property in 1900, to provide water for both livestock and household use.

“There’s no real groundwater here. They tried many times drilling wells but, in this general area, groundwater is just not very easily found,” says Dodds, who has journals and diaries from the early settlers. “It must have been a tremendous amount of work for the family to accomplish that. But the idea was to source themselves a good supply of water.”

DUC got involved in 1958, rebuilding the existing dam to better serve the farm while also providing new habitat for waterfowl. Workers towed their own trailers to stay on-site during construction and the project left an indelible mark on Dodds.

“I was just a seven-year-old kid so anything like this would be really interesting. I remember the boys taking me for a ride on the heavy equipment when they were doing the excavating!”

Hear the entire story on DUC’s podcast on the Manitoba page at [ag.ducks.ca](http://ag.ducks.ca).

The dam is among DUC’s 240 ‘legacy’ wetland projects in Manitoba, constructed in the first 50 years after the conservation group began operations in 1938. Those wetlands cover a combined area that is twice as large as the City of Winnipeg.

In 2024, DUC spent over \$1.5 million to repair Manitoba wetland control structures, including the dam on the Dodds farm. Ongoing wave activity, runoff and cattle traffic on the earthen dam had degraded its condition since the last rebuild in 1983.

“The Dodds wetland project is a great example of long-term agricultural sustainability working in tandem with habitat conservation,” says Shaun Greer, DUC’s head of habitat asset management in Manitoba. “This area has very little permanent waterbodies. The DUC rebuild in 1983 added a foot of water and three more acres of wetland. This increased the water availability for livestock and increased habitat acres on the landscape.”

Greer says major repairs in 2024 included Sighlunes Creek near Ashern in the Interlake, the start of reconstruction at Pope dam near Hamiota and a \$1 million build at Proven Lake, a DUC legacy project which preserves 4,800 acres within one of North America’s most productive waterfowl breeding areas.

“DUC continues to manage and maintain the 240 legacy projects across Manitoba,” notes Greer. “With ever-increasing engineering standards and rising costs for equipment and materials, DUC is seeking innovative funding and partnership options to manage these vital wetland acres for habitat and landowners.”

As Manitoba’s oldest and largest conservation group, DUC uses sound science and partners with government, industry, non-profit organizations, Indigenous Peoples and landowners to conserve wetlands that are critical to waterfowl, wildlife and the environment.

DUC has worked with over 3,000 Manitoba landowners since 1938 to conserve more than 711,000 acres (287,731 hectares). Call 204-285-9779 to find out about DUC programs and financial incentives or visit [ag.ducks.ca/programs/manitoba/](http://ag.ducks.ca/programs/manitoba/).

# Punta Cana and back

By Gerry Nolan

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

My wife and I recently took a little trip with our friends, Neil and Cheryl Stewart. We hopped on a plane in Winnipeg and headed to a much warmer climate.

The flight was great, this coming from a guy that does not like to fly. We were five hours in the air then three hours to get through customs get on a bus to get to our destination. We also made four other stops along the way to drop off other people who were staying at other resorts.

When we got there, we were offered an upgrade as we had been to the same resort six years previously. Our resort is huge and is an adult only resort, with lots of young people from colleges and university as well as young couples.

With all the young people especially in larger groups we saw a lot of attitudes. People cutting in front of you being rude and otherwise annoying.

The beach was wonderful, with white sand which was very hot. The evening breeze made it enjoyable to be able to sit outside in the evening.

We met some great people from Chicago, Montreal, New York and London Ontario just to name a few.

One of the evening shows they put on was a Michael Jackson tribute. At least I could understand the words they were singing. It was nice to hear what I call rock music. There were seven performers in the show, all that

could just seem to float and dance and move so easily. The one who portrayed Michael Jackson moved like crazy. Not only did he do the MOONwalk backwards he could go sideways as well. That was sensational!

Like any trip there are good things and some not so good things. Some of the guests got carried away with the drinking and were loud and just not displaying good behaviour.

One thing we noticed was all the garbage that the younger people just dropped where they were and kept on walking. The consequences of this is it ends up in the ocean. The garbage that went into the ocean was cups, wrappers, cigar butts, and just in general debris. I guess they have not thought about what their children and grandchildren will have to deal with going forward. Further generations may not be able to enjoy and appreciate this beautiful Caribbean Ocean at the RUI Republica.

There were many great times as well. The waiters and the waitresses were so polite and friendly. They service was great.

We met 6 young men from Manhattan New York, and they inquired where we were from. When we told them Manitoba they exclaimed, that is on our bucket list! They wondered when would be a good time to come, I told them January would be a good time as it was a cool time of the year, not too hot. They knew a little something about that and just laughed. We did tell them July would be warm with lots of beaches and fishing spots to go to.

Anyway, all in all it was a nice trip and to get away for a few days. It makes us happy to live here in good old Manitoba!

I like the seasons in Canada. Punta Cana



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Beautiful white sand beach at Riu Republica resort in Punta Cana Dominican Republic.

is in the winter there with tempos at 28 degrees, in the summer they are usually around 40 degrees daily.

I stated previously that we went with Neil and Cheryl Stewart from Beulah. Cheryl is the sister of former NHL player Billy Derlago. One afternoon down on the beach we were talking to a couple from Windsor. Of course, hockey talk came up and the man who was 51 said he had been a Leaf all his life, and how his dad had taken him to leaf games and then he and his wife had also gone to some games. I offered him my deepest condolences and just as they were walking away I ask him, “Do you remember Billy Derlago playing with the Leafs?” He said

yes he did. I said to him, “well this lady right here is Billy Derlago sister Cheryl!”

Well he was so excited and wanted pictures taken with her so he could show off and brag to his buddies about meeting royalty in the Leafs history, and that he had been in touch with greatness!

What a way to complete our trip on. That was a moment I will not forget. That man was like a little boy opening up gifts on Christmas morning, he was so excited. And what a way to end our trip.

We got back home just before the storm hit safe and sound. Moments in our life journey we will treasure for sure!

# Marin's Principle-Right to Literacy and Inclusion

**Submitted**  
By BRUCE AND PAT MACDONALD

Manitoba Legislative Assembly, called Marin's Principle-Right to Literacy and Inclusion. This petition seeks to help children, youth, and adults who are neurodivergent. It also requests that teachers be provided with the specialized training they need to effectively help these people who have learning differences.

Neurodivergence includes conditions such as dyslexia (reading), dysgraphia (written expression/spelling), dyscalculia (mathematics), ADHD and autism. The people with these conditions can be very intelligent but just learn in a different way. Neurodivergent persons who struggle/struggled to learn literacy skills deserve to be taught these skills in a manner in which they learn.

The heart of this principle is Marin. Marin is intelligent but learns in a different way due to her neurodiversity. She is a young adult now but was not able to finish high school, graduate, go to prom, or create happy high school memories since no one knew the methodologies to help her.

The Manitoba school system did not provide Marin proper literacy instruction that has been known for a century. Marin was repeatedly incorrectly diagnosed in school until a private diagnosis in 2022. She continued to fall through the cracks in the educational system.

As an adult Marin still needs help and support to complete her education and to learn how to overcome her trauma from school. Many students, with similar difficulties have experienced ridicule and trauma in school and have been lost due to suicide.

There is currently a petition, before the

Marin's Principle – Right to Literacy and Inclusion may seem like a big financial burden but consider the alternatives. People who do not have basic literacy skills often experience not completing school, not graduating, not being accepted into places of higher learning, not being able to earn a high enough wage to support themselves and not paying taxes. Many of these individuals often end up living on the street or going to jail at a significant cost to society, and sadly many take their own lives. The cost of any of these instances would offset the requests in Marin's Principle.

There is also the cost to the families and friends of the neurodiverse who have a constant struggle to get help for children in school. Then when these children become adults, the help almost disappears. Some families have the financial resources to support and help their children. Most do not. The constant fear of parents of neurodiverse individuals is, "What will happen to my child when I am gone?" Specific teaching methodologies in literacy instruction can prevent these consequences and help create contributing citizens.

Recently, as Marin's grandparents, we gathered pages of signatures for the petition about Marin's Principle in our church and condo in Winnipeg. Everyone we approached signed the petition. Every second or third person spoke about someone in their family or an acquaintance who was dealing with neurodivergence. Extrapolate that to the entire province and imagine the profound change and improve-

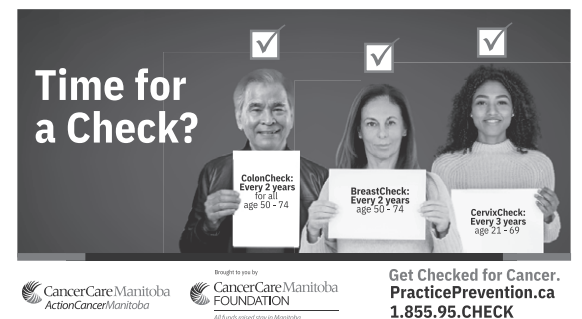
ment to our province because of helping the neurodiverse.

Parents who say that your child is getting help in school or from private teachers, and who think that Marin's Principle does not apply to you, remember that your children will become adults and will need support.

Help us to make this petition become law in Manitoba by going to <https://www.manitobaliberals.ca/> and sending a letter to your MLA in support. Change will only happen if you convey to your MLA that this petition is important.

Please remember neurodivergent people, like Marin, who are advocating for the right to be literate and included.

*Bruce and Pat Macdonald are former residents of Virden who now make their home in Winnipeg. They are passionate about people who face the struggle of Neurodivergence.*



**MONEY MATTERS**  
Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth

**Tanner Lewis**  
Financial Advisor  
Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth



**DON'T PAY TO HAUL AWAY.**

With **Efficiency Manitoba's Appliance Recycling Program**, we'll pick up, recycle, and give you \$30 for your old working fridge or freezer.

**There are lots of benefits to participating:**

- You'll save on your monthly energy bill.
- You'll get \$30 for each working fridge or freezer you recycle.
- We'll recycle up to 95% of your appliance and you'll feel good knowing it doesn't end up in the landfill.
- While we're at your home, we can also haul away your old dehumidifier, window air conditioner, bar fridge, or bar freezer for free.

Book your pick-up today.  
[efficiencyMB.ca/appliancerecycling](http://efficiencyMB.ca/appliancerecycling)



**NEW YEAR, NEW FINANCES:**

**How to Set and Achieve Your 2025 Financial Goals**

As we welcome the new year, it's the perfect time to reassess and realign our financial aspirations. Setting and achieving financial goals can seem daunting, but with careful planning and discipline, it can be an empowering journey. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you set realistic financial goals for 2025 and achieve them with confidence.

The first step in setting financial goals is creating a budget. A budget acts as a roadmap, guiding your income and expenses and ensuring that you live within your means. Start by tracking your income and expenses for a month to understand your spending habits.

Categorize your expenses into fixed (rent, utilities) and variable (entertainment, dining out) and identify areas where you can cut back. Aim to allocate a portion of your income towards savings and investments. There are numerous budgeting apps available that can make this process easier and more efficient.

Debt can be a significant barrier to achieving financial goals, so prioritizing debt repayment is crucial. Begin by listing all your debts, including credit card balances, student loans, and personal loans, along with their interest rates. Consider adopting strategies like the avalanche method (paying off debts with the highest interest rates first) or the snowball method (paying off the smallest debts first to gain momentum). Whichever method you choose, staying consistent with your payments is key to becoming debt-free.

Life is unpredictable, and having an emergency fund can provide a financial safety net in times of need. Aim to save at least three to six months' worth of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This fund will help you cover unexpected expenses such as medical bills, car repairs, or job loss without derailing your financial progress. Start by setting aside a small amount each month until you reach your goal.

Investing is a powerful tool for growing your wealth over time. Begin by setting clear investment goals—whether it's saving for a down payment on a house, funding your children's education, or building a retirement nest egg. Diversify your investments to spread risk and consider consulting a financial advisor to create a personalized investment plan.

Retirement savings should also be a priority. Contribute regularly to retirement accounts such as RRSPs (Registered Retirement Savings Plans) or TFSA's (Tax-Free Savings Accounts), taking full advantage of any employer-matching programs. The earlier you start, the more time your money has to grow through compound interest.

Setting financial goals is not a one-time activity; it requires regular review and adjustments. Schedule monthly or quarterly check-ins to assess your progress and make necessary adjustments to your budget or savings plan. Life events such as marriage, having children, or changing jobs may necessitate a re-evaluation of your goals. Staying flexible and adaptable will help you stay on track.

Achieving financial goals requires discipline and perseverance. Celebrate small victories along the way to stay motivated. Whether it's paying off a credit card, reaching a savings milestone, or sticking to your budget for several months, acknowledging your progress will boost your confidence and keep you motivated.

In conclusion, setting and achieving financial goals for 2025 is within your reach. By creating a budget, prioritizing debt repayment, setting up an emergency fund, and planning for investments and retirement savings, you can pave the way towards financial stability and success. Remember to review and adjust your goals regularly, stay motivated, and celebrate your milestones.

Here's to a prosperous and financially secure 2025!

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



# Council hears good news and bad news

## Library and handy van receive grants but face challenges

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Coun. Mark Humphries reported that the library renovation progress is slow as Samson Engineering has still not completed the tendering process for the repairs. Humphries said, "We've told them that this is grant sensitive and we've been on with them now since probably, May." Tenders that were recently submitted were insufficient, and project organizers are concerned that the time to retain eligibility for some of the grants is short. The library board has applied to the provincial department of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism for an extension to the grant they provided.

Coun. Lyle Kinnaird attended three handy van meetings and reported that

the organization received an age-friendly grant of \$7500. The funds will target a program to offer rides for \$2, and the committee will designate days when the reduced rate will be available.

The review of handy van operations for 2024 showed a loss of around \$4000, with 310 round trips, and Kinnaird said they would try to achieve "a balance between reducing our costs and increasing our usage or asking for more government grants."

Coun. Diana MacDonald attended the Woodworth Fire Department meeting where their officers for 2025 were elected. Chris Routledge was returned as Chief and Bruce Sangster and Lane Routledge will be Deputy Chiefs. The captains are David Logan and Doug Roseveare. Training will be

done by Dean Brooker, Cam Hodgins, and Brad Nixon.

They had some discussion on their weekly hall checks and monthly hall checks. The department responded to two calls, a house fire and a lift assist. The house fire was confined to the attic and the house was not severely damaged.

MacDonald attended the functional emergency training in Virden, along with other members of council, and said the event provided a great learning experience for all who participated.

Reeve Clayton Canart attended the Wallace District fire board meeting and reported that the fire chief had decided that he didn't want to renew his contract. Canart reported that they need to hire another, and said the committee "discussed the options for a chief for the

Wallace District."

### MEETINGS

The Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, Glen Simard, will attend the Western Caucus of rural municipalities meeting coming up on Jan. 24, and the council is approved to attend.

Councillors are also approved to attend the South-west Business Expo being held in Oak Lake on Feb. 5.

### DONATIONS

Charitable donation funds placed through the municipality of \$30,996.19 were transferred to the following groups:

- Bennett Cemetery \$600
- Breadalbane Cemetery \$4,250
- Elkhorn Cemetery \$3,220
- Greenwood Cemetery \$2,100
- Kola Church of the Advent \$333.69

- Two Creeks Cemetery \$350
- Woodville Cemetery \$500
- Elkhorn District Community Centre \$1,000
- Kola Recreation Center \$12,792.50
- Wallace Woodworth Fire Department \$750
- Kenton Community Action Committee \$5,000.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Cole Delaurier was appointed as the municipal weed inspector for 2025.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Canart Backhoe of \$17,403.13 for culvert repair
- Sparks, Sand, and Gravel of \$16,540.75 for the transfer of material from the municipal pit
- LRBElectric of \$16,589.37 for the 40 VFD and the 25 VFD controllers and installation at the Miniota water

- treatment plant
- Southern Water Systems of \$17,710.35 for the purchase and installation of the 40 VFD and the 25 VFD controllers for the Miniota water treatment plant. A variable speed controller (VFD) can vary the speed of the motor depending on the demand of the pump resulting in a constant discharge pressure
- The council approved the agreement between the RM of Wallace-Woodworth and Manitoba Hydro for electrical service for three new streetlights in Kola
- Council authorized the transfer of past due utility account balances, totaling \$31,989.97, to the corresponding tax roll for the year ending 2024
- Johnson Cemetery Perpetual Care funds of \$1,620.94, and Greenwood Cemetery funds of \$1,670.51 were transferred to their operating accounts.

# VEA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

## Physiofirst

462 7th Ave South Virden, MB  
Phone: 204-748-3608  
Fax: 204-748-3643  
Email: phys1st@mymts.net  
www.physiofirstclinic.ca

1129 19th Street Brandon, MB  
Phone: 204-727-6806  
Fax: 204-728-3489  
Email: phys1st@mymts.net

### Reston/Melita Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Shannon Gervin, D.C.

Box 456 Melita, MB R0M 1L0

Reston- 204-877-3104  
223-4th St, Reston  
Mon and Fri 8:30a - 4:30p

Melita- 204-522-3543  
155 Summit St, Melita  
Tues and Thurs 8:30a - 4:30p

## Sanders WATER & ICE

Michael & Jennifer Sanders and Family  
204-748-1907 ~ sanderswaterandice@gmail.com  
Not Just N'ICE People!

## Assiniboine WINDOW & DOOR

Supply & Install Residential Windows & Doors  
- FREE ESTIMATES -  
Call Kevin Bonner today! 204.851.5240

JELD-WEN WINDOWS & DOORS THURON WINDOW CORPORATION

## McNEILL HARASYMCHUK

### McCONNELL Attorneys at Law

Glen Harasymchuk, B. Sc., LL. B. • Anique Timmerman, JD  
Larissa Sosnowski, JD • Jessica Humphries, JD

Buckingham Building, 243 Raglan Street West  
P.O. Box 520, Virden, MB R0M 2C0  
Phone: 204-748-1220 • Fax: 204-748-3007

## KEYSTONE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

### aviso wealth

1 204-748-6823  
512 - 7 Ave South, Virden, Mb R0M 2C0 PO Box 975

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

## THE BLANCHARD

Oak River, MB R0K 0T0  
(204) 566-2131

### HOTEL, LOUNGE, AND RESTAURANT

Happy Hour Wed-Fri 5pm-7pm

## BDO CANADA LLP

www.bdo.ca

### Chartered Professional Accountants

Accounting and Auditing • Ag Advisory and Farm Programs  
Bankruptcy and Insolvency • Business Advisory  
Business Valuations • Estate and Succession Planning  
Information Technology Solutions • Taxation Services

255 Wellington St W, Virden | 204-748-1200 | 1-866-236-7656

## MNP

National in scope, local in focus

Proudly providing Accounting, Consulting, Tax & Digital Services

Virden Office | 204.748.1340  
Wherever business takes you MNP.ca

Empire-Advance

CONTACT US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR SPACE!  
virdenempireadvance@outlook.com  
431-351-1628

**ONLY \$30.00 + GST PER WEEK when booked for 52 weeks**

# Aud renovation receives funding

## Town of Virden council meeting Jan.14.

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Aud Theatre restoration committee requested funding for Phase 2 of their project, which includes new seating, floor and woodwork restoration, balcony enhancements, lobby painting, and historically accurate signage. The council approved a platinum sponsorship of \$20,000 to come from the recreation and endowment fund. There was consensus to consider additional support for the project if needed in the future.

Coun. Lynette Grumpelt raised a question about a payment to Mark Shearer Agronomy and CAO Rhonda Stewart explained that it was for the purchase of salvaged artificial turf to be used at the spray park and lawn bowling area. Stewart said, "We got it and the underlay and everything for a portion of the cost of what it would have cost just to get the actual artificial turf."

The water meter replacement project is progressing and most of the work managed by the contractor, Skulmoski Plumbing & Heating, was reported as complete. CAO Stewart

noted, "We didn't have any major repairs to do on any houses or anything. Several meters are hidden behind drywall, but we've had good cooperation."

The council reviewed a request from Foxtail Hauling Limited to widen the approach to Commonwealth Drive. The development officer confirmed the requested dimensions were within allowable limits and recommended entering into an approval agreement. The motion passed without objections.

The council discussed the policy of keeping ice in Tundra Oil and Gas Place (TOGP) over the summer.

### VM&AF sponsorship

Council reviewed sponsorship for Virden Music and Arts Festival, noting that the sponsorship amount of \$500 had been consistent for several years. Coun. Grumpelt suggested that the amount should be increased saying, "I think it's a huge thing for Virden, and I don't think people realize what a big deal this actually is. Everybody takes it for granted because it's something we've always had." Grumpelt spoke of the festival's significance as a regional draw and a cherished tradition in the

community. The council will revisit the sponsorship amount next year after consulting with festival organizers to better understand their needs. The motion to provide \$500 in sponsorship was carried.

The council discussed participation in the upcoming Manitoba Planning Conference, noting that it is being held in Brandon this year, making attendance more accessible for rural participants. The program includes pre-conference workshops and the overall event has relevance for rural communities. A motion was passed allowing all council members to attend if interested, with partial funding provided by the planning district for those involved.

The town's program and events coordinator Tara Davies has proposed a partnership with the Aud Theatre board to host a concert in early December as a "kickoff to Christmas." The theatre group offered to waive their rental fee and assist with ticketing and security, reducing costs. Any profits would be shared between the town and the theatre group. The council noted that the reduced financial risk and commun-

ity involvement can make this a positive experience. The concert will feature an acoustic performance, and CAO Stewart said, "George Canyon has wanted to come back and do this for some time now."

Virden Curling Club is planning an anniversary event in early March. Entries for the women's teams have been filled, and the men's draw is nearly full. There's a waiting list for the women's teams. The event will involve extensive use of both the curling rink and TOGP. The curling event will include a banquet and a beer garden on Friday and Saturday,

CAO Stewart reported on changes to Canada Housing and Infrastructure funding. There are two funding streams, one federal and one provincial/federal. A representative from the Premier's office, Mike Kelly clarified the funding process, explaining that the federal deadline for agreements is set for Feb. 1, and the provincial government is working to ensure that rural communities receive 40 per cent of the funding rather than the 20 per cent that was previously provided.

# = CLASSIFIEDS =

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

### NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com).

### URGENT PRESS RELEASES

- Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

**PLAN YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS NOW!** Maximize your business plan, for a successful year. Jump on our great prices and start getting responses! Book your blanket classified ads, seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please Call **THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228 [www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca](http://www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NEWTEC IRRIGATION. Looking to Hire: Travelling Salesperson.

Agricultural Experience Preferred. TOP WAGES. Please call for more information: 306 - 260 - 9575.

### LAND FOR RENT / AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR RENT / AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS are presently available for rent for cropping. These lands will be available for rent through an online auction. These lands are situated in the Rural Municipalities (RM) of: ALEXANDER, CITY OF WINNIPEG, ELLICE-ARCHIE, KELSEY, LAC DU BONNET, MINITONAS-BOWSMAN, PIPESTONE, RIDING MOUNTAIN WEST, RITCHOT, ROBLIN, SPRINGFIELD, SWAN VALLEY WEST, VICTORIA & WALLACE-WOODWORTH. A complete listing of Agricultural Crown Lands available for rent can be found online at: [http://resd.ca/leases\\_and\\_permits/LPproperties.aspx](http://resd.ca/leases_and_permits/LPproperties.aspx). The online auction will take place from February 24 - February 28, 2025, hosted by Garton's Auction Service: <https://gartonsauction.com>. For additional information, please contact your nearest Manitoba Agriculture (MA) Agricultural Crown Lands District Office (or via email at [agcrowlands@gov.mb.ca](mailto:agcrowlands@gov.mb.ca)) or call Real Estate Services Branch at 1-866-210-9589. A listing of MA Agricultural Crown Lands District Offices can be found online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/land-management/crown-land/agricultural-crown-lands-district-offices.html>

### For Sale

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

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

**THE BATTERY MAN**  
1390 St. James St.  
Winnipeg  
**TF 1-877-775-8271**  
[www.batteryman.ca](http://www.batteryman.ca)

### WANTED

### COIN COLLECTIONS

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

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

**Todd**  
204-904-9705

### Auction

### Online McSherry Auctions

### Estate & Moving

Featuring Tractor/Implement Manuals  
Jan 29th 2025 @ 7:00PM

### Estate & Moving

Featuring Coins & Paper Money  
Feb 5th 2025 @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsberryttd@gmail.com](mailto:mcsberryttd@gmail.com)

### Service

**Will Do Custom Snow Blowing Of Driveways**

204-748-5144

**DIY**  
Don't Do It Yourself

CALL A PROFESSIONAL TODAY

**LRB ELECTRIC**  
Serving  
• Agricultural  
• Commercial  
• Oilfield  
• Residential

540, 7th Avenue  
Virden, MB R0M 2C0  
Phone: (204) 748-2790  
Email: [info@lrbelectric.ca](mailto:info@lrbelectric.ca)  
Web: [www.lrbelectric.ca](http://www.lrbelectric.ca)

**Pinnacle**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

Services:  
• Plumbing  
• Heating  
• HVAC  
• Hydronics  
• Geothermal  
• Septic Tank  
• Electric & Gas Boilers

Contact:  
[info@pphmb.com](mailto:info@pphmb.com)  
204-748-1788

**CROSS**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING DRAIN CLEANING  
PLUMBING HEATING

**204-748-2108**

Serving Westman

**Terri Cosens**  
[tcosens@remax.net](mailto:tcosens@remax.net)

**RE/MAX** 204-748-7699  
Valleyview Realty  
Unit A, 1209 Richmond Ave. ~ Brandon, MB ~ R0M 2C0

Help Wanted



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**Job Description**

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual with excellent administration and finance skills for the term position of **Assistant Chief Administrative Officer**. This term job posting has a possibility to become a permanent position.

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

**Duties and Responsibilities**

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

**Skills and Qualifications**

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

**MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT**

**Job Description**

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

**Duties and Responsibilities**

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

**Skills and Qualifications**

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

**WEED SUPERVISOR**

**Job Description**

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

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

**Duties and Responsibilities**

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

**Skills and Qualifications**

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

A complete job description is available upon request. The successful candidate can expect a salary reflective of their experience and qualifications.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by:

E-mail: [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto: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**

**We are hiring!**

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

**Shift Power Engineer**

Facilities

Full-Time, Regular

Brandon, MB

Comp #69-24/25

Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually

(\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)

Classification: O2E Power Engineer 2nd Class Plant

(3rd class certificate)

The Shift Power Engineer will operate and maintain a Steam Plant at Assiniboine College in compliance with the Power Engineer Act, Provincial Codes and acceptable best trade practices, as well as Workplace Health and Safety regulations. In the absence of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager, the incumbent may be responsible for the entire physical plant operation. The Shift Power Engineer may be the initial contact in service requests under the guidance of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager.

**For more information, please visit [www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).**

*Assiniboine welcomes applications from all qualified candidates who are legally entitled to work in Canada, including Indigenous peoples, persons of all abilities, members of visible minorities, all genders and sexual orientations, and all other groups protected by the Human Rights Code.*

*Assiniboine College is privileged to provide learning opportunities on the lands of the Dakota Oyate, Nakoda Oyate, Ininiwak, Nehethowak, Nehiyawak, Anishinewuk, Denesuline, Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.*

*For accommodations or alternative formats, contact [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net) or 204 725 8729.*

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #69-24/25 to:

[careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net)

We thank you for your interest.  
 Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT – HARGRAVE & KOLA**

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of **Landfill Site Attendant (TERM)** for the Hargrave and Kola Nuisance Grounds location. The Landfill Site Attendant assists the Public Works Superintendent in operating the waste disposal grounds in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit for the site, municipal policies, and Workplace Health and Safety regulations.

Certificate in Landfill Operations is an asset (applicant must be willing to take the necessary certification courses).

**Description and Qualifications**

- Term, full-time position
- Must be willing to work Saturdays, and one evening per week during the summer months.
- Direct all users to appropriate disposal or storage locations for all items being disposed.
- Ensure source separation of garbage and recyclables.
- Accept tires, general scrap iron, and spray containers; store at proper locations and keep area tidy.
- Assist in transferring or disposing of waste, as required.
- Maintain daily records of waste entering the disposal site.
- Keep all buildings and areas of the landfill site clean and well maintained.
- Ensure that fires are not set and all controlled burns are supervised and recorded.
- Report all concerns to the Public Works Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer.
- Other duties, as required.
- Must be punctual, motivated, self-starter, and able to work without supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills to deal politely and effectively with the general public.
- Ability to meet physical demands of the position and have an excellent safety record.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by:

E-mail: [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto: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

This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located.  
 This position commences as soon as possible.

Visit our website to see the other Employment Opportunities:

**Assistant Chief Administrative Officer**

**Municipal Accountant**

**Weed Supervisor**



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
IRENE MARY HALL  
MARCH 28, 1930 - JANUARY 16, 2025



It is with great sadness, Irene Hall of Lacombe passed away, January 16, 2025, at the age of 94 years.

Irene is survived by her four children; David Hall [Michelle], Douglas Hall [Joanne], Darlene Hall, and Margaret Hastings [John]; 8 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren; as well as numerous extended families and an abundance of friends.

Irene is predeceased by her husband, Earl, her parents, John and Mary Miller, and her brothers and sister.

Irene and Earl lived most of their lives in Virden Manitoba. When Earl retired, they moved to Armstrong BC, later to Lacombe and then back to Armstrong BC. Their last move was to Lacombe where they became involved in bowling, and floor curling with the people from Tees. They developed a friendly relationship with many people in the area.

With the passing of Earl in 2007, Irene continued to reside in Lacombe, living independently and participating in her activities. As her family lived in Lacombe and area, she was able to visit on a regular basis and keep up with the news. She was the self-appointed family historian and kept a book where she recorded all family matters, births, deaths, marriages, etc.

A Family Graveside Service will be held at the Fairview Cemetery, Lacombe, Alberta on January 24, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.

If friends so desire memorial tributes may be made directly to the Lacombe Palliative Care society <https://lacombealliativecare.ca/donate/>. P.O. Box 5576, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1X2.

Condolences may be made by visiting [www.wilsonfuneralchapel.ca](http://www.wilsonfuneralchapel.ca).



## For Sale

### Farmland for Sale in RM of Pipestone

	2025 Assessment	Taxes
NE 1-8-27 WPM	\$307,200	\$762.92
NW 1-8-27 WPM	\$296,300	\$736.29
SE 1-8-27 WPM	\$292,000	\$725.58
SW 1-8-27 WPM	\$313,600	\$779.33
SE 2-8-27 WPM	\$304,200	\$755.61

Land is located on Road 42N and 156W – 157W. Approximately 120 to 135 working acres per quarter. Land is classified as “E” soil on Crop Insurance; 2024 crop was wheat. Offering all of Section 1 as a unit. Offering SE 2-8-27 as a separate unit.

Mineral and oil rights are exempt.

Interested parties should rely on their own inspection.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

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

Deadline for offers is Friday, Feb. 28, 2025.

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

Offers to be sent to:

Stewart Farms  
Box 9  
Pipestone MB, R0M 1T0

## For Sale

### Farmland for Sale in RM of Pipestone

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

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

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

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

Mineral and oil rights are exempt.

Interested parties should rely on their own inspection.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

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

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

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

Offers to be mailed to:

High Bluff Ranch Ltd.  
PO Box 57  
Reston MB  
R0M 1X0

### FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER IN RM OF PIPESTONE

	Total acres	2025 Assessment
NE 8-8-26W	158.57	\$128,300
SE 8-8-26W	158.38	\$140,600

Property consists of a half-section of pasture with no outbuildings. Cross-fenced electric with electric/barbed wire perimeter. One dugout plus 3 wells 20-25 feet depth into aquifer.

Mines and minerals are excluded. Located along west side of Road 154W (Highway 83) between Road 43N and 44N. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

Tenders must be received by Friday, February 28, 2025.

Mail or email bids to:

R and Y Neumier  
PO Box 1270  
Virden, MB  
R0M 2C0

[ryneumier@xplornet.ca](mailto:ryneumier@xplornet.ca)

For more information, call (204) 748-6914

## Thank-you

*Thank-you*



On a cloudy, dreary day last week, I received a gift from an anonymous friend. What a beautiful, thoughtful gesture! You made my day, Special Friend.

Thank-you so much!

Gratefully Yours,  
Fran Stenhouse

## Help Wanted



### Chief Administrative Officer

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

Key responsibilities of the position include:

- Direct the general administrative affairs of the Municipality and perform all duties and responsibilities in accordance with The Municipal Act.
- Recommend objectives, policies, and programs to Council and provide support and advice on new initiatives and fiscal matters.
- Direct the implementation and monitor the progress of policies and programs approved by Council.
- Recruit and develop all municipal management and administration employees and develop a plan to attract and retain quality employees.
- Provide responsible financial planning and management of a budget of over \$4.6 million.
- Develop positive relationships and maintain open communication with all stakeholders and constituencies of interest to the Municipality.

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

Hamiota Municipality has a population of 1,234 (2021) and is located in mid-Western Manitoba. The main industries are healthcare, education and agriculture. There are many outdoor activities to do year-round and continuing growth makes this municipality a desirable place to live.

The right candidate can expect a comprehensive salary and benefits package.

Individuals interested in this position should email a resume and cover letter to Hamiota Municipality at [finance@hamiota.com](mailto:finance@hamiota.com).

The selection committee intends to review applications as received and interviews as early as January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, however, applications may continue to be accepted until the right candidate is found.

*We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*

## In Memory

**BRADBURY**  
Cody Josh  
Nov. 28, 1994 to Jan. 26, 2003  
Marissa Suzanne  
Oct. 1, 1997 to Jan. 8, 2016

These days we remember and it is sad to recall,  
Without farewell, you left us all.  
The tears we shed will wipe away,  
But the ache in our hearts will always stay.  
You left us so suddenly, your thoughts unknown,  
But you left us memories we are proud to own.

We will love you always,  
Dad, Jordyn, and Mom  
Grandma Linda and Grandpa Pat

## Announcement



### Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email [classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)

[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

## In Memoriam

### Mark James Ellis

January 7, 1983-January 30, 2020

Beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend



You are loved, you are missed, you are remembered



# Institutional Safety Officers Trained Within PMH

By Blaine Kraushaar  
PMH COMMUNICATIONS

Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) is pleased to announce that newly-trained institutional safety officers (ISOs) have begun patrolling Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC). A formal 'graduation ceremony' for the 16 officers and one supervisor who were enrolled in the training program was held in Brandon on January 3.

ISOs are licensed as Peace Officers and, in health-care environments, have additional training in crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques, search and investigative skills, evidence collecting and report writing. They also have training which allows them to accept a mental health patient from the police and then secure and protect them until seen by healthcare professionals.

Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara says the BRHC ISO program, the first outside the city of Winnipeg, will enhance the health centre's ability to keep staff, patients and visitors safe

"Everyone deserves to feel safe when they are accessing health care and when they are providing it. During the listening tour, we heard directly from front-line staff at the Brandon Regional Health Centre about the safety and security concerns they have for

themselves, their coworkers, and their patients. After many years of inaction by the previous government, we're taking real steps to address these concerns. Institutional Safety Officers presence will go a long way in addressing those concerns so that healthcare workers can focus on what they do best: caring for our loved ones," Asagwara stated.

Prairie Mountain Health CEO Treena Slate says the addition of ISOs fills a critical role in upholding the highest standards of safety and accountability within PMH facilities.

"Safety of our staff, patients, residents and visitors is paramount. We continue to enhance efforts to balance the security needs of our facilities with the continued need to be a welcoming environment for those seeking care," Slate stated.

Slate added that the advanced skill set for ISOs enhances PMH's ability to support those in crisis and helps ease the burden on law enforcement, enabling a more collaborative approach to care and safety.

There are two more BRHC participants finalizing their training through the program.

ISO guards will stand out differently as their body armor will have 'peace officer' designations, attributable to the guards being licensed by Manitoba Justice under the Police Services Act. ISO guards will also wear a different colour uniform shirt than the other levels of security guards.

Taking orders for **Spring 2025 Delivery**



Ready to Move, 3 bedrooms, ensuite, large kitchen with quartz countertops, cathedral ceiling

Call for Show Home Special Pricing

[www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca](http://www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca) 204-346-3231

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!**  
Advertise • Report • Donate




Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

## Under the Authority of the Planning Act Notice of Public Hearing

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

### Town of Virden BY-LAW NO. 2816

Being an Amendment to the Town of Virden Zoning By-Law No. 2769, as amended.

**LOCATION:** Town of Virden Council Chambers  
232 Wellington Street West

**DATE & TIME:** February 11, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

### GENERAL INTENT:

To change a drive in food service from conditional to permitted in commercial highway zoning, add permitted uses to the Commercial Residential Institutional zoning, remove the requirement for a development permit for fencing, and a map amendment by rezoning (NE 21-10-26W Lot 1-13 Block 6 Plan 21152 from "RS-1" Residential Single Family to "CRI" Commercial-Residential-Institutional Zone) and (NE 21-10-26W Lot 1-13 Block 5 Plan 21152 from "RT" Residential Two Family to "CRI" Commercial-Residential-Institutional).

**AREA AFFECTED:** All lands within the Town of Virden

For more information, contact Cory Nixon, Development Officer at 204-851-0028 or [devofficer@tcwpcd.ca](mailto:devofficer@tcwpcd.ca)



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at 236 Wellington St W (Town of Virden office) during normal office hours, Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

## Town of Virden Request for Quotation Supply of Flowers and Plants – 2025

The Town of Virden is requesting quotations for the supply of flowers and plants for the various beds, containers and hanging baskets for 2025.

The supplier will be required to store, maintain, and care for the flowers and plants until scheduled planting of the various beds occur. Preference may be given to a bidder who can provide advice around planting methods and fertilization while generally acting as resource for Town Staff throughout the planting season.

For further information and/or to obtain a detailed order form with specifications, please contact Erica Darvill at 204-748-2440 or by email at [executive.assistant@virden.ca](mailto:executive.assistant@virden.ca) or by visiting the Town of Virden website at: [www.virden.ca/p/tenders-and-requests](http://www.virden.ca/p/tenders-and-requests)

**DEADLINE FOR QUOTATIONS:**  
Friday, February 7, 2025.

**Upcoming Council Meetings:**  
January 28 & February 11

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

# Black Hawk helicopter flights patrol Manitoba border



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Black Hawk helicopter patrol in Emerson, Manitoba, on January 20th, 2025.

## Submitted

By MANITOBA RCMP

The RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region has increased its security posture with the addition of regular Black Hawk helicopter flights along the Manitoba border with the United States. The first of these regular flights began on Sunday, Jan. 19.

The flights will target all illegal activity along the border; this includes searching for individuals who illegally enter Canada between official ports of entries and for the human smugglers who facilitate their travel. It will also be used to detect and stop illegal smuggling and trafficking of contraband

such as illicit drugs into, and out of, Canada.

The helicopters will have police officers on-board who can quickly respond to any location near the border where illegal activity may be taking place. In addition, the helicopter can help direct Integrated Border Enforcement Team officers, who patrol the Manitoba border in vehicles, to any suspicious activity.

Residents along the Manitoba border with the United States may hear and see the helicopter on a regular basis. These are part of normal police operations and there is no cause for any public

safety concern.

“The addition of this helicopter greatly increases our detection and rapid response capabilities and significantly strengthens border security in the area,” said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Lisa Moreland, Regional Commander, Federal Policing, Northwest Region. “The RCMP is fully committed to securing our border and will continue to add new technologies and resources across the region as, and when, they are required.”

## Elkhorn Early Learning Centre receives donations



PHOTO BY MARGARET JAMES

On January 14, the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion Branch #58 and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary presented members of the Elkhorn Early Learning Centre with donations of \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. The funds will help to provide supplies and materials for the daycare programs. Shown here (l-r) are Elkhorn Early Learning Centre co-directors Sydney Stonehouse and Trista Hayward, Kay Thompson (Ladies Auxiliary), Angie Stonehouse (EELC chairperson) and Garth Mitchell (Elkhorn Legion).



**SHOULDER INJURIES  
AREN'T PART OF THE JOB.**

Making a living shouldn't hurt no matter what you do. Find out how simple workplace changes can prevent long-term pain.

LEARN ABOUT PREVENTION AT  
[safemanitoba.com/msi](http://safemanitoba.com/msi)



# JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE



**PALLISER STATIONARY LEATHER SOFA**

AVAILABLE IN 2 COLORS  
STOCK ONLY  
**NOW \$1,549.99**

PURCHASE AS PAIR SOFA AND LOVE SEAT ONLY \$1,999.00



**PALLISER STATIONARY MATCHING LOVE SEAT**

AVAILABLE IN 2 COLORS ~  
STOCK ONLY  
**NOW \$1,499.99**



**POWER RECLINING SOFA, LEATHER LOOK COVER**

3 ONLY  
WAS \$2,499.99  
**NOW \$1,899.00**

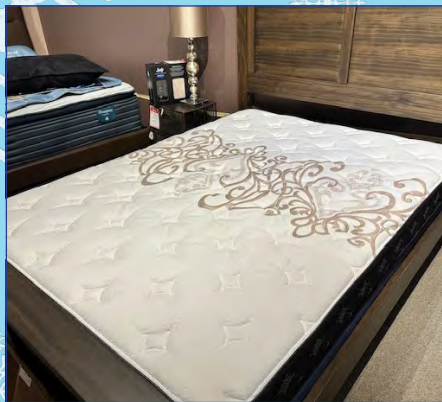


**MATCHING POWER LOVE SEAT**

3 ONLY  
WAS \$2,299.99  
**NOW \$1,799.00**



**SWIVEL GLIDER/RECLINER**  
FABRIC COVER ~ 3 IN STOCK  
WAS \$1099.99  
**NOW \$699.00**



**QUEEN MATTRESS MEDIUM FIRMNESS**  
3 ONLY  
**NOW ONLY \$399.00**



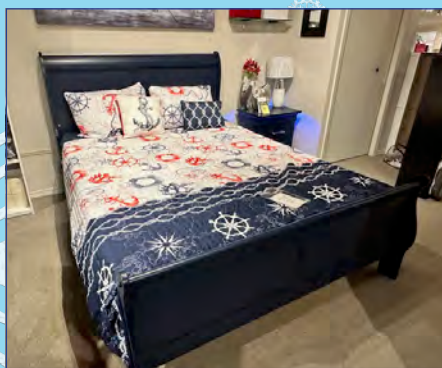
**APARTMENT SIZE DINING SET, TABLE & 2 CHAIRS**  
2 ONLY  
**NOW \$269.00**



**5 PIECE DINING SET**  
GREAT FOR SMALL SPACES  
WAS \$649.99  
**NOW \$599.00**



**PALLISER STATIONARY LEATHER CHAIR AND OTTOMAN**  
AVAILABLE IN 2 COLORS  
STOCK ONLY  
**NOW \$799.99** when purchased together



**QUEEN HEADBOARD, FOOTBOARD & RAILS**  
WITH LED LIGHT HEADBOARD  
2 ONLY ~ WAS \$999.99  
**NOW \$679.00**

**PORTABLE DISHWASHER**  
WHITE, HARD FOOD DISPOSER SANITIZE OPTION  
WAS \$1,249.99  
**NOW \$868.00**  
STAINLESS STEEL COLOR NOW \$888.00

**TWIN OVER TWIN BUNK BED**  
SOLID METAL, BLACK IN COLOR  
1 ONLY  
WAS \$899.99  
**NOW \$599.00**

**TWIN OVER DOUBLE BUNK BED**  
SOLID METAL FRAME BLACK IN COLOR ~ 2 ONLY  
WAS \$999.99  
**NOW \$699.00**

**COMPACT WASHER**  
**3.0 CUB FOOT**  
GREAT FOR A SMALL SPACE  
2 ONLY  
WAS \$699.99  
**NOW \$399.00**

**BRANDSOURCE**  
*Kullberg's*  
**HOME FURNISHINGS**  
**LAYAWAY OPTIONS**  
ASK YOUR SALES ASSOCIATE

346 King Street Virden, MB 204-748-3331 [www.kullbergs.ca](http://www.kullbergs.ca) Find us on Facebook!



FINANCING AVAILABLE BY TEXTING  
KULLBERGS TO 75837  
FROM YOUR SMART PHONE

**FREE DELIVERY**

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

Ask our Sales  
Associates about  
Delivery Options!