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LOOKING after LOCAL

## Virден Lions support sight



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Virден Lions Club once again welcomed donations to Lions Journey for Sight campaign on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Lions Hall. Members present received a total of 19 donations amounting to \$795 toward this annual fundraiser. Lion Brad Henderson of Sinclair & Area Lions has long been involved in the Journey for Sight. He accepts the donation from Virден Lions Club: (L-r) Virден Lions Bryan Hayward and Barry O'Grady, Brad Henderson, Virден Lions Paul Pennycook and Alex Grieve. All proceeds go to the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The purpose is for the procurement and evaluation of eye tissue to be used for Corneal Transplants.

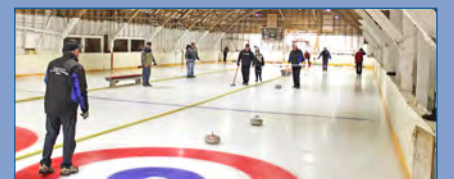


**HOME GAME  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
VS. SWAN VALLEY  
STAMPEDE  
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM**

### Inside...



**VALENTINE'S DAY  
IS COMING P2 & 11**



**LENORE BONSPIEL  
P24**

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# Councillors crow over MASC office for Virden

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It was a big deal for Western Manitobans when Premier Wab Kinew announced the return of public access and in-person service at Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offices in Virden and in Shoal Lake. When Kinew was first elected premier of Manitoba, in a press conference he discussed his intention to take care of Western and rural Manitoba as well as the big population centres. He was asked then about the possible re-opening of the Virden ag office.

Local councils pressed the issue and the announcement at Ag Days was heralded as a victory in both the Town of Virden and the RM of Wallace-Woodworth council meetings. On Jan. 28, Reeve Clayton Canart called it a good decision, noting that Virden's location "makes more sense geographically for a lot of different producers."

Deputy reeve Val Caldwell said, "Councillor Barb (Stambuski) received commendation from Scott Phillips at the Western Caucus (meeting) for her dedicated work in securing this outcome."

Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn also took the podium at Ag Days.

"Where the previous government ended services, we're bringing them back," Kostyshyn said. "We heard from producers loud and clear that they wanted the in-person service they used to enjoy. These new service centres will also help MASC staff to further build relationships with producers, allowing them to better anticipate and respond

to their individual needs."

Approximately 1600 MASC clients will be affected by the addition of two new service centres and roughly 94 percent of MASC clients will be within a 60-minute drive to a MASC Service Centre, an increase from 83 per cent, the minister noted.

The new service centres in Shoal Lake and Virden will provide farmers with better access to crop insurance, hail insurance, wildlife damage compensation, agricultural loans, pathfinding services for programs offered by Manitoba Agriculture, and other programs administered by MASC. Each new location will be staffed with four full-time employees and one casual employee.

The Virden office building was among 10 offices where department employees went to work, but it was not open to serve the public. These included Melita, Carberry, Beausejour, Carman, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Portage la Prairie, and Roblin.

With the announcement, Premier Kinew pointed to these two MASC office locations as not only a support for Manitoba's agricultural economy also for these rural communities and the areas they serve.

He said, "And there's also the benefit to the local economy in communities where you have rent being paid for



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Hwy #83 at Beulah, 10 mins north of Miniota the original wood elevator.

these offices, you have people spending money in town on other services, going out to eat, visiting stores and things like that. So there's really a spinoff effect for the local community, which is part of why we see this as an economic development investment."

"Certainly, this is first and foremost about supporting the ag industry and producers. But if we can help to ensure that rural economic development goals are being lifted at the same time that we're giving a boost to producers, I think that's a win-win situation."

The province says it will be late summer before the two new offices are open for business. To expedite the opening, the ministry anticipates using Virden's existing provincial service building on Wellington Street.

# Hearts for Art



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

A display of hearts for the arts on Virden's Boston Pizza wall represents funds going to a local charity. This year Arts Mosaic will receive the donations from the heart purchases until Feb. 17, the restaurant will also donate "\$1 from each Panookie sold to support Arts Mosaic and all they do."



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# FLBSD discusses school bus safety

## Fort La Bosse School Division Board of Trustees meeting Jan. 13

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At the Jan. 13 school board meeting, along with the business of upkeep for school buildings and busses, budget issues, staffing and student trips, there was mention of safety around school bus loading and unloading. Kids have a lot going on when they get to school, or are heading home, or when an entire bus load are getting off at the concert hall. But there are flashing lights and a red stop sign that pops out from the side of the bus to stop motorists from passing at those times. But not everybody does.

In an interview, Superintendent of Schools Barry Pitz said that RCMP have been helpful with patrols, particularly at Goulter School on Queen St. E. at the start of the school year. "That's a busy road," said Pitz. "RCMP have been very supportive...."

Wherever school buses load and unload, whether it's at a country lane or at a school, a sports arena or the Aud Theatre in Virden, when the stop sign is extended, traffic from both directions must stop and wait until the stop sign is retracted.

School board chairperson Craig Russell noted that Wellington St. is a busy side street and becomes a congested area when a 66-passenger bus pulls in to let kids out at the AUD. And, people are not accustomed to school buses stopping there.

For Christmas concerts and other occasional events when buses are loading or unloading students, Pitz explained "We do have staff there to make sure it's safe, regardless." He said people do sometimes creep slowly past. It's illegal to pass a school bus when the stop sign is extended and school officials just want students to be safe.

Drivers are not required to stop if travelling in the opposite direction on a divided roadway separated by a physical median or ditch, such as on Highway One.

Also related to student transportation, a new weather station has been installed at the bus garage north of town. Winter weather in particular is another hazard that plagues bus routes. Russell said that an on-location weather station means they will be "using accurate information for Virden, not going by the Melita weather station." Buses will not travel, schools will be closed, and all school functions will be cancelled when temperatures reach -40C, or when a combination of minus temperatures and wind speed create a windchill factor of -45C, or when visibility and and/or road conditions

make it unsafe for travel, (see FLBSD website for more information).

### Jan. 13 minutes brief

All 6 members of the school board were present at this, the first public school board meeting in 2025, along with division staff.

### Administrative reports

Superintendent of Schools Barry Pitz presented resolutions approving staffing adjustments within the schools.

Motions were also presented to approve off-site activities for VCI students to attend volleyball provincials in Winnipeg and for Reston students to travel overnight for high school hockey games.

Secretary-Treasurer Kent Reid discussed the recent CPI and unemployment report and its potential impact on the division's financial position.

A resolution was presented to approve the signing of a land title transfer with the RM of Wallace-Woodworth to transfer a small parcel of land for the purpose of the construction of a child-care centre in Elkhorn.

Some information was shared on the settlement of support staff collective agreements in other school divisions around the province.

A preliminary review of a draft budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was presented and discussed highlighting some of the areas of focus for the upcoming school year.

The Supervisor of Operations reported the start of a trial of GPS systems in a few FLBSD school buses.

The division continues to have conversations with the RCMP on the issue of vehicles driving through bus stop signs.

A new upgraded weather station has been installed for the school division.

Two new school buses were delivered in December and will be rotated into the fleet. Ladder safety training will be provided for Division maintenance and custodial staff.

Resolutions were presented for the purchase of school bus parts, furnace filters and the installation of accessibility door hardware at VJH.

### New and unfinished business

Trustees reviewed the tentative program for the up-



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

School buses line up waiting for their passengers to board. Flashing lights draw attention to the stop signs that mean no passing.

coming Manitoba School Boards Association convention and AGM in March in Winnipeg. A call for proposals from the Canadian Schools Boards Association was received for session presenters at the upcoming CSBA Annual convention and AGM to be held in Winnipeg this July.

### Resolutions

The Board moved and approved the following resolutions:

- 0.25 FTE temporary increase for Gracie Gervin from Dec. 3rd, 2024 to Feb. 28th, 2025.
- FTE leave of absence for Sadie Braybrook from March 28th, 2025 to Sept. 8th, 2026.
- 0.2 FTE reduction in time for Debbie Leslie from Dec. 9th, 2024 to Jan. 8th, 2025.
- 0.2 FTE reduction in time for Valerie Heaman from Dec. 9th, 2024 to Jan. 8th, 2025.
- 0.15 FTE temporary increase for Deb Peters from Dec. 20th, 2024 to Jan. 31st, 2025.
- FTE for Ashley Clark from Dec. 20th, 2024 to Jan. 31st, 2025.
- FTE for Jeanne Fetsch from Jan. 8th, 2025 to March 1st, 2025.
- FTE for Stephen Densmore from April 17th, 2025 to June 27th, 2025.

Payments were approved to Maxim Truck and Trailer of \$6,349.75 for bus repairs; payment to United Muffler Corp. of \$5,263.23 for exhaust parts, Master invoice of \$6,713.01 for year supply of unit filters; and a payment to LRB Electric of \$5,888.35 for the installation of accessibility door hardware at Virden Jr. High School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

**Elkhorn and Area Foundation Inc.**

### Invitation for Grant Applications - 2025

The Board of Directors of the Elkhorn & Area Foundation wishes to inform the public that it will be receiving applications for funding from any charitable, cultural, educational or recreational organizations in the Elkhorn area possessing a Revenue Canada Charitable Registration number.

Grant decisions will be made by the Board of Directors in accordance with the Foundation objectives and the Guidelines for Grant Applications.

Completed applications for funding will be received until **March 31, 2025**. Grant application guidelines and application forms are available on our website: [elkhornandareafoundation.ca](http://elkhornandareafoundation.ca) or completed applications can be mailed to: Elkhorn & Area Foundation Box 25 Elkhorn, MB R0M 0N0

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## Thanks and appreciation

The Elkhorn Cemetery Association would like to extend their great appreciation and thanks for donations received from July 1 to December 31 2025 from the following:

• Lillian Jackson	• Glynis Van Damme
• Jack & Wenda Paton	• Olive Hutchison
• Saige Currin	• Peggy McGrath
• Rose Marie Bartley	• Larry & Gail Rowan
• Catherine Roberts	• Walter Heaman
• Sharon Duncan	• Jean & Gerry Gatey
• Patricia Siple	• Jeff & Wanda Howard
• Yvonne Dirks	• Wes & Coralie Rozak
• Noreen Baskerville	• Kathy Harvey
• Wanda Brown	• Carol Bonner
• Bernice Hey	• Kelly Martin
• Don & Heather McElroy	• Tricia & Brent Nolan
• Jack Day	• Sharon Leslie
• Marguerite Black	• Randy & Alanna O'Greysik
• Ed & Patti Paull	• Judy Podobni

Many thanks to Caretaker Kaileigh Kyle and all the volunteers for the hours of work done each year. We depend on your donations to keep our cemetery well maintained.

## Thanks again!



# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Canada Post rules make no sense

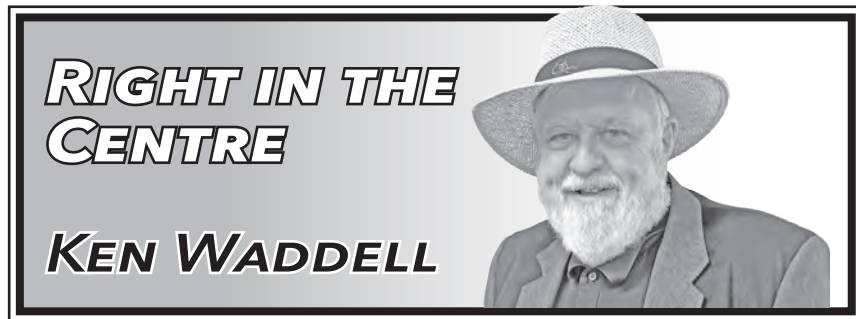
I have heard repeatedly, and from various sources, that Canada Post is making a very questionable decision in regards to local mail sorting. By local mail, I mean a letter or parcel that is dropped off at a given post office for another customer at that same post office. So let's say a letter from Mrs. Brown is dropped off at the Post Office A and is addressed to Mrs. Jones at Post Office A. It would seem to make sense that the local Post Office staff would sort through the mail and simply put all the mail addressed to that Post Office in a tub or bin and send out all the out of town mail on the next truck. That would make sense but that is not the instructions from Canada Post. All, all mail regardless if it is addressed to someone in that same post office or for another Post Office is supposed to be sent to a regional centre for sorting.

I asked Media Relations at Canada Post for clarification. I must say I have submitted questions before to Media Relations and the responses have been informative, polite and quick, so good on them.

I asked, "We've been told that local post offices are required to ship all mail, even local mail to a regional centre for sorting and then it's shipped back. Can local mail not be sorted at the local Post Office? That way there could be same day or one day delivery?"

Because I live in Neepawa, I asked about that Post Office in particular.

Here is what I was told, "As the letter mail originates from Neepawa Post Office, it would be consolidated in Brandon and then dispatched to Winnipeg where all product originating from Manitoba is processed on their high-speed equipment. From there, it is then sent to Brandon for the final processing and sort before it is dispatched to Neepawa to be sent out for delivery or pick up by the cus-



tom. The mail processing system in Neepawa has been in place for more than a decade. The process enables Canada Post to better monitor mail volumes in order to plan and respond to customer needs as needed.

It takes approximately three business days for mail to arrive at its destination, when mail is being sent within the same province.

If customers have questions regarding their postal services, they can contact Canada Post's Customer Service team online at canadapost.ca/support or by telephone at 1-866-607-6301 (TTY: 1-800-267-2797)"

So I asked the following question a different way just so I would know exactly what is happening.

Can you clarify if the process "consolidated in Brandon and then dispatched to Winnipeg where all product originating from Manitoba is processed on their high-speed equipment. From there, it is then sent to Brandon for the final processing and sort before it is dispatched" applies to all Southwestern Manitoba Post Offices?

Media Relations answered, "Yes, we can confirm that all letter mail flow through Brandon to Winnipeg for all southwestern Manitoba post offices as Brandon is the centralized distribution centre for this part of the province."

So there you have it folks, even if the letter is dropped off at a particular post office for a customer at the same Post Office, it has to be shipped

to Brandon, then to Winnipeg, then back to Brandon and then to your local Post Office.

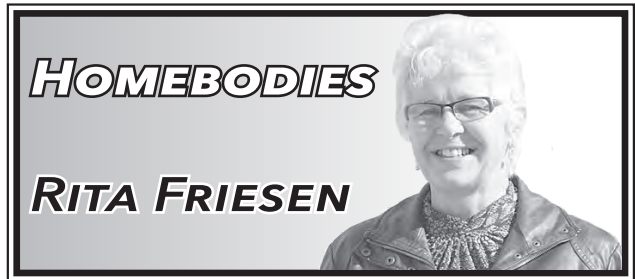
And, they openly say, it can take three days to get it back to the customer. That, by the way, is three business days and doesn't include weekends. If you drop off a letter on a Friday, it could take five days to get into the intended box number.

Is it any wonder that Canada Post is losing money operating under rules that make no sense at all? I know it's not polite to call a company's decision makers stupid but I think this process makes it difficult to not apply that description in this situation.

The letter goes to Brandon, then to Winnipeg, then to Brandon and back to the originating Post Office. After all those truck rides, it still has to be put onto the local P.O. box by local staff so there's no saving of staff time at all. All this process is doing is making unnecessary work. It still takes the same amount of labour and time to put it in the mail boxes regardless if it is done initially at the local post office or after the letter has made it's three day trip.

I would recommend that Canada Post re-examine this deal but I suspect that unionized employees at Brandon and Winnipeg might object.

Canada Post is bound up in poor practices, bad rules and hide bound union protectionism. Guess we know where customers rank in importance in this process.



## At peace, I pray...

The message no parent ever wants to receive arrived. The son I bore way back in 1968 succumbed to the cancers that ravaged his body. We live in the hope that we don't have to come to terms with the death of a child; the elders should die first. We all have a different story, we all have our own story, and with our own story we have details and memories that we need to recognize, and sometimes, address.

My son's body bore the scars of living. One vivid scar was on his right ankle. As a pre-schooler, shadowing his grandfather cleaning up a wind row burn, he got a boot full of hot coals, badly burning his ankle. The old family doctor wept as he faithfully changed the bandages, while the wee lad watched and winced but never cried loudly. That same body bore the scar of an emergency tracheotomy required to save his life when he overdosed. The inquiring mind that challenged him to see how many of his chickens he could keep hypnotized at once, and for how long (seven if one wants to know, and for quite a few minutes if you circle the chickens and keep drawing the line in front of their beak) was the same inquiring mind that drew him down paths that were not healthy. The hands that brought me spring flowers and sticky hugs were the same hands that, clenched in anger, punched a hole in the wall in lieu of striking me.

These days I take out the memories of the young lad I knew so well. The one who raced at life, loved to fish and hunt. The year he turned fifteen, he chose not to attend school. The fact that no teacher, principal, school trustee or truant officer ever called and inquired about his absence may be indicators of his presence in school! That winter he ate, grew inches, slept many hours, snowmobiled and trapped small varmints. It was a winter during which his outdoor gear hung on the wash line for days because of a strong skunk odour. He maintained for years that the scent of skunk triggered his appetite, a carry over of the year of rest. My son was a comic and a mimic, he could replicate the speech and actions of family and community members and there was no doubt about who he was enacting! He and I spent hours working together, clearing up old fence lines, scrubbing brush and cutting firewood. We walked and talked and shared thoughts. And then I lost him. Lost him to addictions and personality disorders. And once away, the severed link was forever severed. I give thanks for and to the partner that loved him and for the peace he found.

When I share these thoughts with you, it is not for pity, or judgement on either one of us. It is because this is far too common a story. One that folks do not want to address, or, often, know how to address. My son, over the years, would be out of contact for years, only to reappear and cause heartache. I recall, speaking to a mother whose son was killed, identifying strongly with her when she simply said- 'now I know where he is.' I understood, and I understand.

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# Melita man charged with sexual assault

## Westman RCMP Report for Jan. 26 to Feb. 1

**Submitted**  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 52 calls for service. Of the 52, 10 were traffic related including 4 speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were 3 abandoned vehicle files, 3 wellbeing files, 1 fail to comply with court orders and disobeying the court, 2 theft files, 1 sexual assault file, 1 possession for the purpose of trafficking file and 2 false alarms.

On Jan. 28 Westman RCMP police attended a residence for a wellbeing check on a dog. There were multiple people in the residence without permission. Drugs were in plain view, a search warrant was granted by the courts and executed by members. Multiple weapons, drugs and paraphernalia were located, and four individuals were arrested; (see Virden RCMP seize drugs, weapons while assisting Animal Con-

trol).

On Jan. 29 during a routine traffic patrol in the town of Reston, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 133 km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. The driver was stopped and issued a traffic offence notice for speeding, which carries a fine of \$482.

On Jan. 30 Westman RCMP received a call of a sexual assault that had occurred in Melita. A 43-year-old man was charged with sexual assault and will attend court in April.

On Jan. 30, Westman RCMP received a call from First Nations Safety Officers in the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community involving a 61-year-old male that was intoxicated and uttering threats at the Community Hall. He was lodged at the Virden RCMP Detachment and will attend court in April on the charge of uttering threats against a person.

On Jan. 30 during a routine traffic patrol in Virden, RCMP observed a male driver using his cellular telephone while driving. A traffic stop was conducted, and this driver was issued a traffic offence notice for using a phone or other hand-operated electronic device while driving a vehicle which carries 3-day license suspension penalty, as well as a \$672 fine.

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

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

# Virden RCMP seize drugs and weapons while assisting Animal Control



Drugs seized on 3rd Ave in Virden.

PHOTO BY RCMP

**Submitted**  
BY D MEDIA RCMP

On January 28, 2025, at approximately 9:30 am, Virden RCMP officers attended to an address located on 3rd Avenue S in Virden to assist Animal Control officers in the execution of their duties.

Once inside the residence, officers located two females (31, 41) and a 38-year-old male in the living room who had no permission being inside the home. They were placed under arrest for Breaking and Entering.

On the coffee table in the living room, officers

observed baggies of suspected drugs and drug related paraphernalia.

A search of the suspects on scene also led to the seizure of additional drugs, illicit pills and drug related paraphernalia.

A fourth suspect, a 45-year-old male, was located and arrested in the basement.

A search warrant was subsequently prepared and executed at this residence which led to the seizure of additional drugs, believed to be cocaine and methamphetamine, homemade weapons, knives and other drug related paraphernalia.

RCMP have charged 38-year-old Bryon Gardner, from Virden, Rashelle Studer, 41, and Katherine Tomms, 31, both from the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, with several offences including Breaking and Entering, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

The 45-year-old male was released for a court appearance scheduled for February 7, 2025, in Brandon where he will face similar charges.

Virden RCMP continue to investigate.



## MEMBERSHIP PRICING FOR THE 2025 SEASON

TYPE	EARLY BIRD RATE (Ends Feb. 28th)	MARCH 1ST, 2025
Single	\$575	\$625
Couple	\$950	\$1000
Family	\$1150	\$1200
Student (18-25 with student ID)	\$350	\$400
Junior (17 & under)	\$150	\$200
Single Range Pass	\$100 (members only)	\$100 (members only)
Family Range Pass	\$150 (members only)	\$250 (members only)
12 For 10 Cards	\$225	\$250
Cart Shed - No Power	\$130 (Member) \$260 (Non-Member)	\$130 (Member) \$260 (Non-Member)
Cart Shed - Power	\$175 (Member) \$350 (Non-Member)	\$175 (Member) \$350 (Non-Member)
Cart Compound	\$125	\$125

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH 125TH BONSPIEL WEEK...  
**VIRDEN SENIOR BONSPIEL**

March 12-13

Call Greg 748-3136 to enter by Feb 15  
Includes lunch

Draw days dependent on entries

Senior Mens Division  
- 2 games, 1 on arena - \$80  
Senior Womens Division  
- 2 games, 1 on arena - \$80  
Senior Mixed Division (will not overlap with Sr mens, womens)  
- 2 games, 1 on arena - \$80

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STURLING (STICK CURLING) BONSPIEL

March 13-15

call Lyle 748-7171 to enter by Feb 15  
Includes lunch

- all ages, stick or regular delivery  
- 3 games (less than 1 hours each)  
- Stick doubles rules: 2 person, 6 ends, 6 rocks, no hits prior to 4th stone, no sweep between hoglines



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Saturday, February 22  
@ Virden Curling Rink

Registration: \$120.00 PER RINK!  
Registration Deadline: February 16 or ASAP!  
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... 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!**



# HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

At the Neepawa museum we have an old "RAYMOND" treadle sewing machine and I have my aunt's old "HUMEN" treadle sewing machine. Since most old sewing machines are Singers, I wondered about these two makes.

Who invented the sewing machine? There's no simple answer, for many inventors contributed features to the final successful product. I will mention a few of the main inventors. Barthelemy Thimonnier was a French tailor who succeeded in creating a chain stitch sewing machine and got a patent for it in 1830. Soon his factory had eighty of these machines that were being used to sew uniforms for the French army. Tailors, who saw the new machines as a threat to their livelihood soon burnt down his factory. In 1846 an American, Elias Howe, patented a sewing machine that introduced a needle with an eye at the point, a shuttle to create a lockstitch, and an automatic feed. His was the first one that worked properly.

American inventor Charles Raymond's first sewing machine production paused in 1852 when Isaac Singer obtained a similar patent ahead of Raymond. When a patent fight rose, he packed up and moved his sewing machine factory to Guelph, Ontario as Singer's patent held no authority in Canada. The Raymond sewing machines stands and covers were a work of art and a lovely piece of furniture for your room. The one at the museum has beautiful designs in the wood case and is very striking piece.

At this time patent infringement became so intense that it led to Sewing Machine Wars. The lawyers were making all the money. Since sewing machines required parts covered by several different patents, an agreement was made with the larger players that a single, reduced licensing fee would be charged and divided proportionally among the patent holders.

In 1851, Isaac Merritt Singer patented the most practical sewing machine. As an engineer he improved upon several of the other designs. He combined Howe's eye pointed needle and up-and-down needle mechanism, added a pressure foot to hold the cloth in place, a basic tension system, and a foot treadle instead of a crank. The foot treadle, allowed users to operate the machine hands-free, while the vertical needle movement provided more precise and consistent stitching. Singer began mass producing his sewing machines and became the largest sewing machine manufacturer in the world.

The Singer Company initiated the installment payment plan for their machines. People who could not afford to purchase a sewing machine, could now get one. In 1903 the Wright brothers made their first successful flight using the plane's wing coverings which had been made on a Singer sewing machine. Singer began to sell at a discount to schools and to provide free sewing manuals. The philosophy was "If a girl learned to sew on a Singer, she would eventually buy one." It was not long before Singer was a name known around the world.

My aunt "HUMEN" parts were made in China and the machines were assembled by the Humen Sewing Machine Company in Edmonton and Toronto. Apparently it could sew the farmers' binder canvasses.

I learned to sew on a Singer treadle and now sew on a computerized sewing machine with an automatic needle threader. I had two free days last week so I made this stew for the slow cooker and tried this muffin recipe before sitting down at my sewing machine. A glorious two days!

### Pork, sweet potato stew

1 Tbsp. oil	2 lbs. pork, cubed
1 large onion, chopped	1 large carrot, sliced
2 medium sweet potatoes, cubed	1 red pepper, diced
3 celery stalk, sliced	3 cups chicken broth
1 tsp. grated lemon rind	1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. dried thyme	1 -2 tsp. Dash
2 Tbsp. dried parsley	3/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper	1 cup frozen green peas
2 Tbsp. cornstarch	1/3 cup cold water

In a large frying pan, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Brown meat in batches until browned on all sides. Transfer the meat to a slow-cooker. Top the meat with all the remaining ingredients except the cornstarch and water. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Mix the cornstarch and water together and stir into the slow cooker. Turn the slow cooker on high for 10-15 minutes to allow the gravy to thicken.

### Carrot bran muffins

2 eggs	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup oil	2 Tbsp. molasses
3/4 cup buttermilk	1 1/2 cup flour
1 cup wheat bran	1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt	1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda	1 1/2 cup grated carrots
1 cup raisins	

In a bowl combine the eggs and sugar. Mix in the oil and molasses. Stir in the buttermilk. In another bowl add the flour, bran, spice, salt, baking powder and baking soda and mix well. Add to the first bowl and stir just until moistened. Do not over stir. Gently fold in the carrots and raisins. Fill prepared muffin tins 3/4 full and bake in a preheated 375 F oven for 20-22 minutes or until toothpick in the middle comes out clean.

# Miniota & Isabella News

## Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Our thoughts are with Ernie Stowe who is now a resident at Assiniboine Centre due to failing health. Ernie would welcome visitors from home.

My apologies to Joan Brown from Virden for missing her name in the congratulatory announcement for her new grandson Koen Leslie, born to Claudia Bryant and Lance Brown. Congratulations Grandma Joan!

Winners of the Miniota Family Bonspiel on February 1st were: 1) Nick Young with his rink of Tracy Lelond Young, Tristan Gardham and Dusty Hill and 2) Kerrie Williams with her rink of Bob Gardham, Lisa Zurbyk and Corbin Buchanan. Lots of great Disney costumes to add to the fun day. Winners of the costume competition went to Ken and Marie Nolan and their granddaughters Gracie and Kinsley Muir and Ellie Nolan. Congrats to all.

Ashlyn and Adrianna Cousins, Sawyer Sheane, Luna and Belle Stone, members of the Prairie View Gymnastics club attended the regional gymnastics competition held at Neepawa on the weekend. Congratulations Girls on your showing.

The U11 Miniota team hosted a one-day tournament with teams coming from Gimli, Birtle, Moosomin and Tri Valley.

The U13 Miniota Elkhorn C-Hawks qualified for Provincials this past weekend, winning

the two games they needed to qualify. Good luck at Provincials in March!

I received a gift in the mail this week which brought back memories of festival days. With interest I read the 1936 program of the North Western Marquette festival held in Hamiota. Thank you to Jo Ann Ramsey (of Hamiota) for sharing this with me.

Community will recognize many of the names from the Arrow River-Miniota Area: Ford Wiggins, Bernice Wiggins, Helen Tennant, Ila Lelond, Muriel Lelond, Bill Hurlin, Margaret Bonner, Mrs. E. Johnson, Everett Tennant, John Mitchell, Jessie Mitchell, Jennie Bonner, Elmer Lelond, Joyce Lelond, Norman Lelond, Gladys Kirton, Mary Carnegie, Barbara Hurlin, Robbie Lelond,

and Thelma Mitchell. Many gifted musical people from our communities!

Do you recognize these names? Shirley Scarth, Viola Douglas, Kathleen Coxworth, Robert Scarth, Eric Robinson, Betty Lawn, Thelma Norrie, Hollis Lints, Chrissie Lints, Mabel Clark, June Finkbeiner, Flora Scarth, Beatrice Robinson, Doreen Shurvell, Lorne Finkbeiner, Donna Douglas, Russell Clark and Frank Stevenson. Just some of the many talented Isabella young people who participated in festival many, many years ago.

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour." - Maya Angelou

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Pesticide Application Programs

**Virde Wellview Golf Club intends to conduct the following pesticide control programs from May 1 to October 31, 2024. All applications are part of a comprehensive IPM strategy, and depending on pest threshold levels may or may not include:**

**1. Weed control in turf areas within the property. Projected dates of application are May 1 to October 31. Herbicides may include: Glyphosate, Dicamba, 2, 4-D, Mecoprop-P.**

**2. Fungus control in turf areas within the property. Projected dates of application are May 1 to October 31. Fungicides used may include: Chlorothalonil, Propiconazole, Fludioxonil, Azoxystrobin.**

**3. Insect control in turf and treed areas within the property. Target pests include: mosquitoes, tent caterpillars, cankerworms, ants, cutworms, and white grubs. Projected dates of application are from May 1 to October 31. Insecticides used may include: Malathion, Carbaryl.**

**Any public concerns with the above may be addressed by sending a written submission within fifteen days of this publication to:**

**Manitoba Environment and Climate Change**

**Environmental Approvals Branch**

**Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6**



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# Connecting with your partner while parenting

**YOUR LISTENING EAR**  
**DELSIE MARTIN**

Having children is a massive life change and takes a toll on the intimate relationship. Multiple studies have indicated that its very normal for relationship satisfaction to decrease during the years of childbirth and child raising. They have found that a decline in relationship satisfaction over time is greater with couples who have chosen children than those who have not had children. This is significant because it suggests that the first year after your child is born is an incredibly challenging time. In fact, studies find this dip in relationship satisfaction remaining until the children are more independent. I want to normalize that a lot of folks don't feel like their relationship is on point during those young children's years. The stress of children is universal, it is not determined by culture, location, socioeconomic status

Difficulties in connecting with your partner may come from multiple points. Time management is hard. Kids hijack your body, your brain and especially your time. Children really need you lots in those earlier years and the time you spend with them is very intense leaving you feeling exhausted and irritated at the end of the interaction. It is especially intense if you are a natural empath who picks up on people's energies, kids are one big ball of energy. So, you have less alone time to spend with your partner and when you do find the time, you are so exhausted and annoyed from the day that its hard to bring your best self to that interaction. That makes relationship building hard.

I would recommend connecting in micro moments. Micro moments

are small windows of opportunity to connect with your partner to build intimacy. Examples are being cognizant of giving each other a hug or hello in the morning rather than just throwing the wet baby to the other person for a diaper change. Throughout the day, make sure to connect with random messages, funny photos or photos of the kids to maintain that connection. Don't be afraid to talk about how your days went. These conversations sometimes take place over a period of a couple of hours because the kiddos are causing chaos in the background but just the act of prioritizing moments of conversation with each other can make a huge difference. If possible, make your real connection time after the kiddos are in bed, with the understanding that if one of you needs some alone time that time is also supported and welcomed.

Practicing self care fills your cup and increases your ability to tolerate the challenges to your relationship that come from parenting. I totally acknowledge that finding time for self care is very hard and can feel impossible. Remember, SOME self care is better than no self care so don't give up. Micro moments of self care during the day is encouraged to put a drop in your cup each time. Maybe this is putting the TV on for your kids so you can read a book. Having your favourite coffee creamer or snack during the day or listening to your music while you clean.

Delsie Martin (BA, MSW, RSW), is a Registered Social Worker working out of The Wellness Clinic in Brandon. She can be reached at [dmartin@wellnessclinicbrandon.ca](mailto:dmartin@wellnessclinicbrandon.ca).

# Self aware of our responses

**FAITH & FAMILY**  
**TARA KAUEHOFEN**



I recently watched a video of a parallel scenario.

The first version of the video was a parent shaming and raising their voice and yelling at their child. Attacking with words, only pointing out mistakes, never praising, never encouraging.

This resulted in the child becoming angry, mirroring their parents actions and behaviours and slumping their shoulders and crying in the dark alone.

The parallel video, was of an adult doing the same thing to another adult.

The example shots were a boss, a friend, or a spouse. The adult, responded in the same manner the child did.

With anger and defensive behaviour and words. Lashing out, and then slumping their shoulders and not achieving greatness.

The interesting part about this is that as an adult, we have the freedom to defend ourselves and have a conversation about how the other adult treated us.

But children don't always have that same freedom to express that they didn't feel safe, that they need more encouragement.

Sometimes they don't know how to express it, and it comes out in anger or defence.

This then brought me to a place of understanding God's character and the parallel of his parenting of US in our walk and relationship with him.

He is big enough to hold our anger, our questions, our frustrations, our defensiveness and sadness.

He doesn't lean down and scream in our faces or tell us to stop crying.

He holds each tear with tenderness, he hears our concerns and whispers words of encouragement, and sometimes when necessary he gives firm correction but done with such love and tenderness we can't help but respond with obedience.

It gave me pause, to think and ponder on the what if's of this scenario.

What if we could all step out of our human response and parent the way Christ does?

What if we modelled this in our walk with our own kids?

I often wonder and pray into what would happen, how they would grow and flourish under a Christ centred way of parenting.

If we are called to walk as Jesus did, if we are created directly in the image of God himself, how then should his character be reflected in our parenting? In our marriages? In our work places?

This week, I have challenged myself to be more self aware of how I am responding.

What I am sowing into my relationships with the people I am directly in contact with daily.

And if I can feel the conviction of an area I am not reflecting Christ, to take a step back and evaluate how his character would replace the way I've been acting.

# Manitoba government to reduce for-profit nurse spending in PMH

Submitted

By MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government has directed Prairie Mountain Health leadership to reduce for-profit nursing agency costs by 15 per cent by March 2026 as part of a systemwide effort to refocus funding on nurses in the public system, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced today.

"Prairie Mountain Health has consistently been dealt a bad hand," said Asagwara. "Alongside the challenges in the area, the previous government gave the region little to no support by cutting services, closing ERs and firing nurses resulting in millions overspent on private nursing agencies. Enough is enough. It's time to put a hard stop on private for-profit nursing agency over-spending and re-invest in the public system. Our government is committed to working with all health regions to bring nurses back into the public system."

This direction comes alongside the Manitoba government's efforts to invest in publicly funded health care and encourage nurses to join the public system, the minister added.

The Manitoba government recently issued a request for proposals (RFP) to reduce the number of contracted agencies at prices that ensure the majority of health-care funding is directed to public front-line workers and their patients, noted the minister. The RFP is now closed, and the government will begin reviewing and evaluating proposals this week.

In the past, Manitoba has held hundreds of distinct contracts with more than 70 private for-profit agencies, with little to no policies on how to limit those agencies' impact on the nurses working in the public system or the rates they charge to publicly funded service delivery organizations, noted the minister.

## Thanks you Sponsors

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Many thanks to all the volunteers for the hours of work done each year.

# Marginal crop acres are a revenue killer.

## Stop seeding wheat and canola into saline patches

**Submitted**  
By DUCK UNLIMITED CND

Most farmers in southwest Manitoba contend with marginal acres – sometimes as much as 20 per cent of their land – where the crops grown on those acres won't pay for the input costs.

"The numbers are higher than you might expect," says Sam Robinson, a research scientist who studies sustainable agriculture for Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). "Common causes of marginal acres are too much or too little water, extra salinity and soil compaction. Weeds are another big one."

Marginal acres can reduce your farm's overall crop yield and profit margin. Using data from Manitoba Agriculture's 2025 Cost of Production Guide, DUC is urging farmers to address unproductive patches and get a better ROI (return on investment) in the process.

"A farmer seeding wheat or canola into extreme saline areas could lose up to \$418 per acre," explains Daphne Appleyard, DUC's marginal areas specialist in Brandon. "Fortunately, seeding those marginal areas

to forages is a proven way to fix saline and weed issues. Plus, the forages can be used for livestock feed or sold, which increases the profitability of that land."

Appleyard worked with 48 farmers in southwest Manitoba in the last crop year to rehabilitate more than 1,200 acres through DUC's Marginal Areas Program. Those producers pocketed nearly \$200,000 in program incentive payments.

"DUC offers Manitoba farmers \$200 per acre to seed marginal acres to forage," says Robinson, "so there's an economic incentive. The environment also benefits because the new growth will provide habitat for birds and increase biodiversity. The ultimate goal is to have a stand that establishes well and holds its ground against the common problems."

Research shows that marginal areas require a specialized approach. For instance, battling weeds in marginal areas with more chemical is a financial drain and can lead to even more problems like herbicide resistance.

"We're seeing herbicide resistance in kochia across the prairies," notes Robinson, who is cur-

rently involved in a \$7.6 million research project to identify sustainable, profitable and productive farming practices. "Some farmers will even do a chemical fallow, tilling the soil and applying herbicides with strong residual effects. This costs more time and money. The better solution is to have permanent cover in place that will compete

with the weeds. We find this is a successful long-term approach."

Robinson says deep-rooted, salt-tolerant forages can also reduce salinity. The plant roots intercept salt-laden water before it can reach the soil surface, minimizing salinity in the immediate area and helping prevent the problem from spreading.

Appleyard says that

even small decreases in crop yield can kill profits. Based on 2025 projections, operating costs for red hard spring wheat are \$350 per acre. Assuming a return of \$8 per bushel and an average yield of 65 bushels per acre, the profit is nearly \$170 per acre. In mildly saline areas where the average yield drops to 45 bushels per acre, profit plummets to only \$10 per acre after deducting input costs (see table for details on how salinity impacts profits in both wheat and canola). In areas plagued by moderate or extreme salinity,

input costs outrun any potential return.

Rehabilitating weedy or saline patches will take time but getting cover on the land helps prevent salinity from expanding. And there is an immediate payoff; saving input costs that were being wasted on unproductive acres.

Last year, the average payment to participating landowners was \$5,500. DUC also provides on-farm agronomic advice. Call Daphne Appleyard at 204-861-2587 or find out more at [ag.ducks.ca/program/marginal-areas-mb/](http://ag.ducks.ca/program/marginal-areas-mb/).

WHEAT				
Field Conditions	Average	Mild Salinity	Moderate Salinity	Extreme Salinity
Estimated Yield (bus/ac)	65	45	25	0
Estimated Price (\$/ac)	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$8
Gross Revenue (\$/ac)	\$520	\$360	\$200	\$0
Expenses* (\$/ac)	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350
Net Revenue (\$/ac)	\$170	\$10	-\$150	-\$350

CANOLA				
Field Conditions	Average	Mild Salinity	Moderate Salinity	Extreme Salinity
Estimated Yield (bus/ac)	45	30	10	0
Estimated Price (\$/ac)	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$13
Gross Revenue (\$/ac)	\$596	\$398	\$133	\$0
Expenses* (\$/ac)	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418
Net Revenue (\$/ac)	\$178	-\$20	-\$285	-\$418

\*2025 Manitoba Costs of Production for Crops. Includes seed and treatment, fertilizer, fuel, crop protection, machinery operating and lease, labour (hired), crop insurance, hail insurance, drying and storage costs, land taxes and interest on operating.

# Municipal funding keeps handi van rolling

**By Anne Davison**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Just weeks ago, the Virden and Area HandiVan was the recipient of an Age Friendly grant which has become the basis for the Toonie Transportation program, a great boost for helping seniors get out and about.

But in the big picture, the overall handi van service is largely supported by grants. Councillor for the RM of Wallace-Woodworth Lyle Kinnaird reported to the Jan. 28 municipal meeting that he had attended a handi van meeting where the 2025 budget was approved with the same requests for funding from the

RMs as in 2024. Rates were reviewed, but no reductions were possible at this time despite additional revenue from the age-friendly grant.

Bruce Dunning represents The Town of Virden on the handi van committee. The Town, the RM of Wallace-Woodworth and the RM of Pipestone have provided grants to cover a significant portion of operating costs in 2024 and previous years.

The provincial government also provides an annual operating grant through the Mobility Disadvantages Transportation Program which will be applied for again in 2025. Kinnaird explained, "That grant is a percentage of

operating costs with a maximum amount which the Virden and Area HandiVan has reached." He said, "The committee has reviewed the van operations from 2024 it appears that a modest increase in van usage along with some efficiencies in the van operation to reduce costs could potentially eliminate (the) deficit."

"The Age Friendly Grant should increase the amount the van is used in 2025 and hopefully the extra exposure will open opportunities for increased utilization of the service in future years."

While frequent use is considered an important part of the funding picture, there are other needs says Kinnaird. "A challenge for us is that we will need to find more drivers for the van to maximize its availability."



# It's time to pay tribute to historians

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden area and surrounding communities have well kept museums and many local individuals have contributed to our understanding of who we are and where we came from. Preserving history and presenting it to the public takes dedication, knowledge and an immense amount of time.

Lt.-Gov. Anita R. Neville is encouraging the public to nominate worthy Manitobans who have provided prolonged and meritorious service in the preservation and promotion of Manitoba history for an award, presented in consultation with the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS).

"I am both pleased and proud to formally recognize Manitobans who take such pride in preserving and promoting the history of this great province for the benefit of us all," said Lt-Gov. Neville. "We should all extend our sincere gratitude to these caretakers of our past, for the important role they play in ensuring the memory of the community remains intact for future generations. I encourage all Manitobans to recognize outstanding volunteers in your communities by nominating them for this award."

There have been a number of MHS awards in the recent decades, many of them in the Winnipeg area, but also a few from Western Manitoba have received this recognition. Here are some Westman recipients:

- Margaret Ashcroft of Birtle in 2011 for her work at the Birdtail Country Museum preparation of history books, commemoration of historic sites, and development of a walking tour;
- Bernice Still of Isabella in 2012 for her participation in the preparation of three volumes of the Isabella history book, documentation of local historic sites and buildings, and operation of the Isabella Museum.
- Barbara Pettinger of Shoal Lake for her work in the preparation of history books for the communities of Pierson and Shoal Lake, transcription of local cemetery records, and devoted work on behalf of Shoal Lake's Mounted Police Museum.
- Ken Smith of Hamiota in 2013 for his part as director of the publication of two local history books. He was instrumental in establishing the Hamiota and District Archives, led the town's centennial celebrations, developed pictorial displays, catalogued and organized archival materials, chaired and expanded the Hamiota Pioneer Club

Museum, designed a range of historical booklets, and wrote fictional works based on events and places from western Manitoba's past.

The MHS will receive nominations from the public and will recommend up to five individuals to receive awards this year. Two awards will be reserved for emerging historians (mid-30s and younger). Paid professionals in the field of history and heritage will not be considered. Nominations must be received by Friday, Feb. 28, 2025. The awards will be presented at Government House later in the spring.

Nomination forms and further details of the award program are available on the websites of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba ([www.manitobalg.ca](http://www.manitobalg.ca)) and the Manitoba Historical Society ([www.mhs.ca](http://www.mhs.ca)).

## How to wake up like a winner

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS**  
**CERTIFIED HYPNOTHERAPIST**  
**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Let's be real: waking up is hard. One minute, you are dreaming about something fantastic (maybe flying over the city, maybe eating an endless buffet of desserts), and the next—BAM! The alarm clock yanks you back to reality like an unpaid intern being called into a meeting they were not invited to.

How you handle those first few groggy moments can either make or break your entire day. Do you hit snooze until you have exactly 4.2 minutes to get ready and sprint out the door like a caffeinated tornado? Or do you take control of your morning like the main character in an inspirational movie montage? Science says the second option is better, and lucky for you, I have got some foolproof (and mildly ridiculous) tips to help you master

the "wake-up mindset".

Your brain is like a puppy. It responds to whatever you feed it. So, before you go to sleep, give it a nice little command: "I am going to wake up feeling refreshed and fabulous." Do not say, "I hope I am not exhausted in the morning," because your brain is dramatic and will take that as a challenge.

I know, I know. Your phone is "right there", glowing like a digital nightlight filled with memes and unnecessary emails. But the moment you start scrolling, you are opening the floodgates to stress, weird news, and messages from that one person who "always" texts at 6:12 AM. Instead, give yourself at least five minutes of screen-free time. Let your brain wake up before you invite chaos in.

Before you even get out of bed, think of three things you are grateful for. It could be as deep as "I am grateful for my health" or as simple as "Thank goodness coffee is a thing." Bonus points if you throw in an exaggerated morning stretch and a big fake smile. Your brain does not know the difference, and soon enough, you will feel happier. Guaranteed.

Say something positive to yourself, out loud if possible. "I am unstoppable today." "I am basically a productivity wizard." "I have survived all my worst days, and I still look amazing." Whatever gets you hyped. If it helps, imagine dramatic background music playing while you say it.

Your body has been lying there like a human burrito all night. Give it a chance to wake up! Stretch, wiggle your toes, roll your shoulders, or stand up and do a victorious superhero pose in the mirror. Not only will this boost your energy, but if anyone sees you, they will either

be deeply impressed or deeply confused. Either way, both are wins.

Before you even leave your bedroom, visualize yourself handling everything like a pro. Imagine your meetings going well, your emails not ruining your life, and your coffee order being "exactly" what you wanted. Manifest that greatness.

Mornings are never going to feel like a luxury spa experience (unless you are some kind of morning person, in which case, I admire and fear you). But with a few small mindset shifts, you can turn your wake-up routine from "barely functioning zombie" to "confident, ready-for anything legend."

So tomorrow, when your alarm goes off, instead of groaning dramatically and contemplating a career where you can sleep until noon, take a breath, say something positive, and start the day like the main character you were born to be! You will notice a huge difference in your day!

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# Manitoba Conservation Officers join RCMP patrols to increase and support border security: Kinew

**Submitted**  
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Manitoba conservation officers are patrolling along the Canada-United States border to increase security, Premier Wab Kinew announced here today.

“Our government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our southern border, and with Manitoba conservation officers joining the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in this work, Manitoba is doing our part,” said Kinew. “Increased eyes and ears will help crack down on drug trafficking, stop unsafe crossings and potentially save lives.”

Conservation officers stationed out of Virden, Boissevain, Manitou, Winnipeg, Steinbach and Sprague are conducting border patrols as part of their work. Patrols are being conducted between ports of entry, focusing on secondary roads and backcountry areas. The province is deploying equipment such as snowmobiles, utility terrain vehicles and helicopters to support the conservation service in its work to patrol the border.

“Our conservation officers stand ready to apply our enforcement skills, deploy our patrol equipment and use our knowledge of the land to assist the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,

Canada Border Services Agency and other enforcement agencies to take immediate action to stop the proliferation of smuggling in firearms, drugs and people across our shared border with the U.S.,” said Corey Meadows, chief conservation officer. “Our officers will uphold and enhance co-ordinated law enforcement in this shared international effort. Manitoba conservation officers are expertly trained and skilled peace officers who have authority to enforce a variety of acts and regulations in the interests of public safety and resource protection.”

Unsafe crossings, including those that occur between points of entry, can be dangerous and even deadly, noted the premier.

“This is a humanitarian effort as well as an important step to keep people safe,” said Kinew. “If there’s a child or a family in danger near the border, we’re going to make sure there’s help there. But if someone is smuggling drugs or guns, we’re going to stop them.”

Patrols will be watching for suspicious activity or activity in unusual places with a focus on identifying illegal border crossings and stopping drug trafficking. Officers will work with the RCMP to carry out activities and lay charges under the Criminal Code of Canada and the provincial Highway Traffic Act.

# Reston School lowers flag

## Highlights from Fort La Bosse School Division minutes of regular meeting, Jan. 27

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

### Administrative reports

Brad Rozak, retired long-time head custodian at Reston School passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26. At Fort La Bosse School Division board of trustees meeting, Superintendent Barry Pitz noted that Reston School will lower their flag to half-mast in honour of his passing.

The superintendent presented resolutions for staffing adjustments along with a resolution to ratify the approval for an off-school site basketball tournament in Dauphin for a VCI basketball team.

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Reid discussed the recent CPI and unemployment report which continues to have significance for the division.

The draft budget continues under review for the 2025-2026 fiscal year highlighting some of the

areas of focus for the upcoming school year. The division is still awaiting important provincial funding disbursement.

The Supervisor of Operations Mark Johnston provided a report of ongoing bus driver training with hopes to increase the pool of bus/spare drivers. There’s a vacant route in Reston to fill. Training is being scheduled for custodial staff to work in confined spaces.

### New and unfinished business

Trustees discussed the process for the Board Chairpersons meeting with the Minister of Education at the upcoming MSBA Convention this spring and the possible questions to be presented to the Minister.

The Superintendent of Schools provided some personnel matter updates during the in-camera session.

### Resolutions presented

- and approved:
- 0.5 FTE for Gracie Gervin commencing April 7th to June 27th, 2025
  - 0.25 FTE temporary increase for Gracie Gervin commencing Feb. 3, 2025 and concluding March 31, 2025.
  - 60-month lease of Kyocera TaskCentre equipment from Gold Business Machines for Virden Collegiate Institute at a monthly cost of \$514 plus taxes and a service toner contract.
  - payment of HDK Consulting Inc. of \$20,250 plus taxes for consulting fees for the Mary Montgomery School boiler replacement.
  - payment to Flynn Canada LTD. of \$77,278.00 taxes included for the VCI gym roof repair.
- The Board entered a Committee-of-the-Whole to consider a matter as outlined in the Superintendent’s report; the meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

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# Valentine's Day and Flowers

Submitted

BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

The art of floral design is a very proud form of art that has been around for thousands of years. The diversity of style is amazing and will reflect a variety of social, religious and cultural trends. It is a part of social interactions, of interior design and is very important in relationships and for enhancing the overall quality of our lives. Working with flowers is fun but also brings a dimension to our life that is purely pleasing. Having a bad day – then make a bouquet! Feeling sad – bring some joy to your life by working with a bunch of flowers that smile for you!



FILE PHOTO

Flowers are both beautiful and functional. We enjoy their colour, their scent and often forget that the real significance of a flower from the plants' perspective is to provide a means of reproduction. Flowers have played a role in many cultures throughout the years, symbolizing an identity, a goal or aspiration and even may have special religious significance.

We also mark special days with flowers – births, deaths, weddings and a host of other special occasions to give thanks, to say "I love you" or to just say I am thinking about you. In fact, individual types of flowers

have been given special meanings which you may consider when you are giving flowers as a gift.

The floral industry itself is huge. It is a multibillion dollar industry that brightens our lives at every special holiday and event in our lives. It does make a great contribution to our economy and provides a host of employment opportunities. Valentine's Day which is February 14th is one of the busiest days for florists, candy shops, lingerie shops and restaurants. It is "expected" to give and receive flowers, chocolate, to go for a romantic date and more!

During Victorian times, flowers were given special meanings and small bouquets would be given to sweethearts to demonstrate love. The rose has been forever a symbol of love, beauty and peace and evidence of cultivation of roses dates back to over 5000 years ago. Over Valentines over 250 million roses will be harvested and bring in over two billion dollars in sales!

If you received cut flowers from your valentine, then here are a few tips to prolong their life and beauty. Begin with a clean vase. If your container was previously used, then wash it with hot, soapy water to remove any debris and destroy bacteria and fungi that might shorten the life of your cut flowers. Cut off the bottom half inch of your flowers to aid in water uptake. Ensure all foliage is removed beneath the water line. When your flowers begin to wilt, just give them a quick recut to ensure the stems are able to take water up to the blooms and rewash and refill the vase with clean water as well as more of the floral preservative if you have some.

Cut flowers are not the only option as there are also many potted plants now available everywhere. It is impossible to walk into any grocer without being greeted by flowering potted plants of every colour and type. Remember that our homes are not really welcoming to plants that would normally live in areas with brighter light and higher humidity. Our plants in our houses are stressed during our long winter months so ensure you are giving them the care they deserve for brightening up our lives!

Hope your February is going well and your heart is full with all of what gives us joy during our winter!

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [info@orchidhort.com](mailto:info@orchidhort.com); on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

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# REFEREEING

*REF TO WRITER*

**GERRY NOLAN**



On Wednesday, Jan. 29, my son Oliver and I went to a Brandon Wheat Kings game. The Wheaties won the game, and we were entertained. One of the things I was watching for was the way the officials handled the game. Wyatt Rapsky and Karlin Kreller were the referees. I was very impressed by these two gentlemen. They let the two teams play but called all the penalties that were in that game. They had control of the game from the outset of the contest. Congratulations on a job well done.

I cannot always say that about officiating. Over the course of time, you see some great officials and some not so good. On any given night in the NHL I see some guys out there and wonder, how did they ever get there? Do they ever look in the mirror? NHL officials seem to call the cheap penalties but let shots to the head, cross checks and punches to the head go by as if you should have to take that. You can run someone through the boards or a hit from behind go, no penalty.

The Winnipeg Jets are playing the Calgary Flames. Josh Morrissey gets cross checked from behind and it hurts him, he goes off the ice but does later return. He probably had a stinger. Same shift a Calgary forward steps on a stick and falls down. Winnipeg gets a tripping minor penalty. I can only shake my head and wonder what are these 2 guys doing out there. The one official is number 15, you can look him up. He used to do Wheat King games and he was awful there to. He is also the same referee who did not give Ryan Hartman a penalty for a headshot to Ehlers last season at centre ice. Ehlers missed 6 weeks with a concussion. The same official worked the NHL Stanley cup division championship series to see who goes and plays in the final. Hard to figure this one out.

The worst game I ever saw was when the Canadian Olympic women's team played the USA Olympic team. The penalties were 9 for Canada and 2 for the U.S. team. Somehow Canada won that game and received the gold medal.

I still believe there is no accountability to some of these officials. The NHL says these officials who make bad calls or do not call flagrant fouls lose assignments. I doubt that!

Fans deem it unfair when their team gets a penalty and focus on the official and take out their frustrations on referees with verbal abuse, etc. One of the things I noticed in my years of officiating is that the great teams were so focused on the game and on their assignments they rarely said anything to you. They would re focus and keep on playing, just like the Ladies Olympic team did.

The Elkhorn Canadians and the Cartwright Clippers who were the best 2 teams in the Southwest Hockey League for a number of years, were so focused on the game they hardly said anything to me, they just kept playing. Discipline! That is not to say there was not the occasional outburst from someone in the heat of the moment, but they were right back playing the game at the next face-off.

Officials today stand out in front of the penalty timekeepers' bench to assess penalties and with that comes a lot of rabbit ears. The player is usually not happy with the call and says some colourful language. The solution, make your call and skate away. It is only the heat of the moment when the player says something.

These days what frustrates me the most is the linesmen will not drop the puck. They have to throw out some player then drop it like it is nobody's business. Linesmen just drop the puck. Nobody came to watch you, get the game going!

Like officials, players should know the rule book. In fact the parents should know the rule book. Parents should also have the opportunity to officiate a game or two. On ice referees get different angles on infractions and sometimes you have players skate right in front of you and block the look you may get.

In conclusion, focus! Focus on the game not the officials. There will always be controversy as long as there are games. Cheer loud for your team and enjoy life!

# Premier announces cabinet changes, welcomes new minister to work for Manitobans

**Submitted**

BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government has made changes to cabinet and renewed its commitment to its mandate to continue working on behalf of Manitobans, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

Tracy Schmidt, member of the legislative assembly for Rossmere, becomes minister of education and early childhood learning, following her acting role in that portfolio after the late education and early childhood learning minister Nello Altomare stepped back in October before passing away last week. Mike Moyes, member of the legislative assembly for Riel, has joined cabinet as the minister of environment and climate change.

"I am honoured to take up the torch of minister of education and early childhood learning and continue on the incredible work of my late colleague and friend Nello Altomare," said Schmidt. "In this role I will keep working to give every child in Manitoba a path to success – an inspiring education, a fulfilling career and a good life."

Moyes committed to working to protect the environment and tackle climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing the province.

"I am honoured to be asked to serve Manitobans in this role," said Moyes. "Together, we will work to face the climate challenges



FILE PHOTO

Minister of Education, Tracy Schmidt.

ahead and to create safe, clean and healthy environments for Manitobans. I look forward to helping preserve and protect lands and waters in our province for generations to come."

The premier noted both ministers have been sworn into cabinet at a private ceremony.

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# SPORTS

## OIL CAPS ROMP PAST KINGS, GRIND OUT WIN VERSUS BLUES

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In their pursuit of a playoff spot, the Virden Oil Capitals earned two big victories last week.

On Feb. 2, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League team beat the Winnipeg Blues 3-1. Two nights before, in front of 736 fans at home, the Oil Capitals romped past the MJHL Western Division-leading Dauphin Kings, 8-0. It was goaltender Loic Morin's first shutout as an Oil Capital. Eight different players scored for Virden. Noel Englot and defenceman Rhylan Baxter led the team with three points each.

"It's always great when the game just flows and everything falls into place like when you're playing and you can sense the team is totally in sync," Baxter said. "We were connecting with our passes, lines were buzzing, and everyone seemed to be anticipating each other's moves. When you get that kind of rhythm, it's almost like the game slows down, and everything just feels easier. It was just a fun game to be a part of especially when we needed those points to help us stay in a playoff spot and to beat the team at the top of our division. Just going out every shift and keeping it simple was key for us all game long and by us doing that we came out with a big win."

As of Feb. 2, the Oil Capitals had an 18-23-1-0 record. That put them in fourth place with 37 points in the Western Division, which would be the last playoff spot. The Waywayseecappo Wolverines were two points behind at 35 with a 16-24-2-1 record.

The Oil Capitals host the Swan Valley Stampeders on Feb. 7. The next night the team competes in Selkirk. On Feb. 11, the Virden squad heads to Waywayseecappo.

### Oil Caps 8, Kings 0

Morin stopped all 30 shots that the Kings sent his way. It was his second MJHL shutout. He recorded one last season playing for the then OCN, now Northern Manitoba, Blizzard. Morin joined the Oil Capitals in January.

"Loic works extremely hard in the net," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is athletic and really good at reading plays in front of him and swallowing up pucks to not allow second and third chances. He has really helped our penalty kill as well. He is a calming influence for our guys and has been a key addition to our team on and off the ice."

The Oil Capitals got rolling offensively just before the halfway point in the first period. Carson Wright scored on the powerplay at 9:05. Adler Johnston made it 2-0 with a goal with the man advantage 34 seconds later. At the 10:26 mark, defenceman Tyler Dodgson scored at even strengths. Just over three minutes later Marshall Light made the score 4-0 for Virden. With just over a minute remaining in the frame, Englot made it 5-0.

In the second period, Baxter and Cole Robertson found the back of the net to give Virden a 7-0 lead. Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper capped the scoring with a powerplay marker in the third.

Draper, Johnston, Light, and captain Ethan Gurthie all recorded two points. Kings goalie Bryson Yaschyshyn made 19 saves on 27 shots.

### Oil Caps 3, Blues 1

On Feb. 2, Maddox Shindle put the Oil Capitals on top, 1-0, just less than three minutes into the game. With just more than five minutes left in the period, Draper lit



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps celebrate another victory.

the lamp to make it 2-0. In the second period, Brock Assailly scored for the Blues to cut Virden's lead to one, 2-1. Wright's marker in the third stretched the Oil Capitals' lead to two, 3-1.

"I thought we had to grind things out a little bit," Ramsey said. "Our first period was decent, but in the second period we got away from our structure and what had made us successful the last couple games. We were better in the third and at the end of the day were able to get two huge points."

Morin made 17 saves. Samuel Couture stopped 30 shots for the Blues.

## BRYANT SUCCEEDS IN SECOND SEASON



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps #7 Bryce Bryant.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Hometown forward Bryce Bryant is enjoying a strong sophomore season with the Virden Oil Capitals.

As of Feb. 2, he was third on the Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad in scoring. The 18-year-old was helping the Oil Capitals push for a playoff spot.

"Bryce has many

strengths to his game," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is an elite skater with elite skills and works hard to improve his game. ... We feel he is definitely at his best when he is physic-

ally engaged in each game. He has also really embraced the dressing room and is a leader in our room. We are very happy to have him with us and very excited for what's to come for him in his hockey career."

As of Feb. 2, Bryant had nine goals, 18 assists, and 27 points in 30 games. He is well on pace to surpass the 10 goals, 19 assists, and 29 points he accumulated in 52 games last season as a rookie. What has allowed him to increase his production?

"Winning games and working hard on small details helps with getting on the scoresheet, also having skilled linemates adds to that category," the son of Daren and Roanne Bryant said.

Ramsey praised Bryant's efforts to get better.

"Although he was a

good skater last year, I think he has gotten quicker and found another gear to help separate himself from players to create some space to make plays," the coach said. "His shot is something he has worked hard at and it is noticeably better. Bryce has gotten stronger, where he can win battles and protect the puck against the bigger bodies in the league."

Bryant's strong play this season earned him the opportunity to play in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League-Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Showcase last week. He helped his MJHL 18U White team to two shootout wins.

"I enjoyed the competition and getting a couple wins for Team MJHL," Bryant said.

Last season Bryant committed to play NCAA

Division I hockey at Bemidji (Minn.) State University. While Minnesota is in his future, Bryant, who played a couple contests earlier this season for the British Columbia Hockey League's Cranbrook Bucks, is enjoying competing in Virden.

"Playing in front of my home crowd is a privilege every time," he said. "It really sinks in that I was a fan at one point and now getting to play on the Oil Caps in front of them is very special."

Playing for his hometown team also provides more opportunities for Bryant's family to see him play. He said, "my family's support is everything. I wouldn't be able to play without them. They have given me every opportunity to choose a path and have helped a ton with whatever I do."



# SPORTS

## OIL CAPS NOTES: PLAISIER SHINES AT SHOWCASE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Oil Capitals' hometown defenceman Ty Plaisier shone brightly among the stars at the Manitoba Junior Hockey League-Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Showcase last week.

The prestigious event in Winnipeg pitted talent-packed teams from each league against each other. The son of Shawn and Debra Plaisier was one of seven members of the Oil Capitals organization participating in Showcase. On Jan. 29, he earned the CCM Hockey Star of the Game award for his team after racking up three assists in a 6-4 MJHL 20U Red victory over SJHL 20U White. Plaisier also competed in MJHL 20U Red's 5-2 loss to SJHL 20U Gold.

"The Showcase was an unreal experience," Plaisier said. "I enjoyed the aspect of playing with guys you normally hate and teaming up for something bigger. I also loved how competitive of an atmosphere it was."

In his third season with the Oil Capitals, Plaisier's offensive skills have been on display. As of Feb. 2, he had 10 points in 28 games. That tops his previous career high of nine points in 34 games in 2022-2023. This season Plaisier scored his first two MJHL goals. What has allowed him to increase his points production?

"I think having some more experience as an older guy helps with that for sure, as well as getting some more opportunities in different spots in games," said Plaisier, who spent parts of two seasons with the Western Hockey League's Regina Pats.

At the MJHL-SJHL Showcase, the MJHL 18U White team had a definite Oil Capitals flavour. It included Virden's own Bryce Bryant as well as Oil Caps teammates Nate Schaefer and Liam Goertzen and head coach Tyson Ramsey. The squad went undefeated, 2-0, at the Showcase with a pair of shootout victories.

On Jan. 28, MJHL 18U White beat SJHL 18U Blue, 3-2. In the shootout, Bryant scored as the Manitoba-based squad found the back of the net three times on seven opportunities. The SJHL team had two shootout goals in seven chances.

The next day MJHL 18U White survived an epic 15-round shootout to defeat SJHL 18U Blue, 2-1. Bryant scored again in the shootout. This time MJHL 18U White saw three of its 15 shooters score. Their SJHL counterparts got two goals in the shootout.

Schaefer and Goertzen played in both contests. It was announced that Goertzen had been added to the MJHL 18U White team shortly before the event.

Oil Capitals assistant coach Curtis Brolund served in that role for MJHL 20U Black. That team fell 9-4 to SJHL 20U White and beat SJHL 20U Gold, 5-1. Oil Caps athletic therapist Dana Warrener was selected to work the event. It is one of a number of all-star style events the well respect athletic therapist has been picked for.

### Rescheduled Games

The makeup dates were announced last week for a couple of contests that were thwarted by bad weather and poor road conditions. The Oil Caps will travel to play the Winnipeg Blues on Feb. 26. On March 4, the team will host the Niverville Nighthawks.

### Volunteer Recognized

Each month, in partnership with Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, the team recognizes one of its volunteers. The volunteer for January was Brian Eilers. On Facebook, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ty Plaisier shines at Showcase.

Oil Capitals noted that he "is one of our dedicated goal judges who provides valuable insight from behind the net."

### Wright Honoured

At a home game last week, the Oil Capitals recognized rookie forward Carson Wright. As previously reported, he was named to the RBC MJHL Community Ambassador Team. The selection recognizes his dedication to volunteering as well as his citizenship and sportsmanship.

## THOMPSON IMPACTS CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TEAM

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Davis Thompson has made an immediate impact on the University of Central Oklahoma men's hockey team.

The son of Vaughn Thompson and Kimorie Lees joined the Edmond, Okla.-based school team for the second semester. He has contributed on both ends of the ice.

"Davis is a great, level-headed young man," University of Central Oklahoma head coach Jonas Hostovecky said. "He is bringing a lot to the table. He has the work ethic that we expect from our players as well as the skill to make impact night in, night out. He is not with us for that long and he is already a key person in the lockerroom. We are excited and happy to have him both on and off the ice."

A 6-foot-1, 200-pound forward, Thompson has recorded a goal and an assist through 10 games. His goal

was a game winner.

"Davis is a player with high hockey IQ," Hostovecky said. "He makes the right decisions and I can move him all around the lineup and he always does what he is supposed to. For only a freshman, he understands the level of hockey really well and is able to level up his games as it's needed. He has a rocket of shoot ... I am very excited about Davis and I know that he will do great things as a young man as well as a hockey player."

The Bronchos compete at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I level. Thompson moved onto the college ranks after playing two seasons for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Winnipeg Freeze.

"ACHA hockey is fast paced and very physical," Thompson said. "The experience within the league is very high and everyone at this level knows the game very well. Compared to junior, with specific regard to the MJHL where I played, it is very similar in the speed of

the game as well as the talent within every team."

Several factors made Thompson choose UCO. Academically, he is majoring in kinesiology - exercise/fitness management. Thompson is interested in a career in physical therapy after he is done playing hockey.

"What drew me to the University of Central Oklahoma was the opportunity to be a part of a team with a very successful past, as well as a bright future," he said. "I was also drawn to the educational opportunities that UCO has in store for its students. But most importantly, I was drawn to the hockey program because of the chance to play and make a positive impact in the lineup."

He started this school year playing and studying at the University of Jamestown in North Dakota. Thompson suited up for the Jimmies in one ACHA Division I contest. Playing for the University of Jamestown's ACHA Division II team, he racked up 16 goals and 22 points in 19 games. Thompson earned a spot on the University of Jamestown's

Dean's List.

No matter where he has played, Thompson has had the backing of his parents.

"The support they have provided me throughout my career both on and off the ice has been incredible," he said. "The transition to UCO was made possible by them and I can't thank them enough for providing me with the tools and opportunities I need to chase my dreams."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Davis Thompson takes a shot on net.

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# SPORTS

## MJHL WON THE SHOWCASE AGAINST SJHL

**Submitted**

BY DEREK HOLTOM

Though wins and losses don't really mean much in an event designed to showcase the top players from two junior leagues for scouts, it's also been said if you're not playing to win, why bother.

And so the MJHL won the showcase against their SJHL counterparts, winning four of the six games played last week in Winnipeg.

The SJHL held a 2-1 lead after the first day, but the MJHL bounced back with a clean sweep on the second day, winning all three games. This included a 2-1 shootout win by the under 18 team that required 15 shooters from both teams before a winner was decided.

Cameron Bullinger from the Portage Terriers had quite a couple of days, scoring two goals and adding three assists for five points to lead all players from both leagues.

Cayden Glover from the Dauphin Kings is one of three Original 16 MJHL Players of the Week thanks to his scoring three goals and adding two assists in five games. His three goals pushed his total to 33 goals in 37 games.

The next winner is netminder Liam Ernst from the Winkler Flyers. He shutout the Northern Manitoba Blizzard in back-to-back games, pushing his league-leading shutout total to eight.

The final winner is Brett Kaisier from the Steinbach Pistons. He had one goal in three games (and overtime winner), and added four assists for five points to earn the nod.

The Swan Valley Stampeders are not going away quietly, but they are running out of time to get back into the playoff picture.

The Stampeders had a horrific start to the season, but have steadily gotten better, as seen last week when they rattled off two more victories.

Despite the four points in their back pocket, though, Swan Valley remains eight points back of Waywayseecappo and Virden. Chasing two teams for one playoff spot makes their goal that much more difficult, but the team has shown no quit despite the daunting task.

For any chance of pulling off this miracle, the Stampeders will have to win four more games than both the Oil Capitals and the Wolverines down the stretch. Conveniently, the Stamps do face each of those teams twice more, so if they swept those

four games, you just never know – maybe dreams do come true?

Virden and Wayway, as it stands, play each other twice more this year. The Stamps would ideally want them to split those games, while of course a sweep would give the winner a real advantage in the battle for fourth place.

In the East Division, the Selkirk Steelers are slipping further and further away from fourth-place Niverville. The Steelers opened the season with an undefeated streak that had them ranked nationally, but now they are six points back of the Nighthawks with time running out.

Unfortunately for the Steelers, they only have one game remaining against the Nighthawks this season. They'll need to win that and win three more times than Niverville down the stretch to get back into a playoff spot.

At the top of the standings, Dauphin beat the Northern Manitoba Blizzard to take full control of the race for first in the West, putting them eight points clear of the Blizzard and Neepawa Titans.

In the East Division, four points separate first-place Winkler, second-place Steinbach and third-place Portage. That is quite the race for top spot.

## FREEMAN RINK CLAIMS MJCT CROWN

**By Robin Wark**

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Jace Freeman rink went undefeated en route to winning the Manitoba Junior Curling Tour Championship.

It went 5-0 at the event in Gimli. The rink includes Virden's Freeman, New Brunswick product Tim Marin and Winnipeggers Nick Senff and Luke Robins. Danny Senff, Nick's father, is originally from Virden. What allowed the Freeman rink to win the MJCT title?

"I think sticking in each game and not getting too frustrated early helped us win this weekend," said Freeman, the son of Graham and Roxanne.

"There were a few games where we struggled early and were down a few points, but we always came back strong the last half to squeak out a couple of the wins this weekend."

In the finals, Freeman won 5-3 against Team Sugden. That rink is the Manitoba U18 provincial champs.

"I was very pleased with how we stuck to our game plan in the final," Freeman said. "We went in with the mindset that even if we weren't winning by multiple points, just keeping it smart and fairly clean while keeping our noses out in front should result in success, even if the score was very close the entire game."

The Freeman rink played in three MJCT events

this season. They won all three and went undefeated at 15-0. That allowed the rink to finish on top of the MJCT points standings.

"We've played mostly men's events this season so it was nice to get to play some teams closer to our own age for the first time in a couple of months," Freeman said of the MJCT Championship bonspiel.

This week the rink is in action at the Viterra Championship. The 2025 event in Portage is the Manitoba men's provincial curling championship. The rink will compete in the junior provincial championships, Feb. 26-March 2, in Brandon where it will try to earn a berth to nationals in P.E.I.



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# SPORTS

## OIL KINGS KEEP ON WINNING

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings extended their winning streak to eight games last week.

The Tiger Hills Hockey League Western Division leaders beat the Melita Bisons, 10-2. That improved their record to 12-2-0-1. The Oil Kings have averaged 9.33 goals over their last six outings.

"I think our offence lately has come from everyone buying in as a team," Oil Kings defenceman Jackson Orr said. "Everyone plays for one another and we bring each other up on the bench and that camaraderie give us a lot of confidence on the ice, which allows us to have scoring up and down the lineup on any given night. It's been a lot of fun to be a part of."

The Oil Kings head to Rivers on Feb. 8 to wrap up their regular season against the THHL Eastern Division-leading Jets. Rivers has a 13-2-0-0 record. Captain Riley Shamray, a defenceman, leads the Jets in scoring with 29 points. That puts him third in the THHL. His Jets teammate, Joben Smith, is ninth with 24 points. Former Oil Kings goalie Riley Lamb paces THHL regulars with a 1.55 goals against average and a .942 save percentage.

"Rivers is always a fun matchup," Orr said. "They have some skill and some grit, which makes for an intense game and fun to play in. I'm sure it'll be a good one to come watch."

### Oil Kings 10, Bisons 2

In Virden on Feb. 2, the teams traded goals in the first period - resulting in a 2-2 deadlock. The

second and third frames were all Oil Kings. The hosts lit the lamp six times in the second session to lead 8-2. They added two more in the third to create the 10-2 final score.

Bradley Bowles racked up seven points. He scored a hat trick and assisted on four other goals. Bowles leads the THHL in scoring with 51 points in 14 games. He also has a league-best 36 assists.

Tanner Koroscil also found the back of the net three times. Orr recorded four points with a goal and three assists. Virden's other scorers were Elisha Bambridge, Shane Price, and Joel Cosens. Oil Kings goalie Tristin Rinn made 18 saves to earn his seventh win of the season.

Kyle Champion had both of Melita's goals. Dez Ramsey stopped 21 shots for the Bisons.

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# Town of Virden to sponsor VCI career fair

## Town of Virden Council of Jan. 28

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

### Finance

During the review of bill payments at the Town of Virden Council meeting, Jan. 28, they discussed a specific payment related to postage expenses. They noted the rising cost of postage and its impact on municipal operations with their annual postage expense being around \$9,000, with significant variations depending on quarterly mailings for tax and water bills. Some residents received email billing during the postal strike. CAO Rhonda Stewart said, "During the strike, if people couldn't get in, we tried to accommodate." But to cover the entire ratepayer billing list is not in place at this time.

The budget allocation for airport-related redesign and regulatory compliance was clarified.

It was confirmed that newly installed lamp posts were already in place and appeared visually impressive. Councillor Travis Penner attended the meeting via zoom and asked if the new installation would be protected from damage by placing them on higher concrete bases. And that is the case.

Council received RCMP Corp. Ed Giannico. It was a lengthy report where staffing changes and shortages were discussed.

### Sponsorship

A sponsorship request was also discussed for the Fort La Bosse School Division Career Fair. The fair, usually held in a high school gymnasium every two years, was being proposed at a larger venue, Tundra Oil and Gas Place to accommodate more businesses and the crowd that attends.

The council felt this was a beneficial initiative for the community. Several members noted the advantages of exposing high school students to local job opportunities, especially given that many students may not be aware of available careers in their own town.

"And we do have a lot of businesses in town that would sure like to be able

to get some local kids back, I'm sure," said Mayor Tina Williams. "There's a lot of jobs going unfilled, right?"

She noted that the Town's 'matrix' to determine value for events at TOGP, doesn't rate such an event very highly, but council felt the career fair held strong local value.

Specific organizations such as PMH and the RCMP were suggested as valuable participants in the event. A motion was made to provide the banquet hall at TOGP a \$550 donation to VCI's career fair.

### Nuisance bird and beaver program

Four individuals are responsible for the program, with two additional people specifically designated for beaver management. A motion was made and passed to continue the program.

### Tax Incentive Bylaw

The council reviewed tax deletions related to a tax incentive bylaw. Under this program, qualifying properties received a 100 per cent exemption on taxes for the first year of improvements. Since tax amounts were confidential, only roll numbers were listed. A motion was made and passed to approve the incentive application.

### Community Boost Meeting

On Jan. 23rd, a Virden Boost meeting was held, generating enthusiasm for new initiatives. A key highlight was a partnership with Home Hardware, which is expected to foster a strong business relationship beneficial to the community.

### Doctor Retention Committee updates

A meeting was held on Jan. 16 where Rural Med Week (May 21 to 30) was discussed. Medical students will visit Virden, engage in local activities, and explore rural health-care opportunities.

On March 31, a newly recruited doctor is expected to visit. There will be meetings with realtors, school tours, and landlord introductions, with the committee covering the doctor's hotel expenses.

Council noted that a lack of available daycare in Virden previously resulted in the loss of a physician



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The historic Town of Virden civic building is set off by recently installed new sidewalk lamps.

who moved to Winnipeg, where daycare was secured within a day. The primary challenges for physician retention are housing and daycare, and addressing these concerns is crucial for sustaining medical professionals in the area.

### Aquatic Species Webinar

On Jan. 22, an invasive aquatic species webinar was attended, drawing 53 participants, a higher-than-expected turnout. The webinar, hosted by the provincial government, clarified that local municipalities bear the responsibility of creating and enforcing bylaws regarding aquatic species control.

### Western caucus

Jan. 24, CAO, Mayor Williams attended the Western Caucus meeting. A key concern was the RCMP staffing shortage. Public safety remains a major issue, particularly in smaller municipalities with limited RCMP presence.

Williams reported on the need for better public messaging boards during road closures. Historically, a camera in Kirkella and another in Oak Lake provided visibility during such events, but the Oak Lake camera is no longer operational. It was suggested they advocate for reinstating the Kirkella camera and implementing additional messaging boards. There was also a proposal for cross-border collaboration with Moosomin and Saskatchewan authorities to coordinate road closure alerts.

### Library Tender Process

Updates were provided on the library project, with

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 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 **Assistant Chief Administrative Officer**.

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

The successful candidate should possess excellent financial and managerial attributes.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

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

#### Skills and Qualifications

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

### MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT

#### Job Description

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

#### Duties and Responsibilities

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

#### Skills and Qualifications

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

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

[www.wallace-woodworth.com](http://www.wallace-woodworth.com) | 204-748-1239 | [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:info@wallace-woodworth.com)

an online meeting held to finalize the tender process. The tender is now public, bids are expected to close soon. It was confirmed that the tender process involved invitations to six bidders, with some already confirming their participation.

### Mid West Planning District growth

A total of 81 permits were issued in 2024. This included six conditional use and variation applications, one development agreement, and zoning bylaw amendments. Currently, 15

pre-permit and active files are in progress. The total permit valuation for 2024 stood at \$21,435,510, with fees collected amounting to \$115,244.32. A request was made to break down the permit values specific to the town of Virden.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

### IN LOVING MEMORY GRANT SHOEMAKER



Grant Shoemaker passed away January 17, 2025 at the age of 73. He was predeceased by his wife Marlain. He is survived by his stepson Kurt (Tami) McCullagh, grandsons Brennan and Keiran, and stepdaughter Jaylin (Dan) Cormier and grandsons Jaydan and Braydan. He is also survived by his sister Sandra Hall and nephews Jason (Simone) and Darcy.

Grant was truly loved by his whole family and will be sorely missed. He had an extensive array of friends in the community and many more that he acquired on his travels. He will always be remembered for his good nature, generosity, sense of humor and infectious laugh.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

For those who so desire, memorial tributes in memory of Grant may be made to Virden Airport Commission c/o Town of Virden, P.O. Box 310 Virden, MB R0M 2C0 or Virden & Area Foundation P.O. Box 2319 Virden, MB R0M 2C0.

CARSCADDEN  
Virden



## For Rent



### LAND FOR RENT

Ducks Unlimited Canada is offering Land for rent in the following RM's:

First four listings are cash rent, one-year rental agreements

#### RM of Clanwilliam-Erickson:

SW30 & NW 19 - 17 - 18 W1 230 acres

#### RM of Oakview:

NW 23 - 13 - 19 W1 105 acres

#### RM of Prairie View:

S 1/2 34 - 17 - 25 W1 150 acres

#### RM of Whitehead:

SW 19 - 9 - 22 W1 95 acres

Last listing is a cash rent, two-year rental agreement

#### RM of Minto-Odanah:

SE21, N1/2 & SE10, S1/2 15-13-18 W1 825 acres

Tenders close at NOON on February 21, 2025.  
Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Anyone wishing to submit a tender should provide in writing: name, phone number, price per acre, crop and weed control plans. Cash rent is due JUNE 1, 2025.

For a copy of the rental agreement and/or specifics on the lands being rented, please contact **Charlotte Crawley** call/text: (204) 868-5599 or email: [c\\_crawley@ducks.ca](mailto:c_crawley@ducks.ca)

If emailing a tender, please indicate "Land Rental Tender" in the subject line and email to: [info@ducks.ca](mailto:info@ducks.ca). If mailing a tender, please indicate "Land for Rent" on your envelope and send to:  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Unit 2-545 Conservation Drive  
Brandon MB R7A 7L8

## Obituary

### IN LOVING MEMORY BRUCE EARL ELLSWORTH FEB. 14, 1929 - OCT. 14, 2024

Passed away at Peace Arch Hospital White Rock, BC.

Born in Pipestone, MB, growing up in Virden, MB.

Bruce worked in transportation industry with CPR, CPA, PWA and teaching at B.C.I.T. Burnaby BC. He was also an aviation historian with an aviation library.

Bruce was a 70-year member of the Masonic Lodge (joining in Wapella, SK), past Master of Aviation Lodge, Richmond BC and a member of Joppa Lodge in White Rock, BC.

He loved golf and had two holes in one over the years. He is survived by his wife Marjorie (Robertson) Ellsworth of 63 years, one nephew and 2 nieces.

Bruce and Marjorie enjoyed many trips in the world and annual vacations in Hawaii with friends.

A celebration of life to be held in 2025.

Bruce requested donations to Shriners Hospitals.

## Notice

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN DOUGLAS MONTGOMERY, also known as JACK MONTGOMERY AND JACK DOUGLAS MONTGOMERY, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 100-105 Fort Whyte Way, Oak Bluff, Manitoba, R4G 0B1, on or before March 31, 2025.

Dated at the Rural Municipality of Macdonald, in Manitoba, on January 30, 2025.

CONTRAST LAW  
100 - 105 Fort Whyte Way  
Oak Bluff MB R4G 0B1  
Attention: Alex Bainov  
Solicitors for the administrator

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD LORNE MILNE, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 10th day of March, 2025.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 28th day of January, 2025.

LARISSA SOSNOWSKI -  
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MCCONNELL SOLICITOR  
FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR

## For Sale

### Farmland for Sale in RM of Pipestone

	2025 Assessment	2024 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

### 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

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## For Sale

### Farm land for sale in Hamiota RM

South half of 5-13-23  
Approximately 260 acres broken  
Others accepted until  
February 15th 2025  
Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of property  
Highest or any offer not necessary accepted.

A deposit of \$5000 to be paid at time of signing of agreement of sale.

Mail offer to Westwood Enterprises Ltd

Box 520  
Hamiota  
R0M 0T0  
204-764-2734

## Tenders

### Tendering 80 Acres of Pastureland

RM of Two Borders for 3yr lease

#### LAND DESCRIPTION:

S 1/2 36-6-29 WPM - 80 acres

South of Sinclair

Property includes:

- Water sources
- Corral
- High tensile fence new in 2020

Tenders and inquiries sent to

Gilles & Stephanie Poirier

Box 117

Sinclair, Manitoba

R0M 2A0

or email: [g.s.poirier@hotmail.com](mailto:g.s.poirier@hotmail.com)

Ph: 431-763-7139

The successful bidder will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions.

Tenders close Friday, February 21, 2025

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### RECREATION ATTENDANT PIPESTONE ALBERT RECREATION COMMISSION

The RM of Pipestone is currently accepting applications on behalf of the Pipestone Albert Recreation Commission for the Seasonal Recreation Attendant. This role is ideal for individuals who are enthusiastic, customer-focused, and thrive in an outdoor work environment.

##### Key Responsibilities

As a Recreation Attendant, your primary duties will include:

- Welcoming and checking in campers.
- Distributing welcome packages to guests.
- Maintaining the cleanliness of campground facilities, including restrooms.
- Managing and resolving issues such as double bookings, check-out times, and site upkeep.
- Monitoring and ensuring visitor compliance with facility rules (Spray Park, Lake, and Campground).
- Keeping accurate electronic records of campground bookings.
- Planning and implementing engaging activities for families.
- Ideal Candidate

##### We are looking for someone who:

- Excels in customer service and demonstrates a friendly, professional demeanor.
- Brings creativity and enthusiasm to their work each day.
- Can work outdoors in varying weather conditions, including hot weather.
- Has strong organizational and problem-solving skills.

##### Position Details:

Hours: Full-time, 40 hours per week, including weekends and evenings.  
Wage: Starting at \$17.52/hour.

**Application Deadline:** Resumes will be accepted until noon, March 14, 2025.

##### How to Apply:

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

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



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**Location: Reston, MB**

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- Seasonal Operations Support - Valid class 5 driver's license, class 3 would be an asset
- Seasonal Chemical Delivery Driver - Valid class 3A or 1A driver's license
- Retail Field Intern - Valid driver's license

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kimberly.taylorlindo@nutrien.com Please include your resume and position title in the subject line.

639-709-5136

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Valleyview Co-op is hiring a **Part Time PUMP ATTENDANT** at our **VIRDEN C-STORE/GAS BAR** in Virden, MB.

Under the direction of the C-Store/Gas Bar Manager or Assistant Manager, a Pump Attendant is responsible for providing exceptional customer service to members and customers as well as ensuring merchandising and image standards. Customer service includes prompt pump service (fuel fills, window washing, oil checks), point of sale operation, and serving non-petroleum customers (c-store and propane service).

Apply by submitting your application through the **careers** section on Valleyview Co-op's website at [www.valleyviewco-op.com](http://www.valleyviewco-op.com) or scan the QR to apply for current opportunities.



## Full Time Music Teacher Wanted

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

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

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

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

## Tenders

### LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

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

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

#### PROPERTY:

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

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

#### CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

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

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

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

For further information contact 204- 264-0023

## Tenders

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS TO RENT

#### PARCELS FOR RENT:

Cultivated Acres: **SE 23-7-23 WPM (approx. 118 acres)**  
**SW 24-7-23 WPM (approx. 155 acres)**

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

The following conditions will apply:

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

Address for Tenders:

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



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted



### Adjustors

Competition: #2024-25-20  
Locations: Flexible within Manitoba

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) has an exciting opportunity for you to be a part of a team that values building relationships, enables change, and supports the agriculture industry in Manitoba. Come join our team as we offer an engaging work environment, competitive pay, benefits, and we encourage a healthy work-life balance.

Working directly with agricultural producers, Adjustors are responsible for assessing crop loss for the Agrilnsurance, wildlife, hail programs and inspections for additional programs, all in accordance with established policies and procedures. MASC has 12 Service Centres throughout the province. Adjustors will work primarily from home but will report to a Team Leader at their closest Service Centre.

**MASC values excellence, integrity, and accountability.** We strive to enhance existing products and develop new products, transform service delivery to enrich the client experience, pursue customer driven organizational change, and maximize performance, engagement, and development of all employees.

**MASC has five core competencies: communication, decision making, initiative & innovation, leadership, and organization.** Competencies relate to every position at MASC and along with the technical requirements, are included in the qualifications for all positions at MASC.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Grade 12 education or an equivalent combination of high school education and related experience
- Experience working in agriculture
- Experience paying attention to detail and maintaining accuracy, including numerical
- Experience interpreting and applying policies and procedures
- Analytical, problem solving and decision-making experience
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Mathematical aptitude
- Ability to use Microsoft products (SharePoint, OneDrive, Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint) in a cloud-based environment.

#### CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Must possess a valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle and the ability to travel within the Province of Manitoba.
- Must be physically capable of performing duties including climbing grain bins, walking on rough terrain and working in adverse weather conditions.

MASC provides employee training. Work is assigned on a casual basis throughout the year with the main workload from spring until early winter. Workloads vary depending on the number of claims and inspection requests MASC receives.

**SALARY:** \$19.70 to \$21.99 hourly (under review)  
**CLOSING DATE:** February 23, 2025  
**COMPETITION:** #2024-25-20  
**HOW TO APPLY:** If you are interested in this position, visit our website [www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca) and apply online.

*We believe diversity strengthens our ability to provide excellent customer service in a positive work environment. We encourage all to apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*



[www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca)

## Help Wanted



### Park West School Division

#### Journeyman Mechanic or Licenced Mechanic

The Park West School Division invites applications for a mechanic position for school buses and fleet vehicles, starting effective February 24, 2025. Both Journeyman and safety certified mechanics are encouraged to apply.

This is a six-month term position with the potential for ongoing employment, depending on performance and business needs. We are also open to considering applicants who are a new Journeyman and would be willing to provide tuition assistance.

The position will remain open until filled.

For more details and application information, please contact Dan Voth, PWSD Transportation Supervisor, at (204) 842-2111 or visit our website at [www.pwsd.ca](http://www.pwsd.ca), and select the following links: Division / Employment / Current Opportunities / Mechanic.

## For Rent

### 2 LOTS in Shoal Lake

with self store units containing 14 individual storage spaces. These units are well used and generate a good return on investment. Call southwest storage (204) 764-2734

## Service

### Will Do Custom Snow Blowing Of Driveways

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

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1390 St. James St. Winnipeg  
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### Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

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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)

## Auction

### Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving  
Feb 12th @ 7PM

Firearms & Ammo  
Feb 13th @ 7PM

Estate & Moving  
Feb 19th @ 7:00PM

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

## GOT NEWS?

204-748-3931  
[reporter1@empireadvance.ca](mailto:reporter1@empireadvance.ca)



## 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.

**SEASONAL HIRING? SELLING SOMETHING? 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)

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NEWTEC IRRIGATION. Looking to Hire: Travelling Salesperson. Agricultural Experience Preferred. TOP WAGES. Please call for more information: 306 - 260 - 9575.

## 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.**

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**Todd**  
204-904-9705

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### UTILITY FOREMAN

Permanent Full-Time

**Duties & Responsibilities Include:**

- Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, planning and supervising work schedule for the department. Oversee utilities-related work contracted to third parties, ensuring adherence to safety standards, RM policies, and job requirements.
- Complete monthly and periodic reporting to Provincial authorities, Council, and CAO.
- Plan and manage routine inspections, cleaning, calibration and preventative maintenance on equipment and systems. Oversee sewer flushing, hydrant maintenance, utility winterization, water connections and disconnections, manhole markings, and timely meter readings.
- Investigate and resolve operational issues and escalate as necessary.
- Respond to ratepayers' inquiries promptly and professionally.

**Qualifications and Certifications:**

- High School diploma, GED, or equivalent.
- Possession or ability to attain the following certifications within a reasonable timeline:
  - Level 1 – Water Treatment Plant
  - Level 1 – Water Distribution
  - Level 1 – Wastewater Treatment
  - Level 1 – Wastewater collection
- Post-Secondary education in mechanical, engineering, applied science, or related field is considered an asset.
- Valid Class 5 driver's license.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Comprehensive knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, and methods used in providing potable water and wastewater treatment services.
- Familiarity and good working knowledge of related statutes and regulations.
- Ability to establish priorities, manage tasks with minimal supervision, and problem-solve efficiently.
- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, with the ability to interact respectfully with the public.
- Basic computer skills and use of MS office to develop and build reports and plans.

**Schedule:** Monday to Friday, 80 hours bi-weekly, on-call as required.

Competitive wage dependent on experience. Full benefits package available after eligibility.

For more information about this position or for a job description please contact the RM office at 204-877-3327

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is located.

### SUMMER GREEN TEAM POSITIONS

The RM of Pipestone is now accepting applications for Summer Green Team positions. These roles are ideal for individuals seeking hands-on experience in landscaping, facility maintenance, and community beautification. Positions are available to start in May or July, with earlier start dates negotiable.

**Position Responsibilities:**

- Planting, watering, and maintaining flowers and trees.
- Tilling, weeding, and mowing grass.
- Landscaping, painting, and general maintenance of municipal facilities.
- Operating and maintaining motorized equipment, including power mowers, clippers, and other landscape maintenance tools.

**Position Details:**

- Full-time position, with some evening and weekend shifts required.
- Open to youth aged 15 to 29 years who are residents of Manitoba and legally entitled to work in Canada.

**Application Information:**

For additional details or a complete job description, please contact 204-851-1280 or email tara@rmofpipestone.com

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 14, 2025.

### OFFICE CLERK – SUMMER TERM

The RM of Pipestone invites applications for an Office Clerk – summer term position. The position is available to start in May and will conclude end of August.

**Position Description:**

- Process payments received at the counter, and by mail, reconciles payments, and prepares bank deposits;
- Answers and directs public inquires received in person and by telephone;
- Issue Tax Certificate
- Various record keeping and filing
- Updates Royalty report and reconciles to general ledger to ensure it completeness and reports to council monthly.
- Reconciles PAREC billed invoices to payments received.
- Makes updates to the Municipal website

**Skills:**

- Basic computer skills and use of MS office.

**Schedule:** Monday to Friday, 70 hours bi-weekly

Wage dependent on experience. Wage range \$17.52 - \$21.63 per hour.

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

For more information or a job description please contact the office at 204-877-3327 or email hrpipestone@rmofpipestone.com.

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 22nd, 2024

**How to Apply:**

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

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



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Permanent Full-Time position

**Duties & Responsibilities Include:**

- Operation of heavy equipment including bulldozer, scraper, semi-trailer, tandem gravel truck, backhoe, motor grader, wheel or loader.
- Perform road building and road repairs.
- Cleaning culverts & drains
- Perform loading, hauling and spreading of materials.
- Operate heavy equipment to move, load, and unload cargo.
- Perform excavating work for water and wastewater main maintenance and repair.
- Mowing as required

**Qualifications:**

- Class 3 driver's license, prefer Class 1 license.
- Experience operating heavy equipment with high skill level and several years of experience.
- Satisfactory criminal records check.
- Successful medical examination.

**Schedule:**

- Monday to Friday, 100 hours bi-weekly, Summer (typically April – October)
- 80 hours bi-weekly, Winter (typically November – March)

Wage dependent on experience. Wage range \$29.21 - \$36.06 per hour.

Full benefits package available after eligibility.

For more information about this position or for a job description please contact the Public Works Manager at 204-761-5121

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is located.

### SENIOR ELECTION OFFICIAL

Applications are being accepted for the position of Senior Election Official (SEO) for the Rural Municipality of Pipestone.

The SEO is responsible for the overall municipal election process and must be able to interpret and understand all aspects of legislation pertaining to the municipal election process and provide consistent advice to other election officials and to the public.

This position starts once appointed by council resolution with varied hours of work in the year of a regular election, falling in the months of September and October.

**Duties will include:**

- appointing other election officials as required;
- establishing and maintaining the voter's list;
- giving public notice of nominations;
- receiving and verifying the nominations;
- establishing and equipping the voting places;
- giving public notice of elections;
- printing the ballots;
- overseeing all aspects of the election on election day and all other duties as established in the Municipal Councils Election regulation and The Northern Affairs Act.

In the years when a regular election is not required, the SEO will be responsible to update and maintain the voter's list and to conduct by-elections, if required.

The successful applicant must have some election experience, strong management, communication and interpersonal skills. Computer experience would be a definite asset.

Remuneration is \$26.00 per hour.

For more information about this position please email hrpipestone@rmofpipestone.com.

The Letter of Interest from applicants should include education and experience and will be accepted until February 21st, 2025

### SUMMER STUDENT POSITIONS PIPESTONE ALBERT RECREATION COMMISSION

The RM of Pipestone is currently accepting applications on behalf of the Pipestone Albert Recreation Commission for the Summer Student positions. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to our community by planning and leading engaging recreational activities.

**Position Overview:**

Successful candidates will play a key role in delivering, engaging and enjoyable recreational activities for our community.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Assisting in the planning and execution of summer program activities.
- Participating in and supporting community events.

**Qualifications for the ideal candidate will:**

- Be energetic, creative, and passionate about working with children.
- Demonstrate strong teamwork and communication skills.
- Bring a positive attitude and enthusiasm to their role.
- Hold a valid driver's license and have access to a reliable vehicle.

**Position Details:**

- Full-time: 30 - 40 hours per week, including some evenings and weekends.
- Hourly wage: \$17.52.
- Casual hours may be available for the right candidate before summer and into the fall.

**Application Information:**

For additional details or a full job description, please contact call 204-877-3768 or email morgan@rmofpipestone.com.

**Application Deadline:** Resumes will be accepted until noon, March 14, 2025.

**How to Apply:**

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

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





# Water on the table at RM of Wallace-Woodworth meeting

## RM of WW Council meeting, Jan. 28

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Council received a request from a ratepayer for repairs to a waterline at his location. The area has been experiencing issues with water pressure for some time, mostly related to abnormally low water pressure, but this most recent request was related to abnormally high water pressure. In the discussion councillors considered possible causes for these issues, including the presence or absence of pressure reducers on the lines. They agreed to table the item and gather more information about the timing of the pressure fluctuations and the installation of new meters and pressure reducers.

A water connection agreement with rate-

payers Irvin and Ross Kroeker was amended to clarify that in any future property subdivisions new properties must have independent water connections rather than relying on existing lines that run between houses. According to this amendment, "The owner agrees that an additional connection fee of \$10,500 along with a new curb stop installation at the new property line will be required if in the event there is a subdivision of the same property." The agreement was approved as amended.

### Presentation of Variation Order

In a public hearing, Jeffrey and Crystal Blackwell applied for a variation order to reduce the minimum side yard setback for

a new garage on their property from 10 feet to two feet to align the structure with an existing driveway. Council approved the application on the condition that the Blackwells obtain a building permit before construction, construct the wall along the property line in accordance with Manitoba Building Code and proceed with construction within 12 months of approval.

### Other Business

Adonation of \$150,000 was received by the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, and this amount will be granted to the Virден Area Veterinary Board.

The council renewed a five-year sewer maintenance contract with Municipal Sewer Maintenance Ltd.

The Council resolved to appoint Samantha

Cluett to the Prairie Gateway Tourism Board representative as a member at large.

The Council acknowledged the positive news that Virден had been named a new MASC office location.

### LUD meetings

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Iris Vercaigne attended the Kenton and Elkhorn LUD committee meetings and reported that both committees discussed budget and service plan preparation. Elkhorn committee discussed the 2025 seasonal mowing contract. They decided that the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award will take place on May 9 in partnership with Elkhorn Area Foundation.

### Western Caucus Meeting

The Western Caucus is a collaboration between 23 municipal

councillors, reeves and mayors from southwest Manitoba. The caucus met recently to discuss matters relevant to the region. This most recent meeting was attended by provincial Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations Glen Simard who fielded pre-submitted questions about airport repairs in Deloraine, frustrations with the Municipal Board, and customs officer schedules.

Coun. Val Caldwell attended the recent meeting and asked Simard if he could explain the structure of the Municipal Board and the proportion of rural and urban members. She said, "I did just make the point that it's very difficult if 90 per cent of the board is from the City of Winnipeg. How in touch are they with the rural issues when they're making decisions?"

Other concerns included funding for veterinary services, Green Team funding, ambulance services, and psychological assessments. It was announced that the Vet Board would receive an additional \$3,000 in funding, and Town of Virден councillor Mark Savvy was named president of the Western Caucus.

### Stolen trailer

Reeve Canart reported that he received a late-night call from the RCMP regarding a trailer registered to Wallace-Woodworth. It was found stuck in snow and in the possession of an unknown individual. The officer suspected the trailer was stolen and thanks to the RCMP's prompt action, the trailer was recovered. It's unclear whether the trailer was damaged, but if so, an insurance claim will be filed.



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

## Employment Opportunity

### Municipal Clerk/RCMP Detachment

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

The successful applicant must possess:

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

The successful applicant must be able to be security cleared.

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

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

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

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

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

## Animal Licenses



Did you know? An animal license is like a free ride home for your pet.

If your dog or cat is found running at large, an up-to-date license will help us to bring your friend home safely.

There's nothing they wouldn't do for you, license your pet today.

2025 dog and cat licenses are available for purchase at the Town Office.

Upcoming Council Meetings:  
February 11 & 25

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

## Toonie Transportation

Accessible transportation for only \$2

For schedule and information, call 204-851-7100



**WEG meeting**

The Westman Emergency Group discussed how current highway closure policies are ineffective as they allow traffic to continue eastward on Highway One past Moosomin into hazardous conditions. The Manitoba government has attempted to coordinate with Saskatchewan, but without success. Council is considering engaging directly with the Moosomin council to develop a mutual plan for handling closures.

At present, Saskatchewan authorities put up signage at the Manitoba border warning of Manitoba road closures rather than stopping vehicles in Moosomin, which results in traffic becoming stranded in dangerous blizzard conditions. Councillors noted that Moosomin has the hotels and parking lots to safely hold vehicles, making it a more logical place to stop traffic rather than out on Highway One.

Coun. Barb Stambuski also attended the Western Caucus meeting and reported on the Manitoba Association of Municipal Emergency Coordinators (MAMEC) discussions. She said, "Two of our newer MECs, attended a workshop which they found very beneficial." The workshop included scenarios and training exercises, and the MECs noted how well-prepared their municipality (under Westman Emergency Group) is compared to others.

Coun. Lyle Kinnaird attended a handy van meeting where the 2025 budget was approved with the same requests for funding from municipalities as in 2024.

Kinnaird also attended a meeting regarding the new, third well that supplies the municipal water facility. The well is now mechanized and pressurized, awaiting installation of the necessary electronics. There may be additional costs associated with this, but the RM is not responsible for them. Once 'well three' has been operational for two weeks, work will commence on upgrading 'well one'.

# Tacan congratulates new grand chief



SVDN Chief Vince Tacan congratulates AMC Grand Chief Kyra Wilson.

PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Last week Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief Vince Tacan congratulated Manitoba's newly elected Grand Chief, Kyra Wilson. One of four candidates on Jan. 29, Wilson was elected by a sound majority.

Tacan said on a Facebook post, "As a grandfather with lots of granddaughters...this is validation that there is a role for women in leadership! I'm excited about the direction that we will be taking as an organization. I believe that we have a powerful advocate in newly elected Grand Chief Wilson, who will work to protect women's rights and develop effective strategies for the safety of our women

and children. Wopila (gratitude) for an excellent outcome!"

This transition follows the passing of Grand Chief Cathy Merrick in September 2024.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) was formed in 1988 by the Chiefs in Manitoba to advocate on issues that commonly affect First Nations. AMC is an authorized representative of all 63 First Nations in Manitoba with a total of more than 172,000 First Nations citizens in the province, accounting for approximately 12 per cent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe, Nehetho / Ininew, Anisininew, Denesuline, and Dakota Oyate peoples.

## Manitoba government cracks down on money laundering

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Casinos operated by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries (MBLL) will now report suspicious transaction records directly to the Winnipeg Police Service and RCMP as well as the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), a practice similar to what is being done in Ontario and British Columbia.

Money laundering and the traffic of drugs like fentanyl go hand in glove, with large sums of money being raked in by criminals. With a renewed focus on the prevention of fentanyl trafficking, particularly at the Canada / USA border, money laundering also comes under the microscope. Tracing the proceeds of crime and money laundering is nothing new to the RCMP, but a new crackdown is being implemented.

Canada was just hours from coming under the 25 per cent tariffs President Donald Trump vowed he would implement against Canadian goods trading into the US, when the tariffs were forestalled.

Security was at issue, including the traffic of fentanyl through Canada to the USA.

Prime Minister Trudeau posted on X: "I just had a good call with President Trump. Canada is implementing our \$1.3 billion border plan — reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl. Nearly 10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border.

"In addition, Canada is making new commitments to appoint a Fentanyl Czar, we will list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border, launch a Canada - U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering. I have also signed a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl and we will be backing it with \$200 million.

"Proposed tariffs will be paused for at least 30 days while we work together."

At 3pm on Monday Premier Wab Kinew and Justice Minister Matt Wiebe announced the Manitoba government is directing casinos to report suspicious transactions to local and federal law enforcement to crack down on money

laundering.

When criminals make money from illegal activities, they have to do something with those dollars, which could include purchasing big ticket items, or spending it in places like casinos. They can't deposit it in the bank since monetary transactions are traceable and Canadian banks report deposits of \$10,000 or more.

"Drug dealers often use casinos to launder their cash and we are making it easier for law enforcement to track down people bringing toxic drugs into our communities," said Kinew. "Fentanyl has had a devastating impact on Manitobans and people attempting to profit off it need to be held accountable."

"Our government has been cracking down on drug traffickers since day one," said Wiebe. "Today's announcement adds another layer of protection for Manitobans against money laundering."

MBLL will also enhance its anti-money laundering team with staff and equipment and work with FINTRAC to improve information sharing to provincial agencies, noted the minister. The Manitoba government will also invest \$325,000 in surveillance equipment for MBLL.



# Find the right stone

## Rocking the Lenore Bonspiel



Event A winners: William Daniel, Sharon Daniel, Rob Curtis and Lesli Burke.



Event B winners: Clarence Bailey, Wade Bewski, Cathy Bewski, and Mike Baker



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Event C winners: Dan Kristof, Jason Heaman, Quinton Heaman, and Chelsy MacInnis

By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Lenore Bonspiel event rocked the ice starting Thursday, January 30 and ending Saturday, February 1. The Lenore Rink Board organized the full event. Fifteen rinks came out to play and paid a \$100 entry fee.

Advertising, taking bonspiel entries, collecting prizes, accepting donations and organizing Calcutta evening was all arranged by the board. The ice making duties was a community effort and greatly appreciated by all the curlers.

They had their traditional community districts Breadalbane, Errol, Kinsmore and Ravine and each were responsible for a meal day during bonspiel. Meals are always amazing and are the curling clubs greatest fundraiser. The group of fantastic volunteers served these home cooked meals each night, Ham on Thursday, Roast Beef on Friday and Turkey on Saturday with all the trimmings

included.

The club room known as Chic's is well maintained by a local fellow who also does a lot of volunteer ice making. It's truly a community event.

This was also the 75th anniversary of the Lenore Rink. The new rink construction was started in 1949 and officially opened in January of 1950. It has been the communities centre for activities since the beginning. Curling is one of the Lenore communities' favourite past times and with construction of the rink came two sheets of ice so everyone could deliver their stones to the house in hopes to land on the tee.

These teams had the most stones in the house by the end of the bonspiel. The winners of this weekend of fun were:

A event: William and Sharon Daniel  
Rob Curtis Lesli Burke

B event: Clarence Bailey, Wade Bewski, Cathy Bewski, Mike Baker

C event: Dan Kristof, Jason Heaman, Quinton Heaman, and Chelsy MacInnis

## We're Growing our Team!

Meet Cory, one of our newest team members in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba. He can help with farm, general and professional liability insurance, commercial property insurance, and more! Give him a call today.

**Cory Barkley**  
cbarkley@knightarcher.com  
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