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Reston & Area Veterans Banner Committee members: Sherrill Berry, Cathy Williamson, Shawna Millard, Geordie Anderson (Youth Rep) Sharon Simms, Derek Millard, Kelly Flannery, Garnet Williamson, Kim MacKenzie; missing: Clayton Jago and Bree Russell (Youth Rep). (Logan Taylor and Hanna Wray were the 2024 graduating Youth Representatives.)

Submitted
BY KIM MACKENZIE

Saturday, Oct. 19 the Reston & Area Veterans Banner Committee held a celebration to acknowledge the wonderful response the project has received since it began in March 2023. Visitors toured both Pipestone and Reston to view the banners and then gathered at the RES Centre in Reston to view the wartime memorabilia on display, listen to songs from the same period and enjoy a delicious supper of pulled pork on a bun prepared by Brenda Anderson, daughter of one of the veterans.

In the past two years, 98 veterans with connections to the RM of Pipestone have been honoured both by family members or individuals and groups that see the importance of keeping the memory of these brave men and women alive. Not only does a banner hang in the town of the sponsor's choice, either Reston or Pipestone, but the biography requested with sponsorship has been published in a booklet.

The local Legion Branches in both Reston and Pipestone have been dissolved for some time therefore the committee needed to come up with their own design for a banner. Andrea Cook, Graphic Designer and former Restonite, was anxious to come on board to assist. Her own grandfather was a WWII veteran along with four of his brothers, all from Reston. Andrea created a unique design that not only names the veteran but those who honoured him or her as well. Dean Jago, of Leech Printing, was also eager to join the project as he too had Reston roots. Dean worked closely with the committee before his untimely passing. Kelly Flannery of Pipestone designed and fabricated the framing needed to hang the banners.

The committee of nine adults and two youth representatives have worked very hard over the past year-and-a-half to accomplish this tribute to our veterans. The committee has had help along the way from the RM of Pipestone, both in the office collecting the sponsor submissions and payment, and in maintenance - hanging, taking down and storing the banners. The committee is also grateful to Enbridge, Thomas Sill Foundation, Veterans Affairs and the local donors whose monies got the project off the ground.

This year the banners in Pipestone now hang in the newly renovated Pipestone Memorial Park and next spring work will begin to erect poles in the Reston Memorial Park to hang Reston banners there. The next few months will be the deciding factor



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Some of the banners hanging in Pipestone Memorial Park.

on how much longer the banner program will continue. If there is a slowdown in sponsorship, 2025 could be the last year for the project. Sponsor forms are available on the banner website or at the RM of Pipestone office. The committee encourages anyone interested in sponsoring for 2025 to get their information together as soon as possible.

The first printing of the Veteran Banner 2023-2024 booklet has sold out and the committee is taking orders for a second printing. The booklet is \$20 for pick up and if postage is required there will be an extra charge. Committee members are more than willing to take time to talk to anyone about the program and help in any way, or you can contact the committee by email: veteranbannerproject@gmail.com.

Please take time to visit Reston and Pipestone to see the veteran banners which will hang until after Remembrance Day.

The project website is: <https://sites.google.com/view/reston-veteranbanners> and on Facebook: Reston & Area Veteran Memorial Banners.



HOME GAME
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Inside...



THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS
P8-12, 19



HABITAT OPEN HOUSE CEREMONY
P20

Thought provoking LiveDifferent presents at VJH



Rhiannon's intense personal story begins with some fun, an introduction to the ceilidh, the traditional dance of Aberdeen (Scotland) where Rhiannon grew up. Rhiannon Taylor is the road team leader.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The LiveDifferent crew brought a high energy presentation to Virden Junior High students, focussing on values such as kindness and culturing relationships with others.

With an exciting introduction to the deeper dive workshops that would follow in the afternoon a mid-morning assembly to Grades 5-8 was backed by three giant screens in VCI gymnasium and upbeat music.

Team leader Rhiannon Taylor explained that "LiveDifferent leads the students through activities that gets them to think about what really matters."

The LiveDifferent team shared stories that would resonate with students. Johnny's story, brought to life on the screen his initial selfishness and desire to surround himself with the 'stuff' that excites youth - video games - to name one. And from there he shared honestly how he ended up ripping off a boy selling him a video game. The boy who was vulnerable because of his family's poverty and this was one of the conscience rending life events that helped Johnny realize there was something wrong with his selfish values.

Every story was different and each story involved soul-searching and a decision that brought the LiveDifferent members into a real and caring relationship with others,

rather than focussing on just their own lives.

Rhiannon's multiple choice trivia game brought a light-hearted look into how customs, many of them weird, change over time. For example, in the 1400s it was commonplace to: A. use someone else's teeth; B. Put animals on trial; C. Rent pillows made of Cow dung; D. Eat candied frog's eyes. And the answer - B. And she had a historic drawing of a pig in court, to prove it.

However, with this final question the tone changed highlighting an eye-opening picture of the world: In 2024 humanity... A. Utilizes more slaves than ever in history; B. Spends more time on social media than with their families; C. Allows 1.8 billion people to live without adequate housing; and the answer was - D. All of the above.

The team's personal stories included the changes they went through from their experiences as students like those before them, to becoming part of an answer for people in difficult situations. In a presentation that adults could also learn from, stories of the loss of a parent, loneliness, selfishness and



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

LiveDifferent team member Simon holds the microphone for a group of VJH students who have volunteered to play Family Feud against teacher Mr. Darrell Corbell, answering - what is most important in life. Some of the answers included family, friends, sports, pets and computer games.

teenage rebellion were raw and real.

LiveDifferent is one of the largest motivational presenters in Canadian middle schools and high schools. Their positive youth development presentations—led by road teams of youth (ages 18-30)—utilize storytelling and video to create an inspiring and mindset-shifting experience that is supplemented by classroom and at-home follow-up activities.

Their statistics tell us: 1.8m+ youth have been reached; 93% of youth reported being more inclined to listen or help a friend; 92% of youth reported an increased understanding of empathy; 75% of youth reported that they would be sharing learnings with friends and family. Find out more at livedifferent.com

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Rec Hockey is soon starting in Kenton for another season

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Calvin and Anna Tolton have been running the program for the past fourteen years. They first started in Hamiota, then moved it to Kenton for the 2016/2017 season due to more flexible times for practices and games.

Calvin and Anna got involved with the Rec Hockey program as their kids, as well as others wanted to play, but couldn't due to other commitments, 4H, piano, dance, and other school sports. The cost of belonging to a full-time hockey program was also an issue parents were having to deal with.

The age range for the Rec Hockey program is five to seventeen. There are three teams and they are co-ed. Calvin coaches and Anna is the manager.

Anyone that wants to play is welcome. They even find equipment when needed. The season starts in mid November and practices are held in Hamiota until Kenton's ice is in. Players get equal playing time, no matter what their skill level.

Tuesday nights are practice with games on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The players come from many communities, Strathclair, Shoal Lake, Oak River, Rivers, Hamiota, Oak Lake, Lenore and Kenton. What a great way to meet and make new friends.

Occasionally there are one day tournaments




SUBMITTED PHOTO

Calvin and Anna Tolton, with daughter Haydn.

and trips to Alexander, Rapid City, Forrest, Virden, and Redvers for games. The cost is approximately \$125.00 for the older kids and \$100.00 for the younger ones. Parents can get involved as well, reffing, working in the canteen, selling 50/50 tickets, and running the clock.


If your child would like to play Rec Hockey in Kenton, getting fresh air, exercise and lots of fun call Calvin and Anna Tolton at 204 838 2290 or Text 204 319 0209!

This is such a great investment for everyone involved, kids, and parents. Volunteer as Calvin and Anna do and make some great memories!




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Miniota project gets a boost



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Branden and Jeff have the attention of the crowd at the Miniota Sportsman's Dinner last Saturday.



Flanked by Miniota Flyers and Nighthawks jerseys, MC Branden Crowe and guest speaker Jeff Odgers engage the crowd at the Miniota Community Centre during the 2024 Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday Oct.19.

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

All rural communities face challenges maintaining aging infrastructure while realizing the importance of these venues. The presence of a strong and thriving sports and recreation facility is a big attraction for every small but growing town. And Miniota is no exception.

Last Saturday over 200 people packed the Miniota Community Centre to enjoy a great roast beef dinner and listen to stories from guest speaker Jeff Odgers.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Hockey Canada media man Branden Crowe introduced Odgers of Spy Hill Saskatchewan, who compiled a total of 75 goals, 70 assists and 2,364 penalty minutes in his 821 regular season games in the NHL.

Miniota has formed an Enhancement Committee for the town's recreation facilities made up of local people Brian Armitage, Ben Howard, Brad Cole, Cory Gardham, Dillin Stonehouse, Luke Lelond, Ted Oliver, Trevor Clark, Tricia Lelond, and Chair Jeff Poppel. The committee will plan and raise funds for a three-part project to renew their rink and sports grounds.

Poppel said, "The project was discussed in 2023. Plans were sketched and ideas gathered, but we "launched" the project campaign at the AGM in March 2024."

According to Poppel the fundraising is targeting three key initiatives. An artificial ice plant and flooring system is in the works. A rink addition will add two locker rooms, two bathrooms, an official's room, and a relocated Zamboni room. The third

stage of the project will see a new baseball diamond and infield improvements to the current diamonds.

When asked what artificial ice would mean to the community Poppel replied, "We believe that this will drive increased participation in ice sports within our community and the five communities within our catchment area (Beulah, Birdtail First Nation, Isabella, Crandall, Arrow River). With our ice programs starting in Miniota in mid-to-late December, families face additional travel during the first couple of months of the sporting season. By extending our ice availability we hope to drive more participants in these sports." He noted that new programs like breakfast clubs, power skating clinics, and goalie clinics would be possible as well as the opportunity to attract more tourna-

ments throughout the season. The addition will also accommodate all age groups up to U15, including female and coed teams, with suitable change room configurations.

This dinner was the third large scale event to be held in support of the project. A Spring Supper and auction took place in April and the Growing Miniota - Farm Fundraiser was harvested on Oct.10. After Saturday's Sportsman's Dinner Poppel said, "Exact final numbers are not in yet, but my current esti-

mates have us exceeding \$40,000 in net proceeds towards the fundraising efforts. The entire project scope exceeds one million and we have raised over \$170,000 from these three fundraising projects."

The committee has been working with Kris Doull, regional manager with Manitoba Municipal and Northern Affairs office who has provided guidance to organize fundraising and corporate support. They have approached Prairie View municipality and will attend the

next council meeting to formally request financial assistance.

"The support from our community has been truly inspiring", said committee chair Jeff Poppel. "I am incredibly proud and tremendously grateful for how our community has come together to support our fundraising efforts. We know these are ambitious projects, but we believe that these investments will not only benefit the current youth in our community, but future generations as well".



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ELLICE-ARCHIE

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 4th day of November, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at Rural Municipality of Elice-Archie, 318 Railway Ave, McAulay, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

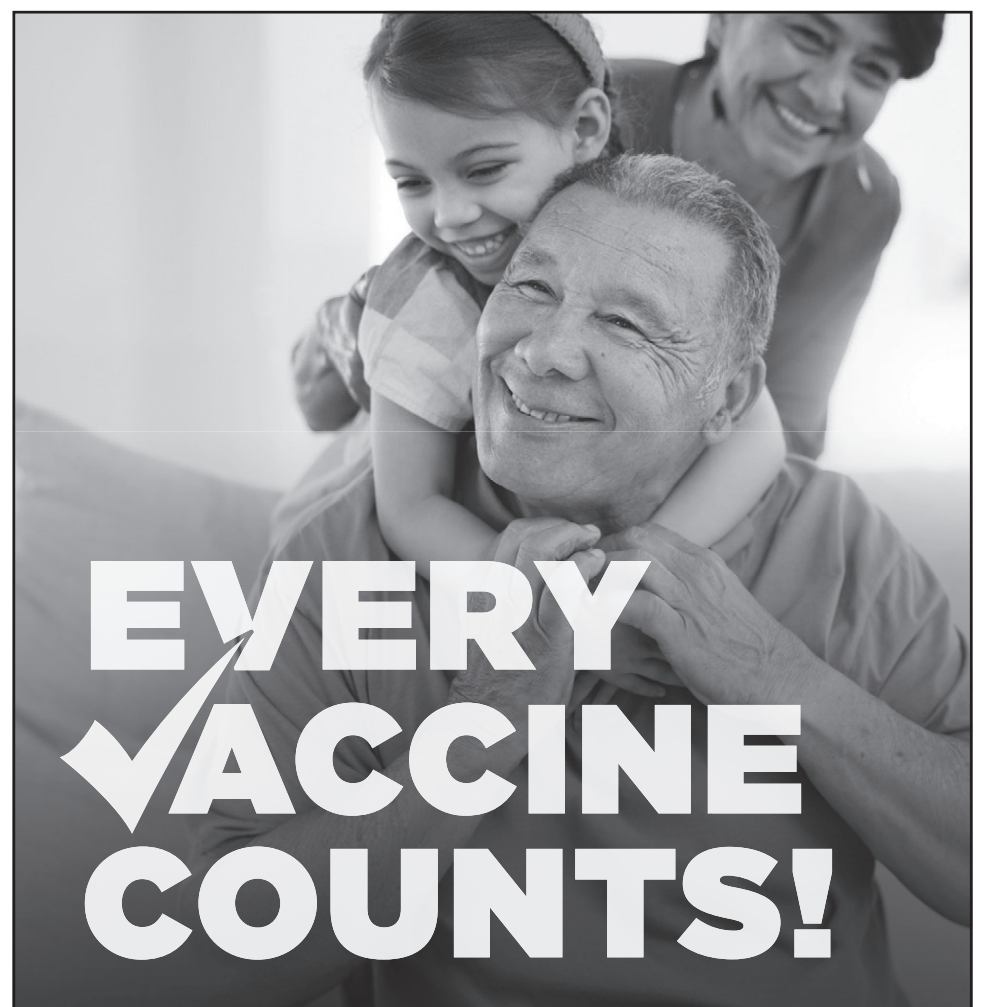
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302000	LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM, THE SLY 8 FEET OF LOT 3 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM - 215 MAIN ST.	L -\$5,400 B -\$118,400	\$16,749.56

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

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- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
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 - A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2024.

Managed by: Trisha Huberdeau
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Road Trip!!

It had been a number of years since I had spent time in Slave Lake, Alberta. Oct. 12 marked ten years of life without Ed, and my family invited me to spend the day with them, on the shores of the vast Slave Lake. It did not take a great deal of persuasion for me to agree to a long weekend with my oldest son and many of his family. My oldest grandson wished to host several us as houseguests, and many of us for the meal. Another grandson offered to drive with me, and a daughter in Saskatoon offered accommodation for the night, coming and going, and better than that, she and her partner joined us for the time together. Who could turn down an offer like that!

Three of us left on a Thursday noon, grandson, Arie (dog!), and I. The drive was uneventful; the scenery with the fall colours was spectacular. Leaving Saskatoon the next morning the vehicle contained four adults and two dogs; Pism, a well-behaved rescue joined Arie. The scenery was beyond spectacular as we took the road less travelled; golden tamarack mixed with the vibrant evergreens, roadside weeds a range of browns and gold, glistening water, geese beyond counting, rolling countryside; the beauty of creation all around us.

We arrived at my son's home to be greeted by sundry family and friends, and another dog, Shaker, a Papillon. The supper meal was wonderful, but only a precursor of what the weekend meals would offer. After a bit of a stretch we drove out to an acreage, the home of my grandson and his partner. Here we met two more dogs; Julius a brindle mix, and Jasmine, a lovely gentle collie cross. The home accommodated the owners, plus eleven guests, and another dog! Ragnar is a French bulldog, a puppy and so energized!

We managed, through great effort, to consume three meals a day. Okay, perhaps the noon to three was more like a snack pack on steroids! One morning breakfast was paper-thin crepes with real whipped cream and fruit filling. One morning it was homemade waffles with the traditional family brown sugar/butter sauce, and another was an egg casserole with homemade hollandaise sauce, and bacon. The suppers made the fantastic breakfasts look shabby! Most times there were twenty persons at the table, sitting down, chatting, telling stories and making memories. Needless to say we ate a great deal.

And we played table games. Three generations competing in word games and number games, learning new games, reminiscing and fellowshiping.

A group of us did a lot of walking. That would have been mostly the dog people! Six to ten people with a constant six dogs; along the country road, on the lakeshore, and one afternoon at the dog friendly Salve Lake Beach. How they ran, raced, retrieved sticks from the frigid water, galloped and spun. Watching them was pure pleasure.

The trip home is often anti-climatic. We had packed lunches from the stash of bonus foods, and basically drove home. Again a night's rest in Saskatoon and then home: tired, fulfilled, comforted and strengthened.

Things to ponder for troubled times

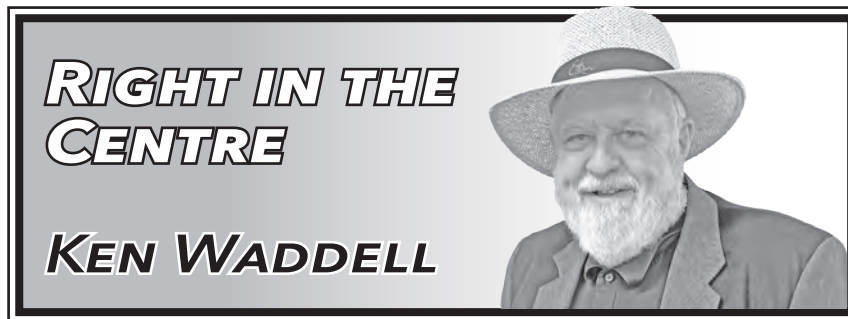
This will be two columns in one. The first one is short and is an "ask", a request for everybody who reads these words. If you want to do something good for yourself, for your family, for your community and in fact, for our country, please do the following. If you are involved with a church, stay involved. If you aren't, get involved. There are dozens of churches in our readership area and there will be at least one, and likely several, that would welcome your involvement and support. If there was ever a time when you need a church family or when a church needs you, it's now.

If there's past hurts in your heart that came out of a church setting, I am sorry that happened but by the Grace of God, forgive their trespasses. It might take more than one try, but I can guarantee it will be worth it.

The second part is a visit to the halls of the Canadian government. I don't remember a time when a sitting government had worn out its welcome more so than the current regime of Trudeau, the Younger. I am not a fan of Justin Trudeau and I wasn't a fan of his father, Pierre.

Here are some reasons why the current government is held in such low esteem.

1. The handling of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted years of peoples' lives, billions of dollars and largely misread the response needs.
2. The government gun buy-back program has spent \$67 million over the past few years and not even one gun has been bought back. There has been an exemption period for gun owners that ends at Oct. 31 but it remains unclear what will happen then.
3. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on the federal government to scrap its carbon tax following a Parliamentary Budget Officer re-



port confirming the carbon tax costs average households more than they get back in rebates.

"Once again the PBO confirms the carbon tax costs average families hundreds of dollars more than they get back in rebates," said Franco Terrazzano, CTF Federal Director. "This PBO report proves that politicians' favourite talking point is incorrect and it proves the carbon tax is making life harder for Canadians."

4. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation released Leger polling showing 59 per cent of Canadians oppose the federal government's ban on new gas and diesel vehicles by 2035.

"The results of the poll are clear: Canadians don't want the government to ban new gas and diesel vehicles," said Terrazzano. "Canadians want the option to buy new gas-powered minivans and diesel work trucks and taxpayers know this ban will cost us a fortune." The federal government plans to ban the sale of new gas and diesel vehicles by 2035.

The Leger poll asked Canadians if they support or oppose the federal ban on the sale of new gas and diesel vehicles. The results of the poll show: 59 per cent oppose the ban, 29 per cent support the ban, 12 per cent don't know. Among those who are decided on the issue, 67 per cent of Canadians oppose the federal ban on new gas and diesel vehicles.

5. And again from the The Canadian

Taxpayers Federation who are calling on the federal government to cut spending to balance the budget following a Statistics Canada report showing interest charges increased by 29 per cent over the year.

Stats-Can recently released its Government Finance Statistics report for the second quarter.

"Interest expenses for the federal government grew 29 per cent year over year," according to Stats-Can. "The federal government devoted 10.9 cents of every dollar of revenue to cover interest expenses."

The federal government projects to run a \$40-billion deficit this year, according to Budget 2024. The budget also projects interest charges on the debt costing \$54 billion this year, which is more than the federal government will send to the provinces in health transfers.

The federal government won't balance the budget until 2040, according to supplementary data released by the Parliamentary Budget Officer in its most recent Fiscal Sustainability Report.

"This report should be a wake-up call for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," Terrazzano said. "The feds need to cut spending and balance the budget before debt interest charges blow an even bigger hole in the budget."

So, I ask you to seriously consider my question at the the beginning of this column and after that, to consider the above five points on federal policy when you cast your vote in the next federal election.

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Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

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



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



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Elkhorn crowd hears community-plex plans

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Asteadstream of people entered the Elkhorn Legion Hall until about 60 people were looking for a place to settle in for what would be a two-hour meeting regarding plans to build a community multi-use complex in the town of about 450.

Elkhorn Community Action Report (ECAR) steering committee was established over a year ago, born from an all-committees meeting called in 2022 to discuss a recreation facility for Elkhorn. ECAR called this Oct. 15 public meeting to present the idea of a multi-use complex to the wider community.

Garth Mitchell and Devrin Stonehouse represent the Legion. Riley Brennand is part of the Local Urban District (LUD), and Clayton Canart represents the RM of Wallace-Woodworth.

Tiffany Cameron, economic development consultant for the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, was emcee. She's worked for several years on the 'Wallace-Woodworth Wants to Know' survey and community roundtables to create a municipal strategic plan, an initiative to include ratepayers in setting the direction for growth and improvement, focusing on the communities of Kola, Elkhorn, and Kenton.

On this evening, five storyboard stations were set up around the room, with background information, preliminary project details and an opportunity for input. However the Legion Hall, the town's smallest and oldest meeting hall, began to fill up. More chairs and tables were needed to accommodate the crowd and it became obvious that a different format was required.

Cameron switched gears, presenting ECAR's information from the stage, giv-

ing people an opportunity to ask questions and give their thoughts along the way.

She also introduced Kris Doull, regional manager with Manitoba Municipal and Northern Affairs office. Working out of the Brandon office Doull has been helping rural communities develop facilities for some 31 years.

HALLS AND RINK

During the formation of ECAR, community groups revealed that "their aging buildings were a concern, that they were going to have to start investing a lot of money into maintaining, upkeep, new repairs."

The Legion Hall was built 76 years ago. Directly across from the cenotaph it houses legion and veteran history and is used for about 30 events per year. The building needs renovations including kitchen, bathroom, the floor, and roof.

At 63 years-old the Elks Hall sees approximately 50 events per year. Cameron stated, "It's rented out as space for a truck driving school. So that's a big impact on this community. And has a list of known deficiencies. Like they've had to cancel because of sewer and drainage issues."

The largest facility in Elkhorn is the 58-year-old rink (EDCC), widely used for everything from ice sports to weddings and concerts. The foundation and outer shell were listed as deficiencies, also the kitchen, bathroom, Zamboni room and more. When the ice plant gave out last winter the plant was replaced, but installed in a container so that it could be moved if a new rink is built.

People were not shy about asking questions and commenting. Cost was a repeated theme. However, Cameron and ECAR chairperson Steve Malcolm both stressed that it was early days and plans were not sufficient to even ballpark a cost. This community



PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISON

ECAR steering committee member Riley Brennand (back turned) shows information at one of the storyboard stations and in the background Kris Doull approaches the microphone to speak briefly.

meeting was to ascertain if the community would get behind this project and what people would like a community complex to do for them.

The general pattern for funding large complexes is a thirds approach between private donations / fundraising, government grants at provincial and federal levels and the local municipality. This news brought more worries about rising taxation and concerns that property owners should not bear the brunt of taxation for an Elkhorn complex.

In response to questions from the floor, municipal reeve Clayton Canart explained the building project was not an initiative of council but would require council's support.

"I didn't plan on speaking tonight, because this isn't really an RM project as of now.... I mean, you know, as a council and a municipality, we're all aware of the concerns of what funding a facility might look like from a taxpayer's perspective."

The reeve went on to say, "I just want everyone to have the confidence to know that wherever this process goes, there is going to be lots of time for public consultation

and public hearings at the municipal level before any funding was ever given out by the municipality. That being said, if the project were to go forward, there's definitely going to have to be a level of municipal support, because many of the grant programs, be it federal, provincial, or other granting agencies, are not funding these projects unless they're shown support from the municipality to make the project go forward."

A rural ratepayer questioned how a municipality stretching from the Saskatchewan border to Harding would justify municipal funding for an Elkhorn facility. A common concept was re-stated - what's good for one part of the municipality is ultimately a benefit to the area.

While an RM roundtable session held a couple of weeks ago in Elkhorn did not flag a need for a multi-plex, Cameron pointed out that community gatherings were a stated priority. "Things that were important to this community that came up over and over again were social connection, gatherings... that sense of community

and small-town living..."

Elkhorn District Community Centre owns the rink facility, while the Legion Hall and Elk's Hall are owned by the RM. Cameron noted the rising cost of maintaining the three facilities in question. "At this point, already it costs the three combined organizations over \$122,000 a year to keep three buildings open. That's what you're already spending. In 10 years, with...inflation, it'll be almost \$170,000 a year to spend just to operate, not considering renovations. Plus, we would have potential millions more of renovations, does that make sense to keep putting it into those buildings that are aging?"

Adam Bajus, chairman of the planning for the Kola, area asked to speak. He said Kola is building a new \$450,000 rink. He described the community effort to build the old rink: "Four people who went to the credit union and signed loans just built the rink. You couldn't get community support, so we just built it on our own."

Bajus reasoned that it's difficult to recruit employees to small towns and

recreation facilities are key. "I have two businesses. I look for employees all the time. You can't drive them to town if you don't have a rink or facility."

From the planning perspective he said, "I watch great ideas never get going because people pick sides at the start. Don't pick sides. I'm not saying you should build this building or shouldn't build this building, but if you want a community that's growing like Moosomin or other communities, you've got to build into it."

His view was echoed. Parents spoke about how important a multi-plex is for the future of the community, just like the renovated park and spray park is a draw for visitors. They said they want their kids to be able to enjoy it: "It's just, instead of 10 years, it should be done in 2 years."

The goal of the Tuesday evening meeting was to present the idea to the community and get people's feedback. At the end of the evening everyone was provided with a needs assessment questionnaire with more available at the Elkhorn LUD office.

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain



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Westman RCMP Service Report for Oct.13- Oct. 19

Submitted
By WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 59 calls for service. Of the 59, 12 were traffic related including five moving traffic – speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were three suspicious person/vehicle/property files, two assault files, one disturb the peace, five false alarms, one mischief file, five false alarms, five mental health act files and three wellbeing check files.

Oct. 15-Westman RCMP received a report of a 42-year-old male in the town of Virden failing to comply with the conditions of his release order. RCMP

investigated the matter, and male was arrested and has been remanded into custody. He is charged with one count of failing to comply with release order condition.

On Oct. 17 - during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 21 in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 130 km/hr. in a 100 km/hr. zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and driver was issued a traffic offence notice for speeding, which carries a fine of \$442.

On Oct. 18 - Westman RCMP received notification that a 35-year-old female failed to attend provincial court in the

Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. A warrant for her arrest has been issued.

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

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

RCMP Change of Command

Submitted
By MANITOBA RCMP

While the new Commanding Officer of the Manitoba RCMP took the office in May 2024, a ceremony steeped in history and RCMP tradition took place on October 17, at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, to mark the symbolic passing of command from one Commanding Officer to the successor.

“The RCMP is a modern police agency that uses state-of-the-art technology and investigative methods, and we are also deeply woven into Canadian history,” said Sergeant Major Bettina Schaible, the officer responsible for keeping and maintaining RCMP history and tradition in Manitoba. “The Change of Command ceremony is important as it allows the officers under the command as well as the community at large to bid farewell to their outgoing Commanding Officer and welcome in their new Commanding Officer. Ceremony is important to the RCMP. When we put on the iconic Red Serge, it

means something special to each and every one of us. On this day, we wear it to honour the importance of a change in command and new leadership.”

Assistant Commissioner Scott McMurchy accepted the RCMP Division Ensign from RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme after it was relinquished by outgoing Commanding Officer, Deputy Commissioner Rob Hill. Parchments were signed and bagpipe banners were exchanged to mark the beginning of a new command and a new path forward.

“Under my leadership, I want to develop concrete plans and strategies that will show how we get to the goal of wraparound care,” said Assistant Commissioner McMurchy. “Police have a role to play in ensuring that frontline agencies are involved in providing all the supports people need, as it has been shown that this type of involvement can help reduce crime rates. Collaboration, at all levels, between all agencies and all leadership, is what is at the

core of helping Manitobans and keeping them safe.”


The Commanding Officer of the Manitoba RCMP recognized his wife and his daughter as his rock-solid supports through many moves and long shifts when he was away from home. Assistant Commissioner McMurchy also recognized that his parents supported his goal of becoming a Mountie.

“When I was young, my family and I saw the Mounties in my community of The Pas – they were always front and centre. It inspired in me a desire to serve.”

In taking command, Assistant Commissioner McMurchy recognized the importance of Reconciliation.

“I am committed to the tenet of ‘nothing about us without us,’ and under my command, the RCMP will continue to listen and collaborate with Métis, Inuit, and First Nation people across Manitoba.”

The ceremony included a troop of RCMP officers marching in Red Serge as well as the RCMP pipe and drum band.



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By-Election Date: December 11, 2024

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Fax: (204) 683-2317

THE REQUEST TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE ELECTION OFFICIAL BEFORE DECEMBER 9, 2024.

- A ballot package will be mailed to you with instructions. If your application is received less than 12 days before the election, you may make arrangements to have the ballot delivered to you.
- If you apply in person, a ballot package will be given to you at that time.
- Please mark your ballot and return it promptly to ensure the deadline is met.
- Ballots received after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be accepted.

To qualify to vote, you must be:

1. A Canadian citizen
2. 18 years of age on Election Day.
3. A resident or owner of land in the municipality for at least six months on Election Day.

***Important: If applying in writing, you must enclose photocopies of ID (an official document issued by the federal, provincial or municipal government that contains your name, address and photograph).**

I am unable to attend the regular advance voting to cast my ballot(s) for the 2024 By-Election. I therefore request that a ballot package be sent to the address below.

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Declaration: I am qualified to vote in this election but unable to go in person to a voting station on the Election Day or on advance voting days. I have not otherwise already voted in this election.

Signature _____



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Manitoba Government is prepared for respiratory virus season

Submitted
MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba Government is prepared for the respiratory virus season with a comprehensive strategy designed to reduce the strain on the health-care system and keep Manitobans healthy, safe and informed, Health Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced today.

"Encourage every Manitoban to get vaccinated and keep yourself, your loved ones and your broader community safe," said Asagwara. "The previous government failed to prepare for respiratory virus season, they made cuts to health care and refused to listen to front-line workers. We've made significant progress in one year and the system is prepared to meet an increased need for care during this difficult season."

Preparation includes:

Building up intensive care unit (ICU) and acute care beds so that everyone gets the care they need:

- the Manitoba government has newly funded 18 ICU beds, for a total of 110 adult ICU beds, and eight pediatric ICU (PICU) beds, plus four step-down beds, for a total of 21 PICU beds; and
- the Manitoba government has opened 112 acute care beds with a plan to open 70 more, 43 transitional care unit beds and 27 more opening in the coming months.

Vaccines to protect Manitobans and their loved ones: influenza (flu) and COVID-19 vaccines are available at medical clinics, ACCESS centres, vaccine clinics, pharmacies, nursing stations and through public health;

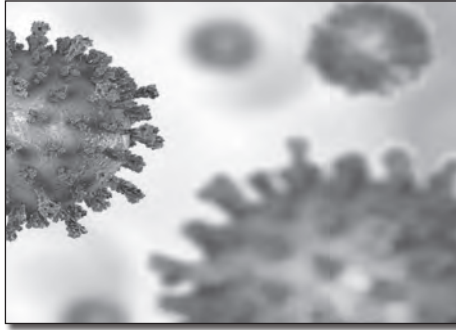
- the Manitoba government is providing the RSV vaccine free of charge to seniors over the age of 60, living in a long-term

care home, and encouraging residents to get vaccinated through their long-term care facility; and

- the Manitoba government launched a provincewide ad campaign to inform Manitobans about respiratory virus season and encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they are able.

The minister noted the government knows staffing is critical when it comes to beds and the Manitoba government hired 873 net new health-care workers to the system in six months, marking over halfway to its goal of hiring 1,000 health care workers this year.

"Considerable planning has occurred within the health system in an effort to mitigate or minimize service disruptions during



SUBMITTED PHOTO

respiratory virus season," said Dr. Jose Francois, chief medical officer, Shared Health. "This planning has been strongly supported by our partners in government, who have worked in collaboration with clinical leaders to ensure Manitoba's health system is as fully prepared as it possibly can be for the coming respiratory virus season."

Information and resources regarding the vaccine-preventable respiratory diseases, including resources for prevention, treatment and care of affected individuals in Manitoba, is provided at www.manitoba.ca/vaccine.

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Royal Purple accomplishes mission



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Many needed items are delivered to the Brandon centre, the staff and Royal Purple members holding bags from Virden donations.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Friday, Oct. 11, for Virden Royal Purple, Fran Baylis and Shirley Gibson were at the Valleyview C-Store between 10am until 6pm accepting donations for the Brandon home for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Valleyview Co-op was selling Royal Twists, a grape Big Cool and vanilla ice cream combo, and \$1 from each purchase was donated to the Royal Purple, with Valleyview matching up to \$500 in fundraising.

Gibson says, "It was an extremely good day. All

monetary donations were used to purchase items for the bags. The staff at the C-Store were extremely helpful asking customers if they would like to support Royal Purple."

Store manager Faye Gerding was pleased for the opportunity to help this project. She said, "So often victims of intimate partner violence suffer in silence. The Royal Purple brings us together as a community to raise awareness while creating a small piece of comfort for our friends, family, and neighbours. The Valleyview Co-op Virden C-Store team was proud to have a chance to support a cause that will make a tangible difference

in the lives of so many women and children."

The project culminated in a substantial donation that the Royal Purple delivered to the Brandon shelter.

"We took 30 bags to Brandon on Thursday (Oct. 17)," said Gibson. That consisted of one bag for a baby, two bags for girls, two bags for boys, five bags for men and 20 for women.

"In addition, we took a box of new clothes for women, a box of new clothes for girls, two boxes of feminine products and several boxes of diapers and wipes for all sizes from newborn to toddlers. The staff appreciated everything we brought."



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WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

Submitted
BY INDEED EDITORIAL TEAM

A volunteer firefighter is an unpaid professional who saves people from fires and other emergency situations. They're in charge of responding to emergency calls, putting out and preventing the spread of fires and administering first aid to people with injuries. They may help keep people safe during and after the following types of situations:

Fires in houses or other buildings: Firefighters may need to put out electrical or cooking fires, fires caused by lightning or fires caused by other accidents.

Car accidents: The likelihood that firefighters have to help people who've experienced car accidents can increase in inclement weather, like thunderstorms or hailstorms.

Wellness checks: A wellness check is when police and firefighters visit a person's home to confirm their well-being.

Forest fires: A forest fire is an uncontrolled fire that burns in forested areas, grasslands, farms or other natural environments.

Hazardous materials incidents: Firefighters may have to respond to issues with hazardous materials, such as chemicals, batteries and motor oils.

Although volunteer firefighters usually have to work in dangerous situations, they may find many benefits to their work. They typically have the opportunity to form lifelong friendships with their colleagues and build positive relationships with their communities.

They can also learn safety and professional skills that can help them in their personal life and in other professional settings. As volunteer firefighters, they may be eligible for tax credits, retirement programs and even scholarships. Those in this role typically volunteer in their free time, while having a different, paid job.

What does a volunteer firefighter do?

While a volunteer firefighter's primary priority is to put out fires, they have many more responsibilities as well. Here are some typical duties of volunteer firefighters:

- Contain and eliminate fire outbreaks by setting up ladders, hooking fire hoses up to hydrants and operating fire hoses

- Save people trapped in burning buildings by locating them and carrying them out

- Provide emergency medical and life-support services to people with injuries, such as basic first aid and CPR

- Listen to and follow the directions of career firefighters and supervisors

- Collaborate with other firefighters to ensure an emergency response is effective

- Assist in search and rescue efforts to find missing people

- Conduct traffic incident management (TIM) in the aftermath of a car crash, blocking and directing traffic to ensure the safety of pedestrians and emergency workers

- Collaborate with police departments to respond to emergency calls and wellness checks



- Write and file official reports about events and the responses to them to avoid lawsuits

- Educate people on fire prevention and safety techniques, like installing and testing smoke alarms, supervising open flames and practicing fire response plans

- Conduct fundraising by applying for grants and taking part in events like cook-offs, raffles and fairs

- Clean and organize offices and other spaces in the fire department, making sure all emergency response materials are readily accessible

- Maintain, repair and replace firefighting equipment, tools and uniforms

- Regularly wash and maintain fire trucks and vehicles

How to become a volunteer firefighter

With the right amount of planning and dedication, many people can achieve their goal of becoming volunteer firefighters. Speak to your local firefighters.

Miniota news

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

Sympathy is extended to Rodney and Sharie Haines and Michelle and Alex Menzies and their families on the death of their dad and grandpa Wilson Haines on Oct. 9 at the Moosomin Southest Integrated Care Centre. For many years Wilson farmed in the Two Creeks area. He was predeceased by his first wife Judy. Sympathy also to his brother, Ken and Debbie Haines of Esterhazy and sister-in-law Enid Haines and her family.

Miniota was a hub of activity this past weekend, first with the annual rink sale being held on Friday night. One could begin their sale evening with a bowl of chili or hot dog and dessert prior to the sale. Auctioneer Richard Bramley kept everyone entertained as he moved the sale along quickly. Once again, many items for sale all donated by individuals and families in support of our Community Centre facilities.

Saturday night the Enhancement Committee

for the Miniota Rink and Sports Grounds hosted a Sportsman's Dinner with over 200 people attending. We are most appreciative of the many who came from surrounding communities such as Beulah, Birtle, McAuley, Elkhorn, Virden, Rocanville, Brandon and Hamiota in support of our project and to enjoy roast beef and all the trimmings catered by Little Kitchen on the Prairie. Jeff Poppel, chairperson for the Enhancement Committee gave an update explaining the future plans for our facilities as well as the progress of fundraising to date. Following the delicious meal, Branden Crowe of Virden interviewed Jeff Odgers from Spy Hill who was our guest speaker for the evening. Jeff, a former NHL'er shared many interesting stories of his hockey career as well as the life lessons learned. Jeff now farms back home at Spy Hill with his family. Following hearing Jeff, auctioneer Rhett Parks, capably handled the auction of 32 hats from NHL teams as well as our local hockey hats. Wonderful



PHOTO BY LOREE GARDHAM

The Miniota harvesting crew: (l-r) Ryan Lelond, Nic Young, Trevor Clark, Dave Collier, Allan Walker, Sheldon Doole, Jamie Bell, Trevor Armitage, Blair Gardham, Darryl Brown, Luke Lelond, Neil Norrie and Kelvin Wall have finished reaping the crop for the 'Grow Miniota' Rink and Sports Grounds Enhancement project.

response from the crowd for this auction as well as for all the draws available. Stay tuned for the next event this committee will be organizing.

Lori Rowan shared with me the death of Barry Leary at Kitimat B.C. on July 12 at 82 years of age. Barry was born to Frank and Joan Leary in Niagara Falls on April 2, 1942. He grew up in Miniota and moved to Calgary when he was a teen. He married Jacqueline Vance from Crandall. Barry worked in

the automotive business. Barry survived by his wife Jacqueline, his daughter Heather, son Scott, four grandchildren and his sister Sharon (Gary) Lampitt. A family graveside service was held west of Calgary where he purchased land many years ago. Sympathy from the Miniota community is extended to Barry's family.

"There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The

big difference is whether it is positive or negative." -W. Clement Stone

ISABELLA

A gathering was held at the Isabella Sportsgrounds this past week, to enjoy a quick game of baseball, as a farewell to the backstop fence and baseball dugouts, which our Isabella community has donated to support the Miniota Enhancement Committee in their project of adding another baseball diamond. While sad to see a part of our history moving on, as

for many years the Isabella Reds played from this diamond, however it is also exciting to know that this will be put to good use by youth in our area. Possibly the oldest player taking part in this 'Last Hurrah' game was Murray Sutherland and the youngest Rhett Knight. Fun and laughs were enjoyed!

Several ladies of the community gave the Isabella Community Hall a fall cleaning in preparation for the upcoming roast beef supper.

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Bertholet, Riley Bodin, Brooker, Robin Coombs, Nathan Coulter, Scott Rice, Corbie Henderson, Moore, Sheldon Moore, Rampton, Aaron Smith, Smith, Noah Smith, Aaron Danny Vandenberghe, Wanless



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SPORTS

SHORE, OIL CAPS SHUT OUT NIGHTHAWKS



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Competitiveness, balanced scoring and rookie Peyton Shore's first Manitoba Junior Hockey League shutout combined to deliver the Virден Oil Capitals a road victory last week.

The team defeated Niverville 4-0. Shore, a 16-year-old netminder, turned away all 32 shots he faced.

"I thought our group competed hard," Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "We generated offence by being hard on the puck and we were structured in our own end of the rink for the most part and we didn't give up a lot. When we did break down, Peyton Shore was very, very good and it was cool to see him collect his first MJHL shutout."

Home ice was not kind to the Oil Caps last week as they fell 4-1 to the Winkler Flyers and 5-2 to the Portage Terriers. This week the Oil Capitals (6-7-0-0) host the Portage Terriers on Oct. 25 and the Steinbach

Pistons on Oct. 26.

Oil Caps 4, Nighthawks 0

While Shore was stopping shots on Oct. 19 in Niverville, fellow rookie Maxx Hamelin was creating them at the other end of the ice. He scored the game's opening goal and assisted on two others. As of Oct. 21, Hamelin paced the team with 11 points in 12 games.

Hamelin gave Virден a 1-0 first period lead. Oil Capitals scored three times in the second frame. Luke Robson netted powerplay marker, while defenceman Tyler Dodgson and Virден's own Bryce Bryant scored at even strength. Entering this week, Dodgson and Hamelin led the team with four goals each. Niverville goalie Raiden Legall had 31 saves.

Terriers 5, Oil Caps 2

On Oct. 20, visitors from Portage led 1-0 and 3-1 at the intermissions. The Terriers were one for three on the powerplay, while Virден was one for six.

Oil Capitals forward Rhett Platt scored his first of the season in the second period. Hamelin scored on

a powerplay in the third. Shore recorded 21 saves.

Mitchell Kathler stopped 22 shots for the Terriers. Scoring for Portage were Tristan Gravenor (two), Cameron Bullinger, and Koy Funk.

In the third period, Oil Caps captain Ethan Guthrie tangled with William McKay. About two minutes later, Platt and Rhett Perrin fought.

Flyers 4, Oil Caps 1

Defenceman Rhylan Baxter scored the Oil Capitals' lone goal, on a powerplay, on Oct. 17. It cut the Flyers' lead to one, 2-1, before the end of the first period. The Flyers added two more goals, including one into an empty net, in the third. Virден goalie Nik Trakakis made 34 saves.

Winkler netminder Rylan Benner stopped 21 shots. Scoring for the Flyers were Max Lavoie, Jayce Legaarden, Niklas Gudmundson, and Kam Thomas. Legaarden's goal came on the powerplay. Virден's Ty Plaisier and Thomas dropped the gloves late in the third period.

BAXTER CONTRIBUTING IN RETURN TO OIL CAPITALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Rhylan Baxter is pleased to be back playing for the Virден Oil Capitals.

The 2006-born defenceman from Winnipeg started last season with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League team. He was swapped to the Winnipeg Blues last winter and returned to Virден before the new campaign due to future considerations.

"Being back with the Oil Capitals has been good so far as the season slowly rolls along. We have a good group of guys on the team and everyone has been very welcoming back and even just around the town of Virден," said Baxter, who billets with Jayson, Michelle, Cardyn and Maddyn Hayward.

He has returned to play important minutes on the Oil Capitals' blue line. The 6-foot-1, 192-pounder has two goals and two assists through 12 games this season.

"Rhylan is a big body that shoots the puck very well and, when he is hard to play against, can be imposing on other teams forwards," Virден head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He has a good stick and brings experience with him from last season with the Blues."

As a rookie in 2023-2024, Baxter was fighting for ice time on a veteran loaded Oil Capitals roster. He was pointless in eight games for the Virден squad before being swapped to the Blues. In 27 games for that Winnipeg team, he posted four goals and 14 points.

"Getting to play with the Blues for the second half

of the season helped me develop a bunch," Baxter said. "With being able to play everyday and just getting on the ice more and more to get better and playing against bigger and faster players was key in helping me to be ready for this season right now."

Baxter faced some challenges on his path to the Junior A level. The Oil Capitals drafted him in the fourth round in 2022 after a strong season with the U17 AAA Winnipeg Wild. While playing U18 AAA would usually be the next step for a talented prospect, an injury caused Baxter to travel a different route.

He said he had dislocated his shoulder seven times. This led to surgery in September of 2022. Baxter said he was told his recovery time would be six to eighth months. With support from his doctor, physiotherapy, and hard work, he was back playing full games in December of that year.

"It was a tough process from not being on the ice for a while but hard work and wanting to come back and play sooner was my determination," Baxter said.

Instead of playing U18 AAA that season, he suited up in the high school ranks for Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. Baxter only played 11 games and collected seven points.

"Playing in the high school league for only a few games and then coming to play in the MJHL I've had to make a few adjustments just to be ready to play in this league," he said. "I had to get faster to be able to play here and that's not just foot speed - it's making plays faster and being able to react to what is happening



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Rhylan Baxter of the Virден Oil Capitals.

quicker. The players in the league being older than me and having experience of already played in the league before is an adjustment for me just to watch and see what I can learn from them."

SPORTS

OIL KINGS SET TO TAKE ON NEW LOOK THHL



By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virден Oil Kings and the Tiger Hills Hockey League will have a new look this season. Four teams have taken a one-year leave of absence from the senior men's THHL: Pilot Mound, Gladstone, Wawanesa and Miniota-Elkhorn. This puts

the Oil Kings' heated Highway 1 rivalry with the C-Hawks on pause.

"Losing the C-Hawks will have the biggest impact on our team as our biggest rival and defending league and provincial champions," Oil Kings general manager/coach Ryan Mathieson said. "While not having to go through the C-Hawks to get out of the THHL West Division is appealing, we will miss out on those big games that both teams got up for."

The Oil Kings open the new THHL campaign in Boissevain on Oct. 25. The team's home opener will be on Nov. 10 versus the Hartney Blues. Season tickets for the eight Oil Kings home games are now on sale. The squad will play a 16-game schedule with home and home contests against its West Division foes while facing East division opponents once each. Every team will make the playoffs with the top two seeds in each division receiving first round byes, Mathieson explained.

The Oil Kings return much of its core from last season that compiled a 13-4-0-1 regular season record. However, there are some changes with veterans Tanner Hepp, Brendan Berry, Mitch Whittle, Ryan Colon and Kyran Gerring opting to step away.

Mathieson said the team is excited about its new additions. Hometown product Eric Reid, a goalie, and Brandon defenceman Nolan Wallace join the squad after strong junior careers with the Virден Oil Capitals. Local product Shane Price will also be added.

Last season the Oil Kings featured two of the league's top scorers in Ty Lewis (second in the THHL with 50 points in 11 games) and Devon LeBlanc (third, 49 points in 14 contests). To that they will add former pro Derek LeBlanc, who rejoins his brother on the team after a season away; and longtime C-Hawks standouts Jason and Brad Bowles. The latter paced the THHL with 61 points in 17 contests. Jason was tied with Devon LeBlanc in scoring with 49 points in 18 games.

Last season the Oil Kings finished second in the West Division standings to the C-Hawks. Mathieson said, "we struggled out of the gate, but we're able to find our game mid-season, and build momentum heading into playoffs."

In the postseason, the Oil Kings swept the Deloraine Royals, 2-0, in the first round. They bested the Rivers Jets, 3-2, in a best of five affair. The C-Hawks went on to repeat as champs after beating Virден, 3-0, in the West Division final.

"We had a real good back and forth series with Rivers that went the distance," Mathieson said. "With our success against Rivers we faced the eventual provincial champion Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks. We took a lot of learnings from those two series between facing a hot goaltender in Rivers and a Miniota-Elkhorn team that did not give up scoring chances. In our league, there are no easy playoff series and learning to overcome these challenges will be crucial for future success."



Virден's Jace Freeman and his rink enjoyed an undefeated weekend en route to the men's championship at the Manitoba Junior Curling Tour's Stonewall event.

SPORTS NOTES: FREEMAN WINS, SCOTT SKATES NATIONALLY, BREZDEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEBUT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Viriden's Jace Freeman and his rink enjoyed an undefeated weekend en route to the men's championship at the Manitoba Junior Curling Tour's Stonewall event.

The team was 5-0 at the Oct. 18-20 bonspiel. The rink has played in two MJCT events this year and gone undefeated in both of them. Regarding last weekend, the son of Graham and Roxanne Freeman said:

"I was most pleased with how we played on Sunday this bonspiel. We played our best games in the semifinal and final, which was a great time for us to peak on the weekend."

Coming up for the rink is the BrokerLink-OVCA Junior SuperSpiel. The prestigious bonspiel will be held in Ottawa, Nov. 1-3. The event is in its 31st year and features strong

competition. The men's draw this year includes one rink from the United States and two from Switzerland. It will be the Freeman rink's second time at the bonspiel.

"I'm most looking forward to getting to play competition from around the world that we don't get to play against much," Freeman said. "We know most of the teams that will be there but there are quite a few teams we have never seen before so we are excited to see how we stack up."

His rink included Winnipeggers Luke Robins at lead and Nick Senff at second. Senff's father Danny grew up in Viriden. Newcomer Timothy Marin is the rink's third and has represented New Brunswick and Alberta in national events in the past.

Scott Skates at Nationals

Former Viriden resident Alexa Scott posted three top six

finishes in races at the Canadian Speed Skating Long Track Championships in Quebec City. In the 1,500 metre race, Scott was fourth. She skated two 1,000 metre races during the event. Scott was sixth in the first and fourth in the second.

Scott competed for Canada at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. She grew up in Viriden until her family moved to Clandeboye when she was 10. Her parents, Malcolm and Judy, moved back to Viriden a few years ago.

Brezden's International Debut

Breken Brezden, a member of the Skate Viriden family, had a strong free skate in her first international figure skating assignment. At the International Skating Union Challenger Series' Trophy Metropole in Nice, France, Brezden sat in 20th place after the short program. The Dauphin product, now training in Ontario, had a great long program. She had the fifth-best score, which rocketed her to 10th overall. Brezden trained in Viriden with coach Patty Hole for many years.

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Employment Opportunity

Airport Manager

The Town of Virden Airport Commission is seeking an individual or company to perform the contractual duties of Airport Manager at the Virden Regional Airport (R.J. Andrew Field).

The Airport Manager is responsible for supervising the operation of the airport in accordance with Federal and Provincial regulations, policies, and guidelines. This includes coordinating with the Town of Virden and the Virden Flying Club to ensure the safe and effective operation of the municipal airport to service the emergency and everyday transportation and commercial needs of the community and users.

The Manager will be required to supply their own vehicle.

Extended or irregular hours may be necessary at times specifically when responding to emergency calls.

Please go to viriden.ca/p/employment-opportunities for a detailed description or call John Stowe, Airport Manager at 204-851-6230.

Applications or Proposals for the Airport Manager Position may be submitted prior to **4:00 PM, Monday October 28, 2024** to:

Rhonda Stewart
Chief Administrative Officer
Box 310
236 Wellington Street West
Viriden, MB R0M 2C0

Upcoming Council Meetings: November 5 & 19

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

2024 Property Tax

Payments are due by **October 31**.



Citizen of the Year

Nominations are now open for this year's award!

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

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

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

Annual Water Main Flushing

Will continue throughout the month of October.

If you experience an ongoing loss of pressure or discoloured water that does not run clear within a few minutes, please call the Town Office, or 204-851-5540 (evenings and weekends).

Live Barn

Now available at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Use code **togp-live** for 10% off.

Visit livebarn.com for more information.

Public Notice

The public washrooms at Victoria Park and the Spray Park are closed for the season.

Public washrooms are available at 232 Wellington Street West (Weekdays from 8:00-5:00) and at Tundra Oil and Gas Place during regular arena hours.

Viriden Food Cupboard

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

Thank You

The Virden Cemetery Improvement Association would like to thank the following for their generous donations to the Cemetery between September 1, 2023 and August 1, 2024:

- * The Norsworthy Family
- * Henry & Sheila Riendeau
- * Allyson Kruger
- * G&M Moir Inc.
- * Jo-Anne Milne
- * Glynis VanDamme
- * Olive Hutchison
- * Judy Poole
- * Ken Stonehouse
- * Evelyn Odell
- * John Fefchak
- * Myrtle Wooldridge
- * Glenda Clarke
- * Herb & Karen Manser
- * Gerry Gatey
- * Evelyn Jorgensen
- * Doris Gould
- * Karen Anderson
- * Kelly Weber
- * Richard Reiner
- * Gina Bradbury
- * Mark Cassidy
- * Richard Ward
- * Lawrence Langlois
- * Heather Beltz
- * Caroline Greig
- * Carol-Lee Slimmon
- * Lori Coughlan
- * Linda Plaisier
- * Brenda Lund
- * Lois Flett
- * Randy Browning
- * Marilyn Schur
- * Jerry Flecknor
- * Jeff Jorgensen
- * Charles Heaman
- * Karen Hopley
- * Kathy Welsh
- * Janice Simpson
- * Donna Bajus
- * Myles Van-Damme
- * Gladys McNeill
- * Doug Gatey
- * Lorraine Langlois
- * Denise Mayo
- * Heather Patterson
- * Betty Anderson
- * Kenneth Clarke
- * Linda Lane
- * Doris Forster
- * Alex Grieve
- * Ray Neild
- * Karen Naumiuk
- * Len Collier
- * Linda White
- * Phyllis Sims
- * Eleanor Opper
- * Roy Potter
- * Doug Leslie
- * Michelle Rebinsky
- * Eva Blackshaw
- * Donna Smith
- * Anne Anderson
- * Margaret Gabrielle
- * Joyce Heaman
- * Bonnie Girardin
- * Rick Ward
- * Maxine Chacun
- * Donald Blakely
- * Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- * Irene Clarke
- * Norma Cole
- * Ray Harper
- * Noreen Baskerville
- * Wanda Brown
- * Marlene Cantlon

CLASSIFIEDS

Tender

FOR SALE BY TENDER

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

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP

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

Property:

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

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

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

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

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

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

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

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

Tender

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders to purchase the land in the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth and described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP

110-11th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4J4
 Attention: Ashley T. Joyce

or

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP

255 Wellington St. W. Virden, MB R0M 2C0
 Attention: Ashley T. Joyce

Property: E 33-12-25 WPM, located in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth which is composed of two separate parcels. Parcel One (Title No. 1429466/2) consists of approximately 160 acres of farmland. Parcel Two (Title No. 1429467/2) consists of approximately 160 acres of farmland. Tenders shall be submitted for the purchase of both parcels together.

all acreages have been taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Report

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the vendor.
2. Tenders must be received at or before **2:00pm on November 7, 2024, at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, 110 – 11th Street, Brandon MB, or at the Virden office located at 255 Wellington St. W Virden MB, attention: Ashley Joyce**
3. The Property shall be sold in "as is, where is" condition.
4. The successful tender shall enter into an Offer to Purchase with the seller by **November 15, 2024**, and the closing date of same shall be **December 4, 2024**.
5. Each tender must be in writing and accompanied by a cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP representing 10% of the tendered purchase price. Deposits accompanying unacceptable tenders will be returned following the close of tenders.
6. The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The bidder or bidders whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale by November 15, 2024.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the closing date which shall take place December 4, 2025. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid by the closing date, or no evidence is provided that the balance will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
4. Mines and Minerals are excluded.
5. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing as of January 1, 2025.
6. Successful bidders will be responsible for paying G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
7. Successful bidders shall be responsible to pay Land Transfer Tax (if applicable).
8. Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees to complete the sale.

For further information, please contact Ron at 204-748-8188 or by email at ron-nyk@hotmail.ca.

Tender

SNOW REMOVAL WANTED

Persons with equipment to provide snow removal for the 2024/2025 season at five locations within the Town of Virden.

Tenders close: November 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Send tenders to:

Association for Community Living – Virden Branch
 216 Bridge Street West.
 Box 1957, Virden, MB
 R0M 2C0

Fax: 204-748-1737

Email: generalinfo@aclvirden.org

For more information call Lisa at 204-748-1444

Coming Events

Virden Legion is now OPEN

Friday at 3pm - that's every Friday

New Games Night in the Legion Club Room

Open to All - no charge - Wednesdays from 7 - 9pm

All types of games - cards, darts, pool, and board games - scrabble.

Come for fun and socializing!

For Sale or Rent

Farmland for Sale or Rent in RM of Pipestone

	Taxes	Assessment
NW 23-8-27	\$778.96	\$246,400
NE 23-8-27	\$519.11	\$164,200
SW 23-8-27	\$808.16	\$255,600

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

Taking offers for purchase.

Taking offers for 3 years lease.

Mineral and oil rights are exempt.

Interested parties should rely on their own inspection.

Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted.

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

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

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

HEY! YOU!

If you are reading me, that means others are too! Place your Classified here!

Tenders for Snow Clearing & Removal

Are being accepted for:

Reston Health Centre

Interested parties contact:

Kyle More, Maintenance

at 204-877-5194

to review specific tender requirements.

Prairie Mountain Health is not obligated to accept the lowest or any tender.

CLOSING DATE

1200 hours November 1st, 2024



Tenders to be Submitted to:
 Chris Couling | Area Manager
 Capital/Infrastructure South
 Ccouling@pmh-mb.ca



CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION
URGENTLY HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

Support our schools and students.

Why Join Us?

- Flexible Schedule
- Competitive Pay
- Supportive Environment

Who We're Looking For:

- Individuals with excellent communication and organizational skills.
- A quick learner who can adapt to different classroom environments.
- College graduates or current post-secondary students, or retirees.
- Ability to pass a background check.

What You'll Do:

- Step into classrooms when regular teachers are absent.
- Support Student learning.
- Maintain a positive and productive classroom atmosphere.

Apply Today! We have immediate openings and are looking to fill positions ASAP.
Contact Us at 204-748-2692 or **Email flbsd.mb.ca** for more information.



FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION
URGENT: SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy working with children and serving your community? We're urgently seeking responsible, safety-conscious **School Bus Drivers** to join our team.


Why Drive With Us?

- Competitive Pay
- Flexible Hours – Ideal for retirees, stay-at-home parents, and anyone seeking part-time work.
- Comprehensive Training Provided

Requirements:

- Valid driver's license (CDL with Passenger & School Bus endorsements preferred, but we will help you get them)
- Clean driving record
- A passion for safety and reliability
- Ability to pass a background check

Apply Now! Help make a difference in your community and ensure children get to school safely every day. **Immediate positions available** – start as soon as possible!
 To apply, call us at **204-748-2692** or email **mark.johnson@flbsd.mb.ca** today.



Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
WILSON WILLARD HAINES



Wilson Willard Haines was born June 1, 1936 in Melville Saskatchewan. He was the third son of Elizabeth Margaret (Hollinger) and Phillip James Haines (Hoehn). Ken Haines (Debbie) of Esterhazy Saskatchewan is the last surviving sibling.

Wilson married Judith Kathleen (Francis) on January 27, 1962. They had one son, Rodney Brent on July 12, 1964 and one daughter, Michelle Gayleen on October 8, 1967. Wilson and Judy were a week shy of celebrating their 28th Anniversary when Judy passed away suddenly on January 19, 1990. Wilson eventually sold the farm in 2008 and moved to Carlyle Saskatchewan to live with life partner Wanda (Statler) Colpitts (September 26, 1930 - June 2, 2016).

In 2019, he moved to Whitewood Saskatchewan and married Elvie (Filipina) on November 24, 2019. They were married until she passed on September 30, 2024. Dad was moved into Moosomin Southeast Integrated Care Centre LTC on July 24, 2024 and had settled in well there. He loved that "the restaurant" was always open. He spent his last day tapping his toes to old time country music and fittingly passed away peacefully on "Cowboy Day" Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Left to celebrate his life and cherish his memory are his children Rod Haines (Sharie) and Michelle Menzies (Alex); Grandchildren: Zaine Haines (Lauren), Shaine Menzies (Christa), Marley Menzies (Blaine) and Dillon Menzies; Great Grandchild: Landon Menzies.

A Public Visitation was held at Carscadden Funeral Chapel, Virden, MB Thursday, October 24, 2024. A private family interment will be held at Two Creeks Cemetery at a later date.

Thank you to Moosomin Southeast Integrated Care Centre Long Term Care facility staff for the care they provided and compassion they conveyed during Dad's time there. We would also like to thank everyone for the support they have shown to our families while going through this difficult time. In lieu of individual thank you cards, we will be making a donation in his name.

For those who desire, memorial tributes in memory of Wilson may be made in support of Manitoba High School Rodeo Association, P.O. Box 419, Elkhorn MB., ROM 0N0.
"It's time for your final ride"

Thank-you

Thank-you

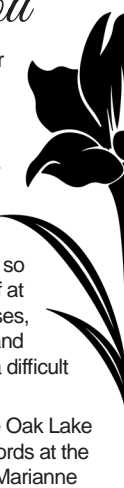
We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and encouragement after the loss of our wife, mom, grandma, great-grandma and great-great-grandma, Helen Wiens. Thank you to Dr Hammell for your kindness over the years. You always treated mom with such compassion, and she appreciated it so much. Also thank you to all the staff at the Virden Health Center; EMS, nurses, aides, lab, dietary, housekeeping and any others involved. You all made a difficult time a little easier.

Thank you to Dan Sawatsky at the Oak Lake Mennonite Church for your kind words at the funeral. To David Sawatsky and Marianne Thiessen for serving as ushers, to Karyn Penner and the members of the choir for the music. The hymns were requested by mom, and you did a wonderful job. To Tanis Podobni for recording the service for those who could not attend, thank you.

Thanks also to the Oak Lake Garden Club for providing the lunch after the service. And to all who attended or were unable to attend but had mom in their thoughts and prayers, thank you so much.

Words cannot express how much all the expressions of sympathy have meant to us. We are truly blessed to have such caring family, friends and neighbours.

Mano Wiens, Audrey, Carie, Kathy, LeeAnna, Brad and families,



Thank-you

Thank-you everyone who came to celebrate Bob's life. There were a lot of memories shared. Thank-you everyone who sent cards, food, and flowers. To Linda Clark who did the service and Dwayne Campbell for all you did for us. Thanks also to the church ladies who organized the lunch.

It was all greatly appreciated.

Sharon
 Jason, Austin, and Ty
 Clayton, Kristina, Raven
 Elodie, Emanuel and Mathias



Announcement

mcna

Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
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Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email **classified@mcna.com**
www.mcna.com

Manitoba Lung Association
BREATHE

PROTECT YOUR BREATH

BREATHING EASY STARTS WITH TAKING THE RIGHT STEPS.

PROTECT YOUR LUNGS FROM SEASONAL THREATS TO KEEP THEM STRONG AND HEALTHY THIS SEASON.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST TODAY ABOUT SEASONAL IMMUNIZATION.

Protectyourbreath.ca

Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DARRYL LLOYD TWIGG, late of the Town of Elkhorn, 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, ROM 2C0, on or before the 4th day of December, 2024.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 17th day of October, 2024.

LARISSA SOSNOWSKI –
 MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK
 MCCONNELL SOLICITOR
 FOR THE EXECUTOR

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

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

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a

newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot 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 under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS ADS NOW! Do you take on-line orders in your business? Let us help you advertise it from November on! Now booking advertising for the remainder of 2024. *Plan your suc-*

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RM of Sifton meeting minutes

Sept. 12, 2024



Submitted RM OF SIFTON

Present: Reeve Druwe, Deputy Reeve Thiessen, Councillors Griffith, Kenderdine, Phillips, Croker, Houston, Roulette, CAO Lisa Greig, ACAO Marina Enns. Regrets: Councillor Davis

DELEGATES: Shop Foreman & Public Works Utilities, David Houston, Variation Hearings: 24-01S Cameron & 24-02S Karvonen, Reid Miller Auditing Firm, via Zoom

Phillips/Thiessen- That the RM of Sifton Council approve the following payments as attached, Cheques, Pre-Authorized Payments and Electronic Payments in the amount of \$239,837 and Total Net Payroll in the amount of \$54,383.24. **CARRIED**

Council approved the JQ Built Inc. progress payments #11 for the daycare in the

amount of \$409,383.41 and payment #12 for the daycare in the amount of \$85,967.18.

Kenderdine/Croker-Whereas Brett Cameron has submitted Variation Application No. 24-01S as required to comply with Zoning By-Law No. 1325.

And whereas this application requests approval to reduce the South Yard from 10 feet to 6 feet to allow a cabin and reduce the rear yard from 5 feet to 0 feet to allow a deck/gazebo to comply with RM of Sifton Zoning By-Law. Carried.

Phillips/Thiessen-Whereas Trent and Melissa Karvonen have submitted Variation Application No. 24-02S as required to comply with Zoning By-Law No. 1325; And whereas this application requests approval to reduce the North Yard from 10 feet to 4 feet, and to allow the construction of a cabin to comply with RM of Sifton Zoning By-Law. Carried.

Hughes - Subdivision Pt NE 20-8-24W

Phillips/Griffith-whereas a proposal to subdivide Pt NE 20-8-24, as contained in File #4184-24-8632 was received and presented to Council.

Therefore, be it resolved

that the proposed subdivision is approved with the following conditions: Property taxes are paid in full; and a Conditional Use is obtained for the Recreational Facility. Carried.

Thiessen-Subdivision Lot 1 and 2 Block 13 Plan 1969 and Lot 3 Block 13 Plan 1969

Houston/Kenderdine-Whereas a proposal to subdivide Lots 1/2 Block 13 Plan 1969 and Lot 3 Block 13 Plan 1969, as contained in File # 4184-24-8650 was received and presented to Council.

Therefore, be it resolved that the proposed subdivision is approved with the following conditions: Property taxes are paid in full; and a Variation is obtained for proposed Lot 1. Carried.

Dennis County Planning District: Building on 4/10-5-41 Roll #124900

Whereas the RM of Sifton received a Building Condition Report from the Dennis County Planning District's Building Inspector regarding a building in Griswold located on Lots 4/10, Block 5, Plan 41, Roll # 124900.

and whereas the RM of Sifton acknowledges the condition of the building to be unsafe; Therefore, be it resolved the RM of Sifton authorize staff to proceed

with informing the property owner of the actions required; and that staff is authorized to take the necessary actions to remedy the unsafe conditions as may be required and apply any costs to roll# 124900. Tabled

Taxservice - Reserve Bids for Tax Sale Properties

Griffith/Phillips-Therefore be it resolved the reserve bid for the properties to be sold at the RM of Sifton Tax Sale on October 10, 2024, be set at the total amount of property tax arrears plus penalties and tax sale costs for the following properties:

Roll 51900 in the amount of \$1,738.55

Roll 52600 in the amount of \$1,720.82

Roll 123300 in the amount of \$3,060.82

Roll 215000 in the amount of \$5,271.64 Carried.

Thiessen/Kenderdine-Therefore be it resolved the RM of Sifton accept the proposal dated August 19, 2024, from Prairie Environmental to conduct the building surveys for hazardous material. Carried.

Griffith/Kenderdine-Therefore be it resolved the RM of Sifton accept the presented quote dated Sept. 6, 2024, from Pinnacle Plumbing & Heating to supply and install treated water to the Oak Lake Arena from the Oak Lake Community Hall. Carried.

Houston/Griffith-There-

fore be it resolved the RM of Sifton authorize Rachelle Stannage and 2 members of the economic development committee to attend the Rural Manitoba Economic Development event entitled Connection Zone 2024 being held at Melita, MB on Sept. 27, 2024, with expenses paid according to the Indemnity By-Law. Carried.

Thiessen/Griffith-Therefore be it resolved the RM of Sifton authorize Tanis Podobni and Scott Phillip to attend the Manitoba Disaster Management Conference being held in Winnipeg on October 16-18, 2024, with expenses paid according to the Indemnity By-Law. Carried.

Kenderdine/Thiessen

Therefore, be it resolved the RM of Sifton authorize members of the Watershed Committee and 2 additional council members to attend the Watershed Conference being held in Brandon on December 2-4, 2024, with expenses paid according to the Indemnity By-law. Carried.

Griffith/Houston-Whereas the Association of Manitoba Municipalities is accepting nominations for President and Vice-President positions on the AMM Executive Committee for a term of two years, beginning November 2024.

nominations for positions on the Executive Committee must be by resolution of Council, and each nomina-

tion must be supported by a separate resolution.

And whereas Councillor Scott Phillips and has expressed an interest in the position of Vice-President; Therefore, be it resolved that the RM of Sifton nominate Councillor Scott Phillips for the position of Vice-President on the Association of Manitoba Municipalities Executive Committee for a term of two years, starting November 2024.

Carried.

Asset Management Committee - 10 Year Planning

Phillips/Houston-Be it resolved that the RM of Sifton form an Asset Management Committee with the following Councillors to be on the Committee: Tim Croker, Dennis Griffith, Russel Thiessen. Carried.

Acknowledgment of a volunteer

Be it resolved that the RM of Sifton honour Tineke De Jong by way of purchasing a tree and having it planted at Deleau Park, to acknowledge a long-term volunteer. Carried.

Thiessen/Griffith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the RM of Sifton hereby gives notice that Resolution # 2023-091 dated May 11, 2023, regarding offer to purchase of 207 Churchill Street in Griswold will be reviewed and discussed during the upcoming Council meeting of October 10, 2024. Carried.

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RM OF SIFTON



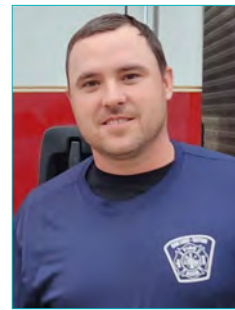
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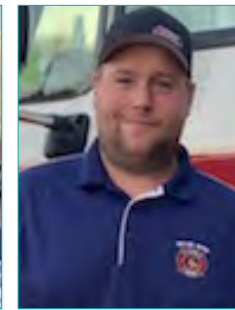
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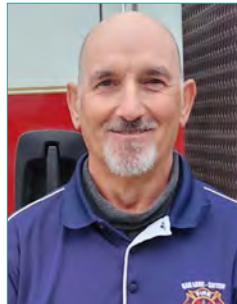
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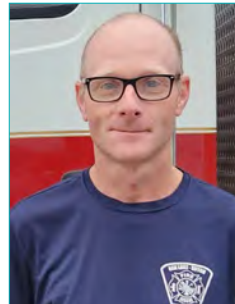
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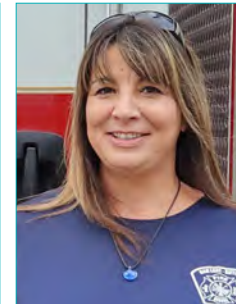
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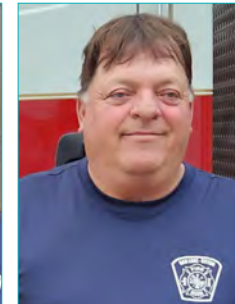
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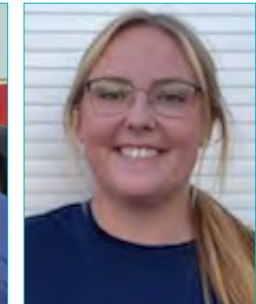
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Keys are handed to new Habitat family

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Habitat for Humanity has now built a fifth family home since they first took up the building challenge in 2011. On Oct. 19, the Key Ceremony was an exciting moment for the new family Valentin Oliva, Alejandra Campos, and their children Mateo, Melissa, Liam, and Dylan to receive the keys to their home at 615, Nelson Street, W.

It was also a triumphant celebration for Virden Habitat committee and for chairperson Karen McKinnon, her team of volunteers plus the community who stood behind them.

Steve Krahn VP of Habitat for Humanity Manitoba attended the ceremony, and in an interview afterwards, had words of praise for McKinnon and the Virden team. He said, "They are one of the quickest builders in the province. The home really only got started in late spring and to have the family move in today (Monday, Oct. 21) is pretty remarkable."

He commended the team. "It's really inspirational to have that kind of people who are wanting to better their community. It inspires me when I see that kind of commitment in a community."

Krahn explained that a Habitat house means that a family who otherwise could not afford their own home, can become home owners.

"When our families move in, they pay market value," says Krahn. "The advantage comes with the quality of the build and also in the terms of the mortgage."

With 0 per cent interest, and no down payment required, payments are arranged so the family uses 27 per cent of their income towards their mortgage and property tax costs.

"So if a family makes more, they will pay their mortgage down quicker..."

This 15-year interest-free mortgage gives people a chance to build up equity into their home.

"We see this as a way to help not only the parents who move into the home, but we also see that leads to generational wealth. There's a passing down from parents to their children. It can, in some family's cases, end a cycle of poverty. It's an opportunity to jump into the housing market, which often has many barriers. Once they're in it they enjoy all the benefits of being in the home market such as home values going up in price over time. And then you combine that with a zero per cent interest mortgage and essentially their home becomes like a savings account for them."

For this Virden family, it means a move from renting a too small house and moving into a brand new two storey, two-bathroom home of their own, with two bedrooms in the basement and a master bedroom and additional bedroom upstairs.

Volunteers, mainly retirees, are the key to Habitat's program.

"We find that Habitat does attract a lot of people that are retired. It's a time where they're wanting to still be active and they have time to give."

But Krahn says McKinnon's volunteerism is exceptional.

He chuckles, "Karen does not act her age, whatever it is. She's got so much drive and determination; it's really inspiring to me."

With her wry humour McKinnon tells of this Habitat adventure:

"Property in town is hard to find at a reasonable price so when a property became available, we decided to buy it not knowing if we would build or not. I think three of us were pretty sure we would fold our committee due to finances and the worry about volunteers. Any way, at our meeting we had a new board member who was full of enthusiasm and lo and behold it was decided to go ahead."

She introduced the committee: Denise Bicum treasurer supplied coffee and muffins twice daily for coffee breaks and did sanding, taping and cleaning.

"Thanks to the ladies who supplied us with muffins and goodies all summer."

Lindsey McKinnon is secretary of the committee and "the person I go to for valuable opinions and advice. Fran



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virden's newest Habitat for Humanity family: Alejandra Campos holds the key to her new home with her husband and family: Valentin Oliva, Mateo, Melissa, Liam and Dylan.

Bayliss is the voice of reason and substitute coffee person."

Marissa Samson tracked Valentin's sweat equity hours. April Peers reviewed the homeowner applications and worked with Valentin and Alejandro doing the legal paper work.

"Curtis Rowan was so enthusiastic about this build and convinced us it would all work out."

Other volunteers were Wayne Williams (building walls), Judy Poole, Cheryl Pizzey, John Corby, and Jack Welsh. Help for drywalling and moving lumber came from Nathan, Reed, and Brayden.

Wilbert Friesen provided advice for the roof construction which was "capably moved onto the house by Fontana

Trucking and it fit perfectly."

Karen describes how she recruited Dave Jordan as a key volunteer: "I talked to Dave Jordan briefly at the rink last year and he said if we did a build he would help and he had all the tools. And he did have all the tools!"

McKinnon was told to be on site every day, and that's when she phoned Jordan. He agreed he'd be there every day.

"We started May 13 and Dave gave up his whole summer getting only a few golf games in. He even quit after seven holes one Saturday when we had a delivery of appliances to be unloaded.

"Dave is very knowledgeable about construction even though he says he is an oil man not a carpenter. He is proficient and very, very particular. If it is not done perfectly, it is not done. And he is always thinking ahead. We are very lucky he took the time for this build."

Another ace was Robert Heath. "He phoned just before we started, asking if I needed help with the build. Robert is an accomplished and experienced carpenter and makes beautiful cabinets. He and Dave had lots of discussions and always came up with great plans. Robert measures everything to precision and always has a tape measure at the ready. He rarely had a day off all summer, except for family matters. We were so lucky he volunteered for this project.

"I'm not sure why I phoned Bryan Hayward," McKinnon jokes, "I must have been going down the curling list. Bryan has been a great addition to the team and is also a proficient carpenter who measures everything meticulously. He was so faithful and rarely had a day off except for his birthday when he didn't show up for four days."

She continues, "The painting was done by Warren Polk, Lynda McDonald, Gwen More and myself. Lynda says she is not a painter but I beg to differ – and then she volunteered to clean so I'm not sure what I would have done without her."

The Habitat for Humanity site manager, Kevin Hiebert from Brandon, provided information and advice when called upon, "but soon realized that he didn't have to be on site at all," says McKinnon.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol of Remembrance

From the last Friday in October to Remembrance Day, millions of Canadians wear a Poppy as a visual pledge to never forget those who served and sacrificed. The red flower also is the symbol of the Legion's Poppy Campaign, raising funds to support Veterans and their families in need. We invite everyone across the county to show their recognition by proudly wearing this symbol of Remembrance.

The Poppy is worn each year during the Remembrance period to honour Canada's Fallen. The Legion also encourages the wearing of a Poppy for the funeral of a Veteran and for any commemorative event honouring Fallen Veterans. Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the Legion's lapel Poppy each November, the little red flower has never died, and the memories of those who fell in battle remain strong.

Ways to remember

Canadians often associate The Royal Canadian Legion with Remembrance ceremonies and the annual Poppy campaign. Through these initiatives, we honour and remember Canada's fallen Veterans and help ensure Canadians never forget.

While November is recognized as a time of Remembrance, for the Legion and for many across the country, Remembrance is a year-long commitment. At any given moment, there are many opportunities available to anyone wishing to show their appreciation for those who served, including:

- Make a donation to the Legion's Poppy Trust Fund at any Legion Branch
- Saying "Thank you" to a Veteran
- Wearing a Poppy
- Visiting a cenotaph

Most importantly, take a moment now to reflect on the freedoms and peace in your life, and to remember the men and women who served and sacrificed for all we have today.

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