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OCTOBER 16, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 09 / ADVANCE: VOL 142 NO 11 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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Manitoba honours contributions to agriculture Oak Lake's Dr. Wayne Lees among inductees



Canadian veterinarian and epidemiologist Dr. Wayne Lees.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted
By MAHF

This year, 2026, Dr. Victor Wayne Lees was inducted to the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place at Winnipeg's Red River Exhibition Park on Oct. 14.

Dr. Victor Wayne Lees (Oak Lake) is a Canadian veterinarian and epidemiologist whose career spans decades of leadership in animal health and population medicine. He has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to "One Health" - a holistic framework connecting animal, human, and environmental well-being, eventually establishing an early warning disease surveillance system across more than 20 Caribbean nations to protect food security and combat animal, plant, and zoonotic diseases.

He designed the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network, was appointed Manitoba's first Chief Veterinary Officer, launched Canada's first standing Zoonotic Diseases Committee, chaired the national Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, and co-founded the collaborative National Animal Health and Welfare Council (Animal Health Canada).

Over a prolific career, Dr. Lees' dedication to collaborative population medicine has championed and shaped provincial and national frameworks for animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health.

VIRIDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
VS. NIVERVILLE
NIGHTHAWKS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



MEET THE RM OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH CANDIDATES *P6-7*



MEET THE RM OF SIFTON CANDIDATES *P9*

SPORTS

ELDER RECEIVES LARRY NICHOLLS UMPIRE AWARD OF MERIT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Former Oak Lake resident Ernest Elder has been recognized for his consistency and reliability on the diamond. The son of Marvin and Margaret Elder has been named the winner of the Larry Nicholls Umpire Award of Merit. The Brandon resident will receive the award at a Baseball Manitoba event on Oct. 17 in that community.

"I am one of many umpires in the area that give up a lot of our time and weekends so that people can play baseball," Elder said. "It's a nice honour that someone would take the time to nominate me. I guess it shows that I am pretty well respected by my peers and, I think, the participants in the game."

Elder did not umpire with Nicholls, but has "very fond memories of Larry supervising myself and obviously

the other umpires at some of the senior provincials and the Western Canadians in Baldur. Larry had a presence and so he didn't have to say a lot to get your attention."

"Ernie 'Double E' is a most deserving recipient of this award," said Peter Perreault of the Baseball Manitoba Umpire Committee.

"Ernie is an integral member of the umpire core in the Westman and Brandon as he is a consistent and reliable presence on and off the diamond," he said. "It is not unusual for 'Double' to do a game in Hamiota at 8 a.m., run back to Brandon to work two games in the afternoon and then off to Boissevain for a senior game in the evening and do it all over again the next day."

Perreault said Elder is known for his consistency in making calls "both on and off the plate and is rarely challenged." He praised Elder's even temperament and sense of fair play.

"Don't let Ernie's calm demeanour fool you," Perreault said. "He is always intensely involved with the game, applying the rules when needed and being a master at game management, his sense of fair play and flow of a game is unmatched and, because of his consistency, players and partners always know what they are going to get. His reputation earned him the respect and confidence, which he deserves from managers, coaches, players and fellow umpires."

Perreault said it is a pleasure to work with Elder "as he treats his partners with the utmost respect and he is truly a partner with anyone he works with." He also said that Elder excels as an administrator and assignor.

"He has an uncanny way of looking at an entire season and has the ability to 'fill' games with the right people at the right time, making sure that assignments are

equally shared and consistent. Ernie always finds a way."

Last summer was Elder's first as the umpire-in-chief of the senior South West Baseball League. He said, "We had a solid, dependable group of umpires." In addition, Elder umpires in that league and the senior Santa Clara Baseball League. He also works high school games and various age groups at local tournaments.

Elder officiates both hockey and baseball. He believes he began umpiring baseball in 2005.

"I saw guys like Boosh (Ken Buchy) and Bob Senff in action and I thought that I wanted to join them in action," Elder said. "I have been pretty fortunate as I have got to do some pretty good baseball in my time as an umpire."

While Elder excels at calling balls and strikes, he said what he enjoys about umpiring is the camaraderie with the players and his fellow



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the summer, Oak Lake product Ernest Elder can be found on the diamond across western Manitoba.

umpires.

"Obviously, there are moments where things can get tense, but for the most part the players have been very respectful to me," he said. "Umpiring is certainly a challenge as every pitch matters and one or two missed calls can change the outcome of an at-bat and potentially the game. So you have to enjoy being in the heat of the game."

DEBATE 2026

RM OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH ELECTION DEBATE

HOSTED BY: [Empire-Advance](#)

JOIN US FOR THE DEBATE
OCTOBER 15, 2026

Moderator: Dennis Carter
LENORE HALL IN LENORE, MB
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM
OPENING REMARKS 7PM
Q&A 7:30PM
CLOSING REMARKS 8:15PM

TOWN OF VIRDEN MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR DEBATE

Join Us for the Debate
October 22, 2026

Moderator: Jeff McConnell
Sunrise Credit Union Hall
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM
OPENING REMARKS 7PM
Q&A 7:30PM
CLOSING REMARKS 8:15PM

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What Is the History of Witches at Halloween?

*TALES FROM
THE ARCHIVE*

**LAUREN
HALOWATY**



There is no single origin story for the Halloween witch. When the word “witch” comes to mind, most of us picture the pop-culture icons we grew up with: the green-faced hag from The Wizard of Oz, the silly sisters from Hocus Pocus, or a spooky silhouette riding a broom against a full moon. However, while witches can often be confused with dark, malevolent attributes, that connotation is a modern myth born from centuries of misconception, fear, and institutional hysteria, a historical game of telephone where every retelling added a little more terror and stripped away more of the truth. Witches were simply strong-headed women, healers, herbalists, and local scholars. Long before Hollywood or greeting card companies got their hands on them, they were

community anchors who understood the land, medicine, and human nature.

From Agricultural Roots to Beyond

The roots of Halloween trace back to Samhain (pronounced “sow-in”), a Gaelic seasonal marker observed around the first of November. It closed the harvest, welcomed the darker half of the year, and was marked by community bonfires and feasting. These fires weren’t about dark magic; they served practical and symbolic purposes, warmth, guidance, and a visible marker that the boundary between the living world and the spiritual realm was thinnest that night. As Christianity spread through the British Isles, these ancient harvest traditions tangled with Christian holy days like All Hallows’ Eve and All Souls’

Day, where communities baked and shared soul cakes in remembrance of the dead. But the iconic figure of the witch didn’t emerge directly from these ancient agricultural roots; she was forged much later, during an era of profound social panic.

The Witch Trials and the Great Hysteria

Between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, Europe and New England saw a wave of lethal witch trials. Authorities executed tens of thousands of people, most of them poor, vulnerable women, and many of them rural healers whose ordinary knowledge of plants, birth, or healing made them convenient targets when things went wrong. Accusations reliably clustered around hard years marked by scarcity, bad harvests, disease, and war. It had very little to do with actual magical activity and everything to do with social stress. During this period, religious and legal texts manufactured elaborate checklists involving sabbats, familiars, and a supposed “pact with the devil” to justify the purges. This was the ultimate game of telephone: local neighbourhood disputes, petty jealousies, and scapegoating were amplified by institutional propaganda until independent, capable women were reimagined



Image from the Oct. 28, 1953 issue of the Empire-Advance.

as agents of absolute evil.

From Villains to Icons

By the time Halloween reached North America, the historical reality had been heavily edited along the way. The tragic victims of the early modern era were transformed first into gothic folklore villains, and eventually into twentieth-century entertainment. Film, retail, and pop culture completed the cycle, turning a dark chapter of human history into a fun, commercialized costume complete with a pointy hat and a matching set of accessories. When we see witches plastered across Halloween decor today, it is worth remembering who they actually were.

Beneath the spooky makeup and retail magic lies a history of resilient women caught in the machinery of fear, and a reminder of how easily hysteria can twist a person’s reputation through generations of whispered gossip.

Meet the final Candidate running for office in Virden

Candidate running for Council



Alfred Hunt

Why do you want to be a council member?

I want to be a council member because Virden is more than just the place I live; it is the place I now call home and where I hope to build my future and raise a family. Because of that, I care deeply about this community, its people, and the direction in which it is heading.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

I feel the most important part about being on council is helping build/maintain a strong community which is listening to residents, understanding their concerns, and making decisions that reflect the best interests of the people who call it home. I want to see Virden continue to grow and prosper while maintaining the qualities that make it such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

RE-ELECT

BONNIE JAMES

School Board Trustee



VOTE ON OCTOBER 28, 2026

Fort la Bosse School Division
Ward 1 – Town of Virden

Advance Polls
October 21

Vote at FLBSD office
523–9th Ave. S. Virden, MB

OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE

For School Board Trustee,

VOTE

CRAIG RUSSELL

to represent you in **WARD ONE** (Town of Virden)



ON OCTOBER 28, RE-ELECT

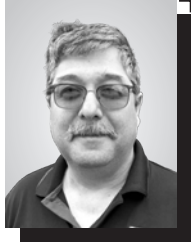
RUSSELL, CRAIG. W.

X

ELECT

TOM MAKARCHUK

FOR TOWN COUNCIL



VOTE ON OCTOBER 28, 2026

I am proud to have called Virden home for just about thirty years now. A devoted father of two and an active member of the community. First as a member of the Virden Kinsman club, later as member of the Virden Lions club, and currently as a member of the Centennial Housing Board. Just a few of my past community activities include, being involved with Virden youth soccer as a member of its executive and a coach, being a member of the properties, and finance committees of the Virden United church, and Virden scouts as a parent helper.

Professionally, I was an employee of the town of Virden, working in the water works department as a certified operator 2 for over four years. While there I was deeply involved in the commissioning the then new water treatment plant. For the past 24 years I was employed by ERCO Worldwide at the Hargrave facility running the laboratory as the chemical lab tech. I held this position until the plants closing earlier this year.

I am running for Town Council to continue to give to the community that is my home. Looking forward to being a dedicated council team member and to be an ear for all Virden’s people. Respectfully, I ask for your vote on election day to be given the opportunity in having a hand in the shaping of a positive responsible future for Virden.

RE-ELECT

TRAVIS PENNER

FOR VIRDEN COUNCIL

TOWN OF VIRDEN ELECTION



I WILL SUPPORT

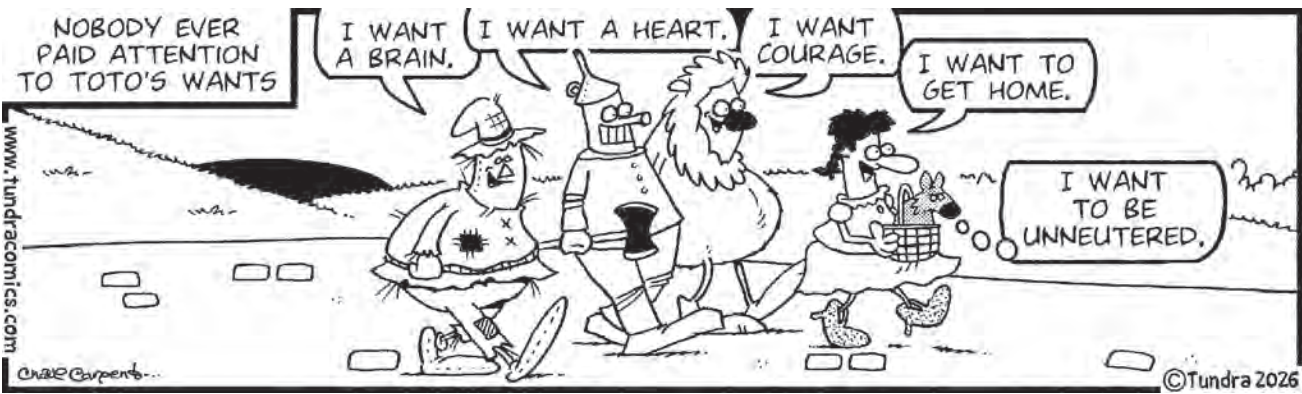
- Responsible government
- Efficient use of your tax dollars
- Economic development
- Planning for the future
- Accountability

☒ **VOTE OCTOBER 28**

Travis Penner for Council

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



There are a number of events coming up this fall that may change our world. Probably the most important for us directly here in southwestern Manitoba are the municipal elections.

As I have said many times, civil politics is the most important level of government for us in Manitoba. It's important to keep an eye on provincial and federal politics and even international politics, but it's municipal affairs that most closely affects our daily lives and our future.

There is a provincial election in British Columbia where current Premier David Eby has called an election long before it was necessary. Mr. Eby says he needs a new mandate to battle the effects of the American tariffs.

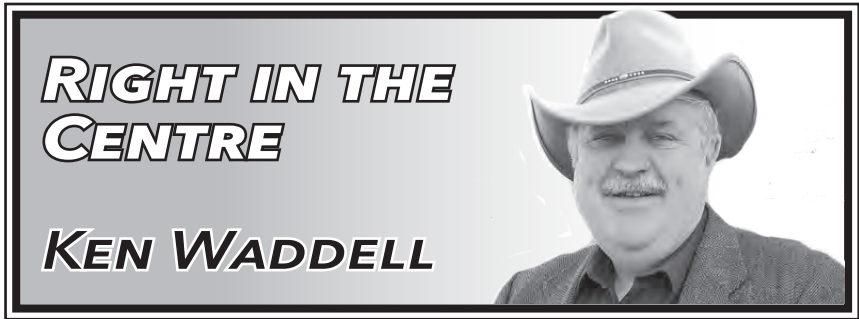
But it seems more likely that he saw that the opposition parties were in complete disarray and it would be an opportune time to call an election and obtain that much desired four years of majority government. The polling so far doesn't look good for Mr. Eby.

There was also an election in Quebec recently where the Parti Quebecois obtained a minority government position with only 28 per cent of the popular vote.

In Alberta, there is going to be a vote on whether or not to hold an independence or separation referendum in that province as some Albertans have no love towards the federal government. And perhaps not even towards the rest of Canada, but I doubt that there will be enough people in Alberta who vote to have a referendum on separation.

And then there is the famous mid-term elections in the United States. A lot of people are holding their breath to see if they midterms will go so badly for Donald Trump that he might change his ways depending on the results of the election. I don't know if I want to predict the U.S. midterm elections because the Democratic Party has gone so far left in the past five years that a lot of people in the middle of the voting spectrum don't want anything to

Coming events



do with the Democratic Party. One of the most famous of known Democrats would be comedian Bill Maher who has come out many times indicating that the Democratic Party has moved so far left even his liberal views of the political world are having trouble reaching consensus.

There's a lot of people in United States who still think Donald Trump is the greatest thing since sliced bread but there are a lot of people who are seeing that their grocery bills are going up and their gas bills have gone up and the cost of living is getting out of control for lower or even middle-class people. So there's enough uncertainty in the United States, I think right now, to make it difficult to predict how those mid-term elections will go. Then in Canada we might have an early election federally as Prime Minister Mark Carney could pull the pin and try to get a large majority instead of a small majority. It could happen but I think it would backfire somewhat but the situation in Canada is such that many Canadians seem to think that Mark Carney is doing a really good job. I will admit that Mark Carney appears to be doing a good job, but there are a lot of things that he has talked about that are simply sunshine and promises and not actual projects. I know there's some projects that have been theoretically approved, that would be favourable to Canada, but there's a number of stumbling blocks in the

way. One is finances for sure, the other is approval by First Nations people and then there's labour availability. They talk about thousands of jobs and there aren't thousands of people to take those jobs. Certainly not people with the skills required to build pipelines, highways and large construction and housing projects. I would say that for the next couple of months we're going to be experiencing a lot of uncertainty politically and the other only answer is to carry on to do the best you can with what we have at hand. Farmers need to farm, newspapers need to publish, carpenters need to build. We just need to do the best we can with what's in front of us and go ahead. I think I wrote recently that a number of years ago while I was in a church service in a little church in Rapid City, Manitoba a man stood up and actually spoke what you would call a prophecy. It went like this, "You have in your midst all that you need to do what God has asked you to do." That's so true, it's been that way for a long time and that phrase rings so true with me. The other phrase that I've said many times is there are Four F's in life- faith, family, friends and finances and as long as we keep them in that order we will do OK. May God bless you and yours in the coming days.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the staff.

Homebodies

Rita Friesen



Sit with me a moment...

As I put pen to paper (finger to keyboard) to capture thoughts and emotions, I invite you to sit with me a moment. It's the last Saturday of September, grey, cool, and with just a hint of a breeze. I was sitting on the couch, reading, when I glanced outside. The front yard has a canopy of leaves, some deciduous and some evergreen, a perfect protection from the summer afternoon sunshine. Today that canopy felt a touch oppressive, and then I looked beyond. Just across the street two trees, one tall and stately and the other more shrub like, are dressed for fall. Their golden hues are like a candle blaze against the sombre greens and fading maples. The book was set aside as I marvelled at those shades of gold that broke the blah and caught my eye and my imagination.

Mr. Rogers, a children's television star, often reminded us to 'look for the helpers'. When witnessing an accident or natural disaster, to balance our emotions we are to see those who are working for the good of the people and the situation. The helpers. Let your mind sit with that for a moment. The helpers aren't always recognised, or recognisable. There are times when their efforts are in vain, and times when there is great success, and times, sadly, when the helpers lay down their lives. Having the history of 9/11 recently reviewed we can see all of those outcomes....

For me, this day, those two glowing trees caused me to reflect on who and what brightens my blah and lightens my way. First to mind is a trio - faith, family and friends. A word of encouragement goes a long way, on any day, but especially when the days have been challenging and tiring. Thank you to a dear friend who watched my week, felt and shared my sorrow, and baked me the bestest biscuits. The thank you notes I receive - and I truly don't expect them! Are some of the brightest candles burning. And when great grandchildren willingly run for a hug, arriving or leaving- well the entire galaxy is ablaze! The following series of thoughts were more sombre. When and how am I being a helper? Do I brighten someone else's day? We know that there are folks that make us happy when they appear, and folks that make us happy when they leave! May I be in the first category...I am learning, as I become more vintage, that there are days when it doesn't take much to see the sunshine, to feel the lingering warmth of real interaction with another living being. I love stopping to chat, waving a greeting across the street, pausing at a table to say hi. These bursts of sunshine are like those candles burning through the gloom - those trees I'm watching through my window. And just as I know that a strong wind will have those leaves a flying and piling in corners, they are not forever, but another point of beauty will appear. And so I shall accept the wonder and the blessing right now, and be prepared to find another, in it's time.

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Virден council backs Christmas campaign, advances landfill plans

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Genn Hipwell and Cassandra Hume attended the Oct. 6 meeting of the Town of Virден council to request \$3,000 in sponsorship for their six-week Very Virден Christmas campaign. They plan to hold a kickoff party on Nov. 19 and Hipwell said, "There's pictures with Santa, crafts and mosaics...reading with Mrs. Claus." The group is also planning a fire pit on 7th Ave. during the kickoff, with smores and popcorn available. They also asked the Town to help with logistics including barricades, no-parking signs and snow removal if necessary.

Hipwell added that the Town's contribution has become particularly important this year. She said, "Usually it's also been \$3,000 from the credit union and the co-op, but they've actually stopped

doing the sponsorship."

The group are also arranging the Christmas Light Village again at the Lions Campground and are enlisting volunteers to provide traffic control and work at the gate. Hipwell said, "We're going to put a hunting shack there so the person controlling the lights can stay warm and not have to sit in and out of a car."

Council approved a grant of \$3,000 along with whatever staff assistance is required.

Manitoba GRO Fund options

Council discussed this year's application to the Manitoba GRO (Growth, Renewal and Opportunities) fund. This grant from the provincial government is available to cover up to 50 per cent of capital infrastructure projects, and the deadline for this year is Oct. 23.

The Virден landfill solid waste cell expansion is an

important project, and since construction has not begun, the project is eligible for the grant. CAO Neil Smith said, "It's possible that the full costs for the cell expansion will be a bit higher than what was originally budgeted this year. So, it's perhaps wise to pursue the GRO Fund for 50 per cent of that."

The second option is an additional dehumidification system for Tundra Oil & Gas Place. CAO Smith stated, "That is also a situation that requires attention. In certain hot shoulder season conditions (August) we have noted some pretty extensive water problems from the ice going in. And additional dehumidifier capacity is really your only answer there in the long run."

Arena staff reported that the new public address system had been drenched in condensation for several days, putting a large municipal investment at risk along with potential

damage to the building itself.

Coun. Travis Penner noted that while a landfill cell obviously could not be rented, dehumidification equipment could be, providing a temporary solution while the Town looks for a more permanent alternative in a future budget.

CAO Smith stated the larger and more significant project was the landfill cell. KGS Engineering is expected to provide a preliminary cost estimate within about two weeks.

Although an earlier project budget of approximately \$400,000 was estimated, the engineering firm stated that the final cost could be considerably higher.

Council approved a motion to proceed with the landfill cell application.

Community grant policy

Council discussed establishing a formal policy covering grants to community organ-

izations. Smith noted that, "You (the Town) already have a fairly robust process for the smaller grants that you deal with throughout the year but the larger sums of money you don't really have a framework for that."

He said that a policy could help council assess those requests and improve annual budgeting.

Airport Commission

Coun. Bruce Dunning reported that the airport's AWOS system was expected to receive its final freezing-rain sensor this month, making the system fully operational. Dunning said the airport project remains on schedule, except for the subdivision, which would not move forward until 2027.

Municipal operating grant

Council reviewed the Town's final municipal operating grant payment of \$111,682.98 from the Province of Manitoba. Mayor Tina Williams said the total operating grant for this year

was just over \$445,000. Williams confirmed that the grant is population-based so accurate census information is important. She noted that the previous census was not accurate, causing problems with the Town's funding applications.

Artificial Intelligence

Council discussed a letter expressing concern about the use of artificial intelligence to promote community events, including through Facebook and other social media. CAO Smith said the municipality does not rely heavily on AI but that some AI functionality is built into software used by office staff. Council agreed that AI should not be overused but municipalities have an obligation to spend taxpayer dollars efficiently. Smith said that a recent use of an AI platform had been to create a diagram explaining water issues for the Town website. Producing something like this through outside marketing or communications services could have cost considerably more.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virден Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Check your mailbox! 2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

If you haven't received yours, please contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

Election Officials Wanted!

The Town of Virден is looking for Election Officials to work at the polling station on October 28, 2026.

Workers must be available from approximately 7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on election day.

Previous election day experience is an asset but not required.

Training will be provided. This is a paid position.

Please contact Rhonda Stewart,
Senior Election Official
Phone: 204-851-0769
or

Email at rlstewart64@outlook.com to apply.

Request for Proposals Cemetery Lawn Care Services:

Mowing and Maintenance of Cemetery for 2027-29 Season (3 Seasons)

Closing Date: October 26th, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

The Town of Virден is seeking proposals from contractors for mowing and land maintenance at 153055 Road 56N, Virден MB for the next 3 seasons.

For Full details about this opportunity, please see MERX, or visit The Town of Virден Website.

Public Programming at Tundra Oil and Gas Place

Stick & Puck, Public Skating, Parent/Grandparents & Tots and Noon Hour Shiny are up and running at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Please visit the recreation schedule on the Town of Virден Website for more details.

2026 Citizen of the Year Nominations now open!

Nominate a deserving citizen for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline to submit your nomination is November 13, 2026.

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

Upcoming Council Meetings

October 20 & November 3

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Employment Opportunity Sanitation II Position

This is the senior position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job and able to pass a medical examination. A high school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a Class 3 with Air driver's license.

Full job description is available on the Town of Virден website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager
Town of Virден, Box 310, Virден, MB, R0M 2C0
Email: office.manager@virden.ca

Meet the Candidates running for office in RM of WW

Candidates for Reeve

Candidates for Ward 1



Adam Bajus

Why do you want to be Reeve of RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

I have sat as a councillor, deputy reeve and Trans-Canada West Planning District chairman. During this time the Trans-Canada West Planning District saw the completion of its planning document, I believe that this area has a lot of untapped potential for growth and development. My wife Nancy and I live on a farm just outside of Kola, Man. and are invested in the area with a farm, custom welding and repair shop “Littlecreek Livestock and Welding” that has been in business for 26 years and 7.5 years ago we purchased Penner Lumber 2019. I have seen how this area has grown and lost over the years. I believe we have potential to grow again if we believe in the area, the people, and the long-term investment of development and ratepayer services.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Reeve for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

The most important job is to create a place where all of elected council, employees and ratepayers can meet and have open dialog, while giving leadership in moving this municipality ahead. Every taxpayer should feel they have received value for the taxes they have paid!



Clayton Canart

Why do you want to be Reeve of RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

As I seek my fourth term on Council and a third term as Reeve, my passion for running remains true, I have a deep care about Wallace-Woodworth and the future we are building together.

I believe our municipality has vast potential. I continue to strive for Wallace-Woodworth to be a place where families choose to raise their children, operate businesses, see opportunities to grow and invest. Where our agriculture and oil/gas industries continue to thrive, and our communities remain strong for our future generations. Achieving that requires responsible decisions today while thinking bigger about tomorrow.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Reeve for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

To me, the most important part of Council is remembering who we serve. Every decision we make involves fiduciary responsibility with infrastructure, businesses, service delivery and futures of our residents. That responsibility deserves careful thought, transparency and accountability.

Leadership means listening, while building strong relationships. Everyone will not always agree, but people deserve to know their concerns have been heard and their perspectives respected.

I remain passionate about advocating strongly for Wallace-Woodworth and ensuring our municipality receives the support and investment it deserves. I would be honoured to continue working alongside the residents, staff and next council building a strong opportunity filled future for Wallace-Woodworth.



Darren Good

Why do you want to be a council member?

I decided to run for council because I care about my community and I'm hoping to make a difference.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Councillor for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

A strong voice is important I think, common sense, no hidden agenda.



Tayona Johnas

Why do you want to be a council member?

A longtime area resident with experience in farming, financial services and community organizations, I am seeking to serve as Councillor for Ward 1.

Recently retired, I bring a broad range of professional and volunteer experience, including service on boards and committees at local and national levels. That experience has provided an understanding of governance, policy and the responsibilities of elected representatives.

From my perspective, listening to those you represent and being willing to speak on their behalf are priorities and responsibilities of your elected representatives.

Born and raised on a farm near Virden, my husband and I farmed for more than 30 years at Oak Lake before retiring and settling between the two communities to remain close to children and grandchildren.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Councillor for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

I firmly believe strong communities are built through the contributions of individuals, families and businesses, including those in agriculture, retail and the oilfield. Supporting our community is my “why” for running as councillor along with a commitment to sustainable community development and continued supportive representation.

Serving as Councillor for Ward 1 would be an honor, and I ask voters to consider the future of the community and generations to come by voting for Tayona.



Diana MacDonald

Why do you want to be a council member?

As I sit back and think about this, I feel it is important to have some knowledge and consistency on council.

I have had two terms as a councillor for Ward 1. I can see where some changes need to be made and will work hard to make them happen.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Councillor for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

It is important to remember that I am there to represent the rate payers. I feel it is important to take the time to stop and chat with people and listen to their concerns and thoughts on issues. Building relationships builds community!



**BE SURE TO VOTE
OCTOBER 28, 2026**

Meet the Candidates running for office in RM of Wallace-Woodworth Candidates for Ward 3



Jill Humphries

Why do you want to be a council member?

As I sit back and think about this, I feel it is important to have some knowledge and consistency on council.

I have had two terms as a councillor for Ward 1. I can see where some changes need to be made and will work hard to make them happen.

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It is important to remember that I am there to represent the rate payers. I feel it is important to take the time to stop and chat with people and listen to their concerns and thoughts on issues. Building relationships builds community!



Garth Mitchell

Why do you want to be a council member?

I am interested in being on council as Elkhorn and the RM of Wallace-Woodworth is my lifelong home and I have a genuine interest in making it be the best municipality possible.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Councillor for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

The most important part about being a councillor is being fair and honest and having the ability to look at all issues and work for the best for all of the municipality while respecting the democratic process.



Denis Lachapelle

Why do you want to be a council member?

I began my municipal career before amalgamation and have represented Ward 3 (Elkhorn) for most of the time since.

I believe I must be doing an ok job considering the amount of time I've been on council. Listening to everyone's concerns and bringing them to council and LUD is my top priority.

I am currently on the Elkhorn Museum Board, LUD board, Elkhorn HandiVan and the Virden HandiVan boards.

I think that everyone in Ward 3 should have a voice at both tables—council and LUD to make sure their concerns for the ward are brought forward.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a Councillor for RM of Wallace-Woodworth?

At the present time what I hear from a lot of the citizens is the need for senior housing. I am not putting senior housing ahead of a proposed multiplex, but I believe by keeping the seniors here their families will also stay.

Another concern is the number of derelict houses and yards that should be dealt with in a timely fashion.

I am committed to working for the citizens of Elkhorn in the future as I have been in the past.

Raising cool humans in the middle of the chaos

**PARENTING
WITH PURPOSE**
**BETH
McCONNELL**



PHOTO BY BETH MCCONNELL

Willow and Caleb Mulligan, this reporter's children, dressed as pirates

We've survived the first month of being back to school, and if you're anything like me, "survived" feels like the right word. September has a way of knocking parents flat. The early mornings, the forgotten lunch containers, the endless forms, and in my house, a revolving door of illness that made us all question whether we'd ever feel normal again.

But that's not what I want to talk about today.

I want to talk about the moments that cut through the chaos. The ones that stop you mid task, mid cough, mid exhaustion and make you think, Wow. I am raising a genuinely cool human.

I've been sick for the past week, the kind of sick where parenting feels like an Olympic sport you didn't train for. As I wrote in a

previous column, parenting while sick is brutal. You don't get to tap out. You don't get a sick day. You just keep going, blurry and feverish, hoping your kids will eat something other than granola bars and that the house doesn't burn down.

Thankfully, I'm finally starting to feel better, and my husband and kids have been incredible through all of it. And on Thanksgiving Monday, when I finally felt well enough to fold a bit of laundry, something happened that reminded me why all the hard days are worth it.

Both of my kids, nine and five, sworn enemies ninety percent of the time, came marching up the stairs fully dressed as pirates. Eye patches. Bandanas. Vests. A treasure map they had drawn themselves.

They paid me in gold coins (plastic, but still valuable in pirate currency) to feed them dino nuggets and mac and cheese.

It was ridiculous. It was adorable. It was magic.

My husband and I just sat there, laughing, watching these two little humans who spend most of their lives arguing suddenly become a team of imaginative, treasure seeking adventurers. And in that moment, I felt that quiet, overwhelming wave of appreciation—the one that sneaks up on you when you least expect it.

Because here's the truth: parenting is hard. Some days you're running on fumes. Some days you don't appreciate anything, and you shouldn't be expected to. Some moments are messy, loud, frustrating, and absolutely not magical.

But don't forget to notice the good ones when they show up.

The pirate quests. The shared jokes. The unexpected teamwork. The tiny flashes of who your kids are becoming, kind, creative, funny, resilient, and entirely themselves.

Those moments don't erase the hard ones, but they do make the hard ones feel survivable. They remind you that even in the chaos, even in the exhaustion, even in the weeks where you're folding laundry between coughing fits, you're raising cool humans. And that's worth pausing for. Every time.

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Winter squash is called “winter squash” because they’ll keep for most of the winter (3 to 6 months) in a cool, dry place. Always wash the outside of squash before preparing it to use. Many people believe all winter squash taste alike, but that is not the case.

Buttercup squash is my favourite. They have a sweet, nutty flavor and creamy texture. They are round and green about the shape and size of a small pumpkin with orange flesh. These are great in soups, curries and stews and wonderful steamed or roasted for a delicious side dish. It has a tough skin that’s best left on when roasting. Because of its sweetness, this squash is great in baked goods and mashes to a texture and taste close to sweet potato.

Butternut are shaped like a bottle, with a long neck and a short bulbous end. They have a light beige skin that’s slightly orange. The flesh, on the other hand, is a deep orange. Butternut is one of the most versatile squashes. It is great roasted, steamed, sautéed, baked, or grilled. It is a go to for baking, stews and soups. It makes a wonderful side dish baked with a sprinkle of oil, salt, and pepper.

Hubbard squash’s tough skin makes it challenging to open. This giant squash has a lumpy exterior that ranges in color from white, orange, light blue to green. It’s skin colors vary depending on the variety. It’s one of the biggest squash varieties and can weigh up to 50 pounds! This squash can be boiled, roasted, steamed, or sauteed and are excellent when mashed with butter, salt, pepper and a dash of nutmeg.

Acorn squash grows between 1 and 3 pounds, have a yellow to green skin, a bright orange flesh and they’re shaped like acorns, hence their name. They’re most delicious when baked and/or stuffed. It is easy to prepare; slice in half, bake with a little butter or oil and a sprinkle of herbs and eat straight from its bowl-like shell.

It’s called “Spaghetti squash” because, when cooked, the golden flesh separates like strings of spaghetti. This pale-yellow squash has a hard, smooth shell. Boiled or baked, the flesh is then separated into spaghetti-like strands and served with sauces.

Stuffed Acorn Squash

- 3 medium acorn squash
- 3 Tbsp. oil, divided
- 1 cup uncooked rice of choice
- 2-1/3 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 large celery rib, finely diced
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1 tsp. Dash
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 cup almond pieces(optional)
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley(optional)

Preheat oven to 400 . Cut each squash crosswise in half; remove and discard seeds. Cut a thin slice from bottom of each half to allow each to lie flat. Place on baking sheets, hollow side up; brush tops with 2 tablespoons oil. Bake until almost tender, 30-35 minutes. Meanwhile cook the rice with the broth and salt until the rice is cooked. As the rice is cooking, sauté celery and onion in remaining oil until tender. Stir in Dash, oregano, cranberries, almonds and parsley. Remove from heat. Stir in rice mixture. Fill each squash half with some of the rice mixture. Return to oven, uncovered, until rice is heated through and squash is tender, 12-15 minutes.

Slow Cooker Squash Lentil soup

Here is a slow cooker option for those days when you just want to dump and cook. This soup recipe is not fussy yet a meal on its own.

- 4 to 5 cups peeled and cubed squash
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 cup dried red lentils, rinsed
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1 tsp. ground cumin or more to taste
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 bay leaves

Place all ingredients in a slow cooker. Either cook the soup on high for 3-4 hours or on low for 6-8 hours. Remove bay leaves. Serve and enjoy.

Miniota without PWSD

candidate

Park West School Division Board of Trustees election

By VEA Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Oct. 28 residents of Park West School Division will vote to elect a representative in two of the 10 wards. Seven of the wards had only one candidate in each so they were acclaimed for the position. The Miniota ward did not have a candidate.

In Strathclair, Wayne Pearen and Jason Blair McKercher are on the ballot. In Russell, Celina Nernberg and James Roszell will seek election. The acclaimed candidates are:

- Hamiota, Erica Lowe
- Binscarth, Dianne Fouillard
- Birtle, Sandra Szwaluk
- Shoal Lake, Sandy Yanick
- Rosburn, Rachael Kostecki
- Inglis, Tara M. Daneluk
- Waywayseecappo, Sherry J. Brandon

Ward 2 representing Miniota had no candidates filed before the nomination deadline. There will be a future by-election to be held after the general election

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain



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Meet the Candidates running for office in RM of Sifton

Candidates running for Reeve



Dennis Black

Why do you want to be Reeve?

In the past I always had an interest in how our municipality was moving forward into the future from what I heard and read, I felt in order to move forward I needed to step up and be a part of the council of the RM of Sifton and also with some support from neighbours and friends I decided it was time.

What do you feel is the most important part about being Reeve?

What I will bring to the council table is critical thinking, accountability, and forthright honesty. With my past careers, I spent 30 years with Simplot Canada Ltd. I became vigilant in dealing with different levels of government. After leaving Simplot, the Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI) approached me and asked if I would become an auditor, auditing retail farm application, dealing with Dangerous Goods, become the senior auditor for Canada. I could go on with more educational facts, but to me this is what really makes me qualified. Future goals as reeve of RM of Sifton and alongside council I will: scrutinize the financial expenditures and responsibilities of the RM, be 100% accountable to citizens and rate payers, be consistently transparent and approachable, support a fair and equitable place of employment, assist with guiding the municipality's strategic direction.



Russell Thissen

Why do you want to be Reeve?

I am running for Reeve to provide strong leadership and dedicated service to a community I firmly believe in. Built

on a solid foundation, our community has a limitless future, and I am ready to help guide us forward.

What do you feel is the most important part about being Reeve?

With 20 years of experience on council, I have learned that the core of being an effective Reeve rests on two pillars: collaboration and perseverance.

First, effective local governance is a team sport. My time on council has taught me to respect institutional processes, value collective decision-making, and understand how to successfully carry ideas forward. Second, leadership requires the persistence to push through roadblocks and keep digging for answers.

As I step forward to run for Reeve, my focus remains on a whole-community mindset—uniting urban and rural areas—because our shared strength and tax base depend on us working together to make our municipality a better place.

BE SURE TO VOTE OCTOBER 28, 2026

Candidates running 2 seats in Ward 3



Dave Roulette

Why do you want to be on council?

Throughout my career, I have been a truck driver, a traffic coordinator, an assistant terminal manager, and a business owner. I am currently a councillor for the RM of Sifton.

When a person is new to council, we come in wanting to fix one thing or another, wishing to make that needed difference. We soon learn there is a process that involves much discussion, scrutiny of details and with financial responsibility, will ultimately come to reach the best possible solution for the whole of the RM.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a councillor?

What I hear from my ward is the need to focus and fight to improve the infrastructure of our town with upgraded sidewalks and sewer systems, thus improving the quality of life for our citizens. I truly enjoy listening with an open mind to the needs of community members and strongly representing those needs to the rest of the council. I thoroughly enjoy being the reasonable voice of Ward 3.



Milton Fedak

Why do you want to be on council?

I want to serve on Council because I genuinely care about our community and the people who make it what it is. I believe our town is strongest when we listen to one another, work together, and take action—not just talk about what needs to be done. I want to be someone residents feel comfortable approaching, knowing their voices will be heard and respected.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a councillor?

I'm proud of our community and want to help build a positive future for everyone. I'm willing to listen, speak up, work hard, and make decisions with honesty, fairness, and the best interests of our town in mind.



Mark Houston

Why do you want to be on council?

I am running to continue to bring straight forward and honest thinking to council meetings and to work with others to keep the budget on track. I want to be part of building a strong community where people want to live as well as working to attract others.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a councillor?

I feel, keeping an open mind, being willing to listen to everyone's view in order to make a decision that is best for the community as a whole instead of what is best for one area. Understanding that just because we may disagree on one subject doesn't mean that we can't work as a whole on the next.

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SPORTS

ROOKIES MAKING AN EARLY IMPACT WITH OIL CAPITALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals' rookies likely did not need much caffeine on the opening day of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League season.

"We were on the road for our first game against Way Way," said hometown rookie defenceman Christian Pitz. "It was their home opener and we knew the barn was going to be electric. From the second I woke up, I was pumped for the game already. I was very proud to be an Oil Cap and playing for my home town. I got to start the game with Shafes (captain Nate Schaefer) on the back end. I thought we played well. Didn't have the outcome we wanted but it was a great first game."

The Oil Capitals fell 5-2 in their season opener against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines, but rebounded to win their home opener 5-4. Virden had nine rookies in its opening lineup and there were 12 on the roster, as of Oct. 12. Two other rookies contributed before being released. Three of the Oil Capitals' top seven scorers

were rookies.

"Our young players have made a good impression to start the season," Virden head coach and general manager Tyson Ramsey said. "They are a group that has some size, skill and add to the speed of our group. They are an extremely coachable group and want to get better every day. They compete hard and are pushing our returning players in a positive way."

Many of the Oil Capitals' rookies played U18 AAA last year. A couple played in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League ranks, while two played U.S. high school hockey. Moving up to the junior level has required some adjustment.

"The number one thing I noticed moving up to the next level was the size of the players," said Pitz, who played for Winnipeg's Rink Hockey Academy. "The game is quicker, but I think playing the last two years in the CSHL has prepared me well. I got lots of work ahead of me to reach my goals. I think it's going to be a great year."

The rookies are learning from 11 veterans returning from last year's squad that



Virden Oil Capitals rookie Dylan Mickelson has chipped in offensively early this season.

competed in the MJHL finals. Schaefer is the Oil Capitals' captain, while Brooks Siemens, Carson Wright, Tyson Draper and Liam Goertzen serve as assistant captains.

"The older guys have helped me a lot by showing me what to expect on and off the ice," said rookie forward Dylan Mickelson, who is from Scottsdale, Ariz. "If I have any questions they're there to answer them. It's been really fun so far, looking forward to a fun year."

As of Oct. 12, Pitz ranked

third on the Oil Capitals in scoring with seven points through eight games. He was tied for third in scoring among MJHL defencemen. With six points, Mickelson was fifth on the team in scoring. Bottineau, N.D.'s Peyton Getzlaff had three goals and five points to sit seventh in scoring on the Oil Capitals.

Forwards Ragnar Gillis of Morden and Cole Dupuis of Brandon each had two points, as of Oct. 12. Killarney's Taylor Lockhart had appeared in four



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Christian Pitz is one of several rookies contributing this season for the Virden Oil Capitals.

games. Shane Elder of Wawanesa led the Oil Caps with 30 penalty minutes in six games.

Rookie goaltender Kasey Fuson of Sturgeon County, Alta. had won both of his starts and posted a 1.50 goals-against average. Defencemen Luka Fay and Spencer Kuntz are both from Winnipeg. Fay had three points in seven games. The recently added Kuntz had played two games for the Oil Capitals. Brandon's Grady Taylor, who also plays on the blue line, had three

assists in five games. Fellow defenceman Brady Nelson of Excelsior, Minn., had an assist through four games.

The rookies have appreciated various aspects so far of being part of the Oil Capitals.

"I've really enjoyed getting to know the boys and spending time with them," Mickelson said. "The fans are really supportive as well for the home games so it's nice to play in front of them. Virden is a really tight community and makes it easy for the young guys to fit in."

OIL CAPITALS EXTEND WINNING STREAK TO SEVEN

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals had a lot to be thankful for last weekend.

The team won both games over Thanksgiving weekend to extend its winning streak to seven. The Oil Capitals beat the Winnipeg Blues 6-1 and the Portage Terriers 4-1.

"For us, we were happy that our game is getting closer to what we think it needs to look like to be successful throughout the season," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "I thought we defended well, got good goaltending in both games, our offence was a team effort and our special teams took a step forward."

The Oil Capitals have not lost since opening night. Their success earned them sixth place

in the Canadian Junior Hockey League Top 20 Rankings, up from eighth last week.

The Oil Capitals hosted the Dauphin Kings on Oct. 14 at Tundra Oil & Gas Place, after the Empire-Advance deadline. Virden welcomes the Niverville Nighthawks on Oct. 16 before visiting Dauphin on Oct. 18.

Draper's Strong Start

Oil Capitals forward Tyson Draper continues his strong start to the season. As of Oct. 12, the forward from Oak Lake Beach was ranked second in the MJHL in goals with eight, third in points with 16 and ninth in assists with eight. He is averaging 2.0 points per game.

"Tyson has really been focused on playing to his strengths as a player and not trying to do anything

more," Ramsey said. "He is a big strong guy that skates well and has a natural ability to score. He is hard to play against and, when he plays in straight lines, he is really hard for opposing players to handle. He has a great shot and gets it away quickly. He has had a real good start and we look forward to what he can accomplish throughout the season."

Oil Caps 6, Blues 1

In a dominant team effort, the Oil Capitals dispatched the visiting Blues on Oct. 10 in front of 693 fans in Virden. Virden outshot Winnipeg 55-24.

Tyson Ulmer, Tyson Draper and Ragnar Gillis all scored in the game's first six minutes to give Virden a 3-0 lead. Peyton Getzlaff scored on a power play in the second to make it 4-0 for the Oil

Capitals. In the third period, Cole Dupuis and Miguel Bonin made it 6-0 for Virden. Oil Capitals goalie Kasey Fuson's shutout bid ended when Jaxin Karst scored on the power play with less than a minute and a half left to play.

Gillis, who scored his first junior hockey goal, was named the game's First Star. Bryan Laing, who had an assist, was the Second Star, and Getzlaff, who finished with two points, was the Third Star. Christian Pitz, Brooks Siemens and Dylan Mickelson each had two assists.

Tyler O'Keefe started in net for Winnipeg and made six saves on nine shots. Carter Sigurdson came on in relief and stopped 43 of the 46 shots he faced.

The Oil Capitals' Carson Wright and the Blues'

Sullivan Fogolin fought in the second period. Gillis and the Blues' Talon Hogg dropped the gloves in the third.

Oil Caps 4, Terriers 1

The Oil Capitals lit the lamp three times in the third period to earn a 4-1 victory in Portage. Goaltender Micky Gross turned away 28 shots and allowed only a power play marker.

In the first period, Lucas Laramée scored for Virden before Lucas Bailey tied things up with the man advantage.

After a scoreless second session, the Oil Caps got rolling in the third. Wright, Draper and Liam Goertzen scored, in that order, in a four-minute span to wrap up the win. In the game, Mitch Kathler made 28 saves for Portage.

Notes

On Oct. 13, the Oil Capitals announced that 2010-born forward Ahmad Fayad had been reassigned to them from the Brandon Wheat Kings of the Western Hockey League. He played in four games for the Wheat Kings this season.

The MJHL and Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League will take part in the third annual Western All-Star Challenge on Nov. 2-4 in Martensville, Sask. Twenty of the top players in each league will participate.

The Oil Caps have signed 2009-born forward Owen Law of the U18 AAA Eastman Selects for next season. He hails from St. Pierre.

Defenceman Nathan Cabral and goaltender Adam Courchesne have been released.

SPORTS

OIL KINGS READY FOR ANOTHER SEASON



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Oil Kings #6 Shawn Bowles has a tap-in for Virden's fifth goal at Tundra Oil and Gas Place on Jan. 10, 2026.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings are looking to have another successful season.

In 2025-26, the senior team posted a 14-5-0-0 record. It made it to the Tiger Hills Hockey League semifinals. The

season before, the Oil Kings fell in the league finals. In 2023-24, Virden competed in the West Division finals.

"Our success the past few years has been a result of a commitment from everyone involved," Oil Kings general manager Ryan

Mathieson said. "From the sponsors and volunteers to the players showing up to compete, it has been a team effort."

The THHL season, which will include a new Oak Lake Iceman team, is slated to begin on Oct. 24. The schedule

had not been released at press time.

"We look to have a deep team with some high-end skill up front and a solid D-core in front of three capable goaltenders," Mathieson said.

The Oil Kings are expected to have play-

ers such as Tanner Koroscil (27 goals and 50 points in 16 games), Elisha Bambridge (30 points in 17 games), Jackson Orr, and Nolan Wallace back. There is some turnover with Brad and Shawn Bowles, Dillin Stonehouse and Eric Reid not returning.

Former Virden Oil Capitals junior forward Rylee Zimmer will be joining the team. The Oil Kings will also be adding former Virden Collegiate Institute hockey players, including Brodie Cameron and Dexen Routledge.

The Oil Kings allow area players to continue competing in hockey at a high level. Orr, a former Oil Capitals defenceman, said he enjoys the community and the players on the team.

"The guys here have made me feel welcome right from day one and the chemistry on the ice and in the room is great and makes coming to the rink so enjoyable," he said. "The community support

here is awesome as well. We always seem to have fun, loud crowds and it makes the games that much more intense and it's a blast to play in front of, not to mention the support from local businesses that help keep the team going. I feel very lucky to be able to play here."

2025-26 Awards

The Oil Kings presented awards for the 2025-2026 season at their annual golf tournament this past summer. Brad Bowles was named the team's Most Valuable Player and Top Scorer. He paced the THHL in goals (28), assists (47) and points (75) in 18 games. Stonehouse was tabbed as the Top Defenceman. He had 27 points in 15 games.

Goaltender Riley Wallace was chosen as the Rookie of the Year. He was 3-0-0-0 record with a 0.72 goals against average. Shane Price received the Perry Kalynuk Memorial Award for his dedication and work ethic.

VCI JV VOLLEYBALL TEAMS MAKE MOST OF HOME TOURNAMENT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute Junior Varsity girls volleyball teams recently brought 22 teams to town.

The VCI Purple and Gold teams hosted a JV tournament on Oct. 2-3. Killarney defeated Portage in the final.

"There were 24 teams involved, meaning we brought 22 teams of players, coaches, and fans to town from around the province," Purple coach Erica Whyte said. "Some stayed at local hotels and others shopped at local businesses."

Gold

The VCI Gold team placed in the top four at the tournament.

"My team also did very well at the Virden

tournament, placing second in our round-robin pool before advancing to the semifinals before losing out to Killarney who ended up winning the tournament, putting us in the top four at the tournament." Gold coach Avery Hayward said.

In addition, the squad placed fifth out of 32 teams at a Niverville tournament. VCI Gold plays Wednesday nights against Brandon teams. It has upcoming home games on Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

"We have two more away tournaments as well before provincials, so we are looking on building our success and finishing the season strong," Hayward said last week.

Purple

The VCI JV tournament was the first of the season for the Purple team. Whyte noted her players "are relatively new to learning the game."

"We had only played one game leading up to the tournament, so we weren't sure how we would handle competition from some stronger, more experienced teams," she said. "My team played very well. We had some strong sets against Vincent Massey and Neelin. We won both sets against the Crocus 9s and split with Elton, narrowly missing the playoffs. The team really came together and improved so much over the course of the weekend."

The VCI Purple team



FILE PHOTO

competes in the Zone 9 league. It has home games on Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. against Melita and Oct. 28 at 4 p.m. against

Killarney.

Varsity Teams

The VCI Varsity girls team is coached by Curtis Plett. It hosts its

tournament Oct. 16-17. The Varsity boys team is coached by John Chandler.

MJHL REPORT

Submitted
By DEREK HOLTOM

The Northern Manitoba Blizzard captured two of the three spots in the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Manitoba Junior Hockey League Players of the Week.

Matthew O'Sullivan from the Blizzard scored 10 points (six goals, four assists) in 10 games to earn his nomination.

Teammate Kannen Kirkwood was also a winner thanks to a stellar week in goal. He won all three of his starts, posting a 1.00 GAA, a .968 save percentage, and two shutouts.

The third spot also went to a goaltender, as Dauphin's Tate Barnaby was named a top star as well. Barnaby had a flawless week, winning both of his games via shutout, posting a 0.00 GAA and 1.00 save percentage.

• One suspension to report this week. Portage's Tyler Wamboldt received a one-game suspension after he was handed a major for interference,

itals are off to a very solid start, posting a 5-1-0-0 record through their first six games. One of those victories came at the expense of the team who beat them in the MJHL final last spring, the Niverville Nighthawks.

The Oil Capitals also saw their ranks grow in early October. The WHL's Saskatoon Blades reassigned Winnipeg product Spencer Kuntz to the Oil Capitals after he was held pointless in three games in the Dub this year.

The 16-year-old rookie played last season with the Rink Hockey Winnipeg Under 18 team where he scored six goals and added 19 assists.

We'll see how this youngster pans out. If he has a solid year with the Oil Capitals, it's always possible he'll end back with the Blades at some point.

• Speaking of the Oil Capitals, teams may start declining power-play opportunities against the West Division powerhouse.

Through six games the Oil Capitals have already scored four short-handed goals. It's part of a trend in the league – there have already been 19 short-handed goals this year.

Two teams have three themselves – the Portage Terriers and Neepawa Titans.

In fact, all but three teams have at least one shorty so far this year. The three teams still looking for their first short-handed goal is the Swan Valley Stampeders, Dauphin Kings, and Winnipeg Blues.

On the other hand, two of those teams have also not allowed a short-handed goal this

year. The three teams who have yet to be scored on short-handed are the Swan Valley Stampeders, Niverville Nighthawks, and the Winnipeg Blues.

There are three teams who have allowed three short-handed goals this year so far – the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, Winkler Flyers and the Winnipeg Monarchs.

Also of note – there have been 19 different players who have scored short-handed this year so far. Rookie Dylan Mickelson from the Virden Oil Capitals does lead the league in short-handed points with three (one goal, two assists).

In my Opinion: National Hockey League

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The National Hockey League season is only two weeks old, and already one can see teams that appear unlikely to make the playoffs or compete for the Stanley Cup. Usually, by American Thanksgiving, you have a rather good idea of who is making the postseason, alongside the obvious powerhouses that we know are locks even today.

First, let us look at the teams that are out of the playoff picture after playing only a few games. If you look at their records, the odds of making it are steep: the Detroit Red Wings, Philadelphia Flyers, Chicago Blackhawks, Vancouver Canucks, Calgary Flames, and Los Angeles Kings.

These teams would have to go on extended winning streaks just to get back to five-hundred hockey.

On the other end of the spectrum are the teams that will likely make it, barring season-wrecking injuries, and look like near slam-dunks to compete for the Stanley Cup: the Colorado Avalanche, Utah Mammoth, Minnesota Wild, Edmonton Oilers, Vegas Golden Knights, Carolina Hurricanes, Tampa Bay Lightning, Florida Panthers, and Montreal Canadiens.

In conclusion, about 18 teams will be left to compete for the few remaining playoff spots, and it is only mid-October. I will check back around American Thanksgiving to see which teams have risen or fallen in the playoff race.



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Halloween Maps

Does your home dress up for Halloween?

Virden transforms into a whimsical and enchanting town every October, and we want to feature your home on our 2026 Halloween map!

The map will be featured in Virden Empire-Advance's October 23 and 30 issues. Let's help local families and discover Virden's most spooktacular decorated homes.

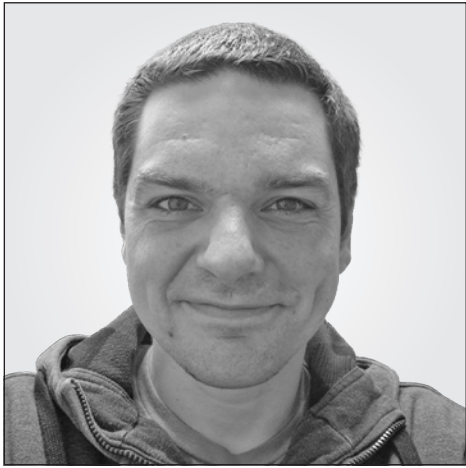


Email: 1office@empireadvance.ca

Deadline: Submit by mid-October to be included in the printed map!

Meet the Candidates running for office in FLBSD

Candidates for Fort La Bosse School Division Board of Trustees



Mike Thierault

What inspired you to run for school trustee?

I was less inspired and more "triggered" by attempts to hide from transparency and accountability by school division administration and current board members involving serious assaults of multiple students at our schools.

The division's purpose is to benefit the community and our children, not the division itself.

What specific steps will you take to promote equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all students?

I like the concept of equity if we stop using it to disadvantage others based on their identity

and apply it to inadequate funding for rural communities or "rural equity".

True belonging and inclusion involves a shared identity. So instead of the division's current direction of dividing everyone into groups based on identity we should promote an identity we all share. Expect to see more Bisons and maple leaves.

Which three areas of public education require immediate action in this division, and your plans for addressing?

To secure proper funding, I will personally see to our MLA, MP, the education minister, and our premier becoming familiar with our school division.

Improving staff conditions to correct lack of critical training and specialized support for staff, and removing this expectation of teachers to be disciplinarians instead of school administrators and parents. Teachers are to teach and this is to be enforced through policy.

Transparency achieved by having all meetings, bylaws, policies, curricula online and easily accessible.

Bonnie James was unavailable to respond to the newspaper. She will have her opportunity to answer these questions when she is available.



Craig Russell

What inspired you to run for school trustee?

I have always been passionate about children's education. My children attended Virden schools, and my grandchildren attend here and Brandon. With many years of experience as a trustee, I understand the importance of experience, teamwork, and responsible decision-making. I will continue to be guided by student-centred decision making, collaboration, transpar-

ency and a commitment to doing what is best for students. I believe the board must work together in the best interests of our students with no personal agendas.

What specific steps will you take to promote equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all students?

Student safety and well-being must always be our priority. I will advocate for safe, welcoming and inclusive schools where every student feels valued, respected, supported and able to reach their potential. We recently upgraded our security systems in all our schools to better make them safer and more secure.

Which three areas of public education require immediate action in this division, and your plans for addressing?

My three priorities are student/staff mental health and well-being, student achievement especially in literacy and numeracy and safe & inclusive schools. I will continue to work collaboratively with fellow trustees, division leaders and community partners to advocate to the province for the appropriate resources our division needs to provide our students with the opportunities to succeed.

Howard Hole returns to the classroom for 3 months

Brief of FLBSD Regular Board of Trustees Meeting minutes Sept. 14

By VEA Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Fort La Bosse School Division Board of Trustees and administrative staff met on Sept. 14.

Reports

The Superintendent of Schools presented motions for staffing adjustments and off school site activities.

The board was provided with a copy of correspondence concerning school attendance that had been distributed to parents and the school community.

The Board of Trustees received a call for nominations and resolutions to be considered at the

AGM from the Manitoba School Boards Association.

The Superintendent gave a report during the in-camera session.

The Secretary-Treas-

urer presented several motions approving capital projects and other purchasing. An update was provided on the accounting/payroll software conversion projects.

The Supervisor of Operations provided updates including bus routes for this school year and the status of various capital projects.

Resolutions

A resolution was carried to hire Howard Hole to a full-time teaching position from Sept. 8 to Dec. 18, 2026.

School trips were approved for an overnight, out-of-province trip for Gr.10-12 VCI students to attend a Volleyball Tournament in Regina; and for a trip for 8 VCI students to attend Golf Provincials in Steinbach.

Purchases/payments for upgrades and re-

pairs:

- \$7,824.11 plus taxes for panel box upgrades at Virden Junior High.
- MCM Architects of \$13,223.63 plus taxes for the architect fees for the VCI elevator modernization
- MNK Mechanical Services Ltd. of \$3,612.12 plus taxes, payment 5, Mary Montgomery boiler replacement project.
- MNK Mechanical Services Ltd. of \$16,438.74 plus applicable taxes for holdback release for the Mary Montgomery boiler replacement project.
- \$25,965.73 plus taxes for architectural fees for Elkhorn School science classroom renovation project.
- Xerox IT Solutions Canada of \$24,448.85 plus taxes for Lenovo Chromebook laptops funded by ICT flex budget allocation.

Oak Lake school playground gets funding

Brief of FLBSD Board of Trustees Reg. Meeting mins. Sept. 28

By VEA Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Present: Chairperson Craig Russell, Vice-Chairperson Becky Flannery, Nicole Chaske, Teresa Vandenberghe, Kayla Moore, Bonnie James, Superintendent of Schools.

Barry Pitz, Secretary-Treasurer Kent Reid, Supervisor of Operations Mark Johnston

Delegation

Dylan Woodland attended as a delegation with a presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Administrative reports

The Superintendent of Schools presented motions for staffing adjustments and off school site activities as well as approvals for the reciting of the Lord's Prayer at two schools during morning exercises.

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed in detail the FRAME financial statements for the 2025-2026 fiscal year prepared for audit and filing with the Department of Education. We have been awarded \$75,000 through the

Healthy Kids Healthy Community funding from the Province to go towards the purchase of playground equipment at Oak Lake Community School.

A motion was presented to pay RLH Construction for shingling of a roof at Kola School.

An update was provided on recent maintenance/custodial and upcoming bus driver professional development opportunities.

Committee of the Whole

The Board of Trustees reviewed the minutes of the meeting dated Sept. 28.

In-camera session

The Superintendent of Schools gave a report during the in-camera session.

The Board approved the following resolutions:

0.5 FTE hire of Caroline Friesen from Sept. 28th, 2026, concluding Jan. 28th, 2027.

0.25 FTE hire of Josée Maguet from Sept. 23rd, 2026, concluding Jan. 28th, 2027.

1.0 FTE hire of Kate Munchinsky from Oct.

5th, 2026, concluding Nov. 4th, 2026

Activities were approved:

- 32 grade 5/6 Reston School Students to attend the Watershed Festival at Cherry Point on Sept. 23
- swimming at the Sportsplex in Brandon in 10 trips once per week ending on Dec. 8
- overnight trip for 10 VCI students to a Volleyball Tournament in Roblin, Oct. 2 and 3
- request of Boundary Lane Colony School Parents and Plainview Colony School Parents to have the students recite the Lord's Prayer during morning exercises

Financial approvals:

Payment to RLH Construction INC. of \$5,502.00 taxes included for shingling Kola Hut.

The Supervisor of Operations reported on the fuel tender for this school year.

The Board accepted fuel tender bids from Valleyview Co-op and Twin Valley Co-op for the 2026-2027 school year as detailed in the Supervisor of Operations report.

Defending your property

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

We hear of so many crimes that are happening in rural Manitoba these days. Cattle rustling, home invasion, etc. What can you do to protect yourself? The RCMP, of course, and the courts would probably tell you not to take matters into your hands but call the RCMP. With few officers and a big area to cover they may not be much help when you really need them.

Under Canadian law, defending your property is governed by Section 35 of the criminal code, which allows you to use reasonable force to stop someone from unlawfully entering, taking or damaging your property. To legally justify using force to protect your property, you must meet 4 conditions (information from the Department of Justice of Canada).

Peaceable possession - You must lawfully possess the property or assist someone who does.

Unlawful interference - You must reasonably believe that another person is entering without permission, taking or damaging your property.

Defensive purpose - You must act strictly for the purpose of defending your property.

Reasonableness - Your actions must be objectively reasonable in the circumstances.

Limits of force: You can only use the amount of force necessary to remove the trespasser or stop the damage and physically escort someone off your property. You can not use lethal force to protect your property alone.

Self defence: If an intruder threatens your life or physical safety. Lethal force is only justified if you reasonably believe your life or someone else's is in imminent danger of death or grievous bodily harm

and no lesser force will work. On August 15, 2026, in the RM of Dufferin, a 66-year-old farmer faces six firearm related charges after firing shots from a gun at four suspected fuel thieves. The homeowner was alerted by a motion activated security camera to two vehicles, later confirmed stolen from Watrous, Saskatchewan on his property.

He found four individuals transferring fuel into a stolen vehicle, confronted them with a firearm and fired shots toward their vehicle to disable them.

The aftermath was three suspects were arrested at the scene by the RCMP, while a fourth fled but was later caught. The homeowner had called the RCMP.

The 66-year-old homeowner and farmer was also arrested and charged with six offenses. Two counts of careless use of a firearm. Two counts of using a firearm in the commission of an offence. Two counts of discharging a firearm in a reckless manner.

The charges: The RCMP stated that any force used to protect property must be reasonable and proportionate and warned against confronting intruders instead of calling the police first.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew agreed with the RCMP's decision stating individuals cannot act as jury and judge. Local MLA Josh Guenther criticized the response and argued for stronger property defense rights.

What are your thoughts? What is reasonable? Sounds like a loophole! What have the four perpetrators done to them except jailed, charged and released to do it again? All in the manner of a day, really.

Interesting to see how this will all work out. What would you do if this happened to you?

A century ago

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A century ago, did you know that James Armstrong Richardson formed Western Canada Airways in Winnipeg, helping pioneer commercial and bush aviation across Northern Manitoba and the Canadian Shield.

In September of 1926, Winnipeg installed its very first traffic lights at the intersection of Main Street and Higgins Avenue.

In 1926, news across Virden and rural Manitoba was dominated by localized community reporting. Agricultural developments, infrastructure expansion and some tragic headlines were the lead stories. During this era, local information was recorded and shared primarily through small local weekly papers like the Virden Empire-Advance.

In June of 1926 a highly publicized tragedy occurred in Virden. A passenger vehicle returning from a Sunday School picnic stalled on a local railway track and was struck by an oncoming train. The crash killed several occupants including George Atkins, a fifteen-year-old British "Home Child" who had been sponsored by the Salvation Army to work on a Virden farm. The news was widely covered by provincial papers like the Winnipeg Tribune.

Rural areas were heavily invested in the development of major roadways to connect isolated rural economies.

In 1926, grocery and general stores in the hub of Virden served as the ultimate lifelines for surrounding rural farming families. Farm households produced their own fresh meat, dairy and garden vegetables. Town grocers

provided critical goods and services that couldn't be manufactured on the farm. This is a far cry from that point in time up to today. There are few dairy farms to speak of in and around Virden and area. People would just rather go to the store to pick up their supplies than growing and producing their own food. Hence, this is one reason prices at the stores are so high. People would rather pay for their groceries than producing their own.

BP Kent milled sugar, baking powder and flour in Virden. Groceries were stored in large wooden barrels, glass jars, or metal crates. The grocery stores bagged by hand into paper bags.

Just a story I was told by a retired farmer. Years ago, when they had to take their wheat and or other grain to the elevator in Griswold because there were no grain elevators to the north, they would have to wait until the Assiniboine river froze up to take their grain to the elevator. The grain was hauled by a team of horses. Now there is something to think about. Shovel grain onto a wagon, hitch up the horses and pray that the river is frozen. I wonder if there was a life, supplies and horses that did not make it across without breaking through. Next time you think you have it hard, remember how the farmers back then must have had it.

Our society it seems today would rather take the easy way than using some good old sweat and blood and produce their own food. Pretty easy just to go to the nearest store and buy their groceries. Physical work is way down the list these days!

VIRDEN MUSIC & Arts FESTIVAL

Thank-you to the following businesses and individuals for their continued support and/or assistance for our 2026 festival:

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- Virden Area Foundation Inc. - festival medals
- Trinette Friesen - formatting program
- Carscadden Funeral Chapel - photocopy services
- Border Regional Library, Virden Branch - artwork drop off, access to syllabus, addendum, Speech Arts resource manual
- Fort la Bosse Division Office - addendum & digital entry form website posts
- Fort La Bosse schools - entry form assistance
- CPR Historic Centre - Arts Mosaic - Visual Arts venue, setup & display; Shield display
- Flower Attic & Gifts - program & season pass sales
- MNP - financial statement
- The Aud Theatre & Board Members - hours of assistance in an amazing venue
- St. Paul's United Church - venue
- Royal Canadian Legion #8 - reduced hall rental fee
- Pappel Laser Design - free engraving of the shields
- Valleyview Co-op & Core Ag - use of meeting rooms

A special thank-you to our volunteers - door workers, desk secretaries, and admissions. Our festival is a success because of you!

Our tentative dates for the upcoming VMAF 2027 season will be as follows:

Band/Instrumental: March 8-9

Dance: March 10-11

Vocal/Choral: April 12-13

Piano: April 14-16

Speech Arts: April 19-21.

Visual Arts display for the month of April

Entries submission will open late December with a deadline – January 31, 2027

Superstitions

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



The number of times Friday the 13 occurs on an average calendar is 1.72 per year. There can never be more than three in a single year, as was the case in 2015.

In the United Kingdom, many local councils have

instigated legally binding bans on using the number 13 for newly built homes, while many developers skip the number entirely when building new estates. Twenty-eight percent of streets in the United Kingdom do not have a house number 13.

One of the most well-known superstitions is that of the broken mirror. The Ancient Greeks believed that a person's reflection on the surface of a pool of water revealed their soul.

The Romans were the first to manufacture mirrors from polished metal surfaces, believing gods could observe human souls through them.

Breaking or damaging a mirror was deemed so disrespectful that the gods would inflict bad luck on the perpetrator. A seven-year period was attached to the breakage so that there was at least an end in sight to the black cloud of misfortune.

The British have long believed that a black cat crossing

your path is a bad omen. The reason? It was believed that a black cat might be on a mission from a witch or even be the devil in disguise, bringing misfortune along with it.

The next time you prepare to travel, keep this in mind: after five airline disasters involving a flight with the number 191, major United States carriers Delta and American Airlines no longer use the number on any of their routes.

The deadliest was American Airlines Flight 191, which crashed at Chicago's O'Hare Airport in 1979, killing 273 people. Delta Air Lines Flight 191 crashed at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in 1985, killing 137 people. There have been other serious incidents involving flights numbered 191 as well, so next time you're flying, you might want to double-check your flight number before you leave.

Whether you believe in superstitions or not, it is fascinating to look into these strange traditions, especially with Halloween right around the corner.



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Attorneys at Law



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

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

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LAW FIRM

ASHLEY T. JOYCE

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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
BRENT HELLYER
1957 – 2026



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Brent Frederick Hellyer, of Ponoka, Alberta on Friday, October 2, 2026, in the loving embrace of his family.

Brent was born on September 2, 1957, in Regina, Saskatchewan and raised in Virden, Manitoba. He relocated to Alberta in 2002 with his then wife, and children. From an early age, Brent developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, a love of hockey and sports, and a strong devotion for his family and friends. Oak Lake, Manitoba held a very special spot in Brent's heart. It was a place where many cherished memories were made surrounded by the people he loved. He spent countless days at the family cabin, on the water fishing and boating, sharing laughter, stories, and good times with family and friends. An avid outdoorsman, Brent found great joy in hunting, fishing, and camping.

Hockey was Brent's lifelong passion. He played in his younger years and proudly passed his love of the game on to his boys. He loved watching his family play and would often be found cheering them on at the rink. Whether attending a game in person or watching from home, hockey brought him pure joy. Brent was an extremely hard working and dedicated man who spent his entire working life in different sectors of the oilfield. He took pride in providing for his family and doing things "the right way". But, while his work was an important part of his life, it was never what mattered most. His family was his greatest pride, his greatest joy, and the centre of his entire world. He was extremely loyal, had a big heart, friendly, and very social. You could count on him for a long conversation filled with stories and laughter just about anywhere, especially at the coffee shop, which was one of his favorite places to be. Brent is survived by his three children: Kody Hellyer (Amber Sararas) and their children Ilsa, Rylan, and Logan. Kasha Maser and her children Jaxon, Nash, and Scotti. Jesse Hellyer (Brenna Fessler). He was immensely proud of his children and his grandchildren and would share it with anyone who would listen.

He is also survived by his siblings Terry Gallant, Todd Hellyer, Dean Hellyer, Troy Hellyer, and Lee Hellyer. Along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

Brent was predeceased by his parents Frederick and Joyce Hellyer of Virden, Manitoba. Though absence leaves an emptiness that cannot be filled, the memories he created will remain. Brent's greatest legacy is the love he gave his family. That love will remain with them always. Rest peacefully, Brent. You were deeply loved. You will be forever missed. You will always be a part of us.

A Celebration of Brent's Life will be held at a later date. Cremation entrusted to Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, Red Deer, Alberta. Condolences, memories and photos may be shared and viewed at www.parklandfuneralhome.com. Arrangements in care of Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, 6287 – 67 A Street (Taylor Drive), Red Deer. 403.340.4040

IN LOVING MEMORY
OLWEN ELLIOTT
1936 – 2026



Olwen Elliott passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at the age of 90 years.

Olwen was born in 1936 in Southampton, England and grew up in Bristol. She lived in Bristol through World War Two and had vivid memories of the extensive bombing raids on the Port of Bristol. She attended primary and grammar school in Bristol before doing nursing training at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Midwifery and Operating Theatre Nursing were the two areas she was drawn to. After training, she continued to work as an operating theatre nurse which she said 'appealed to my need for organization and procedures'.

It was on a surgical ward that she met her first husband, Peter Carthew, and, after Peter's tragically early death, she met her second, Iain Elliott. Unusually for the time, Olwen continued to work in surgery after she married, stopping only after the birth of Kathryn. When Iain was stationed by the Royal Air Force to a base in Aden (now in Yemen), Olwen had a six-week old baby and Ruth was on the way. Whilst pregnant, Olwen and Kathryn joined Iain in Aden for the rest of his tour and at its conclusion, they returned as a family of four to England and were stationed in Nocton Hall where Alison was born. Following Iain's discharge from the RAF, they moved to Virden, Manitoba where Judith was born in 1969. In 1978, Olwen did a refresher course, re-sat her exams and returned to her vocation in nursing.

Olwen had a great love of nature. She particularly loved the Canadian Rockies and we travelled west often. As a family, we have countless happy memories of camping trips, hiking and campfires in the Rockies as well as Eastern Canada and many US States. During retirement Olwen continued to travel extensively, particularly enjoying cruises.

Olwen had a distinguished career in the Girl Guides of Canada. She started as a Brownie leader when her girls were younger but served at area, provincial and national council levels, helping to influence the direction of the national movement.

Her faith was as practical as it was deep. Olwen was a tireless member of St Mary's Anglican Church in Virden. She was in the choir, Mardi Club, the Altar Guild, the Vestry and Bible study groups. She helped organise pot luck suppers, garden fetes, rummage sales, knit for the north and edited the Parish newsletter. She was a reluctant but faithful organist; it went against her nature to put herself forward but when a job needed doing, she was ready.

When Iain was called to medical missionary work in Tanzania, Olwen committed to a new life that could not have been easy. Conditions were basic and Olwen undertook home-schooling Michael, managing the chickens, keeping their home safe and clean and supporting the demanding work that Dad was doing. In all things, Olwen and Iain were each other's rocks. Our family was founded on their love. Olwen was endlessly supportive of her daughters and delighted in her grandchildren and her great grandchildren. She loved nothing more than family gatherings, even as the noise and bustle became a bit much.

Olwen's Brandon community of friends at St George's Church, Wednesday morning coffee group and Riverheights was a source of companionship, understanding and support for Olwen before and after Iain's death. She was happy to see those who were able to visit after she moved to The Nest.

Olwen was dearly loved and will be keenly missed by Kathryn and Wayne, Ruth and Bruce, Alison and Carmel, Judith and Henry, Michael and Susanne and Charlotte, Isabelle, Lillian and Juliette, Jessica and Aidan, Kayla, Derek and Kim and Malina and Jermayan, Cole and Lizzy, Hanna and Stan, Lesley, Lucie and Neil.

We are very grateful to Gail and all the staff at The Nest who minded Mum with such love and care for the last year of her life as she became increasingly infirm. Knowing she was in good hands gave us great peace of mind and allowed us to focus on being with Mum. We would also like to thank Dr Duncan and Dr Bookatz for their outstanding care of Olwen over the past several years.

A funeral service will be held at Redeemer Lutheran/St. George's Anglican Church, 114 Ashgrove Blvd. Brandon, MB on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

A private interment will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are in care of Brockie Donovan Funeral & Cremation Services, (204)-727-0694.

Notice



BOARD OF REVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the **2027 assessment roll** for the Municipality of Two Borders has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 138 Main Street, Melita, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 & 43 of the Assessment Act.

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- a) Liability to taxation;
- b) Amount of an assessed value;
- c) Classification of property; or
- d) A refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43(1) an application for revision must:

- a) Be made in writing;
- b) Set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- c) State the grounds on which the application is based; and
- d) Be filed by
 - (i) Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - (ii) Serving it upon the secretary at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Municipality of Two Borders to hear applications.

The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is Monday, November 3, 2026.

Wendy Paul, Secretary, Board of Revision
Municipality of Two Borders
Box 429, 138 Main Street, Melita, MB R0M 1L0



SUPPLEMENTARY TAXES
BOARD OF REVISION

Take notice that the real property (or personal property) described under the enclosed tax notices of the real property (or personal property) assessment roll of The Municipality of Two Borders has been assessed and taxed as indicated on the accompanying statement/statements and demand for added/deleted taxes.

Take further notice that if you are dissatisfied with the amount of the assessment upon which the tax so demanded was based, or if you claim that the property is not liable to assessment, or if you claim that you are not liable to taxation in respect of the property, you may apply to the Board for a revision by filling the request in writing with the Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality within 30 days of the date of the demand.

APPLICATION TO BOARD REVISION

328(1) A taxpayer named in a supplementary tax notice may apply to the board of revision for a revision with respect to any of the following matters which caused the imposition of supplementary taxes:

- a) The liability to taxation of property or business;
- b) The assessment of property or business;
- c) The classification of property.

REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICATION

328(2) An application for revision must:

- a) Be made in writing;
- b) Be filed within the Chief Administrative Officer within 30 days after the day of mailing of supplementary tax notice;
- c) Set out the roll number and description of the property or business for which a revision is sought; and
- d) State the grounds on which the application is based.

The Board of Revision will sit on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 10:15 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Municipality of Two Borders to hear applications.

The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is Monday, November 3, 2026.

Wendy Paul, Secretary, Board of Revision
Municipality of Two Borders
Box 429, 138 Main Street, Melita, MB R0M 1L0

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== CLASSIFIEDS ==

Tender

TENDER FOR SALE OF FARMLAND

Sealed tenders clearly marked with the words “Land Tender - Turbak” will be received by ROY, JOHNSTON TDS, 363 – 10th Street, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 4E9 (Attention: Stephen K. Branigan) until **Thursday, October 29th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** for the purchase of the following land:

- PARCEL ONE:
THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 10-12-29 WPM
EXC FIRSTLY: ALL THAT PORTION LYING SW OF THE NE LIMIT OF ROAD PLAN V120 BLTO
AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 59852 BLTO
- PARCEL TWO:
THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 10-12-29 WPM
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN
- PARCEL THREE:
THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 10-12-29 WPM
EXC ALL PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS AND RELATED HYDROCARBONS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER R6631 BLTO
- PARCEL FOUR:
THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 10-12-29 WPM
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN

(collectively referred to as the “Land”)

Roll no. 200500, 200600, 200700, and 200800 in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. All land on title no. 3286985/2. Consisting of farmland, hayland, pastureland, barn and outbuildings with tin roofs, house and 9 tin grain bins.

House is on SE10-12-29W: Built 1967; 1288 sq. ft.; 3 Bedroom Bungalow; 1 and 1/2 baths; Propane Furnace; New Shingles in 2019.

Tenders will be received on any one or combination of the above noted parcels making up the Land.

Conditions of Tender

- All tenders must:
 - be in writing with the tenderer’s name, address, email address and phone number;
 - indicate the parcels the bid is for;
 - be accompanied by a bank draft payable to ROYJOHNSTON TDS for 10% of the bidder’s highest bid included in the tender;
 - be submitted in a sealed envelope with the words “Land Tender – Turbak” clearly marked on the front; and
 - be submitted by the deadline noted above.
- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on any representations made by or on behalf of the Vendors.
- Tenders must be received on or before Thursday, **October 29th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
- The deposit will be returned if the tender is not accepted; or forfeited to the Vendor if the tender is accepted and the purchaser does not complete the purchase. On acceptance of the tender, the balance remaining will become due and payable on the closing date of November 30, 2026.
- The highest or any tender need not be accepted.
- All tenders submitted must be unconditional.
- No submitted tender may be varied or withdrawn prior to the notification of acceptance or rejection.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete a formal agreement covering the terms and conditions of a sale within 7 days of acceptance. If the balance of an accepted tender is not paid as of the closing date, of November 30, 2026, or earlier, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- The Vendors are retaining all mines and minerals on this Land owned by them.
- The Land has not been listed for sale with any agent, and no sales commissions will be paid to any agent representing any tenderer.
- The land is subject to surface leases, and a **Conservation Agreement with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation** (Caveat No. 1162108/2), all of which shall remain on title. For information on the title or surface lease income please contact Stephen K. Branigan, at Roy Johnston, TDS.
- Current tenant(s) of the land shall be permitted until April 1, 2027, to remove any property, including grain from the bins.
- The Land and buildings are tendered on an “as is” basis. The Vendor makes no representation or warranty with regard to the condition, suitable use, size, or zoning for any of the land nor with respect to any of the buildings located on the Land.
- Property taxes will be paid to December 31, 2026, and there will be no tax adjustment or lease rent adjustment on closing. All other taxes including GST and land transfer tax (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the tenderer. Each of the Vendor and tenderer shall be responsible for their own legal fees to complete the sale.
- The Vendors request access and possession of the residence and buildings until May 1, 2027, or such other time as can be agreed upon.
- Any questions regarding the land may be directed to Stephen K. Branigan, at Roy Johnston, TDS. Tenderers are responsible for conducting their own due diligence.

ROYJOHNSTON TDS
Attention: Stephen K. Branigan ~ Phone: (204) 727-6401 ~ Email: sbranigan@tdslaw.com

Notice

BOARD OF REVISION

Rural Municipality of Pipestone
Board of Revision

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the assessment rolls for the Rural Municipality of Pipestone for 2026 have been deposited in the office of the said Rural Municipality of Pipestone, 401 Third Avenue, Reston, Manitoba, and are open for public inspection. The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications for revision of assessment on Thursday, November 12, 2026, commencing at 2:00 p.m. in the Rural Municipality of Pipestone Council Chambers, 401 3rd Avenue, Reston, Manitoba. Any person who believes that an assessment ought to be revised may make application in accordance with sections 42 and 43 of The Municipal Assessment Act which, in part, are as follows:

42 (1) Application for Revision
A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to;a) liability to taxation;b) amount of an assessed value;c) classification of property; ord) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

43 (1) Application Requirements
An application for revision must;a) be made in writing b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;c) state the grounds on which the application is based, and d) be filed by i) delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), orii) serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

**The deadline for filing applications against the 2027 assessment rolls is
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 27th, 2026**

**The Board shall not consider applications which do not comply with the above.
Dated at Reston this October 1, 2026**

**Rural Municipality of Pipestone
Board of Revision Rural Municipality of Pipestone
P.O. Box 99, Reston, MB R0M 1X0**



NOTICE OF ELECTION
FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Fort La Bosse School Division will be taken to elect School Trustees from the following duly nominated candidates:

WARD 1

Craig Russell
Bonnie James
Michael Theriault

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at:

Fort La Bosse School Division Administration Office, 523 9th Ave. S., Virden - Eligible voters residing in WARD 1 (Town of Virden)

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

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Fort La Bosse School Division Office, 523 9thAve S and will be open for voting Wednesday the 21st day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at Fort La Bosse School Division, Box 1420, Virden MB, R0M 2C0, email kreid@flbsd.mb.ca

If applying in person, a voter may apply between the 30th day of September 2026 and the 25th day of October 2026. A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Kent Reid
Senior Election Official
Fort La Bosse School Division
204-748-2692

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



Notice of Election

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Town of Virden will be taken to elect Mayor and Councillors from the following duly nominated candidates:

For the offices of Councillor:	For the office of Mayor:
HUNT, Alfred	DUNNING, Bruce
HALOWATY, Gord	WILLIAMS, Tina
PENNER, Travis	
SAVY, Marc	
MAKARCHUK, Tom	
MAXWELL, Tara	
GRUMPELT, Lynette	
GIRARDIN, Lomer	

(Note: listed in order as per random draw for order on ballots)

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October, 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Sunrise Banquet Hall, Tundra Oil and Gas Place, 900 5th Avenue South, Virden, Manitoba

Identification may be required before being allowed to vote.

A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

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

Sunrise Banquet Hall, Tundra Oil and Gas Place, 900 5th Avenue South, Virden, Manitoba

and will be open on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 between 8:00am and 8:00pm

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following health care facilities on election day:

- 1. Virden Hospital/Westman Nursing Home 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- 2. Sherwood PCH 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at

Box 310, 236 Wellington Street West, Virden, Manitoba, R0M2C0. Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

If applying in person*, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026, during regular business hours.

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

If applying by mail or email**, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026

** A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Rhonda Stewart, Senior Election Official Town of Virden
Phone: 204-851-0769
Email: rlstewart@outlook.com

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
ROBERT LAMONT



Robert Lamont passed away at Riverview Health Centre, Winnipeg on October 5, aged 85. Born at Dumgoyne, Stirlingshire, Scotland he took over the tenanted farm from his father. He operated a cow/calf and sheep enterprise. Always looking for a farm of his own, that became a reality in 1986 when he emigrated to Hargrave, Manitoba to take possession of a dairy farm along with his wife, Hazel, and three children, Fiona, Mhairi and John. Hargrave was the welcoming community needed for the whole family to become Canadian. At age 60 Robert quit the dairy enterprise continuing to background yearling cattle on the farm. In 2019 the farm was sold. Robert and Hazel moved to Winnipeg to allow a closer relationship with children and grandchildren in their elder years. A celebration of Robert's life will be held in Virden in the Spring of next year. Tributes at: www.alternacremation.ca

Alternacremation

Coming Events

Virden Pioneer Home Museum
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026
At 2 p.m. in The Council Chambers
Town of Virden
All people interested in keeping our local Museum open to Public are urged to attend
New Board Members always welcome



ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

Monday, November 16
7:30 p.m.
Virden Legion

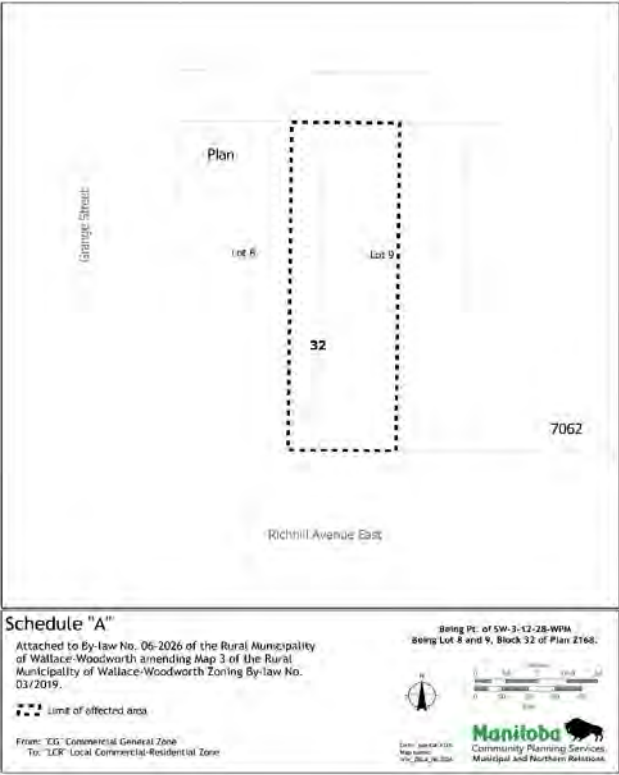
Notice



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 06-2026 being an AMENDMENT to the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 03/2019, as amended.

- HEARING LOCATION: Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Council Chambers 154023 PR 257, Box 2200 Virden, MB R0M 2C0
- DATE & TIME: October 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
- GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW NO. 06-2026: To rezone a property within the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth from "CG" Commercial General Zone to "LCR" Local Commercial -Residential Zone.
- AREA AFFECTED: Part of the Southwest Quarter of Section Three (3), in Township Twelve (12) and Range Twenty-Eight (28), West of the Principal Meridian, precisely Roll No 521300 as shown in Schedule A.
- FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Iris Vercaigne, CAO, Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, Ph: 204-748-1239



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

Why Care About Public Trust?



By Cam Dahl, General Manager
MANITOBA PORK COUNCIL

Recently, a farmer asked me “why should I care what somebody in Toronto thinks about how I manage my farm? I have been doing this for 40 years and I don’t need someone from the city telling me what to do.” This is not an uncommon point of view. Farmers get frustrated when people who don’t understand agriculture weigh in on how livestock should be raised and crops should be grown.

The fact is those opinions from urban Canada are already impacting what happens behind the farm gate, and that impact is only going to grow. There are two reasons for this. Canadian farmers don’t just grow corn and canola or raise pigs and cattle. Farmers grow food, and collectively urban consumers are the largest customer base for what farmers grow and raise. What our customers think matters. Second, there are more urban Canadians voters than rural voters, and that influences who is elected and the legislation and regulations that come down from our legislative assemblies and Parliament.

In today’s immediate information environment, public opinion can shift rapidly. For example, cooking oils from crops like canola were at the top of the

“heart healthy list” just a short time ago. Despite years of research, questions from the Make America Healthy Again movement have made many wonder how healthy these oils actually are. Another example is California’s Proposition 12, which was imposed without adequate scientific backing. The Proposition forced costly production requirements for both farms in California and in provinces and states that ship meat to California.

If the North American agriculture and food industries only react retroactively to these initiatives, we will see significant overregulation. Agriculture must proactively engage on the questions that our customers value. The question “where does my food come from” is genuine for many consumers. If agriculture is not prepared to answer this question, others will and they will do so without considering the interests of farmers and, if history is a guide, will do so with little consideration for scientific research.

The public frequently has questions about animal welfare practices. The farmers I have met genuinely care about the welfare of their animals. Healthy animals are also essential to the financial success of their farms. But just saying this does not answer the public’s question “was the animal cared for properly.” There needs to be some transparent proof behind the industry’s “yes it was” answer.

Like all livestock producers in Canada, pig farmers follow a scientifically developed code of practice, otherwise known as The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. The Code specifies housing and environmental conditions, like space for pigs, and climate-controlled barns. The code also outlines staff training guidelines and requirements for traceability and safe transport. Nutrition and freshwater standards are outlined in the Code as is a requirement for the farm to have an ongoing relationship with a veterinarian. In Manitoba, following the Code is a

requirement under the Farm Animal Care Act.

“Is the way my food grown good for the environment” is another common question from the public. Again, before we get to “yes”, agriculture needs to be able to back up the answer with transparent action.

There was a time when animal manure was spread on fields with little thought to what happens to the nutrients after. There was a time when few would have thought there was anything wrong with applying manure to frozen ground. There was a time when animal agriculture was a significant source of nitrogen and phosphorus in our lakes and rivers. Those times are long past.

Today hog manure is a valuable organic fertilizer that enriches soil health. Almost all hog manure in Manitoba is injected well below the soil’s surface, which protects waterways from run-off. The nutrient content of the manure is measured in real time as it is being injected, and the rate of application is adjusted to ensure that nutrients are being applied correctly.

Producing food in an environmentally responsible manner is good business. It is also a regulatory requirement. Hog farmers in Manitoba must file an annual Manure Management Plan with the province. Plans must be prepared by a registered third-party planner and include soil testing and tailoring application to the nutrient needs of a specific crop.

Farmers are doing the right things but is this enough to counter opinion driven movements? The answer is no. There was a time when the public had an inherent trust of agriculture. As time has passed, the connection between urban consumers and rural producers has faded and so to understand what it takes to deliver a safe and reliable food supply. Modern agriculture is not well understood. While trust is not built through advertising, it is incumbent upon agriculture to talk about doing the right thing and to demonstrate how consistent practices, transparency, and a willingness to improve are answering questions about food production.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE 2026 POPPY CAMPAIGN



Beginning in 2026, the National Poppy Campaign will run annually October 24-November 11

The Dominion Executive Council has approved a standardized annual period for the National Poppy Campaign. Beginning in 2026, the campaign will run each year from October 24 through November 11. This consistent annual period will ensure Branches have enough time to carry out a successful campaign and will provide greater certainty for Branches, partners and the public.

Read more at:
portal.legion.ca/poppy-campaign

Help Canadians find a Remembrance Day ceremony near them

Each year, Canadians look for a place in their community to honour and Remember Canada’s Veterans and Fallen. Please submit or update your Branch’s 2026 Remembrance Day ceremony through our online form using last year’s login credentials, or create a new listing.

Your information will help Canadians find a place to Remember on November 11.

Enter your ceremony at
Legion.ca/add-your-ceremony

Thank-you for your commitment to the Poppy Campaign and for helping Canadians come together in Remembrance.

Virden Legion November 11 service at the Aud Theater doors at 10am.

Under the Dome

Rural crime is changing; our laws need to catch up

By MLA Greg Nesbitt
RIDING MOUNTAIN

For many Manitobans, especially those living in rural and northern communities, the fear of crime is no longer abstract. It is a lived experience. It's the sound of a truck pulling into the yard late at night. It's the worry that the next break in won't just be about stolen tools or a missing quad - it could be something far worse. And increasingly, it's the unsettling realization that when criminals show up armed and dangerous, the law may not be on the side of the people simply trying to protect their homes and families.

As a rural Manitoban myself, I understand what many other rural residents have been saying for years: the balance between victims' rights and offenders' rights has tipped too far in the wrong direction. That is why our PC Caucus introduced the "Right to Defend Home and Family" resolution, which calls on the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to make it unmistakably clear that homeowners can use reasonable force - including deadly force - to defend themselves against home invaders. Manitoba's Progressive Conservative Party strongly believes that families have a right to feel safe in their own homes.

That belief resonates deeply in rural Manitoba, where police response times can stretch far beyond what urban residents experience. When an armed intruder is kicking in your door, "just call 911" is not a plan, it's a hope. And hope is not a strategy.

There have been several disturbing incidents that have shaken Manitobans over the past year. In the R.M. of Dufferin near Carman, an armed group of thieves confronted a property owner and the victim ended up

arrested. In Winnipeg, a woman was allegedly choked and sexually assaulted by a man who broke into her home. In St. James, an armed intruder held a family hostage and set their house on fire. Hollow Water First Nation endured a fatal stabbing rampage involving home break ins. Seniors, families, home based businesses, and northern communities have all been targeted.

These are not isolated events. They are part of a pattern: criminals becoming more brazen, more violent, and more willing to invade private homes. And when the justice system appears to punish victims for defending themselves, confidence in the law erodes.

That is the reason we introduced Bill 210, The Criminal Trespassers Act and Amendments to The Occupiers' Liability Act. Introduced by Interlake Gimli MLA Derek Johnson, the Bill aims to protect property owners from being sued by criminals who injure themselves while trespassing. As MLA Johnson notes, "homeowners, farmers, and businesses should know where they stand when someone enters their property without permission to commit a crime."

It is a simple concept: if you break into someone's property to commit a crime, you should not be able to sue them because you got hurt doing it. Yet under current civil law, such lawsuits are possible. Bill 210 would close that loophole.

Our PC Caucus is also pushing for Bill 212, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Stalking-Related Measures). Introduced by Selkirk MLA Richard Perchotte, this Bill targets stalking - a crime that disproportionately affects women and often escalates into violence. The Bill would allow courts to automatically suspend the driver's licence of anyone convicted of criminal harassment if a vehicle was used in the crime.

Police would also be empowered to seize and impound vehicles used for stalking. In rural areas, where driving is essential and distances are long, this measure could be a meaningful deterrent.

Taken together, these proposals reflect a broader shift in public sentiment. Manitobans are tired of feeling vulnerable. They are tired of hearing about criminals who seem to face fewer consequences than the people they terrorize. And they are tired of laws that feel out of step with the realities of rural life.

Strengthening protections for property owners is not about encouraging vigilantism. It's about acknowledging that the first line of defence in a home invasion is often the homeowner; and the law should recognize that reality. It's about ensuring that victims are not revictimized by the justice system. And it's about restoring a basic sense of security: that your home is your sanctuary, not a liability.

Whether these Bills pass will depend on the government's willingness to confront a growing public safety crisis. But one thing is clear: rural Manitobans are demanding change. They want laws that reflect their lived experience, not abstract legal theory. They want clarity, fairness, and protection. And above all, they want to feel safe in their own homes again.

As your MLA for Riding Mountain, I will continue to advocate for strengthened measures that let all Manitobans feel safe in their own homes.

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

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When Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries (MBLL) chooses to serve certified Manitoba fish in our casino restaurants, purchase from a diverse Manitoba supplier, or hire a Manitoban with a disability, these decisions have direct benefits for our province.

Our 2025-26 Environmental, Social, and Governance Report details many of the choices we are making and their positive impacts for Manitoba. We invite you to spend a few moments with it to discover how we're working with our suppliers, partners, and customers to do "good together" for us all.

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