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## Vibrant Vessel- An Eclectic Escape Arts Mosaic March Exhibition



This colourful exhibition opened at Virden's Arts Mosaic on Friday, Mar. 6. Artist Gail Barré was born and raised on a farm in Southwestern Manitoba, and it's clear that her love for nature is the driving force behind her art. This self-taught artist is guided by a deep respect for the creative process that finds its expression in her paintings. Barré explained, "Painting is where I find joy and solace, and my work is driven by a desire to share those feelings with others—bringing the outdoors in and inviting viewers into a space of imagination and calm." Arts Mosaic manager Alix Potrebka said, "This is Gail's first solo exhibition, so we are very happy that the opening had a good turn out. From the feedback we heard everyone loved her paintings."

## Inside...



**ANDREA GRAY  
PHYSIOTHERAPY**

P2

## Nesbitt secures PC nomination for Riding Mountain ahead of next election

Submitted  
PC News

Shoal Lake, Man. — Greg Nesbitt has been confirmed as the Progressive Conservative party's candidate for the Riding Mountain constituency in the next Manitoba provincial election.

Nesbitt, who has represented the Riding Mountain constituency as the MLA since 2016, said he is honoured to once again carry the Progressive Conservative banner and continue advocating for rural communities across western Manitoba.

"It's a privilege to speak for the people of Riding Mountain," Nesbitt said. "Our communities are built on strong families, farms, and small businesses, and I want to keep working to ensure their voices are heard in the Legislature."

Before entering politics, Nesbitt spent more than four decades as a newspaper publisher and business owner in the Shoal Lake and Russell area. He has also been active in community organizations, including the Manitoba and Canadian Community Newspapers Association and the Shoal Lake Regional Airport Authority.

During his time in government, Nesbitt served as the Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development from 2022 to 2023 and as the Chair of the PC Caucus under three Premiers. He currently serves as the Progressive Conservative critic for Environment and Climate Change.

Party members recognized Nesbitt's experience and strong connection to rural Manitoba, noting his involvement in community initiatives, volunteer firefighting, and minor hockey coaching and refereeing.

"Congratulations to Greg Nesbitt on his acclamation," said Official Opposition Leader Obby Khan. "His dedication, steady

presence, and genuine care for the people of Riding Mountain shine through everything he does. It's wonderful to see his hard work recognized, and I'm excited for all he'll continue to bring to his community."

With the nomination secured, Nesbitt will now prepare for the upcoming provincial election, where he will seek another mandate from voters in the Riding Mountain constituency.

"I'm proud of the work we've done, but there's more to accomplish," he said. "I'm ready to keep standing up for the people of Riding Mountain."

Manitoba's next provincial election must be called on or before October 5, 2027, but political parties across the province are already beginning to nominate candidates.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Greg Nesbitt, MLA for Riding Mountain.



**WOODWORTH  
MUSEUM  
REPORT** P7

# Andrea Gray Physiotherapy a new addition to Virden

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A new physiotherapy office opened in Virden mid-February. Here, Andrea Gray Physiotherapy offers some of the newest modalities for people from newborns to 90s.

Gray is excited about what physiotherapy can do for people. She says, "There are things that you don't just have to live with, you don't just have to put up with... you can feel a little bit better, you can move a little bit better and easier."

While she enjoys her work and has aspirations for growth and expansion, she also values her family time and says that being her own boss is an important step.

"It gives me a little more freedom and flexibility in terms of scheduling." As a mother to three she can plan her work schedule around the kids' school and events. "I have three kids at home, so flexibility was a huge thing."

After graduating from the Physical Therapy program at the University of Manitoba, School of Medical Rehabilitation in 2008, she worked for two years at Brandon hospital in pediatrics gaining a wealth of experience with the youngest. Gray says, "My caseload was the zero to five-year-old crowd for those couple of years."

When a private physiotherapy clinic opened in Virden, Physio First, Gray began work there and continued for 16 years.

Now, she's starting a new chapter, carrying forward experience and adding new methods. "I have a variety of different treatments I can offer people. I've got ultrasound, TENS, IFC, a laser unit, acupuncture, so all kinds of different treatment options."

Even children need physiotherapy sometime. From developmental delays to sports injuries, Gray says physio work can help a child and help the parent know what to do at home.

She says, "With kids it's all very play-based. Because kids aren't going to spend half an hour doing exercises."

In fact, she says that for anyone, "exercise doesn't have to be hard. I try to keep exercises concise and easy to fit into your day."

Our problems are often caused daily activities and the kind of work we do, how we spend our leisure time.

"Most of what we do pulls us forward," says Gray, such as working at an office desk, or driving a vehicle. "So, I do a lot of educating on posture, movement, again taking those movement breaks throughout the day, getting out of some of those postures that we spend a lot of time in."

## Help for the ground floor

A new area of physiotherapy can improve women's health.

"One of the things that's really becoming more common, and is exciting to see, is actually the pelvic floor physio."

"I think women in particular are really sold this narrative of, well, of course you're having bladder leakage because you're a mom, or you're a certain age, and then it's just something you have to deal with, something you have to live with. But the truth is, bladder leakage is never normal, and there are things that can be done."

"People don't realize that if they're making super frequent trips to the bathroom or getting really strong urges to go to the bathroom, that's a sign of pelvic floor dysfunction as well."

She says pelvic floor issues also plague men, but problems are not always due to pelvic floor weakness.

"A lot of people actually have excessive pelvic floor tension and tightness in those muscles, and that's where a lot of our pelvic floor dysfunctions come from."

Looking ahead, Gray's excited about offering some new services such as classes and workshops. "I have



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Physiotherapist Andrea Gray displays a model of the pelvic structure, where problems often require physiotherapy, which can greatly improve quality of life.

a course that I'm currently working on for pediatric pelvic floor treatments, so helping with kiddos who are having bedwetting, constipation, things of that nature."

Beyond her broad range of treatment modalities, she's also a certified Stott Pilates instructor. She explained the value of Pilates as strengthening to the body core – important for all movement and for the internal organs.

Within the office complex there's available space that Gray sees as ideal for group classes or Pilates.

Andrea Gray Physiotherapy is located in downtown Virden at 233 Queen St. W. She takes bookings online or over the phone.

## Town of Virden: Press Release

### Neil Smith Appointed as Chief Administrative Officer

On behalf of Council and staff, I am pleased to announce that Neil Smith officially assumed the role of Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Virden on March 2, 2026.

Neil brings with him 18 years of municipal government experience, having previously served the Regional District of Mount Waddington, BC; Kaslo, BC; and Nanton, AB. He has earned a strong reputation for collaborative leadership, effective strategic planning, and a steadfast commitment to community development. As a Registered Professional Planner, he offers valuable technical knowledge and a clear understanding of sustainable growth and governance.

Council is confident that Neil's experience and steady leadership will support continued progress and long-term success for our community. We look forward to working together as we build on the solid foundation already in place.

Neil steps into the role following the retirement of former CAO Rhonda Stewart, whose distinguished 35-year career with the Town concluded in early 2026. On behalf of Council and the entire community, I



extend our sincere gratitude to Rhonda for her decades of service. Her professionalism, dedication, and institutional knowledge have had a lasting influence on our organization.

Through major infrastructure projects and the cultivation of strong relationships with local organizations and regional partners, Rhonda played a key role in shaping the vi-

brant and resilient community we enjoy today. We thank her for her decades of leadership and wish her every happiness in retirement.

Mayor Tina Williams  
Town of Virden



# Brandon forum to discuss Deep Sky carbon capture proposal

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two Brandon groups, Sustainable Brandon along with Climate Action Team are hosting an information evening in Brandon's Knox United Church. The poster invites people to come out on March 19 and "hear what a fossil gas plant and direct air capture would mean to your community."

To date, there's been several meetings in Pipestone Hall.

In a recent newsletter, the CAO for Two Borders briefly mentions that "Deep Sky continues to jump through regulatory hoops as their business evolves."

It's a project that has stirred interest, promising jobs and an economic boost to the area. And of course, a landowner will have a sale of part of a section of land, if the project gets approval. However, it is not up to elected municipal officials whether or not this business finds its way forward.

There's concern among residents of southwest Manitoba.

Critical questions from Manitoba people range from skepticism of the effectiveness of the carbon capture project, the huge electrical power the plant would require to operate, and a possible disruption in the farming community where crops thrive on CO2, and where oil and gas exploration and extraction subsidize the area's farm economy.

Some feel this project would take advantage of government good will, where tax credits are available to mitigate CO2.

Citizen group, Grounded in Truth – Deep Sky

Awareness, most recently organized a meeting in Pipestone where James Wilt from Climate Action Team brought scientific information and a broader conservation perspective regarding the proposed Deep Sky Manitoba project. Members of Deep Sky company spoke and answered questions from a packed audience.

Amid reader comments Jennifer Cox Anderson, an admin on Grounded in Truth page, gives information about the pore space and its ownership. Who owns pore space rights where CO2 would be stored in a carbon storage project.

You can also find a link to the movie "Climate" on Grounded in Truth's page.

Meanwhile, Deep Sky Manitoba website has lots of their own information. Here, they do not disclose a site location yet but say, "Once a location is chosen, drilling could start as soon as early 2026 pending regulations and environmental permitting."

### What might one hear at the Brandon meeting?

The two sponsoring groups favour cutting back CO2 emissions at their source. Using a coal plant to provide energy for carbon capture storage wouldn't appear to be a good fit.

Sustainable Brandon's online information says, "For a number of years there have been individuals concerned about the impact of climate change, and the community actions which contribute to it. At Knox United Church, an active Green Team has been providing education and recommending actions which will reduce the impact."

# Living with Diabetes

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Just recently a friend of mine was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes which is what I have. I was diagnosed about 15 years ago. I remember the struggle I had to change my eating habits and just day to day living. Exercise and watching what you eat along with the prescribed medications are the key to live a happy healthy life. Well at first not necessarily a happy life!

I had to meet with a dietician and take my blood sugar levels 4 times a day. My fingers got sore from pricking them so often, but it had to be done. Thank goodness I do not use a insulin needle, I am not sure I would like that very much.

The biggest changes for me were eating properly. From portion sizes to eating more vegetables and having less sugar. I used to get a 20 pack of mini donuts and eat them all and drink French vanilla coffee. Also liked pizza and processed meat. Well, that was gone on day one. After a while I tried a mini donut and it was so sour tasting, I actually spit it out. I seldom have sweets. Once a summer on a hot day I will have ice cream, as a treat. I just do not have any desire to have sweets anymore.

Processed meat is difficult as it is quick to make a sandwich with ham, bologna etc.

One of things for me was I had a great doctor. Dr Roux really really helped me out not only with medications but how to look at things. He supported me so much. One of the things he shared was eating in moderation. An example of this was, if you are going out for dinner, decide if I am going to have a baked potato or dessert, not both but one or the other. I found this very helpful and solid advice.

I read how Bobby Clarke' a former National Hockey League Hall of Fame hockey player who had type 1 diabetes from the time he was 17 played for 15 years did not let diabetes stop him from living his dream. Bobby Clarke said all I have to do is follow a few simple rules.

Diabetes runs in my family, so it is important to remind themselves to watch what they eat and the amount of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

exercise they get.

My wife Celia really helped me with my diet and live a healthy lifestyle. Thank you, Celia!

The initial shock was I can't eat this and that. It was not a huge problem, it was more just changing what you eat. Potatoes and bread were 2 of the biggest hurdles for me and of course sweets. I do not really drink any pop. I do drink a lot of water as you have to keep the kidneys working. It also made me pay attention to my body and the little warning signs that would suggest to you that you are eating too much of something that is not good for you. If I do have too much sugar I get a headache and my blood sugar readings will rise. If my blood sugar gets too low, I get what I call, the shakes. A mouthful of pop, orange juice or a piece of chocolate will straighten me out in just a few minutes. It is a reminder that I have to eat.

If being diabetic is new to you, adjust your eating habits and you will carry on successfully. I learned there were things I had never eaten before that were actually not that bad. For the most part I eat whatever I choose, I just had to learn to choose differently!

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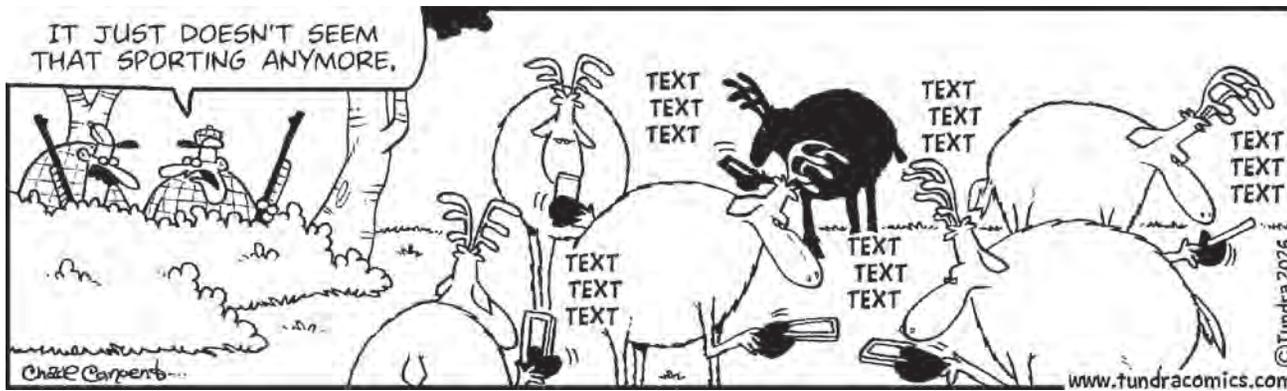
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# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Does your dawg bite?

Long ago, 1976, there was a popular movie 'The Pink Panther Strikes Again' starring Peter Sellers as Detective Clouseau. My favourite scene is the detective, spotting a cute little dog, asks the hotel proprietor "Does your dawg bite?" "No", the owner replies. Then, as the detective bends down to greet the nice doggo, the creature snaps and bites. Clouseau turns and reproachfully says: I thought you said your dawg does not bite." The reply has become a byword with our family "That's not my dawg." How lovely to be able to not take accountability for a snapping, snarling creature!

This saying came to mind early this month. Aerie, my almost four year old Yorkie Poodle cross dog (fourteen pounds of attitude!) were returning from our daily walk. As we had set out, there had been a large black dog, untethered and unsupervised at the corner, but a sharp 'no, go home' from me had halted his advance. Coming home this creature was anxious to greet us. I scooped up my dog and stood there, very uncertain of what would happen next, and how I should react. And a knight on a white charger appeared! The driver assessed the situation, leaned on the horn, and proceeded through the intersection, effectively sending the big, black dog back. As I hastened to the left side of the street - I know the right side would have been safer, but 'walk on the left side facing traffic' is a rule!- and the driver kindly stopped and offered me a ride home. Well, me and my dog. I hesitated but a moment, it was less than a block to the safety of my home, but I gladly, and thankfully accepted the ride. Does your dawg bite? Not taking the chance.

Later that evening I was sharing my ordeal with a friend. Her question was, "Do you think it was playful and curious, or threatening?" Really, that was not a question I was about to pause and entertain at that time! I don't believe I had the capacity to stop and think. It was fight or flight for me at that point. Does your dawg bite? I was not about to stop and wonder.

It's a fact that some large breed dogs get a bad rap. It does depend much on the training and environment. Ed always said to watch closely for the little ankle biters- the little lap pets that sneak up behind you and try for a quick snatch and go. I do know that Arie doesn't trust strangers and wishes, desperately, to keep me safe. She also abhors rabbits and squirrels, so maybe it isn't about protecting me....

A cornered dog, a chained dog, a hungry and abused dog...these sights hurt my heart deeply. They have no words that we can easily understand. They have emotions. They don't understand all our words.

Thinking back to that big black dog (and yes, it really was big and black- not imaginary!!)if it could have called out "I just want to play with you", or "I'm lost, help me" my reaction might have been very different!

## March a time for optimism

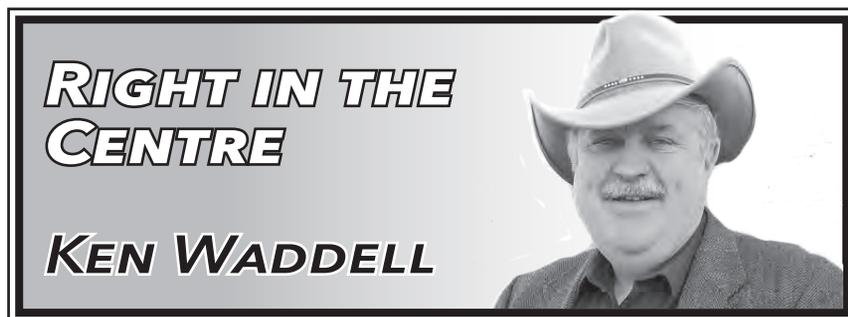
*Publisher's note: This an updated re-run of a column I wrote in 2024.*

March is a memorable month for me. Seventy-eight years ago, I was born on Mar. 29. I remember many of the intervening months of March. One year, when I was in my very early school days, we had to travel by horse drawn sleigh and van to school because the roads weren't passable for a truck. The snowplows of the day couldn't keep up with accumulated drifts. Yes, students used to be hauled to school in the back of a covered in pick-up truck. But that year, our early 1950s rear wheel drive half ton couldn't make it through the snow clogged roads. It wasn't "over the fields we go" or "dashing through the snow", it was more like slogging all the way.

Another March, actually on my March 29 birthday, I had an agronomist friend out to my own farm at Arden and the snow had receded so much and the sandy soil had warmed up enough that the alfalfa was sprouting nicely. Needless to say that was an exceptionally early spring. One year, on my birthday, we had five calves born in one day. That was memorable.

So this March, while bringing back a flood of memories, also stirs some thoughts about the past but also about the present. Bull sales and cattle sales are booming. And then there's something about March and calving season that brings out the buyers for a new bull to better the genetics of the herd.

Grain growers are putting the finishing touches on seed, fertilizer and machinery purchases. Machinery is being, or has been, made field ready. After some very dry years, and



“ If you are worried about too much CO2 going into the atmosphere, then stop buying stuff from China. ”

surprisingly good crops and prices, growers are figuring it may be a more "average" year this year but hope springs eternal within the human breast and perhaps that's where the spring season gets its name. Even the Neepawa Titans Hockey team gets into the spring season theme as they are in the play-offs and looking forward to the annual Ag Expo auction.

Here's some spring thoughts to chew on for a while.

Farmers feed us all, so everyone please don't speak out against farmers while your mouth is full. Farmers provide a lot of habitat for wildlife, way more in some areas than when they used to when one-third of the crop acres were kept as blackened summer fallow.

Carbon taxes raise food prices and for everything else. Carbon taxes don't lower consumption because most of fuel consumption is essential in rural areas. Rural people don't just fire up the tractors, trucks and combines for the fun of it. Mostly, it's essential.

And so here's a thought, back in

the day, when I was a child, crop yields were far less than now. Today's yields were unheard of in the 1950s and 60s. Why is that? One reason is minimum tillage which retains more moisture than the old tillage methods. Another is that seed varieties are better. Fertilizer use is more targeted and better utilized. And, if Carbon Dioxide (CO2) levels are higher now yields will be higher. Many people don't know that greenhouse operators pump CO2 into greenhouses to get better plant growth. Perhaps a slightly higher CO2 level in the atmosphere is a good thing. I think it is but all the liberals will disagree.

And finally, if you are worried about too much CO2 going into the atmosphere, then stop buying stuff from China. That's where the problem is. Maybe you can convince the volcanoes around the world to stop erupting.

*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 Banner & Press staff.*

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Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

## Public Notice

### 2026 Nuisance Bird Control Program

The 2026 nuisance bird control program has begun. Qualified volunteers have been authorized to discharge firearms within Town Limits during the daytime hours, 7 days a week.

The volunteers are authorized to discharge firearms on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to dusk. They will be working throughout the community and will carry letters of authorization with them.

Please direct any complaints regarding this program to the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

The volunteers cannot respond to verbal complaints.

## Flower & Garden Caretaker Employment Opportunity

The Town of Virден is seeking to employ a self-motivated individual to assist in its annual planting and seasonal maintenance of flowerbeds, planters and hanging baskets throughout town.

Preference will be given to individuals who have graduated from or are enrolled in a recognized green space management course. Individuals with similar experience and training are encouraged to apply. Applicants must hold a valid driver's license.

This position will run from May to September, and will remain open until filled.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

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

## Upcoming Council Meetings

March 17 & April 14

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

## Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virден offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2026 property taxes.

Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2025 property taxes. The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

Month of Payment	Discount Rate	Savings on \$1000.00
March	1.75%	\$ 17.50
April	1.50%	\$ 15.00
May	1.25%	\$ 12.50
June	1.00%	\$ 10.00
July	0.75%	\$ 7.50

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par and can be made via Online Banking, Telephone Banking, E-Transfer, or through our Drop Box located at the main doors of our office at 236 Wellington Street West.

## Programs/Events Leader & Assistants Summer Employment Opportunities

The Town of Virден has the following employment opportunities available for the summer of 2026:

**Programs/Events Leader** – this position, starting July 6, 2026, will be primarily responsible for the coordination of the planning, implementation, operation and evaluation of the Community Day Camp programs for children 5 to 11. Other duties may include planning and assisting with other community programs and events.

**Programs/Events Assistants** – these three positions, starting July 6, 2026, will be primarily responsible for assisting at the Community Day Camp. Other duties may include assisting with other community programs and events.

The positions listed above will both be subject to 40 hour work weeks, which could include evenings and weekends. The successful applicants must be self-starters, possess exceptional organizational and time management skills and communication skills. The ability to work with children and the general public is imperative. An original Police Information Search (criminal reference check) and Child Abuse registry search will be required prior to the commencement of employment.

Detailed job descriptions are available at the Virден Town Office or on the website at [www.virден.ca/p/employment-opportunities](http://www.virден.ca/p/employment-opportunities).

Resumes will be accepted **until Friday, April 17, 2026** at 4:00 PM.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

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

## Summer Employment Opportunities Virден Public Swimming Pool

### Head Lifeguard/Assistant Head Lifeguard:

- 2-3 years previous Instructor experience plus certifications listed below.

### Lifeguard/Instructor:

Certifications Required for Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor and Lifeguard/Instructor

- Willing to obtain, or currently hold valid First Aid Certification with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certificate of C-Level or higher
- Valid National Life Guard Service (NLS)
- Valid Water Safety Instructor (WSI)
- Valid Assistant Water Safety Instructor (AWSI)
- Valid Life Saving Instructor (LSI)

### Assistant Lifeguard:

Certifications Required for Assistant Lifeguard

- Willing to obtain, or currently hold valid First Aid Certification with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certificate of C-Level or higher
- Valid Bronze Cross Certification or Red Cross Assistant Lifeguard Certification

**Please include the following along with your resume and cover letter:**

- **Preferred position of interest**
- **Copies of all relevant certifications (required)**

**Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM.**

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

## Woodworth Millenium Museum Update - Kenton, MB

### Submitted

BY ADELIN MERKE GOOD

Good News! At our Annual Meeting on October 27, 2025, we welcomed four new members to our board. They are Torrie Carter, Linda Drake, Carolyn Finnie and Sherry Grandmont. Along with our present members of Bev Bennett, Adeline Merke Good and Mike Ramsden, we now have full membership of 7 members on our board. Meetings are now being held monthly, and our Board would be happy to hear suggestions and ideas from those interested in the future of our museum.

We are fortunate to have several new names added to the list of our volunteers. The enthusiasm and fresh ideas being brought forward are most welcome. Appreciation is given for the work of our

faithful volunteers who have donated food, manned the barbecue and served guests. They have developed and cared for the flower beds, done yard work and performed building repairs, sold tickets and so much more. What would we or any other organization do without our hardworking volunteers?

At present our members are selling tickets for a Spring Draw on a Mini Greenhouse, 2 - \$50 Plant Gift Certificates and a pair of Tall Solar Lights, all these prizes have been locally purchased.

This museum has been named Woodworth and our artifacts represent the history of the former Woodworth Municipality including the villages of Harding, Kenton and Lenore.

It is your museum to enjoy and support. Please do so!

## HELEN DRYSDALE

### OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

This week's recipes come from "Old Favorite Recipes" from the Beautiful Plains Museum. Incorporated in 1976, the museum was named after the County of Beautiful Plains which now includes the Municipalities of Rosedale, Lansdowne, and Langford as well as the town of Neepawa. The original home of the museum was the old school, the Viscount. In 1980 the museum board purchased the CNR Station for \$100 and set to work renovating the inside to make a museum. Today the museum is full of artifacts, diaries, history books, clothes and many pictures to help tell the story of the Beautiful Plains thus preserving local history.

The cookbook was published in the late 1990s. The copy I have once belonged to Ada Gardener and by the batter splashed pages was well used.

#### Sweet and sour chicken

Jean Hunter, Arden

3 1/2 lb chicken pieces or 4 chicken breasts	1 Tbsp. melted butter
1/2 tsp. salt	dash of pepper
dash ground ginger	3 stalks celery
1 8-ounce pineapple chunks	2 Tbsp. brown sugar
3 Tbsp. water	1 1/2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar	1 Tbsp. corn starch
1 red pepper	

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Put on a lightly oiled baking pan, skin side up. Pour melted butter over top. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and ginger, top with diced celery. Bake at 350°F for about 20 minutes.

Drain pineapple juice into a cup. Blend in brown sugar, water, soy sauce, vinegar and cornstarch; mix and pour over chicken. Put back in the oven until chicken is cooked. Decorate with pineapple chunks and thinly sliced red pepper. Serve with rice, string beans or a salad.

#### Nutty apricot bread

Dorothy Babcock

1-14 oz. can apricots, drained, save juice	1/3 cup Crisco
2/3 cup sugar	2 eggs
1 Tbsp. orange juice	2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt	2/3 cup granola or All Bran
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans	

Mash fruit with a fork; add enough juice to make a cup. Cream shortening and sugar; add eggs. Stir in orange juice and apricot pulp. Mix all the dry ingredients together in another bowl. Add to the creamed mixture. Bake in a loaf pan for 40 to 50 minutes at 350°F.

#### Coconut cake

Lorna Clark (Mrs. Eric) submitted by daughter-in-law Mary Ellen Clark

1 cup fine coconut	1 cup milk	1 tsp. vanilla
Soak coconut in milk and vanilla for 10 minutes.		
3/4 cup shortening or butter	1 1/4 cup white sugar	
3 eggs well beaten	2 cups. flour	
2 tsp. baking soda	1/2 tsp. salt	

Cream butter and sugar; add beaten eggs. Mix well. Stir in the coconut mixture. Add the flour, baking powder and salt. Bake in a square pan at 350°F for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Ice with a fluffy icing.

## Police Report

### Westman RCMP Service Report for Mar. 1 to 7

#### Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 70 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 35 traffic offences, 2 Assistance to Canadian Agencies/General Public, 3 Assaults, 3 Mischief files, 4 Wellbeing Checks, 2 False Alarms, 2 Break and Enters and 3 Mental Health files.

On Mar. 1, Members of Westman RCMP received a call for a Break and Enter in progress at the Settlement of Sioux Valley. Members received information where a male had entered a residence and had damaged the property. Members attended and located the male accused. Members obtained a statement from the complainant, and the male was arrested and remanded in custody with the following charges: Uttering threats x2, Forcible confinement x3, Failure to comply with probation order x3, Failure to comply with release order x3, and Break

and Enter to a residence.

On Mar. 2, during routine traffic patrols in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP received a hit on ALPR for unlicensed vehicle. Members conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle. Upon arrival, the driver stated he did not have a valid driver's license. Further investigation revealed the driver was prohibited from driving in the province. The male driver was arrested and charged for driving while prohibited and received a notice to appear in court. The male was also issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Ignition Interlock, which carries a fine of \$672.

On Mar. 2, during routine patrols in the RM of Two Borders, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 122 km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a

fine of \$338.

On Mar. 7, during routine patrols in the RM of Two Borders, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 99 km/hr in a 70km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$429.

On Mar 7, during routine traffic patrols in the Settlement of Sioux Valley, RCMP conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle. Upon arrival, members observed drug paraphernalia and open liquor when speaking with the driver. All the occupants of the vehicle were arrested and a subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a small quantity of methamphetamine and mushrooms. All the occupants were charged with Unlawful Transportation of Liquor and Possession of Controlled Substances and are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

## Dealing with a minor injury or illness?

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Manitoba 

# Schwindt's Israel trip an experience of a lifetime

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Debbie Schwindt headed to Winnipeg airport over two weeks ago to join a tour group,

Friends of Israel (FOI), never realizing she would shelter underground as sirens blared amid rocket fire. She never thought she'd see the 'iron dome' neutralize rocket fire from Iran. It was an experience of a lifetime.

Schwindt arrived in Tel Aviv where the tour with FOI began on Feb. 23, and for five days she got to see biblical sites in northern Israel and all around the Galilee.

"I was blessed to see Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Korazim, Caesarea Maritime, Caesarea Phillipi, Abraham's Gate, plus a scenic ride on the Sea of Galilee. It was surreal and such a privilege to walk where Jesus walked to see the land of promise!

"We travelled, on day five, over the Jordan River and spent time at Gilgal praying and remembering Joshua and the 12 stones, representing the 12 tribes of Israel, to serve as a reminder of God's miraculous drying up of the Jordan River for the Israelites to cross.

"Later on, we travelled to Jerusalem, which was a significant and emotional time as we entered the city."

### Signs of trouble

"Saturday morning at 0800 hours we were to go to see sights in Jerusalem when our first siren wailed as we all headed for the hotel bomb shelter. It was something we had been instructed about, and yet none of us really believed it would happen.

"That day we returned to the bomb shelter approximately 15 to 20 times. We didn't leave the hotel but had to stick close by that night."

They had 90 seconds to get to safety in the bomb shelter. "We all slept in our clothes so we could be ready to go down to the bottom level when the sirens started. This was our routine for about three days."

She said that amid the exhaustion of going and coming up and down many steps to the bomb shelter they "came to realize that the Jewish people have been doing this on and off since October 7, 2023. And yet they go on doing life and never giving up." Despite the blast of bombs overhead, a young couple said their wedding vows within the large shelter under their hotel.

"They are a strong people," Schwindt notes. The FOI group were in good spirits and she, herself felt no panic or fear, but a sense of peace prevailed.

With the tour shut down, the Canadians needed to leave. Airspace over Israel was closed, however the tour

manager had formulated an evacuation plan, an overland route by bus.

First, they traveled to the southernmost tip of Israel, Eilat on the Red Sea, another destination where Schwindt marvelled at the beauty.

They spent one night at Eilat before the 10-hour bus trip to Cairo, Egypt. The bus route was chosen to avoid dangers from rebel gangs. At Cairo, FOI tour members dispersed, flying into several different European airports, then with more connections, tour members arrived back home in Canada.

### Why Israel?

Debbie Schwindt sums up her journey saying, "Even though war broke out, I was still privileged to be there to support the Jewish people as they again were attacked."

She describes the relationship between the Christian church and the Jews, "Israel is the root and we are the branches." In Romans 11:1 Paul, a Jewish Christian reiterates God's covenant with Israel.

Schwindt says God has not replaced Israel with the church. "He has a special purpose for each! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," she says, adding words from Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will



SUBMITTED PHOTO

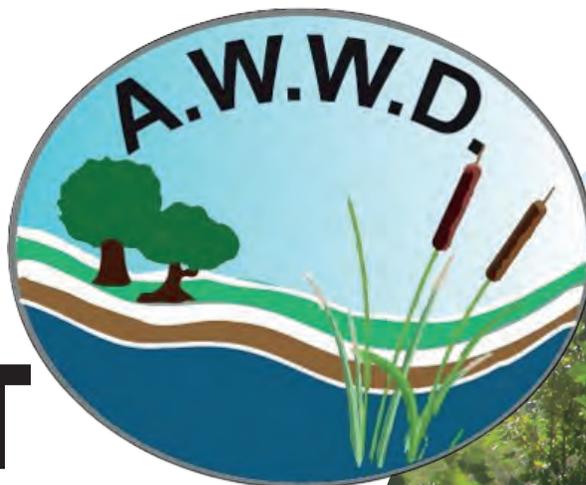
Debbie Schwindt in Israel.

not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."



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## SPORTS

## U11 CORBETT VIRDEN SQUAD COMES HOME WITH SILVER



The U11 Corbett Virden Junior Oil Capitals won the silver medals at their provincial tournament.

SUBMITTED PHOTO.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Strong teamwork helped the U11 Corbett Virden Junior Oil Capitals return home from the Hockey Manitoba Co-Ed U11 A provincial tournament with silver medals.

The local team's lone loss at the St. Adolphe event came in the final game. Head coach Jason Corbett said the team's success was due to great teamwork.

"We had multiple goals over the weekend that four or five players moved the puck before the goal was scored," he said. "We were passing probably the best we have all year. We also had a great forecheck and backcheck that really helped to limit opponents' scoring chances. I think we only allowed five goals against all weekend, which impressed me a lot."

Goaltender Ayden Kristinnson recorded two shut-outs during the provincial tournament, which ran Feb. 27-March 1. The Virden team shut out La Broquerie 8-0 on Friday and St. Eustache 9-0 on Saturday. They defeated Thompson 5-1 on Saturday. The Junior Oil Capitals beat Neepawa 4-1 on Sunday to advance to the final. In the gold medal game, they lost to Pilot Mound 3-1.

"The final game was a well-played, hard-fought battle," Corbett said. "They had a little more puck luck, with tips finding the back of the net, when ours hit sticks or posts."

The provincial tournament was one part of a successful season for the Virden team. They won the Rural Tournament of Champions to qualify for the prestigious Tournament of Champions in Brandon.

At that event, the Junior Oil Capitals were 3-0 in round-robin play. In the semifinals, they fell to the AtoMcBlack Wheat Kings.

"They genuinely just seem to like being around each other, everyone gets along with everyone just a great team together," Corbett said. "They go out and compete every game together." He stated it is a "fantastic group of kids, never had to worry about what they were doing. All the players came to each game ready to put in the work necessary to be successful."

The U11 Corbett team includes Astor Corbett, Rory Hagan, Colby Hodson, Leo King, Jamie Hodson, Rally King, Gabriel Lawrence, Ayden Kristinnson, Will Mytopher, Cooper Gabrielle, Brock Brown, Jessica Brown, Dally Brown, and Fletcher Stoop.

## U11 HODGINS VIRDEN SQUAD IMPROVES, EARNS SILVER

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The U11 Hodgins Virden Junior Oil Capitals improved as a team over the winter.

The local squad finished with silver medals at the Hockey Manitoba Co-Ed U11 D provincial tournament, which was held Feb. 27-March 1 in Manitou. The team did not lose until the final game, where Winkler came out on top 3-1.

"I enjoyed seeing the kids improve as a team over the last few months," head coach Derek Hodgins said. "They were a pleasure to watch when we had everyone clicking. Thanks to all the parents, our manager, and assistant coaches for a great season."

At the provincial tournament, Virden romped past Neepawa 14-2 in its first game. The Junior Oil Capitals then won two straight one-goal contests. They beat Brandon 4-3 and Manitou 3-2.

"We were able to win back-to-back one-goal games because we didn't give up when we were down a goal or when our opponents tied the game up," Hodgins said. "Also, our power play was strong all tournament."

In the final, the Winkler team was able to prevail. Hodgins said, "The boys played one of their best games to keep the game close as Winkler had a well-rounded team. Our goalie, Jesse Bouchie, kept us alive with some huge saves throughout the game."

The U11 Hodgins roster included Luke Anderson, Jesse Bouchie, Gabe Hunter, Sal Harkness, Zane Hodgins, Rowen Higginbotham, Brody Hunt, Dustin Hall, Hayden Jamieson, Henry Stewart, Karter Sholdice, Lawson Dalgliesh. Coach Hodgins noted that Bowen Bennet was called up from the local U9 team for the provincial tournament and did great.



The U11 Hodgins Virden Junior Oil Capitals earned the silver medals at Hockey Manitoba Co-Ed U11 D provincial tournament.

SUBMITTED PHOTO.

# SPORTS

## U13 FEMALE ROCKETS WIN PROVINCIAL BRONZE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It was mission accomplished at the Hockey Manitoba U13 A female provincial tournament for the Reston Rockets.

The squad had set a goal to win a provincial medal. With a 2-1 victory over Macdonald in the third-place game, the Rockets won the bronze medal at the tournament, which ran Feb. 27-March 1 in Boissevain.

"The girls set a team goal this year to win a medal at provincials," coach Karla Robertson said. "They have practised hard all season and were able to get it done. During the tournament, every player did the 'small jobs' that we have talked about that lead to success as a team. Everyone brought the best version of themselves, played until the final buzzer, and never gave up.

Reston fell 2-1 in its opening game to Minnedosa on the Friday of the tournament. They rebounded to beat Southeast 2-0 that day and shut out the Interlake Ice 6-0 on Saturday. In the semifinals, the Rockets fell to Southwest 8-0.

"I really liked how the team was able to put that first tough loss behind them and persevere," Robertson said. "We came across a couple of very good goalies who managed to limit our scoring opportunities, as we had dominated the play in a couple of those games. The girls kept plugging away and never gave up. Their hard work and determination was rewarded with the bronze medal."

Goaltender Scotlyn Malcolm recorded both shutouts for the Rockets. Robertson said the netminder "does our team a huge favour by playing as an underager. She is a very strong goalie



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U13 Reston Rockets won the bronze medals at the female A provincials.

and does not back down from shots coming from girls who are three years older than her."

The Rockets are made up of players hailing from the communities of Oak Lake, Virden, McAuley, Elkhorn, Reston, Souris, and Redvers. Robertson said, "We call Reston our home rink. It was really fun to watch the bonds on the ice and the friendships off the ice form amongst these girls this year. Some of them had

played together before, but this was the first year for this group as a whole and they just clicked."

The U13 Rockets include Ziyah Careme, Charleigh Fidlerchuk, Payton Flannery, Makayla Gabrielle, Willow Hodson, Aubree Istace, Brynn Jones, Jazlynn Lowes, Tenley McAuley, Kinsley Robertson, Abbi Rost, Reese Ryckman, Ara Toms, Andie Williamson, Ella Wohlgenuth, and Scotlyn Malcolm.

## WINTER GAMES: HAY HELPS TEAM WEST TO HOCKEY GOLD

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Grady Hay lit the lamp in the championship tilt to help the U13 Team West No. 1 male hockey squad win the gold medals at the Manitoba Winter Games.

The son of Kala and James Hay scored the opening goal in the gold medal game in Thompson. The opposing East team scored in the third period, but so did West No. 1's Jaxen Lee of Hamiota as his team prevailed 2-1 to earn gold.

"The best part of winning gold at the Manitoba Winter Games was the fun and excitement of it because the games were all so close," Hay said.

At the March 1-7 multi-sport Winter Games, the Virden area was represented by young female and male standout athletes. Almost all of them competed for Team West, although Virden's Baylee Cameron won a bronze medal in archery for Team South. The West region received the J.A. Ernst Spirit of the Games Award for "showing the greatest enthusiasm, reflected in teamwork, respect, and fair play during the Manitoba Games," according to the event's website.

Hay, a forward, helped Team West No. 1 in various ways. Head coach Tom White said Hay is a "smart player who does all the little things right. Never seems to be out of position and has some sneaky skill in the offensive zone. He reads plays well and puts himself into the right position to either defend or attack."

Team West No. 1 started the tournament 1-1. It defeated South No. 1 5-2 in the quarterfinals and doubled up Winnipeg Gold 4-2 in the semifinals.

In addition to winning a medal, Hay said what he enjoyed about the Winter Games was "staying at the village, competing with the best athletes and hanging out with friends." Hay attended the opening ceremonies and said he liked "when our Team West was called and we did a walking lap around the arena." The U13 AA Southwest Cougars player appreciates his parents' encouragement of him in hockey.

"They support me whether I win or lose and push me to always try hard and have a positive attitude," Hay said. "They encourage me to say yes to the opportunities I get and drive me all over the place to play."

McAuley's Cohen Canart suited up in male hockey for West No. 2 at the Winter Games. That squad opened the tournament 2-0. It fell 4-3 to South No. 2 in the quarterfinals. Regarding Canart, a defenceman, West No. 2 head coach Jon Morrison said he was "a gritty, competitive and reliable defender, and he also provided some offensive skill that helped the team. He was a great teammate and a lot of fun to have around the team on and off the ice."

### Du Plessis, McGregor Win Bronze

Virden's Mia du Plessis won the bronze medal in the figure skating singles Star 6/7 Mix event. Virden's Evie McAdam and Elkhorn's Kaylee Malcolm also competed in figure skating at the Winter Games. All three train at Skate Virden as do Waskada's Ainslee McGregor and Nate Greenbank and Luke Greenbank from the Moosomin area. McGregor won bronze in singles Pre-Novice Mix. Elkhorn's Sara Chant served as a manager for Team West in figure skating. Look for more on these athletes in an upcoming issue of the Empire-Advance.

### Curling

Elkhorn's Paxton Bickerton played second for the Team West No. 1 rink in the four-person U15 male curling competition. West No. 1 coach Craig Harp said Bickerton's "strengths are definitely his draw weight and being a very supportive teammate." The team secured a seventh place finish with a 9-8 victory over North in its final game.

### Gymnastics

Miniota's Ashlynn Cousins competed in the Level 3-Age 12-13 Female division. She trains at Prairie View Gymnastics.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Grady Hay's play helped the Team West No. 1 male hockey team win gold at the Manitoba Winter Games.

Kelly Roe, the head coach and founder of that club, said that, "Ashlynn is hardworking, easy to coach, and a very talented young gymnast. Ashlynn shines on vault and received the highest mark on the vaulting apparatus for our club at the Manitoba Games qualifiers in the Neepawa competition held in January of this year."

### Female Hockey

Area players and coaches were members of the two U14 female hockey teams representing the region. West No. 1 ended its time at the Games with a 8-1 victory over North in the consolation bracket. The squad included Kinsley Robertson, Virden; Langley Gerrard, Oak Lake; and Andie Williamson, Reston. Oak Lake's Anita Vachon was one of the team's coaches. Pipestone's Payton Flannery played for West No. 2. Former Virden resident Emma Ramsey, now of Brandon, was a coach for West No. 2. The Empire-Advance will have more on the female hockey teams in an upcoming issue.

# SPORTS

## CAMERON TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGE AND WINS BRONZE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virден's Baylee Cameron took on the challenge of trying something new

and persevered to win a bronze medal at the Manitoba Winter Games.

The daughter of Kent and Tiffany Cameron usually competes in archery with a compound bow. She embraced the challenge of shooting barebow and placed third in the U17 female division at the Winter Games.

"Winning bronze was so exciting," Cameron said. "I didn't think I would get that far. I was going for fun and the experience."

At just 10 years old, Cameron was the youngest archer at the prestigious multi-sport event in Thompson. Her mother said, "We are so happy Baylee got the experience of competing in the Manitoba Games. She knew the competition would be a challenge for a 10-year-old in a U17 event, but she wanted the opportunity to see competition at that level. Bringing home a medal was just icing on the cake."

In another wrinkle, she competed for the South team rather than the West. At the Manitoba Winter Games, Team South received the Larry Desjardins Breakthrough Performance Award for the greatest improvement in results from one Games to the next. Cameron certainly contributed to the region's success. In addition to her bronze medal, Cameron and her male teammate finished fifth in the barebow mixed team event. She said that besides winning a medal, what she enjoyed about the Winter Games was "meeting my team and coaches. We had so much fun together."

Cameron has been shooting at Brandon's Jo-Brook Outdoors for three years. She said her father got her into

archery because, she speculated, "he wants a hunting partner when I get older." Cameron appreciates her parents' encouragement of her in archery.

"They support me by taking me to lessons and entering me into archery shoots," she said. "They were cheering me on every step of the way in the Games. It was a big adventure to go to Thompson by myself, but I knew they were supporting me at home. My family is my support in all my activities."

After not securing a spot in compound archery for a very competitive West team, Cameron was asked to try the barebow event. She tackled learning the new discipline as well as joining Team South, which was unable to fill its spot. South archery coach Karl Maczuga called barebow "the oldest and most challenging style (of archery) that exists."

"Baylee only had approximately three months to practice this extremely difficult style of archery," he said. "Baylee took on this new challenge with a positive attitude and willingness to persevere through potentially many discouraging moments. Many athletes spiral to their own detriment if shots don't land as planned, but for Baylee it simply meant nock another arrow and try again."

Cameron said switching to barebow "was very challenging because I am used to having a sight to line up my shot, but with barebow you only have the arrow to line up." Maczuga said Cameron had nerves, but her "positivity always outshined any evidence of it. She stole a special place in both her manager and coach's hearts over the four days." After her Winter Games experience, Cameron plans to continue shooting barebow in addition to compound.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Baylee Cameron poses with her target after winning the bronze medal for archery at the Manitoba Winter Games.

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Job Location: This position may be located in either the Reston or Deloraine Office with some travel between the two offices on occasion

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## Miniota News

Submitted  
BY LINDA CLARK

The Miniota United and Anglican Women held their World Day of Prayer service on March 6 at the Miniota United church, presenting the worship service prepared by the women of Nigeria. As well, ladies from Birtle and Elkhorn joined us for worship and fellowship.

This week I want to give a shout out to the parents of the U9 Miniota Nighthawks team! Upon walking into the rink this past weekend for their two-day tournament one was greeted with table centres of tiny hockey skates on a puck, team members names displayed; activities for the children in the curling waiting room included toys, a colouring contest, a movie and more. I heard several visiting parents comment on the wonderful array of food available in the canteen which, beside the usual burgers and hot dogs, holds so much more and there were homemade soups, pies and slices. So hats off to our Miniota Community Centre. And now to the reason we were all there to cheer on the U9 Miniota Nighthawks who are: Potter Campbell, Frank Stonehouse, Emery Gardham, Willen Priestley, Kael Sheane, Kinsley Muir, Easton Salt, Andie Gardham and Nash Fortier. This team is coached by Dillin Stonehouse, Curtis Gardham and Jared Fortier with Courtney Muir and Megan Fortier as their managers. Visiting teams for the tournament were the Rivers Jets, the Hamiota Huskies, the Neepawa Titans, the Waywayseecapo Wolverines, and the McCreary Mustangs. In the final games, Waywayseecapo defeated Miniota, Neepawa defeated Hamiota and Rivers defeated McCreary.

The Miniota Volunteer Fire department were blessed with a beautiful day for a fun family outing on Sunday, March 8 for their annual and successful fishing derby held at Hooper's Lake. The department certainly appreciates the support they receive for their fundraisers. Chief Nick reports that the fish were sparse but the prizes were plentiful. A huge thank you to the organizers and workers leading up to and the day of the derby. Wonderful donations provided many door prizes and 7 raffle prizes. As well the 50/50 ticket winner took home just over \$1500. This is the yearly main fundraiser for the department and the funds go towards purchasing special equipment. During the last twelve months they were able to add a few enhancements totalling \$6,600 onto their new wildland truck that is to be delivered soon. As well they purchased extension tips for the jaws of life worth \$2,000. Hats off to our Volunteer Fire Department, for not only keeping us safe, but also for their fundraising efforts to keep adding to their equipment!

The Miniota-Arrow River Donor's Choice committee held their organizational meeting for this year's campaign. Canvassers will be calling upon you in April for our annual charity drive.

Another date to mark on your calendars is April 18 for our annual potluck supper and evening to welcome all newcomers to Ward 1, as well as present our fire department and volunteer awards.

Must say the warmer days are not hard to take, but the ice is something else, so be careful out there everyone. With the time change, spring is not far off.

Word has been received of the death of Donaleen Gilchrist at Langley, B.C. on March 5. Donaleen is survived by her husband Larry, her children Mark and Laurie and their families. She was predeceased by her son Mark. Our sympathy to Larry and his family and all extended family members.

Sympathy is extended to David and Dorothy Howard and Jeff and Wanda Howard and their families on the death of their sister Laurie's husband, Steve in British Columbia.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." -Archbishop Desmond Tutu

# Cardio and confidence



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Having a cup of coffee after Tuesday morning exercise. Exercisers left to right, Donna Torry, Kel Smith, Joan Veselovsky and Fran Preston.

Submitted  
BY KRISTA PEDERSON

For three mornings a week, you can make the Legion your destination, at 540 8th Ave. S.

The Legion is always a welcoming hub for the community, and on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, SAIL enjoys the spaciousness of the hall for exercises, and the comfort of the club room for coffee.

- Tuesday exercises 9:30-10:30am with coffee afterwards.
- Wednesday 9:30-10:30am, coffee and conversation.
- Thursday 9:30-10:30am exercises

The club room is also host to the monthly Music Jam. The last two before a break for the summer will be held March 15 and April 19. 1-5pm.

Thanks to the Legion for being our welcoming space!

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## Coming Events

### MINIOTA UCW ROAST BEEF SUPPER

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm

at the Miniota Community Hall  
Adults \$20 • 10 & under \$6 • 5 & Under Free

## Tender

### REQUEST FOR QUOTE - CUSTOM MOWING

The Municipality of Two Borders is accepting quotations for custom mowing services (first and second cut) for approximately 552 miles of municipal roads.



**Deadline:** 4:30 PM, Friday, March 20, 2026  
**Location:** 138 Main Street, Melita, MB

**Project Dates:**  
June 15 – July 30, 2026  
September 15 – October 15, 2026

#### Requirements:

- 15 ft rotary mower
- 90 HP tractor
- WCB clearance letter
- \$2,000,000 liability insurance
- Cost break down (hourly or other), fuel surcharge (if applicable), estimated hours, start/end dates

**Mowing outside road allowance is prohibited. Lowest bid not necessarily accepted.**

For full details and maps, contact the municipal office at 204-522-3263 or inquire by email at [info@twoborders.ca](mailto:info@twoborders.ca)

## Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

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# Water issues lead council agenda

## Town of Virden Public meeting planned: Handi-van sponsorship and wildlife program approved

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

### Well Owners Reimbursement

Council considered a resolution related to private well owners affected by aquifer depletion in 2021. Because of a conflict of interest, Councillor Grumpelt abstained from discussion and voting. The motion proposed that the Town of Virden reimburse affected private well owners who experienced depletion of the aquifer. The resolution was passed.

### Public Engagement Meeting

Council approved a proposal from the organization Way to Go Consulting to facilitate an upcoming public engagement meeting focused on water issues. The town is planning a public meeting involving several provincial agencies to address water quality and future water management.

### Handi Van Grant

The Town of Virden will act as the sponsoring body for the Virden Handi Van. As the program sponsor, the Town has conditions that must be met to qualify for the grant program. These include ensuring the transportation service is available to all eligible individuals in the service area and that the municipality will accept responsibility for any equipment purchased through the program. The town will provide public liability and property damage insurance as required.

Equipment must meet all relevant federal and provincial standards and ensure that the service is publicly advertised with schedules and routes. Any operating deficits remaining after grants, donations, and user fees will be the responsibility of the Town.

Mayor Tina Williams explained that the transportation service cannot hold its own Autopac insurance policy because, "They're not the kind of entity that can have Autopac. They have to have a sponsoring person to do it."

### Nuisance Wildlife Policy

Council approved the crow, nuisance bird, and beaver program for 2026. The

program authorizes designated people to manage nuisance wildlife within the town limits. These individuals may deal with nuisance birds such as crows when they pose a risk to people or property, and they must coordinate with the RCMP before acting.

Coun. Lynette Grumpelt introduced a motion to create a document that clearly describes the Town's role in the nuisance wildlife policy. Grumpelt explained that such a document could clarify details such as when wildlife control activities are permitted, what constitutes a threat to people or property, and whether actions should be limited to public property within town boundaries.

Councillors felt that having a clearly written policy would help staff respond consistently to questions from residents. The policy would also clarify the limits of Town involvement, including the fact that the Town would not enter private property to deal with wildlife issues and would only address situations that occur on public property where there is a disruption or risk to infrastructure or public safety. The resolution was approved.

### Other Business

Council discussed attendance at the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) 2026 spring conditions seminar scheduled for Mar. 25 at the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon. A motion was passed allowing any councillor interested in attending the seminar to do so.

Council approved funding in the amount of \$5,310 for the Virden Veterinary Services District board for 2026. This amount is unchanged from the previous year, and the Town will maintain the same level of financial support as in 2025.

Council also approved one representative to attend the Veterinary Services district working group meetings scheduled for Mar. 18 in Souris.

Because of unavoidable conflicts council decided it is not feasible to hold April council meetings on the usual first and

third Tuesdays of the month. As a result, the April meetings will occur on April 14 and April 28. Meetings will resume their usual time in May.

### New CAO Takes the Helm

Newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer Neil Smith attended his first council meeting on Mar. 3. Smith, who had only been in the role for approximately a day and a half said that he is currently feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the volume of information he has been absorbing during his first days on the job.

In an exchange during council reports, Mayor Tina Williams said to Smith, "You've been here a whole day and a half. Do you have anything to tell us?"

Smith replied, "Pretty overwhelmed with information so far. I'm honoured to have the opportunity, delighted to be here, looking forward to getting my family here." He added, "I'm happy to take over the reins from someone who's obviously done such a great job here for so long."

Retiring CAO Rhonda Stewart stated that much of the previous week had been spent wrapping up ongoing projects and preparing for the leadership transition as the municipality welcomes its new CAO. She noted that the transition process includes setting up IT systems, transferring accounts, and completing administrative handovers.

Stewart explained that much of the municipality's history and decision-making context is stored in people's knowledge rather than in written records. She said that while staff attempt to keep notes on projects and key decisions, it is impossible to document every detail. She pointed out that often something does not seem important enough to record at the time, but years later someone may ask why a certain decision was made.

In conclusion Stewart said, "I continue to try to wrap up some things that I've been working on, get as much done as possible, and then Neil will decide if he wants me to finish anything else."

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Public Hearing



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Kola EMC Church**  
**57036 Road 171 W**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a PUBLIC HEARING on March 17, 2026, at the Kola EMC Church, in Kola, Manitoba.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided through the following methods:

Method	Important Reminders
In writing	To be sent ahead of time by email or regular mail prior to March 17.
In person	Individuals interested to attend the Public Hearing in person are requested to send an RSVP by phoning the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Virden Office at 204-748-1239 on or before March 16, 2026, Monday at 12:00 p.m.

A copy of the financial plan will be available for review. View the document on the R.M. website, request for an electronic copy to be emailed, or pick-up a hardcopy during regular hours at the Virden, Elkhorn or Kenton offices.

Visit: [www.wallace-woodworth.com](http://www.wallace-woodworth.com)  
 Email: [cao@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:cao@wallace-woodworth.com)

Iris Vercaigne, MBA, CMMA  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth

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

## Help Wanted

### Keystone Wealth Management - Virden, MB -Administrative Associate Entry-Level | Part-Time & Full-Time | In-Office (hybrid)

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We're hiring an Administrative Associate to become a core pillar of our operation. This is an entry-level role for someone who wants a career, not just a job. You might grow into:

- Operations leadership*
- A licensed financial advisor*
- Or become an elite, career administrator*

All three paths are respected. All three are supported.

What matters is that you're **sharp, reliable, and excited to grow.**

**What You'll Do** - From day one, you'll be trusted with real responsibility:

- Client onboarding and document preparation
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- Front-of-house reception: phones, greetings, first impressions
- Day-to-day client administration
- Supporting advisors and operations with accuracy and professionalism
- You'll be the connective tissue of the firm.

**Who Thrives Here** - This role is perfect for someone who is:

- Ambitious and growth-oriented
- Systems-minded and detail-driven
- Comfortable in a fast-paced environment
- Calm, professional, and people-friendly
- Energized by building something that's still evolving

Our systems will change. If that excites you instead of scaring you—you'll love it here.

**What We Offer** - You get real responsibility, real growth, and real flexibility—

Even if life eventually pulls you elsewhere, this role can travel with you. If you're looking for a place to build something meaningful—and build yourself along the way—we'd love to meet you.

- Long-term career growth in a scaling firm
- Flexible work environment when life requires it
- Group benefits package
- All industry education paid for
- Semi-formal dress code, professional work environment
- A team that is high-performance and family-first
- Our advantage over the banks and big firms?



**Before applying:** This role is not a "clock in, clock out" admin job. It's for someone who wants to grow, learn, and take ownership. In your resume, include a short paragraph answering this:

**"What kind of career do you want to be building over the next 5–10 years, and why does this role fit that plan?" (Resumes without this will not be considered.)**

Please submit resume to [admin@keystonewealth.ca](mailto:admin@keystonewealth.ca)

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## Help Wanted

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GREEN TEAM – SUMMER STUDENT POSITIONS

The Municipality of Two Borders would like to invite applications for **Summer Student Positions**, under the Green Team Program.

#### Position Description:

- Planting and watering of flowers & trees, tilling, weeding, mowing grass.
- Landscaping, painting, maintenance of Municipal facilities.
- Maintenance of motorized equipment power mowers and other landscape maintenance equipment.

#### Pre-requisites:

- Valid Class 5 driver's licence is preferred

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

**This position will commence on or before, May 11, 2026.**

The deadline for applications will remain open until suitable candidates are found.

To apply, please submit your resume and indicate your available starting date:

Mail to: PO Box 429,  
 Melita, Manitoba, R0M 1L0  
 E-mailed to: [info@twoborders.ca](mailto:info@twoborders.ca)

Only those applicants chosen for interviews will be contacted.  
 Thank you for your interest.



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- Greens-keeper Assistant
- Club House Manager
- Club House Manager Assistants
- Bookkeeper

Applications to be sent to:

Miniota Golf Club  
**"Applications"**  
**PO Box 291,**  
**Miniota, MB R0M 1M0**  
**or [norjst@gmail.com](mailto:norjst@gmail.com)**

For more information contact:  
**Noreen at 204 748-5567**



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# SPORTS

## SPORTS NOTES: U15 ROCKETS WIN SILVER, ELKHORN HOSTS SUCCESSFUL PROVINCIALS

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In Arborg last weekend, the U15 Reston/Melita Rockets won the silver medals at the U15 Hockey Manitoba C Provincials.

Also last weekend, the Elkhorn rink played host to a successful Hockey Manitoba Girls Under-11 Rural B provincial tournament. The Roblin Gems defeated the Winkler Flyers 5-1 in the gold medal game. The Killarney Stars beat the Portage Terriers (1) 4-3 for bronze. The Virden Junior Oil Capitals also competed in the tournament.

In Swan Lake, the Pierson Bruins, which included some Reston area players, won the consolation final at the female U11 C provincials. The Virden U15 3rd Roster team competed at the 'A' Provincials in The Pas.

Look for more on these events in a future issue of the Empire-Advance.

### Scharff Named OUA All-Star

Virden's Danika Scharff was selected as a Ontario University Athletics second-team all-star in women's volleyball. The setter with the University of Windsor finished second in the OUA with 616 assists and third with an average of 8.93 assists per set. She is the daughter of Chad and Rita Scharff.

### Joseph Honoured

Elkhorn's Colby Joseph has collected more honours from the Midwest College Hockey conference. Previously it was announced that Joseph was named the MCH Tournament MVP. It was recently announced that the son of Dawn and Gord Joseph was named the MCH MVP and was named All-League First Team.



PHOTO BY THE ELKHORN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Keith Orr drops the puck at the Hockey Manitoba Girls Under-11 Rural B provincial tournament in Elkhorn. The honour recognized his contributions to Elkhorn Minor Hockey and the local rink.

## Boil water advisory quickly resolved

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

For a town that continues under a water advisory for arsenic levels after a recent close call with a water supply outage and a change to a new well, last Thursday's notice of a boil-water advisory rattled a few nerves.

However, almost as quickly as it came, what amounted to a one-day boil issue was resolved and the boil water advisory was a very temporary inconvenience.

On March 5, there was a loss of pressure in the distribution system following a power outage. Residents were instructed to bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute before drinking and for food preparation.

By Friday, March 6, Drinking Water Officer Nnamdi Komlan-Dadoh had advised CAO Neil Smith, for Town of Virden, that the Virden water system has met all conditions for rescinding the boil water advisory. Bacteriological testing results met regulatory standards – the boil-water advisory was lifted.

Smith explained the details. He said, "Last week's boil water advisory was the result of contractor work on the flowmeter at the water treatment plant that morning, which caused an unexpected 10–15-minute power outage/ loss of water pressure, enough for the province to require a boil water advisory until samples were analyzed the following day, which we expedited."

He said that utility operators always work closely with provincial water regulators when such things as this occur, pursuant to regulation.

"The temporary inconvenience to the community was unfortunate, but it was rectified as quickly as possible under the circumstances," said Smith.

## REF MEMORIES

REF TO  
WRITER

GERRY  
NOLAN



One night in a game, the unexpected took place. Before the game begins, the linesmen would look at the game sheet to get the numbers of the players who were starting a game. If a team started the wrong players a minor penalty was to be assessed to the offending team. The referee was to check the game sheet and count the players on the ice to ensure all were accounted for. This rule has changed somewhat over the years but back in the day, this was how it looked.

The other linesman and I have got our numbers and the referee has counted the players, so the game begins. Play is going and midway through the second period one of the teams scores a

goal, not the first goal of the game, but a goal.

After the puck is dropped to resume play, the official scorer hits the buzzer signifying the end of the period, but we know it is not the end of the period. The officials all gather together at the penalty box, and the official scorer tells us the player who scored the goal is not listed on the game sheet. The head referee takes the game sheet and sure enough the player that scored is not on the game sheet. What do we do? Well, this is what takes place! The head referee has to deliver the message to the team with the player not listed on the game sheet. We take the goal away and the player cannot play in the remainder of the

game. I was glad I was not the messenger! Of course, the team is not happy to say the least and try blaming the officials. The blame is on the coach who wrote down the players who were playing that night.

You learn from your mistakes! In future games we all checked the game sheets and counted the players and never started a game without counting heads and making sure that all were accounted for.

Sometimes teams would write down a player's name on the game sheet because to play in the playoffs you had to participate in a certain number of games. Teams would try and get away with this, but it was cheating! If a player's name was on the game sheet and did not play, we as officials would stroke the name out, and print beside it 'absent'. Then we would call the league president, who would call the team and tell them there is no credit for a player who was not there. The team would be advised, next time it happened, they

would have to repost their \$500 performance bond.

Now as I said, the rule changed, if a player was late for the game due to unforeseen circumstances you could write the players name on the game sheet but not fill in the number of the player. If he showed up to play, the player would inform the referee, and the referee would instruct the official scorer to put in the number. If the player did not show up for the game, his name was scratched from the game sheet. This rule would not be known to the fans so there were always questions about that rule. This was the only time I was ever a part of this situation thankfully. It did remind me though to always go over the game sheet.

In later years when I evaluated officials, if they did not check the game sheet before the game began they would lose a mark for that and then you had to explain to them why they should be doing that. Live and learn!

## NHL TRADE DEADLINE

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Trade deadline day has come and gone for another season in the National Hockey League. There are of course always winners and losers, but only time will tell. On paper Colorado is the big winner getting Nickolas Roy and Nazem Kadri. They were a great team already and this just made them a whole lot tougher and better.

The question is though, do you just want to make the playoffs or win the Stanley Cup? The answer should be the Stanley Cup!

If you are looking to improve your team, look at what Colorado did. It does not mean that you will win, but you have really increased your chances.

For me the biggest losers are the Winnipeg Jets. They traded away their size, their grit and toughness. Adam Lowry is the only big guy left that could fight if

necessary. In 2018 the Winnipeg Jets were one of the biggest, toughest teams in their division. Now, all the other teams have adapted to size. The Jets are now the smallest, oldest team in their division.

After last spring's playoff series against the St. Louis Blues and Dallas Stars, one would think that the Jets have to get bigger and tougher. They went the other way, smaller with no grit. The years of such a strong core group are being wasted, by the time they rebuild their core players will be either retired or have moved on and their play diminished. The current players for the Winnipeg Jets must be disappointed that they did not get the help they needed to compete for the cup. Just making the playoffs is not a win. Winning the Stanley Cup is the ultimate victory.

They need to have a new general manager with a new fresh vision.

# SPORTS

## VETERAN DEFENCEMEN HELP OIL CAPS PREPARE FOR PLAYOFFS

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Austin Osiowy and Oliver Schroeder are soaking in all they can about their Virden Oil Capitals experience while it lasts.

The two 2005-born defencemen joined the Manitoba Junior Hockey League at the trade deadline in January. The veteran players have appreciated the opportunities and the environment in Virden.

"I have enjoyed everything, but especially the facilities and the community stick out for me," Osiowy said. "We have a world-class rink for Junior A, and amazing support from the community. It's a fun place to play hockey, and there is no other place I would rather play my last playoffs in front of."

The duo have proven valuable on the back end for the Oil Caps. Osiowy had collected three goals, eight assists and 11 points in 23 contests, as of March 8. In 23 games, Schroeder had a goal and an assist.

"Austin and Oliver have brought a number of things to our team," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "As 20-year-olds, they bring experience and a work ethic that our young guys can look up to. They are good defenders and good puck movers and have solidified our defence corps. They bring depth that we will need down the stretch and into the playoffs. They are both great teammates and good in our dressing room. We are fortunate to have them here."

With the Oil Capitals, Osiowy billets with Matt, Carrie, Dylan and Arya Tapp. Schroeder is with the Hayward family, who he said has made his transition to Virden "way easier than I could have imagined." The defencemen are enjoying their time not only in Virden but also in the MJHL.

"My favourite part about the MJHL is the talent level and competition," Schroeder said. "Night in and out it does not matter who you are playing, every team brings a different game and structure and every player is good. You have to bring your 'A' game every night."



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Capitals Austin Osiowy.



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Capitals Oliver Schroeder.

Osiowy's and Schroeder's junior careers have taken them far and wide. Schroeder hails from Hudson, Wisconsin. In the junior ranks he has played for the West Bend (Wis.) Power of the North American 3 Hockey League, the North American Hockey League's Janesville (Wis.) Jets and Watertown (S.D.) Shamrocks, and the MJHL's Winkler Flyers and Oil Capitals.

Osiowy is from Calgary. He has suited up for the Alberta Junior Hockey League's Okotoks Oilers and Drumheller Dragons. Osiowy spent two stints with the Kindersley Klippers of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and also played for the SJHL's Melfort Mustangs. He played a season with the NAHL's North Iowa Bulls in Mason City. Now an Oil Cap, Osiowy said of his junior career:

"I will remember the people I met along the way the most. I was lucky enough to meet some great people from all over the world with diverse

life experiences, which helped me grow personally. I am forever grateful that junior hockey has given me some of the best friendships and relationships."

When their junior days are over, Schroeder and Osiowy hope to continue playing hockey while studying at post-secondary institutions. Osiowy is interested in engineering and finance. Schroeder would like to play at an NCAA Division 3 or American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 1 school. He would like to study business management and use that degree to work in the trades.

But before life after junior hockey, Schroeder and Osiowy are focused on helping the Oil Capitals have a strong postseason. Schroeder said, "I'm looking forward to be playing at home with the possibility of the rink being packed and all the fans screaming and banging on the glass to create the hardest atmosphere to play in."

## OIL KINGS, SHAMROCKS SPLIT FIRST TWO IN THHL SEMIFINAL

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings are battling the Killarney Shamrocks for a spot in the Tiger Hills Hockey League finals.

The Oil Kings won game one of the semifinals, 5-4, in overtime. They are only the second team to beat the defending champions this winter. The Shamrocks were 18-0-0-1 in the THHL regular season. Less than 24 hours after the loss, Killarney won game two of the best-of-five series 7-0.

The third game was slated for March 10, with game four on March 11. Both were played after the Empire-Advance deadline. If needed, game five would be played March 14 in Killarney.

"The focus heading into this week is to try and get as much rest going into Tuesday," Oil Kings coach Tyler Campbell said. "Everyone is banged up and with two short turnarounds it doesn't give anyone much time to heal up. We need to go into Tuesday with the same mentality as we did in game one."

Whoever prevails between the Oil Kings and Shamrocks will play the Hartney Blues. The Blues swept the Minnedosa Bombers 3-0 in the other semifinal.

Dillin Stonehouse scored 2:44 into overtime to lift the Oil Kings to a 5-4 victory on March 6 in Killarney.

"I think our resiliency in game one was really big, to win on the road in a series like that was huge," Campbell said.

The visitors led 2-1 after the first period on goals by Brad Bowles and Shawn Bowles, who scored on a power play. Killarney had struck first on a goal by Daniel Stagg.



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Brad Bowles tries to score against the Killarney Shamrocks last week.

The game was knotted up at 3-3 after two periods of play. Shawn Bowles scored for the Oil Kings between goals by Mike Reykdal and Ty Enns, on the power play.

Just 35 seconds into the third period, Brad Bowles lit the lamp to put Virden ahead 4-3. At the 12:38 mark, Brock Sutherland tied the game for Killarney.

Brad Bowles had four points on the night. Shawn Bowles posted three as did Tanner Koroscil. Virden goalie Riley

Wallace turned away 20 shots. Brian Archibald stopped 27 for Killarney.

In game two the next day in Virden, the Shamrocks won 7-0. Archibald made 31 saves. Wallace allowed four goals and stopped 14 shots. Duncan Paddock had six saves on nine shots in relief. Scoring for Killarney were Jesse Toth (two), Colten Miller (two), Parker Korman, Ty Enns, and Bryce Enns.

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## SPORTS

### OIL CAPITALS HEAD INTO FINAL FEW GAMES OF REGULAR SEASON

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals are headed into the final few contests of their Manitoba Junior Hockey League regular season.

They were slated to host the Winnipeg Blues on March 10 and the Steinbach Pistons on March 12, both after the Empire-Advance deadline. The team takes to the road to play in Waywayseecappo on March 14 and in Winnipeg against the Blues on March 15 to wrap up their regular-season schedule.

The Oil Capitals were 2-2 in their last four games. They fell to the Winnipeg Monarchs, 4-3 in a shootout; shut out the Northern Manitoba Blizzard 5-0; lost to the Dauphin Kings 4-3, and shut out the Blues 8-0.

The team recently announced that its CDOilwell Player of the Month for February is Colten Worthington. In 11 games, the skilled forward recorded seven goals, five assists and 12 points.

#### Oil Caps 8, Blues 0

The Oil Capitals were sharp on both ends of the ice at home on March 9. They had 47 shots on goal. Braxton Burdeny stopped 33 shots for his sixth shutout of the season. The veteran netminder leads the MJHL in that category, as of March 9.

Virden led 3-0 at the first intermission and 5-0 at the second. Scoring for the Oil Capitals were Tyson Ulmer (two), London Hoilett (two), Shane Elder, Liam Goertzen, Jett Deschamps and Carson Wright.

Hoilett had three points on the night. As of March 9, he led Virden and was eighth in the league with 29 goals. Eight of Ulmer's nine goals this season have come since Jan. 1.

Deschamps had three points, as did Cohen Lewko, who had a trio of assists.

Elder and Taylor Lockhart were called up from the U18 AAA Southwest Cougars. Elder scored his first MJHL goal. He is the son of Oak Lake product Brian Elder, who played professionally and for the Western Hockey League's Brandon Wheat Kings. Lockhart recorded an assist.

#### Kings 4, Oil Caps 3

While the Oil Capitals continued to battle back on March 7, they were unable to take the lead. Dauphin led 1-0 after the first period and 2-0 early in the second. Virden came back to tie the score at 2-2, but the Kings held a 3-2 lead at the second intermission. Dauphin increased the lead to 4-2 in the third. The Oil Capitals were able to get one more goal.

Dysen Drake, Lucas Laramée and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper scored for



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Capitals are celebrating at Saturday, March 7 game.

Virden. Oil Capitals goalie Micky Gross made 14 saves.

Deschamps and Lewko were back in the Virden lineup after stints with the WHL's Regina Pats and Saskatoon Blades, respectively.

#### Oil Caps 5, Blizzard 0

With the offence buzzing at the other end on March 6, Gross turned away 21 shots to record his third shutout of the season. Oil Capitals forward Bryan Laing said:

"We all trust Micky back there no matter who we're playing. He's been playing really well lately and has been a huge part of our team having success. Micky and I have been on the same team for five straight years now, and I've seen him steal games from bantam age to now in junior. We're very lucky that him and Braxton are our guys back there."

At the other end of the ice, the Oil Caps had 48 shots on goal. Laing scored twice. Ulmer, Goertzen and Marshall Light also had goals for Virden. Regarding the team's offensive success, Laing said:

"We went back to playing simple instead of trying to make plays that weren't there, and I think it helped us play to our best overall through the 60 minutes."

#### Monarchs 4, Oil Caps 3 SO

The Monarchs' Deegan Wapass scored the lone goal in the shootout to lift his team to the win in Virden on March 3. A highlight for the hosts was Virden's own Christian Pitz, a defenceman, being called from the RINK Hockey Academy and scoring his first MJHL goal.

"Christian played a great game," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is a very intelligent guy that sees the ice extremely well and moves the puck with confidence. It was great to see him score his first goal in his first game and we are very excited about the potential player that Christian could be. It was an exciting night for us as well as his family."

Virden's other goals came from Drake and Wright. The Oil Caps led 3-0 15:43 into the second period. Burdeny made 14 saves for Virden.