

Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

OCTOBER 23, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 10 / ADVANCE: VOL 142 NO 12 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

BP
Boston Pizza

KIDS CARDS ARE BACK!

5 FREE KIDS MEALS +1

WHEN YOU REGISTER YOUR KIDS CARD WITH MYBP™

LOOKING after LOCAL
Supporting Our Community

kids EAT FREE CARD

SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

Fuel Your Future!

Enter to WIN **\$5,000*** Fuel Cards!
1 of 3

Contact a Sunrise Lender today!

*Entry is conditional upon approval of Sunrise Credit Union Agriculture Financing. Some conditions apply. Please contact Sunrise Credit Union for full details.

sunrisecu.mb.ca

RM of Wallace-Woodworth candidates answer big questions



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Candidates prepare for the debate, (L-R) Garth Mitchell, Diana MacDonald, Tayona Johnas, Darren Good, Clayton Canart and Adam Bajus.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Lenore Community Hall was filled with ratepayers from across the large municipality to hear the Wallace-Woodworth candidates' debate hosted by Virden Empire-Advance. Some acclaimed councillors attended as did Mayor of Virden, Tina Williams.

The seven candidates answered questions that revealed their perspectives on growth, roads, community collaboration, financial accountability and even amalgamation with Virden.

Moderator for the evening, Dennis Carter, previous reeve of the RM of Woodworth who led council through the 2015 amalgamation to become Wallace-Woodworth kept things on schedule giving each candidate three minutes to introduce themselves.

Two candidates running for Head of Council, Clayton Canart (incumbent) and Adam Bajus are both businessmen in the Kola and Elkhorn areas.

Ward 1 (Woodworth area) will elect two out of three candidates: Darren Good a Kenton farmer, Tayona Johnas, retired banker, and Diana MacDonald (incumbent), also a local farmer.

Ward 3 (Elkhorn) will elect a single candidate from three runners: Jill Humphries, a former businesswoman from Elkhorn/Kola. Not present, she was on her way to see their son off to Sidney, Australia; Denis Lachapelle (incumbent) a retired Elkhorn businessman from Elkhorn (not present for the debate); and Garth Mitchell, recently retired chief administrative officer for Wallace-Woodworth.

There was no hot seat for those acclaimed. Three Ward 2 (Wallace) seats are filled by incumbents Lyle Kinnaird and Barb Stambuski, joined by new councillor, Sandy Heaman.

Also acclaimed were Elkhorn LUD Committee members Riley Brennand and new member Holly Forsyth. Kenton LUD Com-

mittee members by acclamation are incumbent Dennis Hemrica and new member Gerry Nolan.

Among some 15 questions, street and road upkeep is large on council consideration.

Mitchell advocated for listening to ratepayers and staff to prioritize spending and resources. "We are suffering a huge infrastructure deficit," he said pointing out the municipality serves about 3000 people and must care for well over 1000 miles of roads.

MacDonald said, "The real question is how?" She said council has worked "tirelessly" to maintain the road system, that needs to continue.

Johnas pointed to heavy industry and agricultural vehicles and notes, "roads are a priority."

Good promoted ratepayer and staff input, "We have to make a plan and be diligent and get at it..."

Canart said Council had doubled the gravelling and hauling budget and the budget needs to be further increased. He said, "What I'm committed to doing is knowing we can be better and... to trying new things to support our staff..."

Bajus pointed out, "Most people see the municipality as the road they drive on. And I'll say we're not doing a very good job. I live against the RM of Pipestone and the RM of Maryfield and it's substantially different. I think we need a new plan..."

As the debate drew to a close, a question from the public stated, "Some individuals believe amalgamation would be a wise decision. Virden needs to grow and requires access to good water... Without growth, which is currently limited because it's surrounded by the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, no additional revenue will come in. What are your thoughts on amalgamating with Virden?"

Read more about the debate on page 2...

VIRIDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
VS. SWAN VALLEY
STAMPEDERS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS
P13-16 & 27



OAK LAKE ICEMEN ARE BACK **P17**

RM of Wallace-Woodworth Debate

Continued from page 1.

Mitchell spoke of the hours that were required in preparation to amalgamate Elkhorn, Wallace and Woodworth (2015) which he said turned out well, but not perfect. “I’m not saying whether I’m for or against it until we look at all the possibilities,” adding, “It’s something that is not going to be easy when you combine a very large urban with a very large rural and try to put that together to make things work.”

MacDonald expressed the spirit of what she wants to see: “I really would like to have the town and the RM for sure get along and always work together in a positive way.”

Johnas reflected on seeing 10 credit unions amalgamate in 10 years she said, “They are a lot of work. They don’t always work.” She said, “Is there a way that the town and the RM can work together better than what it has been now and perhaps in ways that nobody’s even thought of



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Moderator for Wallace-Woodworth debate, Dennis Carter (seated), and publisher for the Empire-Advance and host of the evening, Ken Waddell. Waddell noted the debate was described as one of the largest municipal meetings for Wallace Woodworth in recent memory.

yet?”

Good stated, “If you do the research and the studies and if it benefits everybody as a whole, why not?”

Canart favoured collaboration, saying that what benefits the one municipality is also good

for the neighbouring municipality. “I think we can easily work together as two entities to achieve all those things (good Virden water and town growth) because I believe that amalgamation sets you back many years in your progress in the

municipal world from what I’ve seen.”

Bajus pointed to community identity and decisions. “If it was the two entities asking for amalgamation, I would work for it. If it was a provincial

or top-down ‘being told’, I guess I would be worried. We’ve already lost identity within our own communities with this amalgamation, and I don’t think that amalgamating would make any synergies possible.”

He suggested that community growth may be expensive but is currently available.

The whole debate is available for viewing on empireadvance.ca.



Jill HUMPHRIES

FOR RM OF WW ~ WARD 3

BE SURE TO VOTE OCT. 28





ACCENT DRIVING SCHOOL

WHERE TO FIND US!



Provincially Certified Instructors
Manitoba and Saskatchewan Class 1 & 3 Instruction Available 3 Week Mandatory Entry Level Training Courses Offered Monthly

OTHER SERVICES WE OFFER:

- Driver Evaluations
- Pre-Employment Driver Evaluations
- Pre-Trip Inspection Courses
- Remedial Driver Training
- WHMIS
- Transportation Of Dangerous Goods
- First Aid
- Onsite Classroom
- Power Units & Trailers Provided
- We Supply Truck & Trailer for Provincial Testing



accentdrivingschool.net
204-748-1427
www.facebook.com/AccentDriving h
accentdrivingschool1427@gmail.com

ON OCTOBER 28

VOTE

for your local school trustee

Your locally elected school trustees give communities a voice in public education.



MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026

Manitoba School Trustee Elections

Election Day is October 28, 2026

elect2026.ca



GOT ACRES THAT AREN'T PULLING THEIR WEIGHT?

Salinity. Kochia. Foxtail. Poor returns. You know the drill. This fall, consider putting those marginal areas into forage — and put inputs into your best acres next growing season.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's Fall Marginal Areas Program includes free seed and financial rebates — plus logistic support from staff who know about establishing forage in tough conditions.

CALL DAPHNE AT (204) 441-4358 TO LEARN MORE.

With support from Manitoba's Conservation Trust.





Candidate for Ward 3 RM of WW

Jill Humphries

Since arriving in Canada, we've made Elkhorn our hometown. Living on a rural property in Ward 2 led us to seek out a welcoming local community.

Elkhorn was our school of choice for both our children. They received the best education, laying a solid foundation for their success. Our daughter, Jess, is now a lawyer, and our son, Thomas, is a doctor and professor.

Throughout our time in business as Westwood Garden Centre, I've served on the Elkhorn Chamber and supported numerous local functions and fundraising activities. It's time to give back and show my neighbours the love and gratitude they showed us when we first arrived in Elkhorn.

I bring over 40 years of business experience, a teaching background, and the most important role of a mother and now a grandparent. My mission is to keep our town vibrant and thriving.

Correction:

In the October 16, 2026 issue of the Empire-Advance, on page 7, a mistake was made and Diana MacDonalds writeup for candidacy was accidentally printed twice, the second time under Jill Humphries name. Below is the correct writeup for Jill Humphries.



Bonnie James for FLBSD Trustee

What inspired you to run for school trustee?

I am seeking re-election to continue advocating on behalf of students and parents to ensure we are setting every child up for success. Respect, integrity, accountability, transparency, impartiality.

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

Student (and staff) well-being, and education are the foundation of every board decision - budgeting, policy, hiring. We have recently increased security in schools and updated policies.

Our principals, teachers and staff strive to make students feel welcome and respected every day. I will continue to encourage open communication with families to ensure students have the supports they need and to help identify changes in well-being or educational needs.

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

Focus on reading, writing, and math to provide students with a strong foundation, skills

and knowledge that will shape their future - I will continue supporting the educators in our division who are working to enhance numeracy and literacy.

Local autonomy. The government is in charge of curriculum, and how certain funds can be utilized in our division - I encourage parents to voice their concerns to parent councils, the board, and the government to ensure that education within our division reflects our local community values and needs.

Community engagement - I welcome suggestions from parents and community on how we can improve communication.

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

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

VOTE



LOMER GIRARDIN

FOR
TOWN OF VIRDEN
COUNCILLOR



Your voice, your choice, your vote.

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

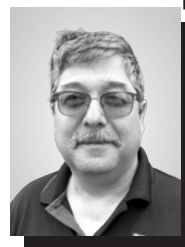


VOTE OCTOBER 28

Travis Penner for Council

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.

ELECT DAWNA JAMIESON

FOR COUNCIL
RM OF ELLICE-ARCHIE

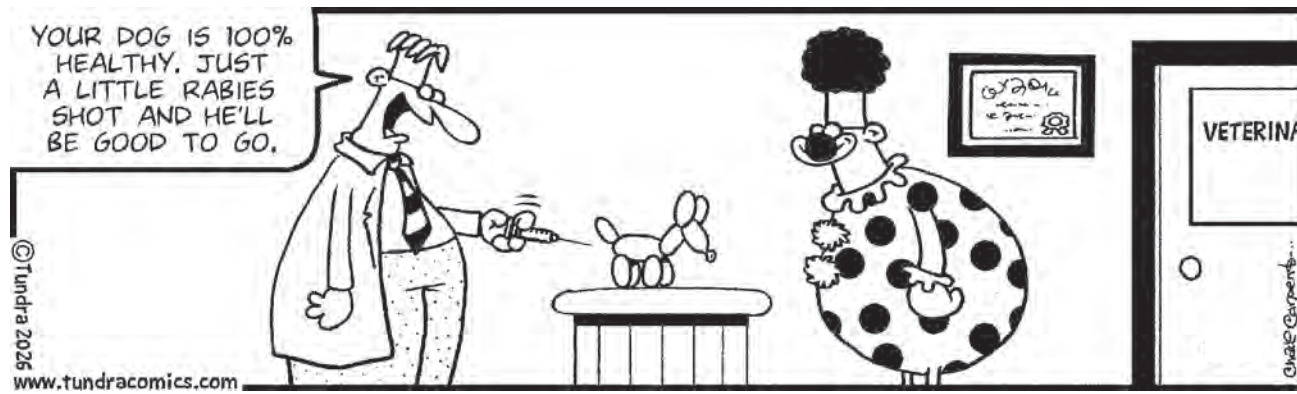
WEDNESDAY
OCT
28



FULLY COMMITTED TO PUTTING
MY KNOWLEDGE AND
EXPERIENCE TO WORK.

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Customer service becoming a lost art

Last year, about this time of year I said I was very concerned with the way businesses are trending, especially large businesses and governments. In days gone by, every business, organization and level of government at least made an attempt at personalized customer service. It has gotten worse.

If you go to a bank branch, for example, you can get some semblance of local customer service, but for some services such as credit card information or commercial banking, it's all online. When it works, it's okay, but when it doesn't, it's awful. A year ago I was struggling to get a simple change over of access for a bookkeeper for an organization. They tell you to go to the web site, log-in and if that doesn't work, click for a new pass code and all will be well. I went through a dozen or more pass codes before I got a solution.

- Internet providers are similar. We have had email issues and we have been told it's because of a faulty computer or it's because we use Apple computers, it's because Apple won't talk to some email programs. Then they say, we have been blocked but they don't know why. It turned out that Apple computers weren't the issue, customer service was.

- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) were recently evaluated and it was found that a very high percentage of their answers to taxpayers questions were incorrect. How can that be? Well, I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Many years ago a CRA auditor came out to my farm and said that interest on a farm loan wasn't a tax deductible expense. Fortunately, a letter from my accountant straightened that out, but it was frustrating.

I suspect today's problems with CRA may be due to so many of their staff working from home or remotely.

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



“I believe that our customer service philosophy is pretty clear.”

There's little opportunity to stick your head into the next office and say "Hey Josie, what's the right answer to question B?" If a staffer is labouring away all day without peer consultation, there's more room for error.

- Phone companies can be frustrating too. It took dozens of calls to get a simple change to a couple of our company phone lines. Each time the customer service rep on the other end of the line was apologetic and admitted that it shouldn't be complicated. However, it was complicated because whoever they referred a question to didn't make the required changes. I even had no phone service for a few days which was a bit annoying.

- I believe that our customer service philosophy is pretty clear. Our staff hopefully always answer the phone and with the approach that if they don't have the answer, they will do their best to find the answer.

- Looking at local municipal and town councils, it's safe to say they have a tough job and it has gotten tougher in recent years. I was on council twice but that was over 12 years ago. Council work has gotten more complicated for certain.

I think councils and staff could make things easier for themselves with a few changes. Technology allows for an exchange of information much simpler than in the past. Councillors, taxpayers and news media need to be able to see the agendas earlier. Most councils only prepare a very simple paper copy agenda that contains very little information. A few municipalities prepare an electronic agenda package for staff and councillors. Documents can be accessed very easily as the document links are embedded in the electronic agenda that is on the municipal web site. That's how it should be.

If material is going to be discussed in an open council meeting, then staff, councillors, ratepayers and media should have access to it. In an electronic agenda with the document links embedded in it, access is very good for everybody.

If municipalities and towns could all achieve that level of transparency and ease of access, voters would be better able to know what is happening. Maybe if more people had access to more information, it might be easier to get people to want to run for council.

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

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Some deep questions

A few weeks ago a gentleman from Victoria, B.C., a thinking 96-year old, retired farmer who knew Ed from Homewood/Sperling days, Arnold McCurcheon, sent me a series of questions. I am choosing to share his questions and my answers:

1. Is she a pacifist? Enough to deny her sons a military uniform if called up?
2. How do we Christians avoid killing a murderous intruder that comes to our door?
3. How does she reduce her footprint on the environment, knowing we have passed the point of no return as a civilization?

These are questions I live and walk with.

1. I want to believe I am a pacifist. If my goods were taken I could walk away, if my loved ones were hurt or were taken I would bear arms.

Would I want anyone to take another's life? Never. Do I know that evil must be stopped? Always. May I never be the provoker, always be the defender. We know the scars left on people and places by the armed conflict in the past, and in the present. We (I) also know that the fragile freedoms we take so for granted were hard won, and worth it. I would not urge a loved one to wear a uniform, I would not fail to offer love and support, pouring out prayers for protection.

2. How do we avoid killing a murderous intruder that comes to our door? I think of the martyrs of the past and the present. They held their faith and their values so dear that they willingly laid down their lives. That doesn't stop the advance of evil...With the advance of technology and loss of privacy and threats to individualism, I see no secret escape...I think of Jesus' last moments...he forgave the repentant thief, instructed his friend to care for his mother, and committed his mother to his friends' care.

Then, with a cry from deep within Jesus spoke to His Father and said — into your hands I commend my spirit...and gave up his spirit. I am contemplating those words for many scenes...when we have done all that we can, all that is asked of us, we can choose to give up our spirit as well. Defending my loved ones, the vulnerable, and disabled, when I have done with all my heart and body, then I can also commit my spirit to my God. Just my thoughts on that...

3. How do I reduce my footprint? Small steps indeed, but the steps that I can order....compost and recycle are big ones. I am blessed to have a small garden, organic, and carefully save all things compostable and have a bin in the garden yard. I take recycling seriously, knowing that too many times the big bin is defiled and discarded — but not because of my actions! I borrow rather than buy when I need a one or two time tool, I shop thrift stores, and donate to them as well. The disparity between the haves and have not, or have not enough is beyond my imagination....I can only throw the starfish that. I find on my beach back into the ocean...

Empire Advance
Serving Virden and area since 1885

204- 748-3931
www.empireadvance.ca
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$76 in Manitoba, \$85 elsewhere in Canada
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

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

Canada

Members of:

mcna
Manitoba Community Newspapers Association

CANADIAN
Community Newspapers
ASSOCIATION



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

STAFF

General Manager
Jessica Coulter

Reporter
Anne Davison

Office Assistant
Lauren Halowaty

Reporter
Dale Davison

Reporter
Gerry Nolan

Sales
Dianne Hanson

Owner/Publisher/Editor
Ken & Christine Waddell

Publishers Assistant
Beth McConnell

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

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

From turnips to Jack-O'-Lanterns, the lore behind a favourite Halloween tradition

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

I have a confession to make. I am one of those people. Halloween is, hands down, my favourite holiday. Even in my thirties, I still dress up every single year, and I take pumpkin carving very seriously, it's even more exciting now that I have a son who loves Halloween just as much. In fact, ever since I was old enough to safely handle a sharp knife, I've carved at least two pumpkins every single October. Over the years, my living-room window display lineup has featured everything from classic toothy grins, cats, dinosaurs and witches to Frankenstein, oil pump-jacks, sports logos, and family names. They aren't always masterpiece-level works of art, but every single one is a blast to create! Naturally, there are practical perks to the tradition, scooping out the seeds to roast in the oven with a little salt or seasonings, or saving the insides for pies and soup. But a while back, I started wondering: Why do we actually do this? I mean, technically, we could carve watermelons in July (which, honestly, I might just try next summer). Yet why did this giant, orange squash become the official canvas of October? So, I decided to dig into the history books. As it turns out, the tradition goes all the way back to the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain, (now Halloween) where early Pagan communities apparently used glowing vegetables to ward off wandering spirits. Hysteria was a big deal in the 17th century, so anything that was believed to protect someone was welcomed and encouraged.

The Origin of the Jack-O'-Lantern

According to Irish folklore, a notorious trickster named Stingy Jack managed to outsmart a trick-

ster spirit, trapping it until the spirit promised never to claim Jack's soul. When Jack eventually passed away, he found himself unwelcome in both the afterlife and the underworld. Turned away into the dark, he was left to roam the earth for eternity with nothing but a single burning ember for light. So, it's said that Jack placed the glowing ember inside a hollowed-out turnip to guide his way, earning him the name Jack of the Lantern or Jack-O'-Lantern. To keep Stingy Jack's wandering spirit and other unwanted spirits away, it is said that people in Ireland and Scotland began carving frightening faces into turnips, beets, and even potatoes to place in their windows on Halloween night. When immigrants arrived in North America, they brought these traditions with them and discovered that pumpkins were far larger and easier to carve, giving rise to the modern Halloween tradition we know. This Halloween, as



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

Lauren and her son, Sage, in 2025 surrounded by a Jack-O'-Lantern archway at Boo at the Zoo.

you're up to your elbows in pumpkin guts and lit candles, whatever you believe, take a moment to tip your hat to an ancient tradition and say "Hi" to old' Stingy Jack.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden 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

Property Tax Notices

Reminder – Property taxes are due by October 31.

If you have not received your 2026 tax statement, please email info@virden.ca or call the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

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.

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

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

Happy Halloween!

On October 31, please slow down and watch for trick-or-treaters!

While you're out and about, remember to walk safely and watch for vehicles. Have fun and stay safe.



Upcoming Council Meetings

November 3 & 17

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 Virden website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

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

RM of Pipestone Candidates



Amanda Issac

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

This will be my 3rd time running for Council in the RM of Pipestone, and while I understand that change and the unknown can seem daunting, it is necessary for the growth and sustainability of our communities. My reason for running again is that I feel I would be an excellent advocate for the ratepayers and residents of not only Ward 2, but for the municipality as a whole. This area has been my home for the last 16 years or so, but has always held a special place in my heart, as it's where my family is from; I grew up visiting and loved it so much I moved back.

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

The most important quality for a councillor in the RM of Pipestone is being dedicated and driven, with the ability to advocate for the best interests of the ratepayers and businesses, as well as helping to foster important and necessary changes that will enhance and enrich the lives of those currently living in our communities, as well as to entice families and businesses to move and stay here. It is also important to work together to support and unite our smaller communities within the RM.



Amanda Gray

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

My name is Amanda Gray and I'd like to be the Councillor for Ward 6 (Cromer), in the Municipality of Pipestone. I decided to run as a candidate because I think it's important to have a diverse and open council, who accurately represents their wards. I am motivated, ambitious and look forward to serving my fellow ward 6 constituents for the next 4 years. I believe it's time for change, new ideas and transparency. I believe in supporting local economy and helping our municipality grow and prosper while staying sustainable.

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

I feel the most important quality in a councillor is integrity. Constituents should be able to trust they are being heard and represented. I will listen to your concerns and ideas, and stand for rural infrastructure, growth and development. Honesty, and trust fosters good relationships. I

also value the quality of open-mindedness. It is important to see ideas from different perspectives to clearly understand the whole view. I look forward to working with councillors of all wards to continue with great projects that have been started and discuss ideas of projects to come!



Garnet Williamson

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

Having grown up in the community, working and raising my family here, it's important to me to see this municipality thrive and continue to attract younger families. I believe a councillor's priority is to listen to the rate payer's needs and be a voice for them in council chambers and when representing the R.M. of Pipestone at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities Conferences. Some of my priorities: Strategic planning, accountability, as well as transparency for short- and long-term goals that will reflect taxpayer's dollars are being used wisely. Future planning for daycare and housing needs as well as accommodations for retirees and senior population. Improving existing and adding new infrastructure is a major component to sustaining economic and community growth. As a councillor and resident, I have enjoyed being a part of numerous community improvement projects, local events, serving on many municipal and non-municipal boards. Staying involved I feel I will help our municipality continue to grow and be a place where anyone would be proud to call home.

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

As a councillor I feel being trustworthy, open minded, as well as being financially conscientious are important qualities. Working well with neighbouring municipalities and my fellow councillors will be a benefit to those I hope to represent. Thank you for considering me as councillor in the up-coming election.



Kristen Bodin

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

I care about the RM of Pipestone and the future we're building. I grew up here, and now my husband and I are raising our two young children here, with plans to call this municipality home for many years to

come. As a young parent navigating today's economy, I understand the challenges families face balancing the cost of living, housing and everyday expenses. I believe my perspective, along with my experience in agriculture, municipal government and customer service, can bring a valuable voice to council.

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

I believe the most important qualities are compassion, accountability, proactive thinking and a willingness to find innovative solutions, all while maintaining a people-first approach. Residents deserve open, honest communication, transparency and councillors who listen, ask questions, stand behind their decisions and advocate for the interests of the entire RM. Decisions should be made responsibly and efficiently, with careful consideration of both immediate needs and long-term impacts. There is a lot to be proud of in the RM of Pipestone, and I believe there are many opportunities ahead of us!



Wyatt Ramsey

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

I want the opportunity to serve our residents as best as I can. I've been fortunate to sit on various committees in our RM including the LUD of Reston, and I hope to take that experience one step further. I want to see our municipality continue to grow and prosper, and would love the opportunity to be part of making that happen.

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

I feel that being caring is the most important quality for a municipal councillor. One must have a great appreciation and love for the community in which you live, and one must care deeply about residents' concerns and inquiries, and the future of our municipality.



Lane Wanless

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

I have served 14 years as councillor for the RM of Pipestone. I am excited to see many young people running for council this term. I see this as an opportunity to mentor younger councillors and help them learn the ropes. Over the years, the RM has implemented many exciting programs such as residential and business grants,

improvements to recreation programming and facilities, the first STARS refuelling station in the province, and our newly launched First Responders Program alongside the Pipestone Albert Fire Department. I am excited to see what the future holds, what new ideas will come to the table and look forward to being a part of it.

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

Openness. We need to be open to hearing each other's ideas and perspectives; be open to collaboration with residents, community groups, other municipalities and higher levels of government to see future projects come to life. It is important for council to be open to new ideas such as new business initiatives, and options for affordable housing. Openness also means being flexible when changes are needed. You can plan long-term asset management, but unexpected needs may arise. The Council table is always open for delegates to voice their concerns and ideas.



Sean Kirkpatrick

Why do you want to be Councillor of RM of Pipestone?

I want to give back to my RM and have a chance to bring some new ideas forward. I want to help the RM grow and be sustainable for the future of our residents young and old. I would also like to see fiscal accountability at the Municipal government level, in these times when the cost of living is rising, I feel government has the responsibility to lead by example and control spending so taxes stay low. I would like to see our Municipality create or look into a program to attract business and help keep our communities' growing.

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

What do you feel is most important quality for a councillor in the RM of Pipestone? I feel Transparency, honesty and being a good listener is important. It is important to be able to sit at the council table and make a conscientious decision for my rate payers while being open minded, non-biased and accountable. I feel it is important to take time to make important decisions financial or not, and discussing with my rate payers what is going on in the RM.



RE-ELECT CLAYTON CANART For Reeve of RM of Wallace-Woodworth

Dear residents of Wallace-Woodworth,
After ten years on Council, including two terms as Reeve, I want to thank you for your trust and I am asking for your support on October 28th to continue serving our municipality.

Our work and needs are constantly changing, and there is always more to do. What keeps me motivated is knowing that today's decisions help shape tomorrow's opportunities. I want our youth, including my own children, to have both the opportunity to build their lives close to home and have good reasons to want to stay.

That means supporting the businesses and industries that sustain us, making room for new development, strengthening municipal services, while expanding the recreational opportunities that make this a good place to live.

Together, Council, staff, community volunteers and government partners have moved many important projects forward. These include things such as hall renovations, playground structures, school cairns, utility and infrastructure improvements, and daycare opportunities. Community steering committees have also given residents a stronger role in identifying local needs and guiding projects.

These are shared accomplishments. My contribution has included helping guide impactful decisions, building relationships and advocating directly for government support to help our local dollars go further.

There is also work we need to improve. We regularly hear concerns about road maintenance, and I understand the frustration when grading or snow removal does not meet expectations. Residents identified transportation as their priority through our strategic planning engagement. Council responded by approximately doubling this year's gravel crushing and hauling budget. That investment needs effective maintenance, staff training, resources and a willingness to change our approach when results fall short. I am committed to supporting the continued investment and improvements needed to meet those expectations.

We also have considerable development potential. Our location near the centre of Canada, with rail access and connections to major east-west and north-south highway routes, gives us opportunities to attract investment and diversify our economy alongside our strong agriculture and oil and gas industries. I will continue advocating for provincial and federal support to help turn that potential into development.

As technology changes how businesses operate and how many people they employ, we need to support existing employers while attracting and creating new opportunities. Retaining and attracting people matters to our businesses, community facilities and the tax base that supports municipal services. Growth requires preparation, cooperation and support from both the municipality, the community and region.

Financial responsibility must guide this work. Every dollar we allocate comes with a responsibility to residents. We need to plan for infrastructure repairs and replacement, prepare projects for government funding opportunities, and make difficult choices about what we can sustain. Planning for known needs is prudent financial management, it prepares us to meet those responsibilities while strengthening our ability to respond to the unexpected.

Experience has taught me that listening is one of the most important parts of this job. I cannot promise everyone the answer they want. I can continue to hear your concerns, consider your perspectives and explain the decisions we make.

I have made mistakes, and I know we will not get every decision right. When that happens, I have a responsibility to be accountable, work to address what went wrong and apply what we have learned to future decisions.

The Reeve is one voice and one vote among seven. Progress takes respectful discussion, cooperation and a willingness to support Council's decisions even when your own view does not carry. Municipal change can unfortunately take years, making persistence and communication essential. Residents deserve to know what is being worked on before results become visible. Reaching everyone can be difficult, but we must keep improving how we communicate.

I take the responsibility of representing Wallace-Woodworth seriously, at the Council table and every day of the year. As Reeve, I am often the face of our municipality, and I work to represent us respectfully and positively. In ten years, I believe I could nearly count on one hand the Council meetings I have been unable to attend. I remain available, approachable and return calls, including the difficult ones. That is a standard I am committed to maintaining.

I still have the passion for this work and the commitment to keep moving our municipality forward. I ask for your vote for re-election and the opportunity to continue working alongside Council, residents and staff to make Wallace-Woodworth the best place it can be.

Sincerely,

Clayton Canart

Candidate for Reeve, RM of Wallace-Woodworth



RM of Pipestone candidates answer many questions



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

L-R: Sean Kirkpatrick (Ward 3), Wyatt Ramsey (Ward 1), Garnet Williamson (Ward 2), Amanda Isaac (Ward 1), Dan Ducharme (Ward 3), Aaron Smith (Ward 1), Kristen Bodin (Ward 2), Amanda Gray (Ward 6), Ross Tycoles (Reeve), Wiley Gilliard (Ward 4 acclaimed) and Lane Wanless (Ward 6).

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The RM of Pipestone candidate forum, held Monday evening in the R.E.S. Centre, drew a crowd.

Organized by Wes Omichinski and moderated by an area farmer, Dick Irwin, the candidates had 24 questions to prepare for.

Ross Tycoles, acclaimed to Head of Council and Wiley Gilliard, acclaimed to Ward 4 also answered questions.

After brief introductions three candidates were designated to answer questions by turns, within a minute. Rebuttals were allowed but only a few did so.

Questions included attracting and retaining staff and accountability to ratepayers.

In response to including public consultation on major decisions, Dan Ducharme was first up and he said, "If a decision affects a large number of residents, involves significant spending, changes service levels, or otherwise shapes the community in years to come, public input should be part of the process."

Amanda Gray agreed and added, "Council meetings are generally open to the public..." adding "There are also decisions such as the annual financial plan where public consultation is required under the Municipal Act."

Ross Tycoles said, "I would like to see more opportunities for residents to become involved before major decisions are finalized. Sometimes it seems that an issue only

receives widespread attention once it has become controversial.... I think it's important to explain the issue, outline the options and financial implications, and give people a reasonable opportunity to provide input."

All candidates answered this final question: If you could snap your fingers and have one project completed, one improvement made, or one new service introduced tomorrow, what would it be and why?

Lane Wanless: "Clinic staff, doctors, nurse practitioners, labs staff, and support staff, and a locally stationed ambulance service," he said pointing to Spirit Sands Medical Clinic in Glenboro, a \$2.4 million project with fundraising mostly completed.

Amanda Gray: "I think the first responder program that the current council has introduced is a great initiative... I would like to see us build on that foundation...."

Wiley Gilliard: "I would also say better health care services to the area...." This would help all residents and in particular, care home nursing staff.

Dan Ducharme wanted to see ongoing projects completed. "It doesn't help when we have our roads ripped up... so anything we can get done, like the sewer or the road repair, would be top of my list."

Sean Kirkpatrick cited development to attract families. "For example, natural gas, a pea processing system, something agriculture-related, attracting new businesses and industries can have a ripple effect through our

community."

Kristen Bodin said, "Emergency medical response service but for our municipality or a district.... [it] can take over 45 minutes for an ambulance to get here. That's a serious concern for the safety and well-being of our residents."

Garnet Williamson: "Working with neighboring municipalities on joint interests is a benefit for all ratepayers."

Aaron Smith: "Being investment ready is key to attracting new businesses, creating housing opportunities, and encouraging growth." He said, "water, sewer and roads, and other essential infrastructure planned and ready would make it easier for potential developers and investors to move forward when opportunities arise."

Amanda Isaac: "A new housing development completed that would address the needs of middle to low-income rentals, including 55+." She said lack of housing has been an impediment to hiring medical staff.

Wyatt Ramsey agreed with all the aforementioned and said, "There's always so much work to be done and so much to look forward to, but I know that we're very fortunate to call this community home."

Ross Tycoles concurred regarding finishing infrastructure projects and looking for space throughout communities for more housing. He noted the need for ambulance service and pointed to Virden as a healthcare hub for the RM of Pipestone.

CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD!



Empire-Advance
serving virden & area since 1885

204.748.3931
sales@empireadvance.ca
305 Nelson Street W, Virden

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

When ground beef is on sale, I like to buy a large package and make several meat loaves and freeze the others for a day when I do not feel like cooking from scratch. There are many jokes about meatloaf. I am not sure why? Perhaps it is associated being thrifty or disliked because it has been cooked far to long and dried out. Here are some meatloaf cooking tips. Do not overmix! This is the secret to keeping meatloaf moist. Overworking the meat mixture can result in a tough meatloaf. Use your hands to gently mix until just combined, being careful not to compress the meat too much in the loaf pan. Do not overcook meatloaf. Meatloaf should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 F (70 C) so it is juicy and tender. You can form the loaf and cook on a baking pan lined with parchment paper because it allows air to circulate around the meatloaf as it bakes developing a flavorful crust. Some recipes lack flavour. Add ingredients such as minced garlic, herbs such as basil, thyme and Dash to enhance the flavor. You can use tomato sauce, V8 juice, salsa or chili sauce instead of milk for the moisture as well as extra flavour. I use a combination of ground beef and pork for a flavorful and juicy meatloaf. I also like a glaze for its zesty taste and fancier appearance. After cooking, meatloaf needs to sit for a bit (about 8-10 minutes) so it can reabsorb the juices before you slice and serve and gives it time to set up. Leftover meat loaf makes terrific sandwiches.

A taste of Italy Italian Meatloaf

- 1 cup finely diced onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. dried basil, not powdered
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley or 2 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 tsp. dried oregano, not powered
- 3/4 cup breadcrumbs
- 3/4 cup tomato juice or spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 lb. ground pork
- Glaze:
- 1/2 cup spaghetti sauce

In a large mixing bowl, mix all the ingredients. Use your hands to combine. Do not overwork. Shape the meat into a loaf and place it on a parchment lined baking dish or a lightly greased loaf pan. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 F for 45 minutes. Remove the meatloaf from the oven and spoon the glaze over the top of the meatloaf. Then place the meatloaf back into the oven. Bake an additional 15 minutes, or until the meatloaf reaches an internal temperature of 160 F. Allow the meatloaf to sit for 8-10 minutes before slicing.

Moms’ meatloaf

- I always use oatmeal instead of breadcrumbs in my meatloaf.
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 lb. ground pork
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tsp. prepared mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. garlic powder

- For the Glaze:
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon or regular prepared mustard
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar

Mix egg and milk together. Pour over oatmeal and soak for 10 minutes. In a large bowl combine all the ingredients. Use your hands to combine. Do not overwork. Shape the meat into a loaf and place it on a parchment lined baking dish or a lightly greased loaf pan. Combine glaze and spread over meat loaf. Bake in a 350 F preheated oven for about one hour until meatloaf reaches an internal temperature of 160 F. Let the meatloaf rest for 8-10 minutes before slicing and serving. Enjoy with your favourite people.

Police Report

Submitted
By WESTMAN RCMP

Oct. 4 to 10

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 65 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 15 traffic offences, 3 Assaults, 1 Break and Enter, 3 Breach of Peace, 3 Mental Health Acts, 6 False Alarms, 5 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Checks, 2 Possession Purpose of Trafficking Drugs, 4 Utter Threats and 4 - 911 Acts.

On Oct. 4, RCMP received from a call from Sioux Valley Dakota Nations Safety Officer who reported a 21-year-old male suspect had pointed a shotgun towards them in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations. Safety officers were able to place the male individual in handcuffs and had requested members to attend. Members attended and spoke with the complainants and gathered statements. Members arrested three male individuals aged from 21-, 15- and 17-year-olds. A 21-year-old male suspect was charged for Pointing a firearm x2, Carry Concealed weapon, Possession of a prohibited weapon, tampering with serial number of a firearm, fail to comply with Undertaking, fail to comply with Probation Order and Possess weapon contrary to order. A 15-year-old male suspect was charged for Carry Concealed Weapon and Possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose. Both individuals were scheduled to appear in court. RCMP continues to investigate.

On Oct. 5, during a routine patrol in RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 120m/hr in a 90km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$442.

On Oct. 7, RCMP received a complaint of a Domestic Assault at house in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations. Members attended and learned that a 22-year-old male had physically assaulted a 21-year-old female victim. Members obtained statements and located the male suspect who was charged for Assault and is scheduled to appear in Court. RCMP continues to investigate.

On Oct. 9, during a routine patrol in Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 81m/hr in a 50km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$456.

On Oct. 9, during a routine patrol in Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 77m/hr in a 50km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$403.

Oct. 11 to 17

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total

of 85 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 35 traffic offences, 2 Assaults, 4 Assist other agencies, 2 Break and Enter, 2 Mental Health Acts, 3 False Alarms, 7 Mischief, 4 Wellbeing Checks, 2 Utter Threats and 2 - 911 Acts.

On Oct. 11, during a routine patrol in RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 120m/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 \$312.

On Oct. 12, during a routine patrol in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 108m/hr in an 80km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$416.

On Oct. 14, RCMP conducted a traffic stop in the Town of Virden with a vehicle that had a burnt brake light. Upon arrival, RCMP observed open liquor in the vehicle which led to the seizure of a small quantity of methamphetamine and unstamped tobacco. RCMP arrested a 53-year-old female who was charged with Possession of Controlled Substance and a ticket for Unlawful transportation of liquor in motor vehicle which carries a fine of \$237. The female was released with conditions and is scheduled to appear in court. RCMP continues to investigate.

On Oct. 16, RCMP received a call of an impaired driver who passed out behind the steering wheel in the Town of Melita. RCMP attended and located the suspect vehicle and observed suspect passed out behind the driving seat. Members observed open liquor and identified the driver to be a 35-year-old male who provided two samples of ASD which resulted in FAIL. The driver was arrested for Impaired Operation and was transported to RCMP detachment, where the driver provided two separate samples of 110 mg% and 100 mg% and was re-arrested. The suspect male was charged with Operation while impaired and Operation while impaired over 80mg% and was issued a ticket for Unlawful transportation of liquor in motor vehicle which carries a fine of \$237. Once sober, the suspect male was released and is scheduled to appear in court.

On Oct. 17, during a routine patrol in RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 137m/hr in an 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$403.

JOIN US!

Lisa Erixon, a local author from Lyleton area, will be doing a reading on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 7pm at the Reston District Library.

We are excited to host Lisa Erixon in our library.

FOR THE LOVE OF CATS



Reston District Library
220 4th Street, Reston • 204-877-3673

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

204.759.3313
Toll Free 844.877.7767
gregnesbittmla@mymts.net
#7 - 515 4th Avenue
Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

Need help with your photo mess?

Not sure what to do with your VHS, Reel to Reel videos, Slides, Photos, Negatives?

Forever offers Digitization and Storage Services to help you get your memories in one safe place!

Marlene Hunter
Certified Forever Ambassador
Photo Coach and Organizer

204-838-2132 or 204-851-7000

Perfect for Personal, Business, Estates and Organizations!

Meet the Ellice-Archie Candidates

Dawna Jamieson

Why Are you running for office?

I am running for councillor as I feel that now is the time to offer my experience and time to serve this community. I have been a resident of McAuley for many years and I have seen many changes. I feel that my 10 years of employment as the CAO of the RM of Archie (now Ward 3) will be valued at the council table.

I am approachable, available and willing to listen to issues that are of a personal concern that matter to you and your family. I believe everyone deserves to be heard and to know that their concerns are brought to the table. Landowners as well as residents need to feel that they are taken seriously and that their issues will be dealt with. Our community deserves more communication, more accountability and more transparency.

People need to feel comfortable reaching out, asking questions, sharing concerns and offering ideas. People need to know what is happening at the council table. Councillors need to be responsible with taxpayer dollars while making sure our infrastructure and services continue to meet the needs of our community. We need to plan ahead for community growth or decline.

I want to hear what's working, what isn't, what concerns you have, and what

you believe Council should focus in on in the years ahead. I just want our community to thrive! I am not running because I have all the answers but I will promise to listen, ask questions, do my homework and continue to put in the work.

I would be honoured to serve as your Councillor for Ward 3.

James Laferriere

Why are you running for Office?

I am interested in becoming a member of the RM Council for Ellis-Archie because I want to learn more about how local government works and how decisions are made that affect our community. I believe serving on council would be an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge, contribute new ideas, and better understand the needs and priorities of residents.

Most importantly, I want to do what is right for our community and help make it a better place for everyone. St-Lazare/Ellis is a community that I care deeply about, and I am committed to supporting responsible decision-making that benefits both current and future generations. I believe in listening to residents, working collaboratively with fellow council members, and approaching challenges with fairness and common sense.

By serving on council, I hope to make a positive difference, support community growth, and help ensure St-Lazare/Ellis-Archie RM remains a strong, welcoming, and thriving place to live.

Town of Virden issued an appeal



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Unmanned convenience drop-off facility being taken advantage of.

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Town of Virden made an appeal to Virden on their social media on October 19 following a discovery at the unmanned

convenience drop-off facility. As shown in the image, the site was left with an unfortunate amount of illegally dumped waste, which included bulky items that should be taken dir-

ectly to the landfill. The Town of Virden said "We encourage the public to please do better as low-cost services like this exist on trust. Once we need to man, fence, camera or schedule opening hours for such facilities, convenience drops dramatically and costs to the taxpayer escalate considerably. If something needs to go to the landfill with a fee paid, please take it there." As a reminder, the cost to use the local landfill is only \$10 for a full trailer load. Let's work together to keep this convenience available to everyone.

A calm, cozy guide to not accidentally burning down your house

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



Parenting comes with a thousand invisible jobs, and one of the most important, and easiest to overlook, is fire safety. We baby proof outlets, lock cabinets, and cushion sharp corners, but fire safety often sits quietly in the background, waiting to matter. And when it matters, it matters completely.

The truth is, kids don't naturally understand danger. They understand curiosity. They understand warmth. They understand the flicker of a candle or the glow of a stovetop. They understand sitting beside a fire and roasting marshmallows, but they don't always understand that something can really hurt them until it is too late.

Start with the basics. Most parents assume they'll know what to do in a fire, but emergencies don't leave room for thinking. They leave room only for instinct. That's why having working smoke alarms, on every level, outside every bedroom, is an important safety decision. Test

them monthly. Replace batteries yearly. Replace the entire unit every ten years. It's mundane, but it's lifesaving.

Then there's the escape plan. Not the vague "we'd go out the front door" idea, but a real plan: two exits from every room, a meeting spot outside, and a practice run that feels almost silly until you realize how much calmer your child becomes once they know what to do.

Kids don't need fear based lessons. They need clear rules. Matches and lighters are tools, not toys. Candles aren't decorations they can touch. The stovetop isn't a place to lean, reach, or experiment. And when you're cooking, baking, or using heat, narrate what you're doing. "This pan handle stays turned in so no one bumps it." "We keep towels away from the stove." "We don't leave the kitchen when something's cooking." These small explanations build lifelong habits.

If you blow out a candle and walk away before the

wax cools, they notice. If you overload a power strip, they notice. If you leave your curling iron plugged in on the bathroom counter, they notice. Kids learn fire safety the same way they learn kindness, patience, and responsibility, by watching you do it first.

Kids can be scared of fire drills at school. They can be anxious after hearing sirens or seeing smoke. They can worry about "what if" scenarios that feel too big for their little worlds. As parents, we can't promise them nothing bad will ever happen. But we can promise them that preparation makes us safer. We can promise them that our home has a plan. We can promise them that they're not responsible for emergencies, we are.

Fire safety isn't about creating fear. It's about creating confidence. It's about giving kids the tools to stay calm, make good choices, and trust that the adults around them are ready. It's one of those quiet parenting jobs that rarely gets applause, but it's one of the most important ones we do. Because at the end of the day, fire safety isn't just about preventing disaster. It's about protecting the life you've built, the people you love, and the home that holds your entire world.

In my opinion: How should you vote?

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Use the pencil they give you at the polling station! But first, find out as much as you can about the candidates and their thoughts about their

municipality.

Consider the next four years that will, I promise you, bring a whirlwind of challenges.

If you attended in person, watch online, or read about the debates here in the paper, you will probably learn some things about your community or municipality and about your friends and neighbours who are willing to take on the responsibility of council.

I've been following councils in western Manitoba for nearly two decades where these community members have tough decisions to make.

These are not professional politicians. Yet each has talents. They come with a variety of professional skills and as learners in the school of life. Even a seasoned councillor's role requires continuous learning with time invested in reading, reflection, maybe making phone calls and getting up to speed on issues.

The great thing about our municipal councils is that they are local people, you will meet them at public events, you can look them in the eye. They will drive the same roads you do and use the same services that the municipality provides.

You are electing a table that will, hopefully, complement each other's skills, knowledge and even personality. A strong council has to value teamwork, respecting those they sit at the table with and those they represent.

On Election Day, Oct. 28th, we do have all day, but I know some new Canadian citizens who aren't going to take all day, they are keen to participate in the democratic process.

And finally, I've been impressed with the line-up of candidates. Some good people will lose out and will not become councillors for the 2026-2030 term. However, I hope they will stay engaged, stay up to date with the issues. And I hope the elected councils will welcome public ideas, thoughts and concerns as they pledge to do.

Sing-along



Members of the Senior Serenaders L-R: Eileen Hatfield, Janet Yochim, Michelle Gervin, seated, Karyn Penner

Submitted

By KRISTA PEDERSON

From the real golden oldies like “hail, hail the gangs all here” and “take me out to the ball game”, to newer oldies like The Beatles, “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da”, and Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”, the

Senior Serenaders led us in some great singing in the beautiful sun lit St. Paul’s United Church on Wednesday. Ending with a few sacred songs, no one was in a rush to leave the sanctuary. But who can resist the cookies provided by the Royal Purple in the hall

next-door? We enjoyed our visits for the next hour, as we met local friends and neighbours, as well as the Oak Lake crew. Mark your calendars for the next sing-along, December 9, which will be just in time for Christmas music!



Members of The Royal Purple L-R: Shirley Gibson, Lyn Fefchak, Patti Stevenson, Fran Bayliss, Linda White, Marlene Heaman



The sing along was enjoyed by so many as the Senior Serenaders perform.

Reeve candidates answer the audience in RM of Sifton forum

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two candidates running for reeve in the Rural Municipality of Sifton went head-to-head answering questions before a crowd of some 60 residents gathered in Griswold Community Hall.

With a flip of the coin, Russell Thiessen introduced himself as a husband, father of six and producer, raising cattle, horses and grain. He’s a 20-year councillor in Ward 1 and deputy reeve this term.

Dennis Black originally from Ochre River (south of Lake Dauphin) lived, worked, and raised his family in Brandon since 1975. He rose in his career that began in the fertilizer industry (Simplot) to gain a broad education that suited him for a Canada-wide role as an auditor for dangerous goods transport. In 2005 he moved to the south country of Sifton. Black recently served as chair of the board of directors for Valleyview Co-op.

Questions came from the organizers and from the floor and the candidates were in agreement on many topics

The municipality does not have a public water system but relies on sand point wells. This past June a plan was unfolded to supply the RM with water. The project, estimated at \$50 million, would require provincial, federal and municipal partnership.

Asked if this would be a viable project in view of yearly rising costs, Thiessen agreed that “fresh water is needed, end to end for growth,” but said with their \$1M surplus they need to wait, stating he felt the funding would come in, just not there now.

Black said no to the project, pointing out there would be additional ratepayer costs in installation and street work. He said that Carberry is living and growing on sand point water. “It would be cheaper to treat the water we have.”

With a proposed carbon capture project in the neighbouring RM of Pipestone, candidates were asked, if they were concerned about potential harm to Oak Lake’s aquifer?

Thiessen answered, “I can’t support or reject it because



At a candidates’ forum held in Griswold Community Hall organized by, L-R: Nancy Buckley, Russell Thiessen, Louise Stitt (moderator), and Dennis Black, prepare to answer ratepayers.

I don’t understand it well enough.” He was concerned that costs would fall to public money.

Black replied that the project was dead, “not happening” and said he did not support it.

Candidates were asked how they’d plan to increase tax revenue to meet rising costs.

Black said taxes would have to increase. “We’re not going to just sit around and stay stagnant. We’re going to have to increase the taxes in order to increase the budget to get a lot of this stuff done that we’ve just been speaking of tonight.”

At another point in the evening, Black said Oak Lake resort and park were an asset to be further developed.

Thiessen said, “I totally get the concern about that balance between raising taxes, keeping our infrastructure

going... we do need to see continued growth within the RM as well.”

He said the sale of lots on the north side of Oak Lake and new ‘for sale’ signs in Griswold were positive for the tax base.

Thiessen added, “When we look down south, we’ve got a councillor that works very hard down there... there are lots down in Deleau for sale.”

He’d like to see industry developed and concluded that serving the people and selling Oak Lake as a friendly community would help build the tax base.

Voters will also need to elect two Ward 3 councillors between Milton Fedak (new), Mark Houston (incumbent), and Dave Roulette (incumbent). They did not take part in the debate.

Superstitions

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Editor's note: Superstitions have a lot of different versions. Gerry's version is in regular type below and another version is in italics. Hope these sometimes contrasting versions spur people to study history and the Bible. KW

GN: Spilling salt is believed to be bad luck but to cut out the impending misfortune cancels quickly by throwing a pinch over your left shoulder to undo the curse.

Ed. Note: Spilling Salt: True to folklore. Throwing salt over the left shoulder is an ancient European superstition meant to blind the devil.

GN: Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

Ed. note: The Red Sky Rhyme is factually accurate meteorology. A red sky at night indicates high pressure and clear weather approaching, while a red sky in the

morning signals approaching wet, stormy weather. The earliest version of this that I know of is in the Book of Matthew in The Bible.

GN: Superstition is born out of ignorance and fear thrives the most when reason is asleep. Fear is the main source of superstition and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

Ed. note: The Bible also says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

GN: The famous baseball legend Babe Ruth said, I only had one superstition, I made sure to touch all the bases when I hit a home run!

Ed. note: This quote is also reported as an anonymous sports joke, not a Babe Ruth quote.

GN: Superstitions are habits rather than belief. Michael Owen said, I don't believe in superstitions. I just do certain things because I am scared that something will happen if I don't do them. When I officiated hockey a couple of superstitions I had were wearing the same t-shirt under my referee sweater and putting my right

skate on first. Looking back, it was a habit and just feeling comfortable.

Ed. note: Some sources say the quote about doing things out of fear rather than belief belongs to Johan Cruyff rather than Michael Owen.

GN: Ladders - Walking under a ladder is universally considered to be unlucky, but where does it come from? Most ancient explanations suggest it could be something to do with the Holy Trinity. A ladder against a wall creates a sort of triangle by walking under a ladder. You effectively walk through a triangle and break the Holy Trinity, an act of blasphemy that could open a portal for the devil.

Most realistic theory is that a leaning ladder resembles the gallows that criminals were hung from.

The most logical reason could simply be that someone working up on a ladder could easily drop a tool, paint or whatever as you pass underneath. For that main reason alone, it is better and safer to walk around the ladder than under it!

A century ago

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

What was happening in October 1926. It was a month of massive cultural debuts, high-stakes sports history and sudden political and tragic shifts that came from the roaring twenties. It was also a time when the modern 2 day weekend was just being born. It was also the debut of a classic iconic children's book, Winnie the Pooh, which was published in

London by Methuen and company, immediately capturing the world's heart and still very popular today.

The name "Winnie the Pooh" originates from a real-life bear named Winnie, who was originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The bear was adopted by Canadian soldier Harry Colebourn during World War I and named the bear after his hometown.

A. A. Milne, the author of the Winnie the Pooh stories, was inspired to

create the character after his son, Christopher Robin, visited the London Zoo and encountered the bear. The name "Winnie" is derived from the bear, while "Pooh" comes from a swan that Christopher had named after a childhood pet, reflecting a playful and whimsical aspect of childhood.

Ernest Hemmingway, a well-known author published the novel, The Sun also Rises.

October 1926 was the fall of the famous Icon, legendary escape artist, Harry Houdini. Harry ended

up being punched in the abdomen by a student in Montreal, testing his core strength. He was injured but ignored the pain which subsequently developed into appendicitis and he died on Halloween!

Babe Ruth hit 3 home runs in a single game, game 4 of the World Series on October 6. Babe Ruth was playing for the New York Yankees. Despite his efforts the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series on October 10.

The 5-day workweek began when Henry Ford officially shifted his factories to a 40-hour week, 5-day workweek, closing on Saturday and Sunday which was a massive victory for the labor movement that helped birth the modern weekend. October 1926 was the very first full month that his factory workers operated under the new schedule, helping cement the concept of the modern weekend in popular culture. It is interesting to

see that today companies want to be open 7 days a week with some offering 24-hour service.

I leave you with this little verse that my brother Lynn wrote in my autograph book when I was a lad.

There was an old man, his name was Henry Ford

He had a piece of rubber and a 2-inch board

He put some gas in an old tin can

He put it all together and the darn thing ran!

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OCTOBER 28, 2026 VOTING LOCATIONS



KENTON (Ward 1)
Kenton Community Hall
219 Cornwall Street

WARD 2 (Virden)
Sacred Heart Church
481 Queen Street W.

ELKHORN (Ward 3)
Elkhorn Royal Canadian
Legion - 4 Richhill Avenue West



**IDENTIFICATION MAY BE
REQUIRED BEFORE BEING
ALLOWED TO VOTE.**



**APPLICATION TO VOTE BY
SEALED ENVELOPE**

Deadline is on October 23, 2026

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO KNOW
YOUR VOTING POLL LOCATION**



RM of Wallace-Woodworth
www.wallace-woodworth.com 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

Help protect the future of Manitoba's wildlife.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**



When you harvest, remember to submit
samples for CWD testing.

Manitoba.ca/cwd

Manitoba

Oak Lake Fire Department has a new Captain, Devan Decroliere

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Oak Lake Fire Department introduced a new captain to their team. The Empire-Advance caught up with Devan Decroliere to ask him a few questions about his new position with the department.

Q: How long have you lived in Oak Lake?
A: "I have lived in Oak Lake my whole life, for 32 years. My wife and I bought our own home here in 2016 and have started our own family."

Q: How long have you served with the Oak Lake Fire Department?

A: "I joined the fire department 7.5 years ago in the spring of 2019."

Q: What motivated you to step into the role of

Captain?

A: "Becoming a captain wasn't something I had set out to do, but I was given the red helmet one day at training and have been doing the best I can to fill the role ever since. I could not tell you why I was picked, just that I was. I enjoy being on the fire department because it's a hands-on way to help the community."

Q: What are your primary responsibilities as Captain?

A: "As a captain, I assist with our routine training nights. I am responsible in directing other firefighters while out on calls as well as taking command in the absence of the chief or deputy chief. I also help with routine maintenance around the hall."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oak Lake Fire Department Captain, Devan Decroliere.

New Years Eve 1956, the night the Balmoral Burned



The Balmoral Hotel (Left Side).

FILE PHOTO

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At one point in Virden's history, three hotels stood in the heart of town. On the west corner of Wellington Street and 7th Avenue once stood the Balmoral Hotel, constructed around the turn of the century in 1893. Although it was near the same size as the Alexandra Hotel, it was located further from the railroad tracks and consequently saw fewer travelers, earning it a reputation as the "farmers' hotel." On New Year's Eve, as 1956 turned into 1957, a fire completely destroyed the Balmoral Hotel, as well as A. Williams Jewellery shop located inside. The Virden Fire Brigade

was alerted to the blaze around 2:20 am, though many members were away attending New Year's Eve celebrations. Soaked with water and coated in ice in sub-zero temperatures, the firemen took significant risks as they worked strenuously to prevent the blaze from spreading to neighboring businesses. Fortunately, a firewall protected the brick-veneered hotel from the adjacent dress shop, Doherty's (now Virden Sport and Fashion). The brigade's efforts were aided by calm conditions with little to no wind, while a constant watch was kept on surrounding roofs to guard against flying embers. Although the fire was well underway by the time the

alarm sounded, all hotel guests escaped safely without injury. However, 17 permanent residents, mostly local oil workers, were left homeless. While most moveable equipment from the hotel café was salvaged, heavy installations such as the propane gas range were lost. Across Wellington Street, wooden boardings were quickly erected to protect the glass windows of the new Macleod's Limited Store, which would later suffer its own loss in a September 2012 fire that RCMP ruled as arson (known at the time as Tru Hardware). It is believed the Balmoral fire originated in electrical wiring within a basement wall. By New Year's Day 1957,

all that remained of the three-story structure was a mass of smoking rubble and ashes, and debris removal began later that day. Saul Reidder, who purchased the Balmoral Hotel from William Herbert and began operations in 1954, expressed deep gratitude following the disaster: "I am particularly pleased with the efforts of the Virden Volunteer Fire Department in confining the fire to the hotel building. I deeply appreciate the help given by all those who assisted at the fire in getting out our moveable equipment." Had the Balmoral Hotel survived to the present day, the historical structure would be 133 years old.

MINIOTA FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Nick Young
DC Darryl Brown
2nd DC Brian Oliver
Capt. Darcy Oliver
Lieutenant Rodney Gardham
Lieutenant Trevor Clark
Patrick Cousins
Ryan Brown
Ben Howard
Luke LeBond
Ross Priestley
Jody Eynon
Sheldon Dodge
Bill Curtis Graham
Dan Bryant
Jon Hawkin
Brandon Passfield
Baker Bryant

FIREFIGHTERS ARE OUR HEROES



Owen Routledge, Dean Brooker, Ethan Nixon, Andrew Hunt, Easton Slimmon, Charlie Airey, Bruce Sangster, Lane Routledge, Davey Logan, Mathew Williams, Donald Caldwell, Micheal Draper, Tyler Routledge, Trent Alexander, Brett Hemrica, Brad Nixon. Missing from photo. Jonathon Kroeker, Boden Bond Tyler Bond, Blake Goulden, Riley Hill, Cameron Hodgins Chris Routledge

THANKING
OUR LOCAL
FIREFIGHTERS FOR
THEIR SERVICE,
SACRIFICE AND
DEDICATION FOR
PROTECTING OUR
COMMUNITY!



Thank You to all our
Volunteer Firefighters!



748-2628
204-748-2628

Thank You

to the **Pipestone-Albert
Fire Department**
for all you do to keep our
communities safe!



MCAULEY FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief: Charles Barkley,
Deputy Chief: Scott Webb,
Members: Kevin Carefoot,
Brady Istace, Blake Kennedy,
Ryan Byers, Joel Lewis,
Allan Webb, Malorie Caesar,
Darren Pethick, Luke Prynne,
Doug Judd, Mike Schoonbar

THANK YOU
Volunteer Firefighters
FOR YOUR TIRELESS DEDICATION
TO OUR COMMUNITIES



Virden, MB
204-748-1334

Thank You Firefighters!



Integra Tire Auto Centre | 337 King Street East, Virden
204-748-2894 • integratire.com

Thank You
Volunteer Firefighters
for your courage and
sacrifice



John or Pat 204-748-1461 • Text: 431-763-7792

THANK YOU
to all the **Volunteer
Firefighters** for
keeping our
communities safe

Fountain Tire

15 Goodridge Rd • Virden • 204.748.2466 • fountaintire.com

REMAX

Thank You Firefighters!

**Kelsey
Gerrand**

✉ kgerrand@remax.net
☎ 204 851 5332
📷 [kelsey_the_realtor](https://www.kelsey_the_realtor.com)

REALTOR® | ASSOCIATE BROKER | REMAX VALLYVIEW REALTY

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
FOR YOUR DEDICATION
TO OUR COMMUNITY



MCAULEY: 204.722.2053
ST. LAZARE: 204.683.2241
WWW.RMOFELLICEARCHIE.CA

THANK-YOU FIREFIGHTERS!



326 King St E, Virden
204-748-2300
guild.ca

**SALUTING OUR LOCAL
FIREFIGHTERS**

Thank you for your continued
dedication to our communities!

**MCNEILL
HARASYMCHUK
MCCONNELL**

243 Raglan St W, Virden
mhmlaw.ca
204-748-1220

Thank You
FIREFIGHTERS





**THANK-YOU
FIREFIGHTERS!**

SEXEY
Services
204-908-1244
SEPTIC SERVICES
FRESH WATER SERVICES
PORTABLE TOILET RENTALS
CUSTOM STEAM CLEANING

**THANK-YOU
FIREFIGHTERS FOR
YOUR SERVICE!**



**SAFETY
SOURCE**

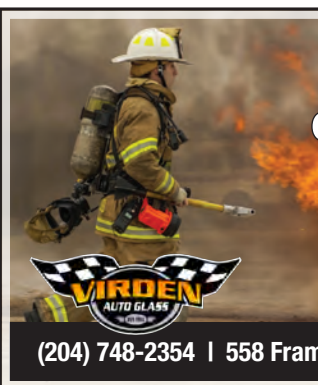
227 Third Ave South, Virden
204-748-3553 • safety-source.ca

**THANK-YOU FOR
YOUR COURAGE &
DEDICATION!**



STILLWATER ADVENTURES

269 King St East, Virden
204-748-8047 • stillwateradventures.ca



For your
courage and
bravery,
Thank-you!

VIRDEN
AUTO GLASS

(204) 748-2354 | 558 Frame Street, Virden, Manitoba



**Thank You
TO OUR
VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS!**

JEBB ELECTRIC AND
AUTOMATION

ELKHORN, MB • 204-845-2315

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS!



LRB
ELECTRIC

204-748-2790
540 7th Ave S, Virden
info@lrbelectric.ca

FIREFIGHTERS A

VIRDEN FIREFIGHTERS



Station 1 Chief Cory Nixon, Deputy Chief Bruce Brading, Captain Josep
Lieutenant Dylan Holmstrom, John Davidson, Chuck Heaman, Curtis
Ryan Hayden, Kirsten Davidson, Rick Walker, Kole Wheeler, Chris Scott



SUNRISE
CREDIT UNION
sunrisecu.mb.ca

f i in X



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE FEARLESS
FIREFIGHTERS WHO KEEP US SAFE

VIRDEN & PARTS
560 Commonwealth Drive
(204) 748-4469 | virdenag.ca

THANK-YOU
FIREFIGHTERS,
YOU ARE
TRUE HEROS!



VIRDEN DODGE.CA
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM
300 Frontage Rd, Virden - 204-748-3396



*Firefighters,
for all you do
Thank-you!*

Virden Home
hardware
building centre
298 6 Ave S,
Virden ~
204.748.2011



Thank-you
Firefighters
for your
courage &
sacrifice!

CROSS
PLUMBING & HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING
PLUMBING
DRAIN CLEANING
HEATING

204-748-2108

ARE OUR HEROES



John Pappel, Lieutenant Morgan Henry, Rick Smith, Rick Mailhoit, Joel Neumier, Koen Ellinghaus, Evan Pardy, John Ross, Shelby Swanson, Busty Robino, Johnathan Furber, Teagan Algeo, Alfie Hunt, Deanna Pizunski, Dan Carter, Cole Parrett, Father Innocent Ekpeluchi, Carter Wright

To our brave
firefighters –
thank you!
Your courage and
selfless service
protect us all.



Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

255 Wellington St. W. Virden, MB R0M 2C0 204.725.8769 virden@mhlaw.ca mhlaw.ca @mhlaw.ca @MHLawCA



THANK YOU
FIREFIGHTERS
FOR ALL YOU DO!

Your **Dollar Store** With More

340 King St E, Virden
204.748.3409



Thank You
TO OUR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

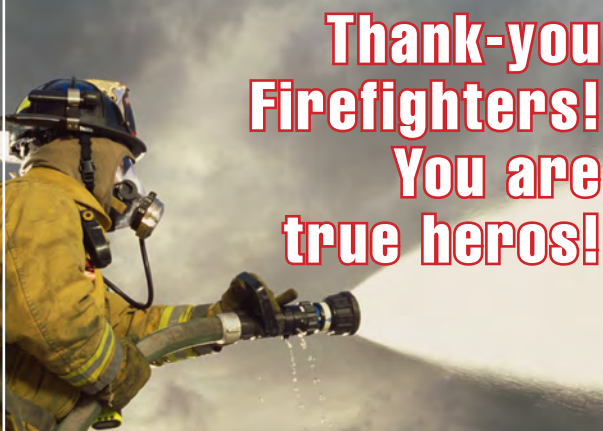
ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy®

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS
FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Flower Attic & Gifts 261 7 Ave S, Virden
204-748-1869

Thank-you
Firefighters!
You are
true heros!



FORSYTH
HAULING 2010 LTD

Virden: 204.748.6687
Pierson: 204.634.2244

Thank you
FIREFIGHTERS
for your service and keeping
our communities safe.

Kenton • Miniota • Oak Lake

fusion
credit union Here for good ●

THANK
YOU FOR
BEING
TRUE
HEROS!



BP
Boston
Pizza

THANK YOU
to all the volunteer
FIREFIGHTERS
for your hard work & dedication!



Chicken
Chef

175 Wellington St W, Virden
204-748-3200
chickenchef.com



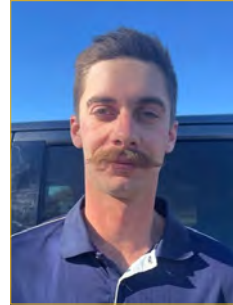
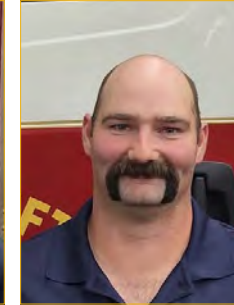
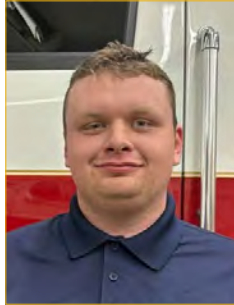
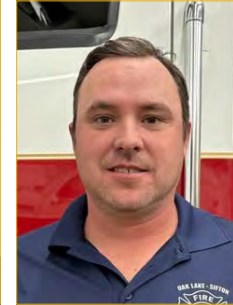
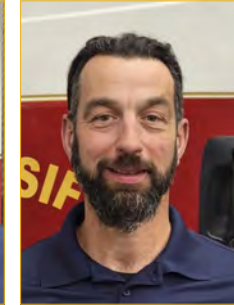
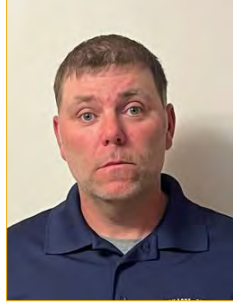
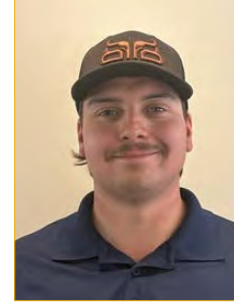
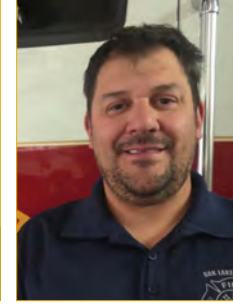
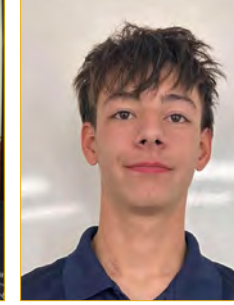
DFL
TRUCKING

Thank you
Firefighters for
protecting our
community!

VIRDEN MB
204-951-6519

OAK LAKE-SIFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

RM OF SIFTON

							
Bryden RONNQUIST	Jared BUCKLEY	Lucas BRANUM - Junior	Daniel COX	Dustin COUPLAND	Cody DENBOW	Devan DECROILERE - CAPT.	Chris FLANNERY
							
David HOUSTON - CHIEF	Kaden HALL	Jayce KREUTZER - JUNIOR	Katie SCHMIDT	Albert LOGEOT	Chris MASSON - DEPUTY	Dino MAHMUTOVIC	Dylan MAKSYMIC
							MISSING FROM PHOTOS JUSTIN DECROILERE
Melanie SCHMIDT	Bill GRADIGE	Bobbie WILLMEN	Lacy ENNS	Will PODOBNI	Wade HARVEY	Jesse KREUTZER	

THANK YOU
FIREFIGHTERS

for your dedication
to keeping our
communities safe!



568 Sixth Ave S, Virden | 204.748.2434

Thank You

to the members of the
Wallace District
Fire Department
for your continued commitment in
keeping our communities safe!

- Mayor, Council and Staff

VIRDEN



Thank You
FIREFIGHTERS
FOR KEEPING US SAFE

ELKHORN, MB | 204.845.2405

THANK YOU
TO OUR VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS!



350 Trans-Canada Hwy #1
1-888-934-4444
fourseasonssales.com



THANK YOU
TO OUR
VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS
FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE!

wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

We Salute You

EVERYONE
HOME SAFE
EVERY DAY.

 TUNDRA OIL & GAS

SPORTS

THHL SPOTLIGHT: ICEMEN READY FOR RETURN



Team Logo

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Oak Lake Icemen are back, and the community is looking forward to the hockey season.

The Icemen will begin play in the Tiger Hills Hockey League on Oct. 23 when they face the Jets in Wawanesa. The team will be the first senior squad to compete under the moniker since the North Central Hockey League's

Icemen in 2011-12.

"The community has definitely been excited about it," said Riley Hall, one of the team's organizers. "Everywhere we go, people are asking about the team and when the games will be. It has been great to see that support, especially after Oak Lake has been without a senior team for 14 years."

After the season opener, the Icemen will play on Oct. 29 in Virden. The team will host its home opener on Nov. 7 when the Pilot Mound Pilots fly in. The Icemen are looking forward to competing in the THHL.

"I think our biggest strength is the enthusiasm and commitment we have from the players," Hall said. "We have a group of guys who want to play hockey, compete and have fun doing it."

The Icemen will feature a mix of local players and those from the surrounding area. Hall said, "There has been a lot of interest from guys who are excited about getting back on the ice and being part of bringing senior hockey back to Oak Lake."

He expects there will be several players who will have a big impact. Preferring not to single out anyone before the team plays together, Hall said, "We're expecting contributions throughout the lineup, and we're excited to see how everyone comes together once the season gets going."

After there had been talk for a couple of years about a new Icemen team but no action, Terrence Crampain and Hall decided to investigate what it would take to make it a reality. Tammy Hall, the team's manager, contacted the

THHL leadership and was provided a list of what needed to be done before the September meeting.

"Terrence, our manager and I attended that meeting and presented our plans to the board and league members," Riley Hall said. "A vote was held, and we were approved to rejoin the league. That's when the hard work of getting everything up and running really began. Terrence and I have been working hard to find sponsors and donations to help cover the startup costs and purchase new jerseys for the team. It has really been a group effort to get the Icemen back on the ice."

Oil Kings

The Virden Oil Kings open their season on the road on Oct. 24 against the Boissevain Border Kings. Their home opener is against the Icemen on Oct. 29.

The THHL

The THHL will have 15 teams this season. The Sandy Bay Flying Feathermen have left the league, while the Icemen and the Pilots have joined. The top 12 teams in the standings will earn playoff berths. In each postseason round before the final, the higher-seeded teams will choose their opponent.

Each team will play an 18-game regular season. For scheduling purposes, the THHL has been divided into three divisions. Teams will play their divisional opponents twice and all the other teams once. Virden and Oak Lake are both in the West division along with Deloraine, Hartney and Melita.

SKATE VIRDEN SAYS FAREWELL TO LONGTIME COACH

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After more than four decades of mentoring young skaters with Skate Virden, Cindy Mahoney is leaving the club for an exciting new chapter in her life.

Mahoney will be moving to the East St. Paul area to be closer to family. While she plans to continue coaching, leaving the local club is not easy.

"I'll miss our great coaching staff, awesome skaters and supportive Skate Virden executive," she said.

Mahoney has been coaching skating for 48 years, including 44 in Virden. On Oct. 15, Skate Virden held a come-and-go event, "Celebrating 40+ Years With Coach Cindy," in the Mailhot Room at Tundra Oil & Gas Place to say goodbye.

"It was a wonderful evening tonight hosted by our Skate Virden executive," Mahoney said. "So nice to visit with past and current skating families. Everyone's best of luck wishes warmed my heart."

In a September social media post for National Coaches Week, Skate Virden stated:

"Cindy's passion for figure skating and the know-

ledge and experience she has shared with generations of skaters have made a lasting impact on our skating community. We are so grateful to have had her as part of the Skate Virden coaching team."

After all those years of coaching, Mahoney said, "I truly love spending time on the ice with keen/eager skaters developing their love for our sport too."

In 2020, Mahoney received the Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Coach Award. In 2015, she was nominated for Skate Canada Manitoba's Club and Recreation Coach Award of Excellence.

Skate Virden coach Patty Hole has known Mahoney for most of their lives. As friends and longtime coaching colleagues, they have complemented each other. Hole described Mahoney as passionate about whatever she does, honest and someone who loves and praises her students.

Hole said, "She's amazing. She just has her heart into it. She wants everybody to do the best that they can."

Mahoney understood that might mean moving skaters on to another coach so that they could continue to develop or even suggesting another

sport. Mahoney taught in the STAR program (Skills, Tests, Achievement and Recognition), which she and Hole started locally. Hole said Mahoney would never hold students back when they were ready to move to a higher level and work with other coaches.

Years ago, Mahoney had a student, who Hole said, "would come out on the ice at the old rink and she would skate around like a bat out of hell." Mahoney suggested that speed skating might be a good fit for the young athlete. That skater, Alexa Scott, who confirmed the story through her parents last week, went on to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Hole emphasized the importance of having a talented coach like Mahoney teaching the fundamentals at the grassroots level.

"She taught a really good foundation to kids so that the ones that wanted to move on could continue to move on," she said. "The ones that just wanted to do the recreational skating, they had good skills while they were learning how to skate."

Over the years, figure skating has changed

"Our skaters are always



PHOTO BY DIANNE HANSON

Cindy Mahoney poses with Skate Virden participants at a come-and-go event in her honour.

pushing their limits, creating successes above and beyond," Mahoney said. "Skating skills continue to develop to new levels and it's amazing to watch this exciting progress."

She has remained passionate about the sport and about continuing to learn. Mahoney has appreciated Skate Virden bringing in instructors such as former Olympians Kurt Browning, Elvis Stojko, Kaetlyn Osmond and, most recently, Keegan Messing.

"We have been very fortunate to host several amazing seminars with the best of the best clinicians

in our awesome complex," she said. "Such wonderful learning opportunities for both coaches and skaters."

Hole recalled coaching groups in the morning and Mahoney would join in and participate. She said Mahoney was learning every day.

"Whether she's hanging out, she's in your lesson, she wants to know more. There never was a time that she ever stopped learning," Hole said.

The coach said she hopes Mahoney knows how much she has done for so many people. While Skate Virden has wonderful coaches

coming up, Hole said Mahoney "will leave a big hole in the skating club."

Mahoney plans to continue mentoring skaters after she moves.

"The next adventure in my life will be to continue my passion of coaching in my new location," she said. "I want to share/pass on my love of skating and encourage everyone. I'm very excited to be moving closer to my family and enjoy spoiling my grandchildren... I'll certainly miss everyone at Skate Virden. It's been a wonderful experience that I'll never forget."

SPORTS

AREA RIDERS SUCCEED ON MBMX CIRCUIT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Savanna Feldman had another successful season in the MBMX.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In a tightly contested category, Virden's Savanna Feldman secured

a top-three finish in the MBMX season standings.

The daughter of Mitchell and Amber Feldman came in third in the race

for the MBMX Ladies Open championship. MBMX, formerly Grassroots Motocross, is an organization dedicated to developing motocross

and supporting racers across the province.

"There were only four points between first and third, so it was a super tight race season for the top three of us," Feldman said.

It is her third straight top-10 finish in the class. She captured the title in 2025 and placed sixth in 2024. Feldman also raced in the Open Junior class this past summer.

"The biggest highlight of my season was how much my riding improved overall," said Feldman, a Grade 10 student at Virden Collegiate Institute. "My jumping got better, my timing on the gate drops really came along, and I spent a lot of time working on my hole-shots."

Competing in the MBMX series means hitting the road to race at tracks across the province. However, the series held two events last season at Madesa MX in the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth.

"I love the races in

Virden because they're close to home, and more of my friends and family come out to watch at Madesa MX," Feldman said. "It's definitely my favourite track on the circuit."

She greatly appreciates how her family has backed her motocross career.

"The support from my family, especially my parents, means everything to me," Feldman said. "They always find a way to get me to race weekends. I honestly couldn't do any of this without them. They've been my No. 1 supporters since day one."

Elkhorn's Jayden Leslie finished fifth in MBMX's Open Intermediate class. The son of Todd and Wendy Leslie was also sixth in 250cc Intermediate.

"This year didn't go exactly the way I wanted it to, but I came out of it healthy with a lot of positives," Leslie said. "I also learned a lot, but I'm definitely happy about having another

sand track back on the circuit this year near Woodridge. It's definitely a long drive, but I feel I excel in sandy conditions and I was happy with my results there, especially after my first time racing on that track."

Leslie started racing in 2021 and has worked his way up through various classes since then.

"The most enjoyable thing about racing to me is that it's a one-person sport," he said. "It's really just yourself and a dirtbike, but you're in full control and you make your own decisions. I also enjoy the environment. The people you meet and the friendships you make are just great. If you're having bike issues and you need a hand, without hesitation someone is there ready to help you out."

Fellow Elkhorn rider Michel Waterfield finished fourth in Plus 50 B. Virden's Sam Cosgrove was 10th in 250cc Pro.

SPORTS NOTES: VCI VARSITY GIRLS WIN HOME TOURNAMENT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute varsity girls volleyball team excelled on home court last weekend, winning its tournament Oct. 16-17.

The Golden Bears beat Stonewall 15-13 in the third set of the best-of-three final. As of Oct. 19, VCI was ranked No. 2 in the province in AAA.

"Our team is successful when we commit to team defence and transition to offence from it," head coach Curtis Plett said. "They work hard and never give up on any ball or when down in a game... they are scrappy. We have great leadership in Kass Hoemsen and Libby Verran (captains) and setter Abbey Murray."

Plett noted that the tournament "featured incredible games and teams with some of the top AAA teams from across the province."

VCI Football

The VCI football team hosts Swan River on Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

"We have played the last three on the road and are looking forward to playing in front of our fans again, although we do have a pretty good fan base that travels to the away games to support us," coach Marc Talbot said. "Swan River is a team that normally plays us really tough. They may be struggling a little bit this year, but they will be hungry to get their first win so we have to make sure that we are prepared and ready to go. With playoffs right around the corner, we need to make sure we come out of this game healthy."

With a 4-1 record, the Golden Bears led the Rural Manitoba Football League's West Division standings. They are slated to host the No. 2 seed from the East in a semifinal.

"I'm very proud of what

the boys have been able to accomplish so far this year," Talbot said.

VCI defeated Dauphin 21-14 on Oct. 18. Talbot said the VCI defence played a big role in the victory as it did not allow a point. The Golden Bears led 13-0 at halftime, but two defensive touchdowns put Dauphin ahead 14-13 after three quarters before VCI came back.

The coach said Lucas Branun "gave the Dauphin (quarterback) troubles all afternoon." He finished with seven tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble. Isaiah Barrate recorded eight tackles, one knockdown and an interception.

Windy conditions pushed the Golden Bears toward the running game. Ryder Kotylak had 17 carries for 130 yards as well as three receptions for 33 yards. Dixon Tough carried the ball 18 times for 85 yards and a touchdown. He had three receptions for

33 yards and a touchdown. Talbot praised both running backs and quarterback Cohen Canada, who called "a pretty good game, switching up who was getting the ball so the defence was always guessing."

VCI Hockey

The VCI hockey team opened the season with a 7-4 win over Birtle/Shoal Lake/Rosburn. Rhyse Gabrielle led the way with two goals and an assist. Coach Matt Beaty said, "it was great to get the win in our season opener. We had stellar goaltending from Cameron Schoonbaert that helped us secure the win."

He said he is looking forward to seeing the team's offensive potential. Gabrielle, Braden Rowan, Gage Hadley and Hayden Southam are returning "forwards who all have great goal-scoring ability, speed and hands. They will all contribute in a big way to the team's success this year,"

Beaty said. Lincoln Harvey "is a very savvy high IQ D-man with great passes," the coach said.

Incoming forward Dexter White has "great IQ, hands and shot, looking forward to seeing what he can do as he breaks into the league." On defence, the team is pleased to add Carter Brown and Bentley Pio.

"Carter comes with U18 AAA experience," Beaty said. "He leads by example, he is a very smart, talented hockey player and will lead the D-core this year. Bentley has been a great addition to the team. He is a very good all-around D-man with very good skating ability and offensive upside."

The coach also said the team has two very good goaltenders with Schoonbaert and Cody Cameron.

Virden Velocity
Synchro Team

Virden Velocity Synchro

Team attended a synchro technical seminar on Oct. 17-18 in Portage, organized through Skate Manitoba. Clinician Jamie Kosonic worked with various teams from across the province. Kosonic is an Oakville, Ont.-based coach, technical specialist and former senior synchro skater.

"Jamie shared a wealth of knowledge and the team enjoyed working on specific improvements to the elements that they have been working on so far this season," Velocity coach Meghan McKinnon said. "Jamie has an obvious passion for synchro and the information that she shared resonated with the team."

The Virden Velocity Synchro Team will compete in the Virden Fun Skate in January and the Prairie Regional Synchronized Skating Championships in Warman, Sask. on Feb. 6-7.

SPORTS

LARAMEE GAINING CONFIDENCE IN SECOND SEASON



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Lucas Laramée is playing a larger role in his second season with the Virden Oil Capitals.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lucas Laramée is off to

a strong start in his second season with the Virden Oil Capitals.

The 18-year-old for-

ward scored two goals and was named the First Star in a 7-3 victory over the Dauphin Kings on Oct.

14. Through 11 Manitoba Junior Hockey League games this season, he had scored five goals - just two fewer than he posted as a rookie in 2025-26.

"The level of confidence I gained from last year to this year has allowed me to be more creative and make better plays in order to be successful," the La Broquerie product said of his point production.

The 6-foot-1, 186-pound athlete had two assists and seven points as of Oct. 19. He recorded 14 points in 36 games last season.

"When Lucas plays the right way, he can be a very good player," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is big and skates well and has a great shot release. When he forechecks hard and finishes checks up ice he creates turnovers that generate offence for

us. When his game is simple and physical, he is very effective. When he works to get himself into shooting areas, he more often than not is able to score or generate some second and third chances for his linemates. His game is coming along and he will be a guy that can play up and down our lineup."

Last season, the Oil Capitals' playoff run took them all the way to the MJHL finals. Niverville won the league title and went on to claim the Centennial Cup national Junior A championship. Laramée got into two playoff tilts and learned lessons on and off the ice in the postseason.

"Being a part of that experience has helped me know what it takes to be a part of a winning group," Laramée said.

"The leadership and hard work that is needed in order to win is something I try to implement in my game this year."

He also put in the work during the offseason to prepare for his second junior campaign. His summer included training at Ste-Anne's Eastman High Performance Centre with Oil Capitals teammate Miguel Bonin, his first cousin. He focused on such areas as developing a quicker release and being faster and stronger.

"I feel the work I've put in has helped me be more poised with the puck along with being faster and stronger to be able to control the pace of play and help my team achieve success," said Laramée, who billets with Becky Brown and her children, Rowdy and Sam Revoy.

OIL CAPITALS CLIMB TO THIRD IN CJHL RANKINGS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals' 10-game winning streak has propelled them near the top of the Canadian Junior Hockey League Top 20 Rankings.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad was ranked third in the Oct. 19 edition. The Oil Capitals won all three of their contests last week, beating the Dauphin Kings 7-3 on Oct. 14, the defending national champion Niverville Nighthawks 6-1 on Oct. 16, and the Kings again, 6-0 this time, on Oct. 18. The victories improved their record to 10-1-0-0 and put them first in the league standings.

"I think the pace to our game has been the most notable thing to this point," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said about his team's success. "When we are structured and support the puck, we have an ability to play with a lot of speed. It allows us to work back above the puck, forcing turnovers in all three zones and it drives our offence."

Last weekend, the Oil Capitals allowed just one goal on 43 shots. As of Oct. 19, Virden goalie Kasey Fuson led the MJHL with a 1.33 goals-against average. His goaltending partner, Micky Gross, was tied for the league lead with six wins and ranked fourth with a 1.98 GAA.

"Our team defence is something we have really worked hard on and we are starting to see the improvements in our own end of the rink," Ramsey said. "We still have a lot of work to do in that area, but our guys have bought into our structure and we will continue to get better. Our goaltenders both had very good games on the weekend. Their approach to both games was strong and they made saves when we needed them to. A good weekend for both of them to build off of."

After the Oct. 16 victory over Niverville, area youth joined their heroes on the ice for a Skate with the Oil Capitals event.

"It was nice to see all the young fans who supported us come out and skate after a big win," Oil Capitals forward Brooks Siemens said.

It was incorrectly reported last week that the Oil Capitals had released two players. After the Empire-Advance

deadline, it was announced that defenceman Nathan Cabral was swapped to the Revelstoke Grizzlies of the British Columbia Hockey Conference for a player development fee. Goaltender Adam Courchesne is not with the team, and Ramsey said the team is working to find him a place to play.

Oil Caps 7, Kings 3

Five consecutive goals turned a 2-1 second-period deficit into a 6-2 lead in the third period as the host Oil Capitals went on to win 7-3. Lucas Laramée scored Virden's first two goals of the contest. He was named the game's First Star. In his second game with the Oil Capitals, defenceman Spencer Kuntz collected three points with a goal and two assists. He was the Second Star, while Brady Nelson, who had a goal and an assist, was the Third Star. Also scoring for Virden were Tyson Ulmer, Taylor Lockhart and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper. Dylan Mickelson and Liam Goertzen each had two assists. Gross made 13 saves on 16 shots.

Bennett Muller scored twice for Dauphin, with Sam Swanton recording the Kings' other goal. Bryson Yaschyshyn made 27 saves.

Oil Caps 6, Nighthawks 1

Fuson made 24 saves as the Oil Capitals outshot Niverville 46-25 in a 6-1 victory. The Oil Capitals led 3-0 after the first period and 4-0 at the second intermission in the home contest.

Cole Dupuis lit the lamp twice for Virden. He was the game's Second Star. In his second game with the Oil Capitals, Ahmad Fayad was the First Star, recording a



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Virden Oil Capitals face off against the Niverville Nighthawks.

goal and an assist. Defenceman Miguel Bonin earned two assists and the Third Star honour.

Captain Nate Schaefer, a defenceman, had a goal and an assist. Carson Wright and Goertzen also scored for Virden.

Anthony Bedard had Niverville's lone goal. Nighthawks goalie Ben Chornomydz made 40 saves.

Oil Caps 6, Kings 0

Gross stopped all 18 shots he faced as the Oil Capitals triumphed 6-0 on the road. He was named the Third Star of the game.

Mickelson and Wright each recorded a goal and an assist en route to being named the First and Second Star, respectively. Draper, Goertzen and Virden's own Christian Pitz scored power-play markers. Dupuis also scored for Virden.

Tate Barnaby started in net for Dauphin and made 21 saves on 27 shots. Yaschyshyn played the third period and stopped all seven shots he faced.

SPORTS

HENRY BRINGS ENERGY, VERSATILITY TO MINOT STATE SOFTBALL



PHOTO BY SEAN ARBAUT

Jessie Henry fields the ball for the Minot State University softball team last season.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Jessie Henry cannot wait for spring.

The daughter of Christy and Steven Henry is looking forward to her second spring softball season at Minot State University. Henry transferred to the North Dakota school after two seasons at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

"I'm most excited about getting out on the field with my team and build on the foundation

we have been laying down all offseason," she said. "We have a very supportive group this year, so I'm really looking forward to competing in the NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference), travelling together to places like Florida and Missouri, and seeing our hard work pay off on the field. Nothing is better than the energy of spring game days and playing together as a whole."

During the 2025-26 academic year, Henry quickly adapted to life at

MSU and being a member of the Beavers.

"My first season here was such a great experience for me because of the environment Coach Sal (Rodriguez) and the upperclassmen created," she said. "As soon as I stepped on campus, Minot State felt like a second home. I loved how welcoming the campus and community were, and being able to join a competitive program with teammates who constantly push you to be your best made the transi-

tion very rewarding."

Last spring, Henry drove in 11 runs and hit two triples. She also posted a .976 fielding percentage while playing primarily second base, along with some time at shortstop, her coach said.

"This fall, we have moved her to be a primary left fielder, and she has taken full advantage of her opportunities out there," Rodriguez said.

In addition to her fielding prowess and versatility, Henry has brought a positive attitude to the Beavers.

"Jessie's ability to show up every day and give 100 per cent regardless of what has been asked of her has been a much-needed example for our team this fall," Rodriguez said. "Jessie always approaches the game with a great attitude, energy, and a team-first mentality, which has been a lot of fun to coach. Regardless of where she is positioned on the field, we know that Jessie will do everything she can to help the team win."

"Jessie also is a great teammate and is great at making everyone feel special and included - regardless of if they are newcomers to the team,

on-campus potential student-athletes or recruits, or the random student on campus. Jessie also brings a lot of energy to the field every day, making it very enjoyable for her teammates and coaching staff to show up knowing they will be smiling and get a good laugh."

Under recent NCAA rule changes, Henry has two seasons of eligibility remaining. She said she is "excited to make the very most out of every moment I have left wearing the Beaver uniform."

Rodriguez said the team is grateful to have her.

"We are excited about the strides that she has made in her game and look forward to seeing her continue to impact our team in new ways," he said. "She has been having a great fall in left field, and we are excited to see her continue to make adjustments offensively. We expect Jessie to be a key part of our success regardless of where she plays."

At MSU, Henry is studying communication sciences and disorders. She plans to pursue a career in speech-language pathology, following in the footsteps of her mother,

a Minot State graduate.

"I absolutely love the program," Henry said. "What's been the most amazing part is learning the hands-on, real world impact of speech and language development and knowing that what I'm studying will eventually help me help people communicate and connect with their life around them. The faculty in the CSD department are so knowledgeable and genuinely care about each cohort's success, which makes balancing academics and athletics much easier."

Henry also credits her parents for their unwavering support and encouragement.

"My family has been my biggest support system and foundation since day one," Henry said. "Whether it's traveling extremely long distances to watch games, streaming the games when they couldn't make it in person (which was rare), or just being a phone call away after a long day, they are all always in my corner. Knowing I have their constant encouragement gives me so much confidence both on the field and in the classroom."

MJHL REPORT

Submitted

By DEREK HOLTOM

No one can say the Manitoba Junior Hockey League is averse to trying new things to help grow the league.

Case in point - a pair of upcoming games for the Northern Manitoba Blizzard will not take place in The Pas, or even Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the birthplace of the franchise. In fact they'll take place in Cross Lake and Norway House, two communities who not only love hockey but have produced many MJHL stars over the years. The Blizzard are dubbing it the Northern Manitoba Impact Tour.

"As an organization we

believe our responsibility goes beyond winning hockey games," said Blizzard President of Hockey Operations and Head Coach Josh Gratton in a press release. "We have an opportunity to use the Blizzard to bring people together, inspire youth and create opportunities across Northern Manitoba. This tour is a big step toward making this a team that the entire North can call its own."

As noted, these two communities have produced some very talented MJHL players through the years - players such as Brady Keeper, Justin Nachbaur, and Tony Apetagon (who played for both the Blizzard and the Blues ironically). But

now fans there can see the league these players starred in, rather than having to drive hours to see them elsewhere.

"For some of these kids, seeing a Junior A Hockey game may be something they've never experienced in their own community," Gratton explained in the press release. "The Northern Manitoba Impact Tour is about more than hockey. It's about bringing our team to the communities of the North, building relationships, inspiring young people and showing them they have a place in the game."

The MJHL Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries three stars are headlined this week by forward Brody Green from the Dauphin Kings. He

earned his honour in three games, scoring twice and adding four helpers for six points.

Next up is two-time MJHL champion Marlen Edwards from the Niverville Nighthawks. The high-scoring forward had three goals and three assists for six points in two games last week. In just five games this year Edwards has been averaging three points a game. At that pace he'll easily win the scoring race.

The final winner is forward Treycen Wuttnee from the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. In three games he scored twice and added four helpers

to earn his nod.

After a bit of a dry spell the MJHL trades started flowing again recently.

Starting us off is the Selkirk Steelers sending a player development fee (PDF) to the Weyburn Red Wings of the SJHL for forward Jacob Morrison. The Surrey, B.C. native had a goal and an assist in six games this year.

The Winnipeg Monarchs sent forward Shea Chronley to the Soo of the NOJHL for a PDF.

The Virden Oil Capitals traded netminder Adam Courchesne to the Dauphin Kings for a PDF. He only appeared in one game this season.

The Northern Manitoba Blizzard sent de-

fenseman Ashton Dzeba to the Winnipeg Blues for a PDF. He was held pointless in 30 games last season with the Blizzard.

The Winnipeg Blues sent defenseman Mason Miller to Red Lake of the SIJHL for a PDF. He only appeared in one game with the Blues this year.

The Swan Valley Stampeders shipped defenseman Cade Bolding to Calgary of the AJHL for a PDF. Bolding had 13 points last season with the Stamps, but did not suit up with them this year.

And finally the Northern Manitoba Blizzard shipped forward Gavin Winterstein to Smith Falls of the CCHL for a PDF.

Some history about Baseball

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Milwaukee Brewers defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in 4 straight games to advance to the World Series. The Dodgers payroll was more than the 3 other teams who are competing against each other for the right to play for the World Series Championship. This just proves you can't buy a championship. The

game is played on a baseball diamond. The Brew Crew from Milwaukee were the better team, Yeah!

The last time Milwaukee won the World Series was 1957 as they defeated the New York Yankees 4-3. Milwaukee reached the World Series in 1982, but Harvey's Wallbangers, as they were called, lost to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Back to the 1957 Champions, the Mil-

waukee Braves as they were called back then had a host of great players. This included names like Hank Aaron, Lew Burdette, Warren Spahn, Eddie Matthews, Red Schoendienst and Del Crandall.

Some of the famous New York Yankee players were Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Bobby Richardson, Tony Kubek, Whitey Ford and Don Larsen.

Milwaukee lost to the

St Louis Cardinals in 1982. Some of the Brewer roster were Paul Molitor, Robin Yount, Ned Yost, Gorman Thomas, Don Sutton, Rollie Fingers.

For the St. Louis Cardinals, the roster included names like Jim Kaat, Bruce Sutter, Ozzie Smith, Willie McGee, Keith Hernandez, Tommy Herr and manager Whitey Herzog.

The Los Angeles Dodgers payroll of approximately \$339.3 mil-

lion has an estimated luxury tax penalty of \$180.8 million dollars, and baseball wonders why they need a salary cap!

In 1957, the World Champion Milwaukee Braves payroll was \$469,000. It was the second highest payroll in the National League.

In 1982, the Brewers payroll was not tracked or published although two of their highest paid players were Robin Yount

who earned \$546,500 and Paul Molitor earned \$435,000. This season the payroll of the Milwaukee Brewers was ranked 19th in Major League Baseball of \$146,206,320.

Milwaukee awaits its opponent as Cleveland hasn't won the World Series since 1948 (defeating the Boston Braves 4-2).

Tampa Bay are still playing their series to see who goes to the fall classic.

Miniota News

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

A great weekend for Miniota!

The skating ice plant was commissioned on Oct. 7, and the first skate was held on Oct. 16 with Brad Cole heading up a skills development camp for U11, U13 and

U 15 for the Yellowhead Regional Development Hockey Program. Earliest ever to have skating in Miniota. Public skating was then open Saturday and Sunday for young and old.

As well as the hockey training camp, the annual rink sale was held in the curling rink on

Friday evening. Once again Richard Bramley, our auctioneer and his crew ran an entertaining evening as they auctioned off the many, many donated articles from community members in support of our facilities. One might say Richard and his crew donated their services, as they also purchased many articles. The MCC served chilli and hot dogs to many buyers.

Just over \$8,900 was raised to support our Miniota Community Centre facilities.

Also on Friday evening, the first gathering of a Girls Club, for ages 8-14 was held at the Miniota United Church under the direction of Stephanie Cole and her helpers. This event was well attended with crafts, music, faith and fun.

The third annual Sportsman's Dinner was held in the community hall Saturday evening, with a delicious roast beef supper catered by Chloe's Catering. This evening, along with many other fundraisers, supports the Enhancement Committee in their endeavours to add to our skating rink. The evening began with Chairperson Jeff Poppel giving an update on their project of artificial skating ice, dressing rooms, washroom updates and a new Zamboni shed. The funds continue to grow at an impressively fast rate, with the 2025 Growing Miniota fundraiser bringing in over \$100,000; the June golf tournament \$35,000, grant receipts of \$28,000 from Brandon and Area Foundation, Miniota and Area Foundation and Virden

and Area Community Foundation, and Elkhorn and Area foundation. Minister Glen Simmard was present to bring greetings and announce the governments From the Ground Up Funding Grant to Miniota Community Centre for \$100,000. Thus, to date this committee has raised over \$1.362 million toward their \$1.6 million target. In his remarks, Jeff made note that none of this would be possible without the tremendous support and volunteer efforts of our community. Adding to Jeff's words, Linda Clark brought greetings from Prairie View municipal council, and also spoke to the efforts of our young volunteers and to making their vision a reality. We are very blessed to have such wonderful young folks taking up the reins in our community following their parents' and grandparents' footsteps. Brad Cole took over as MC for the evening and following supper we were entertained by comedian Sean Lecomber from Edmonton, and then to conclude the evening, auctioneer Richard Bramley and his helpers, held an NHL hat auction which raised another \$26,200. Chair-

person Jeff said of the provincial grant: "We are incredibly grateful to the Manitoba government and the From the Ground Up program for this \$100,000 investment in the Miniota Community Centre. Constructing new locker rooms, washrooms, and operational spaces will greatly enhance accessibility and support our growing community. We deeply appreciate the province's commitment to strengthening rural recreations through this local infrastructure funding. This support ensures our facility remains a vibrant, welcoming hub for generations to come." A wonderful evening with great support once again from many surrounding communities as well as our own community people!

We have had another reprieve in the weather and many of our area farmers are back on the land, both combining and doing fall work.

The Miniota Community Centre and the Enhancement Facility Committee are so close in their quest for enhanced skating rink upgrades, I thought this quote most meaningful: "It always seems impossible until it's done." -Nelson Mandela

MISS THE FLU

NOT THE FUN

Don't let flu and COVID-19 interfere with your plans.



Manitoba.ca/vaccine

Manitoba 



BE ON TIME!
Advertising deadline:
12 noon Tuesday

VEA

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Assiniboine
WINDOW & DOOR

Supply & Install Residential Windows & Doors
- FREE ESTIMATES -
Call Brad Cole today! 204.512.3777

NEW OWNERSHIP,
SAME QUALITY

CANADA LLPwww.bdo.ca

Chartered Professional Accountants

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

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



CROSS
PLUMBING & HEATING

AIR CONDITIONINGDRAIN CLEANING
PLUMBINGHEATING

204-748-2108



Reston/Melita Chiropractic Clinic
Dr. Shannon Gervin, D.C.

Box 456 Melita, MB R0M 1L0
Reston- 204-877-3104
223-4th St, Reston
Mon and Fri 8:30a - 4:30p
Melita- 204-522-3543
155 Summit St, Melita
Tues and Thurs 8:30a - 4:30p



GUS EAGLE
FLOORING INSTALLATION

Call or email today to get a quote!
Gus: 204.720.1571
gde@live.ca

aviso
wealth

1 204-748-6823
190 Nelson St. W., Virden, Mb R0M 2C0 Box 975

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

VIRDEN BUSINESS CENTRE

FURNISHED
OFFICE SPACE
for lease

512 7th Ave South
VIRDEN, MB

- Modern professional office space
- Furnished or unfurnished options
- Shared boardroom access
- Fully equipped kitchen facilities
- Separate washroom areas
- Secure building with keycard access and alarm
- Fibre internet access
- Reception services available



jmasson@maassoncpa.ca (204) 851-3433

McNEILL HARASYMCHUK
McCONNELL
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

Meighen HaddadLLP

LAW FIRM

ASHLEY T. JOYCE
ajoyce@mhlaw.ca

255 Wellington St. W.
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
204.725.8769

www.mhlaw.ca
@mhlaw.ca
@MHLaw.ca

MNP

National in scope, local in focus

Proudly providing Accounting, Consulting, Tax & Digital Services

Virden Office | 204.748.1340

Wherever business takes youMNP.ca

PATERSONS

Barristers • Solicitors • Notaries



DANE C. KINGDON, B.A., J.D.
DKingdon@patersons.ca
463 Seventh Avenue S., Virden
P: 204-727-0685
F: 204-728-4670 / 204-727-6668
E: info@patersons.ca
www.patersons.ca

Physiofirst

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

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

www.physiofirstclinic.ca

E
F P
T O Z

Virden Eyecare Centre

Dr. David Cochrane | Dr. Julie Paradine
170 NELSON STREET WEST VIRDEN, MB
204.748.1094

Empire-Advance

CONTACT US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR SPACE!
virdenempireadvance@outlook.com
~ 204-748-3931

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

BE SEEN



ADVERTISE

IN THE
Virden
Empire-Advance

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted

IN SEARCH OF:

**02 (Oxygen) concentrator
in a carrying case with
battery and charger
(purse-sized unit).
Used or New**

**Please call 431-886-0114
or 204-748-1606**

Help Wanted

SNOW REMOVAL WANTED

Persons with equipment to provide snow removal for the 2026/2027 season at eight locations within the Town of Virden.

Tenders close: November 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Send tenders to:

Association for Community Living – Virden Branch
Box 1957, Virden, MB, ROM 2C0

Email: generalinfo@aclvirden.org

For more information call
Lisa or Heather at 204 -748-1444

Coming Events

MINIOTA UCW TURKEY SUPPER

Sunday, October 25th

5:00 pm

**In the Miniota Community Centre
568 Miniota Road**

**Turkey and all the Trimmings
Adults \$20 10 & Under \$6 5 & Under Free**

Coming Events



HAMIOTA DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday October 29, 2026 at 1:30 PM
in the H.D.H.C. Outreach Meeting Room**

**2 - 3 Year Director positions open
for the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF HAMIOTA
Financial Statements and annual review on
activities will be presented as well
All may attend but only members can vote
or hold a Director position.**

**For further information
please call Vaughn Wilson
at 204-908-0888**

Notice



UNDER SUBSECTION 125(2) 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:

PROPOSAL TO SUBDIVIDE LAND WHICH RESULTS IN THE CREATION OF A NEW PUBLIC ROAD

**HEARING
LOCATION:** Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Council Chambers
154023 PR 257, Box 2200 Virden, MB ROM 2C0

**DATE &
TIME:** **October 27th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. (NEW DATE AND TIME)**

**SUBDIVISION
FILE NO:** 4199-25-8711

**AREA
AFFECTED:** Part parcel F, Plan 776 and Lot 2, Plan 54630 located in Section Fifteen (15), Township Ten (10), Range Twenty-Six (26), West of the Prime Meridian in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth Manitoba.

**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.

www.wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK

Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the full time position of **Accounts Payable Clerk** at the Virden Municipal Office. The Accounts Payable Clerk reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and will be responsible for providing financial support to the CAO and the CFO.

Description and Qualifications

- Receive, process, verify, and reconcile invoices, statements, and refund requisitions, etc. - in compliance with the existing financial policies and procedures of the Municipality
- Process all approved invoices into the municipal accounting software, Muniware ensuring accurate coding and description entry
- Produce various financial statements and verify vendor accounts by reconciling monthly statements and related transactions
- Compile files for inventory and Asset Management purposes
- Ensure positive vendor relationships acting as a representative of the Municipality
- Cross training to provide other financial and administrative support ie. semi-monthly payroll; grant applications; position coverage for LUD offices and reception, as needed
- Active role in the Municipal Safety Program
- Uphold a strict level of confidentiality
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Attention to detail, thoroughness, and organizational skills are required
- Minimum 1-year previous experience as an Accounts Payable Clerk is preferred
- High school graduate at minimum; post-secondary education in a related field, would be considered an asset
- Demonstrated proficiency with computer applications – Microsoft Office products including Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- Experience with the Muniware Accounting Program – would be considered an asset
- Must be self-motivated who is able to complete data entry independently
- Customer service and negotiation skills
- Completion of the Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be considered an asset

OTHER OPENINGS AVAILABLE:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Community Economic Development and Recreation Manager
- Transportation Superintendent
- Administrative Assistant (1-year term position)

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three professional references by:

E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office

154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB ROM 2C0

We appreciate your interest in this position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. However, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

www.wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

Visit our website ~ www.empireadvance.ca

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

(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

Help Wanted



CASUAL EVENING TRANSFER/REMOVAL STAFF

Carscadden Funeral Chapels Ltd. are looking for compassionate and reliable individuals to join our team as Casual Evening Transfer/Removal Staff. This is an on-call position with hours outside of regular operating hours, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM as well as weekends. Covering Virden, Moosomin and Brandon area.

In this role, you will provide respectful and professional assistance in transferring deceased individuals, including working closely with the RCMP and the Medical Examiner's Office, ensuring the highest level of care and professionalism.

Key Responsibilities:

- Perform dignified and professional transfers of deceased individuals from various locations to our facility.
- Collaborate with external agencies, including the RCMP and Medical Examiners Office, when required.
- Safely operate a company-provided vehicle to ensure timely and efficient transportation.

Requirements:

- Valid drivers license with a clean driving record.
- Ability to work on a casual, on-call basis during evening and overnight hours (5:00 PM - 9:00 AM) as well as weekends.
- Strong attention to detail, professionalism, and respect for confidentiality.
- Physical ability to perform transfers safely and respectfully.

Why Join Us?

This position offers a unique and meaningful opportunity to support families and the community during challenging times, while offering a flexible schedule suitable for those seeking casual work.

If you are interested in this role, please send your resume to ellisha@carscaddenfc.com

Hotel



STAY A NIGHT WITH US WHEN SHOPPING IN WINNIPEG OR CELEBRATE YOUR:

- Anniversary
- Birthday
- Honeymoon in ROME, JAPAN, HAWAII, MEXICO, etc.

BOOK FOR ANY OCCASION,

Get our ROMANCE PACKAGE and 20% off any Theme Suite

231 McDermot Ave, WPG

Ph: 204-947-9447

View all Theme Suites at: www.mariaggis.com

Announcement



Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at 204.947.1691 or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

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

ADVERTISE HERE

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

BECOME PART OF OUR GROWING TEAM!



Valleyview Co-op in **VIRDEN, MB** is looking for a **FULL-TIME SALES AGRONOMIST** at our **Virden Farm & Ranch Centre**.

The Sales Agronomist is a customer-focused role responsible for growing agronomy sales by building strong, trusted relationships with producers. Working directly with growers, this position identifies agronomic challenges, delivers practical input recommendations, and drives sales of seed, fertilizer, crop protection, custom application, and crop supplies services. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys being in the field, talking with producers, building business, and seeing the results of their efforts in strong customer relationships and sales growth.

Apply by submitting your application through the careers section on Valleyview Co-op's web-site at www.valleyviewco-op.crs or scan the QR to apply for current opportunities.



For Sale

Cash 4 Coin Collections!



BUYING Collections & accumulations of COINS, JEWELRY, nuggets, bullion, scrap gold, old gold, old coins, proof coins, sets, rare coins, numismatics, pre 1969 silver coins, pre 1936 paper money, gold coins, silver coins, collector's coins, Franklin Mint, world Mints, Royal Canadian Mint, US Mint, etc.

COVERING ALL OF MB!
CALL OR TEXT TODD
1-204-904-9705

Auctions

meysersauctions.com OCT 29, 2026 PORTAGE, MB

John Deere 3010 w/ loader * JD S140 lawn tractor w/ snowblower * JD E130 lawn tractor * 2) Polaris Indy snowmobiles * Bombardier Skiboos * Vintage Murray Pedal tractor & wagon * Towable yard equipment * Insulated shed * Snowmobile trailer * Shop tools & supplies * Lumber * Oak Secretary desk / China Cabinet * Oak Hall tree * Royal Albert Silver Maple China * Coke collection * Coal oil lanterns * Furniture * Housewares *

Bradley Meyers
Auctioneer
Cell: 204-476-6262
www.meyersauctions.com

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

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

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

IT'S NOW TIME TO

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS FOR WINTER. Advertise your products, services, on-line shopping, products, services, on-line shopping for the holidays, etc., with Classified Ads across Manitoba! Three types - Blanket text only, Response Builders (no logo) or Power Builder ads (with logo) - popular with business! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Weekly Newspapers, each week, in homes across Manitoba. Ask about our "buy three ads, get one free promotion. **Call THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. *Take advantage of our great pricing!* MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES
Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. (403) 543-0927 www.firstand-secondmortgages.ca

Notice



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:

- The liability to taxation of property or business;
- The assessment of property or business;
- The classification of property.

REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICATION

328(2) An application for revision must:

- Be made in writing;
- Be filed within the Chief Administrative Officer within 30 days after the day of mailing of supplementary tax notice;
- Set out the roll number and description of the property or business for which a revision is sought; and
- 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

Safe trips start before the school day begins

National School Safety Week

By Lewis Smith, Manager
CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL

This National School Safety Week (October 17–23), the Canada Safety Council is encouraging Canadians to help make every journey to and from school safer.

Whether children walk, wheel, cycle, ride the bus or travel by car, the trip to school should be safe. Yet many of the greatest risks occur outside the classroom, where distracted driving, speeding, congested pick-up areas and poor visibility can quickly turn routine moments into dangerous ones.

This year's campaign highlights the shared responsibility of families, schools, municipalities, and drivers to create safer school travel for every child.

Why It Matters

More than 30 per cent of Canadian children and youth walk, bike or use other forms of active transportation to get to school, according to the Government of Canada's Health Infobase. Every child deserves to make that journey safely.

Road-related injuries remain a preventable risk. Parachute Canada reports that, each year, an average of 18 child pedestrians and bicyclists are killed and more than 1,500 are injured on Canadian roads. Many of these incidents occur near schools, crossings and pick-up or drop-off areas.

Parents see these risks firsthand. Nearly one in three drivers has witnessed a near miss or collision in a school zone, while almost half have observed distracted driving around schools, according to the Canadian Automobile Association.

"A safe school day starts before the first bell rings and continues until every child is home," said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council. "Children are smaller, less predictable and still learning how to judge traffic. By slowing down, staying alert and putting safety first, every Canadian can help make the journey to school safer."

What You Can Do Drivers

- Slow down in school zones and stay alert.
- Put away distractions before entering school areas.
- Stop for school buses and watch carefully for children crossing.
- Never pass a stopped vehicle at a crosswalk or school crossing.
- Give pedestrians and cyclists extra space.

Parents and Caregivers

- Practise the route before children travel independently.
- Use marked crossings whenever possible.
- Help children stay visible with bright clothing or reflectors.
- Park a short distance away to reduce congestion at school entrances.
- Model safe road behaviour every day.

Schools and Communities

- Review safe pick-up and drop-off procedures with families.
- Identify hazards such as blocked crosswalks, illegal parking, and unsafe turning movements.
- Encourage active school travel where appropriate.
- Work with local partners to improve safety around schools.

Creating safer school travel does not require one big change. It starts with everyday decisions that help every child arrive safely at school—and return home safely.



Lenore, the intersection of fur coat and Arrow River business history

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Items from the past sharing a cozy space in a little village's historic and well maintained hall begged to tell a story. With a heavy fall coat to hang in Lenore Hall the other night at the Wallace-Woodworth candidates' debate, the hangar in the cloak room stamped Eaton's Fur Storage was the logical one for the job. That action brought to mind the history of two businesses, preserved right there in the quaint town of Lenore where time stood still for a minute or two.

Some will remember their mother taking her muskrat, or mouton lamb, or maybe even mink, fur coat to Eaton's comespring. Special fur storage kept them cool and free of insects to best preserve the fur. It was a great reason for a trip to the city of Brandon. Furrier Gustave Yaeger, apparently one of Brandon's most colourful characters, (heritagebrandon.ca) had an exclusive shop near Eaton's where mother occasionally shopped.

T. Eaton's Ltd. was founded circa 1869 in Toronto by Timothy Eaton, an Irish immigrant. Eaton's chain of stores spread across Canada. Brandon's Eaton's store was on Rosser Avenue at 7th Street. A changing retail environment of the late 20th century culminated in the chain's bankruptcy in 1999.

The other bit of local interest is the Lenore hall's coat rack bearing the manufacturing plate of R.E. Clegg & Son of Arrow River.



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Lenore hall cloak room where an antique hangar hangs on the work of an historic Arrow River business.

Clegg's shop was renowned in the area as a repair, welding and later a manufacturing service. Rollie began the shop in the 1930s at the farm location where he and his employees welded the breakage on local implements. Rollie loved horses and even shod my show pony.

Jim Clegg joined his dad's business, having welded on pipeline construction projects across Canada. The shop moved into Arrow River in 1988 where it continued for some 20 years under Scott Hunkin's management. Beyond doing repairs, the shop manufactured wood stoves and made parts for Lewis Cattle Oilers, an Oak Lake business.

This Lenore hall was conceived in 1926 and is due to turn 100 years old next year, however a cement monument in front is stamped C.O.F. Hall 1914.

No voting in Prairie View

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Voters in Prairie View Municipality do not go to the polls this fall. All candidates have been acclaimed. Former reeve for Prairie View and recent councillor Linda Clark has decided to step away. She said, "Time to hang up my politician's hat and try something new." There is a vacancy on the council so when sworn in, the new council will find someone for the empty seat, either through a by-election or by appointment.

The new council will see Roger Wilson in the reeve chair. Trent Peel, Darcy Oliver and Trevor Clark were acclaimed in Ward 1 (Miniota). Ian Cottingham will represent Ward 2 and Robert Bonchuk and Mike Fuller will fill the two seats for Ward 3.

TOWN OF VIRDEN
MAYORAL
AND COUNCILLOR
DEBATE

PLEASE NOTE DATE
CHANGE!!

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

SPONSORED BY:
Empire-Advance

SEND DEBATE QUESTIONS TO: PA@EMPIREADVANCE.CA
FREE ADMISSION ~ LIMITED SEATING ~ REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

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!

FIREFIGHTERS ARE OUR HEROES

WALLACE DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 2

ELKHORN



Brad YOCHIM



Aaron LEWIS



Gareth LEWIS



Abdul SIDDIQI



Blaine RHODES



Brad MCGRATH



Dan KLIEVER



Jack LEWIS



Joel LEWIS



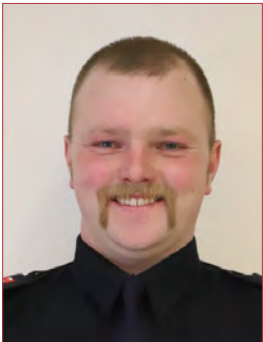
Shawn CHAPMAN



Spencer CHAPMAN



Travis MCCOLL



Jon KLIEVER



Ethan HARDY

*Thank You,
FIREFIGHTERS!*

Pinnacle
PLUMBING & HEATING

171 7th St N, Virden, MB
204-748-1788

**FIREFIGHTER,
THANK-YOU
FOR BEING
THERE FOR US
EVERY DAY OF
THE YEAR!**

**VIRDEN
SUPER THRIFTY**
WE CARE... Your Family Drug Store

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
FIREFIGHTERS**

**NORTHROK
CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

Specializing in Civil Heavy Construction, Reclamation & Remediation, Vegetation Management, Lease and Well Pad Construction, Road Construction, Railway Construction & Services, Trucking Services and Demolition.

280 Ashburton St. E, Virden, MB
(204) 441-3233

THANK YOU TO OUR
OAK LAKE-SIFTON DEPARTMENT
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

204.855.2423 | 293 2nd Avenue West, Oak Lake | rmofsifton.com

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF
SIFTON**
Inc. 2015



Jaret Bagley, Jason Bohemier, Josh Huberdeau, Kyle Fouillard, Jamie Markert, Brody Fouillard, Pat Fouillard, Carlene Asselstine, Kerigan Plante, Eugene Fouillard, Rob Dix, Logan Conley, Matt Richter, Cam Blouin, Jimmy Blakely, Arsène Muhanuzi



It barely seems enough to simply say 'thank-you' when thinking about the bravery you show every day. But we are so grateful that you are there to put your life on the line and risk it all to protect us. Thank you with all our hearts!



FEEL THE DIFFERENCE INSULATION CAN MAKE

Adding insulation is one of the best ways to make your home more energy efficient. It's an effective way to lower your energy costs and stay comfortable year-round.

We have programs and rebates available to make improving your insulation levels more affordable:

	HOME INSULATION REBATE	ENERGY EFFICIENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	FIRST NATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM	MÉTIS ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERS
Who can qualify	Homeowners and landlords	Income qualifying homeowners, and landlords with income qualifying tenants	First Nation communities	Red River Métis Citizens
What we provide	Rebates on insulation materials	Free insulation upgrades and more	Free insulation upgrades and more	Free insulation upgrades and more

Is your insulation project part of an extensive home renovation that will significantly reduce your home's energy usage? Your project could qualify for our Home Energy Retrofits offer.

Learn more at efficiencyMB.ca/insulation.

