

# Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

JULY 12, 2024 | EMPIRE: VOL 119 NO 47 / ADVANCE: VOL 138 NO 49 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS



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## Did you see the train?



The Empress passed through Virden on July 8, 2024.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Jessica Coulter  
RIVERS BANNER

A train passing through Virden is something that happens on a daily basis. No surprise there. But on Monday, July 8, The Empress, the special 2816 steam train, passed through Virden on its return trip home on its way to its next stop in Moose Jaw. It has been traveling all the way back from Mexico City, though the United States and back up to Canada, three countries on its continental journey. Its final destination is Calgary, AB.

The Empress was built in December of 1930. It was built in Montreal by Montreal Locomotive Works. It originally cost \$116,555, that would be the equivalent of approximately \$4,800,000 today. A group of likeminded railroad workers committed themselves to restoring the Empress for a once-in-a-lifetime cross-continent trip that started in April of 2024 to celebrate the one year anniversary of CPKC Canadian Pacific Kansas City railways.

## Inside...



### MADESA MX MOTOCROSS RACE WEEKEND

P8



### PROVINCIAL BALL ROUNDUP

P10

## Be On Time!

Advertising  
deadline:

**12 Noon on  
Tuesday**



**Empire-Advance**  
serving virden & area since 1885





# Lions Project Maple Leaf

The Lions Club are teaching youth to be proud Canadians



By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lions Project Maple Leaf is an activity for Canadian Lions Clubs. It is an opportunity to demonstrate to the community how proud they are to be a Canadian and a Lion.

At the end of the school year, the Virden Lions did a Maple Leaf presentation with the grade one students at Mary Montgomery school and Goulter school. The presentation was to inform the students of who the Lions are, what the importance of Canada Day is, the importance of the Canadian flag and what the Lions do. After the presentation each student got a certificate and a Canada flag from the Lions to show their support for their country and being a lion.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CASSY GERMAIN

Top: Mary Montgomery school with Cassandra Hume and Suellen Cocquyt.

Right: Goulter school with Cassandra and Lloyd Williams.

## RM of Sifton has rebranded

By Rachelle Stannage  
EDO OF RM OF SIFTON

Exciting News! The RM of Sifton proudly unveils our fresh, redesigned logo! After meticulous consideration and thorough research, we've crafted a symbol that beautifully reflects our vibrant communities and the entire municipality. Discover our new identity today!

The Crest: Our carefully crafted crest encapsulates the essence of our community. Let's break it down:

The Oak Tree: Symbolizing strength, resilience, and pride, the oak tree stands tall—much like our communities. Our abundance of oak trees in the area makes this choice even more fitting.

The Water: Flowing beneath the oak tree, the water represents our lakes. Oak Lake, a daily draw for tourists, is a shining example. It mirrors our vitality and natural beauty.

The Rye: A nod to the hardworking farmers who shaped our region, rye graces our crest. These



New Logo!

dedicated individuals—whether cattle farmers or crop growers—define who we are and sustain our thriving communities.

Colors: Navy blue and gold evoke the water and the golden hues of our fall crop fields. They symbolize growth, prosperity, and unity.

The Logo: Our simple yet impactful logo is designed for versatility. It's perfect for advertising and represents our municipality succinctly.

The Slogan: "Welcome home." These words resonate with everyone—whether you're a longtime resident, a newcomer, or someone returning. Sifton is where hearts find a home.

Special Thank you, to our public works crew who took time out of their busy schedules to hang these signs for us. You will also notice on the #1 highway our new signage as well! Thank you again.

### WESTMAN AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION ORGANIZATION INC.



## WADO Field Day & Bus Tour

Thursday July 25, 2024

Check-in at 9:15 **Bus Leaves 10:00 a.m. Sharp** & runs until 3:00 p.m.  
At the Melita Ball Diamonds, ¼ Mile East of the Banana Statue  
Bus Tour, Snacks, Refreshments and Washrooms

#### What to see:

- Pulse Variety Trials & Agronomy Update
- Intro to Hybrid Hemp
- Pea Fungicide Trial
- Flax Seed Treatment Trial
- Sunflower Varieties, Row Spacing Population Trial
- Greenhouse Gas Experiments with Nitrification Inhibitors
- Soybean Protein Irrigation Study
- Winter Cereals Fertility Trials & Legume Companion Crops

### Free Lunch at Noon

BBQ Beef & Veggie Burgers, Salads, Cold Drinks

#### RSVP

Melita MB Ag Office with Scott  
at 204-522-5415 or email  
[scott.chalmers@gov.mb.ca](mailto:scott.chalmers@gov.mb.ca)

SPACE ON THE BUS IS LIMITED SO  
RESERVING YOUR SPOT IS IMPORTANT!



WADO





# A Tribute to Lindsay White

## Lindsay White you will be missed

Did you know Lindsay? Had you met him? Here are some wonderful facts about Lindsay White that you may not have known:

- 1) His parents are Frank White, who has passed, and Dawn White.
- 2) Lindsay had one brother, Layton White.
- 3) He started working for the Empire-Advance while still in high school back in the 1980s.
- 4) In 2017, Lindsay received the Gerry Holmes Memorial Award from the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze Committee.
- 5) He worked a lot for Virden Access TV.
- 6) Lindsay was a videographer for the local television access channel.
- 7) He was a political junky, loved elections and to vote.
- 8) Some of Lindsay's work has been featured in The San Diego Union-Tribune and Richmond News.

These are just a few of his many accomplishments Lindsay had.

Mr. White was a man of few words but was well known by his community. He was always in the background covering all the events he could and being a truly kind and considerate person to everyone he came in contact with. People in the community were always happy to see him and never surprised that he was there, as they knew he would be.

He was taken too soon from his family, his friends and his community and he will be missed by all who knew him.



## Publisher's note:

Christine and I had seen and met Lindsay on occasion and also knew of his work ethic and interests through other people at Virden. As soon as we were made aware of his illness, we hoped and prayed that he could return to work to be with us when we became the new owners of the Virden Empire-Advance. We were saddened by his passing and offer our sincere condolences to his family. We would've loved to have had him on our staff. Ken and Christine (Lobel) Waddell.

## Sad farewell to colleague, Lindsay White

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lindsay, we're sad to say goodbye far too soon!

You took a real delight in your community and the work that you knew best, journalism. Such a thorough reporter.

When Covid struck and there was an opportunity to cover Virden municipal council news you stepped right in when we asked you, faithfully there every meeting.

You hesitated for an instant regarding the photography that would be involved as a reporter of Virden news, stating that you'd only done video, but would give it a try. You quickly adapted, capturing Virden images.

You told us that journalism and media was your love from the beginning, something that you began in your school days. You had a voice for radio, but we heard your voice in print and photos - Virden's news for the Empire-Advance since 2020 until the spring of 2024.

It was about 2010 when, as a reporter for the paper, I first found myself alongside a videographer covering the same events. You were in my way at political events, often grabbing the interview before I could, but all's fair in a news scrum and I found your questions to the politicians very insightful.

You endured long days in the heat and the weather of winter to do your job, whether that was as videographer for community access TV years ago or most recently with the Empire-Advance.

Your attention to detail was put to use as secretary for Virden's signature event, Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze. You were also responsible for some of the daily publications of News in a Minute, a busy life indeed.

An avowed cat lover, my husband Dale and I were surprised when you showed an interest in our little white dog who paid visits to the office.

Since about 2021 when you began working out of the Empire-Advance building, you chipped in on occasion to help count and bundle papers.

And every morning for the past couple of years you offered Marian on the front desk a friendly good-morning. "A quiet man, doing his job," said Marian.

Your community was concerned for you when you fell ill this spring. At several public events people were asked to take a minute in thought for you. And you were certainly in the prayers of many.

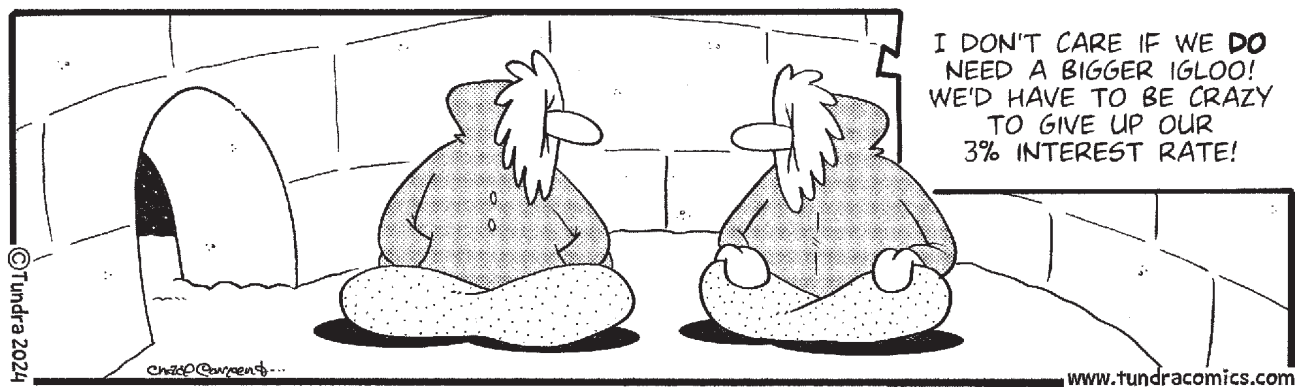
Lindsay, you are missed.





Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Historical foundations

The following column is a re-run from July 2023. Whether it's a review or new to you, I hope you enjoy the history and I welcome your comments.

When we look back through the archived pages of our newspapers, we get a bird's eye view of how things were done over 100 years ago. Some things really stand out.

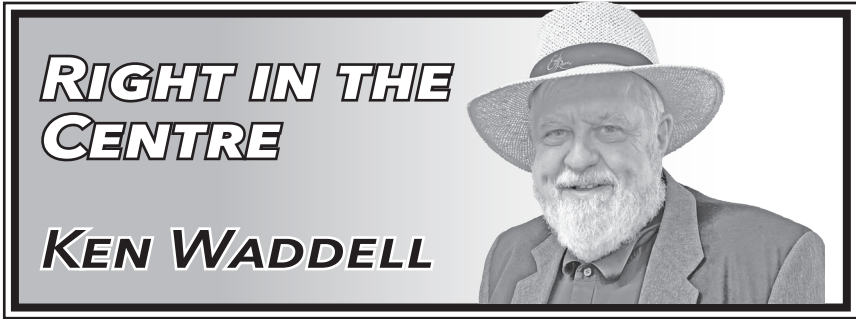
Perhaps the first thing that jumps off the pages is the lack of what would today we call "political correctness". Opinions and humour back in the day were pretty much unbridled. There was no filter on the editors' typewriters 100 or more years ago. They said whatever was on their minds and sometimes their comments very bluntly called out politicians and citizens alike.

We should probably not go back to the almost vicious commentary that appeared in the old time newspapers. That's best left to the internet and Twitter (satire intended). At least the very negative comments in papers from days of old could be attributed to a real person who could be tracked down and held accountable. That's often not possible in the internet world and that is a very real problem. If you can't be identified, you probably shouldn't be saying it.

Also, 100 plus years ago, the newspaper was pretty much the only source and place for discussion. There were no phones or computers, few movie theatres and no radio or TV stations. No internet either.

As far as advertising went it was the newspaper, perhaps posters and the Eatons, Sears or Hudson Bay catalogues. The newspaper was king.

I will be the first to admit that newspapers have a lot of competition today, but I would also maintain that



If you can't be identified, you probably shouldn't be saying it.

a good community newspaper is still near the top of the heap for local news, ads and commentary. Newspapers are sadly missed when they disappear, just ask the 20 communities in Manitoba that have lost their papers in the past five years.

One very notable difference in comparing papers today with papers from the past is that the ads were much bigger and more creative. Admittedly, some the claims in the ads were outlandish and quite unbelievable. Also unlike today, there were very large ads for cigarettes and some cigarette companies even claimed to improve your health.

Because "building an ad" was quite expensive and labour intensive, ads were used over and over again. We still have a few of those old ads, cast in lead or an early version of plastic. They were nailed to a wooden block to be placed in a frame to go on the printing press.

A review of early history, and then a review of more recent history, clearly shows that the newspaper is still has an important role to fill. King is too lofty a title but leader might be an apt description.

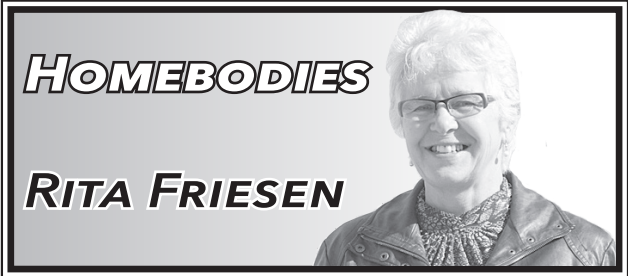
I think people understand that a

good newspaper has to be a leader in local news, advertising and opinion pieces. But there's a catch. Newspaper staff can't be everywhere, all the time. The local newspapers that are left, cover many communities stretched out over many miles. Everybody knows the cost of gas and labour so it's no surprise that a newspaper's staff can't be everywhere all the time.

The good news is that it has never been easier to submit news, photos, ads and opinion pieces to the local paper. Email is a Godsend. Great stuff can be posted on Facebook for example but few Facebook posts have the reach of the local paper. Facebook contacts run in the dozens or occasionally hundreds. Most local community papers reach thousands. If a local paper circulates 2,000 papers, the industry standard is 2.3 people reached per paper printed.

Papers have changed, electronic media has its place but the newspaper is still the information foundation. That said, everyone has to help strengthen that foundation.

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



Say what?

While meeting with people, and speaking with people, there are expressions used that cause me to stop and think. The statement is usually simply a part of a conversation; it is the words used and expression that makes me tuck the quote away in a quiet corner. Every once in a while I tae one out, look at it closely, and chuckle- or a least smile.

Speaking of communicating with folks that are hard of hearing (read really deaf!) one said of their relative 'he wears his hearing aid in his hand.' Isn't that a perfect description on many lovely folks we know? They have accepted the fact they need the aid, they have usually been strongly encouraged (read forced!) to purchase one, but by golly, it is their right to wear or not the wear the dang fool thing! I slip back to visiting my father in the care facility. He didn't have his hearing aids in and there was little reason to speak hoping for communication until he wore them. I signed- where are your hearing aids? His retort- 'check with pillage!' The nursing station had rescued them when they found my dad washing them in the bathroom sink!

Among the work I am privileged to do in my community is that of officiating at marriages. Big ones, small ones, young couples, middle aged or old couples, same gender, different genders, no matter, if my schedule allows I am delighted to serve. One of the questions I always ask is 'why now?', for again- some folks are not yet old but no longer young, some are young and have been a family for a long time, so why now? The answer that has yet to be beat, by anyone, is a simple 'I don't believe in catch and release,' said with sincerity and a smile. What a wonderful reason to be married.

Chatting with random folks at the coffee time we enjoy before our church service and speaking of families, one wise person offered this quote- 'you're only as happy as your saddest child.' Doesn't that summon up parenthood! There are so many times that we as parents did nothing to cause our child's grief, and there is nothing we can do to resolve their dilemma or ease their pain, but we can be sad with them. That goes a long way with friendships too.

A quote I heard at home was 'there's more down cellar in a teacup.' To a child that was a puzzling statement; what on earth would be in the basement in fine china? We learned that there really is always enough to share, perhaps slice the loaf a little thinner, add a bit of milk or water to the soup, make do, not do without. Or, if the day was really good, hold out the promise of dessert. That quote is about the same vintage as 'I'm not so green as I'm cabbage looking'. Again referring to my father, he was often unkempt, appearances were a sometimes important thing to him. He did dress properly as a teacher, but as a farmer...he may have been cabbage looking, but never green!

Empire Advance  
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204- 748-3931  
www.empireadvance.ca  
virdenempireadvance@outlook.com  
Drop box @ 305 Nelson St W Virden, MB  
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada  
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

Members of:  
mcna  
Manitoba Community Newspapers Association  
CANADIAN  
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STAFF  
Owner/Publisher/Editor: Ken & Christine Waddell  
Sales/Media/Design: Jessica Coulter  
Editor/Reporter: Anne Davison  
Reporter: Dale Davison  
Sports Reporter: Robin Wark

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

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# Parlour Sketchbook

**Submitted**  
BY REIGN SPRING

In the Virden Pioneer Home Museum, there are several artifacts related to tea. Tea has played a part in the history of the world, being a valued trading item and luxury, and often considered to be a staple in the diet of many people.

It's difficult to completely determine when tea first became known as something people could drink. It's likely that the first plants that tea was made from originated in China, Tibet, and Northern India. When tea first started to be made, it was used solely for its medicinal properties, not just as a drink for people to enjoy. Tea first became popular in China during the Tang Dynasty, its popularity evident by the government's imposition of a tax on tea.

Tea first started to be imported by Europeans in the 17th century, although explorers often had it earlier, Marco Polo made reference to tea in his journals about his travel to the East. Tea didn't become a more common thing until Dutch merchants started shipping it around 1610, bringing in Japanese and Chinese tea through the Dutch East India Company. Tea quickly became popular throughout large

European cities like Amsterdam, London, and Paris. However, tea had a high price, making it available mainly to Europe's royal classes and aristocracy. Drinking tea also allowed wealthy European's to take part in an Eastern tradition during the age of exploration and discovery.

Tea first arrived in America during the 1600's, also brought by the Dutch to New Amsterdam. When the English took over the new colony, it became New York. The tea trade between England the colony was strong, but the English heavily taxed the tea. Eventually, this led to the Boston Tea Party, where colonists dumped tea into the water after boarding the East India Company's trading boats.

Iced tea originated in 1904 at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. A tea merchant started selling hot brewed tea with ice in it due to the unusually hot temperatures, and it became a huge hit, as iced tea is now extremely popular in the USA.

Tea caddies are containers used to store tea, made popular during the time when tea was extremely expensive. The earliest tea caddies made were of China porcelain, brought to Europe with the tea. Due to how expensive tea was, expert craftsmen were hired to design and build ornate tea caddies out of wood, brass, copper, and other metals. Tea caddies became a sort of symbol of wealth, designed ornately to fit in with other decorations in the household. Tea caddies also often had locks on them, made to protect the precious tea that they contained.

Tea has been an important resource throughout much of history, from being a precious rarity to being a daily drink consumed by people all over the world, tea certainly did its part in shaping its own little piece of history.

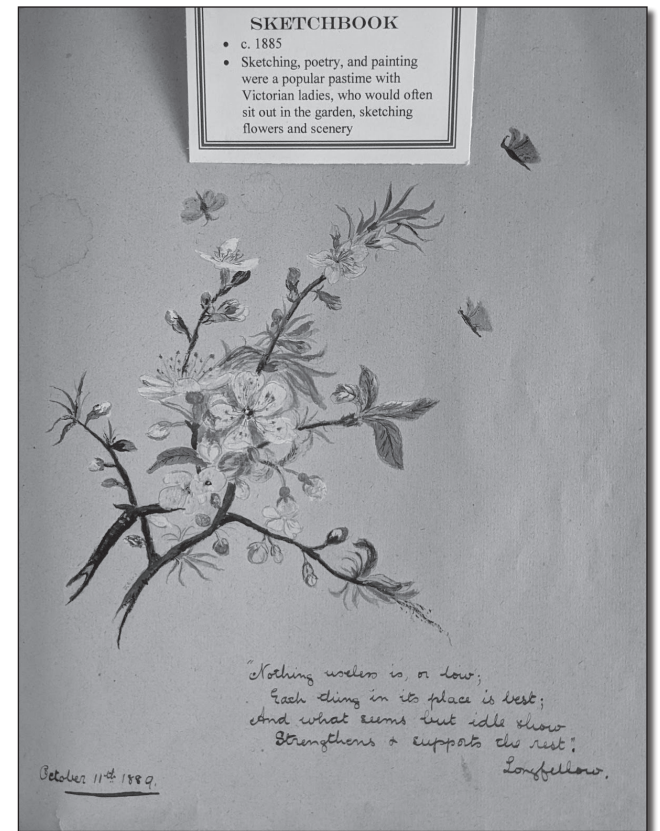


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY REIGN SPRING

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Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

## The news from Miniota

**Submitted**  
BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to the Lenore Beef Club members on their club show on July 1, as well as the inter-club competition on July 2, held at the Virden Ag Grounds. The Inter-club show was followed by a most successful sale. Miniota members in this club are: Colby, Katie, and Blair Howard, Lincoln Judd, Reagan Bell, Coralee Anderson, and Jake, Gracie, Kinsley and Lainey Muir along with leader Courtney Muir.

The U13 Royals Girls softball team attended provincials this past weekend. Although the team did not come home with medals they had a great weekend and a successful year. This team was coached by Randy and

Michelle Bryant and Ben Howard and their team manager was Terry Green. Congratulations!

The U15 Girls Softball team of which Khloe Brown is a member were successful in bringing home the bronze medalions from provincials at Steinbach. Darryl, Krista and Boden Brown accompanied Khloe and took in all the action this past weekend.

"You need POWER, only when you want to do something harmful. Otherwise, LOVE is enough to get everything done." Charlie Chaplin

### Isabella News

Renovations have been ongoing at the Isabella Hall under Jamie Huberdeau and his crew.

As per usual our hamlet is looking a lovely, green and tidy with thanks go-

ing out to all who give of their time to mow. A small group of women gave the hall a cleaning from the renos prior to the Preserving the Past for the Future Museum supper, which was held this past Sunday, July 7 with a great crowd. The museums under the guidance of the museum committee opened at 2:00 and many enjoyed the printing press demonstration. Visitors to the museum and the supper came from as far away as British Columbia, and many points in Manitoba.

A bee of 10 performed the annual cleaning at the Isabella cemetery on Monday, July 8th. Lunch and visiting followed at the hall. The cemetery is looking great under the care of Murray Sutherland. His work is much appreciated.

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- KARL

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# If you build it, they will come

Submitted

By Jeff Bereza MLA

That message has been circulating around Portage la Prairie and area for months now. But instead of a baseball ‘field of dreams’, what is being referred to is a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner at the under-construction Portage Regional Health Centre.

This \$455 million regional healthcare facility, scheduled to open in late 2025 or early 2026, will replace the aging Portage District General Hospital. Since the first shovel hit the ground back in 2022, there has been much made about the fact that an MRI was not part of the plan. As the Progressive Conservative MLA for Portage la Prairie, I agreed with the former PC government’s decision to omit an MRI scanner from its construction plans, because the information from Shared Health Diagnostic Services—that there are only about 3,000 patients from this area needing MRIs each year, which would only support about a 50 per cent usage of an MRI ma-

chine and staff—seemed to clearly indicate there was no need for this costly piece of equipment. Patients from Portage would continue to be scheduled for MRIs at other regional health centres in Winkler-Morden, Dauphin, Brandon, or Winnipeg.

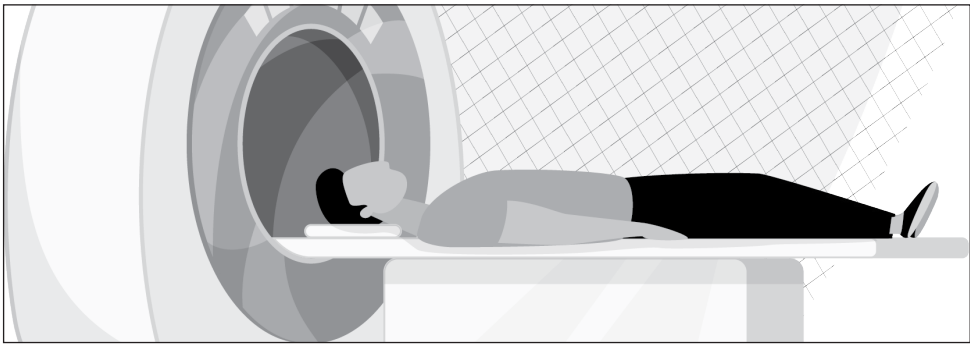
This information has not changed. What HAS changed is the information that has come to light that is not being tracked and tells a much different story. It is a story being told by over 30 doctors from Portage Clinic, who this spring sent a letter to the Minister of Health imploring the Minister to reconsider omitting an MRI from the Portage Regional Health Centre.

The doctors explained that the figure of 3,000 images is only the number of completed scans. What isn’t being considered is how many MRI appointments are missed due to economic and social barriers such as lack of transportation. Many patients, often seniors, simply have no way to get to their MRI appointment, either because they have no ride or no means to pay someone to take them

to an appointment hours away. But this figure isn’t being tracked. Neither is the number of appointments cancelled, re-scheduled, or missed due to poor travel conditions between the Portage la Prairie area and the locations mentioned above.

After speaking with the leaders of numerous Indigenous communities around Portage, I’ve become aware that there are also cultural barriers at play. According to the 2016 census, the total population in the Morden-Winkler area, where the Boundary Trails MRI conducts many of the scans from the Portage region, is just over 30,000 people. The total Indigenous population in the area was less than 100 people. The Portage Regional Health Centre, on the other hand, will have cultural space and services. Whether it’s seniors without a ride, or an Indigenous person uncomfortable receiving medical care in an area far from their culture, people are going without the diagnostic testing they require.

But this isn’t simply about wanting convenience for



locals. Placing an MRI in the new Portage Regional Health Centre would ease the burden on Winnipeg and northern Manitoba. Grace Hospital, a mere 45-minute drive from Portage on a 4-lane highway, currently has a wait time of 27 weeks for an MRI. Re-directing some of those patients to Portage makes sense. Northern Manitobans have no option but to come south for an MRI, and with Southport Aerospace located mere minutes from the site of Portage’s new regional facility, medivac flights could transport patients much more efficiently – not to mention quickly – than they can to other centers.

According to Manitoba Health, there are 23,642 people waiting for an MRI scan in Manitoba. Even with a new MRI machine running at full capacity in Portage la Prairie (8,000 scans a year), there would re-

main over 13,000 people on the wait list. The situation is dire, but it can clearly be alleviated with the placement of a central MRI in Portage la Prairie.

This is not a partisan issue, it is a people issue, and the people have spoken. A petition circulating calling for an MRI in the new Portage Regional Health Facility now has between 3,000 and 4,000 signatures—that’s 25% of the population of the City of Portage.

Nor is it a funding issue. The Portage District General Hospital Foundation has pledged \$5 million toward the installation of an MRI and has offered to partner with Manitoba Health to make this needed service a reality. There is already a location for the equipment in the plans, along with the electricity needed to operate it. With the new hospital build rapidly progressing, time is of the essence.

The Minister of Health’s

mandate letter states their goal is to “make it easier for every Manitoban to access healthcare at every level no matter where they live.” If this is really the goal, the Government of Manitoba must partner with the Portage District General Hospital Foundation and make this MRI a reality. When I have called for the Minister of Health to consider this, the response and message is that it was not in the original plans. Today the Minister has plenty of reasons to reconsider and give Portage la Prairie and surrounding communities access to these diagnostic procedures closer to home.

If you build it, they will come.

MRI wait time source: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wait-time/diagnostic/mri.html#:~:text=MRI%20machines%20are%20located%20in,you%20are%20having%20your%20scan.>

## Westman RCMP Service Report for June 30 - July 6 2024

Submitted

By Westman RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 70 calls for service. Of the 70, 22 were Traffic Related including 10 Moving Traffic – Speeding Violations, 3 Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property, and 10 Mischief files.

On June 30, during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 257 in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 139 km/hr in a 100 km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$561.

On July 6, RCMP received a report of a male who was known to have an outstanding warrant walking near the Powwow grounds in the community of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Police

attended and located the male. A search, incidental to the arrest relating to the outstanding warrant, was completed and 2 BB guns were located inside his bag. The 31-year-old was charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon and Fail to Comply with Release Order Condition.

On July 6, during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 83 in the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a very slow rate of speed. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was determined the vehicle was not registered. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Driving without Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance which carries a fine of \$672.

With the warmer weather upon us, police have noticed an increase volume of property offences, thefts, mischiefs, suspicious persons and suspicious vehicles. Police would like to remind everyone to please

be diligent with ensuring your property is locked up, security cameras are in place and operational, and if you do note suspicious activity, please report it immediately.

RCMP would also like to remind the public that during the summer, police will be prioritizing protecting the public from both alcohol and drug impaired driving. Impaired driving is dangerous and it’s a crime. Manitoba takes a tough stand against impaired driving any kind of vehicle, on or off the road. Protect the safety of your family, friends and neighbours. Be road wise - make the right choice - don’t drive impaired!

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



### Public Notice

## You’re Invited

to share your views about the rate application filed by Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2025 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

For further details, please contact MPI at [inquiries@mpi.mb.ca](mailto:inquiries@mpi.mb.ca) or visit the Board’s website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

**Monday, October 21, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board’s online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **October 8, 2024.**

For more information, visit [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

**Manitoba Public Utilities Board**  
400-330 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4  
Phone: 204-945-2638  
Email: [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)



# Building Communities Grant Program Supports Four Organizations

By Heather Merckx  
SUNRISE MARKETING MANAGER

Sunrise Credit Union's Building Communities

Grant Program 2024 spring intake period ended on May 31. Sunrise Credit Union has selected four worthwhile organizations to receive \$50,000 in collective grant funding.

With 57 applicants across southwestern Manitoba, Sunrise Credit Union is eager to announce the four organizations selected to receive funding this spring: Leda Lake Park in Erikson, Swan Lake First Nation Pow Wow Committee, Prairie Skills Inc. in Deloraine, and the Oak Lake Care Centre.

Sunrise Credit Union has donated \$25,000 in grant funding to the Leda Lake Park project. The project addresses the need for more parks and recreational spaces in Erikson, Manitoba. The addition of the park will not only grant residents and visitors to the area the ability to enjoy the outdoors but also promote mental and physical well-being for all. The park will become an asset to the region and stimulate the local economy with increased tourism. The Lookout Structure at Leda Lake Park will be named after Sunrise Credit Union in recognition of their donation to the project.

The Prairie Skills Centre, a unique heritage building in Deloraine, is working on a crucial project. To meet fire codes, they are adding an emergency exit from the upper level of the building. This will not only ensure the safety of the people but will also allow the building to function as a community space for various events such as weddings, funerals, concerts, and meetings. Recognizing the importance of such a community space, Sunrise Credit Union has pledged \$10,000 toward the construction of the emergency exit.

The Oak Lake Care Centre, a much-needed addition to the community, is a newly constructed daycare in Oak Lake, Manitoba. Sunrise Credit Union's donation of \$10,000 will go toward purchasing equipment, furniture, and toys required to license the new 84-space daycare. This new facility will help alleviate the shortage of daycare spots in Oak Lake and the surrounding areas, reducing long daycare waitlists. The daycare, set to open later this year, will service the RM of Sifton, Oak Lake, and the surrounding area, providing parents with a reliable childcare option and creating new job opportunities for ECEs and CCAs.

The Swan Lake First Nation Pow Wow Committee is



SUBMITTED PHOTO

fundraising to make their Pow Wow grounds more accessible with a paved accessible parking area and path to the Elders' stand area. Sunrise Credit Union has donated \$5,000 to this project. Creating an accessible and safe path at their Pow Wow grounds ensures that Elders and community members with mobility issues can participate in the Pow Wow and celebrate the Ojibway culture.

"It is great to see so many organizations working to better our communities," said Sunrise Credit Union President and CEO Team Klassen, "We are grateful that we can offer the Building Communities Grant Program and play a continued role in community development with our most recent donation totalling \$50,000."

The Building Communities Grant Program, with its

two intake periods per year, is designed to ensure a fair and structured process for all applicants. With community betterment at the forefront of the project, the new grant program ensures that every project, regardless of its scale, is given the same opportunity and platform to request funding.

Sunrise Credit Union appreciates the opportunity to support its local communities. They extend their heartfelt thanks to all the organizations that applied for the 2024 spring intake of the Building Communities Grant Program. Your dedication to community improvement is truly inspiring. Sunrise Credit Union looks forward to your continued participation in the Building Communities Grant Program, which will launch again this fall!

## Under the Dome Funding available to help you secure your home or business

By Greg Nesbitt  
MLA OF RIDING MOUNTAIN

Applications are now open for the \$300 security rebate program, announced by the NDP government earlier this year.

This one-time rebate is designed to offset the cost of security upgrades for homeowners, renters and small businesses.

Any purchases of upgrades such as security cameras, doorbell cameras, etc. made after Sept. 1, 2023 are eligible.

Full details are available at [www.manitoba.ca/justice/securityrebate.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/justice/securityrebate.html).

Portage la Prairie Progressive Conservative MLA Jeff Bereza is calling on the NDP government to add a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner to the new regional health centre under construction in the city.

Thirty doctors from Portage Clinic sent a letter this spring to the Premier and Minister of Health imploring them to reconsider excluding MRI services.

The doctors explained that the figure of 3,000 images that was given as a reason for not installing an MRI in the

original plan is only the number of completed scans. What isn't being considered is how many MRI appointments are missed due to economic and social barriers such as lack of transportation. Many patients, often seniors, simply have no way to get to their MRI appointment, either because they have no ride or no means to pay someone to take them to an appointment hours away.

But this figure isn't being tracked. Neither is the number of appointments cancelled, rescheduled, or missed due to poor travel conditions.

Bereza says installing a permanent MRI in Portage would ease the burden on both Winnipeg and northern Manitoba. Grace Hospital, a mere 45-minute drive from Portage on a 4-lane highway, currently has a wait time of 27 weeks for an MRI. Re-directing some of those patients to Portage makes sense.

According to Manitoba Health, there are nearly 24,000 people waiting for an MRI scan in the province. Even with a new MRI machine running at full capacity in Portage la Prairie (8,000 scans per year), there would still be over 13,000 people on the waitlist.

The Portage District General Hospital Foundation has pledged \$5 million toward the installation of an MRI and has offered to partner with Manitoba Health to make this needed service a reality. There is already a location for the equipment in the plans, along with the electricity needed to operate it. With the new hospital build rapidly progressing, time is of the essence.

Bereza says the Premier and Minister have plenty of reasons to reconsider and give Portage la Prairie and surrounding communities access to these diagnostic procedures closer to home.

• Do you need your passport renewed? Would you like to obtain a passport so you can travel outside of Canada?

Then Shoal Lake is the place to be on Thursday, July 18 when Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa Member of Parliament Dan Mazier host a pop-up passport service.

Staff will be on hand and a photographer will be available to help you with renewing or applying for a passport.

The service will be available from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Shoal Lake Community Hall but an appointment is necessary. Call 1-613-996-5008.

• Manitoba families are still waiting for the NDP government to deliver a plan for \$10 per day summer childcare.

Spruce Woods MLA Grant Jackson, PC Critic for Education and Early Childhood Learning, said the summer school break is upon us, and the NDP have broke their election promise and failed to roll out a plan.

Jackson said the funding was approved in this year's budget and families deserve to know whether affordable childcare will be in place this summer and extended to non-school days for the coming school year."

• The new \$25-million Manitoba Electric Vehicle Rebate program will offer a \$4,000 incentive on new qualifying EV purchases and a \$2,500 incentive on used qualifying EV purchases.

Both battery electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are eligible. Vehicles purchased between Aug. 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024 are also eligible.

Full details are available at [mpi.mb.ca](http://mpi.mb.ca).

• The fairs and festivals will soon be underway in the Riding Mountain constituency.

I look forward to seeing constituents at parades and community events over the months of July and August.



# Dirt biking at its finest

## Madesa track hosts round four of Manitoba Provincial Motocross

By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Madesa MX Motocross Park hosted round four of the Manitoba Provincial Motocross Championship, also known as the 204 Grassroots Championship, on July 7. Practice was open on July 6. The weather was perfect for these two days of riding. Even the rain came at the perfect time on Friday night to wet down the track in time for practice races on Saturday.

Two-hundred and fifty riders came out and entered to race against their fellow dirt bike racers in one of the twenty-eight different classes.

The Manitoba Provincial Motocross takes place in six different communities across southern Manitoba, Brandon Transcanada Motopark, Grunthal GMX, Morden Shadow Valley Raceway, Virden Madesa MX, Pilot Mound Prairie Hill MX, and Altona Moto-Park X. Each rider earns points from competing in each race along the circuit. There are twenty-eight different classes for different age groups and levels of experience. Ages of riders range from four years old to sixty plus. It is a sport for all.

The Virden track has been around since 1991. In its most recent history, Mark Cosgrove bought and took over running the track in 2017 after much encouragement from his twelve-year-old and seventeen-year-old sons. Mark and his wife Pam both work at the track on race weekends, as well as maintenance in between with a wonderful support team. Madesa MX is also a part of the Saskatchewan racing circuit being so close to the Manitoba and Saskatchewan border.

Mark also has a second racetrack where he teaches students about dirt bikes and racing. He has had some great turn outs for his various clinics. Although Mark no longer races currently, he does consider getting back into it and joining the Plus 50 racers. His sons Declan and Sam are racing in the provincials and have high scores in a couple different classes.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about Motocross racing, visit [www.204gmoto.com](http://www.204gmoto.com). Or reach out to Mark Cosgrove and his family to find out more. Before joining racing, it is important to be educated on riding techniques and racing etiquette and know the rules in order to enjoy the sport safely.

Madesa MX Motocross Park will be hosting the Saskatchewan Provincial Motocross Championship races on July 20-21. Be sure to go on down for the day and see some great rides.



A ton of high energy from these riders as they waited at the starting gate to start the next practice run in on Saturday, July 6.



The dirtier the ride, the purer the joy. These riders are getting in as much joy as they can at Madesa MX Motocross Park.



The only thing better than a day on the dirt is another day on the dirt. There was just that happening the weekend of July 6 and 7 at Madesa MX Motocross Park.



The checkered flag is waving, last chance to get in one more great jump when crossing the finish line.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER



# Roach enjoys European sights on softball tour



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mackenzie is third in from the right in the back row! Wearing a north visor and sweater with a jacket!

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Although Virden's Mackenzie Roach was not able to take her place on the field, she enjoyed a recent softball tour of Europe.

After starring at the University of Regina, the daughter of Doug and Nicky Roach was selected to be part of The North team for a series of European exhibition games. The talented squad was made up of players who competed in Canadian university softball.

Unfortunately, four days before she departed for Europe, Roach suffered a hand injury. So instead of playing, she helped coach the team.

"I enjoyed meeting the girls and experiencing each different culture and the food of each of the cities we went to," Roach said.

The North played nine games on the trip. There were four contests in Austria,

two each in Hungary and Slovakia, and one in Germany.

"The caliber of play was similar to Canadian softball," Roach said. "We competed well with the teams there, and they gave us a run for our money at times. Definitely wasn't as seriously competitive softball as I would have hoped."

She greatly enjoyed seeing Europe. Roach said there are so many spots she would recommend to people.

"We went to the Attersee (lake in Austria), which was beautiful. Salzburg was beautiful," she said. "It had amazing monuments and old buildings. As well, Vienna was a beautiful old town with lots of history behind it - they have a couple museums I definitely recommend and Sisi palace."

Roach suited up for the U of R softball team for the 2016-2019 fall seasons. During that time, she helped the Cougars capture Canadian Collegiate Softball Association national championships in



## NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that between July 18, 2024 and July 24, 2024

between the hours

9:00 a.m. and noon and 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
at the RM of Ellice-Archie municipal office at  
318 Railway Avenue, McAuley, MB. Or  
331 Main Street, St. Lazare, MB

I will receive nominations for the offices of

**1 COUNCILLOR – WARD 1**

of the aforesaid Local Authority.

**The nomination deadline is Wednesday, July 24th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. local time. Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.**

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent, or by fax. To obtain a nomination paper, and / or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the S.E.O. at the telephone number listed below.

**Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.**

Dated at McAuley in the Province of Manitoba, this 18th day of June, 2024.

Constance Tanguay  
Senior Election Official  
Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie  
Phone: (204) 683-2241  
Fax: (204) 683-2317

2018 and 2019. Roach returned to the team last fall and finished up her eligibility. In that final campaign, she was tabbed as a Western Collegiate Softball

Association Second Team All-Star at shortstop. It is one of the many honours she earned during her time with the Cougars.

## The Virden Empire-Advance is now available for FREE

Find the newspaper at the following locations:

Alexander store, Sioux Valley Petro, Valleyview Co-op - Oak Lake, RM of Sifton office, Joe Dandy's, Miniota, Lenore Post Office, In Kenton at Valleyview Co-op, Whyte's Lumber, Woodworth Dodge and Briarwood Cafe. In Elkhorn at Twin Valley Co-op, Elkhorn Library, KT's Kitchen and the Auto Museum, Traci's Place-Kola, Cromer Valley Store. In Reston at Reston Fine Foods and Reston Drugs, Reston Library and Willowview Care Home. Turnbull's Sales and Service at Pipestone.

Virden:

Drop Box at Flower Attic, Drop Box at Virden Empire advance and in the newspaper office, Sooper Daves, Fountain Tire, White Owl, Virden Golf Course, Stillwater Adventures, MJ's, Valleyview Co-op Grocery, Valleyview Co-op C-Store, Town of Virden, Custom Creations, Virden Dental, Super Thrifty, Prairie Dentist, Virden Footwear, HiWay Grocery, Virden Sport and Fashion, Alex Hotel, Virden Drugs, Central Hotel, Virden Train Station, Red Apple, TJ's, Chicken Chef, Town of Virden, Home Hardware, Kullberg's, Nu-Art, Shear Expressions, Swift Oil Field, Kola Store,

Plus the Virden Empire Advance is made available to residents of the seniors homes and care homes.

If you would like to have the Virden Empire Advance delivered to your place of business, please contact the VEA office at 204-748-3931.



**Virden Eyecare is having a sale on prescription and non prescription sunglasses.**



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# SPORTS

## PROVINCIAL BALL ROUNDUP: ROCKETS TAKE SILVER, GOLD RUSH BRONZE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The 11U Reston Rockets earned the silver medals at home at the 11U Tier 2 baseball provincial tournament.

In the semifinals, Reston shut out Morden, 10-0, to earn a spot in the finals. Rock Lake won the championship game, 3-2. The event was one of a number of provincial baseball and softball tournaments featuring local teams last weekend and in the coming weeks.

The Rockets were unbeaten in pool play. They defeated Dauphin Cargill, 13-3, and shut out Warren, 14-0, and Ste. Anne, 11-0. The Rockets got by Rock Lake, 7-6, in their final pool game.

Virden placed sixth at the 10-team event. In the fifth/sixth place game, Dauphin prevailed 8-6. Virden beat Brandon, 12-9, in pool play.

### U13 A Softball

The Virden team earned the bronze medals at the U13 A provincial girls softball tournament in Portage la Prairie. Virden defeated Steinbach 9-2 in the third place game.

The squad finished fourth in its pool with a 2-2 record. Virden defeated Imperial Photo, 13-0, and Winkler, 6-2, in the first two rounds of the playoffs. Strathclair got past Virden, 6-4, in a semifinal contest.

### U15 A Softball

The Virden Gold Rush U15 A provincial girls softball team finished fourth out of 30 teams at the provincial tournament in Steinbach. The squad went 4-0 in the round robin. It then beat Stonewall, 12-9, and Deloraine, 7-4, in the playoffs. In a semifinal contest, the Virden team fell 2-1 to Brandon KPIC in what head coach Cory Barkley described as a "tightly contested



PHOTO BY MARILYN MCAULEY

The Virden Gold Rush U15 A provincial girls softball team included: Ceanna Mitchell, Molly Studer, Aiden Gonty, Kasidy Hoemsen, Mckenzie Masson, Kimberlee Malcolm, Casey George, Kaiya Walton, Callie Stuart, Rose Cochrane, Courtney Cochrane, Skylar Higginbotham, and Joelle Barkley. The coaches were Cory Barkley, Dustin Higginbotham, and Matthew Stuart.

battle." The Gold Rush lost 11-4 to Hamiota in the bronze medal game.

"We had solid pitching performances from McKenzie Masson, Callie Stuart, Joelle Barkley and Molly Studer throughout the weekend," Coach Barkley said. "We had a strong, deep lineup and the girls hit the ball very well, ran the bases aggressively and had our moments in the field, but just came up short."

### U11 A Softball

Virden - Reimer and Virden - Robertson both competed at the U11 A female provincial tournament in Winnipeg. Among its four games at the 53-team tournament, Virden - Reimer had a one-run loss and a two-run loss. Virden - Robertson secured an 8-7 victory over Varsity View No. 1.

"This group of girls were such a pleasure to coach," head coach Karla Robertson said. "They worked hard and we saw their skills and confidence grow with

every game that we played. We had a couple of close games, but the last game we played made the coaches so proud. We were down 8-0 after two innings and we battled back to send the game to an extra inning, but we came up short. The perseverance, determination, and grit that the girls displayed in that game was second to none."

### Summer Games

A strong contingent of female athletes from the area have been selected through Softball Manitoba for Team West for the Manitoba Summer Games. They are Kaiya Walton, Joelle Barkley, Skylar Higginbotham, McKenzie Masson and Callie Stuart, all from the Virden area, and Rose Cochrane from Oak Lake.

Two local players have been named by Baseball Manitoba to the West 1 squad for the Summer Games: Virden's Easton Pitz and Aklen Abey of Kenton. The Summer Games will be held in Dauphin in Aug. 11-14.

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# SPORTS

## OAK LAKE'S HUNTER WALLACE CAPPED HIS JUNIOR HOCKEY CAREER WITH YET ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The son of Tod and Penny Wallace first helped the Brooks (Alta.) Bandits win the British Columbia Hockey League's new Alberta Cup championship. Then the talented and gritty forward was the Most Valuable Player in the Bandits' 2-0 sweep of the Surrey (B.C.) Eagles in the Rocky Mountain Challenge. Wallace, who is headed to Massachusetts' Merrimack College in the fall, scored in both contests.

"Winning a championship in my last season of junior meant everything to me," he said. "More than just a trophy, it symbolized the peak of my journey filled with unforgettable experiences and lifelong friendships. No way better to leave junior hockey behind than a championship. I'm super excited for my next chapter at Merrimack."

It was Wallace's third junior campaign with the Bandits. In the previous two seasons, he played important roles in the team capturing both the Alberta Junior Hockey League titles and Centennial Cup national Junior A championships in each campaign. In February of this year, the Bandits and four other AJHL teams opted to switch to the independent BCHL. The former AJHL teams competed against each other in regular season and play-off action before the Bandits took on the B.C. Division champion Eagles. What will Wallace remember the most about his junior days?

"Obviously, the goals that we achieved on the ice the past couple years.... I'm super close with a lot of guys on the team this year that I've played with for the last three seasons," Wallace said during the season. "They're obviously not coming to the same school as me next season so I think I'm going to miss that the most."

The 5-foot-7, 165-pound Wallace lit the lamp 13 times and accumulated 23 points in 20 regular season games after the Bandits moved to the BCHL. The alternate captain had 15 goals and 27 points in 31 AJHL contests last season.

"He means a ton for us," Brooks assistant coach Dakota Mason said during the season. "Obviously, he's great on the ice. Moves his feet extremely well. Competes extremely hard. Has a really good shot, good puck skills. Big part of our powerplay, our (penalty kill). He plays a ton of minutes and then when we go to the locker room, he adds a whole other element. He's one of those guys that players just gravitate around because of his personality. He's definitely a leader. ... There isn't one part of this organization that he doesn't touch and make better. That's for sure."

The coach emphasized the Bandits seek good people as well as good hockey players and that Wallace is certainly in that mould. On the ice, Wallace played a physical style. During his junior career, Wallace dealt with injuries. Mason said, "Just the way that he

battled back through those injuries and kept playing that way just proves how dedicated he is to the game and wanting to work and get back to it."

Throughout his hockey career, Wallace has appreciated the support of his family.

"I don't think I'd be able to do it without my mom, my dad, my siblings and all my family," he said. "Even going through injuries during the season, it kind of sucks and you're kind of down - to have those people in your corner, just somebody to talk to, is huge."

"Obviously, it's pretty tough for a young kid to get into hockey without their parents. It's definitely one of the biggest parts of playing this game. Growing up and now going to school, they have definitely been a big part of it."

The next step in Wallace's hockey journey will be Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. The Warriors compete at the NCAA Division I level, which is the highest in U.S. university athletics. This past winter Wallace was taking classes fulltime online through the American Public University System. He is leaning towards studying business management.

"I think being an actual student-athlete will be pretty cool. Going to school, going to classes with other students. Getting to know new faces. Obviously, the hockey is a big part for me. I'm super excited for a new challenge," said Wallace, who is also pleased to be based within 45 kilometres of Boston.



PHOTO BY DAVIN BEER

## CATCHERS PLAY BIG ROLES FOR LOCAL SWBL SQUADS



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Elkhorn Expos utilize Foxx McColl regularly behind the plate

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The local South West Baseball League teams will be counting on their men behind the plate in the final week of the league's regular season.

As of Monday, the Reston Rockets sported a 6-7-0 record. They sat in fifth with the SWBL's top four teams making the playoffs. Pipestone product Billy

Patmore is the Rockets' regular catcher. He played that position for a season at Dakota College at Bottineau as well as suiting up for two campaigns as a goaltender for the Lumberjacks.

"The thing I love about both of these spots is the pressure and the impact that comes along with them," Patmore said. "Catching my brother (John) is a real treat as it seems we are always on the same page. Getting into a rhythm with your pitchers and your team is a great feeling. One that is hard to replicate at any other spot I have found. The only thing I'm not looking forward to in my future is the toll it takes on your body. But we will cross that bridge when we come to it."

The Rockets fell 16-1 to Oak River on July 2 and Wawanesa, 6-4, on July 4. On Sunday, the team lost 4-0 to the Hamiota Red Sox. This week the Rockets were to play the Deloraine Royals on July 9 and Boissevain Centennials on July 10, both after the Empire-Advance deadline.

The Virden Oilers generally split the catching duties between Drew Allen and Bo Bootsman. Danny Cochrane has seen some time behind the plate this season as well. Of the team's two regular catchers, veteran player Riley Hole said:

"We are lucky to have both these guys around, both are unreal dugout guys and complement our team so well."

They bring similar qualities as well as different talents to the position.

"Drew has played a ton of baseball and is an experienced catcher, our pitchers love to throw to him. Calls a good game and throws the ball really well. Understands the game so well," Hole said. "Bo

is as versatile as they come, has played all over the diamond for us this year and has pitched really well for us this year as well. He's a great catcher with a cannon for an arm, calls a good game."

As of Monday, the Oilers had a 3-10-0 record and were in eighth place in the standings. The Oilers lost 7-5 to Deloraine on July 4 in an extra inning affair. On Sunday, the Virden squad lost 13-5 to Boissevain and 9-8 in extra innings to Wawanesa. The Oilers headed to Rivers on Tuesday and play in Elkhorn on Friday. They host the Oak River Dodgers on July 16.

The Elkhorn Expos utilize Foxx McColl regularly behind the plate. Manager Mike Kyle said McColl calls a good game. As well, the catcher brings experience as a pitcher. As of Monday, McColl was second in innings pitched on the Expos behind workhorse Tyler Wood.

"For a young pitcher he pitches like he has been in the league for sometime now even though this is only his second year," said Kyle, who noted that McColl works the corners and mixes things up to keep batters guessing.

"I like having control of a sport," McColl said. "Where the outcomes are mainly in your hands, and being able to be creative up on the mound is just something I have confidence in and enjoy doing."

The Expos lost to Hamiota, 18-7, on July 5. On Sunday, the host Expos fell 6-2 to Wawanesa, in spite of a Mike Stevenson home run, and 7-0 to Deloraine. On Friday, Elkhorn hosts the Oilers. The Oak River Dodgers visit on July 14. As of Sunday, the Expos had a 2-11-0 record and were in ninth place.



# Letter to the Editor

## RE: What happened to respect?

Did you know that there is a shortage of substitute teachers not only here in Fort La Bosse but also provincially, perhaps even nationally? I believe that there are many reasons for this such as fewer young people going into the profession, teacher burnout and poor pay for the amount of education we have. However, the one big reason I feel that deters the retirees from subbing is student behaviour. I've often heard community members saying how respect should be taught at school. I totally disagree. It should be taught at home and reinforced at school. Discipline and respect need to be instilled from the earliest years in their development. They don't attend school until 5 or 6 years of age when many behaviours have already been learned. It is difficult for teachers to enforce good behaviour and respect if there isn't support from home.

I've been doing a fair bit of subbing since my retirement 5 years ago. I don't need to substitute but I feel that I still have something to offer to students and I know that there is a great need for substitute teachers. It gives me purpose and keeps me busy. The pay is definitely not worth the time and stress involved, especially some days. The teachers are very appreciative of the substitutes that come in for them when needed. However, some of the students aren't as appreciative. The disrespect I've seen should make parents ashamed of how they've raised their children. This disrespect isn't just shown to me but also to other students, staff members and to our country. I'm not only talking about junior high kids but also high school and elementary students.

I'll give you some examples. When I'm subbing, some students talk during O Canada, some are on their phones, some wear their hats (caps) and many don't stand without leaning on something. This is absolutely disgusting behaviour. Where is the respect to those

who served to give us the freedoms we have today?

Another example is the chirping that goes on amongst the students in class putting down others, possibly jokingly, but it's unacceptable. They shouldn't be talking at all, in fact, unless it deals with the subject matter. However, when I ask them to get back to work, they make silly noises or just keep talking. Sometimes they mutter quietly enough that others can hear them but my old ears can't pick up what they've said. Then the giggles start. They talk back. They often have to have the last word and it's rarely "sorry". It's like I'm not even there. I'm only a sub. I don't matter. I'll be the first to admit that I wasn't a perfect angel in school with either my regular teachers or substitutes. I wanted to be funny and witty and have people hear me but I didn't show the disrespect to others that I see today. I don't deserve to be treated in this manner. I'm a person, a mom, an auntie and grandma. I only ask that they would treat me with the respect that they would treat those other people in their lives.

One day, after 6 periods of constantly asking kids to stay on task and behave appropriately, I was astonished to find big mess in the classroom when I returned from outdoor recess supervision. I was the target of this act. The teacher's desk and chair were covered with shaving cream. Apparently there were tacks under the shaving cream, too but I didn't sit in it to find out. I have no idea what I did to deserve such treatment. Thankfully, the principal dealt with the situation in a very professional manner.

Profanity and inappropriate language is another problem. This is evident not only in the hallways but on the playground and the classroom as well. I can't tell you how many times I've heard a student say "Jesus" or "Jesus Christ" and I know that they aren't praying. The cursing and swearing is ridiculous. Perhaps that

is the language used in their homes but it absolutely is not school appropriate. I also don't need to hear about their partying stories, who's sleeping with whom, how much they're drinking and smoking, etc. They have no filter. They seem to be proud of all of it.

Remember when kids knew that when they got in trouble at school and they knew it was going to be much worse at home? Now teachers are hesitant to even call home about a student who is misbehaving because, according to some parents, it's not the kid's fault, some other kid started it, the teacher is picking on them or showing favouritism, etc. The list of excuses goes on and on.

No! Covid is not an excuse for this type of behaviour. We can blame it for many other things but not this type of entitlement which some students and their parents exhibit.

I've had to work hard to get where I am today and I never felt that I should get something for nothing.

I don't think I'm a grouchy old battle axe like Miss Trunchbull from Matilda but some days I do feel driven to give back some of what I've been given. I respect students and command respect in return but many don't seem to know how to deliver.

Please let me conclude by saying that not every student falls in this category. There are so many kind students that are hard-working, conscientious and even complimentary to me.

Unfortunately, many of these young families don't get this newspaper subscription and won't likely be reading this article. If you're a grandparent of school-aged children, please share this with them and their parents. I'd like them to be aware of what goes on and how I feel about it. By the time this makes the press, school will pretty much be out for the summer. Perhaps it'll give people something to think about for the summer and maybe by fall we can start to see some improvement in behaviours and attitudes.

Michelle Gervin



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TRANSPORTATION SUPERINTENDENT

Annual salary range: \$100,000 to \$150,000

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

E-mail: [g.mitchell@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:g.mitchell@wallace-woodworth.com)  
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257)  
Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0

This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located.  
This position commences as soon as possible.

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

View the full job description:



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

#### Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the permanent full-time position of **Executive Assistant** at the Virden Municipal Office.

The Executive Assistant reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and will be responsible for providing direct administrative support to the CAO and Senior Management. The successful candidate will be performing various administrative duties related to the operation of the Municipality. This position is also responsible for providing information to Council members, staff, ratepayers, and external entities.

#### Duties and responsibilities

- Coordinate executive communications, including: taking calls; responding to emails; and interfacing with the public
- Maintain an organized filing system of paper and electronic documents
- Knowledge of general office procedures, including: preparing documents; updating; and gathering information
- Prepare agendas, resolutions, and minutes for Council and Committee Meetings
- Organize schedules of municipal functions and special events
- Provide position coverage for Administrative Assistant and/or LUD Managers when needed. Includes cash receipting, batch out, petty cash, direct deposits, and bank deposits; processing incoming and outgoing correspondences; providing assistance to the public
- Maintain and update the R.M. website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts
- Handle basic technical support and coordinate IT service requests
- Uphold a strict level of confidentiality
- All other duties as assigned

#### Skills and Qualifications

- One year of previous work experience in a similar capacity will be an asset
- High school graduate at minimum, other administrative courses will be an asset
- High degree of proficiency with computer applications - Microsoft Office products including Excel, Word, Outlook
- Must be self-motivated and capable of working without direct supervision
- Completion of the Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be considered an asset

A complete job description is available upon request. The successful candidate can expect a salary reflective of their experience and qualifications. The position will be eligible for a full benefits package after 6 months, including employer-paid Blue Cross insurance and a matched pension. Interested candidates should submit a resume with three professional references by:

E-mail: [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:info@wallace-woodworth.com)  
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0

This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located.  
Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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

## Obituary

### In Loving Memory of Elvina Coulter



Elvina Coulter, beloved wife of Maurice Coulter and loving mother of Kerry, Marilee, Melodee and Kent passed away at Elkwood Manor, Elkhorn, Manitoba Sunday, June 16, 2024 at the age of 81 years.

In keeping with Elvina's wishes, no funeral service will be held.

## For Sale

### WANTED

Coins,  
Coin Collection,  
Old Jewelry,



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

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## For Sale

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includes: deep freezer; air conditioner; household furniture and kitchenware; JD lawn mower LA-125; small garden shed; air compressor; drill press; shop tools; garden supplies and ornaments; 1994 Chev 1500 Silverado ext. cab, 174,908 K; 2001 GMC Sierra truck - some rust.

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## Help Wanted



**Elkhorn  
District  
Community  
Centre**

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Duties Include: Cleaning all viewing area and canteen

Applicants must be able to work evenings and weekends

Interested applicants please send resume and/or inquires to [edccboard@gmail.com](mailto:edccboard@gmail.com) Closing date for applications is July 31, 2024

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By Cam Dahl  
GM OF MANITOBA PORK

Research shows that one of the fastest ways of boring someone to tears is mentioning the words “regulatory competitiveness.” It is, however, a critical topic, especially now when accessing markets around the world is being made more difficult, and enhancing the competitiveness of farmers in Canada is crucial to the economic sustainability of this driver of the Canadian economy. So, dear reader, stick with me.

Governments around the world are taking actions that limit the free flow of Canadian agricultural exports and increase farmers’ cost of production. Examples include label requirements on meats sold in the U.S., which will discriminate against Canadian live animal exports, as well as regulations in individual states whose influence extends across North America (e.g., Proposition 12 animal welfare regulations in California). We also see arbitrary European regulations that restrict Canadian red meat exports, despite the Canada-E.U. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

The Government of Canada needs to be doing everything in its power to counter foreign regulations that undermine the competitiveness of Canadian farmers. Unfortunately, we have a regulatory system that can make the problem worse. For instance, there are federal regulations that impose extraordinary costs on Canadian producers not faced by our

# Regulatory Competitiveness

competitors. The carbon tax is the most cited regulation in this area, but it is not the only problem.

Another example of a regulatory system that is draining away the competitiveness of Canadian agriculture is the approval processes for pesticides, new cropping technologies, animal health products, and animal feed ingredients, overseen by Health Canada. These regulations are long past due for reform. Farmers in competing countries like the U.S. have rapid access to new products and technologies, while the slow pace of the regulatory approval process in Canada can block Canadian farmers’ access to innovation. In too many cases companies bringing these new products forward do not even apply to Canada because of the cost and time involved in navigating the Canadian regulatory system. An animal health company recently told me “We do business in over thirty countries around the world and Canada is the most costly and time consuming country in which we operate.”

For example, farmers in the U.S. can use a product (Sodium Metabisulfite) that removes the toxins produced by the fusarium fungus that grows on cereal grains. This innovative product helps convert the infected grains from a waste product into a valuable feed source. Canadian farmers are still waiting for approvals. Another product is Carvacrol, which is an essential oil derived from oregano. Scientific research shows it can improve gut health in pigs, increase appetites of young pigs that have recently been weaned, and alleviate diarrhea. U.S. farmers can use Carvacrol, but Canadian farmers cannot. Preventing Canadian farmers from accessing innovations in animal health and nutrition can also stymie other national objectives, like providing

alternatives to antibiotics. Restrictions on Canadian farmers’ access to new innovative technologies and animal health products could be significantly reduced if Health Canada were to agree to accept the research and data that go into the approval processes in other countries with a robust regulatory approval system, like the U.S. This policy solution has been on the desks of multiple federal health ministers in multiple federal governments.

It is not just products approved in the U.S. before Canada that are a problem. Products approved in Canada but not in the U.S. are of concern because they can become trade barriers, especially in this age of rising protectionism. We have seen in the past that individual state governments can use the lack of harmonization as an excuse to block trade.

When the North American Free Trade Agreement was first signed, Canada and the U.S. created a process, the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC), whose purpose is to increase North American productivity through the harmonization of regulations. Minister Anita Anand, the President of the Treasury Board, has recently held consultations on the priorities for the RCC. Removing drags on Canadian agricultural productivity and protecting our export markets by expediting approvals for products already scientifically approved by our key trading partner should be at the top of the Minister’s priority list.

There is much governments can do to spur agricultural productivity and protect our export markets. Regulatory alignment with our largest trading partner should be a top priority for our regulatory and international trade agencies. That could rapidly happen if there was political will.



Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

## Summer Ice Available for Booking

\$210 + GST per hour

Non-refundable 50% deposit due at the time of booking.

Please contact Melody at the Town Office for more information.



## Town Office Summer Hours

The Town of Virden Office will be closed at 4:00 PM on Fridays until August 30.



## 2024 Summer Day Camp



Some spots are still available for this year’s camp.

Check out [www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca) for registration details.

## Virden Spray Park

Open daily from 10:00 AM-8:00 PM



## Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virden offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2024 property taxes. Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2023 property taxes. The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

Month of Payment	Discount Rate	Savings on \$1,000.00
July	0.75%	\$7.50

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par.

Tax prepayments can be made by mailing a cheque with the **tax roll number** written on the reverse to the Town of Virden, Box 310, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, e-transfer to [clerk@virden.ca](mailto:clerk@virden.ca), via online banking, or by attending the Town Office in person during normal business hours.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440.

Upcoming Council Meetings:  
Tuesday, July 16 & Tuesday, August 13

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

## 2024 Swimming Lesson registration is open

For more information, visit [www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca) or call the pool office at 204-748-2736 ext 3.



## Sponsorships - Summer Ice



Local sponsorships available for summer public skate/sticks & pucks.

\$210 + GST per hour

Contact Melody at the Town Office for available times.



## Dutch Elm Disease Program

Monitoring and surveys are underway by MB Forestry & Peatlands Branch.

Inspectors will be viewing private and public properties.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440, or the Tree Line at 204-945-7866.



# SPORTS

## THOMPSON HEADS TO JAMESTOWN AFTER MAKING AN IMPACT WITH FREEZE



PHOTO BY SCOTT STROH/ICE WAVE MEDIA

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It is bittersweet for the Winnipeg Freeze to see Virden's Davis Thompson move onto post-secondary hockey.

In 2022-2023, the son of Vaughn Thompson and Kimorie Lee was part of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League expansion team's second full season on the ice and helped establish the team's culture. Now after two seasons, Thompson is moving onto the University of Jamestown (N.D.).

"Personally, like a parent, I am sad to see him go but proud of the fact that he is moving on to bigger and better things," Freeze head coach Jay Pylypuik said. "After our last game speaking about Davis in the dressing room. I had to fight back tears. I am going to miss him and his family. I am going to miss his leadership, guidance, loyalty, character and, most of all, regardless of the situation, his positive outlook and pragmatic approach to just about everything."

On the ice last season, Thompson contributed two goals, five assists, and seven points in 57 games.

The 6-foot-1, 210-pound forward was second on the Freeze with 93 penalty minutes.

"Davis is a big, strong, physical player that wreaks havoc on the opposition with his high energy, physical play," Pylypuik said.

Thompson's numbers do not show the true impact he had on the team. The alternate captain was presented with the Freeze's first-ever Coaches Award. Pylypuik explained it was "basically established for Davis to recognize his dedication, commitment and loyalty to the program. We had the youngest team in the league, probably in Canada, and Davis's contribution to the young players on the team was evident. All his teammates speak of him with reverence and appreciation. His example of how to carry yourself will be his lasting impact."

The Freeze's ethos is "be a pro," the coach explained. Pylypuik said, "Davis has been the embodiment of that for two years, and considering we are an up-and-coming program that has only won 12 games in two years, his ability to con-

tinue to carry himself like a pro without waver has been an inspiration."

"Davis is one of the finest people I have ever met in hockey and credit needs to be given to his parents as well," the coach said. "They have raised one heck of a kid and their support of him and our program is second to none."

There are many aspects Thompson appreciated about his time with the Freeze.

"I have enjoyed playing in Winnipeg with the Freeze and I really value the lifelong friendships I have made during my time there," he said. "I have especially appreciated playing for Coach Jay Pylypuik. He has helped me develop my game and has encouraged me both on and off the ice. He's been a real mentor. I have also had the same billet family for two years and words can't express how grateful I am to the Doigs for welcoming me into their home and making me feel part of their family. I am sure going to miss their pregame meals next year."

During his time with the Freeze, Thompson has been taking classes, mostly in kinesiology,

online through the University of Regina. He said, "It was really important to me to continue with my schooling while playing Junior A hockey because my future plans have always been to attend university and I didn't want to lose momentum."

Thompson has been accepted into the University of Jamestown's direct-entry program for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. He will play hockey for the Jimmies' American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I program while earning his undergraduate degree before heading to the school's Fargo campus for three more years of study. He would like to work as a physio-

therapist in an athletic setting.

"The University of Jamestown has a highly ranked hockey program within Division I ACHA," Thompson said. "I really respect Coach Dean Stork and he's built a strong men's hockey program. The university's athletic facilities are top notch and support their athletes in all the sports. They also have a strong exercise science department, so combining my athletics with academics at this school was very appealing to me. I'm looking forward to playing against the other teams in their division, traveling all around the United States. It's going to be a unique experi-

ence."

Thompson praises his family for their support of him both on the ice and in the classroom.

"My family has been instrumental in helping me achieve everything I have done so far," he said. "They have provided me with the opportunity to pursue my dream of playing hockey at the highest level I can, all while working towards my post-secondary education. They would say to me that if I earned an opportunity for myself that they would help me make it happen. They have always been there for me and encouraged me to do my best every step of the way."

### MINIOTA COMMUNITY CENTRE

# SHIRTSLEEVE CLASSIC 2024

**FRIDAY, JULY 19TH**

**MINIOTA RINK**

**CURLING**

**CAR RALLY** 11am-6pm - \$10 per car

**WASHERS TOURNAMENT**

7:30pm - \$20 per team - 50% payout

**MINIOTA GOLF CLUB**

**OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

10am-6pm - 18 Holes - Cash Prizes

**SATURDAY, JULY 20TH**

**MINIOTA FIRE HALL**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

8am-10am - FREE - open house

**MINIOTA HALL**

**5KM COLOR RUN/WALK**

10am start - \$10/person or \$35 family

**MINIOTA RINK**

**CURLING**

**KIDS ACTIVITIES** Noon - 4:00pm

Carnival Games & Inflatable Water Slides-\$10

Valley Recreation - disc golf & bracelets

**PULLED PORK SUPPER**

5pm-7pm - Adults \$18 - 12&Under \$8

**DANCE** 9pm-1pm - Party Jockeys - \$10

minors allowed with parents

**MINIOTA GOLF CLUB**

**OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

10am-6pm - 18 Holes - Cash Prizes

**CANTEEN & BEER GARDENS ALL WEEKEND**

**SUNDAY, JULY 21ST**

**MINIOTA RINK**

**CURLING**

**SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT**

\$200 per team - 50% payout

**KIDS ACTIVITIES** Noon - 4:00pm

Miniota Fire Dept - Fireman's Rodeo

Slip n Slide & Inflatable Water Slides-\$10

**COLD PLATE SUPPER**

5pm-7pm - Adults \$18 - 12&Under \$8

**EAST OF MINIOTA RINK**

**TRACTOR PULL** 3:00pm

**MINIOTA GOLF CLUB**

**OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

10am-6pm - 18 Holes - Cash Prizes

**SLO-PITCH ENTRIES:**

**BECKY GARDHAM**

204-851-0891

**TRACTOR PULL ENTRIES:**

**MURRAY GURR**

204-567-3773

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# RESTON FAIR



**July 19**

**July 20**

**@ FAIR GROUNDS**  
**FREE Bouncy castles**  
**6-10:30 PM**

**Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10 @ RES**  
**Parade 10 AM**  
**Movie 10:45 AM @ theatre**

**Trivia Night**  
**\$60-6 people per team**  
**7- 9 PM**

**Family Activities @ Fair Grounds**  
**12-5 PM**

**Magic show      Mini golf**

**Dinosaur inflatables**

**Dinosaur visits**

**Face Painting      Water activities**

**Games      Beer gardens**

**FIREWORKS**  
**10:30 PM**

**FOOD TRUCK**  
**ON SITE**

**Outdoor Social 18+ @ fairgrounds 9 PM**  
**DJ Services by: Trident**



Gate fees: Kids (3-11) \$5 Individual (12+) \$10 Family \$30  
Social: Advance \$15 at the gate: \$20  
For more information call 204-877-3768