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NOVEMBER 14, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 13 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 15 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS



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PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

A military parade of nearly 30 members of First Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery from CFB Shilo leave the AUD Theatre to return to RCL Br. No. 8 where the Legion Auxiliary had prepared lunch.

Johnson Family story shared on November 11

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Royal Canadian Legion
No. 8 Officiant Rev. Marcel
Archambault led in the Act

of Remembrance on November 11 in the AUD Theatre. People, representing government, protective services, youth and service groups, laid 18 wreaths.

VCI Band, led by Tyra Zander, played the anthems, processionals, the Scottish anthem 'Over the Sea to Sky' and congregational hymns 'Abide With Me' and 'What Shall We Pray.' Michelle Gervain trumpeted The Last Post and Reveille.

Grade 8 student Corbyn Waller read 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. Grade 8 student Emery Strachan read 'We Shall Keep the Faith' by Moina Michael.

Veteran's son

Terry Johnson brought the perspective of a veteran's son. A Virden resident now, his career began with Manitoba Hydro and led to participation on federal and provincial boards and commissions as well as municipal councils when he retired to farm near Manson.

His earliest memories were of his father, Cliff, a navy man, waking his sons with a mock command: "Hit the deck, sailors, rough seas ahead!" From their father, they learned practical lessons of a sailor's life—reading weather patterns, understanding signs such as "red sky at night, sailor's delight," and mastering ropework. As small boys they struggled to tie square knots, bowlines, and half hitches, skills seldom used later but strictly required aboard "Cliff's Navy."

Johnson's uncle, Alfred Isaac Johnson enlisted about a year after the war began. He trained in Winnipeg's Fort Garry and Shilo camps before joining the Algonquin Regiment and shipping to the European front.

A year later, Cliff Johnson enlisted in the Navy. He trained at HMCS Chippewa in Winnipeg and on the west coast, later assigned to active duty in Africa and Europe.

On June 4, 1944, aboard Landing Craft 276, Cliff, a bow gunner, along with other soldiers and equipment were headed for Operation Overlord. At 05:35 a.m. on June 6, their craft grounded on the sands of Juno Beach. The gunner had to protect the landing troops. What followed, Johnson said, was a moment when "the world held its breath."

As the Allies pushed toward victory in Europe, Cliff was recalled to Canada to train for the planned invasion of Japan—a prospect that unsettled many battle-weary soldiers. Fortunately, the war's end came before deployment.

In 2010, Johnson's insatiable appreciation for history led him, his wife Joan and his brother to retrace Cliff and Alfred's wartime paths in Europe, but his father refused to revisit Juno Beach.

The Johnson trio travelled north through Belgium into Holland, arriving at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, maintained by the Dutch. It was there that his father's brother, Alfred, was among the 2,500 soldiers buried.

Find out more about the Johnson family on page 5...



**HOME GAME
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
VS. NORTHERN MANITOBA
BLIZZARD
PUCK DROPS AT 2:00PM**

Inside...



**GRANT JACKSON
TALKS ABOUT
FEDERAL BUDGET P3**



**WESTERN ALL-
STAR CHALLENGE**

P8

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No Stone Left Alone reminds students of young soldiers' sacrifice

Elkhorn school, community members participate in NSLA



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Gathered to remember, lay wreaths and find veteran graves at Elkhorn Cemetery are Elkhorn Legion members, CFB Shilo members and Elkhorn students.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) Memorial Foundation service is a program, that has gone on for a few years in Elkhorn to create more public awareness especially among our youth, to the sacrifices made by Canadian men and women

in times of war. The event held at the Elkhorn cemetery (south-west of the village) on Nov. 5 drew a number of school children and teachers as well as area residents. Each year the organizer will research a local veteran in the cemetery and present the history of that individual and their service during

the war. After the service the children are given poppies and encouraged to find veterans' graves and place a poppy on these grave sites and notice their family name. This year's service was held on a mild and bright fall day with a good turnout. The group would include Legion members, area politicians, soldiers from CFB Shilo and about 60 school children and school staff. Captain Kevin Tutthill C.D., (Ret'd) was emcee and organizer of the event. The ceremony started with a land acknowledgment to Canada's aboriginal peoples. This was followed by the singing of "O Canada", the reciting of the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Grades 4 to 6 students, a Prayer of Remembrance by Ed Clayton, a member of the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion, and a Com-

mitment to Remember by youth representative, Grade 11 student Joshua Baer. From CFB Shilo, Master Warrant Officer Norm Wiebe, CD, gave the "Act of Remembrance" which was followed by the Last Post, two minutes of silence and Reveille. A number of wreaths were laid by school students, a Legion member, a representative for our local Member of Parliament and by the soldiers. This year Cpt. Tutthill gave the history of a WW2 era family, the Leslies, who sent four sons off to WW2 and all four came back, one with a war bride. He pointed out the Leslie family gravesite, so it could be visited. Members of the family live in the area. With that, the children and adults spread out all over the cemetery looking for the flagged grave sites in the warm fall sunshine.

On the return to Elkhorn, there was a stop at St. Mark's Anglican Church to remember another military grave stone that is located there. Following that, all the children that took part, and some of the adults, returned to the Legion Hall for a warm up with a hot chocolate and visiting. Said Tutthill about the event, "Mother nature shined on us today, what a beautiful day to spend time with so many people from Elkhorn and area! We gathered today to honour the veterans of the past, with

friends of the present. We had an awesome turnout of students and staff from the school, a contingent of members of IRCHA from CFB Shilo, and a great number of locals. "The NSLA program is such an incredible chance for us to honour the veterans of the past, and really brings home the fact to today's youth, that so many of these veterans were also young men and women once, just like them! "Thank you to all that participated in today's service, and now on to Remembrance Day in only [a few] days."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Reston Grade 10 class are gathered at Pipestone Cemetery on Nov. 4. With the students, (wearing a beret) Canadian Army Reserve Cpt. Tim Challen, the Chaplain of the 26th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery in Brandon. The students travelled to four cemeteries to honour veterans, placing poppies on graves in Reston, Pipestone, Tilston and Sinclair.

Lions Club Donations - Part 14



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Lloyd Williams presenting a donation to Wallace-District Fire Department, accepted by Cory Nixon on May 28. Over the next few weeks we will be showing all the wonderful donations made by the Virden Lions Club to different organizations.

10th Annual
A Splash of Christmas
Craft & Trade Show
NOVEMBER 15th 10 - 4 pm
Tundra Oil & Gas Place
Virden, MB \$2 Admission
with proceeds donated to:

The Virden & Area Memory Tree Association is proudly sponsoring a
Christmas Memory Tree
Light Up a Bulb In Memory of A Loved One!

In Memory of: _____
Remembered By: _____
Phone #: _____ Receipt: _____
Address (only if receipt required): _____

Please mail form, with \$5.00 per person donation to:
Virden & Area Memory Tree, Box 2042, Virden, MB R0M 2C0.
(cheques payable to Virden & Area Memory Tree)
Last day to receive mail in donations is December 16th, 2025

The proceeds from the Memory Tree will be donated to the
Virden Cemetery Improvement Association.
The Memory Tree Committee would like to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

LIGHT UP CEREMONY
will take place
THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 20
@ 7:00 PM

Seniors socialize, dance up a storm at Elkhorn's S.A.I.L. event



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Some of the many dancers who came out for the SAIL dance in Elkhorn.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

They say that dancing will make you feel younger. Over 60 Westman and eastern Saskatchewan seniors were dancing up a storm at the Elkhorn Elks Hall on Nov. 6.

The event was the November dance, just one of many monthly events put on by S.A.I.L. (Seniors Access to Independent Living) to keep seniors, and young at heart, active and healthy.

The music was by "Straight Up Country" out of Moosomin and featuring all local players that include the unique musical talents of Ryan Bender.

The band played lots of popular toe-taping popular and vintage Country and Western music and early Rock and Roll, with no breaks. During the afternoon, we even had some Line Dancing.

Parked outside the hall were handi-vans from both Virden and Elkhorn, that brought a number of residents down for the afternoon

and later took them home. In a few cases older children brought their senior parents down for the afternoon of dancing, visiting and fun with old and new friends.

At the front of the hall was set up a light refreshment stand while at the back of the hall was a table with info booklets of the many S.A.I.L. programs and the events coming up in the next few months. These would include, exercise programs, financial and will planning, mobility equipment presentations and the monthly S.A.I.L. congregate meal program.

During the afternoon event a grandchild came to meet her grandparents and soon joined into the dancing!

Well known former McAuley resident, Shirley Davidson showed up and spent the day dancing with many people that came out that afternoon. She was even able to get one of the area seniors with their wheelchair onto the dance floor for a few spins.

The two-dollar admission fee also got you a chance on a door prize of sweets and quilted arts and crafts.

For two solid hours the hall was filled with dancing, laughter and friendship on a cold fall day, one of many that will follow.

The band that day played so many songs that brought lots of old memories and good times for the crowd.

Said Karen Mitchell, the S.A.I.L. resource coordinator, "Holding this event through S.A.I.L. has been well received by the people of Elkhorn and the surrounding areas. Having people come out and socialize, laugh and meet up with old and new friends is what it's all about. With winter coming on, being able to get out and see others is so important to our overall health. Today we had almost 60 dancers come from Moosomin, Virden, Hamiota, Elkhorn, Pearson and even Brandon. Overall, it was a great success and the live band was the cherry on top, to make the afternoon perfect."

Budget comments from Grant Jackson, MP Brandon-Souris

By Banner Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On November 4, 2025, Minister of Finance and National Revenue François-Philippe Champagne delivered Budget 2025, titled "Canada Strong." Budget 2025 commits \$141.4 billion in new spending over the next five years.

"The Carney government said they would clamp down on government spending but the budget deficit was \$40 billion last year but this coming year, it will be \$78 billion.

Ed. Note: Deficit means the amount of expenditures over income in a given year. All the deficits incurred equal the national debt which now will be \$1.35 Trillion.

"Now the amount Canada will pay per year on interest on the national debt exceeds the health transfer payments from the federal government to the provinces."

Jackson noted that the civil service is being cut slightly but the numbers are still way higher than five years ago.

Jackson's office sent the following speaking notes:

- This budget will drive up the cost of living on every Canadian - on food, on homes and on everything else Canadians buy. Mark Carney broke every promise he made just six short months ago:

- He promised to keep the deficit at \$62 billion - it is \$78 billion.
- He promised to lower the debt-to-GDP ratio—he is raising both it and inflation.
- He promised to spend less - he is spending \$90 billion more: \$5,400 in more inflationary spending per household.
- He promised to help municipalities cut their homebuilding taxes in half—and this costly budget breaks that promise. Higher housing costs are the price of this Prime Minister.
- He promised more investment -

the budget reveals investment is collapsing.

- The budget forces Canadians to spend more on debt interest than on healthcare transfers and more than the government collects in the GST - every dollar the Liberals collect in the GST goes to bankers and bondholders, not doctors and nurses.
- Conservatives want an affordable budget for an affordable life and on behalf of the Canadians that Liberals have priced out of food, homes and life, Conservatives will oppose this costly deficit budget that gambles away Canada's future.
- Conservatives will present an amendment to boost take-home pay and deliver affordable homes and food by ending hidden taxes, cut wasteful spending, open our country up to opportunity, and get rid of bureaucracy to build affordable homes.
- We call on the Prime Minister to work with us to support a positive, hopeful, and affordable future for all Canadians.

Key Facts:

Mark Carney will add \$321.7 billion to the federal debt over the next 5 years, more than twice the \$154.4 billion that Trudeau would have added over the same period.

- This budget adds \$10 million to our debt, every hour.
- Under Carney, federal debt is now \$1.35 trillion and interest on debt will be \$55.6 billion for 2025-26, that is more than the Canada Health Transfer (\$54.7 billion), and GST revenue (\$54.4 billion) and amounts to \$3,360 per Canadian household.
- Under Carney, real GDP has only grown by 1.1% in 2025, the second lowest in the G7.
- Under Carney, unemployment will average 6.4% over the next five years.
- Under Carney, the Industrial Carbon Tax will remain in place.

Seniors step class a huge hit

By Krista Pederson
S.A.I.L.

There are lots of ways to stay active.

With the coming of the snow last week, we have put our gardens and outdoor golfing to rest. Now, how do we transition to a new season and still have fun being active?

I can think of a few ways.

On November 6, Elkhorn had a fabulous dance that got us all moving. Oak Lake has one coming up November 16! And you can always bring your dancing shoes to the Music Jam that happens on the third Sunday of the month, at the Virden Legion Club Room.

Every week, there are opportunities in Elkhorn, Oak Lake and Virden for exercises. Check out our Facebook page for details. There are also walking clubs, and we have fabulous indoor walking facilities in the area.

And even when we are not able to get out for whatever



PHOTO BY KRISTA PEDERSON

Steppin' Up With Confidence! Exercises at the Virden Legion led this week by Julie Mason.

reason, there are online resources available to find the fit for you.

Some Manitoba resources:

Senior Centre Without Walls has exercise classes you can join in with, or you can watch a pre-recorded video.

Steppin' Up With Confidence in person or online. Look up Steppin' Up With Confidence via Active Ageing, or Prairie Mountain Health.

U-Turn Parkinson's website offers videos, and helpful information. And a sure way to have fun exercising... call a friend and do it together!

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Reading is essential

I read with interest, an excerpt from a story in the Winnipeg Free Press on the weekend.

"The Manitoba Human Rights Commission published the long-awaited results of a probe into how schools are teaching children to read—or failing to do so—at the end of October.

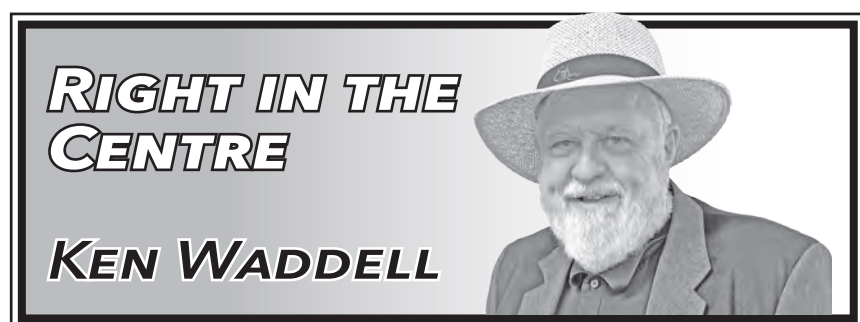
The 70-page report represents Phase 1 of a special project that's become known as "Manitoba's Right to Read." A followup on the implementation of investigators' recommendations is expected in 2026-27.

Local investigators concluded many teachers do not have training in structured literacy, a neuroscience-backed philosophy founded on explicit instruction in phonics, which stresses recognizing the connection between sounds and letters/letter combinations."

Nothing in those three paragraphs surprised me but one phrase really caught my attention, namely "explicit instruction in phonics". Actually, the part about a followup in 2026-27 doesn't actually surprise me but it greatly disappoints me. The phonics part only outlines what many of us have known for years. Phonics is very important. I know that our kids didn't get as good an education as we did over all 12 years, our grandkids didn't either.

It's now 71 years since I started school and trust me, back in those days it was "Old School".

Talking out in class without being asked was frowned upon. Reading out loud, standing by your desk was both common and demanded. So was printing and cursive writing. Fast forward to a time a couple of decades ago and, many students were not taught how to write or read cursive. Apparently, many students are not taught how to



read well at all.

Don't get me wrong, it was a long time ago, but our version of school was also fun back in those days, seven decades ago. And yeah, I knew you would ask, did students get the "strap" for misbehaving. Yes, they did but it didn't happen often and I never got the strap. If I had, I would have been in more trouble when I got home from school.

Let me reminisce for a minute. I took all twelve grades in a two story brick school that was built in 1913, just one year before WWI. It had a big old coal furnace and huge electric lights, large windows and the biggest doors ever. If you slammed one of those doors it reverberated through the whole school. We had baseball and soccer at recess and noon. We had curling, hockey, football and baseball teams. There was an annual Christmas concert and a Christmas, Valentine's and Halloween party. We had school dances with live bands. There was an annual track meet or field day.

It was a pretty darned good school AND, we learned how to read, write and do arithmetic. We studied European and world history as well as Canadian history. And yes, we memorized poems and plays, math tables and historically significant dates. I hope I am wrong, but I doubt that many students can rattle off the dates that each Canadian province joined

Confederation. I think I still can.

If kids today are having trouble reading, I fail to understand why seven decades ago Manitoba schools could teach kids how to read but not now. I have some suspicions. I suspect that somewhere along the line that discipline slipped a bit. Students didn't mouth off to their teachers back in the day or at least they were smart enough to do it quietly. That said, I think discipline, and I don't mean yelling and screaming teachers who might haul off and hit a kid, needs to be pursued a bit harder.

It takes discipline to memorize, it takes discipline to study and it takes discipline to encourage students to carry through and finish their work.

Generally speaking, I am greatly encouraged by what I see in today's students. They know about a lot more stuff than I do but if they can't read well, they can get sucked in by every bit of false news and information out there. Because it's on the internet is no guarantee it's the truth.

Reading is the pathway to knowledge and wisdom so you can know the truth and the truth sets you free. That's pretty important.

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



'What can I do?'

There is a simple offertory song that has become my favourite. I do appreciate the strong, resounding words and music of the doxology - "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known Creator, Word and Spirit, One." Sung with the repeating amens gives me shivers, (the good kind!) and knowing that the words were written way back in 1674 by Thomas Kent, adds weight and importance to the message. 'What Can I Do?' is much newer, written in 2005 by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy, and it is a joyful song of offering and dedication- "What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing? I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share." So joyful, so up beat, so encompassing.

I'm certainly not the first to remind you that Christmas is but five weeks away! The neighbourhood is already blessed with fantastic holiday lights, and an evening walk reveals that many homes have their trees up and decorated. The festive music has begun as has the planning and the stressing. When we can see that there are so many ways we can give to our families and communities it can take some of the pressure off. Close friends and family members have heard my stories many times and I'll tell some of them again. It is the little things we unconsciously do that can be a gift, a blessing, to others, known and unknown. A few years ago I met with a family in the morning, planning a farewell. My schedule included another such visit in the afternoon. A heavy day. For a change of mind set, I stopped at a local fast food restaurant. The young lad, swabbing the floor, was quietly singing Cohen's Hallelujah. The threads of that song, offered without a thought or intention, brought my frayed edges together. What can I sing? There is a quiet (- well...not always quiet!) friend that bakes the best ever tea biscuits. Finding a tray of these warm from the oven delicacies is a gift beyond measure. She has some idea of how much I appreciate her culinary skills. What can I bring?

I know how I used to stress over gift giving. It was a combination of finding the perfect gift and balancing a budget. At my stage of life, these are not pressing problems. When the grandchildren were young I explained to their parents that there were no or minimum gifts all year round, but we would all enjoy a summer vacation. No Christmas, Easter, Valentine, birthday or any other cause for celebration gifts but one fine experience in summer.

Before too long we will be offered gift catalogues from faith and community organisations. Several of my cousins have already decided that they are gifting a third world family with chickens. There are so many ways we can share that are meaningful, here at home and around the world. What can I do? I'll say a prayer, I'll bring my love, I'll do my share.

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Faces to Graves

Johnson Family story

continued from page 1

Johnson ended with a touching story about a surprise phone call he received. A Grade 6 teacher from the Ottawa area called and asked if he was related to Alfred Isaac Johnson...

He recounted her message: "I can tell you where he was killed, the day he was killed, what the weather was like, and all the particulars around his involvement..."

She explained her students participated in Faces to Graves, a project dedicated to gathering information and photos of fallen Canadian soldiers buried in Grosbeak, and to place each soldier's photo and biography beside their grave—preserving their stories for future generations.

Johnson said he found this ongoing effort profoundly moving, a testament to the enduring commitment to remembrance. He closed simply: "Lest we forget. Thank you for listening."



Guest speaker Terry Johnson.

PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Melting stiffness the mind body way, with hypnosis

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR,
HOLISTIC WELLNESS
CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST (C.H.)
MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Have you ever rolled out of bed and thought, well, this body feels like it has been left out in the winter overnight? Stiff shoulders, tight neck, hips that sound like popcorn when you stand up, and that one mysterious ache that shows up just to remind you that you are indeed a human being with muscles and emotions. Been there.

And here is the surprising thing I discovered. Sometimes it is not the muscles alone that are tight. It is the mind holding tension like a hockey goalie clenching during a shootout. When your brain is stressed, overwhelmed, or in survival mode, your body joins the club and hangs on to every bit of tightness like it is a treasured souvenir.

Enter hypnosis. No swinging pocket watch, no feeling out of control. Think of it as guided calm on purpose. It is like turning down the volume on stress and turning up the volume on ease, breath, and balance. During hypnosis, your nervous system gets the memo that it is allowed to relax. When the mind softens, the muscles sigh in relief and follow.

Your mind talks to your body all day long. Sometimes that conversation sounds like, hurry, worry, and hold everything tight. Hypnosis simply teaches your mind to say a different message, like relax, breathe, and let go. The body listens to the mind.

I work with people who walk in holding stress in their shoulders like they are carrying invisible grocery bags. By the time they finish a hypnosis session, you can often see their posture change, their breath deepen, and their face soften. They leave feeling lighter, looser, and sometimes

even a little taller. It is not magic. It is natural biology, just guided in a calm and focused way.

And yes, being a certified clinical hypnotist, I use hypnosis on myself. When my body starts acting like a rusty door hinge, I close my eyes, breathe deeply, and guide myself through imagery that melts tension. Sometimes I imagine warm sunlight moving through my muscles. Other times I picture little relaxation bubbles floating through my body, popping with tiny sighs of relief. Does it sound whimsical? Absolutely. Does it work? Every time.

Pairing hypnosis with small daily habits makes everything even sweeter. A simple stretch in the morning, a warm mug of herbal tea, magnesium before bed, and a little self compassion sprinkled through the day. That combination is like sending your body a love letter. Our bodies appreciate every gentle message we give them.

The best part is hypnosis suits every personality. If you are analytical, we focus on breath and awareness. If you are imaginative, we use beautiful metaphors and images. If you are a busy person who has not sat still since the early 2000s, well, hypnosis is especially for you. Your nervous system will thank you.

Relaxation is not a luxury. It is a skill. Once your mind learns how to release tension, your body becomes more flexible, more comfortable, and more at peace. It is like your whole system remembers how good it feels to flow instead of brace.

So, the next time you wake up feeling stiff as a two by four, before blaming age, weather, or that one pillow you keep meaning to replace, try this. Close your eyes, breathe, and let your mind soften first. Your muscles will follow your lead.

Your greatest wellness tool has been with you all along, the beautiful power of your own mind.

Reston & Area Remembrance Day Service



Reston & Area Remembrance Day Service in Reston Memorial Park organized by Veteran Banner Committee.



Captain Derek Millard (Rtr'd.) salutes cenotaph.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Viriden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

VIRDEN
CENTRE OF IT ALL

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Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town of Viriden Public Water System

For updates on the Town of Viriden Public Water System, please visit www.virden.ca or contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440

Noon Hour Shinny is back!

For the schedule, visit www.virden.ca/p/events-calendar

Upcoming Council Meetings

November 18 and December 2, starting at 7:00 PM

Employment Opportunity

• Executive Assistant

For more info visit www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities

Virден RCMP make arrest on historical sexual assault

RCMP Facebook
BY RCMP IN MANITOBA

On May 5, 2025, Virден RCMP received a report of a historical sexual assault that occurred in 1984, in a community in western Manitoba.

The female victim ad-

vised police that the assault took place when she was a teen under the age of 16. The male suspect at the time was 24-years-of-age.

An extensive investigation took place that has now resulted in charges.

Vincent Tacan, 65, was

arrested on November 5, 2025, and charged with Sexual Assault.

The Manitoba RCMP is not releasing the name of the victim nor where the assault took place in order to protect her identity.

Virден RCMP continue to investigate.

HELEN DRYSDALE OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

If you have a deer hunter in your family here are two recipes to help use the bounty of the successful hunt. Slow, moist cooking is the way to go with a shoulder roast and venison stew. Come home to a hot and hearty meal straight from your slow cooker!

Slow cooker venison roast

- 3-4 pound venison shoulder roast
- 2-3 cloves garlic
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 package of mushrooms
- 2 small bay leaves
- 2 tsp. dry parsley
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 can mushroom soup
- salt and pepper to taste

If you wish you can brown all sides of the roast in a frying pan with butter or oil before putting it in the slow cooker. This helps seal the juices in and gives a nice colour and taste to the gravy. Take a knife and make a slit in the meat in several places. Push the garlic in the slits. Place the onion slices on the bottom of the slow cooker. Place roast on top of onion slices. Sprinkle on the mushrooms, bay leaves and parsley. Mix the broth and mushroom soup together. Pour over the roast. Cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4-6 hours or until roast is easily broken apart with a fork. Add salt and pepper to taste to the juices. Serve with mashed potatoes or noodles.

Venison stew

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 large onion, diced | 2 sticks celery, sliced |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 2-3 cups sliced carrots |
| 2-3 cups sliced mushrooms | 3-4 cups diced potatoes |
| 1 bay leaf | 1 tsp. dry oregano |
| 1 tetra pack beef broth | 2 pounds venison stew meat |
| 1/2 cup flour | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 tsp. pepper | 3-4 Tbsp. butter or oil |

Layer first 9 ingredients in a slow cooker. Prepare the stew meat by tossing it with the flour, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl. Heat the butter or oil in a large fry pan over medium-high heat. Add the venison pieces. Cook for several minutes or until browned nicely, turning occasionally. If it is too much for your pan do this in two batches. Add the venison to the slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for eight hours. Remove bay leaf. Serve with fresh bread or biscuits.

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for Nov. 2 to Nov. 8

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 67 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 14 traffic offences, 5 Mental Health Act, 3 Assault, 7 False Alarm, 3 Suspicious Person, 1 Abandoned Vehicle, 1 Mischief, 5 Wellbeing Checks, 2 Person Reported Missing, and 2 Items Lost/Found files.

On Nov. 2, during a routine traffic patrol within the Town of Virден, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 77km/hr in a 50 km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$403, the driver was also issued a warning notice for failing to produce a licence to a peace officer when required and a warning notice for Improper equipment or operation of equipment, namely left brake light not working.

On Nov. 4, Westman RCMP conducted routine curfew checks within the RM Wallace-Woodworth. A 42-year-old-female while bound on a Release Order to be at a residence between 23:00 and 06:00, did not present herself when required by RCMP during the check, resulting in the 42-year-old-female breaching the release order and two charges were laid for failing to comply with a release order. An Endorsed Warrant for her arrest has been issued by the court.

On Nov. 4, during a routine traffic patrol in the RM Pipestone, RCMP conducted a traffic stop and issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Driving an Unregistered Vehicle, which carries a fine of \$298.

On Nov. 5, Westman RCMP were dispatched

to conduct a wellbeing check in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Members spoke to both the complainant and the subject of the wellbeing check, it was concluded that a 42-year-old-male has failed to comply with his release order by contacting his victim as well had assaulted her. An Unendorsed Warrant was issued by the court and the 42-year-old male is charged with Assault, Forcible confinement, x2 Fail to comply with release order condition – non-communication order and Fail to comply with release order condition.

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 Ext. 3. If you are reporting an emergency, please call 911.

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



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On Nov. 4, during a routine traffic patrol in the RM Pipestone, RCMP conducted a traffic stop and issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Driving an Unregistered Vehicle, which carries a fine of \$298.

On Nov. 5, Westman RCMP were dispatched



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From Reston to publisher's chair: Tori Elliott helps shape Canada's literary landscape

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

What will a Reston born and raised farm girl do with a Bachelor of English degree? She will top that off with a Master of Publishing program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and become a book publisher.

In October of 2010 she began writing for the Empire-Advance. A succinct writer with a flair for story, she began grinding out weekly newspaper pieces before it was time for more school in May of 2012.

That's how Tori Elliott, daughter of Barrie and Lorna Elliott found her way into the work that she loves, a move to Victoria on beautiful Vancouver Island and the role of publisher.

This Q & A tells the story:

When did you know you wanted to be involved with writing and publishing books?

"I've always been a bookworm—my mom and my grandma definitely fostered my love of reading—but it wasn't until I finished my Bachelor's degree in my early 20s that I realized I might want a career in the arts. My dad, suggested I start looking into careers that would really utilize my English degree and that's when I found the Master of Publishing program at Simon Fraser University.

I came home for about two years to beef up my grad school application by taking some remote publishing courses online, and to save up for the move to Vancouver by working as a reporter at the Empire-Advance and as a server at T's. When the time was right, I came out to the coast and almost as soon as I started my masters, I realized I had made the right decision. I have never felt an urge to write a book, but I think I always wanted to be around them, so publishing felt like a good fit.

You grew up in a farming community, probably helping the family business in some way? But you set your sights in a different direction.

By the time I was old enough to help out in the field there were already four boys—my brothers and cousins—managing the equipment, so I helped out around the house and got a job as a server in town. I didn't intentionally set my sights away from the farm or from Reston. Rather, I think I was influenced by my brother—he went to school in Alberta, had a great time, and came home. I thought I'd do the same. I think if I'd gotten my first job in publishing somewhere on the prairies, I would have happily settled closer to home. But now I've been in Victoria so long that leaving the Island would be a difficult decision to make.

Was it tough to break into the publishing world?

For me it was a combination of my education and great timing, and maybe a little luck. One of the requirements of my program was that I find an internship placement in the industry for a minimum of four months. I happened to reach out to TouchWood Editions in Victoria, B.C., just as

their publicist was going on maternity leave, and instead of a short-term internship I was brought on to cover her leave for a year. That was twelve years ago and I'm very fortunate to still be working for the same company.

Who pioneered TouchWood?

TouchWood is a mid-sized independent Canadian publisher, founded in 1985 under the name Horsdal & Schubart and initially specialized in regional and nautical history. It was renamed TouchWood Editions when our publisher emeritus, Pat Touchie, and her husband, Rodger, purchased it in 2002. Since its inception we have been female owned and operated, which is something I'm particularly proud to be a part of.

What do you like best about what you do? Editing?

Meeting the authors? The business side?

I started in publicity and marketing, but I was made Acting Publisher in 2021 and Publisher in 2022. As a publicist, my favourite part of the job was landing a big media piece or event. I managed to have one of our books reviewed in the New York Times and that was an incredible feeling. A Holy Grail kind of publicity get for a Canadian indie.

Now, as the publisher, my favourite part of the job is the puzzle of putting a season of books together—meeting and signing the authors, sorting out what their book is going to look like, when it's going to be published, who the reader is and how we're going to reach them, keeping track of stock and sales.

I have a very enthusiastic and competent team to keep the projects on track through production and promotion, so it's always very satisfying when all our hard work is showcased in a gorgeous little package, and even more so when we see our books on the shelves in bookstores, libraries, and especially in readers' homes.

What tells you if an author / manuscript is right for Touchwood?

We publish 12–18 titles a year so we do have to be pretty discerning when it comes to acquisitions, but the first consideration is that it's authored by a Canadian or is of great interest or importance to Canadians. It should fall into the categories we already publish, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tori Elliott (second from left) with colleagues (L-R) Lara Kordic, Don Gorman, and Grace Gorman at the Frankfurt Book Fair, Oct. 15-19 2025. This, the world's largest international book fair, attracted nearly 240,000 visitors and over 4,000 exhibitors.

of course the quality of writing and the potential for sales is very important.

Do you come home often?

Yes, all the time. I work from home on a daily basis, so I spend about three months a year working from my parents' kitchen table. Nearly my entire family is in southwest Manitoba—how could I stay away?

What's it like coming back to Reston?

I'm very lucky that I'm able to come home and to spend as much time with my family as I do. I try not to take it for granted, but when I'm home for weeks at a time it's almost as if I never left.

Until very recently I lived in a very busy, very cramped, very old part of Victoria. My new neighbourhood is a little less busy and a little less cramped, but I still live in a city. It's cliché, but I miss how much space there is in Manitoba. I love going home to the farm.

What about life on Vancouver Island?

As fortunate as I was to grow up in rural Manitoba, I definitely lucked out when I landed in Victoria to work at TouchWood. Between the incredible friends I've made out here and the myriad things the Island has to offer—whether in the city, the forest, or the water—it's truly an amazing place to be.

Health Auxiliary and Tim Horton's Team Up for Cookie Week

Submitted

BY VIRDEN AND DISTRICT HEALTH AUXILIARY

Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign November 17 - 23.

During Holiday Cookie Week, members of the Auxiliary, along with special guests, will be decorating cookies at the Tim Horton's on Frontage Road in Virden. Stop in and say hello and pick up some cookies, perfect for a lunchbox treat for the kids, a before, during, or after work pick-me-up, or a gift for family and friends. All proceeds from the campaign will stay in the community and will assist the Auxiliary in its projects.

Cookies can also be pre-ordered and are available by the dozen. Auxiliary members have been canvassing the town, dropping off pre-order forms at local businesses, making it easy to support the Auxiliary, while providing themselves and others a sweet holiday treat!

The Virden and District Health Auxiliary is honoured to be chosen to partner with Tim Horton's for its

Tim Hortons

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- Neepawa Health Centre
- Virden & District Health Auxiliary
- Dauphin & District Community Food Bank

November 17th - 23rd

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SPORTS

OIL CAPS TRIO SHINE AT WESTERN ALL-STAR CHALLENGE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Three Virden Oil Capitals made valuable contributions and showcased their talents at the Western All-Star Challenge.

Virden's own Bryce Bryant and Oil Caps teammates Colten Worthington and Lincoln Black-Greaves all competed for Team Manitoba Junior Hockey League at the prestigious event in Martensville, Sask., on Nov. 3-5. Team MJHL split its two games with Team Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. The Western All-Star Challenge gave top 19U players in the MJHL and SJHL the opportunity to be seen by scouts from higher levels of hockey. The event also served as a pre-selection camp for Team Canada West for December's World Junior A Challenge in Trois-Rivières, Que.

"I enjoyed the high-compete hockey and playing with different guys from around the league," Bryant said of the Western All-Star Challenge. "It was a cool experience and a tough challenge."

On Team MJHL, the Oil Capitals found themselves being teammates with regular foes. Worthington said:

"Getting to play on the same team with guys that you're usually battling head-to-head with is a really fun way to get to know everyone. Talking and chatting on the bus and in the room was awkward at the start, but that quickly changed. Everyone was super nice, and they were all great guys. It's going to be interesting going back on the ice with them on the opposing team, but I'm looking forward to it."

The Oil Capitals' certified athletic therapist Dana Warrener worked with Team MJHL at the event. It was her second year in that role.

"I enjoyed being able to connect with other coaches and other staff members around the MJHL league as well as the SJHL coaches and staff," Warrener said. "Being selected to work with the Western All-Star Challenge team will help me

in my career by gaining more experience but also gaining new networks for the future."

Game Two Win

Team SJHL took game one of the two-game series 3-2 on Nov. 4. In the second contest, on Nov. 5, all of the Oil Capitals players were key contributors as Team MJHL surged back to win 5-4.

"The Tuesday game was super exciting to play in," Worthington said. "We came out strong like we did in the first game. We got down by a couple goals but the bench never died. It means a lot when you are out on the ice with the bench cheering you on. It just really shows it doesn't matter what team everyone comes from, and it doesn't matter if you guys don't get along playing against each other. Each and every player bought into the game on and off the ice and it was super fun to see how much everyone cared for the team and not just themselves. It was a full team effort and we left it all out on the ice and it paid off."

The game was knotted at 1-1 after the first period. Bryant assisted on Team MJHL's goal. Team SJHL outscored its opposition 2-1 in the second period to hold a 3-2 lead. Worthington assisted on Team MJHL's marker.

In the third period, Team SJHL added another goal



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

All-Stars: Bryce Bryant, Colten Worthington, and Lincoln Black-Greaves represented the Virden Oil Capitals at the Western All-Star Challenge.

to increase its lead to 4-2. Bryant started Team MJHL's comeback by scoring to make the score 4-3. Black-Greaves lit the lamp, assisted by Bryant, to knot the contest at 4-4. Rory Gilmour of the Steinbach Pistons scored the game winner. Of his contributions to the comeback, Bryant, who finished with three points, said:

"I saw my opportunity and was able to capitalize on a couple chances to push back to help tie up the game. The team got some momentum from it and we were able to come out with the win."

PRICE HELPS OIL KINGS, REFEREES AT VARIOUS LEVELS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

When hometown product Shane Price hops over the boards for the Virden Oil Kings, he brings a unique perspective to the ice.

As well as playing senior hockey for the local Tiger Hills Hockey League team, Price also officiates the sport. He referees games from the U11 level on up and serves as a linesman for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

"Refereeing has helped me as a player because it helped me know the little rule changes that may happen from year to year," Price said. "Playing has helped me as a referee because I will explain more as a referee because, as a player, I want the best explanation possible."

Virden Minor Hockey Referee-in-Chief Brittany Pappel said that Price is an excellent referee. She noted that as well as officiating at high levels such as in the MJHL and in the AAA ranks, Price also can be found working local minor hockey contests.

"He picks up numerous games throughout the season for Virden Minor Hockey," Pappel said. "Refs are hard to find these days, and his commitment to officiating the younger kids is greatly appreciated. Shane's strengths are his attitude and the understanding he has for the game. Shane always comes to the rink striving to do his best. He mentors younger officials and shares his knowledge and passion for the game with them. Shane is a great communicator with the young kids he is refing, as well as with his fellow officials. We are so very lucky to have him refing for Virden Minor hockey, and we are all proud of his dedication to furthering his officiating into higher levels."

Price brings the same level of commitment to the Oil Kings. He is in his second year with the team.

"Probably our most reliable guy as far as commit-

ment goes," Oil Kings coach Tyler Campbell said. "He's the first to answer in the group chat about who's going to be there. He rarely misses a game. He's been a great local addition to our team. His skating would be his biggest attribute, the way he gets up and down the ice and how he plays on both sides of the puck makes him a guy that can play a major role in either the top or bottom six."

Price, a forward, said, "I would say the things that I enjoy most about playing with the Oil Kings is being able to play competitive hockey again and being around the team."

In the team's home opener on Nov. 2 against the Sandy Lake Flying Feathermen, Price lit the lamp five times to help his team to a 13-1 victory.

"The home opener was awesome," Campbell said. "It's always good to get back to your own barn. We had a decent crowd for a Sunday night, on a night that maybe wasn't too exciting on the scoreboard but there were lots of other exciting things going on. Sandy Bay brought a pile of their own fans, which was awesome to see."

The home win improved the Oil Kings' record to 2-1-0-0. They beat the Boissevain Border Kings on the



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Virden Oil Kings Shane Price.

road on Nov. 1.

"Good goaltending was something that really helped us... We had a real group effort in executing two wins after a first-game loss," Campbell said of the team's first two victories. "Going to Boissevain with only 10 guys and coming out with the win was a real statement game in a sense. We had some guys really step it up."

The Oil Kings host the defending THHL champion Killarney Shamrocks on Nov. 13. The next day the team competes in Souris. On Nov. 16, the Hartney Blues visit.

SPORTS

SPORTS NOTES: BRYANT SHINES FOR HOMETOWN OIL CAPS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Oil Capitals.

The son of Daren and Roanne Bryant recently had an impressive performance at the Western All-Star Challenge. He collected three points in one game. As well, Bryant was recently named the Manitoba Junior Hockey League Manitoba Pork Peak Performer of the Month for October and the Oil Capitals' CD Oilwell Player of the Month. As of Nov. 10, he led the team and was ranked seventh in the MJHL with 24 points in 16 games.

"The standard we have set for our team and as individuals has helped myself and everyone step up their game," Bryant said of his start. "We have goals set and want to accomplish them. That's what gives that extra spark each game to score that big goal or make that big play."

In October, Bryant tallied eight goals and 17 points in nine games played. He had six multipoint games. Regarding Bryant's Peak Performer honour, the Oil Capitals' website stated:

"Bryant has showcased his elite combination of speed, vision, and scoring ability which have helped him climb into the top six in MJHL scoring. Beyond his offensive production, he's been a steady presence and leader for this Oil Caps group, setting the standard with his work ethic and compete level every night."

Joseph Honoured

Bryce Bryant has had a strong start to this hockey season with his hometown

Elkhorn's Colby Joseph earned the Pinnacle Employee Benefits Minot State Male Athlete of the Month award for October. He led his North Dakota school's hockey team with 13 points in eight games. He recorded at least a point in seven of those contests. Joseph scored the game-winner in the Beavers' season-opening win over Jamestown University. He is the son of Dawn and Gord Joseph.

Former Reston Residents Win

Two former Reston residents were among the winners at the Baseball Manitoba Awards Banquet on Nov. 8. Aaron Tycoles of Rivers was named the Volunteer of the Year. Killarney's Andrew Lochhead was selected as the Senior Men's Player of the Year. He hit .536 with 11 runs batted in for the Cartwright Twins.

Kirkup Leads

Former Virden resident Karissa Kirkup guided Team Manitoba to a fifth-place finish at the 2025 U18 Women's National Hockey Championship in Newfoundland and Labrador. She served as the team's head coach. Karissa also is the head coach of the U18 AAA Westman Wildcats. Her father, Kary, is an assistant coach for that squad.

Team Manitoba went 1-2 in Group A. It lost 4-1 to Team Atlantic in the quarterfinals. In the fifth-place contest, Team Manitoba defeated British Columbia in overtime, 2-1.

In Brief

Reston's Jamie Williamson has committed to play baseball and study at Valley City (N.D.) State University.



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Virden Oil Capitals #9 Bryce Bryant.

Look for more on him in an upcoming edition of the Empire-Advance. ... Manson's Kurt Rookes has played in 150 junior hockey games, as of Nov. 10. He is back with the MJHL's Waywayseecappo Wolverines after two seasons in the Western Hockey League. ... Elkhorn product Travis Sanheim led the National Hockey League in minutes played early this season. As of Nov. 10, the Philadelphia Flyers defenceman ranked third in the league, averaging 26:05 per game.

OIL CAPITALS ROMPED PAST TITANS, FALL TO PISTONS



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Goal celebration: Carson Wright celebrates after recording a hat trick against the Neepawa Titans.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

week.

The Oil Caps romped past the Neepawa Titans, 7-2, in front of 713 fans at Tundra Oil & Gas Place on Nov. 7. They fell 4-3 on the road to the Steinbach Pistons on Nov. 8.

The Oil Capitals take on the Terriers in Portage on Nov. 15. They return home to host the Northern Manitoba Blizzard in a Nov. 16 matinee contest. The Oil Caps play in Selkirk on Nov. 18.

Oil Caps 7, Titans 2

Carson Wright recorded a hat trick as Virden ended Neepawa's three-game winning streak on Nov. 7. The game's First Star, Wright said:

"I was able to find open ice and my teammates made some great plays to find me. All I did was put it in the net."

The Oil Capitals burst out of the gate. They scored five straight goals to open the contest. Two of those came

from Wright. Liam Goertzen, Bryan Laing, and London Hoilett also scored. Hoilett's marker came on the power play. His 11 goals, as of Nov. 11, in 16 games lead the team and ranked him fifth in the MJHL.

Easton Walters got Neepawa on the scoreboard with 15 seconds left in the opening period to make it a 5-1 game. Neither team scored in the second frame.

On a third-period power play, Keenan Skrupa scored to pull the Titans within three, 5-2. The Oil Capitals capped the contest with goals by Wright and Beckham Garchinski. It was the first goal of Garchinski's MJHL career. He had two points on the night.

Virden's own Bryce Bryant recorded three assists. He was the game's Second Star. With two assists, the Oil Capitals' Tyson Ulmer was the game's Third Star. Lincoln Black-Greaves was named the Oil Capitals' Hardest Working Player.

Micky Gross made 31 saves on 33 shots to help the hosts to the win. Zach Burleigh stopped 35 shots for Neepawa.

With about six minutes gone in the third period, things got physical. The Oil Capitals' Ty Plaisier and Maddox Shindle each received fighting majors, as did Neepawa's Dylan McCann and Dawson Andries.

Pistons 4, Oil Caps 3

In spite of their efforts, the Oil Capitals were unable to come back to beat the Pistons on the road. Steinbach took a 2-0 lead in

the first period. The Oil Caps came back to tie things up in the second session. Marshall Light and Brooks Siemens scored for Virden. In the third period, the Pistons scored twice to take a 4-2 lead. Defenceman Rhylan Baxter found the back of the net for Virden, but the Oil Capitals were unable to tie things up.

Baxter was the game's Third Star. Oil Caps goalie Braxton Burdeny made 26 saves.

Chris Quizi stopped 34 shots for Steinbach. Scoring for Steinbach were Brody Green, Jack Greenwell, Zhenya Miles, and Evan Gradt.

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Woodhaven Men's Shed - 401 Westwood Drive
Lord Roberts Men's Shed - 725 Kylemore Ave
Garden City Men's Shed - Seven Oaks Arena 2nd fl.

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SPORTS

LOVE BATTLES THROUGH INJURY TO HELP RIFLES

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Sioux Valley's Michael Love Jr. has enjoyed many aspects of playing for the Winnipeg Rifles.

He is in his third season competing for the Canadian Junior Football League team. Love studied and played football at Virden Collegiate Institute.

"I'm really enjoying how much I'm learning while playing for this team," Love said of the Rifles. "Obviously, it was a huge learning curve coming out of high school, but the coaching staff is super supportive and always push me to be my best."

"I enjoy playing with my teammates and I am making lots of friends on the team. We spend a lot of time together in the offseason, starting in January all the way to October/November, so lots of the guys I play with have become like brothers."

With the Rifles, Love has developed his game and battled through injuries. Head coach Geordie Wilson said he is "a good kid. He's come a long way." Love is an interior defensive lineman. Wilson praised him for being a strong run stopper and for his ability to take on double teams.

"He loves playing," the coach said. "In the offseason, we train in the (Canadian Football League's Winnipeg Blue) Bombers' weight room ... Mike was there all the time working his rear end off."

Wilson said Love's best days as a player are ahead of him. An injury during rookie camp in 2023 meant that he did not see the field that season.

"I had a bad kneecap dislocation and partially tore my MCL," Love said. "I had to get surgery to get it all repaired

before I could play again. They had to do bone surgery and move some stuff around, so the recovery from the surgery was pretty lengthy and I couldn't bear any weight on my leg for two months. The recovery lingered into my second year, but I am not having issues with it now."

This past season, Love had made his way into the team's defensive line rotation. In week two, he broke his hand. That kept Love out of the lineup for a few games, but he returned to action wearing a "club" on his hand. Wilson said, "He would have come back earlier if we would have let him."

Love explained that he had to have his hand surgically repaired with seven screws and a plate. After about a month of recovery, he came back sporting the club.

"My teammates definitely motivated me to come back and play as soon as I could," Love said. "Getting a season cut short that early is obviously pretty devastating and the fact that the doctors could get me back that early was amazing. The coaches were supportive, along with the athletic trainers, to get me back as soon as possible, so that was reassuring."

Love's parents played major roles in his football career. He explained that his father, "Michael Love Sr., is from Mississippi, so football was a huge part of his life growing up in the South. I started playing football when I was 7-8 and never really played any other sports. He drove me to all of my football practices and games as a kid playing in the Westman Youth Football Association. He always pushed me to do the best that I could and still supports me in every way that he can."

His mother, Angela Beston, also took him to practices and games. Love said, "She



Winnipeg Rifles player Michael Love Jr. appreciates the support of his girlfriend, Lily Flannery.

always supported me, and she always motivated me to keep playing my best. Growing up, my mom was in and out of the hospital a lot and seeing her before games or practices always pushed me to do my best every day. She passed away the summer before my senior year in high school, right before the football season started, and knowing that I would be making her proud pushes me to keep playing football."

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f i in X

Savy confirmed deputy mayor, water works nears finish

Town of Virden council meeting, Nov. 4

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Organization of council

At Tuesday's council meeting council positions and responsibilities were revisited. Coun. Marc Savy expressed interest in the role of Deputy Mayor after the call for nominations, confirming that he is willing to serve. A motion to appoint Councillor Savy as deputy mayor was passed.

Coun. Lynette Grumpelt will serve as the alternate on the library board for Coun. Jessie Cruickshank, and Mayor Tina Williams will be the alternate for the veterinary clinic, filling a previously vacant role.

Project updates

During reports to council, CAO Stewart detailed the progress on the airport lighting project. She said, "I believe it was commissioned today, so the lighting part of the project should be complete."

Stewart also reported on the progress with the municipal water-supply work. She said, "The pump test has been done, and it is pumping very well, showing a lot of capacity at that old aquifer location. The pitless (adapter) was installed today." Stewart added that crews were upgrading the pumphouse with a new magnetic flow meter and better-sized piping. Manitoba Municipal and Water Services Board (MMWB) staff plan to deliver more pipe to Brandon on Thursday, and by Friday the well should be fully mechanized, although it will not be activated until Monday (Nov. 10).

If Office of Drinking Water approves, a public notice will go out Thursday, possibly lifting the water-conservation advisory. Stewart emphasized that if reservoir levels dropped during valve replacements, the advisory could return temporarily. She said progress has been steady despite occasional delivery delays.

Souris-Glenwood resolutions

The Municipality of Souris-

Glenwood requested support for its secure council communications resolution which aims to improve confidentiality and data protection for municipal correspondence. They also sought backing for a resolution that would change how a special service levy is created to make the procedure cleared to ratepayers. Council agreed to provide a letter of support for both resolutions.

Agricultural tariff resolution

The Rural Municipality of Dauphin requested a letter of support for a resolution concerning tariffs that affect Manitoba farmers. The motion requests lobbying the federal and provincial governments to compensate affected agricultural sectors in the same way the automotive industry has been supported. Council agreed to endorse Dauphin's resolution and to encourage AMM (Association of Manitoba Municipalities) and FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) to advocate for federal compensation payments to decrease the economic impact on the agriculture sector.

Museum manager

The Virden Pioneer Home Museum committee recommended creating a Museum Manager position to begin Jan. 1, 2026, to be sponsored by the Town of Virden. Council approved the recommendation.

Crime Stoppers, STARS, Funshine

Council considered a funding request from Crime Stoppers. Previous contributions were \$500 in 2023 and \$800 in 2024. This year, the organization requested a rate increase to 30 cents per capita, amounting to \$960 total. Council approved the request.

STARS Ambulance Service submitted an appeal for funding. The Town provided \$1,000 in 2024, which had been their first contribution. Council agreed to maintain the \$1,000 contribution for 2025.

Funshine Early Learning Centre requested sponsorship, and Mayor Tina Williams recused herself due to a conflict of interest. Funshine asked for assistance for their Valentine's family dance at Tundra Oil and Gas Place, planned for Feb. 16. The dance is a fundraiser for the daycare. The request was for \$900 to offset hall rental cost. Council agreed and passed a motion to fund half the hall rental cost, up to a maximum of \$450.

Prairie Mountain Health

Coun. Marc Savy attended the Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) annual general online meeting on Oct. 22, where he noted PMH's service area covers 176,000 people: 20 per cent seniors, 17.5 per cent Indigenous, and 7.4 per cent visible minorities. PMH region also has the province's lowest median income, with over 25 per cent lacking a high-school diploma. PMH's northern areas show the highest unemployment, and a quarter of children there live in low-income families. The region currently faces a \$34.2 million deficit (March 31, 2025), mainly due to staff shortages and reliance on agency staff to fill those gaps. Savy also raised local concerns about the nine clinic positions — of which only six are filled — and was told recruitment efforts are continuing.

Accessible

Transportation grant

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Jared Jaffray met with representatives from SAIL (Seniors Access to Independent Living) and the Handyvan Committee about the community's Toonie Transportation program. The current grant year is ending, and a new application is being submitted for next year; results should arrive by early December. Jaffray said, "There was good turnout from the community and really positive feedback on that one, so hopefully we can keep that going."

REF MEMORIES

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Another referee memory I have took place at a senior hockey game in Kenton. That night was when 3 penalty shots were awarded on the same play. How was this possible? Three penalty shots on the same play, you're kidding, right? No it actually happened, and now for the rest of the story.

Dale Henderson was the head referee in that game. Kerry Smith and myself were the two linesmen.

A Kenton forward had a break-away and was fouled from behind. When he was tripped, Dale signalled there was a penalty shot being awarded. The signal for a penalty shot is by the referee putting his arms straight up over his head and crossing them.

Now when a penalty shot is awarded, you talk to the shooter and the goaltender to inform them of the rules while a penalty shot is taking place. First the shooter. The puck must be kept in a forward motion toward the goal. It's not like the NHL where players zigzag all over the place before a shot takes place. The shooter gets one shot, no rebounds should the puck hit the player and enter the net. Kerry Smith, one of the linesmen has the puck that he will set down at centre ice after the referee has a chat with the goalie and explains to him that he must remain in the goal crease until after the shooter crosses the blue line. The goalie was upset about Dale calling a penalty shot and told Dale he knew exactly what his responsibilities were as a goalie, get away from me!

Dale blows his whistle, Kerry sets the puck down on the centre red dot. I am standing on one side of the net, Dale on the other side. It's his call, I am there as another set of eyes on the play. The Kenton player picks up the puck and starts to head in for the shot. The goaltender comes out of his crease to position himself to block the shot. The goalie makes the save, penalty shot is completed, correct? No, this is not the case. Dale blows his whistle and signals that the shot is to be re-taken, because the goalie came out of his goal crease before the shooter had crossed over the blue line. The goalie is now a bit more upset with Dale. We are re-doing the shot. Dale again tells the goalie what he has to do, stay in your crease until the shooter crosses the blue line. Guess what? The goalie comes out of his crease too early, the shooter does not score again so you know what happens now? That is correct, we are doing it again! This will be the third attempt at getting this play completed. The third shot is taken, the goalie stays in his crease, but this time the shooter scored. The goalie is now really steamed at Dale and has more than an earful for Dale, who has headed to the timekeeper's bench to have the goal recorded.

As officials, we are also a team and do stick up for each other. The goalie still has a rant going so I decided I should intervene and get his attention off Dale and on to me instead. I said to the goalie, you know Dale is correct in how he handled this penalty shot. The goalie gets more verbal abuse going, so I said to him. I noticed in warm up you were stopping all the shots and then even on the first and second penalty shots you stopped them too. The goalie goes silent. I guess maybe I should have left it alone, but I said to the goalie, too bad that all those shots you seem to stop. But when it really counts, everybody is scoring goals on you. I said, you are the best warm-up goalie I have ever seen, but not so much during the actual game. Well, he comes unglued on me, but he left Dale alone. Mission accomplished. I let the goalie rant for a while at me then said to him, I am the head referee at your next game. If I were you I would just shut the hell up or make sure your back-up goalie is dressed because I will not be putting up with you and your mouth. I think my fuse is shorter than Dales. The goalie seemed to all of a sudden lose his tongue as it was very quiet when he left the ice. Truth be told, I was not doing his next game, but he did not know that, but I did. I saw him later on in the season, I could not even get a hello out of him!

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Empire-Advance

NDP Bills pass as the fall session of Legislature wraps up

Under the Dome
BY GREG NESBITT, MLA FOR RIDING MOUNTAIN

The fall session of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba wrapped up on the evening on Thursday, Nov. 6 and Manitobans watched as the majority NDP government passed Bills that could shape their daily lives and local economy.

Among the legislative actions was the passage of Bill 49, the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act, which will formalize the “registered-owner model” for Manitoba Public Insurance. The legislation requires that any insurance discount or rate reduction be based solely on the driving record of the registered owner of the vehicle, rather than on other individuals who might also be driving it.

The goal of Bill 49 is to maintain stability and consistency in how MPI calculated and applied insurance premiums within our public auto insurance system. For rural Manitobans, the Bill clarifies how insurance would apply to vehicles that are often shared among family members or used for agricultural purposes, ensuring that premiums remain tied to the registered owner regardless of who operates the vehicle.

Another Bill which passed this session makes changes to liquor licensing restricting alcohol sales in convenience stores and gas stations. While the Bill targets urban areas, rural entrepreneurs worried that similar restrictions could eventually extend to

their communities, limiting their ability to diversify revenue streams.

Business owners joined with the PC opposition in bringing these concerns to the forefront, emphasizing the need for liquor licensing policies that reflect the realities of rural life.

Bill 11, the Consumer Protection Amendment Act, raised concerns with the PC opposition and consumers about unintended consequences for rural and northern communities. While the Bill will regulate high-interest loans and payday lending practices, there are risks to consumers for access to short-term credit who do not have traditional banking options.

In communities in which financial services are already stretched thin, this overly restrictive legislation could leave vulnerable individuals with fewer choices during emergencies. Protecting consumers from predatory lending is important; however, the right balance between regulation and accessibility is very important.

The passing of Bill 40, Respecting O Canada and Other Observances Act, will mark a significant change to long-standing school traditions across the province. It eliminates the regulation that requires students to sing God Save the King at the start or end of each school day. Manitoba schools will no longer be obligated to include the royal anthem in daily observances, though divisions may still choose to do so at their discretion for special events or ceremonies.

Bill 40 also removes the last remnants of a regulation mandating the Lord’s Prayer in public schools, which had been ruled unconstitutional in 1992, and introduces a new requirement for all school boards to develop formal policies on land and treaty acknowledgments as part of their commitment to reconciliation.

Looking ahead, the Speech from the Throne on Tuesday, Nov. 18 will set the tone for the NDP’s legislative agenda. Issues such as healthcare and hospital staffing, affordability, crime, jobs and infrastructure are just some of the issues that are top of mind for Manitobans, and me as your MLA.

As the new session of the Legislature begins, Manitobans are encouraged to stay engaged with the legislative process. As your MLA I welcome your views on legislation and policies put forward by this government.

As the new session gets underway, one thing is clear: the decisions made in the Legislative Building this autumn will echo across the fields, towns and highways of Manitoban communities for months and years to come.

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

NDP force through tax hikes without debate or scrutiny at public committee

Submitted
By MB PC CAUCUS

After failing to call their budget bills for seven months, the NDP government waited until the last day of the fall session to rush through Wab Kinew’s tax hikes on Manitobans without any debate or any input from the public.

“The NDP don’t care what Manitobans think. They don’t care about transparency or accountability,” said Midland MLA Lauren Stone, PC Critic for Finance. “Instead, the NDP are sneaking in tax hikes in their budget bill at the last minute on the last night of this session without any opportunity for debate or public scrutiny.”

The NDP’s budget bill will eliminate the indexation of income tax brackets and the Basic Personal Amount, which means every year, Manitobans will face bracket creep as inflation eats away at their income. The tax brackets will impact more and more Manitoba workers who are just scraping by under this sluggish NDP economy. Progressive Conservatives removed more than 70,000 low-income-earning

Manitobans from the tax rolls entirely by indexing the BPA annually from 2016 through 2024.

That is not the only tax increase in this budget. The NDP are adding taxes to cloud-based services, including data storage, website hosting, and subscription-based software such as office suites, design tools, and video-game subscriptions. This will be detrimental to small businesses and all Manitoba consumers who will now pay more for their software and subscriptions.

The NDP’s school tax scheme has raised education property taxes on tens of thousands of Manitoba homeowners, collecting nearly \$350 million more in taxes from Manitoba families, seniors, and workers.

“The NDP have raised taxes on small business owners, cottage owners, doctors, and skilled professionals,” said Stone. “Altogether, the NDP are adding over \$400 million in higher taxes on Manitobans. That is more than the amount of Greg Selinger’s PST hike to 8%.”

School taxes have gone up by as much as 30% in some school divisions, while some property

owners are being taxed without having a vote for the school board representatives implementing these NDP tax increases.

All of these budget changes have been rushed through the Legislature by the Kinew NDP without a shred of transparency or public input. There has been no debate on either of their budget bills.

“Wab Kinew has broken the promise he made to Manitobans just over two years ago not to raise their taxes,” said Obby Khan, Leader of the Official Opposition. “Kinew’s broken promises are piling up as he makes affordability, healthcare, and crime worse. He’s even proposing a decade or more of hydro rate increases. Manitoba families can’t afford this NDP government.”

The Official Opposition voted against the NDP’s tax increases and out-of-control spending, but were denied any debate on the budget bills. The second session of the 43rd Legislature ended on Nov. 6th.

Prior to Kinew’s costly overhaul, Manitobans saw tax savings well into 2024 via PC affordability measures, including up to \$1,399 in savings for Manitoba families.

Shameless: NDP Say No to Earlier Breast Cancer Screenings, Accountability for Healthcare Wait Times

Submitted
By MB PC CAUCUS

The Kinew NDP blocked Bills 203 and 226 Thursday, killing legislation aimed at protecting Manitoba women and improving transparency for Manitoba patients.

“Manitobans deserve accountability from their government,” Roblin MLA Kathleen Cook, PC Critic for Health. “The NDP have made it clear that they have no intention of being accountable or putting aside partisanship to ensure better health outcomes.”

Bill 203, The Earlier Screening for Breast Cancer Act, was introduced by Cook to lower the initial eligibility age for routine breast cancer screening

services to 40 years, and to do so by a hard deadline of Dec. 31, 2026. The legislation also mandates yearly public reporting by the Minister of Health on the implementation and impact of this initiative.

Bill 226, The Health System Governance and Accountability Amendment Act (Reporting When Timely Care Not Available)—or Debbie’s Law—also introduced by Cook, requires health authorities to notify patients when life-saving care cannot be provided within medically recommended time frames, give patients out-of-province care options when waits in Manitoba are too long, and mandates reporting of all patient deaths linked to healthcare delays for life-saving procedures.

Both bills were blocked by the NDP three times Thursday morning, effectively killing the pieces

of legislation before end of session. This marks the second time that the NDP killed PCs’ breast cancer bill, which was also introduced last year.

“The NDP had nothing negative to say about either bill, no amendments, no critiques when brought to second reading,” said Cook. “The health minister can grandstand in the Legislature and make endless empty promises, but when it comes to acting on common-sense, patient-first policy, they have let Manitobans down at every opportunity.”

“Wab Kinew and Uzoma Asagwara have failed Manitoba families waiting for life-saving care, breast cancer survivors, advocates, and women all across the province. They should feel ashamed.”

For media inquiries, please contact PC Caucus_Media@leg.gov.mb.ca

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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY CHARLES JAMES 'JIM' HEAMAN



Dad was born in his parents 2 room house, November 29th, 1934 at NE23-11-27 in Wallace Municipality, the eldest child of Charlie & Millie Heaman. He passed away peacefully on September 6th, 2025 at the Elkwood Manor in Elkhorn, with his daughters by his side.

Dad was greeted his Heaven by his loving wife Margaret Anne. Son & daughter-in-law Paul & Laura Heaman, grandsons Kirby & Chad Heaman. His parents Charlie & Millie Heaman, siblings and in-laws, Elsie & Norman Bartlett, Henry & Anne Heaman, Harvey Heaman, Glen Heaman, Douglas Tolton, Wes Anderson & parents-in law Harry & Karleen Chapman.

He is loved and missed by daughters Kathy & Ken Heaman, Jan Marie & Jeff Jorgensen. Grandsons Brett & Anesha Heaman, Riley Jorgensen & great granddaughters Lucy & Kacee Heaman. Sisters & Brother and in-laws Margaret Tolton, Nina Jean & John Giesbrecht, Ralph & Linda Heaman, Betty Anderson, Joy & Geordie Barkley.

Dad attended Hargrave School and travelled there usually by horse in the summertime and sleigh in the wintertime. After leaving school at the completion of Grade 10 he worked to help his father on the farm, his uncle in his dairy barn and for a couple of neighbors on their farms when they needed assistance.

In 1956 Dad became a journeyman welder and worked for Henuset Brothers as a pipeline welder until 1960. He also worked a short time at Drapers Repair shop in Virden and following that he was at the COOP service station until 1974 when he chose to go farming fulltime. In the winter months Dad worked at the ESSO service station in Virden until the early nineties. Farming was his true calling and he worked the land all of his life, between assisting his parents and continuing to plant his own crops for over 50 years.

As a young fellow Dad enjoyed playing hockey and baseball in his community of Hargrave, he attended local dances and at the square dances he met his true love, Margaret Anne Chapman. Mom & Dad were married July 15th, 1961. They lived a few years in Virden before moving to S1/2 23-11-27 in the early 60's and eventually settling on to NW23-11-27 in 1966 in the home built by Dads paternal grandparents. In 1974 they moved in a new RTM home onto that property.

They were blessed with 3 children, Paul, Kathy & Jan Marie. Many hours of family time were spent skidoing. Dads' mechanical abilities were beneficial to maintaining snowmobiles, motorbikes and vehicles for us kids. He and Paul farmed successfully together until Paul and his wife Laura tragically passed in an accident in 1993.

Dad was a very social person and throughout his life enjoyed visiting with anyone who would like to chat. He became a salesman of short line equipment, selling items such as aeration equipment, sprayers, tarps, etc.. He gained many friendships through his side business while he continued farming. Dad and Mom enjoyed traveling over the years, which included hot holidays and cruises. They also enjoyed camping and the opportunity to see the different places they would go and the people they would visit with. They always enjoyed time with their neighbours and friends, coffees and card games, community events and helping others.

Mom passed in 2018, and Dad had to readjust life again. In 2021 when the effects of dementia became to much for him to live on his own, Dad moved into the Sherwood Care Home in Virden and in 2022 moved to the Elkwood Manor in Elkhorn. He had the pleasure of celebrating his 90th birthday with a few family and friends last November at the Elkwood Manor.

Dad passed away peacefully on September 6th, 2025, with his daughters by his side.

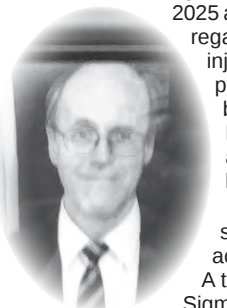
He was laid to rest beside Mom at Virden Cemetery on September 20th, 2025. A Memorial service officiated by Cathy Coulter followed in the Sunrise Banquet Hall at Tundra Oil & Gas Place in Virden. His grandson Riley Jorgensen played violin, and Roger Hurst accompanied him on the keyboard for the service.

Lunch following the service was catered by First Street Catering and the service arrangements were by Carscadden's Funeral Chapels.

Pallbearers were Nephews - Ray Tolton, Shawn Heaman, Cory Barkley, Rod Heaman, Rick Heaman, Nephew-in-law - Paul Parbery. Ushers were family friends - Brian Heaman, Les Odell, Eldon Boon & Darren Brereton

"For this one farmer, the worries are over, lie down & rest your head"

IN LOVING MEMORY SIGMUND JOHN STADNYK JUNE 13, 1950 – OCTOBER 12, 2025



Sigmund passed away peacefully Sunday, October 12, 2025 at Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta without regaining consciousness after a fall and serious head injury at his place of residence. Predeceased by his parents, Genevieve and Michael, he will be missed by his sister Anne Patrick, his extended Agnes Pattinson foster family, and special friends Andy and Judith Speers. He will be fondly remembered by many for his friendly ways and love of life.

Born and educated in Virden, Sigmund had some great memories of those days. He was active in cadets and played football in high school. A teammate once said, "if everyone tried as hard as Sigmund, we'd never lose a game".

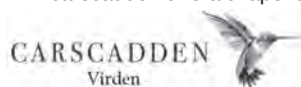
That is who he was – fully committed to whatever he did whether it be 20 plus years of volunteering for the Edmonton Heritage and Fringe festivals, helping with the Legion's Poppy Drive, or working more than 40 years for Walmart.

He often said the highlights of his life were travel and coming back to Virden for the 1998 Homecoming. He is returning now for his final rest.

A Graveside Service will be held at Virden Cemetery, Friday, November 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

If you wish to honour Sigmund, enjoy a long walk, consider volunteering in your community, or simply chat with someone who looks like they could use a friend.

Messages of Condolence may be place at
www.carscaddenfuneralchapel.com.



Coming Events



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Coming Events

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In Memory

*In Loving Memory
of a
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Chris Southam*

May 25, 1978 -
November 14, 2023

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Your memory a treasure
You're loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure

Love always,
Jodie, Dylan & Hayden



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Thank-you

Thank-you

The family of Jim Heaman would like to send a huge thank you to all whom comforted us with your visits, messages, food, flowers and kindness. We appreciated your thoughtfulness so very much.

Special thanks to the Elwood Manor staff in its entirety who showed compassionate care to dad during his 3-year stay. You all showed such kindness and patience, and we always knew he was well looked after. Thank you, Carscadden Funeral Chapel, for your compassion and services with dad's funeral and to Cathy Coulter for helping us celebrate dad in such an amazing way. Thanks also to Roger Hurst and Riley for your providing music for the service, First Street Catering for supplying lunch and to our thoughtful group of friends who brought us a beautiful supper after the service.

To the pallbearers Rick, Ray, Paul, Cory, Rod & Shawn and ushers Brian, Eldon, Les & Darren, thank you so much for honoring Dad and helping at the burial & service.

With Many Thanks - Kathy, Jan Marie & Families



Tenders

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Tenders will be accepted to purchase the following lands, being primarily pasture land, located in the Municipalities of Souris-Glenwood and Whitehead:

- A. NE 1/4 16-7-20 WPM (CT#3369949/2)
- B. SE 1/4 28-7-22 WPM (CT#3369951/2)
- C. SW 1/4 1-8-21 WPM (CT#3369955/2)
- D. NE 1/4 36-7-21 WPM (CT#3369958/2)
- E. W 1/2 18-9-21 WPM (CT#3369954/2 and 3369953/2)

The following conditions will apply:

1. Tenders shall close November 28, 2025 at 4:30 pm and shall be submitted to Laura McDougald-Williams, Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address noted below;
2. All persons submitting a tender shall rely on their personal knowledge and inspection of the property;
3. The mines and mineral interests of the land are not being sold;
4. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted;
5. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque representing Ten (10%) Percent of the tendered purchase price;
6. All unsuccessful Bidders shall have their tender cheques returned following the closing of tenders;
7. All tenders submitted shall be unconditional;
8. Closing date for the sale to the successful Bidder shall be December 17, 2025.
9. Current tenants of land shall be permitted until April 1, 2026 to remove their cattle handling equipment and chattels from the land.
10. The successful Bidder shall be responsible for all costs associated with the registration of title into their name.
11. No adjustment for property taxes will be made (Vendor to pay 2025).
12. GST is applicable, and the successful Bidder shall either pay GST on the purchase price or have a valid GST number and provide an undertaking to self-assess.

Address for Tenders:

Meighen Haddad LLP
Box 1149, 4 Crescent Ave. West,
Souris, Manitoba R0K 2C0
Phone: 204-483-1556 or Fax: 204-483-2321
lwilliams@mhlaw.ca
Attention: Laura J. McDougald-Williams

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SPORTS

MJHL SEASON UPDATE

MJHL HOCKEY

DEREK HOLTOM

A new month means it's time for the monthly award winners, and the high-scoring Waywayseecappo Wolverines lead the way with a pair accolades.

The RBC Player of the Month is Sebastien Hicks from the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. He was lights out in 12 games played, scoring nine goals and added 13 assists for 22 points.

Teammate Kurt Rookes is the Safe Work Manitoba Defenseman of the month. After returning to the WHL, Rookes scored a goal and added 12 assists in 12 games played.

The McMunn and Yates Goaltender of the Month is Austin Dubinsky from the Niverville Nighthawks. In nine games played, Dubinsky earned eight wins,

posting a 2.39 GAA and a .930 save percentage.

The Chevrolet Rookie of the Month is Trevor Hill from the Portage Terriers. In 11 games played, Hill scored eight goals and added four assists for a 12-point month.

And the Manitoba Pork Peak Performer is Bryce Bryant from the Virden Oil Capitals. In nine games played, Bryant scored eight goals and added nine assists to in part earn this honour.

- The Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Players of the Week are headlined by Ethan Stewart from the Dauphin Kings. The second-year player had three goals and three assists for six points in three games.
- Next up is goaltender Zach Burleigh from the Neepawa Titans. He won all three of his starts, posting a 1.00 GAA, a .967 save percentage and one shutout.
- The final weekly winner is forward Adam Vigfusson from the Niverville Nighthawks. In three games, Vigfusson scored one goal and added four assists for a five-point week.
- The Western All-Star Challenge concluded in Martensville Wednesday with the MJHL earning

a split, winning 5-4 on the final day of the event.

Wayway's Cole Hunter led the way with two goals for the MJHL, who rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the third period with three straight goals to end the game. Virden's Bryce Bryant had a goal and two helpers to help the cause. Teammate Lincoln Black-Greaves scored the tying goal and the winner came off the stick of Rory Gilmour from the Steinbach Pistons with 6:41 left in regulation.

Both teams split goalies for the game. Ethan Sawyer from the Selkirk Steelers stopped 15 of 17 shots, while Justin Perreault from the Dauphin Kings earned the win by stopping 14 of 16 shots.

The opener on Tuesday saw the SJHL shoot out to a 3-0 lead in the third period, holding off a comeback from the MJHL, winning 3-2.

Loik Leduc from the Niverville Nighthawks and Ethan Stewart from the Dauphin Kings provided the late spark, but the MJHL was unable to complete the comeback.

In goal Perreault started the game, stopping 17 of 19 shots. Sawyer took the loss in his half a game, stopping eight of nine shots.

Of interest, Taye Timmerman was one of the goaltenders for the SJHL. He of course backstopped the Northern Manitoba Blizzard to a league championship last year. He was hoping to stick with the Saskatoon Blades this year, but was reassigned to the recently relocated Warman Wolverines. He currently sports a 3-4 record with a 4.39 GAA and a .863 save percentage.

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From the prairies to the highland tour 204 - Part 11

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

We woke to a beautiful morning at The Eagle in Dornoch. After our breakfast of eggs, sausage and toast we loaded our van as we were leaving Dornoch and would be heading south to Dalwhinnie to a whiskey factory for a whiskey and chocolate tasting event.

The Dalwhinnie Distillery is located in the highland village of Dalwhinnie, which is located at the head of Glen Truim and the northeast end of Loch Ericht on the western edge of the Cairngorms national park.

We were escorted into a tasting room by one of the employees who was well versed in the qualities of Dalwhinnie Scotch Whiskey.

We were seated at a long plank table with a flight of four different whiskies with a chocolate to pair with each different kind of Whiskey. She started with the first glass where she instructed us to sniff, then sip and hold in your mouth for a moment before swallowing and then take a bite of the chocolate. We were asked, what does it taste like? This sequence was repeated for the other three varieties.

Sadly, Donald Caldwell who was our driver did not partake, but he being a good sport let us all enjoy ourselves. It was interesting that at the factory, they asked who was driving? Donald was not allowed in the room, which was too bad, but the high standard the whiskey factory was noteworthy!

After we purchased

some bottles, we boarded the van and away we went heading to Queens View in the Tay Forest Park. This is an historic site over Loch Tummel and lies at the heart of Highland Perthshire. When Queen Victoria visited here in 1866, she thought the view was named after her, but actually the belief is that it was named after Isabella, the first wife of Robert The Bruce who lived more than 500 years earlier.

After taking in these breathtaking views we boarded the van and left to continue our tour. Along our travels that day we came across the wooden remains of a Viking ship, can you believe it! Amazing history everywhere you go!

The next stop was the hotel, the Westlands of Pitlochry. We were invited to gather in a

welcoming conservatory where our drinks were brought to us. We did stop for lunch somewhere that day but I do not remember where! Must have been the whiskey! For supper we went to the Auld Smiddy Inn which started its life as Pitlochry Black Smith's Forge in the early 1900's. It has been transformed into a lovely restaurant with log fires in the winter months and outside seating in the summer months. We really enjoyed it.

After a long day we gathered back at the Westlands where we had a relaxing evening together.

Before we left, we had an opportunity to do some browsing and shopping. Julie and Celia were introduced to James Fraser for you outlander fans. Also, that day they found a treasure in a hospice shop. A beautiful antique suitcase which



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

The group went to Dalwhinnie whiskey distillery for a whiskey and chocolate tasting.

they christened Mary Poppins! Mary Poppins, which has its own story later on, was going to be used to store some prestigious articles for the trip home. Stay tuned for her adventure.



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Anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Ship and crew
lost 50 years ago
this month



PHOTO BY BOB CAMPBELL COURTESY OF GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

The legend of the Edmund Fitzgerald remains the most mysterious and controversial of all shipwreck tales heard around the Great Lakes. Her story is surpassed in books, film and media only by that of the Titanic. Canadian folksinger Gordon Lightfoot inspired popular interest in this vessel with his 1976 ballad, “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.”

The Edmund Fitzgerald was lost with her entire crew of 29 men on Lake Superior November 10, 1975, 17 miles north-northwest of Whitefish Point, Michigan. Whitefish Point is the site of the Whitefish Point Light Station and Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society (GLSHS) has conducted three underwater expeditions to the wreck, 1989, 1994, and 1995.

Elkhorn students honour veterans



A unique brass horn duet by students Sloan Paull and Zoe Johnson.



PHOTOS BY ED JAMES

Students Emmalee Flannery and Avery Frattinger laying memorial wreaths.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Elkhorn School gym was filled with students, staff members, parents, the Royal Canadian Legion and special invited guest from CFB Shilo for the annual school Remembrance Day service.

The service was opened with the land acknowledgement and parade march of the Legion flag party. Everyone rose with the singing of Oh Canada performed by the school band under the direction of Mr. Maningas.

School principal, Mr. Lance Barrate welcomed everyone and was followed by the band performing several Remembrance Day songs and various students from grades 1 to 7 reading poems and pledges.

Following the playing of “The Last Post” by Mr. Maningas, and two minutes of silence, high school students Cooper McColl and Zoe Johnson recited the Act of Remembrance. The youth commitment to remember the losses of war was read by Emmalee Flannery and Joshua Baer. A unique musical presentation during the event was a horn duet performed by students Zoe Johnson and Sloan Paull.

The guest speaker was Bombardier Gelfand, a soldier from CFB Shilo Artillery Regiment. In his short presentation he stressed that soldiers always remember those who have served Canada, to protect its values, peace and security. “We should always remember our Canadian

military forces for what they have done, do now and will do in time of need.”

Closing remarks were made by senior student Mya McAuley, with Emmalee Flannery and Avery Frattinger, laying memorial wreaths. Following ‘God Save The King’ the assembly was dismissed.

Mr. Barrate, in a message to the students and community members said, “To our staff, parents and community members, your presence and support remind us of the strength we share when we come together to honor those who served.”

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Special Issue ~ Friday, November 14, 2025

A Very Virden Christmas Kick-Off Party

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Are you ready for this Holiday season? Virden's Light Up evening, Nov. 20, signals that Very Virden Christmas 2025 has begun.

The new Santa's Workshop theme was announced last January by the Very Virden Christmas committee -they began planning for this 2025 holiday season way back in July 2025. So, A Very Virden Christmas will look a little different this year, as you will see. Santa and his helpers will be the warm and friendly theme. On Nov. 20, downtown Virden will be a winter wonderland with activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Many of the features that help us prepare for Christmas will return, beginning on the week of Nov. 20. Thursday night shopping is the highlight, a convenient shop local event that continues each Thursday evening throughout the season.

Earlier in the week the SMILE cookie campaign will begin. The Health Auxiliary will also be taking orders for the cookies.

Border Regional Library in Virden will kick off the season with Mrs. Claus reading to kids on Nov. 20 with two sessions at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. The Library Book Sale tables will also be set up for the entire week of November 18-22. Just \$5 to fill a bag, bring your own bag.

Don't miss what Arts Mosaic's winter wonderland in the CP Train Station on Sixth Ave. has to offer. It will be open until 8pm beginning on Nov. 20.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Virden Oil Capitals volunteered at last years Kick-Off Party and they plan to be at the November 20 Kick-Off Party again to help kids with their smores.

As part of the kick-off party at the hub of downtown – Nelson St. and Seventh Ave. - there will again be a bonfire, music, and the Oil Capitals passing out smores kits – roast your own.

Get a picture with Santa at the Lions Hall on light up evening. It's just half a block from the hub, (watch for signage) it's free and Oil Capitals will be there too.

Late Night Shopping Begins: Shop 'til you drop every Thursday from November 20 to December 18 at participating stores, open until 8pm.

Home Hardware starts the season off with Customer

Appreciation Days from Nov 19 – 22, where the purchase of a \$5 ticket (proceeds from the tickets go to Social Justice Fund) unlocks customer savings.

A hit with kids last year, the cookie decorating contest is back on Nov. 20. The Sweet Spot bakery on Seventh invites cookie artists who can, for a fee of \$5.00 decorate their own large cookie. The tools and icing will be available right there in the bakery.



Children with their parents flocked to the Virden library for story time with Mrs. Claus on Nov. 21, 2024. Mrs Claus is excited to host story time yet again at 6:30pm and 7:30pm on November 20, 2025.



Children with their parents enjoyed S'mores at the annual bonfire on Nov. 21, 2024. November 20, 2025 kick-off party will be bringing back these tasty treats.

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Light Up an evening to focus on loved ones

Memory Tree Light Up - Nov. 20

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Christmas is a time when family and friends think of each other. Colleagues go to dinner; work places hold Christmas meals together. However, it's also a time to remember those we love and have lost. That's where the Memory Tree Light Up comes in. It's an occasion to focus with intention on those we've lost.

Gina Bradbury says that to help with the light up, the Flower Attic provides the power to light up the enormous and beautiful spruce just outside their business. This lights up the dark in honour of loved ones, people and even pets that we mourn.

Westland Insurance will provide cookies and hot chocolate for the crowd that gathers on the street to enjoy the singalong.

Virden Collegiate Institute choir will lead the Christmas carols-familiar songs that invite you to join in and sing along.

Each glowing bulb on the Memory Tree represents a loved one, gone but not forgotten. The donation amount hasn't changed—still just \$5. The names of loved ones are entered on the board beside the tree.

There are 10 donation boxes placed throughout town. Find them at retail outlets, Bolton Place and banking institutions. OR, find a form in the Empire-Advance newspaper that can be filled out and mailed in with the donation.

Your donations are actually used to bring improvements to Virden Cemetery. Bradbury says the cemetery committee is looking into the purchase of a table or altar to be placed beside the columbariums. At present, when services are held and ashes committed to the columbarium, a table or stand is brought to the cemetery for the service. However, a permanent marble stand will be purchased.

As funds allow, benches will be purchased.

Within the cemetery chapel, Bradbury says a new binder to neatly document those who are laid to rest will be provided.

The building itself needs to be muddled and painted within and that project is set for warm weather.

Larger donations to the light up for cemetery projects are welcomed. But a \$5 donation for each lost loved one is a beautiful way to remember.

Virden Santa Parade

Saturday November 29, 2025
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Goulter School

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Goulter Country Christmas Celebration rides in on the heels of George Canyon & Aaron Pritchett's Coast-To-Coast Cowboy Christmas Tour on Dec. 3 in Virden AUD Theatre.

On Dec. 4, you will see and hear students, as 'Grannies and Geezers,' reminiscing about Christmas and singing Christmas tunes. Grades K – 4 take the stage as echoes of George Canyon and Aaron Pritchett fade.

The school needs to get the decorating done in advance of their concert. The country atmosphere created in the AUD by music teacher Mrs. Jill Radwonsky and the decorating crew from Goulter will be ready for Canyon and Pritchett's concert.

"The AUD will be decked out Western style for his concert as well," said Radwansky. She checked with George

Canyon's team and they said the décor gets to stay. In fact, she said they sounded happy about it.

Radwonsky's class have even taken the country Christmas theme a step farther ... well, many steps farther. She taught the school to line dance to Canyon's "I Believe in Angels." Practices began in September. By October all 180 students were line dancing. "They had a blast," she said, "decked out in jeans and cowboy hats that they sent flying into the air at the end of the song."

With the help of an 'educator film crew' they've made a video, which was sent to George Canyon's tour organizer. No telling what will become of it there, but when family and friends file into the AUD Theatre for the Dec. 4 Goulter Country Christmas Celebration, they plan to have the "I Believe in Angels" video playing.

Show times are 1:30pm and 7pm and tickets are \$7.

Mary Montgomery School

Christmas CONCERT

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Mary Montgomery School students, Grades K to 4 will fill the stage at Virden's AUD Theatre on Dec. 11 to present the entertaining musical, The Jingle Book.

Here's the story line. During this hour-long show a group of kids find a mysterious book at a toy bazaar. A book that sends them messages. It's an ancient book with magical powers that leads them on a quest to save Christmas. The children set out on a journey to get the Jingle Book back to its owner (Father Christmas).

There's got to be a villain in every good story and sure enough, along the way a nasty man named Jagger Spitz tries to steal the book back from

the kids and keep it from getting back to Father Christmas.

Billed as a tale of adventure, goodwill, and the magic of Christmas, The Jingle Book is said to bring the atmosphere of children's classics such as Narnia, along with the comedy of The Grinch, and the fantasy of The Box of Delights.

The production opens with songs by both Kindergarten classes before the main show begins. Although the Grade 4 students have the speaking roles, some songs feature both Grade 3 and 4 classes. Grade 1 and 2 classes also make appearances to sing songs within the show.

On Thursday, Dec. 11 there will be two showings, 1:30pm and 7:00pm. Tickets are \$7.

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The Coast-to-Coast Cowboy Christmas

George Canyon and Aaron Prichett tour is sold out

By VEA Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

CCMA winners, and beloved Canadian country superstars George Canyon and Aaron Pritchett are performing at the Virden Aud Theatre on December 3, 2025, as part of their “Coast-To-Coast Cowboy Christmas” tour and it is sold out! The show is being presented by Children Believe and will feature holiday classics, songs, and stories from both artists. The Virden Aud Theatre will be their only stop in Manitoba this year.

With countless accolades between them, and over 25 years of hits, the pair will come together to treat fans to some of their own chart-topping songs, as well as some all-time favorite Christmas classics.

George Canyon rose to becoming one of Canada’s hottest Country Music stars in the early 2000’s and has won countless accolades

and awards, including Juno Awards, CCMA Awards, and ECMA Awards to name a few. He has been inducted into the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame, recorded 12 albums, and was presented a certified Platinum Award for his debut album ‘One Good Friend’. With country iconic hits like Just Like You, I Believe in Angels, Drinkin’ Thinkin’, Daughters of the Sun, I Got This, I Want You To Live, Slow Dance and many, many more, he is also a highly regarded humanitarian, strong supporter of the military, and, most important, a proud father and devoted husband.

Aaron Pritchett has been a household name in Canadian Country music for 20 years, but when Aaron Pritchett hits the stage, he does so with the energy and intensity of an artist fresh on the scene. Yet despite being known for his dynamic, even raucous, live shows, it’s the classically country gentleman inside of Pritchett that’s made him a fan favourite – and staying force in Canadian country – for more than two decades.

Truly a show not to be missed, in celebration of the Holiday season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The reindeer and Papa: L-R Ella, Celeste, James, Jill (in behind), Emma, Donny, Alivia, McKenna, Daphne.

By Krista Pederson
S.A.I.L.

I think nostalgia is the right word for it. Every year, when Christmas is approaching, we tend to think of past Christmases.

We think of the sights, the sounds, the smells, the people we spent the holidays with. It’s as if we have a repertoire of memories, spanning our whole lifetime, plus stories that have been passed along from before we were born.

I know stories of Christmas past, from when my parents almost missed the train back up to Churchill, the first year they were married. I remember the stories of a friend who made their own Christmas decorations, because they couldn’t afford store-bought ones.

I remember stories of my grandparents when they were children, waiting for Christmas morning, before ever moving to Canada.

All of our experiences and memories tie into what we want our present holiday times to reflect. Perhaps some excitement on Christmas morning opening presents under the tree? A special story, read each year. Christmas carols, parties with friends and family, school plays and Christmas pageants.

Well, these things are all being offered this season in our communities.

I’ll highlight a few of them here.

On December 9, starting at 1:30pm, SAIL is hosting a Christmas-massing-along at St Paul’s United Church.

The Senior Serenader’s will be sharing their music, and the Virden and Area Hospital Aux-

iliary will be providing the treats. There is no cost, and all are welcome to come and enjoy singing Christmas songs.

On December 13, also at St Paul’s United Church, The Theatrick Players present “The Night Before Christmas”. This is a fundraiser for the Virden Food Cupboard. The Players are a multigenerational group, who are preparing to bring some joy. The classic tale of “The Night Before Christmas” gets some unexpected twists and modern references. You’ll see the characters you expect, though; papa, mama, dancing sugar plums, reindeer, children (who maybe don’t stay tucked in their beds), Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus a few surprises! This will be fun for the whole family to enjoy. Tickets are on sale now. Stop by 463 Seventh Avenue pick up yours. At \$5 dollars a piece you can afford to bring the whole family and friends. (Kids under 5 years old are free).

On December 18, Virden SAIL will host a lunch for seniors in the community. Tickets will go on sale early December. As always, you’ll be treated to a fabulous meal, with entertainment, a photo booth and a prize or two! Talk to us about transportation!

The Virden Music Jam will have our Christmas edition on December 21, Sunday afternoon from 1 to 5 at the Legion club room. It’s always fun to play music together. Or just come to listen and bring your dancing shoes!

Let’s participate in things that are meaningful to us this Christmas. There is something for everyone! Reach out and share in the joy of nostalgia this holiday season.

Happy Holidays

from our family to yours

Wishing you a joyful holiday filled with laughter and memorable moments with those you love most.

From Mayor, Council and Staff

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Arts Mosaic transforms into winter wonderland

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Arts Mosaic gallery will be transformed into a winter wonderland within the Historic CP Train Station on Sixth Ave.

During the Christmas season late night shopping in Viriden is beginning Nov. 20, this centre for the arts will be open until 8pm every Thursday evening, with the last late evening being Dec. 18.

Each Thursday evening, crafters can enjoy making a different piece based on the Christmas season theme. No need to pre-register, just drop in, enjoy hot chocolate and all that Arts Mosaic has to offer.



Arts Mosaic lights up at Christmas. Photo from 2024 display.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Light Village in Viriden



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

The Light Village displays are beautiful. Photo from the 2024 display from Oxford Church.

By Casse Hume
VERY VIRDEN CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER

On December 10, 11, 12, and 13 from 6pm – 9pm, weather permitting, the Viriden Lions Campground will be a grand Christmas Light Village for everyone to come and see. This will be the second year that the Very Viriden Christmas Committee has arranged this event.

This year the event has grown!! First, it has expanded from three nights into four as three was just not enough for everyone to get out and see the beautiful displays. Second, there are more displays. Last year we had eleven displays set-up by the first day. This year, fourteen wonderful organizations and businesses have decided to build their own light up spots at the campground. This year Cross Plumbing and Heating, Four Seasons, Funshine Daycare, Lions Club, Strike Welding, Sunrise Credit Union, Viriden Super Thrifty, The LITA's - Lady's Motorcycle Rider Group, Town of Viriden, Valleyview Co-op, Viriden Ag & Parts, Viriden Footwear, Viriden Recreation & Watersports, and Wolverine Supplies are participating. There are still a couple spots available if you would like to join, contact Tara Davies at the Town of Viriden office.

Donation of choice is accepted at the door and proceeds go towards the group working that night. Each night will have a different group working the village, Club West on Wednesday, Association for Community Living on Thursday, Funshine Daycare on Friday and Scouts Canada on Saturday.

This is a fun festivity that includes all ages. We hope you come and see all the wonderful hard work from all of our organizers.

Mosaic Market will be stuffed with wonderful handmade gifts to help with your Christmas shopping. There's jewelry, artwork, clothing items, slippers, mittens, hand towels, Christmas themed welcome signs and ornaments. Judging by last year, a very popular piece will be the photo booth. It's open from Nov. 20 onward throughout regular weekdays and on late night shopping evenings.



Costumes from the costume closet make this booth quite special. "We will have hats and scarves, coats and jackets, to put over your street clothes," says the Station manager, Alix Portrebka.

Holiday baking will be available to purchase at Arts Mosaic on Dec. 5. The Dainty Tray and Bake Sale is held from 1:30 – 3:00pm. Viriden & District Health Auxiliary host this bake sale.



Thank You for Another Great Year

Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season! We really appreciate your loyal support, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. *Merry Christmas, and many thanks!*

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

There's No Place Like Gnome for

Holiday Shopping & Celebrating

VIRDEN DRUGS
LOCALLY OWNED, LOCALLY OPERATED
TRY YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY FIRST!

Hope This Christmas Is a Shoe-In for the Best Yet!

Folks like you are the heart and "sole" of our business. Thanks for shopping here!

220 Nelson St W, Viriden, MB ~ 204.748.2382

Open til 8:00 every Thursday night until xmas starting Nov 20
2 Great Reasons to Shop Downtown Viriden

Make It Merry!

THE SPIRIT IS BUILDING AND WE WANT TO SAY, "HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!" FOR YOUR VALUED SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP TOO, WE'RE REALLY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU!

298 6 Ave S, Viriden ~ 204.748.2011

Wishing You & Yours a Good Old-Fashioned

Merry Christmas!

From the unmistakable scent of fresh-baked cookies to the festive twinkle of the tree, we hope your Christmas season is filled with your favorite time-honored traditions and shared with loved ones.

Viriden Recreation & Watersports

210 Frontage Rd, Viriden, MB 204.748.2060
www.virdenrec.com

Bundle Up for a Cool Christmas

The forecast sure looks merry! We hope your holiday season is a flurry of good times. Thanks for making so many great memories with us in 2025. Christmas gifts for the whole family under one roof. **Happy Holidays!**

VIRDEN SPORT & FASHION

Viriden, MB ~ 204.748.2143

Open til 8:00 every Thursday night until xmas starting Nov 20
2 Great Reasons to Shop Downtown Viriden

Pancakes with Santa

Virden Collegiate Grad Fundraiser - November 29, 2025



By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

“Pancakes with Santa” will occur on Saturday, November 29th and will involve around 30 Graduating Grade 12 students working the event along with some parents that will be volunteering. The students and parents will be cooking pancakes, sausage and serving coffee and juice for any visitors that come to join us. It will be held at the Tundra Oil and Gas place in the Sunrise Banquet Hall from 8am – 11am.

Grads will dress up in their festive attire or as elves, and of course, Santa will be there. There will be entertainment such as face painting, colouring, and pictures with Santa and some Christmas Carols.

The cost of the breakfast is \$8.00 and there will be a 50/50 ticket available.

Everyone Welcome!



THANK YOU for BEING A SPONSOR.

A Very Virden Christmas would like to thank everyone who sponsored this year!

• Boston Pizza	• Valleyview Co-op
• Cannabis 204	• Virden Ag & Parts
• CD Oilwell Services	• Virden Auto Glass
• Chicken Chef	• Virden Drugs
• Empire-Advance	• Virden Footwear
• Four Seasons	• Virden Home
• McNeil Harasymchuk	• Hardware
• McConnell	• Virden Recreation
• MNP	• Virden Sport &
• Remax	• Fashion
• RFNow	• Virden Truck and
• Shari-Lyn Fashions	• Trailer
• Stillwater Adventures	• Wolverine Supplies
• Strike Welding	• Your Dollar Store and
• Town of Virden	• More

With deep gratitude, we wish all of our neighbors, and friends a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year!

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

A Very Virden Christmas IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE NEW 2025 SNOWMAN BUILDING CONTEST!



2025 DECORATING CONTEST

A Very Virden Christmas IS EXCITED TO VISIT ALL THE HOMES ENTERED IN THE 2025 CONTEST! Light up your houses and your businesses!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ENTRY FORMS TO THE CONTESTS!

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes

Thank you for your continued support and patronage throughout the past year. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to serving you in 2026.

WOLVERINE SUPPLIES
1 River Valley Road, North, Virden, MB
204.748.2454
wolverinesupplies.com

We're All Spruced Up for Christmas!

Tabletop Christmas Trees, Ornaments & Lights, Gifts & Home Decor

Your **Dollar Store** With More

340 King St E, Virden
204-748-3409



RE/MAX

Terri Cosens
Real Estate Professional
204-748-7699
Serving The Virden Area
tcosens@remax.net
RE/MAX Valleyview Realty
Unit A - 1209 Richmond Ave., Brandon, MB R7A 1M5



A Very Virden Christmas

veryvirdenchristmas.ca

Decorating Contest

VIEWER'S CHOICE CATEGORY	JUDGED CATEGORY
RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS & SNOWMAN BUILDING	1ST ★ 2ND ★ 3RD PLACE PRIZES
- SUBMIT ENTRIES by December 7 - VOTE ONLINE December 8 to December 14 - WINNERS NOTIFIED December 15	- SUBMIT ENTRIES by December 7 - JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE December 8 to 14 - WINNERS NOTIFIED December 15

OVER \$1200 IN PRIZES TO BE WON! Visit the website for full details and to submit your entries.

November 15

A SPLASH OF CHRISTMAS CRAFT & TRADE SHOW
@ Tundra Oil and Gas Place
★ 10am to 4pm

November 20

DOWNTOWN DANCE PARTY, SMORES, & PICTURES WITH SANTA
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING BEGINS
MEMORY TREE LIGHT UP & SO MUCH MORE!

November 29

PANCAKES WITH SANTA
Presented by VCI Grad Class of 2025
★ 8am to 11am

VIRDEN SANTA PARADE

★ 6pm

December 3

COWBOY CHRISTMAS TOUR
George Canyon & Aaron Pritchett
★ 8pm

December 6

WALLACE DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT
WING DING TURKEY BINGO
★ 12pm to 4pm

December 10-13

CHRISTMAS LIGHT VILLAGE
★ 6pm to 9pm

December 13

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Presented by Theatrick Players
★ 3pm and 7pm

FOR MORE CHRISTMAS FUN AND HOLIDAY CHEER,
VISIT THE **EVENT CALENDAR** HERE:
WITH EVENTS FOR ALL AGES, THERE ARE SO MANY ACTIVITIES,
JOIN IN THE FUN AND SHARE IN THESE MERRY FESTIVITIES!



Visit us online!

A Very Virden Christmas is proudly sponsored by

