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## Town's amazing canna lilies



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

These giant Canna lilies at the junction of King Street and Thomas Drive thrive in heat and will last until frost. Their foliage adds a tropical touch to a busy intersection in Virden and provides contrast with the white petunias, and the marigolds.

## Inside...



**OAK LAKE  
HARVEST  
FESTIVAL**

**P8**



**SIOUX VALLEY  
CBC'S STILL  
STANDING**

**P1**



# Still Standing entertains Sioux Valley audience

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This fall it may surprise southwestern Manitobans to see themselves on an episode of “Still Standing” airing on CBC and on CBC Gem. The show’s film crew spent a week at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation that culminated in a live show in the community’s Veterans Hall. Jonny Harris and the “Still Standing” crew venture into small town Canada and come up with a hilarious, irreverent, and affectionate look at life there.

After a week of interactions and filming on location, possibly in the middle of a buffalo herd or in the community diner, or wherever the action took them, Jonny and the team put on a live stage show that had the Sioux Valley audience in stitches.

From the start, the Tuesday evening show was stacked up to be an exciting event. An audience gathered outside the hall, waiting for the doors to open and when they did, we were met with a new version of their facility.

The hall had undergone a marvelous transformation to become a live audience film studio. The pristine white walls (essentially, an echo chamber) of the hall disappeared, as the “studio” was flanked by sets of red, blue, white and gold curtains.

But, most eye-catching was the “Still Standing” signature centre stage map of Canada in lights.

Production equipment occupied dim corners as the audience of about 40 people, mainly from the Sioux Valley community, settled in to enjoy a comedy routine.

Did everyone realize they would be part of a live audience show?

Lead writer and a consulting producer, Fraser Young welcomed everyone and in a rapid-fire humorous approach, he made sure the audience did know that from time to time the camera would pan them. “You are on camera, right now,” he stated, adding a few “quick tips,” for the live audience situation.

Next, another of the show’s writing talents Graham Chittenden took the stage, amid excited applause. This personable funny man’s disarming comedy routine had the audience from his first sentence.

The audience was warmed up by the time Jonny Harris stood before them. He brought more than a comedy routine, but also an insightful connection with the community’s people. He threaded humour through an account of what he and the team found during their week there. In an off the cuff style Harris’s knowledge of Dakota Nation Sioux Valley’s history was amazing. His unique gift of story telling made this a powerful presentation.

“Still Standing” is produced by Frantic Films, based in Toronto and Winnipeg. In 2023, the show and its writers and performers, received an award for ‘Best Writing, Factual’ at the Canadian Screen Awards, an award they’ve won numerous times. Now in its 10th season, Jonny and the team have visited about 100 of Canada’s most unique and remote communities.

To produce this show at Sioux Valley, the work began months earlier. Series producer Adrian Callender explains, “We started planning this shoot back in January 2024. In the spring, we reached out to the community’s leadership, and by the end of July, we sent a researcher to meet people, gather stories, and scout filming locations.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY “STILL STANDING”

Graham Chittenden, Consulting Producer and Writer for CBC-TV’s “Still Standing,” warms up the crowd before host Jonny Harris takes the stage during the taping of an episode in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation on September 3, 2024.

The actual film sessions in Sioux valley began this summer on Aug. 27, with a small group from the team exploring the community, searching out the best filming locations. The full crew arrived in Sioux Valley on Wednesday, Aug. 28, their first day on location.

Callender said they enjoyed their work in the First Nation community just 30 minutes east of Virden. “Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is such a wonderful and resilient community. We were really touched by the warm welcome and grateful to learn so much about the Dakota people’s rich history. We’re excited to share these stories with our audience.”

And so they will. The show airs on CBC, Nov. 26, at 8:30pm. It will also stream on CBC Gem on the day of broadcast.

# THANK YOU!



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# HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

A bounty of fresh tomatoes always leads to questions about ways to use them. Hopefully this helps you.

This method is so simple to skin tomatoes for various recipes: bring a large pot of water a boil. Working in batches, drop the tomatoes in one at a time, then let sit in the boiling water until the skins split open, 30-60 seconds. One at a time, remove tomatoes from hot water with a slotted spoon and transfer to the bowl of cold water. When cool enough to touch, slip off and discard the tomato skins and remove the hard stem end and core. Trim away any bad spots. Voila, it's just that easy. When I get too busy to deal with ripe tomatoes I like to freeze them whole. It is the easiest way to keep ripe tomatoes until you're ready to use them. You don't have to peel them first. When ready to use place into a bowl of hot water and the skins just pop off.

Swap out the basil and oregano for cumin and chili if you prefer Mexican food, or coriander and garam masala blend for Indian food.

Freezer tomato sauce

6-7 lbs. ripe tomatoes, cut large tomatoes into quarters, small ones in half

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil

2 large onions, peeled and cut into quarters

4 garlic cloves, peeled

3-4 bell peppers, cut into smaller pieces

3-4 tsp. salt

1 tsp. pepper

4 Tbsp. sugar

1/2 cup basil leaves, chopped

1/4 cup fresh Oregano, chopped or 2 Tbsp. dried

Peel tomatoes with the hot water bath method mentioned above. In a large heavy bottomed pot heat the oil. Add the onions and garlic. Cook for about 5-6 minutes stirring occasionally. Add the peppers, salt, pepper and sugar. Bring to a boil, turn the heat down and simmer uncovered for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the basil and oregano and simmer for 15 minutes more. Cool slightly and then blend in a blender or put through a food processor. Cool quickly in a sink of cold water. Place in freezer containers and freeze until ready to use.

This chili sauce can be canned or frozen. The peppers you choose vary the spiciness of this sauce. Wear disposable gloves when cutting hot peppers; the oils can burn skin. Avoid touching your face.

Chili sauce

7 pounds tomatoes peeled and roughly chopped (about 15 cups prepared)

5 onions, diced

3 red bell peppers seeded and diced

6 chili peppers seeded and chopped

6 garlic cloves

2 cups apple cider vinegar

1 cup light brown sugar

1 Tbsp. pickling salt

4 Tbsp. chili powder

2 tsp. allspice

2 tsp. ground cloves

Combine all ingredients in a large stainless steel pot and bring to a boil over high heat. Lower heat and simmer until thickened, about 1 1/2 - 2 hour, stirring occasionally to prevent scorching. Sauce is done when it's the thickness of ketchup. If freezing: cool quickly in a sink of cold water. Place in freezer containers and freeze until ready to use. If canning: Ladle hot chili sauce into a pint jars leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles, wipe rims. Apply band, adjust to fingertip tight. Place jars in boiling water canner. Process jars 20 minutes. Remove jars and cool.

# Virden Legion Ladies Auxiliary Report

Submitted

MARJ MACDONALD, SECRETARY

The Legion Ladies Auxiliary met on Thursday September 5, 2024, at 1:30pm. President Tracy Pappel welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open for the transaction of business. Thank you's received from the two Grade 12 graduates for their scholarships to further their education. Received a thank you from a family for the donation made to help purchase a special stroller for their son. Made a donation to the Virden and Area Food cupboard. September 28th, 2024, the auxiliary are hosting a Quilter's Retreat & Workshop from 8:30-4:30 in the Legion Hall. 20 spots available for the retreat. Cost \$30.00 (includes lunch & coffee breaks). Registration deadline for the retreat September 20th, 2024. For the Workshop 12 spaces available at \$175.00 (includes Stripology ruler & workbook, lunch & coffee breaks). The instructor for the workshop is Cheryl Winger a certified Stripology instructor. To register contact Kathy Mowez 204-748-3349 or 204-748-8704 Tracy Pappel 204-748-3710 or 204-748-7149. Our next meeting October 2nd, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

**Greg NESBITT**  
MLA for Riding Mountain

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# There is a season

Summer has and always will be one of my favourite seasons.

The sun heat beating down on my face, the freckles on my son's nose, telling the tale of hours spent outside, playing without a care in the world.

The late evenings are spent soaking in the calming cracklings of the fireside, while our boys stay up after the age old 'five more minutes' game turns into 25 because they are only little once, and summer is fleeting.

But as I wandered outside in my yard this week, slowly taking in the quiet babbling of the creek, the birds singing in the trees, the breeze gently rustling over the leaves like a dance; I noticed the tell-tale signs that my favourite season is coming to a close for yet another year.

The leaves on the trees that start out as such vibrantly green buds that burst into an array of different hues of green in the spring start to show signs of fall.

The once solid green starts to melt to yellow and orange and burgundy.

My garden, once only holding the tiny shoots that fight to come to the surface of the dirt to find the sunshine, now runs wild and full of life. Tomatoes, carrots, garlic and squash all become ripe for the picking, all at the same time as it always seems to happen.

As I was walking and taking in the inevitable change, I was reminded that just as the seasons change year to year, so do the seasons of our lives shift and morph.

I was reminded of God's faithfulness, his goodness and provision.

I was reminded that he has a good and perfect plan for each of us, if he has a plan for each season to thrive in its own way, to have purpose, how much more must he have great and wonderful plans for you and I.

I was reminded that even if a season I have LOVED is coming to a close, he has a purpose. Even if I'm walking in a season that feels like the dead of winter, he has a plan.

Friend, know that God wastes NOTHING, from the time of growth to the time of rest and hibernation, to the time of heat and warmth, to the time of coolness and change. He has you safely tucked in his hands.

Breathe in that deep, crisp, cool, fall air and know deep inside you that whatever season you walk through he knows, he sees, and he will make it beautiful in unexpected and wonderful ways.

**HPV causes cancer in 100 Manitobans each year.**

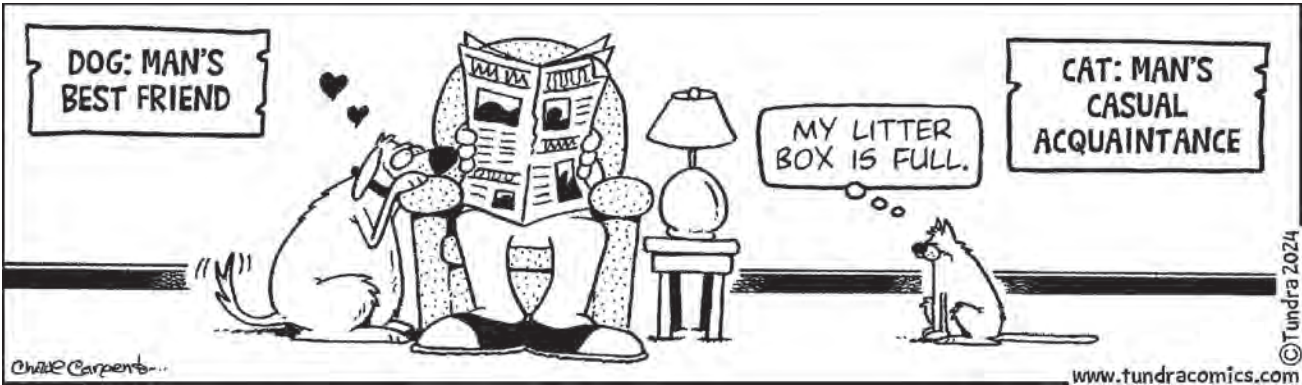
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Flights of fancy...

Canada Post is in trouble

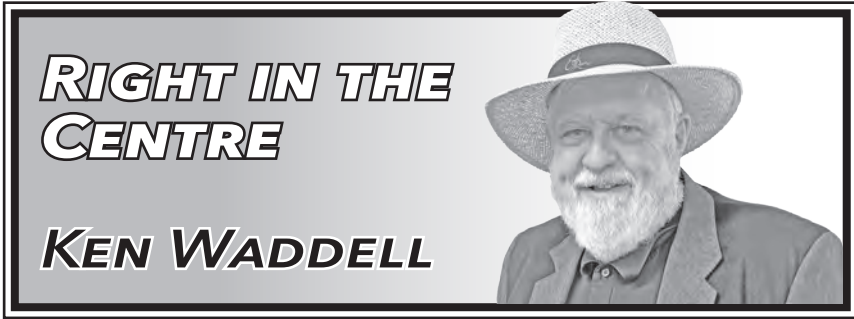
The government of Canada has a number of financial disasters on its hands. Some are ongoing like the CBC that sucks up \$1.3 billion a year in taxpayers money. Another is Canada Post as between 2018 and 2023 it has lost \$3 billion. In the first six months of 2024 CP has reportedly lost \$464 million. The Corporation has current loans and borrowings of \$1 billion, of which \$500 million is due for repayment in July 2025. At least \$1 billion in new borrowings or other liquidity measures are required for 2025, including refinancing \$500 million in existing debt.

A quick review of those figures don't add up as \$3.464 billion can't be covered by only a billion in debt so I can only assume that Canada Post is in deep trouble but they aren't sure how deep. I also assume that Canadian taxpayers are going to have to pony up the money to keep the post office afloat.

I have been going for the mail for nearly 60 years and Canada Post, as a corporation, hasn't kept up. The local post office staff have, for the most part, done an excellent job of serving their customers. As you go up the ladder, the service falls off pretty fast.

Two or three years ago, I needed to talk to someone and I had a list of three people who I occasionally phoned. I phoned them all twice and never got a reply. That was a bit annoying.

Then we started checking on newspaper deliveries and found that often papers that were taken to a post office on our regular Thursday schedule were taking as long as a week to get to nearby towns. We are a weekly paper and a 5-7 day delivery just isn't satisfactory. I think what was happening is that our paper bundles were going from one of the two post offices we used and getting hung up in a regional warehouse in behind the



Amazon deliveries.

There's only so many trucks and I guess the papers weren't a priority. Postal staff will tell you that First Class Mail (letters) are no longer a priority, parcels are. That obviously means that Third Class Mail (newspapers) slip even further down the ladder.

Addressed subscription papers can get to their destination in a week (we have tracked it as being that quick sometimes) but it's not unusual for two or even three newspapers to arrive on the same day so obviously CP staff somewhere are setting newspapers aside for a later date.

Canada Post is somewhat strangled by government regulations. They are mandated to deliver mail to every address in Canada. That is just not possible at current prices.

There has to be some changes. That said, in the 21st century, why do we still have rural routes. I know of one that is within six miles of a major town. Really? People would have to wait until they get home, after being at the coffee shop, to get their mail in their end-of-lane mailbox. There are a lot of rural routes that don't make sense. In urban areas, maybe door-to-door delivery could be three days a week instead of five or six.

I know I sound like an old guy but, we used to get our mail once a week and we had to drive to town to get it. If Canada Post wants to cut some costs, door to door might have to go.

There's another part of Canada Post that needs examination. CP has 23 people at the vice-president or higher level. Add to that they have many marketing people. Maybe if the people who are supposed to look after customers at the regional level would learn to answer the phone, things might go better.

All I know is that we only use Canada Post on a very limited basis and I also know that money we used to spend on Canada Post now goes into our employees and the cost of having three vehicles on the road.

Canada Post hasn't kept up with the times at all. Thirty years ago Canada Post wouldn't let local offices have a fax machine. Ironically, they came and paid to use our fax machine. Why aren't Canada Post offices used by Services Canada staff to meet with clients? Why don't they offer banking services, especially in towns that don't have a bank? Why are Canada Post employees allowed to go on strike? After we had struggled through three or four postal strikes, we got smart and started to find better ways to get our papers out to readers. The president of Canada Post has told the government they can't keep going. He's right and CP needs an overhaul or it just won't be there in a few years.

If I could be a tree, I would be an oak. The Burr Oak is fairly common to Manitoba, and they played a part in my early years. Thin and straight they made wonderful fence posts, not needing to be pre treated to last a long time. Farm folks will know what I mean when I say that an oak post promoted expletives on a grand scale. More than once a carefully positioned staple would SPROOONG away when hit by the hammer. An oak log on the fire last thing at night guaranteed glowing coals in the morning, an easy start to the morning's warmth. I wondered a bit about my affinity with the oak so did a bit of research, there had to be more than fence posts, wonderful heating fuel and the perfect tree for a swing.

(I had already assessed the similarity in our shared ability to produce nuts!)

The oak tree is a symbol of strength. It is slow growing but grows to be a large tree, providing plenty of shade and a safe place for birds to nest. Converted to timber it is strong, hard and durable. Used to make wine barrels the oak adds distinctive flavour and scent. So, strong, slow growing, productive and nurturing- I'm still on board if we include mental and spiritual growth rather than physical! Interesting fact: about a third of the species is threatened with extinction due to climate change, pests and habitat loss. Translate that as my peers and I being threatened with aging and we have another match. Oak trees survive transplanting, grow well in cities for they can tolerate air pollution and thrive in various growing conditions. Yep, I've been moved more than once and have been planted in a variety of growing conditions and I'm still going strong. Our deep roots tolerate drought, and I've gone through a few of those; our thick bark allows us to survive forest fires. I am deep rooted and thick skinned! When I look at the facts I can see why the oak tree, even the common Burr Oak is the tree I'd want to be!

So which trees were culled? Did I look at my options? Well, I've grown up with the Manitoba Maple and it is fast growing, but a tad too careless for my liking. A tad too careless in that the branches/limbs stretch way beyond their means, bending low too the earth only to turn and once again reach for the sky. They are also very prolific! Those air borne seeds are a wonder to behold in flight, and if you miss one taking root in your raspberry patch, as an example, it very quickly establishes dominance. There are so many seeds... I admire birch trees. Admire but don't wish to be one. They often grow in clusters and I see a gaggle of girls giggling and sharing secrets. The birch wood is also wonderfully hot and clean when burning in a furnace or stove or campfire. They don't have the staying power of the oak.

After analyzing other trees, and analyzing many other trees, I will stick with wanting to be an oak.



# Where is Agriculture?

By Cam Dahl, General Manager  
MANITOBA PORK COUNCIL

This past January, the Government of Canada announced its “Team Canada” missions to the U.S., to promote Canadian exports in advance of the upcoming renegotiation of the Canada – U.S. – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA, the former NAFTA). The missions to State legislatures and the United States government are a good thing, but something is lacking. I have heard little mention of cross-border trade in agriculture and food products when the “Team Canada” missions are discussed.

Our federal government talks about securing trade vital to national security, but for some reason agriculture and food seem not to be included in the national security bucket. This is despite the fact that agriculture and food is one of our largest export sectors, accounting for about \$60 billion in exports to the U.S. annually.

Canada is an exporting nation and Manitoba is an exporting province. For example, 90 percent of the eight million pigs raised in Manitoba every year are exported, either as packages of pork shipped around the world or as live animal exports to the United States. The international agricultural landscape is witnessing a troubling trend towards protectionism, and these exports are at risk. Manitoba’s farmers and processors cannot afford market access restrictions and need our governments to aggressively fight for our interests.

What protectionist headwinds are farmers facing in the U.S. marketplace? There are state level regulations that reach beyond the borders of individual states, like Proposition 12 in California. Extra-territorial legislation by individual states fractures the integrated North American market for agriculture and food products, increases the price for consumers, and decreases the return for

farmers. There is also a new country of origin labelling law from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will discriminate against Canadian pigs and cattle exported to the U.S. Again, this results in higher prices for consumers and lower returns for farmers. Canada needs to have a strategy to be much more assertive in pushing back against these new trade barriers.

New barriers to cross-border agriculture and food trade are appearing against the backdrop of the upcoming renegotiation of CUSMA. Canadian agriculture will almost certainly be a target, no matter who wins the U.S. elections this November. Canada needs to develop a comprehensive agriculture and food strategy as we approach the renegotiation of CUSMA. For starters, agriculture and food export interests should be included in outreach to state and national legislators. Agriculture should be part of “Team Canada”. Without a defined national strategy, developed in collaboration with farmers and processors, agricultural and food export interests may be overlooked, or even traded off, to protect other sectors when the CUSMA renegotiations take place.

Farmers have a reason to be wary that their trade interests will not be of primary concern. For example, when the Government of Canada announced a 100% tariff on imports of China-made electric vehicles and a 25% duty on Chinese steel and aluminum, China quickly responded by initiating a dumping probe on canola exports. It is hard to object to the Government of Canada taking action to protect Canadian jobs from unfair trading practices, however, farmers should not carry the costs if retaliatory measures are taken. The Government of Canada has seen fit to offset the impact of trade agreements on



other sectors of agriculture and the same consideration should be given if our exports become political targets. This needs to be part of the comprehensive agriculture and food trade strategy.

The Government of Manitoba also has a key role to play in protecting farmers’ market access. Premier Kinew recently created the Business and Jobs Council, which undertook a trade mission to the U.S. this spring. This is a positive step. However, our voice could be amplified, both in Washington and Ottawa, if there was a common agriculture trade strategy developed across the prairie provinces. Collaboration across Western Canada on agriculture and food trade should extend beyond the U.S. For example, it would be a breakthrough in collaborative government if Manitoba were to work with the other prairie governments to establish a presence in key Asia Pacific markets that are targeted for growth in agriculture trade from Western Canada.

Farmers who rely on international markets face significant market access threats that will have substantial negative impacts on incomes, especially in Western Canadian provinces, if we fail to act. There needs to be a concerted effort to develop a comprehensive agriculture and food trade strategy aimed at protecting the trade access we have today and breaking open new opportunities to offset protectionist threats. The development of this strategy must include farmers and processors, and it should include collaboration across provincial governments as well as the Government of Canada.



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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

### SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SIFTON

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 10th day of **October, 2024**, at the hour of **1:00 PM**, at **Oak Lake Community Hall, 474 North Railway Street, Oak Lake, Manitoba**, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:


Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
51900	LOTS 1 TO 12 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM. - 1/12 2 218, BELLEVUE	L -\$2,800	\$1,738.55
52600	LOTS 17, 18, 22 AND 23 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM., LOTS 19, 20 AND 21 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - 17/23 2 218	L -\$2,300	\$1,720.82
123300	PARCEL ONE: LOT 1 BLOCK 4 PLAN 41 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS IN NE 1/4 25-9-23 WPM PARCEL TWO: LOT 2 BLOCK 4 PLAN 41 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN NE 1/4 25-9-23 WPM - 1/2 4 41, GRISWOLD	L -\$700	\$3,060.82
215000	LOT 19 AND 20 BLOCK 16 SS PLAN 1969 BLTO IN N 1/2 23-9-24 WPM - 114 CAMERON ST E, OAK LAKE	L -\$11,400 B -\$21,200	\$5,271.64

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth as follows:
  - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - iii) A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2024.

Managed by:



Lisa Greig  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Sifton  
Phone: (204) 855-2423  
Fax: (204) 855-2836



# Manitoba government to open Brandon’s first minor injury clinic this month

Submitted  
MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Brandon’s first-ever minor injury clinic is set to open later this month at its new home on Sixth Street, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced today.

“This clinic is all about convenience and quick care for Brandon families,” said Asagwara. “It’s great news for parents when their kid needs stitches or a cast or anyone who needs to see a doctor for non-urgent care and doesn’t want to spend hours in a waiting room. Our government promised to create more of these clinics across the province and I’m pleased we will soon open our first one in Brandon.”



Main level of 144 Sixth St. in Brandon, home of the new minor injury clinic.

FILE PHOTO

The Brandon Minor Injury and Illness Clinic will be located on the main level of 144 Sixth St. in Brandon and operate seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Patients will have an option to access walk-in care or book an appointment in advance.

“This new clinic will be a great alternative when you need care but do not require a visit to the emergency department,” said Treena Slate, CEO, Prairie Mountain Health. “We are proud of how our staff have pulled together and are working hard to have this clinic open and ready to deliver high-quality patient care and ease

the demand on emergency departments.”

The clinic will be staffed by physicians, nurse practitioners and other health-care professionals who will provide support for minor health concerns including minor injuries. Some examples include suspected fractures and sprains, rashes, fevers, sore throats or ears, abdominal pain, eye infections, colds and coughs. Staff will be able to further connect patients to additional services that may be needed, said Asagwara.

The clinic aligns with provincial goals to expand primary care capacity within the region.

“I’m so pleased to see

that our government is moving forward with an expansion of the minor injury clinic model for Brandon, which will connect Brandonites with the care they need,” said Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Glen Simard. “Today’s announcement shows that our government is making progress on our promise to fix health care across our province. Our government recognizes the task ahead, and we’re up to the job of delivering for Manitobans and the Westman region.”

Brandon’s clinic is one of the first minor injury and illness clinics in the province alongside one operating on Corydon Avenue in Winnipeg and two more that are set to open in Winnipeg.

## RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region arrest male for human smuggling at Canada/US border near Gretna

Submitted  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

On Aug. 22, at approximately 10:30 pm, officers from the RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region’s Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) in Manitoba, working with counterparts from the United States Border Patrol, became aware of a border incursion happening west of the Gretna Canada Border Services Agency Port of Entry. Officers responded immediately and located the subjects walking northbound from the United States of America into Canada where they were picked up by a lone male driving a rental vehicle.

Police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Eight people were arrested under the Customs Act and the driver was arrested. All individuals were taken to the Emerson RCMP Detachment.

Of the people arrested under the Customs Act, four males and one female were from the Republic of Chad, two males were from the Republic of Sudan, and one female was from the Republic of Guinea. The subjects are all adults ranging in age from 19 to 48 years old.

Abshir Mohamed Osman, 35, a Somali national residing in Winnipeg, was arrested and charged with human smuggling contrary to section 117 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. He was released at the direction of Public Prosecution Service of Canada on several conditions and is to attend Emerson Provincial Court on Oct. 16, 2024.

“We were able to interview all eight subjects with the assistance of RCMP officers who speak French and Arabic,” said Sgt. Lance Goldau, head of the IBET in Manitoba. “After our processes were completed, all of the migrants were turned over to Canada Border Services Agency for their processing, and we continue with the smuggling investigation against the suspect. This investigation speaks to the value of our partnership with the United States Border Patrol and we remain committed to working closely together in the interest of border security.”

## Virden RCMP investigating suspicious death

Submitted  
BY D MEDIA RCMP

On September 8, 2024, at 5:15 pm, Virden RCMP received a report of a deceased male lying near a property located on Road 150 W in the RM of Pipestone.

Officers attended and located a 26-year-old male, from Virden, who was pronounced deceased.

The cause of death remains under investigation as we await the results of the autopsy. Virden RCMP, along with RCMP Forensic Identification Services, continue to investigate.



### REMINDER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## You’re Invited

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

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

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

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

**Monday, October 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link: <http://www.pubmanitoba.ca/v1/live-stream.html>

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

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

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

**Manitoba Public Utilities Board**  
400-330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0G4

Phone: 204-945-2638 | Email: [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)



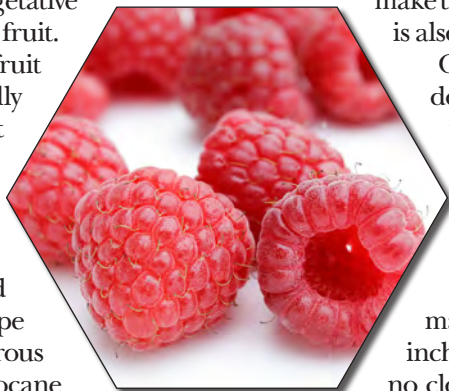
# Fall care of Raspberries

Submitted  
By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Raspberries are a great addition to your snacking garden. They are relatively carefree with only needing some pruning once or twice a year. Most of the raspberries we grow are florican varieties. What this means is the flower and fruit on two-year old wood. The first year, florican raspberries only have vegetative growth and in the second year they will fruit. Primocane raspberries flower and fruit on the current year's wood or essentially every year. As we move truly into fall, it is a great time to get out to the garden and prune your raspberries. It will get you out in the sun and enjoying the crispness to the air.

Raspberries have a very long-lived rootsystem. Therefore, with whatever type of raspberry you are growing, a vigorous pruning once a year will suffice. Primocane raspberries can be pruned right back to the ground in the autumn when fruiting is finished. For florican raspberries, in spring canes will emerge and grow throughout the summer producing only leaves. The following growing season, the canes will branch out and produce flowers and then fruit. Following fruiting those two-year old canes will die off.

It is habitual to finish the harvesting of the fruit and then not go back to the raspberry patch until spring. However, the best time to remove the spent canes is after the last fruit has been picked. The advantage of this is the stand is less "full" and has increased air flow. This will decrease the possibility of disease and insect problems. For example,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

if you had a spider mite problem in your raspberry patch, quickly removing the spent canes will almost eradicate the problem. Remove old canes at ground level and send them to the landfill if there have been insect or disease problems.

If you have never pruned raspberries a bit of preparation should be taken. Ensure you wear long sleeves and sturdy leather gloves to minimize the damage to the pruner! A good pair of pruning shears or loppers will also make the task a bit easier. Enlisting strong help is also something to consider!

Once the removal of the spent canes is done, then nothing further is required until spring. In early spring, when the new growth is just beginning to emerge, it is a good idea to selectively remove some of the new canes to narrow row widths and thin the stand. The width of the row should be maintained at about 30 to 46 cm (12 to 18 inches) with individual canes being spaced no closer than 15 to 23 cm (6 to 9 inches) apart. Optimum yields are achieved where

canes are thinned to a density of four or five canes per linear foot of row. Remove the shortest, thinnest, weakest, and any that appear to have sustained winter injury. A strong relationship exists between a cane's thickness and its productivity, so the thickest canes should be left. A thinner, less dense stand will result in higher yields.

Pruning your raspberry patch properly will result in a longer lived, healthier patch that produces more of that delectable fruit!

## CORRECTION:



By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Page 9 from September 6 issue Bumper Crop Harvested for the Hungry: we said in error that "1888 bushels were hauled to the elevator." In fact, we missed an 8 as "18,888 bushels were hauled to the elevator."

## SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT Job Opportunity - Financial Administrator (FULL-TIME)

The Souris River Watershed District is accepting applications from qualified individuals for a fulltime position of Financial Administrator

### Job Objective:

The Financial Administrator is responsible for financial aspects of the watershed district including budgeting, project allocations, inventory, bank reconciliation, chart of accounts, posting of transactions in SAGE accounting.

The Financial Administrator reports directly to the General Manager

The Financial Administrator is responsible for the coordination and overseeing the annual budget process in collaboration with staff, setting deadlines, and following up with all contributors such as GROW, Program Coordinators, Operational Administrator, and the General Manager.

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

### Skills Required:

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Experience with SAGE Accounting
- Experience and education that includes management of books, budgeting, invoicing, payables.
- Strong skills with the ability to manage multiple or competing priorities with tight deadlines.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
- Knowledge of government processes and procedures would be an asset.

### Qualifications:

- Graduate of a degree, diploma, or certificate program in Business Administration, Accounting, or equivalent relevant experience (Accounting concentration preferred)
- Previous experience in an office setting
- Experience in management of employees would be an asset.

### Compensation:

- 35 hour work week
- Salary range \$52,000.00—\$67,000.00
- Employer paid Blue Cross Health Benefits Plan III
- Municipal Employee Benefits Pension

Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume including salary expectations and a list of 3 references by 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 11, 2024 to:

Email: dean@srwd.ca Attention: Dean Brooker General Manager  
or

Souris River Watershed District Attention: Dean Brooker  
Box 339, 404 4th Street, Reston, MB R0M 1X09  
Ph: (204) 877-3020 Fax: (204) 877-3090

Email: dean@srwd.ca  
For more information please call the General Manager at 204 851 7157

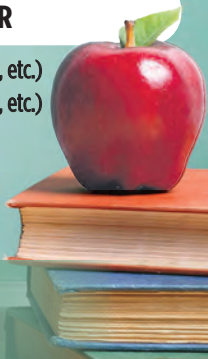
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# Oak Lake Harvest Festival



Truco Trick Riders are "a team of fearless talented riders" from Saskatchewan, entertained the crowd with a heart stopping show.



Ken and Emily Jasper's colourful cooperative team provided hayrides throughout the afternoon.



Llamas and goats could be seen at the petting zoo.

PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

## VIRDEN LIONS HALL



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*Hall capacity is limited based on current Manitoba Public Health restrictions/guidelines; renters and attendees must comply with up-to-date Manitoba Public Health Orders.*

**By Anne Davison**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On a warm fall afternoon, at Oak Lake's Harvest Festival the largest crowd in the event's three-year history visited one attraction after another on Saturday, Sept. 7. The town's agricultural grounds offered plenty of room for everything and everyone including the always popular hay ride that stopped in at regular intervals.

Rachelle Stannage, the RM of Sifton's recreation and economic development director organized this fun filled day. She noted, "800 people came through the gate."

Favourite attractions returned but some things were new. "Each year we try to do something different, and add on to it each year."

Trick riders and juggling, new items, were a big hit. The bouncy castles were different. A farmers' market, car show, lawn tractor pull, evening bingo and live music, as

well as the Jasper Family's team on the hay rack are repeats of favourite features. And what's a festival without food vendors such as Beaver Tails?

Straight Up Country, a band with Virden talent, entertained in the evening.

Economically, Stannage said the festival did well, adding, "It was a good fundraising opportunity for the groups that help." Oak Lake Golf Course operated the beer garden, Oak Lake Care Centre ran the bingo and earned some money to help buy furniture for the new daycare, the food canteen was operated by Oak Lake Lions Club.

Dirty Word Custom sponsored the lawn tractor pull and the car show, which included gleaming semi truck tractors, motorcycles, a wide variety of antique classics and barn finds and some more recent special vehicles.



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# SPORTS

## HOLE HELPS OIL CAPS SKATE TO SUCCESS

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A local former Olympic coach ensures the Virden Oil Capitals are striding the right way.

For about a decade, Patty Hole has served as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's power skating instructor. With 47 years of coaching experience, she is certainly well versed in guiding talented athletes. Hole coached the pairs duo of Rudi Swiegers and Paige Lawrence at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

"Patty is unbelievable at what she does," Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "She is knowledgeable and stays up to date on current practices for hockey players, she can pick out weaknesses right away and knows how to plan for the guys to get better. She comes to our games, so she can see our guys in game situations and that helps her see what they need to improve upon. Patty is extremely important to the success of our group."



When asked about 10 years ago by Jamie Hodson to take on the role, Hole initially expressed some reluctance. However, she later agreed.

"I was always

up for a challenge," Hole said. "When you go to the Olympics, it's a challenge every day."

She has enjoyed instructing the Oil Capitals. Hole emphasized that she has focused on fun and learning. At times, she has the hockey players attempting figure skating maneuvers. Hole said they help the players get out of their comfort zone.

That learning component has not just been for the players.

Hole said she has learned a lot working with the team. She watches videos and attends games to observe. Hole works with the team's staff, who she praised, to tailor her sessions to match what the team needs. One aspect Hole enjoys is seeing the development of the team.

"In the fall, I tell them, 'I'm here to get you ready for the playoffs,'" she said.

Hole's work with the Oil Capitals is in addition to her ongoing coaching with Skate Virden. One of the highlights of this year's skating season will be a February visit from four-time world champion Kurt Browning.

Preseason  
As of Monday, the Oil Capitals were 1-2 in their six-game preseason.

"Preseason for the returning guys is to lead the way on and off the ice and show that they have taken a step forward in their game,"

Ramsey said. "For the rookie players, it's about showing us what you can bring to our group. Not trying to be someone they are not but being the best version of themselves they can be."

As previously reported, the team fell 4-3 to Yorkton in a shootout. On Sept. 4, it beat the Estevan Bruins, 5-2. Scoring for Virden were Lian Hanzmann, Pierce Gouin, Noel Englot, Campbell Epp, and

Brett Sabel. Nik Trakakis stopped all nine shots he faced for Virden, while Micky Gross made 17 saves on 19 shots. The Oil Capitals fell 4-3 to the Yorkton Terriers on Sept. 7 at home in front of 385. Scoring for Virden were Carson Wright, Lynden Gould, and Maxx Hamelin. Wright, Hamelin and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper were the game's three stars. Trakakis made 24 saves on 28 shots.

The Oil Caps were to play in Portage on Sept. 10, after the Empire-Advance deadline, and Dauphin on Sept. 14. The Virden team concludes its exhibition season at home on Sept. 15 versus the Portage Terriers.

### Player Updates

Virden product Tanner Andrew will be one of three co-captains for the Rochester Institute of Technology men's hockey team this season. He suited up for the Oil Caps in 2017-2020 and also played for the Winkler Flyers and Chilliwack Chiefs. Former MJHL foe Grady Hobbs is one of the other co-captains.

Virden's own Bryce Bryant has joined the British Columbia Hockey League's Cranbrook Bucks. He was a finalist last season for MJHL Rookie of the Year for the Oil Caps.

Cole Slobodian, a MJHL Rookie Team All-Star last season with Virden, is with the Western Hockey League's Portland Winterhawks. He played five playoff games for the club last spring.



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

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# SPORTS

## RESTON DUO PLAY ROLES FOR TEAM 'TOBA

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two Reston residents helped Manitoba provincial teams excel on the diamond this past summer.

Jamie Williamson, the son of Dallas and Terri, suited up for the Team Manitoba 16U squad that won the Western Canadian Prospects Series. As well, he was a contributor on the 17U team that earned the bronze medals at the Canada Cup.

"Probably the best part about this past summer was just getting to see some of my buddies I hadn't seen in a while, but also meeting some new faces," Williamson said. "It was nice getting to meet these people and have a team because just knowing everyone was there to compete and hopefully win something."

Reston's John Patmore was an assistant coach for both the 16U and 17U teams. He said what he enjoyed most was the entire group he worked with. Patmore stated that it was not just the coaches or the players.

"It really is reflective of the entire program when you have a coaching staff that genuinely loves to be around each other and trusts the idea that we are trying to turn into a reality," Patmore said. "The player group is arguably the most talented, hardworking, and driven I have ever been around, which is a very good recipe for success. The parent group is very intelligent when it comes to understanding the game plan of our team and the game itself, which is very helpful when we have some ideas to bounce off some of them. When people say it takes a village to build something, our team is evident of that."

It was a very busy and successful baseball season for Williamson. In addition to the two provincial teams, he also suited up for the 18U AAA Oildome, Reston senior, Virden/Reston/Souris A, and the Reston/Elkhorn/Melita/Pierson high school teams. The 18U Oildome squad won the silver medal at the Baseball Manitoba U18 AAA Tier 2 provincial tournament. Dallas Williamson was an assistant coach. Jamie Williamson said both of his patents have been huge factors in his baseball career.

"My mom played for the Westman Magic, and my dad played with the Reston Rockets in the (Manitoba Senior Baseball League), and both are heavily involved with Oildome and Reston minor ball," he said. "They have both helped me want to improve as a baseball player and as a person early on in my life and have continually helped me improve as the years have gone by. They both coached me through most of minor ball. My dad still coaches the 18U Oildome team. They both came to St. Albert to help support my team for 16U and have supported me throughout my entire life. They have been a huge factor in my life for baseball and my life, and I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

### 16U

Williamson wrapped up his baseball season in style in St. Albert. The 16U Team Manitoba went 4-1 and beat British Columbia, 2-1, in the final game of the Western Canadian Prospects Series.

"It meant a lot for me just because it was a good way to end the season," Williamson said of winning gold. "That team also gave a glimpse of what is to come for next years 17U team and how well we get along and how good chemistry we all have and how well we could compete at next year's Canada Games."

Williamson was the team's catcher for two games and also played first base. He manned that position in the finals and hit in the cleanup spot. Head coach Morgan de Pena said Williamson brought "a lot of energy and versatility to the team. He noted Williamson is capable of playing positions other than where he was used at the tournament. The young player also made an impact with his attitude.

"Jamie always seems to have a smile on his face, which supports his good nature and the fact that he is having fun," assistant coach Glen Hunter said. "That being said, he has the ability to get laser focused and be dialed in to the moment. He flat out competes. Never takes a play off or loses focus while in the batters box. He has tremendously high expectations for himself. A natural leader that his teammates rally around."

### 17U

At the Canada Cup in Fort McMurray, Williamson and Team Manitoba finished third.

"I really enjoyed how competitive our team was but also how much fun we had during the games and outside of the ballpark," he said. "It was a great group of guys that just fit real good together. There was always a guy there to pick you up even after making a mistake. Even after we had lost in the semifinals, we bounced back and were determined to win bronze. Overall, the trip was something I will definitely remember for a long time."

Williamson caught one game during the round robin. When Manitoba's first baseman was injured in the semifinals, Williamson stepped in against a very good British Columbia pitcher.

"He responded by putting up some of the best at bats of the day and ended up with a sharp base hit against their closer throwing in the low 90s," Patmore said.

Williamson also played first base and collected a couple



PHOTO BY @NAT.PATTERSONPHOTOGRAPHY

Jamie Williamson and John Patmore

of hits in the bronze medal game, the assistant coach noted.

"It says a lot about Jamie's character that he can be one of the most positive teammates all week long while not seeing too much of the field to being thrown into two of our most important games and (making) a direct impact," Patmore said. "Jamie also has the tools to be a top catcher at any one of these tournaments, but when it comes to playing on a provincial team, sometimes you need to transition to a different position to put your best product on the field."

"With Cole Adamson (Winnipeg) and Jamie as our tandem behind the plate this year and next year, I think we stack up as well as anyone in the country. It also helps that Jamie has the makeup of a strong, athletic first baseman who you can trust in big spots."

## Aud Theatre progress

By Jean Anne Overand  
AUD THEATRE BOARD PRESIDENT

The AUD Theatre is the midst of an exciting renovation.

A very generous donation from Tundra Oil and Gas, along with donations from Canada's Walk of Fame - Jim Tre living, Tim Horton's, Virden Legion Ladies, Virden Lion's Club, Virden and Area Foundation, Elkhorn and Area Foundation, Manitoba Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Historic Branch, as well as the generosity of many individuals have made it possible to move ahead with Phase One of this much anticipated project.

At a cost of just over \$450,000, this renovation is well underway. It began in July with the removal of all of the

original seats, which were installed when the AUD was built in 1911. These seats include those from the main floor and from the front section of the balcony. Top Stitch Upholstery of Winnipeg has taken the seats apart and shipped them off to have the wooden arms and backs refinished. The metal sides will be powder coated and re-gilded, and the seat cushions will be replaced with new wider cushions.

This retrofit allows the historical seats to be reused, while still providing larger, more comfortable seating for today's audiences. While this will provide more comfort for our audiences, it does come with some sacrifice. We will lose around one hundred seats, taking us from a 500-seat theatre to an approximately 400-seat theatre.

In addition to refurbishing the seats, the floor will also be redone. In order to maintain our historical designa-

tion, damaged boards will be replaced with new pieces, which have to be custom milled to match the existing floorboards. Holes will be filled, and then everything will be given a final sanding. Once the floors have been repaired, they will be given a coat of paint; the new colour gives a nod to the original dark floors.

Lastly, the sound booth is being moved to the centre of the theatre, allowing for an extra row of seats to be added.

The completion date is mid-October, just in time for the first production of the year, Virden Theatre Productions' Freaky Friday.

We will begin fundraising for Phase Two this fall. This phase will see the removal and replacement of the gallery seats (upper balcony), new paint and signage in the hallway, and perhaps new carpet. Watch for updates on this project.



# SPORTS

## WALLACE WILL BE MISSED BY MSU BEAVERS



Oak Lake's Riley Wallace

PHOTO BY OSCAR HULTZ, ARABUT PHOTOGRAPHY

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Without Oak Lake's Riley Wallace, things will definitely look different between the pipes, on the bench, and in the dressing room for the Minot State University men's hockey team this coming winter.

The son of Tod and Penny Wallace wrapped his four-year career at the North Dakota school in 2023-2024. The goalie was part of MSU's 2023 American Collegiate Hockey Association Men's Division I championship team. On deep, talented teams, Wallace had to share the crease, but MSU head coach Wyatt Waselenchuk said he was always a great teammate. When asked what he will miss about not having Wallace as part of the program, the bench boss said:

"He is just a fantastic kid. He's very positive. And, you know, he's experienced. He was here for four years. He was part of our championship team. And he's just a good glue guy, for sure. He had an incredible win-loss record for us. He had fantastic stats. And he's done everything that I could have asked of him. ... I can't say how much he has meant to us in terms of having a great attitude."

According to the ACHA website, the 5-foot-9, 150-pound netminder's regular career record was 45-2-0-1. Wallace's career goals against average was 1.57. He had a .931 save percentage.

"He's just super composed," Waselenchuk said. "He's just a very calming influence back there. He's not jittery and jolty and getting himself worked up. He just comes to the rink with a pretty easygoing mindset and technically he's really good. He's a good skater and, he lacks a little in size, but he's

quick and he's definitely one that we'll miss."

Wallace capped his career with a strong senior season. He had 11 wins, two losses, and a shootout loss. Wallace's GAA was 1.50. He made 21 saves in a 5-0 shutout on the road against the University of Nevada - Las Vegas in early January.

"He had a great year," Waselenchuk said. "He, probably right around January, ... was just lights out. He was so good in Vegas. And he kind of sparked us in a huge way for a big second half."

In 2023, in a Boston suburb, MSU beat Michigan's Adrian University, 1-0, to win the national championship.

"What I liked most about the championship season was, of course, winning the national championship but also the work leading up with a great group of guys," Wallace said. "Winning important games and ensuring we held our No. 1 ranking, it's a long ride. We had ups and downs, but found a way to come together to earn a national championship at the end.

Unforgettable."

That was not the only unforgettable part of his time with the Beavers.

"What I will remember most about playing for MSU is all the friendships and memories made over the past four years," Wallace said "To be a part of such a tight and talented group made my time in Minot very enjoyable."

He appreciates the role his family has played in his career.

"My family's support over the years has been incredible and I cannot thank them enough," he said. "Any hockey parents know the journey is long and they have been there every step of the way, different provinces, different countries, they always made it to come and support me."

After playing in the U18 AAA ranks with the Southwest Cougars, he suited up for the 2018-2019 campaign for the Virden Oil Capitals of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. Wallace split the next season between the Oil Caps and the Columbia Valley Rockies of B.C.'s Kootenay International Junior Hockey League before heading to Minot.

At MSU, Wallace routinely made the academic honour roll. He studied corporate fitness and business management. Wallace is pleased to now be farming with his father. As well, he is an assistant coach for the U17 AAA male Canadian Ice Bandits.

"I want to stay involved in the game that I'm passionate about want and help young athletes succeed," Wallace said.

### NOTICE

## Under The Oil and Gas Act Manson Oil Field

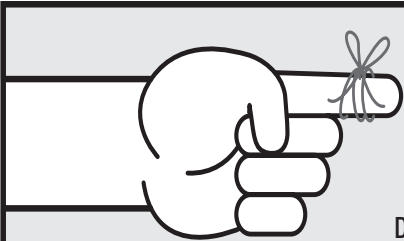
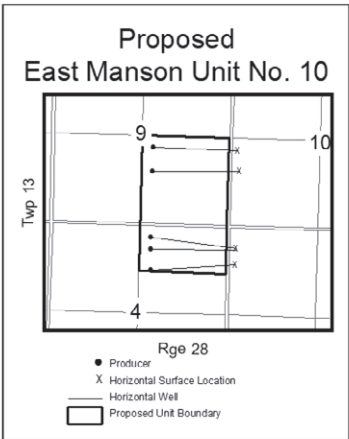
Tundra Oil & Gas Limited has made application under The Oil and Gas Act for approval to form East Manson Unit No. 10 and within implement a Waterflood Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Operation, within the Bakken-Torquay formation. The map below shows the proposed boundaries.

If no valid objection or intervention is received in writing by Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources, Petroleum Branch, at Suite 360 - 1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2 before **October 4, 2024**, the Minister may approve the application.

Copies of the application can be obtained from:

Mike Ftichar  
Tundra Oil & Gas Limited  
Suite 1500 East Tower  
525 8th Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 1G1  
(403) 910-1675, mike.ftichar@tundraoilandgas.com

The application may be viewed in full at: [manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html](https://manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html)



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SYD PARSONS  
MARCH 20, 1927 - MARCH 22, 2024



On March 22, 2024, two days after his 97th birthday, Syd passed away peacefully at Willowview PCH in Reston. Syd was born in Welwyn, SK on March 20, 1927. He was the 5th of 6 boys born to Florence and Edward Parsons. His parents and 4 older brothers had immigrated to Canada in 1926. He attended school at the Old Welwyn School. After finishing school, he farmed with his dad. In 1952 after the death of his dad, Syd and his brother Albert took over the operation of the farm in the Beaver Rapids District. It was during this time that he met Olive Bernice Higgins from the Ivanhoe District by Moosomin, SK. They were married at the United Church Manse in Moosomin on August 29, 1953. After a few years they decided to move to Cromer where Syd was employed in the oil industry. In November 1961 they bought their farm west of Virden where they farmed for 38 years. Syd wasn't only a farmer. He started his own business, S.D. Parsons Land Clearing and Breaking. He cleared a lot of land around the country with his D7. It was very sad day for him when he made the decision to sell that D7. Syd loved to hunt and every hunting season the same old gang would gather at Syd and Bernice's to hunt in their big pasture. One hunting story that Karen remembers very well was when her dad and the gang came across other hunters in his pasture. Syd asked them if they had got permission from the owner to hunt there. They told him that they had. That was the wrong answer for Syd and did not go over very well!! Syd and Bernice decided to retire from farming in the mid '90s. They rented out the land but remained living on the farm until July 1999 when they sold the farm and moved to Virden. Syd and Bernice loved camping and had numerous memorable camping trips with his brother and sister-in-law Bill and Jean. They went on a lot of gambling bus trips and were both fans of curling and the Blue Jays. In 1998 they went on a trip to England to visit Syd's side of the family. That was a special holiday for them that they both enjoyed very much!! In the early 2000's Bernice started exhibiting Alzheimer's symptoms. During that time Syd became the chief cook and bottle washer. He did all of the cooking and baking including making pastry from scratch. His pies were very good! Syd had a difficult time dealing with and accepting Bernice's Alzheimer diagnosis and her subsequent admission to the nursing home. He just couldn't understand how she didn't remember the farm west of Virden where they had lived for 38 years or that they had a daughter. He visited her faithfully every second day until her passing in October 2010. Alzheimer's was not kind to Bernice, and it was very difficult for both Syd and Karen to witness what that disease did to her. Syd was an active member of the Elkhorn Elks Lodge #381. For many years he helped with the community activities, worked many socials in the Elkhorn Elks Hall and spent many hours cutting wood in the late '70s and early '80s in an effort to pay off the hall mortgage. He became a Grand Lodge Member. He was quite happy when he received his 50-year pin in February 2018. In December 2018 Syd was admitted to the Virden Hospital. It was during that admission that he was told that he would not be able to return to his home. In February 2019 Syd was admitted to the Willowview PCH in Reston where he lived for 5 years until his passing on March 22, 2024. In the past few years or so Syd began to experience memory loss. And like Bernice he no longer remembered their farm west of Virden. Syd received excellent care at Willowview. Karen and Tom can't thank the staff enough for all that they did for him. Syd was predeceased by his wife Bernice, infant son Lawrence, parents-in-law Thomas and Tressa Higgins, his 3 brothers and their wives Harold and Hazel, Bill and Jean, Ab and Dot, sister-in-law Sharon Parsons and his brother Dick. Syd is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Karen and Tom Smith of Neepawa, his youngest brother Jack Parsons of Okotoks, AB and numerous nieces and nephews from both the Parsons and Higgins families. Celebration of life was held May 1, 2024, at Carscadden Funeral Chapel in Virden.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
CONNOR BJORNSSON



Connor, who was a handsome, brilliant, loving but troubled young man died on September 12, 2023. His death in Calgary began a time of deep sorrow for his parents Eric & Kim, brothers Seth & Joel, his grandparents Naidene Thompson of Regina and Howard & Carol Bjornsson of Lac du Bonnet, his extended family, and the friends who both cherished his strengths and accepted his struggles. Connor's journey through the darkness of mental illness began several years ago. His life was a complex combination of pain & joy, with many months of health and happiness alternating with times of depression and substance abuse. We choose to remember Connor for his love of reading, playing football, and spending time at the lake, as well as his remarkable passion for BMX biking and downhill skiing. Connor often said that his happiest times were spent working at the Assensippi resort from 2020 to 2022. Connor was blessed with the love of wonderful people who predeceased him including his Grandpa, Wayne Thompson and Great-Grandma, Margaret McCulloch of Indian Head as well as his "extra-special" aunts & uncle - Wanda Thompson of Weyburn and Colleen & Art Enns of Avonlea. We are very grateful for the love and support we have received during this difficult time. Please join us as we cherish the memories of the joy he brought to our lives and his passion for the things he loved. We also find comfort in knowing that he is at peace. Connor was laid to rest in a private family service on August 18.

Help Wanted

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**VIRDEN & ELKHORN Health Facilities**

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Full Time position  
**Adult Day Program Worker (Virden)**  
Part Time position  
**Community Mental Health Worker (Virden)**  
Full Time position  
**Cooks & Dietary Aides**  
Part Time & Casual positions  
**Environmental Services (Housekeeping & Laundry)**  
Casual; Full Time & Part Time positions  
**Supervisor- Environmental Services (Virden)**  
Full Time position  
**Health Care Aides & Home Care Attendants**  
Casual; Full Time & Part Time positions  
**Licensed Practical Nurses & Registered Nurses**  
Casual; Full Time & Part Time positions  
**Maintenance II (Virden)**  
Full Time position  
**Physiotherapist & Speech-Language Pathologist & Occupational Therapist (Virden)**  
Full Time & Part Time positions  
**Security Officer (Virden)**  
Full Time position  
**Recreation Worker- Uncertified (Elkhorn, Virden)**  
Casual & Part Time positions

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We thank all applicants in advance for their interest in Prairie Mountain Health however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. These positions are subject to a Criminal Record Check (including Vulnerable Sector), Adult Abuse Registry Check, and a Child Abuse Registry Check. The successful applicant will be responsible for any services charges incurred.

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[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

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**Todd**  
**306-774-2420**

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Tender

**FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION - FUEL TENDER**

Fort La Bosse School Division invites sealed tenders by the undersigned for clear diesel fuel and regular unleaded gasoline for Oct 1, 2024, to Sept 30, 2025. The tender closes at noon, Friday, Sept 20th, 2024. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Fuel tender pricing is to be submitted using the information provided in the Fuel Tender Form located in the Recent Posts section of the Fort La Bosse School Division website at [www.flbsd.mb.ca](http://www.flbsd.mb.ca). Tenders may be submitted for delivery to Fort La Bosse bulk storage tanks as specified or for supplier card locks or retail outlets in any or all the communities listed in the form.

Sealed tenders clearly marked "FUEL TENDER" may be sent to:  
Mark Johnston  
Supervisor of Operations  
P. O. Box 1420  
Virden, MB  
R0M 2C0  
Phone 204-748-2692  
Fax 204-748-2436  
[mark.johnston@flbsd.mb.ca](mailto:mark.johnston@flbsd.mb.ca)

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September 25 @ 7:00 PM

12 Patterson Dr.  
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204-467-1858 or  
204-886-7027  
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United Way presents

**Brandon's LARGEST Garage Sale Fall Edition**

Saturday, September 21,  
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Keystone Centre

Admission \$3.00  
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50/50 draw

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Tenders for grain crop acres in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth will be accepted until Oct. 4, 2024 12pm:

NE 10-10-27  
NE 15-10-27  
SE 15-10-27  
NE 6-10-27  
NW 6-10-27  
SE 6-10-27  
SW 6-10-27  
NE 3-11-26  
NE 14-11-26

Submit tenders to:

Rob Chapman  
204-748-5299

rcchapmanfarms@hotmail.com

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Thank-you

Thank-you

The family of the late Syd Parsons would like to express their sincere thanks to all family and friends for the flowers, phone calls, cards and messages of condolences we received at the time of Dad's passing. A very special thanks to staff at Willowview PCH in Reston for the excellent care Dad received while a resident there the past 5 years. Thank you to all of the Home Care staff. Dad looked forward to all of your daily visits.

Thank you to Tanis Podobni for the beautiful service and for reading the eulogy for me when I knew I couldn't. Thanks to the Virden Legion Ladies Auxiliary for the wonderful lunch following the service.

To John and all staff at Carscadden Funeral Chapel, thank you for your compassion shown to Tom and I while helping us make arrangements for Dad's Celebration of Life.

- Karen and Tom Smith

Help Wanted



Valleyview Co-op in Virden, Manitoba is hiring a Part-Time Branch Delivery Driver (16-20 hours per week) to provide internal delivery service for our branches.

The Branch Delivery Driver is responsible for completing pickups and deliveries to our branch locations. A company vehicle will be available for usage. Must have a valid Class 5 driver's license and a driver abstract will be required.

To apply send application and resume to, hr@valleyview.coop or call (204) 748-6700 ext 307

Coming Events



Association for Community Living - Virden Branch Inc.

The Association for Community Living - Virden Branch is a non-profit agency providing support for adults living with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. ACL Virden is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at 216 Bridge Street (main office and Day Program building) in Virden. Your support is greatly appreciated and we always welcome new members.

For more information contact the ACL office at 204-748-1444.

Coming Events

For Rent

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

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8 AM - 5 PM  
October 30th, 2024  
William Glesby Centre,  
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Organized by MB Agriculture in partnership with MB Beef & Forage Initiatives, and MB Beef Producers.

For more info call:

204-761-3300

Or visit: [manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef-conference.html](http://manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef-conference.html)

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S 1/2 3-11-26 292.8 acres  
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# Council approves business move

## Town of Virden council meeting brief, Sept. 4

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A conditional use application from Core Ag Inputs was considered at a public hearing and Allan Brown and Dawn Nolan, residents of an adjoining property, attended. Development Officer Cory Nixon explained that an agricultural crop protection warehouse is listed as a conditional use in an industrial general zone and the applicant intends to move his existing warehouse from the Fifth Avenue industrial park out to the airport industrial park. The new location provides a larger yard space for work. The building needs to be renovated to become a certified storage facility.

Tyler Strachan, owner of Core Ag informed council that the company has been operating from their existing site on Chester Street East since 2018. He said, “The location has served us well, but we’ve definitely outgrown the size of the lot and the building.” There are two spray plane operators at the airport industrial park that use the chemicals he supplies, and the new location would allow Core Ag to deliver the products directly without transporting them through town. To meet requirements for containment, renovations will include curbing all the way around the inside of the building. Outside containment will consist of a gravel berm surrounding the property and empty containers will be stored in a fenced enclosure. There will be fire extinguishers in the building and access to firefighting water will be available.

The conditional use was approved.

Core Ag Inputs also brought an application for a variation order. Since the Town zoning by-law states an agricultural crop protection warehouse is required to be set back 1,000 feet from a building used for human

occupancy and there is a dwelling located within 355 feet, the applicant requires an approved variation order to reduce that setback prior to operation. Federal regulations only require a setback of 165 feet from residential zone property.

The variation order was approved

The property where the airport is located belongs to the Town so the roads on this property are not legally defined as public roads. To allow full public access to the airport council proposes to subdivide the property to designate the existing road as a public road.

The subdivision was approved.

### AIRPORT PROJECT

At the last council meeting there were two change orders for the airport upgrade on the agenda, one for extra runway width and one for a turn pad at each end. The order regarding runway width was passed but the one for the turn pads was tabled for further discussion regarding budget and available funds. CAO Rhonda Stewart said, “The Airport Commission decided this was a good investment, helping to make it safer for the larger aircraft and encouraging more to use the facility, rather than landing in Brandon. The Commission/Town has funds available, between what has been received and what has been committed, to have this critical component of the airport works completed this fall. It will save a great deal of money if the equipment can stay on site to complete the work rather than bring it back in next year.” This work is now in progress.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Council approved payment of \$4,000 for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) membership. One of the services AMM provides is access to online safety training videos that can be used to assist municipalities in

setting up the safety plans required by Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety. These training videos are available to all Town councilors and staff.

Storefront Improvement Grant recipients at 251 Nelson Street West have requested an additional extension on their project completion deadline as their painter has still been unable to complete their work due to delays in having the area sandblasted. They have requested an extension until December 31st to allow sufficient time to complete the approved works. The request was granted.

Brynn Tosh requested compensation for summer ice rental due to poor ice conditions. She was still able to use the ice, but conditions were poor, hampering her ability to have proper instruction. Staff took action but conditions did not improve until after her booking. Council determined that the \$105 amount owing on the Tosh account for summer ice rental will be cancelled due to poor ice quality while using the facility.

The Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) arrange for pickup of the electronic waste that gets collected. Town staff is responsible for placing the e-waste on pallets and wrapping and preparing it for pickup. EPRA pays the Town \$205 per metric ton for the waste. Council agreed that this seems like a very low price, but the only option would be to put the electronic products in the landfill. Mayor Tina Williams said, “We’d rather not put more in the landfill than we have to, especially when a lot of this stuff contains nasty contaminants.” The agreement with EPRA was renewed.

Council will provide a letter of support to Virden minor ball for their grant application to fund new bases, batting cage upgrades and a new dugout.

The New Horizons Senior Program is asking the Town of Virden to submit their grant application. Council will file the grant application on their behalf.

The Town budgeted a higher amount for their VCI scholarship in 2024 than in the past. The recipient was told it was \$1,000 as in previous years, but this year the scholarship will be \$2000.

A disc golf course is planned for Virden and \$5,000 has been allocated in the budget. Including taxes, signage and cement work the cost will be \$1000 higher than this. Council voted to increase the budget to \$6000 for this project.

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Tundra Oil and Gas Place

Public skating, and sticks & pucks have resumed for the Fall/Winter season.

Check our facilities calendar for up to date schedules.

Upcoming Council Meeting:  
September 17 & October 1

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



Dog and Cat Licenses

Available for purchase at the Town Office.

Winter Ice

Available for Booking

2024/2025 Winter Season Ice is available to book at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Time slots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For available times, check the Facility Calendar at <https://app.univerusrec.com/virdenpub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>, or email [bookings@virden.ca](mailto:bookings@virden.ca).



Virden Spray Park

Open daily 10:00 AM-8:00 PM

School Zone Reminder

Reduced speed limits in school zones are **in effect** as of September 1.

Please remember to travel safely in and around school zones.

Check your mailbox!

2024 Property Tax Notices have been sent out.

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

2024 Property Taxes are due by October 31, 2024.

info@virden.ca

 [www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca)

 Town of Virden

 @virdentown

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# Manitoba government announces universal school nutrition program available across Manitoba

## Food now available in every school for every kid who needs it: Kinew

**Submitted**  
MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Students heading back to class will now be able to get a nutritious meal or snack when they need one, with the universal school nutrition program now available in every school in the province, Premier Wab Kinew and Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Nello Altomare announced today.

"Kids can't learn on an empty stomach," said Kinew. "We made a commitment to Manitoba families that we'd make sure kids across our province had access to food when they go to school, and we've delivered on that promise. As kids head back to class this week, they'll be able to get a meal or a snack when they need one, so they can concentrate, learn and reach their full potential."

The Manitoba government committed \$30 million in Budget 2024 to make a meal or snack available to students across the province.

"Manitoba is leading the country in school nutrition by making sure there is food available in every school," said Altomare. "This back-to-school week is the first week we'll see food in every school in the province. This is an important step in making sure every kid in Manitoba is set up to succeed in school and grow up healthy."

Approximately \$21 million has been allocated to public schools within the 37 school divisions, with \$6 million being specifically earmarked for 50 schools in communities with the high socio-economic need. Ahead of the full rollout of the school nutrition program this fall, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning worked with schools and school divisions to develop and implement nutrition programming to meet the needs

of students and families in their community, with the goal of ensuring any child who needs it will be able to access food at school.

"Knowing that my kids will receive a nutritious snack or meal at school everyday not only makes my life easier but assures me that this government is putting our kids first," said Paige Robertson, mother of a kindergarten student at Ste. Anne Elementary. "As any parent knows, a well-fed kid is a happy kid who is ready to learn."

"The funds that RETSD received from the Manitoba government will enhance the nutritional programs across all of our schools, allowing us to better support and meet the growing needs of our students," said Sandra Herbst, superintendent and CEO, River East Transcona School Division. "When students have consistent access to nutritious food, our schools are better equipped to fulfil our core mandate of teaching and learning."

The remainder of the funding is being provided



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

to a number of key community partners including the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba. Grant funding has also been provided to community organizations and school divisions for after-school, summer and school break nutrition programs.

# New lights on the crosswalk

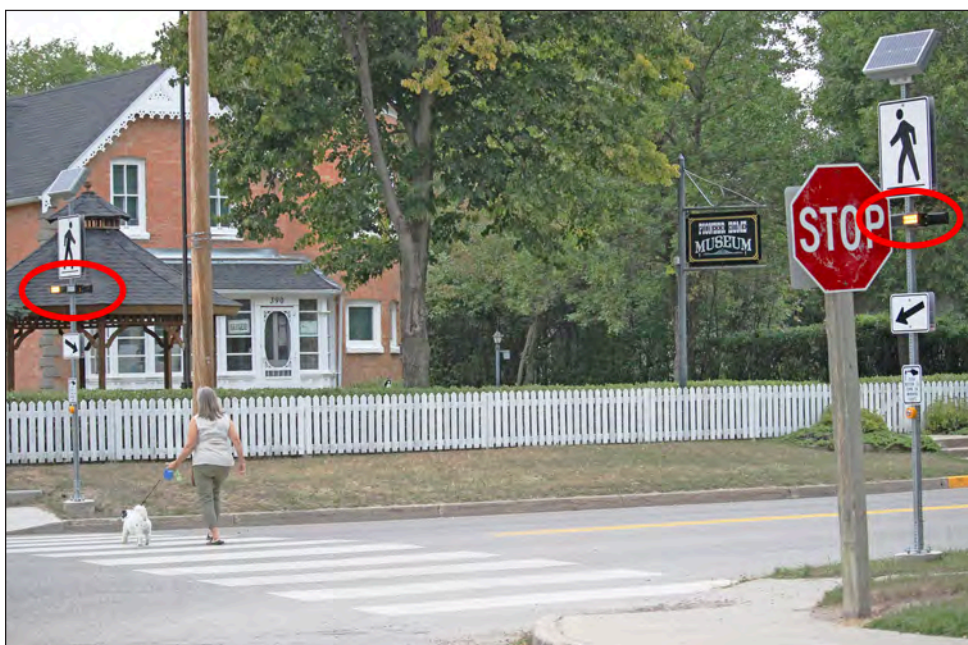


PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Just in time for school start-up, the new flashing crosswalk indicators at the intersection of King Street and 9th Avenue were operational on Sept. 3. Pedestrians of all ages can appreciate additional safety in crossing the street here. Motorists are alerted to crosswalk traffic by the flashing light, activated by a push of the button on the light stand

**VOLUNTEER MANITOBA**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & RECRUITMENT FAIR**

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY KENNEDY

**SEPT. 24TH**  
**6PM - 9PM**  
**FREE!**

**Location:**  
Tundra Oil and Gas Place  
900 Fifth Ave S, Virden, MB

Celebrate volunteers

Guest speaker Sherri Kennedy at 7:00pm

Enjoy some light refreshments

[VolunteerManitoba.ca](http://VolunteerManitoba.ca)





# St. Paul's United Church fall rummage sale



Their shift is nearly over. With the Toughs guiding the luncheon and others pitching in there is plenty to eat. Volunteers are (l-r) Donna Murphy, Carol Anne Trowell, Barry and Jackie Tough and Chris Dunning.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

St. Paul's United Church fall rummage sale and luncheon provides lookers and shoppers with tables of treasures laid out in Virden Curling Rink.



## Public Notice - Board of Revision

Public Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth for the year 2025 is available at the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth. It will be open for public inspection during regular business hours. The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications for revision of assessment on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024** commencing at **9:00 a.m.** at the **R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Council Chambers, 154023 P.R. 257, Virden, Manitoba** (corner of 83 Hwy & PR257).

Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act which in part, are as follows:

### APPLICATION FOR REVISION

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

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

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**43 (1)** An application for revision must

- (a) Be made in writing;
- (b) Set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- (c) Set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42 (1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- (d) Be filed by:
  - (i) Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41 (2) or
  - (ii) Serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

The board shall not consider applications which do not comply with the above.

**The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2024.**

Dated the 3rd day of September, 2024.

R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth  
Board of Revision  
Box 2200, Virden, MB R0M 2C0



CEREBRAL PALSY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF MANITOBA



50  
YEARS



**A win means something different to everyone.**

We've been by your side celebrating your wins for the last 50 years, and wherever you choose to go next, the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba (CPMB) will be right there with you! We've made it to 50 years with your support, Manitoba. But, it's never been about us.

**Your milestones are our mission.**

Thanks for being #CPProud with us for 50 years. Here's to 50 more! Learn more at [cerebralpalsy.mb.ca](http://cerebralpalsy.mb.ca)



**WATCH VIDEO**

On August 8, 2024, CPMB Family and Friends gathered to celebrate 50 years of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba's success! THANK YOU Members, Sponsors and Volunteers—we could not do this without you! #CPProud



Welcome CPMB Westman-Committee and Members from Brandon and Boissevain



CPMB Board Members Tara, Matt and Hayley & (at left) friends Anabela and Jennifer



Bjorn, Glenn, Darren, Sarah, Gabrielle, Ken and Roger—We couldn't do this without you!



Thank you Tracy, Laura, Karen, Connie, Elwood and Eric—CPMB is strong because of all of you!



Thank you Table Sponsor Northway Pharmacy for hosting Brian, Anne, Charissa & Tyson



Well done Lorraine & Chantal. Happy Anniversary to Rachel & Scott and thank you Ryder!



(l-r) CPMB Members Tracy, Kristen, Birnie, and Wendy



Thanks Klassen Family! 50/50 winner—Congrats Amanda!