

# Empire-Advance

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OCTOBER 4, 2024 | EMPIRE: VOL 120 NO 7 / ADVANCE: VOL 139 NO 9 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

“

Our goal is just to slowly build it better for the next generation and hope we hand over something of value.”

Lisa De Ruyck  
Lakeshore Holsteins Ltd.  
Bruxelles, MB



De Ruyck Family

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## Wolverine Supplies celebrates 35 years with over 1000 attendees at anniversary event



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

MP Dan Mazier tested out a shotgun at the skeet shooting range.

By **Emily Dufour**

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS, WOLVERINE SUPPLIES

Virden, MB, September 29, 2024 – Wolverine Supplies commemorated its 35th anniversary on September 28, 2024, with a successful event that attracted over 1000 attendees. The celebration featured exclusive product demonstrations, exclusive discounts, and guest appearances from industry leaders, including representatives from O'Dell Engineering, Vortex Stoeger, Beretta, Evans Group, Hi-Lux Optics and Global Defense.

Attendees enjoyed live demonstrations, entered contests for premium giveaways, and supported the company's ongoing commitment to charitable organizations. "We are incredibly proud of what we've built over the past 35 years, and it was amazing to celebrate this milestone with our loyal customers and partners,"



Matt Hipwell took a moment from his busy schedule, as one of the organizers of this event, to test out the skeet shooting range.

said Genn Hipwell, co-owner of Wolverine Supplies. "The turnout and support were phenomenal, and we look forward to continuing our legacy in the industry."

The event raised \$10,000 each for the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR) and STARS Air Ambulance, continuing Wolverine Supplies' long-standing tradition of supporting critical causes. The company also announced plans for its upcoming Wolverine Days in 2025.

### About Wolverine Supplies

Wolverine Supplies is a premier Canadian retailer of firearms, optics, and shooting accessories. Since 1989, Wolverine Supplies has been dedicated to providing high-quality products and exceptional customer service to outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, and competitive shooters.



At the top of the hill, guests of Wolverine Supplies had a chance to try out different rifles, shotguns and handguns, aiming at the targets down range.



**HOME GAME**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
**VS. NIVERVILLE NIGHTHAWKS**  
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

*Inside...*



**MEET YOUR  
OIL CAPS**

**P10-11**



**VIRIDEN  
MURAL  
DEDICATION**

**P19**



# Scouts have fun learning practical outdoor skills



Scoutree planting at Shilo: (l-r) Olivia Krohn, Anthony Roach, Logan Krohn, Nicholas Roach, Rowan Darvill, Mitch Darvill, Shane Swarbrick, Caelan Darvill.

**By Anne Davison**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Scouts was represented at the Volunteer Appreciation evening recently held in Virden. The leadership consists of Toby and David Roach, Harry Coleman, Amanda Anstee, Mitch Darvill and Shannon Lund. First Virden Scouts has some 20 youth registered this

fall. Toby was happy to share some of the adventures and activities the Scouts have participated in: “Our group consists of boys and girls that live in Virden and surrounding areas. We had a fall camp at Eternal Springs, we even camp in the Winter.” They fished in Eternal Springs trout pond and hiked the trails of the area.

Also, the group has a yearly fundraiser where they plant Scoutrees out on the Shilo base. Toby says the youth enjoy working on permits for knives, axes, lanterns, stoves, [and doing] community service. “As a group we would like to thank everyone in the community that supported us and sponsored us!”

Top Left: At Little Kenosee, Sask. they are learning canoeing skills.

Top Right: Landon Timchishen has caught something, a tiny trout from Eternal Springs stocked pond.

Left: Tents are pitched at Eternal Springs for fall camp out.

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# Community spirit shines at volunteer appreciation event



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Husband and wife, Slawomir Borowiecki and Sherri Kennedy at the Volunteer Appreciation event, where Sherri shared an account of her mother, Shirley Kennedy.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Shirley Kennedy was an expert volunteer. She left a legacy of community volunteerism and with her passing in February of 2023, the Kennedy family created a memorial donation in honour of their mum. This donation sparked the idea of a celebration of volunteerism for Elkhorn, Oak Lake and Virden S.A.I.L. (Seniors Access to Independent Living) and other organizations. The presence of her daughter Sherri Kennedy and the story she told of her mother's life as a volunteer was both humorous and touching, putting a face on the term volunteer.

Everyone needs to hear that they're appreciated. Not surprising, the tone of the event was coloured with smiles and good humour on Tuesday evening, Sept. 24 in Virden's Sunrise Banquet Hall where 25 organizations had information booths highlighting their work.

Volunteer Manitoba representative Kamillah El-Giadaa, introduced guest speaker Sherri Kennedy. It was the highlight of the evening as she shared many anecdotes including how following in her mother's footsteps to deliver meals on wheels turned out to be quite a challenge for the younger woman as she weathered a Manitoba winter storm on her first round of deliveries. Sherri realized that her mum was an expert volunteer.

Shirley gave freely of her time and energy to

many Elkhorn community efforts. She was also well known in wider circles as she taught figure skating and gave dance lessons. The Kennedys raised a family of three who are well known for their own accomplishments.

Sheldon for his hockey career in the NHL and for his willingness to share from his own life struggles to help youth avoid those pitfalls.

Troy Kennedy is well known locally for his play with the Brandon Wheat Kings.

All three of Mel and Shirley Kennedy's children took figure skating lessons and Sherri's talent took her all the way to professional ranks. In 2005, Sherri Kennedy, and her husband Slawomir Borowiecki were skating stars in the world-renowned Holiday on Ice show, Romanza.

Sherri was pleased with this evening's tribute to her mother. "I thought it was a very special and great turnout. I learned of so many more volunteer organizations in the communities that I didn't know of. Also, was able to connect and meet amazing people. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

She says it was easy to write her speech, that she delivered with emotion. Sherri explains, "I was blessed to have had the chance to know my mom the way I did, and to have had multiple conversations with her of what she loved, what she was passionate about, and what gave her joy. She was my mother, but also my best friend."

Sherri shared her

mother's perspective, "My mother always said, 'when unimaginable things happen, dig deep into your soul and try to find a positive. There's always one.'"

Sherri and Slawomir live in Poland for the winter months, where they own skating rinks. But they return to Virden from May to October for a vacation and to visit family and friends.

Volunteer Manitoba, S.A.I.L. and Border Regional Library co-hosted the event that saw over 100 people attend. The event began at 6pm with a sandwich deli and an opportunity to visit each booth.

S.A.I.L. coordinator Krista Pederson explained that the evening was sparked by the Kennedy family's decision to make a donation in memory of Shirley. She said, "S.A.I.L. has benefited from many volunteers over the years, and the timing was perfect to recognize them and their service."

Christine Cross spoke that evening about S.A.I.L., saying, "Many of our clients and volunteers are older adults. Our programs and services depend on volunteers and in any given week, over 12 hours of time is required to ensure we can provide a variety of services such as the meals and exercise programs, etc."

Cross quoted some encouraging volunteer comments that provide insight into what volunteering can mean:

'When I feel a little down or bored, I go and do something for someone and I'm instantly rejuvenated.'

'Seeing a smiley face on the other side of the door just makes my day.'

'As a new Canadian I have found friendship and community as a volunteer for a local group and it really makes me feel like I belong.'

'I am a senior ... and am still capable of volunteering. It gives me a chance to give back to our community.'

'I watched my parents volunteer at the rink, the church, the fair and anything else that was needed and it has become a part of who I am too.'

Cross went on to say of Shirley Kennedy who volunteered broadly, "One time I asked her why she was doing so much and suggested that others could be pitching in



The banquet hall was buzzing with conversation as Susan Ivey takes a break from the Pioneer Home Museum booth to visit with Manitoba Antique Automobile Museum volunteers, Ed James and Lillian Jackson.

too. And she said, 'Chris, I don't say - why me? - I say why not me?'

At that time S.A.I.L. was delivering 35 meals. Cross says that Shirley packed these into her car, insisting she could handle all the

deliveries throughout the entire town.

Cross noted, "The Shirley Kennedy Memorial donations that were made to S.A.I.L. have supported this evening and will continue to support other

volunteer initiatives in Oak Lake, Elkhorn and Virden communities served by S.A.I.L."

El-Giadaa, thanked Christine Cross, Laranda Bailey and Tawna McLean as organizers of the evening event.



## BOARD OF REVISION

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the 2025 Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Ellice - Archie has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 318 Railway Avenue in the Village of McAuley and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 & 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act.

### 42(1) APPLICATION FOR REVISION

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

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property; or
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under Subsection 13(2).

### 43(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application for revision must:

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- be filed by
  - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the RM of Ellice - Archie Municipal Office located in McAuley or St. Lazare, or
  - serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board of Revision.

The Board of Revision will sit on Tuesday, November 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the council chambers of the R.M. of Ellice - Archie, 318 Railway Avenue, McAuley, Manitoba to hear applications that have been duly deposited.

The FINAL date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is Tuesday, October 29th, 2024.

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

Dated this 25th day of September, 2024

Trisha Huberdeau  
Secretary, Board of Revision  
R.M. of Ellice - Archie  
318 Railway Ave (Box 67)  
McAuley MB R0M 1H0



Tundra  
By Chad Carpenter



Keep them poor and uninformed

Last year, about this time I wrote about the danger of the elites and allowing an elite group of people run organizations. I hope you think it's a topic worth re-visiting. One of the organizations in question was the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba. I outlined how, over a few decades, a once vibrant, grassroots party let its organization and leadership to become, at best, mediocre. I got some definite feedback on that subject.

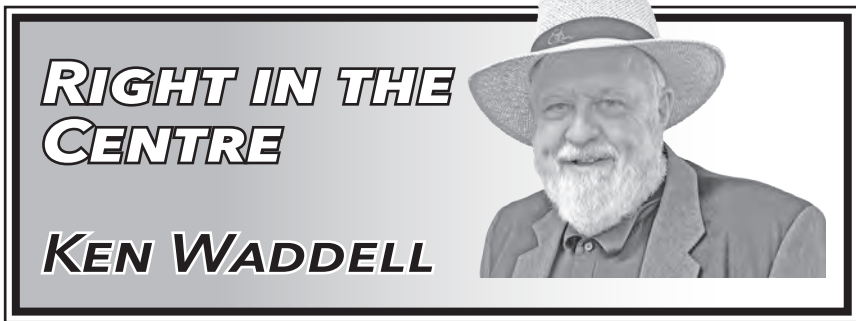
Another thought came to me today and that is, "Why do governments like keeping people poor and uninformed?"

I think the answer is surprisingly simple. Poor, uninformed people are easier to control and keep dependent on governments. Think about it. Why are there so many poor people in the Middle East? Palestine (Gaza), Syria and many African countries are very poor. We have lots of poverty in Canada too. Thousands of homeless people live in Canadian cities and towns. Many First Nations communities have high levels of poverty and a low level of basic services.

Rich people don't need government intervention as much as poor people do so there is, generally speaking, a lower level of dependence on government among richer people.

The bigger the level of dependence, the bigger the government. The higher the level of dependence, the more bureaucrats you need and that way the government unions get bigger and have more say in government policy. It's a vicious circle.

Governments have always been that way. Manitoba was part of the old North-West Territories but it was also part of the very old (1670) land grant from the King of England to the Hudson's Bay Company. Millions of acres of land, with almost no European population, was given by a King's Charter. For the first 200



years, the population was made up of Indigenous people, a few fur traders and explorers. By the 1860s, there were also many Metis people who fished, hunted, trapped fur bearing animals, traded in various goods and services and farmed. The Government of Canada decided to expand and bought a parcel of land from the HBC and decided also to survey the land with a view to development. Just so you can be assured that governments haven't changed much, Canada didn't tell the residents around Red River about their intentions. The residents didn't like the risk that their land could be confiscated. After a period of ever increasing tension, Louis Riel objected and took some military style action. It's a long story but the bottom line is the Metis and other residents of the Red River area neither wanted government interference nor did they want to be dependent on government. The Government of Canada totally botched their intentions and communications.

Riel set up a provisional government and council. Some violence erupted and three men died violent or accidental deaths. One of the deaths was an execution. It wasn't pretty, but out of the turmoil and violence, Manitoba was born.

Many will argue that Louis Riel was wrong and that his actions of 1869, and his later actions in 1885, were treasonous. That's a valid argument but it's also valid that had Riel and his

followers not stood their ground, more violence may well have happened. As is often the case, a senior level of government didn't have a hot clue about local traditions, values, customs or conditions. They assumed that they were dealing with poor, uninformed people who obviously must be told how to live in dependence on government.

Riel made a number of mistakes but I have long argued that he should receive recognition and he did in 1992 when then Premier Gary Filmon declared that Riel was the Founder of Manitoba. Last spring, Premier Wab Kinew brought in legislation that declared Riel as Manitoba's first premier.

The 1992 recognition of Riel was a good move and that was done by the PC Party. Yes the party that I described above as "a once vibrant, grassroots party".

It would appear that the move by Wab Kinew is a good move, as was the move by Filmon. As I said earlier, Riel made mistakes, as did Filmon and so will Kinew. The successes of Riel and Filmon came from listening to the local people. If Kinew is successful, he will follow that same path. Hopefully Kinew will recognize that the people must be listened to, not just the bureaucracy, the unions and the political elites.

*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.*



Up in the air so blue?

It was a simple image that Sister the Younger sent me; a swing like the one that we enjoyed in our Aunt Tillie's yard, a sturdy plank- possibly four or five feet long- suspended by two sets of ropes or light chains. It would have taken a robust person to operate it on their own, but with two children swinging you could gain great momentum. And with the plank, why, you could carry passengers! That made even more sense since Aunt Tillie and Uncle Pete had five children including a set of twin boys. We discovered the swing has its own title- it's a Russian swing, and considering our migratory history that's logical.

The Russian swing wasn't the only swing in my aunt's yard. The wooden glider swing under the trees was the perfect place to sit and simply be. Sometimes it would be my mom and her sisters sitting out there, sometimes us cousins, and best of all, mixed generations. What was designed to be a four-seater held many more. We must have been a swinging family! These glider swings, hand made, graced many of my families yards. Usually painted white.

Swings have always appealed to me. Way back in elementary school we memorized "Swings" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

'How do you like to go up in a swing, Up in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing Ever a child can do!'

Years later, a friend and I double pumped on the school high swing. We were considered too old, but there was no one waiting a turn and the day was perfect. Remember how you wanted to go high enough to see over the top support of the structure? We achieved that when one rope broke. You can only imagine the rope burn we had on the hand that rapidly slid along the prickly rope before we landed. We received zero sympathy from the staff. They felt, probably justified, that grade eleven girls should not have been high swinging in the first place!

Ed understood my love for the quiet gentle movement of a swing. One of the first things he set up at the farm at Riding Mountain was a single seater swing from the giant oak tree. Yes, we had young children, and yes, they got to play on it as well, but the swing was for me. I was in my early thirties. When we moved to the acreage almost twenty years later Ed once again strung the rope and notched a board for my swing, this time in the front yard from the strong arm of a maple tree.

I have never been brave enough to climb a tree and swing it down, though I have dreamt of doing so. It's safer, and wiser, to read again Robert Frost's 'Birches'. He describes a young farm lad carefully climbing to the very top of a slender birch tree, and flinging himself outward and kicking his way through the air to the ground. "I'd like to get away from earth awhile and then come back to it and begin over". "One could do worse than being a swinger of birches." Those lines.



# Manitoba government to extend gas tax holiday to December 31

## Manitobans will continue to save at the pump until the end of the year

**Submitted**  
By MB GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government intends to extend the gas tax holiday until the end of the calendar year, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

“Since we cut the gas tax in January, inflation has gone down in Manitoba,” said Kinew. “This is what governments are for. We know Manitobans are still struggling with the

impact of interest rates and grocery prices so we’re going to continue to step up and save you 14 cents at the pump.”

The current gas tax holiday on gasoline and diesel used to operate motor vehicles will be extended until Dec. 31, noted the premier.

The premier noted the people who drive the most popular type of vehicle in the province, a pickup truck, will save around \$14 every time they fuel up. The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics estimates the gas tax holiday has directly contributed to a decrease of 0.4 percentage points to inflation.

Since the introduction of the gas tax holiday, Manitoba has had the lowest average retail price on gasoline in Canada and inflation has dropped to within the Bank of Canada’s target inflation range of one to three per cent.

# News from Miniota

**Submitted**  
By LINDA CLARK

The Miniota Discoveries Learning Centre held a successful fundraising evening entitled “Little Darling Fall Formal,” a night for children and their parents, complete with a candy bar, photo booth to capture everyone dressed up, and a dance with some dance competitions. Possibly the highlight of the evening for the staff might have been when the song ‘Sleeping Bunnies’ was played and the children all lay down on the floor, for they recognized the song and the meaning it held from their time at the daycare centre. Wonderful successful evening!

And that’s a wrap on another successful season for the Miniota Golf Club. Their final events were

a men’s tournament on Saturday and the Miniota Fire Department tournament on Sunday. The golf course and clubhouse are closed as of Sept.30.

Chris and Amanda Lonson, Merek and Briar from Medicine Hat visited with Darcy Oliver and family and attended Amanda’s Grandma Jan Robertson’s celebration of life service on Friday at Elkhorn.

Just having had our first frost and several days of howling winds, thought this quote appropriate as we enter the month of October - “I am most radiant and full of energy when the leaves are falling and there is a ghost of change in the air.” - Anna Madsen

**Isabella News**

Lisa Eastley attended the Basketball of Fame evening in Winnipeg this past weekend where her high school team, the

Brandon Neelin Spartans, were inducted for their years 1999-2010. The Neelin Spartans won 10 Triple A championships within those years. Congratulations Lisa on being a member of this strong basketball team!

An Isabella Community Women’s meeting was held at the home of Bernice Still with the business item to decide whether we could continue to cater our roast beef supper. The decision was made to proceed for another year enlisting the help of men, women and children in our small community. This same group of women then met to compile the food lists and workers stations, with the hope that our supporters from surrounding communities will be able to attend our supper at the end of October. Watch for our ad in this paper.

<p><b>Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited</b> <b>Abandonment of Segments of the Westspur 23A &amp; 23B Pipelines</b> <b>Notice of Proposed Abandonment</b> <b>Subsection 241(1) of the Canadian Energy Regulator Act</b></p> <p>On September 26, 2024, Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited has filed an application with the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) to abandon segments of Lines 23A &amp; 23B at the Pipestone Creek Crossing (Project) pursuant to subsection 241(1) of the Canadian Energy Regulator Act (Application).</p> <p>The proposed abandonment will involve segments of parallel NPS 12 (323 mm) and NPS 16 (406 mm) pipelines under Pipestone Creek near Cromer, Manitoba located on SW 17-009-28 W1M and NW 17-009-28 W1M as shown on the accompanying map. You can find the Application on the CER’s website here Canada Energy Regulator - REGDOCS - C31448 Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited - Abandonment Pipeline Segments 23A and 23B (cer-rec.gc.ca).</p> <p>The Commission of the CER expects Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited has engaged with people that may be impacted by the Project (including landowners, Indigenous Peoples, municipalities and others) to discuss the Project activities, mitigation measures, and/or any comments and concerns expressed.</p> <p>If you have concerns about the Project, you may advise the Commission of your concerns by filing a written statement of opposition within thirty (30) days of September 26, 2024. A form (i.e., statement of opposition to an abandonment application) is attached and can also be found on the CER website in both English and French.</p> <p>The Commission will consider your statement of opposition when it makes its decision on the Project.</p> <p>The Commission will also use the information you provide to plan its review. For example, the Commission may ask the company for a written response to your concerns, which it will also consider when it makes its decision on the Project. In addition, the Commission may establish other opportunities for you to make your concerns known and for the company to respond.</p> <p>In deciding whether to hold additional process, the Commission will consider whether your interests may be impacted by the Project and your explanation as to why you need more process steps.</p> <p>Further information on the Application will be communicated to anyone who submits a completed form.</p> <p>For projects where the Commission is the final decision maker, the CER’s intent is to fulfill the Crown’s duty to consult through the Commission’s regulatory process. The Commission is the final decision-maker on this Project. Indigenous communities who are concerned that their established or potential Indigenous or Treaty rights and related interests could be affected by the Project are strongly encouraged to make their concerns known to the Commission and to participate in any process held by the Commission. For more information on the CER’s approach to fulfilling any potential duty to consult with Indigenous Peoples that may arise in this context, please see the letter dated 30 November 2020 on our website.</p> <p>Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) services – such as mediation and facilitation – are available from the CER to help parties resolve disputes outside of the Commission’s hearing processes. You can read more about ADR on the CER’s website at <a href="http://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/adri">www.cer-rec.gc.ca/adri</a>.</p> <p>For more information or for any questions, you can contact the CER’s Land Matters Advisory Service at 1-800-899-1265 (toll free) or via email at <a href="mailto:LMAS.SCQF@cer-rec.gc.ca">LMAS.SCQF@cer-rec.gc.ca</a>.</p>	<p><b>Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited</b> <b>Abandon de tronçons des pipelines Westspur 23A et 23B</b> <b>Avis de cessation d’exploitation proposée</b> <b>Paragraphe 241(1) de la Loi sur la Régie canadienne de l’énergie</b></p> <p>Le 26 septembre 2024, Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited a déposé une demande à la Régie de l’énergie du Canada en vue de cesser d’exploiter d’abandonner des segments des lignes 23A et 23B à Pipestone Creek Crossing (« projet »), aux termes du paragraphe 241(1) de la Loi sur la Régie canadienne de l’énergie (« demande »).</p> <p>Le projet de cessation d’exploitation vise l’abandon proposé concernera des segments de pipelines parallèles NPS 12 (323 mm) et NPS 16 (406 mm) sous Pipestone Creek près de Cromer, au Manitoba se trouvant SW 17-009-28 W1M, tel qu’il est indiqué sur la carte. La demande peut être consultée sur le site Web de la Régie à l’adresse Canada Energy Regulator - REGDOCS - C31448 Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited - Abandonment Pipeline Segments 23A and 23B (cer-rec.gc.ca).</p> <p>La Commission de la Régie de l’énergie du Canada s’attend à ce que Kingston Midstream Westspur Limited ait pris contact avec les personnes ou communautés susceptibles d’être touchées par le projet (propriétaires fonciers, peuples autochtones, municipalités et autres) pour discuter des commentaires et préoccupations qu’elles ont exprimés, ainsi que des activités et mesures d’atténuation prévues.</p> <p>Si vous avez des préoccupations au sujet du projet, vous pouvez en informer la Commission en déposant une déclaration d’opposition écrite dans les 30 jours suivant le 26 septembre 2024. Le formulaire à utiliser (pour présenter une déclaration d’opposition) est joint à la présente et se trouve également en version électronique sur le site Web de la Régie (en français et en anglais).</p> <p>La Commission tiendra compte de votre déclaration d’opposition avant de rendre sa décision sur le projet.</p> <p>La Commission utilisera également l’information que vous lui fournirez pour planifier son examen. Par exemple, elle peut demander à la société de lui fournir une réponse écrite à vos préoccupations, dont elle tiendra également compte avant de rendre sa décision sur le projet. Elle peut aussi prévoir d’autres occasions pour vous permettre de faire part de vos préoccupations et permettre à la société d’y répondre.</p> <p>Pour décider s’il y a lieu d’ajouter des étapes au processus, la Commission déterminera si le projet pourrait avoir une incidence sur vos intérêts et tiendra compte de vos explications à l’égard du besoin d’ajouter des étapes.</p> <p>Toute personne qui présente un formulaire dûment rempli obtiendra de plus amples renseignements sur la demande.</p> <p>Dans le cas des projets pour lesquels la Commission est le décideur ultime, la Régie entend s’acquitter de l’obligation de consulter de la Couronne dans le cadre de son processus de réglementation. La Commission est le décideur ultime en ce qui concerne le projet. Les communautés autochtones préoccupées par la possibilité qu’un projet qu’elle réglemente porte atteinte à leurs droits ancestraux ou issus de traités et à leurs intérêts connexes, établis ou potentiels, sont vivement encouragées à exprimer leurs préoccupations devant la Commission et à participer au processus établi. Pour plus d’information sur la démarche adoptée par la Régie afin de s’acquitter de son obligation de consulter les peuples autochtones dans ce contexte, veuillez consulter la lettre datée du 30 novembre 2020 sur son site Web.</p> <p>Des services de règlement extrajudiciaire des différends, tels que la médiation et l’arbitrage, sont offerts pour aider les parties à résoudre les désaccords hors des processus d’audience de la Commission. Pour plus d’information à ce sujet, consultez le site Web de la Régie (<a href="http://www.rec-cer.gc.ca/red">www.rec-cer.gc.ca/red</a>).</p> <p>Pour toute question, veuillez communiquer avec le service consultatif sur les questions foncières de la Régie au 1 800 899 1265 (sans frais) ou à l’adresse <a href="mailto:LMAS.SCQF@cer-rec.gc.ca">LMAS.SCQF@cer-rec.gc.ca</a>.</p>
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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Celery was once considered an autumn vegetable however it is now available year round in the grocery stores. Wild celery was native to the Mediterranean and Middle East areas and is a member of the parsley family. The Greeks, Romans and Egyptians believed celery was capable of regenerating the mind and body. The ancient Greeks and Romans wove celery leaves into the victory crowns of star athletes. The seeds produce a spice which was used to make celery vinegar, a popular condiment in the 18th century. The seeds are used to spice various recipes and to make celery salt, an ingredient in a classic Bloody Mary cocktail.

Celery is a silent building block of so many dishes, so much so that it doesn’t really get its due. Many stock, stir fry, stuffing, sandwich filling, casserole, salad and soup recipes call for celery, but it does make a great vegetable on its own. In Canada we love our celery “sticks” filled with cheese or peanut butter. The average North American eats about 6 pounds of celery per year. Its low caloric value and significant fiber content make it a popular food item. Celery is a great source of essential vitamins and minerals. It contains 28% of your daily needed vitamin K, as well as vitamin A, C, B6 and minerals like potassium, calcium, and folate. The down side to celery is it is typically exposed to many pesticides, and it is considered one of the “Dirty Dozen” as it is a produce sprayed very frequently with pesticides.

Celery can be stored for several weeks when kept refrigerated. Your best bet is getting rid of the plastic bag and wrapping it in aluminum foil or store them in an airtight container.

This creamy, flavorful celery soup recipe is easy to prepare and very filling. A perfect recipe to prepare for a family lunch.

Celery soup

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 6-8 celery stalks, sliced thinly
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 medium carrot, diced or thinly sliced
- 1 large potato, diced
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 tsp. dried parsley or 1 Tbsp. fresh
- 1 tsp. Dash or dried dill (optional)
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk (or use 3/4 cup milk and 3/4 cup cream)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

In a large Dutch oven cook the onions, celery, garlic, carrot, potato, parsley and Dash in the chicken broth until vegetables are tender. In a pot or frying pan melt the butter. Add the flour and cook for another minute. Add the milk/cream, salt and pepper gradually. Cook and stir until mixture is thickened and bubbly. Add to the vegetable mixture. Stir until the soup is heated through. Season to taste with added salt and pepper if needed. You can purée the soup with an immersion blender or do as I do and leave it chunky.

Celery Salad

Celery salad is a simple salad recipe that’s got all the elements we love. Crunchy celery, sweet bites of raisins, walnuts, pears and apples all wrapped up in a creamy dressing. It’s delicious!

- Celery pear salad
- 6 stalks celery, washed and thinly sliced
- 2 large pears, cored and sliced
- 1 small apple, cored and diced
- 1 green onion, finely sliced or 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup toasted walnuts
- 1 cup small cheese cubes
- Dressing:
- 1/2 cup sour cream or plain yogurt
- 3 Tbsp. mayo
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. maple syrup or sugar

Mix all the prepared veggies in a large bowl. Mix the dressing ingredients and add to the veggies. Stir them together gently, serve and enjoy.

Gunshots fired in Elkhorn

Westman RCMP service report for Sept. 22 – 28

Submitted  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 81 calls for service. Of the 81, 18 were traffic related including three speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were four suspicious person/vehicle/property files, four assault files, two harassing communication files, three wellbeing checks, two false alarms, two missing persons reports and one uttering threats against a person file.


On Sept. 22 during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 257 in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 132 km/hr in a 100 km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a traffic offence notice for speeding, which carries a fine of \$469.

On Sept. 23 RCMP responded to a well being check call in the town of Virden. One male was located inside his vehicle. Officers spoke to the man, and he was placed under arrest for impaired operation of a motor vehicle. Upon search of the individual narcotics were located. The male was taken into custody and will appear in court for possession of fentanyl

and methamphetamine (crystal meth). On Sept. 23 RCMP responded to a call in the settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in regard to a disturbance. RCMP attended and two individuals were located and arrested. One female will attend court in December on one count of mischief under \$5,000. One male will attend court in December on numerous charges including forcible confinement, assault, and 2 counts of failing to comply with release order conditions.

On Sept. 25 RCMP received a report of gun shots being fired in the town of Elkhorn. When RCMP responded to the call, the suspected vehicle was located, and a firearm was visible in the backseat. As the vehicle was unlocked RCMP seized the firearm and contacted the owner. One male is charged with unsafe storage of firearms, unauthorized possession of a firearm and failing to comply with undertaking condition. The investigation is ongoing in this matter.

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.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

## SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PIPESTONE

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 **29th** day of **October, 2024**, at the hour of **2:00 PM**, at Rural Municipality of Pipestone, 401 - 3rd Avenue, Reston, 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
103500	LOT 9 AND 10 BLOCK 4 PLAN 155 BLTO IN SE 1/4 13-7-29 WPM - 39 RAILWAY AVE, SINCLAIR	L -\$500 B -\$2,000	\$4,064.54
103900	LOT 16 AND 17 BLOCK 4 PLAN 155 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 1284300 IN SE 1/4 13-7-29 WPM - 17 LUMSDEN ST, SINCLAIR	L -\$900 B -\$21,600	\$3,210.34
176200	LOTS 23, 24 AND 25 BLOCK 4 PLAN 74 EXC OUT OF SAID LOTS 23 AND 25, ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN DEEDS 132266 AND 92830 IN NE 1/4 9-7-26 WPM. - FOURTH STREET, PIPESTONE	L -\$1,000 B -\$12,200	\$11,369.97
179600	LOT 21 BLOCK 6 PLAN 74 BLTO IN NE 1/4 9-7-26 WPM - 132 SIXTH ST, PIPESTONE	L -\$600 B -\$23,000	\$4,413.52
181700	LOT 1 BLOCK 9 PLAN 157 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER NO. 52759 IN NE 1/4 9-7-26 WPM - 724 SECOND AVE, PIPESTONE	L -\$1,900 B -\$17,100	\$3,999.86

**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 PIPESTONE 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 17th day of September, 2024.**

Managed by:



Derek Millard  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Pipestone  
Phone: (204) 877-3327  
Fax: (204) 877-3999



## FAITH & FAMILY

TARA KAUEHOFEN



# Waves and wind

We spent this past weekend camping, soaking in the last little bits of summer. The heat from the sun offset the frigid water at the beach, the trees a mix of green, yellow, orange, red and some with no leaves at all.

All clear signs that fall has arrived and winter is on its way soon enough.

The second to last day of our trip the wind came howling into our campsite, and if you know me, you know I do NOT like the wind.

I will sit outside and watch a thunderstorm, completely in awe of the lightning dancing across the sky and through the clouds.

I'll watch hail come pebbling down as it seems to act like jumping beans, bouncing off the ground and seemingly 'hopping' up out of the grass.

But the wind? Makes me deeply uncomfortable and sometimes, when it's strong enough, fearful.

The wind reminds me that there are mighty forces outside my control, the wind that can make trees crack and bend in half, can take leaves right off, rip shingles off the roof.

The wind that can turn into a tornado, tearing apart everything in its path with no mercy.

As I sat and watched the trees at our campsite, as I heard the cracking of branches, I wanted nothing more than to crawl into a hole and hide until the world was calm again.

And all I could think was, how often do we walk through seasons of life like that?

Where we are deeply uncomfortable, we want to feel forward motion, we want to walk through the discomfort (or sometimes run as fast as we can AWAY from it).

We want to crawl into bed and hide until the storm passes, until everything is bright and sunny again.

But God, in his infinite wisdom and omniscience, says, "Hold Your Post."

He asks us to stand in the gap, between the season of life you came from, to the one on the other side of the wind.

He says to stand in the wind so we are reminded that he is God, He is good, and He is in control. That the waves and the wind storms of life know his name and obey his call to be still, in his time, in his way.

We are asked to halt and hold in the gap, in the wind, so we can be reminded where our help comes from and who we are truly to rely on.

The wind may have made me uncomfortable that day, but I stood, I closed my eyes and I listened and was reminded to hold my post, to trust that he has guided my steps THROUGH the storm, and in his perfect timing I WILL come out on the other side.

# Understanding anxiety: Signs, symptoms, and coping strategies

## YOUR LISTENING EAR DELSIE MARTIN

Anxiety is a feeling that we will all cope with at some point in our lives however, people will feel it in different intensities for different durations. If you've never experience intense anxiety, the feeling can be quite scary and leave you with a feeling of helplessness. My goal today, is to help you feel informed about your anxiety and have some practical tools that can help you.

Anxiety is that looming feeling that something just isn't right. It makes you feel like someone is out to get you, like you are powerless to affect change in your life and like your life is out of control. When people experience anxiety, they may feel like they have a heavy/tight chest, a racing heart, they may get tingly sensations over their body, they may feel sweaty and hot, like their thoughts are racing and like they are losing control. Inside their head, they may have thoughts like, "I can't do this", "It's all too much" or "Something bad is going to happen". From the outside, people might observe someone who is restless (tapping their fingers or fidgeting), tense posture, rapid breathing or sighing, or someone speaking quickly. They might also observe someone withdrawing into themselves, avoiding eye contact, retreating from social settings, or frequently apologizing. Anxiety is an intense feeling, a scary feeling but not something that is unsolvable.

Noticing your personal symptoms of anxiety is the first step to addressing them. First, recognize when anxiety is coming on. These could be small signs like sweaty palms or a tight check. Then, when you notice that anxiety is coming, don't assume that you don't need strategies to

address it. We all need strategies to work our way through our anxiety. Once you recognize the anxiety coming, launch into deep breathing to calm the nervous system.

- A deep breathing meditation: Breathe in, hold at the top of the breath for 5 seconds and then breathe out, taking that breath out as slowly as you possibly can. Repeat this breath as many times as you need (stopping if you get lightheaded)

- As you breathe, say to yourself a coping thought to calm the mind. A coping thought is any thought that brings you peace. I use the coping thought, "I'm OK, I've got this". Other folks may use, "Breathe", "This too shall pass" or "I am loved".

- Then, use a distraction technique. This can be anything that works for you, but some folks might, walk the dog, phone a friend, play a video game, watch a YouTube video, color or draw.

These strategies take practice because you must teach your brain how to be soothed but with time, repetition and patience, they will make a big difference in your ability to manage anxiety. Anxiety is a normal bodily response so give yourself some grace when you experience it. It doesn't mean you aren't handling things well; it doesn't mean that you are damaged, it means that you are human. You've got this!

## Do you have an interest in the Education of Adults in Virden and surrounding area?

**A.P.P.L.E. Is looking for new Board members!**  
Meetings are once a month during the school year, for about an hour at a time. Consider this your invitation to attend our AGM to see what it's all about.

**Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
5:30 pm at the A.P.P.L.E. Literacy Centre  
#2 - 585 Seventh Ave South, Virden  
204-748-2384  
applevdn@mymts.net



## Woodworth Legion Branch

Reopens October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm

Thursdays at 7:30pm - Texas Hold Em  
Friday at 5pm - Happy Hour  
Friday at 7:20pm - Chase the Ace Draw  
Jackpot is currently around \$3800.00

October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
Legion Ladies Auxiliary Fall Harvest Supper  
Adults \$20.00  
\$10.00 for 10 and under children

Monthly Legion Meeting  
October 7 - 7:30pm

Monthly Ladies Auxiliary Meeting  
October 7 - 10:15am

We are continuing to raise money for new chairs in the clubroom. Membership fees are now due, same as last year. Contact Blair Fordyce at Whytes Lumber to get paid up! Also next Saturday the firemen are having a event at the firehall with a bbq!

Everyone welcome come out and support our firefighting lads!

## Greg NESBITT MLA for Riding Mountain

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



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CancerCare Manitoba  
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PracticePrevention.ca

## Roast Beef Supper

Sunday, October 27th @ 4:30 PM ~ Isabella Hall

Adults \$20  
10 & Under \$10  
Preschoolers Free



If you 'wish' to reserve a seat,  
call Linda at 204-567-3847 or Hazel at 204-568-4603  
If no answer, leave a message.



# Volunteer Manitoba offers help

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Is your group or organization crying for volunteers? Volunteer Manitoba are experts that can help.

Kamillah El-Giadaa a manager with Volunteer Manitoba (VM), attended Virden's Volunteer Appreciation evening on Sept. 24 at Sunrise Banquet Hall where she was an encouraging voice for the volunteer sector.

She said, "Manitoba has the [second] highest rate of volunteerism in Canada with 49.1 per cent of Manitobans actively volunteering." According to 2018 statistics, Saskatchewan is only slightly higher.

However, the news was not all good. She said the pandemic years led to "a significant decline in volunteerism." According to the umbrella organization, Volunteer Canada, "65 per cent of organizations are struggling to get volunteers back."

Volunteer Manitoba deliver training for boards, staff and volunteers.

Krista Pederson, Virden S.A.I.L. coordinator endorsed VM's training sessions. She said, "Personally speaking, I have been able to do on-line sessions with them over the last few years. I've found them to be very helpful in my work. And it's been great to be able to participate online, rather than having to travel."

El-Giadaa explained, "These workshops cover topics such as how to be a board member, volunteer management and important capacity building topics like digital marketing, budgeting, HR and leadership management."

Recognition is part of bolstering volun-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kamillah El-Giadaa with Volunteer Manitoba.

teers. Every year VM recognizes exceptional work of Manitoba's volunteers. The organization celebrated their 40th annual awards this past April, where Acres for Hamiota was a recipient of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Community Leadership Award.

Acres for Hamiota is an agricultural project that was formed recently to raise funds for non-profit organizations and for new projects such as Hamiota's new mini golf course located beside the outdoor swimming pool, near the camp grounds.

El-Giadaa said, "If you know someone that needs to be recognized, and I have no doubt that in this room you can think of someone, please consider nominating them for our awards. The nominations open up in November."

See the Volunteer Manitoba website for more information: [www.volunteermanitoba.ca](http://www.volunteermanitoba.ca)

# Dangerous driving on highway 259

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

I travel highway 259 Kenton to Virden four times a week. The speed limit on Highway 259 is 90 km per hour.

There are 12 curves on the road from Kenton to Virden. As well there are a couple of blind spots on this road. Two are coming out of the valley on both sides as well as one near Slimmons farm. In the last three years these are some of the things I have witnessed.

SPEED, certainly not 90, more like 110, 120, and higher. There is a 70 km sign coming past Kenton that is also ignored by many, no slow down at all.

Common practice is seeing a vehicle passing another on double lines or the dotted and straight line on the road meaning you are not to pass in that direction.

I have been passed by a car going up the river hill coming east from Virden to Kenton where the guardrail

is on both sides of the road only to see them turn on one occasion and go down Errol Road at the top of the river hill going north.

I have witnessed two cars, I guess taking turns, passing each other at high speeds, where they are in a hurry to get somewhere or just goofing around

North and South of Lenore there are two speed curves. I have seen vehicles pass a school bus only to cut back in front way to soon because of oncoming traffic.

Vehicle drivers that travel this road also seem to have forgotten how to DIM their lights. They are left on bright, which is blinding when meeting them, as well as blinding when they come right up behind you, either way it is blinding.

Where has highway etiquette gone?

I'm not sure how these drivers ever completed a successful driving training course.

Question is it worth costing you a life or your life

because of erratic driving in marked non-passing zones. Everybody says those people who get jammed in the underpass at Kemnay, can't they see or read the signs, well look at the signs on 259, are you following the rules?

Someone will eventually be in an accident, and someone will die or be scarred for life. Odds are that will happen.

The last thing in this world that RCMP Officer wants to do is to go to your loved ones and tell them you have been killed in an accident or have been involved in an accident where someone was killed or had a life changing accident.

Is your time so precious that it is worth risking your life or some other person's life and future?

Just ask those families that have had a loved one die in an accident because of your IRRESPONSIBILITY! Stay safe out there, you only have one life, make sure you keep it as well as others.

## VIRDEN MUSIC & Arts FESTIVAL

Thank-you to the following businesses and individuals for their continued support and/or assistance of the following for our 2024 festival:

### Scholarship Donors:

- Enbridge Pipelines Senior Excellence Scholarship
- Sunrise Credit Union Senior Awards of Merit
- Valleyview Co-op Junior Awards of Merit
- Town of Virden
- R.M. of Pipestone
- Boston Pizza
- Bernice McDonald Memorial Fund
- Mabel Brandon Memorial Fund
- Tundra Oil and Gas Partnership
- Arts Mosaic
- Four Seasons Sales
- RM of Sifton
- R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
- McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell
- Garnet McDonald
- Evelynne & Kris Sundell Memorial Fund
- Southwest Assiniboine Chapter of Retired Teachers
- Evelyn Jorgensen
- Heritage Equipment Inc
- Lions Club
- MNP
- J&L Seeds
- Royal Purple Lodge

### Patron Program Donors:

- Doug & Kathi Gatey
- Stan & Pat Rampton
- Marcie & Cory Barkley
- George & Carol Anne Trowell
- Jacy & Joanne Whyte
- Dwayne & Christine Cross
- Maxine Heritage
- Kathleen Kristjanson
- Marjorie Andrew
- Brenda Lund
- Donna George
- Garnet McDonald
- Ian & Evelyn Whyte
- Glen & Karen McKinnon
- Dave & Michelle Chyzyk
- Glen & Gwenda Hayward
- Rob & Marilyn Warkentin
- Terry & Marilyn Wakely
- Adele Cook
- Judy Poole
- Michelle Gervin
- Walter & Erna Peters
- Marie Plaisier
- Brad & Janice Schwalm
- Murray & Joyce Davies
- Karen Naumiuk

- Virden Area Foundation Inc. - festival medals
- Trinette Friesen - formatting program
- Carscadden Funeral Chapel - photocopy services
- Border Regional Library, Virden Branch - artwork drop off, shield display, access to syllabus, addendum, Speech Arts resource manual
- Valleyview Co-op - use of Board Room for meetings
- Fort la Bosse Division Office - addendum & digital entry form website posts
- Fort la Bosse Schools - entry form assistance
- CPR Historic Centre, Arts Mosaic - Visual Arts venue, setup & display
- Flower Attic & Gifts - program & season pass sales
- MNP - financial statement
- The Aud Theatre & Board Members hours of assistance in an amazing venue
- St. Paul's United Church - venue

### Also congratulations to recipients of the following:

#### Fort La Bosse Graduate Scholarship Recipients

- Virden: Choir – Cody Thiessen
- Band – Sarah Keown
- Drama – Zander Janzen
- Art – Arianna Ewert
- Elkhorn: Band – Lukas Baer

#### Provincial Winners

- Dramatic Monologue Grades 10-12: Sarah Keown 2nd
- Poetry / Prose Grades 7-9: Kennedy Routledge 1st
- Prepared Speech Grade 4-6: Emory Frizzley 1st
- Intermediate Vocal TV/Movie Musical: Daelyn Fefchak 1st
- Intermediate Vocal: Daelyn Fefchak 2nd

All winners received scholarships!



# SMOLEY GETS OIL CAPS FANS GOING

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

As the Virden Oil Capitals public address announcer, Stu Smoley plays a key role in the team's game day atmosphere.

Smoley's voice is the one fans hear when their favourite player finds the back of the net. His role includes, among other things, trying to keep fans involved and informed as well as acknowledging sponsors.

"I love the ability to be able to get the crowd going and get them into it and have those players hear their name announced," Smoley said. "Even if they score one goal during the season, hopefully they remember when Stu the Announcer gave them props for that one goal."

Smoley is now in his third season as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League team's public address announcer. Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey praised Smoley's work.

"He is a familiar voice now for fans, he speaks so clearly and brings energy to the rink," the coach said. "He really cares about the organization and treats his job seriously and wants to help improve our gameday experience. He brings professionalism to the job, and we are lucky to have someone who is passionate about our team."

Ramsey and Smoley both grew up in Dominion City. A few summers ago, Smoley joined his brother's and Ramsey's families on a camping trip. Ramsey brought up the idea of him doing public address announcing. It was two to three months later that an official offer came in a phone call.

"I just kind of went and got my feet wet in some preseason games and it's been kind of learning as I go," Smoley said.

While he did not enter the position with an extensive background in hockey public address announcing, Smoley was long accustomed to public speaking. As a now retired Canadian military

officer, he was used to speaking in front of people and at events such as Remembrance Day.

Smoley has put in the work to enhance the skills he brought to the pos-

ition. He has taken note of what the public address announcer does at Brandon Wheat Kings major junior games. Smoley spent a game with Wheat Kings public address announcer Chris Falko, learning how he does things. In addition, he has watched National Hockey League clips and done other research, including focusing on tone and the order of what is said. Smoley is studying media and communications at Assiniboine Community College.

He has appreciated working in the "great environment" at the Oil Capitals games. Smoley has enjoyed working this season with Cooper Charles, the team's media relations and game day assistant, and Teresa Heritage, the Oil Caps' game day manager/office manager/billet coordinator, to help create the atmosphere at the games.

When Smoley is unable to make a game, Henry Hildebrandt or Branden Crowe, the Wheat Kings former play by play announcer, fill in. One time the Oil Capitals' play by play announcers were unable to make it to a contest. Hildebrandt handled the public announcing duties, while Smoley was thrust into a play by play role for the HockeyTV broadcast.

"That was quite an experience," he said. "It had a lot of fun doing that."



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### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN.

Applications and resolutions **MUST BE RECEIVED** by  
5:00 p.m. Friday, October 11, 2024.

Join us for  
Virden Theatre  
Productions'

"Get Your Freak On"

Ladies Night

Wednesday, November 6

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm,

Virden Legion Hall

Tickets are \$55 (available at Flower Attic and Gifts) and include:

- A show ticket with VIP seating for Wednesday's opening night performance of Freaky Friday
- Buffet dinner and complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Free door prize draws (prizes valued at \$100 or more)
- Draw table with tickets available for purchase
- Fashion show presented by Shari-Lyn Fashions

Groups of six or more can text  
or call Laura Wright  
(204) 748-5136 to book a table.




# MEET YOUR OIL CAPS



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SEASONS**

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**Let's go Caps!**



**GOOD LUCK  
OIL CAPS!**

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**Wishing the  
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Oil Capitals  
the best of luck  
on their upcoming  
2024-2025 season**


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**2 RHYLAN BAXTR**  
D | WINNIPEG, MB  
2006-08-13



**20 LUC BOURDON**  
D | PRINCE ALBERT, SK  
2006-03-06



**8 HUDSON DAVIDSON**  
D | VIRDEN, MB  
2007-07-29



**17 TYLER DODGSON**  
D | WINNIPEG, MB  
2004-06-05



**15 PIERCE GOUIN**  
F | INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN  
2005-02-01




**21 ETHAN GUTHRIE**  
D | BRANDON, MB  
2004-11-14



**27 MAXX HAMELIN**  
F | WINNIPEG MB  
2007-05-30



**29 MARSHALL LIGHT**  
F | MOOSOMIN, SK  
2005-06-05



**26 PARKER ROLSTON**  
F | WINNIPEG, MB  
2006-07-06




**12 BRETT SABEL**  
F | FOND DU LAC, WI  
2004-02-03



**10 MADDOX SHINDLE**  
D | PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB



**16 BROOKS SIEMENS**  
F | BOTTINEAU, ND  
2006-03-08



**13 KYAN GROUTTE**  
F | DAUPHIN, MB  
2005-01-07



**TYSON RAMSEY**  
HEAD COACH  
& GENERAL MANAGER



**BRETT BRAYBROOK**  
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# 2024-2025 OIL CAPITALS



**9 TYSON DRAPER**

F | VIRDEN, MB  
2007-10-01



**28 NOEL ENGLT**

F | CARDIAC, SK  
2005-11-05



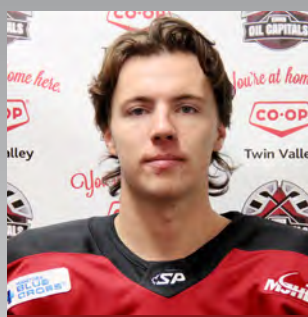
**23 CAMPBELL EPP**

F | WINNIPEG, MB  
2006-03-09



**24 ACOYEN FEHR**

F | MORDEN, MB  
2006-04-11



**6 TY PLAISIER**

D | VIRDEN, MB  
2005-04-23



**19 RHETT PLATT**

F | REGINA, SK  
2005-07-02



**31 GAVIN RENWICK**

G | WELLWOOD, MB  
2005-01-10



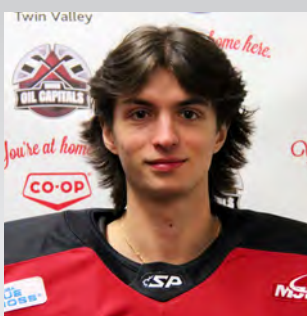
**11 LUKE ROBSON**

F | CARBERRY, MB  
2004-03-23



**22 DANIEL TOKARIWSKI**

F | WINNIPEG, MB  
2005-06-28



**1 NIK TRAKAKIS**

G | ST LAURENT, QC  
2004-02-12



**25 JONAH VANDERHORST**

D | WINNIPEG, MB  
2007-05-19



**14 CARSON WRIGHT**

F | CALGARY, AB  
2006-01-29



**MARC BERRY**

ASSISTANT  
GENERAL MANAGER



**RYAN POTTER**

GOALTENDING COACH



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DOUG ROACH  
~ Play-by-Play Announcer  
WAYNE UNGER  
~ Team Chaplain  
PERRY MEIKLE



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SPORTS

BIG OIL CAPS ROOKIE CLASS LEARNING FROM VETERANS



#8 Hudson Davidson

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This season's edition of the Virden Oil Capitals features many young, new faces. As of Sept. 29, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad's roster lists 12 players designated as rookies. In the team's season opening tilt at home versus Dauphin, there were eight rookies in the lineup. It was the first regular season game at Tundra Oil & Gas Place for many of them.

"The home opener was a great experience, especially with the packed crowd supporting us all night," said rookie forward Carson Wright of Calgary. "Despite the disappointing loss, it was exciting to play in front of our fans."

Last season the team was loaded with veterans and only had three rookies at season's end. Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey has enjoyed working with his young charges.

"It's always fun to welcome new guys to our hockey club," he said. "These young guys are very skilled and they have so much energy to work hard on and off the ice. Our job now is to channel that energy in the right direction and help them adjust to junior hockey so that they can feel comfortable and contribute. They are a good group and fun to work with."

Twenty-year-old Oil Caps captain Ethan Guthrie of Brandon was impressed with how the rookies carried themselves in camp.

"They came ready to play and battle hard in camp and the start of the season," he said. "I think it will take some time, but once they settle in lots of them have the skills to excel in this league. I think that some of them will step up and play key roles for our team this year."

Most of the rookies are making the jump from the U18 AAA level to Junior A. Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper, an Oil Capitals rookie forward, spent time developing his game with the U18 and U15 AAA Southwest Cougars and the Elkhorn-based U17 AAA Canadian Ice Bandits.

"The MJ has been a big jump from AAA with a mixture of older players and just hockey at a level higher," he said, "Physicality in the MJ is a notable difference along with speed. It's been a good challenge so far and I've enjoyed every moment of it."

The Oil Capitals' veterans are helping their younger teammates adjust to the new level.

"The veterans this year have been so important," said rookie Maddox Shindle, who hails from Portage. "Since we're a young team, they've all accepted a role as leaders - even

the guys that don't wear a letter. They've all been leading by example in practice and during games whether it's on the bench or in the dressing room. They were super helpful after our first two games didn't go well. They made sure we kept our heads up and stayed focused, and we ended up getting that valuable first win of the season."

Several rookies are already contributing. For example, Campbell Epp, a forward from Winnipeg, scored the team's first goal of the season. As of Sept. 30, rookie forward Maxx Hamelin of Winnipeg led the Oil Capitals in scoring with four points - all assists - in five games. With three points, Epp was tied for second in points on the team with veterans Guthrie, Brett Sabel of Fond du Lac, Wisc., and Carberry's Luke Robson.

Draper is another of the team's rookie forwards after scoring twice and collecting an assist for the Oil Caps over the span of three games as an affiliated player last season. Another rookie forward who is a familiar face is Rhett Platt. The Regina product played five games for Virden last season before competing for the Junior B Pilot Butte Storm in Saskatchewan. Other rookie forwards include Wright; Winnipeg's Acroyen Fehr, who lit the lamp in the team's second game; Bottineau, N.D.'s Brooks Siemens; and Winnipeg's Parker Rolston, who scored on Sept. 29.

Virden defenceman Hudson Davidson is one of the rookies playing in front of veteran goalies Nik Trakakis of Saint-Laurent, Que. and Wellwood's Gavin Renwick. The rookies on the backend also include Shindle (two assists over four games), Prince Albert's Luc Bourdon, and Winnipeg's Jonah Vanderhorst.

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# SPORTS

## OIL CAPS EARN TWO WINS AT HOME



#10 Maddox Shindle



#14 Carson Wright

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals won two of their three Manitoba Junior Hockey League contests last week.

The team earned its first victory of the season with a 5-4 win over the visiting Waywayseecappo Wolverines on Sept. 24. The Oil Capitals fell 3-1 at home on Sept. 28 to the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, 3-1. They beat the formerly named OCN Blizzard, 3-1, the next night in Virden. The Oil Capitals entered this week with a 2-3-0-0 record.

“Our guys worked hard this week,” Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. “We are slowly getting better and more comfortable as a group and there was some consistency to our game this week. We still have lots of work to do in all three zones but this week, especially Sunday’s game, was a great confidence booster for our team. We are looking forward to another tough weekend coming up.”

The Oil Capitals wrap up a five-game home-stand this weekend. The Niverville Nighthawks fly in on Oct. 4 with the Selkirk Steelers in town on Oct. 5. On Oct. 8, the Virden team heads to The Pas to play the Blizzard. The next night they are on the road against the



#9 Tyson Draper

PHOTOS BY SHARLA GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Swan Valley Stampeders. **Oil Caps 5, Wolverines 4**

In front of 742 fans, the Oil Capitals battled their way back from an early deficit to earn their first win of 2024-2025 on Sept. 24. Waywayseecappo led 2-0 by the 10-minute mark in the first period due to goals by Lucas Perry and Brooks Behrend.

The Oil Capitals then responded with four straight goals. In the first period, rookie Campbell Epp and captain Ethan Guthrie, a defenceman, lit the lamp. Moosomin’s Marshall Light and Guthrie’s second goal of the evening, which came on a powerplay, staked Virden to a 4-2 lead in the second. Waywayseecappo cut the lead to one, 4-3, on a Bronson Seymour marker before the second intermission.

Veteran Brett Sabel scored to make it 5-3 in

favour of the Oil Capitals early in the third. The Wolverines got a goal from Aidan Herring but were unable to tie things up.

Virden goalie Nik Trakakis made 29 saves. Jase Wareham stopped 33 shots for Waywayseecappo.

**Blizzard 3, Oil Caps 1**  
Quincy Supprien’s hattrick helped the visiting Blizzard to a 3-1 win on Sept. 28. Sabel scored Virden’s goal. Gavin Renwick turned away 27 of the 30 shots he faced for Virden. For the Blizzard, Alex Reedy made 18 saves. The attendance was 726. **Oil Caps 3, Blizzard 1**

The Oil Capitals scored one goal in each period to build up a 3-0 lead on the way to a 3-1 win in front of 674 on Sept. 29. Rookie Parker Rolston got things started in the first period, while Luke Robson scored on a powerplay in



### 2024/2025 SCHEDULE

Give us a try!  
Curling starts Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Monday 4:00 pm • Junior Curling League**  
Get them started at a fun, inexpensive sport. Grades 4-8 only please. Starts November 4th.  
Contact Cory Barkley at 204-851-6405 \$80/individual

**Tuesday Mornings • 10:00 am • Senior Men’s Recreational League**  
Do you miss your morning golf match? Give our club a try!  
Come have a cup of joe, curl a fun, 8-end game with some friends and enjoy a soup and sandwich special from our canteen afterwards. Enter as individuals. Join us for the whole season or just half.  
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**Tuesday Afternoons • 12:45 pm • Tuesday Afternoon Ladies’ Recreational League**  
Enjoy an afternoon out with the girls, with coffee and exercise included. Enter as a team or individuals.  
Call Jim Lyons at 204-748-6634 \$220/individual

**Tuesday Evenings • 6:00 & 8:00 pm • Ladies’ Evening Fun League**  
Get out of the house and enjoy a night on the ice. Stay for a beverage and enjoy a chat with the gals. A fun, social night for experienced or beginning curlers! Enter as teams.  
Text Mandy Taylor at 204-764-0003 \$220/individual

**Wednesday Afternoons • 4:00 pm • High School Fun League**  
Get your team together and try something new.  
Call Mark Robertson at 204-851-5851 \$80/individual

**Men’s League - Wednesdays & Thursdays • 7:00 pm**  
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**Fridays • 10:00 am • Senior Mixed League**  
Enter as teams or individuals in this always entertaining league for everyone who enjoys a day at the rink. Sign up for the whole season or just half.  
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No sweeping between the hog lines. Games take about 1 hour to play. Instruction provided for new and novice stick users. Draws start on Fridays at 1:00. Number of draws depends on number of teams. Sign-up for whole season or until Xmas. Drop in fees are available.  
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the second. Defenceman Tyler Dodgson’s third period marker made it 3-0. Trakakis recorded 24 saves.  
Cheechoo Lathlin had the Blizzard’s goal. Northern Manitoba goalie Taye Timmerman made 28

saves.  
**Grouette Added**  
Last week the Oil Capitals acquired Kyan Grouette. The 19-year-old forward was picked up from his hometown Dauphin Kings for a player development fee. He spent

the 2022-2023 campaign with the Western Hockey League’s Everett (Wash.) Silvertips. Last season Grouette split his time between the Silvertips and Kings. He had three goals and six points in 18 games for Dauphin.



# SPORTS

## DRAPER LEARNS ON DIAMOND, SUCCEEDS IN CLASSROOM

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**A**wesome is how Oak Lake Beach's Natalie Draper described her first university softball season.

The daughter of Erin and David Draper suited up in 2023-2024 for the University of Jamestown Jimmies. She is back on campus studying and looking to build on her initial post-secondary campaign.

"My first season was awesome," Draper said. "It was great getting to know a lot of new girls who I'm excited to spend the next three years being teammates with. It was definitely a year of

learning and adapting to what it takes to be a college athlete. It's a lot of hard work, but definitely pays off. I'm excited to get back to it soon."

She said that university softball was "definitely different" from the high school and club levels she had previously competed at.

"More specifically it's a lot, lot more," Draper said. "You go from practicing three times a week to six along with a lot more team activities. It's awesome to be surrounded by like-minded athletes who are all just as dedicated and hardworking. It's more serious and definitely harder



but it's also a much higher level of softball and it's great to be a part of."

She strove to adjust to

the new level. Jimmies head softball coach Kevin Gall praised her progress.

"She is a great person and very coachable," Gall said. "Seeing her improve throughout the year was very gratifying. She improved in every aspect as a person and came to practice ready to work continuously."

Draper's first hit at the

university level drove in two runs. She later came around to score. Gall said, "Her bat speed and attack of the ball is a big strength of hers."

Listed as an infielder, Draper got reps at the shortstop position. Gall explained the idea was "we can leave her there or move her to another spot in the infield."

In her first season in Jamestown, as always, Draper had the encouragement of her parents. She described their support as "awesome, although it's from a distance."

"They tried to get down as much as possible to visit and watch me play, but we were also always watching the livestreams and checking scores when they couldn't get down," Draper said in a late summer interview. "I owe them everything when it comes to my softball career, to getting me started in softball, practicing with

me, and driving me to and from games and practices for years. My mom is my biggest softball inspiration, as she also played college softball and coached me for years. She's actually being inducted into the Valley City State University Hall of Fame in September for her time playing softball there. I'm so proud of and inspired by her, even though VCSU is our rival school."

In the classroom, Draper quickly adjusted to university academic. She was named to the both the Spring and Fall Dean's Lists. Draper shared the school's Freshman Biology Achievement Award.

"I love science and have been enjoying being in the biology field the past year... I'm not exactly sure of what I want to do after school, but biology is a great base for many of the fields I'm interested in," the biology major said.

## DRAPER EARNS VCSU HALL OF FAME NOD



PHOTO BY KARI BODINE FROM VCSU ATHLETICS

Valley City State University Hall of Fame inductees included Cara Miller Gylywoychuk, Darin Walters, Oak Lake Beach's Erin (nee Maitland) Draper and Amanda Brown.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**O**ak Lake Beach's Erin Draper has great memories of a post-secondary athletic career that saw her excel in two sports.

The former Erin Maitland was inducted into the Valley City State University Vikings Hall of Fame on Sept. 20. The 2003 VCSU graduate competed in softball and volleyball for the Vikings.

"It was quite an honour to be inducted to the Hall of Fame," Draper said. "I have such wonderful memories of my time at VCSU."

When asked what she remembers most about her time competing for the North Dakota state school, Draper said, "The great coaches and awesome teammates over the span of the four and a half years."

Diane Burr had the opportunity to coach the former Lenore resident in both volleyball and softball at VCSU. She praised Draper as a "great athlete," but that was only part of what she brought to her teams.

"As a coach, I knew I could always depend on her to give 100 per cent," Burr said. "She was mentally tough and had great instincts for both games. I was so happy to hear of her induction. She is truly deserving of this honor."

As a Viking, Draper was successful in the classroom as well as on the court and the diamond. She was a two-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholar-Athlete. The former education major has been teaching since she graduated from VCSU.

On the volleyball court, Draper was an outside hitter for the Vikings. In softball, she was an infielder who also pitched. Brandon resident Cara Miller Gylywoychuk, a former VCSU softball standout, was part of the 2024 Vikings Hall of Fame class that included Draper. She praised her former teammate.

"She was a calm competitor who always gave her best," Miller Gylywoychuk said. "She was so strong defensively that as a pitcher I was always confident when she was playing first base. As a hitter, Erin was a huge threat. I'm happy I didn't have to pitch against her. Proud of her for this accomplishment. It is well deserved."

Draper was a four-time All-Conference selection in softball. In her final university season, she batted .346 and only struck out six times in 127 at bats. Draper collected 12 extra base hits. She drove in 21 runs and scored 23 in that final season.

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# 2024 hunting game tags available

## Submitted

MB HUNTING GUIDE

New game tags have been issued in this hunting game tag package in time for 2024 fall hunting season. The 2024 game tag features a new colour and an optional biological sample section to enhance Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring.

The yellow tags from previous years are still valid as long as they have not expired; please check

the expiry year on the top right side of all tags.

The Manitoba government encourages hunters to fill out the biological sample section of their new game tag when hunting in the CWD Surveillance Zone. By providing all the necessary information identified on the game tag and submitting that as part of your sample, you're doing your part to help us manage CWD in Manitoba.

The biological sample section of the new game tag is optional and does not replace the requirement to complete the Wildlife Sample Receipt



form when dropping off your samples at the drop-off depots.

For more information on the new game tag, or to learn more about CWD, visit [Manitoba.ca/wildlife](http://Manitoba.ca/wildlife).

# NDP's approach to moose hunting is unacceptable



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

## Submitted

By MLA GREG NESBITT

Pimicikamak Okimawin (Cross Lake First Nation) is demanding unilateral

control over moose hunting in a portion of their territory in northern Manitoba.

The demand is based on novel and unproven assertions about the scope of Pimicikamak Okimawin rights and the status of moose populations in the area.

The answer to the demand, either from the NDP government or the court, has the potential to transform the landscape for resource management in this province.

In response to Pimicikamak Okimawin's legal challenge, the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF) has brought a legal challenge of its own to the government's moose hunting decisions. While the MWF and Pimicikamak may disagree on the right approach going forward, they are in agreement that the government's current approach is unacceptable.

Hunters who have been drawn to harvest moose in the area under question are rightfully concerned about the First Nation's warning that non-indigenous hunters are not welcome.

The MWF have held information meetings in the north to discuss issues facing Manitoba hunters, and will hold evening sessions in Russell on Wednesday, Oct. 16 and in Swan River on Thursday, Oct. 17.

With the Manitoba Legislature resuming on Wednesday, Oct. 2, the NDP government is continuing to try to pass its budget implementation bill that was introduced last spring.

Manitobans have good reason to be concerned about this omnibus bill - the Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act - because it contains other pieces of legislation that would be harmful to our province. And the budget implementation bill will not go through a regular committee process for full and proper public scrutiny.

Essentially, the NDP is using this budget implementation legislation to try to quietly push through and pass controversial new laws that it knows most Manitobans don't want.

One of the contentious bills within the wider budget legislation is the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which would be damaging to businesses and to business-labour relations in our province. If it becomes law, it would eliminate mandatory secret-ballot voting for workplace union

certification - the secret-ballot voting that our previous PC government had put in place for fairness and democracy in the workplace. By removing secret ballots with certification votes, the NDP legislation would allow pressure and intimidation from union representatives toward employees.

The bill would also allow automatic union certification if 50 per cent of the members of a proposed bargaining unit sign union card and would open the door to automatic certification even before that threshold is reached.

In addition, the Labour Relations Amendment Act would make it difficult for employers to use replacement workers during work stoppages.

The NDP's inclusion of this labour legislation in the larger budget bill means that alarming changes to workplace democracy and essential services would be made without allowing Manitobans to make presentations to a legislative committee in order to request amendments.

Making matters worse for democracy in Manitoba, the Labour Relations Amendment Act is only one of several

bills that Wab Kinew's government is hiding in the budget legislation. Other bills the NDP is trying to push through in this way, outside the view of Manitobans, deal with election financing, the environment, Manitoba Hydro and advocacy for seniors.

I wrote several letters to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure about the condition of highways and the NDP's plans for repairs of various roads in the Riding Mountain constituency, including Provincial Trunk Highways (PTH) 24 and 41, and Provincial Road (PR) 475.

One letter, written on June 13, received a response from the Hon. Lisa Naylor on Sept. 4. Despite the nearly two-month delay in responding, the letter contained some encouraging news.

The letter indicated a wet May and June resulted in the formation of potholes and gravel deterioration along the provincial highway network and made road maintenance more challenging. The Minister confirmed that pothole repairs were underway on the three highways I asked about.

No timelines were provided but the Minister indicated two projects are

planned in the area. A surface preservation project on PTH 41 from PR 545 to PTH 42 (St. Lazare area), and a surface rehabilitation project on PTH 24 from the north junction of PR 270 to PTH 10.

As well she says that Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is considering upgrades to PR 475 and additional sections of PTH 24 and PTH 41 in future capital programming.

In the meantime, the Minister promised that the department "will continue to monitor conditions along these routes and perform regular maintenance and repairs as necessary."

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](mailto:gregnesbittmla@mymts.net). When writing to MLA Nesbitt, please provide a mailing address and daytime phone number, for contact purposes.



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# THHL's C-Hawks taking a leave of absence

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This winter will be very different for the communities of Elkhorn and Miniota. Their very successful combined men's senior hockey team - the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks - has announced with "great regret" it is taking a one-year absence from the Tiger Hills Hockey League. The C-Hawks won the THHL title the past two seasons and are the defending Senior A provincial champions. Numbers played a major role in the decision. "Our main concern was not having 10 guys to suit up every night. That is the league minimum and for the guys that could make it, it is such a tough league to play in with a short bench," said Keith Orr, who coached the team with Garth Mitchell and Jordan Mitchell.

Orr noted that the last couple of seasons and this year the team has lost a few players to retirement. "We did have some of the vets coming back, but due to family and work commitments they just couldn't make all the games," Orr said. "We also had some guys off in university, working shiftwork, and living a fair distance away so couldn't commit full time either."

This announcement comes in the wake of news that three other THHL squads were taking leaves of absence. On Sept. 18, Portage Online reported that the Gladstone Lakers, Pilot Mound Pilots, and Wawanesa Jets would not play this season. The Virden Oil Kings are still committed to compete this winter.

The C-Hawks announced the decision regarding the

season in a social media post. It stated, in part, that "During this year, we will regroup, attempt to secure a roster, and be back for the 2025/26 season for what we hope will be another long run of success."

The post noted that the communities' teams - the Elkhorn Canadians and Miniota Night Hawks - combined in 2005-2006. It stated since then that "the communities of Miniota and Elkhorn have been nothing short of amazing. Through the lean first few years, the six (North Central Hockey League) championships, two THHL titles, and back-to-back Senior 'A' Provincial championships, we have felt all of you with us in every rink. Thank you so much for supporting us." Orr said the coaching staff has been very fortunate with the group of players it had.

"They were all local guys who grew up playing together and they all got along well. They have been a treat to watch because they knew how to play the game the right way. I think their success over the years can attest to that."

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Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

## Employment Opportunity Sanitation I

The Town of Virden has an opening for a Sanitation I position commencing immediately.

This is a position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department, although the individual could be required to assist in other departments if necessary. This individual must be able to deal with the general public in a polite and courteous manner, and learn the collection system. This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job. A valid Class 3 Manitoba driver's license, with air endorsement, is preferred. If not held, the individual should be prepared to obtain within a specified time period, as determined by the Public Works Foreman.

Typical duties include, but are not limited to:

- Pick-up and load garbage
- Assist in maintenance, repairs and cleaning of equipment
- Must be able to work overtime when required
- Should be able to obtain the required license in order to assume the duties and responsibility of the Sanitary II position when required
- Miscellaneous duties when assigned, including but not limited to, helping other departments or segments of departments within the Town of Virden

**Current starting wage is \$24.73 per hour, with a six month raise to \$25.10 and a twelve month raise to \$25.62.**

This position is generally scheduled for 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday, but this could vary depending on requirements of the Employer, weather or other circumstances.

A detailed job description is available at the Town Office.

Please forward resumes, complete with covering letter to:

Faye Pope  
Office/HR Manager  
Town of Virden  
Box 310, Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0  
Phone: (204) 748-2440 | Fax: (204) 748-2501  
Email: office.manager@virden.ca

Deadline for applications is Tuesday October 9, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

## Live Barn

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Visit [livebarn.com](http://livebarn.com) for more information.

## Citizen of the Year

Nominations are now open for this year's award!

Nominate a deserving citizen or community group for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline for nominations is November 15, 2024.

Visit [virden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year](http://virden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year) or call the Town Office for more information.

## Public Notice: Fall Cleanup October 1 - 11, 2024

During the clean-up period, crews will pick up miscellaneous refuse (excluding industrial waste such as building demolition, etc) not deemed to be normal household waste.

Leaves and grass must be in bags or boxed, pickup of branches is meant for trimmings, not major cuttings.

Items are to be placed on the boulevard or lane in a convenient location.

To ensure pickup, please call the Town Office or email [info@virden.ca](mailto:info@virden.ca) with a description of the items and pickup location.

**Upcoming Council Meeting:**  
October 8 & 22

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

## 2024 Property Tax

Payments are due by **October 31**.

## Town of Virden Notice: Board of Revision

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Municipal Assessment Act, public notice is hereby given that the Assessment Rolls for the Town of Virden for 2025 have been deposited in the Town Office, 236 Wellington Street West, and are open for public inspection during normal business hours. The public is also advised that the Board of Revision will sit at the Town of Virden Council Chambers at 232 Wellington Street West on **Tuesday, November 7th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear applications for revision of assessments.

Application for Revision

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, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- Liability to taxation;
- Amount of an assessed value;
- Classification of property; or
- A refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2) of the Act.

Application Requirements

An application for revision must:

- Be made in writing;
- Set out the roll number and legal description of the property for which a revision is sought;
- State the grounds on which the application is based; and
- Be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, 236 Wellington Street West, P.O. Box 310, Virden MB R0M 2C0 at least 15 days before the sitting of the Board (by **October 22, 2024**).

Dated this 27th day of September, 2024.

Rhonda Stewart, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Virden



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
LYNDA JOYCE FLANNERY  
FEBRUARY 10, 1950 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

Lynda Joyce Flannery was born in Pipestone, Manitoba on February 10, 1950, to Samuel and Sheila (Merritt) Flannery. Sadly, on September 14, 2024, Lynda passed away peacefully in her home in Pipestone, Manitoba where it all began.

Lynda married Lawrence Wallace on March 30, 1974, and together they had one son, Shawn. As a young girl Lynda attended school in Pipestone until Grade 8 and then moved on to Reston School where she completed her Grade 11. After school, Lynda worked in the healthcare field where she stayed her entire working career. Lynda loved people and was always supportive in whatever her family and friends were involved in. She was a hard worker always gardening, cooking, baking or helping a friend, neighbour or family member with any project. She loved her pets and was always happiest spending time with Shawn and the grandkids, even if it was just a simple ride on the side by side together. Lynda's garden was always bountiful and something she could be proud of.

Lynda is survived by her son Shawn Wallace (Lee), Granddaughter Summer Barber, Grandson Dustin Wallace (Kennedy) and Great – Grandson Crue. Sisters Janice Barre, Gayle Carruthers (Don), Sister – in – Law Cheryl Flannery and her Brothers Barry Flannery (Laurie), Brian Flannery, Brent Flannery (Kellie) and Randy Flannery. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Lynda was predeceased by her husband Lawrence Wallace, her parents Sam and Sheila Flannery and her brother David Flannery.

Lynda loved life. She conquered its challenges and left us a good example of how to live being our true self.

The family of Lynda would like to take this opportunity to thank the many families, friends and neighbours for all the love and support you have shown during this sad time. To Joyce Marsh for the beautiful service in Lynda's memory and to Dale Flannery for playing the bag pipes as a tribute to a life well lived. We all know Mom would have been in awe hearing you play. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

NEVER FAR FROM OUR HEARTS  
BRIAN ROBERT ALLISON  
JANUARY 5, 1961 – AUGUST 2, 2024



It is with great sadness I announce the passing of Brian Allison. He is survived by his wife Carla, daughter Christi, son Maurie and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother Margaret and sister Shelly. He was predeceased by father Robert.

Brian loved sports especially hockey. He spent a very busy life in the oilfield. It is so hard to say goodbye. Brian was buried at Grande Prairie, Alberta.

## Help Wanted

### Yard/Office Person

Mar Dee Ent in Virden is looking for an Yard/Office person. This is a full time, year round position for the right candidate. Monday to Friday 8:00am-5:00pm, some overtime may be required. Must be able to read and write English. Candidate must be able to load oil, move drums and other size packages. BE willing to do yard maintenance, to keep lot clean and presentable. As well as assist with counter invoicing, filing and processing of truck reports, and day to day business operations. Must be able to work within a team environment as well as on your own. Organizational skills and ability to multitask would be an asset.

Will train the right candidate.

Please submit resume to:  
melita@mardee.ca  
Darcy Kurtz 204-522-3202

## Thank-you

*Thank-you*

I want to say a thank you to all the wonderful relatives and friends who remembered me with cards, flowers, goodies and donations to Elkhorn Area Foundation.

God Bless you all.

Margaret Allison



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*Danny's*

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## Auctions

### Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate & Moving**  
October 9th @ 7:00PM

**Estate & Moving**  
October 16th @ 7:00PM

12 Patterson Dr.  
Stonewall, MB  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
McSherryAuction.com

## For Sale

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

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**306-774-2420**

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# Councillor questions over-budget procedure

## RMWW council report for Sept. 24

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Council reviewed the August 2024 financial statements and Coun. Lyle Kinnaird noted that some items like road drainage were much higher than the budgeted amount. Kinnaird asked, "When we are so far over budget on some line items, shouldn't that be brought up for approval for further funds?" Coun. Mark Humphries said, "There are lines that can go over the budget, but we don't typically question it during the year or ask for extra funds or divert funds into that particular line because you've overspent. It's normally a balance at the end and then a re-budget in the next year."

Reeve Clayton Canart suggested, "We should have a note explaining the budget lines that are over, so we understand why they're over." And Kinnaird added, "There's no use presenting the information if there's

not going to be any back-ground behind it."

**ACCOUNTS**

In August the RM issued \$1,516,653.17 in cheques and direct deposits and electronic funds transfers of 56,669.85.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

The next joint council meeting with the Town of Virden will be held on November 4.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Western Caucus will hold their next meeting on October 4, and Reeve Canart will attend.

The Manitoba Disaster Management Conference will take place in Winnipeg, October 16-18, and Reeve Canart, Coun. Val Caldwell, Coun. Barb Stambuski and ACAO Iris Vercaigne are authorized to attend.

Council approved the payment of \$21,445.20 to Action Asphalt Maintenance for 12,000 linear feet of hot rubber crack repair application on Cemetery Road.

Payment of \$700.77 for the gravel base for the Kenton Multi-Court Pro-

ject to Sparks Sand and Gravel was approved by the Kenton Community Action committee. The committee also approved the purchase of a 10x12 storage shed from Horizon Sheds in the amount of \$5,840.94.

The R.M.'s annual Christmas banquet will be held on Dec. 6, in Kenton.

Assistant Chief Administration Officer Iris Vercaigne has been appointed as Interim Chief Administration Officer.

The Kenton Park project is seeking donations toward the installation of a new playground, landscaping enhancements, benches, and overall improvement of the Kenton area. Revenue Canada allows municipalities to accept donations and council will issue tax deductible receipts for all donations to the project exceeding \$50.

**KENTON LUD**

Coun. Diana MacDonald reported that cellular phone service in and around Kenton has not improved and has actual-

ly become worse. Coun. Humphries said, "Is it not time to link together with the four RMs and ask can we have a voice together, somewhere, about the cell signal up there? Because everybody's suffering from it in that area." Coun. Stambuski added, "Maybe that's something that needs to happen at AMM and have a meeting with MTS."

Council approved the payment of \$6,429.15 to Brad Nixon for the 2024 Kenton sidewalk project

for the west side of Cornwall Street.

Reeve Canart reported that the Moosomin Airport grand opening was attended by the Saskatchewan Minister of Transportation, as well as Life Flight pilots and sponsors of the renovation project. Dr. H. Schalk Van der Merwe and Jeff St. Onge, President of the Moosomin Flying Club said the airport improvements were going to be a great success for the area, and would eventually help to

get the CT scan machine that they've been working for.

Coun. MacDonald attended a doctor recruitment and retention meeting and reported that there are currently six doctors in Virden, although nine doctors are needed to allow continued service to Reston and Melita. She said there is a possibility of hiring a medical assistant, a physician assistant or a clinical assistant who are more qualified than a nurse practitioner but need supervision by a physician.

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### Have Your Say on Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy



Poverty affects us all, especially the most vulnerable members of our communities. The Manitoba government is developing a new five-year poverty reduction strategy, and we want to hear from you!

Join us at in-person public meetings across the province this October and November, or complete our anonymous survey online. Your feedback will help shape a meaningful strategy to reduce poverty and improve social inclusion in Manitoba.

Visit **EngageMB.ca** to participate or learn more about meeting locations near you.

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# Mural impacts Dakota First Nation communities

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Members of Dakota First Nation communities of Canupawakpa and Sioux Valley as well as citizens of Virden and area attended the dedication of the newest mural in downtown Virden. Held on Canada's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Sept. 30, the First Nations' perspective was freely shared.

The dedication ceremony was scheduled to take place in front of the mural at 229 Seventh Avenue South, however, weather sent the event indoors to Tundra Oil & Gas Place banquet hall, where the reception was also planned.

Mayor Tina Williams of Virden welcomed the gathering which included town of Virden and area residents as well as First Nation people.

Deputy mayor Marc Savy as emcee invited MLA Greg Nesbitt to address the crowd.

He then introduced keynote speaker, Lola Thunderchild, local Dakota advocate who guided the mural's artists.

Her joy was evident at the recognition and honour shown toward the Dakota and Indigenous peoples, and she communicated that clearly saying, "I'm very excited to be here today, I'm very honoured. I can't believe this is actually happening."

## Discussions in 2009

She says it was 2009 when discussion about such a project began. Fifteen years later in TOGP, Thunderchild said, "I'm so proud of our communities for coming together," referring to the people of Canupawakpa who were willing to share how they wanted to be represented, and referring to Virden for accepting that.

Thunderchild worked with children in Fort la Bosse school system for 17 years and feels this mural will give the children and youth "a sense of pride in where they come from," noting, "One of the things my grandmother had said was to balance both worlds. She always pushed us to learn of the Western society and always to carry our culture. Some of the pictures on the wall mural have specific meaning with our culture and I was able to share that with some of the artists and some of the people on town council."

As part of the sacred ceremony, Thunderchild invited her son, Jason Taylor, to sing two Dakota songs.

Erica and Mary Lowe of Harding shared what it meant to them to be the artists for this month-long mural project picturing knowledge of the unwritten history of the Dakota Nations.

A touching account came from a Dakota Elder who, as he tells, was forbidden to speak in his Dakota tongue during his residential school education. This day he began his public address in Dakota before speaking at length in English.

In the dedication ceremony he offered sweetgrass and tobacco to the Great Spirit. He invited everyone to also pray, each according to their own religious understanding.

## Language forbidden

In an account of certain childhood experiences, he told of loss. He began to learn to speak Dakota at age 5 and said, "I was taken from the reserve 59, which today is called Canupawakpa. It's actually a piece of Crown land that we were asked to live on. The language that I just spoke, the language that I just prayed, that was forbidden when I went to residential school."

When he was around 11, on summer break after some years at residential school, his mother said, "You have changed. She said that in the Dakota language. By then, I wasn't interested in learning the language, I wasn't interested in any of who I was or by then I didn't know who I was or I didn't care - at age 11 or 12." He described himself then, as one who wanders.

"That's the past. We were lost after residential school days. And today we ask the Great Spirit to help us." He referred to the ceremonial sweetgrass and tobacco and to Taylor's song saying, "It's very good to hear a



PHOTO BY JOHN DAVIDSON

This teepee is displayed in Virden's Tundra Oil & Gas Place foyer, story boards provide rich historical details

young man of that age sing a Dakota song like that in Dakota."

Growing up until age 6, all he heard was the Dakota language from his aunties and cousins. When he entered the residential school, he said, "I didn't know the word, 'yes' or 'no'."

His ancestors feared the government. He recalled times when the elders went out into the bush to hold their sweetgrass ceremonies "because they didn't want the Indian agent to come and see them, because the Indian agent would discipline them in some way..." He said the penalty would be restricted rations and travel.

"My uncle used to say, anytime you wanted to go to Pipestone or to visit another reserve, you had to have written permission from the Indian agent."

## Reconciliation embraced

The elder embraced the reconciliation efforts now underway, but called the reserve system a type of genocide. He pointed to the purple sunset in the mural saying that at the close of the day it was time to "leave everything there," letting go of the negative.

Further more, he told of a pipestone quarry that existed some 6000 years ago. From this stone, peace pipes were made. "This is why, today, that creek is called 'Pipestone' and the town was named after the creek."

He explained his community's name of Canupawakpa which comes from the Dakota word canupa meaning pipe and wakpa, which means creek.

Tying the early Canadian colony to today's reconciliation the elder explained the Dakota always considered the soil sacred because it supported all life. They told the settlers who arrived, of the importance of letting the land rest after it had been ploughed, "because that soil is very important. That gives life. If you cut trees, replant the trees."

He said it was a type of treaty or understanding between the Dakota people and the settlers. "They smoked the sacred pipe and they told the settlers, if you're going to plough it, give it time to heal. If you cut the trees, don't cut too much."

The Dakota elder linked this attitude to reconciliation. "It's good to come back together at this time... for our young people, for all the young people," he said including other nationalities. "Because... it's their future."

The mural dedication was capped by a feast of buffalo stew, cooked up by Heartland Livestock's Cattle Café accompanied by bannock and a celebratory cake decorated with a picture of the mural.

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Virден Collegiate Institute celebrates undergrad awards



Gr. 9 awarded for top average: Hayden Southam second highest; Paige Rampton & Kaiya Wolton tied for highest.



High School Rodeo scholarship presented to Harley Hagan and Denver Gompf by Alistair Hagan (centre).



Gr. 10 awarded for top average: Sarah Lindsay (third); Avrin Kreiser (second); Abby Pearn (first).



The Myrtle Lane award for top average in Gr. 11: Piper Reid (third); Mya Plaisier (second); Julie Vachon.



Carly Kirkup (l) representing VCI Parent Council, and teachers Megan Cloet and Aevry Hayward prepare to show off pies for auction.



Kolt Blackshaw is presented with a tool box for his top marks in Power Mechanics by Vice Principal Hugh Henderson.



Kola Parent Advisory Council award to Xander Penner for greatest academic improvement.



The Branum Construction award in the Woodworking class goes to Colten James.

PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Principal Mark Keown greeted students, families and friends on Thursday evening, Sept. 26, noting that the 2023-24 undergrad awards bring a positive start the new school year.

He introduced the emcees Kendall Charles and Abbi Gilliland. Charles flawlessly sang O Canada, a cappella, to start the awards program.

Principal Keown thanked Virden Valleyview and Virden Area Foundation and others donors for help to install a new score clock on the football field and one in the VCI gymnasium.

The evenings' awards in-

cluded: 201 subject awards, 106 honour roll certificates, top three grade awards, VCI staff choice awards (one per grade), Bear spirit awards (one per grade); J. Arthur Harvey award to an Oak Lake student; Kola Parent Advisory Council award; Piston Ring Top Power Mechanic award; Woodworking award; and High School Rodeo Academic Award.

The Arthur Harvey award to the top Gr. 11 students from Oak Lake went to Julie Vachon and Ashlee Babiak.

Over \$1500 was awarded as well. Boston Pizza provided coupons to go along with the student awards.

Part way through the awards ceremony, a dozen pies were paraded through the audience as Alistair Hagan rattled off an auction chant, raising a high of about \$500 for a pie, some going for just over \$200. Art teacher Cody McPhee's sports art, #13 Johnny Gaudreau (Calgary Flames), was donated to the auction. As a treat that evening, pie was also sold by the slice.

The proceeds of the auction go to the Parent Advisory Council to purchase new regulation basketball backboards; and for parent council scholarships at graduation and undergrad awards.

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PIPESTONE  
BOARD OF REVISION**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the assessment rolls for the Rural Municipality of Pipestone for 2025 have been deposited in the office of the said Rural Municipality of Pipestone, 401 Third Avenue, Reston, Manitoba, and are open for public inspection. The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications for revision of assessment on Thursday, November 14, 2024, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Rural Municipality of Pipestone Council Chambers in Reston, Manitoba. Any person who believes that an assessment ought to be revised may make application in accordance with sections 42 and 43 of The Municipal Assessment Act which, in part, are as follows:

**42 (1) Application for Revision**

A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to;

- a) liability to taxation;
- b) amount of an assessed value;
- c) classification of property; or
- d) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2)

**43 (1) Application Requirements**

An application for revision must;

- a) be made in writing
- b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- c) state the grounds on which the application is based, and
- d) be filed by
- i) delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
- ii) serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

**The deadline for filing applications against the 2024 assessment rolls is 5:00pm, Tuesday, October 29th, 2024.**

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

**Dated at the Townsite of Reston this 27th day of September 2024**

**Rural Municipality of Pipestone  
Board of Revision  
Rural Municipality of Pipestone.  
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