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## Juried art show in R.E.S. draws huge crowd

Submitted  
By JAN JENKINS

On Sunday afternoon, the 2025 Juried Art Show hosted by the Reston Art Club drew quite the crowd with 240 attendees signing the guest book.

On display at the R.E.S. Centre were 142 art-work entries from 83 Artists in these categories: 94 adults, 32 youth, and 16 Touchwood.

Touchwood is a Neepawa community association offering assistance for adults living with intellectual disabilities.

This year's theme category was 'Surprise!' and the award went to Kerri Wilson from Hamiota, with her mixed-media artwork titled 'Oh! What a Surprise'.

Best In Show was selected by the jurors - a delicately detailed smaller artwork by Dianne van den Ham of Brandon with her fibre art piece titled 'Exploring the Sleeping Giant'.

In addition to this, jurors Ben Davis from Brandon and Leona Brown from Winnipeg provided written feedback on every artwork entered and also recognized the artists' creative efforts with the following additional awards: 10 honorable mentions in the adult category and four youth awards - two ages 11-13 and two in the 14-19 age group.

Brown shared a most inspiring insight on being creative, "Make sure that whatever you do, you enjoy doing the work. If you enjoy doing the work, you will do more of it and the more you do the better you will become...."

Twenty pieces (two youth, 18 adult) meeting the size criteria for touring were selected for the Travelling Gallery and will



PHOTOS BY JAN JENKINS

At R.E.S. Centre in Reston, the crowd enjoys the work of Westman artists.

be on display over the next year in 16 different communities around the Westman Region, beginning with The Westman Centennial Auditorium for the month of May. The touring schedule and photos from the 2025 Juried Art Show will be available on the Arts West Council website [www.artswestcouncil.ca](http://www.artswestcouncil.ca).

This year's Juried Art Show was sponsored in part by: three Brandon businesses - Lasting Image, The New System Store and Janzen's Paint & Decorating. Other sponsors include: Ralph Oliver Family of Carberry, Rural Mu-

nicipality of Pipestone, and Rob and Kristine MacDonald of Killarney.

This is the 46th year that Arts West Council has organized the annual Westman Region Juried Art Show, and co-ordinated it, being hosted by various arts groups in communities across the Westman region. The purpose of the show is to provide amateur and emerging artists the opportunity for professional feedback on their work and a to show their work to the public.

*Jan Jenkins, artist and volunteer with Arts West Council*



Kerri Wilson from Hamiota, with her winning work, 'Oh! What a Surprise'.



Christina Guenther from Boissevain with her People's Choice Award, '1955'

*Inside...*



**GRANT JACKSON MP OF BRANDON-SOURIS P2**



**VIRDEN LEGION BANQUET P9**

# Grant Jackson to represent his home area, Wheat City and Westman, in House of Commons

By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Monday night, April 28, Grant Jackson hosted a gathering with media, his team of campaign workers and invited guests to watch the results of the 2025 Federal Election roll in. The gathering was held at the Canadian Pub in Brandon Joe Beeverz.

The crowd of people were excited to watch and see Grant win. Each time the Brandon-Souris riding showed on the sports bar screens, the group of strong Conservative supporters cheered as they saw Grant Jackson leading in the polls. Not once did his riding falter to hold on to the Conservative vote.

In the end the results were Conservative, Grant Jackson, 27,118 votes or 62.4 per cent, Liberal, Ghazanfar Ali Tarar, 10,075 votes or 23.2 per cent, and New Democratic Party, Quentin Robinson 6,276 votes or 14.4 per cent. A total of 43,469 constituents voted in this Western Manitoba riding.

"I am just humbled that the people of Brandon-



Grant Jackson with his mentor and friend Larry Maguire visited with the people that attended the Conservative election party at Joe Beeverz in Brandon on Monday, April 28, Federal election day.

Souris believed in me," said Grant Jackson, "that they believed in the platform of the Conservatives." He told reporters that he is happy to have Larry Maguire as a mentor and friend in this election and in the future years to come. Larry's biggest tip to Grant is to be present in the communities. Show up for all the events and

listen to the people.

Grant's first main goal in his first term is to help improve the Brandon Airport. "There is so much potential in the Brandon Airport," says Jackson, "that facility is an asset for us, we need to be advocating and working as a whole Westman to approach to make sure the facility gets the upgrades it needs, so

bigger planes can land here safely and make sure we have connectivity to Eastern Canada and the reach of the world."

His second goal in his first term is pipelines. He states that he knows that Mark Carney and his government do not like pipelines. "The key to prosperity in this country is our natural resource



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Jackson watches as the multiple Canadian news stations report on the election results at the banquet room at Joe Beeverz.

sector and we need to get the oil and gas sector running at full steam again in Western Manitoba. I believe we can do that," says Jackson.

Jackson found the door-to-door reception revealed two things. President Donald Trump and what he is doing. And the cost of living and home affordability in Canada.

These were the priorities of Canadians in the Brandon-Souris riding. His response to that is, "we need to grow our economy to protect our people, protect our jobs and protect our incomes here. Negotiations with America and the rest of the world will be easier from a position of economic strength."

## Young speakers surprise adjudicator

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Speech festival held Tuesday evening, April 22, in the AUD Theatre was a delight with humorous poetry, readings from the likes of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Alice in Wonderland plus words of wisdom in other selections presented.

Brock Brown a Gr. 4 student faced strong competition in Gr. 4-6 classes. Brock was a medalist in two classes.

Adjudicator Patsy Andrews-Vert, with a strong background in band music and speech, said, "I am amazed at the level and quality of the participants."

She drew attention to expressive presentations including gestures, intonation, diction (clarity) and ultimately advised many performers to find more moments of pause and emphasis in the many entertaining pieces presented. However, there were a few competitors at this evening session that she had no further suggestions for, just praise.

Kudos to coaches, teachers and parents.



Mason Poppel (Miniota) Virden Junior High student.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Ava Hunt, Virden Junior High student.



Jo-Hannah Logan, a Virden Junior High student.



Brock Brown, a Mary Montgomery School student.

# RM of Wallace-Woodworth budget aligns with strategic plan

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Wednesday, April 25 the RM of Wallace-Woodworth presented their 2025 financial plan to a small audience at the Elks Hall in Elkhorn.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Iris Vercaigne noted that this year's budget follows the 2025–2030 Community Strategic Plan, with its six strategic pillars: governance, infrastructure, organizational culture, fiscal health, quality of life, and economic development.

Vercaigne emphasized that while the strategic plan looks to the future, the 2025 financial plan focuses on present-year operational and capital spending. She said, "We are committed to making the most efficient use of our resources, which ultimately helps minimize the financial burden on our residents. We are investing in infrastructure and services that are vital for preparing for sustainable growth." The public will be able to see a more detailed presentation of the strategic plan on May 8 at the Virden Wellview golf course clubhouse.

## Projects

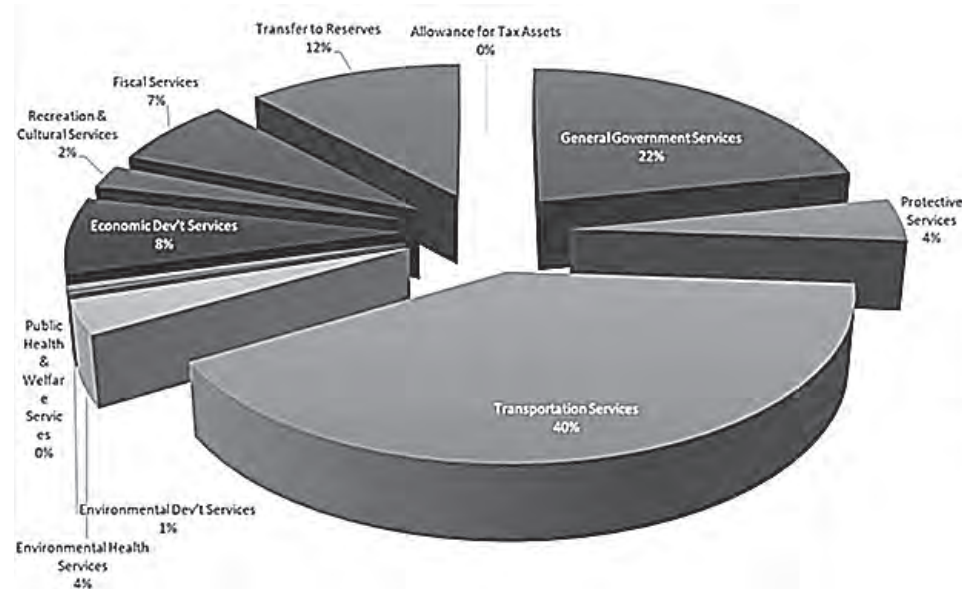
In his opening remarks Reeve Clayton Canart addressed a necessary tax levy increase for 2025, explaining that while they managed to keep taxes steady through COVID and inflation, economic pressures have made increases inevitable. He added that the goal is to stay financially stable without overly burdening residents.

Canart highlighted several projects, including playground and building renovations in Ward 1 (Woodworth area)

A new daycare project in Ward 3 (Elkhorn) opened just before Christmas, offering 74 spots with 40 already filled. He said, "I think we will continue to see more spaces opened as the staff that are there are currently going through more training to...increase ratios to have more open spots."

## Budget 2025

The 2025 budget reflects an increase of 2 per cent, rising from \$10.2M to \$10.4M. This increase reflects significant changes in property assessments, which rose by 14 per cent, raising the mu-



nicipal total assessment from \$435M in 2024 to \$497M in 2025. Despite the rise in assessment values, the property tax mill rate was reduced from \$11.576 to \$11.140—a 4 per cent decrease. Capital investments were approved without increasing utility rates, and \$1.5M was transferred to reserves.

The total to be raised through municipal taxes in 2025 is approximately \$5.9M and this represents about a 9 per cent increase over 2024. Vercaigne said, "Costs for fuel, materials, equipment, and contracts have all gone up... oil revenue we've estimated significantly lower and grant funding has decreased. So that puts more pressure on property taxes to maintain service levels... we'll be using part of our rural strategic infrastructure funding to fund our bridge inspections."

## Airport support

The municipality continued support for two airport projects: a \$500,000 commitment to the regional airport project at Virden and a second \$30,000 commitment to the Moosomin airport.

## Ward 2 shop

The existing shop was outdated and too small. Inefficiency and staff safety had become a concern, and the new building will provide a better equipment storage and maintenance facility and a safer work environment.

## Reserve funding

The reserve by-law mandates that \$750,000 will be set aside annually into reserves, funded by revenues from oil royalties, mineral leases and surface oil leases. As of January 1, 2025, the reserve value stood at \$733,000. Capital projects funded by reserves

total \$415M including items like the purchase of a new grader and pickup truck as well as upgrades to the Kola lagoon, the groundwater supply and office IT.

## Expenditure breakdown

Transportation remains the largest expense category at 40 per cent followed by general government at 22 per cent, with capital and reserve transfers accounting for 12 per cent of total spending.

## Assessment breakdown

The assessment for 2025 revealed a 14 per cent shift in property values. Total assessed value declined slightly from \$435M in the previous year to \$427M. Agricultural properties represent 37 per cent of the total assessed value, commercial and industrial properties 43 per cent and residential 21 per cent.

## New well

In response to a question, Reeve Canart confirmed that the new municipal well is estimated to cost around \$1.6M. The project has faced numerous obstacles, including the failure of a previously drilled second well that was costly and ineffective. The new well has tapped into a different aquifer, potentially offering better water quality and greater volume. Once fully operational, the system is expected to supply 61 liters per second, a major improvement over the past, when high demand forced the plant to run nearly continuously.

## Public works staff training

A ratepayer commented on the road gravelling program in the municipality noting that excessive gravel was being applied in some areas. A new training initiative for equipment operators will be started using an experienced

equipment trainer. The program includes a full-day classroom session followed by several days of one-on-one on-site training with operators. The trainer will return after a few weeks to evaluate their performance and submit a report.

## New community facility

Elkhorn residents are raising funds and applying for grants to conduct a feasibility study for a new recreation facility. No spending decisions about the construction have been made yet and the feasibility study is the first step in the process. All major decisions will go through a rigorous public consultation process before being approved.

## Fairness in taxation

Ratepayer expressed concerns regarding the LUDs of Elkhorn and Kenton, asking whether the revenues generated locally are sufficient to cover their services, or if they are being subsidized by the at large municipal budget. Canart replied that breaking down the details of these finances is hard to achieve when services like snow removal and road grading are shared across the whole municipality. He added that balancing fairness and equity is a constant focus for council and distributing services and costs with perfect equity is difficult due to the complexity and size of the region.

## New staff members

The municipality introduced several new team members, including transportation superintendent, Nicolas Zuck, utility operator Mathew Scott, executive assistant Amber Feldman and accounts payables clerk Christine Volk.

# New Board Appointments for Prairie Mountain Health

By Blaine Kraushaar  
PMH COMMUNICATIONS

The Prairie Mountain Health Board of Directors has a few new faces following recent appointments by Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Uzoma Asagwara. Joining the Board for their first terms are Debbie Huntinghawk (Brandon), Kim Magalhaes (Brandon), Sue Stirling (Grandview) and Ron Janzen (Winnipeg).

Board members whose terms continue include Lon Cullen, Chairperson (Brandon); Donna Davidson, Vice-Chairperson (Ochre River); Jody Parsonage (Baldur); Lori Rodych (Minnedosa) and Judy Swanson (Boissevain).

PMH CEO Treena Slate welcomed the new board members and thanked members who have been reappointed on various term lengths.

"We welcome the new members and acknowledge their commitment to serve on the Board. We thank the members whose terms continue. We would sincerely like to thank the members whose terms have expired for all of their past dedication and commitment to health and wellness in the region," Slate stated.

The new Board met for the first time on April 16, 2025.

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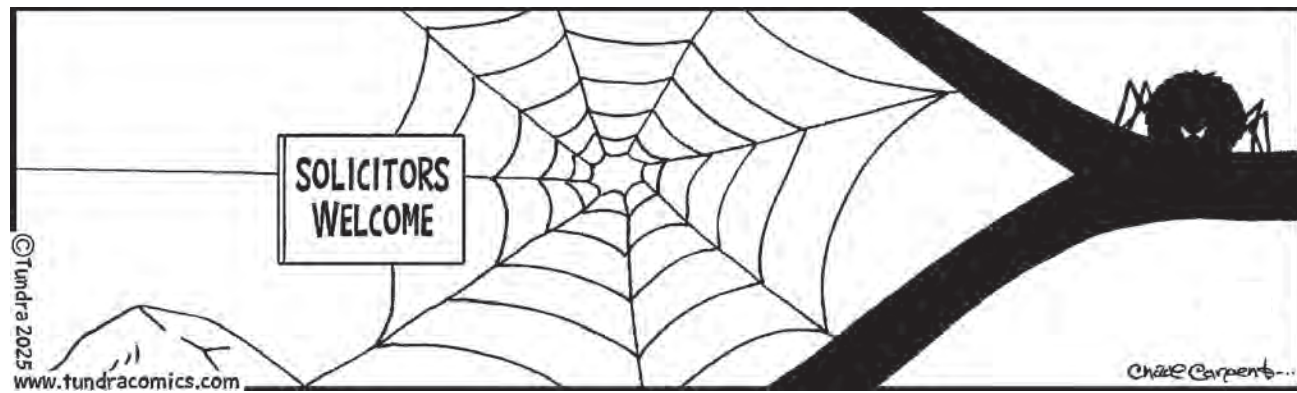
## Greg NESBITT MLA for Riding Mountain

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Toll Free 844.877.7767  
gregnesbitmla@mymts.net  
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Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB



# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Carry on and don't lose faith

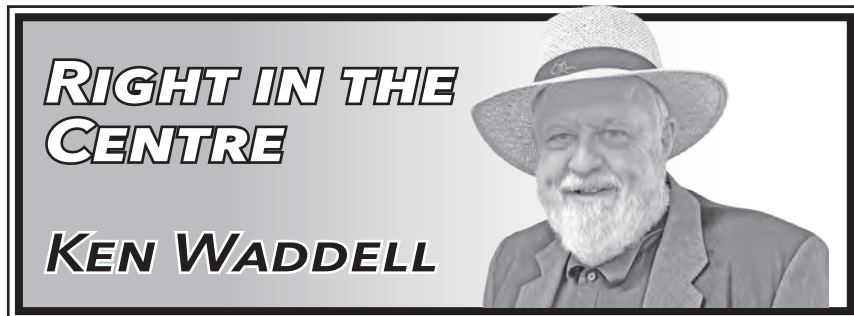
After Monday's federal election, there were some very tired people across Canada. The TV commentators and staff were up long past their usual bedtime and it showed. One older TV personality was almost nodding off in their chair. So was I, and I didn't even work that hard on Monday. The politicians and their staff and volunteers had an extremely difficult few weeks and it was obvious that everybody was tired of politics. Add to that the murder-by-vehicle in Vancouver on the weekend and Monday ended a week of death, turmoil, animosity and overall weariness.

The Liberals won the election, two leaders lost their seats and Canada is faced with possibly four more years of Liberal rule. The previous 10 have not been all that good for Canada. The Canadian voters opted for an experienced Liberal party, but by the slimmest of margins.

All this was overshadowed by the American President Donald Trump who seems determined to be heading the United States into disaster.

The theme of the Canadian election was who will be best equipped to cope with Trump when there are many other problems including pressure from China and other countries and many wars abroad. Add to that, Canada is under a drug, poverty and health care crisis that has not been experienced in the last three generations.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh lost his seat and will shortly be, but perhaps only temporarily, out of the political picture. Conservative party leader, Pierre Poilievre lost his seat and has to re-trench, find another seat and amidst all that distraction, prepare a shadow cabinet and mount an opposition to Prime Minister Carney and the Liberals.



“It doesn't matter if you are on drugs, are mad at society, have been used and abused and are suffering from mental illness, it does not give you the right to hurt or kill other people.”

Who Carney chooses as a cabinet will be interesting, as most of the old Trudeau cabinet is re-elected and will likely march back into their offices within a week.

I think there are some things to be learned from the past couple of months.

Canada has to first deal with drugs, crime and mental health issues and they are all intertwined in a horrible, messy web. Pierre Polievre was right in many things but was most correct on this issue.

It doesn't matter if you are on drugs, are mad at society, have been used and abused and are suffering from mental illness, it does not give you the right to hurt or kill other people. Prevention, yes, treatment yes, even sympathy but people who are unable to control their harm-filled actions belong in custody for their own sake and for the sake of others.

Canadians have to learn how to

trade both within and outside Canada. For far too long we have ridden the north-south four-lane highway. Trump thinks he can get along without us. We should do all we can to help with that theory as we explore markets both inside and outside Canada.

Please note, I am all for electric cars as long as they are cheap, practical and without any subsidies from the taxpayers. Just remember, when you buy an EV now, we are all helping you pay for it and that is simply wrong.

In short, we all need to take a day or two of reflection and get back to work, Canadians are strong and God is stronger than us or Trump. It's spring, the grass is green, the crops are being planted. Have faith for the future and at least, let us be wise in how we face our future.

*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.*



## Gather strength and become brave

By the time you are reading this I will be on my way to a beloved isle, the Isle of Iona. I have been there once before, and, God willing, this may not be my last pilgrimage to the sacred land. It is a thin space, a place where the distance between heaven and earth is but a vapour. In the company of a dear friend, and the spirits of generations of Godly people it is a place to regroup, to gather strength and become brave. The island is not the only place that offers such a refuge. On a whim, I picked up a copy of compiled 'Homebodies', and the one musing sums up finding my peace.

"It's one of my 'white nights'. Well after midnight, the house is silent. I can't still the phantoms that torment my mind. I slip, undetected, from beneath the warm covers, pull a pair of fleecy sweats over my pyjamas and slip into the comforting dark.

It's a queer night. The fog is heavy enough to obscure the house before I've walked a hundred yards, and yet the amber yard light of a neighbour half a mile away fills the sky with a subdued warmth that a small town usually radiates. No stars are visible but it's not dark. A quiet so deep and solid that one can sense it. The fog so intense that one can feel the droplets forming on exposed face and fingers.

I wonder, fleetingly, if coyotes are out and about on a night like this. The enclosed solitude is too precious to forgo. In this strange, ethereal world, I am alone. And strong. I pace away from hearth and home, gaining strength with each stride.

I commune with God. Rant and rave at the injustices of life, and howl out my frustrations with circumstances. Relieved by and from all that, I slow down enough to listen. I hear with my heart and know that I've been understood. New ideas for coping infiltrate my mind, and small signs of positive changes I'd missed surface. Then basking in this regained peace, I turn to thoughts of thanks. In all of my hurts and hungers, there are things to be so thankful for, the greatest is the loving and caring of my heavenly Father.

I take note of my surroundings. A little further than I'd planned to go. The natural fog rules unabated, but the fog of my mind and soul has dissipated. And so I turn, and turn willingly, back to all that I had so frantically fled."

Those words were recorded decades ago. They take me right back to that night. I am reminded of the many times I have wrestled with God, most times the loser, but in losing I win. For me there is solace in the wideness and wildness of creation; a place where I am stilled and listening. Honestly, I supposed that obedience and hearing would become easier as I mature. I was wrong! The areas of my concern have certainly changed. The goodness and surety of God have not.

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# Miniota and Isabella News

## Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Kelsey Brown and Claire Regnier who attended Provincials for U14 Club volleyball in Winnipeg, playing for Club West in 9 games, with 6 wins, they finished 25th in the consolation bracket. They now move on to Nationals in Winnipeg from May 9-11. Good luck girls!

Our community extends deepest sympathy to Robin Couvier on the death of his wife Lynda at Birch Lodge in Hamiota on April 23. Sympathy also to their family: Michelle and Jerry Harder, Mike and Jody Couvier and Mark and Codi Couvier and their families. Lynda was a long-time supporter of the Miniota Community Centre and our Miniota UCW, always willing to help with her energy and her good cooking. Our thoughts are with you all.

A warm welcome to Jeff and Sam Bertram who have moved from Strathmore, Alta. to become a part of our community. They've purchased their home from Danny and Jaelynn Carter. We wish Danny and Jaelynn and their children well in their new home in Virden.

The annual Welcome Evening was held on April 23 in the Miniota Hall. The evening began with greetings by Reeve Roger Wilson followed by a delicious potluck supper. Miniota School Choir, numbering 60 plus children under the direction of Mrs. Tricia Lelond, entertained the 180 plus crowd with two songs. There were 13 newcomers/households welcomed, although only five families were able to attend. Zoey Jebb of the Birtle Miniota CDC presented the newcomers with a welcome bag. Following the newcomers' introductions three Miniota fire department awards were announced: Curtis Gardham 15 years, Sheldon Doole 20 years, and a retirement gift and plaque for Shelley Gardham who has served 18 years. The Bill Clark Memorial Volunteer awards

were presented. Crandall's nomination was for the Late Bill Higgins. His two brothers, Mel and John Higgins, attended to receive this nomination. The Isabella community nominated Randy Still and Kendall & Angie Heise. A wonderful evening concluded with a full house for visiting.

A piece of our history was dismantled this past week with the removal and cleanup of the Main Street lot known as Forsyth's Grocery Store, which then became the R & M Solo Store and then Bob Gardham's Grocery store, along with the apartment which was attached. That apartment housed many businesses through the years such as Angell's Meat Market, Bill Cousin's Repair Shop, hairdressers and more.

Valley Viperz volleyball club attended a tournament in Winnipeg this past weekend. Our local girls on this team are Quinn Bryant and Reese Lelond, along with coach Tricia Lelond who reports a most successful first year for these girls.

The Miniota UCW held their annual roast beef supper on Sunday, April 27. With such a beautiful day, many people drove from surrounding communities to join and support us. The ladies served around 170 people.

## Holidaying

Don and Sandra Armitage have returned from their winter holiday in Llano Grande Park, in Mercedes, Texas. Sandra writes, "It was another fun time with more people to meet and lots of activities. In this park there are three swimming pools, 12 pickleball courts, about 12 shuffle courts, and several different buildings for card playing, line dancing, music jams, quilting, pool playing, etc. There are many people from Canada - not quite half. There is a Canadian social every year and by the tally there, we saw that the largest number of Canadians are from Ontario. The park is in the Rio Grande Valley five miles from the Mexican border so the Mexican influence is quite strong in stores, restaurants, and music. At Christmas time

I saw many women in the stores sorting (tossing) through the dried Chili peppers, and picking up corn husks to make their traditional tamales for "la Navidad". We were told that 50 per cent of the valley people speak both English and Spanish, 25 per cent only Spanish, and 25 per cent only speak English. It's definitely bicultural.

My sister, Carolyn, came for two weeks and while she was there, we did some birding. The Rio Grande Valley is a major centre for bird watchers. It is on the flyway for birds flying south for the winter. Sandhill cranes fly over that area, for example. It's also the separating point for some birds that fly north only that far and stay for the summer. Carolyn was happy to see a roseate spoonbill, which is an exotic looking pink bird as well as orioles, and many others. We also went to Padre Island beach, a chocolate factory, Sal del Rey (a salt lake once mined), listened to Mariachis, tested Mezcal, a drink made with agave at a distillery close by, ate tamales and charro beans, and relaxed in the sun and often the shade when it got above 30°F! We experienced 14 inches of rain in one storm in early April and saw the damage it caused. It was a lot of water! All in all, it was a good winter and we plan to go back next year.

## Isabella News

Congratulations to Cadie Huberdeau for her many roles in the Strathclair Musical "Annie" this past week. Hats off to the Strathclair Drama Club for their 41st production, once again another wonderful performance by a very talented cast, children and adults.

Congratulations to Randy Still and Kendall and Angie Heise, recipients of the Bill Clark Memorial Volunteer Award at the welcome supper in Miniota. Kyle, Karina (nee Heise), Max and McKenna Winters of Brandon attended the supper with Karina's parents Kendall and Angie.

"What is the most important subject to learn in life? To learn to love." -Pope Francis 1936-2025

# Prairie View Municipality Council meeting Regular meeting April 8, 2025

## Submitted

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Members Present: L. Clark, M. Fulcher, M. Butler, T. Peel, D. Cole; Virtually Present: D. Oliver, R. Bonchuk; Members Excused: R. Wilson

Staff Present: CAO C. Bonchuk, Admin Assistant M. Amy

Councillor Clark called the meeting to order.

Council adopted the agenda as presented and the minutes from March 25th were adopted as circulated.

## Reception of delegations:

Ashley Haigh - Burns Maendel Consulting Engineers Ltd 9:30 A.M.

Brigitte Kirady - Food-Cycler Pilot Program Results 10:30 A.M.

Jacob Hanlon - Food-Cycler Program Expansion and Next Steps 10:30 A.M.

## Staffing and

## Committee reports

CAO's Report

Lead Hand Reports - Pat Cousins

Fibre Committee

## Recommendations to council from committees

## Unfinished business

By-law for Fire Department Service Fees

## New business

Main Street Renaissance Proposal

Fund Transfer for Ward 2 Road Graveling - Resolution No: 2025-090: Be it resolved that the Council of Prairie View Municipality approves the transfer of \$75,000 from the PVM Road Reserve to the General Fund for the purpose of funding additional graveling in Ward 2 for the year 2024. Carried

Transfer of Funds for Purchase of Wind Screens at Birtle Park - Resolution No: 2025-091 Be it resolved that the Council of Prairie View Municipality approves the transfer of \$3,757.80 for the purchase of four wind screens for Birtle Park and that the funds be transferred from the Recreation Reserve. Carried

Invasive Species Awareness Week - April 20-26,

2025 - Resolution No: 2025-092, Whereas invasive species can result in the loss of Manitoba's unique ecosystems and native species; the activities of people are most often responsible for the introduction of a species to a new area; preventing the introduction of an invasive species to a new area is the most effective way to manage it; increasing awareness of the threats of invasive species will help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species; Therefore be it resolved that the Council supports The Invasive Species Awareness Week and efforts to raise awareness and protect Manitoba's ecosystems. Carried

Rescheduling of April 22, 2025, Council Meeting to April 29, 2025 - Resolution No: 2025-093 Be it resolved that the Council approves moving the scheduled April 22, 2025, Council meeting to April 29th, 2025. Carried

Neptune 360 Subscription Renewal - Resolution No: 2025-094 Be it resolved that the Council hereby approves the quotation for the renewal of the Neptune® 360 subscription (smart water network data management system). Carried

Birtle Agricultural Society - Tabled

Birtle Fire Department - Resolution No: 2025-095 Be it resolved that the Council of Prairie View Municipality hereby approves the Birtle Fire Department's updated personnel list. Carried

Letters from Regional Health Committee to Minister - Resolution No: 2025-096 Be it resolved that the Council hereby approves the letters written from the Regional Health Committee to the Minister. Carried

## Financial report

List of Accounts for Approval - Resolution No: 2025-097 Be it resolved that the following accounts issued in the month of March 25 totalling \$382,613.93 be hereby approved:

· Council \$6574.64  
· Other-AP \$ 102,562.26  
· EFT \$ 2944.03  
· Cheques \$ 162,846.66

Carried  
Bank Reconciliation - Resolution No: 2025-098 Be it resolved that the Council approve the March 2025 Bank Reconciliation. Carried

December 31, 2024 Financial Statements - Resolution No: 2025-099 Be it resolved that the Council approve the Dec. 31, 2024 Financial Statement. Carried

## Reports of council members/enquiries

Councillor Clark - MWPDC  
Councillor Cole - MWPDC  
Councillor Butler - PW-FCO

Councillor Oliver - Fire Department

Councillor Fulcher - BDCC

Adjournment



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# HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Dowsers, also known as diviners or water witchers, have been around for years. In the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, the French discovered cave paintings believed to be 9,000 years old. One of these cave paintings showed a man using a dowsing rod. Pictures like these have showed up on rock carvings as well. An explanation of dowsing is that because water gives off magnetic energy the dowser acts like a radio transmitter and picks up this energy.

Dowsing is an age-old practice used to locate hidden water and minerals with little more than a simple metal rod, a branch or a pendulum to tap into the energy. Dowsers are able to determine more than just the location of water. They often can report its volume, depth and flow direction. The practice involves walking a property while holding the dowsing tool. Very little equipment is used for dowsing. My dad used a newly cut Y shaped piece of red willow branch. When holding the branch you hold it loosely in your hands. The branch pulls down when water is found. The pull of the branch can be extremely strong. I have experienced the bark of the branch being peeled from the branch beneath my hands when I held on to it too tightly. Some use two L shaped pieces of metal wire rods. The rods are held in your hands with the longer sections parallel and pointing straight ahead. The wires cross when water is found. A pendulum, which is an object hung from a string, can be used as well. I have never seen this method used although it is used by many.

Many dowsers past and present were subject to ridicule and skepticism. Many scientists remain uncertain of dowsing because of lack of proof in how it works. Despite this many armies used dowsers. General Patton used a water dowser to find water in the African desert when the retreating Germans had destroyed the water wells. When the war was over dowsers were used to find buried shells. It was noted that while the shells were underground they were able to tell if the shells were German shells or Allies shells. These dowsers were able to help restore many acres of land back to be farmed. Over the years the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture has had dowsers on staff. Evelyn Penrose was hired by the BC government to locate oil and water resources. During 1931-1932 she located 392 water wells for homesteaders. Every major pipeline has dowsers employed, as do oil and mining companies.

Countless dowsers around the globe have and are finding water, gold, oil, artifacts and more. Many who dowse can also dowse for ancient artifacts. Many old churches, burial sites and battle field grounds have been found this way. England's Major General James Scott Elliot was well-known for his interest in dowsing. He was the president of the British Society of Dowsers and in 1977 he wrote a book on the topic, "Dowsing: One Man's Way." Scott Elliot was unusual in that much of his dowsing was done with a pendulum over a map. His preference was locating minerals, ancient sites, oil, gas, cables and lost objects. He found many ancient ruins including Roman Punic remains from the first century and Bronze Age fire pits. Scientists have declared that while it is not possible to deny the existence of the power its nature cannot be determined. For dowsers they do not know how it works but they know that it does and that is enough for them.

I do not need a red willow branch to find my rhubarb coming up in my garden. This hardy plant is made for the Canadian winters as it needs a long dormant winter period which we certainly have. It is a plant it and forget it plant and carries on for years unaffected by droughts, bugs and blights. Today's rhubarb cake recipe will have you ready for the soon to come rhubarb. It's incredibly easy recipe to make and it comes out moist and full of rhubarb flavor. If you use frozen rhubarb for this recipe measure rhubarb while still frozen, then thaw completely. Drain in a colander but do not press any juice out of the rhubarb.

## Rhubarb cake

1/2 cup butter	1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla	1 egg
2 cups flour	1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt	1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg	1/2 tsp. each allspice and cloves
1 cup buttermilk	3 cups finely diced rhubarb
Topping:	
1/2 cup white sugar	1/2 cup coconut
1/2 cup chopped walnuts	1 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add egg and vanilla and beat well. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and spices; add to the creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk ending with flour. Fold in rhubarb. Spread in a greased 13x9 inch baking pan. Combine the topping ingredients and sprinkle over batter. Press down slightly. Bake for about 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

## Why every home needs a few green roommates

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC**

**WELLNESS CERTIFIED**

**HYPNOTIST (C.H.)**

**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

If you have ever thought about getting a roommate who does not borrow your clothes, eat your leftovers, or leave dishes in the sink, I have the perfect suggestion: plants. Yes, plants. They are the quiet, cheerful, ridiculously good-looking roommates you never knew you needed and believe it or not, they can totally change the vibe of your entire home (and your health) in ways you would not expect.

First off, plants are basically natural air fresheners with actual skills. Unlike that candle you keep burning to cover up last night's questionable cooking experiment, plants like peace lilies, snake plants, and ferns actually clean the air. They suck up toxins, boost oxygen, and leave you breathing fresher, cleaner air without any artificial scents. Some studies even show they help you sleep better. So technically, plants are doing more for you while you sleep than most of your friends do when you are awake.

But the magic of houseplants goes way beyond air quality. They are like little green therapists sitting quietly in the corner. Feeling stressed? Go mist your monstera. Need a mood lift? Stare at your plants for five minutes. Science backs it up: just being around greenery can lower your stress hormones, calm your nervous system, and make you feel more grounded. Plants do not judge, they do not talk back, and they are always happy to see you (or at least it feels that way).

And let us be honest: watching something grow because you kept it alive feels amazing. Sure, maybe you have not mastered sourdough baking or learned to knit during your free time, but if you can keep a plant alive,

that is a win. It is a daily reminder that you are capable of care, patience, and attention and trust me, that feels really good when life gets crazy.

Plants also bring a whole other level of style to your space. Want your home to look like you have your life together even if you do not? Throw a giant fiddle leaf fig in the corner. Instant sophistication. Want cozy vibes? Scatter a few tiny succulents and hang a trailing ivy by the window. Suddenly, you are living in

a Pinterest board.

There is even a little spiritual bonus. Many cultures believe plants bring positive energy and balance into the home. Herbs like lavender can create a soothing atmosphere, while aloe vera is said to attract good luck (and bonus, it can soothe burns when you inevitably touch the oven rack again).

At the end of the day, bringing plants into your home is one of the easiest ways to boost your wellness without adding another chore to your to-do list. Water them, love them, maybe name them if you are feeling extra, and they will reward you with cleaner air, calmer moods, and a home that feels just a little more alive.

So go ahead. Invite a few leafy roommates in. Your mind, body, and heart will thank you.



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# Empire-Advance and Red Apple Golden Anniversary Easter Basket winner



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thank-you to all the people who submitted ballots in our Easter Colouring Contest for 2025. Our winner this year is 11-year-old Lexie Hunt. Lexie lives just outside Kenton.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**By Gerry Nolan**  
RIVERS BANNER

Congratulations to Phil and Leith Corney who celebrated their 50-year anniversary of marriage on April 26, 2025. The wedding took place in Kenton on a showery cool day.

50 years of marriage is very unique in this world, you do not hear of too many of them.

To celebrate the occasion Donald and Devon Caldwell hosted an evening on Friday with family and friends to celebrate.

On Saturday evening a black long limo pulled up and escorted the family to Brandon for an evening of supper and fun. What a great weekend of family times and friends to celebrate with.

Congratulations Phil and Leith on this momentous occasion and may you have many more years of celebrating.

## Paper route

**REF TO WRITER**  
**GERRY**  
**NOLAN**



In my journey of the Rivers Banner and the Virden Empire Advance I go to many towns to deliver these papers to specific locations. I begin in Rivers then travel to Oak River, Hamiota, Kenton, Lenore, Virden, Elkhorn, Kola, Cromer, Reston and Pipestone.

As I drove through these villages there were some particular things that stood out to me. Each town made a unique first impression on me. Over the past few months, I drove down different streets just to get an overview of the town and see what makes them beautiful. There are a number of beautiful homes, some older homes as well as newer homes. I also look for recreation spots,

and overall places of interest in each town. Those things that stand out!

In the weeks ahead I will be doing a little write up on each one of those villages.

One thing I noticed is the friendly people I bump into at every stop. More on that later. I have also noticed the cleanliness and some of the not so clean areas.

I appreciate very much the opportunity given to me by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Waddell, who have given me a position where I am fortunate enough to drive through each hamlet.

The first town I drive through is Harding. A little town on my way to Rivers to do my pickups. Harding is a small drive through town but

has one of the biggest, successful fairs in Manitoba. The fair is held on the third Friday in July.

Once a busy little town with 2 grocery stores there are only a handful of houses that are still occupied.

The next town that I drive by is Bradwardine. At one time this little place was a booming little town. Over time the town has died off and only a couple of homes and memories remain.

The next drive by is Wheatland. At one time the air force was based out of Wheatland. At one time there were a lot of homes and people and paved streets. When the air force families left it literally destroyed the town. Lots of empty buildings but at one time it was a busy place to be.

Next week I will cover the town of Rivers and share some insights that pop out to me, and so until next week.

5TH ANNUAL

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# Spring fashion show a fundraiser for seniors



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Samantha's Boutique fashion models (many currently work at Elkwood Manor and/or healthcare): Angi Frappe, Jolene Lowes, Cheryl Sisson, Justine Rhodes, Wanda Rhodes, Kenzie Heide, Barb Asselstine, Kaileigh Kyle, Yolanda Twigg, Stephanie Bickerton, Kathryn Fouillard, Shari Lee, Linda Bajus, Jessica Sheane & daughter Jemma, Marilyn Clayton and Lillian Jackson.

**Submitted**  
BY ED JAMES

Samantha's Boutique spring fashion show, held April 26, at the Elks Hall had over 100 people in attendance this year with more than great fashion for all ages and body types. This year's event supported the recreational program at Elkwood Manor seniors residence. Before the fashion show, there were snack food refreshments, silent auction with many of the items being local hand crafted, bar service was available, and everyone was eligible to take part in a free unique Poker Hand Discount game that could see the players with the best hand win a discount on purchases at Sam's Shop after the fashion show.

This year the fashion show was done in three sessions with breaks in between for the other planned events on offer. Since ticket sales and in-hall events that evening were in support of Elkwood Manor, many of the models were staff members from The Manor. A special group at this event included several residents of the Manor with their own special table and staff

members on hand to help them, as needed.

A special event was a birthday song and shout out to Manor resident Corrine Nesbitt for her 88th birthday. For several years Corrine was one of the regulars who supported the fashion show as a model on the catwalk.

During all three parts of the fashion show the clothing and styles displayed bright spring colors and styles for casual and formal events. As each model came down the runway, the crowd showed loud support not only for the fashion outfits but also for the models who were friends, family, neighbors and co workers. In some cases, the models were mother/daughter teams! (As I took photos, some of the models were pros who knew how to work the crowd.)

The color commentary for the evening was by Samantha's Boutique owner, Samantha (Sam) Cluett. During one of the breaks, Kylie Kyle, head of the Manor recreation and head chef spoke to the crowd. She reported that the Manor had been in operation for 21 years with over 225 residents in that time, with the Manor having a great reputation in the Westman

area for resident care over the years. She went on to add that the funds raised this evening and by the annual pie/cake auction, go toward the many Manor recreational activities such as teas, tiny tot visits, the Halloween treat event, the resident's raised box garden project, outside musical entertainment, Christmas events, handy van trips and the ice cream treat walk.

The event this year was a bit longer because of the three fashion parades, but there was always lots to see and do. At the end of the evening all the models came out for a bow and applause from the audience. Cluett took this opportunity to thank the models, those who helped behind the scenes and all who attended.

Later that evening Samantha's Boutique at 102 Richhill Avenue was open for late night shopping and a chance to use Poker Hand discounts or perhaps pick up an item from the evening fashion show.

After the event, Cluett said, "I am so pleased about the community and the evening event as a chance to give back to groups in our community that are close to our hearts. We are so lucky to be surrounded by so many people that jump in to make the evening a success. We feel so blessed to be part of such an amazing community and thankful for the continued support from our clients that allow us to do what we do."

## Young murder suspect found, arrested at Sioux Valley

**Submitted**  
BY MANITOBA RCMP

A young man from Misisipawistik Cree Nation, a reserve near Grand Rapids was found shot dead. The murder suspect from nearby Chemawawin Cree Nation was recently discovered at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

On Sept. 23, Grand Rapids RCMP responded to a report of a shooting at a residence located in Misisipawistik Cree Nation. Officers responded and found the victim, a 23-year-old male from the community, who had been shot and was pronounced deceased on scene.

The investigation led to the arrest of a 16-year-old

male from Chemawawin. He who was charged with numerous firearms-related offences and remanded into custody.

Grand Rapids RCMP, along with RCMP Major Crime Services and Forensic Identification Services, continued the investigation.

On April 25, as a result of the on-going investigation into the homicide, RCMP Major Crime Services, along with members from Virden RCMP detachment, executed a Warrant of Arrest at a Sioux Valley First Nation residence.

The 16-year-old from Chemawawin, was re-arrested and is now facing an elevated charge of second-degree murder. The youth was remanded into custody. The investigation continues.

Virden Pioneer Home Museum  
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025  
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# How a female RCMP officer broke barriers

## Veterans, first responders feted at Virden banquet

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 8 honoured the men and women in the military, law enforcement, fire and medical response with a feast, entertainment and a guest speaker who rose through the ranks to achieve many firsts for a female in the RCMP.

On Wednesday, April 23 the Legion's Auxiliary served a delicious ham dinner to a full house.

The Kyles, David and son Declan, family of Caron and Hank Kyle, piped the head table into the hall. Emcee Kelvon Smith's banter held to the lighter side while moving the evening along, giving guest speaker Staff Sergeant (ret.) Kathie King, a farmer's daughter from Elgin, Manitoba, an opportunity to share the challenges facing one of the first female RCMP officers.

King had desire and convictions that propelled her down a road less travelled.

"I had a dream of becoming a police officer when I was 14 years old. When I graduated from high school in Hartney in 1973, the RCMP did not take female members. However, in 1974, I saw an advertisement on TV that said, RCMP would now take female members."

She was accepted to the RCMP training depot in 1975 and became part of the second female troop in RCMP history. For 100 years, both the public and RCMP officers were used to seeing only male officers.

She spoke highly of the camaraderie she found within the Force, despite breaking ground as a female officer.

One of her many firsts was handling a gun. "I had never shot a gun before and ended up absolutely loving shooting and doing some competitive shooting over the years."

Her first posting was to Swan River. She loved it there and "the beauty of meeting people. I was just 20 years old and had no realization of what the job was going to be like."

Morris, Man. was next, a place where floods can occur. "As I drove into the town in 1977, I was a bit disappointed that the ...river was just a trickle and that we had dust that year."

Although dust was flying in 1977, in 1979 a flood changed everything.

"It definitely was a bit of an eerie feeling as the dykes went up and the roads were cut off. The town was evacuated except for those of us who were essential personnel." From the top of the dike, "Morris looked like a little bowl in the middle of the sea, no matter which direction you looked. The military helicopters took us to smaller, evacuated communities in our area where we provided 24-hour policing to prevent looting."

Next came the Falcon Lake station. "Being in one's early twenties and being stationed at a beach detachment is a wonderful thing. All kinds of weird and wonderful things happened there."

“ It was one of those note-to-self moments ”

– King

Then officer King was transferred to Winnipegosis where her mettle was surely tried. "It was very busy, it was quite violent, and there was heavy workload..." She recalls the staffing officer saying to her, "If you can't make it here, we're never going to be able to get any other women to these posts."

With limited back-up, it was in Winnipegosis that she met her greatest challenge when confronting a



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Seated at head table at the RCL Veterans & First Responders banquet (l-r): Evelyn Jorgenson (Ladies' Auxiliary Sergeant-at-Arms); Tracy Pappel, President Ladies' Auxiliary; Joan Wright (from Manitoba Legion Command); RCMP S/Sgt (ret.) Kathy King; Cheryl Porter (Br. No. 8 President); Elisa Grenier and Sgt.-at-Arms Brian Grenier; Sandra Wright and 1st VP Murray Wright.

man under a warrant for arrest.

"I opened up the back door of the truck and told him to get in and he said, I'm not getting in there." There, in front of the town's pool hall, a crowd quickly gathered.

This determined RCMP officer managed to talk him into the police vehicle. She said she "took off, shaking in my shoes. It was one of those note-to-self moments that if you're going to try and prove yourself, you need to be a whole lot smarter about it." But reflecting on the larger picture she says, "As things would turn out, the people in the area took a shine to me...the lady cop..."

In 1984, she transferred to Dauphin Municipal Detachment. By 1986, King had earned a place in a plainclothes unit assisting detachments in general investigations.

"It became my passion and my future."

In 1989, she joined Winnipeg Major Crime Unit. "It was here where, in 1990, I met another guest who is here tonight, of my vintage, Mike Anderson," she said looking to officer Anderson who was among the Virden audience. "Mike was in Carman Detachment at the time, and we worked together on a homicide investigation - a 16-year-old girl was murdered at a music festival at Roseisle."

### The human toll

King had a storied career as she rose in rank, but she also felt the impact of the crimes she helped investigate.

"There will always be an investigation or two that will stay with you the rest of your life, and this (Roseisle) was one of them." Amid the many cases over the next 20 years another investigation that deeply impacted King and the police force was that of Phoenix Sinclair - a five-year-old girl's two years of abuse and ultimate death at the hands of "her mother and her mother's boyfriend."

King pursued her career with passion, but

acknowledged the strain as well, saying to the evening's banquet guests, "The job of police officers is not all fun and I'm pretty sure I'm speaking for all first responders and military here when I say this. In fact, at times, it's downright gruesome and horrible. It takes a toll on you, but we learn how to manage, and we do depend upon each other."

While working in Winnipeg in 1992, she was the first female promoted to the rank of corporal and again, in 1999, the first to be promoted to sergeant. In 2003, she became the first female staff sergeant with major crimes.

### Farm girl to RCMP S/Sgt

"I was now responsible for the investigation of all homicide cases in the province, with the exception of Brandon and Winnipeg. There were four major crime units, a serious crime unit that was homicide-specifically related. It encompassed the Internet Child Exploitation Unit, the High-Risk Sex Offender Unit, the Special Case Unit, and many others. And I was the operational boss, if you will, of them all."

"I think my favourite part was watching my young crew working their way through the various investigations with ingenuity, integrity, and perseverance. I was so proud of them, all of them. In 2010, after 35 wonderful years, I retired."

Kathy King received a standing ovation from her audience in Virden.

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# SPORTS

## OIL CAPS NOTES: GORCHYNSKI WINS MMJHL MVP



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Virden Oil Capitals forward Dean Gorchynski

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Former Virden Oil Capitals forward Dean Gorchynski won the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's Myron Prymak Memorial Trophy as the league's Most Valuable Player.

The Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins player also took home the Steve Claus Memorial Trophy for being the league's regular season top scorer. Gorchynski helped his team capture the Art Moug Trophy with the regular season's best record.

The Winnipeg product paced the MMJHL with 68 assists and 101 points in 45 games. He was tied for the league lead with 33 goals. Gorchynski averaged an MMJHL best 2.24 points per game. What allowed him to have such a successful season?

"We had a very close knit group and veteran team, that helped a lot," he said. "I think I found confidence in my game, had some good line mates and was given lots of opportunities."

Gorchynski suited up for the Oil Capitals in the 2022-2023 season and early in the 2023-2024 campaign before joining the Twins. Regarding his time in Virden, he expressed thanks for his "awesome billet family - the Bar-rates." Gorchynski also said, "I will always appreciate the community for supporting the team and players so well."

He is working towards being a full-time day trader. In addition, Gorchynski coaches at hockey camps in the

evenings.

### Ex-Oil Caps in the MMJHL

For the second straight season, former Oil Caps blue liner Sam Mitani of the Twins shared the George Cadzow Trophy for the league's Outstanding Defenceman. Mitani had 12 goals and 30 points in 39 games. He played one game for Virden as an affiliated player in 2019-2020 and two games in the 2020-2021 MJHL campaign that was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aiden Wuerfel collected 31 points in 42 games for the St. James Canucks. The forward led the league with 151 penalty minutes. Wuerfel suited up for Virden for five games in 2023-2024.

Ryland Kuczek played four games for Virden in 2021-2022. This past winter the forward had three goals and 15 points in 30 games for the Canucks.

Brayden Stevenson had 29 points in 36 games for the Charleswood Hawks. Back in 2021-2022, the forward had two assists in seven games for the Oil Capitals.

### Robson Heads West

Oil Capitals forward Luke Robson has committed to play and study at Vancouver Island University. The Nanaimo, B.C.-based school's hockey team competes in the British Columbia Intercollegiate Hockey League. It finished second last year after winning the BCIIHL championship in 2024.

"VIU has a great team," Robson said. "They've been strong the last few years and I've got a couple buddies that play on the team. But hockey isn't the only thing that drew me there. The school is a great school located in Nanaimo, which will be a very cool experience to live out there for the next few years."

Robson is leaning toward studying mathematics and science at VIU with plans of working in the education system. The Carberry product joined the Oil Capitals in the 2023-2024 season. He has previously played in the Western Hockey League and with the MJHL's Wayway-seccappo Wolverines. Last season Robson scored 11 goals and had 24 points in 55 games for Virden.

### Johnston to Saint Mary's

Adler Johnston, an Oil Caps forward, will continue his hockey career at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. The school's Winona campus is about a 170 kilometres from his hometown of Albert Lea. The Cardinals compete at the NCAA Division III level.

Johnston joined the Oil Capitals around the January trade deadline last season. He recorded four goals, 11 points, and 50 penalty minutes in 23 games for the Virden team.

## REF MEMORIES

REF TO WRITER  
**GERRY NOLAN**



Dealing with injuries as an official on the ice is not too common, but every now and then we just get hurt. Unlike pro leagues there is no backup, you have to try and get through the game.

One night I was hit by a stick in the eyelid. At first, I thought I had lost an eye. I was cut. I completed the game then headed to the hospital in Birtle. I had 3 stitches put into my eyelid. This was a scary time for me. The Doctor sewed me up and told me the eye was fine and that I would probably have a black eye for a day or two.

I only had one concussion that I know of. I was refereeing a game in Miniota against Hamiota in the North Central Hockey League. I was following the play up the ice when there was a turnover at the Hamiota blueline. With the turnover the play was coming my way in a hurry. I stopped and reversed my direction skating backward into the Miniota end zone. As I was skating backward my skate caught in a rut and I went ass over tea kettle and fell completely backward. When I hit the ice, my helmet came off from the impact. I was attempting to get up, but my eyes could not focus. I stayed out on the ice in a daze. My head was hurting, and I felt very nauseated.

At the end of the period the officials are going to the referee room for the between period break. My head was pounding, and I did not feel good at all. I thought I should leave the game.

That night I had 2 rookie linemen who were in their first senior games. I did not feel it would be fair to put them in that position. We also had all travelled together in one vehicle and I was not about to leave them looking for a ride home to Virden.

We got the game over with and headed home. I dropped the boys off at their homes and went to the hospital to get checked out. After the doctor saw me, I was sent home with some meds and was told to rest. I would be fine in a few days.

I really do not remember how the rest of the game went or anything about the drive home. I do remember just not feeling good!

My article is called referee memories, but I really do not recall much about that night at all. It never occurred to me to call another referee to come and finish the game. There was no backup in place. I know I survived the night but until this day I have no memory of the game after the fall.

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# LOCAL SENIOR BASEBALL SHAKEUP

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

**A**rea senior baseball will look a bit different this summer.

The Elkhorn Expos are taking a leave of absence from the South West Baseball League. The Virden Oilers and Reston Rockets will be back for another summer in the SWBL, which sees the return of a Souris squad after four years and the addition of the Brandon-based GW Vacuum Truck Service Young Guns and the RFNOW Cardinals. The latter team includes Virden product Adam Hartman. With the Young Guns and Cardinals departing the Andrew Agencies Senior AA Baseball League, the league folded. This meant the Sioux Valley Dakotas, as well as the Westman Fire Protection Cubs, found themselves without a place to play. This inspired Dakotas co-coach Randell Wasicuna to decide to focus on developing minor baseball in his home community.

### Expos Leave of Absence

The Expos compiled a 4-12-0 record last season. The squad won two of its last three contests. One of the highlights of last season for the Elkhorn squad was pitching workhorse Tyler Wood. He threw a team-high 54.9 innings and struck out 26. Among Expos

regulars, Jayce Soder paced the team with a .351 batting average. Elkhorn baseball organizer and stalwart Mike Stevenson led the squad with 20 runs batted in. He received the Mark Minor Award, an SWBL honour presented "to the player that is dedicated to their team and community while making an impact on the field."

The Expos returned to the SWBL in 2023 after taking a leave of absence in 2021 and 2022.

### New Look SWBL

The SWBL will feature two divisions this season. There was a desire to have the Brandon teams, who battled each other constantly in their previous league, in different divisions. The Young Guns won a coin flip and chose to compete in the North Division. They'll face Virden, Reston, Rivers, Hamiota and Oak River. The Cardinals will try to fly in the South Division against Boissevain (who won the last three league titles), Deloraine, Souris and Wawanesa.

This summer SWBL teams will play twice against divisional foes. They will play one game versus each team in the other division.

### Dakotas Left Without a League

The Dakotas joined the Andrew Agencies Senior AA Baseball League in 2022. The roster included many players who had not competed at the Senior

AA level. Some had high school baseball experience, while others came from fastpitch. Over the past three seasons, the team learned and competed.

"It stings a bit that the league has come to a point of where it has to be shut down due to lack of interest, not enough teams," Wasicuna said. "I was talking to an old player who I used to play against when I first came into the league about 20 years ago. There was a lot of competition, and it was a competitive league. It meant something when you played in the league."

### Sioux Valley Minor Baseball

Wasicuna has decided to focus his energies on minor baseball in his community. He wants to revitalize the sport and provide an activity for young people.

"We have a lot of natural athletes with nothing to offer in the community. We hope that this sparks an interest and really takes off with athletics. Not only baseball but softball, basketball and hockey."

The plan is to play in the Midwest League. Due to the current condition of Sioux Valley's baseball fields, games will be played on the road. The hope is to improve the diamonds later.

"Right now, I just want to get the kids out and have fun with their friends while learning the basics of the game I've come to love as a kid," Wasicuna said. "It's my way of giving back to old coaches and the baseball program that was started long ago in the community."

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Thank-you

### Thank-you

Thank-you for all the phone calls, messages, visits, cards, food & flowers we have received since Gordon's passing.

Special thanks to my kids and their significant others for all the help they have provided. Thanks to all who helped out with Gordon's Good-Bye party and to all who came from near and far. I hope you know how appreciated and truly amazing you are.

Thank-you -- Thank-you  
Thank-you!!!  
Myrna Orr and Family



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Interested parties must rely on their own  
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Please submit tenders to address below or call:

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204-391-0030

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Ivey Greenhouses  
150073 PR259 and 59N,  
Virden, MB

## In Memory

*In loving memory*  
**Draper, Jared Ryan**

In loving memory of our son, brother who passed away April 30, 1999.

April has come with sad regrets, the month, the day, we will never forget. If memories keep you closer, then you never went away.

For our thoughts of you are with us each and every day.

Although we smile and make no fuss, no one misses you more than us, and when old times we often recall, that is when we miss you most of all.

Sadly missed by mom, dad, and Michael.

## Help Wanted



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY KENTON LUD/WARD 1 OFFICE MANAGER KENTON OFFICE

#### Job Description

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of Kenton LUD/Ward 1 Office Manager at the Kenton Municipal Office. This position is structured as full-time; however, flexible arrangements may be considered for candidates seeking part-time hours.

The Kenton LUD/Ward 1 Office Manager reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and will be responsible for performing administrative and clerical duties related to the operation of the Municipality.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Providing customer service in a professional and positive manner
- Front desk reception and cash clerk duties
- Municipal water utility billing for Ward 1
- Preparing detailed reports to support effective decision-making
- Assisting the Transportation Department, Utility Department, and the CAO as required
- Performing data entry and tracking in the Request Management System
- Supporting the administration of the Municipal Safety Program
- Preparing documentation and minutes for monthly LUD meetings
- Assisting with the organization and promotion of local recreational programming
- Performing other duties as assigned

#### Skills and Qualifications

- High school diploma (minimum); additional administrative training is an asset
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Excellent planning, research, and organizational skills with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively in a small office setting
- Previous administrative experience is considered an asset
- Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration (CMMA) is an asset
- Willingness to enroll in the CMMA program if not already completed
- Knowledge of safety programs is considered an asset

A complete job description is available upon request. The successful candidate can expect a salary reflective of their experience and qualifications. Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by:

Interested candidates should submit a resume by:

E-mail: [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:info@wallace-woodworth.com)

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257)  
Virden, Manitoba ROM 2C0

The RM of Wallace-Woodworth thanks all interested applicants. However, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted. This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located.

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

## Help Wanted



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT HARGRAVE & KOLA

#### Job Description

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of **Landfill Site Attendant** for the Hargrave and Kola Nuisance Grounds location. The Landfill Site Attendant assists the Public Works Superintendent in operating the waste disposal grounds in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit for the site, municipal policies, and Workplace Health and Safety regulations. Certificate in Landfill Operations is an asset (applicant must be willing to take the necessary certification courses). This is a unionized position.

#### Description and Qualifications

- Full-time position
- Must be willing to work Saturdays, and one evening per week during the summer months.
- Direct all users to appropriate disposal or storage locations for all items being disposed.
- Ensure source separation of garbage and recyclables.
- Accept tires, general scrap iron, and spray containers; store at proper locations and keep area tidy.
- Assist in transferring or disposing of waste, as required.
- Maintain daily records of waste entering the disposal site.
- Keep all buildings and areas of the landfill site clean and well maintained.
- Ensure that fires are not set and all controlled burns are supervised and recorded.
- Report all concerns to the Transportation Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer.
- Other duties, as required.
- Must be punctual, motivated, self-starter, and able to work without supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills to deal politely and effectively with the general public.
- Ability to meet physical demands of the position and have an excellent safety record.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Interested candidates should submit a resume by:

E-mail: [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:info@wallace-woodworth.com)

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB ROM 2C0

Submit a resume with three professional references.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

We appreciate your interest in this position.

However, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Tender

## Tender

## Announcement

## For Sale

## Auctions



### 2025 GRAVEL CRUSHING TENDER

Sealed tenders must be received by the undersigned no later than 4:30 pm, Friday May 16, 2025

The tender must include the cost of crushing approximately 35,000 cubic yards of " gravel in total within 3 gravel pits located within the Municipality of Two Borders:

Oxbow S 26-5-28W - 10,000 yards  
Watt NW 16-6-28 W - 10,000 yards  
Murray SW 12-5-29 W - 15,000 yards

All tenders must include the following:

- Expected start date with the finish date no later than October 31, 2025.
- Crushing – cost per cubic yard

Please contact Melita Municipal office at 204-522-3263 for further details.

Submit Tenders to:  
Grace Carr CAO  
Municipality of Two Borders  
Box 429 ~ Melita, MB ~ R0M 1L0  
Fax: 204-522-8706  
Email: cao@twoborders.ca or info@twoborders.ca

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.



### 2025 GRAVEL HAULING TENDERS

Sealed tenders must be received by the undersigned no later than 4:30 pm, Friday May 9, 2025.

The tender must include loading and hauling of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of gravel to be delivered within the boundaries of Two Borders. The Graveling must be completed by June 30, 2025. Weather and road conditions permitting.

Tender awards may include all or a portion of the Municipality.

All tenders must include the following:

- A list of equipment used (min 2 trucks)
- Expected start and finish date.
- Hauling – cost per cubic yard/per mile.
- Loading – cost per cubic yard.

Please contact the Melita Municipal office at 204-522-3263 for further details.

Submit Tenders to:  
Grace Carr CAO  
Municipality of Two Borders  
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Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.



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Estate & Moving  
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204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsherrytld@gmail.com](mailto:mcsherrytld@gmail.com)

### Land Online Auction

Thurs. May 8th @ 7:00 PM  
St. Laurent, MB  
Contact: Don 204-646-8772  
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# New doctor seeks affordable housing

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

## Doctor recruitment visit

A potential doctor for Virden is struggling to find suitable housing within their budget. A particular property priced at \$699,000 was deemed too expensive. This reflects the broader challenge of housing availability and affordability in the area.

Meanwhile, council discussed an upcoming fall retreat in Brandon aimed at physician recruitment and retention. Dr. Jennifer Hammel will attend the retreat to promote the community of Virden to prospective doctors.

## RCMP report

Staff Sergeant Stephen Cooper attended the meeting and presented his report to council. Statistics for March showed 106 calls for service. A sergeant expected from Ottawa is awaiting a transfer notice. A corporal within Virden is also in the process of transferring, and a constable from The Pas has already begun looking for housing. In Virden, a detachment services assistant has been identified and is currently completing security checks.

A fatal motor vehicle collision outside of town is currently under investigation. Traffic analysts have collected the necessary data. There's a discussion about whether road design contributed to the accident, and it is suggested that repeated incidents in the same area should be brought to the attention of the provincial government. Council requested accident statistics from that location to strengthen the case for improvements.

A town-wide cleanup is scheduled for May 9 and 10, with both children and adults collecting trash. The children will remain within town limits, while some adults may clean along Highway 83. Increasing police patrols during this time was dis-

cussed to enhance safety and visibility.

## Infrastructure

Zenith Paving provided an updated estimate for full renovation of 6th Avenue (Lyons Street to Highway 257) and Kent Street (between 6th and 7th), including necessary curb and gutter replacements. The total comes to \$324,500 and the council accepted the quote.

## Flag Replacement

The Town will purchase 75 flags to replace the existing ones, which include U.S. flags. The new configuration would feature flags for Manitoba, Canada and the newly created town of Virden flag. The estimated cost would remain under \$5,000.

## Emergency awareness

Emergency Preparedness Week is from May 4 to 10, and council recognized the need for increased public awareness and the importance of being prepared and knowing risks.

Municipal Emergency Co-ordinator Chad Orr will conduct a test of the community's alerting system.

## Moosehide Campaign

Council proclaimed May 15 as Moosehide Campaign Day, a national initiative against intimate partner violence.

## Federal historic registry

A student at Brandon University will nominate the AUD Theatre to the federal historic registry as part of a course project. The committee confirmed the process could benefit the town by providing useful documentation. A motion was made and seconded to allow the student to proceed with the nomination and an amendment added requesting copies of the research.

## Vibrant Virden

Coun. Jessie Cruickshank reported that the volunteer kickoff for Vibrant Virden was a success, drawing more than 20 people who filled out interest forms for various activities. Candace Murray, Economic Development Manager, has created

an online form for any volunteers who want to join the project.

## Educational outreach

Mayor Tina Williams hosted a group of grade nine social studies students who were doing research on municipal government. The visit included a tour of the Town office, presentations by staff members, and a Q&A session in council chambers.

# Khan edges out Daudrich in tight race

## Manitoba conservatives announce new leader

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Obby Khan, Manitoba's new Progressive Conservative Party leader said in his acceptance speech last Saturday that he was hitting the ground running.

A former football star and MLA for the Winnipeg riding of Fort Whyte, had endorsements from sitting MLAs. He narrowly beat out Wally

Daudrich, an entrepreneur with a popular tourism business in Churchill.

Daudrich, a Morden resident, had garnered support at the grassroots level. Khan received 50.4 per cent of the vote while Daudrich received 49.6 per cent.

Considering himself a big-tent conservative, Khan campaigned to grow support for the Progressive Conservative

Party in readiness for the next provincial election. Daudrich campaigned on a return to more conservative positions with a focus on smaller government and a business-friendly environment.

Obby Khan succeeds former premier Heather Stefanson's leadership where Wayne Ewasko (Lac du Bonnet) had served as interim leader following her resignation in 2024.



CENTRE OF IT ALL

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Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Animal Control: 204-851-5881

## Swimming lesson registration opens May 8!

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[www.virden.ca/p/connect-virden](http://www.virden.ca/p/connect-virden)

### Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the 2025 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Virden intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing at the Town of Virden Council Chambers, 232 Wellington St. W., in the Town of Virden, on the 7th day of May, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available by May 5, 2025 on our website at [www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca) or upon request by calling the Town Office during regular business hours.

Questions and remarks may also be directed by letter to our Chief Administrative Officer or by email to [executive.assistant@virden.ca](mailto:executive.assistant@virden.ca).

Consultation with our community is an important component of the Town's budget process.

Council encourages you to attend.

Rhonda Stewart, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Virden

### For Sale

The Town of Virden currently has the following items for sale:

- Used 2006 Kubota GF1800E Ride-on Lawn Mower.
- Used 2007 Dodge Ram 1500. Regular cab, 8 cyl.
- Used 1999 Ford Ranger. Extended cab, 6 cyl.

For additional information or to view, please contact Tom Zelensky at 204-908-1210.

Please forward all offers by May 9, 2025 at 4:00 PM to:

Town of Virden  
c/o Rhonda Stewart, CAO  
Box 310, 236 Wellington Street West  
Virden, MB ROM 2C0  
email: [info@virden.ca](mailto:info@virden.ca)

**"ALL ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED AS-IS, WHERE-IS"**

**Upcoming Council Meetings:  
May 6 & 20**

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

### Public Notice: Spring Clean-Up April 22 – May 16

- Town crews will pick up refuse excluding industrial waste
- Leaves and grass must be bagged or boxed
- Occasional branch trimming pickup only
- All material must be placed on the boulevard or lane

To ensure pick up or for more information, please call the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

# SPORTS

## FREEMAN RINK WRAPS UP STELLAR SEASON



PHOTO BY SGI CANADA BEST OF THE WEST

Jace Freeman, Timothy Marin, Nick Senff, and Luke Robins at the SGI Canada Best of the West.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In an extremely successful 2024-2025 curling campaign, Virden's Jace Freeman made many memories and earned a provincial championship.

The son of Roxanne and Graham Freeman skipped his rink to a 60-30 overall record. It competed in 10 men's events and seven Under 20 competitions. In U20 play, the Freeman rink posted a 35-8 record and won five events. After falling in the finals of the Curl Manitoba U-20 Provincial Champions the past two seasons, Freeman led his team to the title.

"I think the number one thing I will remember most from this season is finally winning the Junior Provincial championship," Freeman said. "That was my biggest goal going into this season and to accomplish it was a surreal feeling."

The team proudly represented the Virden Curling Club even though many of Freeman's teammates hailed from elsewhere. Third Timothy Marin is originally from New Brunswick but was based in Winnipeg this past curling season. Lead Luke Robins and second Nick Senff are from Winnipeg. The latter is the son of Kimberly and former Virden resident Danny Senff.

"This team was a great bunch to coach," said Graham Freeman, who coached the rink. "They are good friends who work extremely well together as a team. They were supportive of each other all season and were very respectful to me and attentive to any suggestions and instructions I would implement. I feel very lucky to have been a part of the season they had, and am so proud of what these kids have all accomplished over the past few years. They've curled all across the country and have met so many people who share their passion. Lifelong memories for sure."

This past season the rink curled from early September until late April. In addition to competing together, the rink's members also curled with others in men's and open bonspiels, club leagues, and the Canadian Mixed Doubles qualifier. On weekends when they were not curling in events, the rink would practice. Graham Freeman said, "It was a full eight months of curling to say the least."

In addition to the provincial championship, some other season highlights included winning the Manitoba Junior Curling Tour Championship, competing in the Viterra Provincial Men's Championship, making it to the quarterfinals of the Canadian U-20 Curling Championship, and playing in the SGI Canada Best of the West.

The team wrapped up its season at the Best of the West. The event in Saskatoon, April 24-27, brought together many of Western Canada's top junior rinks. The Freeman rink was 2-3 at the event. Two of its losses came on last rock. Jace Freeman noted the rink "missed playoffs on a measurement by probably less than a centimetre. So overall, it was a pretty successful event for us in such a strong field."

"I think it was one of the most fun events I've ever played in," he said. "There was lots of amazing competition from across western Canada and it was such a fun social event where I made many new friends. I really hope I can earn my way back next season."

The members of the rink will now go their separate ways. Graham Freeman said, "Without any animosity whatsoever, Team Freeman has mutually decided to part ways now that the season is over. Each player will be facing new commitments going forward in their life ... Jace, Tim, Nick and Luke will remain the best of friends now and moving forward, and could easily again become teammates someday." Keep an eye on the team's Facebook page for updates on its members' futures.

No matter where curling takes him, Jace Freeman knows he has the backing of his family.

"My family's support has been so important in my curling career," he said. "My parents have basically organized all my seasons so far and have been unbelievable in driving me to events growing up and paying for countless hotel rooms. My dad and brother (Brooks) were also extremely important in getting me started into the sport competitively and have taught me very many valuable things."

## CANUCKS WON THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Derek Holtom  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

My early favorite to win the Centennial Cup is the host Calgary Canucks.

The Canucks won their second straight league championship last week, cementing their spot in the tournament they were already destined to be in. The Canucks went 12-1 in the playoffs, only dropping one game in the opening round of the playoffs.

Their victim in the final, the Grande Prairie Storm, went out losing 7-3. They had won eight straight to start the playoffs.

Canucks Head Coach Brad Moran (who I had the pleasure of covering in the WHL when I was in Prince Albert and he was lighting up the league with the Calgary Hitmen alongside Pavel Brendl), was ecstatic about the sweep in the final.

"Winning our second straight cup and securing our place in the Centennial Cup as champions is an incredible feeling," he told Calgary City News. "At the start of the season, we aimed to earn our way back, and the team rose to the occasion despite the pressure."

The Canucks made the final four at last year's Centennial Cup. With home-ice advantage, and a dominating playoff performance, you have to think they are the favorites when the national junior A

championship kicks off May 8.

The MJHL playoffs continues to be fairly low scoring, at least compared to the past two seasons.

After the pivotal Game 5 Sunday night in Dauphin that extended the MJHL final to a sixth game (the Blizzard still lead the series 3-2 after falling 3-0 on the road), Tyler Dahms from the Blizzard continues to lead the league in scoring with 14 points (three goals, 11 assists). Teammate Marlen Edwards is next with 13 (four goals, nine assists), followed by four players with 12. Only eight players have 10 or more points in these playoffs.

This trend is comparable to last season when a trio of players tied for the playoff scoring lead with 14 (Trent Penner and Dalton Andrew from the Winkler Flyers, as well as Josh Lehto from the Virden Oil Capitals).

Back in 2023 Steinbach's Ty Paisley lit up the league with 29 points – in 11 games), to win the playoff scoring title. That year also saw two other players top 20 points – Virden's Nolan Chastko with 21 (as a rookie) and Steinbach's Kirk Mullen with 20.

Scoring ebbs and flows in the playoffs. Goaltending and team defense also has a lot to do with it. And frankly coaching as well.

But we as Canadians can enjoy a close-checking 2-1 game just as much as a wide-open 7-6 game. This year has had more of the former, not the latter.

**Virden Collegiate Institute**  
proudly presents ...

**The Drowsy Chaperone Jr.**

Music & Lyrics by LISA LAMBERT and GREG MORRISON  
Book by BOB MARTIN and DON MCKELLAR  
Original Broadway production of The Drowsy Chaperone produced by Kevin McCullum, Roy Miller, Bob Boyett, Stephanie McClelland, Barbara Freitag and Jill Furman.

**Virden Aud Theatre**  
Virden, MB

**Thursday, May 8, 2025 - 7:30pm**  
**Friday, May 9, 2025 - 1:30pm & 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday, May 10, 2025 - 1:30 pm**

.....  
**Tickets on sale at the door**  
.....  
**Advance tickets available at VCI from 12 to 1 pm on April 25, April 29, May 1, & May 5**

The Drowsy Chaperone Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtshow.com

# SPORTS

## ANDREW EXCELS AS CANISIUS STUDENT-ATHLETE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Hunter Andrew has embraced being a true student-athlete.

At Buffalo, N.Y.'s Canisius University, he is a member of his school's men's hockey team. The Golden Griffins compete at the NCAA Division I level, which is the highest in U.S. university hockey. Off the ice, the son of Brock and Andrea Andrew has racked up academic achievements while majoring in finance with a minor in pre-law.

"The best part of being a student-athlete is continuing my hockey career while setting myself up for life after hockey," Andrew said. "Over the years, I have also met so many great teammates that I will be friends with for life."

In his third year with the Golden Griffins, he competed in 16 games. The 6-foot, 175-pounder scored two goals and recorded an assist.

"He's a competitive hockey player," Canisius University head coach Trevor Large said. "He has an extremely good shot. We're really hoping, as with more games played, that he's going to be able to showcase that skill and ability that we know that he has in him. At times, he's been on the power play, and we're very hopeful that as his experience in college hockey continues to grow, that he's going to become the player that he expects to be, and the one that we're committed to help him with, so that he can become an extremely good college hockey player."

As an upperclassman, Andrew helps provide leadership for his team.

"He's very committed," Large said. "He's very committed to his craft. He's very committed to Canisius. He wants his team to do well. He believes in his institution. He believes in his coaches. He believes in his teammates. His commitment level is extremely high and, in terms of leadership skills, that's a prerequisite to become a leader on a team. I know his players and staff believe in him and I know that he believes in himself, so we're excited to see what his senior year will bring for him and our program."

Before heading to the post-secondary level, Andrew's junior career included time with his hometown Virden Oil Capitals of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, the British Columbia Hockey League's Powell River Kings, and the Charlotte Rush, who he helped to the 2021 United States Premier Hockey League Premier Division championship. No matter where he has played, Andrew has been cheered on by his family.

"My family's support has been unwavering this year and throughout my hockey career," he said. "They have been by my side for the highs and the lows and supported me in every way from the start."

The number 37 Andrew wears for the Golden Griffins has a connection to his family. Andrew's father, Brock, flew for the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, 431 Air Demonstration Squadron.

"I've always tried to wear a number with a seven in it throughout my hockey career," he said. "My dad's tail number when he was flying for the Snowbirds was number seven, so it's a number that holds a lot of personal meaning. Since number seven is retired at Canisius, and I've worn 37 in the past, I chose to go with that."

Andrew's older brother, Tanner, sported the number seven for the Rochester Institute of Technology men's hockey team. That N.Y. state-based school squad is an Atlantic Hockey America conference foe of the Golden Griffins. The elder Andrew brother completed his college eligibility this past season.

"Playing against my brother over the last three years has been such a blast," Hunter Andrew said. "I definitely tried to take it in a bit more this season whenever we played RIT. It's going to be weird not lining up against him next year when we play RIT."

At Canisius, Andrew has taken care of business in

the classroom as well as on the ice. He has twice been named to the AHA All-Academic Team. In 2023-2024, Andrew was a AHA Student-Athlete of the Year and an American Hockey Coaches Association/Krampade All-American Scholar.

"Balancing hockey, travel and academics has been challenging, but it has also taught me invaluable time management skills that I'll carry with me into my professional career," Andrew said.

In his final year at Canisius, he will be part of the Golden Griffin Fund. Andrew explained that it is "a select team of finance students responsible for managing



PHOTO BY CANISIUS UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

and making investment recommendations for the university's portfolio." After graduation, he plans to pursue law school in Canada. Andrew hopes to "integrate my background in finance with a legal career."



## Rural Municipality of Ellice - Archie

### - Oil Recovery Depot -

Help us put used oil in its place!

Bring your used oil, filters, containers to the St. Lazare Municipal Waste Site for recycling!



Turn in 4 litres of used oil and receive a FREE gift:

- 1 litre of new oil
- Washer Fluid
- Pair of Gloves
- Roll of Shop Towels

\*Incentives dependent on availability in stock. Maximum yearly limits in effect per customer\*



### LIMITED TIME OFFER!!

Get your name entered to win a Blackstone Grill! 1 entry for every qualifying visit! Draw will be made June 2025!

#### WINTER WASTE SITE HOURS

(September 15th - April 30th):

Tuesday	10 am - 2 pm
Friday	9 am - 3 pm
Saturday	9 am - 12 noon

#### SUMMER WASTE SITE HOURS

(May 1st - September 14th):

Monday	7 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday	7 pm - 9 pm
Friday	10 am - 2 pm
Saturday	9 am - 12 noon



For more information please contact the Municipal Office:

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