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CREDIT UNION

Gompf team ropers make good in CCA MHSRA in full swing

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE



Denver catching the heels.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Spencer Gompf, header for the Gompf brothers, while Denver (not shown) is the heeler.

Denver and Spencer Gompf have made an impression on the CCA rodeo circuit this spring. As of April 30, in the CCA standings Spencer is first in the team roping and Denver is third in Canada. "And then they're both tied for first in the rookie of the year standings."

These Oak Lake cowboys at 16 and 14 respectively could have stayed in the junior category, but chose to jump right in to the Canadian Cowboy Association regular completion.

Trevor and Jodie's sons are serious about rodeo and this past winter's practice has paid off. At their first 2025 rodeo on April 11-12 in Tisdale, Saskatchewan they landed third place in team roping.

At the most recent rodeo in North Battleford Denver and Spencer caught their steer in 6.2 seconds and the announcer said, "Manitoba has risen to the top!" That time netted them third place at the Battleford rodeo.

They were expecting to do well, because they'd put in the hours on their roping horses. Four nights a week all winter at Kings Crossing arena east of Virden. Denver said, "I think we knew we could do it. We just practiced a lot and just trust each other enough that we're going to do our job."

The boys have also put in time working with some new horses on the Gompf ranch.

At this rodeo they were on two seasoned mounts. Spencer took his 12-year-old AQHA bay gelding named Stumpy. Denver took his good team roping and calf roping horse, Parker, an eight-year-old AQHA dun gelding.

Now, it's high school rodeo season and the Manitoba High School Rodeo Association (MHSRA).

A rodeo is coming right up at Richer, east of Winnipeg on May 10-11.

Oak Lake's MHSR event is May 16-18, then in Gilbert Plains May 30-June 1, where the Junior High Finals are also held; McAuley is June 7-8.

Virden will hold the High School Rodeo Finals on June 13-15.

In May there's also trap shooting at Virden. Reigned cow horse events will run in conjunction with the Oak Lake rodeo.

The Gompf brothers plan to compete on the MHSRA circuit as well. MHSRA has some strong competitors to watch this year.

Inside...



OIL CAPS CAMP

P9



CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS IN ELKWOOD MANOR

P11

Virден Lions banquet



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Lions Club District Governor Shannon Dueck speaking on April 22 at Virден Lions banquet, the 69th District Governor's meeting.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virден Lions Club (l-r) Alex Sundel and Barry O'Grady receive the donation to the club for their work selling 50/50 tickets at games over the past season, presented by Tyson Ramsey on behalf of MJHL Virден Oil Capitals.

Crude Oil Cup innovative fundraiser for minor hockey



Tier 1 Champions, Four Seasons, in the Crude Oil Cup tournament held April 24- 26.



Tier 2 Champions, Longshot Services, in the Crude Oil Cup tournament held April 24- 26.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tier 3 Champions, North Mountain Welding, in the Crude Oil Cup tournament held April 24- 26.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A fundraiser for Virден Minor Hockey, the Crude Oil Cup is a successful yearly event that garners huge community support.

"This is our one and only fundraiser for Virден Minor Hockey (VMH). One event, one and done," says organizer Kevin Holleman. The event began Thursday evening as teams hit the ice for four-on-four intense games. Three champs arose from the three days of tournament action.

"It's tiered hockey. We deal with skillset so... we keep it that everyone gets to have fun," says Holleman. "A lot of these guys are ex-pros, pros... and then you have guys that just want to have fun. The community loves it. We're up to 18 teams now. We have five on the waiting list," he said on Thursday.

Companies and businesses donate some big prizes for the draws and with short snappy games and entertainment it draws a crowd to Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

The Cup "started in 2018 and this event has grown to where I want to see it. For the banquet Saturday night, we're at maximum capacity, we're seating 490," says Holleman. And there was a table on the waiting list.

It's geared for kids too. "Earlier on the kids have fun and then it turns to an adult wind-up (for the year)." The bar is open and a Brandon band, 'Along for the Ride' entertained Friday evening throughout the event.

Funds from Crude Oil Cup support VMH for:

- registration fees
- each team receives funds to enter two tournaments
- September development- each age group received six ice times; mainly paid outside instruction, half was power skating
- 4 power skating sessions-Flow Hockey Development (Brandon)
- goalie specific training
- training equipment
- replacement jerseys

Virден Pioneer Home Museum
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025
At 2 p.m.
at Tundra Oil & Gas Place
Andrew's Break Out Room
behind the Canteen
Everyone invited to attend
Volunteers and new members
welcome



Always be prepared for an emergency

What does your three-day plan look like?

Submitted

BY CHAD ORR

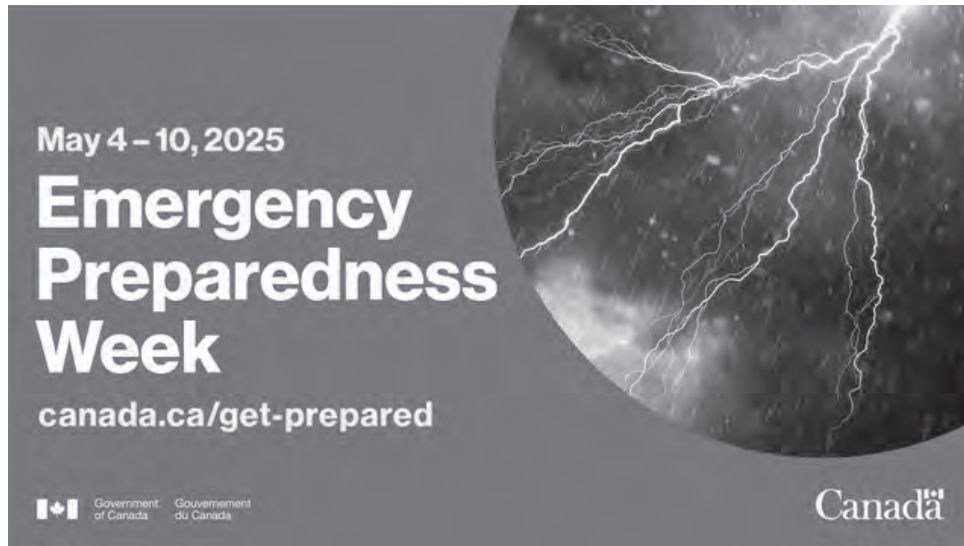
May 4-10 has been designated Emergency Preparedness Week and this year's theme is Be Prepared, Know Your Risks.

Natural disasters are occurring more and more frequently. A quick look at the news and it won't take long to see a story about an out-of-control wildfire, a torrential flood or a severe storm wreaking havoc in an area. We tend to read these articles and

sympathize with the people who have been evacuated or who's homes are at risk. At the same time, we often think that a disaster would never happen in our area and promptly move on to our next task of the day. The irony is, many people dealing with disaster thought the exact same thing.

When disaster strikes, you and your family often have only minutes to flee and make crucial decisions. Your mind goes into survival mode. Your perception narrows and you execute the essential tasks needed to stay safe, but you don't have the time and opportunity to think of everything you need to take with you, track it all down, pack it and get to safety.

Phone lines, cellular towers, and internet cables can (and most likely will) fail, leaving us without the communication we have come to rely on so much. If members of your family are not home when the disaster hits, do they know where to meet you if those lines of communication are cut?



Disasters and evacuations are stressful, scary and very busy. A little bit of preparation ahead of time will help you get through.

Your plan

Have essentials in your home to shelter in place for at least 72 hours.

Have a bag filled with essentials ready to go at all times in case of evacuation. Having water, food, prescription medications and chargers for your devices packed and ready will save you so much time and effort when an evacuation comes.

A family disaster plan is something people often don't think of, but it will be a life saver if it's ever needed.

List everyone in the family, their work or school addresses, contact numbers, medical conditions, vehicles etc. Have a designated meeting place if the family is separated during a disaster. Tailor the plan to meet the needs of you and your family and update it as needed. Have a copy in all family vehicles and

in your essentials bag; that way it's always there when you need it.

You know your community. You know the risks that you could face, be it a heavily wooded area prone to fire, or living near a river that could flood. Take that into account when you are getting prepared, and include it in your emergency plan.

Manitoba's Emergency Management Organization and Public Safety Canada have excellent resources on their websites to help you get started: www.gov.mb.ca/emo/guide/individuals/before.html; www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx

Any amount of preparation and planning that you can do now, is one less thing to worry about when you are dealing with a disaster. It will help make a horrible experience easier to endure and safer for everyone. So please, be prepared and know your risks.

Chad Orr is Municipal Emergency Coordinator for Westman Emergency Group

Thanks

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- Sparks Sand & Gravel
- Lindsey & Jamie Hodson

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Miniota News

Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

My apologies for missing Tiffany Brown's name in last week's writeup concerning the Valley Viperz tournament. Congratulations Tiffany!

This past week the former Miniota Creamery, just south of town was demolished. Many will remember hauling cream and or working there through the years.

Congratulations to Dan Bryant who was the provincial Manitoba champion at the Manitoba Arm Wrestling in Winnipeg, Dan's award reads 'Champion Men's Right Arm 110kg.' Way to go Dan!

A great crowd was on hand to cheer on the Birtle High School Falcons baseball team at Miniota Sports grounds this past Sunday. The Falcons had a 9-1 win over Swan Valley and a 22-2 win over Dauphin. Congrats Falcons!

Brian and Candice Armitage and family, accompanied by Rain Gies, travelled to Calgary for the weekend for a hockey tournament. Logan and Rain are members of the Westman Stars Hockey team who play out of Brandon. They all stayed and enjoyed a visit with Lyle and Loni Armitage and family. Logan and Rain came home with a silver. Congratulations!

Adrianna and Ashlynn Cousins competed at the provincial gymnastics competition in Winnipeg this past weekend. Adrianna placed 4th in her division. Congratulations to these girls on their fine showing!

A warm welcome to Trudy Watters who is home following a hospital stay in Brandon. Best wishes Trudy for your return to good health.

Tracy Lelond Young tells of UK trip:

Nick, Tracy, Mikaela and Jessica Young travelled to

England where we spent most of the time in Clevedon on the South West coast with Nick's aunt and uncle (Jim's sister and her husband.) Here we spent time walking along the coastal path, touring the farm and catching up with many cousins. Several day trips were made up to Red Hill/Scar Farm where we popped into the bungalow that Jim built and where Nick lived until he moved to Canada when he was 10. An afternoon was spent walking around the farm and visiting Nick's two uncles and other family friends. We went on a three-day excursion to the scenic Shropshire hills where we hiked and enjoyed pub fare in many of the historic villages in that country. It was a very enjoyable holiday and good to catch up with everyone as we hadn't seen them since 2018. The girls have extended their holiday and flew to Greece from London/Heathrow. They will spend two weeks touring Athens and two more Greek Islands before Jessica comes home to work at the golf course and Mikaela returns to Ottawa to continue her Masters program and work at a daycare.

Linda Clark enjoyed a visit with Kevin, Julie, Aidan, Reese and Carley in Ottawa, with a most enjoyable side trip to Niagara Falls to see the sights and to cheer on Carley in her basketball tournament.

The weather has turned beautiful just in time for the opening of the Miniota Golf course, clubhouse and campground this week. Hoping everyone enjoys the season as men's golf night is Tuesdays, ladies on Wednesday and you can always check out happy hour on Friday evenings. May the weather be great for the season.

Wishing all moms a very happy and enjoyable Mother's Day this coming Sunday! Motherhood is the only job you start with no experience and end with a PhD in multitasking!

"When you learn, teach; when you get, give." -Maya Angelou

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Homeowners along gravel provincial roads and main market roads in unorganized territories may apply to have dust control applied in front of their homesites at a cost of \$200 for a single application.

The formal application is available from your local Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure office. The deadline for these applications will be **no later than May 23, 2025.**

For more information, please contact one of the following Transportation and Infrastructure offices:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Steinbach 204-346-6266 | Brandon 204-726-6800 |
| Swan River 204-677-6540 | Dauphin 204-622-2061 |

Manitoba

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



May 8 is 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day

May 8 is a very significant date for the whole world. It's of special importance for Canadians and Manitobans. It was 80 years ago on May 8, 1945 that WWII came to an end in Europe. It's known as VE-Day, or Victory in Europe Day.

We have devoted a bit of space in our three papers to exhibit how the respective front pages of our papers looked right after the May 8, 1945 date.

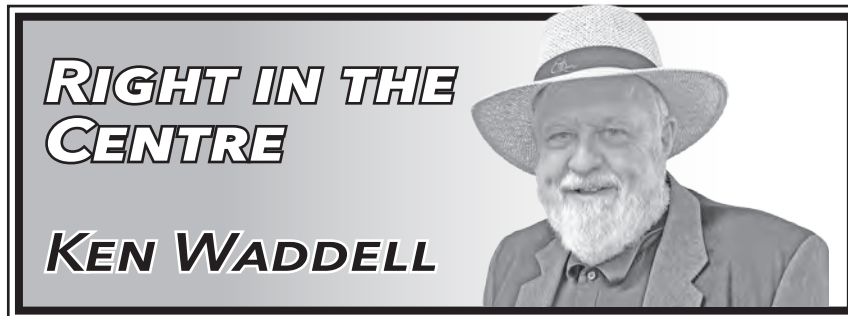
We are fortunate to have almost complete, albeit it very fragile, archive pages in our possession. In Virden we have actual copies back to the late 1890s, Rivers to the early 1900s and Neepawa back to 1896. These old pages make for fascinating reading. The retail prices are unbelievable by today's standards. The cost of dresses, boots, shoes, overalls, smocks and tools are a far cry from today's prices. Wages were much lower than today as well.

The VE-Day page in this paper is found on Page 5 of this week's edition.

World War II (WWII) was a war that united the world in a way never before seen in human history. Millions upon millions of people died in an effort to defeat Nazi Germany and Japan.

According to historians at the Canadian War Museum, 7,760 Manitobans died in the service of the war effort. 61, 543 men and women left their Manitoba homes to fight, or to serve as doctors or nurses, or other military supports, and almost 8,000 lost their lives, often in terrible conditions.

The Soviet Union lost the most people, as around 27 million Russians died during the war, including 8.7 million military and 19 million civilians.



“ Take a few moments to read the tiny faded print on the WWII pages ”

According to Wikipedia, “The history of Canada during World War II begins with the German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939. While the Canadian Armed Forces were eventually active in nearly every theatre of war, most combat was centred in Italy, Northwestern Europe, and the North Atlantic. In all, some 1.1 million Canadians served in the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force, out of a population that as of the 1941 Census had 11,506,655 people, and in forces across the empire, with approximately 42,000 killed and another 55,000 wounded. During the war, Canada was subject to direct attack in the Battle of the St. Lawrence, and in the shelling of a lighthouse at Estevan Point on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.”

My uncle, James Aitken Waddell, served in the Royal Canadian Navy in the North Atlantic. He actually saw German U-boats in Halifax harbour. The U-boats also went up the St. Lawrence River. The Battle of the St. Lawrence was an extension

of the larger Battle of the Atlantic—the German campaign during the Second World War to disrupt shipping from North America to the United Kingdom. Between 1942 and 1945, German submarines (U-boats) repeatedly penetrated the waters of the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, sinking 26 ships and killing hundreds. It was the first time since the War of 1812 that naval battles were waged in Canada's inland waters.

I hope that readers will take a few moments to read the tiny faded print on the WWII pages of this week's paper that give just a brief glance at what happened in Canada and to Canadians in WWII. Then, go to the internet and check out our history. It was a horrible time for the world and for Canadians. Please learn from the stories you find and please, please understand, it could happen again. In some parts of the world it's already happening.

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.



Remembering old neighbours...

In my early years neighbours were immensely important. Most of my first decade was lived surrounded by immediate family; we lived on my paternal grandparents yard, could see my maternal grandparents homestead, and had many cousins within a ten mile radius. The school was filled with family, as was the church.

Then my parents relocated. Now the distance is but 35 minutes, but back in the 1950's that was too far to travel for coffee klatches! My mother was one of twelve, and her six sisters were all close, in age and interests! Our new community was eclectic in ages, nationalities and customs. In our very rural area we needed one another. The party line was key to keeping in the know!

Each household had it's gifts and quirks. I will forever be thankful to a matriarch I called Grandma. Grandma W had a house full of family, only two of them younger than I was. And there was always room for me, for a meal, for a play, for a sleepover. Not having brothers. I appreciated that the boys (they were boys back then, not the men they became!) considered me another sister. What a gift. They tormented me along with their other sisters, and protected us when necessary. To this day, that home, those wonderful, loving folks influence me and who I have become.

To the east lived the Ts. Oh my. Mrs. T was meticulous; in her housekeeping, her home making, her accounting. She kept meticulous books, down to recording the nickel ice cream she treated herself to in town. She shared of her time and bounty. Apples from the old fruit trees filled bowls on many a farm home table. Their car was never too full to include another child on a church or fun run. That was long before seat belt regulations! And that party line? She was the first to know what was going down—and let you know!

Sharing our home section was another family; a bit younger than my parents, and of a different background. Hard working, God fearing, good fence neighbours. For a season Mrs. H taught school where I attended. What we would now call middle school. Two things stand out with my memories of her. One, I was brave, or brazen, enough to address her attitude towards some of my fellow students— farm lads who were doing their very best, and that wasn't considered. And secondly, she, well, I'm certain Mr. H had some say, gave their oldest son and oldest daughter the mother's maiden name as the child's middle name. Not uncommon, but the first I had witnessed.

Those were the closest in distance. My parents treasured many friendships; one of the most treasured was with the W family. Both mom and Mrs. W were talkers! I have no idea how they decided when to switch turns. They often used a quiet moment in the afternoon to make a catch up phone call to simply touch base. That family was mostly boys, and ours was all girls, many memories made!

To this day neighbours are important to me, and I value them.

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80 years since WWII ended, VE Day celebrated May 8, 1945

The Empire-Advance

RE, VOL. 40, No. 49

VIRDEN, MANITOBA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1945

ADVANCE, VOL. 60, No.

INSIDE OTTAWA

by Dean Wilson

NEWS OF COMING EVENTS

In the wake of the end of the war in Europe, it is expected that some wartime measures may be changed in time for the new circumstances but it may be forthcoming in different directions. Thus, it is indicated for sometime it has been in Ottawa that the Canadian demobilization program of "first-out" would most likely be applied to home defence personnel in the same way as it did to servicemen. Then again, there are in fitting Canadian conditions to have living conditions comfort to ships of the Navy or the United States. A sharp reminder of the war is played by Canada in the East Japan, though it is said the Australians are resentful of Canada's attitude in the Pacific. Premier King's statement that only volunteers should be used by this country in time of war. In other words, of hostilities in Europe certain changes in war conditions but there will be in different directions, with the aforementioned instances in Ottawa the fact that the application of one may be lengthening of the effort in

been very emphatic about the Government's provisions for housing, especially for war veterans and their dependents, demanding immediate action. War controls seem to be unnecessary in some directions due to the change of war fortune in the eyes of many Canadians who have not been backward about their views in this, though any drastic or wholesale changes in such controls will not come suddenly at this time according to the best information available along Parliament Hill at this time, particularly when it is reported that in some respects supplies are worse now than ever before, such as some rubber tires, coal, lumber, etc. Finally, there are many who would like to see the famous "baby bonus" measure deferred for a little time to allow further inquiry since, it is feared by these people, that this scheme of paying practically the expense of others or the whole population may prove ultimately to be an extremely heavy drain on the national treasury in peacetime when financial questions must be answered in a more limited nature than in abnormal times. These and other requests reaching Parliament Hill completely have provoked much commotion behind the scenes in the capital in the midst of discussions about coming peace, elections, and so forth.

HINT OF CONFUSION
It may appear as a perfectly "in-

Rifleman R. A. Heaman Makes Supreme Sacrifice As War Nears Conclusion

Somewhere on the western front, the Last Post and Reveille sounded recently and a kindly army chaplain said: "I am the resurrection and the life, and he who believeth in me shall never die." And the mortal remains of another gallant young soldier were laid to rest. The people of Virden and district knew that young lad—one who was born right in this community, received his education at Hargrave and grew up to young manhood with his pals in our midst. He took his place in the life and work of his parents' farm and was popular with all his friends. His name? Rifleman Raymond A. Heaman, aged 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Heaman, who received official word last week that he had been killed in action on the western front on April 22nd.

He was born at Hargrave in 1918, when the war to end wars was still on. Early in 1942 he enlisted, trained at Camp Shilo and on the west coast and served for sixteen months in Jamaica. Following his return to Canada from there, he proceeded overseas and went into action with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Just three months after landing in Britain and just as hostilities in Europe seemed to be drawing to a close, he was called upon to lay down his life in the cause of freedom and to ensure that we who survive may continue to enjoy a decent way of life. It is our duty to see that his sacrifice—and those of thousands like him—shall not have been made in vain. In addition to his parents, Rfn. Heaman is survived by two sisters

Triumph Over Our Enemies Experienced By Allied Nations In European War

Early Monday morning, the news flashed from radios announcing the final surrender of Germany in the terrible conflict which began for people in the homeland September 3rd, 1939 and for the people of Canada only ten days later. The terms of unconditional surrender were signed in France by representatives of the beaten German people and by representatives of the victorious Allied Nations.

The end has been expected for a considerable period, particularly during the eight days preceding the official announcement that the fighting in Europe was over and the surrender terms accepted, signed and sealed.

Gratitude and joy filled the hearts of United Nations' peoples, civilians, as well as soldiers, sailors, airmen, nurses and others at the battle fronts overseas or on duty in their various homelands.

Thanksgiving to Providence was dominating the thoughts of the victors everywhere. Services of thanksgiving were given prominent places on programs for the celebration of the good news.

By official proclamation, Tuesday was set apart as V-E day, to be observed as the day of Victory over a foe that for so long jeopardized the very existence of civilization.

In all reverence, we join with millions of others in the prayerful thought or expression "Thank God the war in Europe is over".

Canadians at home still have a very real and very vital job of preparing to receive and welcome our men and women of the fighting forces as they return to their home-



The Empire-Advance archives from Wednesday, May 9, 1945. For a brief history on WWII and VE-Day please see column by Ken Waddell on page 4.

SUPPORT GIVES THEM CONFIDENCE

"An army can move only as fast as its supplies." That makes it vital that our Engineers and Infantry need artillery support. All need ammunition... food... and they need moral support... proof that we, at home, are doing all we can to back them up.

Attack wins objectives. Support wins Wars.

And that is where we, on the home front, fit into the war programme. We must furnish support. We must buy more Victory Bonds.

Bear in mind that part of the money which Victory Bonds provide is used to buy foods which Canadian farmers produce and which is needed to feed our fighters and the fighting forces of our allies.

Victory Bonds are a good investment, the safest place that you can put your money for things you want to do when the war ends. (In case of emergency you can get cash for them.) All the money you invest in Victory Bonds comes back to you eventually. Meantime your bonds earn 3 1/2% interest.

Your banker will tell you it's a good business to put your savings into Victory Bonds.

INVEST IN THE BEST

Buy More than Before

Buy VICTORY BONDS

Woodworth Senior Services Report

By Karen Anderson
RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Though temperatures have been rising slowly across Manitoba for the last few weeks, the lows overall have been close to zero or lower. Winter weather is still a possibility as was recently proven with the snowfall on April 22 and 23. There was a snowfall warning and some areas did receive 20cm or more. Other areas had rainfall around 15mm.

The bathroom issue at the RMLU0 Kenton office has been resolved with one bathroom available all the time.

The regular foot care clinic was held on April 9 at the WSS office with Tanis Boyd with six clients including one new client. The next foot clinic will be in six weeks.

The senior monthly noon meal was held on April 15 at Brierwood Creek Restaurant with 15 present. The menu was fish and chips, coleslaw and pie

for dessert. There was quite a selection of homemade pies to choose from for dessert.

We appreciate the extra efforts of Lisa and her staff buying fresh fish and also baking the variety of homemade pies available

for dessert. There will be another meal in May.

Sympathy to Ernie Dusesoy and family on the recent passing of his sister, Nancy Dusesoy in Winnipeg. There is no service planned at this time.

“ We discuss money matters because money...matters!

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

The story today comes from my hometown of Rocanville, Saskatchewan. Ernie Symons moved to Rocanville in 1922 and purchased a blacksmith shop there. He was a tinkerer with no formal education but a natural born mechanic. At that time threshing machines needed oil constantly and it was essential to have a reliable oil can. Many of the oil cans sold were not reliable, so Ernie set about to create one. He patented the oiler in Canada, the United States, England and France. Not able to get a manufacturer, he decided to make them himself. In 1936, he out grew his small shop so he built a factory. That factory turned out oil cans by the thousands and soon his oil can was well-known in any business that required a reliable oil can. His oil can, with a long spout and the handles made of out of number 9 fence wire, became his trade mark.

Symons oilers were used in the Artic, by the Ford and GM plants in Windsor, farmers, mechanics and the military. During World War II, the oil cans were greatly in demand for the maintenance of aircraft, tanks, and other military equipment. War time production saw up to 30 employees, mainly women and girls, making the oil cans. In 1943, 65,000 were sold and more could have been made if not for the shortage of metals. During the war years when new cream cans could not be purchased Symons began retinning old ones doing 1500 before new cans were on the market again. He was a smart man with an ability to fix just about anything. "Take it to Symons" was the answer to just about any difficult repair job across the prairies.

His factory was expanded in 1952. The saw tooth roof plan factory was designed by Ernie Symons himself, who had no architectural training. This design increased the amount of natural light entering the room while minimizing glare and preventing excess heat. It was constructed with large wood beams reinforced with steel rods, allowing for a work area to be unobstructed by support columns. That old factory building is now being restored.

In 1973, Rocanville Museum Day was renamed Symons Day for the year, in recognition of 50 years of continuous operation of the Symons oil can factory. Rocanville decided to erect a giant oil can scaled exactly to size to recognize Ernie Symons' efforts. Goodman's Steel and Iron built the huge metal oil can that was 28 feet high. Rocanville is recognized as "the oil can capital of the world."

If you go to a Health food store you will find a product called Symons' Super Mix. After years of standing on hard concrete in his oil can factory, Symons developed severe arthritis and sciatica. While researching natural ways to improve his condition, he learned of the healing properties of alfalfa. Ernie went on to market a greens mix using ingredients grown on the Canadian prairies, a blend of alfalfa, cut at the pre-flowering stage, millet, buckwheat, rosehips and barley. (The barley has now been replaced by kelp) Ernie's philosophy was to supply the body with necessary nutrients that are not overly processed, chemically treated and devitalized in the food supply. This Super Mix, around since 1940 became renowned throughout Canada and the United States. When I was a young teen my siblings and I would pick rose hips for Ernie, wearing leather gloves, to earn spending money.

This healthy asparagus and spinach recipe is an easy way to add some "greens" to your meal. A veggie-stuffed omelet makes for one easy, satisfying meal when paired with a simple side salad.

Asparagus spinach omelet

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1/4 cup finely diced onion
- 6-7 spears asparagus, trimmed and chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup diced fresh spinach
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 6 large eggs
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. Dash
- 1/2 tsp salt or to taste
- 1/2 tsp. pepper or to taste
- 2/3 cup shredded Cheddar cheese or a mixture of cheddar and mozzarella

Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat; cook and stir the onion for 2-3 minutes. Add the asparagus and red bell pepper and stir until the vegetables start to soften, about 3 minutes. Stir in spinach and continue cooking until spinach has cooked down for several minutes more. Remove from heat and transfer vegetables to a bowl.

Melt butter in clean large frying pan over medium heat. Mix eggs, milk, oregano, dash, salt and pepper in a bowl and pour into the frying pan, tipping the pan to cover the entire bottom with egg mixture. Reduce the heat. Cook until the underside is lightly browned and eggs are set. Spoon cooked asparagus mixture onto one side of the omelet and sprinkle with the cheese. Gently fold half the omelet over the vegetables and cheese and press edges lightly to seal in the filling. Cook until filling is hot and cheese has melted, 1 to 2 more minutes. Cut in slices to serve.

Community Garbage Cleanup happening Saturday

Coffee in the park before you get going

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On May 10, Virden will get off to a good spring start with a Community Garbage Cleanup as volunteers fan out around town to pick up debris left behind by winter.

It was in 2015 when Cassidy Wright was so bothered seeing bits of garbage that she started something that has become a yearly effort to tidy up Virden streets when spring comes along.

She and friends Whitney Baker, Brandy Fedak and Brittany Sawatsky decided to do something about it and the spring pick-up has seen people joining in each year, which brings it to this year and even more help. The Boost Committee is getting a Vibrant Virden initiative going and they are helping with the Community Garbage Cleanup.

"This year I am so grateful to have been approached by Virden's Boost Committee to help support this initiative," says Wright.

She first organized a spring pick-up because, although people were talking about the untidy debris, nothing was happening. Wright said, "We just need to devote some time and go out and deal with it."

She and others noticed the service road along Hwy 1 as an area that deserves attention.

Wright says, "This is our home, this is my home and I just, I don't want people seeing that when they go through our town... I don't want that to be the impression of Virden, that we just don't care (enough) to keep it clean."

Virden schools have been included and students will be out on Friday morning May 9, armed with garbage bags.

Saturday morning, May 10, adults will take a hand in tidying the town in a team effort.

"I've had people reach out, offering help in their own way. I've had compan-

ies offer dump trailers and the Town has offered to take garbage out to the dump, so that's not something I have to do after."

The garbage pick-up will launch from Victoria Park bandstand. Instead of a BBQ afterward, there will be free refreshments provided by Tim Hortons Westman when people come to register.

"Show up at 9am and have a free coffee, register and go out and fill up a garbage bag. Tim Hortons is donating free coffee. It's definitely turned into a bigger thing."

Between 9 and 9:30am people can register and their name will go in a draw for a family pool pass worth \$255. Wright says, "That's a new thing this year, that's exciting."

Last year Home Hardware donated a box of garbage bags and there's enough left for this year. Plus, Wright hopes to get a donation of gloves from another store. She has maps of the town and will help teams organize, targeting the worst areas first.

"I'll drive around in town before hand to kind of find some problem areas... so we can kind of focus on areas that really need attention."

The Cleanup will happen rain or shine, and when noon rolls around all the bags of garbage will be gathered together for an impact photo in Victoria Park, documenting the spring pick-up.

There's no pressure to work until noon. It's all volunteer hours.






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Kenton professional - Jessica Hunter

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Jessica started her schooling by taking grades K to 5 at Kenton school. She had one classmate Bobbi Hunter. At that time Kenton school closed, so it was off to Hamiota Collegiate where she graduated from grade 12. The class in Hamiota had 21 students, so quite a jump from 2 in Kenton.

ACC was where Jessica went for the next 3 years. She took a course called Communication Engineering Technology. She learned how to build electronic circuits, computer programming and network design. She learned to build a circuit and program it to mimic how traffic lights worked. Jess graduated after 1 year with a certificate. She then transferred to another program at ACC called Network Administration Technology. The focus in this program was working in troubleshooting computers and maintaining a network which was more in her wheelhouse.

While going to school she worked part time at Westman Communications as a help tech. Jessica worked 2 to 3 times a week on the late shift and weekends. Her hours were 5 pm to midnight which gave her on the job experience.

At the end of the 2-year program she had an opportunity to participate in a workplace practicum where she worked for the city of Brandon. A job opened up in the IT department where she was the successful candidate. She has been working for the city of Brandon for the last 4 years. She was first at the service desk which meant answering phones and Emails for anyone in the city. Also included were the police station, the fire hall and 911 dispatch center, a huge responsibility!

She said most people do not quite understand what she does day to day being an IT, but they work hard behind the scenes to make sure you are able to do your job everyday.

Some of the people who influenced her include Gerry Crampain, a high school educator. She learned about excel, a bit about computers and did typing tests. She said this is where the seed seemed to get planted and a drawing her to a career in Technology. Leah Hunter helped her out to focus on what her interests were and where she wanted to try to make a career. Jessica said, "I could not have done it without Leah Hunter." There were 3 teachers from ACC who helped her think outside the box and of course her parents and siblings who supported her every step of the way.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jessica Hunter ran in the 21.1K Saskatchewan Marathon in 2024.

Away from work her interests include marathon runs and workouts to prepare for those marathons she runs in. She has run 2 events in Saskatoon and will be running this fall in Victoria. She hopes to run marathons across Canada in the future.

Long term goals include to move to a leadership role as well as possibly teaching. She has a heart for the youth today and would like to serve them and help them as she was helped.

Her advice to the youth today would be, do not let the odds scare you as she found out, when she first entered the male dominated field of IT. With the help of others, she persevered because she was passionate about what she was doing. Let that passion and determination drive you, it will be your greatest asset! Find something you love and fight for it. Wise words from Jessica Hunter!

Farmers are hard at work again



FILE PHOTO

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Folks, it is the time of season that the spring seeding is under way again. These men and women are the people who feed the world. Without them there would be little or no food. The machinery they use these days is huge and covers a lot of the roads. The farmers are putting in long hours to get their seeds in the ground. This is one occupation where the farmer is at huge risk and cost. They do it year after year to feed you and your family.

Please, be courteous when you meet them on the roads as they move from one field

to another. Give them the right of way. Do not be in such a hurry you have to pass them at a big speed to get to your destination. Slow down when passing. Keep the path clear for them. Even pull over and let them pass first. Show some respect to our farmers. Last but certainly not least, thank them. Thank them for their work, their dedication to the job and maybe whisper a prayer or 2 for their safety and may the rains come at the right time and may they have a bountiful crop. This is a busy time for them, support the farmers and be kind to them. Here is to a bumper crop and great prices!

REF MEMORIES



Frank Taylor was one of the best officials that I ever saw. I got to know Frank through Barry Delmage. I knew Frank had played junior hockey with the Brandon Wheat Kings and had seen him play on a few occasions in Brandon.

Frank was one of the taller guys and was a strong skater and knew the rule book. He obviously studied the rule book and could certainly assess whatever penalties he came across.

The one thing I would say about Frank is, he seemed to bring a presence to the ice surface. I do not know if I can explain it or not. I just knew he brought that to the rink each night.

Frank was the same each night, consistent. I saw him work pressure filled games. He always seemed confident and in control of the situation. Like most of the guys that officiated there was a line you would let people get to but not cross and if you crossed that line with Frank, he was not putting up with your BS. You would find yourself in the box or taking a shower.

Frank was well respected and in playoff times when teams would call about games and who they would like to see, Frank was quite often at the top of the list.

As referee in chief of the North Central Hockey League I would assign games. One team in particular asked me why they never saw Frank and my reply was, "well your team is easy to officiate, they do not give grief to officials. I have to be able to have enough officials to cover the

regular season games so there are some real tough games and that is where I send Frank," I trusted him to be able to handle any situation that may arise in those heated contests.

One of the best that I ever saw, Frank Taylor from Minnedosa. One of my top 3 referees of all time. The bigger the game, the better he was!

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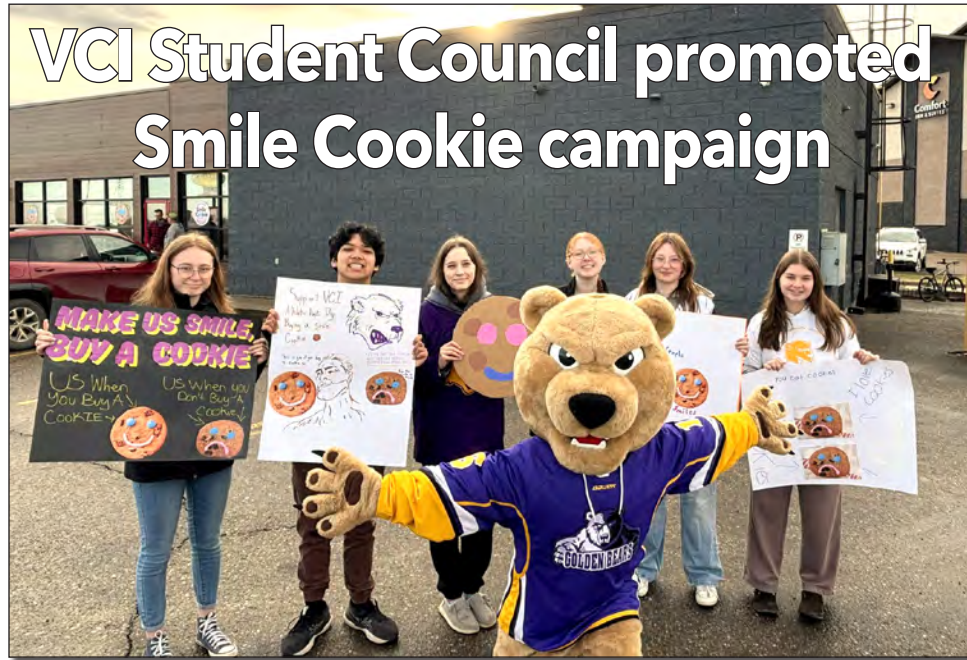
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April 30, at 8:00am VCI Student Council were at the Tim Hortons drive through and promoted the Smile Cookie campaign. The Smile Cookie week campaign runs from April 28 until May 4 - and all proceeds go toward Virden Collegiate Institute for a new basketball nets and backboards. VCI Business Management students started a chain of Pay It Forward, visiting local businesses with boxes of Smile cookies.

PHOTO BY VCI FACEBOOK

Mother's Day



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted
BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

All over the world, we honour our Mother's in different ways. It is a time to demonstrate your gratitude for the love and dedication that mothers provide. It is a time when we can show appreciation for the sacrifices and unconditional support we have received. Over time, Mother's Day has also included a broader range of maternal figures and to recognize the diversity we see in how mothers nurture and support their families.

Historically, we need to thank Anna Jarvis for conceiving Mother's Day as a way of honouring the sacrifices that mothers make for their children. After gaining some financial backing, in May of 1908 she organized a Mother's Day celebration in a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. Although Jarvis remained unmarried and childless for her whole life, she also started a massive writing

campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging recognition for a special day that honoured motherhood. Her rationale was that most American holidays were based towards male achievements. It took a few years but in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing that the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Other celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to Ancient Greek and Roman times as they would hold festivals in honour of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele. Indigenous cultures recognize mothers and caregivers as the heartbeat of the family, as leaders in the community and as role-models towards a better future for the generations to come. Mothers are matriarchs and lead their families and communities with great care and love.

Some kind of cool trivia surrounding Mother's Day include that this is

one of the busiest days for phone calls. Phone traffic increases by as much as 37 percent on Mother's Day and more phone calls are made on that day than any other day of the year. Flower shops also are the busiest at this time of year and we often see prices of flowers soar. Many like to go out and give Mom a break from cooking, so restaurants are extremely busy.

How about making this Mother's Day something unique? Mother's come in all forms and so why not make this day something as unique as whomever you consider your Mom? In my mind



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Here is Mia with her artwork and certificate that reads: The Sunrise Credit Union Senior Award of Merit in Visual Arts 2025, Grades 7-9, is awarded to Mia Pearn.

a "mom" is someone who loves you unconditionally, teaches you, has the strength to punish you on occasion, worries about you and laughs and cries with you. The love of a mother is absolute, pure and everlasting. Mom is a fierce mother bear, the fortress that protects the family and the rock with the strength that we

thought was not possible. I hope that all of the Mom's I know, all the Mom's I have known and all the Mom's that I have never met have a special day doing something that honours them in all of their individuality. Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com;

by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort. Tune into GROW Live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort> or check out the Youtube channel GROW. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzkiUpkvyv2e2HCQIF10JyQ?>

-NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING-

Wednesday, June 4th
Oak Lake Community Hall
474 N Railway St., Oak Lake, MB
7:00 p.m. (doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Please register by June 3rd at
204-748-6700 ext 311 or
www.valleyviewco-op.crs

Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd
nominations for the position of Director.
Three 3-year terms
One 1-year term
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-AGENDA ITEMS TO INCLUDE- -NOMINATING COMMITTEE-

- Audit/Financial Report
- FCL Delegate Report
- General Manager Report
- Minutes from last meeting
- 4.22 Remuneration [Section 216]
- (c) The Board of Director per diems, President, Vice-President or Secretary retainer a percentage of the FCL director rate as follows:
 - Monthly stipend for President (or Vice President in the President's absence) 85%
 - All Meetings 50%
 - President 16%
 - Vice President or Secretary 11%
- (d) Mileage will be paid out at the reasonable allowance rate defined annually by the Canada Revenue Agency. The two rates will be averaged to achieve the approved blended rate.

The Nominating Committee
Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd
Box 550, Virden, R0M2C0
Email: hr@valleyview.coop
www.valleyviewco-op.crs
Nominations must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 pm May 21st, 2025



SPORTS

OIL CAPS PROSPECTS TRY TO IMPRESS AT SPRING CAMP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Last weekend potential Virden Oil Capitals hit the ice in hopes of taking a step towards playing for the junior hockey team in the future.

Fifty-three athletes attended the Comfort Inn and Suites Spring Camp at Tundra Oil & Gas Place, which ran May 2-4. The birth year of the players ranged from 2006 to 2010.

"Camp was a good pace and I thought we got a ton of good information about our listed players as well as some free agent kids," said Oil Capitals general manager and head coach Tyson Ramsey.

In years past, the Oil Capitals have held a draft eligible camp as well as a spring camp.

Last summer the Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced it was discontinuing its annual draft. As far as an impact on the camps, Ramsey said, "The only significant difference was the range of age groups as the draft camp was quite a bit younger."

While exciting potential new players took to the ice, there were also some familiar faces in the arena. From last year's team, the Virden duo of Ty Plaisier and Hudson Davidson as well as Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper helped out at the camp. In addition, Oil Caps alumni Grady Lane and Eric Reid, both Virden products, also played a role. Reid helped lead the senior Virden Oil Kings to the Tiger Hills Hockey League finals. Lane suited up for the University of Manitoba men's hockey team.



Camp Practice Session

NHL PLAYOFFS

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

I have been watching the NHL playoffs and am extremely disappointed in the officiating. Inconsistent, letting obvious penalties go uncalled that can make or break a game.

I am going to focus on the Jets vs Blues series and I am writing this before game 7 in Winnipeg tonight.

Back in game two, I believe in Winnipeg, Brayden Schenn of the Blues takes a run at Neil Pionk in the corner of the rink. Schenn leaves his feet to hit Pionk but only catches a piece of him. No penalty on that play. Fast forward a bit. At a face-off outside the Jets line Mark Scheifele pulls the skates out from under him and Scheene falls awkwardly on his back but luckily does not hit his head on the ice. Again, no penalty was called.

Game 5 Schenn hits Scheifele along the boards. He again leaves his feet for the hit. A penalty for interference is assessed. Scheifele ends up out of the game and for the next one as well.

Remember what I said in a few issues in the paper earlier? I said every game has a call or 2 that you can not miss or there will be big trouble. Well, that is where this series has come to. No control by the officials who could have prevented what has gone on. Schenn should have been assessed a minor penalty for the hit on Pionk, Schiefle should have been assessed a 5-minute penalty for pulling the skates out from under Schenn, and Schenn should have been given the proper penalty, 5 minutes for charging and a game misconduct. Problem solved.

In the Friday night game, a player spears Samberg in the ribs, after review they assess the Blues penalty a minor for slashing. Even after review they still get it wrong. Later on a goal which Helly still has not seen, counts even before review. The referee would not change that call. He said the Winnipeg player was at fault for Helly not seeing the puck. Positioning was the error in this case for the official he did not see the Blues player brush the Jets goalie.

In the Montreal/ Washington series, twice Cole Caulfield was cross-checked in the face and cut right in front of referee Kerry Sutherland. The result was no penalty.

You may be asking like me, where is the line in all this. I do not know. There is no rhyme or reason for the calls made or missed. You never hear from the NHL why some of these calls are missed or usually just let go. In the meantime, players are getting injured and are missing games. The NHL would have you believe that the calls that are being made are the same ones during the regular season as well as in the playoffs. Now that is a load of crap! I still think and probably always will, that the officials in the league are being told what to call and what not to call by people that can not even spell the word, HOCKEY. I really do not know how some of those guys can go home, look in the mirror and be honest with themselves and say I was honest and fair tonight. Come to think of it, maybe they do not have a mirror!



Camp Goalie Session

PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

MJHL REPORT

Submitted

By DEREK HOLTOM

The Northern Manitoba Blizzard are the champions of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. They defeated the host Dauphin Kings in a Game 7 classic last Thursday, winning in triple overtime.

It's the first championship for the Blizzard since 2003 when they won four straight league championships in their dynasty era.

Not surprisingly, the Blizzard had the top goaltender and scorers from the playoffs. What is a bit surprising is that a rookie led both categories.

Rookie forward Tyler Dahms tied with teammate Marlen Edwards with 15 points to share the playoff scoring title. Tied for third was teammate Quincy Supprien who had 13 points (including two overtime goals to clinch series) and Dauphin's Matthew Thomas.

In goal there was none better than rookie goaltender Tave Timmerman who was lights out these playoffs. He posted a 1.68 GAA, a .937 save percentage and one shutout to lead his team to a championship.

Given how fluid junior hockey is these days thanks to changes at the NCAA level allowing major junior players to earn scholarships, keeping this group together may prove problematic. Dahms, especially, is an American and will likely draw interest from several places this off season.

But before the off season gets under way, the Blizzard have more work to do. The Northern Manitoba Blizzard bested 12 other teams to capture the MJHL championship this season. Now they have their sights set on beating nine new opponents at the Centennial Cup, the national championship for junior hockey, which gets under way this Thursday.

The Blizzard will in fact kick off the event, taking on the Trenton Golden Hawks, the champions from the OHJL, on Thursday, in the preliminary round. They will also face the Greater Sudbury Cubs from the NOJHL, the Kam River Fighting Walleye from the SIJHL, and the Grande Prairie Storm from the AJHL. The Storm were the runners up in the AJHL, getting into the national tournament after losing to the hosts of this year's events, the Calgary Canucks.

The other half of the bracket includes the Canucks (who are the host) are considered by many to be the favourite, the Melfort Mustangs from the SJHL, the Braves de Valleyfield from the LHJQ, the Rockland Nationals from the CCHL, and Edmundston Blizzard from the MHL.

Should the Blizzard advance (and given the SIJHL's historical weakness in this event, they should), we can only hope they face the Edmundston Blizzard to have the two teams battle to see who is the better Blizzard.

The quarter-finals begin on Friday, May 16, the semi-finals on Saturday May 17, and the final goes Sunday May 18.

SPORTS

OIL KING AWARDS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After years of battling against the Virden Oil Kings, Elkhorn product Bradley Bowles had a big impact on the senior hockey team this past winter.

With the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks taking a leave of absence from the Tiger Hills Hockey League, the dynamic forward joined the Oil Kings. He led the THHL in scoring, was second in the loop in playoff points, and helped the Virden squad to the league finals, where they fell 4-2 to the Killarney Shamrocks. Recently Bowles was presented with the Oil Kings' MVP award for the season.

Bowles also picked up the team's Top Scorer award. He tallied a league-best 54 points and 39 assists in 15 games. Bowles led Virden with 15 goals. In the playoffs, Bowles had 11 goals and 30 points in 10 games.

"While the offensive stats are remarkable with it being 25-plus years since an Oil King has won the scoring race, Brad's play on the defensive side is equally, if not more impressive," Oil Kings coach and general manager Ryan Mathieson said. "Brad is a fierce competitor who elevates those around him and leads by example. Brad, along with the other guys who joined us this year from the C-Hawks, have fit into our room great and have made significant contributions on and off the ice."

After the 2015 passing of Oil Kings coach Perry Kalynuk, the team established the Perry Kalynuk Memorial Award. Mathieson explained it "recognizes an individual from the team who exemplifies the characteristics Perry displayed; leadership, team first, humble and hard working." This year

trainer Riley Price was the honoured recipient.

"Riley comes to the rink with a smile every day and puts his heart and soul into the Oil Kings," Mathieson said. "With his work ethic, devotion to the team and sense of humor, it's easy to see why everyone on the team loves the guy and we truly appreciate all that he brings to the Oil Kings."

After concluding their junior careers with the Virden Oil Capitals in 2024, Eric Reid and Nolan Wallace made immediate contributions last winter to the Oil Kings as rookies. Reid was named the team's Rookie of the Year. Wallace was selected as its Top Defenceman.

In the regular season, Reid, a Virden product, posted a 6-2-0-1 record. He had a 3.54 goals against average. In the postseason, Reid was 6-3-0-0 with a 2.34 GAA.

Wallace, who is from Brandon, recorded four

goals, eight assists, and 12 points in 15 regular season contests. He had two goals and seven points in 10 playoff games.



PHOTO BY THE VIRDEN OIL KINGS.

Bradley Bowles, Eric Reid and Riley Price were honoured recently for their successful seasons with the Virden Oil Kings

THOMPSON LEARNS U SPORTS GAME



PHOTO BY ETHAN BOMHOF

#15 Dara Thompson

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Dara Thompson was a student on and off the ice this past winter.

As a first-year student-athlete on the Mount

Royal University women's hockey team, Thompson learned the ropes of the U Sports level, the highest in Canadian university athletics. The daughter of Kimorie Lees and Richard Thompson is studying sociology at her Calgary

school. She would like to become a speech pathologist in the future.

"I think for any first year it is a big jump to play at the U Sports level," Mount Royal women's hockey associate head coach Jordan Colliton

said. "Dara did an exceptional job allowing herself to grow and being patient, waiting for her opportunity to show how she could contribute to our team. Dara is a completely different player from the day she stepped on campus, until the end of the year. That only happens when you trust the process and commit to making yourself better everyday."

Before heading west, Thompson developed her game with the U18 AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. She indicated there were some differences between the U18 and university games.

"I think that the biggest adjustment that I had to face was the speed and how much quicker the game moves at the university level," Thompson said. "Playing in my first few games, the pace shift was very noticeable, so it was definitely something that I had to get used to. With that being said, the fast pace also meant that the game became

a lot more fun, as you are constantly having to think and make quick decisions."

She saw action in five games this past season. In those contests, the talented forward displayed her offensive prowess. Thompson recorded six assists. She had a pair of two-assist games.

"Dara's strength is the offensive side of her game," Colliton said. "Her instincts, where she puts herself on the ice to create opportunities to score, how she handles the puck below the hash marks to give herself shooting opportunities, that makes a big impact when she is able to get to those areas."

Regarding Thompson's first postsecondary campaign, it will not necessarily be the goals she assisted on or the wins that she remembers the most.

"This season playing with the Cougars, I really enjoyed the friendships that I was able to make,"

Thompson said. "I was fortunate enough to be able to live with two of my teammates this season. I feel like this really brought us closer together and made the experience really fun. The team was also very close, so it made the adjustment easier, as I felt like I already had a lot of strong connections."

During her first Cougars season, Thompson knew she had the backing of her parents back home.

"They were really supportive and were always just a phone call away, even though they were two provinces over. Whether it was about school or hockey, I knew they always had my back. It was hard being far away from home at times, but they also made sure to visit a lot. With my brother also playing university hockey in Oklahoma (at the University of Central Oklahoma), he was also a good support system to talk to."

Volunteers make it happen!

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Where would we be without the many volunteers in our communities? The answer is, a lot of important things would not get done! Volunteers are found in all levels of our society. On April 29, in Elkhorn's Elkwood Manor, a special tea was held to recognize some of the community volunteers.

Marsha Forgue from Neepawa, was on hand. She is the Volunteer coordinator for the local PMH

who welcomed the several community volunteers who attended the local volunteers' recognition event. The volunteers were joined at the tea by some Elkwood Manor residents. Fergue talked about the importance of volunteers in rural Manitoba senior homes for the residents and to help the full-time and very busy staff. The volunteers who came out that day were all given a personal thank you card signed by Manor residents and staff members, while Fergue gave each volunteer



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Volunteers are honoured: (l-r) Bernice Hey, Dorthy Roach, Pat Wolfe, Bert Kyle, Sherri Lesile, Anna Mae Perry, Marlyn Clayton, Lillian Jackson, Betty Freeman, Angie Perry and Dianne Collier; (front row l-r) Marsha Fergue and Heather Munn.

present at the tea a special 'PMHPerksCard'. This card, with its QR code entitles the holder to receive discounts at various businesses.

The tea included a special cake and ice cream and lots of visiting and laughter among the volunteers who

came out that day and Manor residents. Heather Munn, the Manor recreation director said she was very pleased with the turnout for the event and added, "Volunteers are so important to our residents at the Manor as they are giving back to the people

of the community by taking time out of their busy lives to take care of and remember our community seniors. The volunteers often help seniors to do things that they would not be able to do on their own."

On a personal observa-

tion, many of the residents at the Manor were my former neighbors and they love to have visitors. We should not forget that the day will come for our generation, when we will be seniors, perhaps in Elkwood Manor, the way I see it!

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CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES
WALLACE-WOODWORTH WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY**

April 28, 2025

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth (RM) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water and wastewater rates for the Wallace-Woodworth Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility) as set out in By-Law No. 06-2024, read the first time on November 14, 2024. Water and Wastewater rates were last approved in 2019 in Board Order No. 81/19, with current rates coming into effect July 1, 2022. Untreated bulk water rates were approved on an interim *ex parte* basis in Board Order No. 26/21 and lagoon tipping fees were approved on an interim *ex parte* basis in Board Order No. 119/21.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

| | Current Rates | | Proposed Rates | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | By-Law 04-2018 | By-Law 06-2024 Year 1 | By-Law 06-2024 Year 2 | By-Law 06-2024 Year 3 | By-Law 06-2024 Year 4 | By-Law 06-2024 Year 4 |
| Quarterly Service Charge | \$ 36.80 | \$ 47.73 | \$ 51.09 | \$ 54.45 | \$ 57.81 | |
| Water (per 1,000 gallons) | \$ 9.12 | \$ 11.71 | \$ 12.51 | \$ 13.31 | \$ 14.10 | |
| Wastewater (per 1,000 gallons) | \$ 5.39 | \$ 5.46 | \$ 5.48 | \$ 5.50 | \$ 5.53 | |
| Minimum Quarterly Charge* | \$ 80.33 | \$ 99.24 | \$ 105.06 | \$ 110.88 | \$ 116.70 | |
| Bulk Water Sales (per 1,000 gallons) | \$ 12.75 | \$ 16.25 | \$ 17.00 | \$ 17.50 | \$ 19.75 | |
| †Untreated Bulk Sales (per 1,000 gallons)** | \$ 7.00 | \$ 7.00 | \$ 7.00 | \$ 7.00 | \$ 7.00 | |
| ‡Lagoon Tipping Fee (per load)*** | \$ 30.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 30.00 | |

*Based on 3,000 gallons

**Approved on an interim *ex parte* basis in Board Order No. 26/21

***Approved on an interim *ex parte* basis in Board Order 119/21

†Note Regarding Interim Rates - In some cases the Board can establish interim rates, which are rates that are subject to review following a more complete process, such as a rate application. When setting initial rates, the Board will often approve interim rates. These are then confirmed as final once there is sufficient information to provide accurate projections for rate setting purposes.

Details of the RM's application are available for review at the Municipal office or the Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the RM.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the RM's application for water and wastewater rates, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the RM.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **June 12, 2025**.

The Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Frederick Mykytyshyn

Assistant Associate Secretary
Manitoba Public Utilities Board

Tender

Tender Invitation Snow Removal Services

Princess Lodge in Virden is accepting tenders for snow removal services for the upcoming season. Contact Nikki for a full description of the job and to submit your offer.

Email:
PrincessLodgeVirden@outlook.com

Deadline: May 31, 2025.

Coming Events

Virden & District Health Auxiliary Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 23,
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Centre
\$15 per person

For takeout call (204) 748-8682
by Thursday, May 22
Proceeds help support our health care facilities, nursing homes and EMS

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
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257)
Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0

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 | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

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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

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.

www.wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

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Suite range from 405 – 445 sq.ft. Price ranges from \$1758.95 to \$1921.33 for single occupancy.

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Golden Estates: 204 877 3494
RM of Pipestone: 204 877 3327

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Rhodiola: Your mind's best buddy

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

Ever feel like you are not focusing? Or that you are forgetful? Rhodiola is like that reliable friend who shows up when your brain feels like it's stuck in a foggy swamp. You know the feeling when you're staring at your to-do list, but your brain's on a mental vacation, sipping something fruity under a palm tree while you're stuck trying to function. That's where rhodiola steps in and gently nudges your brain back into gear, without

giving you the jitters or that inevitable caffeine crash. I use it daily, luckily I remember! What makes rhodiola so cool is that it's an adaptogen which means it is basically nature's way of saying, "I've got your back." Adaptogens help your body adapt to stress. Instead of pushing your system like a drill sergeant, rhodiola works more like a supportive coach. It helps balance out your stress hormones, especially

when you're feeling burned out, mentally tired, or emotionally drained. One of my favorite things about rhodiola is how it clears brain fog in the most gentle, sustainable way. No weird hyper buzz, no crash two hours later (like that sugar crush). Just that lovely "I can think clearly again" moment. It supports the production of feel-good brain chemicals like serotonin and dopamine not only do

you feel more focused, but your mood gets a lift too. Suddenly, you're remembering things you forgot, finishing tasks you kept putting off, and generally feeling like a more alert version of yourself. Rhodiola also helps with those days when your brain feels like it's wading through peanut butter—slow, sticky, and a little bit lost. It boosts mental endurance, especially when you've got a lot on your plate or are running on little sleep. Whether you're writing, working, caregiving, or juggling all of the above, rhodiola gives you the stamina to stay sharp and present. I find that I sometimes feel foggy at work but not when I am on rhodiola. Clear as a bell!

And get this, it even supports sleep, indirectly. By calming down your stress response, it helps you drift off easier at night. No groggy side effects, no weird dreams. Just better rest, which means even more mental clarity the next day. Win-win, right? If your brain has been throwing up the "out of service" sign lately or you've just been feeling stretched thin, rhodiola might be your new best herbal buddy. It's like a reset button for your brain and a warm hug for your nervous system and honestly, who couldn't use more of that? So hop on Amazon or shop locally at a natural health food, you won't regret it! No more forgetting your shopping list on the kitchen table!

Elkhorn Post Office repair gets go-ahead

April 24th RM of Wallace-Woodworth Council meeting

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Tests for asbestos in the Elkhorn post office have returned negative. Repairs to the building will proceed, and Canada Post prefers repairs to be done as quickly as possible. Local quotes are being gathered, and Reeve Canart suggested that “the repair work should be done over the weekend to minimize disruption during work hours.”

By-laws

The 2025 Financial Plan as presented the previous evening received second and third reading and was duly passed.

A loan to the Manitoba Antique Automobile Museum project was also approved by council.

A motion to approve an expenditure of \$14,628.54 for the Ward 2 shop project was passed.

Proposed Dam Site

Council discussed a dam project proposed by the Assiniboine West Watershed District (AWWD). The main concerns involve long-term maintenance and responsibility. AWWD clarified that the adjacent landowner would be responsible for maintaining the structure that would be

built on a road allowance. Council felt there should be formal documentation to ensure responsibility is enforceable even if the land changes ownership. The importance of clearly defining and assigning maintenance duties was emphasized since any failures could significantly impact landowners downstream.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was conducted for a variation order application submitted by David Taylor. The applicant wants to vary the RM of Wallace Woodworth zoning bylaw to reduce the minimum site width requirement from 200 feet to 66 feet for the purpose of subdividing a farm site.

The motion to approve the variation order was passed, subject to the condition that it be acted upon within 12 months.

Kola lagoon

The council accepts the proposal from JR Cousin Consultants to provide engineering services for the Kola lagoon geotechnical investigation.

Miscellaneous correspondence

Council discussed a communication from Shelly Napier of Napier Emergency Consulting

about a learning event called LearnEM. This presentation, geared to emergency responders features Frank DeAngelis, principal of Columbine high school at the time of the mass shooting there. Coun. Barb Stambuski expressed interest in participating in the event.

Reports

Coun. Diana MacDonald reported from the recent meeting of the Kenton LUD committee that a request for proposal for sidewalk replacement will be sent out shortly. LUD manager Marty Sigurdson has resigned her post and Woodworth Senior Services (WSS) coordinator has resigned. An ad has been posted to fill the position.

For Elkhorn LUD, Coun. Denis Lachapelle reported that Simon King who is bicycling across Canada to raise awareness for diabetes made a stop in Elkhorn. Elkhorn’s spray park will again be managed by Jack Lewis.

Reeve Canart attended the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) spring convention where he participated in a conflict resolution course and other sessions, including one on mental health and grief presented

by a survivor of the Humboldt crash, Tyler Smith. Canart said this presentation had a significant impact, “Because everybody knows somebody that’s been struggling or been through something like that.”

Coun. Mark Humphries reported from the library committee that repairs to the Virden branch are progressing well and said, “They’ve got plastic up everywhere and shields to try and stop as much dust as possible getting onto the collection, but we are still fully operating as a library.”

Coun. Lyle Kinnaird reported from the airport meeting that the committee discussed ongoing airport projects, like the lighting upgrade and the AWAS system to enable freezing rain and fog capability.

Kinnaird also mentioned the recent retirement of Ev Hayward (treasurer) from the Handy Van committee, stating that she had been recognized for her long service.

Coun. MacDonald reported from the Hamiota District Health Centre committee where there was a discussion of staffing challenges and emergency closures. The closures were

Covid-19 spring vaccination

By Karen Anderson
RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Manitoba is rolling out Covid-19 spring vaccination campaign for high risk groups that will run May 1 – June 30, 2025.

This is an additional Covid-19 vaccine dose available to a certain group that would have received their last dose three months ago.

The extra dose will be available to anyone 65 years or older, Indigenous people over age of 45 years, residents of long term care homes and anyone six months or up who is moderately or severely immunocompromised. Vaccines for children six months to 12 years only available to June 14.

People who did not get a Covid-19 vaccine in the fall can also get a dose before June 30.

The reason for the above dates is because the doses will expire after these dates.

Vaccines are available free of charge at medical clinics, pharmacies, rural public health offices and nursing stations.

Please note that there should be a three month interval between vaccine shots so doses can be given again in the fall.

For more information check the Manitoba Public Health Website.

largely due to a shortage of lab and x-ray staff, but a lab/x-ray technician is going to return in July 2026. An additional Registered Nurse started on April 20. There remains a shortage of one Licensed Practical Nurse, and the Hamiota centre has had to rely on agency nurses to fill gaps,

particularly on weekends. The centre currently operates with five doctors, four of whom work in the ER, while one focuses on the clinic. MacDonald passed on a request for a donation to fund a palliative bed. Council agreed to contribute a third of the required cost.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736</p> <hr/> <p>Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440</p> <hr/> <p>Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540</p> | <h1 style="margin: 0;">VIRDEN</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">CENTRE OF IT ALL</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Town Office: 204-748-2440</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Animal Control: 204-851-5881</p> |
|--|--|--|

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.

Summer Day Camp

Registration opens May 15 – in person or online at virden.ca

For more details, please call the Town Office at 204-748-2440

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Victoria Day Weekend

Closed:
 May 17Virден Landfill
 May 19Town Office and Tundra Oil & Gas Place

Upcoming Council Meetings:
 May 20 & June 3

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

Virден Swimming Pool

Open for the season June 2, 2025*
 See you at the pool!

*Weather-permitting

Swimming Lesson Registration

Now open! Register at the pool office, or online at virden.ca

Please email pool@virden.ca, or call 204-748-2736 ext 3 for more information.

May 15, 2025 is Moose Hide Campaign Day

A day to end gender-based violence. Together we are making a change. Visit moosehidecampaign.ca for more information.

PMH, VCI Principal discuss brain health

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Brain injury affects individuals and the community, and on Saturday, May 3 Virden Royal Purple hosted an event in St. Paul's United Church to raise awareness about the problem.

Elementary and high school students submitted posters that presented brain injury information and winners from the poster contest will be featured in a future issue.

Karen Thomas, Director of Acute Health Services (South) at Prairie Mountain Health presented a wealth of information about the different causes of brain injury and different symptoms that require different treatments.

Thomas explained that acquired brain injuries fall into two broad categories: traumatic and non-traumatic. Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are more widely recognized and typically result from external mechanical forces.

Examples include motor vehicle accidents, falls, assaults (including intimate partner violence), sports injuries, bullet wounds, and blast injuries. These injuries occur when the head is violently jarred, causing the soft, jelly-like brain to move within the skull and potentially suffer from internal cuts, hemorrhages, or pressure damage. Such injuries can be fatal even when initial symptoms appear mild.

Symptoms include nausea, blurred vision, slurred speech, disorientation, sensitivity to light, and changes in pupil dilation. Sometimes symptoms are not immediately obvious but, in those situations, a second impact can be catastrophic.

Non-traumatic brain injuries are those not caused by an external blow to the head but by strokes, aneurysms and lack of oxygen. Strokes are increasingly common among younger people due to sedentary lifestyles and poor diets. According to Thomas, aneurysms often strike without warning and are related to stress and abnormalities in blood vessels.

Injuries occur when the brain is deprived of oxygen. These injuries can result from drug overdoses or attempted suicide by strangulation.

“Lack of oxygen for four to six minutes is all it takes to have brain damage. And while it might kill you, there are some things that are worse than death.”

– Thomas

Repeated drug overdoses, particularly involving opioids like fentanyl can cause permanent damage.

Intimate partner violence

Another serious cause of brain injury can be found in intimate partner violence. Thomas spoke of her work in a women's shelter in 1992 when many women exhibited signs of brain trauma including fatigue, disorientation and memory loss that went unrecognized due to a lack of awareness. These women were often judged harshly for “neglecting” their children or failing to keep appointments, when in fact they were cognitively impaired. Because brain injury wasn't well understood at the time, their testimonies were frequently dismissed by police and the legal system. Thomas added, “I didn't even know brain injury was a thing... if I knew then what I know now, I wouldn't have gone ‘why can't you wake up and take care of your kids?’ I would have got the person more help.”

The brain's frontal lobe is the most vulnerable to injury. This area is responsible for planning, judgement, and moral reasoning. Drugs and alcohol affect this area and cause poor judgement and risky behaviour. Damage to the frontal lobe can cause similar symptoms in people with brain injuries, even without intoxication.



VCI Principal Mark Keown addresses the Royal Purple brain injury information event on May 9 at St. Paul's United Church.

Thomas concluded her presentation saying, “Virden (chapter) has donated thousands and thousands of dollars to the community. To hospitals, to schools, playground structures, you name it. You guys have done everything. And everything you do promotes health.”

Principal's perspective

Virden Collegiate Institute (VCI) principal Mark Keown brought another perspective and described the dramatic increase in violence and abuse within the division. He noted that 6.2 million women aged 15 or older, have experienced psychological, physical, or sexual abuse while in intimate relationships. With 80% of these cases going unreported, the actual scope of the issue is likely much larger and Keown emphasized that this includes students.

Often abuse is not reported because of stigma, shame, fear of legal consequences and distrust in available support systems. He stressed that relationships with students, families, and communities are critical for addressing these issues.

The school's official policies make it clear that violence or threats of violence will not be tolerated in any school-related context, including off-campus and online incidents. Staff and students must report high-risk behaviors, and the school has a legal and ethical responsibility to act on the information regardless of where or when it occurs.

When a violent or traumatic event is reported the school division is notified, and an external team is brought in to eliminate bias. This team conducts a comprehensive intervention, interviewing the student in question, potential victims, families, and others to form a full picture.

These teams identify several behaviour patterns found in these situations. They are often a cry for help where the students act out due to a lack of meaningful relationships



Karen Thomas from PMH at the brain injury event. PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISON

and emotional support.

Keown stated that group dynamics are often a factor. He said, “They usually have one person that we call the puppeteer. They're controlling the scenario, yet they're not doing the dirty work. They're not the ones getting caught.”

Keown emphasized that an adolescent's emotions can swing rapidly between impulses toward violence and thoughts of suicide. Identifying a student's baseline state of mind is critical to stabilize these extremes and this can only happen once a relationship is formed between student, parent and school.

As VCI principal, Keown sees a critical gap in mental health resources within the school system. Currently, the school has only a part-time guidance counsellor on-site, supported by a divisional counsellor who services all nine schools in the division and is available at the high school just two days a week. Previously, an adolescent mental health worker would visit weekly, but that position is no longer filled.

Keown said, “Probably the biggest thing on our mental health plan is our connectivity list. (It's) an intervention method where every student in our building has an adult who is their go-to person.” He notes that in some cases, students choose the adult, while in others, staff members identify students they have established relationships with. This initiative aims to provide every student with a reliable point of support within the school.

Keown concluded his presentation saying, “Our kids turn out to be the adults down the road, so I appreciate the fact that you guys do have them on your radar screen as an important group to work with. They are the future, and we need to continue to try and support them as best we can.”

Vibrant Virden sets focus

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On April 10, Virden's economic development manager Candace Murray, along with Virden Boost Committee, held a kick-off meeting to see who would be interested in joining a Vibrant

Virden initiative.

Murray was pleased with the response to the introductory meeting for Vibrant Virden. She said, “Approximately 30 people were in attendance. We were very excited to see such an overwhelming level of interest and participation.”

The focus for Vibrant Virden in 2025 is:

- Establishing a Vibrant Virden committee
- Community Garbage Cleanup on May 10
- Recruiting volunteers to help with planting and gardening of select Town of Virden flower gardens
- Holding a “Best in

Virden” garden nomination program

Additionally, Murray reported, “At the kick-off there was also some interest expressed about organizing garden tours. The Vibrant Virden Committee recently had their first meeting and discussed possibly also including garden tours in the 2025 program.”

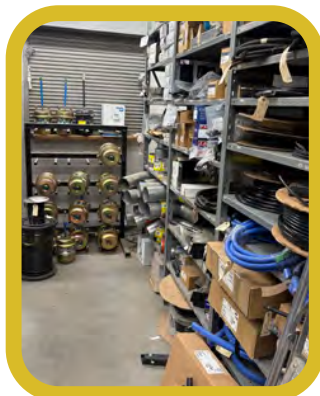
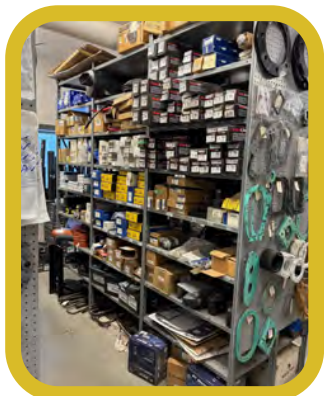
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