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SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 03 / ADVANCE: VOL 142 NO 05 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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Wind Storm devastates Siemens Farm near Kola, but family holds tight to faith and resilience



The wreckage left behind of the Siemens' Farm.

PHOTO BY PAT SIEMENS

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE ADVANCE

When the wind storm struck near Kola late last week, it carved a devastating path, and the Siemens farm was directly in its way. In a matter of minutes, decades of work were torn apart. The family's hayshed was destroyed, and the barn, a landmark on the yard for years, now sits twisted and broken.

For Kelvin Siemens, surveying the wreckage has been both surreal and heartbreaking. "The hay shed was destroyed, and the barn is likely a write off," he said, describing the wreckage.

Yet amid the splintered beams and mangled metal, one truth brought immediate relief: no one was hurt, and all the animals are safe.

Still, the emotional toll is unmistakable. The barn wasn't just a building — it was the product of a lifetime of work. "I am not planning a funeral," Kelvin said quietly, "but in another way I am, because that barn is my life's work."

Even in the middle of loss, he is trying to stay grounded. "I am trying to stay positive. I know God is good," he said. "But also... why me, Lord?" It's a raw honesty many in rural Manitoba understand, faith and frustration often sit side by side when disaster strikes.

Kelvin has also been reflecting on what storms like this teach us. "It is a brutal fact of life, but if we can learn from the weather... a lot of building codes have been learned from the weather," he said, noting how quickly conditions changed that evening and how little time there was to react.

The financial reality adds another layer of strain. The family does have insurance, but it won't cover the full cost of rebuilding. "We have some insurance," Kelvin said, "but will only receive about half of what it would take to rebuild."

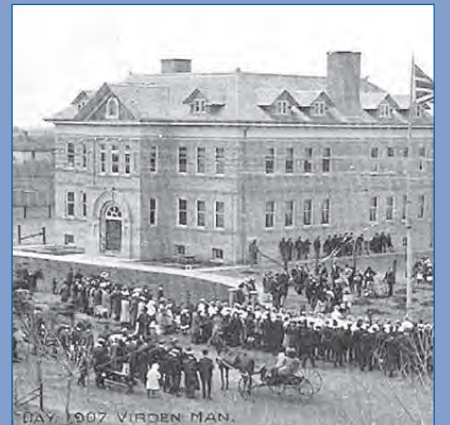
Even so, he believes in telling the story plainly, not for sympathy, but for truth. "If you don't tell your story, someone else will try to tell it for you," he said. "I am not sharing for sympathy."

What remains now is the long road forward: cleanup, decisions, and the question of what rebuilding will look like. But as neighbours stop in, as messages come from Kola, Virden, and beyond, and as the community rallies in the way rural Manitoba always does, Kelvin is reminded that even in the hardest moments, no one faces them alone.

The barn may be gone, but the spirit that built it, and the community that surrounds it, is still standing.

Read more about the storm on page 2...

Inside...



BACK TO SCHOOL: NOW AND THEN *P3*



OIL CAPITALS FALL CAMP *P13*

Gone with the Wind

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

As most tornado reports are described, it did sound like a freight train passing through our backyard on Sunday night. One of the things I have always enjoyed about Elkhorn have been the many well treed properties and streets. After Sunday's Elkhorn Tornado, there were a lot less trees and a lot of potential firewood for next winter! As for the tornado itself it missed our home by a few blocks, but all around us is the evidence of its power.

A few minutes into the storm the power went off as the heavy rains came down in solid white sheets of water, the lighting and thunder blasted away, and the power was out for several hours. It was not too long before that Manitoba Hydro repair trucks arrived in the village to help out and by late afternoon the next day, they were still on the job. The heavy rains would fill the drainage ditches and rain barrels, with many of the unpaved roads turned into mud!

With the coming of dawn, the sounds of roaring winds were replaced with the sounds of chain saws and heaving moving equipment as neighbours came out to help each other clean up the fallen trees and blocked roadways. For a while the main street of Elkhorn was closed because of the roof and rafters of the Co-op Hardware warehouse being blown off. The local Fire Department was called out concerning a residential gas line hook-up that was corrected. Elsewhere around the area some stop sign poles were bent due to the strength of the winds and

blown debris will be found in many area fields for the next while as farmers harvest their crops.

The strength of the winds, estimated at 90 kilometres per hour in some areas, one home had at least a dozen carefully planted and mature fur trees knocked over like a row of bowling pins. The important thing is there were no lives lost or injuries. It will take a while to clean up the mess, but with the help of community neighbours, friends and the local village government, things will get back to normal in our otherwise quiet village!



Trees knocked over like bowling pins.

PHOTOS BY ED JAMES



Farm buildings were badly damaged by the high winds.

Statement - Elkhorn Storm Response

Elkhorn, Manitoba – The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth continues to respond to the significant storm that impacted Elkhorn and surrounding areas on Sunday evening, August 30, 2026.

At least one tornado was reported by Environment and Climate Change Canada near Elkhorn during the warning on Sunday evening. We will leave confirmation of the exact tornado track and touchdown locations to Environment Canada.

Our damage assessment remains active and ongoing. At this time, we are seeing significant tree damage, downed power lines, power outages, and property damage. There have been no reported injuries or fatalities.

Our priority today is clearing fallen trees and debris from municipal roads and rights-of-way to maintain safe access throughout the community. Residents cleaning up their properties are advised to begin piling tree and branch debris on their front lawns for municipal pickup beginning tomorrow.

We ask residents to continue exercising caution, particularly around downed power lines, and to give municipal, emergency, and utility crews room to work.

We are extremely grateful to our first responders, municipal and utility crews, local businesses and residents who have stepped up to assist throughout the response.

Further updates will be shared through the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth and Village of Elkhorn Facebook pages as information becomes available.

Iris Vercaigne, MBA, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
RM of Wallace-Woodworth



Driving under a monster weather system



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

An accident was seen on Hwy 1 during the storm on Sunday, August 30.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Monday evening from Miniota, past Arrow River to Crandall was in the dark.

It was about 8:30pm when we passed by on Hwy 24, which we wished we'd not taken as every rut and hollow held water. It was a slow trip.

That was the final leg of our drive home on Sunday from Regina, where parking lots held pools of rainwater.

On Hwy 1, east of Regina, the pace got slower and slower, some vehicles pulling off as rain turned to a blinding deluge.

I've never traveled so far under such ominous, multi-layered cloud banks

and black horizons, where rain was so heavy it threatened to hydro plane our 4WD.

People proceeded with four-way flashers on to be seen and to warn others (such as big trucks) of how very slow they were going. Ditches were filling. Side roads flooded.

Just before Broadview, a semi was turned over onto

the driver's door, four-ways still flashing. Police were there, but no ambulance or fire trucks yet. I hope the driver was OK.

ADQ stop for ice cream in Whitewood gave a break from the intense drive. We met a family from Miniota there, also heading home.

Another young driver was on his phone explaining where he was and why he wasn't home yet, telling of how he had to navigate with a wall of water washing over his car from passing vehicles.

From whitewood, rain began to ease up.

The drive had been peppered with startling tornado warnings.

One after another they screeched on through 7pm.

By then, the damage was done in Kola and Elkhorn - possibly shortly after the first warning was issued.

This was a huge system.

I kept an eye on the sky, and Dale stopped to check the "windy" app to see the "hottest" action and to choose the best route home.

Seeing oncoming traffic was reassuring. They hadn't been swept up by the funnel.

Rain became lighter, but we caught up to the weather system, just rain, by Hwy 83 to Miniota.

Next day, Monday, early

day another system the shape of a backward J was hitting Saskatoon, down through soaked Regina and eastward to us in Manitoba.

At 1:30pm, rain had been falling in Hamiota for nearly three hours as another monster system gathered energy and precipitation.

Then a strong wind followed in light rain.

A look at the radar Monday afternoon shows this rotating system building down in the USA, as low as West Virginia.

And, it's raining in Terrace, B.C. where we came from last week, where the weather was ideal when we arrived.

Back to school, Now and Then

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Another season has almost come and gone, and just like that, it's back-to-school time already.

As a child, I always loved this time of year. The weather turned cooler, and so did the outfits I got to pick out. Back-to-school meant at least one new pair of shoes, some stylish clothes, a new binder, fresh markers, and a pristine set of crayons. Most of all, though, September meant stepping into a new grade with a new teacher, familiar faces, and new friends. Change is inevitable with the passing seasons, but nothing prepared me for change quite like September. While January marks the calendar year, September marks the fresh start, bringing a sense of excitement and joy (possibly even more so for my parents!).

Personally, I can't believe my "COVID baby" is already entering Grade 1. He will be attending school

full-time, every day. I'm not entirely sure I'm ready for that, but I know he is. He's so eager to get back, and seeing his genuine willingness to learn and socialize fills me with joy. Of course, he's thrilled to rock his new Minecraft backpack, but when he looked at me the other day and said, "I am so excited for school to start," it made me an extra proud mom.

Whether you graduated decades ago or continue to take classes today, we are never too old to learn something new—you truly can teach an old dog new tricks. Even without trying, we learn something new every day, and that is the real beauty of life.

As our kids head back, please remember that school zone speed limits are back in effect as of September 1st. Be sure to stay cautious, slow down, and watch closely for little ones near school areas.

This fall marks a remarkable milestone for our com-

munity: the 143rd school year for Virden. That's 143 years of growth, change, and learning.

While the Virden Empire-Advance archives only date back to 1905, records from the Manitoba Historical Society reveal how education in Virden first began.

The Virden School District was established in June 1883, initially holding classes in the local Presbyterian manse and Methodist parsonage while awaiting a permanent home. Teaching began under Miss Sparrow, and by 1886, a dedicated two-room schoolhouse was constructed on land donated by the Canada North West Land Company. However, its life was short-lived as a fire destroyed the building around March 1887, prompting the construction of a replacement two-room school later that year.

By 1892, severe overcrowding forced the district to construct a larger, four-

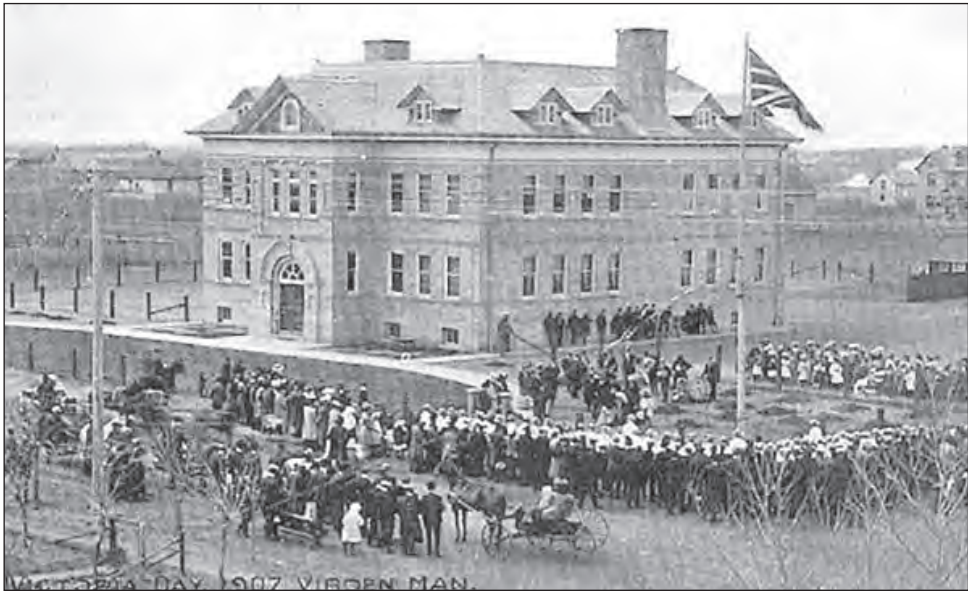


PHOTO FROM ROB MCINNES

Postcard view of Virden School (1907).

room facility. Designed by Winnipeg architect Walter Chesterton and built by contractor J. A. Saul, the new building suffered immediate structural flaws. The wall facing Queen Street began bowing outward, requiring the urgent installation of timber buttresses and iron tie rods for stability.

To resolve ongoing capacity issues, a new facility designed by Winnipeg architect V. W. Horwood was constructed along Ninth Avenue South in late 1905. The two-story brick building featured eight classrooms and a basement playroom. Marking a major milestone in local education, it served

as one of Manitoba's first two consolidated schools (alongside Holland), while the previous 1892 building was repurposed as an immigration hall.

As another generation of local kids heads off to class next week, we carry on a rich, 143-year tradition of learning right here in Virden.

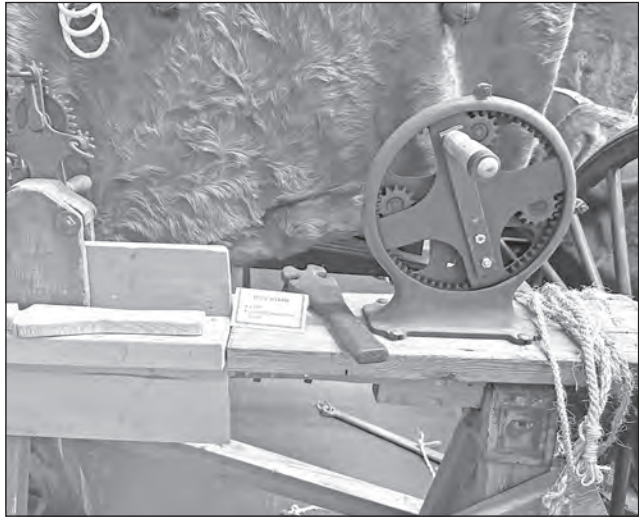
Rope Maker Virden Pioneer Home Museum

By Claire Armandico
VPHM

This artifact is called a four-strand gear rope jack. Rope made with tools can be traced as far back as the Egyptians, though basic hand-twisted rope is thought to have existed for thousands of years beforehand.

Rope making machines usually came in three main styles: plain, shroud-laid, and cable laid. Plain ropes consisted only of three strands. Shroud-laid ropes were made of four strands. Five or more strands in a rope set into the cable-laid category. If comparing by diameter, a three-strand rope will have more strength than ropes made of more strands.

With the development of the rope jack, the rope-making business evolved into an industry. In order to meet the requirements of the long ropes used on sailing ships, the ropewalk was created. A ropewalk was simply a long shed or an alley, with a jack and operator at one end and a walker



Rope making machine.

holding a single-strand rope at the other end. The rope was looped over the hooks and held by the walker. The operator would crank the jack, the hooks would spin, and the rope twisted together. As the rope twisted the walker would move forward, keeping the tension on the tightening rope. The length of the ropewalk determined the length of ropes made by a company.

During Victorian times the most popular materials for ropes were cotton, hemp, and flax.

The individual-use

ropes were ideal for the pioneer farmer. By purchasing a roll of cheap twine, the farmer could make a rope that matched his specifications exactly. While resources were abundant in the frontier, manufactured goods were not. A personal rope maker made the difficult life of a pioneer family that much easier.

An operational rope jack was one of our many displays of pioneer lifestyles at Museum Days. If you are interested in seeing the rope jack drop by the museum.

BACK TO SCHOOL

REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN



It is almost back to school time. Children, young adult college students are back for another year of hitting the books and renewing friendships at school. It is also back to work for the professors, teachers, secretaries, janitors and school bus drivers. I am very fortunate to deliver the Rivers Banner and the Virden Empire-Advance to the schools in Rivers, Oak River, Hamiota, Virden, Elkhorn and Reston. At each school, every time I drop off the paper, I am greeted with a smile and how are you doing? Those front-line people who I meet, and you know who you are, always make my day. It is so nice to be greeted that way. They do an awesome job and I just want to say thank-you to each and every one of you. I hope you have a fantastic year at whatever school you work in.

Thank-you to all the bus drivers who are responsible for delivering your children safely from home to school and back, you do an awesome job as well.

All of my children attended Oak Lake school over the course of a number of years and had such fine educators. One statement that Mrs. Brenda Masson said in a greeting to parents and students at an occasion at the school that has stuck with me, was that the staff at Oak Lake school taught our kids to be good citizens!

What a powerful statement! My hope would be is, that statement would resound in every school this year. Teachers, Educators thank you for teaching and I hope all will learn the word respect and for all to be great citizens, Lord knows our society needs it.

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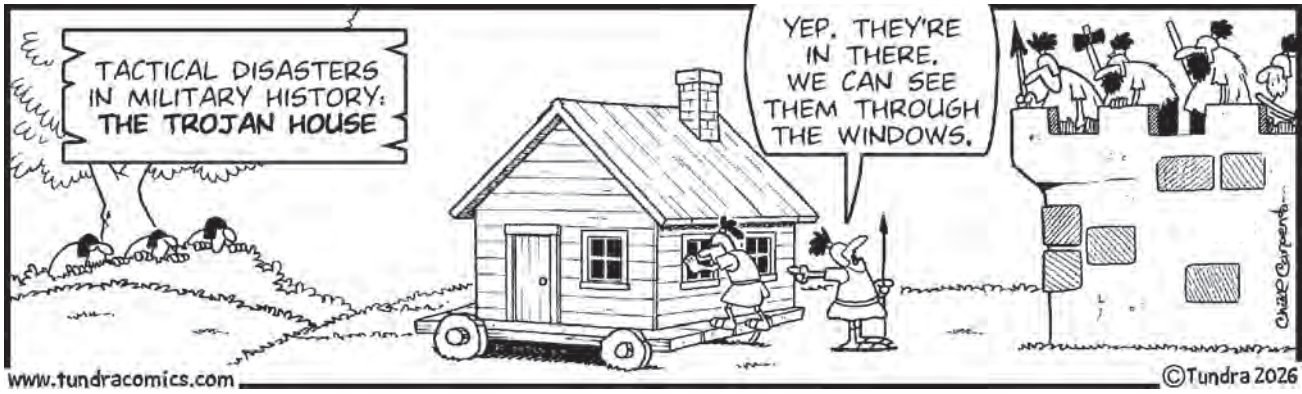
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Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB



Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Back in 2024, I wrote a column about why Donald Trump was likely to win the US presidential election. My words turned out to be true and I have repeated some of them down the page a bit.

Trump did win the election as he got 49.8 per cent of the popular vote and 58 per cent of the Electoral College votes. To say the least, Trump got a substantial mandate. My words from 2024 explain why he did get that vote.

What my words didn't say is that he would mangle his mandate very badly, basically destroy it. That destruction came about as he became totally swallowed by his own big head, his ego. Being humble for Trump is difficult. Maybe he listened to the song, "Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble when you are perfect in every way". That song is meant to be a joke and now Trump has become a joke and dragged the United States into being a joke as well.

It is sad as Trump had some good ideas and as noted below he appealed to a lot of voters, won the election and then blew it pretty badly.

What I did say in 2024...

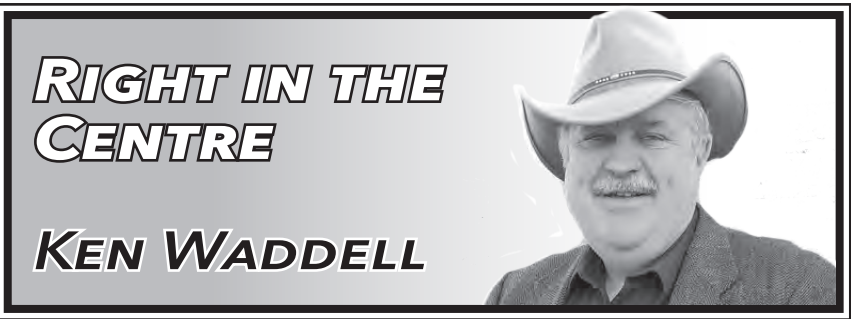
"If Donald Trump is elected, it will be because people are sick of the stands taken by the Democrats who are shamelessly backed by the majority of the media and the entertainment industry.

That stand, if you can actually call it a stand or platform, is contrary to what the majority of people believe. I call the Democratic stand "the accepted narrative".

Many people are sick and tired of being told what they have to think, what they have to believe, what they have to say, what they can and can't say.

Most people know that the so-called Woke Movement is mostly nonsense and some of it is just destructive to individuals and to society. Even left-leaning commentators like comedian Bill Maher have turned on the Democrats saying the "woke" movement is

Mangled mandate



largely nonsense. I think the breaking point for Maher came when the woke promoters said the U.S. is worse off than even before. He quickly shot down that theory by comparing today to the U.S. slavery days, the 1950s segregation days, the levels of education compared to past eras, the average life expectancy and the level of prosperity compared to many decades ago. Yes, there is a lot of progress that needs to be made, but to say the Americans are worse off than ever before is just plain silly. If the U.S. is such a bad place, then why are people willing to risk dying to get into the country.

The left wing, or the Democrats, could easily lose a very winnable election because they are so out of touch with the beliefs, desires and needs of the average citizen".

What about the upcoming U.S. elections?

So the 2024 election is history and the American midterms are soon to be upon us. Many are predicting a huge loss for Trump and his backers but unless the Democrats can move to the centre of the political and away from the "accepted narrative" that so badly cursed them in 2024, they could lose again. Democrats need to remember, "It's about the economy stupid" and not about black or white or brown people, it's not about hiring specific groups of people over

and above competence and abilities. It's about the economy. Most people vote based on the basic issue of "Is my family better off than it used to be."

So what about our Manitoba municipal elections?

As of the date of this paper (Sept. 4), there's only 18 days to get nominations in to the respective municipal election officers. All municipal offices have the details and necessary paper work to fill out. A number of experienced political observers are predicting a high level of turnover from the current councils. I have been told that some are crediting 75 per cent turnover but that seems high. However the pay isn't great and the abuse level can be tough sometimes. Abuse of elected officials is a bad thing and should not happen.

Younger people need to run

It's good to have experienced people on councils. But there are reasons to have young people too. Young people have good ideas and may have a more modern view of the world. But there's another reason. When councils make decisions, the young people will be paying for those decisions a lot longer than the older people will.

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 Banner & Press staff.



The right to question...

Warning—I'm getting preachy! While spending time with my sister I picked up and read the monthly publication produced by the faith of my childhood. One of the articles, by Martin Buhr, was on doubting. It's not quite the same as questioning, but really close. "Growing up, church was not a safe place to express doubts: I would be given the pre-formed answer and would be subject to rejection or ridicule if I expressed my doubts."

That one sentence took me flashing back to an experience with an adult youth group, in the same denomination. A wonderfully compassionate and free thinking young woman, one who was to become a close and dear friend, asked the worship leader a question that rather than leading to a conversation and possible growth, shut her down immediately - rejection for sure if not ridicule. Her query was 'what if what we are taught isn't the only truth?' I thought, still think, that's a fair question. It deserves to be examined. Just as I often heard 'the unexamined life is not worth the living' from my philosopher/farmer/teacher father, I believe the unexamined faith is not worth the believing.

The God I love and serve is a God big enough to take my questions. The prophet Malachi relays the words of God to his people 'test me in this' (Malachi 3: 10)—the this being the giving of tithes. We know how sensitive talking about money and giving to the church can be, and if God is willing to challenge the people to test Him and prove the truth of His word, well, I think that can apply to all areas of our faith walk! His Son, Jesus, didn't rebuke, ridicule or reject Thomas when he doubted the reality of a risen Lord. Just said 'put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop doubting and believe.' (John 20: 22)

We all have our own opportunities to prove God. I stand secure in my faith with two important touchstones. One was the day I faced rejection and verbal abuse from one who should have been trustworthy. I stood, my arms around a slender aspen tree, looked to the heavens and reminded God of the promise to be a mother to the motherless, and a father to the fatherless. From that day to now, God is and will be my father and my mother. Totally trustworthy, loving and accepting.

The second anchor to my faith was/is the answer to a prayer I prayed when I was twenty eight years old, a single parent and very alone. I asked God to provide a husband if it was His perfect will for I could soldier on alone. I promised God that I would say yes to the next man that asked me to marry him. (yes, there had been some interesting proposals up to this point!) On Sept. 26 Ed, on our first date, proposed, and on October 10 of the same year we married. He died thirty hours after our fortieth anniversary. God was/is good.

It's okay to know why we believe what we believe. God is big enough for our questions.

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Human remains found in ditch in Wallace-Woodworth

Submitted

By D MEDIA RCMP

On Aug. 26, at approximately 2:15 p.m., Virden RCMP received a report that a road maintenance crew had located human remains while working in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth.

The remains are consistent with those of a historical or archaeological nature.

A road maintenance crew cleaning ditches following recent flooding located two pieces of a human skull and a bone while working on Road 57 North, just east of Road 148 West. Work stopped, Virden RCMP were called and a perimeter around the area was established.

A forensic anthropologist and her team were called to the scene the following morning and located a partial skull, right shin bone and lower left femur. The Manitoba Historic Resources Branch also searched the scene.

Carbon dating and testing for some of the remains is being arranged.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Labour Day Weekend Closed September 7, 2026

The Town office, Tundra Oil & Gas Place and the Virden Landfill

Check your mailbox! 2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

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

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

Upcoming Council Meetings
September 22 & October 6
Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Notice of Nominations

Notice is hereby given that on the following days:

Wednesday, September 16 to Thursday, September 17, 2026

Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

And Friday, September 18, 2026 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and

Monday, September 21 to Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at the Town of Virden Civic Center located at 236 Wellington Street West, Virden, Manitoba

I will receive nominations for the offices of Head of Council and Councillors for the Town of Virden.

The nomination deadline is SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Nominations **cannot** be accepted after this day.

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent, or by email.

To obtain a nomination paper, and / or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Rhonda Stewart, S.E.O.
Town of Virden
Phone: (204)851-0769
Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

Dated at Virden in the Province of Manitoba on August 26, 2026

Employment Opportunity Sanitation II Position

This is the senior position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job and able to pass a medical examination. A high school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a Class 3 with Air driver's license.

Full job description is available on the Town of Virden website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager
Town of Virden, Box 310, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0
Email: office.manager@virden.ca

**REGISTRATION PERIOD
NOW OPEN!**



**MAYOR &
COUNCILLOR
MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026
For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Town of Virden office, 236 Wellington Street West, Virden, MB, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Registration forms are available for pickup at the Town of Virden office.

Rhonda Stewart, SEO
Phone: 204-851-0769,
Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com
Dated at Town of Virden,
Virden, MB on April 14, 2025

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Tomatoes are the most popular home-grown vegetable grown in our gardens. The best way to eat tomatoes is in the garden picked warm from the sun. At this time of year, it can be hard to keep up to them. When I am too busy to process them into sauces, I just wash them and freeze them for use in the winter. Here are a few recipes to help use up those excess tomatoes.

Baked tomatoes

5-6 tomatoes, 3-4 inches in size	2 cups breadcrumbs
1/4 cup butter	1/2 cup minced onions
1 tsp. salt	1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves or parsley, chopped	
1/2 cup shredded cheese	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Peel and halve the tomatoes. Squeeze out some of the seeds. If the tomatoes are large cut each half into two slices. Heat the butter up in a frying pan and add the onions. Sauté until slightly soft. Stir in the bread crumbs and cook for a minute. Add the basil or parsley leaves and the desired amount of salt and pepper to the crumbs. Remove from heat. Place half the tomato slices in a 9X9 inch lightly greased baking pan. Sprinkle with the basil and half the bread crumb mixture. Top with the remaining tomatoes and layer remaining breadcrumbs. Put into the oven for 30 minutes. During the last five minutes of cooking add the cheese on top and return to oven.

Zucchini tomato casserole

4 cups zucchini, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces	1 Tbsp. oil
1-2 garlic cloves, minced	3 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. flour	1 1/2 cups milk
Pinch of salt and pepper	4 firm tomatoes
1 tsp. dried oregano leaves	1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a frying pan, sauté the zucchini and garlic in the oil. Cook for five minutes, stirring often. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain well. Add the butter to the frying pan. Melt the butter and then gently stir the flour into the butter. Continue cooking and stirring for 1-2 minutes. Gradually stir in the milk, salt, pepper and oregano leaves. Stir constantly until thickened. Remove from heat. Slice the tomatoes into 1/2-inch slices. Cover the bottom of a greased 2 litre casserole dish with half of the zucchini. Add a layer of tomatoes, then half the sauce. Sprinkle with half of the cheese. Repeat layers ending with cheese. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until lightly browned on top.

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for August 16 to 29

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 64 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 24 traffic offences, 3 Assaults, 2 Assistance to General Public/Other Agencies, 3 - 911 Calls, 5 Mental Health Acts, 3 Mischief and 1 Wellbeing checks.

On August 17, during a routine patrol in the RM of Two Borders, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 134km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$495.

On August 17, RCMP received multiple reports of a vehicle that was driving erratically in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. RCMP located the suspect vehicle, and a traffic stop was conducted. The driver of the vehicle was identified as a 56-year-old male who showed impairment signs and was arrested for Operation while Impaired. The male was transported to Virden Detachment where he provided two breath samples resulted in 270mg per cent and 260mg per cent. The driver was arrested and charged with Impaired Operation and Impaired Operation over 80mg%. Once sober, the driver was released and is scheduled to appear in court.

and for Drive While Disqualified which carries a fine of \$672.

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 76 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 16 traffic offences, 6 Assaults, 3 Assistance to General Public/Other Agencies, 2 - 911 Calls, 4 Mental Health Acts, 6 Mischief, 5 False Alarms and 1 Wellbeing checks.

On August 23, RCMP received a report of an Impaired Driver in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations. Complainant was a Safety Officer who advised they have received a report of a female driver who was driving a vehicle in the community while being under the influence of alcohol. Members attended and located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The driver was identified as a 30-year-old female who showed impaired signs and was placed under arrest for Impaired Operation. The driver resisted arrest and after a brief struggle, she was placed in custody. The driver was arrested for Impaired Operation and Resist Arrest and was transported to Virden RCMP detachment where she provided two separate breath samples of 210mg per cent and 200mg per cent. The driver was charged with Drive while Disqualified, Drive Unregistered vehicle, Operation while Impaired, Operation while Impaired over 80mg per cent, Resist Peace Officer x2 and was remanded into custody.

On August 24, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 121km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$325.

On August 27, during a routine patrol in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 121km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$325.

On August 28, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 127km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$403.

On August 29, RCMP responded to a report of a Domestic Assault in the Town of Virden. Complainant was the victim who attended the Virden RCMP detachment and disclosed he was assaulted by a 36-year-old female. Members obtained statements and located the accused. The female accused was arrested and charged with one count of Assault and was released on conditions to appear in court later.



REMINDER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You're Invited

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

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2027 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2027 through March 31, 2028.

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

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Associate Secretary, Ms. Jennifer Dubois at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **September 1, 2026**.

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning: **Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 9 a.m.**

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

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Manitoba Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4
Phone: 204-945-2638
Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

Virden hosts introduction to role of councillor Potential Candidate Orientation Session



Ernie Epp of Way To Go Consulting speaks to a Virden audience in TOGP on Wed, Aug. 26. Attendees are attentive at the Potential Candidate Orientation Session.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Those considering a run for a council seat in Virden had an opportunity for enlightenment from an outside expert. Ernie Epp from Way To Go Consulting presented information in the Potential Candidate Orientation Session. It

was an opportunity for the public and potential candidates to hear about the goings on at council meetings and what kind of work is involved in being a municipal councillor. What is handled ‘in camera’? What about committee meetings, and the importance of public regular council meetings? What preparation time is

required for each council meeting? The Town of Virden hosted this information session designed to demystify the process and provide practical information for potential councillors. Epp has spent over 35 years working in local government administration and has been successful in

helping his municipalities grow. Wednesday, Aug. 26, between 15 and 20 people attended this orientation session designed for interested members of the public and to help current councillors take a fresh look at their role. Attendees included a mix of members of the public, prospective candidates, town staff, and current members of council.

Epp took time to answer specific questions as well. Councillor Tara Maxwell, running as an incumbent, took in the presentation and said, “It was a great session.”

She noted that a candidate information session is important “because it helps anyone considering a seat on council understand what the role really involves before making that commitment.”

She said the session provided a good opportunity to learn what your responsibilities are as a councillor, how council works with the CAO and administration, and what is expected of you in terms of time and commitment.

Virden councillors speak regarding fall election

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

As Town of Virden councillors finish this term of council, some plan to run again, some are a maybe and we’ve not yet heard from one councillor. Each councillor brings knowledge, perspective and personality to the table. Councillors in all the municipalities we have spoken to say a mix of male and female brings a healthy dynamic.

Mayor Williams

Tina Williams, currently mayor of Virden, will run as the incumbent mayoral candidate. She says winning that seat is not her be-all and end-all, but she’s got her finger on the pulse of all things Virden and she wants people to take an interest in the town.

Coun. Bruce Dunning

It’s not Bruce Dunning’s first term on council. He returned to the position following a few years’ hiatus. In this election he’s running for Head of Council and he too wants to see others involved: “I have talked with many residents who are passionate about making positive changes in our town. Effective change requires engaged constituents. I encourage everyone so inclined to consider running for town council. Our town is worth the effort.”

Coun. Grumpelt

A councillor in her first term, Lynette Grumpelt says, “I’m firmly in camp ‘Maybe’ but leaning toward ‘Yes’.”

She explains the tension of the choice that is before her. “I’m passionate about my role in municipal government and would love to continue with it, but I have to weigh the time commitment with my family and personal commitments.”

“I would share with anyone considering running in the upcoming election - consider the reason you want to run. If you’re only running to fix a ‘problem’, you’re not doing it for the right reasons. You need to take the entire community into consideration when you’re making decisions and you can’t be singularly focused.”

Coun. Savy

Marc Savy, currently deputy mayor, is also finishing his first term on council and affirms, he’s running again. He says, “If you have that burning desire and sense of duty to see your community move forward and do well, then running for council and being part of the team is very rewarding. Bringing your dreams and visions for the community to the table and working towards these goals is one way to make Virden a better place to live, work or play.”

Along with well wishes to those who decide to run, Savy adds, “If anyone has any questions they can reach out to me anytime.”

Coun. Maxwell

Tara Maxwell will also run again and responded to questions some weeks ago. Her words were in the July 24 issue, Page 8 (www.empireadvance.ca).

Coun. Cruickshank

Jessie Cruickshank is not running in this fall’s election but clearly appreciated the role and shares a few words:

“I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve on council. My time in the role was filled with learning, challenges, and plenty of rewarding experiences.

“As my first term comes to an end, I’d like to share a few thoughts for anyone considering a run for council, and perhaps even more importantly, for those who aren’t.

“Council’s role is to set direction, make decisions, represent the community, and oversee municipal resources. It is not responsible for managing day-to-day municipal operations.

“One of the first things I learned is that progress in municipal government takes time. Projects, policies, and decisions don’t move as quickly as you’d like, but persistence and patience will pay off.

“Serving on council is not always glamorous. Councillors make difficult decisions, knowing that not everyone will agree with them. Accept that disagreement comes with the role.

“Whether you choose to run for Council or not, everyone has a role to play in making Virden a great place to live. Get involved in a way that works for you: volunteer, support local organizations, attend events, or consider running for Council. Positive change happens when people step forward and become part of the solution.”

Carney rewards yet another Liberal Insider

Submitted
BY CONSERVATIVE MEDIA

Ottawa, ON – Aaron Gunn, Conservative Shadow Minister for Ethics and Accountable Government, released the following statement on Dominic Barton’s appointment as Chair of the Board of Invest in Canada:

“Just two weeks before his flagship investment summit, Mark Carney has appointed another long-time Liberal insider to run the agency meant to generate Carney’s illusionary \$1 trillion in new foreign investment coming into Canada. Choosing Dominic Barton is yet more evidence that Carney is just another Liberal.

“While managing partner at McKinsey, the firm advised Purdue Pharma on how to ‘supercharge’ sales of the highly-addictive opioid OxyContin, even going so far as to advise giving out bonuses and rebates to sellers based on the number of drug overdoses in their areas. In 2024, McKinsey was forced to pay \$650 million for their role in accelerating the opioid epidemic that has tragically killed more than 56,000 Canadians over the last decade.

“McKinsey also worked with Chinese government companies involved in violating international law, with the New York Times reporting the company does business with 22 of the 100 largest state-owned enterprises. In 2018, McKinsey even held their company retreat in Xinjiang, at the heart of the Uyghur genocide perpetrated by Beijing.

“Together with Mark Wiseman, now Carney’s

Ambassador to Washington, Barton was also behind the radical open borders Century Initiative. There, he pushed for the Liberals to more than double Canada’s population to 100 million people, which would help multinational corporations drive down wages for Canadian workers and make the housing crisis even worse.

“The Liberals appointed Barton as head of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth in 2016, with McKinsey providing the council with free ‘research, analysis and administration’ support. Along with Carney’s hand-picked Clerk of the Privy Council, Michael Sabia, and Mark Wiseman, Barton also advocated for the failed Canada Infrastructure Bank that never ‘catalyzed’ the promised private sector investment and lost taxpayers over a quarter of a billion dollars.

“Barton and McKinsey then pitched the failed Supercluster strategy in 2018, costing Canadians over \$1 billion, with no proof it created the planned jobs.

“While taxpayers lost out, insiders and McKinsey got rich. Between 2015 and 2023, McKinsey would be awarded \$200 million in contracts with the Auditor General finding the Liberals awarded 90 per cent of the contracts without following appropriate guidelines.

“This appointment proves the Prime Minister is reading from the same Liberal song sheet, with cushy appointments for favoured insiders, no matter how disastrous their records may be. Conservatives will always fight for a government that is effective and accountable: one that serves hard-working families and businesses, and not just the chosen Liberal club.”

— Virden Donor's Choice —

Submitted
By KAREN MCKINNON

Virden Donor's Choice was started in 1984 by Bill Ritchie and Ewen McDonald and continues to be a successful charity organization.

The object of Donor's Choice is to receive monies in trust for payment to recognized charities in one organized drive.

The organized drive is held in the Spring of each year.

Presently, there are 16 charities on the Donor's Choice list whereas there is accommodation for 20.

If a non-profit organization wished to belong to Virden Donor's Choice, the organization must appoint a representative who is required to attend 2 of 3 meetings per year and who must discuss a canvas in the spring of each year.

Donor's Choice requires that a charity has a charitable number.

For further information regarding Donor's Choice or to be on the Donor's Choice charity list, please call Karen McKinnon at 204 748 3872

Manitoba Pork welcomes tariff support from provincial government

By Joey Dearborn
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Last week, the Province of Manitoba announced more than \$100 million in targeted support to protect key industries, including agriculture, that are facing increased disruptions in the international marketplace, including uncertainty with our largest trading partner, the United States. Manitoba Pork welcomes this announcement and commends the Province for their actions to protect key sectors.

"Manitoba Pork has been collaborating with the Province of Manitoba to develop programming that will help increase the number of hogs finished in Manitoba and increase value added processing here at home," said Cam Dahl, Manitoba Pork general manager. "Measures announced, including enhanced Diversification Loan Guarantee Program, the Operating Credit Guarantee Program, and support for market development reflect these discussions."

"In addition to helping support trade diversification efforts and increased value-added processing in Manitoba, the measures announced will support jobs in both urban and rural parts of Manitoba and help provide economic stability to our communities," Dahl added. "We want to commend the Province of Manitoba, particularly Minister Ron Kostyshyn and Minister Jamie Moses for their efforts to insulate Manitoba businesses from the threats of tariffs and global uncertainty."

Key measures that the province has announced that will be bene-

ficial to the agriculture sector include:

- increasing the Operating Credit Guarantee Program to \$3 million.
- increasing the guaranteed portion of loans under both the Operating Credit Guarantee Program and Diversification Loan Guarantee program to 33.33 percent from 25 percent.
- increasing the loan amount above which treasury board approval is required under the Diversification Loan Guarantee Program to \$5 million from \$1.5 million.

Manitoba Pork continues to engage with partners across the United States to impress the importance of an integrated North American hog sector upon federal, state, and local officials. Several engagements have taken place over the last number of months, with more to come before the end of the calendar year.

Manitoba Pork is the representative organization for all pork producers in Manitoba. Our mission is to foster the sustainability and prosperity of the hog sector for the good of pork producers and all Manitobans.



PHOTO FROM MANITOBA PORK

Manitoba's pork producers say agriculture stands to benefit from a slice of the more than \$100 million in tariff impact supports announced by the province last week.

In My Opinion: Trade War

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

I am sure everyone has an opinion on the United States/Canada trade war and who has done this or that and why etc, etc. Do we really know who walked

away from the deal and for what reasons? Whatever the reasons, there was no deal, will we ever really know? There is one thing that really grinds on me. President Donald Trump and Ontario premier Doug Ford and Manitoba premier Wab Kinew spewing insults at one another be it in the newspaper or on television.

Talk about a total lack of respect! The one thing that is sadly missing in our society is the fact there is little if any respect shown. These 3 men should be taken out behind the shed and be given a good tanning and maybe the bar of soap in the mouth to wash it out with.

I hear it from so many walks of life the lack of respect there is and we have these three clowns carrying on like little boys in the sand box.

Calling us the 51st state, re-naming Lake Ontario, calling our Prime Minister a Governor is an insult and a total lack of respect for our country. Let me point out here that there are many American citizens who do not feel this way about Canada and have been quick to stand up and say so. They are ashamed of their President and rightfully so! Donald Trump appears to be beyond reproach and is a loose cannon. Who is really behind him pushing all this crap?

The Holy Bible says stand firm, resist the devil and he will flee! If I could say one thing to Premiers Ford and Kinew, shut up, stand firm and Trump will leave with his tail tucked between his legs. Trump shoots his mouth off just to get a reaction, so do not give him a reason and he will go somewhere else to make himself happy. Seems to me we have a lot of problems in Manitoba that our Premier could be doing something about instead of wasting his time and our tax dollars.

I am not a Mark Carney fan, but the one area I do like our Prime Minister is that he is not getting drawn into the name calling and all the crap that goes with it. He comes across to me as very respectful of other world leaders and Donald Trump as well. In my book that is a huge win for Canada. That is showing people to have respect for one another. Our Prime Minister must have been raised by great parents. If there was ever a time to lose your mind and tongue, this may be the time, but he hasn't lowered himself to the same level as Mr. Trump currently sits. Good on you Mr. Prime Minister of Canada.

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VOICES IN THE STATIC: INSIDE THE PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION AT THE VIRDEN Pioneer Home Museum with Winnipeg Paranormal Group

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Bathed in soft crimson lights set up by the Winnipeg Paranormal Group, inside the historic Virden Pioneer Home Museum, the boundaries between the past and present began to blur on Saturday, August 22. Wearing noise-cancelling headphones and a full blindfold, I took part in the Estes Method, a sensory-deprivation method designed to eliminate visual distractions, ambient room noise, and any ability for me to hear anything other than what I might hear through the static through my headphones. The goal: tune out the surroundings completely and focus solely on the raw audio sweeping through a spirit box, similar to the sound you'd hear on a fuzzy AM radio station. Through the quiet focus, distinct words broke sharply through the static:

"Leave..." "Go..." "Get Out."

The message coming through was unmistakable. In that same area, a strange, faint presence seemed to linger in the room while other investigators stood completely frozen, creating an undeniable atmosphere. Adding to the historical weight of the venue was a unique Victorian relic on display: a woven memorial wreath crafted meticulously out of dried prairie flowers and real human hair, which I think would give anyone the creeps. The investigative team for the night, representing the Winnipeg Paranormal Group, included Kelly, Ashley, and newlyweds Ken and Kristine, who were married just three months ago and are now exploring the unknown together. It proved to be an intense session marked by several clear contacts. It's said that spirits draw on living



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

A wall in the museum living room, adorned with historical artifacts.

energy to bridge the gap and communicate with the living, and I found this quite truthful because after the investigation, it left me feeling like I'd just finished an intense two-hour workout, with that drained feeling lingering for a few days after. A 'ghost hangover' of sorts maybe?

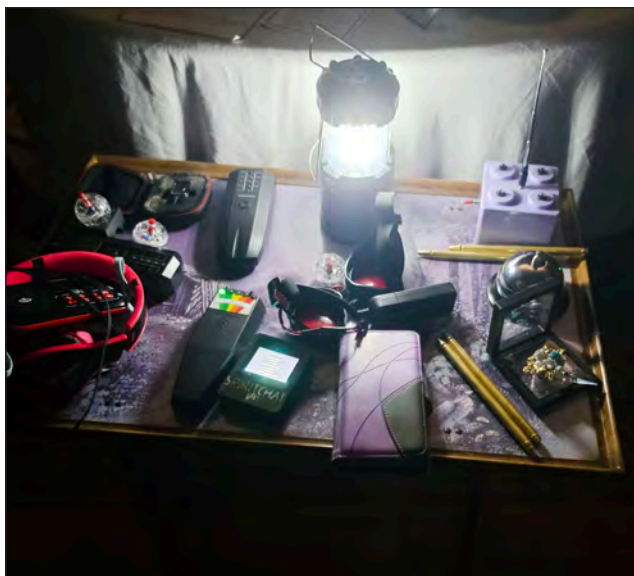
Throughout the evening, the group utilized a balanced

mix of modern technology and classic divination tools. They relied heavily on spirit boxes, which scan radio frequencies and utilize built-in word libraries for potential energy to use and manipulate, alongside sensitive light-up proximity devices designed to trigger during sudden energy shifts. To round out the investigation, traditional methods were also incorporated, including copper dowsing rods, weighted crystal pendulums, and a classic Ouija board to encourage a broader range of communication.

It was an eerily memorable night. My colleague Beth and I connected with several distinct presences, including one that felt notably gentler than the others. The team captured specific names through the electronic equipment, which were later cross-referenced and verified using historical documents and archival records preserved within the museum, including a soldier's uniform. Out of respect for living relatives to the communicative spirits, I have chosen to keep those specific names private. For the Winnipeg Paranormal Group, genuine investigation isn't about provoking or harassing unseen entities for sensationalized television. Instead, the focus remains on quiet respect, open communication, and offering a peaceful outlet for whatever energy remains behind.

Whether one approaches the subject as a believer or a skeptic, the experience serves as a compelling reminder of the venue's deep history. The world is vast, life is short, and energy plays a central role in how we experience existence. Realizing there may be something subtle beyond our everyday view brings a surprising sense of calm and comfort to those willing to listen.

RETURNING TO THE VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM FOR A NIGHT OF PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION



PHOTOS BY BETH MCCONNELL

Some of the equipment used in paranormal investigation.

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Thirteen years ago, in 2013, I was eighteen years old and working at the Virden Pioneer Home Museum, a job I adored. I've always loved history and learning, and the museum is absolutely teeming with both. But even with all that fascination, there was one part of the job I dreaded: turning off the lights upstairs at the end of the day. It never felt empty up there. It felt as though someone was watching, waiting, lingering just out of sight.

So, when the opportunity for a paranormal investigation came up, I didn't hesitate. And when I realized I'd get to cover it for the paper, my excitement doubled.

My co worker and friend Lauren and I arrived just after 6:20 p.m. We picked up our volunteer passes and stepped inside. I showed her some of my favourite artifacts from

my time working there, including my all time favourite, a moustache cup. We were both nervous, but excited. Spirits, mysteries, and all things spooky have always fascinated us. The sun was beginning to set, and the crowd was gathering.

The Winnipeg Paranormal Group welcomed everyone and explained the rules, the equipment, and the number one guideline of the night: respect the museum, respect the artifacts, and respect the spirits. The goal was not to antagonize anything, only to listen. We were split into three groups. The lights were turned off. Fake tea lights flickered along floors and ledges. Lauren and I headed upstairs to the first area we'd be investigating. Each section of the museum was closed off from the others, creating pockets of quiet darkness.

The nursery had always been my least favourite part of the museum. Even as a teenager, I felt an unwelcome vibe whenever I passed it. That feeling was quickly validated during our first session of the night. We used the Estes Method, a communication technique involving sensory deprivation and a spirit box. Lauren wore noise isolating headphones and a blindfold, unable to hear the questions I asked. Her only task was to repeat any words she heard through the rapidly scanning frequencies.

The responses came quickly and repeatedly: leave, go, get out.

We continued our exploration on the main floor, where we connected with a spirit who asked us to go into the basement. And like the silly people in horror movies, we did. (No one was harmed in the writing of this article, including the journalists.) Downstairs, the spirit box kept urging us to find something, and it gave us a name I won't share out of respect for the deceased's privacy. The spirit indicated he had been in the war, and that he wanted us to find a poem.

When we moved into the third and final part of the museum, we found a uniform belonging to the very name we had heard earlier. And directly across from it, a poem. We read it aloud. The spirit box responded im-



Lauren Halowaty using the Estes Method. Estes Method is used in Paranormal Investigations to deprive the investigators of all senses except hearing.

mediately, indicating that it was the right one. Lauren and I exchanged a look of disbelief and quiet satisfaction. It felt as though we had completed something meaningful, something asked of us.

I'm not asking anyone to believe in ghosts or spirits. But I do. Thirteen years ago, I walked those halls as a teenager who sensed something she couldn't explain. This time, I walked them as a journalist and found the same presence waiting. Whatever dwells in the Pioneer Home Museum—memory, energy, or spirit—it welcomed me back, and I'm grateful for it.

Thank you to the Winnipeg Paranormal Group, my employers at the Virden Empire Advance, the staff at the museum, and to Lauren for giving me the chance to do something I've always been deeply interested in, and for proving my younger self right.

The 6th Annual Albert Drotar Classic Car Show and Shine



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

The 6th Annual Albert Drotar Classic Car Show and Shine took place August 23 at the Oak Lake Beach Park. It was a beautiful display of some great vintage vehicles. There was a BBQ, raffles, 50/50 and a live Pie Auction at 2:30pm. The Oak Lake Cottage Owners Association put on this event.



Sound system is set, the crowd gathered around and the auction was ready to begin. The auctioneer took his seat in the back of the classic blue truck, with Ray's Fireplace logos. Desserts were sold starting at \$30 and growing to over \$200.

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EVENT TIMES

Friday, September 4th
Manitoba High School Rodeo: 9:00 AM Start

Saturday, September 5th
Manitoba High School Rodeo : 10:00 AM Start
Dirty Word Customz Car Show : 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Harvest Festival Events : 1:00 PM- 5: 00 PM
Lawn Tractor Pull: Weigh in @ 1PM Pulls @ 2PM
O.L. Care Centre BINGO : 3:00 PM Start

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High Tea, Fancy Hats and White Gloves!



PHOTOS BY ED JAMES

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

When you walked into the Elkhorn Elks Hall recently you were met with a sea of fancy hats and dresses. The occasion was the 2nd Annual SAIL High Tea Social, held on Aug. 20, that brought out a large crowd from Elkhorn, Virden, Melita, Moosomin, Kola, and Reston.

There was a strong showing of the purple hat ladies! However, it was not all ladies in fancy hats, there were also a few gentlemen in top hats! The menu included crisp cucumber sandwiches and pastry dainties that were prepared by Christina Walker in The SAIL Kitchen with a number of volunteers who kept the china wear plates and teacups filled. Half way through the event there was a live music performance by "Three's Company" who played a number of easy listening songs and stories.

Group member Leona Joseph did an excellent covering of a request of "The French Song". The day also held a free door prize draw and a photo booth to show off your high tea outfits and fancy hats and fascinators! However, I did notice an interesting selection of footwear, from high heels, pumps and Crocs! Foot comfort is always important! The afternoon event brought out almost 100 people of all ages.

"As for the many different hat styles you could bring your own favourite or choose from many styles, colours and period, provided by The Virden Costume Closet," said Karen Mitchell, the area SAIL director. For our second annual high tea, we had an amazing group come out and support us from all over the Westman and East Sask. area."

"We are blessed with so many supporters who show up for our events in a big way. I really enjoy putting on these events as the music, socializing and food are the way to a happy soul. I will definitely be doing this again next year and hope to have some special events over the winter months. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped, "Threes Company", the Elkhorn Elks for the use of their hall and for the many people who support SAIL projects," says Mitchell.

Pop Up Market, Gets Better Each Time!



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Given the time of the year, there was an abundance of garden-fresh produce.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

For the second year and the past few months, the Elkhorn Ag. Society has held a pop-up market on its Ag. Center site. The market took place Aug. 26, and it gets better with every event and whenever the weather cooperates! It's recent fifth market brought out a good crowd and several new vendors. Both the vendors and shoppers came from

the Westman and East Sask. area and were of all ages. For this event, the on-site canteen was operated by members of the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion who sold out of product. Sandy Heaman, a member of the Elkhorn Ag. Society reported that there were a total of 17 vendors, that included eight first timers. She added that the weather was perfect, the attendance was up and the vendors were happy with their sales.

At this time, they hope to have another market in September.

The market had some new events that included a junior gymkhana riding event, live music, a children's bouncy castle funded by the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce and face painting by staff members of the Elkhorn Daycare Center. Given the time of the year, there was an abundance of garden-fresh produce, along with honey,

home baking, jams and jellies, arts and crafts, quilts, antiques, a few flea market collectible tables and Watkins and Tupperware products. And for the first time, a wonderful and colourful selection of nature photography by a talented Virden photographer, Alleesha MacDonald. The warm August evening event attracted customers and vendors of all ages, with lots to see, do and eat! See you next month.

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The new SAIL kitchen, a modern marvel

Submitted
By KRISTA PEDERSON

Elkhorn SAIL celebrated the last week of August with the barbeque, and also showed off the new Sail Kitchen. Cook Kristina Walker served up tasty food as usual, and Karen Mitchell the Elkhorn SAIL coordinator had everything organized for a great event. Lots of food to go around,

and even a door prize. In addition to Kristina, four former cooks also came to see the new kitchen. The cooks who were not able to attend the barbeque sent their well wishes for Kristina in the new space. We remember well the cramped quarters... And still were able to produce excellent meals through the years!



Five cooks in the former kitchen. Left to right: Bernice Hey, Raysha Mountney with daughter Ida May Mountney, Krista Pederson, Kristina Walker and Donna Bajus.



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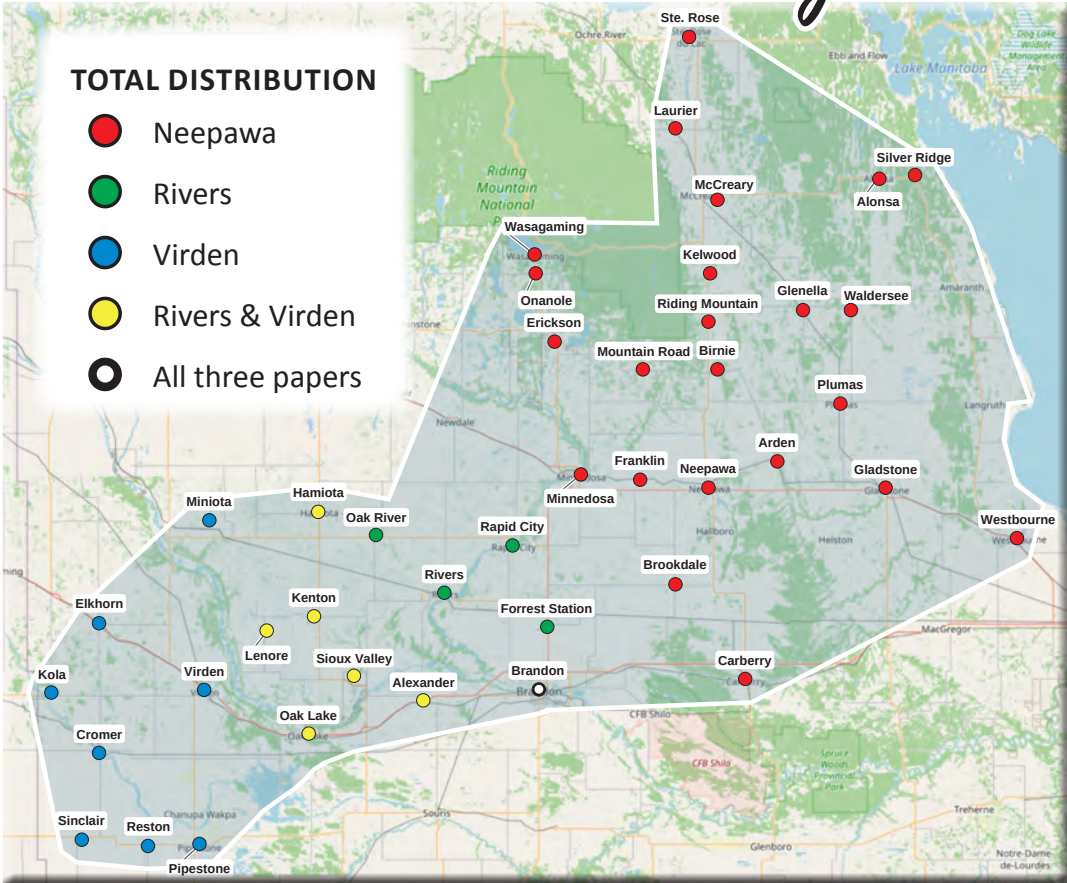
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PHOTO FROM KRISTA PEDERSON

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- Ken Waddell

SPORTS

OIL CAPITALS HIT THE ICE FOR FALL CAMP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lucas Laramée was excited to get back on the ice this week with the Virden Oil Capitals.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League team held its annual Comfort Inn & Suites Fall Training Camp at Tundra Oil & Gas Place on Sept. 1-3. The camp took place after the Empire-Advance deadline. Last season, Laramée, a rookie forward from La Broquerie, learned the ropes of the Junior A league while helping the Oil Caps make it all the way to the league finals.

“What I’m most looking forward to is getting back in town and re-connecting with the amazing people, along with getting back in that rink with teammates from last year, and seeing all the new talent and play-

ers coming in to join the team,” he said.

Tyson Ramsey, the Oil Capitals’ head coach and general manager, said the team expected to have about 55 players at fall camp. He said he is looking forward to “seeing guys back from last year’s team, and it’s always really interesting to see how much some of the players have developed physically over the course of the off-season, especially some of our younger prospects.”

With camp over, the local team now jumps into preseason competition. The Oil Capitals open their exhibition schedule Sept. 4 against the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League’s Yorkton Terriers at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. They travel to Yorkton the following night before travelling to Weyburn on Sept. 7 to face the SJHL’s Red Wings. The Oil Capitals then visit

the MJHL’s Portage Terriers on Sept. 8, with Portage coming to Virden the next day for the exhibition finale at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

“Playing the SJ teams just gives us and our fans a different look for the preseason,” Ramsey said. “We obviously play the teams in our league quite a bit during the regular season, especially teams in our division, so it’s exciting to see some different teams and different arenas. We are fortunate in that geographically we are real close to some of the eastern MJ teams.”

The Oil Caps will start the regular season on the road Sept. 18 against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. The next night, the teams clash again in Virden for the Oil Capitals’ home opener.

SCHARFF MAKES MEMORIES WHILE HELPING TEAM MANITOBA TO BRONZE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With a large group of family and friends cheering him on, Cade Scharff had a fun and successful experience at the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

The Virden athlete, who is the son of Rita and Chad Scharff, helped Team Manitoba win the bronze medals in the event’s top group. The Summer Games were held in Medicine Hat, Alta., Aug. 11–15.

“It was really fun,” said Cade, who noted he enjoyed “seeing new people and learning what province they were from. Playing softball against other provinces was so much fun. Hanging out with the team was also really fun. The opening ceremonies were good but the closing ceremonies were awesome.”

He enjoyed the fact that the closing ceremonies were closed to the public. The athletes and coaches enjoyed food and a dance party.

The 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games featured more than 1,700 athletes competing in 10 sports.

“The whole experience was incredibly special for our family,” Rita and Chad wrote in an email. “We were so proud to watch Cade represent Manitoba and compete at this level. Seeing him be part of the team, make new memories, and experience the excitement and camaraderie of the Games was something we will never forget. The support from his teammates, coaches, volunteers, and especially our family and friends made the entire experience even more meaningful. It was a very proud moment for us as parents to see Cade have this opportunity and to watch him enjoy every minute of it.”

Cade had 17 friends and family members cheering him on at the Summer Games. The group included his parents; Grandpa Art Chacun; sister Danika and her boyfriend, Rylan; Uncle Junior; Auntie Amy; Uncle Sacha; Auntie Annette; Chad’s cousins Darby and Rhonda from Drumheller; Cousin Jen from Brooks;

former Virden residents Dennis and Judy Hagan; and friends from Altona, Carla, Gillian and Lexi, who were also supporting athletes from their community.

“My brother, Junior, even had jerseys made for our family that said ‘Cade’s Crew’ on the front, with everyone’s name and their ‘title’ on the back,” Rita said. “It was such a special way for everyone to show their support and let Cade know just how many people were cheering for him.”

“It was awesome,” Cade said of the support. “So happy that they were able to travel to see me play. My uncle and auntie came all the way from Boston.”

Rita and Chad noted, “Having so much family there to support Cade and celebrate this experience with him made it even more special. It meant so much to Cade, and to all of us, to have that support in the stands.”

Team Manitoba softball head coach Warren Day and assistant coach Tanner Mole said Cade’s fans “were very supportive of the softball team and all Team Toba athletes.” Rita noted that many other friends and family members watched Manitoba’s games online and cheered Cade on from home.

Team Manitoba qualified for this summer’s event by winning the 2025 Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Summer Games in Winnipeg. In Medicine Hat, the team compiled a 2-0 record on the first day, which put it into the top group of three. Team Manitoba went 1-2 in the round robin. That tied it with two other teams, but it was ranked third due to the tie-breaker procedure. Team Manitoba fell by one run in the semifinals but rebounded to win bronze. Cade played third base for the successful squad.

“In his first national Summer Games, Cade had a very successful tournament,” Day and Mole wrote. “He made some key plays at third base and came through at the plate with a number of timely hits, including a home run, and used his speed on the bases.

“Cade is a very likeable young man who enjoys playing the game and, just as importantly, helping his teammates win. He was a great teammate and was always cheering the team on. His experience at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cade Scharff looks for a pitch to hit at the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

national games is another step in Cade’s development as a solid and dependable softball player. It was great to see him have the opportunity to compete at this level and show what he can do.”

Cade said he liked the diamonds the diamonds used for the Summer Game. He enjoyed various aspects of playing softball at the event.

“I like batting the best, but playing third base and getting people out is fun too,” Cade said. “I like my teammates. They are so much fun to play with. My coaches are really nice and so much fun, too.”

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SPORTS

WILLIAMSON MAKES HER MARK AT FIRST WESTERNS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Reston's Andie Williamson helped Team Manitoba win bronze at the 14U Girls Baseball Western Canadian Championship in its home province.

Williamson, daughter of Terri and Dallas Williamson, helped Team Manitoba close out the Aug. 14-16 tournament in Île des Chênes with a 16-12 victory over Team Saskatchewan.

"It meant a lot to win bronze at my first Westerns playing against some of the best female baseball players in Canada," Williamson said.

She helped Team Manitoba in a couple of different ways while demonstrating her potential for the future.

"For Westerns, Andie played a couple games at centre field and did a great job defensively," head coach Darnell Nast said. "Andie had an opportunity to pitch in a round-robin game, which gave her some invaluable experience for next season as she would be eligible to return as a major and one of the leaders for 2027."

Williamson helped Team Manitoba take major strides. It compiled a 2-3 record, which Nast noted "was a huge improvement on last year's 0-5." He said the team's tryouts drew 17 athletes in 2025, with that number increasing to 32 this year.

"Our depth at pitching improved dramatically and we had unbelievable performances from our top half of the lineup paired with a scrappy bottom half that found a way to get on base and turn over the lineup," Nast said.

Williamson appreciated various aspects of competing at the Western Canadian tournament.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to play baseball against other girls as I usually only play boys teams," she said. "I also enjoyed spending the weekend with my teammates."

This year, in addition to her time with Team Manitoba, Williamson played 13U baseball for her hometown Reston Rockets. She also competed in softball for the U13 Reston Rockets and the U13 AA Westman Storm.

"My family is a ball family, so I fell in love with baseball and softball at a young age," Williamson said. "I love the competition, having opportunities to make new friends and play against lots of good players."

She helped her teams to a lot of success this summer. The Storm won both the U13 AA Showcase and U13 AA Softball Manitoba Provincials. The U13 Rockets earned the silver medals at the Softball Manitoba U13 A Provincial Championship and won the Southwest Girls Softball League. The 13U Rockets finished in the top four at the Baseball Manitoba 13U Tier 1 Provincial Championships.

Williamson appreciates how her family has supported her this summer and throughout her time on the diamond.

"Both my parents have coached me in baseball and softball my whole life, with my big brother



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andie Williamson brought home a bronze medal from the 14U Girls Baseball Western Canadian Championship.

(Jamie) helping out as much as possible," she said. "We are usually playing ball in different places, but at Westerns my Dad, Mom and brother Jamie were all able to be there, which was pretty special. I'm very lucky to have both sets of grandparents help take me to practices, etc., and they attend almost every game I play."

SAWYER, LAING HELP CENTENNIALS TO CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A pair of players with Virden connections helped the Boissevain Centennials have a memorable season.

Virden product Zane Sawyer and Virden Oil Capitals junior hockey player Bryan Laing helped the Centennials win their fifth straight South West Baseball League title. The senior team was a perfect 14-0-0 in the regular season. In the playoffs, the Centennials only lost one game en route to the SWBL title. The Boissevain team also claimed the Western Canadian Baseball Association Senior Western Canada Championship. The Cents were 5-0 at the tournament in Saskatoon. Sawyer has long been a key part of the Boissevain squad. The pitcher was 3-0 during the regular season with a 1.84 earned-run average. He had a 3-0 postseason record with a 1.93 ERA.

"Zane has been the team's ace pitcher for years now," Boissevain organizer Ken Pringle said. "Zane always wants the ball in the tough moments and you can always count on him giving the team a chance to win. He is also an able third and first baseman for the team who is more than a capable hitter."

In his first year with the Centennials, Laing contributed as a pitcher and versatile fielder.

"As the year went on and he got more comfortable, he became an important pitcher for the team and played both infield and outfield," Pringle said. "He also really hit well for the team. Unfortunately, a late-season arm injury limited his playoff usage, but he has a great future with the team."

While the Centennials certainly have talent, Pringle said, "I think what people don't realize about this team is how hard they work at it. They played 10 games in a two-week period with provincials and Westerns and still practiced two times in between."

Williamson Earns Scholarship

Reston's Jamie Williamson won Baseball Manitoba's Andrew Budge Memorial Scholarship. Budge "was a talented Manitoba athlete from Winnipeg South who passed away suddenly in 2010 at the age of 24." Williamson is the son of Terri and Dallas Williamson. He is attending Valley City State University and playing baseball.

McKenzie helps Dodgers

Miniota's Ty McKenzie was a member of a successful Oak River Dodgers squad this summer. The Oak River crew lost in the SWBL finals to the Centennials before going on to win the Senior AA provincial championship in Winnipeg. He played third base and catcher and served as a designated hitter.

"He can hit the ball... Just does his job," Dodgers manager Derek Shamray said. "He is going to be a very good senior player."

Fellow Miniota product Aidan Lewis was also on the Dodgers' roster. Work commitments and injuries limited his time with the team this summer.

Senff Helps Seniors

Horizon Senff, a grandchild of Oak Lake's Bob and Maureen Senff, was part of Team Manitoba at the Women's National Championships. The event was held in Winnipeg. Recovering from an injury, Senff contributed however they could for the senior squad.

"Unfortunately, they weren't able to play in their regular outfield position but they were able to pitch an inning in relief for us," head coach Kevin Booker said. "They worked so hard to overcome their injury and it was such a good feeling for everyone that they were able to get into a game on the mound."

Rampton to Wear Letter

Kenton's Natalie Rampton has been selected as a member of Midland University's leadership group for the upcoming hockey season. The daughter of Sheri and Cameron Rampton has been named an assistant captain. A goalie, Rampton helped the Fremont, Neb., team win its first American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I women's national championship last season.

SPORTS

MJHL REPORT

Submitted

BY DEREK HOLTOM

Training camps open around the MJHL next weekend, with two preseason games scheduled for Aug. 31 - Swan Valley at Waywayseecappo and the Northern Manitoba Blizzard at the Dauphin Kings.

It's going to be very interesting to see how the MJHL comes out of the gates this year. On one hand the MJHL is riding high thanks to the Niverville Nighthawks winning not only their first-ever league championship, but also becoming national champions by winning the Centennial Cup last May. They earned that honour by defeating the host Summerside Western Capitals in their own rink in Prince Edward Island. In fact the Nighthawks are now currently an exhibit in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto for anyone who plans to visit this year (a tourist destination I highly recommend).

On the other hand, people continue to pick up the pieces from the devastating floods which pounded Western Manitoba this spring and summer. Swan River and Dauphin were among the teams hit especially hard this year. Dauphin's hospital remains unusable from the flood, while Swan River roadways and many homes were destroyed by the water.

The work to repair those communities continues and the hope is there they can also continue to support their junior hockey teams. Time will tell the tale on that point.

· There's always lots of off-ice news to report on from the off season, and this year is no different. One interesting move saw the Dauphin Kings bring back a familiar face to join new Head Coach and General Manager Bryan Kromm, who most recently coached the Trail Smoke Eaters in the BCHL.

Joining him on the bench is former Dauphin King Kirklan Lycar. The Elma, Man., product had a few stops in the MJHL, including with the Portage Terriers and the Virden Oil Capitals. But back in 2014-15 he made the all-rookie team in the MJHL thanks to his 19 goals and 26 points with the Kings. The next season he had 24 goals and 54 points for the Kings.

The 29-year-old spent last season as an assistant coach with the Manitoba AAA U18 Hockey League's Eastman Selects, and rejoins the Kings to take his coaching career to the next level.

· In Waywayseecappo, the team rewarded Head Coach and General Manager Landyn Cochrane with a multi-year extension.

Cochrane made history last year by becoming the first-ever coach in Waywayseecappo to lead

his team to victory in a best-of-seven series. And frankly the Wolverines were the only team to give the Niverville Nighthawks a scare in the playoffs last year.

"The Wolverines are thrilled to have extended the leadership of Coach/GM Landyn Cochrane," says Governor Morley Watson in a press release. "Landyn is one of the brightest young minds in the MJHL, and his vision, dedication, and leadership will continue to guide the Wolverines as an annual contender."

Cochrane says the play is to keep building on the success of last year and build a winner.

"I'm beyond excited and grateful to be extending my contract with the Wolverines organization and the Waywayseecappo Community," says Cochrane on the team website. "Coming back home and helping build something special here in Wayway has always been a dream of mine. Over the past two seasons, we've taken important steps forward, and I'm excited to continue building toward our ultimate goal of bringing a championship back to the Waywayseecappo Community."

The Wolverines lost a lot of veteran talent last year, but Cochrane has a history of finding talent. It will be interesting to see how they fare this year.

SPORTS A PLENTY

**REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN**



This is the time of year that sports lovers are in seventh heaven. We wait all year in great anticipation for this time of year.

Major League Baseball features the run for the pennant and all the wild card teams that will compete eventually for a World Series Championship. You do not hear as much about the pennant these days because of all the play-off rounds. At one time after 162 games the pennant winners were the teams who finished first in the National and American League. These two teams played in the World Series.

Today we have actually 7 teams that are

in one game playoffs, and a couple of best of five series to get to the World Series. The Toronto Blue Jays are of course chasing a wild card berth but face an uphill battle to say the least. Personally, I feel they will not make the playoffs. They have not hit all season and are at the bottom or near the bottom of the league in offence.

The Canadian Football league is halfway through their season. With the Labour Day classics coming up most teams will know whether they are playoff bound or golfing!

The National Football League training camps

are in full swing, and the regular season is just a few weeks away.

The National Hockey league training camps will be up and going shortly with exhibition games beginning on September 19 and the regular season beginning October second.

Locally, the Virden Oil Capitals, Neepawa Titans and the Brandon Wheat King camps have all started their training camps with exhibition games slated shortly.

As you can see there is a lot on the go as we enter the months of September and October.

I see the Winnipeg Jets goalie wants out of Winnipeg. He has 5 or 6 years left on his contract in Winnipeg. I wish some team would stand up and say, you wanted this contract, you signed it, therefore you should honour it! Otherwise go home and sit for all those seasons. See ya!

NOTICE

Under the Oil and Gas Act Application for a Battery Operating Permit Tundra 05-23-09-28 WPM

Tundra Oil and Gas has made an application under The Oil and Gas Act for approval to construct and operate a battery located at 05-23-009-28 (WPM) in the Rural Municipality of Pipestone.

If you have any questions or require any further information regarding the application, you may contact the Company or the Petroleum Branch at:

Tundra Oil & Gas Limited
C/O Andrew Brigden
295-3rd Avenue,
PO Box 1960
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Business, Mining, Trade & Job Creation
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590 Wellington St. E
PO Box 1359
Virden Manitoba R0M 2C0
204.748.4260

A copy of the application can be obtained from the applicant, viewed at the Petroleum Branch's Virden office or viewed online at:
manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html.

If the Petroleum Branch receives no bona fide written submissions objecting to the application by September 22, 2026, the Director of the Petroleum Branch may issue a battery operating permit.

Manitoba 

Correction ~ RE: Wallace-Woodworth community grants

At their August 11 meeting Wallace-Woodworth council passed a resolution to grant a total of \$117,391.70 to community groups within the municipality. These groups include churches, cemeteries, recreation facilities,

the Legion and a fire department. R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is responsible for the management of these funds that represent donations from ratepayers for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2026.

An Empire-Advance reader noted that the Wallace-Woodworth council report on page 20 of the August 21 edition referred to these amounts as grants. To clarify, these are funds raised by the community groups that are held in trust and managed by the municipality.

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS
R.M. OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the following days:

SEPTEMBER 16 – 22, 2026

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Main Office -Virden Kenton LUD Elkhorn LUD
154023-PR 257 220 Cornwall Street 12 Richhill Ave.

I or my designate will receive nominations for the offices of: Head of Council, Councillors, and LUD Committee Members for the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth.

The nomination deadline is **SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.**

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above locations, on the date and hours specified, by an agent, or by email. To obtain a nomination paper, and / or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Dated at Virden, Manitoba on August 21, 2026.

Braden Pilling
Senior Election Official
R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
PO Box 2200, 154023 PR257
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
Phone: 204-748-1239
Email: info@wallace-woodworth.com

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Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE
VOTING AS A NON-RESIDENT VOTER
R.M. OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

For municipal elections only, non-resident land-owners are eligible to vote in an election. In order to be eligible, the person must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age on Election Day;
- A registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months on Election Day.

A maximum of two non-resident property owners, per property, are permitted to vote in a municipal election. In order to vote, each of these voters must obtain written consent from a majority of the registered land-owners, and file this with the senior election official. Consent forms can be obtained from the senior election official (SEO), and must be presented at the time of voting.

When voting, you may also be required to provide proof of ownership to the voting official. Ensure you bring proof of ownership with you when voting.

For further information, or to obtain a consent form, please contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Dated at Virden, Manitoba on August 21, 2026.

Braden Pilling
Senior Election Official
R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
PO Box 2200, 154023 PR257
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
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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 R0M 2C0

We appreciate your interest in this position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. However, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CHANGE IN WALLACE-WOODWORTH UTILITY RATES

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth applied to the Public Utilities Board for revised water and wastewater rates for the Wallace-Woodworth Water and Wastewater Utility, as set out in By-Law No. 06-2024, read the first time on November 14, 2024, and the second time on July 8, 2025.

The Public Utilities Board approved revised rates in Board Order No. 114/26 as shown below. By-Law No. 06-2024 has received third reading on August 11, 2026, and the approved rates effective July 1, 2026, will appear on water and wastewater billings mailed at the beginning of October 2026.

Current and approved rates are as follows:

	Current Rates	July 1, 2026	April 1, 2027	April 1, 2028
Quarterly Service Charge	\$36.80	\$51.09	\$54.45	\$57.81
Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$9.12	\$13.93	\$15.06	\$16.20
Wastewater (per 1,000 gallons)	\$5.39	\$5.48	\$5.50	\$5.53
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$80.33	\$109.32	\$116.13	\$123.00
Bulk Water Sales (per 1,000 gallons)	\$12.75	\$18.25	\$19.25	\$21.75
Untreated Bulk Water Sales (per 1,000 gallons)	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Lagoon Tipping Fee (per load)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00

*Based on 3,000 gallons

**Plus an adjustment for historical usage

For more information, the full Board Order No. 114/26 may be found on the R.M.'s website, or you may contact the R.M. office at (204) 748-1239.

Iris Vercaigne, MBA, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
Dated at Virden, MB – August 25, 2026

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

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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
MARLENE BALZAR
JULY 24, 1942 – AUGUST 24, 2026



Marlene Balzar, beloved mother of Maureen Talyor, passed away at Virden Health Centre Monday, August 24, 2026 at the age of 84 years.

Mom was born July 24, 1942 in Winnipeg Manitoba to Karl and Audrey Johnson. She is predeceased by her parents, husband Ed & daughter Leona. Mom's family moved to the family farm in Whitemouth for many years and then back to Winnipeg to East Kildonan where she attended school. In 1962 Mom entered the Navy and was stationed in Nova Scotia as a Wren, where she met and married our father. Several years later they moved back to Manitoba. She worked various jobs and it was at one of those jobs that she met her second husband, Ed Balzar. They blended their family and settled down in East Kildonan/Elmwood. Together they would go on many trips to Las Vegas, San Diego, Palm Springs. Summers were spent camping in Ontario until they rented a cottage at Spruce Sands by Gimli, MB and really liked it there. So much so that they bought a cottage. That cottage eventually turned into their retirement home. Unfortunately, Ed passed away just a year into his retirement. Mom sold the home and she built a house with some property where she had her two horses, goats, ducks, her dog Charlie and her cat Rambo. This was Mom's happy place. Mom loved her horses and animals so much. In 2014 Mom moved to Virden to be closer to her grandkids. Mom loved to paint, do puzzles, was an avid reader & enjoyed rodeo weekends to watch all the action. She was part of the Virden Art Club, belonged to the library and until her fall, was still driving and enjoying her independence. Mom would come stay with us at Oak Lake Beach some weekends enjoying the wildlife and green space. Mom and I went on many road trips over the years and always got lost! It was always an adventure. Mom loved spending time with her grandkids. She lunched or shopped quite often with Anika. Morgan helped her out when needed. Mom was proud of her great grandchildren's sports achievements. She texted with Elizabeth, who often told her friends how cool her great grandma was. Family was very important to Mom. We would get Mom back to the Interlake every year if we could to her sister Leona's cottage for some laughing, visiting and her birthday crab leg feast and we did in July, 2026 to celebrate Mom's 84th birthday.

I'd like to thank all the nurses who helped care for Mom in Virden Hospital - Janet who Mom said took care of her so well, Dr. Hamel for her wonderful care when we first came in after Mom's fall. She really did try to do everything she could to get Mom comfortable and get her x-rays. Potentially get her to Brandon/Winnipeg for surgery if that was going to be viable Dr. Daoud for the care he gave Mom through the years.

She will be missed by so many friends near or far, so many people have had nothing but good things to say about her to me. Mom was funny, caring, giving, unselfish, generous and spicy when she needed to be, which is why I think we all loved her so much. She will be lovingly remembered by her brother, Russell (Ruth), sister, Leona (John) and brother, Earl (Joanie); her son, Rick; her daughter, Maureen, stepson, Mark (Debbie); sister-in-law, Elaine; numerous nieces, and nephews and their families. Grandchildren Jordan, Meigan (Thomas), Anika (Colin) and Morgan; great grandchildren, Elizabeth and Tommy and many, many wonderful friends she has met along her journey. We love and miss you mom.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

You can honour Mom by supporting Border Regional Library (Virden) or Virden Art Club. Carscadden Funeral Chapels Ltd. Virden, Manitoba in care of arrangements.



Notice

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR CONDITIONAL USE

Prairie View Municipality, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the below listed location, date, and time during which the Council will receive written or verbal representation from the applicant and any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

Application for a Conditional Use Order under Part 3 Table 3.2 of the
Prairie View Municipality Zoning By-Law #2018-15, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION: Prairie View Municipality Council Chambers located at 678 Main Street, Birtle, MB

DATE & TIME: September 8, 2026, 9:05 am (0905 h)

PROPOSAL: To add a Gravel Pit use to the property.

PROPERTY LOCATION: SW9-16-27W, Prairie View Municipality

OWNER: 6454870 Manitoba Ltd.

APPLICANT: Kent Naylor, Valley Rock Construction

CONDITIONAL USE ORDER APPLICATION

ORDER NUMBER: 2026-403-139-CU

TO PERMIT FOR: The establishment a Gravel Pit use on the land in the Agricultural General "AG" zone.

AREA: Approximately 9.5 km southwest of Birtle

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the Mid-West Planning District office during normal business hours. Copies may be made, and extracts taken there from, upon request.

Representations may be made verbally or in writing at the public hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Mid-West Planning District:

Ph: 1-888-919-1740

Email: devofficer@midwestplanning.ca

Lisa Hamilton, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT



Notice



NOTICE OF
NOMINATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the following days:

Melita Office – September 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22, 2026, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., at the Municipality of Two Borders Office, 138 Main Street, Melita, MB.

Nominations will be received for the offices of Reeve and five Councillors of the aforesaid Local Authority.

The nomination deadline is September 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent, or by email. To obtain a nomination paper, and / or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Ph: 204-522-3263

Email: info@twoborders.ca

Dated at Melita, Manitoba on August 28, 2026.

Grace Carr
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)
Municipality of Two Borders

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FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION
NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the following days:

September 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22, 2026

between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at the Fort La Bosse School Division, 9th Avenue and Wellington Street, Virden, Manitoba. I will receive nominations for the office of SCHOOL TRUSTEE for the following wards:

WARD NUMBER 1	2 trustees to be elected
WARD NUMBER 2	1 trustee to be elected
WARD NUMBER 3	1 trustee to be elected
WARD NUMBER 4	1 trustee to be elected
WARD NUMBER 5	1 trustee to be elected

The nomination deadline is September 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is lesser) of the ward, but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent, or by email. To obtain a nomination paper, and candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the Fort La Bosse School Division at the telephone number listed below or attend the Division Office at 523 Ninth Avenue and Wellington Street, Virden, Manitoba.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Telephone Number: 204-748-2692

Dated at Virden, Manitoba on August 26, 2026

Kent Reid, SEO
Fort La Bosse School Division

Coming Events

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7th Annual Salad Smorg

Saturday, September 12, 2026,
11 am to 1 pm SK time.

Maryfield Harmony Centre.

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Miniota News

Submitted
By LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Robyn and Traci McKean and excited big sisters Brae and Logan on the arrival of Harli Brett, born July 19 at Brandon. Welcome Harli!

Richard and Grace McKean and Kevin and Cora-Lee McKean, Lloydminster Alta. visited with Randy and Ollie McKean for a night enroute to the McKean Reunion at Anola, Man. on the August long weekend. Randy, Ollie and Donna Brown also travelled to the reunion, and enjoyed a visit with Jim and Debbie Forsyth at Morden on the way home.

Congratulations to proud first-time grandparents Harry and Dawn Wenzel and great grandma Eleanor Cousins on the arrival of their granddaughter Tallah Willow Kamryn McLellan on Aug. 20 to Kaitlyn Wenzel and Corey

McLellan. Tallah was born at Halifax, N.S.
Edward and Beth Lelond visited with their daughter Liz Hargrave and grandchildren Hudson, Alec, Savannah and Isabelle at Walsh, Alta. While there, they attended the gala evening to celebrate the establishment of the Yuill School of Agriculture in Medicine Hat. Each room will be named after a sponsor. The Hargrave Ranch, which was established in 1888, was one of the sponsors. Liz and her family were one of the families recognized for their support of this project. Congratulations to Liz and her children on this recognition of the Hargrave Ranch.
Sheila Kokorudz enjoyed a visit with family members in Calgary as well as taking in some new sights.
Harvest has begun in our area. Wishing all farm families a safe and wonderful harvest season!
Word has been received from Patrick Hall of the death of his father Brian Hall. Brian was born to William Hall of Solsgirth and Edith Bonner of Miniota. Brian was also a nephew to John Bonner. Patrick and his brother

have fond memories as kids of visiting their Uncle John in Miniota and also at the Bonner farm.
“My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we’ll change the world.” -Jack Layton
Isabella News
Marilyn Schick’s family, John from Calgary, and Brendan and his wife Fran from Regina, said goodbye to their dad this past Saturday. They were joined by Wayne’s sister Carol and her husband Dan Coggins, sister-in-law Kathleen Boland from Victoria, Fran’s parents Dana Anjeli and Chris Gilboy from Regina. They were fulfilling Wayne’s wishes to be buried next to friends in the Isabella cemetery.
Our thoughts are with the communities of Elkhorn and Kola following the devastating tornado touchdowns. Much damage to properties, but a relief that all are safe.
“The past is behind. Learn from it. The future is ahead. Prepare for it. The present is here. Live it.”



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PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Elkhorn residents hopped on the HandiVan with Karen Mitchell.

Submitted

BY KRISTA PEDERSON

On Thursday Aug 13, six Elkhorn residents hopped on the HandiVan with Karen Mitchell, SAIL Resource Coordinator, and headed to Mossomin for lunch. The day was wonderful, great people - great weather - great food, what could be better?

We were treated to some good food at Dairy Queen, as

they celebrated their Miracle Treat Day. Despite being run off their feet busy, we were treated with quick and great service. And who doesn't like a little ice cream to cap off lunch.

Once back on the bus we headed over to the local Thrift Store where we found some great treasures. Needless to say, Karen came out with the biggest box of items that were used at Elkhorn's High Tea.

Cruising back on #1 Highway towards Elkhorn, we decided to make a pitstop at Flemings Extraordinary Light Cafe. What a great little hidden gem with both artwork and delicious saskatoon pie and jams.

As we all rode home with a full belly, we were quick to recognize the great day had by all. Already looking forward to the next excursion!

Dr. Don Finlay's Canadian Homecoming

Submitted

FROM VIRDEN COLLEGIATE TO GLOBAL INNOVATION

Dr. Don Finlay, a proud graduate of the Virden Collegiate Institute Class of 1971, has spent the past few weeks touring Canada, reconnecting with old ground and sharing a decade-in-the-making, internationally acclaimed invention that is changing the global livestock industry: the Easy Boss E cattle distraction device.

In recognition of his immense contributions to the field of veterinary medicine, Dr. Don was notably awarded a place on the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association's Lifetime Honour Roll in 2021.

For Dr. Finlay, this trip back to Canada is a profound, personal homecoming. Raised on a stock farm near Lenore, his journey began in the classrooms of Blair, a one-room country schoolhouse, before he moved on to high school in Virden. His deep-seated passion for cattle production led him to Brandon University for a BSc in Zoology, followed by earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1978.

Local farmers with long memories might remember Don from the summer of 1975. As a sharp, eager veterinary student, he spent his days learning the ropes at the Virden Animal Hospital, mentored by local veterinary legends Dr. McDougall, Dr. More, and Dr. Clayton. Today, that same local veterinary service utilizes the Easy Boss E in their daily practice — a testament to how deeply his work has influenced those who know the true value of distraction handling in the cattle realm.

A Meeting of Minds: Aligning with Temple Grandin

That pivotal summer in Virden launched a distinguished 25-year veterinary career across Canada, eventually taking him to Australia and New Zealand. As Don's work focused heavily on improving the lives of livestock, his career path naturally crossed with the highest tiers of animal welfare research.

A definitive highlight for Dr. Don occurred in June 2018 at the International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare (known as "The Summit") in Calgary, Alberta. Organized in part by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the conference featured renowned livestock behaviour expert Dr. Temple Grandin as a prominent keynote

speaker. Fittingly, this story comes just days after Dr. Grandin's birthday on August 29 — a timely moment to reflect on the shared philosophy that has shaped Don's career.

Dr. Grandin has spent a lifetime revolutionizing the livestock industry by advocating for the reduction of fear, stress, and agitation through understanding an animal's unique perspective. For Dr. Don, catching up with Grandin at The Summit was a powerful validation of his own work. Both experts share a core, science-backed philosophy: livestock handling should always prioritize keeping animals calm, avoiding pain, and working with their natural instincts rather than against them.

By the time Don crossed paths with Grandin, he'd already been using the device out in the field in Australia, watching first-hand how it settled cattle. What he wanted was scientific clarification — hard evidence that the simple tool he'd been relying on actually worked. That confirmation came in 2013, when he co-authored a peer-reviewed study in the Canadian Veterinary Journal alongside fellow researchers Brooke L. Aitken, Joseph M. Stookey, Scott Noble, and Jon Watts, examining how oral distraction affected beef cattle undergoing freeze branding. The trial found that steers given an oral distraction struggled noticeably less during the procedure, regardless of which branding treatment they received — putting rigorous, published data behind what Don had already seen with his own eyes.

It is that exact shared philosophy that birthed the Easy Boss E — an invention Don evolved directly through those principles.



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Dr. Don Finlay with the Easy Boss E cattle distraction device.

Developed in Australia, the innovative device acts as a gentle oral distraction for cattle while they are being handled or treated. By sliding into the mouth and tapping into the animal's natural chewing reflex, it remarkably lowers their stress, fear, and defensive behaviors without causing pain. Today, the Easy Boss E boasts a significant worldwide reach.

"I have had many mentors in the handling and care of cattle, including my first ones: my mother and father," Don reflects. "Using a simple oral insert instrument to settle individual animals while caught is the core of distraction cattle handling. This welfare-friendly manner of distracting cattle from fear and pain is my prime focus now."

Fifty-five years after walking the halls of Virden Collegiate, and over half a century since his days as a student at the Virden Animal Hospital, Dr. Don Finlay is incredibly happy to be home — bringing a piece of global innovation back to the place where his story began.



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MICHELLE CHYZYK
Artistic Director/Producer

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Saturday September 26 @ 1:30pm**

Sunday September 27 @ 1:30pm*

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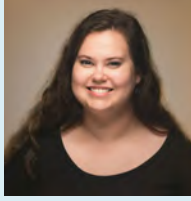
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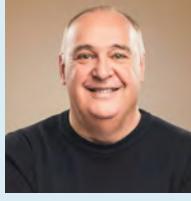
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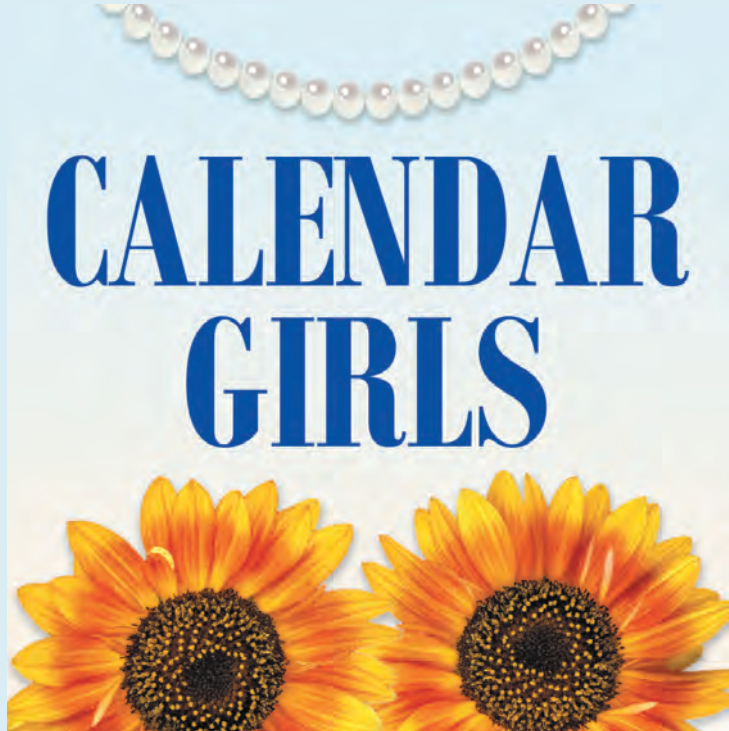
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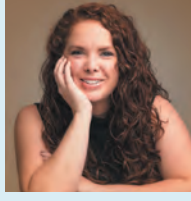
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