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OCTOBER 17, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 9 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 11 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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Border Regional Library shows off renovations

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Thursday, Oct. 9 the official grand opening of the Virden branch of the Border Regional Library gave readers a chance to celebrate the newly renovated facility. It is impressive. The large reception desk has elbow room for Head Librarian and Administrator Laranda Bailey, Senior Librarian Britanee Cosens and Assistant Librarian Sydney Hill to process book loans and returns.

A separate kids' room gives a dedicated space for the youngest patrons, with age-appropriate books and activities. An adjacent open area with a large table is a great place to read, write or play board games. The computer centre has several machines available for research, homework or email.

Bailey said, "Despite still holding over 20,000 books, we feel like there's more space than there was before. We have new carpet, a finished ceiling, big bright new windows, lots of bright lighting, refreshed washrooms that are now accessible, a spacious front entrance with an interior book drop, a water fountain."

A great new feature is the large bright multipurpose room. "We will be running our programming out of this room and will soon have it available to rent out to organizations and individuals looking for space to hold meetings, game nights, birthday parties, whatever you dream."

She told the crowd at the opening celebration that the renovation project formally began in 2022 but had been discussed for over 20 years, with records of conversations dating back to 2008 and even earlier proposals to add a second floor.

Bailey thanked the team from Roger Branum Construction for transforming



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Head Librarian Laranda Bailey, Senior Librarian Britanee Cosens, library board chair Mark Humphries and Assistant Librarian Sydney Hill cut the cake to open the library.

the library despite the challenges of working around books and limited space. She said, "Thank you so much to all our generous donors and funders for believing in our community space and helping us continue to thrive. Our board was committed to the goal of renovating the space. They were champions with our councils, helped apply for funds and kept pushing our engineers forward to make sure we got everything completed."

A Long Road to Completion

Library board chair Mark Humphries echoed Bailey's sentiments, acknowledging how long and challenging the process has been. Humphries told the Empire-Advance, "I would like to extend my gratitude and acknowledge the presence of Mayor Tina Williams and Deputy Mayor Marc Savy of Virden, along with their CAO, Rhona Stewart. Councillor Barb

Stambuski from Wallace-Woodworth is here tonight, and Reeve Clayton Canart sent his apologies for not being able to attend due to a prior commitment."

Humphries praised library staff and said, "Now we're in this marvelous space that hopefully will carry on for generations to come. When I first joined (the committee) there were people campaigning to actually close library doors, which to me was one of the reasons why I wanted to join the library board. People forget that from the smallest child's imagination to the senior drop in, to the person who starts his business from a computer screen because he can't afford one at home, a library brings all that to a town.... When you listen to just how much good it brings the community, we should all be encouraged by where we are today."

VIRIDEN OIL CAPITALS
HOME GAME
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
VS. WINKLER
FLYERS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



**WESTMAN FARMERS
JOIN HALL OF FAME**

P1



**SENIOR LIVING
IN VIRIDEN**

P2

FALL INTO SAVINGS

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Savings: -\$8,000
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**2025
RAM 1500
Big Horn**

Viriden Tennis Court



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Several weeks ago, cricket players just couldn't wait to get on Viriden's newly paved tennis courts, and just as well - the weather has since deteriorated. It's a work in progress with adjustable nets recently ordered, landscaping and refencing yet to come as well.

Thankful for volunteers Senior living in Viriden



PHOTO BY KRISTA PEDERSON

L-R: Olivier Frattinger, Shirley Thomson, Alan and Caroline Greig, all enjoy the sing along with Leah Lees on the piano

Submitted
BY KRISTA PEDERSON

Seniors Access to Independent Living continues to offer Programming to connect the community. And we count on volunteers! Both of the congregate meal programs provided community meals in the last few weeks. SAIL board members are always willing to lend a hand...and community members help with transportation. Kitchen coordinators Vickie Whittle-Smirl,

(Viriden), and Kristina Walker, (Elkhorn), never disappoint! We are always treated to a fantastic meal! And then comes the entertainment! After Elkhorn's meal, coordinator Karen Mitchell arranged for Tanya Martin to entertain. Her music is always appreciated! Viriden coordinators, Julie Mason and Krista Pederson arranged for the meal at Princess Lodge. Leah Lees of Oak Lake led a Hymn-sing. Singing old favourites together, brought back memories of years ago,

filling the church basement with the smells of thanksgiving, and the sanctuary with its sounds. You'll have another chance to enjoy singing along to old favourites on Tuesday, October 21 at St Paul's United Church. From 1:30-2:30, the Senior Serenaders will provide the music, and afterwards Viriden Royal Purple will serve refreshments in the hall. Oak Lake Coordinator, Tanis Podobni, brings a group, and we fill sanctuary at St Paul's United Church with the beauty and the fun of music.

Marina Brown walked for the "grannies"

By Ken Waddell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Marina Brown of Viriden dropped into the Viriden Empire-Advance office for a visit on September 25 to share her story. "I want to walk from Viriden on Sept. 30 for Orange Shirt Day all the way to the Brandon Residential School site. I tried to do it last year but I got so tired and somebody picked me up and took me home. This year, I want to do the walk the whole way," she said. She will be walking in memory of all the First Nations grannies and also, "For my two sisters, mum and grandparents who are gone now". The Brandon Residential School opened in 1895 and was closed in 1972 said Brown. "I was taken from Canupawakpa First Nation and

forced to attend Brandon Residential School from 1964 to 1972. Many of the teachers there were cruel and there was verbal, physical and sexual abuse. We didn't learn much except ABCs and to count to 100. I can still remember the soap and water to wash our out mouths when we spoke our own language." Brown outlined her experiences and concerns in a November 25, 2021 letter to the Sixties Scoop Class Action Administrator. Brown wrote about the abuse and injuries she experienced. After the school days in foster homes, she had some very rough experiences. A brochure put out by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation lists over 100 names of children that died at the Brandon School. Brown said she would be wearing a red skirt to represent the missing



PHOTO BY KEN WADDELL

Marina Brown walked on Orange Shirt Day.

Indigenous women over the years. In a follow-up interview, Brown said she made the walk to Brandon and back, fulfilling her goal.

THANK-YOU FROM CANUPAWAKPA DAKOTA NATION EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Canupawakpa Dakota Nation Education Department would like thank:

- Tundra Oil & Gas
- Old Dutch Chips
- Valleyview Co-op
- Canupawakpa Ladies group
- Empire Advance
- Town of Viriden
- Fort la Bosse School Division Maintenance Department
- CD Oil Service
- Eugene Ross for the cultural display
- Brandon Residential School Research Team
- Brandon United Church pictorial display of the Brandon Industrial School
- Bella Roulette for creating the beautiful logo on our shirts
- Drummers, singers & dancers from the Canupawakpa Community
- All the staff of Canupawakpa Education that helped out today!
- Lastly to the survivors – thank-you for your strength, resilience & willingness to share.

WE HONOUR YOU!!



Get a jumpstart now on fixing marginal acres

Control kochia, salinity with dormant seeding

By Glen Kirby

DUCKS UNLIMITED COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

In the coming weeks before freeze-up, farmers have a great opportunity to increase profitability in their fields by rehabilitating weedy or saline acres. Dormant seeding perennial forages is a proven solution.

"Dormant seeding can be very successful when implemented correctly," says Jenai Buchanan, a marginal areas specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). "And for areas suffering from excess moisture each spring, the fall months could be your one opportunity to take action."

Marginal acres make up a significant portion of production land on the Canadian prairies. DUC sustainable agriculture research scientist Sam Robinson, in collaboration with the Prairie Precision

Sustainability Network (PPSN), estimates 13 acres in every quarter section. That's 7.3 million acres of marginal farmland in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta which remain unproductive despite fertilizer, crop protection products and careful management.

"These consistently low-yielding acres really don't pay," says Robinson. "On average, prairie farmers lose about \$68 per acre trying to grow annual crops in these areas. But perennial forages are another tool in a farmer's toolbox to turn underperforming acres into productive forage while reducing weed pressure and input costs."

Timing is critical when planting perennial forages in the fall. Dormant seed-

ing must be done when the soil temperature is below 5 degrees Celsius. Otherwise, a temperature spike from either warm days or early snow insulating the ground can lead to premature germination and extensive winterkill.

"Seed heavy and use a diverse mix," advises Buchanan. "A late spring frost can impact establishment, so seed up to 30 percent heavier to account for potential losses. We also find a seed blend with several grasses and legumes improves the success rate."

DUC offers incentives to farmland owners ready to tackle marginal acre problems including kochia and salinity. A bonus discount is available when sourcing seed through Nutrien and additional incentives may apply for land financed through Farm Credit Canada. Contact



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DUCKS UNLIMITED

the DUC representative in your area to calculate total payments. In Manitoba, the Marginal Areas Program is funded in part by the Conservation Trust, an endowment fund providing sustainable, long-term financing for conservation in the province.

In addition to financial incentives, DUC provides one-on-one agricultural extension support including seed mix selection and establishment advice. Farmers can see best practices for establishing forages in hard-to-manage

areas at the research and demonstration farm north of Brandon operated by Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives.

Buchanan says patience is key when rehabilitating marginal acres. The goal is to get the ground covered with competitive perennial forages that will outcompete weeds and fill in bare patches. Saline-tolerant forages can take two to three years to fully establish and some touch-up seeding may be required.

"When dormant seeding or touching up in the

spring, we recommend using a seed drill for the best seed-to-soil contact," says Buchanan. "If broadcasting or droning, you should do a harrowing pass afterward to cover the seed. Don't plant deeper than three quarters of an inch. Anything deeper can reduce emergence and plant counts."

With patience and sound agronomy, dormant seeding of marginal areas can be successful. For more information or to contact DUC, please visit ag.ducks.ca

PMH set to hold virtual Annual General Meeting

October 22



PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH
SANTÉ PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN

Submitted

BY PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) will hold its 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, October 22 from 12 p.m. (noon) until 1 p.m. Chief Executive Officer Treena Slate invites PMH staff, community representatives, organizational members and area residents to join the online interactive meeting. The AGM will be held virtually which will offer participation

by both online and phone options.

"We will review our last operational year (April 1-2024-March 31, 2025) with a focus on our services, strategies, priorities and planning," stated Treena Slate, CEO of Prairie Mountain Health. "We'll provide a snapshot of our current fiscal year, which is about six months complete, and provide an opportunity for par-

ticipants to ask or send questions," Slate stated.

Slate adds, the AGM also provides another opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the tremendous efforts of health care staff, physicians and volunteers who continue to assist individuals and families who need care and support within the region.

Details on how you can join the virtual meeting on October 22 will be made available soon on the PMH website at www.prairiemountainhealth.ca. However, there is no 'pre-registration' required. The detailed 2024/2025 PMH Annual Report and audited financial statements, which will guide the annual meeting review, will also be made available on the PMH website on the day of the AGM.

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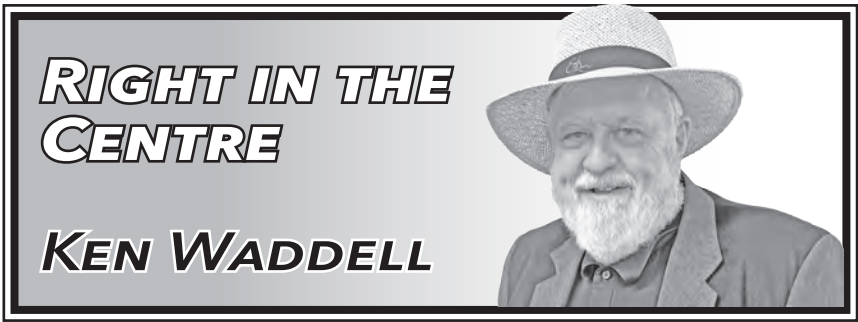
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Tundra
By Chad Carpenter



It's all about the news

In my role as publisher and editor, I invest a lot of time in listening to people, writing about people and events and studying the news industry. One of the worst things that has happened in the news industry is the 24 hour news channels, either on-line or on television. There just isn't enough new "news" to fill a 24 hour cycle. Even on the international scene where there are wars, economic shifts and numerous other news items, the best the studios can do is to get about two hours a day of fresh material. To fill in the time, TV stations and on-line outlets re-hash and re-run old material. War stories are the worst, as any TV viewer will attest, in a two minute story you can see the same building being blown up three times. Then an hour later, it's shown all over again. Fortunately, it's not a problem in local newspapers. We have our say and the community has their say once a week and that's it. There just isn't enough news to have "news" printed or broadcast all day and all night long. Another thing that has happened is that neither the news industry, nor the journalism schools are training themselves adequately in the art of news versus opinion pieces. This column is an opinion piece and there are usually about one or two pages of opinions in our papers every week. The rest should be news and advertising. When we report on town councils or sports events, we want it to be news and not opinion unless, within the story, a person is expressing an opinion and then it should appear in quotation marks, Newspapers need news, that's number one. And they do need opinion pieces and, of course, advertising. In our world today, it's difficult to con-



vince people to pay for news. A recent survey in the United States stated that only 15 per cent of people are willing to pay for news. In days gone by, local newspapers had hundreds, if not thousands of paid subscriptions. That is becoming less common nowadays. In fact, the largest community newspapers in Manitoba are free distribution including this paper. It's a model we adopted over 30 years ago and in the case of the Virden Empire-Advance, we switched to free distribution as soon as we bought the newspaper in 2024. There are advantages to both free and subscription newspapers but I won't bore readers with those details here, save to say, we have adopted the free distribution model. Another major change has happened to newspapers and that is the continuing decline in service from Canada Post. The subscription newspapers are really up against it during postal strikes and there has been two in the past 10 months. I think that Canada Post could be extinct, as we know it, in the next couple of years unless there's a huge change in service and attitude. As I have said many times, the local postmasters give great service but Canada Post, as a corporation and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers have long ago forgotten their roots and their

mandate. In order to provide delivery of our three papers, we left Canada Post entirely except for out-of-region subscriptions. To bring you your paper every week, we have five vans and a SUV. We have six staff, where at least part of their duties is driving papers around the country. They all report that people are glad to see us every Thursday or Friday and I can attest, as I am one of the drivers, that the reception is good. I know in the days ahead, the fear-some winter driving days, we may wish we weren't on the road in a storm, but even winter driving isn't too bad. And when it is, I have always told my drivers, they make the decision. I have never made anyone drive on a road when they thought it was unsafe. I tell them, I want them home safe, the van home safe and the load safe but in that order. People come first. And that's our outlook on life. My wife and I have been in the newspaper industry since 1968, with a few different activities once in a while. We have been continuously in the newspaper business for 36 years. Thanks again for all your support. Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the newspaper staff.



History review

One advantage/disadvantage of those sleepless nights is the opportunity to read. This week I picked up a book first published in 1966, 'The Winter Years' by James H. Gray. The author was born in Whitemouth, Manitoba, reported for the Winnipeg Free Press, reflecting on his experiences on the Great Depression, and covering events on the prairies during these times of testing - testing the mettle of the people, testing new ways of caring for people, and the land. The events were definitely before my time, before my memory, however I did hear family members talk about the financial collapse, the drought, the grasshoppers - the utter despair. Ed's family was one of those that simply walked off a farm in the Palliser Triangle and relocated to Starbuck Manitoba. He told of his father and older brother loading a railcar with livestock and farm implements, and the rest of the family driving, slowly, out of the bleakness and destitution of failed and failing farms to the green of the new place, right on the banks of the La Salle River. It was spring when they made the move, and it was a memorable arrival- the river water covered the bridge and they had to walk across, through ankle deep flowing water. A sure symbol that the worst of the drought was over, for them. 'The Winter Years' depicts the sorrow of living on relief, the work camps, the crowded housing, the wearing out of people and goods. Gray goes on to show how the province of Saskatchewan was better prepared to deal with the destitution. There was a plan in place to provide feed for one cow and two horses at the homestead, all other animals were shipped to community pastures. As a farmer at heart, the reality that cows adapted to their new environment much better than the horses because horses missed their owners and their home, rather hurt my heart. They returned home gaunt and broken in spirit. The book also speaks of the work of the PFRA, the planting of shelterbelts, the work of deep plowing the soil contrary to the prevailing winds. I think of that aspect of farm husbandry. I come from a long line of tree planters; shelterbelts, decorative, and fruit trees. And then, as the farm implements became so much larger, existing shelterbelts were cleared to make farming easier. I pray we don't live to regret that too deeply. The organisation also had a plan in place to have dug outs, ponds, dug on the farms. They knew the need for stored water, for humans and beasts. Again, here too, we see sloughs and low lands carefully leveled, preventing water standing on precious farm land. I pray that we don't live to regret that too deeply. The troubling times did bring out the better in some folks. In 1931, The Canadian Red Cross sent out a nation wide appeal for help for the 125,000 destitute farm people in Saskatchewan. The response was staggering, particularly from Ontario. Churches became the gathering points for donations of clothing, food, sheets and blankets. The United Church sent 135 carloads, Roman Catholics 62, Presbyterians 10, and Lutherans 8. Beyond expectations, and life saving. So much to remember, and so much to learn.

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Shots fired at Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Westman RCMP Service Report for Oct. 5 to Oct. 11

Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 88 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 30 traffic offences, 4 Mischief, 1 Wellbeing Check, 7 Assault, 2 False Alarm, 1 Suspicious Person, 2 Uttering threats against a person, 1 Operation while impaired, 1 Fail to attend court, 1 Discharge Firearm while Being Reckless, 2 Abandoned Vehicle and 1 Breach of Peace files.

On Oct. 7, Westman RCMP were dispatched to a call involving a domestic assault in the Town of Elkhorn. RCMP arrived on scene and there was obvious injuries on the victim. EMS also attended the scene. A 23-year-old male was arrested on scene without incident and transported to the Virden RCMP detachment for lodging. He was remanded into custody and will appear in court later this month on charges of Assault

Causing Bodily Harm, x2 Fail to Comply with undertaking conditions, Assault while choking, suffocating or strangling, Forcible entry, Uttering threats, Mischief under \$5,000 and Possession of fewer than 25 units of unmarked tobacco.

On Oct. 8, Westman RCMP were dispatched to a disturbing the peace call in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP arrived on scene and it was determined that that an assault had taken place. The victim was treated by EMS on scene and a 37-year-old female was placed under arrest and transported back the Virden RCMP detachment, she was later release on an undertaking to appear in court in December on charges of Assault with weapon and forcible confinement.

On Oct. 9, Westman RCMP were dispatched to an assault in the Town of Virden. RCMP arrived on scene and spoke to the complainant. A 41-year-old female

and a 19-year-old male were arrested and released on undertakings to appear in court in December. The 41-year-old female is charged with Assault. The 19-year-old male is charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm.

On Oct. 10, Westman RCMP were dispatched to a shots fired call in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP attended

the scene and obtained a statement of the incident. A 44-year-old male fled the scene and was later located. Police Dogs Services and the remotely piloted aircraft system were deployed to contain the scene and ensure the safety and well-being of individuals and aid in the arrest of the 44-year-old male. He was arrested without further incident and has

been remanded into custody, he will continue court appearances this month and is charged with Discharge Firearm while being reckless, Possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose, Assault with Weapon, Resists/obstruct peace officer, Breaking, entering and committing – Residence, and Uttering Threats against a person. A 35-year-old female was also arrested during the investigation, and she is charged with Possession of weapon obtained by crime, Possession of a firearm when knowing

possession unauthorized, x2 Weapons possession contrary to order and fail to surrender authorization, and Careless use of a firearm. She was released on an order by the court to attend court in November.

To report a complaint or non-emergent incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call the administration line at 204-748-2046 Ext. 3. If you are reporting an emergency please call 911.

Miniota News



SUBMITTED PHOTO

For the Growing Miniota project a lineup of equipment got the job done on Oct. 7 where 60 acres of soybeans were harvested in the Miniota field and in the Isabella/Decker field, 270 acres.

Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

for another successful harvest of 330 acres of beans. A total of nine combines, two grain carts, and seven trucks arrived to complete the harvest this past Tuesday, Oct. 7, on the land rented from Kelvin and Becki Wall and from Terry and Jana Joseph. Following the harvesting of this year's beans, the Miniota Community Centre women arrived with a lovely supper in the field for the harvesters and guests. Around 50 enjoyed the meal and the fellowship.

Congratulations to the "Growing Miniota" committee, a part of the Enhancement group project

We wish the Growing Miniota committee a good price when the beans are sold. This past week the new ice plant arrived and was lifted in to place by a crane. We are getting closer to artificial ice in our skating rink. Hats off to the committee, the many who work to raise funds and also to those for their donations to make this project a reality.

Saturday, Oct. 11 the annual rink sale was held in the curling rink with a start of 10:00 in the morning. A bit of a different format for this year, however, as usual the rink was packed with donated items to support the Miniota Community Centre. The crowd wasn't quite as large as usual. Many came to enjoy a lunch of chili and hotdogs.

Noting the cars in front of homes this weekend, many families celebrated the Thanksgiving season.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

HAMIOTA DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

1:30 PM

H.D.H.C. OUTREACH MEETING ROOM

4 - 3 YEAR DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN FROM

R.M. WALLACE-WOODWORTH (2)
PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY (1)

R.M. OF OAKVIEW (2)

ALL MAY ATTEND BUT ONLY MEMBERS CAN VOTE OR HOLD A DIRECTOR POSITION
MEMBERSHIPS \$10.00 FOR 3 YEARS

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

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

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

5:30 pm at the A.P.P.L.E. Literacy Centre
#2 - 585 Seventh Ave South, Virden
204-748-2384
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CENTRE OF IT ALL

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Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Property Tax Notices

Reminder – Property taxes are due by October 31.

If you have not received your 2025 tax statement, please email info@virden.ca or call the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

2025 Citizen of the Year Nominations now open!

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

Deadline to submit your nomination is **November 14, 2025**.

Visit virden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year or call the Town Office for more information.

Noon Hour Shinny Starting October 27

12:00-12:50 PM - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

\$5 drop-in or season passes available at the Town Office - \$125+GST

Visit our facility schedule at www.virden.ca.

Upcoming Council Meetings

October 21 and November 4

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

You have company coming for lunch. You want to impress, but you also want to serve something you know won’t have you tied up in the kitchen for hours. A tuna melt is the ultimate mashup of two comfort food favorites: a buttery grilled cheese sandwich and creamy tuna salad. Pair this sandwich with a cheese soup featuring a blend of cheddar and mozzarella cheeses. It’s perfect for a cozy lunch. Add a hot fudge pudding that will sweeten the ending to your luncheon. The decadent hot fudge sauce literally creates itself while baking in the oven.

Tuna melt sandwich

For the tuna salad:
1/4 cup finely diced red onion
1/4 cup finely diced celery
1 small dill pickle, finely diced
2 small cans tuna fish, drained
2 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. prepared Dijon mustard
1/8 tsp. each salt and pepper
1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh herbs such as chives, basil, dill, or parsley (optional)
1/4 cup mayonnaise
For the sandwiches:
mayonnaise or soft butter for the outside of the bread
1 large tomato, sliced, optional
8 hearty sandwich bread slices, such as rye
8 slices cheddar cheese
For the tuna salad; stir together everything in a bowl, mixing it well, leaving the mayonnaise for last. Add mayonnaise a spoonful at a time, just enough to bind everything together. The salad should hold its shape on a spoon. Cover one side of each bread slice with butter or mayonnaise, spreading it all the way to the edges. Turn the slices over and cover with cheese. Top with tuna salad then with tomato slices. Top with another slice of cheese. Close the sandwiches and mayonnaise or butter top of the bread. Cook on a griddle or in a large frying pan over medium-high heat until deep golden brown and cheese is melted, about 3 minutes per side, pressing lightly with the spatula. Serve immediately.

Canadian Cheddar cheese soup

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
1/4 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup very finely chopped celery
1/4 cup shredded carrot
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
3 Tbsp. butter
1/4 cup flour
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
2 cups milk
1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
3/4 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
Garnish with a sprinkle of paprika or dried dill if desired
In a pot, bring broth to a boil. Add the onion, celery, carrot and garlic powder; simmer for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Meanwhile, melt butter in large pot. Whisk in flour and dry mustard and cook for a minute or two. Gradually add milk; cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Add the broth and veggies to milk mixture and stir until blended. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add cheeses. Cook and stir until melted. Do not boil.

Virden Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 22, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Virden Town Office Council Chambers
236 Wellington St W, Virden, MB



MJHL SEASON UPDATE

MJHL HOCKEY
DEREK HOLTOM

Will the Winnipeg Monarchs (formerly the Winnipeg Freeze) ever ice a competitive team?
The Monarchs are off to predictable terrible start. They are the first team to 10 games played, and the first to nine losses. Their lone win came in their fifth game of the season against the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, who were playing in just their second game of season after a bit of delayed start this year. Even though the Blizzard lost to the Monarchs, defending champions have much more upside. After four games the Blizzard have allowed just 11 goals and look impressive in their own end. The team plus-minus is -7, as opposed to -52 already for the Monarchs.
Projected over an entire season, the Monarchs are on pace to be a staggering -336. This is all things discussed last year. And the year before.
The ownership group seems to have placed the better players with the Winnipeg Blues, as both are owned by the same owner. It remains to be seen how much more competitive they will be if they put the top 25 players who want to play junior A hockey in Winnipeg on one team, and the next 25 on the next.

What does this all mean?
It means players in the East Division will again pad their stats playing against subpar opposition more times than teams in the West Division. This means goaltenders and skaters.

It also continues to raise the question – what are the Monarchs doing in the MJHL? If they’re never going to be competitive, if they continue to attract only those players willing to pay their fees to play in the MJHL, are they doing the league more harm than good?

I think a lot of people are thinking of those questions. Answering honestly publicly is another thing.

Two suspensions were handed out following the first weekend of hockey in October, including a three-game suspension handed down to Steinbach’s Hunter Kelso. He was assessed a major for boarding on Oct. 3 in a game against the visiting Waywayseecappo Wolverines. The hit Kelso delivered on Wayway’s Gage Sutherland was so violent that he required a visit to the hospital. He was later cleared and was at home recovering.

The other suspension was handed out to Fenton Mann from the Winnipeg Blues. He earned a major for interference on Oct. 5 in their game against the Neepawa Titans.

The Swan Valley Stampede won their opening game of the season, and then rattled off seven straight losses. Some of that is due to injuries, some due to bad luck, and some due to them not being up to the level of their opponent.
For a team looking to bounce back after an extremely disappointing season last year, a 1-7-0 start isn’t helping. To address that, the Stampede acquired defenseman Nathan Hayes from the Melfort Mustangs of the SJHL for a player development fee (PDF). The 19-year-old played in his home province last year.
The Stamps also traded goaltender Elias Giaccari-Dimitriou to Terrebonne of the QJHL for a PDF. He played 31 games with the Stamps this year but hasn’t played anywhere this year so far.
In other moves, the Winnipeg Blues acquired defenseman Tyson Matthews from La Ronge for a PDF. The Vernon, B.C., product played 50 games in the SJHL with the Ice Wolves the past two seasons.
The Blues also acquired defenseman Kieran Thibault from the Portage Terriers for a PDF. The Kamloops, B.C., native played in the KIJHL last season with the Kamloops Storm.
The Winnipeg Monarchs sent defenseman Maxwell Hoey to Niagara Falls of the OJHL for a PDF.
And the Winkler Flyers sent defenseman Cayden Adams to Kam River of the SJHL for a PDF.



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Westman farmer inducted to Agricultural Hall of Fame

Submitted
MAHF NEWS

Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame (MAHF) selected two inspiring leaders as MAHF inductees for

2025. Mr. Lloyd Ellice Atchison of Pipestone and Mr. William Leslie "Bill" Campbell of Boissevain were recognized for their contributions and accomplishments to Manitoba's agriculture industry in an induction ceremony in Winnipeg at Red River Exhibition Park on Oct. 8.

Born May 8, 1943, in Souris, Lloyd Atchison has dedicated his life to farming excellence and environmental stewardship. In 1970, he purchased Poplarview Stock Farm near Findlay, transforming it from a modest operation of six quarters and 90 black Angus cows into a thriving 35-quarter, 900-head cattle operation that became a model of sustainable agriculture.

Lloyd's pioneering work with Limousin cattle began in the late 1960s when he enrolled in crossbreeding experiments with the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

His commitment to breed improvement led to his recognition as a founding member of the Manitoba Limousin Association in 1971, where he served as president and on numerous committees. His cattle achieved national recognition, including the top indexing percentage bull at the National Bull Test in Irricana, Alberta, and he received the Manitoba Performance Testing Premiere Commercial Beef Producer award in 1986.

Beyond his farm gate, Lloyd demonstrated unwavering commitment to public service, serving 35 years as a councillor for the Rural Municipality of Sifton (1970-2006) and dedicating over 30 years to conservation boards. As a founding board member of the West Souris River Conservation District in 1995, and later chairman of the Souris River Watershed District, he championed sustainable agricultural practices and water conservation initiatives that benefited the entire region.

Lloyd's philosophy of "leaving the land better than received" guided his implementation of innovative con-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

During the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Oct. 8 (L-R): Alex Labonté (Executive Director of MAHF), Lloyd Atchison (MAHF Inductee) and Carla Ashcroft (Director, MAHF).

servation practices including zero tillage, extensive shelterbelt plantings, rotational grazing systems, and buried waterline installations to protect waterways. These efforts earned Poplarview Stock Farm a nomination for Grazer of the Year (2004) and Conservation Family of the Year (2006) from the West Souris River Conservation District, and designation as a century farm in 2005.

Known throughout his community as "Mr. Fix It," Lloyd exemplified the spirit of rural cooperation, always willing to help neighbors with machinery repairs and

community projects. His involvement extended to the Pipestone United Church, Pool Elevators, Manitoba Cattle Producers (now Manitoba Beef Producers), and the Findlay Community Club.

Lloyd Atchison's legacy represents the finest traditions of Manitoba agriculture: innovation in farming practices, dedication to conservation, and selfless service to community.

The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame proudly honours Lloyd Atchison for his outstanding achievements in agriculture and his enduring commitment to the betterment of rural Manitoba.

Lions Club Donations - Part 10



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Paul Pennycook presenting a donation to Virden Girl Guides, accepted by Jennifer Pearn on May 28. Over the next few weeks we will be showing all the wonderful donations made by the Virden Lions Club to different organizations.

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Letter to the Editor RE: School board by-election

The first month of the school year is now behind us, having flown by in the all-too-familiar blink of an eye. Students and staff in our province's public schools along with families and communities who revolve around those schools are starting to get into welcome routines.

In five communities in Manitoba, there is an added twinge of anticipation that comes with the start of a new school year. For Brandon, Louis Riel and Pembina Trails School Divisions, there are crucial trustee by-elections scheduled for later this month; each promising to be an important electoral race offering plenty of choice for the local constituency. In Prairie Spirit and Mountain View School Divisions, nominations are still being collected and considered, and we anticipate strong slates in those communities as well.

As a Manitoba trustee myself, I have a clear bias about the excitement that comes with a school board by-election. But as a parent and a Canadian who has the state of our world weighing on my mind these days, I am encouraged and bolstered by the capacity and promise of our public education system and the incredible youth who are at its core.

These by-elections offer a fresh opportunity to better understand our public education system and those who make the local governing decisions that determine its path forward. For the rest of Manitoba, they will serve as a valuable preview for province-wide municipal and school board elections in a year's time.

Alan Campbell,
President, Manitoba School Boards Association

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SPORTS

OIL CAPS' OFFENCE PRODUCING IN TWO WINS LAST WEEK

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals' offence was on full display last week.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad scored 16 goals over three games. It went 2-1 over that period. The Oil Caps beat the Waywayseecappo Wolverines, 7-4; fell to that team, 4-3; and defeated the Neepawa Titans, 6-3. The team enters the week with a 6-3-0-0 record. With 12 points, that tied them with the Dauphin Kings for tops in the MGEU West Division.

The Oil Capitals' three-game home stand comes to a close when the Winkler Flyers visit on Oct. 17. The next night, the team is in Steinbach to play the Pistons. As of Oct. 12, the Pistons paced the MJHL with an 8-0-1-0 record.

Bryant Earns Star of the Week

Virden product Bryce Bryant was named one of MJHL's Stars of the Week for Oct. 6-12. He collected five points, including four goals, over three games.

Oil Caps 6, Titans 3

At home, in front of 702 fans, the Virden squad outshot the visiting Titans, 40-26, on its way to a 6-3 victory. The Oil Capitals led 3-1 after the first period and 4-2 following the second. Dysen Drake scored the first two goals of his MJHL career and earned the First Star.

"I liked our start to the game and how we were able to stick with the plan when Neepawa pushed back in the middle part of the game," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "Dysen is a very, very skilled player. He has a

great brain for the game and can make plays that others are not able to, which was evident on both of his goals. We are very excited about the potential we see in Dysen."

Bryant found the back of the net twice and recorded an assist. He was the Second Star. The game's Third Star, Cohen Lewko, also scored. Virden's other goal came from defenceman Rhylan Baxter, who also recorded an assist. Carson Wright assisted on two goals. Oil Caps goalie Micky Gross made 21 saves for his third straight win. Colten Worthington was named the team's Hardest Working Player.

Neepawa's goals came from Tyler Wamboldt, Keenan Skrupa, and Sebastian Hetterich. Titans netminder Alex Myers made 10 saves on 13 shots in the first period. Zach Burleigh came on in relief and turned away 24 of the 27 shots he faced.

Wolverines 4, Oil Caps 3

The visiting Wolverines outscored Virden 2-1 in the second period to take the lead for good on Oct. 10 in Virden. The teams had been knotted at 2-2 after the first frame. London Hoilett and Noel Englot had the Oil Caps' first period markers. Bryant scored in the second on a power play.

Ben Roulette had two goals for Waywayseecappo. Blake Farthing and Manson's Kurt Rookes also scored for the Wolverines. Roulette and Rookes each recorded three points and were the First and Third stars, respectively. Hoilett was the Second Star. Wright was tabbed as the Hardest Working Player.

In front of 724 fans, Oil Capitals goalie Braxton Burdeny had 26 saves. Jase Wareham stopped 30 for Waywayseecappo.

Oil Caps 7, Wolverines 4

The Oil Capitals had a strong start on the road on Oct. 8 in Waywayseecappo. After Aidan Herring scored for the Wolverines, the Oil Capitals reeled off four goals to hold a 4-1 lead at the first break. Scoring for Virden



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Oil Caps defeat Titans 6-3 on October 11.

were Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper, Hoilett, Englot and Nate Schaefer.

In the second session, Waywayseecappo scored twice but the Oil Caps got one and held a 5-3 lead. Brooks Siemens scored for Virden. The Wolverines got goals from Mikey Thomas and Cale Livingston.

The Wolverines pulled to within one, 5-4, on a Sebastien Hicks marker 2:09 into the third period. The Oil Capitals scored twice to close out the game. Bryant and Hoilett, getting his second of the night, did the scoring. Hoilett was the First Star with three points. Draper and Liam Goertzen, who had two assists, were the Second and Third stars.

When asked what allowed his team to score seven goals, Ramsey said, "A good forecheck, with good feet and good sticks and, as a result, we were able to force turnovers and get pucks and bodies to the net."

Burdeny made 22 saves. Mariko Bercier started in net for Waywayseecappo. He stopped eight of the 12 shots sent his way. Wareham played the final two period and made 15 saves.

HOCKEY NOTES: BEATY TO PLAY IN WHL CUP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Jake Beaty will soon be competing against and with Western Canada's 2010-born hockey players.

It was recently announced that the son of Christie and Matt Beaty** has cracked Team Manitoba's roster for the Western Hockey League Cup. The prestigious event runs Oct. 22-26 in Red Deer. In addition to Manitoba, B.C., Saskatchewan and Alberta will also have teams competing.

Oil Cap of the Month

Newcomer London Hoilett was chosen as the Virden Oil Capitals' CD Oilwell Player of the Month for September. The forward competed in all four of the team's games that month as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League season got underway. He scored three goals and recorded an assist.

Oil Cap Leaders

Virden's own Bryce Bryant led the Oil Capitals in scoring, as of Oct. 13. He had 12 points through six games. Bryant and

Hoilett each had a team-high six goals. Rookie Colten Worthington paced the Oil Caps in assists with eight. Rhylan Baxter and Virden product Ty Plaisier, the team's captain, led the blue line with six points each. Goalie Micky Gross had a 2.00 goals against average, while Braxton Burdeny was at 2.86.

Oil Cap Signings

The Virden team continues to add players for the 2026-2027 campaign. The squad recently announced the signing of two 2009-born forwards. Brandon's Hunter Ethelston currently plays for his hometown U18 AAA Wheat Kings. Taylor Lockhart of Killarney competes for the U18 AAA Southwest Cougars.

Kirkup Leads

The roster was recently announced for the U18 Team Manitoba for the 2025 National Women's U18 Championship in Newfoundland and Labrador. Former Virden resident Karissa Kirkup is the head coach. She was an assistant coach for the team for the 2024 edition of the event.



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SPORTS

BOND ENJOYS TIME RODEOING AT OLD COLLEGE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Kenton's Rudy Bond has a hard time picking just one aspect that she enjoyed about her time competing in rodeo for Olds College.

The daughter of Tyler and Pam Bond barrel raced and competed in pole bending for two seasons for the Alberta college. Her last season was 2024-2025.

"All of it was so much fun and memorable," Bond said. "But the practice nights was one thing I always thought made my experience much better. Being there with all other teammates and coaches working together to make the team going into the upcoming rodeos was a factor in why the Olds College Broncos was such a competitive rodeo team.

"Another thing I will always remember is travelling, weekend after weekend, multiple hours on the road with the people I met that have now without a doubt become my lifelong friends. Not even from your own, but from the other schools and competing teams as well. On top of all that, the rodeo weekends. The support from teammates and competitors is something that truly meant a lot to me."

Emily Pugsley served as the Olds College women's rodeo coach in the past. She is now the head coach. Of Bond, she said:

"Rudy had a sense of 'feel' for her horses that I don't find can be taught. She could anticipate the move her horse was going to make before they made it and therefore was able to be an exceptional jockey. Rudy had three horses on campus over the two years she was a student-athlete, and she catered to their individual needs and was always asking questions of how to be a better partner with them. I referred to Rudy as a 'sponge'; she took any and all knowledge in and molded it into her own style."

In her first college season, Bond's main barrel horse George came up lame and she was unable to finish

the season with him. He eventually went home and had to retire.

"He loved the retirement life, eating grass and hanging out with the rest of his buddies in the pasture," Bond said. "Unfortunately, George ended up passing away later in the year."

In her second college season, Bond was pleased to compete on her "heart horse" Tommy. She had rodeoed on him since Grade 9.

"He tried his heart out for me with every run we made, and he always knew when I needed him most," Bond said. "Making my last few rodeo runs on him last fall in our last college rodeo season was an emotional roller coaster, but I would have not wanted to do it on any other horse. Tommy and I were placing and continued to stay consistent throughout the whole season.

"Rodeo is so much more exciting when the horse wants it just as much as the jockey. In the spring, my sister (Hudson) was so kind and let me run a young mare of hers, who was just starting to get into the rodeo world, and I had so much fun with her. She has so much speed and try. I am excited for her future in the rodeo world."

Bond enjoyed various aspects of college rodeo. She said, "There are lots of things that made college rodeo, but what made it fun for me were all my teammates, coaches, and other competitors. Having my teammates always cheer me on, make me smile and laugh, help me become a better athlete, and overcome all the challenges that came my way. Some of my best friends were made in that rodeo arena. College rodeo is something I wish everyone had the opportunity to do, it really pushes you to move out of your comfort zone."

She said that her college rodeo career would not have been possible without the support of her parents and family.

"They helped me every step of the way, and made countless trips to come see me and watch me do what I love," Bond said. "Being far away from home was



PHOTO BY OLDS COLLEGE

Rudy Bond competed in rodeo for two years at Olds College.

difficult at times and I knew they were always just a phone call away and they will support me no matter what. I will never be able to thank them enough for everything they've done for me and my siblings."

She earned an agriculture management – livestock production diploma from Olds College. Bond is currently in a term position as the service administrator for the Mazer group in Shoal Lake.

REF MEMORIES

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Well summer has passed us by again, and it's hockey season. Teams are preparing for another season of play. Times are different now as most arenas have artificial ice, unlike years ago where we had to wait until December when it got even cold enough to make ice. We used to skate on the frozen slough if there was not too much snow. How things have changed!

Back in the day, the early 1980s, I received a call to go to Souris to officiate a AAA midget game between the Southwest Cougars and I believe the Central Plains Capitals. I had not been on skates as we were just finishing up doing silage on the farm. It was a Sunday afternoon game, and I agreed to go and do the game. I always made it a habit of checking over my hockey gear before

I left to work a game. I had witnessed so many times where players forgot something at home that they would need for protection out on the ice surface. The most common was an elbow pad, a shin pad, sometimes one skate and god forbid your jockstrap!

I get to the rink in Souris and start to prepare for the game. As always for me right skate first, then the left. My favourite undershirt beneath my referee sweater. Referees have their habits too, as long as I have my lucky sweater, I will be fine.

There is nothing quite like the fresh air hitting you in the face as you skate around the ice surface getting a little warm up before the game. Man, that is one thing I miss, the feel of the fresh air hitting your face! I usually did about 3 laps around the rink, checking the boards and doing some stretches as well. The next thing to do was stop at the timekeeper's bench and check the game sheet to make sure the correct number of players were printed on the game sheet. Many a time I seen officials get in a lot of trouble because they did not bother to check the game sheet to make sure everyone was accounted for. Coaches sometimes miss someone's name, it is up to the referee to make sure the numbers are correct. Why do you ask? Because if a player scores a goal and his name is not on the game sheet, the goal is disallowed. The player can not be added to the sheet, and he must leave the ice.

Anyway, back to the game. I call the teams to the centre ice dot to get the match underway. It was

not long before I realized I was like fish flopping out of water. I had no legs and no wind. This was going to hurt for a while.

The first period was fast, both teams skating and just playing the game the way it is meant to be played. I used to skate on the face-off dots for position but I quickly found out I was just getting in the players way. I had to adjust and stay closer to the boards if I wanted to survive. This decision was made when Danny Senff from southwest, who was a great skater, nearly ran me over. Danny was fast and later played in Neepawa for the Natives.

I was at the face-off dot when Danny yelled, look out! I froze and just stood there. Danny went around me like a hoop around a barrel. I thought, Gerry get to the boards and stay to hell out of the way.

I managed to get through the game unscathed and the game finally ended. I tell you I was exhausted and my lungs were on fire, or so it seemed. My legs felt like rubber, but I survived another game. This game really got me into shape. Nope it did not. It would be 2 more weeks until my next game and I did it all over again. I felt slow compared to those young AAA midget players, man they were quick.

Thank you to Danny Senff for going around me instead of going through me. I thought I was done like dinner that day!

Next week I will share another night of survival in an exhibition game in Hamiota. This was in the old Hamiota rink so you know it is more than a few days ago.

SPORTS

BAXTER'S LACROSSE EXPERIENCE HELPS HIM ON ICE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Rhylan Baxter is well-versed in both of Canada's national sports. The 19-year-old from Winnipeg is an important contributor on the Virden Oil Capitals' blue line. The Manitoba Junior Hockey League defenceman also plays lacrosse. Baxter is a former member of Team Manitoba in lacrosse. He believes playing field and box lacrosse has benefited him on the ice.

"Lacrosse helped me out when I have to shoot on the run in lacrosse, which is the same as skating and shooting at the same time, (and) my footwork by having quick change of direction on the field and ice. (As well as) being tough, because in lacrosse you're getting slashed and hit all the time - almost the same as hockey when I get hit lots and have to be prepared for it, and, last of all, just playing on a team with a bunch of guys. Both sports aren't a one person game. You need to use everyone."

On the ice this season, the 6-foot-1, 191-pounder has made an impact on both ends of the ice. As of October 12, Baxter had lit the lamp three times and collected three assists in eight games.

"Rhylan is a big body with a heavy shot," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He has some good offensive instincts and has the ability to score with his heavy shot. When he asserts himself physically, he can be very hard to play against and he can be effective in a number of different situations for us."

Baxter is in his third season with the Oil Capitals. In 2023-2024, He split his rookie campaign between the Oil Caps and the Winnipeg Blues before returning to Virden for last season. He billets with Jason, Michelle, Cardyn, and Maddyn Hayward.

"The team feels like a second family," Baxter said. "Everyone is supportive, and we push each other to get better every day. I enjoy being involved in the community, from school visits to volunteering. It feels good to give back to the community after they come and support us every home game."

Baxter has enjoyed his time playing lacrosse - Canada's national summer sport. While he is a defenceman in hockey, Baxter is a forward in field lacrosse. For Sturgeon Heights Collegiate in 2024, he scored 17 goals and accumulated 20 points in eight games. Baxter played some defence in box lacrosse. He suited up for Team Manitoba two years ago and on an alumni squad last summer.

"Playing lacrosse, I enjoyed just being with all my friends that I grew up with and winning three championships in four years, which was lots of fun, and scoring goals," he said.



Virden Oil Caps #2 Rylan Baxter.

PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

From the prairies to the highlands tour 204 - part 7

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

We were up early the morning of August 10. We were on the van heading to Fort William where we would board the Jacobite Express, a steam train enroute to Mallaig which is an eighty-four-mile round trip between Fort William and Mallaig.

We are now in the highlands, which I will talk about in a later issue. There is much to tell. For now we are on the train. What an experience hearing the chug, chug, chug, of the engine and then hearing the whistle blow-wow! Talk about stepping back in time. The last time I was on a train was about 60 years ago when a childhood buddy, Donald Gray and I headed from Rivers to Winnipeg to stay with my brother Garth and Marion Nolan for a week. Do you remember that, Don?

Shortly after leaving

the station, we crossed the Glenfinnan Viaduct, what a site to see. It is in the Lochaber district of north-western Scotland and was built from 1897-1901. The Viaduct overlooks the Glenfinnan monument and the waters of Loch Shiel. On the banks were dozens of spectators waving to us and taking pictures. This train and Viaduct are a well-known site from the Harry Potter movies. Talk about feeling like celebrities!

Upon arriving in Mallaig we found a beautiful tiny fishing village, which is a busy fishing port and ferry terminal. It services Skye, the small Isles and Knoydart Peninsula where the most remote pub in mainland Britain is located.

While in Mallaig we visited the Crab and Creel Restaurant where we had delicious seafood. Julie ordered the largest platter of Langostino Lobster that I have

ever seen. She was late getting her food so she had to eat in a hurry as we were on the clock to get back to the express to get back to Fort William.

Our trip was fun. The only unfortunate thing is there are a lot of trees growing up beside the track that blocks the view.

Once back in Fort William we boarded the van and headed to our next destination which was The Glen in Newtonmore. This was a delightful little family run hotel which we basically had to ourselves. Room hopping was the entertainment of the evening.

The next morning, we gathered in the breakfast room where the best display of yummy treats were laid and ready to go. The husband-and-

wife team treated us like royalty. They did have to educate us all on how to work the coffee machine, I think they were a pair of Brits as they tried their best to have us all

drink tea! It did not happen, we wanted coffee. This was a cozy place to stay and we enjoyed our time there.

As we boarded the bus, there was a sense

of excitement as we were on the hunt for {Nessie}. That is correct, we were heading to Loch Ness! Tune in next week to find out if we had an encounter.



Riding the steam train Jacobite Express to Mallaig.

PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Fall hiking tips

Submitted

BY METRO CREATIVE

Fall hiking can be a unique and exciting experience. Thanks to the vibrant foliage, crisp air and smaller crowds than might be around during summer, fall is a prime time to lace up one's boots and hit the trails.

Beyond the opportunity to check out the amazing foliage displays synonymous with this time of year, spending time outdoors in fall provides various health benefits. According to UAB Medical West, some benefits of hiking include improved mental well-being, enhanced balance and improved muscle strength.

As with any hiking trip, it is key to plan ahead to enjoy a safe and enjoyable adventure this fall.

Layer your clothing. Fall weather can be unpredictable and dramatic temperature fluctuations can occur between morning and afternoon. The trick is layering clothing to provide comfort and safety. Start with a moisture-wicking base layer, add an insulating layer like fleece for warmth, and top it with a waterproof and windproof outer shell. Then you can adjust your clothing as conditions change.

Wear proper footwear to ensure ample traction. Opt for sturdy hiking shoes or boots with significant ankle support and excellent traction. Fallen leaves and rain or early-season ice can make paths slippery. Waterproof footwear is highly recommended, especially if damp conditions are expected. Wool socks (not cotton) will wick away moisture and provide warmth even when damp. According to a study on mountain hiking in the Austrian Alps, 75 percent of fall accidents occur on descents, so having extra traction can help.

Mind the daylight. As fall inches closer to winter, daylight hours diminish rapidly. It's easy to underestimate



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Stick to the trails and wear extra layers on your fall hike.

how quickly dusk will arrive. Plan your route to account for your pace so you can be off the trail well before sunset. Pack a flashlight or headlamp just in case.

Mind the habitat. Anytime you hike you should be mindful of the natural settings around you. Stick to the trails so you do not disturb delicate vegetation. Also, never feed wild animals. They can grow accustomed to an easy hand-out and lose their fear of humans, putting themselves at risk of harm. Remember to dispose of trash properly and always take out what you bring in.

Stay fueled and hydrated. Despite the cooler temperatures of fall, dehydration may occur as the body loses fluid through exertion and respiration. Pack plenty of water and take sips regularly. Bring along energy-rich snacks like protein bars, trail mix and dried fruit to maintain energy levels throughout the excursion.

Fall hiking trips enable people to immerse themselves in the stunning beauty of the season while also getting some exercise and enjoying ample fresh air.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fall rooftop garden.

that can easily survive our climate, but there are usually a number of plants that I grow that will usually not make it through our winter. The decision to keep or let freeze has most likely now been taken out of our hands.

If you have any tender summer bulbs that you have tucked away – keep a close eye on them while in storage. I tend to tier the storage for any tender bulbs and plants that I store with their storage beginning in an insulated but unheated garage and then later into the basement in a cool corner until they start to grow. One day, it is my hope to have a root cellar!

As the season moves on, we may still have a day here or there that is warm enough to still enjoy some outdoor chores. I use this time to organize and put away any tools or other garden paraphernalia so I can easily access them in spring. Tools that were used could be cleaned up a bit more, sharpened and oil the handles so we are ready for spring.

May the end of fall find you enjoying all the root crops from your garden while nibbling away at the tomatoes, squash and onions. Don't forget to carve your pumpkins for Halloween and then make some tasty pumpkin treats. As it gets cooler, enjoy a roaring fire inside and plan for what you will be growing next year.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

Tune into GROW Live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort> or check out the Youtube channel GROW...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzkiUpkvyv2e2HCQIFl0JyQ>

Fort La Bosse School Division board meeting minutes in brief

By Empire-Advance staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the Division Office

boardroom on Monday, Sept. 22, at 8:00p.m.

Present: Chairperson Craig Russell, Vice-Chairperson Becky Flannery, Nicole Chaske, Bonnie James, Kayla Moore, Superintendent of Schools Barry Pitz, Secretary-Treasurer Kent Reid, Supervisor of Operations Mark Johnston; Regrets: Teresa Vandenberghe

Delegations and visitation

Shelley Warnica attended as a delegation to appeal a school of choice decision to the Board of Trustees.

Mike Thiessen, Coordinator of Instruction, Curriculum and Technology made an interesting presentation to the Board of Trustees on Artificial Intelligence in education.

There were no communications or petitions requiring action at this meeting.

Administrative reports

The Board of Trustees received an excellent tour of the Mary Montgomery Garden project prior to the start of the meeting.

A review of the FRAME Financial Statements that are prepared for the Province was done in preparation for the annual audit next week.

The Supervisor of Operations presented the results of the fuel tender and a resolution to approve the tender awards. Two bus routes that have had no regular drivers now have steady coverage.

In maintenance, the Mary Montgomery boiler replacement project is slated to be started in the spring due to the time of year. Other updates were provided on the filling of cleaner vacancies, security camera installations and Workplace Safety and Health training.

New and unfinished business

The Board of Trustees reviewed registration information for the Region 1 Fall Regional meeting held in Brandon on Oct. 18. The Board discussed a proposed resolution that will be presented for consideration at the MSBA AGM. Trustees unanimously supported the nomination of Nicole Chaske as Region 1 director for a second term at the upcoming MSBA AGM.

There was general discussion around board protocols for such things as device use and remote meetings as well as the idea of reviewing the governance structure for efficiencies through this last year of the trustee terms and leading into elections next fall.

Resolutions:

The Board of Trustees ratified the Superintendents approval of the full-time teaching position for Shae-Lynn Forster commencing Sept. 2, 2025. Carried (Unanimous).

The Board ratified approvals for student trips: 11 VCI students to volleyball tournament on Sept. 12th, & 13th, in Winnipeg; 10 VCI students to a volleyball tournament on Sept. 19, & 20, in Niverville, MB.; 10 VCI students to volleyball tournament in Sanford, MB on Sept. 19, & 20; swimming for 57 Oak Lake Community School Students at the Sportsplex in Brandon on: Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, & 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, & 28, Dec. 5, 2025. Carried (Unanimous).

In two Motions the Board approved the requests of Boundary Lane Colony School Parents and Plainview Colony School Parents to have students recite the Lord's Prayer during morning exercises. Carried (Unanimous).

The Board unanimously approved monetary resolutions:

- Signing the CCDC 2 Stipulated Price Contract with MNK Mechanical for the Mary Montgomery School Boiler Replacement capital project.

- The contract fee from Suncorp Valuations of \$13,950 plus taxes for the building and content valuation of three schools to meet the requirements from our broker and insurers.

- Designation of \$210,000 of the 2024-2025 operating fund accumulated surplus for completion of approved Section "D" building costs.

- Transfer of \$400,000 to the capital bus reserve effective June 30, 2025.

- Payment to Boss Lubricants of \$7,710.37 taxes included for engine oil.

- Fuel tender award as detailed by the Supervisor of Operations dated Sept. 22.

The meeting went to a Committee-of-the-Whole to consider a matter in the Superintendent's Report.

Back in the regular board meeting, adjournment was 11:04pm.

Last chores for the garden

Submitted

BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Fall is one of my favourite times of the year. The air is crisp, you need to layer your clothing and in spite of winter being just around the corner, it is a beautiful season. It is always a toss up if we have snow for Halloween and costumes for the little ones need to accommodate winter outerwear beneath them.

In spite of the length of autumn we have, it seems that there are always some chores left to be done when the ground has become white! I am not sure if anyone else follows a schedule like mine, but over the years I have come to accept that I will be outdoors doing some work in the garden while wearing heavyweight gloves.

On days when the sun shines and I have an inkling to get some fresh air, you will likely see me puttering around in the beds with secateurs in hand. I like to leave any perennials that might have winter appeal, but those that are not nice to look at, I will generally cut them back and add to the compost pile if time permits. Do remember that anything that is vertical will trap snow and benefit your garden with added moisture. Removing plant material is an easy way to help control diseases. Plants exhibiting diseases should not be added to your home compost, as it likely does not get hot enough to kill the pathogens.

Autumn is the best time to add compost to your garden areas as over the late fall, winter and early spring it does break down. Also, the freeze-thaw processes will also help to break it down. Recycling your garden waste is creating healthy soil that has the capacity to grow more nutritious food and healthier ornamentals.

Any plants that were newly established would benefit from some extra protection for the winter. Prior to the mercury dipping lower, mulch around these plants to ensure their crowns are well insulated. If you have any tender bulbs or perennials that you wanted to lift and keep, it is likely a bit too late for that unfortunately. I tend to grow perennials

Gratitude, grounding, and a dash of gravy

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

Thanksgiving is not just about turkey, gravy, and elastic waistbands. It is about feeding the soul as much as the stomach. Sure, the mashed potatoes might steal the show, but the real magic of this holiday lies in slowing down, connecting, and remembering just how much we must be grateful for. Holistic wellness is all about balance of mind, body, and spirit and Thanksgiving offers the perfect opportunity to check in with all three. Before we dive headfirst into the stuffing, let us take a breath. A deep one. In through the nose, out through the mouth. That small pause can calm your

nerves, settle your stomach, and remind you that wellness starts with awareness. It is like pressing the reset button on your inner self before the pie arrives. Gratitude is the real star of Thanksgiving. When we focus on what we have instead of what we lack, our bodies and minds respond with peace. Scientists say that practising gratitude can improve sleep, strengthen immunity, and even lift your mood. So, before the first bite, try sharing something you are thankful for around the table. It could be as simple as “good company” or “whoever brought

the butter tarts.” Gratitude is contagious and it tastes better than any side dish. Let us talk about the food for a moment. We have all been there with eyes bigger than our stomachs, promising we will never eat that much again. But holistic wellness reminds us to listen to our bodies. Savour each bite, notice the flavours, and appreciate the love that went into the meal. Eating slowly helps your digestion, prevents that post-dinner slump, and makes dessert taste even better (science has yet to prove that last part, but it feels true). After the meal, resist the couch’s siren call for just a few minutes and go for a short walk. Fresh air, laughter, and maybe a little leaf-crunching underfoot do wonders for both digestion and spirit. Movement is medicine, especially when paired with nature and good company. And let us not forget the heart of the holiday which is connection. Thanksgiving is a time to share stories, laugh until your sides hurt, and maybe even forgive an old grudge. True wellness is not only about what you eat but who you share it with. Connection nourishes us more deeply than any meal. Finally, sprinkle in some kindness. Drop off leftovers for a neighbour, donate to a local food bank, or simply call someone who could use a friendly voice. Giving is one of the most powerful forms of healing. So, this Thanksgiving, fill your plate with gratitude, kindness, and laughter. Savour every moment. Because in the end, the best part of Thanksgiving is not the feast. It is the feeling.



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Public Notice

BOARD OF REVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2026 assessment roll for the Municipality of Two Borders has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 138 Main Street, Melita, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 & 43 of the Assessment Act.

APPLICATION FOR REVISION
42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:
a) Liability to taxation;
b) Amount of an assessed value;
c) Classification of property; or
d) A refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
43(1) an application for revision must:
a) Be made in writing;
b) Set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
c) State the grounds on which the application is based; and
d) Be filed by
(i) Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41 (2), or
(ii) Serving it upon the secretary at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Municipality of Two Borders to hear applications.
The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is Monday, November 4, 2025.

CAO Grace Carr,
Secretary, Board of Revision
Municipality of Two Borders
Box 429, 138 Main Street,
Melita, MB R0M 1L0

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CLASSIFIEDS

Tender

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has the following land for sale by tender:

Municipality of Brenda-Waskada NE 22-3-24 WPM, SW 27-3-24 WPM
& W ½ of SE 27-3-24 WPM
392 acres

Two and a half quarter-sections of land for sale. Property contains approximately 242 cultivated acres and 150 acres of low-lying marsh/wetland. Property being sold subject to the registration of a Conservation Easement Agreement. Bidders must choose one of two options:

1) Ducks Unlimited Canada places a Conservation Easement Agreement on the **WETLAND ACRES ONLY** (150 acres). Under this option, no restrictions will be placed on the cultivated cropland. Property can be used for annual grain production if desired. Cultivation into wetlands is also permitted but these ponds must not be drained or filled.

OR

2) Buyer agrees to seed the 242 cultivated acres to forage by spring of 2027 and have DUC place a Conservation Easement Agreement on the entire property. Under this option, the land may be used for haying and/or livestock grazing. DUC would allow cultivation of tame forage after 10 years, for stand rejuvenation purposes. Once broken, these acres must be seeded back to hay after 2 years of cropping. Forage acres would then remain intact for another 10-year term, before being eligible for rejuvenation once more. Five-acre parcels will be excluded from the Conservation Easement lands on each quarter section to allow for future yard site/building development. Buyer will be responsible for forage establishment and associated costs.

Bidders must clearly indicate which option they are selecting and base their offer accordingly. All bids will be considered by DUC, regardless of option chosen.

Written sealed tenders are to be mailed or dropped off to the address below. Please indicate **'Land Tender – Municipality of Brenda-Waskada'** on envelope. Bids may also be emailed to Ducks Unlimited at du_brandon@ducks.ca. Be sure to place **"Manitoba Land Tender Bid"** in the email's subject line. Interested parties should rely on their own inspection of the property. Bids on individual quarters will not be accepted. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. **Property information packages, including a sample copy of the Conservation Agreement are available – call Scott Henowitch at 204-761-5106 to have one emailed or mailed.**

Tender Closes on November 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM.



Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Land Tender
2-545 Conservation Drive
Brandon, MB R7A 7L8

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has the following land for sale by tender:

RM of Two Borders SW 36-05-29 WPM 159.72 acres

There are approximately 84.70 acres in tame hay with another 50.22 acres of native/natural grass. The remaining 24.8 acres are comprised of small wetland basins, scattered throughout the property. Tame forage stand was sown/established in 2025. One existing dugout is present within native pasture area. Property being sold subject to the registration of a 'No Break, No Drain' Conservation Easement Agreement. Cultivation of tame forage will be permitted once every 10 years for rejuvenation purposes. No restrictions with respect to haying or grazing. One five-acre parcel will be excluded from the Conservation Agreement to allow for future building/yard site development.

Written sealed tenders are to be mailed or dropped off to the address below. Please indicate **'Land Tender – RM of Two Borders'** on envelope. Bids may also be emailed to Ducks Unlimited at du_brandon@ducks.ca. Be sure to place **"Manitoba Land Tender Bid"** in the email's subject line. Interested parties should rely on their own inspection of the property. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. **Property information packages, including a sample copy of the Conservation Agreement are available – call Scott Henowitch at 204-761-5106 to have one emailed or mailed.**

Tender Close on Monday October 27, 2025 at 4:00 PM.



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Land Tender
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Brandon, MB R7A 7L8

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT – KENTON

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of **Landfill Site Attendant** for the Kenton Nuisance Grounds location. The Landfill Site Attendant assists the Transportation Superintendent in operating the waste disposal grounds in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit for the site, municipal policies, and Workplace Health and Safety regulations.

Certificate in Landfill Operations is an asset. Applicant must be willing to take the necessary certification courses.

Description and Qualifications

- Permanent, part-time position (currently at 14 hours/week winter, 17 hours/week summer).
- Must be willing to work Saturdays, and one evening per week during the summer months.
- Direct all users to appropriate disposal or storage locations for all items being disposed.
- Ensure source separation of garbage and recyclables.
- Accept tires, general scrap iron, and spray containers; store at proper locations and keep area tidy.
- Assist in transferring or disposing of waste, as required.
- Maintain daily records of waste entering the disposal site.
- Keep all buildings and areas of the landfill site clean and well maintained.
- Ensure that fires are not set and all controlled burns are supervised and recorded.
- Report all concerns to the Transportation Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer.
- Other duties, as required.
- Must be punctual, motivated, self-starter, and able to work without supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills to deal politely and effectively with the general public.
- Ability to meet physical demands of the position and have an excellent safety record.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

OTHER OPENINGS LISTED:

- UTILITY OPERATOR
- COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RECREATION MANAGER

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three professional references by:

E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office
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This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is located. This position commences as soon as possible. We appreciate your interest in this position. However, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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Virden Town Water Public Notice

By Ken Waddell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Late last week, October 10, the Town of Virden posted the Public Notice listed below. Due to the announcement coming out just ahead of the Thanksgiving long weekend, the Virden Empire Advance was not able cover this story and get the needed information. Some information is reported on page 14 of this paper. In next week's issue, we plan to have more information and history of the water supply issues that have been ongoing for many years. Ken Waddell, Editor and Publisher.

Public Notice from the Town of Virden
In the past week, professional consultants engaged by the Manitoba Water Services Board ("MWSB") have advised the Town and MWSB that the aquifer levels that the new Town wells are drawing from, are seriously low, with the consultant recommending the Town move off that aquifer as soon as possible. As a result of this recommendation, the Town has enacted our emergency response measures to ensure our water resources are protected and water access is not disrupted. In consultation with the professional consultants and MWSB, it has been determined the best course of action is to drill a new well at the old water source in the following weeks. This immediate action is being taken to ensure that ratepayers and businesses continue to have access to potable water.

The Town and our consultants are in discussions with the Office of Drinking Water and Public Health regarding this matter. The Town understands the importance of access to clean and viable drinking water, so we are taking all the appropriate steps in partnership with MWSB to ensure the Town has a safe water source.

Further information will be provided prior to the new well being put into production and providing water for our citizens.

For questions, please contact either: Mayor Tina Williams at t.williams@virden.ca, or CAO Rhonda Stewart at cao@virden.ca



Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

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



BE ON TIME!
Advertising deadline:
12 noon Tuesday

Local councillors request meeting with MTI Town of Virden council brief Oct. 7

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

AMM convention plans

Town of Virden council will request a joint meeting with the provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Lisa Naylor alongside the RM of Wallace-Woodworth at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) convention (Nov.25-27) since both municipalities are affected by a shared functional plan.

They also plan to meet with the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations Glen Simard to advocate for Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities funding for a new fire hall, emphasizing that the need is based on firefighter safety, not just new infrastructure.

Council considered issues with local infrastructure, particularly a service road that provincial authorities have refused to widen, citing drainage issues. Coun. Travis Penner noted that proper engineering—such as installing a concrete drain—could resolve the problem and improve safety and access.

Regarding electronic highway messaging boards at the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border, Coun. Marc Savy questioned whether they could access these boards to display emergency or traffic management messages during severe weather events, such as directing semi-truck traffic to allow emergency vehicles through.

Council will schedule a meeting with the RCMP at the AMM convention to discuss staffing shortages, contract training for detachment commanders, and the downloading of equipment costs onto municipalities. They also planned to raise concerns about bylaw enforcement responsibilities, which the RCMP are contractually obligated to fulfill.

Coun. Lynette Grumpelt suggested a followup meeting with Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness and Minister responsible for Mental Health Bernadette Smith. Grumpelt would like to build on last year's discussion about how the Town can better support residents She said, "We were discussing the hub model and how we are a hub and unfortunately being a hub for justice and for other parts of health doesn't (include) being a hub for ad-

ditions and mental health."

Councillors agreed the region lacks adequate mental health and addictions support and discussed taking a stronger, unified approach in upcoming meetings with provincial ministers. They proposed adding mental health professionals to assist existing medical staff to ensure that mental health care is accessible without requiring a hospital visit.

Grumpelt added, "We met with justice and then we met with addictions, mental health and homelessness. These so often come hand in hand as people that are struggling with mental health and addictions and homelessness are getting sucked into the justice system because there is nowhere for them to go and we don't get to them until they're in crisis and then they become a problem for justice."

New well

Council approved a cost-sharing agreement with the Manitoba Water Services Board for the installation of

an additional water well at the southeast quarter of Section 31-10-25 WPM, within the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. The project will include necessary upgrades to the water treatment plant, well pump house, and pipeline, as well as any required exploration work, for an estimated cost of \$500,000.

Other business

Skate Virden is hosting sectional figure skating competitions. Councillors agreed to support the event at the gold level of \$350.

SALE wellness day is an event that has grown in popularity over its three years of operation. Council approved renewing their contribution to a local community event, confirming they would repeat last year's donation — an amount equivalent to the group's hall rental, including use of the kitchen for setup the day before.

Council approved a proclamation recognizing Royal Purple Week, which raises awareness about the connection between acquired brain

injuries and interpersonal violence.

The Virden Animal Hospital will host a grand reopening of their renovated facility on Oct. 22 from 1-4 p.m.

Council reports

CAO Rhonda Stewart attended a meeting with the Minister of Justice Matt Wiebe to discuss the use of the court office by the province.

Stewart also reported on the poor air quality and mustiness in the Town civic building's basement, where old files and furniture are stored. She explained that a quote had been received in April from Four Seasons Mechanical to install improved air circulation. She added that the work was already included in the year's maintenance budget.

Several councillors attended the Oct. 1 business luncheon and Truth and Reconciliation presentation by Cadmus Delorme. They agreed that Coun. Bruce Dunning and Town staff deserved praise for their efforts in organizing it.



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MLA Nesbitt attends 25th International Legislators' Forum in Deadwood, South Dakota



The 25th Anniversary International Legislators' Forum held in South Dakota.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted

BY OFFICE OF GREG NESBITT

Riding Mountain MLA Greg Nesbitt served as a legislative delegate at the 25th Anniversary International Legislators' Forum (ILF), held September 9–12, in Deadwood, South Dakota. The forum brought together delegates from Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, continuing a tradition of cross-border collaboration that began in 2001.

"This milestone gathering provided an incredible opportunity to engage with colleagues across borders and political parties, and to discuss solutions to shared challenges," said Nesbitt. "Given the current political

and trade climate between Canada and the United States, the forum provided a chance for grassroots legislators to learn from one another."

Highlights of the 2025 anniversary Forum included:

- Sanford Underground Research Facility Tour – exploring world-class science beneath the Black Hills.
- Presentation on Agricultural Trade and Global Markets – by Joseph Janzen, agricultural economist at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, focusing on cross-border producers and international market opportunities and challenges.

- Keynote on Working Across Differences – by Tyler Tordson, former South Dakota state representative and Sisseton-Wahpeton tribal member, offering tools to bridge cultural,

personal, and political divides.

The anniversary Forum also featured showcases from each jurisdiction, highlighting the industry, tourism, cultures, and history of each state or province. Manitoba joins the Consensus Council in celebrating the 25-year legacy of the International Legislators' Forum and looks forward to continued collaboration across the region. The 2026 Forum will be hosted in North Dakota.

The International Legislators' Forum is convened by Consensus Council, a North Dakota-based nonprofit organization that facilitates conversations and builds agreements to empower people, transform communities, and advance the public good. For more information about the International Legislators' Forum, visit www.agree.org/legislators-forum/.

National Newspaper Week

Submitted

BY NEWS MEDIA CANADA

Newspaper journalism—both local and national—is critically important, especially in the reality in which we live.

Every year, during the first full week of October, news media publishers across Canada celebrate National Newspaper Week.

National Newspaper Week (NNW) is an annual opportunity to recognize the role that newspapers and their sites play in providing Canadians with credible, factual news and spotlight why news media continues to be a trusted source of information that is critical to our democracy.

Local newspapers deliver vital information to Canadians every day, connecting local communities across the

country. In fact, four in five people in Canada (81%) read newspapers each week – either in print or digital format. [Newspapers 24/7: 2024]

National Newspaper Week is a chance to reflect on the essential service newspapers provide with diverse, local, original content that cannot be found anywhere else.

Champion the truth and show your support. Every week community newspapers shine an unfiltered light on their community and are solely dedicated to telling the stories of the community. More than eight out of ten readers turn to their newspaper for local information.

Advertising in the local paper matters. Three quarters of readers believe it is important to support local advertisers.



MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

#MBLLGoodTogether

We're more climate friendly thanks to Manitoba livestock farmers.



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LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Wheat to bread: rediscovering Gregory's Mill



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The old mill race that was dug by horse powered scrapers is still very evident (if you know what you are looking for). Chranowski holds up a sign he found on the riverbank to indicate the significance of the site to passing watercraft.

By Empire-Advance staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

How did early settlers make bread? Where did the flour come from? Both Manitobans and Americans patronized Gregory's Mill on the banks of the Souris River. Herb Goulden, who was a Regional Wildlife Biologist out of Brandon, sent Virden resident Terry Johnson an interesting piece of southwestern Manitoba history. Fellow biologist with the province, Dan Chranowski, invited Goulden on a hike to view Gregory's Mill Historic Site, a kind of re-discovery of the do-or-die ingenuity that built

Manitoba just a short 140 years ago. Historic details courtesy of Manitoba Historical Society, Ken Storie and Gordon Goldsborough. www.mhs.mb.ca In 1883, John Gregory (c1828-1896) from Wingham, Ont. arrived in Manitoba and took up a homestead claim on 34-6-18 west of the Principal Meridian, in what is now the Rural Municipality of Prairie Lakes. Near his home on the banks of the Souris River, Gregory constructed a three-storey stone mill, powered by river water held by an earthen dam, with a steam engine in-

stalled later as a backup during periods of low water. Working day and night, it provided flour for the settlers in the area, some coming as far as the United States to have their grain ground at the mill. Gregory hoped the railroad would cross the Souris River by his mill. That did not happen. After recovering from setbacks, such as losing his first dam to spring floods, and after expensive renovations, such as the construction of a one-kilometre-long millrace and improved capacity, he eventually abandoned the mill some time between 1893 and 1895 (about 10 years after its construction).

Gradually over time, the mill building was destroyed by the elements and vandalism. Just a few piles of rocks were left by the 1950s. The large flat rock used as a doorstep, with the name of Gregory's sons carved in it, was retrieved from the site by Arthur Bund of Nesbitt and was displayed in Minnewawa Cemetery. A mill gear is displayed at the Sipiweske Museum in Wawanesa. All that remains at the site are a few remnants of foundations hidden in dense bush, and the overgrown millrace, a ditch about two metres deep and over a kilometre in length, also overgrown, but unmistakably man-made.

HALLOWEEN COMES EARLY AT ARROW RIVER



Halloween comes early on Oct. 8 where costumed gals prepare for the themed craft - decorating a skull. Women from Arrow River, Miniota, Birtle and sometimes Hamiota area, have been getting together at Arrow River every month for a year. Each meeting has lunch and a theme with crafts such as their Christmas craft at last November's inaugural meeting. They've been entertained with music bingo; a casino night - Al Capone style- with flapper costumes all 'round; a visit to a garden near Binscarth; welcome mat painting and clay art at a recent meeting.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

A just past 'harvest moon' rises behind Arrow River's hills, where pumpkin-faced bales are the backdrop for this group of friends heading into the Arrow River Hall that's all spooked out for the October women's get together: (L-R) Jolene Hodgins, Lorrie Luba, Trisha Gardham, Megan Fortier, Sadie-Jo Gardham and Salle McAuley.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ELLICE-ARCHIE

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **6th day of November, 2025**, at the hour of **11:00 AM**, at Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie, 318 Railway Ave, McAulay, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
31100	THE ELY 73 FEET OF LOT 6 BLOCK 1 PLAN V4 BLTO IN NW 1/4 27-13-29 WPM - DESC 6-1-V4, MANSON	L -\$700 B -\$65,600	\$ 5,940.94
302000	LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM, THE SLY 8 FEET OF LOT 3 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM - 215 MAIN STREET (ST.LAZARE)	L -\$5,400 B -\$149,600	\$ 12,164.36

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

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

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2025.

Managed by:



Trisha Huberdeau
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie
Phone: (204) 722-2053
Fax: (204) 722-2027