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DECEMBER 12, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 17 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 19 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS





## John Davidson named 2025 Citizen of the Year



John Davidson is Citizen of the Year : (L-r) Dep. Mayor Marc Savy, Davidson, Rhonda Stewart (CAO) and Mayor Tina Williams.

By Anne Davison **EMPIRE-ADVANCE** 

Virden acknowledged two outstanding nominees for the 2025 Citizen of the Year award:

long-time educator and community volunteer Kel Smith, and veteran firefighter and recreation leader John Davidson, who was ultimately named this year's recipient.

Mr. Smith's nomination highlighted decades of service as an educator, substitute teacher, cadet instructor, Métis elder, Legion and Red Cross volunteer, and the Conductor of Virden's Historic Walking Tours. Submitted by Scott Smith, the nomination praised Smith's commitment to helping Indigenous and Métis children feel welcome, his pride in community, and steady volunteerism. Kel, already a two-time recipient in 2011 and 2014, received warm applause.

John Davidson, the Citizen of the Year recipient, was nominated by Herb and Marie Warkentin.

Davidson was recognized for more than four decades of emergency service and extensive community involvement.

An employee of Manitoba Hydro, he moved to Virden in the late 1980s and entered into community life.

John joined Wallace District Fire Department in 1990, and has served in leadership roles including Assistant Deputy Chief. Including years with the fire department in Minnedosa, John now has a total of 45 years of active service. Continuing as an active Virden firefighter with Wallace District Fire Department, he's a Level 1 Instructor, and provides mentorship to new recruits.

Davidson's service also includes deployments with Manitoba's Urban

Search and Rescue Team, participation in national emergency exercises, and a memorable deployment to the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire. John has earned both the 20-year and 40-year Governor General's Fire Service Exemplary Service medals.

As a father of three children, John felt it was important to be part of their activities and help out where needed. He coached several minor hockey teams, minor ball teams while his children were growing up and became a referee.

He's worked with Minor Hockey and the Community Recreation Commission, playing a key role in developing Tundra Oil & Gas Place as chair of its Building Committee.

John volunteers with the Legion, provides safety for the Santa and Rodeo parades, helps run fire department fundraisers, and helps out with Canada Day.

His long-standing role with Virden Fitness Co-op has ensured that there's a gym in TOGP.

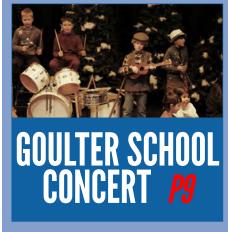
With Virden Valley Runners Snowmobile Club, he plays a big part in signing and grooming the snowmobile trails in the area and serves as

Whether it's flooding the Chevron outdoor rink or the skating oval on Sixth Ave, John can be found serving his community. He enjoys helping friends with projects and makes a special effort to assist the spouses of fire department members who have lost their lives far too soon.

As the audience came to their feet with applause, John accepted the plaque from Mayor Tina Williams. He responded, "I don't have much to say except, thank you. I do appreciate it, a lot. And it is a big surprise."













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## Town of Virden staff are honoured



Lacy Enns (5 years Public Works) flanked by CAO Stewart, Mayor Williams, and (R) foreman Lawrence Langlois.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

CAO Rhonda Stewart, Anna Macksymchuk (10 years CFO) and Mayor Tina Williams.



CAO Stewart, Mayor Williams, Brian Johnson (15 Years Utilities) and Lawrence Langlois.

Charles 1953

Mayor Williams, Cody Mulligan (5 years Public Works) and Lawrence Langlois.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Town of Virden celebrated the Christmas season with a banquet on Saturday,

Dec. 6 with council, staff, elected government representatives and invited guests.

Emcee Deputy Reeve Marc Savy invited MLA Greg Nesbitt to bring greetings. Nesbitt said, "I just want to thank the council of the town of Virden for all they do for this community. I know they're regularly in the legislature, lobbying the government, and I'm always pleased to have chats with them when they ask for them..." He added, "This community couldn't function without the volunteers behind the scenes, as well as the staff."

Councillor Travis Penner was called upon to say Grace and included words of blessing for council and staff.

Three new staff were introduced: Tammy Lelond is hired as confidential secretary, Kevin Enns is welcomed back to the utilities department and the municipal clerk in the Virden RCMP Detachment, Sammy Henderson.

Recently retired Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for Wallace-Woodworth, Garth Mitchell was a dinner guest. Virden's CAO Rhonda Stewart noted their years of collegial work and presented him with a token of appreciation. Steward said, "Garth actually was already a CAO for the Village of Elkhorn when I started working for the Town of Virden. He had 10 years of good experience before I came along and was

St Mary's Anglican
Church Christmas Supper,

Pecember 25, 2025
at St Mary's Anglican Parish Hall
633 9th Avenue S.

Pinner at 5:30.

Transportation available upon request.
Reservations accepted till Pecember 19th,
Please call Caroline to reserve seat
204-748-2015.

Pelivery of meal upon request.

always there to give me advice... I was very fortunate to work alongside him on many committees and boards. We worked together for the betterment of our joint communities."

Virden enjoys a close working relationship with the RM of Wallace-Woodworth and Reeve Clayton Canart took the opportunity to recognize CAO Stewart, who has announced her upcoming retirement that was planned for the end of 2025, but is on hold until her replacement is found.

Canart said, "With my years on Council, I've appreciated working with Rhonda and the advice and knowledge that she's brought to the table.... I just wanted to say from all of us, we really appreciate everything you've done to help us, and we wish you all the best in your retirement, whenever that date might be able to come."

He commended the Town for their hard work and long hours navigating a difficult water supply situation to get the community's water stabilized.

Following a delicious roast beef meal catered by Chloe's Catering, Years of Service recipients were awarded by Mayor Williams, CAO Stewart, and Public Works Foreman Lawrence Langlois.

5 Years — Lacy Enns – Public Works Department

5 Years – Cody Mulligan – Public Works Department

10 Years – Anna Macksymchuk – Chief Financial Officer – Town Office

15 Years – Brian Johnson – Utilities Department

Citizen of the Year is always a highpoint of the Town's Christmas banquet. The nominees are invited to the dinner (they know something's up!) and the recipient finds out that evening who is the honoured Citizen. This year, Kelvon Smith and John Davidson were nominees. Mr. Smith has been a deserving Citizen of the Year several times.

Davidson was chosen - a surprise. He had no idea he was a candidate because, as CAO Stewart's husband, John routinely attends the banquet.

To cap this celebratory evening off, local ventriloquist Colleen Anderson and heramusing array of puppets took the stage.

# The elves have been busy behind the scenes!!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Krista Pederson, "Mama", accepts a package from Harvey Campbell, "Nick".

**By Krista Pederson** SAIL

For each event offered during the holidays, there have been hours of planning, rehearsal, and coordinating.

And most often, this is all done by volunteers. This week's photo shows Harvey Campbell and Krista Pederson, who are both volunteer actors with Theatrick Players. The performance will be on December 13 at St Paul's United Church.

Harvey has acted for many years and commented that drama should be offered in schools.

"Some kids who have a hard time doing a book report, or writing, an essay, can really shine when there is something creative to work on.

And this is the time of the year for kids. That's what it's all about."

In this cast, there are actors from elementary school to high school, plus adults, aged all the way to seniors, like Harvey.

Already there has been a lot of support from the families of the actors: the parents of the little ones, helping with lines, and getting to rehearsals! Others helping with makeup and hair, plus the costuming.

We're so blessed to work together on projects!

The volunteers who run the Food Cupboard in Virden are serving hot chocolate, etc., after each show. We know that the Food Cupboard does good work during the whole year. Christmas is a time we want to remember them, especially.

When we gather on Saturday, donations will go directly to them, to help with the needs in the community.

So when you attend your next event, whether it is a meal, a concert, a sing-along, or something like this play, remember the "elves" behind it, young and old and everyone in between!



Ho-Ho-Hope You Know How Much We Appreciate Your Business We will be closed from Dec 20 - Jan 4 for the holidays.

No newspapers on Dec 26 or Jan 2.

## Empire-Advance

virdenempireadvance@outlook.com www.empireadvance.ca 204-748-3931

## Deep Sky team covers bases in Monday's presentation

# Community members question Deep Sky plans

**By Anne Davison** EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Despite several centimeters of snow, a very large audience showed up in Pipestone

Community Hall on Dec. 8 to hear more about Deep Sky Manitoba, to ask questions and to have their say.

Technical information was provided in simple terms, supported by PowerPoint presentations that included drawings referred to in engineering terms as 'cartoons'.

While Shawn Day (Director, Project Development & Community Partnerships) thanked the community for welcoming Deep Sky, noting that companies and individuals had contacted Deep Sky about work opportunities, many questions and comments from the crowd belied uncertainty and in some cases deep distrust.

Deep Sky's team, introduced by Kelsea Pedersen (Manager Capital Projects), included Shawn Day, Léon Sutherland (Director Design Engineering), Pierre-Olivier Vincent (Head of Capital Projects), Jason Vanderheyden (VP Government Affairs, Public Policy) and Lance Morrison (Senior Development Engineer).

Pedersen said, "The goal of tonight is transparency, clarity, and real conversation. So, I mentioned we have a couple of guest speakers with us tonight. These are independent experts who have spent their careers working in geology, subsurface science, and CO2 storage." Audience questions would follow the presentations.

In the company's overview, Day explained that excess atmospheric CO2 behaves like a heat-trapping blanket, intensifying storms, drought, wildfires, and seasonal unpredictability.

He acknowledged the importance of tree-planting and wetland restoration saying, "We absolutely support tree planting and natural climate solutions like restoring wetlands," but said that direct air capture was a better use of the land. The compact Alpha facility in Innisfail, Alberta "can remove the same amount of CO2 as 140,000 trees," he said.

#### **DAC Process**

Industrial fans pull air across filters that separate CO2. That gas is pressurized, liquefied and injected deep underground into saline formations unsuitable for drinking water and as such, Canada has over 20 years of experience storing CO2 safely.

Multiple layers of steel and cement protect groundwater. Regulations call for an annual provincial report, "to make sure that everything is being stored safely." And the company has committed to share annually with the community.

He emphasized that the facility is small, quiet, and visually unobtrusive, with minimal impacts to air, water, wildlife, or the surrounding community. But, to date, a specific site has not been selected.

Day spoke of a First Nations agreement. "Through our Declaration of Relationship, [the Dakota] offer support to the project."

The company is awaiting Manitoba's Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) regulations and a Hydro interconnection study before final site selection, expected early 2026. A test well will gather geological data before being converted into a storage well in 2027.

Economically, Deep Sky's project relies on the voluntary carbon market: corporations purchase carbon-removal credits to meet net-zero goals. The project also qualifies for federal investment tax credits.

With a renewable electricity grid and a skilled workforce, the Pipestone area was touted as a good choice. The project represents an estimated \$500 million investment in the community and says they will prioritize hiring local services.

They've covered a lot of bases, including plans to provide awork campand other housing, plus an emergency medical service in conjunction with the construction.

One of the scientists, Christa Williams of the Canadian EnergyGeoscienceAssociation, spoke of the geological formation, something familiar to the oil field of southwest Manitoba.

Her presentation outlined the importance of geography and geology in selecting a site for a carbon capture and



PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISOR

Top: The large crowd had plenty of questions for the Deep Sky team in the Pipestone Community Centre on Dec. 8.

Left: Lenore farmer Jason Hodson questions the DeepSky team.

storage. Southwest Manitoba was chosen for its large storage potential in deep saline formations.

Dr. Ben Rostron is an expert from the University of Alberta. He has years of experience in carbon capture storage and use. His presentation was also full of detailed interesting information.

As he finished, he said, "So when you hear people talking about thousands of tons per year being stored or ejected underground, remember that...tens to hundreds of kilograms of CO2 are moving all the time, every day, all around theworld. So it's not something to be a fraid of, okay."

Deep Sky said a recording of the entire evening would be on their Deep Sky Manitoba site.

#### Community Q and A

While Deep Sky has held meetings with government, municipal leaders and Dakota Nation representatives, there's been a disconnect with communities, evidenced by dozens of questions following presentations by Deep Sky's representatives and the two scientists.

Nearly 200 people challenged the seating plan at the Dec. 8 Deep Sky meeting in Pipestone Hall.

Among questions about infrastructure safeguards, protection for mineral rights holders, and possible interference in oil field development in the area, a farmer from Lenore refuted some information in the presentation and spoke about the big picture around carbon capture and storage.

Jason Hodson said, "I want to correct some information that was in your presentation. You mentioned in one of the slides, the Gorgon carbon capture facility.... Its goal was to capture 4 million tons annually."

He pointed out that project didn't capture half of its projected CO2 "because of massive technical issues. They had reservoir pressure issues...and so they had to emit the carbon that they'd captured."

The Lenore farmer continued, saying he's read research that "yields will actually increase with our principal crops, with carbon in the atmosphere."

"The third thing I wanted to mention is that the Oxford Smith School of the Environment, in October of this year, evaluated 25 years of carbon offset systems and they found that most of the systems were completely ineffective... lacked transparency and regulatory processes.

He challenged an early comment from Deep Sky claiming that forest fires have increased.

Hodson said data from the Canadian National Fire Database showed the total area of fires to be "far less than the 1990s," saying, "So don't present information that creates a climate hysteria."

He invited comment from Deep Sky, but they gave none. Others asked if they'd be able to invest in the company. However, it's not, at present, a publicly traded company, so, no.

Keely Woods asked if negative community sentiment would change the company's mind on building in the area.

Shawn Day responded, "We are hearing a lot of mixed feedback. But I do agree, if the community was very, very opposed to this, then we would definitely have to consider changing our plans of where and how we're going to develop this facility."

A final question of the evening came from a Canupawakpa member.

Having seen Sioux Valley Dakota Nation welcomed to the meeting, she asked how her community would benefit in the agreement with First Nations.

"Are you talking about all five (Dakota) reserves or just Canupawakpa?"

Day answered, "Sioux Valley is part of that, and all of the Dakota Nations are signed onto the Declaration of Relationship." He listed benefits to the area that Dakota Nations could participate in such as jobs and education, saying Deep Sky plans to create renewable green energy source in the future that could benefit Canupawakpa.

The Canupawakpa member said the community does not know what the plans are. She said, "I do understand thatyou guys are digging around... hurting Mother Earth, and I'm talking for all the ones that are in Sioux Valley, the Birdtail, the Dakota Teepee, the Dakota Plains, Canupawakpa, we all don't know."

Deep Sky team plans more meetings with both the First Nation communities and other communities in the area.

Following the meeting, Empire-Advance, in a brief interview, asked about the assurance of responsibility in the case of system failure, or company collapse, or the ultimate decommissioning of the project. Would Deep Sky provide a bond?

Kelsea Pedersen for Deep Sky said, "That's something that, like, that's what Alberta has put into place, and so it's possible that Manitoba will go that direction too.... Until the regulations are out and everything's finalized, we don't exactly know."

At a previous meeting it was stated that ultimate responsibility for the site would rest with the government. Is that still the case?

Pedersen responded, "Yeah, that's Alberta (the Innisfail plant). They assume liability, so we pay into a fund, and it's to protect, actually, in the event that, say, Deep Sky goes under, the liability is on the government, but we've paid them in accordance."

# **By Chad Carpenter**



## **Canada Pension Plan says Canada** not worthy of investment

n a Shakespeare play there is a famous line that says "There's something rotten in the State of Denmark. There's also something rotten in the state of Canada and it centres around the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the state of investments in Canada.

CPP is supposed to invest in relatively safe investment so as to get a good return on the CPP funds and to give Canadians a solid pension income for life. The good people will tell you that they invest where they can get the best return for the CPP money.

In 2005, CPP invested 74 per cent in Canadian stocks, businesses etc. In 2025 it had dropped to 12 per cent. Take a guess where 47 per cent of the CPP money is invested now? The

To me that is Something Rotten. It's a crying shame that Canada has such a poor return on investments that our own CPP fund now only invests 12 per cent in Canada, 47 per cent in the US and 41 per cent in other parts of the world.

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE KEN WADDELL

As a former top Finance Department official, Susan Peterson played a key role years ago in creating the stable Canada Pension Plan that we see today. But even she was surprised by the numbers.

A few weeks ago, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) revealed that 12 per cent of the CPP's assets are invested in Canada — its lowest level ever. The largest chunk of its \$714-billion fund, 47 per cent, is currently invested in the United States — its highest level ever. Peterson doesn't think she's the only one surprised. "If Canadians knew out of the \$714 billion such a miniscule amount was invested in Canada, I

think they would say, whoa, what's wrong with this picture."

Further reading and searching of history shows that investments outside of Canada are far more profitable than ones in Canada. So from a strict investment point of view, it seems that it would make sense to not invest in Canada.

Somehow that seems so wrong to a Canadian mind like mine. Canada decries that we are so dependent on the US markets but would it not make sense that since Canada depends so heavily on US markets that we create the investment environment so that everybody, including CPP would want to invest in Canada.

Lately, I have been given to say that "Good enough isn't good enough. Excellence should be our goal."

If our own CPP fund won't invest in Canada, why would anyone else invest. I welcome comments and insights on this question.

\*Graph Source: Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Eliabeth

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.



# Jottings.

art of my kitchen table staples is a piece of paper, well, a scattering of papers, a veritable mass of scattered papers! And on some of them are notations- things to do, people to call and ideas for future musings. This week the treasure trove of possible columns were written on a grocery sale bill. In light of the need to tidy up, I am going to address a number of topics and then I can discard the flyer rather than rewrite the list!

"The upside of the downside." This was scribbled as I rejoiced in the reality that by not having a partner, there is no real need to regularly clear off the table, vacuum the floors, or tidy the living room. I have projects on the go, many projects, and they occupy space and create a friendly clutter. If my home was partner friendly I would be much more apt to spend time on house work. And meal prep. Too many of us know that a bowl of cold cereal and toast can just as well be supper as breakfast! Not having a partner has many downsides. Companionship for sure, for me it is a lack of clean, honest hugs. A hug with no agenda, simply to comfort and strengthen.

"Needle me this". That was hastily penned when I found a straight pin in an almost finished quilt. This is one I caught. There was the year, many years ago, when my oldest son wanted his name brand snowmobile jacket double insulated. He had permission to ride from the farm at Riding Mountain, to family and friends in the Carman area, and he needed to be comfortably warm. So I carefully opened the back of his jacket, added an extra layer of fill, and sewed it back together. He noted a prickly feeling every once in a while on the drive down, and got his friend's mother to check, and there, caught in the fiber fill was an errant straight pin! I believe one was also located in a gifted quilt... do I need to count the rascals?

"Dumping ground or safe haven?" That one I recorded on a day that I had received several calls of concern. It's not like I have the answers to everything and everyone, and I don't believe that people decide that they can dump their worries on me, so it must be, please let it be, because I am a safe place. I will listen, ask if there is anything they want, or expect, me to do. Most times they feel better having shared/dumped and then I get to process. A trouble shared is halved, and a joy shared is doubled?

"A dangerous amount of leisure time." This was a quote from a sermon on David and his relationship with Bathseba. While other kings went to war David stayed home, got bored, and so it began. I wanted to look at that in light of my life, make the lesson applicable. An old adage I grew up with was: idle hands are the devil's tools/playthings.

Reinforces my desire to live with a purpose!

Some of you readers are kind enough to ask how I come up with a thought every week. That's how, take note of the moment, take notes on many moments!

United States of America.

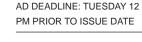
CPPIB investments in Canada vs. U.S. Value of investments at home shrank over last 20 years while U.S. assets ball Canada U.S. 2022 16% 2021 16% 2020 16% 2016 19% 2015 24% 2014 31% 2013 37% 2007 2006 64% Annual reports for 2005 and 2006 did not include geographical distributions outside of Canada

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## Oak Lake Happenings

By VEA staff

COURTESY OF OAK LAKE NEWS

As in many communities, winter happenings revolve around the rink.

Learn to Skate began November 12. The second session starts Feb 4th. And two extra lessons with Coach Amanda have been added.

Sip and Paint Night scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22 was postponed due to the Oak Lake Santa Parade and Memory Tree Light up that night. A January date will be posted.

Beginner Dance Lessons with David and Cathy Houston started in Nov. and Advanced Lessons with Gwen and Tim Murphy on Nov 13th (Thursdays). Lessons are \$100 per couple or \$50 per person, held in the community hall from 7:30-9pm. Please contact rec@rmofsifton.com for more details.

The Oak Lake Arena has been a hub of activity. The canteen has been open for games and tournaments in November, but the recreation director says they're working with the cooks to open the kitchen a couple days a week to offer specials for the community.

Four local kids have been hired to help run the canteen. Everyone's support and patience is appreciated as they navigate this learning curve. Rec director Rachelle Stannage reports "two very successful weekends in a row!"

In a busy ice schedule times for sticks and pucks as well as public skate are posted (QR code) in the waiting room and on the RM of Sifton website or call Rachelle at 204-855-2423 EXT 5.

Upcoming events include Skate with Santa on Dec. 13 and on Dec. 14 the community will feature their first Annual Holiday Light Tour.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden Landfill: 204-748-6033

**Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736** 



**Animal Control: 204-851-5881** 

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

**Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540** 

# This Season, Give the Gift of A CP STATION PRINT!

Looking for a gift for that person that has everything?! We've got you covered!

This year, give the gift of a Virden CP Station print by renowned Canadian artist William Hobbs.

While quantities last, unframed prints are available for only \$30 each.

Every print sold helps fuel fundraising efforts for restoration of the Caboose at the Historic CP Station.

Want to support the project even more? Donations are welcome, and tax receipts are available.

Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Virden's history - before these prints leave the station for good.

## **Town of Virden Public Water System**

For updates on the Town of Virden Public Water System, please visit www.virden.ca or contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440

## 2026 Garbage and Recycle Schedules

Available online at www.virden.ca/p/garbage-recycle or at the Town Office

**Next Council Meeting** 

December 16 Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

## **Employment Opportunity Museum Manager**

The Virden Pioneer Home Museum is currently recruiting for a Museum Manager. This is a 20-hour per week position, overseeing day-to-day operations and administration.

This is a leadership role that combines administrative and curatorial duties, requiring strong organizational and communication skills.

For a full description of this opportunity, please visit www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities

Applications will be accepted until midnight on December 18, 2025

## **Employment Opportunity Detention Guard - RCMP Detachment**

The Virden RCMP Detachment is hiring for the position of **Detention Guard**.

The responsibilities of this role include (but are not limited to):

- · Observe and check prisoners throughout shift, including in-person and **CCTV** checks
- Record daily activities, and maintain logbooks
- Maintain security within the cellblock by ensuring cell doors are locked at all times
- Handle and dispense laundry items, maintaining cleanliness and tidiness of cells when vacated, arranging janitor assistance as required.
- Perform other duties particular to the Detachment as laid out in the Unit Supplemental Orders.

Applications can be dropped off at the Virden RCMP detachment.

For more information, please visit: www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities

## **Employment Opportunity** General Labourer

The Town of Virden has openings for one full-time or two part-time General Labourer I positions to work primarily in the Parks and Recreation Department at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job. Shifts are primarily scheduled for evening and weekends so would be ideal for a student. A valid Class 5 Manitoba driver's license is necessary.

A detailed job description, with wage rate is available at the Town Office.

This position will be open until filled.

Please forward resumes, complete with covering letter to:

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

info@virden.ca



🐞 www.virden.ca 😝 Town of Virden 🧿 @virdentown

## HELEN DRYSDALE

## **OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN**

Are you looking for party appetizer ideas that are easy to make and have reasonably priced ingredients while delivering big flavors? I hope this assortment of appetizer recipes will please everyone on your guest list.

## Bleu cheese deviled eggs

Is it really a party without deviled eggs? Deviled eggs are a classic appetizer made by filling halved boiled egg whites with a seasoned yolk mixture. The filling possibilities are endless.

1 dozen hard boiled eggs

1 tsp. Dash

2 Tbsp. very finely diced celery

1 Tbsp. very finely diced green onions

Slice the eggs in half, length wise. Remove the yolks carefully and set the whites aside. In a small bowl mash the egg yolks with a fork. Add the mayo, Dash, salt, pepper, green onion and celery. Mix well, add the blue cheese. Evenly fill the whites with the yolk mixture. Garnish as desired.

## Honey mustard chicken bites

Tender chunks of chicken get coated in a smooth honey mustard sauce that's just the right balance of sweet and tangy.

1 pound boneless chicken thighs or breasts

For the Honey Mustard Glaze:

1/4 cup honey 2 Tbsp. ketchup 1 Tbsp. lemon juice 1/4 cup Dijon mustard

1/2 tsp. garlic powder

1/3 cup mayonnaise

1/4 tsp. salt and pepper

1/3 cup crumbled bleu cheese

Cut the chicken into 1 inch pieces. Mix marinade ingredients in a bowl. Set aside 1/4 cup to use as a sauce. Add the chicken to the marinade; stir to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Place the chicken pieces on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Brush a generous layer of the honey mustard glaze over each piece, ensuring they're fully coated. Bake in a preheated 400 F (200 C) oven for 15-20 minutes. Turn the chicken halfway through.

The chicken is ready when it's golden and reaches an internal temperature of 165 F (74 C). Serve with the reserved marinade on the side.

## Feta cheese dip

Made with simple ingredients, this creamy feta dip is ready in under 10 minutes. If you have time to let it sit for a few hours before serving, it will be even more delicious!

200g feta cheese block

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup sour cream 1 small clove garlic, minced

1/4 tsp. pepper

1 tsp. Dash or dried Italian herbs 1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (optional)

pita bread, baguette, crackers or fresh veggies, for serving

Crumble the feta into the bowl of a food processor. Add the sour cream, mayo, garlic, Dash, pepper and red pepper flakes. Process in a food processer until very smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary. Transfer to a bowl and use a small spoon to create a swirl on the surface of the dip. Serve with desired bread or crackers.

## **Miniota News**

**Submitted** 

By Linda Clark

Miniota Minor Hockey Daywasheld this pastSaturdaywithourMiniotaSnowflakes, U7, U9, U11, U13, and U15 teams playing against teams from Birtle, Elkhorn, Neepawa, Hamiota/Shoal Lake and Roblin. As well the Junior Bonspiel for ages 8-18 years with four local rinks and two out of town rinks curled in 9:30 and 11:30am draws. We had a packed house to support all these young folk!

Miniota is aglow these days with many beautiful Christmas light displays. It is worth taking a drive to see. As I write the news the snow is falling gently making our landscape white and pristine. It is 'Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.'

"Christmasis the season for kindling the

fire of hospitality in the hall, the general flame of charity in the heart."-Washington Irving

#### Isabella

Our Isabella community is saddened with the news of the death of Wayne Shick at the Moose Jaw hospital. Wayne and Marilyn chose Isabella as their retirement spot in 2001 and have been an integral part of our community ever since. At any community function you'd have found Wayne either in the dishpan or wielding a dish towel. Wayne had that 'Santa' like appearance and his friendly personality could find him visiting with folks, young and old. Our thoughts are with Marilyn and their sons, John of Calgary and Brendan and his family of Regina.

Kaitlyn Wever from Monarch, Alta. visited with her grandma Bernice Still this past week.

We send get well wishes to Lucinda Still as she recoups.

## Police Report

## Westman RCMP Service Report for Nov. 30 to Dec. 6

**Submitted** 

By Westman RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 70 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 31 traffic offences, 3 Mischief, 3 Wellbeing Checks, 5 Mental Health Related, 3 Suspicious Persons, 2 False Alarms, 2 911 Acts, 3 Fire Prevention Act, 3 Intoxicated Persons, 1 Assault, and 1 Operation while Impaired files.

On Nov. 30, during routine traffic patrols within the RM of Sifton, RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 70km/hr in a 50 km/ hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$312. RCMP also observed a second vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 125km/hr in a 100 km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$378. RCMP observed a third vehicle which showed unregistered. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a warning for window tint and issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Drive an unregistered vehicle, which carries a fine of \$298.

On Nov. 30, Westman RCMP and Westman Traffic Services conducted a traffic stop in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. RCMP completed a sobriety check with a 40-year-old female. Driver was prohibited from driving Canada Wide. Driver blew FAIL on ASD and was placed under arrest and brought to Virden detachment where she blew 350mg% and 350mg%. She was charged with Operation while impaired (alcohol) of a motor vehicle operation while over 80mg%, Operation while Prohibited, and Unlawful

transportation of liquor in motor vehicle. The driver was released on an Appearance Notice, and the vehicle was impounded. She will appear in court in February.

On Dec. 2, during routine patrols within the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 140km/ hr in a 100 km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$573.

On Dec. 4, during routine patrols within the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 125km/hr in a

100 km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$378.

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.

If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Crime stoppers is entirely confidential and completely anonymous. The tip line is not traceable, and they do not subscribe to caller ID or call display.







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## From The Prairies to the Highlands Tour 204 Part 15

By Gerry Nolan EMPIRE-ADVANCE

ugust 18 was a day we had all been excited for. We were off to Edinburgh for a day of experiencing the famous Royal Mile, Fringe Festival and the Royal Military Tattoo. We boarded our bus at 11am and headed for Edinburgh. It took us about an hour before we reached the historic city.

Edinburgh Castle which is positioned on Castle Rock, Medieval Old Town, and elegant Georgian New Town, all add to the charm of this beautiful old city. It offers a rich history of world class festivals, sites like Arthur's Seat, and the Royal Mile. Winding lanes in the Old Town contrast with the grand squares of the New Town. This is not for the "faint of heart", as we walked and walked, and climbed hundreds of stairs! At least it felt like it!

We had a guide who toured us through the city and helped us maneuver the huge crowds that were enjoying the festivities. He left us at the castle, where we explored and found the magnificent views looking over the city from the top. We came across a medieval cannon called Mons Meg. It was the ultimate weapon of mass destruction in her day. She weighed six tons and could fire a three-hundred-and-thirty-pound stone ball up to two miles. She was positioned so the castle was protected from attack. Notice the cannon is referred to as female!

We spent the rest of the afternoon browsing the shops and having a pint or two at a pub, before having supper. Afterwards we headed to the Tattoo. Once we got seated, you could feel the excitement building. Torches were lit on the castle turrets, and the glow from them illuminated the walls and the night sky.

Once the crowd was seated, a lone piper signaled

the start of the show.

The Royal Military Tattoo ran from August first to the twenty fifth this year. The annual event, which features performances by the British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and International Military Bands, draws crowds from all over Scotland and many other countries.

The term Tattoo is derived from a seventeenth century Dutch phrase "doe den tap toe" (turn off the tap), a signal to the tavern owner each night, played by a regiment corps of drums, to turn off the taps of their kegs, so that the soldiers would retire at a reasonable hour.

When the pipers started coming out of the Castle's main entrance, the site of their beautiful kilts and the haunting sounds of the pipes, made our hearts just skip several beats, then the tears started flowing! It was the most heart stopping experience! We were all "welly!"

The two-hour show was wonderful, with bands from Ukraine, Poland, The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team, The Top-Secret Drum Corps from Switzerland, and of course the Highland Dancers. When all the Pipers and bands started playing the

Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

theme from Brave Heart, the tears were flowing again!

The show ended with fireworks soaring skyward from the top of the castle, while all the pipers played Scotland the Brave. Just Incredible!

We strolled the alleys and walkways back to our bus and headed back to Lady Well House. Some of us chatted about the show and some of us slept, as our emotions and hearts were overloaded with this beautiful country! How can we tear ourselves away in just a couple of days?

Nextweek, a visit to Lallybroch, a quaint restaurant, and our favorite pub!



#### TICKET INFORMATION

- Week long passes
  Early Bird \$125 Now Dec 21
  GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT
  Regular Price \$150 Dec 22 30
- Day passes available at the door \$40 - whole day \$20 - evening draw \$150 - week pass at the door

## TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS

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RIVERDALE COMMUNIT

- Rivers Home Hardware, Rivers
- Rivers Super Thrifty, Rivers
- Waymor Agencies, Rivers
- Rolling Spokes, Brandon

Or by contacting any committee members or call Donna F. at 204-724-4232



## Cowboy Christmas delivers music, laughter, generosity in Virden

**By Anne Davison** EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A Cowboy Christmas packed Virden AUD Theatre. It was a great feeling to look across the theatre and see the seats all filled. In an acoustic presentation these outstanding Canadian country singers - George Canyon and Aaron Pritchett-brought great entertainment and a special connection with their audience.

The Wednesday evening show began with familiar Christmas tunes like Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer with a part for the audience, of course, before the duo played their own famous numbers.

Good humoured banter between Canyon and Pritchett flowed with whatever the audience threw into the mix as well. Canyon from the Maritimes and Prichett from the West Coast – made themselves right at home with the Virden crowd.

Just before the halftime break Pritchett introduced their work with the Children Believe project. A CD or link to Christmas music was offered for every donation of \$20 and up. Through this fundraiser on the Country Christmas tour, children in Africa, Asia or the Americas will be helped.

The Canadian independent registered charity meets needs where they can change a community. In some cases, a well for clean drinking water is installed. Toilets for a

school was another project that Prichett told of.

Rather than asking for long-term monthly financial support for a certain kid in third world poverty, Children Believe uses one-time donations for projects that benefit children and their community.

The gift CD included a touching song they sang in Virden – Children Believe – and other heartwarming Christmas music.

Prior to their performance, VIP ticket holders enjoyed a meet and greet with Canyon and Pritchett.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Prior to the Cowboy Christmas concert Jenn and Jared Jaffray join Aaron Pritchett (L) and George Canyon for a photo during a meet and greet event (VIP ticket holders) in the AUD Theatre's upper meeting room.

## Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virden and District Health Auxiliary was chosen to be the recipient of the proceeds from this year's Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign. Members of the Auxiliary, with the assistance of friends, the Oil Caps, and the VCI Golden Bears hockey team, decorated cookies from Nov.17 - 23 at Virden's Tim Hortons. Their efforts resulted in the Auxiliary being the recipient of a cheque for \$6,984. This money will be used to fund Health Auxiliary projects. Shown with members of the Auxiliary are Greg Crisanti (far right), franchisee/owner of the Virden store, and Lily Bowen (third from right), Virden store manager.

## **Kenton Buck Night at Legion**



PHOTOS BY LESLIE BURKI

Travis Hunter reads off the winners and sponsors of the Kenton Buck Night contest on Dec 6.

## By Jessica Coulter RIVERS BANNER

On Saturday, Dec 6, Woodworth Legion hosted its annual buck night.

There were 35 deer heads submitted.

The winners were:

- · Ladies Deer Lisa Raven
- · Youth Deer Alex Airey
- · Non-Typical Deer Darrin Good
- Mule Deer Cruz Dushnicky
- · Typical Deer Blain Lee Thank-you to all our sponsors. It was a great night to visit with friends and fellow hunters at the Woodworth Legion in



Cruz Dushnicky with his velvet mule.

# Goulter School concert a trip back in time

Goulter students K- Gr. 4 perform in the AUD Theatre.

#### By Anne Davison **EMPIRE-ADVANCE**

On Dec. 2, at the final dress rehearsal for Goulter Country Christmas Celebration, students from K to Gr. 4 have polished up everything about their performance and they have it down pat under the direction of music teacher Ms. Iill Radwanski.

The AUD Theatre is all spruced up with seasonal décor and then, two days later, Dec. 4, Goulter students performed for a large audience including friends and family and community members in two presentations, on Wednesday afternoon and evening.

# Wagon rides to parade glow: Elkhorn celebrates Christmas light up

By Ed James **EMPIRE-ADVANCE** 

Elkhorn Village Christmas Light Up, Dec. 6, was a full day and despite cold temperatures the many events brought out good crowds, starting with a Christmas themed kids' craft workshop at the library led by Tamara Bajus. For this event, the rule of silence was put aside as the library was filled with laughter from children and parents.

Walking down the street to the Legion Hall, hot soup and sandwiches were available to warm you up and visit with friends and neighbours. The turnout was so good that the basement had to be opened up for the overflow.

As the lunch crew departed, holiday arts and craft vendors set up for an afternoon sale that would include baked treats, fabric artitems and decor items with seasonal themes. Among the crafters were young people carrying on the crafting traditions.

Back at the library Mrs. Santa Claus arrived in her bright red dress trimmed with white fur, to read Christmas stories to the children, with pauses to ask the children about their Christmas wishes and dreams. Her Christmas outfit and attitude added to the magic of the Christmas season for children and maybe for a few adults as well.

Back down the street at the Memory Tree site, Mr. and Mrs. Plett from Kola, were hitching up a beautiful team of black percheronsfor wagon rides around the vil-

lage to see the Christmas sites. As they drove by me there were smiles on the faces of passengerswhowerewellbundled

up, as the team clomped along. Over at the Elks Hall a full house of young and old played Turkey Bingo with lots



The Memory Tree in Elkhorn's village square where folks enjoy a barbecue and carols.

for everyone. The event was put on by the Elkhorn Figure Skating club, who were pleased with the community support.

I almost forgot about Santa Claus who was busy up at the community rink, skating with the children and a few adults on an ice surface that looked like glass and was a



Mrs. Claus holds her audience in Elkhorn library.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From Grade 3/4 class old fashioned band.



Skate with Santa in Elkhorn rink.

challenge for me to shuffle along to get some pictures of Santa and friends!

During the day, local shops and businesses had special sales events, while the Co-op grocery store had sample displays of Christmas food treats and holiday beverages.

As dusk fell there was a blazing bon fire at the Memory Tree site for the official lighting ceremony by Elkhorn and Area Foundation. Chair person, Marcy Rowan, in a brief speech, welcomed

everyone and thanked all for the support of the Foundation. She thanked many willing volunteers that ensure lasting support for local projects and initiatives for generations to come. She closed saying, "Your generosity makes a real difference and we are deeply grateful."

With that the lights were turned on with cheers from the crowd. The Light Up Parade followed with many brightly colored floats from area businesses and families

- enjoyed very much by cheering children along the parade route.

For the next few weeks the lights of the tree will shine in the night to remind us of the reason for the season, to remember those who have left us and those that are near us thatwelove. But please take a moment to remember all those Canadian military personnel serving far from home and family during this season of joy. Best of the season to all

## SPORTS

## CI, RESTON VARSITY GIRLS COMPETE AT PROVINCIALS

By Robin Wark

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute varsity girls volleyball team recently wrapped up its season at the Provincial AAA Volleyball Championship.

Regarding the high school campaign, head coach Georgia-Rae Maxwell said, "I am proud of the way their volleyball IQ increased as the season progressed and how supportive they were to each other as a team."

At the provincial tournament, the Golden Bears were 1-2 in pool play. They fell to Léo-Rémillard, 25-20, 25-17. The Golden Bears defeated St. John's-Ravenscourt, 25-23, 25-23.

"The game against St. John's-Ravenscourt was one of their best games of the season," Maxwell said. "Everyone on the team elevated their game, especially the Grade 12s."

In its final pool play game, VCI lost to Linden Christian, 22-25, 25-17, 15-13. Tyra Wilkinson, Shae Patton and Alexis Bukarz earned player of the game honours for VCI during pool play.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Golden Bears beat Calvin Christian, 26-25, 20-25, 15-11.

"Georgie Smith really elevated the team's energy and everyone stepped up to win that third set," Maxwell said.

VCI ended its run at the provincials with a loss to Westgate, 25-16, 25-9. Westgate went on to win the provincial

The Golden Bears earned their spot at the provincial tournament by beating Steinbach Christian in a wildcard game in MacGregor. Maxwell said, "It's difficult to play wildcard games because there's a lot of pressure and, after a rocky start, the team rose to the occasion and won in four sets."

The Golden Bears' graduating players this year were Wilkinson, Paton, Smith, Bukarz, and Suzy Vrublevsky. Wilkinson, a left-side hitter, was named a Graduating All-Star.

"She is a dominant offensiveforce," Maxwellsaid. "She can hit out of any position and she has perfected the back-rowtip, which not many players can do. She is also very skilled as a serve receiver."

The VCI roster includes Sadie Brown, Alexis Bukarz, Scotlyn Chadney, Skylar Higginbotham, Ella McAdam, Shae Paton, Georgie Smith,

Libby Verran, Suzy Vrublevsky, and Tyra Wilkinson. The assistant coaches were Janelle Grieve and Betty Sidoryk.

#### **Reston Girls**

The Reston School varsity girls team competed at the Provincial A Volleyball Championship in Brandon. The team was 2-2 in pool play. It lost 25-13, 25-21 to Gilbert Plains. Aubrey Revet was Reston's Player of the Game. Against Morweena, the Tigers fell 25-21, 25-18. Bree Russellwas the Player of the Game for Reston. The Tigers then beat Wawanesa 25-19, 15-25, 15-10, and Mya Gray was the Player of the Game. Shaylee Flannery earned that honour when Reston defeated Grand Rapids, 25-8, 25-20. In the playoffs, the Tigers lost 25-20, 26-24 to Miami.

"I think the girls saved their best volleyball for the end of the season," head coach

Kurtis Callander said. "We were able to beat a team at provincials that we had lost to three previous times this year. The girls also lost a very tight quarter-final match to Miami, who went on to win the bronze medal."

The Tigers earned a provincial berth by placing second in the Provincial Round 1 tournament in Ste. Rose. Regarding the season, Callander said, "Iwas most impressed with the team's overall improvement throughout the year. We had a huge turnover in players from last year, and many players had to learn new positions."

The Reston team included: Presley Cook, Shaylee Flannery, Avery Granger, Mya Gray, Marlee Henderson, Saffia Kraning, Alayna Leslie, Maren Ray, Aubrey Revet, Bree Russell, and Lily Whyte. Chris Elliottwas an assistant coach.



The Virden Collegiate Institute varsity girls volleyball team earned a provincial berth.

# Berry Happy to be back with Oil Kings

By Robin Wark

**EMPIRE-ADVANCE** 

After taking last season off from senior hockey, Brendan Berry is glad to be back with the Virden Oil Kings.

"It wasn't as enjoyable watching the fellas from the stands as it was from the ice," Berry said. "I missed it a lot, so luckily they had me back this year."

The veteran forward has an assist through seven games. Oil Kings coach Tyler Campbell said:

"Having Brendan back has been great. He's a local guy that everyone in the room respects, and he will do anything for the team, including dropping the gloves with just about anyone. He's super committed, likeable, and an all-around good guy."

On Dec. 6, goaltender Riley Wallace and the Oil Kings shut out the Melita Bisons 4-0. The win improved the local team's record to 6-3-0-0 in the Tiger Hills Hockey League. The Oil Kings have a big game on Dec. 12 when they host the Rivers Jets. The Rivers squad enters the contest with an 8-1-0-0 record.

Berry grew up in Cromer. He played four seasons for the Virden Collegiate Institute high school hockey team. After a couple of seasons away from hockey, he started playing for the Oil Kings in the 2019-2020 season. The Oil Kings were still in the North Central Hockey League then, before moving to the Tiger Hills Hockey League the next season.

"My favourite thing about being back with the Oil Kings is obviously getting to see my teammates on a regular basis,' Berry said. "It's such a great room of guys and they all make it enjoyable to be back. I also enjoy the intensity of being back playing competitive hockey. We've had some close games so far this season, and it's been fun to be a part of those. Although I'm not scoring five goals a game like some of our guys, it's fun to contribute in other ways — even if my biggest contribution of the night is picking up pucks after warm-up.

Berry works for Enbridge on the pipeline. He is also involved in grain farming.

Oil Kings 4, Bisons 0

Against Melita, Wallace earned his third win this season for the Oil Kings. He enters this week with an impressive 0.72 goals against average.

Brad Bowles lit the lamp twice in the first period to take the visitors from Virden to a 2-0 lead. Elisha Bambridge scored in the second to make it 3-0. On a power play in the third period, Dillin Stonehouse capped the scoring. Melita goalie Andrew Greig stopped 22 shots. In a feisty third period, 20 infractions were called.



# REALLY? MAYBE JUSTIN TRUDEAU WASN'T SUCH A BAD

## Liberal Drama 101

Well Steven, we have to try to fool voters into believing that we're actually serious about backing an oil pipeline again. How can we do it?

I know, right! How about, instead of another cabinet shuffle, I'll just act offended and all, and quit cabinet?! People fall for this type of trickery all the time ... suckers! Just don't forget to look after me buddy.



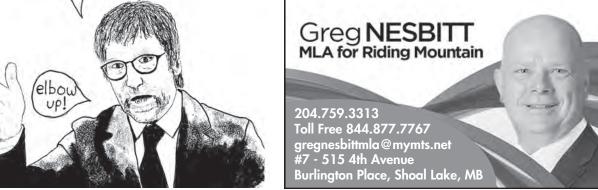
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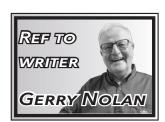
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## REF MEMORIES



One thing I used to do was evaluate other officials. Before the game in the dressing room I would go over some of the things I was looking for from that individual. One question I alwaysaskedwas, what is fair? An example was this is, if your opponent punches you in the face, how would you feel about that? The answer was usually, I would want to hit him back! Good! That is the answer I want to hear because I want you to call the original penalty not the retaliation. Retaliation can still be a penalty, but you should call the first one the original. Prepare yourself by going over this in your mind before you go on the ice. In fact, think about this during the day before you go to the rink. Have a plan and stick to it.

One night in a game, a player that I was officiating

got body checked from the side into the boards. The hit was hard and I knew the player getting hit hadseen it coming. As I said it was a hard hit so I gave the player who did the checking a minor penalty for boarding. It turned out the player that got hit, was injured on the play. I thought he was just shaken upandwould befine.

The next day the team of the injured player called me and told me that the player who was hit was injured much worse than I thought and that I should have been handing out a major penalty and a game misconduct. Well, the game is over and I cannot do anything about that. Ifelt bad for the injured player and went over and over it again in my mind. Was it a major penalty? How did the hit cause him to be injured. The injured player had a concussion.

I felt bad for him being injured and it bothered me. Was I game ready? Was I properly prepared for the game? What was going on before the big hit? Had I missed something earlier on the ice that would have

prevented the player from getting injured?

These were some of the questions I asked myself after getting the phone call about the player being injured. After some days of thinking about it, I came to the conclusion that the hit I seen probably was a minor penalty as maybe he had already had a concussion from a previous hit or even from the game previously.

I went to his teams next game and he was playing? I thought to myself well, I am glad he is alright! So, what was the purpose of the team calling me to tell me that their player was injured? Never did figure that out. Maybe, just maybe they were trying to get into my head as I had another game involving them coming up. Well, that did not work and I told the individual who had called me and was also a player on the same team that for all the problems he had caused me over the course of the last fewday's, that he should have his head on a swivel for this game. I probably will not be calling any penalties on the opposition for hitting him, giving him the lumber during the game. Now I am in your head, I hope you enjoy the evening!

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### **Help Wanted**



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUILDING, PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL BY-LAW INSPECTOR

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a qualified individual for the position of **Building, Planning & Municipal By-Law Inspector.** This role is responsible for ensuring compliance with Manitoba's building codes, planning regulations, and all municipal by-laws (including zoning, property standards, nuisance) while administering development agreements and planning documentation for Trans Canada West Planning District on behalf of the Municipality.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Conduct building, plumbing, mechanical, zoning, and property standards inspections
- Review and issue building, plumbing, occupancy, and development permits
- Ensure permits and documents are uploaded to the Manitoba Municipal Reporting Online (MMO) system
- Enforce all municipal by-laws property standards, signage, nuisance, noise, etc.
- Investigate complaints and issue warnings, orders, and violations as required
   Administer and monitor development agreements and planning documentation
- Administer and morntor development agreements and planning documentation
   Assist with conditional use, variance, and subdivision applications
- Maintain accurate digital and paper records, inspection notes, and reports
- Provide information and guidance to residents, developers, and contractors
- Coordinate with RCMP, Peace Officers or Provincial agencies for joint enforcement
- Perform other duties as assigned by the CAO or Council

#### **Skills and Qualifications**

- Experience in building inspection, by-law enforcement, or municipal planning as asset
- Ability to read building plans and interpret zoning regulations
- Strong communication and customer service skills
- Manitoba Class 5 driver's license (clean abstract)
- Inspector certification (Parts 3 & 9) or trade background an asset

The R.M. Wallace-Woodworth offers a competitive salary based upon the applicant's experience and qualifications. A complete job description is available upon request. The successful candidate can expect a salary reflective of their experience and qualifications.

## PLAYER SAFETY OF THE NHL

**By Gerry Nolan**RIVERS BANNER

About three weeks ago I was watching a game between the Dallas Stars and the New York Islanders. The New York Islanders were winning 3-1 with 22 seconds left in the game. The puck had been shot into the New York end zone and Alexander Romanov was ahead of Mikko Rantanen of the Dallas Stars. As both players were approaching the goal line in the New York endzone, Mikko Rantanen cross checked Alexander Romanov into the boards from behind. As a result of this play the officials assessed Mikko Rantanen a 2-minute minor penalty and a game misconduct. The player safety department of the NHL headed up by George Parros reviewed the play the next day and decided there would be no fine or suspension for Mikko Rantanen.

The next night the Dallas Stars are playing the Calgary Flames in Calgary. Mikko Rantanen cross checksFrankCoronatointo the boards from behind who suffers lacerations to

his face, especially around the nose area. The officials assess Mikko Rantanen a 5-minute penalty for boarding and a game misconduct. Correct call!

On the play in Calgary Jonathon Huberdeau goes after Mikko Rantanen and there is a bit of a fight. Not much of a fight but still a fight. The Calgary player gets a 2-minute instigator penalty,5 for fighting and a game misconduct. Mikko Rantanen gets 5-minute for boarding penalty and a game misconduct. Calgary ended up short handed for 2 minutes on this play. BS as far as I am concerned.

The next day, the Player Safety department of the NHL head George Parros suspended Mikko Rantanen for 1 game. Wow, big suspension. What do you think?

Well, it turns out the Calgary player who was hit from behind into the boards is okay and actually came back and played the remainder of the game after he got stitched up. Or is he okay?

Alexander Romanov whowascrosscheckedfrom behind by Mikko Rantanen wasnotsolucky. He is outfor the remainder of the season with a shoulder injury so bad, there is the possibility he may never play again!

Player safety is laughable. It is a joke! George Parros and Gary Bettman are a joke. I have wondered why this is allowed to happen. What recourse does an injured player have? How can those officials in the New York game look in the mirror the next day and say, well we assessed a penalty. They clearly should have assessed Mikko Rantanen a match penalty which calls for automatic suspension. Instead, they call a minor, no suspension. The next game a major is called, and Mikko Rantanen gets a 1 game suspension.

Now let's turn the tables and it is Mikko Rantanen who gets drilled from behind into the boards and suffers an injury, be it career ending or otherwise. Do you think the player or players who would hit him would get off this lucky. I do not think so. Where is the accountability for the player safety department? I guess it will end up in court some day when a player actually dies on the ice!

#### 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 transforring or disposing of weets, as required.
- 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 depends of the position and bays an excellent asfety record.
- Ability to meet physical demands of the position and have an excellent safety record.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with 3 references by:
E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB R0M 2C0

We appreciate your interest in this position.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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

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



## CLASSIFIED

#### Announcement

## **Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted** 

## R.M. of Oakview **HELP WANTED FULL TIME PUBLIC WORKS UTILITY OPERATOR**



#### Job Description:

Working under the supervision of the Public Works Supervisor of the R.M. of Oakview, the primary duties will include assisting with the safe and effective operation of all water and wastewater operations; and other duties as described by the R.M. of Oakview.

#### **Applicants Must:**

- Have the ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- Possess a valid Class 5 Driver's License
- Have the ability to operate and maintain a variety of municipal equipment
- Have the ability to work in Rapid City, Oak River or Cardale
- Possess or the ability to obtain a Level 1 classification Manitoba Water Certificate

Please submit a resume, a cover letter that includes a copy of a Driver's Abstract to the R.M. of Oakview municipal offices at Rapid City or Oak River by Monday, December 22, 2025 at 12:00 noon. Resumes may be reviewed as soon as December 15, 2025.

A detailed list of duties can be found at www.rmofoakview.ca or by contacting the following:

Satellite Office Head Office 10 Cochrane Street 435 - 3rd Ave Box 130 Box 179

Oak River, MB ROK 1TO Rapid City, MB R0K 1W0 Phone: 204-826-2515 Phone: 204-566-2146 Fax: 204-826-2274 Fax: 204-566-2126 Email: info@rmofoakview.ca Email: adminrc@rmofoakview.ca

Thank you to all applicants for their interest in this position, however, only those selected for interviews will be

## **VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM MANAGER POSITION**

The Virden Pioneer Home Museum is looking for a candidate to fulfil the position of Museum Manager.

This position is located at the Virden Pioneer Home Museum in Virden MB.

Work schedule is 20 hours per week. Wage is negotiable based on experience.

The Museum Manager will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, administration, and public-facing activities of a museum

Position responsibilities include, but are not limited to, managing staff, developing public relations and educational programs, ensuring the care and preservation of collections, registering and recording artifact information and day to day management of the buildings and grounds.

This is a leadership role that combines administrative and curatorial duties to keep the institution running smoothly and fulfilling its mission.

- Staff and administration: Supervise and train staff, manage daily operations, and handle administrative tasks like developing policies and procedures.
- Public Outreach: Design and implement public relations activities, create marketing and promotional programs, and develop public events.
- · Artifact recording: Ensure all pertinent information is accurately recorded in a digital database.
- · Collection and exhibits: Oversee the care and preservation of artifacts, coordinate with staff on exhibit creation, and manage the logistics of loans or
- · Community engagement: Lead efforts for community and multicultural engagement to keep the museum relevant and accessible.

#### **Skills and qualifications:**

- · Strong organizational and communication skills.
- · Experience in leadership, management, and public relations.
- · Knowledge of museum operations, including collection care, exhibit curation, and public programming.
- Customer service and community engagement skills.

Applications, with resume and references attached, must be emailed to: virdenpioneermuseum@gmail.com. Closing date for applications is midnight on Dec. 18, 2025

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#### For Sale

#### Farmland for Sale in **RM of Pipestone**

	2025	2025
	Assessment	Taxes
SW 14-8-27W	231,700	726.47
SE 14-8-27W	262,100	821.86
NE 10-8-27W	275,400	863.46

Land is located on Road 44N and 157 - 158 W. Land is classified as "E" soil on Crop Ins. All Land is presently pasture, meadow brome, -Brome fenced & dugouts.

Offering the S 1/2 of 14-8-27W as one unit. NE 10-8-27W as a separate unit.

Mineral and oil rights are exempt. Interested parties should rely on their own inspection. Highest or any offer, not necessarily accepted. 2025 taxes are paid, 2026 taxes will be paid by purchaser. S 1/2 14-8-27W has a MTS and a capped oil well site Caveat. Deadline for offers is Monday December 22, 2025.

For more information, call or text 204-748-5178.

Offers to be sent to:

Stewart Farms. Box 9, Pipestone MB R0m 1T0



#### For Lease

#### FOR LEASE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders to lease the pastured land situate in the Municipality of Pipestone and more particularly described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN, HADDAD LLP 110-11th Street Brandon, MB R7A 4J4 Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

Approximately 98.4 acres of pasture adjacent to Pipestone Creek in E 1/2 22-8-26WPM in the Municipality of Pipestone

#### CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the landowner. The land is tendered for rent on an "as is" basis. All mines and minerals are reserved from the Lease Agreement.
- Tenders must be received on or before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025
- The lease term will be three (3) years commencing January 1, 2026. The Tender must specify the rent per acre payable for year one (1). Rent will be increased by two (\$2.00) dollars per acre in each of the two (2) subsequent years of the term.
- Rent plus GST is payable on April 1st annually.
- The party whose tender is accepted will be required to enter into a written Lease Agreement to be prepared by the solicitors for the landowners, a copy of which is available by contacting Warren G. Barber, K.C. at wbarber@mhlaw.ca or (204) 725-8461.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible for one half the costs associated with the preparation of the lease.
- Entry onto the land will not be authorized until the Lease Agreement is executed.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For further information contact Giovanni Colangelo at (204) 851-2101.

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## Thank-you

## Thank-you

**Breadalbane Cemetery Committee** would like to thank the following for donations received for 2024 - 2025.

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What happens when you VERY LITTLE.

## Survey reveals cannabis use on the rise behind the wheel

By Anne Davison EMPIRE-ADVANCE

New findings from a recent survey conducted by CAA Manitoba highlight

a concerning trend: substance use, particularly cannabis, is on the rise both recreationally and behind

"Cannabis is more accessible than ever, and that means more Manitobans are not only choosing to drive after consuming it but are also getting behind the wheel soon after and expressing increased confidence in their ability to do so," says Ewald Friesen, manager, government & community relations for CAA Manitoba.

Speaking with RCMP Sgt. Mark Hume from West District Traffic Services, he said they are seeing "a very significant increase in the use of Cannabis." And he said that including cannabis there are 10 drugs with specific blood level limits.

The problem with cannabis use, and something users might not realize, is that chronic use builds up a tolerance and THC levels build up within the body.

The substance does not clear from the blood/body and 12, 18 and even 24 hours after use, it can still be detected and a one-night user will still have cannabis within their blood.

Sgt. Hume says another difference between alcohol and cannabis use is that a bottle of beer - typically a 5% alcohol drink is a more easily calculable intoxicant that cannabis use.

How many joints did you smoke? How strong was that particular cannabis? And no, food consumption does not reduce cannabis in the blood.

Pot is a central nervous system depressant that affects reaction time and fine motor skills.

Alcohol does this too, affecting vision and reaction time. Throw in fatigue and distractions makes for a deadly combination.

2024 and 2025 Provincial RCMP statistics show similar rates of roadside suspensions and criminal code charges, although drug combination suspensions are much higher this year.

Entire year of 2024:

 $509\,Provincial\,Roadside\,Suspensions\,\hbox{-}\,Fail/Refuse$ 345 Provincial Roadside Suspensions - Warnings 287 Tiered Suspensions – Drug (cannabis/cocaine) Just 10 months of 2025:

451 Provincial Roadside Suspensions - Fail/Refuse 308 Provincial Roadside Suspensions - Warnings 476 Tiered Suspensions – Drug (cannabis/cocaine)

In their Manitoba study, the CAA data shows that 24 per cent of drivers admitted to consuming cannabis before driving - up six per cent from last year; while 10 per cent reported driving after consuming cannabis in the past few months, a three per cent increase from 2024.

Among cannabis-impaired drivers, most (63 per cent) say they drove within three hours of consumption - up 10 per cent from last year.

A recent study with funding support from CAA offers new insights into the impact of cannabis on driving. The study conducted by the University of Saskatchewan, examined 50 drivers aged 19 to 30 to assess how consuming edible cannabis influences collision risk.

This age group of young drivers, identified as having the highest crash rates and a greater tendency toward risky driving behaviour.

"Drivers may face enhanced roadside sanctions, including an administrative penalty of \$700, vehicle impoundment, mandatory Ignition Interlock participation for one year, an impaired driver assessment and movement of 10 levels down the Driver Safety Rating scale," says Friesen. "Depending on the severity of convictions, impaired drivers may be charged further under the Criminal Code of Canada."

This holiday season, CAA Manitoba is asking that those who do consume cannabis, alcohol or other drugs, to plan ahead by making alternate arrangements, such as a designated driver or use a rideshare service, to get home safely.

## **Correction:**

## RE: Kenota Cup

It is not the Kenton Cup, it is the Kenota Cup. It is called the Kenota cup because originally it was made up of men from Hamiota and Kenton. We took the first part of Kenton being KEN then added the last part of the name from Hamiota which is OTA.

# Arena upgrades, well repairs move ahead

By Dale Davison **EMPIRE-ADVANCE** 

Efficiency Manitoba has fully funded the replacement of multiple lights in Tundra Oil and Gas Place. The upgrades included lighting in the lobby, outdoor areas, the building's bathrooms and both levels.

LRB Electric also submitted another grant application and CAO Rhonda Stewart said, "This has been a year in the making, and we have been approved for approximately \$195,000 to completely replace the control system."

Stewart stated that the airport lighting is completed, but a small amount remains outstanding for electrical work on the fuel system.

The arena sound system has been an issue and it is being replaced. Stage one and two of the project have been complete but the largest most expensive phase remains. The total cost as allocated in the budget is \$250,000.

#### Indemnity by-law

The Councillor Indemnity by-law was presented for third reading. The by-law fixes the amount of indemnities and other expenses paid to the mayor and councillors. As noted in the Nov. 18 issue of the Empire-Advance, the mayor will see an increase of \$596.66 for a total of total \$20,485.46. The deputy mayor indemnity will increase by \$511.46 and total \$17,560.66. Councillors will increase by \$426.19 to total \$14,632.64. The bylaw passed unanimously.

AMM update Coun. Marc Savy commented on a resolution presented to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) fall convention by Councillor Caldwell from Wallace-Woodworth. The Province of Manitoba announced in its 2025 budget the creation of 20 new seats for a combined laboratory and x-ray technology program at Assiniboine College in Brandon, with implementation beginning in 2027. The program will establish a cross-training program allowing healthcare workersto receive dual certification in x-ray and laboratory technology. The resolution called for the province to expand the number of seats in existing diagnostic training programs across Manitoba and create rural focused training and retention strategies to ensure

these investments directly support staffing in rural and northern commun-

Mayor Tina Williams said that although added seats are welcome, "They can't get the program going in Manitoba yet because they don't have the curriculum" Coun. Marc Savy added, "They're training them in Saskatchewan because Assiniboine College doesn't have the infrastructure and the capital yet to build all the new labs. Once they're up and running at Assiniboine College, then they'll be training in Manitoba.

#### Catalis Renewal

Catalis provides accounting software for the Town and the contract is up for renewal at the end of this year. Council agreed that the software is effective but could be even more beneficial if the Town made full use of its features.

Coun. Travis Penner expressed concern that Catalis has full access to all municipal data stored on the platform. Penner asked, "Are they giving us any assurance that the data is protected?" Penneralso noted that the company's liability for breaches or damages is capped at six months worth of fees—a very small amount relative to what could be at stake if confidential municipal or resident data were compromised. Council expressed interest in clarifying data security measures and understanding how the provider protects information on its servers. They directed ACAO Jared Jaffray to investigate the privacy and security of the data and prepare a report on privacy prior to the next regular meeting.

#### Well upgrades

Coun. Tara Maxwell moved that the municipality follow the recommendation provided by Friesen Drillers in their Nov. 25 proposal regarding work on Production Well 2. The motion was carried.

CAO Stewart explained that meetings are continuing with contractors and engineers. With Well 3 now operational, further work remains on Well 2 and on repairing pump-house piping, along with additional system upgrades.

Town staff is working on a proposal for the Office of **Drinking Water regarding** changes to the treatment process.

CAO Stewart attended the AMM fall convention and said, "It made me really pleased to be there when (MLA) Greg Nesbitt recognized (former Wallace-Woodworth CAO) Garth Mitchell for his years of service not only as CAO, butforeverythinghe'sdone for his community and the hockey world throughout the province."



## SPORTS

## MOOSOMIN PRODUCT FINDING SUCCESS CLOSE TO HOME

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Although Marshall Light plans one day to see the world,

the veteran Virden Oil Capitals forward is grateful to have played most of his junior career near his hometown of Moosomin.

The 20-year-old Light, who is in his final junior season, came to the Oil Capitals in a trade in the 2023-2024 campaign. His parents are Greg and Jaime Light.

"Playing close to home is so great," Light said. "My parents and grandpa have season tickets and don't miss a game. It is fantastic."

The Oil Capitals are certainly pleased to have him. The 6-foot-2, 150-pound athlete had four goals and six assists for 10 points in 25 games, as of Dec. 8. Light has recorded a point in four of his last five games.

"Marshall has had an excellent season to this point," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He has really bought into the culture we are trying to continue to build, and he has been a good leader in the dressing room and in the community. On the ice, he is one of our most consistent players. He is very good in the faceoff circle, good on the forecheck, and has the ability to hang on to the puck and make plays offensively. We are very happy that Marshall decided to finish his junior career here with the Oil Caps and we are excited to see what he can accomplish in the second half of the season."

Light is an assistant captain. Regarding his role as a leader, he said, "I feel I help lead the team by being vocal on the bench and by how I play."



#29 Marshall Light

PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Now billeting with Greg and Cathy Tough in Hargrave, Light started his junior career in his home province. He was part of the Battlefords North Stars' 2023 Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League championship team. Injuries limited him to 28 regular season games that season, but he learned the ropes of the Junior A level and what winning takes. Lightwasswapped to Virden partway through the next campaign. In 2024-2025, his first full season with the Oil Caps, Light recorded 14 goals and 29 points in 58 games. He shared the team's Most Improved Player Award with Brooks Siemens.

"I have enjoyed the friendships and all the memories that come out of junior," Lightsaid.

Regarding life after junior hockey, he said, "I would like to travel the world once I am done playing." He is interested in seeing Europe and Asia.

# SPORTS NOTES: FREEMAN RINK EARNS BUNGE BERTH

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Jace Freeman is pleased to be headed back to the Manitoba men's provincial championship.

Last weekend, the son of Graham and Roxanne Freeman skipped his rink to a Bunge Championship berth by winning the A event of the West 2 Regional in Carberry. It



CLIDMITTED BUOT

The Jace Freeman rink is headed to the Bunge Championship.

is the fifth men's provincial championship that Freeman has qualified for. This year's event will be held in Selkirk, Feb. 3-8.

"I am just so excited to get back on arena ice," Freeman said. "Playing in an arena just gives such an incredible feeling that you don't get playing in a club. I'm also looking forward to playing in the new 24-team format. It will be interesting to see if the results change from previous years with the new draw this year."

The Freeman rink won both of its games in Carberry to qualify. The skip said, "I think the amount of reps we've had this season definitely helped us this weekend. We've played so many games that we had a very good idea on how each of our throws would react out there. We, overall, just read the ice extremely well which I think was the difference maker."

In the A Event qualifying game, the Freeman rink defeated Kelly Marnoch. His rink included Branden Jorgensen of Ebor and Freeman's older brother, Brooks.

"It's always fun to play against Brooks in those big games," Jace Freeman said. "He beat us last year in the berth game at regionals, so it felt nice to be able to return the favour this year. We've played with and against each other plenty of times so we knew what to expect going in."

The Marnoch rink had another chance to qualify, but it was unable to defeat the Dunbar rink. Jace Freeman's rink includes Dallas Burgess, Ryan Ostrowsky and Aaron Macdonell.

#### Manitoba Games Bound

A number of skaters who train in Virden secured spots in the Manitoba Winter Games with strong performances last weekend. The Winter Games will be held March 1-7 in Thompson. Skate Virden athletes Evie McAdams, Nate Greenbank, Luke Greenbank, and Mia du Plessis all earned spots. Skate Elkhorn's Kaylee Malcolm and Skate Waskada's Ainslee McGregor also qualified; both train in Virden as well. Nate Greenbank has additionally earned a spot in the Challenge Cup in Nova Scotia next year.

## OIL CAPS HIT THE ROAD FOR MJHL ACTION

By Robin Wark

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals are road warriors this month.

Six of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League team's eight December contests are away from Tundra Oil & Gas Place. Last week the Oil Caps beat the Selkirk Steelers, 4-1, in Virden before hitting the road. They defeated the Dauphin Kings 3-2, were nipped by Portage Terriers 6-5, and lost to the Niverville Nighthawks 11-2.

"Not just the road games, but having a busier schedule has been much nicer here in December," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "Our schedule was a little sparse through the early part of the season and so to be playing some back-to-back games and three or four in a week has been good for our team. We still very much value our practice time but it's nice to evaluate in games where we are at and where we need to improve our game."

The Oil Capitals (15-10-0-0) play in Dauphin on Dec. 12. They compete in Neepawa on Dec. 14 and against the Swan Valley Stampeders on Dec. 18. The Oil Caps finally return home to play the Stamps on Dec. 19.

"Even though I love playing at home, it's definitely a great experience getting to play in other rinks," Oil Caps goalie Braxton Burdeny said. "What makes it the most enjoyable is our team. On trips, our bus is a great atmosphere to get ready to play a game, and after we win it's always a blast."

#### Oil Caps 4, Steelers 1

On Dec. 2, Burdeny turned aside 34 shots to backstop his team to victory. He said:

"The team playing so well in front of me is definitely what allowed me to hold them to one goal. Our penalty kill was great when it needed to be and the amount of blocked shots from everyone was outstanding."

Marshall Light, from Moosomin, gave Virden a 1-0 first period lead. It was his 150th junior game. Selkirk struck on a power play in the second, but the Oil Caps' Nathan Schaefer answered with the man advantage. With 55 seconds remaining in the third, London Hoilett scored on an empty net to make it 3-1. Virden's own Bryce Bryant scored with 19 seconds left.

Burdeny was the First Star. With two points, Hoilett earned the Second Star and Light was the Third Star.

Wyatt Witham scored for Selkirk. Steelers goalie Ethan Sawyer made 30 saves.

#### Oil Caps 3, Kings 2

In Dauphin on Dec. 3, Rhylan Baxter scored on the power play with five minutes remaining to lift the Oil Capitals to a 3-2 victory. The defenceman said:

"Marshall had a good puck battle in the corner that Dysen (Drake) pulled the puck out of and we passed the puck around, opening up the opposition's penalty kill. Ty (Plaisier) made a nice backhand pass to Carson (Wright), who then ended up making a perfect pass over a couple sticks just like we had practiced that morning. I picked the perfect spot to shoot - right over the goalie's shoulder."

Virden led 2-1 after the first period thanks to goals by Lucas Laramee, his first MJHL marker, and Drake. Neither team scored in the second session. Dauphin

tied it up at 2-2 in the third.

Burdeny made 26 saves and was named the First Star. Baxter was the Second Star. Kings goalie Bryson Yaschyshyn made 32 saves and was the third star. Scoring for Dauphin were Kale Pratte and Havryil Simchuk.

#### Terriers 6, Oil Caps 5

With one minute remaining on Dec. 6, former Oil Cap Rhett Platt scored on the power play to help the Terriers win 6-5 at home. The Oil Capitals had battled back from an early deficit. Portage led 2-0 after the first period and 3-1 at the second intermission.

After the Terriers extended its lead to 4-1 with just over a minute gone by in the third, the Oil Capitals scored three goals, including two on the power play, to tie things up at 4-4. The Terriers took a 5-4 lead, Laramee answered to knot things up at 5-5.

In addition to Laramee, scoring for Virden were Bryant (two), Baxter, and Cohen Lewko. Micky Gross had 24 saves for the Oil Capitals.

Portage goalie Donavan Bodnar stopped 24 shots. The Terriers goals were scored by Breck Hirrschoff (two), Declan Siwicki, Ryker Thomas, Jonah Lemoine, and Platt.

#### Nighthawks 11, Oil Caps 2

On the road on Dec. 7, Hoilett and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper had Virden's goals. Burdeny started and made five saves on eight shots. Gross stopped 23 of 31 shots in relief.

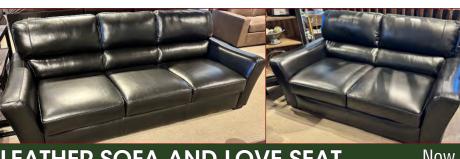
With the win, the Nighthawks improved to a leaguebest 23-1-1-0. Scoring for Niverville were Evan Panzer (four), Adam Vigfusson (two), John Scott (two), Calyb Moore, Hayden Wheddon, and Merik Boles. Nighthawks netminder Austin Dubinsky had 33 saves.



## **DECEMBER 11, 2025 - JANUARY 5, 2026**







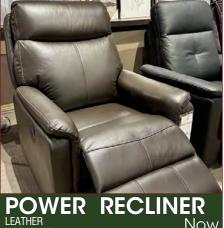
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