

Empire-Advance

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JUNE 21, 2024 | EMPIRE: VOL 119 NO 44 / ADVANCE: VOL 138 NO 46 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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Empire-Advance

News about the newspaper

Virden Empire Advance under new ownership

By Ken Waddell
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Ken and Christine (nee Lobel of Virden) Waddell are pleased to announce that they have acquired the Virden Empire Advance newspaper from Glacier Media of Vancouver.

The Waddells started the Neepawa Banner in 1989 and added the Neepawa Press in 2015. They owned the Rivers Banner for over 20 years and sold it a few years ago to their grandson, Micah but have a management agreement to help operate the Rivers paper.

The Virden paper will be staffed by Anne Davison and Jessica Coulter. Other staff may be added as the company's growth allows.

Ken Waddell said, "We will be making a number of changes in the operation of the Empire Advance. The biggest change is that, similar to our papers at Rivers and Neepawa, the Virden paper will be free distribution. Virden Empire Advance readers will get their paper free through various convenient locations in Virden, Oak Lake, Elkhorn, Lenore, Kenton, Cromer, Reston and Miniota.

The planned circulation is expected to expand substantially in the towns above. Outside the above listed designated areas, subscriptions will be available.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Ken and Christine (nee Lobel of Virden) Waddell standing outside their new office in Virden.

Christine Waddell said, "I am so pleased that having grown up at Scarth and in the Virden area and having graduated from Virden High School in 1967, that we can come to Virden and invest in my home town. We are both very pumped to be able to serve the Virden area.

The Virden Empire Advance will be 140 years old in 2025, having been established in 1885. It is one of the oldest community newspapers in western Canada.

Inside...



**VIRDEN
FLY-IN
BREAKFAST**
P2



**VIRDEN
TRACK & FIELD
CHAMPS**
P8

**BREAKING
NEWS**

FREE

Empire-Advance

Moving forward, the Empire-Advance will be available to everyone for FREE. No more subscription costs in local Virden area.

Please take one.

serving virden & area since 1885

Taking flight at the annual Fly-In Breakfast



A group checking out the plane that will take them up and above the Town of Virden.



Life is like a first-class ticket - enjoy the ride.



Over 300 people came out to enjoy breakfast at the R.J. Andrews strip.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Over 300 people came out to enjoy breakfast at the R.J. Andrews strip at the Virden airport on Saturday, June 15. It was a beautiful clear sunny day. The planes could be seen for miles as they took passengers for complimentary flights around the area.

The Virden Area Flying Club is a non-profit organization. The breakfast not only is their main fundraiser, it is hosted to promote aviation. The Fly-In started in 1978. There were none between 1994-2003 as had no place to host them. 2004 the Snow Birds performed a show in Virden. 2006 the Snow Birds stages out of the Virden airport and performed. The Fly-in Breakfast has been running consistently for eighteen years now.

This year they had two pilots with their planes taking passengers for rides. Each plane made seven trips with three passengers per ride. Fourteen plane rides with helped 42 people enjoying the sites from above. These plane rides are an opportunity for individuals and families to take to the skies. Hopefully it inspires some to want to become pilots.

“The Virden Area Flying Club would like to thank all those who attended and made our day a success,” say Noreen Stowe, “and a big thank you to the sponsors too.” John Stowe is the airport manager. He and wife Noreen have been flying enthusiasts over the years.

The sponsors were Heritage Equipment, Sparks Sand and Gravel, Tundra Oil and Gas, Virden Ford, Wheat City Seeds, Air Andrew, T.L. Penner Construction, Boston Pizza and Tim Hortons.



Virден Eyecare is having a sale on prescription and non prescription sunglasses.



Save 25% from June 17 to September 27.

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Happy Birthday

Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa on your

100th Birthday

on June 28th.

We are having a Come & Go Tea on June 29th from 2:00-3:30pm at the Virден Legion Club room. Everyone welcome. No gifts please, your presence will be your gift.

Love you Dad!



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations, and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

The herbicide active ingredients to be used include:

- MCPA Ester
- Saflufenacil
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- Pyraflufen-ethyl
- Bromoxynil
- Clopyralid
- Glyphosate
- Dicamba
- 2, 4-D
- 2, 4-DB
- Aminopyralid
- Propyzamide
- Indaziflam
- Chlorsulfuron
- Fluroxypyr
- Aminocyclopyrachlor
- Aminopyralid
- Diflufenzopyr
- Metsulfuron-methyl
- Picloram
- Mecoprop-P
- Adjuvant
- Surfactant blend
- Solvent (petroleum hydrocarbons)

Any person may, within 15 days after the notice is published, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35), Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0L6

New teachers hired for schools

Brief from the Fort La Bosse School Division meeting of the Board of Trustees, Monday, June 10

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The meeting began at 8:00p.m.
Present: Chairperson Craig Russell, Vice-Chairperson Becky Flannery, Teresa Vandenberghe, Bonnie James, Kayla Moore, Superintendent of Schools Barry Pitz, Secretary-Treasurer Kent Reid, Supervisor of Operations Mark Johnston

Regrets: Nicole Chaske

The agenda and minutes from the regular meeting Monday, May 27, were approved.

There was no business arising out of the previous meeting, no delegations or visitations; no communications or petitions requiring action at this meeting

Administrative reports/resolutions

The Superintendent of Schools presented several motions for teaching staff contracts to finalize staffing for next year. Motions were also approved to send students from VCI, Reston and Elkhorn to the Track and Field Provincials in Winnipeg held on June 6th-8th.

The Superintendent of Schools also reviewed the final draft of the new Healthy Lifestyles Framework for the school division and it was adopted by the Board of Trustees for implementation.

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed operating financial statements for the period ending May 31 and is projecting an operating surplus in the range of 2% of revenues which should give an opportunity to purchase a new school bus or two.

A salary grid review was conducted for support staff groups. The Board approved the salary grid adjustments for the non-teaching, non-bargaining support staff groups (detailed in minutes, Committee-of-the-Whole, June 10 meeting)

The Supervisor of Operations presented an out of catchment transportation request to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Resolutions were presented to approve the purchase of lockers for VCI and for floor cleaning products for the summer cleaning program - payment to Swish Maintenance Limited, invoice #F316007 in the amount of \$ 10,446, taxes included was approved.

The Board approved the payment to Access SMT, invoice in the amount of \$ 7,644, taxes included, for additional school lockers at VCI.

A report was provided from the Workplace Safety and Health tours through several of our schools.

FLB will be hooking up Elkhorn School to the RM of Wallace-Woodworth waterline, with their assistance, to provide a better water source for that school.

Other general department updates were provided.

Committee of the Whole

The Board reviewed the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting dated June 10, including meeting with MLA Grant Jackson and MLA Greg Nesbitt

Introduction and consideration of by-laws Proposed by-law 2/2024 outlining trustee indemnities and expenses was reviewed.

New and unfinished business

The Board of Trustees reviewed follow-up correspondence from the Manitoba Schools Boards Association on guidance for request for board meeting delegations. The Board of Trustees also considered a request for the use of school space from Rhythm and Glue Programs for summer programming.

Staffing:

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved staff contracts:

1.0 FTE Home/School Support Worker contract for Jaysa Lee, Sept. 3, 2024.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement for Taylor Braybrook, Sept. 3, 2024 and concluding October 18, 2024.

The 0.5 FTE resignation for Lesia Milliken effective June 28, 2024.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement (LTGA) for Megan Cloet, Sept. 3, 2024 and concluding June 27, 2025.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement for Greg O'Gilvie - Sept. 3, 2024 and concluding June 27, 2025.

1.0 FTE Teacher General Agreement for Luke Munchinsky - Sept. 3, 2024.

0.6 FTE Teacher General Agreement for Kim Barkley - Sept. 3, 2024.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement for Aevry Hayward - Sept. 3 - June 27, 2025.

1.0 FTE Teacher General Agreement for MacKay Dryden- Sept. 3, 2024.

0.8 FTE unpaid leave of absence request for Sheena Blanchard from Sept. 3 - June 27, 2025.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement for Shae-Lynn Forster commencing Sept. 3 - June 27, 2025.

1.0 FTE Limited Teacher General Agreement for Randy Kalynuk commencing Sept. 3, - June 27, 2025.

0.5 FTE reduction in time for Tricia Hayward for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36pm.

Librarians open world to students

Kim MacKenzie, Reston school librarian shares - Part II



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVIDSON

Fort La Bosse School Division presents Long Service Awards to the following recipients.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

From Fort La Bosse Recognition Night, June 6, retiring Reston School librarian story continues:

I have made many lifelong friendships over these past 37 years and worked with many amazing staff members. However, the group of librarians who came together in 1993 hold a special place in my heart. The division board and upper admin at that time made the decision that every school needed a designated library person in each building. They felt so strongly about it an instructor from Red River was brought out to Virden where I think it was two weeks we underwent some intense training to make sure we had the skills to do the job right. That was the beginning of a very tight bond of sharing and support that continues today.

There were 12 original librarians, some who moved on after a few years... and there are still three of the original crew employed.

We have had division support all along through our software changes and when it became apparent that we could handle our own PD, etc. we have basically been left alone and entrusted to do what is best for our libraries and for this we thank administration for the confidence you have shown in our capability to ensure our libraries are important domains of literacy for all Fort La Bosse students.

This needs to continue and if I have to get down on my knees and beg, I'd ask division administration and all school administrators to maintain the present library time allotted to their schools. The impact that the right person can make in that position is more than you realize and my fear any change in the way our libraries currently operate will only turn them into a warehouse of books.

I have always been passionate about Remembrance Day perhaps as my grandfather was a WWI veteran and my husband had six great uncles from Pipestone serve in the Great War as well and of those six, only two came home. I have tried for years to come up with a new way of making Remembrance Day more meaningful to my students, having them look back into their own family history to make it more personal.

Once we moved to the high school in 2011 it was so rewarding working with the Grade 12 class every year. In June 2022 I brought up the idea of No Stone Left Alone to Mrs. Wray, our senior ELA teacher. She jumped on board right away and the past two years have just been amazing. We not only held ceremonies in the four communities our students hail from to honor the local veterans who lie in those cemeteries, but we took this to a whole other level. Students researched several veterans each, both years making contact with their families and then presenting their veterans in a public remembrance. To say this was life changing for those students is by no means a stretch. It will be something they will never forget, and neither will I. Bringing the community in on the project just sparked a warm feeling everywhere and it spear headed the Veteran Banner campaign of which 99 veteran banners will hang this fall in Pipestone and Reston. Two of our graduating students this year have been on that committee as well and we have had two grad classes sponsor veterans. Our school was recognized as the Community Showcase School for No Stone Left Alone across Canada. Wasn't that a very proud moment for us all. Contrary to what Tawnis (McLeod, Elkhorn School Library) may say, I do like silly fiction picture books as well, (chuckle) but I have discovered the thirst for nonfiction and history in our students of all ages is astounding. The past two weeks I have been talking about D Day with all classes from Grade 5 up and they continue to soak it in.

Today is a special day in world history and we are able to gather here in peace because of what those brave young men sacrificed for the world 80 years ago on Juno Beach. I hope everyone takes some time tonight to turn on the news and catch some of the days' highlights and think back of just what happened not really so very long ago and share it with your students tomorrow!

Reston School staff and students held a wonderful assembly for me a couple of weeks ago. I was presented with a huge binder of letters from all the students. It was heart-warming to read them, you have no idea the impact you can have over the years. When I passed the binder over to Graham to read, he paused once and mentioned, these kids are talking about how patient you are . . . obviously they don't know you very well.

And when he was done, he closed the binder and looked over at me and said, "Well it seems to me your scary Halloween stories in the dark were a big hit with everyone but looks like your legacy at Reston School is to be remembered as the Scary Old Witch in the library!"

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



And then there were three

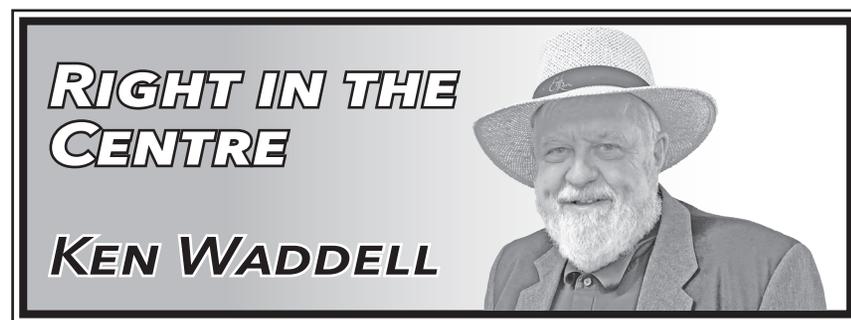
I have often spoken and written along the following lines. In life, we need the four “F” words, namely Faith, Family, Friends and Finances. And we need to keep them in that order. I learned long ago the need for faith, it’s essential. My mother and father and two older brothers taught me the importance of family. When I joined into my wife Christine’s family, the Lobels at Virden, my appreciation of family grew deeper.

Over the years, Christine and I have gathered literally 100s of friends over our 70 plus years of living, 55 of which have been together. We value all our friends.

As far as finances go, we farmed through the high interest crisis in the 1980s. When we bought our farm, the neighbours said we would never pay for it and they were right. Ironically, the price we paid for that half-section farm in 1974 would buy you less than 10 acres today. Finances can be pretty shifty, that’s why it ranks in fourth place on my list.

In 1979, we decided I would give up my job as Ag-rep with Manitoba Agriculture and go full-time farming and part-time auctioneering. The auction business lasted longer than the farm and transitioned us into the newspaper business. I am proud to say today that we have been involved in publishing, in one form or another, for 58 years.

We started full time in the newspaper business in 1989 with the birth of the Neepawa Banner, a free distribution paper. We started the Rivers Banner shortly afterwards by buying up the assets of the closed down Rivers Gazette-Reporter which was a much earlier amalgamation of the Rivers Gazette and the Rapid City Reporter. Our grandson, Micah Waddell, now owns the Rivers Banner and we have a management arrangement with him



“ We are pleased to announce that we have purchased our third paper, the Virden Empire Advance from Glacier. It too will now be a free distribution paper. ”

to operate it. The Rivers Banner is a free distribution newspaper.

In 2015, we bought the Neepawa Press from Glacier Media of Vancouver. Hence today, the Neepawa paper is the Neepawa Banner & Press.

So now nine years later, our path and Glacier Media’s path crosses once again.

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased our third paper, the Virden Empire-Advance from Glacier. It too will now be a free distribution paper.

We are having a great amount of joy working on growing and expanding the Empire-Advance. Even after all these years, and with fewer visits than we wanted to Virden, it’s surprising how many people know Christine and her family. Both Christine and I have also been pretty much out there in political and social activities and I guess a few people have noticed over the years.

I believe that we will continue to grow all three papers by way of a tried and true formula.

A newspaper can be likened to a four-legged milking stool. For those of you who are too young to remember

what a milk stool is, if it’s missing a leg, it tends to fall over and you end up in the gutter behind the cow.

A community newspaper has to have four legs. Local news, editorials, ads and, oh yes, paper. Some may question why it needs paper. After all, in this day and age, everything is available on-line isn’t it? Well yes, but news printed on paper provides a much higher level of reliability and accountability. When it’s printed on a page, it stays written. In the Internet world, just about anything goes. You can’t tell truth from fiction and what’s presented one minute can be changed the next minute.

Like they say about contracts, “You gotta get it in writing.” Community newspapers get everything in writing!

So, as the title of this column says, “And then there were three”. As a family, we are proud to now be serving with three community newspapers and look forward to doing so in the future.



A thoughtful evening

It was a thoughtful evening. It was also thought provoking. The textbook ‘Poetic Experience, An Anthology of Poems for Senior Students’, published in 1955 (isn’t that a lifetime ago?) was hauled off the bookshelf to review one poem in particular. Like looking something up on the internet, I descended down the rabbit hole. The much worn and well loved textbook was the one I studied in grade twelve. This textbook was the one my father used while teaching in the Midland School Division, now a part of the Prairie Rose Division. So, it could have been in Roland or in Starbuck that his hand held the book and the faded underlining and notations are difficult to decipher— as they would have been when he wrote them!

One of the things that struck me was how many portions of the Bible were recognized as poetry and worthy of memorizing and understanding; Psalm 23, 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3, The Magnificat— Luke 1: 46-55. The one from The Book of Ecclesiastes, 12: 1-7, entitled ‘Remember Now Thy Creator’, dad underlined ‘Because man goeth to his long home’, and noted the examples: silver cord; golden bowl; pitcher; wheel are all symbols of life. That passage concludes with ‘Then shall the dust return to the earth it was; And the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.’ I have to wonder if studying these words could be more life enhancing and encouraging than being required to read ‘The Handmaids Tale’?

The textbook is divided into sections— British Poets, American Poets, Canadian Poets with the final section consisting of portions of longer works of poetry like The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and a part of The Canterbury Tales. Dad made notes beside ‘Canada: Case History’, written by Earle Birney, and the summation states ‘The poet here throws out a challenge to Canada to grow up, to be a man, to assert independence in thought and act’. I get that when I see the lines ‘This is the case of a high-school land, dearest in adolescence, loud treble laughs and sudden fists, bright cheeks, the gangling presence. This boy is wonderful at sports and physically quite healthy; he’s taken to church on Sunday still and keeps his prurience stealthy. He doesn’t like books except about bears, collects new coins and model planes, and never refuses a dare.’ Reading that carefully I see how much has changed already, and here the notation is a simple word— personal. Yup.

Human emotion captured by a poets words can be freeing, encouraging, and challenging. John Masefield’s ‘Sea Fever’, ‘I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,’ confirms that this longing for a place, a scene, a scent, is natural. Canadian poet, Bliss Carman, in ‘Vestiga’, (footprints) speaks of finding peace, and God, in nature. There were no notes beside that one, and if dad had taught on it he would not have needed any notes, just sharing from his heart.

There were passages I don’t remember reading that caused me to pause, there were passages that brought me right back to the classroom. A lovely way to use an hour.

Empire Advance
Serving Virden and area since 1885

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www.empireadvance.ca | Drop box @ 305 Nelson St W Virden, MB

Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 12 PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

Empire Advance does not guarantee publication of any submitted articles or pictures. Such submissions, if printed, will appear at the discretion of the managing editor or publisher and only when time and space permit.
We are not responsible for fax and e-mail transmissions which are not confirmed either in person or by phone.

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Members of: **mcna** Manitoba Community Newspapers Association and **CANADIAN Community Newspapers ASSOCIATION**

News Media Canada
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On the trail in verdant Virden

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

I'm on the Trail – Scallion Creek Trail that is. After crossing the beautiful Scallion Creek bridge between Nelson St. and Virden Junior High, I saw the sign, Scallion Creek Trail and it pointed me down to the creek's edge where there is indeed a mowed walking path along the creek to the traffic bridge southwest (I think).

The creek is full and flowing, thanks to weeks of rain every few days. There, I and my dog Vinny ascended from Virden's lower rainforest, across the bridge and among the maples and possibly ash of the upper rainforest (in my imagination).

I wonder how many people have experienced the magic of a stroll on even small parts of the Virden walking paths. This one is near my work at the Empire-Advance office on Nelson St. W.

I'm back on the trail again in another sense, spending a few days in our office as we transition to new ownership, new staff and new ideas.

It was a strange feeling today, Tuesday, to look across at the historic brick building, the home of the original Virden newsroom and printing press. Hadn't worked there in over a dozen years.

It was the summer of 2009 when I first applied to become a writer for the Empire-Advance. When I interviewed with Gail Longmuir, the managing editor she seemed ready to hire me but asked if I'd take on some other duties first ... temporarily.

I figured it was a foot in the door that I wanted to enter.

During Dianne Hanson's leave of absence, I 'pounded the pavement' as the sales rep. Thankfully Dianne returned that fall and I was shuffled to a front desk job where I took classifieds, and familiarized myself with a whole new vocabulary - the names of Virden families. There just were not as many Lelonds, Gardhams Armitages, Bryants... as an Arrow River/Miniota gal was used to.

In those early days I enjoyed the reporters who came and went – Dawn and then Natalie. And my noon lunches with Gail – a horse and dog lover. It was a loooong stairway to the nearly empty upper level. The view was fantastic – the streets of downtown. Not exactly West Vancouver, or Winnipeg's Red River, but I liked my Virden view.

Years later, from our current Nelson St. office, in March 2020, staff scattered to home work stations, gradually returning there part-time.

This week it has felt good to be back, to have the office open. To feel momentum building, like a long freight train pulling away from a siding stop.

I still have a great view from my single-story office. School Kids go by, dogs walk their people, and folks pop into the office.

It surprised me today to see the Town public works truck with the new Virden logo. I'm starting to like the logo. The Town rolled the new brand out with logos ready to go, even on their vehicles.

So, this is how it feels to be on the trail again. I suspect I will soon return to my very functional home office when new staff are hired. But, I'm 'on the trail again' at least for a while and I think I'll bring a compass. Virden directions still baffle me.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

It's nearly raining again as I stroll Scallion Creek Trail in late morning Tuesday. Can you see the wooden foot bridge behind me?

The news from Miniota

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

Valley Recreation hosted the Prairie View 55 Plus pickleball games at the Miniota Hall on June 11. A good turnout enjoyed the games and the fellowship along with a lunch served by the Miniota Municipal Services for Seniors.

Miniota School Grade 5-8 attended the divisional track and field meet held at Shoal Lake on June 12. Unfortunately, due to the tornado warnings the meet was called before all events could be completed.

Miniota K-4 track and meet was held on Friday, June 14. A beautiful sunny day and students, staff, and spectators enjoyed the barbecue lunch at noon followed by the whole school events of relay and tug-o-war.

Congratulations to Shane Anderson who has graduated from ACC/Brandon Flight Centre with his Aviation Management Certificate and his commercial pilot's license. The sky is yours Shane!

Congratulations also to Kasey Fouillard who has graduated from ACC with a diploma in Digital Art and Design. Kasey hopes to now take the Advanced Diploma in Marketing while continuing to play hockey with the Cougars. Good luck Kasey.

Nick Young of the Miniota Fire Department was elected Vice President of the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs and Dean Brooker of the Reston-RM of Pipestone Fire Department was elected 2nd Vice President at the conference held in Virden just recently. Congratulations to you both!

Prairie View Municipality hosted the Midwestern Spring meeting on Thursday, June 13 at the Miniota Hall, with approximately 85 in attendance. High praise was given to Studio 83 for their décor and to the Miniota UCW for the catered meal and nutritional breaks, along with many great door prizes, compliments of many Prairie View businesses.

Darcy Oliver along with his daughter Tanya Barnes, and grandchildren Bryleigh and Ruger from Birtle, flew



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Miniota Fire Chief Nick Young 9743

At the recent Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs conference held at Virden's TOGP, Miniota Fire Chief Nick Young is the proud owner of the Winnipeg Jets Jersey. After the bidding war, Young paid in the neighbourhood of \$600 for the donated jersey. The cash in turn became a donation to STARS Air Ambulance: (l-r) The donor of the jersey to the auction, local rep to the MAFC Dean Brooker (Sifton & Woodworth Departments and elected 2nd VP of MAFC), Fire Chief Young (elected VP of MAFC), and elected MAFC president, Kelvin Toews

to Hamilton for the movie premiere Gino: A Child of War. They then enjoyed Niagara Falls for two days, followed by time spent in Toronto attending a Blue Jays game, aquarium, the CN tower and Canada's wonderland where they rode Canada's biggest roller coaster. They also attended the second premier showing of the Gino movie along with Gino Farnetti who had travelled from Italy for the premier movie of his story with the Canadian soldiers, several of whom were from Miniota. The movie tells the story of these Canadian soldiers who cared for Gino as a little boy during the war. The highlight of their trip was reuniting with Gino.

Miniota Discoveries Learning Centre held a Father's

Day brunch with games for the kids at the daycare centre. Unfortunately the gale force winds that day played havoc with the outside activities, but certainly the brunch and the happy painted faces were enjoyed.

Our community extends deepest sympathy to Joanne and Greg Spencer, Carla and Jeff Mortensen and Sandra Stone and her family on the death of their dad, Greg Cloake. Greg and his late wife Margery farmed at Beulah for many years prior to retiring to Parkissimo Lodge. Our thoughts are with you all.

"At the end of the day, remind yourself that you did the best you could today, and that is good enough." - Lori Deschene

Antique idea - gasogene sparkles water, runs autos

Virден Pioneer Home Museum looks into historic invention

Submitted

By DYLAN SOUTHAM

The gasogene (also known as the gazogene or seltzogene) is a device that people used during the Victorian Era to make sparkling water. The gasogene is made up of two circular containers wrapped in wicker or wire mesh and tubes/pipes connecting the spout to the containers. They were typically wrapped in the previously mentioned materials as they had a tendency to explode! To use this device, one would put water into the bottom circular container, while the top container was filled with a mixture of tartaric acid and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) that reacts to create carbon dioxide. Once this reaction is complete, the gas produced then causes the water in the lower container to be pushed up through a tube, reaching the spout of the gasogene. The gas also caused the water to become carbonated before it was dispensed, meaning you now had a nice glass of sparkling water!

The gasogene was not only used to make carbonated water though; there was also a gasogene that was used in automobiles. The automotive gasogene was popularized just after World War I thanks to the gasoline shortage at the time. In this gasogene, materials such as wood, charcoal, or a mixture of both would be put into a stove that would burn them, producing a flammable syngas (synthesis gas) that would then replace the gasoline after being filtered and cooled.

An important note about using wood as your choice of material is that it had to be dry in order for the system to function, so the wood needed to be harvested roughly six months before use and stored out of the rain. In addition to this, the wood needed to be cut into pieces no bigger than three inches long and two inches in diameter. It is because of this fact that people found it more convenient to use charcoal as it was lighter, easier to store and did not require a lengthy process to prepare it for use.

Wood gas systems like this would consist of a stove, a cooler, a filter, and many interconnected pipes. The stove was often seen as a large cylindrical compartment that was attached to the back of the car. As you can imagine, having a large stove attached to the back of a car would definitely result in a decrease in efficiency; manufacturers tried to modify the automotive gasogene by lowering the compression ratio and installing a shorter rear gear in order to offput power loss.

Thank you for reading this week's edition of Curator's Corner! I hope that you enjoyed learning about the gasogene and the alternative automotive version. Make sure to read again next week to see what new and interesting artifact we will write about!



PHOTO BY DYLAN SOUTHAM

Here's a fantastic invention, sort of, the gasogene machine.

NOTICE

Under The Oil and Gas Act

**Tundra Oil and Gas
Application for a Battery Operating Permit
Tundra 16-07-10-27 WPM**

Tundra Oil and Gas has made an application under the Oil and Gas Act for approval to construct and operate a battery located at 16-07-010-27 (WPM) in the Rural Municipality of Wallace Woodworth. The proposed battery is to be located in the Daly area.

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

Tundra Oil & Gas Limited
C/O Shelby Benko
295-3rd Avenue,
PO Box 1960
Virден, Manitoba R0M 2C0
204-748-3095

**Economic Development, Investment,
Trade and Natural Resources**
Minerals, Petroleum and Geoscience
590 Wellington St. E
PO Box 1359
Virден Manitoba R0M 2C0
204-748-4260

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

If the Petroleum Branch receives no bona fide written submissions objecting to the application by July 12, 2024, the Director of the Petroleum Branch may issue a battery operating permit.



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SPORTS

SWBL: MITCHELL IS LOCAL SPORTS' NUMBERS WHIZ

By Robin Work
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Tyler Mitchell's love of sports and statistics have made him an integral figure in the Westman sports scene.

The Elkhorn product serves in the summers as the South West Baseball League's statistician. He holds the same role in the winter for the Tiger Hills Hockey League.

"We are extremely lucky to have who I believe is the best statistician around for both the South West Baseball League and the Tiger Hills Hockey League in Tyler Mitchell," SWBL president Aaron Tycoles said. "When you can sit home most evenings and go on the website and see not only who won the games, but if he has already received the game reports from the teams, you can usually also read the box score. Tyler's dedication to getting the information out as quickly as possible adds a ton of legitimacy to the league."

On June 11, Mitchell got to post the stats for his hometown Elkhorn Expos' first win of the SWBL season. The visiting Expos and the host Virden Oilers were knotted at 7-7 after seven innings. In the top of the ninth, the second extra inning, the Expos pushed two runs across. Virden scored one in the bottom of the frame but fell 9-8. Expos veteran hurler Tyler Wood went the distance allowing seven earned runs on nine hits. Jayce Soder led Elkhorn with two runs batted in.

The Expos entered this week with a 1-7-0 record after falling 15-2 to Reston on June 14 and falling twice on June 16: 11-1 to Boissevain and 10-4 to Deloraine. The team was to host Hamiota on Thursday after the Empire-Advance deadline.

Back in 2018, Mitchell was doing game stats and announcing home games for the Expos. When the league needed a new statistician, longtime Expos player/organizer Mike Stevenson suggested him, Mitchell recalls.

His involvement with the THHL came in similar fashion. Mitchell has been the statistician for that league since the 2018/19 campaign. He believes it was Mark Agnew, who also played in the SWBL, that contacted him. Mitchell said he likes doing it for a couple of reasons.

"First, I'm admittedly a stats nerd. Ever since I was young, I have always been enamoured with the numbers surrounding sports. What probably got this started was following my dad (Garth) to Yellowhead Chiefs games when I was 9. He coached, so to give me something to do, I got to keep track of shots, shot locations, and faceoffs, then run down to the dressing room in between periods to show the coaches. After that, I just kind of tried to create statistics wherever I could. I remember growing up with the Nintendo game RBI Baseball 3. This was before video games tracked stats, so I would track my own in a scribbler. That grew into documenting passing and receiving yards during recess football games and running hockey

pools for my friends by Grade 5. If there was a tournament bracket to be made for any type of competition, I was your 11 year old. ...

"Second, I just love sports. Now that I am old and out of shape, it helps me stay connected to the games. Sports have been a huge part of my life, and being able to contribute off the field is my best way to stay involved. Plus, working with the Expos and C-Hawks, I still get to enjoy the post-game beers and stories."

Virden Oilers

The Oilers were 2-4-0 as of Monday when their slated contest versus Rivers was postponed due to weather. This Sunday the team plays in Boissevain and then in Wawanesa.

Reston Rockets

As of Monday, the Rockets sat second in the league standings with a 6-1-0 record. The Boissevain Centennials led with a 8-1-0 record.

On June 12, Cody Bertholet threw all seven innings to help the Rockets to a 7-2 road win over the Rivers Comets. Zac Janz hit a homerun. John Patmore drove in two runs.

Patmore struck out seven over as many innings on June 14 in a 15-2 win in Elkhorn. Nolan Jago, Jamie Williamson, Bertholet, and Logan Flannery each drove in two runs.

The Rockets were to host Boissevain on Wednesday after the Empire-Advance deadline. On Friday, the Oak River Dodgers come to town. The Rockets host the Rivers Comets on Sunday.

OAK LAKE SPRING INTO SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Tea times started at 10:30am on Saturday, June 15 at Oak Lake Golf Course for the Oak Lake Spring into Summer Golf Tournament. Seventy-four golfers signed up for a wonderful warm day at the course.

The winners were: Woman's closest to the pin winner Hayley Bird. Woman's longest drive

winner Alayna Bailey. Woman's longest putt with a 69" putt winner Alayna Bailey. Men's longest drive winner Kyle Enns. Men's closest to the pin winner Buddy. Men's longest putt with a 14' 4" putt winner Jeffery Bailey.

Sponsors and prizes were provided by J&L Seeds, Virden Four Seasons, RFNOW, Brierwood Creek Café and Grill, Barry & Gail McNish, Joe Dandy's, Oak Lake Rink

canteen, Virden Home Hardware, Fusion Credit Union, Anchor Salon and Spa, Sparks Sand and Gravel, Aspen Grove Campground and Virden Ag and Parts.

The clubhouse staff prepared a delicious meal and took care of everyone in the beer gardens.

The next tournament in Oak Lake will be the Memorial Tournament Aug 10, with a start time of 9:30am.



One of the many teams playing in the Oak Lake Tournament finishing off at the ninth hole.

VIRDEN & DISTRICT 4H FAT STOCK Show and Sale



2023 Grand Champion Steer - Shown by - Graycen Van Meiji



Virden Agricultural Grounds
Tuesday July 2nd 2024
Show - 9:00a.m.
Sale - 6:30p.m.

SPORTS

TACK, FASHOLA WIN BRONZE

By Robin Work
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two Virden Collegiate Institute student-athletes brought home bronze medals from the 2024 Dairy Farmers of Manitoba High School Track & Field Championships.

At the June 6-8 event in Winnipeg, Dane Tack earned his second provincial medal in as many track and field seasons in javelin. Fola Fashola travelled 5.94 metres in long jump to place third in the junior varsity boys field. He made the final in the 200-metre dash and placed eighth in a time of 24.29 seconds.

"Fola is a strong athlete, with a great amount of potential to excel at track and field," VCI track and field coach John Chandler said. "He could be one of the top 100 and 200 runners in the province with more training and stride work. His performance in the long jump goes to show the explosiveness of his athletic abilities. I don't think he has topped out as a long jumper yet. He has the potential for



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dane Tack throws the javelin.

being an elite jumper with more practice."

Last season Tack took silver in junior boys javelin. This time around he was third at the varsity level with a throw of 43.71 metres. Reston's Logan Flannery's throw of 40.64

placed him seventh.

"Dane works hard at his javelin," Chandler said. "He has become very consistent with his technique and practices a great deal at it."

Last year's experience played a part in Tack's 2024 success.

"I watched what I did last year and worked to improve my throws, especially going into varsity with stronger competition," he said.

As well, the son of Sara Booth and Chris Tack worked hard to improve. He said, "My mom and I watched educational videos to work on my form and practiced at the football field together."

At provincials, Tack said he did not "have the greatest qualifying round, but I was happy I stayed focused for the finals and had some good throws."

"I had a great time there that weekend," he said. "Along with the track and field competition, I got to attend the Blue Bombers home opener. I got offered a try out for the provincial track program, and it was an all around great experience."

HAMIOTA HOSTS U15AA SHOWCASE SOFTBALL



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Westman Storm team members consult with their coach.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Hamiota hosted a large tournament this past weekend. The Girls U15AA Showcase tournament played on Hamiota's ball park with 10 teams from across Manitoba competing from Friday-Sunday. This was the first time for Hamiota to host this tournament.

It was certainly ball playing weather the first two days and the ballpark, campgrounds, swimming pool and brand-new mini golf were busy.

However, players and fans, wrapped in hoodies and even blankets, endured raging wind

on Sunday for the final games for bronze, silver and gold.

Westman Storm, coached by Corey Barkley of Virden won gold with an 11-10 win over Central Charge.

Convenor for Hamiota Minor Ball, Jerry Campaign explained that while the Westman contingent was broken into three teams, the Central team put together just one team from many possible players. It was a big win for Storm.

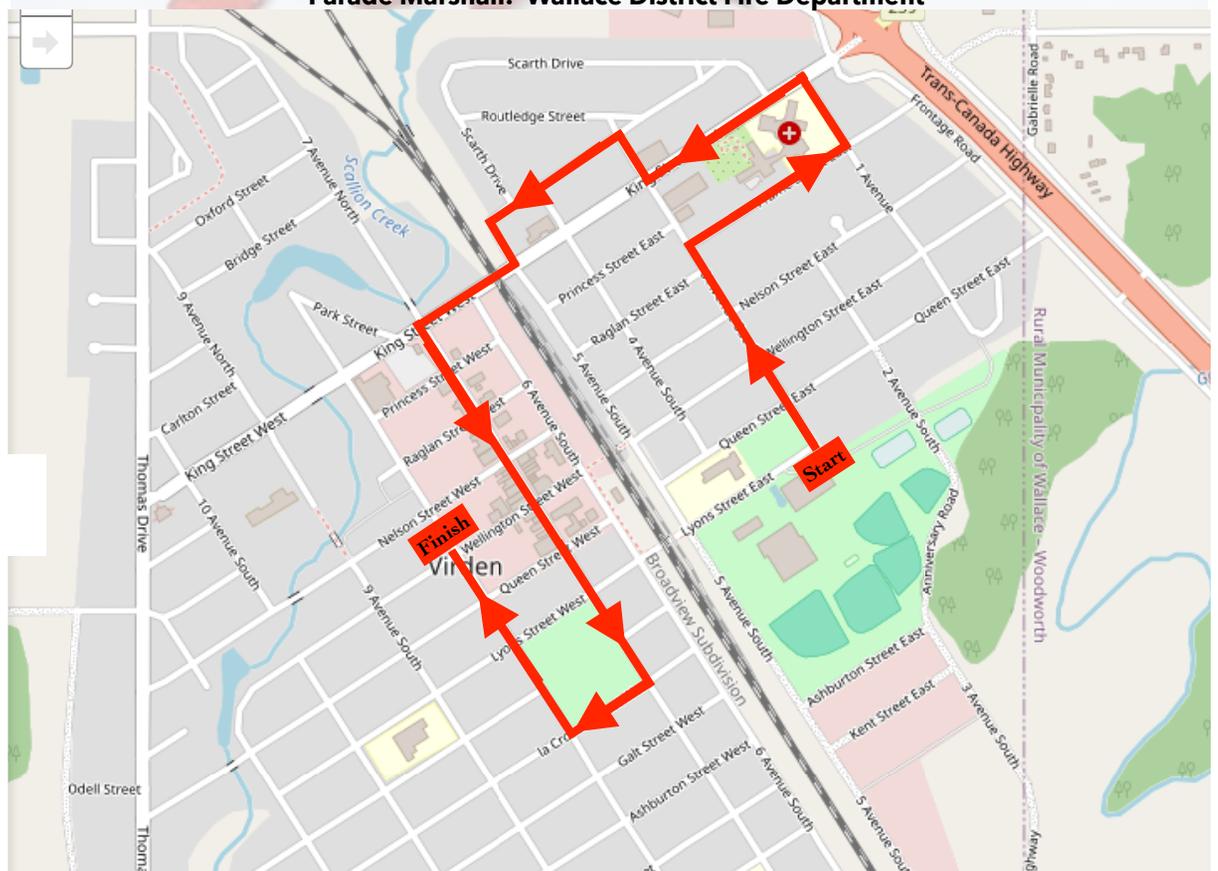
Westman Fury, coached by Greg Facey of Hamiota included a number of Hamiota girls. They lost to Westman Heat, a Brandon based team, who took the bronze win.

VIRDEN'S CANADA DAY PARADE

Hosted by
Virden Canada Day Celebration Committee

Parade will start at fair grounds and end in front of the Legion

Parade Marshall: Wallace District Fire Department



JULY 1ST, 2024 12:00 NOON

Facebook: [Virden Canada Day Celebration](#)

SPORTS

TODER COMPETES AGAINST NATIONS' BEST IN VOLT HOCKEY



Chance Toder receiving his prize jersey.

By Robin Work
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Area resident Chance Toder had an experience he will never forget competing against the nation's best.

Chance, the son of Curtis and Jolene Toder grew up in Elkhorn and now lives at Oak Lake Beach. He was part of one of the two Westman VOLT hockey teams competing in that sport's national tournament in the Toronto district of Scarborough, Ont. in late May.

In VOLT Hockey is played in a gymnasium. Athletes

with intellectual or mobility disabilities compete in hockey in motorized carts outfitted with a small hockey stick on the front.

"We have travelled many miles with all the sports my sons have played, but this was definitely a trip that far exceeded my expectations," Jolene said. "You could feel it from the first practice that this was going to be something that would change Chance's life. Everyone wants to feel like they belong, to a community, group or team. For someone like Chance that loves hockey, lifelong (Dallas) Stars fan. He volunteers with the Virden Oil Caps. He has cheered at too many arenas to count across Canada. Having the cheers directed at him was beyond his wildest expectations."

It was Chance's second year playing VOLT hockey, but his first time competing at nationals. He said, "I really enjoyed the feeling of being part of a team, travelling together with a common goal."

Chance was an important player for Westman VOLT's Team Black. In its adapted version of ball hockey, VOLT hockey is played three on three.

"Chance can play all over the court and we ended up using him in the high pressure goalie position while we were in Toronto," said Dan Landry, one of Team Black's coaches. "Chance has excellent hand eye and can stay focused on the ball for longer than most athletes. We picked Chance to be our goalie when we found out we were going into OT, which was two versus two and he did a great job despite us losing the game."

In addition to his on the court talents, Chance brought some important intangibles to his VOLT team.

"Chance brings a great attitude each week to VOLT," Landry said. "He watches closely when the coaches are going over practice plans and he's usually one of the first ones to master a drill."

The Westman teams did not bring medals back, but

that was not the point. Jolene wrote on Facebook:

"When we left Manitoba, our goal was simple: to have fun and create lasting memories. And boy, did we achieve that - we brought home the gold in all the things that truly matter! This weekend was about more than just victories; it was about building friendships both on and off the court with people who understand the challenges we face every day. To have a weekend where those challenges took a back seat to the sheer excitement and joy of being a team was truly special."

At the last practice before the teams headed to nationals, 28 of Chance's family and friends came to learn about the sport and cheer on the players.

"Chance always brings the biggest crowds with him to VOLT," Landry said. "He always has friends and family cheering him on from the sidelines. It warms my heart to see the support that dude has."

Chance said the support of his parents "has meant everything to me. My siblings have come out to cheer me on at practices and give me some advice." Regarding the support of his family and friends he received in relation to nationals, Chance wrote on Facebook, "I couldn't do it without you. I will never forget this experience and hope for many more to follow."

Chad and Michelle Wallin founded Westman VOLT a couple of years ago. In the winter, practices are held weekly in Brandon. Chance said being involved in VOLT hockey "reminds me of the days when I used to play hockey in Elkhorn."

Hockey has long been a passion of Chance's. He said, "I have loved hockey for as long as I can remember. I have cheered for the Oil Caps since they started in 2012."

"When I think of Chance, I think big smile, Virden Oil Caps hockey jersey or toque, and a young man who has a bright future in the sport of VOLT," Landry said.

GOLD RUSH BACK TO COMPETE, INSPIRE

By Robin Work
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Senior Ladies Gold Rush are once again seeking success in the Westman Ladies Fastball League.

The loop's 14th season is being run out of Virden. The Gold Rush open the campaign on June 27 at 7:30 p.m. hosting their Deloraine foes on Diamond E.

"The fastball team in Virden is truly like no other," said Gold Rush player Sara Chant of Elkhorn. "All the ladies on the team are super encouraging and the team aspect makes it so enjoyable. I love being able to stay active while still being competitive, which this team allows me to do. I can't wait for yet another great season with the Virden ladies team."

In the summer of 2023, the Gold Rush finished first in the WFL's West division. Among the highlights of the successful season were an exhibition tilt versus Virden's U19 squad and the team playing its final league game of the campaign under the lights in Moosomin. The plan is for both events to be repeated in 2024. The squad was set to play the U19 team on June 19, after the Empire-Advance deadline. The Gold Rush is slated to compete likely under the lights in Moosomin on Aug. 22.

For the women on team, playing for the Gold Rush is about more than just hits and runs.

"Fastball has always been my favorite way to meet new people and make lifelong friendships," said Julie Mathie-

son of Virden. "It challenges me and fuels my competitive nature, which is so fulfilling. I am grateful I am still able to play."

Gold Rush teammate Kara Rost of Oak Lake said, "I love being part of a team and staying competitive. I also appreciate that my kids get to see mom being active."

The team's campaign begins after most of the minor softball and baseball season has been played. This is by design not only due to diamond availability but also because many Gold Rush players are coaching - both male and female teams - as well as supporting their ball playing offspring. In addition, last April the team and FORM Group Studio hosted a female clinic that drew more than 40 players from around the region.

"Fastball has always held a special place in my heart," Goldrush player Adelle Gervin of Virden said. "As I got older, I always assumed I would take on a coaching role as most adults do. But there is something to be said about 'walking the walk' and not just 'talking the talk.' Every single player on our ladies team over the years has had such an impact on the next generation of ball players in the community. We are parent volunteers, team coaches,



Virden Senior Ladies Gold Rush Fastball team.

pitching coaches, we have run clinics and continue to be role models to these young women as they come watch our home games with their friends and families. There is something special about the atmosphere that this team creates and I will never get tired of hearing 'I want to be a pitcher like you when I grow up.'

The Gold Rush have the backing of family, friends, fans, and the business community. Britt Lawson Corbett, the Gold Rush's media executive, said, "Our league stretches over Western Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan, and we have the largest crowds for home games."

"Our team and jersey sponsors have allowed us to keep our fees low and continue to make our sport accessible to anyone that wants to play," Lawson Corbett said. "Our gameday sponsors allow us to create an atmosphere and experience for our loyal supporters."

VCI Sports & Citizenship Awards

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Collegiate Institute celebrated sports and citizenship achievements on June 13 where three students, Tyson Draper, Connor Hoemsen and Chase Cochrane acted as Masters of Ceremonies along with school principal Mr. Mark Keown.

Some 22 award categories included track & field, baseball, curling, basketball hockey, football volleyball, golf, and high school rodeo plus other special award categories.

Major V Awards were presented to graduating students who demonstrate a high participation level in sports and citizenship activities.

Mr. Keown to his daughter, Sarah Keown. Sarah was a student council member, and on committees including the keychain fundraiser, graduation, philanthropy and a competitor with Reach for the Top.

Major V Athletic award recipients were Ricki Hill, Brenna Johnston, Holl Lane, Avery Ramsey, Thane Hayward and Finn Abel.



The VCI BEAAR Philanthropy Fund grant awards were presented by the philanthropy committee (students) to community groups including: Funshine (\$1000); Goulter School (\$250); Virden Junior High (\$750); Oak Lake Community School (\$550); Oak Lake Care Centre (\$550) and to the RM of Sifton (\$250).



Baseball awards go to (l-r) Mason Lamb (top defensive), Owen Charles (most improved) and the Perry Kalynuk Memorial to Thane Hayward (passion & dedication). Coach Plett said enthusiasm was high this year with over 20 turning out for tryouts for the Golden Bears Boys Baseball team. To their credit they were 2nd going into zone playoffs.



Finn Abel received the Schulich Leader Nominee presented by Mrs. Peters (left) and (right) Mrs. Tapp presents him with a Certificate of Distinction from the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing. He ranked in the top 25% among the Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

For the sixth year, the Daniel J.G. Brick Memorial award is presented to a graduating student who exhibits a strong work ethic in both academic and extra curricular activities - "A friend to all" the plaque says. This year Mr. Keown presents the award to Cade Scharff.



Reach for the Top awards are presented by Mrs. Tapp: (l-r) Cody Sparwood (Int. most improved), Sarah Keown (Sr. team player), Reign Spring (Sr. MVP), Becca Collier (Int. MVP).

Sunrise Credit Union's Awards \$24,000 in Scholarships

By Heather Merckx
MARKETING MANAGER

Sunrise Credit Union, with its commitment to academic excellence and community development, offers 14 scholarships totaling \$24,000 to students across southwestern Manitoba. The selection process was rigorous, with 60 applicants. A six-person committee scored each application on academics, leadership, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, community involvement, and essay quality.

St. Alphonse's Laura Delichte received the largest scholarship: \$5,000 for a high-school graduate seeking post-secondary education. Delichte's high school career has been a testament to her work ethic, achieving honour roll with distinction each year while participating in many extracurricular activities, including various school sports and committees. Delichte also made it a priority to give back to and be involved in her community. Her community involvement includes, but

is not limited to, involvement with the 4-H club, lifeguarding and teaching swimming lessons, refereeing middle years and score-keeping high school sports, and volunteering with St. Alphonse & District Foundation's pumpkin cart.

Delichte will attend the University of Manitoba in the fall. Upon graduating from the agriculture diploma program, she plans to pursue a degree in agribusiness and secure a job at a rural financial institution. Her goal is to help small family farms be financially

sustainable for future generations and assist the ag industry in continuing to play a significant role in rural Manitoba.

Each year, Sunrise Credit Union employs students in various positions throughout the organization. Abigail Conrad of Swan Lake received the \$3,000 scholarship awarded to a Sunrise Credit Union Summer Student. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Greig of Melita received the \$3,000 scholarship for a first-year student continuing their education at Brandon University, and

Lindsay Wytinck of Glenboro received the \$3,000 scholarship for a first-year student continuing their education at Assiniboine Community College.

Ten \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to a diverse group of high school students from various communities in southwestern Manitoba. These students, each with unique aspirations and potential, are seeking post-secondary education this fall. The recipients include Shaylee Frattinger (Elkhorn), Kendra Wytinck (Cypress River), Siena Mc-

Millan (Brandon), Nadia Nickel (Solsgirth), Raelee Brasch (Grandview), Ainsley Boulanger (Hartney), Anna Forbes (Glenboro), Carys Wytinck (Bruxelles), Dominique Lansing (Virden), and Nicholas Hiscock (Brandon).

Sunrise Credit Union would like to thank all 60 applicants and extend a heartfelt congratulations to the scholarship recipients. Best of luck to all applicants and the entire graduating class of 2024 in your future endeavours.

Bear sighting in Virден raises alarm

Westman RCMP Service Report for June 9 – 15

Submitted
WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 79 calls for service. Of these, 30 were traffic related including 15 moving traffic – speeding violations; 4 suspicious person/vehicle/property files, and 6 abandoned 911 calls.

June 9, during a routine traffic patrol on PR Hwy 256 in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth,

RCMP observed a semi travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 117 km/hr in a 90 km/hr zone. RCMP conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle and the driver was issued several notices including a speeding ticket carrying a fine of \$403, and failing to provide proof in liability insurance to a Peace Officer which carries as fine of \$113. The driver was also issued a warning

for using a defaced or altered number plate.

June 11, during a routine traffic patrol on King St. in Virден, RCMP observed a male driving holding a cell phone up to his face. A traffic stop was conducted and this driver was issued a ticket for using a cellular phone or other hand-operated electronic device while driving, which carries 3-day licence suspension as well as a \$672 fine.

Also on June 11, RCMP were dispatched to a call of domestic assault that had taken place in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community. It was reported that a female had hit a male in the back of the head with a glass bottle. As a result of this incident, a 36-year old woman was arrested for assault with a weapon. She will be appearing in court in September.

June 13, RCMP were notified of several re-

ports about a bear that had been sighted in multiple areas within the Town of Virден. RCMP made patrols to locate the bear. Manitoba Conservation were also notified about the situation and were making attempts to trap the bear so that it could be safely re-located out of town. It appears that the bear has since made its way out of town on its own. Anyone seeing a bear within town limits, please contact

the Virден District Conservation office at 204-748-4240. If there is a life-threatening emergency, dial 911.

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

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Animal Control:
204-851-1810

Emergency After Hours:
204-851-5540

Facility Bookings:
204-748-2440

Town Office:
204-748-2440

Tundra Oil & Gas Place:
204-748-2736

Waste Disposal Grounds:
204-748-3422

Summer Ice Available for Booking

\$210 + GST per hour

Non-refundable 50% deposit due at the time of booking.

Please contact Melody at the Town Office for more information.

Select times are still available



Current Employment Opportunities

- * Utilities Foreman
- * Recreation Technician
- * General Labourer II

For additional info, please visit www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities or email info@virden.ca

Virден Spray Park



Now open daily from 10:00 AM-8:00 PM

Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virден offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2024 property taxes. Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2023 property taxes. The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

Month of Payment	Discount Rate	Savings on \$1,000.00
May	1.25%	\$12.50
June	1.00%	\$10.00
July	0.75%	\$7.50

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par.

Tax prepayments can be made by mailing a cheque with the **tax roll number** written on the reverse to the Town of Virден, Box 310, Virден, MB, R0M 2C0, e-transfer to clerk@virden.ca, via online banking, or by attending the Town Office in person during normal business hours.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440.

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Tuesday, July 16 & Tuesday, August 13

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

Town Office Summer Hours

May 31 to August 30 inclusive, the Town of Virден Office will be closed at 4:00 PM on Fridays.



2024 Summer Day Camp



Registration is now open. For more information, visit www.virden.ca or call the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

2024 Swimming Lesson registration is open

For more information, visit www.virden.ca or call the pool office at 204-748-2736 ext 3.



Dog and Cat Licenses

are available for purchase at the Town Office.

**TOWN OF VIRDEN
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN #1/2024
FOR
WATER & SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 318 of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Virden has scheduled a public hearing on the 2nd day of July, 2024, in the Council Chambers, 232 Wellington Street West at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the following water and sewer main replacement project and placing of base for a road reconstruction project.

**2024
Water & Sewer Main Replacement**

- Routledge Street East in its entirety

The cost of the total works is estimated to be \$550,000:

- Water & Sewer Main Replacement - \$450,000
- Placing of Base for Road Reconstruction - \$100,000

to be financed by the issue and sale of a debenture. The debenture proposed under this Plan will be issued for a term of 5 years at an interest rate estimated for the time being at 5.5% per annum. The amounts required to repay the debentures each year will be raised by a Local Improvement Tax to be levied upon all assessable property that is real property in the Town of Virden except Class 52 railroad property.

Based on the 2024 Final Tax Assessment, and assuming that the Town of Virden will be required to debenture the entire \$550,000 of the estimated project cost, the impact on the mill rate will be an increase of .58 mills. For a property owner having a house assessed at \$300,000, this would result in an increase of \$78.30 per year.

The annual maintenance costs associated with the local improvements proposed herein will be covered under the Town's annual utility budget and the road maintenance budget.

Copies of the Plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Town of Virden at 236 Wellington Street West in Virden.

Potential taxpayers under this Local Improvement Plan may object to the Plan by filing a notice of objection by mail or in person with the Town of Virden before the public hearing on July 2, 2024. A notice of objection must contain the name and address of the person making the objection, identify the property in respect of which the objection is filed, and state the grounds for the objection.

Dated at Virden in the Province of Manitoba this 11th day of June, 2024.

Rhonda Stewart, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Virden

**TOWN OF VIRDEN
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN #2/2024
FOR
STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 318 of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Virden has scheduled a public hearing on the 2nd day of July, 2024, in the Council Chambers, 232 Wellington Street West, Virden, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the following road construction project to be carried out as a local improvements in 2024:

Pavement and Shoulder Repairs

- 6th Avenue South – Lyons Street West to PR 257
- Kent Street West – 6th Avenue South to 7th Avenue South

The cost of the entire works is estimated to be \$350,000 to be financed by the issue and sale of debentures. The debentures proposed under this Plan will be issued for a term of 5 years at an interest rate estimated for the time being at 5.5% per annum. The amounts required to repay the debenture each year will be raised by a Local Improvement tax to be levied upon all assessable property that is real property in the Town of Virden except Class 52 railroad property.

Based on the 2024 Final Tax Assessment, and assuming that the Town of Virden will be required to debenture the entire \$350,000 of the estimated project cost, the impact on the mill rate will be an increase of .35 mills. For a property owner having a house assessed at \$300,000, this would result in an increase of \$47.25 per year on their property taxes.

The annual maintenance costs associated with the local improvements proposed herein will be covered under the Town's annual road maintenance budget.

Copies of the Plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Town of Virden at 236 Wellington Street West in Virden.

Potential taxpayers under this Local Improvement Plan may object to the Plan by filing a notice of objection by mail or in person with the Town of Virden before the public hearing on July 2, 2024. A notice of objection must contain the name and address of the person making the objection, identify the property in respect of which the objection is filed, and state the grounds for the objection.

Dated at Virden in the Province of Manitoba this 11th day of June, 2024.

Rhonda Stewart, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Virden

VEA BUSINESS DIRECTORY
YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

McNEILL HARASYMCHUK



Glen Harasymchuk, B. Sc., LL. B. • Anique Timmerman, JD
Larissa Sosnowski, JD • Jessica Humphries, JD

Buckingham Building, 243 Raglan Street West
P.O. Box 520, Virden, MB R0M 2C0
Phone: 204-748-1220 • Fax: 204-748-3007



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Help Wanted

WESTMAN EMERGENCY GROUP MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

The Westman Emergency Group, representing The Town of Virden and the RM of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a Municipal Emergency Coordinator (MEC) to provide emergency management services. This is a shared position with one other MEC.

The successful applicant will require an operational background and possess strong oral and written communication skills. Previous experience working in an emergency will be considered an asset. The MEC will be jointly responsible for:

- Preparation, maintenance and exercising of the regional emergency plan and program;
- Building and training of volunteer municipal response teams in Virden, Elkhorn and Kenton;
- Attracting, managing, and training volunteers for the community emergency management program;
- Managing and staffing a municipal emergency operation center;
- Managing and staffing a municipal emergency reception center;
- Coordinate the response to all emergencies in the region.

The position requires, on average, approximately 20 hours of time monthly, shared between the two MEC positions. During emergencies, the MEC's must be available full-time with possible overtime, for as long as required. A valid driver's license and a sound knowledge of Microsoft Office are essential.

The MEC will hold a contract position with the Westman Emergency Group and report to the Executive Committee of the Westman Emergency Group.

For further information please contact one of the following Municipal Emergency Coordinators:

- Marc Savy at 1-204-761-0419
- Joe Frizzley at 1-204-908-0855

Resumes, with a minimum of three references including contact information and relevance of the references, addressed to the undersigned, will be received by Mail, Fax, Email or In Person to:

WESTMAN EMERGENCY GROUP
c/o Garth Mitchell, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
RM of Wallace-Woodworth
Box 2200
Virden, MB ROM 2C0
Email: info@wallace-woodworth.com
Fax: 204-748-3450

The Executive Committee intends to review applications as received and interview as early as June 3, 2024, with applications continuing to be accepted until the right candidate is found.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY SANDRA ANNE HYNDMAN

Sandra Anne Hyndman of Reston, Manitoba passed away at her home Thursday, June 13, 2024 at the age of 73 years.

Sandra is survived by her partner John Harpe; her son Robert; sisters Marcia (Jim), Lavona (Richard), Shauna (Joseph); brother Rodney and sister-in-law Donna; also John's children Angela, Sara (Justin) and Jayson (Shauna), as well as numerous nieces, nephews and furry friends. She was predeceased by her brother Jim and sister Sharon.

A "Come and Go" time for family and friends will be held at Carscadden Funeral Chapel 240 2nd St. Reston, Manitoba Friday, June 28, 2024 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

For those who so desire, memorial tributes may be made to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Sandra.

Messages of condolence may be placed at www.carscaddenfuneralchapel.com



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Coming Events



Evening Garage Sale

Virden Ag society is holding a garage sale Tuesday June 25, 7-10 p.m. at the Ag Grounds.

Various items available including building maintenance/repair items.
For further details contact
Everett More: 204-851-1737

Announcement



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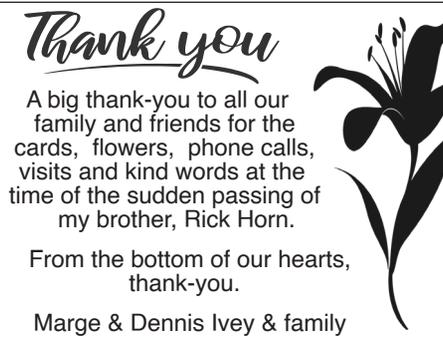


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Thank-you



A big thank-you to all our family and friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and kind words at the time of the sudden passing of my brother, Rick Horn.

From the bottom of our hearts,
thank-you.

Marge & Dennis Ivey & family

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Park West School Division Journeyman Mechanic or Assistant Mechanic

The Park West School Division invites applications for a mechanic position for school buses and fleet vehicles starting July 2, 2024. Journeyman and unlicensed mechanics are encouraged to apply.

The position will remain open until filled.

For more details and application information, please contact Dan Voth, PWSD Transportation Supervisor at (204) 842-2111 or visit our website at www.pwsd.ca, and select the following links: Division / Employment / Current Opportunities



Library renovation pegged at half million

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Border Regional Library board requested an estimate from Samson Engineering for repairs and renovation to the Virden branch. The board submitted a wish list and Coun. Mark Humphries said, "It was in the region of half a million and some change to do every single item on the list."

Samson Engineering prepared a proposal including a priority list that would allow the most necessary repairs to be completed first with more optional improvements added as funds allowed.

Humphries noted that the renovation has been in the planning stages for six years and a large donation and a grant make this the time to go ahead. Timing is critical as the grant availability is ending soon. Humphries said, "I was asked to go back to the council to see what we've got in our reserve funds."

The project will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 over the currently available funds, and Town of Virden will cover two thirds of that amount with Wallace-Woodworth providing one third.

Council passed a resolution to authorize spending of between \$25,000 and \$37,500 for the project.

Reeve Clayton Canart said, "I appreciate the work and the dedication you've had to the library board because it's come a long way in the last six years... and I know you've put a lot of time and effort into it."

Landfill closure plans

A proposal received from Environmental Consulting Solutions of \$11,600 for the development of landfill preliminary closure and post closure plans for three RM nuisance grounds was approved.

CAO Garth Mitchell said, "We were allowed in the past to supply our own documents on it and two years ago, they put in the regulation it has to be engineered."

Canart said, "It probably isn't a bad thing for us to have... to get an idea of what is required in order

to close a landfill. I think it's something you need to start building a reserve account for to make sure you have it there when it's time to do it.

Public hearing

A public hearing was opened to consider a conditional use order for Tundra Oil and Gas to place an oilfield battery in the rural general zone. The matter was discussed at a previous hearing and had been tabled to allow notice to be given to an additional ratepayer. The conditional use order was passed.

Other business

Payments were approved for the Ward 2 shop project:

\$174,402.27 to Covenant Builders for completion of the shop concrete flooring.

\$4,163.56 to 3CTech for supply and installation of fiber link to the new shop.

\$24,800.80 to Virden Pinnacle Plumbing and Heating for in-floor piping and manifold installation.

Payments were approved for the Elkhorn daycare waterline system:

\$31,506.82 and second invoice of \$4,258.19 from Sandale Utility Products for the daycare waterline system.

\$5,351.85 to EMCO Waterworks for supplies.

For the Wallace water treatment plant, \$9,734.08 was approved to JD Pump Distributors for a replacement pump.

Councilor reports

Coun. Diana MacDonald reported that she took four medical students on a farm tour to Sean and Christie Lynn Buckley's Deer Meadow Farmacy near Oak Lake. MacDonald said, "That was that was a highlight of their week here. One of them even said he would come back and work here if he could live on the farm."

Reeve Canart met with Associated Engineering to discuss the third well for the municipal water supply. The project awaits filters and some changes to a valve setup. Canart said, "The pipeline has been run across and tied in as much as they can, and they are working on building (access) roads."

Canart met with Scatliff-Miller-Murray, the company reviewing the municipal development plan. They will tour the municipality, conducting interviews and surveys in a 12-to-16-month process.

He also attended a Kola community meeting with the Inspire Kola group and discussed projects the group has in progress. Canart noted that they could be applying for the Mainstreet Improvement grant for things like doors and windows.

Coun. Barb Stambuski reported the Elkhorn Museum board has applied for an \$80,000 From the Ground Up grant for the new roof. All the artifacts from the museum have been documented as well as some of the cars. She said, "We did not receive any Green Team grants for summer students, and our MLA is looking into why our whole area received so few grants for the Green Team."

She also attended the veterinary board meeting where she learned that they have one new grad currently working at the clinic. Another student who is interested in coming will be finished in two years.

Coun. Humphries said many ratepayers have commented on the poor condition of some roads in the municipality, many referring to Rd. 171 West as an example. Humphries said, "I would advise administration to get somebody down that road almost straightaway... it's impassable. And let's just say there's a lot of concerns about that road."

He added there were questions about the policy of thoroughly grading roads before and after dust control measures are applied.

CAO Mitchell explained that information about problems with the roads should be directed to the service tracker on the RM website and people should call the office if the situation persists.

Humphries said the kindergarten at Kola currently has five students and the group in charge managed to save \$4000. "Most of the funds have

come through donations, and fundraising there has always been quite high. You know, they're making \$10,700 this year from a pie auction, and \$20,000 in donations from various residents and other organizations in town."

Humphries also reported that the Cross-borders Community Project brought in \$254,000 from one quarter section. They gave grants of over \$35,000 to charitable organizations as well as \$100,000 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Greg NESBITT
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Sifton Economic Development cultivates community spirit

Rachelle Stannage
SIFTON EDO

Rebranding Unveiled Soon! The RM of Sifton is undergoing a vibrant transformation. Our rebranding efforts are in full swing, and we're eagerly awaiting the arrival of our fresh new signage. Keep your eyes peeled for the striking new look that will grace our building!

Inspiration struck at "Re-Inventing Small Towns" seminar when on June 10th, I attended a seminar at the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon. The topic? "Re-Inventing Small Towns," led by the dynamic Peter Kenyon. His passion for revitalizing rural communities was contagious, and I left with a notebook full of innovative ideas to enhance life in Sifton.

Sifton Economic Development (SED) has been shining a spotlight on our local businesses each month. These "Business Spotlights" introduce you to the heart and soul of Sifton. From spas to golf courses, we're celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our community thrive.

We are showcasing hidden gems within our community. Whether it's a scenic trail, a historic

landmark, or a cozy B&B, we'll reveal the best-kept secrets of our area.

Lights, Camera, Action! Professional Videos Coming Soon

This summer, get ready for some cinematic magic, thanks to a grant from Community Futures. We're creating professional videos and photography to showcase Sifton's beauty. From rolling prairies to bustling main streets, our town will shine on screens near and far.

Calling all green thumbs to Sifton's first gardening contest.

Our inaugural Gardening Contest invites our residents to flaunt their green thumb. It's all about uniqueness with colour (RED is the theme for 2024), and those delightful touches like statues or water features. Bonus points if you're pollinator-friendly!

Business Spotlight

The Oak Lake Golf Club is our 9-hole golf course nestled within the town of Oak Lake. The course has been part of our community for years and continues to thrive today. In 1922, a passionate group came together to establish the Oak Lake Golf Club. Their vision succeeded, and today, we proudly carry on the

legacy. In 2021, the Club was incorporated as Oak Lake 1922 Golf Club Inc. A dedicated board of directors and volunteers, leads the way in maintaining the course.

The club endeavours to provide a facility that appreciates our members, welcomes public, and supports our community. The Club is happy to have a large volunteer base of both men and women, who help in any way possible.

The seasonal clubhouse offers cart rentals, club rentals, and pre-booked golf lessons. We currently host multiple golf tournaments along with community events. The Clubhouse Cafe is under new management this year. Local manager LeeAnna MacDonald is looking forward to serving her customers.

Golf club events: men's/ladies' nights, lessons for all ages, staff tournaments, kids programs, and the Lighth House youth program.

"Oak Lake has shown a history of supporting its businesses. As a community with a strong agriculture influence, the residents have recognized the importance each organization plays to provide the quality of life we have from living in a small town."

Arts Mosaic features Virден Art Club works



Singing 'Tired Eyes', Layla Gross is a Brandon University music student who was invited to entertain at the artists reception featuring the Virден Art Club. Gross hails from small town British Columbia.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After guitarist/vocalist Layla Gross finishes her set with 'Fire Flies' and applause dies down, Opeyemi Olukotun's welcomes the crowd of about 30 to browse the Station gallery where works by Virден Art Club members adorn the walls throughout June.

While the art shows are often a surprise, this one really was with art beyond my expectation. The Club president Brenda Cameron made no boast, but she could have.

Participating Artists included Cameron (now enjoying watercolour medium); Jackie Tough; Lizz Dootjes; longtime Virден artist Hazel Kilford; Sharon Moore, a new artist and Oak Lake resident who has also painted with Hamiota art club), Oak Lake's mixed media artist Lesley Moffitt, Kenton's Bonnie Sangster; and there are more creators represented at the Station and Market.

People mill about through the rooms, visiting with the artists and each other. Some shop in the adjoining Mosaic Market where artisan crafts are for sale. Treats and beverages are served as well.

In yet another room men dual on two chess boards.

Opeyemi Olukotun graciously hosted during what turned out to be his last day (for now), working for Arts Mosaic in the Station. He has two large and expressive



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Daelyn Fefchak at Arts Mosaic front desk.



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Life principles revealed in horsemanship clinic

Kings Crossing brings master horsewoman

By Brenda Hunter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Kings Crossing arena near Virден was the setting for two full days of learning and camaraderie at the Trina Morris Horsemanship and cow working clinic held the

weekend of June 8 & 9.

Approximately 20 participants and their horses took part in the interactive two-day clinic hosted by Gita Gunson of Virден and Sabrina Kirdie of Birtle.

Originally planned for the fall of 2020, it had to be postponed at that time due to the pandemic. Organizers were finally able to follow through and bring master horsewoman, Trina Morris of Wheatland, Wyoming, and her inspirational brand of horsemanship back to Canada after a lengthy hiatus.

Born and raised near Canmore, Alberta, Morris has had an interesting and diverse past, which from an early age included horses, as her dad was an outfitter. She was the youngest person to ever have worked at Spruce Meadows, and showed hunters, jumpers and three-day eventers, before delving into the Western world of cutters, cowhorses and pleasure mounts. She has tended to a cow/calf operation in California and halter broke colts in New Zealand. Throughout her career, she has started hundreds of colts, helped thousands of horses and is one of the longest running clinicians in North America.

Morris has a wealth of knowledge to share with clinic participants or whoever chooses to listen. Her motto of educate, engage and evolve was evident as she shared information with clinic participants to help them to understand and better communicate with their horses. She works individually with where each horse and their owner are at, and helps them learn and develop a better understanding of each other, to build a confident and more pleasurable relationship.

"When I help you, I help the horse and when I help the horse, I help you," was just one of the nuggets she shared throughout the two-day clinic, which not only contained information regarding horsemanship and working cattle, but was applicable to life in general.

"When you are working with your horse, you are working on yourself," she continued. "Humans and horses aren't that much different. The difference is that humans have egos."

There were many other pearls of wisdom dotted throughout the sessions which taught participants how the horse operates and when and how to direct it.

This is the first time that Virден area has hosted Morris who has traveled across Canada and the U.S. helping equine enthusiasts and their counterparts from all disciplines for over 20 years. Her Manitoba clinics used to be held in the Winnipeg area. Prior to that, her late husband, Peter Campbell, came to Neepawa each year for colt starting clinics.

"I have helped everyone from world-class reiners, to Olympic show jumpers to people who just want a good ditch-riding horse," she said about the principles of horsemanship and their universal place in every discipline.

Students gain a new understanding of their horses – how they move, why they move, and when to direct them and what their horse is trying to tell them in order to build a better relationship with them, on the ground and in the saddle.

Plans are already underway to bring Morris back in 2025 to build on the fundamentals taught at this clinic.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BRENDA HUNTER

Clinic participants listen attentively while Trina explains the finer details of horsemanship - and life.

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