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Reaching The Road to Valour one kilometre at a time



Royal Canadian Legion #8 members gather with Road to Valour riders – Garry, Ehsam and Ernie.

PHOTO BY NANCY JO MOLLER

By Nancy Jo Moller
EMPIRE ADVANCE

The “Road to Valour” campaign focuses on three core pillars: Supporting Mental Health – raising funds and awareness for the mental health of veterans, first responders and their families. For veterans who have fought, were being prepared to fight and those who Serve and Protect Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is very real. These individuals tend to bottle up feelings to protect their families from their work horrors. Garry described it by someone saying they are FINE meaning feelings inside not expressed. Warrior Kids Camp teaches children to ‘look around others are going through the same thing’. Families are taught to recognize

three looks – 1) when to give a needed hug, 2) to go to their room and put headphones on and put noise on to drown the sounds and 3) call someone and ask if they can come over to get safely out of the house. It is hard for someone that has never lived in those situations to believe how bad it can be.

Preserving History – sharing stories, sacrifices and achievements that shaped Canadian military history. By talking about the trauma and what actions had to be taken, it helps release bottled feelings and slowly eases the internal pain, never erasing the pain but helping deal with it.

Healthy Aging demonstrating that age is no barrier to undertaking major challenges. As we often hear, age is only a number and keeping both physically fit and mentally fit means you can accomplish a lot

at any age.

Garry McCracken arrived in Virden on Friday June 26 in between rain showers. Garry’s ride on “the Road to Valour” has faced many challenges: from eight inches of snow in Kicking Horse Pass to the relentless east winds and intermittent rains in Saskatchewan.

Members and guests were at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8 Virden (RCL #8) to welcome him in. Garry has two support riders with him for this final leg of the ride for Wounded Warriors Canada. Ernie Macdonald and Ehsam Ebrahimnia had joined Garry in Saskatchewan to complete the ride with him.

Read more about the Road to Valour on page 2...

Inside...

CLASS
★ ★ ★ OF ★ ★ ★
2026

GRAD
SPECIAL
EDITION
SECTION B & C



FLOODING
IN THE
VALLEY *P2*

Flood Bulletin

Submitted
By MANITOBA MEDIA BULLETIN

Heavy Rainfall Forecast for Parts of Western Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan, Overland Flood Warning Issued for Parts of Western Manitoba

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre advises that significant rainfall is forecast for parts of eastern Saskatchewan and western Manitoba over the next few days, including the upper Assiniboine River and its tributaries in Manitoba, the Shellmouth Reservoir (Lake of the Prairies) watershed, the Little Saskatchewan, Birdtail, Valley, Vermilion, Shell and Swan river basins, as well as the Parkland region. Widespread rainfall amounts of 60 to 100 millimetres are possible in these areas. Higher localized amounts may occur if thunderstorms develop and persist over the same area.

As a result of the forecast rainfall, water levels on reservoirs and lakes, including the Shellmouth Reservoir (Lake of the Prairies), Rivers Dam (Lake Wahtopanah), Minnedosa Dam and Dauphin Lake, could rise by one to three feet over the next few days. Property owners, lake users and visitors are advised to use caution near shorelines, docks, boat launches and low-lying areas, as water levels may rise quickly and conditions can change with little notice.

Water levels along rivers, creeks and drainage areas within the Assiniboine River basin and Parkland region could rise significantly over a short period. Residents, landowners and recreational users are advised to use caution near waterways, avoid crossing flooded roads or fast-moving water, and monitor local conditions closely.

An overland flood warning has been issued for parts of western Manitoba that are potentially impacted by the heavy rain.

The Manitoba Emergency Management Organ-



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

From the Lookout point on Errol Road, northeast of Virden, overlooking the Assiniboine Valley on June 25, 2026. Flood waters receded in early June and came rushing back following recent rains. Fishermen, young and old and a cormorant, have been seen fishing in the field flooded by the river.

ization continues to work with local authorities, First Nations and emergency management partners to provide guidance and support for flood preparedness and response activities. This includes reviewing existing emergency plans, sharing information and preparing resources used in flood response.

For up-to-date hazard-related information, visit <https://mbready.manitoba.ca/>.

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre will continue to monitor weather forecasts, river conditions and precipitation trends and will provide updated flood information as conditions warrant. The most recent flooding information is available at <https://manitoba.ca/floodinfo> and additional information is available at www.mbreadymanitoba.ca/.

For information on road closures, visit <https://manitoba511.ca/>.

The Road to Valour

Continued from page 1.

Garry left Vancouver on May 21 which was his seventy fifth birthday to travel the 2700-kilometre journey by a fully unsupported bicycle ride with a purpose at every turn. His starting point was Ernest (Smokey) Smith's former home. Smokey was the last Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross for his bravery in 1944. Smokey Smith died at age 91 in 2005, which is a sad statement that the Canadian government hasn't recognized anyone since Smokey with this highest award for gallantry for their actions.

This year was two years in the planning, Garry was determined to pedal every mile and left home saying, "I'm not getting into a four-wheel vehicle on the way." He comes from a long line of military personnel and truly believes that PTSD is passed through the genes. Being raised in a PTSD family affects children's outlook on life from a very early age.

Serving as a combat engineer, some of the places that Garry served were the minefields of war-torn countries. The trauma he brought home affected his family. His daughter learned to deal with family interactions by escaping into alcohol. She passed away from drinking herself to death. Garry will forever carry this with him.

He feels that it is ironic that of five medals awarded that three say "In the Service of Peace". Garry's goal is to arrive on the 700 block of Valour Road in Winnipeg on July 1. The symbolism of recognizing Valour on Canada Day was not

lost to the audience in attendance during his talk. It was a talk not a speech because he was conversing with everyone there not delivering a speech at them.

Garry has raised over \$51,000 on this trip of which 100 percent is given to the Wounded Warriors of Canada. A presentation of \$500 from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8 was handed to Garry. The Town of Virden was also in attendance to present travel bags containing items

to provide comfort on the journey. Margaret James was on hand from RCL #56 Elkhorn to present one of her special handmade veterans' blankets to Garry. The Legion's 100 Anniversary Celebration Committee presented Garry with the proceeds from the BBQ supper held that night. Brian, Wendy and volunteers provided a great meal that reminded us picnic season is around the corner. The night was another very well done event held at the RCL #8 Virden.

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Wolverine Supplies renames annual shooting event

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Wolverine Supplies will host its newly renamed Dial and Smile Event on July 11, with a focus on recreational and precision shooting sports.

Formerly known as Wolverine Days, the event will feature a variety of rimfire (.22 calibre) and centre-fire rifles, with shooting distances ranging from 25 metres to approximately 600 metres. Attendees will also have an opportunity to see the latest Hardy Rifles from New Zealand.

In past years, participants could shoot handguns, shotguns, rifles, and large-calibre rifles. However, changes to firearms regulations make this format impossible.

Organizer Genn Hipwell explained that the new format will emphasize teaching practical shooting skills rather than simply providing a variety of firearms to shoot. The Dial and Smile name refers to the procedure to “dial” or adjust your scope for different distances. Hipwell said, “Targets (will be) set up at 100, 150, 200, 300, all the way up to about 600 yards. You start at 100 and then dial your scope up.”

The event will be held as a one-day public event on July 11. Hipwell noted that the event is designed to promote safe recreational shooting while showcasing new products and equipment. Rather than trying to recreate Wolverine Days exactly as it had been, organizers wanted to create something different while still offering an enjoyable shooting experience.

Hipwell said, “Usually it takes us nine months to put on Wolverine days and get everything ready, and we’ve done that in about a third of the time. So it’s going to be definitely a little bit different.”

Several industry vendors are expected to attend,



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Get in a little target practice at the range!

including Vortex Canada and Nightforce, companies specializing in scopes, spotting equipment, and binoculars.

Making Care Possible

By Nancy Jo Moller
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Families struggle to take care of loved ones for many reasons. An individual may require temporary or permanent care in their home. With private home care companies emerging in our local business landscape, suddenly choices are available. Once your local health authority has completed a formal needs assessment you can begin the application process. This allows the family to select specific individuals to perform the care eliminating wait lists. Private home care has now become eligible for funding and can make the aging process or injury recovery easier to deal with in the future.

The Self and Family Managed Care (SFMC) program allows eligible families to receive public funding to directly hire, schedule and manage their own families home care attendants and support workers. This allows individuals/families to act as the employer or manager of member’s care. Family is responsible for choosing the caregivers that best fit the needs and routine. A number of diverse needs can be met by reducing stress of wait times and cultural differences.

Private companies can provide workers that will care for your family members following medical instructions. It reduces the guilt that occurs when it is realized that a family can no longer fully care for the needs of a loved one. Some private companies have websites that you can access to view each visit and be up to date on the individuals condition and care. If family members are not geographically close, physically unable to visit or have time constraints this allows daily view of how their loved one is doing. It creates ‘peace of mind’ in our busy world.

A separate bank account is required to have funds directly deposited into for the care payment. The family is then required to submit statements of care expenses balancing this account. The care manager must demonstrate they have the ability both administratively and financially to successfully complete the requirements of this program.

For more information on this or other programs please contact Prairie Mountain Health Home Care Services or the Regional Health Authority in your area regarding this program.

Three Favourite Artifacts at VPHM



A cheese wheel cutter, used for cutting cheese.



The gasogene used to make carbonated drinks.



The salt cellar used to store and serve salt.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Kevin Armandico
VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM

For this week’s Three Favourite Artifacts at the Virden Pioneer Home Museum, I’ve chosen three items that each tell a unique story about everyday life in the past.

One of the best parts of working at the Virden Pioneer Home Museum is discovering the stories behind the artifacts that have been preserved over the years. Every object has a history, and each one offers a glimpse into life in earlier times. Here are three of my favourite artifacts currently on display.

The first is a cheese wheel cutter, generously donated by Helen Boulton Elliott in 2011. Designed to cut large wheels of cheddar cheese, it features a sturdy wooden base and is stamped “Cheddar Cheese, Ontario, Canada,” reflecting Canada’s long history of cheese production. It is a great example of the practical tools once used in the dairy industry.

Another favourite is the gasogene, a Victorian-era

device used to make carbonated drinks at home. Before bottled soda became common, families used gasogenes to create sparkling water, lemonade, and other fizzy drinks by combining water with tartaric acid and baking soda. Its woven wicker covering was not only decorative but also helped contain glass fragments if the bottle burst under pressure.

My third favourite is the salt cellar, a household item once commonly found in homes across the country. Used to store and serve salt, these containers often featured decorative designs and lids to keep the salt dry. In earlier centuries, salt was considered a valuable commodity, and ornate salt cellars were seen as symbols of wealth and status at the dining table.

If you haven’t visited the Virden Pioneer Home Museum recently, stop by and discover the stories waiting to be told. Each room offers a closer look at the past, and every artifact helps preserve the memory of the people who built the community we know today.

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



CMHC Exec bonuses are shameful

This week I want to present a few different annoying points, the kind that should make it no surprise to governments that the public doesn't trust them very much.

Canadian Taxpayers Association reports the following"

"The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the federal housing agency that has repeatedly claimed its goal is "housing affordability for all."

Despite its CEO admitting housing supply and affordability "remained one of Canada's greatest challenges," the CMHC handed out \$31.7 million in taxpayer-funded bonuses last year.

CMHC executives took \$3.5 million in bonuses in 2025-26. That works out to an average bonus of \$44,800 for each executive. Non-executive staff collected another \$28.2 million in bonuses. Even the CMHC's own data shows its failing on housing affordability. The average Canadian spends more than half of their income on housing – up from 39 per cent in 2019, according to CMHC data."

Government wasting taxpayers money is not a new problem but for that very reason, we should not have to still tolerate such waste. The level of entitlement is unbelievable and should not be encouraged or even tolerated.

CTF also points out that Rideau Hall (*The governor general's residence*) finally recognizing your concerns about the governor general's lavish clothing allowance.

Government policy allows governors general to expense up to \$130,000 in clothing purchases over their five-year mandate.

Newly appointed Governor Gen-

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



“The [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] handed out \$31.7 million in taxpayer-funded bonuses last year.”

eral Louise Arbour notified MPs that her office "revised its guidelines for clothing," according to Blacklock's Reporter. Arbour didn't specify how much that will save taxpayers.

It's good to see the new governor general won't be wasting as much money on clothes.

But small tweaks to the governor general's wardrobe budget barely scratches the surface and taxpayers need the government to drastically shrink the platinum pay and perks at Rideau Hall.

The governor general still takes automatic pay raises every year. The governor general's current salary is \$393,800.

Last week I noted that the Federal and B.C. governments plan to use up to \$3 billion to buy vacant condo units and turn them into affordable housing and that there were 4,376 completed condos sitting empty in Metro Vancouver, a 76 per cent increase from the year before. This past week, Prime Minister Carney said the Feds and BC will split the

down payment costs and encourage financial institutions to step in with money to make the deals happen.

In my experience, if something isn't selling, you drop the price.

Apparently that doesn't apply to Vancouver developers.

• And readers may remember that a few weeks ago, I strongly suggested (asked) that Premier Wab Kinew and Opposition leader Obby Khan meet with me as they certainly need to smarten up as to how they treat each other. There is way too little respect being shown to each other and in turn to Manitobans of all political beliefs. I am saddened, but not surprised to report that except for the usual automatic "thank you for your email", I have had no response from either man. I wasn't asking for much and I got less. Maybe this time they will respond.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.

HomeBodies

RITA FRIESEN



Kitchen stuff...

The cookware set that I use — the only set I own — is the old Queen Anne waterless cookware set. It came into my world way back in 1974 when Ed and I married. I think it might have been quite new then; sold door to door by industrious folks. The term waterless doesn't mean no water; it means just a little bit and in the cooking process the lid and pot form a seal so no additional moisture is usually needed. It was a lovely complete set with a lifetime guarantee.

A number of years ago I found an outlet in Winnipeg and was able to have several handles replaced. The set included an electric fry pan, a six quart pot with an egg poachers accessory, and then three, two and one quart pots. I think there may have been a juicer, and a set of utensils- lifter, masher, long fork, spatula and soup ladle that I still use as well. Unfortunately in the fifty plus years use there have been two injuries — I overheated the six quart and the two quart and they warped so that they wobble when in on a hot element. I think that's not bad for a door to door purchase from half a century ago!

Those who know me well know that the kitchen is not my very favourite room in the house. Many years ago, in a conversation with a grandson, I mentioned that my ideal retirement home would even have a kitchen. Josh was quiet for just a second and then in a hushed voice 'that's an old folks home'. That being said I took the care and feeding of the first five seriously. It was my job to give them proper nutritious meals, albeit plain and boring. I did/do cook and bake. Homemade buns are one food I prepare well, and pies. I learned early that any meal was a hit with those two items on the menu. And some cookies — date filled oatmeal rounds, chocolate chip and raisin oatmeal drop cookies. The cookie pans are also part of my inheritance. The two most used certainly look the most used! Twelve by eighteen inches, they are discolored, scared, still showing the label 'Bake King, King of Bakeware'. One has a slight break on two sides, not endangering the user, just a testament to heavy usage.

The loaf pans and the pie plates are PYREX, yup, old enough that they are all upper case letters. Even have a Pyrex casserole dish whose cover serves as a small pie plate. And all inherited as well! When you have a good thing, why mess with it? The fine china/everyday dishes are so old they have become collectable. The set started as gifts back in 1974, and has had some add ons. It's the white Corelle with the little green flowers all around the edges. Big plates, little plates, cups and saucers, mugs, cereal/soup bowls and fruit bowls, the serving bowl and platter, the gravy boat set...The replacement cereal bowls are mostly all white, it's rare to find a patterned one in good condition.

These well loved items are all old, vintage. But then — so am I!

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Try this soup recipe and satisfy your craving for lasagna with very little effort. You can customize it with your favorite ingredients like mushrooms, spinach, zucchini, or bell peppers for extra flavor and nutrition. The bonus is it takes one pot and ready in around 30 minutes.

Lasagna soup

- 1 Tbsp. oil
 - 1 onion, diced
 - 1 stick celery, finely chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1/2 -1 lb. hot or mild Italian sausage, casings removed or hamburger
 - 3 Tbsp. tomato paste
 - 4 cups beef broth
 - 2 cups spaghetti sauce or crushed tomatoes
 - 1-2 tsp. dried oregano
 - 1/2 tsp. pepper
 - 8 lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
 - 2 cups fresh spinach leaves, (optional)
 - 1/3 cup parmesan cheese
 - shredded mozzarella cheese for serving
 - shredded parmesan cheese for serving
 - fresh diced basil leaves, for serving (optional)
- Heat the oil in a Dutch oven pot over medium-high heat. Add the diced onion and celery and sauté for about 3 minutes until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add the meat of choice and cook, breaking it up with a spoon, until browned, about 5 to 6 minutes.
- Stir in the tomato paste, beef broth, spaghetti sauce, oregano and pepper. Add the broken lasagna noodles. Bring the soup to a boil, reduce the heat to a simmer, cover, and cook until the noodles are tender. Remember to stir occasionally to prevent noodles from sticking to the bottom of the pot. If using spinach add the last few minutes of cooking. If the soup is too thick for your liking, you can add water or more broth. Take off the heat and add the parmesan cheese. Ladle the soup into bowls and top each serving with shredded mozzarella, and a pinch of shredded parmesan and fresh basil if desired.

Sour Cherry and oat crumb topping loaf

- I still had a pack of my home-grown sour cherries in the deepfreeze, so I tried this sour cherry loaf recipe. If you are using frozen cherries, thaw them first, drain the excess liquid, and pat them dry.
- For the loaf:
- 1 1/2 cups flour
 - 1/2 cup rolled oats
 - 1 tsp. baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1 tsp. lemon zest
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 1 cup white sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
 - 1/2 cup plain yogurt or sour cream
 - 1 1/2 cup fresh or frozen sour cherries, pitted and drained if frozen
 - 1/2 cup nuts of choice (optional)
- For the oat Topping:
- 1/3 cup rolled oats
 - 1/3 cup brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup flour
 - 1tsp. cinnamon
 - 1/4 cup butter, cold and cubed
- Pre-heat oven to 375F (190C). Grease and flour a 9-inch loaf pan.
- In a small bowl add the topping ingredients together. With a fork mix the butter into the flour and oats to form a crumbly mixture. Set aside. In another bowl whisk together the flour, oatmeal, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and zest. Set aside. In a large bowl mix the butter and sugar together. Add the eggs, vanilla and sour cream and stir well. Add the flour mixture and mix with a large spoon just until combined. Do not over mix. Fold in the cherries and nuts if using and transfer to the prepared loaf pan.
- Sprinkle with the crumb topping. Bake for approximately 50-60 minutes. Check with a toothpick for doneness. Let cool in the loaf pan for 10 minutes then move to a wire rack to cool completely before serving. Enjoy!

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for June 21 to 27

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 76 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 26 traffic offences, 4 False Alarms, 5 Assaults, 5 Wellbeing Checks, 5 Assistance to General Public/Other Agencies, 4 - 911 Calls and 9 Mischief.

On June 21, during a routine patrol in the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 126km/hr in a 90km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$521.

On June 21, during a routine patrol in the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 120km/hr in a 90km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$442.

On June 24, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 120km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$312.

On June 26, RCMP responded to an in progress Domestic Assault in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations. Members received information that a 29-year-old male had physically assaulted his partner and had

left the residence. Members attended the residence and spoke with the victim and obtained statements. Members made patrols and located the accused who was arrested and charged with Assault. The accused was released on condition and is scheduled to appear in court later.

On June 27, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 151km/hr in a 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$586.

On June 27, during a routine patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle to ensure the driver had a valid license. Upon arrival, driver of the vehicle was identified and confirmed to not have a valid driver license. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Drive without holding a valid drivers license, which carries a fine of \$298.

To report a complaint or non-emergency 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, during regular office hours. 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.



Public Notice

You're Invited

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

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

For further details, please contact MPI at inquiries@mpi.mb.ca or visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

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

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

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
at 9 a.m.
Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.

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

50 Years of Pipestone Fun Days 2026



Come on out and enjoy the Pipestone Parade on July 11.

By Kim MacKenzie
PIPESTONE FUN DAYS VOLUNTEER

Pipestone Recreation Club hosted the first sports day on a newly constructed ball diamond in September 1977. Former Pipestone resident, Joe Blanchard, was active in promoting the project which saw a chain link fence erected around the border of the main diamond. The entire outfield wall for the ball park was made up of plywood advertising for various businesses with a giant scoreboard at center field. The park was located north of the school on the grounds with plans for the balance of the property to be used for a golf course. The club hoped to have a team representing Pipestone in the Brandon Centennial league the following year.

Eight of the top fastball teams in Manitoba took part in the event that offered \$1000 in prize money. Minto, Scarth, Brandon Esso, Lenore All Stars, Brandon Mizers,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Joe Blanchard former resident who spearheaded the ball tournament 50 years ago. Be sure to check in with one of the many volunteers listed on the poster below to be a part of the Pipestone Slo Pitch.

Hartney All Stars, Pipestone All Stars and the Manitoba champs, Sanders taking part.

The two day weekend offered something for everyone. Saturday night there was a steak barbeque followed by two dances, one in the Memorial Hall for the adults and a teen dance in the rink. There was a big top housing a Farmer's Market, a bingo and other attractions. There were rides for the kids and fun for the whole family.

The fastball tournament grew in size over the years and the prize money increased with teams and spectators coming from all over Manitoba, Saskatchewan and North Dakota to watch the exciting, competitive fastball that took place over the three day August long weekend. It took the entire community to put on this successful tournament that ran for so many years. From gate workers all weekend collecting admission, to all the booth workers needed to feed the crowds that would show up every year. Can

anyone forget the dozens of homemade pies that were served out of that booth.

As the times changed and fastball teams dwindled the tournament changed into what it continues to be today, a slo pitch tournament that can still be competitive but more something the average ball player can participate in and would be known as Pipestone Fun Days.

The 50th Anniversary of Pipestone Fun Days that will be held the weekend of July 10 – 12 will showcase many of the same activities that were offered 50 years ago. Friday night there will be opening ceremonies with the first ball game on the main diamond. Street activities are being planned for the kids, a full canteen will be available all weekend with a special burger and salad supper on the menu. Friday night and beer gardens will be on the grounds all weekend. Pipestone Lions Bingo will take place in the hall and the evening will wrap up with another amazing fireworks display. Saturday start your day off with a hot breakfast sandwich at the canteen before a full day of slo pitch, there will be a Farmer's Market, kids entertainment and check out the display of Fun Days memorabilia in the school. A delicious roast beef supper will be held at the hall Saturday at 6 pm, tickets are \$35. Then get your '70's dancing shoes on to boogie the night away to the live music of Inferno from 9-1, tickets \$15. Back at the hall Sunday morning from 9-11 there will be a full breakfast brunch served by the Grad Class of 2027, followed by a parade at noon, more kids activities on the grounds and the final games of the tournament.

Pipestone Fun Days has changed some in the past 50 years. Besides the change in ball, the plywood fencing that surrounded the main diamond was destroyed in the Saturday evening tornado which also put an end to the 2013 Fun Days. But in true Pipestone spirit the ball players and locals all pitched in on Sunday morning to help clean up the town.

We hope everyone can make it to the Pipestone Fun Days 50th celebrations and it is not too late to enter your team to have some FUN! For more information contact Aaron Edwards 204-522-0084

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THE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2026.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS SUMMER AND WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS THE BEST OF LUCK.

Visit our website: www.virdenmainline.com
Give us a call: 204.748.3811

Pipestone Fun Days

July 10 - 12

Slo Pitch

\$1500 Prize Money

Fireworks Friday Night

Kids Games, Canteen & Beer Gardens all weekend

Roast Beef Supper

Saturday 6 pm

by J & S Meats \$35

70's Themed Social Sat 9 pm

Music by INFERNO \$15

Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9 - 11

Parade at noon

Slo Pitch Teams enter to:

Aaron Edwards 204-522-0084

Wade Flannery 204-851-1120

Ryan Flannery 204-908-0528

Aaron Turnbull 204-264-0293

VCI PRESENTS ATHLETIC, CITIZENSHIP A



Perry Kalynuk Memorial Award is presented to someone who 'breathes baseball,' Reed McGrath. Coach Curtis Plett said, "He has been a staple of our pitching staff for a while...." McGrath has also earned a place on the mound with Virden Oilers senior team.



Matthew Saunders Memorial Award to Harsimarjit Khosa presented by Principal Keown.



Girls Curling Provincial Participant Award presented to Mytopher, Mikaela Pio and Abby Pearn with losses to the gold and bronze medalists.



Mr. Brick award presented by Mr. Holovach to Scott Alexander.



Parent award: (L-R) Travis Kreiser, Mark Keown and Jody Kreiser.



Major V award (L-R) Charles Owen Mytopher.

VCI AWARDS

Wanted

ONE OR TWO ADVENTURERS (TEENS OR YOUNG ADULTS)

- To explore with me the Pipestone Creek in a 17' canoe.
- Must be a good listener(s), a swimmer, and have a very adventurous spirit.
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IF INTERESTED CALL KEL SMITH 748-3321



By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Principal Mark Keown has been busy signing dozens of Virden Collegiate Institute athletic and citizenship awards. June 11 these awards were celebrated with parents, teachers, volunteers, coaches and student recipients.

To kick off the evening presentations Principal Mark Keown called volunteers Jody and Travis Kreiser to receive the Manitoba Teachers Society Educators Award. These parents of graduate Avrin Kreiser have volunteered over the years and this year put in "a ton of hours" behind the scenes of VCI's musical theatre, Hadestown.

Student emcees Abby Pearn and Rebecca Penner introduced the VCI BEAAR Philanthropy Fund grants.

Student philanthropy receives support from Virden & Area Foundation, and proceeds of a "very successful Bingo Night" added to the fund of \$3,500, shared by successful grant applicants.

Recipients were: Border Regional Library, Virden Music Academy, Virden Junior High Safe and Caring Schools Committee, Youth for Christ (Hide-out), Goulter and Mary Montgomery school music programs, Funshine Daycare 2 and 3, and Virden Lacrosse Club.

Mr. Keown said the philanthropy committee also attends VAF grant night, noting, "It gives them a little insight into what philanthropy looks like from a community level."

Memorial awards

The Mr. Brick Memorial Award was presented to Scott Alexander. He received a \$1,400 cheque as a 2026 grad who exhibits a strong work ethic in academics and extracurricular and exemplifies a growth-oriented focus... a well-rounded individual and 'friend to all,' said Keown.

The Matthew Saunders Memorial Award for a student who demonstrates growth and progress, resilience and perseverance through challenging times was presented to Harsimarjit Khosa, who "has come a long way since Gr. 9, in maturity and academic effort," said Mr. Keown, noting that a family illness meant extra responsibilities for the teen. "He has managed it very well and is graduating with his peers."

The Marissa Bradbury Memorial Award was presented by Gina Reiner to Ariannah Kerr as the most dedicated graduating student in the dance world.

Mr. Keown drew attention to the festival awards listed in the program, noting a number qualified for provincial competition.

Reach for the Top

VCI hosted a double-double tournament in February for the Southwest area, meaning the Intermediate and Senior teams each played two tournaments in a day. They traveled to Deloraine for the third tournament.

The Intermediate team qualified for Provincials and VCI hosted that.

Senior MVP was Becca Collier - a core team member for four years, a natural leader for new players, and always willing to step in to help Mrs. Tapp run tournaments. VCI Reach for the Top will also miss

WARDS



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

ward: coach Ms. Grieve (L), Maddie Warkentin, Leah
rn. The team faced strong competition at provincials
edlists.



resenter Mr. Henderson to Beckham Clarke, Owen
her, (missing, Mitchell Draper).

her knowledge of sports and biology next year.
Senior Rookie was Krysian Dupra, with a store of
random knowledge.
Intermediate MVP - Bruno Gibbert. She scored most
points this season.
Intermediate Most Improved - Lily West, a new team
member who showed expertise in spelling, mythology.
Intermediate Rookie - Sherlock Mariano who, with
a wide variety of knowledge, was quick on the buzzer.
Mrs. Eslinger, Mr. Munchinsky, Mrs. Tripp, and Mrs.
Whyte took part in the annual staff vs. student competi-
tion where the Treble Makers won in overtime.

Sports Awards

J.V. and Varsity Sports awards were presented in junior
varsity and varsity levels: volleyball, football, hockey,
basketball, curling, badminton, fastball/baseball, track
& field and golf. And Mr. Keown named the VCI high
school rodeo graduates who were participating in the
finals rodeo (MHSRA) that weekend.

Major V Awards

Athletic awards were presented to Mitchell Draper
(football, basketball), Owen Charles (hockey, baseball,
basketball, volleyball), Owen Mytopher (football, hock-
ey, curling) and Beckham Clarke (hockey, volleyball,
baseball, golf).

Citizenship Awards were presented to Sarah Lindsay
(Student Council President), Rebeka Penner (Student
Council Vice Pres.), Rebecca Collier (Community
Coach, graduation executive, Reach for the Top), Geor-
gie Smith (Student Council, fundraising, grad exec
chairperson, Mental Wellness Support committee)
and Damar Branker (Student Council, fundraising
and Philanthropy committee).

Elkhorn School 2026 Grad, "A Record Year "



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

These signs tell it all. A community shows just how proud they are of their graduates.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Like bright shiny new pennies, the Elkhorn class of 2026, sat on the stage in the school gym. In front of them was a full house: parents, family, friends and school staff. Outside, it was a beautiful warm spring day, full of promise for the nine young graduates. The ceremonies were opened by school principal Lance Barrate, with a welcome to all and a remembrance of times past in the life of the grads over the past 13 years at Elkhorn School. The valedictorian speech was given by Cooper McColl, who did a great job in his causal style. It seems like only yesterday that I taught both his parents. Where did the time go? When "Coop" finished, he received the valedictorian award given by The Elkhorn Elks Lodge. The award was given by the school's long time and loved custodian, Mrs. Jean McLoughry. As the program continued, parents Travis McColl and Kim Flannery gave a parents' address to the grad class. They wished them all the best in their future plans, recalled past memories of their school years and reminded them that they will always be there for them and as they travel their new roads of life, keep in touch with their communities, the lessons and values they learned here and please remember to call home every now and then. After, the honor roll awards, graduation diplomas, awards and scholarships given out by school staff and community

members and groups. Mr. Barry Pitz, superintendent of The Fort La Bosse School Division, then gave out the Governor General Medal for academic excellence to Shelby Austin Archer, from the McAuley area. After a few closing remarks by the principal, former school music teacher Mrs Sandra Unger, led in the singing of "God Save The King". Following the grad events there were several small family get togethers. In the evening, a Safe Grad Event was held at the McAuley Community Center. The grad event today had many faces I did not know or had taught in the past. However, like all the other grads I've taught and met over the years, these nine students have many of the same hopes and dreams for the future as the past grads had hoped for. We wish and hope all their dreams and plans come true. Congratulations Elkhorn school Grad Class of 2026, the world awaits you!! This was the first Safe Grad Event, held in McAuley Community Center, the reason being that most of the Elkhorn School grad class was from the McAuley area. The event, from all reports was a great success, with a meal provided by P.J. Pizza's of Moosomin and a DJ Music Man from Regina. There were less then a 100 people at the event and it wrapped up way before dawn. Because of the Safe Grad Protocols, there were no problems at the events for anyone. Well done McAuley and the grad committee!



SPORTS

COCHRANE'S ROOKIE RIDE ENDS ON NATIONAL STAGE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

For most rookie junior hockey defencemen, the first season is about learning. For Oak Lake's Chase Cochrane, it was also about winning.

The son of Darby and Kelly Cochrane helped the Thunder Bay North Stars win their first Superior International Junior Hockey League championship since 2019. The Ontario team wrapped up its season by competing at the Centennial Cup, Canada's national Junior A hockey championship in Summerside, P.E.I.

"Playing at nationals was definitely a great opportunity for me," Cochrane said. "The tournament is so professional, and it felt like we were treated like pro players. The atmosphere was amazing and it was awesome to get to travel to the East Coast for it.

"The calibre of hockey was very fast and very competitive. Every minute was played like it was the finals because every win means something and upsets happen, so you needed to be on your 'A' game at all times."

While the North Stars were unable to earn a victory at nationals, they battled in each of their four games. Thunder Bay lost one contest by a goal and another by two. The Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Niverville Nighthawks won the national championship.

With the North Stars, Cochrane earned a role on a deep, successful squad as a rookie. The 5-foot-10, 175-pound defenceman scored four goals and recorded three assists for seven points in 32 regular-season games. In the SIJHL playoffs, Cochrane competed in nine games and earned an assist.

"I think he's a good skater, tough as nails, hits like a Mack truck, and has a pretty good shot," said Thunder Bay head coach Matt Valley, who expects the blueliner to take on a bigger role next season.

The coach said Cochrane was part of a "pretty special

For most rookie junior hockey defencemen, the first season is about learn-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chase Cochrane helped the Thunder Bay North Stars win the Superior International Junior Hockey League championship.

group." He praised the defenceman as a good teammate and said his family are "salt of the earth people."

"He's got a lot of talent and he has a lot of guts and heart," Valley said. "I think he'll be successful at whatever he does."

Early in the hockey season, Cochrane was not sure

what the campaign held for him. He started the season with the MJHL's Neepawa Titans but was injured in a preseason contest. He eventually returned to the ice and was traded to Thunder Bay in October. Cochrane embraced both the opportunity and the people there.

"I loved playing in Thunder Bay because we had such a close group of players and staff," he said. "I feel like we came together so much throughout the year and that allowed us to play our best every night."

While his parents were far away, Cochrane knew he had their support while he was in Ontario.

"They played a huge role in my success personally this season," he said. "They supported me so much after I was traded to Thunder Bay and they made sure I was always comfortable and enjoying my new experience. It was definitely hard to move 11 hours away from home, but the support from my whole family and friends made it an experience I will never forget and I'll always be grateful for that."

The North Stars posted a 30-14-4 regular-season record, good for third place in the SIJHL. Their explosive offence led the league with 229 goals.

In the SIJHL playoffs, the North Stars went 12-4 on the way to winning the championship. They swept Michigan's Ironwood Lumberjacks 4-0 and beat the Dryden Ice Dogs 4-1. In the SIJHL finals, Thunder Bay got past the Fort Frances Lakers, the league's top team in the regular season, 4-3 in a series that had five games decided by one goal, including two overtime contests. The North Stars' James Cullison scored 9:14 into overtime in game seven to lift his team past the Lakers.

"My initial reaction to winning was just pure excitement, especially being on the ice for the OT winner," Cochrane said. "I sorta blacked out in the moment and just wanted to soak up the win with my teammates and coaches."

SWBL: ROCKETS BATTLE FOR SWBL POSTSEASON BERTH

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Reston Rockets are battling for a South West Baseball League playoff spot.

The top four teams in each of the SWBL's two divisions earn postseason berths. As of June 28, the Rockets sat fourth in the SWBL's North Division with a 6-8-0 record. The Hamiota Red Sox were one spot behind at 5-8-0. The Brandon Young Guns were in third with a 6-5-0 record. The Rockets' final game of the regular season was on June 30 against the Virden Oilers after the Empire-Advance deadline.

While the Rockets have a number of veterans who have been excelling this season, they also have been helped by their youth. High school players such as Jamie Williamson, Kaden Revet, and Cooper McColl have all contributed. Entering this week, Williamson was batting .571 with 10 runs batted in. Revet had two RBIs. McColl had driven in one run and stolen a base. Revet and Williamson have both also pitched for the Rockets.

"Jamie, Kaden and Cooper have just dipped their toes into this league and it's exciting to see how much success and fun they have had so early in the season. They're coming up clutch in big moments and I'm really noticing their confidence grow," Rockets veteran Branden Ripley said.

He has enjoyed watching all the young players who have joined the league. He said at one point he knew everyone on the opposing roster, but that has changed.

The Rockets played eight of their first nine games on the road.

"We don't mind being road warriors," Ripley said. "The more I play in this league, the more changes

The Reston Rockets are battling for a South West Baseball League



PHOTO BY MARLA WILSON

You're out! Virden Oilers #29 Hudson Davidson makes a great catch.

and upgrades I notice with other diamonds and it's really nice to see how much care and dedication other teams put into their home fields so regardless of where we are, the diamonds are looking top notch."

Last week, the Rockets lost 6-0 to the Rivers Comets on June 23. The Oak River Dodgers left town with a 5-2 win. Foxx McColl and Karlin Desau-

tels drove in Reston's runs. On the mound, Logan Flannery went the distance for Reston, striking out seven and allowing eight hits.

Virden Oilers

The Oilers did not play last week. As of June 28, the team had a 2-10-0 record. Virden played in Reston on June 30. The Oilers wrap up the regular season on July 5 in Rivers.

The MHSRA Finals results

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Prizes are important and thanks to many sponsors, awards presented at the Junior and High School Rodeo Finals include Year End Buckles and prizes to 5th place in each event. Saddles are awarded to All Around Jr and High School Cowboys and Cowgirls. Reserve All Around receive breast collars. (Full results available on MHSRA webpage.)



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Queen candidate Halle Gray waves to the Friday morning crowd in the stands at Virden Ag Grounds.

HS TRAP SHOOTING, JUNE 2 AT VIRDEN			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
1.	Boden Bond	96.00	Kenton
2.	Grady Moran	92.50	Virden
3.	Maddie Warkentin	60.00	Virden
4.	Leigh Day	57.00	Virden
5.	Mackinley Fefchak	54.50	Virden
6.	Slade Hagan	29.00	Virden
7.	Hayden Gray	14.00	Elkhorn

HS LIGHT RIFLE, APRIL 29 AT VIRDEN			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
1.	Grady Moran	115.00	Virden
2.	Leigh Day	111.00	Virden
3.	Sam Revoy	82.00	Virden

All Around Results: Virden, Elkhorn, Griswold, Oak Lake, Kenton, Lenore, Miniota students

HS BOYS ALL AROUND			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
1.	Spencer Gompf	318.00	Oak Lake
2.	Denver Gompf	271.50	Oak Lake
5.	Boden Bond	217.00	Kenton
6.	Carter Brown	199.00	Virden
9.	Dawson Brown	135.00	Virden
12.	Slade Hagan	103.00	Virden
14.	Stetson Cutler	100.00	Virden

HS GIRLS ALL AROUND			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
3.	Sadie Brown	337.50	Virden
7.	Hudson Bond	241.00	Kenton
12.	Amelia Crawford	159.50	Virden
13.	Maddie Warkentin	152.00	Virden
16.	Keightley Stewart	99.50	Virden
19.	Leigh Day	93.00	Virden
20.	Halle Gray	92.00	Elkhorn
25.	Gracie Johnston	82.50	Griswold

JH LIGHT RIFLE			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
1.	Jo-Hannah Logan	117.00	Lenore
3.	Jemma Day	86.00	Virden
4.	Rory Hagan	64.00	Virden
5.	Lee Mason	62.00	Virden
7.	Carson Mooney	44.00	Virden
8.	Emily Warkentin	43.00	Virden
9.	Emmett Alexander	26.00	Lenore
10.	Wyatt Mooney	12.00	Virden

JH GIRLS ALL AROUND			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
2.	Dally Brown	530.00	Virden
4.	Emily Warkentin	454.00	Virden
6.	Jo-Hannah Logan	425.00	Lenore
7.	Jemma Day	366.00	Virden
15.	Luna Stone	87.00	Miniota
16.	Xylia Plaisier	80.00	Virden
19.	Finley Ross	21.00	Virden

JH BOYS ALL AROUND			
Place	Member Name	Points	Hometown
1.	Kesler Brown	725.00	Virden
2.	Garrett Gompf	552.00	Oak Lake
3.	Slone Brown	485.50	Virden
4.	Brock Brown	415.00	Virden
9.	Leo King	201.00	Lenore
10.	Rory Hagan	176.00	Virden
13.	Henry Stewart	117.00	Virden
15.	Rally King	87.00	Virden
19.	Emmett Alexander	5.00	Lenore

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SPORTS

GOLD RUSH BUILT ON FRIENDSHIP AND FASTBALL



PHOTO BY THE GOLD RUSH

The Virden Senior Ladies Gold Rush finished third at the Westman Ladies Fastball League year-end tournament last year.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Senior Ladies Gold Rush are back on the diamond.

The local squad opened its 2026 Westman Ladies Fastball League campaign by hosting its Moosomin foes on July 2. Its next home contest is July 9 against Deloraine.

“I always look forward to getting back together with the girls for another season,” said player-organizer Brittane Beazer. “I’ve played on the Gold Rush for 10 years now and love the yearly reunions when the gang is all back. These girls all come from different walks of life, have different careers and are in different places in their personal lives - single ready to mingle, married/engaged, babies, going to school, height of their careers, etc - yet the love of ball brings everyone together.”

Fellow player-organizer Hanna Cantelo said one of the Gold Rush’s biggest strengths is its balanced roster.

“Combining experienced veterans with younger players creates a unique mix of game knowledge, speed, and athleticism,” she said. “The younger players bring energy, agility, and quickness on the bases, while the veteran players contribute valuable experience, leadership, and strong game awareness. Together, they make for a fun and competitive team.”

The Gold Rush boast a strong pitching staff. Veteran player Adelle Gervin said “Julie Mathieson and Julie Paradine are two of the fastest pitchers in the whole league.” Gervin and Avery Ramsey are among Virden’s other hurlers.

Gervin also noted that hitting is another strength of the squad. She said, “You can’t win a game if you don’t get any runs. We have some big power hitters on our team who come through for us regularly.”

Cantelo said the team prides itself on its hitting and aggressive baserunning. In addition, she said, “Defensively, the team is equally strong, with several talented pitchers and catchers providing depth and consistency throughout the lineup.

“More than anything, the players simply enjoy spending time together and sharing their love of the game. That camaraderie is what makes the team special.”

The Gold Rush host four home games on Diamond E this season, including contests against Hamiota on Aug. 13 and Killarney on Aug. 20. All games are at 7:30 p.m.

Cantelo said the squad “encourages the community to come out and cheer them on. With exciting

fastball, a great mix of talent and experience, and a team that truly enjoys playing together, the Gold Rush look forward to putting on a great show for fans all summer long.”

Evening contests played under the lights at certain ballparks are among the highlights of the season. Cantelo said they are excited to play several this year. In fact, one already took place with the team taking on a local men’s squad in Fleming, Sask., in an exhibition contest in celebration of Paradine’s birthday.

“While the game was a humbling experience, it was also a memorable night filled with laughs, great competition, and plenty of team spirit,” Cantelo said.

Another highlight of the season is the league tournament, which caps the campaign. Last season the Gold Rush placed third at the event. Swan Lake won the championship in its first season, while Hamiota placed second.

The Virden team competes in the league’s West Division. Beazer said, “We don’t really cross over to the East side anymore, so I enjoy seeing the new teams that have joined the league once we get to the tournament. We truly don’t get to recognize the full skill sets we are up against until we get there.”

Gervin has been playing for the Gold Rush since 2015. While she cannot believe it has been that long, camaraderie and a passion for fastball keep her in uniform.

“It really is a great group of girls and we all look forward to our one night a week where we can get away from our responsibilities and have some fun together,” she said. “I couldn’t have hand-picked a better group of women. Another reason I keep playing year after year is because of how much I love the game.”

Many team members currently are or have been involved in various roles with local youth baseball and softball.

“I dedicate time over the winter and into spring running pitching clinics for young girls in the community wanting to learn how to pitch,” Gervin said. “I spend so much time helping others fine-tune their pitching mechanics, by the time July rolls around, I am so ready to lace up my own cleats and do some pitching too.”

CLASSIFIEDS

Thank-You

Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and helped make our Annual Pancake Breakfast such a wonderful success. Your support truly makes a difference in our community.

A very special shout-out and thank you goes to our generous sponsors who made this event possible:

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- Valleyview Co-op

Thank-you

Dear Community,

The family of Kirstin Murray, who passed away on June 12, wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the kindness, support, and assistance received during this difficult time. We deeply appreciate the thoughtful gestures, words of comfort, and the help with arrangements provided by friends, neighbours, local businesses, and community organizations. Your compassion has been a great source of comfort and will not be forgotten.

With sincere gratitude,
Patrick Murray

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GENEVEIVE DOREEN LAWLOR
10-DEC-1931 TO 11-JUN-2026



It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Doreen Lawlor, formerly of Kenton, MB on June 11, 2026 at the age of 94 years.

Doreen was born in 1931 on her parent's farm near Harding, MB. Growing up, she helped tend to a variety of animals on the farm and developed a life-long love of animals.

When she finished high school, she attended Normal School in Winnipeg to obtain her teaching certificate and then taught school at Griswold, MB for one year. On September 23, 1950, she married Jack Lawlor of Kenton, and there they raised their 4 daughters. Later in life, Doreen moved to Elkwood Manor. She thought of it as her "home away from home" and she made many new friends there.

Doreen's passion was breeding and showing her lovely Welsh Ponies, even exhibiting at the Toronto Royal Agricultural Fair back in the 1980's.

Doreen had an active life in the community of Kenton and was a long-serving director of the Harding Ag Society and the Manitoba Welsh Pony & Cob Association. Life was busy but Doreen found the time to play several sports...softball, golf and curling.

She will always be remembered for her strong determination, witty sense of humour, and her love of family. Doreen created an irreplaceable connection as the matriarch of the family.

Doreen was predeceased by her parents Wes and Eva Bastard, husband Jack Lawlor, brother Milford, sister Phyllis Klohn, and brother-in-law Ken Klohn.

She will be forever remembered by her 4 daughters - Marcia (Denis) Carter, Sally (Garry) Dale, Teresa (Don) Whitby and Shannon Lawlor; 6 grandchildren - Kristin (Scott) Preston, Ryan (Mya) Carter, Tara (Barry) Pitz, Kaili (Buck) Edge, Alyssa (Cory) Braybrook, and Breann Whitby; 11 greatgrandchildren - Christian, Easton, Lillian, Sterling, Will, Savannah, Tyce, Ace, Zandy, Grace and Lucas.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the nurses and staff at Elkwood Manor for their compassionate and dedicated care to Mom while she was a resident there.

A graveside service was held at Greenwood Cemetery on Thursday, June 25th at 11:00 am. Following the service, there was lunch and refreshments at Kenton Memorial Hall, which included a time for visiting and remembering.

For those who so desire, memorial donations may be made to Harding Ag Society - Box 102, Kenton, MB, R0M 0Z0 or a charity of one's choice.

Everyone leaves footprints in your memory, but the ones that leave footprints in your heart Are the ones you will truly remember." ~ Nicolas Sperling

Notice



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DEVELOPMENT PLAN - TRANS CANADA WEST PLANNING DISTRICT

Under authority of *The Planning Act*, the Planning District Board will hold a public hearing at the time and location listed below to hear from and receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following:

BY-LAW NO. 61, TO ADOPT A DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TRANS CANADA WEST PLANNING DISTRICT (INCLUDING THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH, AND THE TOWN OF VIRDEN)

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION:

Monday, July 13th, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Tundra Oil & Gas Place
900 5th Ave.
Virden, MB

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE

CONTACT:

Alleesha MacDonald
Secretary-Treasurer
Trans Canada West Planning District
(204) 748-7239

A copy of the proposed materials may be arranged for review through the contact above.

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Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELMER DALE HILL, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 7th day of August, 2026.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 25th day of June, 2026

ANIQUE TIMMERMAN - MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK MCCONNELL SOLICITOR FOR THE EXECUTORS

Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ASHLEY VALENTINA ROSE HALL, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 12th day of August, 2026.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 26th day of June, 2026

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PMH suggests Summer Safety

Submitted
By PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

Bring on those warm Manitoba summers we spend so many months waiting for! Check out these summer safety tips and resources to keep in mind while we are out enjoying the sunshine.

Protect your skin

Taking precautions can help prevent your chance of skin damage. Wear a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Stay out of the sun at the hottest part of the day (11am to 4pm).

Stay cool

Avoid heat exhaustion and heat stroke by drinking lots of water, take breaks indoors from the heat or stay

in the shade when possible and be aware of the signs and symptoms to cool down when your body needs it.

Safe swim

Whether you and your family are in a pool or lake, take care. Use life jackets (especially on the boat), be aware of swimming ability of those around you, know your limits and your environment. And always stay within arms reach of little ones. Drownings happen fast and are often preventable.

Bike safety

Teach road safety to our children, kids should not be allowed to ride alone until they are 10 years old. Make sure you and your kids are riding a bike that's the right size for you and fasten up that helmet so it fits properly.



PHOTO BY PMH

Apply generous sunscreen.

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