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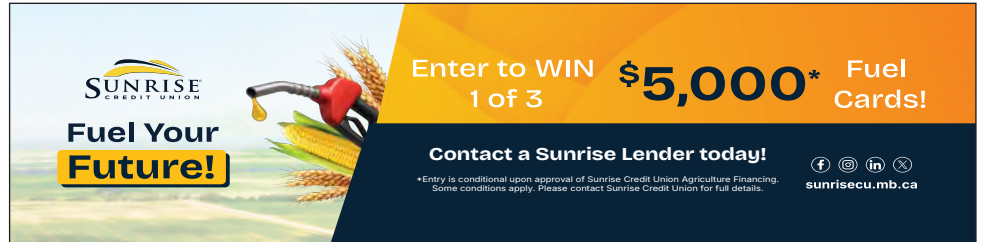
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Oil Caps wrap up camp, ready for exhibition season



Virden Oil Capitals are getting ready for their new season.

PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After the completion of their Comfort Inn & Suites Fall Camp, the Virden Oil Capitals are now battling against other teams in preparation for the 2025-2026 Manitoba Junior Hockey League season.

The Oil Caps held their camp Aug. 28-31. The squad expected more than 50 players, including returning veterans,

to compete for spots at the event. It wrapped up with Team Blue beating Team Red, 6-3, at the annual Garry Cup. The Cup is named for the team's longtime dressing room attendant Garry Remple.

The team was slated to start its exhibition season on the road on Sept. 2 against the Neepawa Titans, after the Empire-Advance deadline. The two teams play on Sept. 6 in Virden.

read more about the Oil Caps camp on page 12...

Inside...



**OAK LAKE
BEACH CAR
SHOW** *P9*



**MANITOBA
WELSH PONY
SHOW** *P10*



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A different kind of golf lands in Virden

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Have you tried disc golf? The target cages were set up in early August at the park on Nelson Street near the creek.

The Town of Virden office has two sets of discs and Tara Davies (events programming) says another two sets should be arriving soon. The only cost is a \$20 returnable deposit for the use of the discs

The course is set in the beautiful, sheltered Centennial Park.

“I know people are going and playing it and loving it,” says Davies.

The game has grown in popularity. Besides this new course at Virden, there’s courses throughout Manitoba at Brandon, Portage, Neepawa, Hamiota (fair grounds), Flin Flon and many in eastern Manitoba. Check out locations at the online site: udisc.com

Disc Golf is a variant of ball golf, but with special frisbees or flying discs. (These are not made for catching by hand.)

Instead of hitting a ball off a tee, disc golf involves throwing a disc from the tee and hitting



Set up in Virden Centennial Park on Nelson Street, are disc golf targets or baskets consisting of a metal pole, a catching basket, and a series of chains designed to stop and hold the disc. (Don’t over-throw and land in the creek.)

an above-ground target in as few throws as you can. And just like ball golf, there are different discs for different shots.

Golf etiquette applies with self-scoring.

This is a game you can play when it works for you. Play it on your own for exercise (walking and throwing). Challenge yourself as you would in a solitary round of (little white ball) golf. Or get a friend interested.

If you decide you like the game, by purchasing a set of discs you can play on other courses. It’s become a world-wide sport. In Manitoba, the Disc Golf Manitoba group began in 2021.



Looking past Virden Centennial Park cairn on Nelson Street, we see disc golf baskets waiting for players.

PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Eight new International Medical Graduates recruited to PMH



Dr. Sylvia Oranika MD, MPH is joining the Virden team.

By Blaine Kraushaar,
PMH COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Physician recruitment efforts continue within Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) region. Collaborating with the Province, Shared Health and community partners, PMH continues to strategically enhance access to physician and primary care services within the Region. One of the initiatives the region utilizes as part of overall physician recruitment strategies includes the provincial Medical Licensure Program for International Medical Graduates (MLPIMG). The MLPIMG Program assists foreign-trained doctors in obtaining their medical license to be able to practice as a family physician in Manitoba.

“During the past year, the region sponsored eight physicians to participate in the MLPIMG program” said Treena Slate, PMH CEO. “After much consideration, physicians that successfully graduated from the program were placed at various sites within PMH communities that require additional sufficient physician resources.”

The newly recruited physicians for communities are:

- Virden**
 - Dr. Sylvia Oranika
- Roblin**
 - Dr. Anahita Yousefiadib
- Dr. Zoia Khattak**
- Swan River**
 - Dr. Uche Adediji
 - Dr. Toyin Oluwatuyi
 - Dr. Oghenekevwe Ekrebe (early September start)
- Neepawa**
 - Dr. Louis Eleche

Souris
• Dr. Rilwan Azeez for Souris (mid-September start)

In return for regional sponsorship, MLPIMG doctors agree to practice in their respective communities for four years. The Program is supported by the University of Manitoba —Max Rady College of Medicine, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, Shared Health-Health Care Recruitment and Retention Office, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care.

“Retention and recruitment of staff, including doctors, is our top priority,” stated Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara. “I want to welcome and thank these new doctors for joining our incredible Manitoba workforce. I wish them well as they begin providing this essential care throughout Prairie Mountain Health.”

In 2024, five MLPIMG physicians were placed in the communities of Deloraine, Grandview, Russell, Ste. Rose and Virden. In 2023, MLPIMG physicians were placed in Glenboro, Hamiota, Russell, Swan River and Virden (2).

During the next rotation, which is already underway, PMH is sponsoring seven more MLPIMG physicians who commenced their training program this past June. If successful, they will be able to commence practice within the health region next fall (2026).

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Oak Lake author crafts thriller - The Gifted

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Following a life-long passion, Oak Lake's Cheryl Thiessen has sent her brand-new manuscript *The Gifted* to a writing contest. By late August she knew she was one of the eight finalists in The Word Awards.

Thiessen states on Facebook, "2025 has been a year of getting back to what I most love to do—writing! This spring, I wrote a novel, and I took a chance and entered it into a contest... I just found out I am one of eight finalists in the Castle Quay Best New Canadian Manuscript category."

Written for young adults, Thiessen has crafted a thriller about a girl who survives an attack, heals physically, but begins to have strange experiences. Visions come unbidden, she glimpses a spiritual realm.

Thiessen shares more: "There's a boy in town who she doesn't really know. He's very mysterious, she has a feeling he knows something, she wants to get some answers from him."

The book will resonate with a generation coming into adulthood in this Frank Peretti style spiritual thriller.

It's raw. "But it's also clean," says the author.

She talks about the main character's journey. She, like other authors, says there's a point where the protagonist takes the bit in their teeth, coming to life within the novel and taking the writer along for the ride.

Although it's fiction, she says there's a reality to the writing. "I mean... it gets pretty dark. [The protagonist] goes to some pretty dark places and has some pretty like, bad experiences. It's really about her battle to fight darkness with light.

"And I just feel... it's fictional, but it's also true.... So I think that there are those who will recognize this is actually real."

Hamiota mansion inspires

Writing fiction has always been Thiessen's goal and she began to take it seriously early in her marriage to Michael Thiessen, which also turned out to be a busy time with a growing family.

"I took a course through the Christian Writers Guild... run by Jerry Jenkins."

It was an intensive two-year course that she completed

about 17 years ago.

"In taking that course... I brainstormed a book that I really wanted to write and so as soon as I was done the course, I started on that book."

The abandoned country estate home, the Hamiota mansion (since destroyed by fire) sparked Thiessen's imagination and inspired her first novel.

But when she sent that manuscript to a professional to be critiqued, she was told what she'd laboured over for two years had some fatal flaws which would need to be fixed for it to succeed as a book.

Then and there, her desire to create fiction could have withered on the vine.

"I didn't write for, like eight years."

Although she'd pick it up now and then and write a new scene, the fix wasn't happening for this book.

But the day came when that all changed – it was time to dig in and write with a purpose.

"This last fall, I had like three different people kind of speak into my life just randomly... about my book. And I thought, I need to go back and fix this book. So, in December, I started writing again and then it was just like I was all in."

She completed the story and says with satisfaction, "It's so much better now."

In the mean time, Cheryl's sister sent her a link to The Word Awards writing contest.

Disappointment

With her first manuscript fixed and done, she was excited, but... "my book was too long." The contest required a manuscript of 90,000 words or less.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cheryl with her writing buddy Lynx who is often perched in her arms while she types.

"I was sitting at like 127,000 words. So I shaved off a little bit. But it's still like 30,000 words over the limit."

She couldn't use the story.

But the determination to write rose up, taking her on a new journey. "I brainstormed a new book. I had a list of ideas that I had kept on my computer for years."

She picked an idea and imagined and wrote a new book in one month (with her family wondering where their mum had gone).

The *Gifted* was completed one week before the contest deadline. However, it was 6,000 words over the limit so she used that week to cut the fat.

"It's really just the first draft. I was like, well, I'm just going to send it out and see what happens."

To Thiessen's surprise the manuscript found favour. "I actually can't believe I'm a finalist. I'm shocked."

On Sept. 20, the Word Guild awards banquet will be live streamed and winners in each category will be announced. Winning would be a leg-up for the Oak Lake writer.

Thiessen says, "The winner gets published, so that would be the ultimate dream for me."

Mother seeks respect for son's memorial

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

When a loved one, particularly a son or daughter, dies tragically on a highway the site is often marked as a way of recognizing the loss.

Tanya Ireland lost her 18-year-old son Jaden Wollny five years ago this past July 18 in a single car accident at Virden. Over these years a memorial has marked the site at the curve on the service road, Rd 257, east of Virden. However, the memorial has been disturbed and items have gone missing several times over these years causing additional heartache for the family.

His mother laments, "The first cross was destroyed, ripped out of the ground and split into pieces. His (Jaden's) hard hat was taken, the wind chime was gone, his picture destroyed, the light fixtures stomped on."

Ireland put up a new cross and lights - also destroyed or taken. "It's very disheartening to see these things destroyed every time."

She also wonders why this is happening. "I have seen many crosses along highways and never have they ever been destroyed."

Meanwhile family members have planted flowers and placed artificial flowers which have also been removed or damaged.

"All I am seeking is some respect," says Ireland, adding "And if anyone knows the culprit who continues to do this, please speak out. It is important to myself and (Jaden's) family for this marker to remind others that he lived, and was tragically taken."

Ireland is from the Binscarth area, but she reasons that the memorial should serve as a caution to other drivers on that Virden road, "a reminder to others to please, drive safe. Jaden was not wearing his seatbelt, and was speeding, also alcohol was a factor. Even




SUBMITTED PHOTO

This memorial for Jaden on PR 257 was first erected five years ago and has had to be replaced several times.

though he did not have much in his system it is a factor."

For Tanya Ireland and her family, the memorial is not only a tribute to Jaden's life but also a plea for compassion, respect, and safer choices on the road.



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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Oppression is rampant

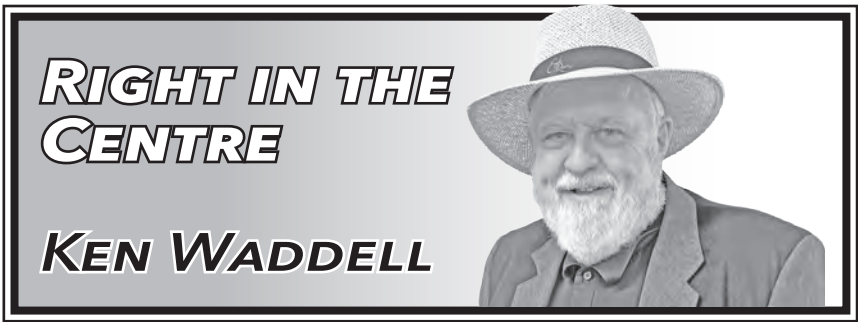
As a background for this column, the following information was found on the website indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca.

“In 1969, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chrétien, unveiled a policy paper that proposed ending the special legal relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian state and dismantling the Indian Act. This white paper was met with forceful opposition from Aboriginal leaders across the country and sparked a new era of Indigenous political organizing in Canada.”

- The white paper proposed to:
- Eliminate Indian status.
 - Dissolve the Department of Indian Affairs within five years.
 - Abolish the Indian Act.
 - Convert reserve land to private property that can be sold by the band or its members.
 - Transfer responsibility for Indian affairs from the federal government to the province and integrate these services into those provided to other Canadian citizens.
 - Provide funding for economic development.
 - Appoint a commissioner to address outstanding land claims and gradually terminate existing treaties.”

The white paper was hotly debated at the time and continues to be debated to this day.

Harold Cardinal, who headed the Indian Association of Alberta and acted as a vocal opponent to the white paper was quoted as saying, “We do not want the Indian Act retained because it is a good piece of legislation. It isn’t. It is discriminatory from start to finish. But it is a lever in our hands and an embarrassment to the govern-



ment, as it should be. No just society and no society with even pretensions to being just can long tolerate such a piece of legislation, but we would rather continue to live in bondage under the inequitable Indian Act than surrender our sacred rights. Any time the government wants to honour its obligations to us we are more than happy to help devise new Indian legislation.”

I think that the words above from Harold Cardinal lays condemnation on the Indian Act, and so it should. Countless Indigenous leaders have spoken out against the Indian Act and I believe rightly so. Cardinal lays out a self condemnation when he states, “we would rather continue to live in bondage under the inequitable Indian Act than surrender our sacred rights.”

I think that “live in bondage” statement speaks volumes. When people refuse to change for fear of perceived loss, their loss is even greater.

Under the Indian Act, it’s difficult for people to own property on the reserve. Under the Indian Act, it seems that there is constant turmoil in many Indigenous communities.

There is also the perception that Indigenous people “get everything for free”, but that isn’t true, they don’t. But, in Canada, it’s hard to tell who all gets stuff for free. Electric car buyers get a government grant. Car manufacturers get promised billions

in subsidies for battery factories. Many businesses get government subsidies.

We, all of us, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, labour under acts like the Indian Act. That’s because, for centuries in Canada, powerful people truly believe that they know better than the average citizen. In Manitoba, first it was the Hudson Bay Company, then the federal government, then the CPR. When Manitoba became a Province, it was a typical federal botched process; they didn’t tell the citizens of Manitoba it was going to happen until the surveyors arrived. Through most of the 1900s, it was the Liberal Party of Canada and it’s still the Liberal Party and the Laurentian Elite that dominate Canada with a smug holier-than-thou attitude.

Canada is a great country but I think the future of all Canadians could be a lot better if there was more realistic thinking and common sense applied.

Indigenous people chose to stay under the oppression of the Indian Act, but we are all under the smothering blanket of the Laurentian Elite. What’s your opinion? Please email me at kwaddell@neepawabanner.com.

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



And just like that... again!

The passage of time is a mystery. With one breath it is spring, then summer, and with an exhale – its fall!

The school schedule no longer affects me, no back to school supplies, no planning for lunches or budgeting for programs. As an onlooker, it was but that blink when school was dismissed for holidays, and now it’s back to school time. The garden I so carefully planted and tended has now been mostly harvested. Some trees are already slipping into fall fashion colours and the weeds and rushes in the ditches proclaim fall as well.

And that’s ok. The September long weekend was filled with family, laughter, games and travel. The celebrations actually began before the weekend arrived. Sister the Elder from Australia is in Canada, and that guarantees reunions on the paternal side of the family. Seven first cousins, two treasured aunts and several spouses gathered for a luncheon. So much laughter, sometimes over a story that has been told and retold! One aunt is 94, the other a mere 89. We acknowledge that meaningful dialogue can be challenging in a group setting, so just a few days later, my sister and I visited Aunt the Elder in her home. She played the piano for us, one piece a classic that she is memorising and would love to have critiqued by a master musician, the other, played by ear, was an hymn from ages past, ‘I Know Whom I Have Believed’. A simply awesome time together.

From there, travelling with my sister, we bunked at Sister the Younger’s home where she was hosting more family. The cribbage board was well used, and I proved that I could be a gracious loser, four consecutive times! My nephew, also from Australia, maintained that his win record while in Manitoba was somewhat lacklustre... improved his ratings in one afternoon!

One of the reasons for the gatherings was a family wedding. Here I watched, interacted with and made memories with a bunch of nieces and nephews; watched them parent their children, respect their parents, love, laugh and play. Watching people is one of my favourite pastimes and I was satisfied! Between young children and older parents, there were not many late nights so I had time to read and reflect before courting that elusive sleep. I did step away from the clan to have breakfast with the last of the Friesen’s. Ed’s brother is now mid 90s, lives quite independently and loves company. We enjoyed breakfast at the local Tim’s, meeting more old friends and acquaintances. Spending time with both my brother-in-law, and my aunt, reminded me that age is really a number.

Sunday morning we slipped into the worship service at the Carman United Church with the service led by the local Anglican congregation. Felt like home. No familiar faces but I felt welcome.

I would be deceitful if I didn’t confess to love coming home. The drive back, with CBC and classical music, allowed me to shift gears, slow down and ready myself for more silence and solitude. I love my home, I love my community and I love my purpose. Back to regular programming!

The Little Red School House

By Barry Lambkin
ELKHORN AUTO MUSEUM

With school being back in session, be it the first day of Kindergarten or Grade 12, I thought this week we could divert from our cars and venture outside for a bit and visit the Archie School.

Opened in 1896, Archie school was located four miles north and one and a half miles west of what is now the junction of the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 41. It was built on the North East corner of 8-13-29 belonging to Hugh Kirby Sr. who donated the land for the school.

Winters were tough for the first few years of the school being open. The school at first was not too large and had windows on both sides, which proved to be quite drafty, especially with a high wind on a particularly cold day. It is believed that at first the school was not open in the winter, probably due to the cold and low attendance. When it did open in the winter often the children had to huddle around the stove to keep warm. Some of the older pupils or their fathers would try to get to the school earlier to light the fires. Often however, the school did not warm up before the students arrived. Of course we are in the days of the outhouse, and sometimes the high snow drifts made it almost impossible to reach the small building. Sometime dur-

ing the 50s indoor bathroom facilities and an oil furnace were purchased.

The school took part in field days, at first alternating between Elkhorn and Virden and in later years at Elkhorn. Parades would be held with the schools, and the Archie students would proudly fly their green and gold banner (the school colors) with 744 painted on. They won their fair share of prizes both for costumes and marching.

About 1935, the ratepayers decided the school needed to be enlarged, so about 18 feet were added. A basement was put under the addition and cloak rooms were added for the boys and girls. Cupboards for books were built at each side of the addition to the school.

Sadly, in its 50th year of operation in 1946, due to lack of pupils the school was unable to receive a grant to keep the school open. Arthur Rookes was hired as Van Driver so the students could attend Manson school, until the school reopened in 1948.

In many cases, 3 generations of a family attended Archie school. Due to smaller attendance in later years, it was decided to close the school as of June 30,



PHOTO BY BARRY LAMBKIN

Inside the Archie school built in 1896.

assets were dissolved and passed on to Elkhorn District.

Originally it was a white frame building with green trim and after renovations it was covered with stucco and painted red. The school was renovated to include our public washrooms which makes it a well visited attraction! It is a definite stop for our tour, made even better with Ed James, a retired teacher giving the children a lesson on how schools operated back then. And I always see a little gleam in the eyes of our senior crowd who grew up going to a one room schoolhouse when they come for a visit.

Now just for fun, and because it is Ike's museum and we are discussing school, I learned a story from one of my snooping sessions here this summer. I am not sure where Ike went to school, but legend has it (Yes Ike is a Legend!!) when the first gas tractors came out, one in particular an International Titan, was considered a mule of a tractor- sometimes it would go and some it would not. More than once, the farmers would go and get Ike out of school and he would be no more than 12. It wasn't long before Ike would have the old engine going and away they would go threshing with it. They say he just had the ability to know what to do and have it figured out in his mind what he was going to do even at that young of an age.

close the school as of June 30, 1968, and transport students to Elkhorn. The last teacher was Lorraine Scott, who had taught from 1965 to 1968. A closing reunion picnic was held and Archie school closed after 72 years of service.

An auction sale was held to dispose of all the contents and the building was moved to its current home next to the museum. In June of 1969, all

Museum traces history of medicines

By Raphial Fehr
VPHM

From the early Victorian era to the early 1920s, there was a huge fad sweeping across multiple continents. As modern science advanced, and properly patented prescription medicines began to slowly repel diseases in place of previous home remedies, a newer, cheaper option began sweeping the market. The deceptively named "patent medicine" (more commonly referred to in the modern day as "snake oils" or "pseudo-science".

Despite the name, very few if any of these medicines were patented, as applying for a patent would involve publicly publishing a list of ingredients, which many salesmen and manufacturers wished to avoid.

The name "Patent" originally came from the seller or medicine man having favour with a member of royalty or nobility and convincing them to endorse their product. The royalty would often grant the salesman a "letters patent" which would authorise them to use this royal endorsement in advertising.

These medicines had varying levels of quality, with some using known medical ingredients to alleviate common symptoms, some just being expensive placebos, some being a sneaky way to get alcohol into people's systems (marketed as antidepressants or



PHOTO BY RAPHAEL FEHR

"Medicine men" selling a "miracle cure".

mood improving tonics) and some being unintentional poisons, especially if they spent much time in the bottle before being sold.

Patent medicine makers were also always quick to take any recent scientific innovation and sell a "miracle cure" that claimed to use that principle. When it was proved that electricity could influence muscles, these "medicine men" quickly pounced, making devices and medicines that claimed to rejuvenate the body by increasing conductivity.

When the innovation of radio was first put into the public eye, many of the more electronically inclined patent medicine practitioners claimed they could diagnose and cure ailments over long

distances just by using radio waves.

Many "medicines" would continue to be sold well into the prohibition, as even though the government could take alcohol off the shelves, they could not put a blanket ban on medicines, and for every one alcohol-based medicine they would take off the shelves, another three would replace it by the time it was banned.

Although many patent medicines were considered a sham, a few companies that started in patent medicines continue in the over-the-counter medication field to this day. These companies include Vicks (with VapoRub being their oldest product) and Aspro (which made early aspirin tablets).



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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Every culture has its version of soup. From French onion to Japanese miso to Italian wedding, soup is a global staple. The earliest evidence of soup making was in 6000 BC and the meat source was hippopotamus! In the French Court of Louis XI, the ladies’ meals were mostly soup. They were afraid that chewing would give them wrinkles. The world’s most expensive soup comes from China, called “Buddha Jumps Over the Wall.” It was so named as the smells of this soup cooking spread over to a nearby Buddhist monastery where monks were meditating. The monks were not allowed to eat meat, however one of the monks, so tempted by the delicious smells, jumped over the wall, to eat some soup breaking his pledge. When asked about it later, the monk replied “that the soup was so good that even Buddha would jump over the wall to have some!” This luxurious soup is a rich, flavorful blend of delicacies, including abalone (sea snails), sea cucumber, shark fin (though often omitted today), dried scallops and other luxury ingredients. Soup is even eaten in space by the astronauts. It’s specially packaged to prevent spills in zero gravity. With all the endless possibilities, here’s a soup for every occasion.

Garden vegetable soup

A simple garden vegetable soup recipe made with veggies from the garden.

2 Tbsp. butter	1 large onion, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced	10 cups of water
2 vegetable or chicken Oxo cubes	3 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
2-3 carrots, peeled and sliced	2 celery stalks, sliced
2 large fresh tomatoes, diced	2 cobs of corn, kernels cut off
1 small-medium zucchini, diced	2 Tbsp. fresh parsley
1-2 Tbsp. fresh dill or basil	salt and pepper to taste

Heat the butter in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add the onions and garlic. Sauté on medium low heat until the onions are tender, about 3-5 minutes. Add the water, Oxo cubes, potatoes, carrots and celery. Bring the pot to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer. Cook covered, until the potatoes and carrots are almost cooked through, about 15 minutes. Add the tomatoes, corn, zucchini, herbs, salt and pepper. Continue cooking until the vegetables are tender, about 15-20 minutes.

Cream of carrot soup

A great way to use up the falls abundant carrot harvest.

2 Tbsp. butter	1 cup diced onion
2 cloves of minced garlic	1 stalk celery, diced
1 liter chicken or vegetable broth	4-5 cups peeled and sliced carrots
1 tsp. sugar	1/2 tsp. each of salt and pepper
1 Tbsp. fresh dill or 1 tsp. dried dill	1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1 tsp. Dash	2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 cup evaporated milk or cream	

Garnishes if desired:
sour cream
dill or chopped parsley
cooked bacon, finely diced

In a large Dutch oven melt the butter. Add diced onion, garlic and celery and cook 4-5 minutes. Add the broth, carrots, sugar, salt and pepper and simmer covered 20-25 min until carrots are soft. Add the dill, Dash and lemon juice during the last 10 minutes of cooking. Puree soup in batches in a blender or use an immersion blender. I do not like it pureed and leave it as it is. Return soup to the pot, stir in 1/2 cup cream, then reheat but not to a boil. Ladle the soup into bowls and swirl some sour cream into each bowl. Garnish with desired garnish.

Corn tomato chowder

Perfect for the readily available tomatoes and corn.

3 slices bacon cut into 1/2 inch pieces	1/2 cup onion finely diced
1/2 cup diced celery	1 clove garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. flour	3 cups chicken broth
2 potatoes, diced	2 cups peeled, diced fresh tomatoes
2 cups kernel corn	1/2 tsp. pepper
2 cups whole milk	2Tbsp. chopped parsley or basil for garnish
1 tsp. each of salt, dried oregano and basil (more if using fresh herbs)	

In a large pot on medium heat, fry bacon until browned. Remove bacon and set aside on a paper towel. To the bacon drippings add the onions and garlic and cook about 3-5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with flour and cook for 2-3 minutes stirring all the while. Stir in broth, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, salt, herbs and pepper. Bring soup to a boil. Once boiling, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer until vegetables are tender, about 25 minutes. Add the milk and heat up but do not bring to a boil. Serve and garnish with cooked bacon and parsley if desired.

Miniota News

Submitted
By LINDA CLARK

August 29th

Our community extends its deepest sympathy to Darlene Lane, Tina and David Collier, Cortney, Chelsea and Robin on the death of Jim Lane, beloved husband, dad and grandpa. We also extend our sympathy to Jim’s siblings Donna, David, Laura, Tammy, Tom and their families. Jim and Darlene built Lone Oak Percherons, a name well known in the horse world that Jim was an ambassador for, known far and wide for his showmanship, judging and selling, a great horseman and friend to all he met. Our thoughts are with the Lane family. John and Noreen Stowe travelled to Calgary to visit with Steven and Catherine Stowe and family. Sharon Attwood and her daughter Linda from Nanton, Alta. visited with Margaret Still and family. Visiting with Bill and Renee Armitage and other members of the Armitage family is Barb Armitage Williams and her daughter Kayleigh Grace from Maple Ridge, B.C.

This week marks the ‘move’ of many of our young people as they head off to university/college. Ashten Hawtin has returned to Odessa, Texas to continue his studies in Agribusiness. Ty McKenzie and Addison Hawtin, are both at Dakota College, Bottineau, North Dakota, with Ty playing baseball and Addy volleyball. First year university students include Avery Clark, U of Regina in degree nursing; Coralee Anderson, at U of Winnipeg for criminal justice, Brandi Couvier at U of Manitoba in sciences; Aiden Lewis at Okanagan College, Kelowna, B.C. studying in the therapy assistant program and playing baseball with support from the Winnipeg Goldeyes and Baseball Manitoba; Scotlin Priestley at ACC in Brandon studying in a new program called mechatronics; and Addison Cousins at the U of Regina in psychology. Third year students returning

to university are: Emily Bryant to U of Saskatoon in education, Monelle Bryant to U of Saskatoon in animal bioscience program; Heidi Clark to the U of Regina for nursing; Danni Judd to Brandon University for arts/education integrated studies and Brooke Thompson to U of Saskatoon for animal bioscience. Foster Couvier will return to Fort Frances where he will be assistant coach for the Fort Frances Lakers Junior A hockey team as well as working. We also wish those students a great year who have chosen to work a year before choosing a college.

Hard to believe summer is coming to an end, and with the arrival of autumn our students and staff head back to school. Wishing all the young people and their families, and our teaching staff a wonderful year. It will be great to hear the children’s playground

voices once again! Found this on Facebook and think it good advice for all heading out for another year. “You will make mistakes, and they will only define you if you give it that kind of power. If the lesson is learned, the mistake is worth it. It’s your choice whether or not it wins. You are not a prisoner to your past and you are allowed to grow. The world owes you nothing. Everything you achieve will have to come from your own dedication to what you love. It will not be handed to you easily.” Best wishes to all as you head out into this big world!

Isabella News

Our Isabella community extends sympathy to Tim and Lindsay Wierer and their family on the death of Lindsay’s mother at Princeton, B.C. Hazel Wall accompanied Linda Clark to Winnipeg for a weekend of visiting family and friends.



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Blue Hills RCMP investigate after pedestrian killed

Submitted
BY D MEDIA RCMP

On August 31, 2025, at approximately 3:15 am, Blue Hills RCMP received a report of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle on Road 107 West, in the RM of Cornwallis.

Officers responded immediately and when they arrived, Emergency Medical Services and the local fire department were on scene treating a 17-year-old female that had been struck by a vehicle. She was later pronounced deceased on scene.

The initial investigation revealed the female from Brandon, along with a 16-year-old male, were walking on Road 107 West after leaving a party in the area, when she was struck by a vehicle. The male was not injured.

The driver of the vehicle, a 17-year-old male from Virden, was not physically injured and remained at the scene.

Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the collision.

Blue Hills RCMP, with assistance of an RCMP Forensic Collision Reconstructionist and the Criminal Collision Investigation Team, continue to investigate.

*Blue Hills RCMP includes the areas of Brandon, Carberry and Souris.

41-year-old male was arrested for threatening people with a knife

Westman RCMP Service Report for August 24 to 30

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 80 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 26 traffic offences, 2 Mischief, 3 Wellbeing Check, 3 Mental Health Act, 5 Assault, 2 Suspicious Persons, 1 False Alarm, 1 Fraud greater than \$5,000, 1 Fraud less than \$5,000, 1 Disturb the Peace, 3 Uttering threats against a person, and 2 Coroner's Act.

On August 25, RCMP were dispatched to a stabbing in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. A 16-year-old male had sustained a stab wound and was transported to Brandon General Hospital in stable condition. A 14-year-old male was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault. He will appear in court in October.

On August 25, RCMP were conducting a patrol in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation; a member observed a person entering a home, the person entering the home was known to police and had an outstanding Unendorsed Warrant for his arrest. The homeowner invited police inside and a 36-year-old male was arrested on the strength of the outstanding warrant and transported back to the Virden RCMP detachment without incident. The accused was remanded into custody and will appear in court in September on 2 charges of Fail to Comply with Release Order Conditions and Failing to Comply with a Probation Order.

On August 29, RCMP were dispatched to a disturbance in the town of Virden, upon arrival members learned that a 41-year-old male was threatening people with a knife and had also assaulted two

people. The 41-year-old male was arrested on scene and lodged at the Virden RCMP Detachment without incident. The accused was released on an Undertaking to appear in court in November and has been charged with Assault with a Weapon, Assault, and Uttering Threats.

On August 30, RCMP were dispatched to a domestic assault in the town of Griswold, upon arrival members observed blood on the victim's shirt. A 23-year-old female was located on the property and arrested. The accused was transported to her residence and released on an Undertaking to appear in court in November and has been charged with Assault.

On August 30 during a routine traffic patrol in the RM Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 142 km/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 \$599.

On August 30 during a routine traffic patrol in the RMSifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 136 km/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 \$391.

As a reminder students are back in school and school zones are back in effect, please make sure to slow down from 7:00am – 6:00pm in the designated school zone areas and keep our children safe.

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

Why losing your cool is bad for your body (and how not to explode like a kettle)

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

MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Anger is a funny thing. Not "ha-ha" funny, more like "my face is turning beet red, and steam might actually come out of my ears" funny. We all get angry. Maybe it is the driver who cuts you off, the Wi-Fi going down during your favourite show, or your neighbour's lawn mower firing up at seven in the morning. But here is the catch: when you let anger run wild, it is not just the people around you who suffer, it is your body too.

When you fly into a rage, your body goes into fight-or-flight mode, which sounds heroic until you realise you are fighting with the toaster because it burnt your bagel. Stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol flood your system, your heart races, your blood pressure shoots up, and your muscles tighten like a badly tuned banjo. Overtime, that can mean headaches, digestive issues, high blood pressure, and even a higher risk of heart attack or stroke. In short, your body is not built

to manage constant "Hulk smash" moments.

So how do you keep from becoming a human pressure cooker? First, give yourself a pause button. When you feel that volcano bubbling inside, step away even if it is just to the bathroom to count tiles on the floor. A ten-second breather is often enough to stop you from saying something that would make your grandma faint.

Second, laugh at the situation. Humour is like kryptonite to anger. If you can reframe the annoyance into something mildly ridiculous, your boiling blood cools down fast. Picture the driver who cut you off as Mario Kart's Bowser or imagine your boss's endless rant with clown horns in the background. It is hard to stay furious when you are giggling.

Another trick? Move your body. Go for a brisk walk, do a few jumping jacks, or clean the house with enough intensity to scare the dust bunnies. Physical movement

releases endorphins (your body's natural mood lifters) and helps burn off the angry energy that would otherwise have you slamming doors. Let me tell you, with two boys in the house, my house sure is clean!

Breathwork also works wonders. Sounds simple, but most of us forget it when we are mad. Try this: inhale through your nose like you are sniffing a plate of fresh poutine, then exhale slowly through your mouth as if you are blowing out birthday candles. Do it three or four times, and your brain will realise the world is not ending, it is just another day.

Finally, remember that anger often masks something else like fear, stress, disappointment. If you can identify what is really fuelling your fire, you can deal with the actual issue instead of raging at innocent bystanders (and innocent toasters).

In the end, anger is normal but letting it simmer too long is like microwaving soup in a sealed container, it will blow up in your face. Treat your body kindly, find ways to cool off, and save the red-faced explosions for comedy sketches, not your daily life. It will help you live longer!



REMINDER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You're Invited

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

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2026 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

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

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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 Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll-free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **September 30, 2025**.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca

Manitoba Public Utilities Board

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Under the Dome

Submitted

BY GREG NESBITT MLA

Summer of pride and peril in rural Manitoba

This summer began on a high note for rural Manitoba and smaller cities.

A Probe Research poll found that 83 per cent of residents in small cities believe their community is a great place to live, while 78 per cent feel genuine pride in their hometown. In rural settings, those numbers climb even higher: 94 per cent say their community is wonderful, and 87 per cent brim with pride in where they live.

Three-quarters of small-city dwellers indicated they'd actively encourage friends or family to move there, and only 40 per cent would consider leaving if given the chance. That optimism reflects tight-knit neighbourhoods and a sense that smaller centres still offer a quality of life unmatched by larger urban areas. Residents feel connected, supported, and - most importantly - hopeful about the future of their hometowns.

By contrast, Winnipeggers describe the capital's summer as "proud, yet profoundly frustrated," according to Probe Research. Crime rates are climbing, public infrastructure shows its age, and faith in elected officials has dwindled to historic lows. Younger residents, in particular, express palpable frustration with what they see as inaction on the city's most urgent challenges. These sentiments reveal a public demanding tangible solutions rather than empty promises.

The perception of rising crime is backed by hard statistics: youth crime rose nearly 5 per cent in 2024, and Winnipeg's violent-crime rate of 675 incidents per 100,000 people dwarfs the national average of 262. That spike helped earn Winnipeg the unwelcome title of Canada's most violent city, according to the Fraser Institute.

While rural communities start from a position of pride, they face existential economic threats that could undo decades of stability. Manitoba farmers, who seed over 12,000 square kilometres of canola annually, generate \$2.4

billion in export value - 25 per cent of total farm cash receipts - and support more than 35,000 jobs, contributing nearly \$7 billion to the provincial economy.

That prosperity now hangs in the balance. China's sudden 75.8 per cent tariff on Canadian canola seed jeopardizes the 3.2 billion kilograms Manitoba ships each year. Additional tariffs on soybeans and pork place \$1.2 billion more at risk, representing 85 per cent of our agricultural trade with China. Provinces such as Saskatchewan and Alberta are scrambling to diversify, yet in Manitoba there's an unsettling silence from Premier Wab Kinew and Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn - farmers deserve leadership, not sympathy.

Beyond agriculture, every Manitoban feels the sting of rising costs. Grocery prices keep climbing, and NDP tax changes - scrapping indexation of personal allowances, freezing tax brackets, and eliminating the \$350 education credit - effectively hike the provincial tax rate during the worst cost of living crisis in decades. Families

already stretched by inflation now face higher bills and fewer relief measures.

Summer in Manitoba has proven to be a study in contrasts: unshakable pride in our smaller communities and deepening despair in our capital. Rural residents enjoy quality of life but worry their economy is being led off the track, threatening local jobs and small businesses. Winnipeggers, meanwhile, demand action on public safety and crumbling infrastructure before frustration erodes their community spirit entirely.

The challenges are acute and the clock is ticking. Manitobans deserve leaders who will tackle crime, revitalize our cities, and defend our signature industries on the world stage. If they fail, both our urban centres and rural heartlands risk losing the very qualities that made them places worth calling home.

Thank you to all the communities across the Riding Mountain constituency for their hospitality at their annual summer events. As your MLA I was honoured to participate in nine parades in the con-

stituency, as well as festivals and homecomings.

I was pleased to join our PC Leader Obby Khan and many of my colleagues at the Dauphin Ukrainian Festival parade, and Obby joined me at the Virden Indoor Rodeo.

It takes many, many volunteer hours to make these events successful. Hats off to those who put their community first.

Just a reminder that if you or anyone you know is celebrating a birthday or anniversary and is eligible for special greetings from elected officials, please contact our office or go to the website: www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/greeting/index.html

Birthdays from age 65 and up in five-year increments are recognized, as are anniversaries from 50 years and up in five-year increments.

For special greetings from the Governor General of Canada and the

King, please visit: www.gg.ca/en/contact-us/birthday-anniversary-greetings. Their criteria for greetings however, is more restricted than those being requested from the provincial Greetings Branch.

There is also special recognition available for Manitoba farms that have been in families for 100, 125 and 150 years.

The Century Farm Program was introduced in 1981 to recognize families who have maintained continuous family ownership for 100 years or more. To date, 1896 farms have been recognized in our province.

The Heritage Farm Program was introduced in 2010 to recognize families who have maintained continuous family ownership for 125 years or more. To date, 147 farms have been recognized in our province.

The Legacy Farm Program was introduced in

2020 to recognize families who have maintained continuous family ownership for 150 years or more. To date, eight farms have been recognized in our province.

To apply for Century, Heritage or Legacy Farm recognition apply online at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/family-farm-recognition-program/> for submission, or you can print and complete the and mail to Manitoba Agriculture, Box 160, Carberry, MB, R0K 0H0.

If your farm qualifies, you will receive a gate sign to proudly proclaim your pioneering roots.

Greg Nesbitt is the Member of Legislative Assembly for the Riding Mountain constituency. He can be reached at 204-759-3313, toll-free 1-844-877-7767 or by email at gregnesbittmla@mymts.net. When contacting our office, please include your name, address and a daytime phone number.



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"BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUDGETING:
Managing Education Expenses and Saving for Future Education"

As summer fades and fall approaches, families gear up for the back-to-school season—a time filled with excitement and, often, financial stress. From school supplies and tuition to extracurricular activities and childcare, expenses can pile up quickly. However, with thoughtful planning, families can manage these costs effectively and even begin saving for future education needs.

Start by creating a detailed budget. List all anticipated expenses, including supplies like notebooks, backpacks, and electronics. Review the school's supply list and take advantage of seasonal sales or tax-free shopping days to maximize savings. Buying in bulk or reusing items from the previous year can also help cut costs.

Tuition is a major expense, particularly for families with children in college or private school. Be sure to factor it into your budget and explore scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities. These resources can significantly reduce the financial burden and free up funds for other essentials.

Extracurricular activities, while enriching, can be costly. Sports, music lessons, and clubs often require fees, uniforms, or equipment. Focus on activities that truly benefit your child and consider setting a limit on how many they can participate in each semester. This helps balance both your budget and their schedule.

For working parents, childcare is another critical expense. After-school programs, daycare, or babysitters should be included in your planning. Explore flexible work options such as remote work or adjusted hours to reduce reliance on paid childcare when possible.

Once your expenses are outlined, evaluate your income and look for areas to trim. Reducing discretionary spending like eating out or unused subscriptions can free up money for school-related costs. Even small changes add up and can ease the financial pressure.

Beyond current expenses, planning for future education costs is key. Contributing to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a smart move. RESPs grow tax-free and may qualify for government grants like the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG), which boosts your contributions. Start early, even with modest amounts, to take advantage of compounding growth. Consider setting up an automatic transfer into a dedicated education savings account. Consistent contributions, even small ones, can build up over time. Encourage children to save part of their allowance or earnings, teaching them valuable financial habits.

In summary, the back-to-school season doesn't have to strain your finances. By budgeting wisely, managing current costs, and preparing for the future, families can support their children's education with confidence and stability.

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Engines, auctions, and community spirit at the 5th annual Albert Drotar Classic Car Show & Shine

By Evelyne Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The roar of engines and the gleam of polished chrome filled the Provincial Park at Oak Lake Beach on Sunday, August 24, 2025, as the 5th Annual Albert Drotar Classic Car Show & Shine rolled into town. From noon until 4:00 p.m., the beachside grounds transformed into a showcase of timeless automobiles, proud owners, and a community that knows how to come together for a worthy cause.

Hosted by the Oak Lake Cottage Association, the event welcomed seventy cars and a great mix of bikes, making for an impressive lineup. Each vehicle told its own story from Todd Gaber's striking 1953 Suburban to Rick Kenderdine's powerful 1970 Cyclone, which both earned top winning recognition from the judges. The pride in every polish and shine was clear, and as I walked through the rows of cars, I could see the joy of participants sharing their passion with the crowd.

The event offered more than just a stroll through automotive history. The smell of hamburgers and hot dogs drifted across the park, and in true Oak Lake fashion, the food stand sold out completely. A big thank you goes to Valleyview Co-op, who generously donated food and condiments to make sure guests were well fed.

The excitement peaked with the live pie auction, held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Homemade pies, cookies, and desserts poured in from community members, drawing lively bids and plenty of laughs. Sharon Fordyce went home with the coveted swinging bench, donated by Virden Home Hardware, while the rainbow auction and silent auction kept the buzz going throughout the day. A 50/50 draw also took place, with winners splitting the prize. According to Donna Campbell, member of the fundraiser committee, "the funds



Cars lined up at the annual car show & shine at Oak Lake Beach.

PHOTO BY EVELYNE NOLAN

raised were for the Cottage Association to fund the water beautification project."

The best part of it all was the generosity that shone through. Donations from the Oak Lake Cottage Association community were abundant, and the support from local businesses helped make the day "a great success," said Donna Campbell.

With Oak Lake Beach providing the perfect backdrop of sunny skies, rolling waves, and a lively crowd of families and friends the car show was more than just an afternoon out. It was a reminder of what the

Oak Lake community is all about: people pulling together, sharing talents, and celebrating the simple joys of summer.

As the engines quieted and the last auction item was claimed, there was no doubt that the 5th Annual Albert Drotar Classic Car Show & Shine was a roaring success. From the seventy gleaming cars to the sold-out food stand and the laughter that filled the park, the day was one to remember. And if this year was any indication, the event spirit will only keep rolling stronger in the years ahead.

Dinosaurs to appear in park Saturday

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lo-o-o-ng necked creatures, vicious looking monsters with spikes and teeth and other humongous reptiles will be seen on Ball Diamond A, near Tundra Oil & Gas Place this weekend.

Applause Events is bringing these large dinosaurs and a collection of baby dinosaurs and some dino eggs – it's a natural photo opp.

The dinosaurs will be ready for you Saturday afternoon, Sept. 6, at 12pm.

At 2pm, a 45-minute magic show will entertain at the bandstand. Mini golf and a fossil dig will be part of the fun in the park. By 4pm it will be time to say goodbye to dinosaurs in the park.

There's a family rate of \$25 for up to five people in the same household, or \$10 each. To buy tickets at the gate, you will need to bring cash.



PHOTO APPLAUSE EVENTS

These creatures show up at events all over Manitoba and now they're coming to Virden's recreation park.

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Local exhibitor champion at Manitoba Welsh pony show



Supreme Champion of the Welsh show Alvesta Noelle, owned by Marcia Carter of Kenton, shown by Savannah Preston of Brandon.



Everett More driving Frontier Dusty Boots in the 49th Welsh Pony & Cob Association show.

Submitted
BY JULIE HUNTER-GIBSON

The 49th Annual Manitoba Welsh Pony and Cob Association show was held at the Virden Ag grounds on Aug. 23 and 24. This year we had 27 ponies and exhibitors coming from Virden, Kenton, Kelwood, Altona, Treherne, Strathclair, and from Saskatchewan, Weyburn, Southey, Rocanville and Trossachs.

We had line classes and performance classes for (size classifications) Section A, Section B, Section C/D; and for partbreds. Classes were judged by Aimee Reed of Ontario.

A special thankyou to all our sponsors that help us to put on our show each year. Without you we wouldn't be able to have our show.

Supreme Champion of the show was Alvesta Noelle, a Section B mare owned by Marcia Carter of Kenton and shown by Savannah Preston of Brandon.

Reserve Champion went to a Section D mare, Foothills Maya, owned by Joanne Armstrong of Treherne, Man.

Next year will be our 50th show and we are busy making plans already. We hope to see you there!

Harvest time and baseball

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It is harvesting time, my personal favorite time of the year. The combines are going, the gardens are filling our freezers, and the colors are turning.

What I have heard is that the crops are really good, despite the lack of rain this summer, now if prices rise, that would be great. Cattle prices are out of sight high which can only mean, beef will rise too.

Our garden turned out great, with an abundance of cucumbers, beets, carrots and tomatoes. The corn is a little ways away yet, but canning is happening at our house.

Another thing about September I like is the Major League Baseball playoff race is on. The National Football League regular season is beginning. The Canadian Football League is halfway through their season and Hockey camps in Junior have started as well. The National Hockey League will begin another season this month. For the sports fan September and October is maybe the greatest time of the year.

I watch the Toronto Blue Jays a fair bit and as we speak, they are hanging on in the race. They have not played very well since the all-star break and are losing more games than they are winning. I have some ideas as to why that is happening. The bullpen. The pitchers have been used way too much in my opinion. The manager of the Jays seems to want his starters to pitch 6 innings then turn it over to the pitchers in the bullpen. The starters by the sixth inning have pitched about 90 plus pitches, thus they turn to the bullpen. The starters seem like they cannot throw strikes or nit-pick at the corners and miss them. Maybe it is the pitching coach that wants them to hit the corner of the plate all the time but strike one and getting ahead of the opposition batter is better than ball one or two.

Another thing I see is after a Blue Jay pitcher throws about 20 pitches in an inning. The Blue Jay batter will go up to plate, swing at the first pitch and usually ground out or will hit the ball in the air for an easy out. By doing this your pitcher does not get a very long break before he has to go back out on the mound and start pitching the next inning. This is on the manager and his coaches, ever heard of taking a pitch?

Vladdy Guerrero Jr., the multi million player for the Blue Jays is not having a very good year, despite what the Sportsnet announcers would tell you. Oh yes and the Blue Jay announcers would have you believe he is in the running for the Most Valuable Player award this year. Apparently, they have not heard of the season Aaron Judge is having!

It is a long season for baseball players granted but some rise to the occasion and others disappear into the woodwork. Where do you think the Blue Jays will finish up this season? With 24 games left in the season, they are going to have to play a lot better than they have in August to compete in the world series or it will be just another season of disappointment! Stay tuned.



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SPORTS

GOLD RUSH TAKE THIRD AT FASTBALL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Gold Rush wrapped up their season with a third place finish at the Westman Ladies Fastball League tournament.

The team went 2-1 at the event in Carberry on Aug. 23. The Gold Rush defeated Brandon, 7-6, in the third-place game.

"Overall, we were hitting really well all day, and our pitchers ... were throwing the best they had all season. I think that's why we ended up being so successful," said Gold Rush player Adelle Gervin, who noted the pitching staff included Julie Mathieson, Julie Paradine, Avery Ramsey, and herself.

The Gold Rush compete in the WLFL West, which also includes Hartney, Deloraine, Hamiota and Moosomin. The league's East division includes Wawanessa, Killarney, Brandon, Carberry and, new this year, Swan Lake. Virden placed third in the West during the regular season.

At the league tournament, the Gold Rush beat Killarney, 3-0. Gervin said, "Our first game was 0-0 until Kaylin Hall hit a home run to score the only three runs of the game, despite having runners on base every inning." In the second contest, the Virden team lost to Swan Lake.

That set up the third-place contest against Brandon. Virden took an early 5-0 lead. Brandon came back to knot things up at 5-5. The Gold Rush took a 7-5 lead and hung on for a 7-6 victory.

Swan Lake, which won the East, took home the title in its first season. The West champs, Hamiota, finished second.

Playing its regular season contests on Thursday nights, the Gold Rush competed in a condensed season this summer.

"Our season is always super short, as we don't get to start until July when Virden Minor Ball wraps up, but this season has been even shorter than normal as we have had to cancel two games because of smoke, which we have never had to do before," Gervin said.

A highlight of the season for the team was playing under the lights in Moosomin. Mathieson said, "It was a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Virden Golden Rush finished third in the Westman Ladies Fastball League tournament.

great night in Moosomin. They are a competitive team and playing under the lights is nostalgic from when I was younger."

The Gold Rush have had a strong core of players the past few years. They enjoy the game and each other's company. Mathieson said that she loves to pitch and has been doing it for more than 30 years.

"The pitching mound is my second home," she said. "Life can always change on you but the pitching mound and the game remains the same - my constant. I've always been blessed to have amazing teammates - which continues to make ball so fun. It's a great night out with the girls."

To its veteran core, the Gold Rush have added some young talent. Gervin said, "We have quite a few young girls on the team this year that were excited to start playing ladies ball once

they turned 18 and were eligible. It is really exciting to see some of the girls that I used to coach in U17 joining the team and playing alongside me. There aren't many sports that you can play on a team with women ages 18-40, but we have a great time together and wouldn't have it any other way."

She noted that other teams have also added young players. This has resulted in the league becoming "more competitive than its ever been," Gervin said.

The Gold Rush believes in giving back to the game. Mathieson estimated that at least half of the team has been involved in coaching the next generation of players. This past season she coached the Virden Minor Ball U9 girls.

Lions Club Donations Part 4



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Barry O'Grady presenting a donation to MS Society, accepted by Mona Bates on May 28. Over the next sixteen weeks we will be showing all the wonderful donations made by the Virden Lions Club to different organizations.

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SPORTS

THE VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS FALL CAMP



The game is over. Everyone gathered together for a photo after the Garry Cup intrasquad game on Sunday, August 31.

PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

continued from page 1

The Oil Capitals play in Portage on Sept. 8 and then face the Terriers the next day at home.

The Virden team wraps up its exhibition slate with two games against the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Estevan Bruins. The Oil Caps are in Estevan on Sept. 12 and compete in Virden on Sept. 13.

The Oil Caps' first regular season game is Sept. 19 on the road against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. The Virden team's home opener is the next night against the Wolverines.

Hoilett Joins

Forward London Hoilett has joined the Oil Caps from the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants. The 2005-born Winnipegger had four goals and 11 points in 50 games last season. He split the last three campaigns between the Giants and the WHL's Calgary Hitmen. The multi-talented Hoilett releases music under the moniker Ty Kiddo.

Goalie Added

The Virden team added veteran goalie Braxton Burdeny from the Winnipeg Monarchs in exchange for forward Maxx Hamelin. Last season the 2005-

born Burdeny, who is from Winnipeg, had a 5.25 goals against average for the then named Winnipeg Freeze. Hamelin, a 2007-born player from Winnipeg, had seven goals and 20 points in 41 games for Virden as a rookie last season.

Andrew to Norfolk

Hometown product and former Oil Caps forward Tanner Andrew has signed to play for the ECHL's Norfolk (Va.) Admirals. After completing his career at the Rochester Institute of Technology, the son of Brock and Andrea Andrew played four games for the Admirals last season. He recorded an assist.

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SUCCESSFUL SOFTBALL SUMMER FOR VIRDEN'S HADLEY ROBERTSON

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The daughter of Mark and Karla Robertson earned a silver medal at the Softball Canada U15 Canadian Championship. She helped the Central Energy team, which picked her up, to a second place finish as the host team at the prestigious Aug. 13-17 event in Winkler and Morden. That success followed Robertson contributing to the U15 AAA Westman Magic's Western Canadian championship in Calgary.

"It was an honour to be asked to play with another team at nationals," Robertson said. "Central's goal was to make it to the top 12. For us to have won a silver medal is amazing. It was very unexpected; but the way the team played, we definitely earned it. Winning a medal at nationals and Westerns in the same year is like a once in a lifetime opportunity."

At nationals, Central Energy were thrilled to have the hard-throwing pitcher on their side.

"Hadley throws a great fastball and deadly change-up," coach Kyn Shindle said. "However, her greatest strength is her mind. She's a very calm presence while on the mound. Hadley never gets down while pitching, she always has a smile on her face. She was willing to

step up in big moments for us and pitch her way out of tough games. She was the perfect addition to our Energy squad for the nationals."

In addition to her pitching prowess, Robertson made an impact with her personality. Kyn Shindle said she was the team's "loudest cheerer on the bench."

"She stayed positive the entire week and kept our entire team cool, calm and collected," the coach said. "She was the first one out to give high fives to our players each inning as the defence came in. She is only a first-year U15 player and was able to have a huge impact on the diamond this entire season with both the U15 Westman Magic and the U15 Central Energy."

Robertson enjoyed the high level competition of the national tournament.

"It felt like any team could win any game after round robin was done," she said. "It was the best of the best and they were all very good. After round robin, we were in a must win situation or we were eliminated. The coaches had told us we had to win six games to win the gold medal and we managed to win five of them. Five out of six of these games ended up either going into extra innings or had us winning by one

run going into the last inning. In the final, we were up 1-0 until Fraser Valley Fusion took their last at bat in the bottom of the seventh and we lost 2-1."

Robertson did not know any of her Central Energy teammates personally before joining the team. She had competed against some of them in softball and hockey. However, Robertson indicated the transition from foe to teammate was not difficult.

"It was really easy to join the team because the girls and coaches were so welcoming and inclusive,"



PHOTO BY ZACH PETERS

Hadley Robertson threw heat at the U15 Canadian Softball Championship.

she said. "They are a tight group and they made me feel like I fit right in. I had a pretty good year pitching for the Magic, and Central had a couple of injured pitchers, so I was picked up to pitch for them."

It was a busy summer of softball for Robertson. The support of her parents to make that happen means a lot to her.

"They have travelled many miles to get me to and from the ball diamonds," Robertson said. "I am thankful for all the hours they spent with me pitching in the backyard. They never put pressure on me; they just want me to go out there and try my best and they're always proud of me no matter what the outcome is that day."

CHARLES HELPS TEAM MANITOBA TO FIFTH-PLACE FINISH

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Kendall Charles helped Team Manitoba cap its time at the Canada Summer Games with a victory.

The daughter of Joel and Dori Charles was part of the provincial women's softball team that placed fifth at the Summer Games in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador in August. Team Manitoba defeated Quebec, 5-3, in the fifth place contest.

"It was nice to finish with a win after two years of playing for Team Manitoba," Charles said. "Us girls have been working for this for so long and even though we didn't get the outcome we had hoped for, ending on a win was a great way to close the chapter."

The next chapter in Charles' softball story will take her to Wahpeton, N.D. Charles is studying and playing softball at the North Dakota State College of Science. Before heading south, the Virden Collegiate Institute graduate appreciated the opportunity to play in the Summer Games and share that experience with her parents.

"My mom and dad came out to St. John's and it meant the world to me," Charles said. "This was the last time that they got to watch me play before I went to college so it was special for all of us."

She was an important contributor in the outfield for Team Manitoba at the Summer Games. Of Charles, head coach Dwight Heppner said, "She is an intelligent athlete with a high IQ for the game. She's an exceptionally sound player defensively and a consistently tough out at the plate."

Team Manitoba was 3-2 in pool play. In the qualification round, it went 1-1. That set up the fifth-place game against Quebec. Charles embraced playing against top-notch talent. She said, "The competition was hard as every province had its best players on the field."

Charles enjoyed various aspects of her Canada Summer Games experience. She said, "I enjoyed meeting new people and getting to see some old teammates from other provinces."

Women's softball was played in the first week



PHOTO BY LISA SOLOMON

Kendall Charles was an important part of Team Manitoba at the Canada Summer Games

of the Summer Games. This gave Charles the opportunity to attend the opening ceremonies.

"It was very cool to see some local bands and officials," she said. "I was kinda in awe the whole time."

During the Summer Games, forest fires burned in the province. Charles said "The smoke didn't affect our venue, but it did affect some sports and they had to move to new venues."

The Summer Games wrapped up Charles' two-year stint on the provincial team. It provided her the opportunity to experience a variety of competition, people and places. For example, Team Manitoba went undefeated and won gold at a tournament in Macks Creek, Mo. At the Canada Cup in Surrey, B.C., the squad's competition included a U18 team from Chinese Taipei.

"I enjoyed playing with girls that I had competed against over the past six years in the MPSL (Manitoba Premier Softball League)," Charles said of her time with Team Manitoba. "And I enjoyed making new friends and new memories."



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES MUNICIPALITY OF TWO BORDERS

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 1st day of **October, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at Municipality of Two Borders, 138 Main Street, Melita MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
21300	LOTS 7 8 9 AND 10 BLOCK 4 PLAN 15 BLTO (BO DIV) EXC OUT OF SAID LOTS 9 AND 10 ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN NW 1/4 21-1-28 WPM - 57 RAILWAY AVE, PIERSON	L - \$500 B - \$12,100	\$3,954.26
80900	LOT 11 BLOCK 5 PLAN 15 SR BLTO BO DIV IN SE 1/4 1-3-29 WPM - 25 BROADWAY ST, PIERSON	L - \$700 B - \$14,500	\$6,566.26

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

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

Dated this 18 day of August, 2025.

Managed by:



Grace Carr
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Two Borders
Phone: (204) 522-3263
Fax: (204) 522-8706

WILLIAMSON HANDLES FIRST BASE FOR TEAM MANITOBA

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Reston's Jamie Williamson enjoyed many aspects of his Canada Summer Games experience.

The son of Dallas and Terri Williamson played baseball for Team Manitoba at the Summer Games. The team placed sixth overall. The prestigious event was held Aug. 8-25 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

"I think the thing I enjoyed most about the Summer Games was just the environment, just knowing you're playing on a big stage was such a cool thing to notice," Williamson said. "I also really liked the Athletes Village and being surrounded by a bunch of other athletes and getting to talk with them."

Williamson was a key contributor for Team Manitoba. He was the squad's starting first baseman and hit in the middle of the order.

"He was the anchor of our infield defence at first base and was consistently a tough out at the plate," Team Manitoba head coach Cody Benson said. "He excelled at making opposing pitchers work hard to try to get him out."

Fellow Reston resident John Patmore was an assistant coach for Team Manitoba. Due to a family commitment, he did not attend the Summer Games.

"Through the summer John was a model of consistency on the coaching staff," Benson said. "Whether it be firing the team up when they needed motivation or making sure things were loose when they needed to relax, John knew what was needed and made sure it happened at the right times."

Many of Williamson's family members were able to attend the Summer Games and cheer him on.

"Seeing all my family there was such a confidence booster, and having my grandparents and even my grandparents' friends was super fun, but they were such a supportive group, and it felt like I always had someone cheering me on," he said.

At the Summer Games, Team Manitoba compiled a 2-2 record in pool play. In the quarterfinals, Manitoba lost to B.C., 4-2, and fell in the fifth/sixth-place game to Alberta, 4-0.

"The competition was very good," Williamson said. "I got to see a lot of good arms, and it was fun just having to face really good pitching."

He also enjoyed activities at the Summer Games

when he was not on the diamond. This included watching sports such as basketball, softball, and beach volleyball.

"I really enjoyed the opening ceremonies to kick everything off," Williamson said. "It was such a cool experience, and just the way of life and how different it is from ours. I went and watched a couple different sports, which was super cool to do because it is also a very high level of competition for those athletes, which made it fun to watch."



PHOTO BY NAT.PATTERSONPHOTOGRAPHY.
Reston's Jamie Williamson made big plays at first base for Team Manitoba at the Canada Summer Games.

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Press release: Ownership transfer of Oak River Co-op location underway

Blanshard CDC announces exciting new development opportunity for Oak River



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRIA GRACE, ADMIN ASSISANT, RM OF OAKVIEW

Oak River's food store building at 29, N Railway St.

Submitted RM OF OAKVIEW

Oak River, MB – The Blanshard Community Development Corporation (CDC) is pleased to announce the successful negotiation for transfer of ownership of the Valleyview Co-op location situated in Oak River. This significant milestone marks a new chapter for the community and lays the groundwork for future projects.

CDC representative Mark Humphries, CAO from the RM of Oakview expressed enthusiasm about the acquisition, stating, "The successful transfer will be a significant investment for the local CDC. This, hopefully, will lead to the economic development of a convenience store and coffee outlet in town."

Despite Co-op's reluctance to keep a presence in Oak River the CDC believes that an enthusiastic family run business will thrive in this friendly rural community.

Looking ahead, the Blanshard CDC is

committed to invigorating the Oak River community by seeking a local entrepreneur to establish a small coffee shop with a convenience store located within the newly acquired space. Blanshard CDC, supported by the RM Council of Oakview, plans to offer an attractive two-year lease, providing vital support for the new business to become established and thrive in the heart of Oak River.

All interested parties are encouraged to reach out for more information or to express interest in this exciting opportunity. Please contact the CDC through the RM office at:

10 Cochrane Street
Box 179
Oak River, MB R0K 1T0
Phone: 1-204-566-2146
Email: cao@rmof oakview.ca

The Blanshard CDC looks forward to working with community members and entrepreneurs to bring this new vision to life, supporting both local business growth and enhanced amenities for residents.

== CLASSIFIEDS ==

Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth for the year 2026 is available at the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth. It will be open for public inspection during regular business hours. The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications for revision of assessment on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, commencing at **10:00 a.m.** at the **R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Council Chambers**, 154023 P.R. 257, Virden, Manitoba (corner of 83 Hwy & PR257).

Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act which in part, are as follows:

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42 (1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114 (1) of the Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, the authorized agent of the person, mortgagee or occupier, or the Assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to the following matters:

- Liability to taxation;
- Amount of an assessed value;
- Classification of property; or
- Refusal by an Assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13 (2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43 (1) An application for revision must

- Be made in writing;
- Set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- Set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42 (1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- Be filed by:
 - Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41 (2) or
 - Serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

The board shall not consider applications which do not comply with the above.

The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Dated the 18th day of August, 2025.

R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
Board of Revision
Box 2200, Virden, MB R0M 2C0

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

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Thank-you

The family of Barry Nolan would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported us during this difficult time. Your kind words and comforting gestures have meant more than we can express.

To those who sent flowers, cards, food, and shared memories, thank you for honoring his life in such meaningful ways.

Special thanks to Dr. Aung and the staff of the Virden Hospital for their care of Barry and to Tanis Podobni for officiating the service.

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Obituary

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Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING GENERAL
BORROWING (LEASING)
BY-LAW NO. 130/2025
TO PAY FOR A SHARP BP70C31
ADVANCED SERIES COLOUR
DOCUMENT SYSTEM

The Council of the Municipality of Two Borders has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber at 138 Main Street, Melita on September 18, 2025 at 10:30 am to present the following proposal:

The lease of a Sharp BP70C31 Advanced series colour document system

The total estimated cost of the lease term is \$6,771.00 (\$112.85 monthly for 60 months)

The borrowing will be repaid over 5 years at a rate of 7.52% interest.

The annual repayment amount will be no more than \$1,354.20 to be levied annually as part of the general municipal levy.

At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the proposal.

Further information / inquiries / copies of the proposal are available at the municipal office located at 138 Main St., Melita, MB.

Dated at the Municipality of Two Borders this 5th day of September, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1(1) of The Municipal Act.

Grace Carr
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Two Borders

PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING GENERAL
BORROWING (LEASING)
BY-LAW NO.129/2025
TO PAY FOR A SHARP BP70C31
ADVANCED SERIES COLOUR
DOCUMENT SYSTEM

The Council of the Municipality of Two Borders has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber at 138 Main Street, Melita on September 18, 2025 at 10:15 am to present the following proposal:

The lease of a Sharp BP70C31 Advanced series colour document system

The total estimated cost of the lease term is \$8,700.00 (\$145.00 monthly for 60 months)

The borrowing will be repaid over 5 years at a rate of 7.52% interest.

The annual repayment amount will be no more than \$1,740.00 to be levied annually as part of the general municipal levy.

At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the proposal.

Further information / inquiries / copies of the proposal are available at the municipal office located at 138 Main St., Melita, MB.

Dated at the Municipality of Two Borders this 5th day of September, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1(1) of The Municipal Act.

Grace Carr
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Two Borders

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
UTILITY OPERATOR

Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the permanent full-time position of **Utility Operator** at the Virden Municipal Office.

The Utility Operator reports to the Utility Manager and will be responsible for providing support for the water treatment; distribution operations; and wastewater systems within the Municipality, until they are certified to manage the systems on their own. This is a unionized position.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Support Distribution Operators and Water Treatment Plant Managers
- Perform general maintenance tasks on a regular basis
- Do daily checks on the booster stations (distribution systems) and Water Treatment Plants (WTP), when trained to do so
- Read and record data from the booster stations, WTP and supply wells
- Complete reports on Word, Excel and other computer software
- Operate flush outs on distribution system
- Assist during water breaks and line locates, as needed
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- High school graduate at minimum
- A Class I or II Certification in one or all the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Program from the Province of Manitoba is an asset OR be willing to complete the courses and certification necessary to work on the water & wastewater system through the Manitoba Environment and Climate Change Certification Program
- Holds a valid Class 5.0 Driver's License
- Able to work shifts and on call weekends
- Proficient with computer applications – Microsoft Office products including Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- Computer experience in GPS equipment, ArcMap software, GIS data collection, and Google earth is an asset
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail, thoroughness, and organizational skills are required
- Any mechanical trades experience or mechanical work experience would be considered an asset
- Physically capable of walking through rough terrain

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK

Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the permanent full-time position of Accounts Payable Clerk at the Virden Municipal Office. The Accounts Payable Clerk reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and will be responsible for providing financial support to the CAO and the CFO.

Description and Qualifications

- Receive, process, verify, and reconcile invoices, statements, and refund requisitions, etc. - in compliance with the existing financial policies and procedures of the Municipality
- Process all approved invoices into the municipal accounting software, Muniware ensuring accurate coding and description entry
- Produce various financial statements and verify vendor accounts by reconciling monthly statements and related transactions
- Compile files for inventory and Asset Management purposes
- Ensure positive vendor relationships acting as a representative of the Municipality
- Cross training to provide other financial and administrative support ie. semi-monthly payroll; grant applications; position coverage for LUD offices and reception, as needed
- Active role in the Municipal Safety Program
- Uphold a strict level of confidentiality
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Attention to detail, thoroughness, and organizational skills are required
- Minimum 1-year previous experience as an Accounts Payable Clerk is preferred
- High school graduate at minimum; post-secondary education in a related field, would be considered an asset
- Demonstrated proficiency with computer applications – Microsoft Office products including Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- Experience with the Muniware Accounting Program – would be considered an asset
- Must be self-motivated who is able to complete data entry independently
- Customer service and negotiation skills
- Completion of the Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be considered an asset

OTHER OPENINGS LISTED:

- LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT ~ HARGRAVE & KOLA
- COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGER
- PUBLIC WORKS STAFF POSITION

Interested candidates should submit a resume with 3 references by:

E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office

154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB R0M 2C0

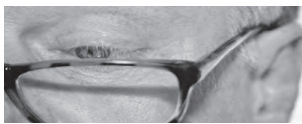
We appreciate your interest in this position.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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

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

BE SEEN



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IN THE
Virden
Empire-Advance

CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
HEATHER ANNE WALKER
NOVEMBER 27, 1944 – AUGUST 20, 2025



Heather Anne Walker of Brandon, formerly of Reston, passed away at Brandon Regional Health Centre Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in her 81st year. She was the beloved wife of the late Glen Walker and devoted mother to Arnold, Janet, and Carolyn.

Born November 27, 1944, in Virden, MB, Heather was the eldest child of George and Ethel Pringle. She was raised on the family farm at Hillview alongside her siblings Marg and Jim, where she developed lasting memories of her childhood. Heather completed her education at Hillview School and Reston High School.

On February 10, 1962, Heather married Glen Walker. Together they raised three children—Arnold, Janet, and Carolyn. The family resided in Reston until 1972 before relocating to the Walker family farm at Linklater, where they had already begun farming in 1968. In 1976, they moved a short distance down the road and remained there until 1992.

Heather's career included employment at Morrow's Pharmacy in Reston from 1970-1972, followed by Gary's M&M food store. In 1983, Heather began working at Reston Collegiate Institute as an Educational Assistant and later as a Guidance Counselor, serving until 1995. Subsequently, she owned and operated Reston Creemee until 1999, after which she joined Glen at G&M Farm Service as Bookkeeper until 2002. She and dad worked hard to create a successful business that doubled as a coffee shop and also sold Christmas trees. Throughout these years, Heather actively contributed to the family farm, cultivating a large garden and raising poultry with Glen, ensuring an abundant supply of food at home.

Heather, an active Anglican Church member, volunteered extensively and helped with the thrift store and ACW initiatives by organizing, cooking, and baking. Sunday family suppers were a cherished tradition rarely missed. She was active in Al Anon, forming many enduring friendships.

After Glen's passing in 2008, Heather remained in Reston until 2011 when she made the courageous decision to move to Brandon to be closer to her grandchildren and to participate more fully in their lives. She regularly attended their sporting events and continued to host family gatherings, maintaining traditions established well before her move.

Following a hemorrhagic stroke on July 27, 2022, Heather demonstrated remarkable determination and resilience in her recovery, eventually moving to Riverheights Terrace. There, she formed new friendships and enjoyed gardening and group activities. On August 19th, she suffered a second stroke from which she did not recover.

Heather is fondly remembered for her strength, independence, positivity, and unwavering commitment to her family. She valued time spent with her children and grandchildren, consistently fostering family unity and hospitality.

Heather is survived by her children Arnold Walker, Janet Jago, and Carolyn Walker; grandchildren Justin Bloomer (Brittany), Alex (Kyle) Burdy, Nolan (Cc) Jago, Tanner Jago (Shelby Tarr), Kenzie, Madison, and Haley Blaine; great-grandchildren Anikan, Hadley, and Maddox Burdy, Walker and Scottie Jago; brother Jim Pringle; sisters-in-law Donna (Ron) Otteson, Carroll Walker, Joanne Fisher; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Heather was predeceased by her husband Glen Walker, son-in-law Dean Jago, granddaughter Carissa, sister Marg, brothers-in-law Bob Froese, Ron and Bob Walker and sister-in-law Jane Pringle.

A funeral service was held at R.E.S. Centre, Reston, MB, Friday, August 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Interment was in Reston Cemetery.

For those who so desire, memorial tributes in Heather's name may be directed to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Manitoba.

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



IN LOVING MEMORY
GERTRUDE DAVIS



Gertrude Davis, beloved wife of the late Tom Davis, and cherished mother of Shirley (Don Angus), passed away peacefully at West Man Personal Care Home in Virden on August 19, 2025 at age of 94 years.

A Celebration of Life for Gert was held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at Carscadden Funeral Chapel, Virden.

She was predeceased by her husband Tom; infant grandson Todd; parents Holly & Ella Dunphy; parents-in-law Walter & Emma Davis; brothers Danny & Glen Dunphy; brother-in-law Henry Mayert, sisters-in-law & brothers-in-law Dora (Felix) Langlois, Bertha (Carl) Bachinski.

Gert is lovingly remembered by her daughter Shirley (Don Angus); granddaughter Andrea (Craig Hohne); grandson Troy Angus (Andrea); great-grandsons Rylan & Parker Hohne, and Axten Angus. She is also survived by her sisters Shirley (Orme) Reid and Wanda (the late Henry) Mayert as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Family meant everything to Gert, and she shared her love of life with everyone she met. She was known for her quick wit, warm smile, and genuine interest in others – always asking “what’s new?” and reminding visitors to “come again soon.” Her home was a place of laughter, kindness, and wonderful food. Her chocolate cake with icing, roast beef with gravy, and lemon and pumpkin pies are treasured memories for those who gathered around her table.

A proud community volunteer, Gert contributed to Pipestone fall suppers, luncheons, and special events, and she enjoyed reading the newspaper to residents at the Lodge in Reston. She also loved traveling to visit her siblings in Alberta and British Columbia.

Her happiest moments were spent with her grandchildren. Whether picking strawberries, searching for arrowheads, colouring pussy willows, dancing or going for rides in the half-ton through the ravine and farm fields, Gert created lasting memories. She always had raisins in her pocket for little helpers in the yard or garden, and she delighted in attending choir performances, festivals, curling games, hockey matches, and of course, birthday parties.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to honour Gert's memory by sharing an act of kindness with others or by donating to a charity of your choice.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff of Virden Hospital & West Man Personal Care Home for the care, compassion, and respect shown to Mum throughout her stay.

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Tenancy

Tenancy Opportunity:
Oak River Convenience Store & Coffee Shop

Lease Available at 29 North Railway Street, Oak River, MB R0K 1T0

Now Leasing: Oak River Convenience Store

A unique opportunity has become available for prospective tenants interested in operating the Oak River Convenience Store and Coffee Shop, located at 29 North Railway Street, Oak River, Manitoba, R0K 1T0.

- Prime Location: Situated in the heart of Oak River, this well-established store is a cornerstone of the local community, frequented by residents and visitors alike.
- Flexible Lease Terms: Applicants may apply for a two-year initial tenancy. Upon successfully meeting all conditions throughout the initial term, tenants will have the opportunity to enter a subsequent five-year lease.
- An opportunity to purchase the property is also available.
- Ideal For: Individuals or businesses seeking to run a thriving convenience store/ coffee outlet in a welcoming rural setting.
- Community Support: Join a supportive environment with loyal customers and potential for growth.

How to Apply

Interested parties are invited to apply in writing to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Rural Municipality of Oak View.

- Application Method:
- Request information on lease.
- Please submit your application in writing.
- Contact: Chief Administrative Officer, Rural Municipality of Oak View
- Address: 10 Cochrane Street, Oak River MB R0K 1T0
- cao@rmofoakview.ca 1-204-566-2146

For More Information

- Contact the Chair of The Blanshard CDC or CAO of The RM of Oakview on 1-204-566-2146 for details on the initial term of tenancy. Including the CDC's subsidized business startup rent agreement.

Application Information

Your application should include:

- Relevant business experience
- References
- A brief outline of your intended store operations.

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to become an integral part of the Oak River community. Apply today to secure your lease!

Announcement



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- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
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- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at 204.947.1691 or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

Coming Events



FORT LA BOSSE
SCHOOL DIVISION
FUEL TENDER

Fort La Bosse School Division invites sealed tenders by the undersigned for clear diesel fuel and regular unleaded gasoline for Oct 1, 2025, to Sept 30, 2026. The tender closes at noon, Friday, Sept 19th, 2025. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Fuel tender pricing is to be submitted using the information provided in the Fuel Tender Form located in the Recent Posts section of the Fort La Bosse School Division website at www.flbsd.mb.ca. Tenders may be submitted for delivery to Fort La Bosse bulk storage tanks as specified or for supplier card locks or retail outlets in any or all the communities listed in the form.

Sealed tenders clearly marked “FUEL TENDER” may be sent to:

Mark Johnston
Supervisor of Operations
P. O. Box 1420
Virden, MB
R0M 2C0
Phone 204-748-2692
Fax 204-748-2436
mark.johnston@flbsd.mb.ca



Brandon's Largest Indoor
Garage Sale Fall Edition
Saturday
September 20, 2025
9:00am – 3:00pm
MB Room, Keystone Centre
Tables \$35.00 each, Tables
with Electricity \$40.00
(limited)
Admission \$3.00, children
under 12 free
50/50 draw

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Auctions

Online McSherry
Auctions

Estate & Moving
Sept 10th @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
Sept 17th @ 7:00PM

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Sept 23rd @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

Online McSherry
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Floor Company
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Sept. 16 @ 7: 00 PM

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From the Prairies to the Highlands, tour 204

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

About a year ago, there were some thoughts about going to Scotland. Before we knew it, fifteen people from Manitoba and Saskatchewan jumped at the opportunity to go on this trip. The group consisted of family and friends.

Plans were made initiating our trip to Scotland. Tour 204 was formed. We also had hoodies or T-shirts purchased. We had a Manitoba license plate crest with 204, our area code put on the front of it. On the back was the phrase, from the prairies to the highlands.

There will be several articles about our trip, because there is so much to tell. I cannot begin to share all I saw, but I will give it the old college try!

Scotland for me was absolutely breathtaking and I will share some of the highlights of the trip. First, I must lay some groundwork before the trip.

Dr. Devon Caldwell of Kenton organized the trip for us. She spent countless hours planning for the fourteen other passengers to experience this trip of a lifetime. If I never get to travel on another trip, this one was over the moon for me and always will be.

How hard is it to plan a trip for fifteen people? I could not even begin to undertake such a task. Dr. Devon did it! She organized the flights, the air B and Bs, hotels, restaurants, pubs, golf course, castles, ruins, boat excursions guides and oh, did I mention pubs? Dr. Caldwell organized it all! Thankyou just does not seem like enough to say at this time, but it is all I can do for now.

We left Kenton at 8:30 on August 5, driving to Winnipeg where we hopped on a WestJet plane and flew to Toronto. Following a 4 hour wait at Toronto, we left for Scotland at 10:30 pm. It was a six plus hour flight and Scotland is six hours ahead of our time, so it was about lunch time when we arrived in Edinburgh.

Devon had rented a seventeen-passenger tour bus, so we

About a year ago, there were some thoughts about going to Scotland. Before



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Standing outside the Ladywell house. Princess Diana's Mom's House now an Air B and B. Left to right back row: Eric Berg, Shane Hunter, Julie Fietz, Todd Hunter; Middle row: Leith Corney, Devon Caldwell, Debbie Hunter, Chris Sutherland, Les Sutherland; Front Row: Donald Caldwell, Bowen Thornitt, Brin Thornitt, Freya Thornitt, Celia Nolan and Gerry Nolan.

loaded up our one carry-on suitcase plus one personnel bag onto the van and headed out on our journey.

We left Edinburgh and made our way to our first lunch stop at The Swan in Minishant. After lunch, we went to a supermarket and purchased breakfast and snacks as we

had to wait to get to The Lady Coates Memorial church, our first Air B and B. The church was built in 1877 by Sir Walter Coates for his wife, It was a non-denominational church. This would turn out to be our favourite place to stay, and next week I will tell you why.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

A Huge Thank You

to the following for all of your hard work in making the 35th Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze weekend such an amazing success:

- Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze Committee
- Virden Community Chamber of Commerce
- Junior and High School Rodeo Committee
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 8
- Corex Resources
- Valleyview Co-Op Virden
- Parade Marshall Herb Warkentin & Wallace District Fire Station #1
- Virden Demolition Derby Committee
- Town of Virden staff

and to all of the other organizations, businesses, sponsors and volunteers who assisted and played such an important role in showcasing our community and making this weekend one to be remembered!!

A special thank you to all the competitors for making this year's Rodeo so exciting and action-packed, and to everyone from within the Community and beyond, who attended and supported the event over the four days.

Thank you,

Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Savy, Councillors Cruickshank, Dunning, Grumpelt, Maxwell and Penner



Employment Opportunities We're Hiring!

Chief Administrative Officer

For more info or to apply to this opportunity, contact Jen Sklar at Harris Leadership Strategies at jen@harrisleadership.com, quoting "Project #26103"

Economic Development Manager

Please visit www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities for additional information.

Winter Ice

Available for Booking

2025/2026 Winter Season Ice is available to book at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Time slots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For available times or pricing information,
contact bookings@virden.ca, or check the Facility Calendar at:
<https://app.univerusrec.com/virdenpub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>



School Zone Reminder

Reduced speed limits in school zones are **in effect** as of September 1.

Please remember to travel safely in and around school zones.

Upcoming Council Meeting
September 16 and 23
Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

SPORTS

OILDOME WINS 13U WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP



PHOTO BY ASHLEY FRY

The Oildome team had a big comeback to win the 13U Western Canadian Baseball Championship.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With four local players contributing, Oildome went undefeated to win the 13U Western Canadian Baseball Championship. Virden's Tyler Warkentin and Oak Lake's Wyatt Cochrane of Virden Minor Ball and Jake Sterling and Asher Gray of Reston Minor Ball all suited up for the successful regional team. In St. Albert, Alta., on Aug. 15-17, Oildome was 4-0 in pool play and then staged a dramatic seventh-inning comeback to win the championship tilt.

"It was fun being able to play at Westerns with my teammates," Sterling said. "It was neat having all of us being from small towns across southwest Manitoba and being able to travel to Alberta to play together. It was great having my family there all weekend with me. It was a great way to end the ball season winning Westerns."

Head coach Bryan Swaenepoel said what allowed the team to succeed at Westerns was it was "A really close group of kids who trust in each other's abilities." Of the prestigious event, Warkentin said he enjoyed the competitiveness of the baseball played there and being a part of the team.

All four local players pitched for Oildome. In addition, Cochrane and Gray played in the outfield. Warkentin and Sterling were used in the infield. Swaenepoel said that all were excellent teammates.

The Oildome squad opened its tournament tangling with the Richmond (B.C.) Chuckers. The Manitoba team prevailed, 13-12. On the same day, Oildome defeated the host St. Albert Cardinals AA Red, 19-9.

The next afternoon they beat Saskatchewan's Southern Aces, 12-2. Oildome wrapped up its spot in the finals with a 9-7 win over Alberta's Olds Spitfires AA Black.

Oildome met the Chuckers in the finals. The Manitoba squad trailed by four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning. It scored five runs in the frame to come back to win 10-9.

The Oildome squad won the Baseball Manitoba Tier II 13U AAA Provincial Championship earlier this summer. This qualified them for the AA Western Canadians. Reflecting on his time with the Oildome team this season, Gray said:

"My coaches and teammates made it awesome and exciting to be at the ball park. My team was very good.

The trip to Westerns was the best. I love baseball and it was awesome to play on this team. I enjoyed pitching. I can't wait to pitch in a game again wearing the Oildome jersey just like my Dad (Derrus) did for many years."

Cochrane All-Star

Cochrane was one of five players from the Oildome area selected for Baseball Manitoba's new 13U All-Star event. In Winnipeg on Aug. 21-24, the players spent time doing skill development and learned about fitness, nutrition, and sports psychology. They were also split into teams and competed.

You are *invited*

Unpack the Christian faith together.

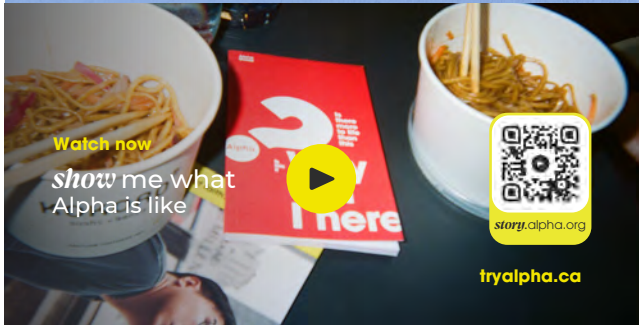
Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.

Offered free of charge in Virden for 12 Tuesdays starting September 16 at 6:30 pm.

Venue will be announced once group size is determined.

Register or inquire at alphavirden@outlook.com. Tell us about any food allergies or similar concerns.

Hope to see you there!



18U MIDWEST EARN SILVER AT WESTERNS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The 18U Midwest baseball team came home from the AA Western Canadian Championship in St. Albert, Alta. with the silver medals.

The team was coached by Miniota's Trevor Lewis. His and his wife Marcie's son Aiden was a member of the squad. The team won the Tier II AAA Provincial tournament to earn a spot in the Western Canadians.

"Our success at both provincials and westerns

started with quality pitching," Trevor said. "Our pitching staff did a great job of maximizing their pitches and utilizing our defence, which was also solid in both tournaments. Along with that, our offence did a great job too. Hitting can be difficult at times at these levels but our players were persistent with their approach and made the opposing pitchers have to work hard for their outs. We got hitting up and down the line up and didn't rely on just one or two guys."

Aiden played third base for Midwest in Alberta. At the provincial tournament, he was used as a catcher and third baseman. Aiden has committed to study and play at Okanagan College in Kelowna, B.C.

Trevor pointed out it was a successful summer at the Western Canadians for western Manitoba teams. The 13U Oildome team won gold. The 15U Midwest team also won its tournament. All three tournaments took place Aug. 15-17 in St. Albert.

TUNDRA OIL & GAS



BACKING OUR COMMUNITY

Pipestone Handivan

Chris Masson and Avery Brigden (Tundra), Jersey Long (Kingston), presenting to Pipestone Handivan representatives Wyatt Ramsay, Evelyn Fotheringham and Eleanor Tamilowicz

THE 4TH ANNUAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER

SAT. 6TH, 2025

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Canine Circus

Sponsored By Fusion Credit Union & RM of Sifton

Heavy Truck and Car Show

Sponsored & Organized by Dirty Word Customs

Oak Lake



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Haulin' Axe

Sponsored by Valleyview Coop & MBL

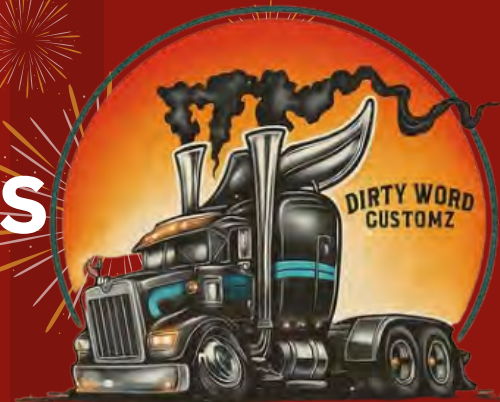
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Farmer's Market



Treat Truck



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