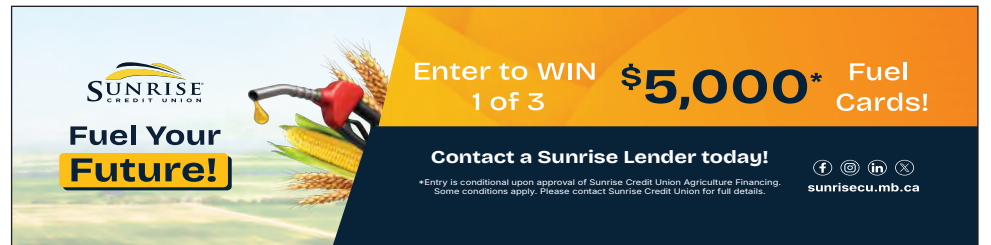


# Empire-Advance

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SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 4 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 6 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS



## Health Auxiliary thrilled to see equipment in use



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Hammell (left) and members of Virden & District Health Auxiliary, with the ultrasound purchased through donations from local communities for use in Virden hospital.

**Submitted**  
BY LAURA WRIGHT

For nearly 120 years, the Virden and District Health Auxiliary's mission has been to enrich the comfort of those in the care of the Virden Health Centre, the Sherwood Home and the West-Man Personal Care Home. Since 1906, the members of the Auxiliary have worked selflessly to secure funding to provide necessary equipment and the "little extras" that make patients' and residents' lives a bit more comfortable at each of these three facilities.

Looking back on the past year, we are pleased with what we have accomplished. With the overwhelming support of service groups and the people of Virden and its surrounding areas, we were able to raise in record time, the funds needed to purchase an ultrasound machine for our hospital. It arrived in June and is already being put to good use by the doctors in our facility. Recently, we received word that the long-awaited LUCAS chest

compression system has also been delivered to our hospital. These two pieces of equipment will enhance the care provided by the Virden Health Centre.

Being a part of the Virden and District Health Auxiliary is extremely rewarding and represents volunteerism at its finest. When a member of an organization can look back and say, "We provided that item or that service that helped improve the lives of the people of our community," it is done with humble pride, as none of what we do could be attained without the overwhelming generosity of the people in our area. How lucky we are to have such support!

The Virden and District Health Auxiliary meet once a month from September – June. If you would like to join this valuable volunteer organization, or if you would like more information about how you can help, please contact Auxiliary President Thelma Quinn at tkquinn@rfnw.com or by phone at 204-851-6150.

## Inside...



MEET SOME OF  
THE OIL CAPS  
VOLUNTEERS **P9**



OAK LAKE  
HARVEST  
FESTIVAL **P13**



**2025**  
**Jeep Grand Cherokee L Altitude**  
Was: \$67,465  
Savings: -\$5,060  
**Now: \$62,405**

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**2025**  
**Jeep Grand Cherokee Altitude**  
Was: \$66,955  
Savings: -\$5,022  
**Now: \$61,933**



# End of summer garden contest turned out beautifully



Winner of best business garden Mary Montgomery School.

By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The judges headed out again for another round of gardens nominated in the end of summer garden contest held by Vibrant Virden. Their goal, to see who worked the hardest and put in the most effort to create the most Vibrant Virden gardens for all to see. The judges went out August 27 and went to all ten nominated properties.

There was only one entry for the fruit and vegetable category, but it was an amazing garden very worthy of the win regardless, and the winner was Scallion Creek Community Garden. Helen McCormick is the chairman of the committee for the Community Garden said “many thanks go to the gardeners who create and maintain their own private gardens along with helping in the community section. Your hard work and efforts are noticed! Special thanks to Sid Warkentin for his dedication in maintaining the gardens, water system



Winner of best general/flower garden Maxine Routledge.

and his special handcrafted “weed” eater. Works like a charm!”. The community garden section is open for everyone to enjoy and take part in. They gather once a week to weed, water, and maintain the space together. If anyone would like to get involved, simply send an email to [scallioncreektrail@gmail.com](mailto:scallioncreektrail@gmail.com), and they will be sure to contact you when it’s time to harvest this year.

There were five general/flower entries with the winner being Maxine Routledge. Maxine was surprised she was selected. It was late in the season and thought the garden was better in July but she was very happy that she won. She used her grass mulch to keep the weeds down. Her garden is a good mix of annuals and perennials. Maxine’s favourite thing to do every spring is go to the greenhouses, she visited a few this year and every year.

There were four business entries for the business front gardens and the winner was Mary Montgomery School. Judging is based on overall aesthetic, maintenance,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Winner of best fruit and vegetable garden Scallion Creek Community Garden.

abundance, uniformity, variety, size and pollinator presence. The overall way it makes the judge feel is also taken into consideration.

The 2025 Miracle-Gro Best Garden Selection by Scotts Canada provided the prizes to Vibrant Virden that was given out to the best garden winners.

The committee is looking forward to next season to see more beautiful gardens in Virden.

## BIRDTAIL ATHLETE CONNOR HANSKA TOP-10 GOLF CHAMPION

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Nine-year-old Connor Hanska’s day spent on Oak Island Golf course were for the joy of golfing, but also in preparation for a world competition. The youth from Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation returned in early August from Northern Ireland where he competed against 250 of the world’s best junior golfers from over 40 countries. At the end of the three-day world championship, Connor scored 10th in his age category.

The 2025 Champion of Champions World Championship tournament was held at the Lough Erne Resort Golf Course, in Enniskillen and Connor competed in tournaments throughout the 2024 season to earn a spot in the 2025 Championship.

It was a family journey. Connor’s father Doug Hanska and his mom, Destiny Jackson, travelled to Ireland to help the young player with logistics like booking practice times.

Connor is coached by his older brother Bryce and was inspired by his father Doug. “To place top ten it’s pretty surreal,” his dad told APTN reporter Cierra Bettens. “We’re still taking it in and trying to process it.”

Connor’s mom, Destiny, told CBC’s Stefan Richard that Connor has a special talent for golf, but he also has a champion’s mental strength. Jackson said, “I’m really impressed. I really don’t know how he has the mindset. . . . He practices every day. You have to have a whole different character to do something like that.”

Oak Island Golf is Connor’s home course where he and his family have spent hours. (Both Doug and Connor have been known to sink a hole-in-one at Oak Island.)

Course manager Des Koop has witnessed the youngster on the putting green. “Connor Hanska is probably one of the most dedicated golfers I’ve ever seen,” said Koop. “It’s amazing to see the concentration. He’s so focused.”

To Connor the game is still more important than the attention his success has brought and his dad said, “To him it’s just another round.”

But now, summer turning to fall brings a change of



PHOTO BY DOUG HANSKA JUNIOR FACEBOOK

Connor Hanska is sporting his medal from the 2025 Champion of Champions tournament.

focus for the young athlete. “As the golf season goes away Connor will now jump straight into hockey as he is playing in the HSL (Hockey Super League),” says Doug. “He’ll be playing hockey with the Queen City Young Guns Academy (Regina based private hockey academy competing in the HSL) out of Regina, Sask. It will run through the weekends.”

Looking forward, Doug says his son plans to play more junior golf next summer which all leads to qualifying opportunities. “He also plans to play some Golf Manitoba events with the older kids.”

Border Regional Library

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# Team Ropers roundup their 50th season

## MTRA competition in Virden



Team header Brock Brown is awarded a buckle and cash for his win in the U12 roping. Kyle Dalglish makes the presentation.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Team ropers enjoyed strong competition Sunday, Aug. 31 marking the 50-year anniversary of the Manitoba Team Ropers Association finals. The roping was held at Virden Agricultural

grounds and president of the association Ward Cutler noted this was a big event with 81 teams in the 12.5 category and 224 teams in the 8.5 category. The future of the sport looks bright with a new generation competing. There were 18 youth in U12 and 13 in U16. Winners in the 8.5

category were header Lucas Bevan and high point heeler, Carey Bevan. In the 12.5 category, the high point header was Bart Spencer and high point heeler was Riley Hay. Buckles, breastcollars and saddle pads along with cheques starting around \$3000 were



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Bodan Bond wins a draw for the MTRA 50th anniversary breastcollar presented by Justin Unrau. The piece was donated by Craig Becker Saddlery of Carberry.

presented in these categories. In U16 headers Chase Spencer and Bodan Bond ranked first and second. Heelers Kage Sandilands and Beckett Hainstock were first and second. Local youth led in the U12 roping. Headers Brock Brown, Kesler Brown and Leo King ranked first to third respectively and heelers Slone Brown, Garret Gompf and Peter Mandell were first to third. Reid Armstrong received the Most Improved Team Roper trophy.

# Lions Club Donations Part 5



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Paul Pennycook presenting a donation to Sherwood Nursing Home, accepted by Opal Hiebert and Angela Mathis on May 28. Over the next few weeks we will be showing all the wonderful donations made by the Virden Lions Club to different organizations.

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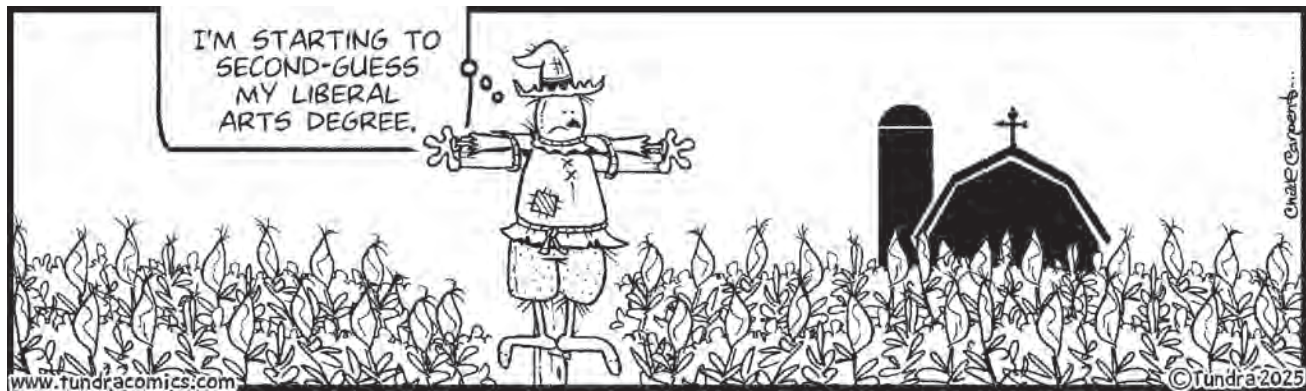
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Quiet is good

I was told by someone in the television industry that cable TV is dwindling. Once touted as the ultimate media in sports and entertainment, it appears that people are moving away from cable TV. Streaming services are the big thing, but I am not familiar with any of them. I did an online search and no less than 24 streaming services were identified.

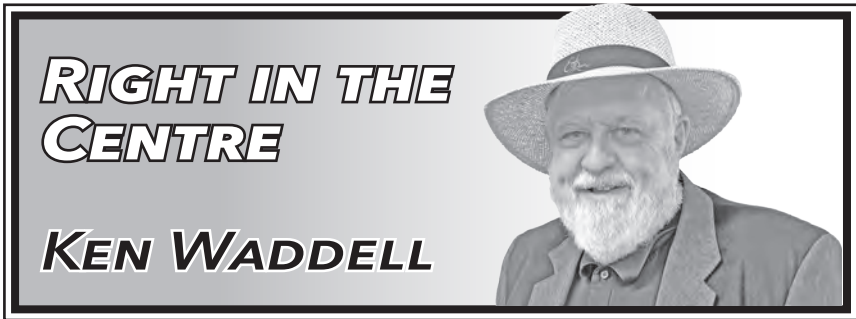
I assume that a person can watch what they want, when they want.

My first TV experience was around 1960, when my uncle brought a TV to our farm and an antennae that went up on the house roof. There was only one channel and it was black and white, not colour. I distinctly remember watching the 1967 Stanley Cup play-offs when the Toronto Maple Leafs last won the prize.

When I was in Winnipeg for my university years, 1966-70, I had access to TV. Moving back to rural Manitoba we sometimes had TV and sometimes not. Our children, now in their 50s, have mixed feelings about their on again-off again experience with TV.

We have had cable TV and an internet package in our home for some years now. We even like some CBC programs and watch the Blue Bombers and the Jets.

Of all people, as a decades long newspaperman, I know the value of ads or commercials. I am biased, but I much prefer newspaper ads to TV commercials. A newspaper sits quietly by your side until you pick it up and read it, it's much quieter than a TV and if you want to skip the ads, you can; and return to them again and again as you see the need.



“ Newspapers are quiet and always by your side. ”

On the other hand, TV ads, are louder than the programs and are very annoying. I can get quite upset with TV ads, as few are entertaining and many are just plain stupid. Some of the auto ads are okay, but how many times do we have to be told that a 4x4 truck can climb every muddy hill it comes up against?

The commercials that really drive me crazy are as follows:

- Do we really need advertising for incontinence proof underwear?
- Do people really spend time slowly smelling their laundry?
- Do we need commercials that glorify and promote bad behaviour in kids and adults?
- Are all men as dumb as commercials depict them to be?
- And don't we pay professional sports people enough that they don't have to preach about how great sports betting can be?
- And finally, does alcohol consumption have to be glorified?

I know, I know, I sound like a

grumpy old man! But really folks, a lot of TV commercials are an insult to our intelligence and a great distraction from what is morally right and good.

If I can depend on what I have been told by people who have “cut the cord” so to speak, streaming services might be the way to go. That said, I doubt pricing will be competitive with cable, but if someone wants to write me a letter on the various forms of TV consumption, please do so. I need to be educated on this matter. You can reach me at kwaddell@neepawabanner.com.

Until then, thank you to the 10,000 homes and the over 20,000 people who read our newspapers every week. We appreciate you and so do our advertisers.

Nothing like a cup of coffee or a cold drink and a copy of your local newspaper. Newspapers are very quiet and always by your side.

*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.*



I probably shouldn't have...

One of my more recent re-reads is ‘The Long Winter’ by Laura Ingles Wilder. Based on true life, back in American pioneer times, the book recounts the hardships and trials of a winter that lasted from early October to late April. The settlement had just begun to depend on the rail system for food supplies, the family quickly moved from the shanty on the homestead to an empty store in the village. The author recounts the urgency with which the move was made, the scrounging for the very last of the garden produce, and on to the near starvation as the winter refused to give way. I always enjoy the Little House series, re-reading them every so often. I'm thinking that this last time through, the words have affected my thinking!

There is no solid reason for my thinking, but I feel a need to get the last of the apples off the tree, the last of the potatoes and carrots out of the earth, and mow the grass one more time. Now these are all natural fall tasks, but this year I feel compelled to get things done. And I don't believe that it is I am running out of time! Due to the rabbits in the area, I have had to fence the pea patch, and because peas grow, and produce, so much better on a fence, there were two sets of wire fencing that had to be – first set up – and now taken down. To carefully store the sections of fencing so that they can be easily reused next year takes time and energy. I got it done. And weeded the patch so that when I pull into the driveway my eyes, and heart, are at peace with the view. That's part of the front yard. The watermelon plant grew and blossomed and never produced, so it's gone. The cantaloupe produced, and now the plant is in the compost.

I have dismantled the water storage system, the tank is full and does not need to collect more; the one hose needs repair before being stowed, but the other one is already put away. Again, there is an urgency to my work, and I hope to heck that doesn't mean we will really get an early winter!

And the old apple tree... bless it. I have dried apple slices, made apple pies and apple crisps, made apple sauce and even eaten raw apples! Thankfully a friend was willing to take a tote or two. I can't count the weight of those I have hauled to the compost, those that fell and were too bruised and too wasp filled to rescue. Even acknowledging the damage the hail storms created, a great many apples were spoiled.

Back to the book for a moment. Laura describes how her mother used every resource so carefully, using green pumpkins for a pie filler, saving even the littlest potato, grinding wheat to make bread... And here am I in the heart of plenty. Pantry shelves filled, freezer full (mostly apples!) with enough and enough to share.

When the second summer settles in, I will have nothing to do but enjoy each day!

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Ken & Christine Waddell



# Phishing: Lots of scammers out there

## Sunrise Credit Union, companies and the province issue warnings

By Ken Waddell  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The newspapers have received at least three notices of scams being conducted in the Westman area. Please be on guard. If you get a phone call that is suspicious, hang up, you are under no obligations to answer questions, especially from a company or supplier aren't involved with. That said, we have been notified that some scammers are claiming to be from Sunrise Credit Union. Sunrise released the following statement late last week.

"We are reaching out to inform you of a current phone scam that has been reported by several Sunrise Credit Union members. Individuals posing as Sunrise Credit Union employees — in some instances identifying themselves as "Risk Managers" from our Fraud Department — have been contacting members by phone. These calls may appear to originate from our legitimate toll-free number (1-888-289-3097), which is being spoofed by the fraudsters. During these calls, the individuals attempt to obtain sensitive banking information, including online banking login credentials. Please be advised that Sunrise Credit Union will never contact you to request account details or login information over the phone. If you receive a suspicious call of this nature, we recommend that you hang up immediately and contact your local branch using their direct phone number. As always, we encourage you to remain vigilant and never share personal or financial information over the phone. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

We also received some disturbing news from Cybernews, a company that monitors internet security breaches as follows.

"Cybernews researchers have uncovered a massive data exposure affecting more than 250 million identity records across seven countries, including Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mexico, South Africa, and Canada.

Three misconfigured servers — hosted on IP addresses in Brazil and the UAE — contained detailed personal information, resembling government-level identity profiles, now confirmed to have been publicly accessible.

"It's likely that these databases were operated by a

single party, due to the similar data structures, but there's no attribution as to who controlled the data, or any hard links proving that these instances belonged to the same party," said the research team.

What data was exposed?

The leaked information included ID numbers, full names, dates of birth and gender, contact details, and home addresses.

### Record numbers exposed:

- Turkey (88,396,572 records)
- Egypt (77,744,912 records)
- Saudi Arabia (26,827,301 records)
- UAE (4,856,942 records)
- Mexico (8,740,000 records)
- South Africa (44,472,288 records)
- Canada (9,322,549 records)

Cybernews contacted the hosting providers, and as of now, the data is no longer publicly accessible.

To read the full research, please click <https://cybernews.com/security/identity-records-global-data-leak/>

And last but not least the Manitoba government issued the following warning:

### Province warns against potential test message phishing scams

The Manitoba government is warning Manitobans about fraudulent text messages involving provincial fine payments and tax credits, which are part of a phishing scam.

This week, members of the public reported receiving texts from a sender claiming to be Manitoba Justice and demanding payment for outstanding fines for

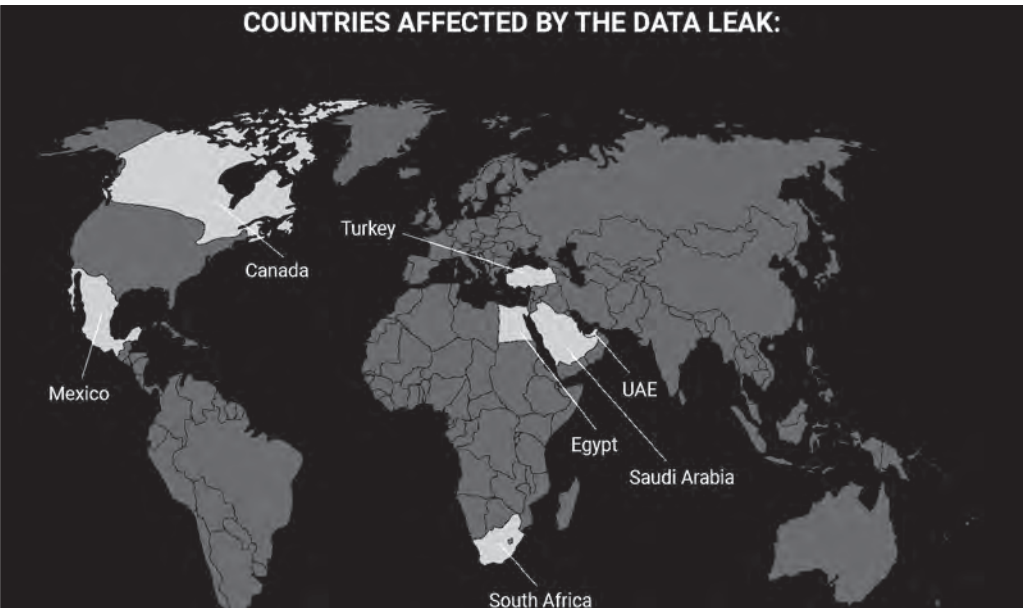



PHOTO FROM CYBERNEWS

provincial offences including speeding tickets and traffic violations. Manitoba Justice currently does not send payment requests or any official communications via text. Anyone with concerns about outstanding fines or questions about methods of communications should contact Manitoba Justice directly or visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/tickets/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/tickets/index.html).

Other recipients have recently received a text asking them to finalize their Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC) by clicking a link. Manitoba Finance does not verify or finalize tax credits or benefits via text message. For information about HATC, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/hatc.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/hatc.html).

Manitobans who receive these types of texts should not respond or click on any links within the message and should avoid providing any personal information. Recipients can report suspicious messages to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at <https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>.



## 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



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

### SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

#### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

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 **8th** day of **October, 2025**, at the hour of **1:30 PM**, at Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, 154023-PR 257, Virden, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:


Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
379300	LOT 3 SP PLAN 2258 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER V3380 IN N1/2 30-11-24 WPM - 3--2258, LENORE	L - \$500	\$ 2,898.45
520150	LOT 14 BLOCK 31 PLAN 2168 BLTO EXC THE ELY 12 FEET OF THE SLY 12 FEET IN SW 1/4 3-12-28 WPM - 9 GRANGE ST, ELKHORN	L - \$11,200 B - \$15,500	\$ 4,262.22

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

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth 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 4th day of September, 2025.

Managed by:



Iris Vercaigne  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth  
Phone: (204) 748-1239  
Fax: (204) 748-3450

# HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

This summer I impatiently waited for that first tomato to ripen to perfection. But now as September rolls around the novelty of juicy summer tomatoes has passed and my once empty ice cream pails are full of tomatoes. So I am taking advantage of my summer crop with these tomato recipes.

Canning tips:

To sterilize jars before filling them, set the jars upright in the jar rack of the canner and add water to cover the jars. Bring the canner to a simmer for 10 minutes, and keep the jars hot until you are ready to fill them. Keeping the jars hot before filling them with hot ingredients will prevent breakage due to thermal shock. Once all the filled jars are back in canner, adjust the water level so it is two inches above the jar tops. Use boiling water if you need to add more water. Cover the canner and bring to boil over high heat. Once water boils vigorously, continue boiling the recommended time for your recipe. When processing time is complete, turn off heat, remove canner lid and allow the canner to cool down for a few minutes. Remove jars onto a clean towel and cover them with another towel. Do not retighten jar bands. Allow to sit undisturbed for 24 hours before putting jars away.

### Tomato ketchup

Step up your tomato canning adventures with homemade ketchup recipe. It is safer to peel the tomatoes to reduce the bacterial count as most of the bacteria is on the skin.

- 6 quarts ripe tomatoes, peeled and quartered
- 2 onions, finely diced
- 1/4 cup mixed pickling spice
- 2 tsp. celery seed
- 2 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 Tbsp. pickling salt
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup vinegar

Place the chopped tomatoes and onions in a large pot and cook uncovered over medium-high heat for around 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the tomatoes have broken down. Put the cooked tomatoes and onion through a fine mesh sieve or strainer to remove seeds and onion skins, then pour the tomato juice into a large heavy bottomed pot. Tie the pickling spices and celery seed into a square piece of cheese cloth creating a spice bag. Add to the pot with all the other remaining ingredients. Cook uncovered over low heat, stirring often, until the mixture reduces and becomes thick. This can take up to one hour. Remove and discard the spice bag. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed. You can add more vinegar for sharpness or sugar for sweetness, depending on your preference. Fill each washed and heated jar pint jar with the ketchup mixture up to one half inch from the top. Wipe jar rims. Put lids on. Process in a water bath canner. Process pint jars for 15 minutes.

### Picante sauce

Picante is a variation on the word "piquant". The Spanish word implies a hot, spicy flavor. Picante sauce can vary in heat levels but it almost always contains some sort of hot pepper, like jalapeno.

- 7 cups chopped tomatoes, about 20 medium
- 1 1/2 cups diced onion
- 1 1/2 cup diced green or red peppers
- 1/2 cup diced jalapeño peppers
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 Tbsp. pickling salt
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. coriander
- 1 tsp. cumin

Wash your peppers under running water. Wear gloves when handling hot peppers and avoid contact with your skin and eyes. Blanch and peel the tomatoes before cutting them up. In a large heavy bottomed pot add all the ingredients except the coriander and cumin. Simmer gently uncovered for 45 minutes. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking on the bottom. Add the spices and simmer for 15 more minutes until slightly thickened. Ladle into hot pint jars and hot water process for 15 minutes.

# A 28-year-old male arrested for assault

## Westman RCMP Service Report for Aug. 31 to Sept. 6

Submitted  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 82 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 34 traffic offences, four mischief, four wellbeing checks, two mental health act, seven assault, four false alarm, fraud less than \$5,000, two disturbing the peace, one uttering threats against a person, and one fail to comply with a probation order.

On August 31, RCMP received a dispatch regarding a two-vehicle motor collision; a semi versus truck and trailer on the Trans Canada Highway in the RM Wallace-Woodworth. RCMP attended the scene and there were no injuries or extraction required, no signs of intoxication and no major injuries. Parties exchanged information and Virden Towing attended the scene to remove the vehicles as they were obstructing traffic.

On August 31, RCMP conducted Cell Phone Enforcement in Virden. RCMP observed two drivers pass by RCMP while using their cell phones or other hand operated electronic devices. RCMP conducted traffic stops and the drivers were each fined \$672 and issued a 72-hour licence suspension.

On August 31, RCMP received a third-party call of a domestic assault in progress in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP arrived at the home and took statements, resulting in a 28-year-old male being arrested for one charge of Assault. The accused was released on an Undertaking and will appear in court in November.

On September 3, RCMP received a call for service regarding a disturbance in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP members attended the residence and learned

that a 19-year-old male had smashed a window and assaulted a 17-year-old female. The accused was placed under arrest and released on an undertaking and will appear in court in December for one charge of assault and one charge of mischief under \$5,000.

On September 5, RCMP received a call from a business in the Town of Reston stating that they were concerned that an unwanted male was going to attend their business. The 34-year-old male was on conditions to not leave the province of Saskatchewan. Patrols were carried out and the suspect was located in the RM of Pipestone and placed under arrest. He was remanded into

custody and has been charged with failing to comply with probation.

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

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



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# From the sand pile

By Barry Lambkin  
ELKHORN AUTO MUSEUM MANAGER

The Willys-Overland story starts with the foundation of Overland in 1902. The name for the car was decided over a coffee break one day during the fall of 1902 by Charles Minshall, president of the Standard Wheel Company of Terre Haute, and Claude E Cox, who had just graduated from the Ross Polytechnic Institute in town.

Their experience in the automobile field was limited to Cox's senior thesis project for a four-wheeler derived from a motorized tricycle. Despite this inexperience, the first Overland was a quite advanced little car for its day.

Around 12 cars were built in 1903 and that doubled in the following year, when a two-cylinder model was introduced. A four-cylinder joined the range in 1905, with a steering wheel and shaft drive.

However, having made no profit, Minshall had a change of heart, but one David M Parry put up replacement money necessary to organize the Overland Auto Company in 1906.

Production began, but the Panic of 1907 interrupted things. The Panic of 1907, also known as the 1907 Bankers' Panic or Knickerbocker Crisis, was a financial crisis that took place in the United States over a three-week period starting in mid-October, when the New York Stock Exchange suddenly fell almost 50% from its peak the previous year.

Enter John North Willys (the correct pronunciation is 'willis', not 'willys'), a New York automobile dealer who had contracted for the Overland company's entire output of 47 cars in 1906, followed by a hefty order for 500 cars for 1907.

When no cars were delivered and correspondence from the factory ceased, Willys caught the train to Indianapolis, to find out what was going on. There he discovered Parry had lost everything, including his house, in the Panic and that parts were on hand for less than three automobiles.

Willys took over production, building 465 20/24 hp four-cylinder cars in a circus tent in 1908.

In January 1909, aghast at the feverish pace Willys was setting, Claude Cox left to follow a career in photography, obtaining patents on new instruments and processes. Willys' production of Overlands that year was an incredible 4907 cars.

By 1911, the Indianapolis facility was only used for component assembly work. Willys Overland vehicle figures were 18,745 compared with Ford at 34,979.

In 1912 Overland had become America's second largest producer of cars at 26,000 units and exceeded only by Ford. The position of second place behind Ford lasted right up until 1918.

As early as 1909 there had been vehicles badged with the Willys name as well as Overland. These vehicles were more expensive than anything badged simply as "Overland" and by 1917 the consumer was offered the choice of Overland, Willys or Willys Knight depending on their budget and choice of engine - sleeve valve or poppet valve.

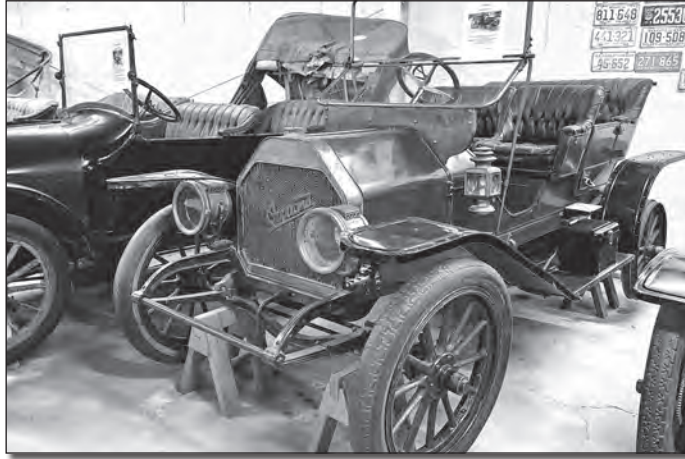


PHOTO BY BARRY LAMBKIN

Ike's 1910 Overland.

Even though J.N. Willys openly preferred the Willys Knight, he could see that the cheaper Overlands were his "bread and butter". There were many Overland models on offer, but the cheaper ones sold in higher volumes, and this was even more evident during the 1914-1918 war years. Whilst the Willys Knight vehicles proved the company's excellence at precision engineering it was the Overland line of vehicles that would put the company back on its feet. In 1923 another 4-cylinder model was introduced as the Bird series. Red Birds had red bodies, Black Birds had black bodies and Blue Birds of course had blue bodies. The goal had been to sell the car for \$500 to compete with the Ford Model T. However, the war induced increases in prices for steel and labor and so the selling price for 1920 ended up at \$845 and upwards.

In June 1926, the 4-cylinder Overland Whippet was announced. Although badging said "Overland" till Jan 1927, manuals and brochures all referred to the new type of car as an "Overland Whippet", never just "Overland". The new Whippet was such a success that the name was used without Overland.

Ike's 1910 Overland was dug out of a fence corner which had been piled up with sand since the dirty thirties. It had no motor in it, but Ike obtained one by chopping one out of a bluff from somewhere else. He found all the brass and metal but made all the tin parts himself. Ike replaced all the wood, for the dash Ike used a pattern that came from a friend in Montana who sent him a description! All the upholstery was done by him as well. In 1970 Ike was in the Yorkton district and he saw a farmer out in his Case tractor. Ike walked down to the end of the road and when the farmer arrived, he introduced himself and asked about the toolbox on the fender. The gentleman asked what he wanted that for, so Ike told him. The farmer unbolted it, dumped out the tools and said, "Anyone that knows that's a battery box for a 1910 Overland deserves it!" and gave him the dented and rusted container. He sat for 2 days with sandpaper and a knife removing all the paint and rust off. It is on the car to this day, and the car is a sight to be seen knowing where it came from.

## Dry times: Pioneer Home Museum explores Prohibition

By Kate Craig  
VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM

Alcohol is a topic with many, many differing opinions. Nowadays in Canada, it's legal, with drinking ages set by provincial governments, like 18 in Manitoba and 19 in Saskatchewan. Almost everyone knows about Prohibition in the USA, from 1920 to 1933. During this, they prohibited the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In Canada, there were different alcohol prohibition policies, with the one that actually brought on a Canadian prohibition being the War Measures Act. Prohibition was enacted in each province in 1914, promoted as a patriotic measure that would conserve needed resources for the war effort. Some provinces didn't do this, while others continued the prohibition long after federally required, like PEI, which kept it until 1948. One other didn't prohibit the sale of alcohol, that being Quebec.

A big part of this was the temperance movement in Canada. Temperance means restraint or moderation in action, thought, or feeling. In terms of the temperance movement, the meaning refers to moderation or abstinence from alcohol consumption. The temperance movement was headed by a number of temperance societies and religious organizations. The first of these groups appeared in Montreal and Nova Scotia during the early 1800s. By the end of the 1800s and early 1900s, the movement had reached its peak of influence. These groups promoted the belief that alcohol was something that corrupted life, and was responsible for many societal problems. It was said to lead to financial ruin, immorality, sexual impropriety,

physical degeneration, and full societal collapse. While originally advocating for moderation or total abstinence, it moved to a complete belief in total abstinence.

One of the organizations that played a big role in the temperance movement was the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which was first in Canada in 1875. The stated purpose of the WCTU was to create a "sober and pure world" by abstinence and purity. The WCTU operated at an international level, having started in the USA in 1873. It worked in the context of religion and reform, including missionary work and women's suffrage. The constitution of the WCTU called for "the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

The jurisdiction of the liquor trade in Canada was shared by governments. The provinces could prohibit retail sales, while the federal government could ban the manufacturing of alcohol as well as retail, wholesale and interprovincial trade. Local/municipal governments were allowed to hold popular votes to create laws on contentious issues. This led to local governments being allowed to hold votes to ban the sale of alcohol. A huge victory for the prohibitionists was when PEI banned the retail sale of alcohol.

Overall, society decided that prohibition wasn't necessary, and that alcohol wasn't actually as evil as it was once believed to be. As society changes, so do the things that we consider to be moral or immoral. So while alcohol used to be considered immoral, it is now considered moral enough to be legal, with some restrictions, of course.

# Wallace-Woodworth eyes clearer governance

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

During a recent meeting council wrestled with ideas to maximize transparency and eliminate micro managing details that municipal staff is hired to do.

An item on the agenda at the RM of Wallace-Woodworth Aug. 26 Regular Council Meeting was discussion of the role of Committee of the Whole meetings and the value of handling items in regular council meetings.

The Committee of the Whole is an opportunity for the entire council to hold in-depth discussions on complex topics, such as infrastructure planning, budgeting, and policy development, outside of the regular public council meetings where councillors vote and final decisions become public record.

Coun. Mark Humphries raised concerns about many operational details that are being brought to council when they should be handled by staff.

Humphries said, "I don't think that's a council decision. I think we're here for policies, bylaws, planning, finance, strategic planning and direction... I've got every confidence in the staff that we've got... to manage those (details) on our behalf. That's what we employ them for, and I don't think we should turn ourselves into micro-managing project managers."

Humphries added that communicating with the public in an open, transparent way such as through regular council meetings, is important. He said, "Some of the things that we discuss in those committee meetings should be out in public."

Meeting chair, deputy reeve Val Caldwell said, "I feel a lot of the Committee of the Whole stuff could be moved to a regular council. Sometimes we have three or four delegations at a Committee of the Whole meeting."

Around the table councillors present – Barb Stambuski, Dianna MacDonald and Denis Lachapelle - agreed that some committee items would be best worked through in the regular public meeting for the sake of transparency and more efficient time management.

Coun. Lachapelle said, "Yeah... I agree also, there's some (committee) stuff there that can be done publicly."

Caldwell noted that everyone had a chance to speak on the matter and said that meeting organization is part of the role of Chief Administrative Officer, Iris Vercaigne.

Caldwell said, "I think in fairness, Iris has heard the comments... Iris is new to the helm of the ship, so I think we need to give her some time to get her wheels, and figure out how she wants to run meetings."

Members of council also agreed that staff should be consulted about what meeting format would be the best use of their time and provide sufficient information on complex matters such as the water utility.



# Council keeps tabs on expenses

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The September 4 council meeting for the Town of Virden opened with clarification of several expenditures.

Coun. Marc Savy asked about the \$7,400 charge for a bottle fill station at the arena. He wondered whether this was a replacement or a new installation as the cost seemed high. Councillors agreed the cost seems excessive since new units are usually around \$4,000–\$5,000. Assistant CAO Jared Jaffray will send a breakdown by email explaining why the installation was so expensive.

Coun. Bruce Dunning asked for clarification of an expenditure for a product called Hyperperse, and CAO Rhonda Stewart explained that is a chemical used to control scaling in reverse osmosis water treatment systems.

Coun. Travis Penner questioned a cheque issued to cover airport lighting installation and servicing. He said, "I just think it would be a good idea to have those contract payments separate from the services... you need to keep that pretty clean when there's a contract involved." CAO Stewart explained that the check in question included multiple invoices for progress payments on the airport lighting project. Although the system combined them, they could still be shown clearly to auditors.

An item regarding the airport runway project prompted Coun. Penner to question the warranty work that was scheduled

but delayed because agricultural sprayers did not want crews onsite. The work is now postponed until at least the end of September, raising concerns about exceeding the warranty period. CAO Stewart replied that there is still a \$20,000 holdback to ensure that the work will be completed.

Purchase of the disc golf starter set was discussed and Mayor Tina Williams said, "I've seen a few people there already, because you can come in here and get it (the equipment), and then once the library is all done up, the girls are going to start lending it out from there." It has been promoted through Facebook and in the Empire-Advance with good public uptake. The installation of signage has helped to attract more participants.

Williams reported that the new RCMP acting staff sergeant Amy Doan has settled in Virden and will participate in future council meetings.

## Street Improvement Project

Council gave second and third reading to a by-law related to paving, curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs on Routledge Street East, from Scarth Drive to Hargrave Street. While estimates had been prepared, the project has not yet gone out to tender, as the work was planned for the following year. The by-law was approved to allow quotes to be sent out earlier, increasing the chance of securing a contractor without losing a season.

## Deep Sky

On Sept. 4 Coun. Savy and Mayor Williams attended the Deep Sky open house and learned that the main obstacle for the project's engineers is securing power from Manitoba Hydro. While the Surface Rights Act legislation exists, the corresponding regulations are not yet in place, creating uncertainty for landowners. The engineers are also concerned with landowner liability and ensuring that the project does not interfere with oil and gas operations. (See article Deep Sky pitches carbon capture in this issue of the Empire-Advance.)

## Paving and airport update

CAO Stewart reported that the airport project has now been mostly finalized. Airport lighting work and dirt work are largely complete, with wiring and light installation remaining.

Zenith paving projects for the year have been completed, though there are deficiencies on 6th Avenue due to pavement damage from traffic. The contractor prefers to fix the area in spring rather than do minor repairs now. There is a \$45,000 holdback to ensure compliance.

## Leadership presentation

On Oct. 1 Cadmus Delorme the former Chief of Cowessess First Nation and the founder of One Hoop, an organization that provides Indigenous advisory & strategy services will be the keynote speaker at an event for students to be held in the Aud Theatre.

# Thank a farmer



Cam Hunter's field just South of Kenton.

PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

As I sit here this morning September 7, the ground and the rooftops are white from the frost. This is a sure sign that autumn is here and of what is to follow. Summer seems so short. From the intense heat a week ago with big drops of temperature in between with extended periods of smoke, it has been quite a year.

I do not know, as of this column, how much damage was done with the frost hit overnight. Only time will tell. I covered our tomatoes last night thank goodness, or they would be toast. Hopefully temperatures will warm up and the harvest will continue.

My biggest concern is the damage to the crops. While the farmers had a great run for combining, especially of the cereals, there is much to do yet. Some of the crops just are not ready to harvest, they need some heat to bring them in.

The field in the picture was harvested just last Sunday. From what I have heard is that the yields are better than expected. Good to really good! Considering we had minimal rain, Mother Nature helped out the farmers.

I know I have said it before, and I will keep saying it, farmers feed the world! They, the farmers and the rest of us consumers, need these crops off the fields and into storage and then to the elevators to survive. Plain and simple! The farm needs to make money and show profit.

Speaking of profitability, what is with the price of cattle being so high? It is out of sight

right now. Grain prices have dipped somewhat. It seems out of balance right now. I am sure it will balance a bit more at some point but for now it is what it is.

I saw where at the end of the month there is a holiday on September 30. A day of celebration. Why do the farmers not get a day? Oh yes there is farm week and little snippets on other days, well what about farmers day every day? Farmers are the biggest gamblers. Every year they put in a crop, hoping it will produce a harvest that will pay for crop inputs and leave them with some profit by the end of the year. Same with cattle.

I applaud all farmers who lay it all on the line to ensure we the general public have food to eat. Prices are high in the grocery stores but it is all the middleman who drives up the prices of groceries, not the farmer.

So what am I saying? Every day you hear on the radio that is national, you fill in the blank day. One way you can show appreciation to the farmers is to give the farmers room on the highway. There are combines, trucks, grain carts, balers etc. out on the roads as they travel from field to field. Why not yield to them. Motorists, you pull over onto the shoulder of the road and give them room to pass. Show some respect to those farmers and pull over to the side of the road. Give them a wave of acknowledgement as well. I think the months of the spring to the fall should be declared National Farmers day. Well what the heck, It could be National Farmers day every day. Thank a producer, a farmer and whisper a little prayer that their work this fall will be blessed with abundance!

# Miniota News

## Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

## Sept. 5:

Congratulations to Dean and Debbie Fenty of D5 Ranch on their induction into the Horsemen's Hall of Fame on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Virden Rodeo. Well done Dean and Debbie!

Brandon and Kathryn Pollard, Quinn and Cassidy were home from Alberta to visit with the Poppel family, taking in the annual Poppel Family Shoot, this year in memory of Ernie Stowe.

Our little town came alive on Saturday, Aug. 30, as guests arrived to celebrate the marriage of Brady Brown and Brittany Asselstine. Congratulations and best wishes Brady and Britanny! Guests included Dick and Grace McKean, great

uncle and aunt of the groom, from Lloydminster Alta.

Get well wishes are extended to Margaret Still who has been a patient in the hospital.

"Nothing will work unless you do." -Maya Angelou

## Sept. 12:

Our community extends sympathy to the Stowe family: John and Noreen, Frank, Anita and Ward; Bob and Val, Pat, Kathy and Ron and their families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Alma Stowe, on September 5th at her residence at Dinsdale Place in Brandon. Alma, the wife of the late Ed Stowe, had achieved the age of 101 years, and will be remembered for her warm hospitality to her home to friends and strangers. Our thoughts are with you

all at this time.

Excitement is in the air as the Enhancement Committee continues to make progress on artificial ice for the skating rink this winter. Cement was poured on Sept. 8, with a good crew on hand to help out.

Members of the Miniota UCW gave a fall house-cleaning to the Miniota United Church as regular worship resumed this past Sunday.

Sunday, Sept. 7 a turkey shoot was held at the gun range south of town.

Rain on the weekend slowed the progress of harvest, however the sun is shining once again and the combines are on the move.

"Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." -Potter Stewart

## NOTICE

Please send all advertisements, Letters to the Editor, article submissions, news items, etc., to our main email address  
**[virdenempireadvance@outlook.com](mailto:virdenempireadvance@outlook.com)**.

**Thank you!**



# SPORTS

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE OIL CAPS GAME DAYS HAPPEN



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS  
Virden Oil Capitals cameraman Cade Scharff is one of the team's many volunteers

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Through volunteering for the Virden Oil Capitals, Molly Studer has found what she considers to be a second family.

This upcoming Manitoba Junior Hockey League campaign will be the Virden Collegiate Institute Grade 11 student's fifth year volunteering with the team. She started at the table for intermission games and prizes. After two years, Studer moved to selling tickets at the entry gate.

"The thing I enjoy most about volunteering with the Oil Caps is the fact that the crew I work with has become like a second family," she said. "Meeting all these new people and getting to know them over time has definitely impacted my life throughout the years. From school to work to home, I know that if it's been a long day I can always go to the rink and be welcomed with open arms."

Studer is one of about 30 volunteers who help make the various aspects of home games happen. The Oil Capitals, a not-for-profit organization, is looking for volunteers for its upcoming regular season. Those interested can contact the team's office at (204) 748-4848 or email [marketing@oilcapshockey.com](mailto:marketing@oilcapshockey.com). Volunteer opportunities include national anthem singers, goal judges, score clock operators, camera operators, and more.



Molly Studer is one of the friendly faces at the Virden Oil Capitals' entry gate.

While the Oil Capitals have longtime volunteers, such as Brad Charles and Murray Wright, new ones are always welcome. In addition to her gate duties, Studer sometimes helps out in the team's office. She said, "I really am just around for an extra hand of support wherever it's needed." Studer juggles volunteering with her studies, working at Boston Pizza, playing hockey for the U18 Rivers Jets and basketball for the VCI, and being involved in tap and jazz dance with the Virden Dance Club.

Cade Scharff is heading into his third year of volunteering with the Oil Capitals. He operates a camera at home games.

"I like seeing everyone play and have a great view from up there," Scharff said.

Last season the Scharffs billeted Oil Caps defenceman Maddox Shindle. In the past, various team members have worked on the family farm.

Like Scharff, Damian Smith-Barre has been a billet brother as well as a volunteer. His family has billeted at least six Oil Caps over the years. The VCI Grade 10 student has brought energy to Oil Caps' games for two years with the songs he selects and plays. Before taking on "music man" duties, Smith-Barre ran the screens at the

games casually for two seasons.

"I love music myself and like to see the spectators get into the groove of a positive environment all while enjoying the game," he said. "I was raised in a family who has always volunteered within our community and now that I'm older I like to be able to go out on my own and volunteer doing things I love - sports and music."

He said some of his favourite songs to play are "Kickstart My Heart" by Mötley Crüe and "Power" by Kanye West.

Exhibition Schedule

The Oil Caps fell 5-2 on the road to Neepawa to open the exhibition season on Sept. 2. Matthew Dupuis and Carter Polanski scored for Virden. Nate Brown, who played last season for the Elkhorn-based U17 AAA Canadian Ice Bandits, and Sawyer Wallin guarded the crease for the Oil Caps.

On Sept. 6, the Virden squad defeated the Titans, 6-1. Veteran defenceman Rhylan Baxter lit the lamp twice. Also scoring for the Oil Capitals were Tyson Ulmer, Bryan Laing, Lucas Laramée and Jaxon Skiftun. Virden defenceman Maddox Shindle collected three assists. Hometown goalie Brodie Cameron stopped 16 of the 17 shots he faced.

It was a busy week as the team held its Virden Mainline Motors Oil Caps Hockey School. On social media, the Oil Capitals stated "three age groups, countless memories, and endless hard work."

The Virden team was to play a home-and-home exhibition series versus the Portage Terriers on Sept. 9-10 after the Empire-Advance deadline. On Sept. 12, the Oil Capitals play on the road against the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Estevan Bruins. The teams play each other in Virden on Sept. 13.

The Oil Capitals open their regular season on the road against the Waywayseecapp Wolverines on Sept. 19. The local squad's home opener is on Sept. 20 versus the Wolverines.



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# SPORTS

## SPORTS NOTES: GOLDEN BEARS HOST HOME OPENER SEPT. 14

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team is seeking a strong performance in its home opener this weekend.

The Rural Manitoba Football League squad hosts the Moosomin Generals. The contest is on Sept. 14 at noon.

“We are looking to have a solid week of practice this week and come out strong in our home opener,” VCI coach Marc Talbot said.

The Golden Bears opened their regular season on the road against the Southwest Sabres on Sept. 5. VCI fell, but there were some definite positives.

“I’m pleased with the effort that players put in,” Talbot said. “Southwest is always a tough team for us, but we hung in there for the majority of the game. As the game progressed, things were starting to click offensively, and our defence played strong all game.”

The Golden Bears were excited to compete against an opponent. Talbot said, “For the last three weeks, we have been practicing against each other, so to have a game against an opponent was a nice change. The game didn’t go our way, but it was a definite learning experience for a lot of players and coaches. We have a roster of 26 players. For 10 of those players, this is the first time playing in a live game.”

The coach said early on the VCI defence looks to be a strength. “There are some experienced players there and they will carry the team to what is hopefully a couple victories,” Talbot said. Those veterans include Jacoby Heaman, Mitch Draper and Owen Mytopher.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team faced the Southwest Sabres in their opening game of the season.

On the other side of the ball, Karter Bell-Ben and Sanders Brown will anchor the offensive line. Talbot said, “they should be a force to reckon with.”

The Golden Bears had some players compete after the high school season with the Manitoba Selects. Some of the local players travelled as far as Florida.

“I’m excited to see what Jacoby (Heaman), Mitch (Draper) and Ryder (Kotylak) will do this year,” Talbot said. “They played football all winter and the skills that they learned will definitely come in handy this year.”

Diaz Rengifo headed to nationals Alexander’s Robinson Diaz Rengifo will be competing at the Toyota U15 boys national championship in Charlottetown, P.E.I. on Oct. 8-13. Diaz Rengifo helped his AK Soccer Academy club team win the MSA Cup Championships in July.

Anisha Kinnarath Salam, the club’s technical director, said Diaz Rengifo is good in one versus one situations. She also noted he is strong in creating goal scoring opportunities.

## Back to school



FILE PHOTO

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

School is back for another year. Your sons and daughters are back for another year of education. From the teachers, to the administration to the bus drivers, to the janitors to the school coaches, may 2025-2026 be the best year ever for all of you. To the volunteers, to all the coaches in school sports, intramural sports and sports events you may host, have a great year. Teachers do much more than teach in class, they teach outside of class, volunteering to run school programs. Teachers spend a lot of time with your children teaching sportsmanship, how to win, how to lose graciously. At the end of the year, did your children have fun? Did they play fair? Did they grow new friendships with a teammate or make a new friend

from a team they were competing against? Did they learn to become successful and great citizens of a community?

I know in sports there is always a scoreboard at the end of the playing field, whichever one they are on. The goal is to win the game you are playing, right? Otherwise, why a scoreboard? It just seems to me there is way too much emphasis on winning and winning at any cost. Athletes even cheat to win or attain a higher standard. Is this what one would want for your child, cheat to win? Look at Olympic competitions and for example, major league baseball. Hank Aaron is the all-time home run hitter, surpassed by only those who cheated by taking body building drugs. Today they are not even recognized for their achievements. They are, in fact, disrespected for what they did and rightfully so. Anything these cheaters did is tarnished because

they did not play fair.

If your child is playing sports, ensure their success is not tarnished by cheating. We see the cheating that takes place, especially in pro sports all too often.

I have a little story where I witnessed cheating firsthand. Our fastball team, the Kenton Cougars were playing in a Manitoba Provincial Fastball Tournament. We lost the championship game by one run. We were disappointed in the loss, but we had a fantastic season that summer.

A few weeks later we were informed by The Manitoba Fastball Executive that our opponent in that championship game had used 2 players that were ineligible to play. Their title and medals were taken away because they cheated! We were not awarded the gold medals and I doubt we

would accept them anyway because we did not actually earn them as we lost that game. The other team’s reputation was tarnished because not only did they not win the gold medal, they were labelled cheaters! Our team even though we lost the game could hold our heads high because we played the game the right way. That was the closest I ever got to winning a Provincial title.

To all coaches out there, play within the rules, compete your hardest. If you win, great. If you come in second, try again. Just play fair! With a clean conscience you will be the winner, maybe not on the scoreboard but in your heart.

Have a great season and enjoy the moment! Make some memories you will remember and have a laugh or two.



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# SPORTS

## McCOLL EXITED TO BE BACK WITH MINERS

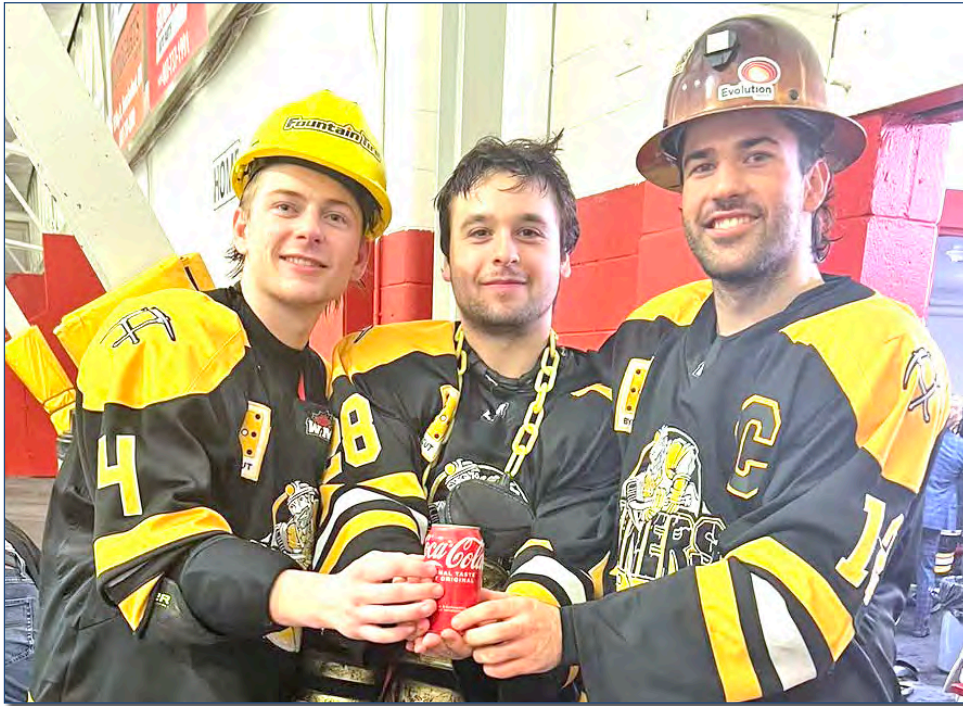


PHOTO BY THE MINERS

Foxx McColl, left, was the Red Lake Miners' Hardest Worker in a game last season. The Elkhorn product poses with teammates Quinn Szpak and Matthew MacPherson.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Elkhorn's Foxx McColl is excited to hit the ice for his final junior hockey season.

The 20-year-old son of Travis McColl and Jacqueline Rookes has established himself as a key part of the Red Lake (Ont.) Miners of the Superior International Hockey League. This winter will be McColl's fourth and final junior campaign.

"Looking forward to getting back in the competitive setting and just being in a locker room with the guys, nothing beats that atmosphere," McColl said.

In the last regular season McColl scored two goals. The 5-foot-9, 162-pounder recorded seven assists for a total of nine points in 35 games. He was a veteran presence on the Miners' blue line.

"He is very intense, sometimes hard on himself, plays hard every shift and is a guy you can trust to play his best game all the time," said Chris Pimblott, who is Red Lake's Director of Hockey Operations.

McColl is willing to do whatever he can to help the Miners succeed. When the playoffs

came last spring, McColl shifted to forward as the team needed him. He quickly proved to have a knack for creating offence. In eight postseason contests in 2025, McColl lit the lamp twice and had three assists for five points. His efforts helped the Miners make it to the SIJHL semifinals.

"What allowed me to put up points was being able to switch to forward and be more in the offensive zone, where my skills are needed," he said.

This past summer, as in the past, McColl has turned his attention to the diamond. With his hometown Elkhorn Expos taking a leave of absence, he competed in the South West Baseball League with the senior Reston Rockets. McColl batted .286. He swiped six bases, which tied him for the team lead. McColl also pitched one regular season game.

"Baseball has helped a lot for me. It keeps me in shape and gives me time away from hockey," he said. "Hockey year round would just push me away from it, I believe."

McColl started his junior career with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Swan Valley Stampeders in 2022-2023. An injury limited him to only eight games.

He split the next season between the Stampeders and the Miners. He has enjoyed his time in Ontario and appreciates the support from back home.

"Mom and Dad have been my rocks through thick and thin," McColl said. "Lots of FaceTime calls with them to keep the mental state in good shape while being away from home."

## Viriden couples celebrate diamond anniversary together



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in Viriden in the Comfort Inn. Back row L-R: Jerry Flecknor, Bob Clarke, Bob Thompson, Guy Longman; Front row L-R: Sylvia Flecknor, Diane Clarke, Shirley Thompson, and Joy Longman.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It was a rare and celebratory occasion last weekend as four married couples, all Viriden friends from school days, celebrated 60 and 61 years married.

Jerry & Sylvia Flecknor (married June 25), Bob & Diane Clarke (married Aug. 20), Guy & Joy Longman (Sept. 3 and now residents of B.C.) and Bob & Shirley Thompson (married Aug. 19, 1965) were joined by two friends who had lost their spouses but shared wedding years: Shirley Austin and Mary Robertson.

After their evening meal at Boston Pizza the group celebrated in the Comfort Inn with cake, and memorabilia including beautiful wedding photos.

However, celebrating together was a tradition. Beginning with their 10th anniversary, couples celebrated at Shirley & Don Austin's where Shirley suggested they wear their wedding dresses/suits; then their 15th was held in Minot, the 20th at Elkhorn Ranch, and the 25th in Las Vegas. Many trips included their children.

On their 40th anniversary the couples vacationed together in the Caribbean.

The golden anniversary celebration took place in Oak Lake Legion where skits entertained the party.

Originally the group of friends included eight couples married in 1965/66. But 60 years later, the remaining group of four couples is rare indeed as statistics (American) reveal that about one per cent of couples married 60 years ago can celebrate their diamond anniversary.

This 60th celebration reflects the couples' steadfast relationships and the power of friendship between these Viriden people.

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# SPORTS

## FLANNERY DEVELOPS IN BOTTINEAU, HEADS TO MILWAUKEE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After Pipestone's Ava Flannery spent two years developing her game at Dakota College at Bottineau, her softball skills have taken her to Mount Mary University.

The daughter of Wade and Kimberley Flannery is in her first year at the Milwaukee, Wisc. school. Mount Mary's undergraduate programs are for women only. The Blue Angels compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks.

"I chose Mount Mary because of its beautiful location and the welcoming campus atmosphere," Flannery said. "Being in a large city like Milwaukee, there is always something going on but the campus still feels peaceful. What really made the

decision easy though was the athletic trainer, who was the head coach at the time that recruited me. He had a coaching style that I clicked with, which gave me the confidence that Mount Mary was the right place for me to grow both as a student and an athlete."

She appreciates those who have helped her pursue her passion for softball. She said her parents "have been everything in my softball journey."

"From signing me up for my first team to driving to countless practices, games, and tournaments, they've always been there," Flannery said. "Their support, encouragement and sacrifices are a big reason I've made it to the NAIA division. Whether I had a great game or a rough one, they were always in my corner. I wouldn't be the athlete or the person

I am today with them and their unwavering support."

For the past two years, she has studied and played at DCB in North Dakota. Flannery, who is studying accounting at Mount Mary, earned her Associate in Science Liberal Arts Degree in Bottineau. She was named to the Mon-Dak Academic All-Conference Team and the All North Dakota Academic Team. In addition to softball, Flannery was a member of the DCB women's hockey team before deciding to focus her attention "towards softball to help grow as a player as well as help my team grow."

"What I'll remember most about my time at Dakota College at Bottineau is the tight-knit community and the friendships that were made on and off the field," Flannery said. "As

a student-athlete, I felt supported by not only my coaches, but also by the professors who truly cared about my success. The campus size made it feel like I was more than just a number. From busy practice schedules to long bus rides, late night study sessions - it was all part of an experience I'll remember for a lifetime."

With the DCB softball team, she made an impact with her play and personality. Flannery was part of head coach Jason Lindgren's first season.

"She made her mark here in some very difficult years for the program, but she was always a positive force and a great teammate willing to play where we needed her, which was a testament to her desire to play and be better," the coach said. "She also was a great help for our team on the academic side of things, with a 4.00-plus GPA (grade point average) and did time as a tutor for her teammates and others on campus."

On the diamond, Flannery was very versatile. For her first season, she was primarily used as an infielder. In Flannery's

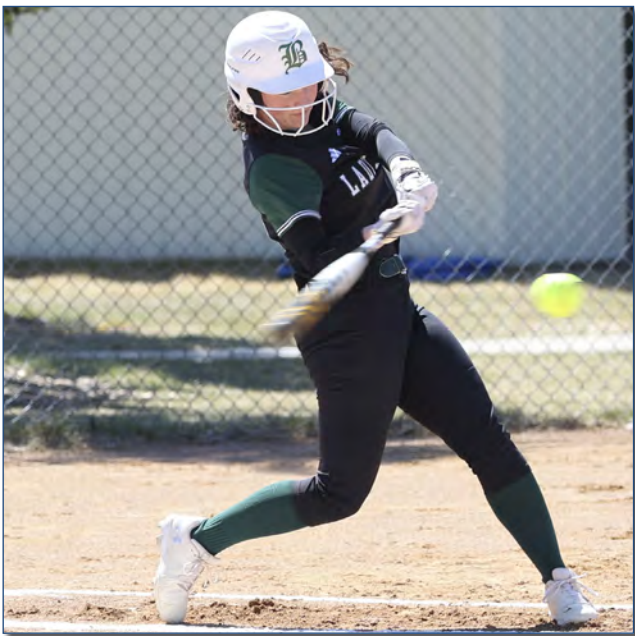


PHOTO BY DCB PHOTOGRAPHY

Ava Flannery bats for the Dakota College at Bottineau softball team last spring.

second campaign, she played half the season at second base before circumstances dictated that the team needed another outfielder. Lindgren said Flannery raised her hand.

"When we moved her to the outfield, that is where she really excelled for us and really got confident in herself, which then translated over to her being a much better hitter as well," the coach said. "As the Proverb says 'Confidence Begets Confidence' and she was

a literal example of that with her confidence in the outfield creating a positive feedback loop which she took to the offensive side of the ball as well."

Regarding Flannery's strengths, Lindgren said, "She has speed and a great arm, and she tracked the ball surprisingly well, I thought for the crash course she got in the outfield, and just getting more reps will really make her solid I believe."

## Oak Lake Golf Club ready for upgrades



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oak Lake Golf Club is receiving \$2,500 from Fusion Credit Union's Full Circle Fund for their Outdoor Dining Expansion Project. The golf course has undergone extensive renovations to their outdoor dining space and now plan on purchasing a new commercial BBQ with funding from the Full Circle Fund. Kyle Enns, Branch Manager at the Fusion Oak Lake Branch, and Tammie Roziere, MSR at the Fusion Oak Lake Branch presented the cheque to board members from the Oak Lake Golf Club. Fusion Credit Union is accepting applications for their fall intake of the Full Circle Fund. Community organizations are encouraged to apply on or before October 1, 2025. Applications are available online at fusioncu.com.

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# Oak Lake's 4th Harvest Festival brought a buzz to the community!



Pin up girls contest: (L to R) Megs, Pinkie, Kitty, Opal, Pearl

By Ev Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Oak Lake was the place to be on Saturday, September 6, as the Ag Society Grounds exploded with laughter, music, roaring engines, and the unmistakable buzz of community spirit. The 4th Annual Harvest Festival turned a crisp fall day into an unforgettable celebration filled with family fun, friendly rivalries, and more than a few surprises.

One of the loudest and most thrilling events of the afternoon was the Lawn Tractor Pull, hosted by Josh Baker. After the weigh-in, the engines revved to life, and the crowd erupted in



The annual tractor pull is a favourite event of the Oak Lake Harvest Festival.

excitement. The challenge was simple. Hook a lawn tractor to a heavy sled and see how far it could be dragged but the drama of spinning tires, puffing smoke, and roaring motors kept everyone glued to the action. Local farmers grinned with pride as their machines battled the weight, while children cheered on with wide eyes and sticky fingers from festival treats. Every pull came with a wave of applause, and when a tractor sputtered out halfway down the



The festival filled the park at Oak Lake.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT GREEN

track, the crowd roared encouragement anyway.

If the tractor pull had hearts racing, the Heavy Truck and Car Show had them shining. Rows of polished chrome and candy-coloured classics gleamed under the prairie sun, drawing admirers young and old. Owners swapped stories about their vehicles, while passersby stopped to take selfies with the impressive line-up. For many, it was a walk down memory lane; for others, a glimpse at automotive dreams.

Meanwhile, the Kids Zone was bursting with energy. Little ones darted from face painting to games to crafts, proudly showing off butterfly wings, superhero masks, and rainbow swirls painted across their cheeks. Their giggles filled the air and added to the festival soundtrack, a constant reminder that this event was truly for all ages.

Over by the show ring, the Canine Circus stole the spotlight. Four-legged performers jumped, spun, and balanced their way into the hearts of the crowd, showing off tricks that had jaws dropping and hands clapping. It was pure joy to watch dogs leap through hoops and pull off stunts with tail-wagging enthusiasm. If that was not enough, horse-drawn wagon rides offered a gentler pace, giving families a chance to relax and soak in the festival atmosphere.

The competitions did not stop at tractors. The Haulin' Axe event tested strength and skill, while the Lawn Mower Pull Contest had the crowd doubled over in laughter. And for those looking for a shot of pure adrenaline, the Monster Truck rides provided exactly that while bouncing high above the grounds and giving thrill seekers a view like no other.

Of course, no festival is complete without good food. The Farmers' Market offered a feast for the senses, with stalls overflowing with fresh produce, homemade baking, and handcrafted treasures. Many visitors left with arms full of jars, loaves, and trinkets. The food trucks kept bellies happy too, serving up sizzling burgers, golden fries, and sweet desserts that drew long but cheerful line-ups.

As the sun dipped lower, the festival simply shifted gears. The beergarden, open since noon, was buzzing with conversation and laughter. By evening, the stage lit up and Pop Vegas took over, electrifying the crowd with music that had everyone clapping, dancing, and singing along. Their set stretched to midnight, but even then the party did not stop while karaoke and a lively DJ carried the fun right into the early hours.

Admission was just ten dollars for adults, while kids twelve and under got in free, making it a day of non-stop entertainment that did not break the bank. From start to finish, the Harvest Festival proved once again that Oak Lake knows how to throw a party.

This year's festival was not just about tractors, trucks, or tunes. It was about neighbours gathering together, friends reconnecting, and families creating memories they will talk about for years to come. Whether you came for the roaring engines, the adorable dogs, the delicious food, or the late-night dancing, one thing was certain: you left with a smile.

The 4th Annual Oak Lake Harvest Festival was a true celebration of community spirit, and judging by the energy that lasted from afternoon until well past midnight, it is safe to say this small-town festival delivered a big-time experience!

## Engines, glamour, and Dirty Word Customz giving back!



Cars lined up for the show.

PHOTOS BY CINDY WILTSHIRE

By Ev Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Oak Lake was anything but quiet on September 6. The rumble of engines, the sparkle of chrome, and the buzz of community spirit filled the air as the Dirty Word Customz Heavy Truck and Car Show rolled into town. From the moment the gates opened after lunch, the Oak Lake Ag Society Grounds were transformed into a high-energy showcase of horsepower, nostalgia, and good old-fashioned small-town fun.

Car shows have always had their magic, but this one was in a class of its own. Rows of polished classics gleamed under the sun, their paint jobs reflecting the pride of owners who spent countless hours perfecting every detail. Heavy trucks towered over the grounds, their engines growling with power. Everywhere you turned, there was something to admire from shining bikes to the latest custom builds that had spectators reaching for their phones to snap a photo. It was not just a show; it was a rolling museum and a work of art on wheels.

What made the day even more unforgettable was the sheer variety of people who came together. Families strolled through the rows of vehicles, kids pointing wide-eyed at monster-sized rigs, while seasoned gearheads swapped stories of restoration projects and memories of their first cars. The atmosphere was alive, not just with engines, but with laughter, conversation, and the kind of joy that only happens when a community gathers for something they love.

Then came the extra sparkle with the Pin-Up Girls Contest shortly after 2:00 p.m. This was not just a contest, it was a showstopper. With bold red lips, vintage curls, and classic polka dots, contestants brought the glamour of the 1950s roaring back to life. The crowd was on their feet, cheering as each participant took the stage with confidence and flair. It felt like stepping into a scene from a retro movie, only with Oak Lake charm added to the mix.

The winners earned every clap and cheer they received. First place went to Megs (Megan Hamill), who dazzled with poise and personality. Second place was claimed by Opal, while Pearl proudly took third. Runners-up Kat and Cindy did not leave empty-handed either, capturing the hearts of the audience with their fun-loving energy. The contest gave the event an extra layer of style and personality that blended beautifully with the grit of the car show.

Of course, no show would be complete without prizes for the vehicles themselves, and this year's winners drove away with well-deserved recognition. Pete Perreault took home the title for Best Bike, Scott Wilson won with his entry for Best Classic Car/Truck, and Brad Park powered through to win Best Heavy Truck. The coveted Dirty Word Customz pick, perhaps the most exciting of all, went to Darryl Smith, a nod to the creativity and pride he put into his ride.

But the real showstopper was not on wheels or wearing a vintage dress. It was the spirit of giving back. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who bought 50/50 tickets and raffle entries, \$2000 was donated to the Oak Lake Fire Department. The announcement drew cheers from the crowd, and rightly so since this contribution will go a long way in supporting the dedicated team that keeps the community safe. It was a powerful reminder that while the engines and glamour drew people in, it was heart and generosity that defined the day.

By the time the sun dipped low and the last prize was handed out, one thing was clear: once again, the Dirty Word Customz Heavy Truck and Car Show, paired with the Pin-Up Girls Contest, was another event on the calendar that never disappoints! It was the event of the season. Engines thundered, style sparkled, and the community gave back in a big way. Oak Lake once again proved that when this little town puts on a show, it leaves people talking and smiling long after the engines quiet down.



# Why GABA might just be your new best friend

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC  
WELLNESS CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST (CH)**

**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

If you are anything like me, your brain sometimes feels like it is running on double-double caffeine. Thoughts race, worries stack up, and before you know it, you are lying in bed at midnight staring at the ceiling fan, wondering if sleep has forgotten your address. This is where GABA, or gamma-aminobutyric acid (try saying that three times fast), comes in to save the day. Do not be mistaken, this miracle supplement works during the day too!

I was first introduced to GABA when I went for my first Covid vaccination. I was terrified of the reaction I would have to the vaccine. Right after my shot, I was instructed to sit in the waiting area for 30 minutes. The mind is a powerful tool. As

I sat there, my heart was pumping, my chest was hurting and I had convinced myself that things were going very badly. Until my husband gave me my first GABA chewable. Within 5 minutes, all those feelings had disappeared and the anxiety and fear had dispersed.

Think of GABA as the chill friend who reminds you to breathe when life gets too loud. While other brain chemicals love to stir things up, GABA is the one holding up a stop sign, saying, "Hey, let us slow this down." It is the natural brake pedal for our nervous system, and honestly, most of us could use more of it. I found that it works wonderfully before an exam or an interview or especially if you suffer from social anxiety and you are going to a social event.

One of the biggest perks of GABA is how it melts away stress. GABA helps ease that tension so your body can finally unclench. For me, that means going from "wired and frazzled" to "ahhh, I can actually enjoy my peppermint tea in peace." It does not knock you out. It just helps you handle the chaos without feeling like you are about

to lose it.

Mood wise, GABA is like sunshine on a cloudy day. Low levels are linked with the blues and anxious vibes, and when you give your system a boost, you may notice fewer ups and downs. It is not a magic fix, but it helps smooth out the bumps so you can actually enjoy the ride. Even athletes swear by it for recovery. I am no Olympian, but I do know that when your body finally relaxes, muscles repair better, and you wake up less achy. That is GABA doing its behind-the-scenes work while you snooze.

Of course, I will always say check with your doctor before adding anything new especially if you are on medications. But for many people, GABA is a gentle, natural way to bring balance back into a world that feels non-stop. So, if your mind is a little too noisy, your sleep a little too elusive, or your shoulders permanently hunched, maybe GABA deserves a spot on your wellness shelf. Sometimes the best thing you can give yourself is permission to slow down, and GABA is the quiet nudge that helps you do just that.

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# Deep Sky pitches carbon capture in southwest Manitoba

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Thursday evening, residents, municipal and government officials filed into Pipestone Community Hall to learn of a carbon capture business proposal and to see what it could mean for the area. The information there generated a buzz of excitement.

Elected officials and staff from the town of Virden, and rural municipalities of Pipestone, Two Borders, the town of Melita, Wallace-Woodworth, Sifton, and Grasslands, attended the information session presented by Deep Sky (deepskyclimate.com) the Canadian company planning to set up business in the southwest corner of Manitoba.

Grant Jackson, MP for Brandon-Souris attended. Greg Nesbitt, member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly representing Riding Mountain, along with his office assistant Judy Snitynsky (also mayor of Russell-Binscarth), took in the session.

Not only does Nesbitt represent the area including part of the RM of Pipestone, he is also the PC critic for Environment and Climate Change. He noted that provincial legislation is in place to allow this kind of development.

He said, "The legislation required for carbon capture in Manitoba was passed in the Legislature last year. My understanding is the provincial government is in the process of writing the regulations under the legislation. These do not have to be passed by the Legislature - they basically are just the fine print under the legislation."

Residents, some of them are farmers, expressed caution. Their concerns included ensuring the water table will not be compromised, something that council members of Two Borders are aware of.

Going into the Deep Sky information session, MP Jackson was also aware of the concern for environmental safety. He said the evening was an important opportunity for the public to learn more about the project. "It's important to

grow the economy and the population, but we can't put the environment and water at risk."

Jackson noted the installation drilling resembles that of the oil field and that company scientists will look for the exact geological formation to provide safe storage, something that he expects government experts will need to corroborate.

To learn more, he plans an excursion to the Innisfail installation. "I'm eager to get out to Alberta to see the operation there. It's one thing to see it on a billboard, but another to see the footprint and see it in operation."

Deep Sky is a Canadian company that has established a working site in Alberta at Innisfail. Company Chief Executive Officer Alexandre Petre was available and spoke with a number of people who strolled through the story boards. A company scientist was also on hand to explain the diagrams.

Huge fans draw in air where carbon dioxide is then separated out, compressed and forced into a shaft up to two kilometres below ground. They explain that once injected, carbon remains trapped in geological formations until the reservoir is full and, possibly within 20 years, the shaft will be capped.

Deep Sky will sell carbon credits to carbon dioxide emitting industries to help them achieve a net zero rating, which Petre suggest may become mandatory for doing business.

The eventual location of the installation is proposed for one of two municipalities - Two Borders which is bordered by Saskatchewan and the USA and takes in the town of Melita, or the adjacent RM of Pipestone which borders the RM of Wallace-Woodworth on the north.

At this point, Reeve Sandra Clark for Two Borders, and Deputy Reeve Randy Henuset for Pipestone say councils are in agreement that the industry would be a huge economic



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

A turkey supper was available to all who attended the 5:30 come and go information session at Pipestone Hall.

advantage to the entire region no matter the exact location.

Henuset said the project is months if not a year away from phase one construction and there will be public municipal meetings before that happens.

The immediate next step is for Deep Sky to complete regulatory studies.

A hydroelectricity study is underway. Henuset said "They're hoping to get that done by the end of this year."

The large hydro line carrying power through the area, along with a favourable geological formation, makes this southwest region of Manitoba a candidate for the carbon storage project.

Agricultural producers know that a carbon dioxide rich atmosphere is what vegetation thrives on and farming thrives on vegetation.

Deep Sky CEO explained there is many times the amount of CO2 that is actually useful to plant growth. She added that hundreds more installations like the one proposed here would be needed to reduce the greenhouse gas worldwide, but noted this is a start.

In a brochure the company projects a significant economic impact on the community, with an investment of over \$750 million, creating 700+ jobs during installation and permanent local jobs for between 50 and 100 people.

Deep Sky estimates carbon capture of up to 1 million tonnes per year with a 20-year duration.

## MJHL REPORT

### Submitted

By DEREK HOLTOM

Not to be all doom and gloom, but the state of junior hockey continues to vex those who have followed and covered it for years. The situation is so pronounced that WHL general managers are openly questioning how they plan to keep stocking their rosters.

Author James Mirtle with The Athletic spoke to Mike Fraser, General Manager of the Everett Silvertips, last week on this very topic. And Fraser, a former junior and collegiate hockey player, former reporter with the Swan Valley Star and Times, and former coach with the Swan Valley Stampeders, didn't pull any punches.

"I have a document that has three years (of roster projections) ahead of me, and I find that it's almost a waste of time to have it now Fraser told Mirtle. "And that's a little bit scary and a little bit challenging.

"There's not a lot of certainty of what to do about it. There's certainly some nervousness," Fraser said. "I fully admit I'm in that group. I still think the calibre of play is still going to be really high in our league. But I think everybody wishes they knew what the end result was going to be. And nobody seems to know that right now."

His comments come after a never-seen-before exodus of talent from major junior hockey to the NCAA ranks, including the expected NHL top draft prospect Gavin McKenna.

And you just know that the top place WHL teams are going to be looking to restock the cupboard is junior A hockey teams.

The traditional method for hockey teams to build via the draft in the WHL is pretty much dead. Loading up on top young talent, holding them together for three years and then pushing your chips all in with a late season trade or two is probably a thing of the past, as there's no guarantee you'll keep the best players on

your team for long.

"I don't blame the players - if they're getting money like that thrown at them, I understand," Fraser told Mirtle. "It's a tough thing to compete against - if you want to call it competing. I can sit there and talk to a player about our track record and how we've been the best development league for 50-plus years, but if someone's throwing \$100,000 or more at them, and that's what I'm up against, that's a pretty tough sell for us."

Teams in the MJHL have long gone through what the WHL is now just going through. But it will get more pronounced moving forward.

And with WHL teams (and ultimately junior A teams) having more and more top players poached by leagues above them, will the level of the game drop? Will WHL teams try to match NCAA money (which I think is impossible)?

Those questions, coupled with other concerns around junior hockey which include, but are not limited to, rising costs, stagnant minor hockey registration and concerns by some about over expansion of junior hockey, are we going to see some teams fold? Some leagues consolidate with one another?

One could argue the BCHL and the breakaway AJHL teams they absorbed are already doing this.

Whatever happens, I can safely predict that this winter, the action off the ice will be as riveting as the action on the ice. And that's not what anyone in junior hockey wants.

The moves by the Blues are especially encouraging, as they appear to be doing exactly what MJHL Commissioner Kevin Saurette said the two Winnipeg-based teams would be doing this year - actively trying to ice better teams. In the past three seasons the Blues have allowed 250, 297 and 262 goals, so bringing in a pair of 20-year-old goaltenders is a good look on a once proud franchise.

## = CLASSIFIEDS =

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Full Time positions

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We thank all applicants in advance for their interest in Prairie Mountain Health however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

These positions are subject to a Criminal Record Check (including Vulnerable Sector), Adult Abuse Registry Check, and a Child Abuse Registry Check. The successful applicant will be responsible for any services charges incurred.





## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

## SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SIFTON

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 **9th** day of **October, 2025**, at the hour of **1:30 PM**, at Oak Lake Community Hall, 474 North Railway Street, Oak Lake, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:


Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
53100	NWLY 33 FEET OF LOT 1 AND 2 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - DESC 1/2 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L - \$200	\$ 2,342.64
53200	LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC: FIRSTLY: SELY 26 FEET SECONDLY: NWLY 33 FEET THIRDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - DESC 1/2 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$300	\$ 2,345.15
53300	SELY 26 FEET OF LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - DESC 1/2 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$100	\$2,340.57
53400	PARCEL ONE: LOT 3 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC: FIRSTLY: ALL THAT PORTION DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT SE CORNER OF SAID LOT 3; THENCE NELY ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3, 17 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID BOUNDARY LINE 37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO LAST DESCRIBED COURSE 11 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NWLY AND PARALLEL WITH SWLY LIMIT OF SAID LOT 3, 23 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE 6 FEET MORE OR LESS TO INTERSECT THE BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3; THENCE SELY ALONG THE SW LIMIT OF SAID LOT 3 60 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM PARCEL TWO: LOTS 4 AND 5 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC: FIRSTLY: SELY 60 FEET OF SAID LOTS SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - DESC 3/5 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$500	\$ 2,349.79
53500	THE SELY 60 FEET IN DEPTH OF LOTS 4 AND 5 AND THAT PORTION OF LOT 3 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID LOT 3 THENCE NELY ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3, 17 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID BOUNDARY LINE 37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE 11 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NWLY AND PARALLEL TO THE SWLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3, 23 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SWLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE 6 FEET MORE OR LESS TO INTERSECT THE BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3; THENCE SELY ALONG THE SW BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3, 60 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE SAID POINT OF COMMENCEMENT; ALL IN BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - DESC 3/5 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$400	\$ 2,347.21
54400	LOTS 17 AND 18 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM, LOTS 19 AND 20 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - 17/20 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$1,300	\$ 2,368.16
54500	LOT 21 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - 21 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$300	\$ 2,345.15
54600	LOTS 22 AND 23 BLOCK 3 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - 22/23 3 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$700	\$ 2,354.36
169500	PARCEL ONE: ALL THAT CANCELLED PORTION OF PLAN 71 BLTO WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SOUTH RAILWAY STREET AND THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF DENNIS STREET AND ALSO WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE EASTERN LIMIT OF BOUVERIE STREET AND THE WESTERN LIMIT OF FREDETTE STREET PLAN 71 BLTO EXC FIRSTLY: LOTS 5 AND 6 BLOCK 1 AND LOT 17 BLOCK 2 PLAN 71 BLTO SECONDLY: ROAD PLAN 25511 BLTO AND THIRDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN DEED 010375 IN NW 1/4 34-9-25 WPM PARCEL TWO: ALL THAT PORTION OF DENNIS STREET PLAN 71 BLTO NOW CLOSED AND SHOWN COLORED BLUE ON PLAN V79 BLTO IN NW 1/4 34-9-25 WPM, BLOCK 'D' PLAN 71 BLTO EXC FIRSTLY: THE SLY 140 FEET AND SECONDLY: ROAD PLAN 25511 BLTO IN NW 1/4 34-9-25 WPM - 53083B RD 147W, ROUTLEDGE	L -\$42,700 B -\$66,100	\$ 5,488.64

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

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Sifton 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 4th day of September, 2025.

Managed by:



Lisa Greig  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Sifton  
Phone: (204) 855-2423  
Fax: (204) 855-2836

## Help Wanted

### Commercial Coordinator

Employment Type: Permanent, Full-Time  
Location: Virden, Manitoba  
Hours: 40 hours per week

**Join The Team:**

ERCO Worldwide is looking for a Commercial Coordinator to join our Commercial team at our Hargrave Plant!

This role blends accounting, operations, and administrative responsibilities—supporting AP, inventory valuation, budgeting, and cost control while coordinating outbound shipments and managing inventory and purchasing. The individual will also ensure smooth office operations, maintain safety and compliance records, and assist with community outreach and quality initiatives. This role's contributions will be essential to keeping the site running efficiently, supporting strategic decision-making, and strengthening ERCO's commitment to operational excellence and community engagement.

**The Role:**

**Accounting**

- Accounts payable, journal entries, accruals, inventory valuation, month end reconciliations/closing for the site, maintenance vs capital, PST filings
- Analysis to investigate variance, assist with cost control
- Assist with budgeting/forecasting for the site

**Customer Sales & Distribution**

- Prepare, release and distribute shipping documents for outbound product shipments and containers
- Ensure timely and accurate communication with the operators and leadership team for loaded and empty railcar containers

**Inventory Management/Purchasing**

- Purchasing and receiving inventory for the site
- Assist in managing counts and inventory levels within the stores facility and resolve any issues

**Administration**

- Ensure office equipment is operational (printers, scanners, shredders etc.) and manage office/kitchen supplies
- Support HSE initiatives
- Maintain site visitor, contractor and driver safety orientation records, safety indoctrinations
- Provide administrative support to the site leadership team, including filing, scanning and other duties as assigned
- Assist with Responsible Care/Community Outreach
- Site Quality Representative

**The Person:**

- 5+ years of experience in an accounting/office environment.
- Business Administration Diploma/Degree or several years' experience within the field.
- Solid understanding and familiarity of operational systems with the ability to use tools such as Dayforce, Coupa, JD Edwards, OneStream and MS Office.
- Knowledge of Responsible Care and ISO
- Strong organizational and communication skills with a high degree of attention to detail
- Capable of recognizing when things need to be done
- Personable, individual must work well in a team environment

**The Value You Bring:**

- Strong health and safety mindset
- Strong relationship builder – collaborative, team-builder
- Focused and results driven, transparent, and articulate
- Drives continuous improvement
- Resilient – can adapt to changing environments/technology
- Proactive – takes initiative, creative, stays ahead of the curve, enthusiastic, inspirational

**Competitive Benefits:**

- Company Paid Health and Dental Benefits on Day 1
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For more information, please contact Tia Mukherjee at [tia.mukherjee@ercoworldwide.com](mailto:tia.mukherjee@ercoworldwide.com) and apply via our company website: Open Positions (ERCO Careers).

## Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

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CLASSIFIEDS

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 position of Accounts Payable Clerk at the Virden Municipal Office. This position may be offered as a full-time role or as a term appointment, depending on the successful candidate. 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](mailto: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](http://www.wallace-woodworth.com) | 204-748-1239 | [info@wallace-woodworth.com](mailto:info@wallace-woodworth.com)

Thank-you

Thank-you

Spectacular Celebration for the 60th anniversary of Mervin & Lorraine Scott

Hosted at the Elkhorn Legion Hall on August 9, 2025. Thank-you Wenda Paton for welcoming everyone. Thank-you Donna & Harold Grabowski and Bill & Sharlean Bickerton and family for the flowers and wedding cake. Thank-you Margaret James, Wanda Brown, Christina Walker, Beth Canart, Wenda Paton, Fran and Laura Stenhouse. Jamie Martin made tarts. Wanda Brown, Beth Canart, Wenda Paton, and Jeresa Anderson and boys for suppling and serving cake, ice cream, cookies and beverages.

Thank-you to all the wonderful family and friends that came out to celebrate with us from near and far. Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you!

Lorraine and Mervin Scott



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. Thank you to Carscadden Funeral Home for their services and Tanis Podoboni for officiating.

Thank-you

Thank You to the following community members for their overwhelming financial support of the ultra-sound machine for the Virden Health Centre.

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| •Helen Harmon              | •Brent & Rosie Plaisier      |
| •Jacy & Joanne Whyte       | •Dave & Mary Lou Reid        |
| •Gordon & Thelma Quinn     | •Brian & Sandy Heaman        |
| •Gary Hunter               | •George & Carol Anne Trowell |
| •Harry Ellis               | •Tom & Lorraine Kirkup       |
| •Rea & Linda Kinnaird      | •Glen Taylor & Janet McLeod  |
| •Herb & Karen Manser       | •Doug & Mabel Sexsmith       |
| •Murray & Marion Gray      | •Gary & Susan Demare         |
| •Doug, Kathi & Laura Gatey | •Mark Houston                |
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| •Rodney & Marlene Stuart   | •Janice Schwalm              |
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| •Robert Grieve             | •Larry Maguire               |
| •Laura Maxwell             | •Terry & Diane Hayward       |
| •Irene Clarke              | •Anonymous                   |
| •Kay Thompson              |                              |

In memory of Mrs. Bouchie: Enid Haines  
In memory of Vi Leslie: Joyce McWhirter  
In memory of Doreen Grieve: R. Alex Grieve  
In memory of Maxine Heritage: Doug and Theresa Heritage and Family, Ellen Heaman  
In memory of Garth Routledge: Judy Russell, Brian Nolan, Glenda Clarke, Gerald Dybish, Russell and Sharon Routledge, Rob and Marilyn Warkentin, Rick and Brenda Smith, Murray and Jeanette Routledge, Lynda McDonald, Ken and Gwen Clarke, Barry and Maxine Hayward, Maxine Routledge

Auction

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Man Cave  
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For Sale

GRAND TRUNK NOSTALGIA CLUB

40th Annual Vintage & Collectible Sale  
SAT, Sept 27, 2025  
10AM – 5PM

Manitoba's Biggest Indoor Fall Vintage & Collectibles Sale with over 180 tables  
Admission: \$5.00  
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Assiniboia Downs  
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Early (8AM) admission: \$30.00

For Info:  
Ph:204-990-3463  
or 431-374-6925

Coming Events



Presents

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

Manitoba Women in Agriculture & Food Presents



October 9 2025  
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
Caboto Centre

1055 Wilkes Ave, Wpg.  
Lunch, Free Parking & Door Prizes!

Keynote Speaker:  
Jill Verwey, Pres. Of KAP

Collaborative Networking, Panel Discussion, Meet Peers & Industry Leaders in person!

For info & to Register:  
<https://mwaf.ca/services/mwaf-2025-summit/>

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# New Cemetery Road bridge approved

RM of Wallace-Woodworth Council meeting Aug. 26

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Transportation Superintendent Nicolas Zuck attended the council meeting to report on the Request for Proposals (RFP) to replace the Cemetery Road bridge. At the Aug. 12 meeting councillors were concerned that the RFP appeared to cover only the bridge replacement without associated dirt work or adjustments to elevation of the bridge.

Zuck explained that all proposals were for a standard concrete girder bridge. The only variations were minor structural details, such as wing walls, abutments, and piles. The only potential cost increase would come from hydrology study recommendations, which might require extending the bridge length by about 10 feet.

Zuck said, "I talked to every person who submit-

ted and when it comes to price, the only variance they can see, if the hydrology study makes a difference, would be a 10 per cent increase."

Council passed a resolution to accept the proposal from Samson Developments Inc. for the design and replacement of the bridge at a cost of \$996,144.60.

### Gopher control

Three volunteer marksmen were authorized to use firearms within the village of Elkhorn for gopher control. Coun. Mark Humphries raised concerns about public safety and community perception. Humphries said, "We've had a gopher program, and it's caused our office nothing but stress...I think the secret is to get the education out of why, when, and who's doing it." Coun. Denis Lachapelle described a solar-powered vibration device that he had used to successfully eliminate go-

phers from his property.

### Donation to Veterinary Services

Council approved a \$175,000 donation to the Virden and Area Veterinary Board for the expansion of Virden Veterinary Services. This is the remaining balance of a \$350,000 donation announced in 2024. These funds will be released once the renovations are complete and an occupancy permit has been issued.

### Kenton museum

Council considered a request from the Woodworth Millennium Museum committee regarding the reallocation of a previous \$3,500 grant. Initially intended for a storage shed, the committee asked to retain the funds for a long-term project instead. Because of concerns about the current building's condition, the committee is considering relocating the museum within the next three to

five years and wants to create a fund to prepare financially. Council approved the change.

### Two Creeks Cairn

Two Creeks Community committee plans to erect a cairn in commemoration of the Ross Consolidated School and the Town of Two Creeks. Council had already expressed support for the initiative, and the committee now requested that the municipality handle donations on their behalf to issue charitable receipts. Council approved the resolution.

### Mineral Rights Lease

Council received a proposal to lease mineral rights on the west half of 27-10-26, as the current lease is due to expire on Aug. 29. Coun. Val Caldwell asked whether a policy had been developed in the former RM of Wallace regarding leases like this, and whether the size of the parcel (8.2 acres in this

case) is significant. Council agreed to hold off on a final decision until any previous policy could be considered.

### Trans Canada West planning district

Development Officer Cory Nixon attended the meeting and reported on municipal development in 2025 compared to 2024. Permit activity is lower this year, with only about \$2 million in development so far compared to \$4 million the previous year, which had included a major daycare project. He said, "This is general across the board. Industrial (investment) is definitely slow right now...with the tariffs and the market, it scared a lot of people off in the spring."

### Lease Request

Council discussed a request from a resident who wants to lease municipal property to build a fence and plant trees. Humphries noted that granting a lease or sale could be costly, with legal fees potentially reaching \$10,000, and Coun. Barb Stambuski said that if the

land were sold it would have to be tendered publicly. Ultimately council agreed the best course of action was to send a letter to the resident explaining that council is in the process of developing a policy on unused road allowances and will respond once that policy is established.

### LUD reports

Coun. Diana MacDonald presented the Kenton LUD committee update. She reported that the new playground had arrived, and work was already underway. Council passed a resolution to formally award the sidewalk project to Brad Nixon for \$9,420.

Coun. Lachapelle reported that Elkhorn's sidewalk plans have been postponed until next year.

Vehicle donations being considered for the Manitoba Antique Automobile Museum collection include a 1938 McLaughlin, a 1947 Fargo FL3 and a 1926 Chevrolet truck. The museum roofing project is scheduled for late October.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

## Cemetery Donations September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Norsworthy Family</li><li>• Jo-Anne Milne</li><li>• Glynis VanDamme</li><li>• Karen &amp; Herb Manser</li><li>• Grace Ross</li><li>• Olive Hutchison</li><li>• Evelyn Jorgensen</li><li>• Judy Poole</li><li>• Evelyn Odell</li><li>• Myrtle Lane Fund</li><li>• John &amp; Helen Godolphin Fund</li><li>• Rolla Lund Fund</li><li>• Dellan &amp; Ian Cameron Fund</li><li>• Glen Gardiner Memorial Fund</li><li>• John Lund Memorial Fund</li><li>• Helen Carscadden Fund</li><li>• Wes &amp; Betty Anderson Fund</li><li>• Linda Lane</li><li>• John Fefchak</li><li>• Glenda Clarke</li><li>• Everett Kruger</li><li>• Kelly Weber</li><li>• Myrtle Wooldridge</li><li>• Merle Browning</li><li>• Gina Bradbury</li><li>• Richard Ward</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lawrence Langlois</li><li>• Heather Beltz</li><li>• Caroline Greig</li><li>• Carol-Lee Slimmon</li><li>• Lori Coughlan</li><li>• Maxine Chacun</li><li>• Brenda Lund</li><li>• Linda Plaisier</li><li>• Lori Flett</li><li>• Randy Browning</li><li>• Marilyn Schur</li><li>• Jerry Flecknor</li><li>• Jeff Jorgensen</li><li>• Charles Heaman</li><li>• Karen Hopley</li><li>• Kathy Welsh</li><li>• Janice Simpson</li><li>• Donna Bajus</li><li>• Myles VanDamme</li><li>• Gladys McNeill</li><li>• Doug Gatey</li><li>• Lorraine Langlois</li><li>• Denise Mayo</li><li>• Heather Patterson</li><li>• Betty Anderson</li><li>• Kenneth Clarke</li><li>• Doris Forster</li><li>• Alex Grieve</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ray Neild</li><li>• Karen Naumiuk</li><li>• Len Collier</li><li>• Linda White</li><li>• Phyliss Sims</li><li>• Eleanor Oppen</li><li>• Roy Potter</li><li>• Doug Leslie</li><li>• Michelle Rebusky</li><li>• Eva Blackshaw</li><li>• Donna Smith</li><li>• Anne Anderson</li><li>• Margaret Gabrielle</li><li>• Joyce Heaman</li><li>• Bonnie Girardin</li><li>• Rick Wark</li><li>• Debra Hodgins</li><li>• Donald Blakely</li><li>• Shirley Gibson</li><li>• Nield Family Foundation</li><li>• Noreen Baskerville</li><li>• Wanda Brown</li><li>• Glenn Ritchie</li><li>• Maxine &amp; Barry Hayward</li><li>• Karen Anderson</li><li>• Estate of Doreen Pearl Grieve</li><li>• Marlene Cantlon</li></ul> |
|---|---|---|

Upcoming Council Meetings  
September 23 – 6:30 PM  
October 7 – 7:00 PM

## 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](mailto:jen@harrisleadership.com), quoting "Project #26103"

### Economic Development Manager

Please visit [www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities](http://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](mailto:bookings@virden.ca), or check the Facility Calendar at: <https://app.univerusrec.com/virdenpub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>



## Check your mailbox!

### 2025 Property tax notices have been sent out.

If you haven't received yours, please contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

2025 Property Taxes are due by **October 31**.



# From the prairies to the highlands 204

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After getting groceries at the local store in Minishant, we made our way to our overnight stay where we would stay for four nights. The destination was the Lady Coats Memorial Church in Minishant located in South Ayrshire, Scotland. This also included two lodges for sleeping.

The church was built in 1877 to commemorate Lady Glorianna Coats, nee McKenzie, wife of Sir Peter Coats, the Laird of Auchendrane. Sir Peter was a Baptist minister but most of the village was Presbyterian, so the church was designated non-denominational, or non sectarian and was opened to appropriate visiting ministers.

We were each designated a room to sleep by our trip coordinator, Dr. Devon Caldwell. Our room was the Dumfries room.

Our first impression of the church was WOW! Look at this place. There were a few steps to go up where we entered the foyer. As we turned the corner we stepped into a huge dining room and Oh man, what a surprise! There was a 16-foot-long table made out of three, two by twelve planks with 16 chairs. It was a massive table! The cozy sitting area displayed a beautiful ornate church bench, a love seat, a fireplace and a bathroom. There was also a little bedroom off to one side as well as a bar/music room with old vinyl records which Leith Corney found and immediately started playing and dancing.

Next was a commercial kitchen with a massive range. Thankfully the men figured out how to operate it. The kitchen had all the conveniences you could want including a dishwasher. From the dining room there was a side door that led out onto a huge patio. Part of

it was covered with a roof and it overlooked a beautiful yard with lots of trees.

Back in the house, we went up two flights of stairs, not knowing at the time we were in training for all the climbing and stairs we would encounter. Up the stairway was a common room. It had a massive L-shaped couch that would seat 11 people. There was also a couch that would seat three. Down the hallway were five bedrooms and four bathrooms.

The third story or loft had a Ping-Pong table where mini tournaments were held. There was an area to play music, and a huge brass elephant that kept a close eye on what was going on.

We did not arrive at the church until after 4pm. We had a little time to look around and unpack and change clothes then headed off for supper at the Souter Inn.

Wow! What a supper! We were able to order anything off the menu we wanted. This place served the best hamburger I have ever had. Man, it was good. Everyone had a good time and a great supper.

After supper, it was back to the church to unwind after such a long day. This was an early night as the next day we were off to Turnberry and the Trump Turnberry golf course.

With the groceries we bought, the men made breakfast the first morning. We had scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, tomatoes, toast and coffee.

Donald Caldwell was our tour bus driver. He had been raised in Scotland and knew where he was going.

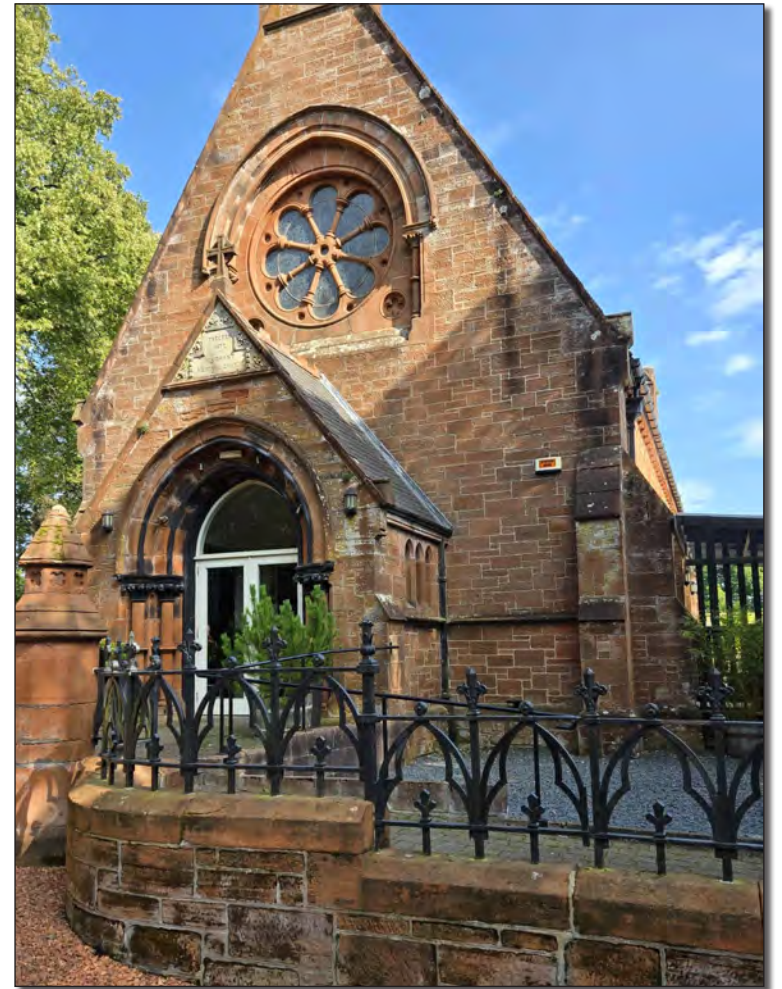


PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Lady Coats Memorial Church in Minishant Scotland.

We always arrived at our destination safely. You may not be aware of this, but in Scotland they drive on the left side of the road, opposite to us. The drivers' seat is on the right side of the vehicle. Donald navigated through many miles safely. Thank you Donald for keeping us safe! Next week I will share our first day of travel through Scotland and the Trump golf course.

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**VIRDEN 2025 SALE SCHEDULE**  
**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**

September	17	Wednesday	9am	Regular Sale
September	19	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls
September	21	Sunday	1pm	Sheep / Goats
September	21	Sunday	5pm	Small Animal & Tack
September	21	Sunday	7pm	Horse Sale
September	24	Wednesday	10am	29th Anniversary Presort Feeder Sale
September	26	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls
October	1	Wednesday	10am	Presort Feeder Sale
October	3	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls
October	3	Friday	6pm	McIntyre Family Horse Dispersal
October	8	Wednesday	10am	Simmental Bonanza Presort Feeder Sale
October	10	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls
October	15	Wednesday	10am	Charolais Extravaganza Presort Feeder Sale
October	17	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls
October	19	Sunday	1pm	Sheep / Goats
October	19	Sunday	5pm	Small Animal & Tack
October	19	Sunday	7pm	Horse Sale
October	22	Wednesday	10am	Angus Showcase Presort Feeder Sale
October	25	Saturday	10am	North American Auctioneer Contest Presort Sale
October	29	Wednesday	10am	Angus Showcase Presort Feeder Sale #2
October	31	Friday	10am	Cows / Bulls



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