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AUGUST 21, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 1 / ADVANCE: VOL 141 NO 3 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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## VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO ACTION DREW HUNDREDS OF COMPETITORS, THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS



Charlie King and Kevin McKinnon Team Roping during Sunday's Performance.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT, ACTION PLUS PHOTOGRAPHY

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE ADVANCE

In its 36th year, the rodeo committee has it down to a science. Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze has been named 2025 Large Rodeo of the Year by the Canadian Cowboys Association, an award they've won many times now.

However, outside forces were at work—such as all-day rain that triggered an overland flood warning from Environment Canada, a power outage and missing sheep.

Despite several hitches, Western Rodeo Chair, Lonnie Brown said of the three-day rodeo, "The crowds were absolutely fantastic."

But, with the uncontrollable and the unexpected, organizers had their work cut out.

"I guess Friday, with all the rain that day, we kind of had to make a few adjustments on the fly just because of the condition of the alley outside," said Brown.

*Read more on the wrap-up on pages 12-13...*

Inside...



**ALL ABOUT  
THE RODEO**  
*P2-3, 7-13*



**FARMERS'  
ADVOCATE**  
*P14, 23-24*

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2026  
JEEP  
WRANGLER WILLYS

# CROWDS PACK THE STANDS FOR THE 2026 VIRDEN DEMOLITION DERBY

By Beth McConnell  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The engines roared, the dust rose, and the crowd at the Virden Fairgrounds settled in for one of the community's most anticipated summer traditions, the Virden Demolition Derby, held Sunday, August 16, 2026. Drivers from across the region rolled in with patched up frames, fresh paint jobs, and plenty of determination, ready to battle it out across multiple classes throughout the afternoon.

According to the event record, "For each of these Features; 1st received a trophy and 1-2 received payouts, watermelon hit received payout."

**Small Cars Bring Early Excitement**

The derby kicked off with the Small Car heat, where quick maneuvering and tight turns kept spectators on edge. Dean Sanclemente claimed first place, followed by Scott Perdonic in second. The crowd erupted when Derick Kunka earned the Watermelon Hit award—an always popular moment that rewards the biggest, boldest strike of the heat.

**Chain & Bang Keeps the Action Rolling**

In the Chain & Bang division, drivers pushed their vehicles to the limit as bumpers clashed and chains rattled. Jason Creller took top spot, with Tyler Spring finishing second. Spring's car also caught the eye of fans later in the day, earning him the Best Dressed Car award.

**Truck Class Delivers Heavy Hits**

The Truck heat brought out some of the derby's most powerful machines. Rob Prettie secured first place, while Morgan Henry followed in second. Alfie Hunt earned the Watermelon Hit award after delivering the heat's most memorable collision.

**Powder Puff Showcases Skill and Spirit**

The Powder Puff heat once again proved to be a crowd favourite. Kristin Carruthers drove her way to first place, with Emery Kozak finishing second. The division continues to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chain and Bang - Dustin Baloun, Andrew Carruthers, Tyler Spring, Jason Creller

highlight the growing number of women taking part in derby competition each year.

**Big Cars: A Full Slate of Heats and Hard Hits**

The Big Car division featured multiple heats, consolation rounds, and a high stakes final. As noted in the event record, "only 1st place winners received a trophy 1st & 2nd of each heat moved on to the finals."

**Heat Results**

- Heat #1: 1st – Jason Carruthers; 2nd – Rudy Peters
- Heat #2: 1st – Rob Prettie; 2nd – Dave Kemsley
- Heat #3: 1st – Callen Hayward; 2nd – Shawn Gardner
- Heat #4: 1st – Deegan Flannery; 2nd – Cole Kroeker

**Consolation Rounds**

- Consolation #1: Kris Hay, Chris Flannery
  - Consolation #2: Dakota Theroux, Jody Braybrook
- These rounds gave drivers one last chance to earn a spot in the finals, adding tension and excitement as vehicles limped, smoked, and clawed their way through.

**Final Feature: Twelve Drivers Battle for the Trophy**

The Feature Final brought together twelve determined drivers, each vying for the top payout and the coveted trophy. As the record states, "1-3 Winners received Money Payouts 1st

Received a trophy." After a dramatic showdown filled with heavy hits and strategic driving, Rudy Peters emerged as the 2026 Big Car Feature Champion. Shawn Gardner secured second place, while Jason Carruthers rounded out the top three.

**Special Awards Highlight Derby Spirit**

The derby also recognized standout drivers with several special awards:

- Best Dressed Car (Fans' Pick): Tyler Spring
- Sportsman (Split): Dakota Theroux & Cole Kroeker
- Mad Dog (Biggest Hit): Derick Kunka
- Driver Fees Winner: Matt Wilson

These awards celebrated creativity, sportsmanship, and the fearless energy that makes the Virden Derby a beloved annual event. From the first heat to the final wreck, the 2026 Virden Demolition Derby delivered the noise, grit, and hometown excitement fans have come to expect. With packed stands, hard-working crews, dedicated volunteers, and drivers willing to put on a show, the afternoon was a strong reminder of why this event remains such a favourite at the Virden Fairgrounds. As the dust settled and the last cars were hauled from the track, the cheers from the crowd made one thing clear: the derby tradition in Virden is still running strong.

## COREX HOSTS BBQ, SUPPORTS WILD WEST DAZE



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Michelle, an early childhood educator was on stage with the DJ entertainer, because it was her birthday. She's with the children dressed in red.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Not only did Corex Resources once again host a free barbecue for the community, but Brian Tompkins on behalf of Corex took the opportunity to present a cheque for \$1,200 to Virden Chamber of Commerce to assist with the downtown event, Wild West Daze.

Corex has been supporting Virden in this way for a number of years.

Jillian Irvine, Amanda Brooks and Carla McLean were on hand to receive the cheque and Irvine thanked Corex for their generosity toward the Daze event.

Families, people on their lunch break, and kids of all ages flocked to Victoria

Park. Corex staff, family members, and volunteers, plus a host of other industry businesses cooked up a storm behind Chevron Stage.

Set up on tables provided by the Virden Ag Society, other volunteers handed out hundreds of burgers and hot dogs, bags of chips, cookies, and drinks to what seemed like an endless stream of people.

There was seating in and around the big tent and kids' entertainment was fun for everyone as Bryan from Expressions Entertainment provided high energy music for kids to dance to and wave streamers. Based in Ninette, Man. Bryan Podworny has been entertaining crowds since he was a 15-year-old DJ.



Westman On Wheels would like to thank all the Sponsors, Supporters and Volunteers of our 2026 Wild West Daze Show & Shine. Each of you helped to make this event a success!

**Event Partner & Sponsor: Piston Ring**

**Sponsors:**









**Supporters:** Town of Virden, Virden Indoor Rodeo Committee, Empire Advance, First Street Catering, Look Music



# HEART, SOUL AND BISON BURGERS: TAILGATE PARTY RETURNS STRONGER THAN EVER

By Lauren Halowaty  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The annual tailgate party has once again come and gone, proving to be another success! This beloved and fairly new rodeo weekend event brings families and friends of all ages together, immediately following the traditional morning parade and ending just before the typically sold-out Saturday evening performance.

This year's atmosphere felt like a delightful "pop-up" folk festival. Attendees basked in the sunshine while enjoying live music from Old Bones Buffalo and Prairie Roots, who performed traditional favourites that everyone knew and loved. Attendees even had a special treat with a performance by Summer King! The combination of live music on stage, neighbours catching up, and a gentle breeze created the perfect "chill vibe" for a summer afternoon.

For the younger guests, the mechanical bull was a massive hit. It was great to see the kids returning to try again, especially those determined to beat their ride times from last year.

Of course, no tailgate is complete without some-

thing from the grill. Guests enjoyed lean bison burgers sourced from Bison Spirit Ranch near Oak Lake. Known for their premium steaks and tomahawks, the ranch provided the perfect Westman-raised meat for the community to try. The meal included classic beans and a dessert. There was a variety of refreshing alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks also available to keep everyone cool.

This wonderful day was made possible by generous sponsors including Four Seasons RV, DC Septic and Ravine Ranch Sport Horses. The support of the sponsors ensures that the event remains accessible and enjoyable for everyone. More than just a



Cooking up the Bison Burgers for the Tailgate Party.

PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

rodeo-themed party, the tailgate is a place where neighbours can truly connect and relax amidst a busy weekend, and that is exactly what Virden did!

# VIRDEN DOWNTOWN DAZE DELIVERS A FULL DAY OF FUN, TALENT, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT



The crowd filled Seventh Ave for this year's Downtown Daze.

By Beth McConnell  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's downtown core was packed from end to end as Downtown Daze returned with one of its biggest and most energetic celebrations yet. Running from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., the event transformed 7th Avenue and surrounding streets, into a lively festival space filled with food trucks, entertainment, vendors, family activities, and the unmistakable spirit of a community coming together.

This year's Downtown Daze also served as the official kickoff to the Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze, setting the tone for a weekend of western themed excitement.

Crowds moved steadily between a wide range of attractions that offered something for every age group. Children enjoyed a variety of bouncy castles, slides, obstacles, preschool inflatables, soccer darts, and axe throwing, all included with the popular \$15 wristband. The new rock-climbing wall and the mechanical bull drew enthusiastic participants throughout the evening.

Families also visited the petting zoo, cowboy meet and



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Virden Oil Capitals hosted a few carnival games for everyone to play.

greet, and the reptile display, Fraser Reptiles, while others took in the Show & Shine, sidewalk sales, and the Oil Caps booth. The Wallace District Fire Department was also on site, offering an up close look at rescue equipment and vehicles, as well as an obstacle course, and Sparky, their mascot.

Food trucks were a major draw this year, offering a wide variety of flavours and treats, with the lineup featuring Sabor Latino, Tea Love, Mini Donuts, Chip Truck, Cantina Pops, D&M Mini Donuts, Flipping Dawgs, Sullivans Delights, Hampton Café, and the Virden Legion BBQ. The mix of returning favourites and new additions kept the crowd well fed and eager to sample something different at every stop.

A strong vendor presence added to the festival atmosphere, with a diverse mix of local businesses, artisans, community groups, and service organizations taking part in this year's Downtown Daze. Visitors browsed booths from Sugar Rush by Emily, Tupperware, D'Pop Shoppe, The Hideout, Shari Lyn Fashions, Jewelry & Crochet by

Brinna, Vesparia, Studios, Lavender Blue Body Art, Prairie Gateway Tourism, CK Jewelry, Custom Creations, ACL, Oil Caps, Virden Theatre Productions, Southwest Judo Club, Royal LePage, Centum Mortgage, The Sweet Spot Pop Up, MJ's Bistro, Virden Ford, Virden Dodge, T's Street Patio, Sunrise Credit Union, and Valleyview Co op, while face painting and glitter tattoos added extra colour and excitement for families.

Face painting by Arts Mosaic was another highlight, with a steady stream of children lining up in front of the Collier Building for colourful designs.

One of the most anticipated parts of the evening was Virden's Got Talent, sponsored by Sunrise Credit Union and Valleyview Co op. The competition drew a large audience and showcased impressive local performers.

This year's winners were Karys Douglas - First Place (13+), Summer King - First Place (12 & under). Both performer earned enthusiastic applause and recognition for their standout performances.

Adding to the excitement was live entertainment from JJ Voss, who performed as part of his tour with Doc Walker. Hisset brought a strong country sound to the street, drawing listeners of all ages and keeping the crowd energized well into the evening.

Downtown Daze continues to be powered by strong community partnerships, with sponsors including The Alexandra Hotel, Boston Pizza, Centum Mortgage Choice, Corex Resources, Insureline, Kullberg's, Mazer group, Metta Counselling, McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell, Patersons, Royal LePage Martin Liberty Realty, Shari Lyn Fashions, Strike Welding, Super Thrifty, Swift Supply, T.L. Penner Construction, Town of Virden, Virden Co op, Virden Drugs, PureChem Services, T's Dining and Lounge, Virden Indoor Rodeo, Virden Ford, Virden Dodge, and Core Ag Inputs.

Their support helped create a vibrant, family friendly event that celebrated local talent, businesses, and community pride.

With thousands of visitors filling the streets, Downtown Daze once again proved why it remains a favourite summer tradition in Virden. From food trucks and vendors to live music, kids' activities, and the talent show, the event delivered a full evening of fun and connection, a perfect start to the Wild West Daze weekend.

# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



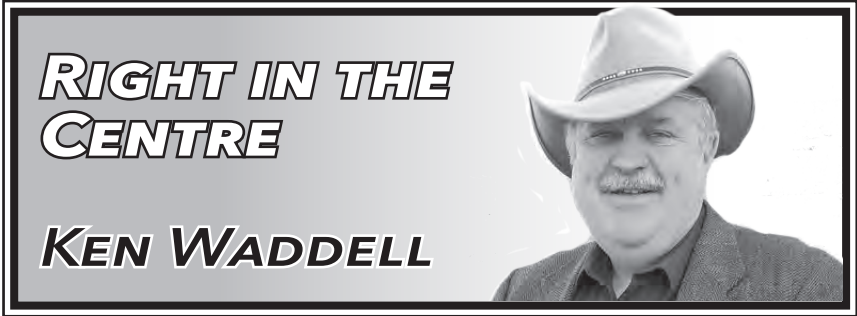
## Time to gather and store

Apparently a few farmers mused last week that “We could sure use a bit of rain.” They got their wish, and then some, with rainfalls that soaked the fields and, in some cases, revisited some of this past summer’s overland flooding. Where the crops survived or re-grew from hail damage and where the floods didn’t reach, the crops look really good. Gardens are doing great.

My Mother was raised in the non-freezer days and canning was pretty much the whole deal for preserving food. I perhaps should explain the term canning as it has nothing to do with cans. It’s a heat process where food is cooked and put into glass sealers or jars and sealed with rubber rings and a glass or metal top secured with a threaded steel ring. She canned beef and chicken. Also cranberry, choke-cherry, raspberry jelly and jams and bought B.C. plums and pears to can. At times, she canned beet and bean pickles and many forms of cucumber pickles. Canned tomatoes often made it to the shelf. We also had an older home with a stone basement and a separate cold room for storing carrots and potatoes. She thought she had really arrived when they bought a freezer in the 1950s just after they got hydro in their house on the farm. All kinds of food went into the freezer.

Strangely enough, our parents passed on a fine prairie tradition and you know you have Depression era roots when you put aside a “good box”, just because it might come in handy someday.

Here’s another strange depression era thing, my Dad would rarely cut a board unless he had to because it might get re-used in another spot that needed a longer piece of wood. He overlapped a lot of boards in his day and I tend to do the same.



**“I think we could be much more self-sufficient in Manitoba with a bit more industrious pursuit of what we can and do grow.”**

As a former farmer and Ag-rep, I am always wondering why we don’t harvest more fruit and vegetables. I am sure there’s more food that stays on the ground than ever gets to the table when it comes to fruit and vegetables except perhaps for the commercial potato fields. Commercial producers often offer free potatoes to individuals and to food banks.

There’s another problem with food production and preserving in Manitoba. I have known several occasions where people who could really use some free food were offered some. The invitation was extended to come out and pick some vegetables for free. The response was, “Can you pick it and bring it into town the next time you are in?” Unless it was a case of sickness or disability, the answer should be a firm “No”. The next answer should be, “Get off your butt” and look after yourself with stuff that is being given to them for free.

Do they want other people to cook it for them and maybe chew it for them too. Makes my blood boil.

I think we could be much more self-sufficient in Manitoba with a bit more industrious pursuit of what we can and do grow. Perhaps we have had too many government regulations and too much socialism in Manitoba. Manitoba, as province, has been on social assistance for decades as we get subsidized by “Have provinces” because we are a “Have-not province”. For decades we have been on the government welfare roll. That is shameful and saddens me. I am pretty sure that spending billions to re-locate rail lines in Winnipeg won’t help make us into “Have province”, but I welcome someone who wants to prove me wrong.

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



## The future is inviting

When meeting a new individual an often asked question is ‘where did you grow up?’. My quick response begins with ‘my early years were spent in...’ acknowledging the fact that I have not yet quite grown all the way up! If you were to inquire of my grandchildren as to the truth of that statement, they would concur with my conclusion! Several adult grandchildren watched askanced and astonished as I dropped to my knees and proceeded to gallumph across the kitchen floor to play ‘stack them up’ with a great-grandchild. First they concluded that it must be painful to ‘walk’ on one’s knees, and then they expressed the thought that I was setting a very high standard for them as they age. So be it! Playing with the littles has always brought me so much joy and refreshed my spirit. There is no doubt that I am a grown up, one can’t argue with blatant facts. I have widened rather than withered, I have slowed in motion though not in repartee, I certainly have not grey, but white hair, I need my glasses but still have my own teeth! I do appear to be a full grown adult. It’s the unseen that is my reality. I still want to explore, invite new thoughts, not so much try new foods; I do not wish to stagnate. I’m still growing up; gaining in wisdom, patience, kindness and acceptance. The future is inviting.

It’s not that I’m a stickler for grammar, however, I appreciate the rules of language. When responding to the standard greeting ‘how are you?’ my reply most often is ‘I’m well, thanks. I tried being good and that wasn’t fun!’ The answer often takes another by surprise. Just because one is eighty, being good doesn’t always come naturally! (Years ago, when I was much younger, I asked a very senior friend if it got easier to be good as one aged. Her answer was truthful and, for me, wanting a positive answer, disheartening. She assured me that the opportunities to be impatient and unkind did not diminish. The choice to be good was still a choice.) Then there was Ed’s quick answer to that same question was a calm and serene ‘no good, thanks’. This stemmed from the many general inquiries as to how one is doing without waiting for an answer, or caring what the answer was! Rather like a generic ‘hi’ as one passed another.

The English language is complex; filled with idioms and prone to change. Words that meant one thing to one generation certainly don’t mean the same today. Thong, for example, meant footwear and there was no other meaning. Many years ago, the little boys talking about their dinky toys caused much tittering. (I told you I’m not all grown up!) I remember too, as the first five children were young, I would correct their grammar when they were telling me something. Ed quietly reminded me that if I kept doing that they may not want to bother telling me how their day had gone. I heard him. It’s more important to hear what one says rather than how they say it. So, ‘I am well’, and my early years were spent in Kane.

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



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

**Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440**

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

## Check your mailbox!

2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

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

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

## Notice of Voters List / Personal Security Protection

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at: 236 Wellington Street West, Viriden, Manitoba, during regular office hours, Monday to Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Fridays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m. or

Town of Viriden Council Chambers, 232 Wellington Street West, Viriden, Manitoba on

**Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

At this time the Senior Election Official (SEO) will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

### Voter Eligibility:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

### Application for Personal Security Personal

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address / fax number below) no later than September 15, 2026 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail, email or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

**All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before Sept. 22, 2026.**

Dated at Viriden in the Province of Manitoba, on August 10, 2026

Rhonda Stewart

Town of Viriden, Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)

Viriden, Manitoba ROM 2C0

Email: [rlstewart64@outlook.com](mailto:rlstewart64@outlook.com)

Phone: 204-851-0769

## Upcoming Council Meetings

**September 1 & 22**

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

## Candidate Information Session

August 26, 2026 – 6:00 pm

Sunrise Banquet Hall – TOGP, 900-5th Avenue South

The presentation will be given by Mr. Ernie Epp of Way To Go Consulting Inc. Mr. Epp has over 40 years experience in local government, and for the past 15 years has been providing a wide variety of consulting services to many municipalities in Manitoba.

Walk-ins are welcome but for planning purposes it would be appreciated if those interested in attending would pre-register by contacting the Town of Viriden Office at 204-748-2440 or by email at [info@virden.ca](mailto:info@virden.ca)

## Employment Opportunities Recreation and Events Coordinator

This position is responsible for assisting with the planning, implementing, and managing of a broad range of community recreation programs and events in the Town of Viriden, but primarily the coordination and booking liaison for Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Full job description is available on the Town of Viriden website.

Resumes will be accepted until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

Please forward resumes, complete with covering letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager

Town of Viriden, Box 310, Viriden, MB, ROM 2C0

Email: [office.manager@virden.ca](mailto:office.manager@virden.ca)

## Sanitation II Position

This is the senior position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job and able to pass a medical examination. A high school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a Class 3 with Air driver's license.

Full job description is available on the Town of Viriden website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager

Town of Viriden, Box 310, Viriden, MB, ROM 2C0

Email: [office.manager@virden.ca](mailto:office.manager@virden.ca)

**REGISTRATION PERIOD**

**NOW OPEN!**



**MAYOR & COUNCILLOR**

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Town of Viriden office, 236 Wellington Street West, Viriden, MB, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Registration forms are available for pickup at the Town of Viriden office.

Rhonda Stewart, SEO

Phone: 204-851-0769,

Email: [rlstewart64@outlook.com](mailto:rlstewart64@outlook.com)

Dated at Town of Viriden,

Viriden, MB on April 14, 2025

# Letter to the Editor

## RE: Aug 14 letter to the editor from Larry Powell

The letter to the Editor in your Aug 14 Virden Empire Advance from Larry Powell was one of the most distasteful letters I have ever read. His false science comments with false implications of science knowledge and accusations are showing his lack of knowledge and are insulting to the public in the world. He is missing or by-passing the real science facts with lack of true knowledge and replacing the facts with fear mongering over the edge personal rebellious sentiments with no common sense or reality and with no evidence. If you do not agree with him then you are a climate denier.

Vince Heaman  
Virden, Manitoba

## HELEN DRYSDALE

### OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

My apple trees are giving me a supply of fruit for eating fresh off the branch or for baking. If you do not have your own trees this is the time to buy apples as they are fresh and in bulk from our stores.

This caramel apple pie brings together fresh apples paired with a rich caramel sauce. I've kept things nice and simple by using a store-bought caramel sauce for this pie. If you have apples that cook up quickly do not cook the apples first. Just put them in a bowl and mix them with the lemon juice and corn starch and layer them in the pie shell.

#### Butterscotch Apple Pie

- |                              |                                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 cup oatmeal                | 1 cup brown sugar                             |
| 1/4 cup flour                | 1 tsp. cinnamon                               |
| 1/4 cup cubed butter         | 1/3 cup chopped walnuts                       |
| 1 10-inch prepared pie crust | 8 cups apples, peeled, cored, sliced 1/2 inch |
| 2 Tbsp. lemon juice          | 1 Tbsp. cornstarch                            |
| 1/2 cup Caramel Sauce        | 1/2 cup cold butter, cubed                    |

Directions: Preheat an oven to 350°F (175°C) In a large pot over medium heat, cook apples, lemon juice and cornstarch, stirring occasionally, until apples are tender, 12 to 15 minutes. You want the apples to be fork-tender but still hold their shape. While the apples are cooking make the crumb topping. In a medium bowl, cut the butter into the oatmeal, sugar, flour and cinnamon using a pastry cutter. Spoon the apples into the pie plate, pressing them down to avoid gaps in the filling. Drizzle the caramel sauce as evenly as you can over the apples, making sure you don't get the sauce near the edge of the pie plate. Sprinkle the topping over this and bake for 40-50 minutes or until golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack.

Biscuits filled with cheddar cheese and apples. These quick and easy recipe biscuits are perfect for fall or anytime!

#### Apple-Cheddar Biscuits

- 3 cups flour
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon
- 1 cup peeled, finely chopped apple
- 3/4 cup shredded old Cheddar cheese
- 2/3 cup cold butter or margarine, cubed
- 1 cup buttermilk or milk with 1 tsp. vinegar added
- 1 large egg, beaten

Preheat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and spice. Add the cubed butter and cut into the dry ingredients with a pastry cutter until it is crumbly and butter is pea-size. Stir in apple and cheddar cheese. Make a well in center of mixture. Mix milk and egg together. Pour this into the flour and gently mix to just form a dough. Avoid overmixing to keep the biscuits tender.

Transfer dough to lightly floured surface; gently knead until dough just comes together. Gently pat into 1"-thick square. With floured, long knife, cut dough into squares. Arrange on an ungreased baking sheet, spacing 2" apart. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until bottoms are golden brown. The size of your biscuits will alter the cooking time slightly so watch closely.



# Miniota News

Submitted  
BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Robyn and Traci McKean and excited big sisters Brae and Logan on the arrival of Harli Brett, born on July 19th at Brandon. Welcome Harli!

Richard and Grace McKean and Kevin and Cora-Lee McKean, Lloydminster, Alta. visited with

Randy and Ollie McKean for a night enroute to the McKean Reunion at Anola, Man. on the August long weekend. Randy and Ollie and Donna Brown also travelled to the reunion, and enjoyed a visit with Jim and Debbie Forsyth at Morden on the way home.

Congratulations to the Miniota Municipal Museum Board on the

occasion of their 50th anniversary. Three's Company provided entertainment for the celebration which was held at the Miniota United Church due to the rainy weather on Aug.14, with refreshments following. Thank you to the board for all you do to keep our history alive.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." -Desmond Tutu

# Police Report

## Westman RCMP Service Report for Aug. 9 to 15

Submitted  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 74 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 22 traffic offences, 2 Assaults, 4 Assistance to General Public/Other Agencies, 4 - 911 Calls, 3 Mental Health Acts, 3 Mischief, 3 Suspicious Persons, 1 Possession of Controlled Substance and 1 Wellbeing checks.

On August 9, RCMP received multiple reports of a semi-truck and trailer travelling in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. Complainant reported the semi-truck was swerving all over the road. Members located and conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle. After obtaining witness statements, the driver of the semi-truck was identified and was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Drive Carelessly, which carries a fine of \$672.

On August 9, RCMP received a report where a member of the public regarding suspicious items located at a park in the Town of Virden. The report indicated that an individual had found a park bench along with multiple chainsaws believed to be stolen. Members attended the scene and recovered all items. The chainsaws have been seized for further investigation. Investigators are asking anyone with information related to this matter to contact Virden RCMP.

On August 11, during a routine patrol in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 141km/hr in a 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for

Speeding which carries a fine of \$456.

On August 14, RCMP received a report of an in progress Domestic Assault in the Town of Virden. Complainant advised a male suspect had physically assaulted a female victim outside a local business. RCMP attended the scene and located both individuals involved. Members obtained statements from the victim and arrested and charged a 38-year-old male for one count of Assault. The accused was released on condition and is scheduled to appear in court later.

On August 14, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 131km/hr in a 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$325.

To report a complaint or non-emergency incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call the administration line at 204-748-2046 Ext. 3, during regular office hours.

If you are reporting an emergency, please call 911. If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Crime Stoppers is entirely confidential and completely anonymous. The tip line is not traceable, and they do not subscribe to caller ID or call display.

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# VALLEYVIEW CO-OP SERVES UP ANOTHER RODEO PANCAKE BREAKFAST



PHOTO BY BETH MCCONNELL

Amber Vandale Torrance and Faye Gerring, manager of the C-store, serve up some delicious food, coffee, and juice.

**By Beth McConnell**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Valleyview Co op Rodeo Pancake Breakfast once again brought warm plates, friendly faces, and unmistakable hometown pride to the kickoff of Virden's rodeo weekend. Now in its fourth year, the breakfast has become a staple of the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze festivities, an early morning gathering where good food and community support go hand in hand.

Held in the Sunrise Room at Tundra Oil & Gas Place, the breakfast welcomed guests from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., offering a hearty spread for a suggested donation of five dollars. Pancakes were the star of the morning, served hot off the griddle and topped with whipped cream or berry compote, but the meal went well beyond that. Guests enjoyed sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice, creating a full, satisfying breakfast that appealed to families, rodeo com-

petitors, and early rising supporters alike.

The event is entirely hosted and funded by Valleyview Co op, whose team members staff the cooking stations, serving tables, and donation booth. Their maroon shirts and red aprons have become a familiar sight at the griddle, where volunteers flip pancakes and greet guests with the easy warmth that defines community gatherings in Virden. A few Manitoba High School Rodeo participants also lent a hand during the first half of the morning, adding a meaningful connection between the fundraiser and the youth it supports.

What sets this breakfast apart is its purpose. Every plate served helps raise funds for local high school rodeo athletes, young competitors who are building skills, confidence, and passion within the sport. Since 2023, the breakfast has raised over \$4,100 for Manitoba High School Rodeo participants, and

organizers hope to see that number continue to grow as the event gains momentum year after year.

This year's breakfast capture exactly what makes it special: volunteers working shoulder to shoulder under the Valleyview Co op canopy, families enjoying pancakes together, and the unmistakable energy of a community that shows up for its youth. Whether it's the sizzle of the griddle, the line of guests waiting with juice boxes in hand, or the friendly chatter around the donation table, the morning feels like a celebration of everything Virden values: generosity, togetherness, and local pride.

As rodeo weekend continues, the Co op Pancake Breakfast stands as a warm and welcoming start, reminding everyone that the heart of the event isn't just in the arena—it's in the community that gathers to support it.



From left to right: Lorne Gerjack, David Wowk, Curtis Gervin, Mark Killan and Blake Krahn grill up pancakes.



## PASSING DOWN THE FARM: A LEGACY WORTH PROTECTING

For many farm families, succession planning is often viewed as a legal or financial exercise—a matter of transferring land, machinery, and assets from one generation to the next. But reducing farm succession to paperwork misses the heart of what is truly at stake.

A farm is far more than acreage and equipment. It represents decades of hard work, sacrifice, family traditions, and a way of life that has shaped generations. When the time comes to pass it on, families aren't simply transferring ownership—they're entrusting a legacy.

That is why successful farm succession requires more than tax planning. It demands honest conversations, thoughtful preparation, and a willingness to balance both the emotional and financial realities of change.

The emotional side of succession is often the most challenging. Questions about who will take over, how responsibilities will shift, and how non-farming family members fit into the future can create tension if left unspoken. Too often, assumptions replace conversations, leading to misunderstandings that can damage relationships long after the paperwork is signed.

Starting these discussions early gives every family member an opportunity to share expectations, preserve family values, and build a common vision for the future.

Financial planning is equally important. Without a well-designed succession plan, families may face significant tax consequences, cash flow challenges, or even the forced sale of land that has been in the family for generations. Careful planning can help maximize available tax strategies, protect retirement income for the outgoing generation, and create a fair approach for both farming and non-farming heirs.

It's important to remember that fairness doesn't always mean equality. Every family is unique, and successful succession plans recognize that different circumstances may require different solutions.

The strongest succession plans combine open family communication with sound professional advice. Regular family meetings, written agreements, and guidance from experienced legal, accounting, and financial professionals can help avoid conflict while ensuring the farm remains viable for future generations.

No family can predict when illness, retirement, or unexpected events will force important decisions. Waiting for a crisis often limits options and increases stress. Planning ahead gives families the flexibility to make thoughtful choices rather than rushed ones.

Canada's family farms have long been the backbone of rural communities. Passing down a farm is not simply about transferring ownership. It is about preserving a family's history, protecting financial security, and creating opportunities for the next generation. When families invest in both the emotional and financial sides of succession, they aren't just protecting land—they're safeguarding a legacy that can endure for generations.

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# VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO PARADE



Ponies and donkeys shown by the Virden Lions Club.



PHOTOS BY KEN AND CHRISTINE WADDELL  
Virden Dodge displays their pride in Virden Indoor Rodeo



Virden Pioneer Home Museum.

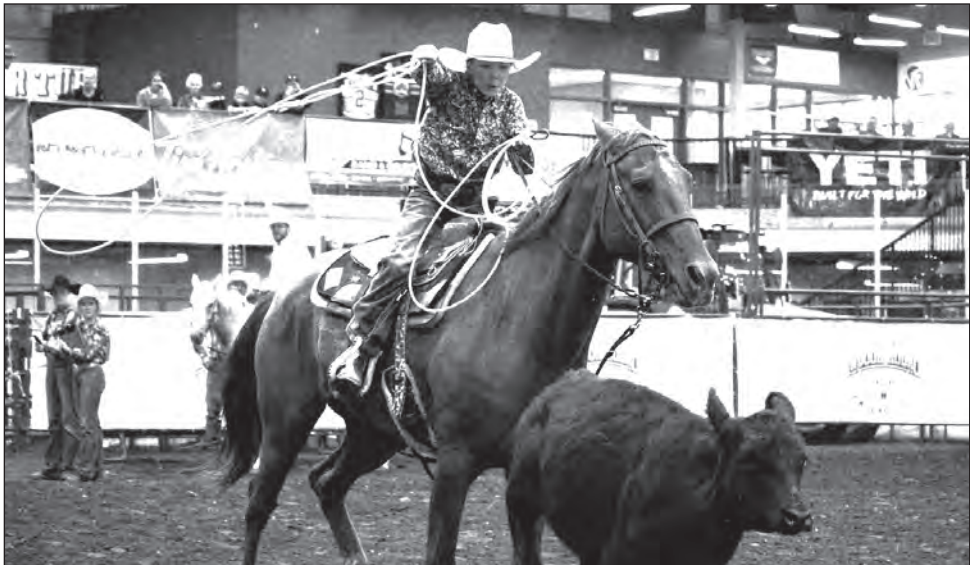


Virden Fire Department had a full line of truck and equipment in the parade.

# HIGH SCHOOL RODEO RAMPS UP WITH VIRDEN EVENT



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON  
Carter Brown of Virden flips his steer Thursday in HS steer wrestling competition. Brown is at the top of HS Boys All Around



Henry Stewart competing in JH boys' breakaway roping.

**By Anne Davison**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Manitoba High School Rodeo 2026-27 season got under way with a two-day event in Virden, running early days on Thursday and Friday in conjunction with the Virden Indoor Rodeo.

Junior high (JH) and high school (HS) students competed throughout 28 events.

At junior high level, some very young students – just heading into Gr. 5 - guide large mounts around poles or barrels, handle a rope and dismount on the go to tie a goat, or a calf; or catch and flip a steer in the chute dogging event. And they look confident in their events.

There are also rough stock events: JH saddle steer, bareback and bull riding; HS bull riding and saddle bronc.

Local competitors hail from Virden, Oak Lake, Miniota, Lenore, Griswold and Elkhorn. Here are the All Around (best of two or more events) results.

| Place                      | Member Name | Points |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>JH GIRLS All Around</b> |             |        |
| 1.                         | Dally Brown | 65.00  |

|                            |                   |       |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 3.                         | Jo-Hannah Logan   | 39.00 |
| 6.                         | Luna Stone        | 31.00 |
| 11.                        | Finley Ross       | 11.00 |
| 12.                        | Xylia Plaisier    | 9.00  |
| 13.                        | Azalea Plaisier   | 9.00  |
| <b>JH Boys All Around</b>  |                   |       |
| 1.                         | Kesler Brown      | 62.00 |
| 2.                         | Garrett Gompf     | 46.00 |
| 4.                         | Brock Brown       | 35.00 |
| 5.                         | Rory Hagan        | 33.00 |
| 6.                         | Rally King        | 29.00 |
| 10.                        | Slone Brown       | 16.00 |
| 11.                        | Leo King          | 15.00 |
| 12.                        | Felix Alexander   | 10.00 |
| 14.                        | Henry Stewart     | 7.00  |
| <b>HS GIRLS All Around</b> |                   |       |
| 3.                         | Gracie Johnston   | 32.00 |
| 5.                         | Sadie Brown       | 29.00 |
| 7.                         | Emily Warkentin   | 26.00 |
| 10.                        | Keightley Stewart | 20.00 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 15.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Halle Gray         | 13.00     |
| 16.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jemma Day          | 13.00     |
| <b>HS Boys All Around</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |           |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Carter Brown       | 39.00     |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Spencer Gompf      | 36.00     |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Slade Hagan        | 29.00     |
| 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Boden Bond         | 18.00     |
| 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Denver Gompf       | 7.00      |
| <b>HS Trap Shooting Aug. 11</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |           |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Brayden Radford,   | 92.0 9.50 |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Boden Bond,        | 92.0 9.50 |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mackinley Fefchak, | 88.0 7.50 |
| 4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Grady Moran,       | 88.0 7.50 |
| 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Casey Nykoliati,   | 78.0 6.00 |
| 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Wyatt Schneider,   | 73.0 5.00 |
| The next MHSRA event is in Rapid City, Aug 22 & 23. Following that, Oak Lake will host MHSRA on Sept. 4 & 5. Upcoming shooting events include Light Rifle on Aug. 26 & 27 at Wolverine Outdoor Range; and trap shooting at the Virden Trap Club Aug. 29 - Sept. 1. |                    |           |

# VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO PARADE



Empire-Advance staff and families participated in the parade.



PHOTOS BY KEN AND CHRISTINE WADDELL  
Music in the Park entertained along the parade route.



One of the oldest vehicles in the parade was entered by Accent Driving School.



Valleyview Co-op displayed a wide array of products and services.

# BARRELLING THROUGH THE WEEKEND

By Jessica Coulter  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

3D barrel racing is a timed rodeo event where riders navigate a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels. All skill levels compete together. The Virden 3D Barrel Racing event follows the Manitoba Barrel Racing Association guidelines. On Saturday, Aug. 15 and Sunday, Aug. 16, 100 competitors stepped up to the challenge and raced to score the best time.

The competition was open to many different levels of competitors including, Open (All ages), Youth (ages 11 – 16), Select (over 50) and peewees (10 and under) divisions. In this timed event, winners are divided into D's depending on their times. For example, if the fastest time is a 15.00 second run, the next division starts at 16.00. For this MBRA approved event, a knocked barrel results in a no time. Competitors paid entry fees each day they competed. Contestants are permitted a running



Jemma Day competed in the Open.

PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

start toward the timeline.  
1D Division: The fastest clean time of the race and any clean runs within 1 second of that fastest time.  
2D Division: Fastest time plus 1 second, spanning all runs up to the next split.  
3D Division: Fastest time plus 2 seconds, covering all slower clean times.  
To keep this event running smoothly, the crew is

made up of 10 fantastic hard-working volunteers. First place winners in each division are as follows for Saturday, August 15:  
• Open 1D: Rider # 797 Holly Hollingshead on Sailin' Sweet Hannah  
• Open 2D: Rider # 114 Jemma Day on Dolly  
• Open 3D: Rider # 901 Calonna Taylor on Hawk  
• Youth 1D: Rider # 619

Gracie Johnston on Finn  
Winners in each division are as follows for Sunday, August 16:  
• Open 1D: Rider # 174 Jerri-Lynn Thompson on Shrimp  
• Open 2D: Rider # 174 Jerri-Lynn Thompson on Fiddle  
• Open 3D: Rider # 148 Kristy Gilchrist on Happy  
• Youth 1D: Rider # 446

Andi Chartier on Hot Little Impulsion  
• Youth 2D: Rider # 683 Amadee Lee on Walter  
• Youth 3D: Rider # 683 Amadee Lee on Pony  
• Select 1D: Rider # 112 Shelley Adams on Bugs  
• Select 2D: Rider # 195 Jacqueline Rookes on Classy  
• Select 3D: Rider # 198 Laurel Mutrie on Perks Cash N Chex

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# THE LIONS RODEO PANCAKE BREAKFAST



PHOTOS BY LAUREN HALOWATY

While Lion Cassandra mixes the batter, Bev Ogilvie and her husband, Lion Gerald take full charge of the sausages, pre-cooking and serving them up. Community events like this are only possible thanks to the tireless work provided by all the incredible volunteers. Lions President Graham Hume flips pancakes all morning long.



## Accidental Apparitions, How a wrong turn in Salem ignited a passion for the Paranormal

By Lauren Halowaty  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A decade ago, my sister and I ventured southeast to New York City and Boston. In New York, we caught a Blue Jays game against the Yankees; in Boston, we immersed ourselves in historic haunts, including North Station, where the Bruins play atop a bustling train terminal. Intrigued, we boarded the commuter rail for a 35-minute journey into Salem, Massachusetts: a coastal city shrouded in the dark lore and lingering shadows of the 1692 Witch Trials.

As a history buff with a deep fascination for the uncanny, Salem was an absolute dream. We dined along Pickering Wharf at the edge of the Atlantic, surrounded by cobblestone streets and enchanted boutiques brimming with witchy flair. The atmosphere felt as though we had stepped straight onto the set of Practical Magic.

Having reserved tickets for a 7:00 PM ghost walking tour, we finished our meal and made our way to Essex Street, the heart of Salem's tourist district. Seeing a large crowd gathered, we quietly blended in and waited.



Pickering Wharf during Low Tide in Salem.

PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

Forty-five minutes later, our group of about thirty was ushered into a dimly lit, spellbinding shop reminiscent of Ollivanders from Harry Potter. As the leader began to speak, the eerie truth dawned on us: my sister and I had crashed the wrong tour. This was no ordinary graveyard stroll. We had wandered into an active paranormal research team equipped with EMF detectors, spirit boxes, and gear straight out of Ghost Hunters.

Too bashful to admit our mistake, and far too spellbound to walk away, we spent the next three hours investigating haunted landmarks through the darkened streets of Salem. Unknowingly, we had stum-

bled into a full-scale paranormal convention. Skeptic or true believer, the lingering chill of that night was unforgettable.

I haven't gone ghost hunting since. Until now.

This weekend, the thrill returns as a colleague, and I join the Winnipeg Paranormal Group right here at home. Tickets sold out almost instantly for a night inside one of Manitoba's most storied heritage sites, where history and the unexplained collide: a full-scale public investigation of the Virden Pioneer Museum. Known for its meticulously preserved artifacts, creaking floorboards, and whispers of lingering spirits, this iconic building will play host to an immersive, after-dark

ghost hunt.

Under the cover of night, we will explore active hotspots alongside seasoned investigators steeped in the building's deep history and reported hauntings. It promises to be an adrenaline-fuelled evening, offering hands-on experience with professional paranormal tools—from spirit boxes and thermal imaging to EMF meters scanning the dark for unseen energy.

Whether you are a seasoned investigator or simply drawn to the mysteries beyond the veil, stepping into the dark offers a rare, spine-tingling glimpse into the unknown. Stay tuned to hear how our hunt goes...

## Living Canvas: Arts Mosaic brings tattoo artistry to the gallery exhibition

By Lauren Halowaty  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Arts Mosaic is gearing up for an exhibition unlike anything the gallery has presented before. Starting this September, the local gallery is opening its doors to the dynamic world of tattoo artistry, celebrating the intricate craft, history, and visual artistry behind body ink. The full collection of photos, flash sheets, and mixed-media art will be hung and available for viewing starting Tuesday, September 1, and will remain on display through Saturday, October 3.

The highlight of the month will be the official gallery opening reception on Thursday, September 3, starting at 6:00 p.m. The evening promises a vibrant atmosphere complete with live music, a refreshment table, and brief opening remarks from the creators. Attendees will have the chance to mingle, discuss the works, and gain a deeper appreciation for craft of body art.

In an exciting first for Arts Mosaic, the reception will feature a live tattoo demonstration by professional artist Savannah Knopp of Bonfire Tattoo in Brandon. Specializing in detailed flora and fauna designs, Knopp will be tattooing live during the event to give visitors an up-close look at the precision and skill involved in the craft. Those interested in previewing her portfolio before the event can find her work on social media under the handle @Plaidbeardesignco.

Alongside Knopp, the showcase highlights talent from across the region, featuring works by Steve Reshaur and Haylee Janai of Wards Tattoo, as well as local artist Drew Jones of Virden's own Jones INK. To ensure everyone can join in on the fun, organizers are even planning to have temporary tattoo sheets available so no visitor leaves feeling left out. Whether you are a lifelong body art enthusiast or simply curious about the craft, mark your calendar for September 3 at Arts Mosaic for a truly unique evening.



# WESTMAN ON WHEELS, RECORD BREAKING SHOW AND SHINE



Westman on Wheels brought many car enthusiasts together to enjoy these beautiful creations.

PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

By Lauren Halowaty  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Westman on Wheels hosted one of their

most successful shows to date, and every single gear had to mesh perfectly to pull it off. The event relied on

full-throttle support from local businesses, high-octane enthusiasm from spectators, clear skies, and a top-

notch pit crew of volunteers working around the clock to keep things running smoothly.

If the organizers had to pinpoint the biggest drive behind the event's success, it's the incredible people who brought out their pride-and-joy rides. A record-breaking 192 cars were officially registered, with another 10 parked alongside just hanging out for the fun. Without them, the crew would have just been standing in an empty parking lot.

The show is officially accelerating, drawing cruisers from all over the region—including Dauphin, Rocanville, Carlyle, Pierson, Boissevain, and Carberry. Westman on Wheels was also thrilled to host neighbouring groups like the Cross Street Car Club, 8&83 Melita, Road Rebels, and the Stokers.

A big thank-you from Westman on Wheels goes out to the Wild West Daze organizers for sharing the stage and giving everyone

another reason to steer back into town next year.

Finally, a big congratulations goes out to long-time car enthusiast Ron Nestibo from Melita, who took home the 50/50 draw to help fuel his passion, or at least cover his gas money on the ride home.

The team extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who shifted into high gear with them this year and is already revving up for the next one!

## Oak Lake Beach Sandcastle Contest



PHOTO BY SANDY BLACK

During August long weekend Oak Lake Beach hosted a Sandcastle Contest. Organizer Donna Smith noted that 95 kids registered and with families to build sandcastles. Winners received Mini Golf packages to Oak Lake Beach Mini Golf Course. All participants received prizes including glow sticks and other fun items. "We just want everyone to come and enjoy the beach and have fun building," says Donna Smith, the organizer of the event. After the castles were built, hot dogs were cooked up for everyone to enjoy and were served with chips, water and freezies. Fireworks and a band played later put on by Oak Island Resort.

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PARTS PURCHASE OVER \$1,000 – 1 ENTRY  
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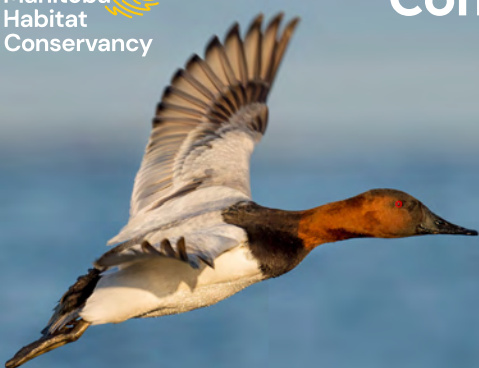
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS SUMMER AND WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS THE BEST OF LUCK.

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VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO WRAP UP

★

★

★

Rodeo committee has built it, crowds came



Summer King sang Oh Canada to the crowd at the Virden Indoor Rodeo.



Kevin McKinnon and family ride through the indoor arena. Kevin McKinnon was the recipient of the Gerry Holmes Memorial Award.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT, ACTION PLUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Joe King led the Steer Wrestling going into Sunday's Performance.



Deb and Doug King are presented with the Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze Horsemen Hall of Fame award by Western Rodeo Chair, Lonnie Brown (centre).



Receiving awards for their team roping winning performance are Kevin McKinnon (L) and Charlie King (R), with sponsor Tyler Cambell (Corex Resources).



Scott McLeod (CCA Board of Directors) with Lonnie Brown (Western Rodeo Chair) display the Rodeo of the Year 2025 banner at Friday evening opening ceremony.



Team roping winners in the Short Go Sunday evening, Kevin McKinnon and Charlie King with Lori Ritchie (Sunrise Credit Union) and Charlie's son Blake.

Continued from page 1...

He said, competitors and the committee coped: "With rubber boots and rain jackets and yeah just kind of that mentality that everybody wants to get 'er done and as long as everybody's taking care of their stuff, the show goes on, right?" They made changes to the barrel racing exit that normally took the racers out into the Ag grounds. "The biggest safety concern was, the barrel racers would normally run out the centre alley, and it was just going to be way too dangerous to have those horses running out on that muck there Friday night." The arena crew switched to a closed gate so riders finished the barrel pattern final run inside the arena. By the time Saturday night's performance rolled around with good weather, Brown said, it was completely different. "It was just kind of like a weight

off everybody's shoulders." But a new problem arose Saturday night at about five minutes into the rodeo show. The arena reached maximum capacity. Doors had to close leaving a lot of unhappy people unable to get in. Brown said, "I heard the number, 400 people were still in the lobby wanting to get in, so we kind of pivoted, and we opened up the [banquet] hall and got a live stream going and anybody that wanted to stay and watch got to tune in and watch there." Every evening, at intermission, a mutton busting contest for kids entertains. Several dozen children are plopped on un-sheared ewes and some kids manage to hang on for half the length of the arena, while others come out of the gate and fall right off (with dad or mum there). But when Ed Hunter's mutton busting sheep went missing in action Saturday night, the rodeo committee pivoted to a kids' tug of war.

**Roots of Rodeo** One of the things that makes Virden rodeo so exciting is the list of hometown names on the program. On examining the entries, Brown said, "We had over 85 local entries... like most rodeos we attend would normally get anywhere from, you know, six to 18 [local entries]. We've got quite a contingent here in the Virden area for sure." And overall, one of the highlights came when local cowboys - Charlie King and Kevin McKinnon - won the team roping on Shootout Sunday making the catch in 5.09 seconds. In the Long Go, King and McKinnon were 11th out of 29 teams with 7.66 seconds - also a good performance. It was McKinnon's weekend. Friday evening, he was honoured with the Gerry Holmes Volunteer Award. One very engaged fan, Kevin and Meghan's

8-year-old daughter Riatta, caught the attention of rodeo clown Scott Byrn. She received the 'Fan of the Night buckle.' Kevin said later, "Yea, it's hard to believe everything that happened this weekend for my family! It's a weekend we will think about for years." He added, "Winning your hometown rodeo short go in front of all your friends and family... that's what it's all about... that feeling, it's unexplainable." The King family weren't far behind. From atop her horse, Drs. Joe and Gita King's young daughter, Summer, sang O Canada to open the evening performances. On Saturday the senior Kings, Deb and Doug, were Horseman's Hall of Fame recipients and on Sunday came their youngest son Charlie's win in team roping. Joe King, is a strong competitor in steer wrestling and his reputation remains intact, as Friday

night he stood first, with a time of 4.51. Steer wrestler Austin Whelpton, also from Virden came in second with a time of 4.53 just ahead of Coulter Taylor of Weldon, Sask. who threw his steer in 4.6 seconds. Taylor (also a team roper) went on to take home the High Point saddle presented on Sunday by Vaughn Wilson on behalf of Valley View Co-op. **Dirty Hands** Glory moments are backed by a lot of hard work. Monday evening when the Empire-Advance caught up with Chairman Brown on Virden Ag grounds, he and a core group of about 30 volunteers had cleanup underway. Thanks to the Lenore 4H Beef Club the manure was cleaned up earlier on Monday. Then, "the iron comes out of the inside and is set back up outside." Brown summed up saying, "We were extremely

happy with Saturday and Sunday attendance. "The Friday night presented a few different challenges that we don't encounter every year... nobody panicked and everybody just hunkered down and took care of their end of the deal. And we got her pulled off, you know, even though it wasn't exactly how we drew it up." Rodeo committee and some 500 volunteers pulling together have built Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze into this exciting weekend. In total, along with the afternoon rodeo events, 367 competitors performed. Throughout evening performances, young riders carried the flag for 42 different sponsors. Brown praised his community. "It's pretty fun to get the opportunity to host an event like this for the community. You know, it's when everybody shows up, in the numbers that we've seen it kind of makes it all worthwhile."

# Farmers' Advocate

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## 'What we want is for growers to get practical solutions'

Info and innovation shared at annual MCDC Field Day in Carberry

By Casper Wehrhahn  
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Hundreds of producers, industry professionals, students, and other citizens had a full day in the fields just outside of Carberry this month. On Aug. 12, all were welcomed to the Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre (MCDC) and its applied research fields for its annual Field Day.

The Field Day is an opportunity for people to acquire the latest news in locally conducted agricultural science, and for producers to take that beneficial knowledge and apply it to their own operations.

NACTV's Rrain Prior was out in the field that day, and provided a series of interviews to the Farmers' Advocate.

"This research is being designed by the industry and also by producers. This provides us the opportunity to showcase that right in the field," said Haider Abbas, applied research specialist for MCDC. "They can see the first-hand results of those research outcomes..."

The research undertaken at the facility is extensive, including a grand total of 54 projects. The crops being used include cereals, oilseeds, pulses, novel crops and potatoes.

As all of that hard work cannot be shown in a single day, the core component of the talks this year was soil health. Discussions included topics such as irrigation versus non-irrigation, best harvesting practices, and much more.



What should you know about your soil's health? The Field Day at the Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre near Carberry provided a very informative refresher, as well as up-to-date details informed by research made by and for farmers.

PHOTO BY RRAIN PRIOR

### Potato production priorities

Providing insight into the potato production aspect of these topics was Scott Graham, raw agronomy manager for Simplot. Graham is also board chair of the MCDC, and president of the Manitoba Horticultural Productivity Enhancement Centre (MPEC).

"Really, what we want is for growers to get practical solutions when it comes to

potato production practices on their farm, either in the field or in storage as well," said Graham. "Today (Aug. 12) is based around a lot of priorities in the industry right now. We're struggling with mop top virus— that is a critical defect at the factory."

Graham added, "Rot is another issue— rot can cause huge storage losses for the farmer, but also it can cause issues at the factory

too, with spoilage."

Graham also noted that temperature and moisture are key conditions to keep in mind for potato producers.

"Anything over 65°F digging, that is very difficult to get that field heat out of the pile, especially when you don't have cooling nights," Graham explained, "So, when you have rain, or excess moisture and heat, that's dynamite for pink rot

and pythium leak. And that can cause storage issues as well."

*Continued on the next Farmers' Advocate page*

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# SPORTS

## DIAMOND NOTES: U15 STORM EARN PROVINCIAL SILVER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U15 Westman Storm won the silver medals at the Softball Manitoba U15 AA Female Provincial Championships.

**By Robin Wark**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Local athletes played key roles as the U15 Westman Storm enjoyed a successful AA softball season.

The regional team wrapped up its campaign by capturing silver medals at the Softball Manitoba U15 AA Female Provincial Championships. The event was held in Portage Aug. 7-9. The team included Virden players Demi Hodson and Georgia Grieve, Elkhorn's Ava Canart and Reston Minor Ball player Olivia Currie-McMaster. Elkhorn's Clayton Canart was an assistant coach.

"It was a pretty special season," head coach Chelsea Leforte said. "We finished as Showcase champions and AA provincial finalists, and I'm incredibly proud of the development, grit and confidence I saw in this group from the beginning of the season to the end. The U15 Westman Storm definitely made some noise this year."

The team compiled a 5-1 record at provincials.

"I think our biggest key to success was how well the girls came together and played as a team," Leforte said. "We had been building toward provincials all season, and that weekend they really bought into playing for each other. We had contributions throughout the entire lineup, played strong defensively and brought a lot of energy. They were confident, competitive and ready to work every game."

The team went 4-0 to finish first in its pool. It beat the Westman Fury 13-5, the Westman Heat 6-4, the Winnipeg Bolts Blue 20-1 and the Winnipeg Bolts White 16-1.

"I was most pleased with how consistent and focused the girls were," Leforte said. "They came ready to play every game and didn't let up. Our bats were working throughout the lineup, our pitching and defence were strong, and the girls brought great energy to the bench. It was probably some of the most competitive softball we played all season."

The head coach said her team's biggest strengths were its depth and growth. Leforte said, "We didn't have to rely on one or two players to win games. Different girls stepped up at different times, and everyone had a role in our success." She emphasized that the players "learned how to compete together, support each

other and respond when things didn't go our way."

In its semifinal contest, the Storm beat the Interlake Maroons 10-3. Against Central Charge White in the gold medal game, Westman fell 9-0.

"The final was one of those games where the score doesn't necessarily tell the whole story," Leforte said. "We competed hard, but Central Charge White found the holes when they needed to and we just couldn't get ours to fall. Sometimes that's simply the way ball goes. I was proud that our girls continued to battle right to the end. Obviously, we would have loved to finish the weekend with gold, but being AA provincial finalists was still something this group should be extremely proud of."

### U13 Fury Win Bronze

Virden-area players Nora Perrin, Abbi Rost and Willow Champagne helped the Westman Fury earn bronze medals at the Softball Manitoba U13 AA Female Provincial Championships in Brandon July 24-26.

"The girls had a very successful year and capped it off with a very exciting bronze medal win at provincials," Fury head coach Brad Wilson said. "I believe we were as successful as we were because of the hard work and dedication the girls put into the team and what we were trying to accomplish by working with the skills they already had and developing their skills even further."

"All the girls were very talented, hard-working and very focused on learning all season, and it paid off in the end. I was very happy and proud of them for what they accomplished."

In pool play, the Fury beat Eastman Blaze Tureene 11-2, the Winnipeg Bolts Blue 10-5 and the Southwest Strikers 17-2. In the playoffs, the Fury downed the Winnipeg Bolts Blue 14-6 to advance to the semifinals, where they fell 11-10 to eventual champion Westman Storm. The Fury rebounded to defeat Central Charge Purple 12-8.

"We had a rough start against Central, being that it was right after a heartbreaking loss to the Westman Storm team in the bottom of the sixth inning in the semifinals, but the girls were able to rally themselves back into the right mindset," Wilson said. "They started making proper defensive plays, then our bats came back alive and all the girls were fired up like they were all weekend. It was so exciting to be a part

of, and such a special group of young ladies and to have the privilege to coach."

### Jamie Williamson Competes Against Best

Jamie Williamson was picked up from his hometown team, the Reston Rockets, to play for the Oak River Dodgers at the Baseball Manitoba Senior AA Provincial Championships. He helped the Oak River squad win the provincial title in Winnipeg Aug. 7-9. The Dodgers beat the host Winnipeg A's 7-4 in the final.

"I enjoyed just how fun they made the environment, but when it came to game time it was 'winning time,' we were a confident team and carried it with us the entirety of the tournament, until we eventually won the gold medal against a very difficult opponent," Williamson said of playing for the Dodgers.

He has been selected to play for Team Manitoba at the Canadian Men's National Championship in Miramichi, N.B., Aug. 20-23.

"I'm looking forward to the environment, and just a great group of guys going to Miramichi," Williamson said. "I'm also looking forward to just getting to see a different part of the country again. Just knowing we have a very competitive group gets me really excited to go."

### Ball Notes

The U15 Westman Magic earned silver medals at the Western Canadian Championships Aug. 13-16 in Winkler. The team included Hadley Robertson, Georgia Koop and Hayley Barkley of Virden; Oak Lake's Meredith Masson; Evie McAdam of the RM of Sifton; and Zaree Routledge of the RM of Wallace-Woodworth.

Reston's Andie Williamson helped Team Manitoba win bronze at the 14U Girls Baseball Western Canadian Championship in Île-des-Chênes Aug. 14-16.

Virden's Cade Scharff was part of the Team Manitoba squad that finished third at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games Aug. 11-15 in Medicine Hat, Alta.

Look for more on these successful teams in future issues of the Empire-Advance.

Virden's Kendall Charles was named an Easton/NFCA Junior College Scholar-Athlete All-American. She helped the North Dakota State College of Science win the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Softball National Championship last spring.

# SPORTS

## COCHRANE, RAMPTON HELP MAGIC TO WESTERN CANADIAN BRONZE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two local players helped the AAA Westman Magic earn bronze medals at the U17 Girls Western Canadian Softball Championship.

Virden's Paige Rampton and Oak Lake's Rose Cochrane were part of the successful regional team. The squad fell 2-1 in a semifinal contest to fellow Manitoba team, the Interlake Phillies, to finish third at the tournament, which ran Aug. 6-9 in St. Albert, Alta.

"Winning bronze at Westerns was incredibly rewarding because it showed that all the hard work our team put in throughout the season truly paid off," Rampton said. "This group of girls has had a lot of success together, so earning a medal was a great way to finish the season. Competing against some of the top teams in Western Canada and coming away with a medal is a special accomplishment that I will never ever forget."

When asked about the Magic's success, head coach Kayla Alexander said, "Our team played better defence at Westerns. Limiting how many errors we made each game helped with our success."

Regarding Cochrane and Rampton, the head coach said, "Both players are hard workers, good teammates and had positive attitudes."

At Western Canadians, Interlake fell to White Butte from Saskatchewan in the final. Earlier this season, the Brandon-based Magic won bronze at the Softball Manitoba U17 AAA Provincial Championships to earn a Western Canadian berth.

### Rose Cochrane

Cochrane appreciated several aspects of competing at the Western Canadian tournament.

"Playing at Westerns, I enjoyed the compete level and intensity of playing other teams," she said. "The experience of getting to represent Manitoba and the Westman area among the other western provinces, and winning bronze with my team was a great way to end the season. We battled hard through eight games in three days and I am very proud of my team, we never gave up."

The Western Canadian championships were a busy few days. Cochrane noted that "Championship Sunday had been



The AAA Westman Magic finished third at the U17 Girls Western Canadian Softball Championship.

pushed forward into Saturday, so sightseeing was not on the itinerary for us, but playing lots of ball was!"

Cochrane caught and played third base. She was a key batter in the Magic's lineup.

"She was a consistent hitter for our team all season," Alexander said. "When Rose was batting, there was a very good chance she was going to make solid contact and get a hit. You could see with her approaches at the plate that she was confident and that was a big reason why she did so well hitting."

Cochrane is the daughter of Kelly and Darby Cochrane. She appreciates all of their support.

"Every game that they come to, my parents are always there to cheer me on, support me if I may be struggling, and are never hesitant to help me with my gameplay."

### Paige Rampton

A pitcher, first baseman and rightfielder, Rampton brought experience to the Magic.

"Paige was one of our veteran players, so her experience playing at high levels was an asset," Alexander said. "She was a good teammate and always looked to get better. Paige also

took on any role asked of her and was a positive presence on the team."

At the Western Canadian championships, Rampton appreciated how competitive the games were.

"We faced many teams that were evenly matched with us, which led to some intense and exciting games, including one that went into extra innings to earn a spot in the semifinal," she said. "Several games were back-and-forth battles where every inning mattered, and those moments really challenged us to trust one another and lean on our strengths as a team."

Rampton is the daughter of Robin and Shelby Rampton.

"They have been my number one supporters throughout my softball journey," she said. "From practicing with me in the backyard, to the countless long car rides, to the conversations after games and practices, they have always been there for me. They have never missed a game and are always willing to do whatever they can to support me and help me pursue my goals. I truly would not be where I am today without their encouragement, dedication and the time they have invested in helping me play softball at the highest level possible. I am incredibly grateful to have them by my side through it all."

## AFTER PUTTING IN THE WORK THIS SUMMER, OIL CAPS ARE READY FOR CAMP

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It is almost hockey time.

The Virden Oil Capitals will hold their Comfort Inn & Suites Fall Training Camp on Sept. 1-3 in preparation for their 15th Manitoba Junior Hockey League season in the community. The event annually wraps up with two teams competing for the Garry Cup, which is named for dressing-room attendant Garry Remple.

The Oil Capitals' exhibition schedule begins Sept. 4 with a matchup against the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Yorkton Terriers in Virden at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. On Sept. 5, the Oil Capitals travel to Yorkton, followed by a Sept. 7 game in Weyburn against the Red Wings of the SJHL. On Sept. 8, the Oil Capitals visit the MJHL's Portage Terriers before that team travels to Virden on Sept. 9 for the final exhibition game at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

The Oil Capitals, who competed in the league finals last spring, open the MJHL regular season on the road Sept. 18 in Waywayseecappo. The next night is the Virden squad's home opener against the same team.

### Summer: Putting in the Work

There is a saying that hockey players are made in

the summer. Members of the Oil Capitals have spent the offseason working to get better for the upcoming campaign, while also balancing that with the opportunity to make money, see friends and family, and pursue other interests.

For example, 2007-born forward Bryan Laing of Boissevain has been focused on his quickness, speed and shot in preparation for his second season with the Oil Capitals.

"With being a smaller guy you need those quick first steps to be effective," he said. "Shooting has also always been something I could improve in as well, whether it's releasing from different angles, or just a harder shot overall. So I'd say quickness and my shot."

Laing has been working out at a private gym in Boissevain and driving to Brandon to skate about three times a week.

"It's a great group of guys that are in it," he said. "A couple of the Oil Caps are in them too, so it's nice to stay in touch with them over the summer as well."

Laing spent his fourth summer as part of the grounds crew at the Boissevain Golf Club. He loves working outside, but his favourite part is "coffee break with the old guys though, catching up with them is the best."

As well, Laing kept busy during the summer com-

peting for the Boissevain Centennials senior baseball team. The pitcher and infielder helped the team win its fifth straight South West Baseball League championship.

"The Cents are the talk of the town during the summer months, and there's always a ton of people at our games," Laing said.

Fellow second-year Oil Caps player Miguel Bonin, a 2007-born defenceman from Winnipeg, has been utilizing his home gym as well as working out at Focus Fitness at the Hockey for All Centre. He has been skating with Jets Hockey Development and Power Edge Pro, as well as taking part in four-on-four skates with Eastman High Performance Centre in Steinbach.

"I've been trying to improve every part of my game, but I've really been focusing on my puck touches, on-ice speed and power and also working on basics to become a better defenceman," Bonin said.

He also spent his summer working on his electrician apprenticeship with Grenco Ltd. in Winnipeg. One of the biggest projects he was involved with was setting up and wiring night-golf lights at Grande Pointe's Southside Golf Course. Bonin said it is "the only golf course to have a full-time night golf in Manitoba, I believe."

# SPORTS

## HOMETOWN PROUD BBQ!

By Ed James  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Elkhorn and District Community Center is a busy place throughout the year and even in the heat of summer there was some very special recent hockey action. It was the Hometown Proud BBQ with special guest Travis Sanheim a player with the Philadelphia Flyers whose hometown is Elkhorn. The evening event brought out a good turnout from the local area in the Westman/East. Sask. region. Sanheim was seated at a table to meet his many local fans and to sign and give away his hockey cards, which he autographed.

On display were his hockey medals, jerseys and a replica trophy. These would include his silver Olympic Hockey medal, his gold Four Nations Hockey Tournament medal and his silver world hockey tournament medal. The gold Four Nations Hockey medal included games between Canada, Finland, Sweden and the USA. The replica trophy he brought was for the Four nations games. Later during the event a special 4-foot by 8-foot colored sign of Travis in hockey action was presented to him, from community members with the message "Hometown Proud" The sign will be mounted at the EDCC rink.



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Travis Sanheim signs his hockey card for all his fans big and very very small.

Said EDCC Board president Devrin Stonehouse, "We at the rink and in the community wanted to do something to recognize him, his hometown roots and his hockey successes! It gave those who showed

up, a chance to see a real Olympic medal close up. Along with his other hockey awards. It was a great evening for Travis, his family and his many local fans to share in the Hometown Proud Event! "

## STORM OVERCOME ADVERSITY TO CLAIM U17 AA BRONZE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Westman Storm won bronze at the Softball Manitoba U17 AA Provincial Championship.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A strong contingent of local players helped propel the Westman Storm to bronze at the Softball Manitoba U17 AA Provincial Championship.

The regional team included Virden players Aiden Gonty, Callie Stuart, Skylar Higginbotham and Joelle Barkley, and Oak Lake's McKenzie Masson. Virden's Cory Barkley was the head coach, and his staff included Dustin Higginbotham of Virden. Coach Barkley was most pleased with the players' effort and determination at the provincial tournament.

"They never complained once about the unfortunate schedule, they just battled through the conditions and the tough losses and tough innings," he said. "And even though we found ourselves in some near-impossible spots where it didn't look possible to battle back and win games, they continued to find ways to do so. They were an extremely talented and hard-working group to coach, and were very deserving

of receiving a medal."

On the first day of the Aug. 7-9 tournament in Portage, the Storm played three consecutive games. They beat Southwest 15-2 with Joelle Barkley striking out 10 in a complete-game performance. Teammate Holly Danners of Wawanesa had a home run, two triples and five runs batted in. The Storm fell 11-6 in extra innings to the Westman Heat. In another extra-inning contest against the Eastman Blaze, the Storm trailed 8-3 in the eighth inning. However, the squad persevered and battled back to tie it up in the bottom of the eighth. Eastman scored two in the top of the ninth to take a 10-8 lead. The Storm pushed three runs across in the bottom of the frame to win 11-10 and ended what Coach Barkley called "a grueling first day" 2-1. Boissevain's Emerson Kempthorne drove in three runs and pitched 7 2/3 innings against the Blaze. Masson closed out the game for the Storm.

On the tournament's second day, Masson struck out five in a complete-game 3-0 shutout of Interlake. The Storm fell 5-4 to the Central Energy in an extra-

inning game in which Joelle Barkley collected two hits. In a 15-2 win over the Winnipeg Bolts, Joelle Barkley threw a complete game, Stuart had two hits and two stolen bases, and Skylar Higginbotham recorded two hits.

Coach Barkley noted, "There was great parity in this group of teams as five of the seven teams ended up 4-2 after round-robin play. The tiebreaker then went to run differential, where it was determined we finished fourth of the five teams in the tie and would play the Eastman Blaze for the bronze medal on Sunday afternoon."

The Storm defeated the Blaze 10-1 for bronze. Four Westman players, including Skylar Higginbotham, collected two hits.

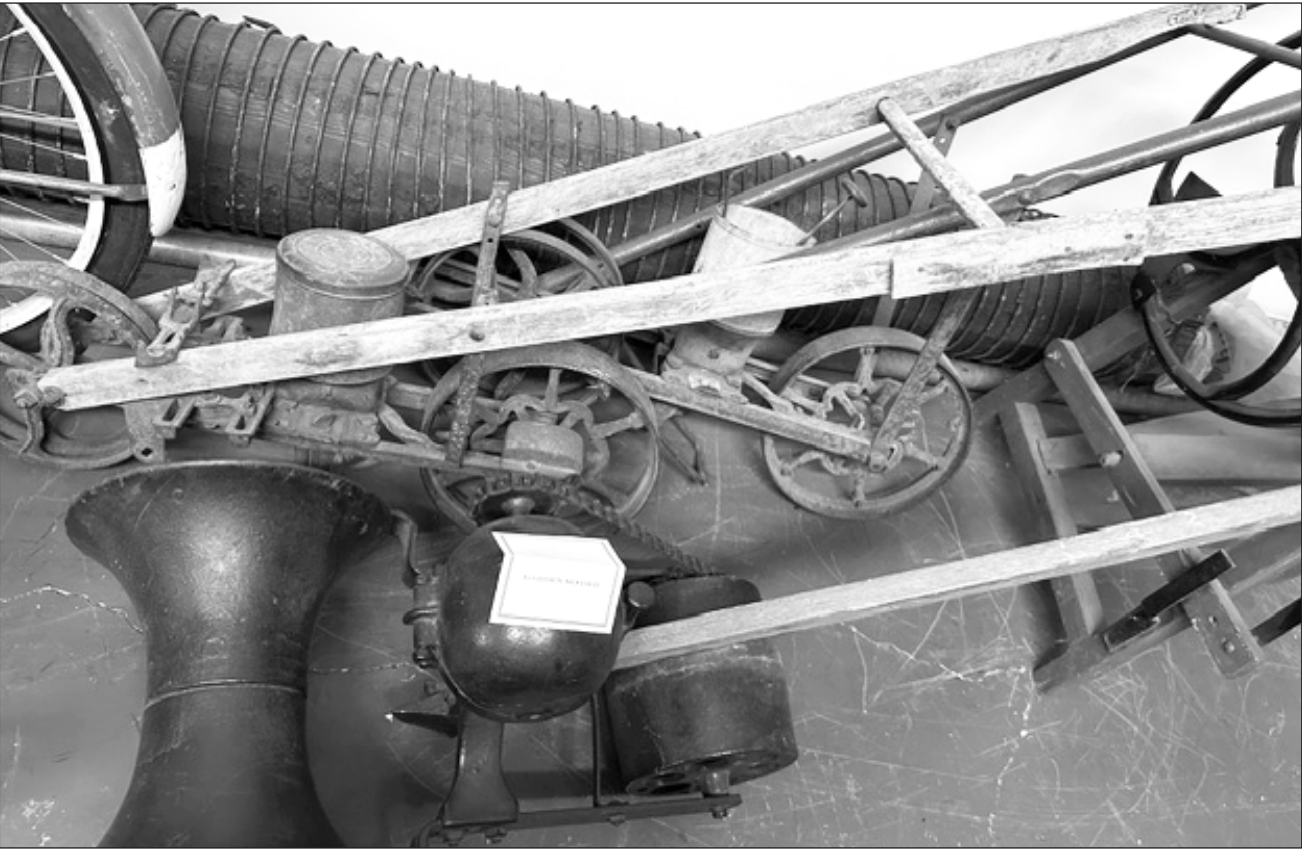
"The girls were not going to be denied Sunday, and we definitely played our best game of the season to win the bronze,"

Coach Barkley said. "We also finished the AA season 20-6-1 and with a silver in the June showcase, so it was a very successful year for this group of seven major and six minor players."

He has coached many of the Virden players for about 10 years and a number of the others on the Storm for the last four years. He said it has always been a strong group.

"For the majors, this could be their last AA ball, and many of this group will end their five-year run with the Westman Storm with two gold and two bronze provincial medals over the course of that time," Coach Barkley said. "They have been a pleasure to coach and have definitely taught me as much as I have taught them. They are all wonderful players and, no matter where the sport continues to take them either playing or coaching, they will all contribute to it further down the road, I have no doubt. They all also possess great character qualities and I can see all of them doing well in life, whatever road they decide to take. My hats off to them, and best of luck in their future endeavours."

# Garden seeder



This early mechanical seeder was an improvement over scattering seed by hand.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Submitted

By KEVIN ARMANDICO

Before mechanical seeders were used on farms, farmers often planted seeds by manually broadcasting them across the fields. While this method was simple, it came with several problems. Wind could easily blow the seeds away, while birds could eat seeds left exposed on the soil surface. Other seeds might be buried too deep, preventing them from germinating properly, while seeds left too close to the surface could dry out. Because the seeds were scattered by hand, they could also grow in uneven clumps instead of rows, making it more difficult for farmers to remove weeds without damaging the crops.

One solution to these problems was the mechanical seeder, a type of agricultural machine. The machine made planting faster, more consistent, and less wasteful. It worked using several important components. Seeds were placed in a hopper, where the gravity allowed them to pass through a metered gate. Internal gears then converted the slow rotation of the wheels into a much faster spinning motion. This powered a centrifugal mechanism that threw the seeds outward as the farmer pushed the seeder across the field. Finally, a deflector horn helped direct the seeds into a wide and more uniform arc.

By broadcasting the seeds more evenly and efficiently, the mechanical broadcast seeder reduced some of the problems associated with planting by hand. It helped farmers cover larger areas faster while improving the consistency of seed distribution. Innovations like this made planting less labor intensive and contributed to the development of more efficient farming methods.

# Virden council reviews cemetery by-law

By Dale Davison

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At their Aug. 11 meeting council discussed the cemetery by-law and fee schedule. Coun. Marc Savy said that discussions with other elected officials suggested some other municipalities had considerably higher rates. Mayor Tina Williams recalled that when rates were compared previously, the Town's fees had been around the middle to upper end of the range. Council agreed updated information from similarly sized municipalities would be useful before reconsidering the rates. Council is also preparing to put cemetery maintenance out for tender to determine whether contractors are interested.

Coun. Travis Penner wondered whether a board could be established to manage the cemetery with a municipal budget. Mayor Tina Williams recalled that a cemetery board existed until approximately 12 years earlier. The Town provided the board with funding, and the board hired and managed the caretaker. Coun. Lynette Grumpelt said, "I have mentioned to a few people who have come to me with cemetery concerns there's always an option for you folks to form a board and to take care of the cemetery yourselves and no one that I spoke to seemed interested in that." After third reading the by-law was given unanimous approval.

## RCMP report

Sgt. Amy Doan attended the meeting and reported there were 114 calls for service during July, with traffic offenses accounting for a large portion of police activity. The staffing situation at the Virden detachment continues to improve as Staff Sgt. McAuley officially assumed his position at the end of July. A new member dedicated to Town duties also joined the detachment at that time.

Traffic on the frontage road continues to be a problem. Sgt. Doan said, "We did a bit of a blitz up at Tim Horton's where all the trucks stop...because obviously, it's tough to get through there at the best of times. It's a pretty blatant disregard for a lot of signs. That's one way that we do utilize the new members. It helps us train them but also helps the town."

Doan added that drivers are generally told to move along or move into the area currently designated for them. She acknowledged the economic importance of truck drivers stopping and spending money at local businesses, but council agreed that a better long-term solution is needed.

## Fees and rates by-law

CAO Neil Smith proposed creating a standard municipal fees-and-rates by-law that would provide the authority for setting municipal charges in the future. Smith said, "The Municipal Act requires municipal fees, charges and rates to be established by by-law. We have applied a proposed CPI (consumer price index) adjustment of 4 per cent, which is the Manitoba year-on-year percentage change."

## Asset management policy

An asset management policy would provide a framework for the Town to use to manage an inventory of all municipal infrastructure assets. The framework would include description, location information, value, condition, estimated remaining life and estimated repair, or replacement cost for these assets. CAO Smith said, "For example, water distribution might be a focus for a while. The prioritization and estimation for required maintenance or renewal as applied to the utilities is a very good example of where a framework like this helps." He explained that staff would gather and present information about an asset's condition. Council would then have the opportunity to discuss that information and make policy and spending decisions. The Town needs to identify its assets and then develop more detailed information about them.

Smith suggested hiring consulting engineers and specialists for specific asset groups rather than paying consultants to oversee the municipality's entire asset management system.

## Manitoba Water Services board

The water tower is in poor condition and no longer needed for the distribution system. Council needs to determine the cost of the removal and its effect on buried infrastructure. Council approved a resolution to request that the Manitoba Water Services Board assist with treatment plant and distribution system upgrades needed to abandon the water tower.

## Tennis court project

There has been some delay in completing the project. The equipment to convert the court between tennis or pickleball requires more specialized installation than Public Works staff could undertake themselves. Staff were concerned that attempting the installation without the contractor could result in equipment being damaged. The delay is due to waiting for the contractor.

## Flood control

Coun. Savy questioned funds spent on the construc-

tion of the earth berm to protect the town wells during this summer's flooding and asked whether any of the costs would be eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) or another grant. CAO Smith replied that DFA would not apply to this situation as the work had arisen from an emergency, and money was transferred within the existing budget to complete the project.

Smith stated that along with costs during the original emergency a similar amount was needed afterward because additional culvert work was required to stabilize and finish the project. There are also future costs separate from the contractor's work to acquire the land on which the structure is located.

Coun. Penner asked whether this meant the structure would now become permanent, and Smith confirmed that what began in response to an emergency was being developed into a proper permanent structure.

## Sponsorship

Council approved sponsorship of \$300 for the Virden Draft Horse Show and \$300 for the Virden Ladies Golf Classic—a significant fundraiser supporting the Fun Shine and Rhythm & Glue programs.

Council approved sponsorship for Downtown Daze of \$1,500 plus in-kind support with an additional \$1,000 value.

## Economic Development

Manager (EDM) Erica Darvill presented a report detailing her plans and priorities for the department. The Town's Strategic plan identified several areas of focus related to business growth and prosperity. CAO Smith suggested that council and the EDM examine what progress has been made and determine the appropriate next steps.

Darvill said, "When I laid it all out in comparison to the strategic plan, I was very happy to see that (although) we were not done everything, we're definitely moving in the right direction, and we're still within that vision that lines up with the plan." Several projects identified earlier are already underway, including the asset management plan and studies related to water and sewer demand.

CAO Smith noted that the position of EDM can include a broad range of responsibilities and it is important that council and administration are in agreement regarding the priorities given to projects and planning.

Council concluded that the report now provides something concrete around which the municipality can organize its economic development efforts. The next step is to refine those priorities.

# OLD SAYINGS

REF TO  
WRITER

GERRY  
NOLAN



The 1950s gave us iconic slang and catchy phrases. Popular terms of the day include Boss. Bread was of course

money. Daddy-O was a cool person. My daughter recently called me Daddy-O which means a cool person. I liked that!

"Cruisin for a Bruisin" refers to someone looking for trouble. Copacetic refers to when everything is fine!

Blast was having a real good time or if you were asked about a party or event you attended, people would say, it was a blast. Flick referred to a movie. Threadswere real nice clothing. Square referred to a person who followed all the rules. A knuckle sandwich meant

someone was going to get punched in the face.

One of the most popular sayings from the 1950s included "See you later Alligator" to which many people would answer back, "After while Crocodile".

Bill Haley and the Comets rock group had a hit record with those lines in the song.

In the 1950s young women and girls were often especially referred to as Doll or Queen. Dame and Broad which were the slang terms

were still carried over from the 1940s and 1950s.

In the 1950s music defined a cultural revolution with the birth of Rock and Roll, smooth doo-wop harmonies and iconic pop crooners, single artists.

The top artists of the decade included Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Frank Sinatra. The hits were, from the KING, Elvis Presley, one of my personal favorites, Jailhouse Rock.

Chuck Berry sang Maybelline; Little Richard sang Tutti Frutti and of course Buddy Holly sang That'll be the day.

If you like doo-wop, the Diamonds whom I did see in concert and the Platters were the top performers of that particular time.

Bobby Darin sang Macka the Knife and Doris Day sang Whatever will be will be.

I hope you enjoy a trip down memory lane as we travel back in time over the next few weeks!

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# Roads and floods top RM agenda

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At their Aug. 11 regular meeting Wallace-Woodworth council considered an undeveloped road allowance request submitted by Andrew Burke concerning Road 56 North.

Coun. Barb Stambuski said, “So whatever we do here, we need to follow what we did with the previous owner. We had a previous owner that asked for exactly the same thing.

In this case, developing the road could result in additional municipal tax revenue if someone builds and lives on the property. Coun. Diana MacDonald stated that the potential for additional tax revenue should be considered when determining how road construction costs are shared.

Although the resolution included a road construction agreement for only 50 metres, councillors did not want to make a decision that is opposite to how they handled a previous application without understanding the reason for the difference. The matter was tabled to allow administration to gather more information on the previous case.

### Summer roads

Coun. Val Caldwell raised concerns about the condition and lack of maintenance of summer roads, providing photographs as examples. A boundary road between the RM of Wallace-Woodworth and Riverdale has become difficult to navigate. Caldwell said, “The landowner on the east side has sown their crop right up to where the Turkey Trail is. The other side is so overrun with trees. Our summer roads used to be maintained, and we haven’t seen a grader. That road’s been like that for two years and it’s just getting worse and worse. I understand they’re seasonal roads but during farming times, we need people to be able to safely access their land.”

She questioned why maintenance had declined when the municipality still has the same number of employees and graders available. She described a road that had been wet throughout the spring and was now dry but had been left with extremely deep ruts. She noted that the road had been passable by car the previous year but was now in such poor condition that a car could not reasonably travel it.

Coun. Diana MacDonald said, “We’re asking for a little bit of shale on some of those really bad spots that people have to take their haying equipment through.”

Coun. Mark Humphries noted that maintaining a road takes more than one pass with a grader. He added, “They go down it once [but] that’s not grading a road. To grade a road, you’ve got to go down it a couple of times that season just to make sure that you’ve moved the dirt across. If we’re only going down those roads

once, then you’re heaping the earth up and the soil up and everything else to one side and causing a dam anyway.”

Reeve Clayton Canart said, “We can continue that conversation with the staff and discuss what changes can be made.”

**Gravel crushing and seal coating**  
Council approved an invoice from Rancher’s Rock Livestock Limited for \$37,102.50 covering 3,000 yards of gravel crushing.

Council approved the quote of \$22,214.43 from Action Asphalt for the seal coating of First Avenue in Kola.

### Watch for children

Council considered two requests for “Watch for Children” signs at NE 27-10-28 on Road 164 West and at SE 19-10-25 on Road 57 North. The resolution to authorize the purchase and installation of two signs at both locations was passed.

### Assiniboine Valley flood

Council authorized representatives to attend a ministerial meeting with Lisa Naylor Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ron Kostyshyn Minister of Agriculture concerning Assiniboine River valley flood mitigation and Shellmouth dam operations.

Coun. Stambuski pointed out that continued flooding could eventually become a direct municipal financial issue. She said, “Eventually, if this continues on, you’re going to have those producers [who] want their assessment reduced, because it’s now basically unusable land. So it will impact us eventually.”

### Community grants

Council reviewed and authorized the following community grant allocations for a total of \$117,391.70

- Elkhorn Cemetery, \$2,314
- Two Creeks/Ross Cairn, \$350
- Woodworth Fire Department, \$58,233.32
- Greenwood Cemetery, \$5,150
- Breadalbane Cemetery, \$475
- Kola Church of the Advent, \$269.38
- Shiloh Cemetery, \$1,000
- Kola Recreation Center, \$10,000
- Elkhorn District Community Center, \$20,000
- Legion 58 Elkhorn, \$12,600
- Wellview Golf Course, \$7,000

### Public hearing

Council opened a public hearing to consider a variance order reducing the required minimum site area from 80 acres to 21.64 acres.

The site will be used as a livestock operation.

A second property requests variance of minimum site area and rear set back.

A conditional use order is also required for this property to establish a modular home dwelling within the Residential Single-Family zone.

After the public hearing ended council approved both variance orders and the conditional use order.

## HISTORICAL EVENT

REF TO  
WRITER

GERRY  
NOLAN



On March 31, 1960 Canada underwent a major historical change highlighted by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker’s government granting all First Nations status individuals the unconditional right to vote in federal elections, passing the landmark Canadian Bill of Rights. It was also the start of Quebec’s profound quiet revolution.

On March 31, 1960, the federal government amended the Canada Election Act to allow First Nation status individuals to vote in federal elections without losing their treaty status. On August 10, 1960 the Canadian Bill of Rights received Royal assent formally recognizing fundamental human rights and freedoms at the federal level.

Why was this so important? Since 1950, status Indians had been allowed to vote on the condition that they give up their treaty rights and Indian Status, defined in the Indian act as enfranchisement or if they had fought in the First or Second World War. The Inuit and Metis were already able to vote at that time.

The Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act which removed the discrimination part of section 14 was made law on March 31, 1960!

In the 1968 election, Leonard Marchand was the first Status Indian to serve as a member of Parliament!

## == CLASSIFIEDS ==

### Notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE Demolition Update - “Round Building”

The Town of Virden advises the public that it intends to demolish the structure commonly known as the “Round Building,” located on the former Virden Ag Grounds.

Prior to proceeding with demolition, **the Town is inviting substantive proposals from interested parties who may wish to salvage or relocate the structure.**

Interested parties may submit a proposal outlining their intention to either repurpose the structure in alignment with building codes or undertake the complete relocation of the building.

Proposals must include detailed and substantive information sufficient for the Town to properly assess the proposed work.

- At a minimum, proposals should clearly identify:
- The scope of work to be undertaken;
  - Proposed timelines for commencement and completion, including equipment, personnel and resources required;
  - Plans for the safe removal, dismantling, transportation and/or relocation of the structure, where applicable;
  - The proposed destination and use of the structure if relocation is being considered; and,
  - Any other information necessary to demonstrate that the proponent has the ability and resources to complete the proposed work safely and in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Incomplete, vague, or insufficiently detailed proposals will not be accepted. Submission of a proposal does not guarantee that the Town will approve or proceed with any proposal received. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, in whole or in part, at its sole discretion.

#### Submission Deadline

All proposals must be received by the Town of Virden **no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, August 28, 2026.**

#### Proposals may be submitted:

**In Person:**  
Town of Virden  
236 Wellington Street West  
Virden, Manitoba

**By Mail:**  
Town of Virden  
Box 310  
Virden, MB R0M 2C0

**By Email:**  
info@virden.ca

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Tender

### LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

RM of Wallace-Woodworth E½ 33-12-25 WPM 320 acres

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is selling 320 acres of land comprised of SE 33-12-25 WPM and NE 33-12-25 WPM. The properties are located approximately 6 miles north and 3 miles west of Lenore, MB, along Township Road 71 N (RM of Wallace-Woodworth).

**Property is being sold subject to the registration of a ‘No Break, No Drain’ Conservation Easement Agreement.** Approximately 59.63 acres of cultivated land are present on SE 33-12-25 W1. **Purchaser agrees to seed these down to a tame forage blend by spring of 2028.** Remainder of property is comprised of 103.25 acres of tame/naturalized grass, 37.23 acres of bush/scrub and 119.89 acres of intact wetland habitat.

Cultivation of tame forage will be permitted once every 10 years for rejuvenation purposes. No restrictions with respect to haying or grazing. Two five-acre parcels (one on each quarter) will be excluded from the Conservation Agreement to allow for future building/yard site development.

**Bids** can be emailed to Ducks Unlimited at [s\\_henowitch@ducks.ca](mailto:s_henowitch@ducks.ca). Be sure to place “**Land Tender Bid**” in the email’s subject line. Please include your **name, address, phone number and bid amount** within the email. Bids may also be mailed or dropped off to the address below. Again, please indicate “**Land Tender Bid**” on envelope. Property to be sold as entire half section, bids on individual quarters will not be accepted. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Property information packages, including a sample copy of the Conservation Agreement are available – call **Scott Henowitch** at **204-761-5106** to have one emailed or mailed.

**Tenders Close on September 4, 2026, at 4:00 PM.**



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## Public Hearing

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE

Prairie View Municipality, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the below listed location, date, and time during which the Council will receive written or verbal representation from the applicant and any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**Application for a Conditional Use Order under Part 3 Table 3.2 of the Prairie View Municipality Zoning By-Law #2018-15, as amended.**

**HEARING LOCATION:** Prairie View Municipality Council Chambers located at 678 Main Street, Birtle, MB

**DATE & TIME:** September 8, 2026, 9:05 am (0905 h)

**PROPOSAL:** To add a Gravel Pit use to the property.

**PROPERTY LOCATION:** SW9-16-27W, Prairie View Municipality

**OWNER:** 6454870 Manitoba Ltd.

**APPLICANT:** Kent Naylor, Valley Rock Construction

#### CONDITIONAL USE ORDER APPLICATION

**ORDER NUMBER:** 2026-403-139-CU

**TO PERMIT FOR:** The establishment a Gravel Pit use on the land in the Agricultural General “AG” zone.

**AREA:** Approximately 9.5 km southwest of Birtle

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the Mid-West Planning District office during normal business hours. Copies may be made, and extracts taken there from, upon request.

Representations may be made verbally or in writing at the public hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Mid-West Planning District:

Ph: 1-888-919-1740

Email: [devofficer@midwestplanning.ca](mailto:devofficer@midwestplanning.ca)

Lisa Hamilton, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,  
MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT



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- Ability to handle all duties associated with this position.

Consideration will be given to applicants that have courses in Water & Wastewater. This position is anticipated to commence on or about September 21, 2026, with a work schedule of 10 days on and 4 days off.

**Applications for this position will be received until the position is filled.**

Please forward your resume to the Southwest Regional Water Co-operative, Brock Bolton, P.O. Box 364, Melita, Manitoba, R0M 1L0 or by email to [waterplant@swrwc.ca](mailto:waterplant@swrwc.ca). For further information please call 204-522-3463.

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# Miniota Municipal Museum 50th Anniversary

**Submitted**

By MINIOTA MUSEUM BOARD

The Miniota Municipal Museum was started in 1976 and was located in the former Miniota Municipal office. The original founding group consisted of Chairman-Glen Cameron; 1st Vice-Chairman-Bob Clark; 2nd Vice-Chairman-Douglas Lelond; Secretary/Treasurer-Faye Cameron. Committee members were Edwin Stowe, Ross Rowan, Ron Chartier, Eleanor O'Callaghan, Wilf Latimer, Jim Morton and later Art Ulley.

In 1992, the Watts house was purchased. It was built in 1905 and consisted of eight rooms and a porch. The old RM office continued to be used while the Watts house was being restored. The Watts house was opened in 1993 as a Pioneer home and the old RM office was used until September 2003.

Due to lack of space, in 1997, a small house was purchased and moved from Shoal Lake. This house is the office and home to the Wakpatanka artifacts

as well as other items.

In 2004, a bathroom was added to the Watts house, and the old barn was replaced with a new building that houses the agricultural related items.

A social evening was held on Friday, August 14th at 7 pm to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Museum. Entertainment was provided by Three's Company consisting of Leona Joseph, Debra Naylor and Krista Pederson from Virden. Congratulations were sent to the Museum by Sylvia Hanlin, a former and longstanding supporter. To end the evening everyone enjoyed anniversary cake and juice.

The Miniota Museum is still run by a volunteer board of eight people. It is operated with the help of donations and two grants; the Prairie View Municipal grant and the Manitoba Community Museum grant. The present board consists of Darcy Rollo, Laurie Copet, Kay Lelond, Les and Marlene Bryant, Brenda Lelond, Barry Cornish and Bill Armitage. The board strives to keep Miniota's history alive for future generations.



The Miniota Museum was started in 1976.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Town council sets date to demolish Round Building

## Mayor Williams points to other town project needs

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Round Building in the parking lot of the recreation complex received nearly 15 minutes of discussion at the Aug. 11th Town of Virden public council meeting. Council resolved to put a date on the building's demolition or reclamation and removal.

The stairs gave way not so long ago when someone attempted to climb into the second story. The building has been condemned. Council sees its removal as a matter of public safety.

Although there's been concern voiced on social media to preserve the building, no one has approached council with a plan or an offer since the notice of destruction in the Empire-Advance and online on July 21. No members of the public have showed up to defend the building, or to plead for its restoration.

"The building cannot be relocated and used for anything, other than something like grain storage in a rural area, given its [building] code

deficiencies," stated Chief Administrative Officer Neil Smith. He added, "Salvage in tandem with demolition could be a possibility, but we have received no formal approaches on the matter since the move was issued."

Councillor comments varied from - push it down immediately - to - give the public one last chance to save it.

However, the bottom line - any proposal would need to be concrete - a plan, and a timeline.

On that basis, the gist of a motion was: "Any concerned citizens who would like to approach council with a firm plan for rescue... shall do so prior to the next scheduled council meeting."

A delegation would need to be registered some days ahead of the next council meeting scheduled for Sept. 1, so time is of the essence. For further consideration, an article by Corr Rossouw (Pioneer Home Museum), Empire-Advance, pg. 18 in the Aug. 7 issue, details the history and unique construction of the building.

**Mayor weighs situation**

In a recent interview, Mayor Tina Williams expressed concern about spending public money to restore the Round Building. Casting her eye around the town, she points to some ongoing Virden assets that need upkeep.

"I'm not happy that it's at this point... we reroofed it several years ago, with the idea that we were hoping to save it, like, we have put money into it."

Some years ago the Ag Society turned the building over to the Town.

In a past discussion with Manitoba Heritage, Williams said they found that in order to leverage funding for restoration a building must have a purpose.

"We didn't have a purpose. And then, somebody fell through the stairs."

She knows that a lot of people have never even been into the building. In a moment of nostalgia Williams says, "It was used for the fair when I was a kid, for jellies and jams and flowers

and needle point and all that kind of stuff, and it is a beautiful building."

One councillor commented, "Tear it down and pave the parking lot." In reality, the building now takes up space in Tundra Oil & Gas parking lot, which fills up quickly during key events.

The fix up would be costly and Williams said, "I don't think people would have been okay with [spending] that money either."

She pointed to the historic train station, home of Arts Mosaic and the Station Gallery. Beside it, the antique caboose that requires restoration.

"There's a lot of opportunities to give money to buildings like that in town already... like the Pioneer Home Museum is beautiful and I would wonder when is the last time most people were there."

Williams works as an early childhood educator and sees things through the eyes of tomorrow. She said, of a recent daycare trip to the museum, "And that is our heritage, right? I was just there with a group of kids not that long ago. I was taking

kids in individually, and we were going through, and some of them, it's not their thing, and some were enthralled.

From a council perspective, Virden has history as well as current projects and needs.

"Because the train station is going to have to be reroofed in the coming years. Well, that is a heritage building. We're looking at, cedar shakes (shingles). Nothing, cheap about that."

"You cannot go in the caboose." The floor is an issue and the exterior could use some TLC. Williams adds, "Currently, I don't know what kind of dollars it'll take."

"There is no CP (train) money to be had for either one of those."

Williams credits the Ag Society for replacing barns and keeping the grounds for the many yearly functions that are held there.

Another historic item that serves a safety purpose is the walkway under the rail tracks connecting Sixth Ave. and Fifth Ave.

"We have zero ownership over that... and CP Rail could just, tomorrow, close that up. They

have every right to do it. We take care of it, just because it needs to be taken care of, when we cut the grass in their right of way. We cannot send them a bill for it."

If something happens and the crossing gets blocked, she doesn't want to see kids "dipping under trains" to go across.

The Aud Theatre is a community treasure that requires planned upkeep. Its seats were recently replaced thanks to fundraising and generous charity and business contributions.

At the Virden branch of the Border Regional Library, renovation has made it like new. Williams said that everyone likes new things as well as preserving history.

She's also considering ongoing infrastructure costs for water and for streets.

"So, I'm happy that people are disappointed that the building has to come down... I think that shows that we have an interest in our history, but then I challenge people to the things we already have like, we're starting to put aside money."

# Making sure the good stuff is on consumers' plates

## Continued from previous Farmers' Advocate page

In addition to research discussions, some equipment demonstrations were also conducted.

One such demonstration included a piece of equipment of interest to potato producers— an auto sorter.

“[It] kicks out green potatoes, rotten potatoes, foreign materials such as sticks and glass. A lot of farms are investigating that as well, too,” said Graham. “Foreign material really is another critical thing that the farms have to leave that at the farm. You can’t take it to the factory. We do have machines that do take that out, but it’s just so critical that we get that out, and we make sure that it doesn’t end up on a customer’s plate.”

## Giving back through agriculture

Alongside the producer-oriented information and research, however, there was another project implemented this year. This is a



Pictured left: Terry Buss (pictured) and Wendy McDonald (not pictured) provided soybean production tips and more on behalf of Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers at the Aug. 12 Field Day near Carberry.

Pictured right: One of the many crops being put through research trials at the Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre.



PHOTOS BY RAIN PRIOR, AND SOURCED FROM PRAIRIE CERTIFIED CROP ADVISORS

multi-crop undertaking put on in collaboration between area producers and MPEC to give back to the community in a tangible way.

Twenty acres of potatoes, 75 acres of canola, and 100 acres of wheat were planted, on land which became available for rent at the MCDC. The profits of these crops

will be donated back to Carberry and area.

“The site came available for rent for some of the acres outside the research this spring. So it was a last minute proposal, but we put one in to do a community crop like a lot of communities do around the prairies. MPEC reviewed it and ap-

proved it, and then it was a mad rush to get out and talk to all the producers in the area, but we’ve had tremendous uptake,” said Steve Saunderson, crop advisor for Choice Agri Ltd. “That’s all been planted and sprayed, and all inputs donated through retailers and growers in the area.”

Saunderson noted that a few key areas have been focussed on that would help the community as a whole, including healthcare, daycare, and potentially the volunteer fire department and some agricultural scholarships.

“You know, it’s all farmers that have donated their in-

puts and time and retailers that are making their money in the community too from ag, so we’d like to help with some students or some scholarships that can continue ag in our community as well,” Saunderson enthused.

Further discussion from the 2026 Field Day can be found on NACTV.

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# A look back at the Country Guide



This ad for United Grain Growers appeared in the March, 1933 edition of the Country Guide, a newspaper published by the Grain Growers' Grain Company (GGGC) in Western Canada for grain farmers between 1908 and 1936. It reflected the views of the grain growers' associations. In its day it had the highest circulation of any farm paper in Western Canada.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE COUNTRY GUIDE

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