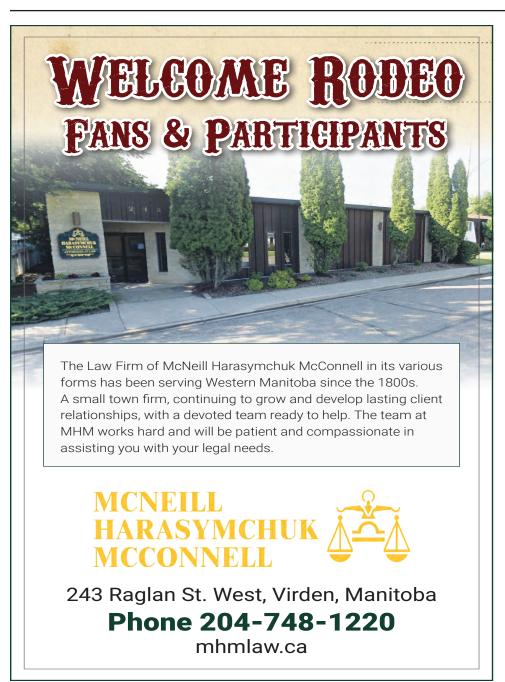
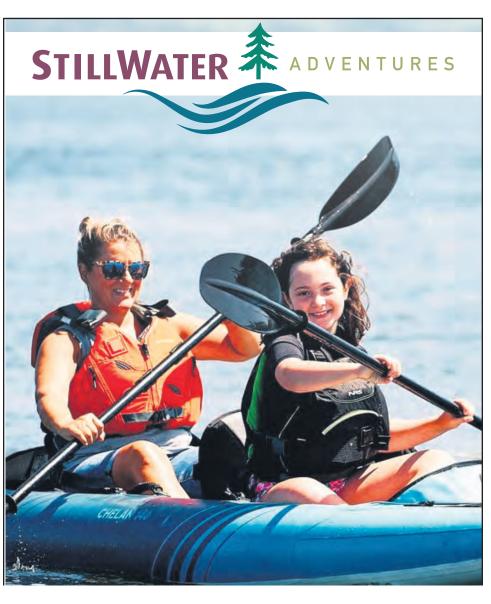


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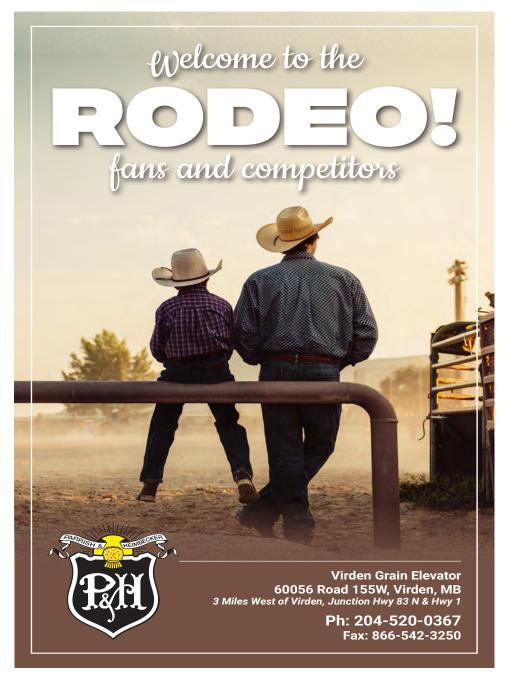




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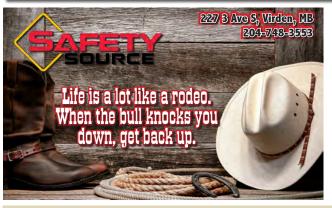
VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO PRESIDENT STATEMENT



"We are back with another great edition of the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze! After 34 years this event has truly become a marquee event in southwest Manitoba. The support from volunteers, sponsors and spectators is truly second to none and we just can't thank everyone enough. So, if you got a buckle, cowboy hat or some boots get them on and join the fun!"

Thomas Hagen, Virden Indoor Rodeo president since 2019















VIRDEN RODEO BREAKFAST



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• 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM •

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VIRDEN

TOWN OF VIRDEN MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL COMPETITORS AND SPECTATORS TO THE

2024 INDOOR RODEO WILD WEST DAZE

MAYOR TINA WILLIAMS



"The Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze is an exciting and thrilling annual event in our community. On behalf of Town of Virden Council, Staff and Residents I am delighted to welcome all the event participants, competitors and attendees who will visit our community August 15 to 18, 2024. It is outstanding that the event continues to thrive in popularity and provide action-packed fun for everyone, as it heads into its 34th year. Regardless of whether those exploring the event are from near or far, we wish you a weekend of adventure and life-long memories. In between all the rodeo fun, we encourage everyone to discover the history, arts, culture and shopping available in our thriving community.

Grab your boots and cowboy hat, it is time for rodeo fun!"

Mayor Tina Williams

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STRONG LOCAL CONTENDERS LINE UP



By Anne Davison EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze is an entire weekend of events starting up on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Southwest Manitoba is cowboy country and Thomas Hagan, president of the Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze says fans can look forward to cheering on local contenders and enjoying rodeo talent that travels the country to compete here.

"We should have another strong local contestant entry again this year. There will probably be 40-50 contestants that are from the Virden area. Virden continues to pump out rodeo contestants at a high rate and that's very exciting for our sport locally and the Virden rodeo."

For rodeo athletes wanting to earn points to take part in the MRCA (Manitoba Rodeo Cowboys Association) and CCA (Canadian Cowboys Association) finals, Virden rodeo is known as a make it or break it event attracting contestants from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Manitoba High School Rodeo (MHSR) also runs this weekend where you'll see the future of rodeo.

From Thursday morning through Sunday evening, there's plenty to see and do on rodeo weekend. By late Thursday afternoon Downtown Daze on Seventh Avenue even gives shoppers something to do with stores open and kids activities a plenty. Food, entertainment and even a huge Daze Show n Shine for car enthusiasts.

Rodeo action is front and centre, as a look at the program will tell you. Friday and Saturday evening rodeos in Tundra Oil & Gas Place arena include opening ceremonies and two special presentations – the Gerry Holmes Memorial and the Horsman's Hall of Fame awards. Dignitaries are ushered in and youth ride the arena with sponsor flags in a blaze of colour.

"It takes an army and we have one" -Hagan

Virden Indoor Rodeo has been awarded Rodeo of the Year 10 times by the MRCA. Every year this well planned program with professional bucking stock runs smoothly attracting great competition and making it a great spectator event.

Planning for the next year begins with an evaluation following each rodeo weekend. A write-up of the event was completed by Lindsay White, who was a key part of that organization. Hagan says, "The rodeo committee was very saddened by the unexpected death of longtime rodeo committee member Lindsay White. Our hearts go out

to his family and friends. Lindsay put in many man hours as the secretary of the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze committee. Lindsay almost never missed a meeting, he took minutes, answered emails, applied for grants and took on several jobs [during] the weekend of the actual event. He will be missed for sure."

The strong organization and cadre of volunteers are the backbone of this multi-faceted event.

Hagan says, "The weekend is structured with one committee, the umbrella committee, that handles everything that goes on, the weekend of our event."

Chairpersons from each event - rodeo, derby, parade, etc. - attend organizational meetings. Some chairs have their own board and some run things on their own.

"The rodeo itself has a very strong board that would have 20-25 people that go to those meetings. There are also volunteers that don't come to meetings but are still working on their jobs throughout the year"

Then there are countless volunteers who help just on the weekend of the event.

"It takes an army and we have one," says Hagan. And when it's over, "We get a huge group of volunteers come in to set up and tear down the rodeo arena. The support in this community for the rodeo is amazing!"









AUREL AND RITA YODON TO RECEIVE GERRY HOLMES YOLUNTEER AWARD



By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Gerry Holmes Memorial Award is presented each year to a volunteer who has made a note-

worthy contribution to the Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze. This year's recipients are Aurel and Rita Vodon.

This award honours the memory of Gerry Holmes, whose involvement in the event was exceptional and long-standing and is co-sponsored by the Gerry Holmes family and The Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze. In 2007, the inaugural year, the award was presented posthumously to Gerry.

Gerry joined the organization in 1995, and for six of her eleven years of service she was president of the steering committee. The balance of her time was spent as a valued subcommittee chairperson. Due to her in-depth knowledge of the weekend's activities, she was called upon numerous times by fellow committee members for her opinion and advice. Gerry's leadership and strong influence upon the success of the event is still very evident today.

Rodeo president Thomas Hagan said, "Aurel and Rita Vodon ran the high school rodeo for a good time and did a great job! It takes people like that to put on good rodeos like this one for the kids to come and compete. Aurel and Rita had three boys go through the ranks of high school rodeo and they more than did their part to give all the high school rodeo kids a great rodeo to compete at."

It was this family connection that prompted Aurel and Rita to get involved in rodeo. Their oldest son Trevor had been competing in high school rodeo for a couple of years and in 2012 his parents joined the committee. Aurel said, "There is no board like the Virden Indoor Rodeo Committee. It is unbelievable how that committee can get together and work together and put on a show." The Vodons have experience working with other community groups and say that sometimes, "You either get into the old gentlemen

club or committees that have never had to change or anything, but this group of people have their ears open all the time for suggestions."

The Vodons recognize the value of having family involved in organizations like this, and Aurel said, "Once our youngest son was done with high school rodeo, we said we'd stay on the committee and keep putting the rodeo on. But then Alistair and Erin Hagan stepped up and said, 'you know, we still have kids in high school rodeo."

Aurel and Rita stepped aside but remained avail-

able to help the Hagans transition into this challenging job. Rita said that when she and Aurel took the reins of the high school rodeo from Kelly and Cherie Lyng, "I had lots of phone calls with Cherie. We looked after all the sponsorship for it and all the scholarship part. There was quite a bit to do. I really enjoyed all of it."

The Vodons have been involved with horses for many years, competing in Standardbred harness racing in Alberta and Manitoba and recently with the winter racing circuit in California. Aurel said, "I've been in horses since I was knee high. I still remember Dad saying that's how I was toilet trained." They bring the same dedication to breeding and training their horses that they brought to their years with rodeo.

This recognition is important to the Vodons. Aurel



SUBMITTED PHOTO

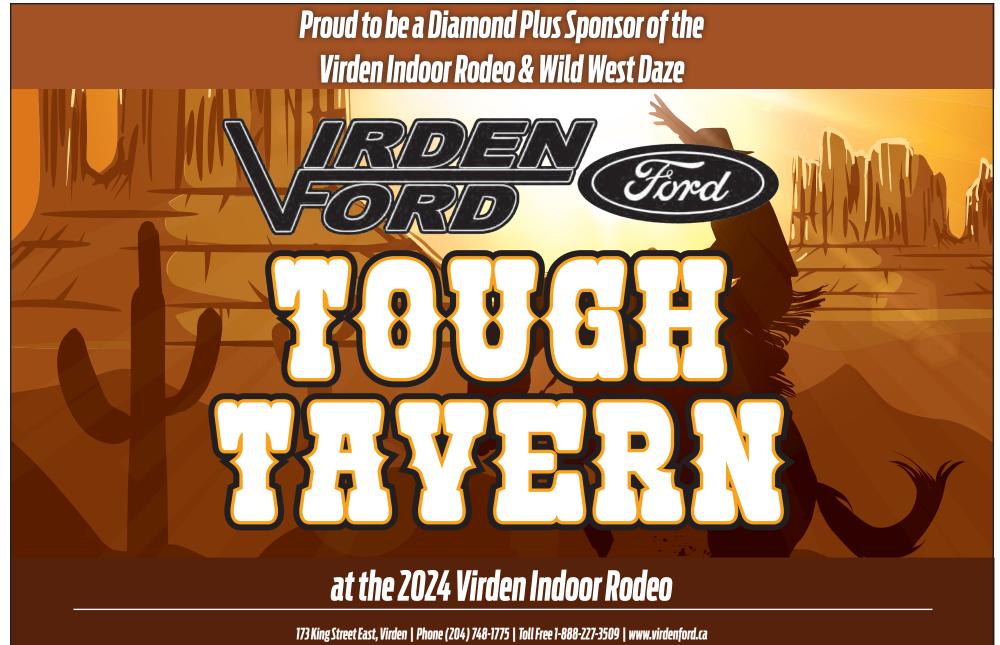
The Vodon family. Rita and Aurel (seated) and sons Trevor, Tyler, and Terrance

explained, "A lot of the people that have been recognized there for either the Gerry Holmes or the (Horseman's) Hall of Fame were people that I've looked up to when I was younger. For me it is a very big honour to get this award."

In recentyears Aurel and Rita continue to volunteer, and their sons Trevor, Terrance and Tyler now join them. Aurel said, "We're always just a phone call away. It's our kids that got us involved in it and they're still active. They help with set-up, take-down and anything else that is needed." Their oldest son Trevor is getting married this fall and he and his fiancé have been asked to go on the board. Aurel and Rita believe they will when "they get a bit more settled down."

Aurel said, "I really hope to see our kids kind of follow what we've done."

The family connection continues.





FOOD FOR THE COWBOYS AND THE FANS



Co-op Pancake Breakfast

By Amber Vandale Torrance

MARKETING MANAGER, VALLEYVIEW CO-OP

Valleyview Co-op is known for more than exceptional service; our team is also masterful at making pancakes! Every year, we bring our culinary skills to events like the Harding and Oak Lake Agricultural Fairs, flipping thousands of fluffy, golden pancakes that bring smiles to countless faces. Our pancake breakfasts are a testament to our team's dedication and spirit, fostering com $munity\,connections\,with\,every\,bite.\,Supporting\,the$ Manitoba High School Rodeo with a fundraising pancake breakfast is another way we invest in our community's future. Holding this event helps to ensure the next generation of rodeo stars has the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. These young athletes learn discipline, resilience, and sportsmanship—values we champion at Valleyview Co-op. Together, through pancake breakfasts and rodeo sponsorships, we're building a stronger, more connected community, nurturing talent, and traditions for years to come.

Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

By Jessica Coulter

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

ions Club Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday, August 17 from 8 to 10am. The team of ten Lions Club member volunteers will be up and prepping for company at 6:30am. All the pancakes will be cooked on the new grills the Lions Club acquired just last year. They no longer have to rent grills to cook up their meals. The pancake mix and sausages are from Valleyview Co-op. Other volunteers step up to help the Club get the meal complete including members wives and partners and two to four helpers from each bank in town. This is another great way to see the town of Virden people come together and work together for a great event.

"The Lions would love to see everyone come out and come back to our annual breakfast! We really enjoy your company and really appreciate your continued support," Barry O'Grady, Lions Club Member.

All money raised goes back into the community. They do not have a specific project for this fundraiser. The Lions Club helps about 20 groups a year with the funds they raise.

WILD WEST DAZE SHOW & SHINE THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

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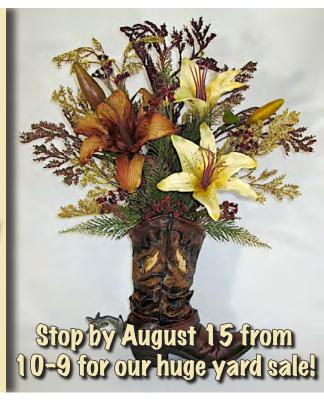
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Welcome

Rodeo

Fans and

Riders!





DEMOLITION DERBY IS BACK



Bv Anne Davison EMPIRE-ADVANCE

erby fans won't be disappointed this year. The Virden Demolition Derby group is bringing back the very popular Sunday afternoon show to the Virden derby pit for what is shaping up to be a better than ever derby.

Organizing the event, Jason Creller and Jody Braybrook have a line up of sponsors and

donations to provide what will probably be the highest payout in the province for derby competitors. "There's been strong support because a lot of people missed the derby. It's been amazing," Creller said.

For example, there's a \$1500 purse attached to the Powder Puff event.

Cam Manser served at the derby for many years, watering down dust in the pit. The Watermelon Bash event will be in his honour. Clarke's Contracting and Maintenance has stepped up to support this.

Creller's company, Mad Dog Spray Foam & Coatings is sponsoring the best hit of the day. There will also be a Sportsman award for drivers who go out of their way to knock a car free. Sometimes cars get jammed together or stuck somewhere in the pit, so this bump by another driver can help extend the contest. It could also cost him his own win.

There are costs to the event, such as the 22 portapotties that are required on the derby grounds.

"Insurance was a sticking point last year and this year, Keystone Wealth and Sparwood Service Centre have stepped up to cover the insurance costs."

The Cubs are working the food booth this year. Nine individuals have volunteered to help out with the gate and other duties on the grounds, and of



course the Wallace District Fire Department will be on hand. With a new insurance program, the derby is mandated to have a paramedic on site.

Each year there's raffle tickets sold on a derby car. "The winner can jump in and drive it at the derby," says Creller, or take the cash value. The car is prepped by Virden Collegiate Institute power mechanics students. The derby returns the car to VCI each year.

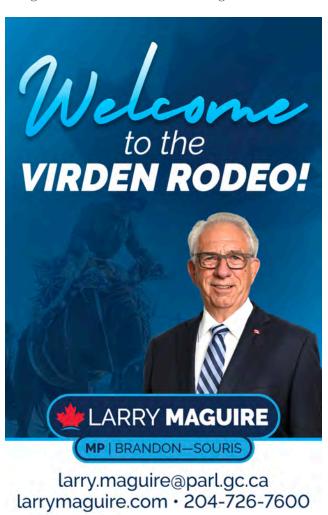
Jody Braybrook is just one of some nine regular Virden derby car drivers, many of whom tour the Manitoba Circuit.

Creller is an enthusiast who helps out with the Crystal City event. He says derby is a great event with "good morale and camaraderie" among the derby people.

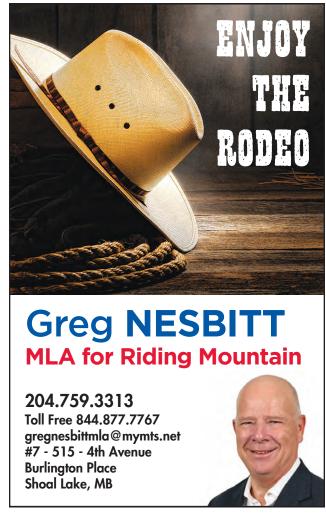
Creller recalls how, as a 15-year-old, his dad Keith signed the permission slip to let him drive in his first derby. He fixed the car up himself in their driveway. "It was held together with coat hangers, literally," he laughs. That doesn't happen now. Creller won his first heat. "That's what hooked me on it."

He retired from driving some six years ago, but now fills the shoes of organizer.









WELCOME TO THE



AUGUST 15TH - 18TH

www.virdenindoorrodeo.ca

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH

* VALLEYVIEW CO-OP PANCAKE BREAKFAST * 7:00 - 9:00 am @ Tundra 0il & Gas Place

* HIGH SCHOOL RODEO *
9:00 am @ Tundra Oil & Gas Place

* COREX RODEO KICKOFF BBQ * 11:00 am - 2:00 pm @ Victoria Park

* DOWNTOWN EVENTS AND SHOW & SHINE *

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Various family activities, petting zoo, bouncy castles, face painting, etc, as well as food trucks and local vendors.

* LIVE ENTERTAINMENT *
Details available at info@virdenchamber.ca

betung available at info@viracifonamber.oa

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH

* HIGH SCHOOL RODEO *
8:30 am @ Tundra Oil & Gas Place

RODEO 7:30 PM

Tundra Oil & Gas Place
The first 1000 fans will receive a Door Crasher sponsored by Kingston Midstream

* COORS LIGHT BARN BAR * 10:00 pm - 1:00 am Please drink responsibly





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RDAY, AUGUST

* LIONS CLUB PANCAKE **BREAKFAST** *

8:00 - 10:00 am @ Legion Hall

* PARADE *

10:00 am - departs from Virden Collegiate

* RODEO SLACK *

12:00 pm @ Tundra Oil & Gas Place

FOUR SEASONS TAILGATE PARTY*

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm @ Virden Curling Rink BBQ, Beer Garden, Carnival Games & Live Music * 3D BARREL RACING * 2:00 pm @ Outdoor Arena

* DAZE DANCE *

10:00 pm - 2:00 am Virden Curling Rink Featuring Mike Sacharko Band Tickets available at: Sooper Dave's and HiWay Grocery. Must be 18 years or older to attend. Photo ID is required. Please drink responsibly

RODEO 6:30 PM

Tundra Oil & Gas Place















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SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH

* 3D BARREL RACING * 11:00 am @ Outdoor Arena

* TIE DOWN/BREAKAWAY JACKPOT * Starts at 10:00am @ Tundra Oil & Gas Place

* DEMOLITION DERBY *

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm @ Demolition Track on PR #257, west of the cement plant

RODEO 5:30 PM

Tundra Oil & Gas Place

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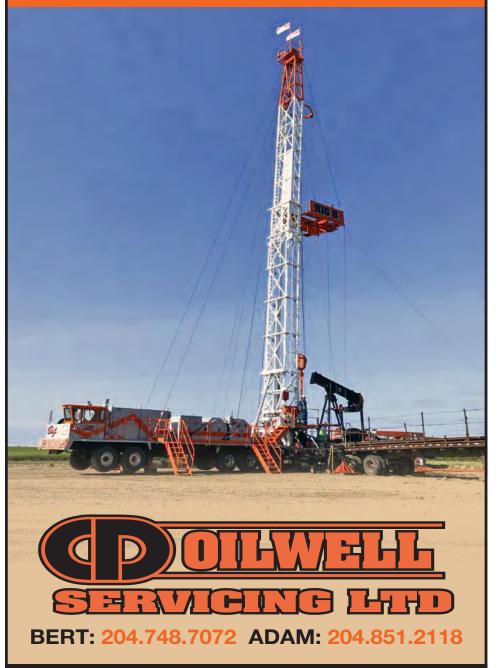






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JIM LANE TO BE INDUCTED INTO HORSEMAN'S HALL OF FAME



By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Jim Lane's life has revolved around horses since he was a -kid. "I'm horse crazy, always

have been," he says. However, Lyle Brown's phone call advising him that he was the chosen recipient of the Virden Indoor Rodeo Horseman's Hall of Fame award was a surprise.

The rodeo committee has established the Horsemen's Hall of Fame to honour people who have made an exemplary contribution as breeders, promoters, organizers, as competitors, or in countless other ways.

Each year, past inductees in the HHoF select a new recipient and although the Lane farm is located a few miles east of Birtle, his influence in the equine industry over some 50 years has had a broad reach with Lone Oak Percherons becoming one of the largest breeders in North America. The farm's JL brand can be found in many breeding programs and top hitches on the continent and Lane's hitches have provided stiff competition at local draft horse competitions such as the Virden Draft Horse Show.

Jim and Darlene Lane have been living their dream. Farming nearby, their daughter Tina and son-in-law David Collier and their daughters Cortney, Chelsey and Robin Collier work together in the Lone Oak Percherons enterprise, participating in fairs, shows, and community horse events. Many pictures in Lone Oak's Facebook photo gallery attest to the fun the Lanes and Colliers have had with their teams.

Lane has been part of the Birtle Ag Society for "far too long" he says. The Lane family has participated in Birtle's Christmas Trail Ride that runs down into the Birdtail River Valley where a wiener roast takes place. In January there's a Birtle Ag Society Sleigh Derby. And every March, Lane hitches a team and the family participates in what has been billed as the world's largest sleigh ride in the Birdtail Valley within Riding Mountain National Park. In 2018 some 50 teams and 20 riders took part.

The PMU (pregnant mare urine) industry has been a boost to the Lanes as it has to many horse breeders. They



SUBMITTED PHOT

Jim Lane drives his team pulling a three-seater cutter in Birtle's Christmas Trail Ride, with family members.

took on a PMU contract 40 years ago with 130 mares on the line. Of late the business was cut back to an 80-mare quota, and although the PMU days are now over Lone Oak has 72 foals on the ground this year.

Showing off

Lane served on the board of directors for NAERIC, the association representing ranchers in Canada and the US, who are involved in the PMU industry. As such he helped organize the Draft Horse Classic show now held in Brandon, and of course Lone Oak Percherons competed in the ring.

Also in connection with the PMU business, Lanewas are gular contender in the Draft Horse Futurity show held during the Virden Indoor Rodeo for a number of years.

Far and wide, he's shown and won with his Lone Oak bred stock. His success? Lane says, "I like a high-spirited horse."

From local fairs to Brandon Royal Winter Exhibition, the Royal in Toronto and the Calgary Stampede, he's also shown at Percheron World Congress events as far away as Des Moines Iowa.

Jim Lane has also judged horses throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the Royal in Toronto, the Brandon Royal Winter Fair, and at shows in Quebec, Ontario and south of the border in Oklahoma.

This year Lone Oak Percherons hit the local show circuit taking their draft horses to fairs at Carberry, Minnedosa, Carman, Dauphin, Birtle, and the Virden Draft Show.

Presenting these near one-ton equines for the show ring requires a team effort, particularly if you are driving. Although she's stepped down now, for decades Darlene has been at every show cleaning and polishing both the harness and the beautiful blacks and dapple greys as well as showing in ladies driving classes.

While there's competition in the show world, there's also camaraderie. Lane is pleased to partner with Chad Levesque of Carnduff, Sask. and between them they're showing a six-horse Percheron hitch. Levesque recently purchased Lone Oak stock and appreciates having Lane's experience to call upon.

In recent years, Lane has branched out into the Friesian Sporthorse breed. He likes their head set and way of going. Granddaughter Robin is into the jumping scene, so sport horse blood is in demand.

Lane crosses his Friesian studs with young Percheron mares for ease of foaling, knowing he'll always get a black foal.

The burning desire to raise and show Percherons was ignited early in Jim's life when he and younger brother Tom (a Belgian breeder) helped their father Fred Lane farm with horses.

Betty and Barney, his dad's black chore team, caught his interest and horses became one of his passions.

Jim and his future wife, Darlene, were riding when they met. Their rendezvous continued into dating with rides in the valley on property that they now farm.

Over the years, Jim recalls a particular pair of dappled grey mares, memorable favourites. Lynn and Becky were a great team that did a lot of winning. "They were good movers. Lynn could win on the halter too," he recounts.

On Saturday evening, Aug.17, during the Virden Indoor Rodeo opening ceremonies, Jim and Darlene will ride in the white carriage in Tundra Oil & Gas Place arena where Jim will receive the Horseman's Hall of Fame award.



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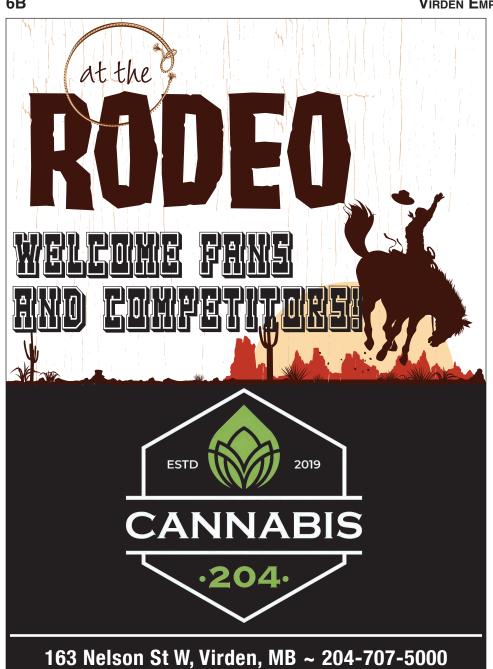


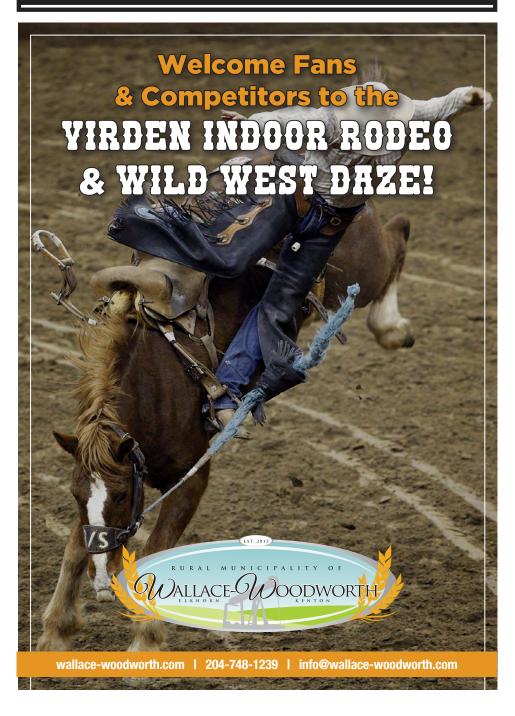




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HANGING WITH YOUR GRILL FRIENDS AT THE TAILGATE PARTY



By Jessica Coulter Empire-Advance

he Virden Tailgate Party organizers want to invite you

to come on down to the tailgate party for free entertainment, deliciously inexpensive drinks and food, and a heck of a good time. The doors open at noon on Saturday, August 17, the grill will be fired up, and the Caesar bar will be in full effect.

"Our goal with the tailgate party is to provide an afternoon of family fun for very little cost," says Scott King, Tailgate Party organizer. The party will run from 12 to

Get ready to kick up some dust!

6pm which is when the doors open for the rodeo.

There is no admission, a bison burger and beans are only \$5, \$5 drinks, and free kids' carnival activities, including bouncy castle, mechanical bull and lots of other games for kids of all ages.

There will be two live bands entertaining the crowd throughout the afternoon, Prairie Roots and Old Bones Buffalo. Both bands are from the neighbouring community of Kenton and really know how to rock it.

Scott King has been running the tailgate party since its inception four years ago and has a team of excellent volunteers who help each year.

The Four Seasons Tailgate Party is sponsored primarily by Four Seasons RV Sales. Four Seasons RV is a fantastic community business and without them, this family event wouldn't be possible.

Other sponsors include Bison Spirit Ranch, who supply the meat for our bison burger cookout, and Ravine Ranch Sport Horses.

So, while you wait for the Saturday Rodeo to begin, be sure to head on over to the Tailgate Party.

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DAZE DANCE THE ** NIGHT AWAY **



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mike Sacharko Band

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

rganizer Brennin Jack says this year's Daze Dance is go-

ing to be a huge event with "well over 1000" expected to attend. The dance is always a highlight of the rodeo weekend as fans and competitors take time to kick up their heels. Come and dance to 2022 Manitoba Country Music best tribute band winners the Mike Sacharko Band, fresh from their performance at Dauphin's Countryfest.

The event gets started Saturday night at 10 pm and admittance is by advance ticket only. Pick them up at Sooper Dave's Country Convenience Store or Virden Hi-Way Grocery.

Get ready to party!







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Felicity Hagan

204.851.2311

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Virden & **Surrounding Areas**





Corner Lot | 4 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,267 SqFt

315 5th Avenue S, Virden



Great starter or rental opportunity!



23 4th Street NE, Hamiota



6-1 Bed Suites + 1-2 Bed Suite | 32x34 Heated Shop | Fully Rented!

Looking to make a move? Give our experts a call!

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