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Build it and they will come



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Surgical scissors aren't ideal for a ribbon snip, but it's a happy occasion for Larry Logan (front L), Jean and Gerry Gatey as the three ribbons are cut to signify Virden Animal Hospital addition's grand opening.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Larry Logan, chairperson for Virden Veterinary Services District Board (VVSD) is proud of the Virden Animal Hospital expansion that was celebrated last week. And he's the first to credit the veterinary doctors for being cooperative partners and for shouldering costs that the board is responsible for until year end grants come into the board's bank account.

Both the property and the animal hospital building are publicly owned and managed by the board, which is in turn funded by grants from the ratepayers of a handful of municipalities plus the provincial government.

The expansion project cost came in at around \$1.6M. From blueprints, to building codes even down to whether there would be pressure washing within a room, gaining a

variance for the setback requirements, it all meant paperwork amounting to about \$90K before actual construction began.

New medical equipment alone (think \$70K for an ultrasound) is costly, and besides the building there were exam rooms and three new operating rooms to outfit.

Veterinary partners are co-signatories with the VVSD (board) on the 20-year loan for the expansion, but it was Gerry and Jean Gatey's large donation last year that became seed money to enabled this project to put shovels in the ground, Logan said.

The VVSD board receives \$6000 yearly from each municipality, \$22K from the provincial government and there's a few dollars charged to each customer as a building fee, all amounting to a yearly budget of about \$60K for utilities and upkeep.

So, while the board could not fund the ex-

pansion outright, Logan said they've a great working relationship with the veterinary partners and a plan for the loan payments.

These partners, Drs. Loewen, King, Wohlgemuth and McDougall, run the VAH business. They hire staff, rent building space to veterinarians and purchase supplies.

VAH is currently staffed with nine veterinarians and Logan says there's a plan for new graduates to come on board within the next year.

With the current crisis in veterinary medicine throughout Canada, and certainly within rural Manitoba, Logan's philosophy is "build it and they will come."

This very accommodating, state of the art clinic in a location like Virden with experienced staff to support the necessary on call could be the draw that will continue to provide a service hub.



VIRIDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
VS. SWAN VALLEY
STAMPEDE
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



BLACK GOLD CLASSIC *P9*



VCI FOOTBALL WRAP-UP *P11*

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Glenda Cairns Poirier show runs through Nov. 7 at the Gallery



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

In a photograph in the Station Gallery, artist Glenda Cairns Poirier is seen at work.



Micro Art Gallery is one of three curiosity pieces that will be placed in Arts Mosaic's communities of Reston, Elkhorn and Virden.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Arts Mosaic displays and Market items in the CP Station Gallery continue to evolve amid Virden's historically stoic train station. One nice change is new seating in the west wing of the Gallery. It's made the space very appealing. And of course, artist Glenda Cairns Poirier is showing her refreshing, almost restful art pieces. Natural animal life features in much of her work.

The October/November artist's work is beautifully hung for viewing and there are many price tags on Cairns' pieces, meaning you can take one home or get an early Christmas gift there. Plus, there's an array of tempting 'hand made' in the Mosaic Market.

Miniature galleries are another fascination. These will be situated within several communities as the details are worked out.

The little gallery boxes resemble the miniature libraries that invite you to take a book and leave a book. But instead, these minigalleries will have changing displays. "So, we'll have miniature canvases and little displays that will change seasonally,"

says Alix Potrebka, the Arts Mosaic gallery manager.

"We'll have one here in Virden, one in Reston, and one in Elkhorn." These were conceived and built by Jackie and Barry Tough.

The last day to see Glenda Cairns Poirier's work will be Nov. 7.

By Nov. 20, a Verry Virden Christmas will be underway and Arts Mosaic will be busy with Christmas related themes and activities.

Coming up in early 2026 – a first ever quilt show at the Gallery.

Top-notch theatre coming to Virden: It's Something Rotten

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Directors Michelle Chzyk and Dean Munchinsky of Virden Theatre Productions bring *Something Rotten* to Virden's AUD Theatre stage in late November.

Several local actors are featured in this parody, while others hold supporting roles.

The famous line by Prince Hamlet's soldier friend, Marcellus, in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* signifies elbows up competition between playwrights – with 'seer' Nostradamus figuring in the plot.

Something Rotten harkens back to the Golden Age of English theatre while making connections to a handful of modern era shows.

In a Q & A with Michelle we find out details:

You and Dean are directing, who is your choreographer?
Katey Rogowsky from Brandon is doing an amazing job and is a perfect fit for our team, attending each rehearsal and knowing all performers. She's professional and organized with incredible ingenuity. This production is very dance heavy including lots of tap.

Is there live music? A live orchestra is led by genius Wesley Lipischak of Brandon.

There are a lot of period costumes required. Who's handling that? Joyce Davies and her large team of sewers are creating special pieces. It's going to be quite spectacular.

Will The Costume Closet be able to handle the other 1590ish costuming or are you using several costumers? We were able to locate a few pieces from *The Costume Closet*, we have purchased some online, borrowed some from Manitou Theatre.

With the cast of 44, will there be stand-ins or duplicate actors stepping in on different nights? There's only one lead who is double cast - Portia.

Tell us about your lead characters

- **Bottom Brothers, Nick and Nigel:** *The Bottom Brothers*, Nick is Jordan Elliott of Brandon; Nigel is played by Jackson Hacault of Brandon, previously from Manitou. These two are superstars truly leading our cast with hard work, mind-blowing talent, and above all kindness!
- **William Shakespeare:** He's played by Brandon photographer Rob Lovatt – a true life rockstar just like Shakespeare in this show.
- **Nostradamus:** Darrell Corbel as Thomas Nostradamus is brilliant.
- **Bea:** Played by Avery Praznik a professional musical theatre actress who appeared as the lead in last year's *Freaky Friday*.
- **Portia:** She's played by two incredible young women – Kristen Nerbas of Brandon and Olivia Hayward of Virden.
- **Brother Jeremiah:** *The Puritan*, is played by local favorite



Something Rotten cast act up in rehearsal

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Todd Plaisier.

What drew you to this 2-act show?

I knew some of the music previously but was treated to a professional production in Vegas at the Smith Centre and have wanted to do it ever since. Huge production numbers – which everyone knows are my personal favorite part of musical Theatre. Renaissance costuming – fresh and new look we have not tackled previously. I loved, LOVED the clever comedy – especially the multiple references spoken and sung from many other musicals. I was confident we had people to play the leading roles brilliantly – an excellent fit – important when you live in small towns – this show is quite male dominant

What's the biggest challenge?

Choreography and costuming are central in this one!

What features or moments should the audience watch for?

The biggest Broadway show number I know is in the middle of Act One – it has spectacular choreography created by Katey and references over 30 Broadway shows. On Broadway this number in the show would get lengthy standing ovations every night! It finishes with an incredible set of props – Renaissance "head sketches" created by Rob Lovatt.

How's sponsorship going?

There is no way we could produce this show without sponsorship, so we are grateful to all who have supported. We could always use more.

Six performances will play on the AUD stage, November 26, 27, 28 & 29 at 7:30pm. November 29 & 30 matinees are at 1:30pm. Treat yourself, family or a friend to a night at the theatre, close to home.

Tickets are found online (Facebook Virden Theatre Productions) and for those who want in-person help, Arts Mosaic staff will help with seat ticket purchases. For last-minute decisions, rush seating will be available at the door.



10th Annual
A Splash of Christmas
Craft & Trade Show

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Virden Animal Hospital opens state of the art facility

The more you have, the more you'll get



Two retired Doctors of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Allan Preston (L) and Dr. Everett More visit over coffee and donuts in the new VAH reception area. Dr. Preston worked out of Hamiota vet clinic for decades before taking on several provincial roles including provincial veterinarian and director of Manitoba's Veterinary Services Branch. Dr. More, a recipient of Veterinary of the Year award and a founder (with Dr. Carlyle MacDougall) of Virden Animal Hospital is recently retired from Virden practice.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Dr. Carla Loewen tours the public to see new operating rooms, post-op and quiet rooms for companion animal patients with new convenient stainless-steel equipment.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It's officially open with space to welcome new veterinarians into the practice and expand services for pet owners and agricultural producer in the area.

Expansion of Virden Animal Hospital began in July of 2024 and was completed in September of 2025, and its grand opening has been highly anticipated. On Oct. 22, dozens of farmers, pet owners, and municipal leaders from southwest Manitoba filed into Virden Animal Hospital's new addition.

But first - short speeches preceded the ceremonial ribbon cutting by chairperson of the Virden Veterinary Services District Board (VVSD), Larry Logan and by major Virden donors Mr. and Mrs. Gerry and Jean Gatey.

Dr. Joe King invited everyone outside and noted that "many partners were critical to the success of this project," He invited the board chair to speak.

Logan thanked the Gatey family for their generous donation which gave confidence to the project, and Beth Collier, accountant, for her financial guidance.

Logan extended thanks to partnering municipalities whose annual grant, along with the Province of Manitoba, covers utility costs. Municipal representatives who sit on the VVSD board include: Trent Peel (Prairie View Municipality), Barry Lowes (Ellice-Archie), Cyril Druwe (Sifton), Lynette Grumpelt (Virden), Barb Stambuski (Wallace-Woodworth), Randy Henuset (Pipestone) and Claude Martin (Grasslands).

Clients of VAH won't see fee hikes to cover building costs. Logan explained that the fee schedule is set by Veterinary Diagnostic Services, and he noted VAH guarantees its patrons 24-7 service.

"This project is economic development at its finest," said Logan, referring to the broad clientele along with the professional workforce in this location.

Currently 22 staff pull up in the parking lot each day to work here. "Most days, if you drive past here, it looks like

a car dealership, by the amount of vehicles that park outside, belonging to both staff and patrons of this business."

He said, "It was lots of meetings and quite a learning curve for us." Logan has headed up the board as a volunteer for decades and when it came time to get at this long anticipated build, he took the bull by the horns to see the project completed.

He thanked veterinary technologist Sherry Wilson and office manager Mariana Becker, "who were quarterbacks and worked a lot behind the scenes."

Logan thanked veterinary partners: Doctors Nadine Wohlgemuth, Robbie McDougall, Carla Loewen, and Joe King. He said, "The board is grateful for your guidance and cooperation."

At the mic, Mr. Gatey spoke of their connection with the expansion. He said, "We wanted to give back to the people who continued to support Carscadden Funeral Home after Roy's (Carscadden) untimely death in 1959.

"We selected Virden Animal Hospital because their business was growing, and we definitely needed more space.... We would like to thank a number of people who helped us with our share of the project. First, Rick Kenderdine, for getting the project moving forward with his tenacity for getting things done."

The Gateys are dog owners and Mr. Gatey said of VAH, "We are blessed with the most kind and considerate vets, techs, and support staff, who treat our pets and other animals too as if they were their own."

He made mention of the legal staff who patiently wrote and re-wrote legal documents, and "Garth Mitchell, for talking to the nice people at Canada Revenue."

Mr. Gatey closed by speaking of a special sitting room, an idea he attributed to Drs. King and Loewen. "What a wonderful idea for a private room to be with your pets for their final moments before they cross over the Rainbow Bridge."

For Dr. Carla Loewen it was an emotional day. She was pleased that Gerry and Jean Gatey saw the project completed, including the Compassionate Room, "which

Lions Club Donations - Part 12



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Bob Heaman presenting a donation to Virden Youth Soccer, accepted by Barb Birch on May 28. Over the next few weeks we will be showing all the wonderful donations made by the Virden Lions Club to different organizations.

they (Gateys) also insisted that they were furnishing for us because it needed to be a special room... comfortable and they wanted it to look very nice."

Dr. Loewen is currently one of the longest serving veterinarians, coming to Virden in 2002 right after she graduated from veterinary college. "I've had the honor of essentially spending my whole career here. This is actually the second addition that I've been through."

While Drs. King and Wohlgemuth and some newer veterinarians are from the area Loewen said, "I really don't have a rooted connection here, but this community has warmly welcomed and allowed me to start as a mixed animal practitioner and evolve into a small animal practitioner for the most part."

She's appreciative of her colleagues, the community and the years of dedication that Larry Logan has spent giving leadership to the VVSD board. She thanked T.L. Penner Construction for building a structure that accommodates the unique needs of a veterinary clinic, even when some requests seemed unusual.

This building expansion is designed by and for veterinarians. Dr. Carla Loewen had a hand in ensuring the building worked to provide practical convenience.

Of the financing, Loewen said, "We'd like to thank Shelby and Bryce at the CIBC. Clearly having a building like this needs financial support."

Strength attracts

Loewen noted the importance of veterinary services that serve the community and surrounding areas in a time when many clinics are struggling and some are closing their doors.

She said, "We have formed a community of veterinarians who serve our community day and night. Some days are longer, and some nights are even longer than others."

Having a foundation of several veterinarians committed to the practice has led to a growing cadre of medical staff.

"We're very fortunate to have added three new veterinarians within the last two years to help us continue to be able to provide that type of service successfully."

RAFFLE

Royal Purple Fundraiser Raffle Winners

Women's Shelter Care Bags prize winners
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2nd prize - \$100.00 - Tracey Ramsey
3rd Prize - \$50.00 - Bruce Sawyer

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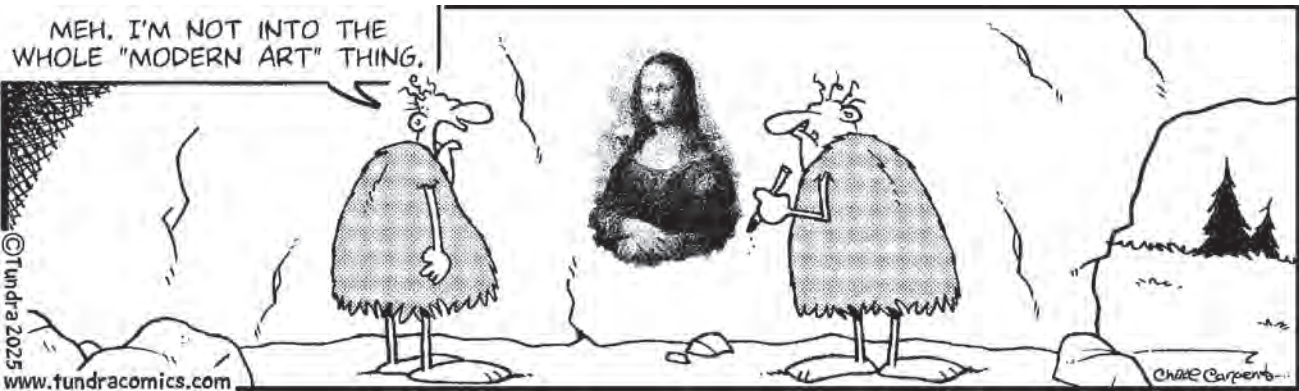
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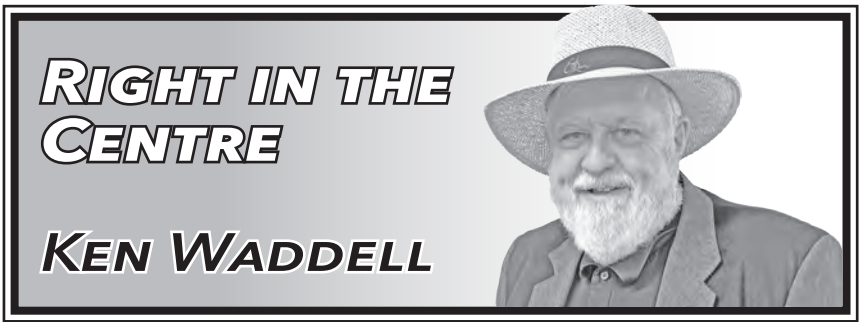


At least attempt human connection

Forgive me if you have heard me say this before. I am very concerned with the way businesses are trending, especially large businesses and governments. In days gone by, every business, organization, and level of government has at least made an attempt at personalized customer service.

If you go to a bank branch, for example, you can get some semblance of customer service, but for some services, such as credit card information or commercial banking, it's all online. When it works, it's fine, but when it doesn't, it's awful. I have been struggling to get a simple changeover of access for a bookkeeper for an organization for a few months now, and as of the writing of this column, there has still been no success. They tell you to go to the website, log in, and if that doesn't work, click for a new passcode, and all will be well. I have been through a dozen or more passcodes now and still no solution.

- Internet providers are similar. We have had email issues, and we have been told it's because of a faulty computer, it's because we use Apple computers, or it's because Apple won't talk to some email programs. Then, they say, we have been blocked, but they don't know why.
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) was recently evaluated, and it was found that a very high percentage of their answers to taxpayers' questions were incorrect. How can that be? Well, I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Many years ago, a CRA auditor came to my farm and said that interest on a farm loan wasn't a tax-deductible expense. Fortunately, a letter from my accountant straightened that out, but it was frustrating. I suspect today's problems with CRA



may be due to many of their staff working from home or remotely. There's little opportunity to stick your head into the next office and say, 'Hey Josie, what's the right answer to question B?'" If a staffer is labouring away all day without peer consultation, there's more room for error.

- Phone companies can be frustrating as well. It took dozens of calls to get a simple change to a couple of our company phone lines. Each time, the customer service rep on the other end of the line was apologetic and admitted that it shouldn't be complicated. However, it was complicated because whoever they referred a question to didn't make the required changes. I even had no phone service for a few days, which was annoying.
- I believe that our customer service philosophy is pretty clear. Our staff will hopefully always answer the phone, and with the approach that if they don't have the answer, they will do their best to find the answer.
- Looking at local municipal and town councils, it's safe to say they have a tough job, and it has gotten tougher in recent years. I have been on a town council twice, but the second time was over 10 years ago. Council work has certainly gotten more complicated

I think councils and staff could



Where was I?

In the last several months events from the 1970's, huge world events, have come to my attention. It's like I never heard of them before, not even vague and cloudy memories. Rather than overly berate myself, a habit to which I am prone, I looked at why, what was I doing that trumped life changing, heard around the globe events. Well, I was busy. Busy with my own life. For some of that time I was struggling as a single mom with two little ones. Then I was welcoming a life partner and two more children. Those years included three relocations, from my parental home to a modest home in a town, to an established farm, and then, miles away, to another farm. Oh, and one more child in all of these changes. So, embracing a new life, a new life style, a new community (twice), I guess I was not able to concentrate on world events!

"The Troubles". What an inaccurate euphemism for the turmoil, riots, death and destruction that was occurring in Northern Ireland. When an elected official can go on record stating that the death toll is 'an acceptable number', my eyes blink and my mind spins. No unnecessary loss of life is acceptable. Speaking with residents of Belfast, hearing their stories told in gentle honesty, and touring the Ulster Museum gave me a glimpse of what people suffered. Torn families and communities. That tour concluded with personal stories and a well posted help line for those whose memories and emotions had been triggered. I am certain that the conflict was included in our national news, but I don't remember being overly impacted.

A few weeks ago I came across a quote by Maya Angelou; "You are only free when you realize that you belong in no place- you belong in every place- no place at all. The price is high. The reward is great." She is accredited with the saying from an interview with Bill Moyers in 1973 on the Paradox of Belonging. I read, and re-read, that quote. It was one of those epiphany moments. That's me, someone has found the perfect words to help me understand myself. Then, of course, I wanted to find out more about the wise one. Maya Angelou, 1928- 2014, was an American memoirist, poet, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, wrote plays, movies and television shows spanning fifty years. She received dozens of awards and more than fifty honorary degrees. Yes, I know/knew the names of Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, but had never heard of this powerhouse of a woman. Wise, passionate, well spoken and out spoken. She read one of her poems at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton- On the Pulse of Morning. The theme is change, inclusion, responsibility....She was the second poet to read at an inauguration, the first being Robert Frost for John F Kennedy. And the first African American and woman. A ground breaker on so many levels.

It's not too late to get my head out of the sand.

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New courts and oil museum get green light from Virden council

Town of Virden Council meeting, Oct. 21



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Friesen Drilling finishing up the new well in the Assiniboine valley. The raw water from this source is now back on the full treatment process which includes reverse osmosis and greensand filtration. Over the next day or two, town staff will be flushing hydrants throughout the community. This flushing will be required to clear the water from the water treatment plant and the distribution system that was not put through the full treatment process.

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Pickleball proposal

The Virden Pickleball Committee propose to construct four new pickleball courts south of the existing ball diamonds. The committee recommended that the Town of Virden authorize the project on town-owned land along Ashburton Street East with funding raised by the committee. The town would sponsor any grant applications and provide oversight through the construction of the facility. Once built, the courts would

become town property, with the town responsible for maintenance. The proposal was approved.

Oil Museum proposal

At a planning and finance committee meeting Terry Johnson, Craig Lane, and Tim Howell presented a proposal to establish a Virden Oil Museum and Hall of Fame at the Round Building near Tundra Oil and Gas Place. The committee recommended that the Town of Virden proceed with investigating necessary upgrades and repairs. A memorandum of understanding will outline responsibilities

for construction costs and ongoing maintenance. The town would also sponsor grant applications submitted by the museum committee. The proposal was approved.

Infrastructure

Coun. Penner inquired about a payment related to paving work, raising concerns about quality issues on Sixth Street. CAO Rhonda Stewart confirmed that the problems remain but explained that a 7.5% holdback is in place until the contractor returns to make repairs, so the Town has leverage to ensure the paving work is completed properly.

Airport

Regarding an airport lighting payment Stewart said, "That is progress number four... we still have \$107,000 left to go... I think most of the final product has finally showed up. I think LRB (electric) feels they're getting very close to being done."

Manitoba Water Services Board

Council passes a resolution supporting increased funding for the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB). Due to oversubscription and limited capacity, many municipalities face delays in water and

wastewater projects. The motion proposed increasing the MWSB's capital budget to \$100 million annually starting in 2026, up from the current \$24 million.

Very Virden Christmas

The committee reviewed the Very Virden Christmas business plan submitted by Events and Programming Coordinator Davies. The recommendation was for the Town to provide sponsorship funding of \$3,000 for the 2025 campaign as a presenting sponsor. The motion was approved.

Infrastructure grant

The 2025 Western Infrastructure Grant is accepting applications for projects that enhance climate resilience, sustainability, accessibility, or community health and safety. Council and administration will submit an application to support the Wallace District Fire Department Station No. 1 renovation and restoration project.

Appointment of auditor for 2025

Council discussed the appointment of the auditor for 2025. CAO Stewart recommended continuing with MNP LLP as the municipal auditor. Coun. Penner asked whether council should periodically review or tender the audit contract to ensure value for money. Stewart noted that changing auditors can significantly increase administrative work for staff during the first few years of transition. MNP's familiarity with the municipality's

landfill operations was noted as a major advantage, since such technical knowledge can reduce errors and workload. The council agreed to retain MNP LLP for 2025 but to prepare for a tendering process next year.

Grade two tour

Mayor Tina Williams conducted a recent school tour of the Town offices for 50 grade two students. Part of the tour included a visit to the holding cell in the courthouse, and Williams said "It's always the most popular part... Today, I was in one of the businesses in town, and one of the moms said to me, 'My son said he got to meet the mayor. Did you know that she puts people in jail in the town office?'"

Staff and operations Team

CAO Stewart thanked Tom Zelensky, Town of Virden, operations and facility manager, Lance Barkley, LRB Electric Ltd., Jeff Bell, Friesen Drillers Ltd., Travis Parsons, Manitoba Water Services Board and Desiree Pastorin, Associated Engineering Ltd. for their dedication over the past weeks. She emphasized how essential the staff has been in managing recent challenges, especially in the last few days, and expressed deep appreciation for their commitment. She said, "We're fortunate to have somebody in the (water) plant who comes and checks in here before he goes home because he wants to make sure things are good. That says a lot."

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town of Virden Public Water System

For updates on the Town of Virden Public Water System, please visit virden.ca or contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440

2025 Citizen of the Year Nominations now open!

Nominate a deserving citizen or community group for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline to submit your nomination is **November 14, 2025**.

Visit virden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year or call the Town Office for more information.

Noon Hour Shinny is back at Tundra Oil and Gas Place!

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Noon.

Upcoming Council Meetings

November 4 and November 18

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Curried cauliflower

This recipe comes together easily and quickly and your family will think you have fussed.

1 head cauliflower, cut into florets
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 Tbsp. milk
1 3 cup mayonnaise
1 2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2 tsp. curry powder
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 cup cracker crumbs

Grease a casserole dish large enough to hold the cauliflower mixture. Place the cauliflower in a steamer over boiling water, and cover. Cook until tender but still firm. Drain, and place in the casserole dish.

In a bowl, combine the soup, milk, mayo, cheese, curry powder and pepper; mix to combine and pour over cauliflower. Mix melted butter and cracker crumbs and sprinkle over all. Bake at 350 F (180 C) for 30 minutes.

Carrot cake pancakes

Cake for breakfast? Yes! Carrot cake pancakes taste just like the dessert, but in pancake form. Perfect for a healthy everyday breakfast or a Sunday brunch! These carrot cake pancake are made easy by using a pancake mix. If not making my pancakes from scratch I use Coyote Mix. This mix is made in made in Alberta with whole grain and makes simply delicious pancakes. If you are vegan swap out the egg for a flax egg recipe or vegan egg substitute and a dairy-free milk option, such as almond milk, soy milk or oat milk.

2 cups pancake mix
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ginger
2 large eggs
1 cup whole milk
1 cup finely shredded carrots
1/4 cup raisins, finely chopped
oil for the frying pan
Maple cream cheese topping:
1/2 package of cream cheese, room temperature
2 Tbsp. maple syrup
2-3 Tbsp. milk
1/8 tsp. cinnamon
Optional garnish:
chopped toasted walnuts or pecans

Make the cream cheese topping by beating all the ingredients together until creamy. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine pancake mix, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. In a small bowl, beat eggs and milk; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Stir in carrots and raisins. Heat a greased griddle or frying pan until hot. Pour batter by 1/4 cupful's and cook until edges are set and there are bubbles in the center, about 3 to 4 minutes. Flip once and cook another 2 minutes or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining batter. Enjoy them with maple cream cheese topping and your favourite syrup.

Cranberry pear crisp

Fresh, in season pears and cranberries are lightly spiced and baked with a crumbly oat topping in this comforting fall dessert. Delicious served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

5-6 pears peeled, cored, and sliced to " thick
1 1/2 cups fresh cranberries
2/3 cup sugar
2 tsp. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. ginger
Topping:
1 cup old-fashioned oats
1/2 cup flour
3/4 cup light brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup butter cubed

Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Lightly grease a baking dish; evenly spread fruit into the bottom of the baking dish. Mix the sugar, corn starch and ginger together and sprinkle over the fruit in the dish. In a bowl, add the oats, flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and cubed butter. With a pastry blender mix the butter into the dry ingredients until it resembles crumbs the size of peas. Sprinkle crumbs over the top of the fruit. Place the dish in the oven and bake uncovered for about 40 minutes. The topping will feel firm and be a deep golden brown once done. The fruit will be tender, juicy, and bubbly underneath. Serve warm with a dollop of vanilla ice cream over each serving.

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report

for Oct. 19 to Oct. 25

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 64 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 20 traffic offences, four Wellbeing Checks, five Mental Health Act, one Assault, three False Alarm, three Suspicious Person, three Abandoned Vehicle and three Theft files.

On Oct. 19, during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 1 within the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 135km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$508.

On Oct. 20, during a routine traffic patrol within the Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle driving on King Street bearing a license plate that showed inactive. RCMP conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle where it was discovered that the registration and insurance were active, as it had just been paid recently but not yet updated electronically. However, the driver did not have an active driver's license. The vehicle was impounded, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Driving While Disqualified which carries a fine of \$672.

On Oct. 22, during a routine traffic patrol on Highway 257 within the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 143km/hr in a 100 km/hr zone. RCMP initiated a traffic stop, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$613.

On Oct. 23, Westman RCMP received information regarding a missing person from Ontario who may have been seen at a business in Virden. Police

attended the business and spoke with the individual who identified themselves as the person that police were looking for and indicated that they were fine. Ontario Provincial Police were updated with this information.

On Oct. 25, Westman RCMP received a report of single vehicle collision involving a suspected impaired driver in the RM of Pipestone. Police attended the scene and located a vehicle backed into a thick set of trees with no lights on, and the driver located on the ground outside of the vehicle. A 42-year-old male was arrested and charged with Operation of a Motor Vehicle while Impaired by Alcohol, and Failure or Refusal to

Comply with Breath Demand. He also received a 3-month driving suspension and will be appearing in court in December.

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

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Brandon-Souris families can't afford to eat

Food bank use hits record highs under Liberal mismanagement

Submitted

OFFICE OF GRANT JACKSON

Brandon, MB – Member of Parliament for Brandon-Souris, Grant Jackson, is raising the alarm over the growing food insecurity crisis gripping Westman and communities across Canada.

According to Food Banks Canada's 2025 Hunger-Count report, monthly food bank visits have hit a record-breaking 2,165,766, more than double the number recorded in 2019. The report warns that "food banks were never designed to be a backbone of the social safety net. They were meant to be a last resort – not a primary source of sustenance for millions."

Here in Brandon, the crisis is hitting home. Samaritan House Ministries Inc. has already distributed 14,013 food hampers between January and September – an increase of roughly 600 from the same time last year. Their executive director, Heather Symbalist, described the situation as "alarming," adding that "everything's going up – utilities, rent, groceries – but wages are not. There are sacrifices that have to be made, and lots of times that's to the grocery store."

The food bank's kits for people without access to a kitchen are in even higher demand, projected to reach 2,226 this year, nearly 900 more than last year.

At the same time, Helping Hands Soup Kitchen expects to serve between 50,000 and 51,000 meals in 2025, up from 46,284 in 2024 and 41,033 in 2023. Executive Director Angela Braun said, "We're seeing new faces every day - people who haven't eaten in days, people who are struggling with the stress of just trying to survive."

In Ottawa, MP Grant Jackson has repeatedly raised these concerns in the House of Commons, calling on the Liberal government to take action to restore affordability and address the root causes of food insecurity.

"In my riding of Brandon-Souris, food banks like Samaritan House and Helping Hands are stretched to the limit," said Jackson. "Families who used to donate

are now the ones in line. That should never happen in a country as rich as Canada."

Jackson pointed to the impact of Liberal economic policies, including Mark Carney's inflationary spending and the government's refusal to axe hidden taxes on food.

"Across the country, we're seeing record food bank use because of the Liberals' inflationary spending and tax hikes," Jackson said in the House of Commons. "People aren't just struggling - they're desperate. This is what nine years of Liberal mismanagement looks like."

When Conservatives introduced a motion to eliminate the hidden Liberal taxes on food - including the industrial carbon tax, the plastic food packaging standard, which requires costly packaging, and the fuel standard - the Liberals voted against it.

"When Conservatives brought forward a common-sense plan to make food more affordable, the Liberals voted no," said Jackson. "Every time we try to give Canadians a break at the checkout, this government stands in the way."

Local organizations are feeling the strain. Samaritan House, Helping Hands, and the Westman Women's Resource Centre all report record demand as families face shrinking paycheques and rising prices.

At the Women's Resource Centre, Senior Advocate Lucia Aguilar noted that their breakfast program is serving more people than ever. "It's not just about hunger," she said. "It's about dignity - the stress of not being able to feed your family."

With winter approaching, food prices are expected to rise even further. Samaritan House reports that a can of soup that cost \$0.99 last year now costs between \$1.50 and \$2.00 - even as they support over 3,130 households, including nearly 3,000 children, with monthly hampers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Grant Jackson is speaking up about high demands on Food Banks at the House of Commons in Ottawa.

"Brandon-Souris is full of generous, community-minded people who always step up in times of need," said Jackson. "But they shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of bad government policy. It's time to restore affordability and dignity to working families."

Jackson reaffirmed that only Conservatives have a plan to bring home lower prices, end inflationary spending, and axe the hidden taxes that make food unaffordable.

"Canadians deserve leadership that puts them first - not a government that taxes their food and drives up their cost of living," Jackson concluded. "It's time to bring home lower prices and ensure no family in Brandon-Souris has to go hungry in one of the richest countries on Earth."

Letter to the editor

Who? is responsible for cleaning up the boulevards when the leaves start falling.

I live across the street from a school and from spring until late fall or the snow comes, there are always leaves blowing into my yard and down the street. We take pride in keeping our yards clean, and it's an endless battle when only a few do their part.

The grass gets cut and it and leaves fly onto the road and the wind blows it straight into our yard and down the street.

I raked and bagged 20 packed bags of leaves for pickup by the town, and there's probably another 20 bags by the time they're all down. It's a big mess!

I find this very abusive to seniors to let your garbage just fly across and down the street and never clean it up.

Should it be Fort la Boss school division or the Town of Virden to be responsible for cleaning up this mess on both the boulevard and the front yards across the street?

It would be nice if high school students (in group) would go out and do volunteer work for seniors to obtain credits in environmental work and etc. towards their high school work and marks, whether it be raking leaves, cutting grass or snow cleaning.

They'd be doing a great service to the seniors in their community who still live in their own homes. They can then be proud of themselves for helping seniors who helped build this community for them.

Sincerely,
E.E. Kernel



A SINGLE POPPY HAS
THE SOUL OF A THOUSAND
== HEROES ==

AND THE TEARS OF A MILLION
LOVED ONES

Each year our Annual Poppy Campaign starts the last Friday in October until November 11th. All the money raised to assist Veterans who have served and is serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth, RCMP, or as Peace Officers in a special duty. Money raised stays in our community. We are asking for support, donation can be mailed to:

Poppy Campaign
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8
Box 1107 ~ Virden MB ~ R0M2C0
THANK-YOU

Senior Serenaders bringing back the oldies



Members of the Senior Serenaders: L-R Eileen Hatfield, Janet Yochim, Michelle Gervin, and Karyn Morrow-Penner, (seated).



PHOTOS BY KRISTA PEDERSON

Members of the Royal Purple: L-R Lyn Fefchak, Patti Stevenson, Donna Smith, Marlene Heaman, Shirley Gibson, Linda White.

Submitted
BY KRISTA PEDERSON

On Tuesday afternoon, anyone walking by St Paul's United Church, on Nelson Street, Virden, would have enjoyed the sounds of familiar music. Better yet, those of us in the sanctuary, got to sing along, as the Senior Serenaders played and sang a variety of old favourites...almost 100 per cent of the songs were known to all present. Looking around the room, all were participating with smiles on their faces.

Saint Paul's is one of several historic churches in the area. These church buildings were constructed before the days of built-in sound systems, and a microphone for every speaker or singer. They were designed for the congregation to be able to see and hear from wherever one sat in the sanctuary.

The large main room, with a peaked ceiling, was designed especially for acoustics, so that the sound carries, and our voices become more reverberant. When we all get to sing together, we enjoy the full benefit of space and sound.

The Senior Serenaders are familiar faces to the music community in the area. Retired music teacher, Karyn Morrow-Penner, made the piano sing,

along with the voices of other retired teachers, Janet Yochim and Michelle Gervin. Eileen Hatfield, the beauty of her voice joining the others, filled out the group.

St Paul's is also a gorgeous place to see!

The mid-afternoon sunlight makes the stained glass brilliant. Truly, a warm glow that surrounded us all.

After the music, Virden's Royal Purple served coffee, tea and cookies in the Hall.

As always, we were welcomed with a smile, as we found our places at the table, to visit with old friends, and new. The sound of chatter and laughter in the hall, is not the same, but just as beautiful as the sounds of music in the sanctuary! Both fill our souls in their own way.

We are blessed to have service groups, like the Royal Purple, in the community who generously give of their time.

The sing-alongs are planned every other month, and there is room for you!

The next one is already advertised on the Very Virden Christmas calendar. Please add it to your own! December 9 at St Paul's, with the Senior Serenader's taking care of the music, and the Virden and Area Hospital Auxiliary in charge of the treats afterward.

Feeling better: Even if you think "Holistic" is just hocus-pocus

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC
WELLNESS CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST C.H.**

MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Let us face it. Some folks hear the words "holistic wellness" and instantly picture someone waving sage over a crystal while chanting to the moon. If that is you, do not roll your eyes just yet! You do not need to wear hemp or own a singing bowl to enjoy the benefits of holistic living. In fact, you might already be doing it without realizing it. Every time you take a deep breath, stretch after sitting too long, or sip a cup of tea instead of reaching for another coffee, which is holistic wellness.

Here is the thing: holistic wellness is not about replacing your doctor with a crystal. It is about looking at the big picture: your mind, body, and daily habits and realizing they are all connected. You do not have to believe in "energy flow" to understand that stress makes you tired, anxious, and cranky. Science agrees! When stress hormones like

cortisol hang around too long, they mess with your digestion, sleep, and even your immune system. So, when you take a few minutes to breathe deeply, go for a walk, or just laugh at a funny cat video, you are not being flaky. You are calming your nervous system.

Even the most skeptical person can get behind this part: prevention. Holistic wellness focuses on doing little things every day that help you stay well, instead of waiting until you are falling apart. It is like giving your body a friendly "heads up" before it sends you the memo in the form of a headache or back pain. Eating more real food, sleeping properly, drinking water, and unplugging from screens occasionally are not fads—they are common sense.

And let us talk about listening to your body. Modern life has us ignoring it all the time. We drink coffee

when we are exhausted, scroll our phones when we are overwhelmed, and eat on the run because we "do not have time." A holistic mindset gently says, "Hey, maybe try the opposite." That might mean taking five quiet minutes in the morning, swapping junk food for something that gives you energy, or stretching before bed instead of doom-scrolling.

You also do not have to meditate for an hour on a mountaintop. Sometimes "mindfulness" just means noticing that you are smiling while chatting with a friend or enjoying that first sip of peppermint tea. Those moments matter because they reset your mood and recharge your body without a single supplement or mantra involved.

So even if you think "holistic wellness" sounds like a buzzword from a yoga retreat, give it a try. Your way. Think of it as tuning up your mind and body like you would tune up your car. Less sputtering, more smooth cruising. Whether you call it self-care, balance, or just plain common sense, feeling good is something we can all believe in, and no incense required.

Miniota news

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

A beautiful day this past Sunday brought many from surrounding towns to Miniota for the United Church Women's annual turkey

supper. A great crowd of just over 200 attended to enjoy turkey with all the trimmings. The support of so many is appreciated.

A busy weekend for our youth with some away to curling and

others playing hockey in various locations. Hoping everyone is having a great start to their season. Be sure to send your reporter the highlights of the season.

"In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit." -Anne Frank



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Reserve Champion Futurity Bred Heifer - RRW Kandy 409M
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Reserve Champion Bull Calf - Big Sky Johnny Cash
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From the prairies to the highland tour 204 - part 9

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

We were up early again as we were on the road to Dunrobin Castle, the ancestral home of Clan Sutherland for over 700 years.

The castle's history goes back to the thirteenth century, serving as the seat of the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland. The castle evolved from a medieval fortress, surviving the Jacobite uprising, served as a naval hospital during World War 1 and used as a boy's boarding school between 1965-1972.

The second Duke of Sutherland commissioned

Sir Charles Barry to remodel the castle between 1835 and 1850. They added turrets, spires and a large extension in Scottish Baronial style to create the fairytale look. Barry also designed the formal gardens, which were completed in 1850. They were inspired by the gardens of Versailles. The castle is inhabited by Allister Charles St. Clair Sutherland, the twenty-fifth Earl of Sutherland and his family.

We toured through the beautiful historical castle, every room was laid out with furnishings and artwork, right down to the China and candelabra set on a massive table in the



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

The beautiful fairytale Dunrobin castle.

dining hall.

The many portraits on the wall were very interesting. We found familiar family names and faces.

One portrait in particular caught our attention! The portrait of George Granville Williams Duke and Earl of Sutherland bore



Dunrobin castle's spectacular gardens.

a striking resemblance to our grandson Nicolas Sutherland.

After a time we went out into the beautiful, spectacular gardens, with so many stairs to go up and down on, people back then must have been in great shape!

Once down to ground level we were treated to a falconry demonstration. The falconer explained the difference between falcons and hawks. These birds were used for hunting. The birds were so well trained, one command from the falconer and they obeyed.

After the falcon demonstration we went up more stairs into a museum of sorts where there were all kinds of artifacts as well as many hunting trophies, which looked so real. We saw all kinds of weapons used. For hunting in the early days. There was so much in the building it is hard to remember everything!

Later that afternoon, Donald's friend Ross Pauley took us on a tour of his workplace. He works on a magnificent hunting estate. There is much to say about this location, but we respect this place too much to share, as it is private property. Let me say this, what a privilege it was for our group to get a tour.

Following our tour, we returned to Dornoch Castle where we had a delicious supper followed by visiting in the common room with Ross and his sons Deacon and Calan.

A short walk back to The Eagle where we were staying, as it was time to get some rest so we would be ready for the next day's adventure, which was going to be full of historical significance to Scotland! Can you guess where? If anyone follows outlander, you will know where we are going. Culloden! Stay tuned!

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SPORTS

VCI GRIDIRON TEAM CAPS SEASON WITH WIN



The Virden Collegiate Institute football team earned a win over the SouthWest Sabres in a playoff contest.



PHOTOS BY WYATT TALBOT

The VCI football team's season came to an end this weekend with a 20-18 win over Souris.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

#2 Xander Kotylak, #4 John Lindsay, #7 Kevin Valiente, #8 Luka Mahmutovic, #10 Ryder Kotylak, #11 Becca Collier, #13 Deegan Flannery, #14 Preston Studer, #17 Owen Mytopher, #25 Cohen Canada, #26 Rylee Roberts, #32 Toby Whittle, #36 Lucas Branum, #39 Mitch Draper, #41 Lachlan Talbot, #42 Carter Pizzey, #45 Isiah Barrate, #46 Kyler Wolters, #48 Shane Blackshaw, #50 Cole Walker, #54 Jacoby Heaman, #61 Saunders Brown, #66 Reed Plaisier, #67 Kenden McLaunchlan, #68 Karter Bell-Be, #78 Brody Brown, #85 Tristan Plaisier, and #91 Gilbert JR Brown.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team capped its season with a thrilling come-from-behind victory.

The Golden Bears finished the Rural Manitoba Football League regular season in eighth place in the Doug Steeves Division. In a seven-versus-eight playoff contest, the VCI squad hit the road on Oct. 25 to take on the SouthWest Sabres, the higher seed.

"We were treated to some good football weather," VCI coach Marc Talbot said. "It was a close game that saw our team finish strong. We were down 18-0 at the half and were able to come away with a 20-18 victory."

While wins did not come easily for the Golden Bears this fall, Talbot is proud of the resilience the team displayed.

"I'm super proud of the team in how they never dropped their heads," the coach said. "It was a tough season, and they played right up to the last whistle of the last game. It

would have been easy to just throw in the towel at the half and call it a year, but they were hungry for a win and went and earned it. This is a special group of individuals, and I hope that they were all able to take/learn something this season."

The win over the Sabres was the final VCI football contest for nine graduating players: Luka Mahmutovic, Karter Bell-Ben, Jacoby Heaman, Mitch Draper, Owen Mytopher, Kevin Valiente, Saunders Brown, Becca Collier, and Tristan Plaisier. Talbot said, "I would like to wish them good luck in the future. The success of the team relies a lot on the leadership of the seniors. They did a fine job teaching the young players the right way to play the game - with pride and respect."

The VCI nominees for the annual RMFL awards are: Ryder Kotylak, Offensive Player of the Year; Mitch Draper, Defensive Player of the Year; Bell-Ben, Offensive Lineman of the Year; Mahmutovic, Defensive Lineman of the Year; Isaiah Barrate,

Special Teams Player of the Year; and John Lindsay, Rookie of the Year. Owen Mytopher was an All-Star nominee.

Talbot expressed appreciation to Chris Flannery, Dan Roberts, and Joe Pounder for "stepping up and joining the coaching staff." He also appreciated the work principal Mark Keown did behind the scenes, Dan Kristof for handling the sound booth at home games, and "the hand full of people who helped with stats for all the games, the young men who worked the chains at the games, and all the parents who showed patience with this new coaching staff, and who dedicated the time to haul the kids home from the practices, games and traveled to the road games to support the team."

While the 2025 season is over, plans are already being formulated to prepare for next season. Talbot said the plan is to possibly do speed and agility training in the winter and early spring. He would also like to see a flag football program to help develop talent at the junior high level.

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Keep pets safe this Halloween



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted
BY METRO CREATIVE

Halloween is an annual celebration that many children and adults look forward to each October. From the mysterious and the macabre to the goofy and gregarious, Halloween speaks to people in many different ways. And with the opportunity to accumulate several pounds of sugary treasure after a

few hours of trick-or-treating, is it any wonder celebrants love Halloween?

While Halloween hijinks may be ideal fun for plenty of ghosts and ghouls, companion animals may not be so enthusiastic come October 31. In fact, Halloween can be a source of stress and even dangerous for many pets. Here are some things pet parents should keep in mind

prior to Halloween.

Costumes

Pet costumes are popular and can help owners and their pets coordinate for Halloween. Some pets may find costumes uncomfortable or frightening. For those with a mind toward creative costume coordination, introducing the costume to the pet slowly and gradually can help ease the transition. Allow the pet to sniff the costume and put treats nearby to indicate it is no threat. If the pet simply will not warm to the idea of a costume, it's best not to force the issue.

Glow sticks

Glow sticks are a safe way for children to enjoy some spooky fun on Halloween night and become more visible when the sun sets. But those glow sticks may be attractive to pets and they can bite them, ingesting the liquid. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center says typically pets experience a mild and self-limiting taste reaction to glow stick liquid. Wiping off the excess with a damp cloth to help prevent the pet from licking again and having another reaction can help.

Accessibility to candy

One of the biggest Halloween dangers for pets is the accessibility of candy, especially chocolate. Chocolate is toxic and particularly dangerous to dogs. Chocolate with high amounts of cacao is especially dangerous. Raisins and gum with the artificial sweetener xylitol also are problematic. Candy wrappers can get stuck in the intestinal tract and cause a life-threatening blockage. Lock candy away so pets can't get into it.

Nerves

Many youngsters will ring the door bell on Halloween. Anxious pets, and even those that normally aren't nervous with visitors, may be overwhelmed. Keep pets in a dark, calm room away from the door to reduce anxiety and make it less likely skittish pets will escape the home and get lost.

Understanding common Halloween dangers can help keep pets safe on this fun-filled holiday.

Boo-tiful Halloween craft ideas

Submitted
BY METRO CREATIVE

Halloween is a highlight of fall, as children and even adults anxiously await October 31. Similar to the holiday season, people often decorate their homes for Halloween, and even do so well in advance of late October to maximize the amount of time they get to enjoy the trinkets and other items.

Many people enjoy getting hands-on for Halloween. It's possible to craft decorations, personalized treats and festive costumes. Consider these ideas for Halloween craft projects.

3D Pumpkins

Carving pumpkins is a popular Halloween tradition. But there are many people who feel the job is too messy. Instead, a fun way to add personality to pumpkins comes by way of some hot glue and paint. Use a hot glue gun to create a pattern on the outside of the pumpkin. It can be designs, a jack-o'-lantern face or just about anything. Once dry and hardened, use craft paint to go over the entire pumpkin. The raised design will be evident and add dimension.

Spooktacular Wreath

Adorn the front door with something creative. It can be utterly frightening or something more festive. Start with a premade spring greenery wreath or a wreath frame that you cover with your own greenery. Purchase a round, unfinished wooden sign panel, and paint with black chalkboard paint. Add your own message with chalk or chalk paint. "Keep Away" or "Enter at Your Own Risk" are great Halloween phrases to consider. Attach the sign in the middle of the wreath. You also can add some embellishments to the wreath, including black moss and floral stems and leaves. A glitzy black and green ribbon or bow is the finishing touch before hanging.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

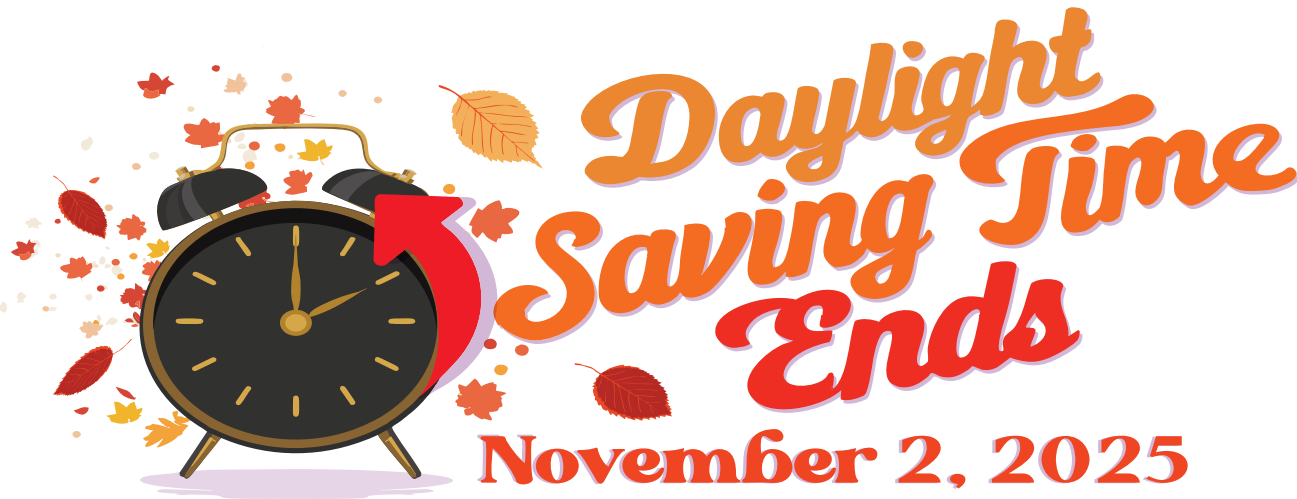
Boo Treasure Box

Purchase a wooden treasure chest or box from the hobby store. Paint it all black or your favorite Halloween colors. Then add additional designs like spider webs, bats or pumpkins. Fill the box with treats or small toys. Kids can have fun picking out their treasures.

Halloween Gnomes

Gnomes have been popular for years, and they keep turning up in different iterations. You can craft your own gnomes for Halloween with a few supplies. Start with a 9-inch-tall foam cone. Cut the bottom off the toe part of a solid colored ankle sock just past the heel, and pull it up so it covers the lower few inches of the cone. Add some hot glue to secure, draw a beard shape on the back of the faux fur and cut it out. Attach the beard to the lower part of the cone over the sock. Use a crew length patterned sock to create a hat for the gnome, and glue to the top part of the cone. Glue on a large wood bead for the nose. Decorate the gnome any way you'd like, such as adding felt patches to the sock hat.

Halloween can be even more fun with some creative crafts the entire family can enjoy.



SPORTS

ROOKIE BLACK-GREAVES ADJUSTING TO JUNIOR HOCKEY

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Lincoln Black-Greaves is contributing while he learns at the junior hockey level.

As of Oct. 26, the 17-year-old rookie defenceman has played in 10 of the Virden Oil Capitals' 13 games this season. The 6-foot-1, 185-pounder had one assist, as of that date.

"Lincoln has had a good start to the season," Oil Caps head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is a big body that moves pretty well, and defends hard. He has a good stick and understands structure in his own end of the rink. He moves the puck well and he has a good shot, which will help him build the offensive part of his game."

Hailing from Winnipeg, Black-Greaves played for his hometown Thrashers U15 and U18 AAA teams. He suited up for a couple of contests with the U17 AAA Thrashers. Moving up to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League has required some adjustments.

"The biggest difference in AAA and the junior league is definitely the pace and physicality — everything happens at a faster pace," Black-Greaves said. "The players are bigger, better, stronger and smarter."

"Every day you need to wake up and be ready to compete. At this level, nothing's guaranteed — you've got to work hard to earn your spot on the game day roster."

"On top of the changes in the game itself, there's the adjustment of moving, starting a new school, and being the new kid in town, but it's been a great experience and has helped me mature on and off the ice."

He praised the organization for helping with his transition. One factor that has helped Black-Greaves is that he has often been paired on the blue line with Oil Capitals captain and hometown product Ty Plaisier.

"I think we've clicked since day one — he's really taken me under his wing and helped me adjust to the game quickly," he said. "I know he always has my back, whether it's on or off the ice. In the short time I've been here, I have already learned a lot from him. Ty shows me and our team daily what it means to be a true leader — the way he communicates, competes, and supports the team sets a great example. Playing alongside him has definitely helped me grow as a player."

Another aspect that has helped Black-Greaves on the ice is his time in camp with the Portland Winterhawks. The Western Hockey League squad drafted him in the eighth round of the 2023 WHL Prospects Draft. The next year, the Oil Caps took him in the first round of the MJHL Draft.

"I am really grateful to have been drafted and sign with the Portland Winterhawks," Black-Greaves said. "Their training camps were an awesome experience — it gave me a good idea of the demands of the game, pace and physicality. Most importantly,



Lincoln Black-Greaves is making an impact as a rookie with the Virden Oil Capitals.

you see what is expected of you to be ready for that next level. I was able to learn a lot from just watching some of those top WHL defencemen and seeing how they've adapted to different situations. I now try to take little pieces from their game and add them into mine, which I think has helped my overall game."

Off the ice, he billets in the Virden area with Joe and Gita King and their three children: Rally, Summer, and Cash. Black-Greaves said:

"They have all been super welcoming to me since day one and really made me feel right at home. The Kings are really big into rodeos and are trying to get me on a horse or out doing something new, which has been really awesome. I still haven't actually ridden a horse yet, but they did teach me how to rope. The kids keep me busy and bring a lot of energy to the house. I love it — reminds me a lot of being back at home. Honestly, I couldn't ask for a better billet family."

Black-Greaves's living arrangement is one of the many things he has enjoyed about being a part of the Oil Capitals.

"I am really enjoying the whole experience of being here and playing for the Virden Oil Caps," he said. "It's been great to meet so many new people and get to know my teammates. The coaches and facilities here are incredible — they've helped me improve my game a lot and made the transition of moving to Virden much smoother. I feel very lucky to be a part of a team with such great community and fan support."

REF MEMORIES

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Officiating minor and senior hockey around Westman and beyond from 1970-1996, our job as officials was made easier by some of the unsung heroes like the timekeeper and score-sheet men and women who helped out their local team as volunteers. These people could really make or break it for you, especially when there were multiple penalties at one time. Who comes out of the penalty box first? Which player caused them to be shorthanded? Coincidental penalties, players with a minor penalty and misconduct? Who is serving the minor penalty? It was all part of their duties to know this as you wanted to keep the game flowing. You did not want big stoppages of play to figure out the game sheet. Some games were messy and had lots of penalties which tended to make for long games.

Many of these volunteers learned the signal for penalties so you could skate by the box, give the signal and skate away. I liked this because when a player was mad over a penalty you could be far away in a hurry. Some officials did not do that and thus got the brunt of some foul language. I used to call these officials, guys with rabbit ears and I had no problem telling them that. The game is not about you, it is about the players!

Bob Henderson from Hamiota was very helpful and knew the signals and knew what was going on out on the ice. Bob usually had it figured out as long as he could keep Lloyd Anderson quiet. Lloyd was the PA announcer and wanted to announce it pronto. I do believe Lloyd was told one night to stifle himself until we got things figured out.

Ray Charles of Virden was really great figuring things out even before you got to the penalty box. Ray was first and foremost a hockey fan and had coached so he knew how things could

unfold. One night in particular there were a slew of penalties on one stoppage of play. Ray is writing it all down and he asked me is that it? I turned to speak to my linesmen and asked have we got all this correct? They said yes. When I turned back to the penalty box, Ray had put the microphone up to the hole in the plexi-glass in the penalty box and it was loud and clear for all to hear. I almost lost teeth out of that maneuver by Ray. Of course there were some laughs and that really relaxed everyone. Trust Ray so see the humour in the situation!

There were two ladies from Souris, the two Lindas. Linda Perrin and Linda Rykeman worked the Souris Elks senior games and many of the AAA midget games. These ladies were outstanding. They loved the game and volunteered to play such an important part. In cases where there was a lot of pushing and shoving and maybe a scrap breaking out, they would have jotted down the player numbers who were on the ice. They were really good at this which really helped me out.

They were always giving me the what for because I did not wear gloves. They would say, Gerry, you need to protect your hands otherwise you will get arthritis in your hands. I said you are probably right but did not wear gloves anyway, stubborn I guess. You know what, they were right!

The two Lindas were so concerned that they knitted me mitts and a toque, in black and white of course. I had them for years after I quit refereeing. What a great memory of the two ladies from Souris? Thank you so much ladies!

Next week I will be continuing to bring forth some names from the past who volunteered their services and left me with some great memories. Thank you to all of them!

OIL KINGS HOST FLYING FEATHERMEN ON SUNDAY

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Kings are excited to play at Tundra Oil & Gas Place this weekend.

The senior hockey team has its home opener on Nov. 2. The Oil Kings will tangle with the Tiger Hills Hockey League's newest team - the Sandy Bay Flying Feathermen.

"Really looking forward to getting back to our barn after starting the season with two on the road," Virden coach Tyler Campbell said. "Always seems like we play better at home. It's always exciting seeing new teams, looking forward to playing (Sandy Bay)."

Manager Ryan Mathieson said, "It will... be great for our new players to experience an Oil Kings home game, with our great fans and the atmosphere it creates."

In their first game of the new THHL season, the Oil Kings fell 5-4 on Oct. 25 in Hartney. The Virden team travels to Boissevain on Nov. 1.

Last season, the Oil Kings posted the second-best regular season record in the league at 13-2-0-1. In the postseason, they made it all of the way to the THHL finals before falling to the Killarney Shamrocks.

"Last year's playoff experience will for sure be a key asset in heading into this season," Campbell said. "Being that close, I think, made everyone want to get back to the finals."

Many of the players return from last season. This includes Elkhorn product Bradley Bowles, who paced the league with 54 points in 15 games.

The team did lose some key players in Jeremy Johnson (fifth in THHL in scoring with 29 points), Ty Lewis (11th with 22), Tanner Lewis (19th with 21), Devon LeBlanc, Tristan Rinn, and stalwart Joel Cosens. The Oil Kings have

added some key players as well. Joining up front are Dylan Halliday and Jaden Browning-Lozinzski. Halliday suited up for the junior Virden Oil Capitals and played a couple of games for the Oil Kings. Browning-Lozinzski played for Virden Collegiate Institute.

Some big additions have come on the blue line with hometown product Tristen Cross and Elkhorn products Layne Toder and Pierce Martin joining. All of them had success in the post-secondary ranks.

"I would say that our D core would be our strongest asset," Campbell said. "We have seven quality defencemen with captain Keifer Johnston leading the charge."

Behind their defence, the Oil Kings return Eric Reid in net. The team has added Oak Lake product Riley Wallace and Oak River's Duncan Paddock to help guard the crease.

Blues 5, Oil Kings 4

Martin scored the Oil Kings' first goal of the season on a power play. Tanner Koroscil also lit the lamp in the first period to give the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Hartney knotted the score at 2-2 in the second period on goals by Mark Agnew and Nick Cowan, the latter on a power play. The Blues kept the momentum going in the third with goals by Agnew and John Barrows to hold a 4-2 lead halfway through the frame.

The Oil Kings' Nolan Wallace scored to pull Virden to within one, 4-3. Taylor Wells answered with what would be the game winner. Elisha Bambridge scored a power play marker for Virden, but the Oil Kings were unable to tie things up. Bowles recorded three assists.

Paddock made 22 saves. Justin Holder stopped 35 shots for Hartney.

SPORTS NOTES: BEATY HELPS TEAM MANITOBA TO TITLE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Jake Beaty helped Team Manitoba win the Western Hockey League Cup

championship.

Beaty, a defenceman, is the son of Christie and Matt Beaty. Team Manitoba defeated Team B.C., 6-1, in the final of the event in Red Deer, Alta. The winning team scored three times on the power play. Team Manitoba outshot its foe, 45-28.

The prestigious WHL Cup pits provincial teams made up of the best U16 male hockey players in Western Canada against each other. Team Manitoba went undefeated this year. The team previously won in 2023.

Scott Skates at Nationals

Former Virden resident Alexa Scott competed at the Canadian Long Track Championships last week. The event was held at the Calgary Olympic Oval. She is the daughter of Judy and Malcolm Scott.

According to unofficial results, on day one, Scott placed seventh in the women's 500 metre event. She skated to a second place finish in a 1,000 on day two. On the Speed Skating Canada website, it stated: "Friday's result marked a return to the national podium for Scott, an Olympian from Beijing 2022 that has battled injuries the past few years as she tried to regain her previous form."

Scott placed fifth in the 1,500 on day three of the event. On the fourth and final day, she placed second in the 1,000.



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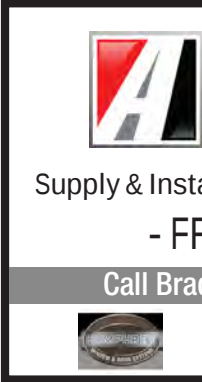
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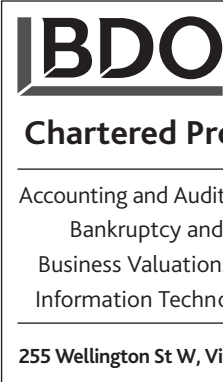


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Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

Ashley T. Joyce
ajoyce@mhlaw.ca
Virden
255 Wellington St. W.
Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0
204.725.8769

Stephen K. Branigan
skbranigan@mhlaw.ca
Redvers, SK
21 Railway Avenue,
Redvers, Saskatchewan
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SPORTS

OIL CAPS SPLIT GAMES, MAKE MEMORIES WITH FANS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Last week, the Virden Oil Capitals won one game, lost one, and made memories with their fans.

The local squad dispatched their Manitoba Junior Hockey League foe, the Portage Terriers, 5-1, on Oct. 23. Following the home contest, the team hosted a "Skate With the Caps" event. The Oil Capitals fell on the road to the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, 4-0, on Oct. 25. As of Oct. 26, the Virden team was second in the MJHL's MGEU West Division with an 8-5-0-0 record.

The Oil Caps host the Swan Valley Stampeders on Nov. 1.

Oil Caps 5, Terriers 1

The Portage Terrier bit first, but the Oil Capitals reeled off five straight goals on the way to a 5-1 victory in front of a crowd of 723. Virden led 2-1 after the first period. The Oil Caps were up 4-1 at the second intermission.

"I thought the Portage game was one of the most consistent games of the season to this point," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "They tried to overwhelm us physically and we answered that by being structured and disciplined. Our penalty kill was very good, which had been a weakness and our goaltending was solid. We took advantage of opportunities offensively and I thought we defended well when we needed to."

Colten Worthington lit the lamp twice for Virden. He was named the First Star. As of Oct. 26, Worthington was second on the team in scoring with 15 points in 11 games. Also scoring for Virden was Dysten

Drake, who received the Third Star; hometown captain Ty Plaisier; and London Hoilett. Plaisier's goal came with the man advantage. Virden's own Bryce Bryant racked up three assists to earn the Second Star. As of Oct. 26, Bryant paced the Oil Caps with 20 points in 13 games.

Oil Caps netminder Braxton Burdeny turned away all but one of the 19 shots he faced.

Scoring for Portage was former Oil Caps forward Rhett Platt. Terriers goalie Donovan Bodnar made 30 saves.

Skate With the Caps

After the win over the Terriers, fans joined the team on the ice. Oil Capitals defenceman Maddox Shindle said:

"The skate was great. It's always nice to see the young fans we have and get a chance to talk and connect with them. You can see how excited the kids are.

"For some of them, it's their first time skating with us, so it's pretty special. It brings you back to when you were their age, looking up to older players. Watching them get more and more comfortable around us as the skate went on was awesome."



Oil Caps celebrate win over Terriers.

PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Blizzard 4, Oil Caps 0

In The Pas, the Oil Capitals were unable to get going offensively. Goalie Micky Gross made 23 saves for the visitors.

The Blizzard's Kevin Podgurny made 45 saves to earn the shutout. Scoring for Northern Manitoba were Lucas Lorenz (two), Isaac Tomchak, and Hunter Dingman.

LANE ENJOY BISONS STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE



PHOTO BY UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ATHLETICS

Grady Lane is in his second year playing hockey and studying at the University of Manitoba.

The son of Craig and Stacey Lane is in his second season studying and playing men's hockey at the Winnipeg school. Prior to joining the Bisons, Lane played five seasons of junior hockey.

"I have really enjoyed my time so far at U of M, especially the full student-athlete experience - whether that is going on road trips across Western Canada and the U.S.A. or mingling with other athletes at the school, it has been a very fulfilling experience," Lane said.

He is in his second year at U of M's Asper School of Business. Lane said, "I enjoy working with numbers, and lots of the lessons learned in class can be related to sports."

Through six games this season, the 6-foot-2, 197-pound forward has scored a goal and collected two assists. In an Oct. 11, 4-3 victory over the University of Regina, Lane scored on the power play and added an assist. Last season, he lit the lamp three times and accumulated six assists for nine points in 28 games.

"He loves hockey," Bisons men's hockey coach Gordon Burnett said. "He wants to get better. He's a really great teammate. ... He's a guy you love having on your team and love having around. He's everything you want in a player in your program."

In the junior ranks, Lane suited up for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Winkler Flyers and his hometown Virden Oil Capitals and also played in the Western Hockey League for the Spokane Chiefs and Victoria Royals. He said there are some differences between university hockey and the junior level.

"Obviously, managing school full time and the shortened season/different schedule, but also on the ice it has been a big adjustment," Lane said. "I really think this league is not talked about enough with the quality of hockey players who are competing at a high level while also balancing their academics. You only play two nights a week, back-to-back against the same team, and so all week both teams are practicing and scouting the opposing teams so once the game comes there's not a lot of room out there, and you're also now playing grown men."

Burnett said that Lane has done a good job of increasing the speed of his game. The coach said they are looking forward to his continued development.

During the transition to the post-secondary ranks on and off the ice, Lane said, "My family's support is massive, and I'm very grateful for everything they do for me. My sister, Holly, is also going to school here hoping to become a lawyer one day, and my parents usually drive into the city regularly to catch up or watch a game."

He also emphasized that he has "an awesome support group overall." His girlfriend is studying at U of M's pharmacy school. Lane lives with Virden's Dexter Whittle, who suited up last season for the Bisons, and teammate Cade Zaplitny, who was teammates with Whittle on the WHL's Everett Silvertips. A number of Lane's former teammates are also on campus, including ex-Oil Capitals such as Joey Bielik, Dave Bielik, Roux Bazin, Ethan Guthrie, and Virden's Eric Reid.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Grady Lane has embraced being a student-athlete at the University of Manitoba.

CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
JOHN WILLIAM ARTHUR "JACK" FORSYTH
APRIL 23, 1938 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Jack on September 30th, at Virden District Hospital surrounded by his family.

Jack was born on April 23rd, 1938 on the family farm in Pipestone Municipality, near Woodnorth. He was the youngest of 5, and perhaps his liveliness caused the most grey hairs for his parents! He attended school in Woodnorth and joined the workforce at a young age. Jack knew what it meant to put in a hard day's work. He met Carrol (Smith) and they were married in 1959. They briefly resided in Virden when son Trent was born, and then moved to the farm for most of their lives on 22-9-27 near his parent's farm, when daughter Holly joined the family. In early years Jack worked as a truck driver, and on the oil rigs, all while running his own farm. Farming truly was his passion and his garden was a great source of pride. Jack grain farmed, had commercial cattle, a dairy barn, and eventually became an equine/PMU rancher. Perhaps his love of horses as a child had led him to this final farming venture.

Throughout his life, horses always played an integral role. As a family, the Forsyths travelled across the country showing light horses; Hackneys and Roadsters, and then finally showed a hitch of draft horses; it would only be Clydesdales. While Jack was a fierce competitor and was driven to perform well in the show ring, he would be the first to tell you it was the friendships gained across Canada and the US that truly made this so worthwhile.

Jack was always involved in many organizations and believed giving back to his community was vital. He was a member of the Woodnorth Community Club, Western Canadian Hackney Association, Manitoba Clydesdale Club, Scarth Community Club, BPO Elks Virden Branch, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8., St.Paul's United Church and finally the Virden Lions Club until his passing. Jack also became a councillor in 1995 for Ward 5 in Pipestone Municipality and held that position for 19 years until he stepped down.

Jack and Carrol later moved from the original farm to an acreage as they were semi-retired, and in 2015 moved to a condominium in Virden. They resided there until just this spring when they moved to the Princess Lodge.

Jack was a people person...he never met anyone that he didn't believe had value and was worthy of a good conversation and a smile. He loved to have a coffee, shoot the breeze, make his opinions known, and share a hearty laugh together. His presence was large and he could tell a story like no other. While he could have a tough exterior at times, he truly cared for others deeply and in fact performed many acts of kindness privately, just because he saw a need. He leaves a gaping hole in so many hearts.

Jack was predeceased by his parents George and Vera Forsyth, his siblings Don (Audrey) Forsyth, Alick Forsyth, Georgina Cassidy (Mark/ Bertha) and Winston Parsons, his in-laws Ivan and Edith Smith, and Garry and Margo Smith.

Jack leaves to mourn his wife and best friend Carrol. They were soulmates and just 3 days shy of celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary. As well, his son Trent Forsyth (Donna Swanston), and daughter Holly Forsyth (Kevin Tutthill). His grandchildren Courtney Forsyth (Scott Kozoroski), Kyle Forsyth (Marcia Forsyth), Holt Kingdon (Lea Kingdon), Dane Kingdon (Rhiannon Broadfoot) and Chase Forsyth (Lanelle Gulak). As well his great grandchildren; Berklee and Huntley Kozoroski, and Hadley, Rhyleigh and Everly Forsyth. Finally, his sister Janet Parsons, and numerous nieces and nephews. Honourary Forsyth family members, Jack and Kathy Welsh.

Jack fought many medical battles over the years, any one of which could have led to an earlier passing, had he not had such a fighter instinct and will to live. We were all given a gift of additional years to share in Jack because of his resilience. Jack was laid to rest on October 10th, in Virden.

Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE
CEMETERY ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE
ROAD 153W (BETWEEN ROAD 56N AND PR 257)

Please be advised that Cemetery Road Bridge will be closed to through traffic starting Monday, October 27, 2025 for an estimated 10-week period. This is to allow for the replacement of the Cemetery Road Bridge over Gopher Creek.

The road will be barricaded on both the north and south side of the bridge. Access will be open to local traffic only.

A detour route will be in place during the closure period. Motorists are asked to follow signage and use caution when travelling the area.

For more information, please contact:
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Thank-you

Thank-you

The family of Jack Forsyth would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to each and everyone who has helped us during this journey of his recent passing.

To everyone who has reached out, attended the service, sent food, keepsakes, donations and flowers, and just provided support for us...it has just been tremendous. Further, to the staff at Virden District Hospital who have been a big part of Jack's life over the years and when he passed...

you folks are just special. That professionalism coupled with sincere empathy is a rare combination and you were there not only for Jack but the entire family at our most difficult time. Thank you for easing our burden. As Jack believed, most people are just good, and we have been blessed indeed.

Carrol, Trent, Holly and families



Help Wanted

Help Wanted

PROPERTY MANAGER

Virden Centennial Housing Board responsible for Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place is seeking a Property Manager for an indefinite term position. Each location requires approximately 15 to 20 hours weekly Monday to Friday. Recompense is \$20.00 to \$25.00 hourly based on experience. The Board would consider splitting this into two separate positions with a manager at each property. Resumes including References may be submitted by email to karenmck@mymts.net

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The Council of the Municipality of Two Borders has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber at 138 Main Street, Melita on November 6, 2025 at 10:15 a.m., at which the first reading of proposed By-law No. 129/2025 will be given and the following proposal presented:

The lease of a Sharp BP70C31 Advanced series colour document system

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

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

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

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

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

Dated at the Municipality of Two Borders this 24th day of October, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1 (1) of The Municipal Act.

Grace Carr
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Two Borders

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Public Notice

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location described below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect of the following matter:



BY-LAW NO. 131/2025
being an amendment to the Municipality of Two Borders Zoning By-Law No. 89/2022.

HEARING LOCATION:

Two Borders Council Chambers
138 Main Street – Box 429
Melita, Manitoba R0M 1L0

DATE & TIME:

November 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW No. 131/2025

That Table 14: Land-Uses - Permitted, Conditional and Accessory be amended making Mobile Homes or Mobile Units a conditional use within Agricultural General (AG), Agri-cultural Limited (AL), the Rural Residential First Density (R1), Rural Residential Second Density (R2) and Rural Residential (RR) Zoning Districts.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Grace Carr, CAO, Municipality of Two Borders, Ph: 204-522-3263

A copy of this by-law can be inspected at the Municipal Office location noted above during normal office hours (8:30 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

Any person may make a representation regarding by-law No. 131/2025, either in person or in writing, at the public hearing.

Tender

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



The Council of the Municipality of Two Borders has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber at 138 Main Street, Melita on **November 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**, at which the first reading of proposed By-law No. 130/2025 will be given and the following proposal presented:

The lease of a Sharp BP70C31 Advanced series colour document system

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

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

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

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

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

Dated at the Municipality of Two Borders this 24th day of October, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1(1) of The Municipal Act

Grace Carr
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Two Borders

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Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES UTILITY OPERATOR

Job Description

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

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

Duties and Responsibilities

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

Skills and Qualifications

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

LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT – KENTON

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of **Landfill Site Attendant** for the Kenton Nuisance Grounds location. The Landfill Site Attendant assists the Transportation Superintendent in operating the waste disposal grounds in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit for the site, municipal policies, and Workplace Health and Safety regulations.

Certificate in Landfill Operations is an asset. Applicant must be willing to take the necessary certification courses.

Description and Qualifications

- Permanent, part-time position (currently at 14 hours/week winter, 17 hours/week summer).
- Must be willing to work Saturdays, and one evening per week during the summer months.
- Direct all users to appropriate disposal or storage locations for all items being disposed.
- Ensure source separation of garbage and recyclables.
- Accept tires, general scrap iron, and spray containers; store at proper locations and keep area tidy.
- Assist in transferring or disposing of waste, as required.
- Maintain daily records of waste entering the disposal site.
- Keep all buildings and areas of the landfill site clean and well maintained.
- Ensure that fires are not set and all controlled burns are supervised and recorded.
- Report all concerns to the Transportation Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer.
- Other duties, as required.
- Must be punctual, motivated, self-starter, and able to work without supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills to deal politely and effectively with the general public.
- Ability to meet physical demands of the position and have an excellent safety record.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with 3 references by:

E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com

Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB R0M 2C0

We appreciate your interest in this position.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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

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

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A time for feasting and visiting at Woodworth fall supper



Woodworth Legion ladies: Lesli Teasdale Burke, Linda Drake, Marilyn Brazeau, Celia Nolan, and Jessica Coulter.

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Woodworth Legion Ladies Auxiliary held a fall supper in the Legion clubroom on Friday, Oct. 24. A capacity crowd, and then some, attended the supper. Every chair was filled for people to enjoy turkey, ham and all the trimmings that go along with such a feast. People from Cromer, Melita, Oak River, Oak Lake, Hamiota, Lenore, Killarney and Kenton joined together to visit, reminisce and enjoy supper and fellowship. Thank you to all who came out and supported the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Chase-the-Ace draw was made at 7.15 pm, the lucky

ticket was drawn and Bob Good of Kenton was chosen to draw a card from the deck. Lo-and-behold, Bob picked the Ace of Spades! His winnings were a little over \$4100. Congratulations Bob!

Thank-you to the Woodworth Legion ladies, Marilyn Brazeau, Linda Drake, Celia Nolan, Jessica Coulter, Lesli Teasdale Burke and Islay Shellborn from Erickson.

It's no easy task to pull this off the way that they do but job well done ladies!

You never know who you are going to see and at this supper was no exception. Chris and Elaine Hunt were in attendance. Chris was born and raised in Kenton. He



PHOTOS BY GERRY NOLAN

Turkey, ham and all the fixings fed the crowd in Kenton.

played hockey and fastball for the Cougars. The old Cougars infield of Chris, Lawrence Daniel and myself along with our ace pitcher, Blair Fordyce and the man who put it all together Craig Whyte, our manager had some time to chat and renew pastimes of hockey and fastball. This really capped the evening off!

Committees -Staying in Your Own Lane Will Keep Volunteers on Board

Submitted

BY HELEN MCCORMICK

In any healthy organization—committees play a vital role. They bring structure, accountability, and shared responsibility to the work being done. But when committees begin to overlap, overreach, or “step on toes,” it can quickly lead to frustration, burnout, and a shrinking pool of willing volunteers.

The Importance of Staying in Your Lane

Each committee is created with a purpose. One might oversee fundraising, another hospitality, another outreach. When committees respect their own roles and trust others to manage theirs, things run smoothly. BUT when boundaries blur—when one group or one individual start redoing another's work, giving unsolicited direction, or making decisions outside their scope—it can leave volunteers feeling undervalued and unnecessary.

The phrase “stay in your lane” isn't about limiting creativity or control—it's about respecting roles. A well-functioning organization depends on clarity: knowing who does what and trusting that each part of the whole will be carried out with care.

Why It's So Hard to Find Volunteers

Many organizations today struggle to fill committee seats or recruit new helpers. And it's no wonder—volunteers are busier than ever, juggling families, jobs, and commitments. But beyond the issue of time, there's another underlying reason: people want their contributions to matter.

When volunteers step forward and then feel micromanaged, second-guessed, or overshadowed, they often quietly step back. Few people want to invest their energy into something where

they feel their efforts won't be trusted or respected.

Other common barriers include:

Too many chiefs, not enough collaboration. When several people or groups compete for control, it discourages teamwork.

Unclear expectations. If volunteers don't understand their role—or if others keep changing it—they lose confidence and motivation.

Lack of recognition. People want to feel appreciated, not corrected.

Past experiences. Word spreads quickly in a small organization. If someone felt dismissed before, they may be hesitant to return.

Building a Healthier Committee Culture

If your organization wants to strengthen its volunteer base, start by clarifying roles and fostering trust.

Define responsibilities clearly. Each committee should have a written outline of its purpose, authority, and limits.

Communicate openly. Encourage committees to share updates and ideas with each other—not over each other.

Empower, don't override. Trust volunteers to carry out their tasks in their own style. Offer help when asked, not by habit.

Show gratitude. A sincere “thank you” goes further than you might think.

When committees work together—but stay in their lanes—everyone wins. Volunteers feel valued, the workload is shared more evenly, and the organization thrives on mutual respect instead of friction.

After all, it's not just about getting the job done—it's about keeping the people who make it all happen.

Virden Agricultural Society AGM

Submitted

BY EVERETT MORE

The Virden Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on Oct 22 at the town of Virden Council chambers.

2025 was a busy and successful year for the Ag Society. Although they do not hold an annual fair, their mandate is to maintain and continually upgrade the facilities and offer the use of their grounds and facilities to various groups, to hold their specific events. This year this resulted in a total of 45 days of use for all or part of the complex. On a per day basis, there were over 1000 horses and 300 head of cattle competing at the grounds. The vast majority of the competitors are from out of town and will patronize local establishments, whether that be lodging, meals, fuel, or general shopping. Thus we feel our facility contributes to the success of our town.

The facility is at times home to people traveling on the Trans-Canada highway hauling horses and needing a place to unload and rest them overnight. There were two groups of Clydesdale horses that took advantage of this opportunity. They were from Alberta and BC and were competing at the World Clydesdale show in Springfield Illinois.

2025 saw the final completion of the Federated Co-op barn, with the electrical work completed and the box stalls put in place. Our sincere thanks



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clydesdale Horses spending the night in Co-op Ag barn on the way to World Clydesdale show.

to Federated Co-op for the financial support to make this project a reality.

Again this winter, the Ag buildings are being utilized by many in the area to store campers, boats and vehicles. This provides a source of income for the Ag Society and there is always a waiting list for a spot.

All indications are that 2026 will be another busy year. The Ag Society welcomes anyone who would be interested in joining to help operate the facility and in turn promote Virden and area.

Girl gets bear with bow

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Hours spent hunting can mean nothing more than a walk through autumn hues and the exhilarating smell of sap in the cool damp air. However, a day in this year's wild game hunt held a surprise for outdoor loving 21-year-old Anna Thiessen. She's called it, "My new favourite hunting story" in a Facebook post.

Here's Anna's words: "Yesterday evening I was enjoying a peaceful and quiet hunt, standing in a group of trees along the edge of a field with my bow, waiting for deer to come by to feed, when at just before 7pm, I see a black bear coming along the edge of the field on a mission."

"I have been out bear hunting a number of hours this fall with no success, so had a tag ready, and when I saw him, made the quick decision to draw back my bow on him."

"He kept coming along the edge of the field, so I thought I'd get a nice broad side shot at 12-15 yards. When all of the sudden he stops and starts sniffing (he's just about down wind of me). He turns and comes into the bush, so I move my bow around a tree to get back in line with him, he turns towards me, walking closer and at five yards stops and stares at me, full on facing me."

"I'm at full draw and let my arrow fly into his chest. He runs 40-50 yards and drops dead as I'm standing

in shock at the events that had just unfolded."

She says, "I met a few personal goals in this hunt, a successful on the ground hunt with no blind or stand, no bait to bring him in, perfect heart shot... a bear with my bow, all in one."

Anna began hunting when she was 12 and was just 15 when she shot her first bear.

She said, "This is the second bear I've shot, however I have seen/observed and baited bears for a number of years, so am familiar with them."

This year she was out on her own, deer hunting. Did she feel a moment of fear when a bear suddenly appeared instead of a deer? Or when it turned toward her?

Anna said, "I was not scared (probably should have been lol). During its approach towards me I was calm and focused."

She said that when the bear went down, she experienced a surge of adrenaline and excitement.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Archer Anna Thiessen's recent hunting success, a big black bear.

a call to her dad, Russell Thiessen. "He would have brought a gun, and we would have tried our best to follow the blood trail and recover the animal."

With help from family, they retrieved the game from the bush.

"We processed the bear, keeping the meat to eat, and the hide to tan. So, I guess bear hunting is officially done for me this year with this gorgeous little 256 lb. black boar."

According to parks.canada.ca males (boars) reach their full growth at eight years, usually weighing 120-280 kg. Due to relatively robust numbers, black bears are not a Species at Risk in Canada.

Fresh Look for Downtown



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

The former co-op gas bar site is being transformed into a clean, open space, marking the end of a major local cleanup effort. Crews are finishing demolition and environmental cleanup at Virden's version of Portage and Main with plans to pave the site for parking and future development. Valleyview Co-op general manager Dave Wowk said he is glad the project is getting done, as empty structures pose risks such as vandalism or damage. As with all former fuel sites, the demolition had to meet environmental standards to ensure the site was properly remediated. Wowk said the co-op followed all the necessary steps to "get a clean bill of health" and encountered no major problems.

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

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November	7	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls / Feeders - Heifer sale 1pm
November	9	Sunday	1pm	Sheep / Goats
November	12	Wednesday	10am	Presort Feeder Sale
November	14	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls / Feeders
November	19	Wednesday	10am	Presort Feeder Sale
November	21	Friday	8am	Cows / Bulls / Feeders - Heifer sale 1pm
November	26	Wednesday	9am	Regular Sale - Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls
December	3	Wednesday	10am	Presort Feeder Sale
December	5	Friday	1pm	Bred Cow & Heifer sale
December	8	Monday	2pm	Ramrod Cattle Co. Black Angus Herd Dispersal
December	10	Wednesday	10am	Presort Feeder Sale
December	11	Thursday		CUT OFF for 90 Day Tax-Cattle
December	12	Friday	1pm	Bred Cow & Heifer sale
December	16	Tuesday	1pm	Bred Cow & Heifer sale
December	17	Wednesday	9am	Regular Sale - Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls
December	19	Friday	1pm	Bred Cow & Heifer sale
December	22	Monday	1pm	Bred Cow & Heifer sale



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