

Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

OCTOBER 10, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 8 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 10 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS



Smart Farming

Get the equipment your agribusiness needs — without the big upfront cost.

Leasing can help you manage cash flow and lower your tax bill.

SUNRISE
CREDIT UNION
sunrise.mb.ca
f i l n x

Learn how leasing can benefit your farm. Speak with your Sunrise lender today.



Manitobans want stronger bail laws, police funding

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Criminal activity reduces public safety. The Provincial government, the official opposition, municipal representatives and police agree that improvements to the justice system are needed. Now a new survey confirms that the public are demanding change.

Probe survey

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) commissioned Probe Research to conduct a survey on public safety perceptions among Manitoba residents, focusing on the need for reforms in the bail system and increased federal funding for policing.

- 71 per cent of those who responded strongly agreed that the federal government should reform the bail system and Criminal Code to hold repeat offenders more accountable.
- 88 percent feel that all Manitoba communities, including rural and northern areas, require more federal funding for policing.

Responsibility

Canada's criminal justice system is a shared responsibility between the provinces and the federal government. The federal government is responsible for enacting the Criminal Code provisions that govern the law of bail. The provinces are responsible for prosecuting most criminal offences in their jurisdictions and conducting bail hearings in relation to those offences. Persons released on bail are usually subject to conditions of release that depend on their specific situation, and the province is responsible for enforcing these conditions.

When police detain an accused person, the decision to grant bail is made by a judge or justice of the peace at a bail hearing. Here the court determines whether a person should be granted bail or detained in custody until their trial.

Under the Charter, all accused persons have the right to liberty and are presumed innocent until they are proven guilty. This means that an individual charged with an offence has the right not to be denied reasonable bail without just cause. The court needs to consider whether



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

detention is required to make sure the accused comes to court, or to keep the public, including victims, safe or to maintain the public's confidence in the justice system.

Role of police

After arresting an individual for a criminal offence, police officers have the authority to either detain or release an accused person. A police officer may release an accused person with or without conditions, so long as the accused person is aware that they must appear in court to respond to their charges. Police are required to detain an accused person if they believe it is necessary to protect the safety of the public or that there is a risk of the accused person re-offending.

Burden of proof

When a Crown prosecutor wants to deny bail to an accused person, they must demonstrate to the court that there are sufficient reasons to detain the accused.

When an accused is charged with more serious offences like murder, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, drug trafficking, failing to attend court and most weapon related offenses the burden of proof shifts from the prosecution to the accused, meaning that the accused must show why they should be granted bail.

An accused person who breaches their bail conditions can have their bail revoked and face a new criminal charge for that breach making it more difficult for that person to receive bail in the future.

read more about Manitoba Justice, PC Justice and Town of Virden Justice plans on page 5...

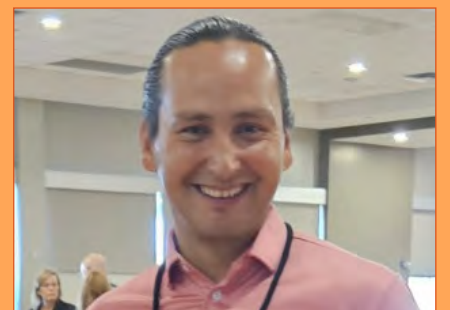


HOME GAME
FRI. OCT. 10 VS.
WAYWAYSEECAPPO WOLVERINES
SAT. OCT. 11 VS. NEEPAWA TITANS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
P10-11



DELORME SHARE
HIS FIRST NATIONS
PERSPECTIVE
P19-20

Capturing the year: VCI Yearbook team gets to work

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Recording everyday life at Virden Collegiate Institute, the arts, sports and special events, takes know-how and diligence and students do most of it. The Yearbook condenses months of hard work and fun, chronicling these senior years for teachers, students and for their families to look back on.

For Virden Collegiate Institute, teacher Cody McPhee instructs a graphic arts class where students learn skills that are useful in creating the yearbook. A handful of volunteers, about 12 students, work on this important school project throughout the year.

Mr. McPhee explains the process:

“Typically, a couple of students will take on leadership roles - students who are especially interested in photography or graphic design. It’s nice when students come back for a second or third year and already know the process. This year’s leaders are Kiahna Barkley, Breanne Wilson, and Kylie Kufflick, although there is a pretty keen group of newcomers as well.

“The yearbook has been 88 pages for as long as I’ve been involved in making it, although that could change as student numbers grow, or if we have a particularly busy year.

“The most important and difficult part is getting photos of all the events/activities. We have a couple of old Canon Rebels at the school but we mostly just use our phones.”

Interested students are tasked with the reporter/photographer roles.



Graphic Arts class at VCI learn design skills.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

“We need to know what events are taking place and who is available to photograph them, obviously including afterschool hours and weekends.”

The yearbook team plans out the pages and decides which events will go and where they will go.

“Once we have the photos, we select the best ones and edit them using various programs.”

Mr. McPhee does final touches over the summer before uploading the pages to Jostens yearbook site, which he says, “works pretty similar to other publishing programs such as InDesign or Publisher.”

The books are available by mid-September of the following year. The 2024-25 VCI Yearbook has just arrived.

The teacher explains, “Yearbooks are included in our student fees, so we do sell ad space in the yearbook to try and keep those fees down.”

Looking ahead to 2025-26, with a whole new year in the making, anyone interested in purchasing ad space should contact Mr. Cody McPhee at VCI.

Northern redbelly



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Photographed on Oct. 1 in Virden this ‘redbelly’, probably a Northern redbelly, is present among us but rarely seen. This very small reddish-brown snake is part of our ecosystem and we should be thankful. These small reptiles are harmless to humans but prey on slugs which have become a pest in many gardens, ruining root crops and stripping other plants. The redbelly also eats earthworms. One of only five species of Manitoba snakes, this small woodland variety usually measures 10-25 cm in total length. Colours range from orange to gray, black, or brown. It can be distinguished from other species by its bright red or orange underbelly and may have a light brown ring behind the head.

SAVE ON YOUR PURCHASE & ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Until November 13, get instant rebates on select energy-efficient products at participating retailers. Product selection varies by retailer.

\$5 OFF SELECT

- Dimmers, timers, and motion sensors
- Outdoor plug-in timers
- Weatherstripping
- Window and door insulating film kits



\$10 OFF SELECT

- Energy-efficient showerheads



\$50 OFF SELECT

- ENERGY STAR® certified smart thermostats



Find a participating retailer near you by scanning the QR code or visiting efficiencyMB.ca/InstantRebates.

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for more details.

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Volunteers!

The Souris River Watershed District extends heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible sponsors and dedicated volunteers who made the 2025 Water Festival at Cherry Point a resounding success.

Your support and commitment to environmental education help us inspire the next generation of water stewards and conservation leaders.



From all of us at SRWD—thank you for your partnership, and for making a lasting difference in our watershed!

COME SAVE WITH US

efficiencyMB.ca
1-844-944-8181

EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

Canadian Royal Purple



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

Donna George, Virden President, Mayor Tina Williams and Fran Bayliss Canadian Royal Purple National President.

Submitted

BY CANADIAN ROYAL PURPLE

This year, the Canadian Royal Purple and its partners are introducing Purple Thursday x 7, an entire week of activities across Canada bringing recognition to the intersection of intimate partner violence and the resulting brain injuries. 2025 will mark the fourth CRPS Purple Thursday Care Bag campaign when over 5000 Purple Care Bags will be delivered to Canadian shelters. The bags contain the essentials for the women, children and men who have, often, left home with nothing.

"Our Purple Care Bag campaign and education have been so successful, one day was no longer enough," says Sandi Loughheed, chair of the Canadian Royal Purple's Charitable Initiatives Committee. "Now, the seven days include a media day, two education days, two days of local activity and a Sunday of High Teas across Canada raising funds and awareness to support prevention."

The total number of "family beds" serving women and children escaping domestic violence has steadily increased since 2020. Nearly 20,000 people spend their nights in shelters.

"Our efforts haven't changed the statistics: one in three women are still experiencing intimate partner violence. Of those, one in eight will have suffered a brain injury from physical force or strangulation", says Loughheed. "What has changed is that more of these women and children are seeking assistance, filling Canada's shelters. We are pleased to see the effects of awareness empowering women to break the cycle of violence and seek a new life. It's why we emphasize awareness and prevention. These brain injuries are 100 percent preventable if we stop the violence."

"This week involves many partnerships - the Canadian Centre for IPV-BI, Canadian researchers, the Canadian Brain Injury Association, Shelter Canada, shelters and many grassroots people in Canadian communities.", concludes Loughheed. "Locally, people can get involved by wearing purple, donating to the local Care Bags, putting out the new lawn signs, supporting the online auction, putting up posters and banners, and making a statement."

Contact:

Sandi Loughheed, Beechy, SK, blackstrap99@yahoo.com, 306-859-7563, Chair of the Canadian Royal Purple's Charitable Initiatives Committee

Angie Smith, Dauphin, MB, Co-Chair, dauphin-royalpurple@gmail.com 431-738-8948

Fran Bayliss, Virden, MB, frangb@mymts.net, 204-748-2001, National President, Canadian Royal Purple

Joanne Edwards, Espanola, ON, jojo8280@gmail.com, Director, Canadian Royal Purple Society

From the prairies to the highlands tour 204 - part 6

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

We set off early enroute to Turnberry where we had a short visit with David Caldwell Senior. When we arrived, we were introduced to Donald Caldwell's brother David and his wife Allison and their sons Jack and Fraser Caldwell. We spent about an hour at Davids, a real short visit and then back onto the bus for our trip to Portpatrick which is on the south tip of Scotland.

It is a very picturesque village in the historical county of Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway. We toured around the pretty harbour village with pastel-coloured houses all situated around a small bay. It was very beautiful and with the backdrop of the sea, it was amazing.

We get out of the bus, and we are going to walk, climb, whatever you call it to see the ruins of Dunskey Castle. We climbed up, I think around 227 steps up an incline, puffing all the way and we had to take several breaks as well. When we got to the top of the incline, we walked down the other side of the incline about a hundred steps to Dunskey castle.

The castle was built in the mid 1600s. Some legends suggest the castle is haunted by a nurse maid. If you hear the sound of bagpipes, you will die soon. Thank goodness I have hearing



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Dunskey castle, built in the mid 1600s and haunted by a nurse maid.

aids, so I turned them down. I did not hear anything other than the wind, which just happened to be blowing hard that day. Luckily none of us heard the bagpipes.

After having an interesting lunch at the crown hotel, we hopped back on to the van and headed back to our church at Minishant, for what would be our last night there. On the way back we stopped in at the grocery store and got some snacks and refreshments for the following day. This was our farewell to Minishant and the beautiful church. It was sad to leave as at the end of our trip we all agreed that Minishant was our favorite overnight venue.

I am not sure why it was my favourite, I think because I just felt so at home there.

Next week I will tell you how we enjoyed our ride on the Jacobite Express!

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

204.759.3313
Toll Free 844.877.7767
gregnesbittmla@mymts.net
#7 - 515 4th Avenue
Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

Do you have an interest in the Education of Adults in Virden and surrounding area?

A.P.P.L.E. Is looking for new Board members! Meetings are once a month during the school year, for about an hour at a time. Consider this your invitation to attend our AGM to see what it's all about.

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025
5:30 pm at the A.P.P.L.E. Literacy Centre
#2 - 585 Seventh Ave South, Virden
204-748-2384
applevdn@mymts.net



VIRDEN LIONS HALL



CALL TO BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT
204-264-0785

230 Nelson St W • Virden, MB

Hall capacity is limited based on current Manitoba Public Health restrictions/guidelines; renters and attendees must comply with up-to-date Manitoba Public Health Orders.

HAMIOTA DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

1:30 PM

H.D.H.C. OUTREACH MEETING ROOM

4 - 3 YEAR DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN FROM

R.M. WALLACE-WOODWORTH (2)

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY (1)

R.M. OF OAKVIEW (2)

ALL MAY ATTEND BUT ONLY MEMBERS CAN VOTE OR HOLD A DIRECTOR POSITION
MEMBERSHIPS \$10.00 FOR 3 YEARS

GOT NEWS?

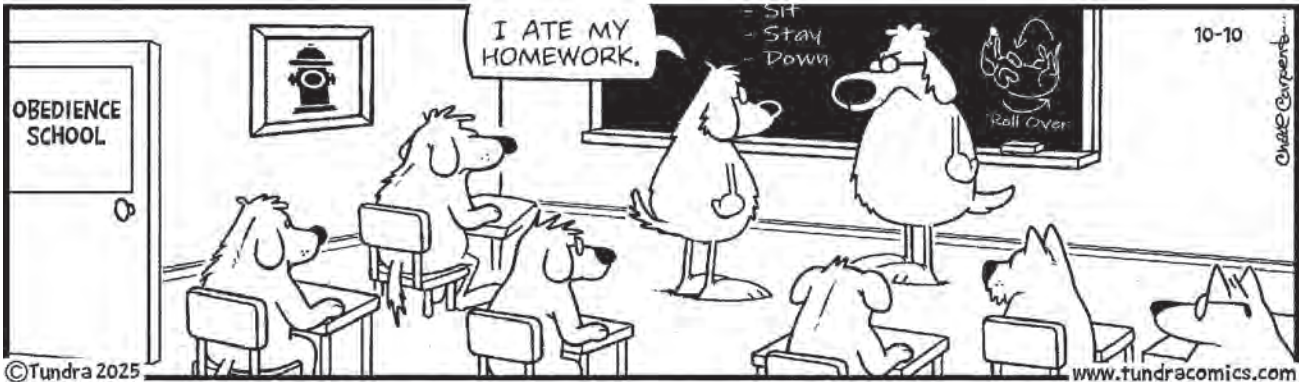
204-748-3931
reporter1@empireadvance.ca

Empire-Advance
serving virden & area since 1885

empireadvance.ca

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Giving thanks always

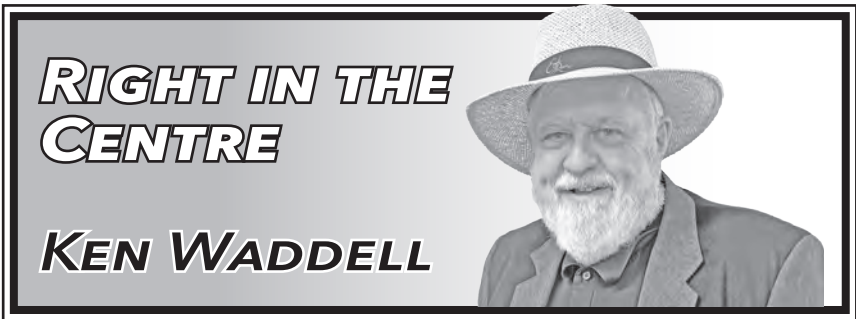
The following Bible verse pretty much sums up the holiday we about to celebrate-Thanks-giving Day.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (New International Version) says. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

As long as I can remember, Thanks-giving Day, has been a very special day for me. Let me count the ways this season has been elevated in my mind and heart. My father, who was born Oct. 10, 1907 so our family always had reason to celebrate that day. Dad said it was almost always a nice day on his birthday and he was right with the odd exception. His birthday was always around Thanksgiving and that was nice too as sometimes we would have a day off school for his birthday. Dad was a school bus driver so on school holidays, he got a holiday too except for all the work on the farm. And, most Thanksgivings, Dad's brother and sister-in-law, our much loved Uncle Jim and Aunt Vi would travel from Winnipeg to the farm at Holland, Manitoba for Thanksgiving, often staying overnight.

That time of year usually meant that the rugged days of harvest were coming to a close and work on winter preparation projects saw increased activities. And of course, there were large Thanksgiving dinners. Mum was a pretty good cook. I say all this to set the scene that Thanksgiving was pretty much a good deal around our farm home.

Oct. 11 is our wedding anniversary. Christine and I have been married 56 years. For all those years and all our family and business experiences, I am thankful. Christine's return to good health has been the number one blessing for this year!



But giving thanks in the manner outlined in the Bible verse above isn't always as easy as my early childhood years experienced. There are many times of drought, war, death and destruction that try a persons ability or even willingness to give thanks. But, even in tough times it's important to give thanks, to offer thanks to God, to family, to our friends and neighbours and to our country for sustaining us through the tough times.

The hymn, "Count your blessings" says it better than I can. It was composed by Johnson Oatman Jr in 1897.

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care?

Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

3. When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold.
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your Lord on high.

4. So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

So whether you are living in an abundance of blessings or if times are really tough, hopefully, the words I placed from the Bible or my little bit of experience and the song's words will float you higher today.
May God bless you and yours.

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



How pleasant it is when brothers live in harmony...

There is a copse (a stand alone clump of trees- a term L.M. Montgomery was very fond of!) that causes me to pause and marvel every season of the year. The cluster is at the very edge of town alongside a road that Arie and I regularly stroll. This fall the changing of their garb has simply fascinated me. This little grouping is a most unlikely family. It's fairly certain that the trees have been planted, considering the variety in a relatively small space. The tallest at this point is the cottonwood. How I love the tall one, golden leaves twisting in the breeze, the hue so dramatic against the autumn skies. Beside it is an evergreen, the ordinary variety that rests the eyes all winter long, a gentle spot of constant colour no matter the background pallet. Cuddling in close is a tamarack, not a true evergreen for it's needles turn golden brown and drop, known as a deciduous conifer, for it is a cone bearer. Within the copse there is a Colorado Blue Spruce, and a Scots pine. Completing the family grouping are sturdy black poplars with a host of little cousins, the caragana family, moving into empty corners. The one dramatic silver tree may be silver willow, or a Siberian elm, I haven't crossed the ditches to check. So there, clustered and sheltering one another are golds, and greens, silver and browns, all in harmony, all fulfilling their destiny.

Psalms 133: 1- How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! The exclamation point is there, not something I added, for I am prone to using them! So I stop and watch these trees. They are totally unaware and unaffected by my viewing. They, each in their own way, continue to be exactly what they are designed to be. No one sways away from the tamarack; not fully pine, not fully evergreen, a deciduous conifer. Of the family yet unique. The tallest evergreen doesn't appear to be afraid of the old cottonwood, respectfully spreading it's branches honouring the space required by the old shade bearer. One tree drops all its leaves, another none of its needles. Some of the trees are native to the area and others are blatant imports. Not one of them care. Birds nest in their branches, rabbits nestle in the long grasses beneath the sheltering arms, and if I cared to go into their space I would find ants, and bugs, perhaps slugs and grasshoppers. All are welcome in this space.

Watching my world, this world, I long for this beautiful, life giving unity. Where there is no need to demean or belittle, no need for greed or unkindness, no need for anyone to be without, to do without. In the background I hear Louis Armstrong growling out 'it's a wonderful world'. And it is, it truly is. For me, is a constant awareness of the goodness and beauty of all creation around me that even allows me the courage to hope; to hope for equality, justice and mercy. For all. May it be so.

Empire Advance
Serving Virden and area since 1885

204- 748-3931
www.empireadvance.ca
virdenempireadvance@outlook.com
Drop box @ 305 Nelson St W Virden, MB
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$76 in Manitoba, \$85 elsewhere in Canada
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40069240

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Members of:



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

STAFF

General Manager Jessica Coulter
Reporter Anne Davison
Office Manager Oliver Nolan
Reporter Dale Davison
Sports Reporter Robin Wark
Reporter Gerry Nolan
Sales Dianne Hanson
Owner/Publisher/Editor Ken & Christine Waddell

Manitobans want stronger bail laws, police funding

continued from page 1

Manitoba Justice

The federal government amended the criminal code in 2024, and Manitoba Minister of Justice Matt Wiebe said the changes were needed but, “We just feel that they didn’t go far enough...we haven’t seen the kinds of reductions in repeat and violent offenders who are continuing to offend in our communities.” He pointed to a 28 per cent budget increase allowing for the hiring of new police officers. Wiebe said that a shortage of Crown prosecutors and Justices of the Peace has left the justice system under-resourced, contributing to delays and eroding public confidence. Recent hiring of 34 new Crown prosecutors is intended to address these bottlenecks, but more investment is needed to rebuild capacity.

Wiebe described drug addiction as a major driver of criminal activity. He said, “Toxic drugs in our community are a scourge... and there’s no question that the addictions crisis is responsible for many of the public safety issues that we’re facing.” He told Empire-Advance that the Canu government is adding more resources directed specifically against organized crime. He added, “For those who are addicted to drugs, we have a new department that’s been established specifically for housing the addicted and homeless. We’re going to attack this from both sides of the issue, both the drug dealers who are bringing it to our communities but also giving opportunity for those who are addicted to drugs to find a better path.....Addressing root causes requires an approach that extends far beyond the justice system.”

PC justice critic

Former Brandon police chief and Manitoba PC justice critic Wayne Balcaen said there is a shortage of capacity to hold prisoners. He said historically, about 80 percent of inmates were serving sentences

and 20 percent were awaiting trial, but now that ratio has reversed: 80–90 percent are held pre-trial. This shift, combined with federal Criminal Code provisions and judicial discretion, has contributed to frequent releases.

Balcaen said, “The individual has an obligation to obey these release orders, these conditions that they’re released on. But oftentimes they are snubbing their nose at the judicial process, and within hours they are re-offending. Police officers are repeatedly picking people up, recharging them, putting them back into custody, only to see them released again and again back into the community. So the communities that are hoping for safety suffer because of the chronic releases.”

Town of Virden

Town of Virden councillor Marc Savy said that he agrees with the AMM initiative to deal with repeat offenders and underfunded police resources. He said, “The downloading of policing reform costs onto municipalities needs to stop (and the government needs) to provide predictability on local police resourcing and the flexibility to move some enforcement and social service functions to other funded authorities.”

At the September 23 Town of Virden council meeting Savy had questions for Acting Area Commander Sgt. Amy Doan. Savy said, “I think you’re doing great work, and I thank the members, but I think our issue is with the system. It’s the justice system. It’s a revolving door. They keep being arrested and being released the next day.”

Sgt. Doan replied, “In the Westman area, we see that we’re dealing with the same prolific and repeat offenders. One of our crime reduction strategies is that anybody who is released on a release order or has a curfew, we’re checking them often. If we find them to be breaching those conditions or not meeting their curfew we’re putting them again before the courts.



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

A lot of that is out of the control of the police, as we know. That’s up to the government and the courts to impose those conditions. I think we have a priority to keep our community safe. We’re monitoring people who are on warrant, anybody who’s out on a curfew, anybody who has conditions. We’re aware of who our primary offenders are and we’re trying to monitor them. If somebody is found to be breaching their conditions, we’re going to effect that arrest and bring them in.”

As Manitoba communities continue to grapple with repeat offenders and strained justice resources local leaders and provincial officials agree that the current situation is unacceptable and are seeking an approach that strengthens accountability while addressing the root causes of crime. With strong public backing for bail reform and improved policing support, the survey indicates a shared urgency among municipalities, law enforcement, and government to restore confidence in the justice system and enhance safety for residents across the province.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

VIRDEN



CENTRE OF IT ALL

Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Proclamation: Purple Thursday October 13-19, 2025

WHEREAS the Canadian Royal Purple recognizes the intersection of Acquired Brain Injury and the incidence of Interpersonal Violence with effects as high as one in three women in Canada;

AND WHEREAS Purple Thursday X7, the third week of October each year, will be declared as a special week of connection between the Canadian Royal Purple, our communities and Women’s shelters across Canada to stop the violence;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Royal Purple has adopted brain injury awareness and prevention as their official cause;

AND WHEREAS Virden Royal Purple Lodge is a valuable asset to our community, we hereby recognize Purple Thursday X7 as a special week of recognition within our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the week of **October 13-19**, the third Thursday of October 2025, be recognized as Canadian Royal Purple’s National Week of Recognition of the Intersection of Acquired Brain Injury and the incidence of Interpersonal Violence.

Upcoming Council Meetings
October 21 and November 4
Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Thanksgiving Closures

- Virden Landfill - October 11
- Town Office - October 13
- Tundra Oil & Gas Place - October 13



Cemetery Cleanup

The Town of Virden asks that items that have been left on plots be cleaned up by **October 13, 2025**.

All items must be removed from each grave in the cemetery - artificial flowers, ornaments, solar lights, plant hooks, stuffed animals, etc. must be picked up. Only headstones should remain in order to prevent damage to personal items throughout the winter months.

Following spring thaw, families are welcome to replace items to their loved ones’ gravesites.

Items that remain after the date above will be removed by Cemetery Maintenance Staff.

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.

Two week police report for Westman

Submitted
By WESTMAN RCMP

Westman RCMP Service Report for Sept. 21 to Sept. 27

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 71 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 17 traffic offences, 4 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Check, 1 Mental Health Act, 2 Assault, 6 False Alarm, 3 Fail to Attend Court, 2 Suspicious Person, 1 Possession – Schedule 1 Methamphetamine, 1 Uttering threats against a person, 1 Arson – Damage to Property and 1 Coroner’s Act – Sudden Death.

On September 23, RCMP were conducting patrols on Highway 259 in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle traveling 120 km/hr in the 90 km/hr zone. The driver was fined \$442 for speeding.

On September 23, Westman RCMP were dispatched to a fire at the new school in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. While en route police were updated and the fire was determined to be an arson and that a windshield of a vehicle near the school had been broken. First Nations Safety Officers detained a 17-year-old male. RCMP arrived on scene and arrested the 17-year-old male as well as a 16-year-old male. Both will appear in court in December on charges of Arson – Damage to Property, and Mischief equal to or under \$5,000 – Damage to Motor Vehicle.

On September 23, Westman RCMP received a third-party report of a domestic assault in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP attended and learned that the complainant had heard the disturbance and that both parties had assaulted each other. A

25-year-old female and a 24-year-old male were arrested and released on Undertakings to appear in court in December for charges of Assault.

On September 26, Westman RCMP received a BOLO from Brandon Police Services advising a vehicle had fled from them. RCMP located the suspect vehicle on highway 21 travelling towards the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The suspect vehicle parked outside a residence and the two suspects were located nearby and placed under arrest, transported and lodged at the Virden RCMP detachment. A 35-year-old male was charged with x2 Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, Operation while prohibited, Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, Fail to comply probation order, his next court appearance is later this month. A 26-year-old male was charged with x2 Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, Operation while prohibited, Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, Fail to comply probation order, Fail to comply with undertaking condition, Possession – Schedule I: Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth), his next court appearance is later this month

Westman RCMP Service Report for Sept. 28 to Oct. 4

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 65 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 9 traffic offences, 7 Mischief, 1 Wellbeing Check, 4 Mental Health Act, 4 Assault, 7 False Alarm, 1 Suspicious Person, 2 Uttering threats against a person, 3 Operation while impaired, and 3 Breach of Peace files.

On September 29, RCMP were conducting patrols on Highway 1 in the RM Sifton, RCMP

observed a vehicle traveling 134 km/hr in the 110 km/hr zone. The driver was fined \$364 for speeding.

On September 30, RCMP were dispatched to a call regarding mischief in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation where windows had been broken. Prior to RCMP arriving on scene a First Nations Safety Officer attempted to detain the suspect, however she attacked the officer and fled the scene. Members attended and located an intoxicated 33 year-old female and placed her under arrest. She was transported and lodged at the Virden RCMP detachment. The 33 year-old female was charged with Fail to Comply with undertaking conditions and Mischief under \$5,000, she will attend court in December.

On October 1, RCMP were conducting patrols on Highway 1 in the town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle traveling 123 km/hr in the 100 km/hr zone. The driver was fined \$351 for speeding.

On October 3, RCMP were conducting patrols on Highway 2 in the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle traveling 122 km/hr in the 100 km/hr zone. The driver was fined \$338 for speeding.

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

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

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

What if Thanksgiving wasn’t just a day, but a way of life? Be thankful. It’s good for your brain, body, health, and everyone around you. Developing an “attitude of gratitude” is one of the simplest ways to improve your satisfaction with life. Rather than complain about the things you think you need or deserve, take a few moments to focus on all that you have. Count your blessings. Who and what am I most thankful for today, and why? As you gather with family and friends may your hearts be filled with love and grateful thanks for all your Blessings.

Pumpkin pie. It’s a seasonal classic, and it delivers the flavors of fall in every bite. I’ve never been much of a store-bought pumpkin pie fan because I always find it a bit bland. My pumpkin pie recipe has more spice in it than most. This recipe makes enough filling to generously fill a deep 9” pan. If your pie plate isn’t quite that big, you can bake any leftover filling in custard cups; it will take 25 to 30 minutes to cook. The high oven temperature at the beginning of baking is to get that bottom crust cooked properly. You can also blind bake your crust before adding the filling. If you have a gluten free person in your home use corn starch for a thickener instead of the flour and cook the filling without the crust in a casserole or pie plate.

Helens pumpkin pie

- 1-9 inch deep dish unbaked pie shell
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1 Tbsp. molasses or 1 tsp. maple flavoring
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

- 2/3 brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups pumpkin purée
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 425 F. In a large bowl, add all the ingredients and beat with a wire whisk until well blended, smooth, and without lumps. (Or use your blender like I do.) Place the pie crust on a cookie sheet, and carefully pour the filling in. If so desired, place pie crust shields or tinfoil over pie crust to avoid crust getting too brown. Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 F and bake for an additional 40 to 45 minutes, or until a knife inserted comes out clean. Cool and refrigerate until ready to use.

Pumpkin cream cheese pie

- 1-9 inch deep dish unbaked pie shell
- 125 g cream cheese
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups pumpkin purée (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Beat the cream cheese with the white sugar, egg and vanilla. Spread over the bottom of the pie shell. Mix the remaining ingredients together. Pour over the cream cheese layer. Bake on the bottom rack of a 350 F oven for about one hour until a knife inserted comes out clean.



CROSS
PLUMBING & HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING
PLUMBING

DRAIN CLEANING
HEATING

204-748-2108

Pinnacle
PLUMBING & HEATING

Contact:
info@pphmb.com
204-748-1788

Services:

- Plumbing
- Heating
- HVAC
- Hydronics
- Geothermal
- Septic Tank
- Electric & Gas Boilers

Serving

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Oilfield
- Residential

540, 7th Avenue
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
Phone: (204) 748-2790
Email: info@lrbelectric.ca
Web: www.lrbelectric.ca

Westman Youth Choir



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Talented and passionate about singing, the Western Manitoba Youth Choir has been busy preparing for their 45th season. Under the direction of Clint McLachan (Brandon) and Kendra Obach (Stonewall) accompanied by Danielle Guina (Brandon), 54 talented choristers have gathered and rehearsed at Camp Wannakumbac for two weekends. They will be performing at schools and concert venues in Westman area starting October 18th. The concerts that are open to the public are as follows:

- October 18 7:30 pm Virden Auditorium Theatre
- October 19 10:00 am Hamiota United Church
- October 19 7:30 pm Strathclair Bend Theatre
- October 20 7:30 pm Neepawa United-Anglican Church
- October 21 7:30 pm First Presbyterian Church - Brandon

The choristers are excited to perform and invite you to celebrate their music with them! They will also be performing at the Rivers School. Follow them on Facebook, Instagram and on YouTube.



BOARD OF REVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2026 Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Ellice - Archie has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 318 Railway Avenue in the Village of McAuley and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 & 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act.

42(1) APPLICATION FOR REVISION

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

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property; or
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under Subsection 13(2).

43(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application for revision must:

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- be filed by
 - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the RM of Ellice - Archie Municipal Office located in McAuley or St. Lazare, or
 - serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board of Revision.

The Board of Revision will sit on **Friday, November 14h, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** in the council chambers of the R.M. of Ellice - Archie, 318 Railway Avenue, McAuley, Manitoba to hear applications that have been duly deposited.

The **FINAL** date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is **Wednesday, October 29th, 2025.**

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

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2025

Trisha Huberdeau
Secretary, Board of Revision
R.M. of Ellice - Archie
318 Railway Ave (Box 67)
McAuley MB R0M 1H0

PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

Boost Your Defenses Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinics

Book your appointment Call: 1-844-626-8222
or Online at prairiemountainhealth.ca
Appointment Preferred * | Walk-ins accepted
Bring your Manitoba Health Card and Consent Form.

SCAN HERE



Town	Date	Time	Location (including address)
Elkhorn	Tues. November 14	11 am to 6 pm	Elkhorn Elks Hall (14 1 st St.)
Kenton	Wed. November 12	2 pm to 6 pm	Kenton Memorial Hall (219 Cornwall St.)
Melita	Thur. November 6	12 pm to 6 pm	Melita Legion Hall (95 Main St.)
Miniota	Wed. November 19	2 pm to 6 pm	Miniota Community Hall (568 Miniota Rd.)
Oak Lake	Mon. November 17	12 pm to 4 pm	Oak Lake Legion Hall (291 Assiniboine St)
Reston	Wed. November 12	11 am to 6 pm	Reston R.E.S. Centre (143 3 rd Ave)
Virden #1	Thur. October 30	11 am to 6 pm	Sacred Heart Parish Hall *Appt only* No Walk In
Virden #2	Tues. November 25	11 am to 6 pm	Sacred Heart Parish Hall



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ELLICE-ARCHIE

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **6th day of November, 2025**, at the hour of **11:00 AM**, at Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie, 318 Railway Ave, McAuley, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
31100	THE ELY 73 FEET OF LOT 6 BLOCK 1 PLAN V4 BLTO IN NW 1/4 27-13-29 WPM - DESC 6-1-V4, MANSON	L -\$700 B -\$65,600	\$ 5,940.94
302000	LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM, THE SLY 8 FEET OF LOT 3 BLOCK 5 PLAN 445 NLTO IN S 1/2 17-17-28 WPM - 215 MAIN STREET (ST.LAZARE)	L -\$5,400 B -\$149,600	\$ 12,164.36

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

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

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2025.

Managed by:



Trisha Huberdeau
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie
Phone: (204) 722-2053
Fax: (204) 722-2027

Grain Cart Granny

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The chronicles of grain cart granny. Corinne Thomas {grain cart granny} lives at St. Brieux, Saskatchewan. She is the daughter of Don and Judy Hawes. Some of you may remember Don as he was the CEO of Vanguard credit union and worked with several Kentonites back in the early 2000's.

Corinne's working career has been mainly in the office of Bourgeault, as well as other companies. This summer she found herself laid off and she was looking for a new career. An interesting challenge arrived when she was offered the position of driving a grain cart on her brother-in-laws family farm. Corinne had never driven a tractor before. She had never been involved with farming in any capacity.

Here is a quote from Corrine's post. "Hello everyone, this is grain cart granny checking in with you after another day of harvest. I have to say my first week of learning to drive a tractor and maneuver the grain cart was nothing short of stressful! Now as I go through my second week of harvest and am learning how to bag a common staple found in most kitchen pantries....oats! I find myself comparing this week's tasks to the well-known fairy tale of Goldilocks and the three bears. I, being Goldilocks, am faced with the challenge of not upsetting the harvesting process as I invade the prairie acres belonging to the three bears, who have been extremely patient with me...phew!"

"In my version of the story, my job is to pull up parallel to the first combine and carefully advance forward, but of course not too fast and not too slow, then, race over and strategically situate my tractor alongside the second combine and be sure not to get too close, nor too far away



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Granny Corinne Thomas in her new harvesting role.

from the combine. I continue this task all the while ensuring my cart is also never too full. Finally, I rush off through the field to meet up with the third guy who is in charge of the tractor that is holding the large white bag. I gradually unload the oats, inching slowly forward with a steadiness on the clutch, and a determination for precision to ensure the big white bag is filled (just right). Luckily for them, I have a relentless trait of a perfectionist. I am pretty sure I am rocking this!" End of quote. I will share some more next time from the tractor seat of grain cart granny. Stay tuned!

MJHL SEASON UPDATE

MJHL HOCKEY

DEREK HOLTOM

September saw some dynamic debuts to start the MJHL season, and those are recognized in the first Player of the Month honours handed out.

The RBC Player of the Month is Rohan Guevarra from the Selkirk Steelers. In five games, Guevarra scored four goals and added 10 points for 14 points. The honours continue for Guevarra down below.

The Safe Work Manitoba Defenseman of the Month is Zhenya Miles of the Steinbach Pistons. The blueliner put up a goal and five assists in five games to earn this award.

The McMunn & Yates Goaltender of the Month is Ryan Velan from the Portage Terriers. He won all three of his starts, posting a goals against average of 0.99, a save percentage of .968 and one shutout to earn the nod.

The Chevrolet Rookie of the Month is Isaac Sousa from the Selkirk Steelers. In five games, Sousa scored three goals and added six assists for nine points.

And the Manitoba Pork Peak Performer for September is Brody Green from the Steinbach Pistons. Green had four goals and six assists for 10 points in five games to earn this recognition.

All three MJHL Players of the Week hail from the MGEU East Division, starting with forward Rohan Guevarra from the Selkirk Steelers. In three games he netted three goals and added four assists for seven points.

Next up is goaltender Ryan Velan from the Portage Terriers. He won both of his starts, posting a 0.49 GAA, a .987 save percentage and one shutout.

It's been a near perfect start to the season for veteran goaltender Ryan Velan, who stopped 62 of 63 shots in a pair of wins which included his impressive 38-save shutout against the Pistons. Velan currently leads the MJHL in all major goaltending categories and has the Terriers battling near the top of a tight MGEU

East Division.

The final winner is forward Eloi Robert from the Winnipeg Blues. In a pair of games Robert scored twice and added four assists for six points.

The trades are slowing down, but there are still many moves being made, though a lot of these moves are more about teams shedding their bets in this new and wild world of junior hockey.

The Northern Manitoba Blizzard shipped their top goaltender from last season, Taye Timmerman, to Warman from the SJHL for a player development fee (PDF). After winning a Game 7 overtime thriller last year with the Blizzard to win the league title, Timmerman found his way to the WHL's Saskatoon Blades for the coming year. Warman is literally 10 minutes away from Saskatoon, so if he ever had to be sent down he would be extremely close to his new home.

The Blizzard also sent forward Chantyn Michelle-Thompson (a local from Opaskwayak to the Swan Valley Stampeders for a PDF. Michelle-Thompson scored in his first game with his new team.

Additionally, the Blizzard sent forward Stefan Couloures to Kam River of the SIJHL for a PDF.

The Portage Terriers acquired St. Albert, Alta., defenseman Dylan Karran from Lloydminster for a PDF.

The Winnipeg Monarchs traded for forward Swift Current product Kade Stringer from Estevan of the SJHL for a PDF.

The Steinbach Pistons shipped goaltender Dylan McFadyen to the Northern Manitoba Blizzard for a PDF, and then brought in goaltender Xander Miceli from Cornwall of the CCHL. McFadyen was reassigned to the Interlake Lightning but could be a potential call up later this year. Miceli is currently playing with the Corpus Christi IceRays in the NAHL.

The Pistons also acquired defenseman Roarke Gilmour from Cornwall for a PDF. Gilmour, who has three assists in his first three games, has already committed to the University of Maine for next season.

Wayway captain Aidan Herring was assessed a one-game suspension for checking from behind on Sept. 26, making him the third such player on the team to earn a suspension this year (though the first two were from the preseason).

Miniota News

Submitted
By LINDA CLARK

The Miniota Golf Course and Clubhouse is officially closed for the winter, following another successful season.

Sympathy is extended to the McKean family on the death of their Aunt Vi McKean of Red Deer, wife of the late Jack McKean.

Jeannine Cymbalisty is the new resource co-ordinator for Miniota Municipal Services to Seniors. Welcome Jeannine. We wish Adrienne Bryant well in her new endeavours and are grateful for the time she spent in this position.

Wishing all our readers near and far a very Happy Thanksgiving! And as we give thanks for our many blessings in this part of the country, this thought: "Let us replace our grumbles with gratitude, our complaints with compliments, and our discontentment with delight." -1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Holistic Power of Self Confidence

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

MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

If self confidence could be bottled, it would probably outsell coffee. Imagine a world where every morning, instead of reaching for that caffeine boost, you could sip on a cup of "I have got this!" Now that would be a wellness revolution. But the truth is, confidence does not come from a jar, a fancy workshop, or someone else's approval. It grows quietly from within, like a seed you water with patience, compassion, and a sprinkle of humour.

Self confidence is not about walking into a room and thinking you are better than everyone else. It is walking in and feeling completely comfortable being you. It is trusting your voice, your choices, and your worth, even when things do not go perfectly. In holistic wellness, confidence is not just a mindset; it is an energy that flows through your body, influencing everything from your posture to your digestion (yes, really, your stomach

is your second brain).

When you believe in yourself, your nervous system relaxes, your heart rate steadies, and your body releases "feelgood" chemicals that promote balance. That is why people who radiate confidence often seem healthier; they are not just faking it; they are vibrating at a calmer frequency.

The journey toward genuine self confidence usually starts with awareness. Pay attention to how you speak to yourself. If your inner voice sounds like a cranky critic rather than a kind coach, it is time for a rewrite. Try this: next time you catch yourself thinking, "I cannot do that," add one simple word, "yet." Suddenly, the sentence becomes an open door instead of a dead end.

Another holistic trick is to bring your body into the conversation. Confidence does not only live in the mind; it is rooted in your body language. Stand tall, breathe deeply, and let your

shoulders drop. Roll them back like you are about to take on the world (or at least your to do list). Our bodies send messages to our brains, and the more we act confident, the more we feel it.

Then there is the heart of the matter, self love. You cannot build lasting confidence if you secretly dislike yourself. Treat yourself like you would a dear friend who is learning something new. Celebrate small wins, forgive slip ups, and remember that even the most poised people have days when they feel like a human pancake.

To boost confidence holistically, try grounding practices like meditation, journaling, or even a quick walk outside. Nature has a way of reminding us that everything grows at its own pace, and that includes you. If you prefer something more hands on, acupressure points like CV17 (right at the centre of your chest) can help open the heart and release self doubt.

Confidence does not mean having all the answers. It is trusting that you will find them, one step at a time. So, the next time your inner critic pipes up, smile and say, "Thanks, but I have got this." Because you do.

Exciting upgrades rolling ahead for Oak Lake Bike Playground

By Ev Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

If you have driven past the old Oak Lake Bike Park lately, you have likely noticed some exciting changes taking shape. The once rugged track is getting a fresh start and a new name as it transforms into the Oak Lake Bike Playground, complete with smoother paths, new ramps, and plenty of fun for riders of all ages.

Before the upgrades began, the space had be-

come a little weather-worn, but thanks to the hard work and generosity of local supporters, it is now coming back to life. Branum Construction donated their time and equipment to level and spread the gravel, which was kindly donated by Cochrane Stock Farms. The improvements are already making a big difference in the layout and safety of the course, giving riders a smoother and more enjoyable experience.

Funding from several community-minded

groups has made the project possible. Two years ago, the playground received a \$10,000 Fusion Credit Union Full Circle Grant, and last fall, the Oak Lake Regional Community Development Board (OLRC-DB) contributed another \$10,000, raised during their Night with Elvis fundraiser. The Virden RCMP Gala added \$500 to the cause, and the Oak Lake Beach Farmer's Market also contributed, ensuring this ambitious upgrade could move forward.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RACHELLE STANNAGE

Oak Lake Bike Playground is getting an upgrade.

Rachelle Stannage, who has been closely involved with the project, says the goal extends far beyond just a bike path. "The Bike Playground is just the beginning. We want this park to keep growing with the community," she shared.

New wooden ramps, zig-zag poles, and playful obstacles are on their way, giving young riders more ways to explore and challenge themselves. The excitement is building as the final touches come together. Shipping and weather will determine when the last elements arrive, but Stannage remains optimistic. "This project has been over two years in the making, focused on revamping the playground

area for the children of Oak Lake. It will be so exciting to see it completed, hopefully this fall before the snow arrives."

The upgraded Bike Playground is part of a much bigger vision for the area. "The Bike Playground area is where the Oak Lake Regional Community Development Board has chosen to develop a new town park," Stannage explained. "We've already added features like a gazebo, slide, and swing set, and we hope to continue growing this space into a place our whole community can enjoy year-round."

The project has also sparked a wave of enthusiasm from local families who can already imagine how

much fun this revitalized space will bring. Parents are thrilled to have a safe, interactive place for their children to develop their biking skills, while older riders are eager to test out the new features once they are ready.

A grand opening celebration is planned once everything is in place. It will be a day that promises laughter, biking, and plenty of community pride. Oak Lake residents can look forward to a vibrant new recreation space built by local hands and generous hearts. A space that celebrates both the spirit of play and the strength of community, ready to welcome riders and families for years to come.



Purple Thursday x7 2025

Schedule of Events

Mon Oct 13—Media Kick Off Events

Tues Oct 14—Local Purple Thursday Events

Wed Oct 15—12 PM EST National IPV-BI Education Zoom

Thurs Oct 16—Purple Thursday

Delivery of thousands of Purple Care Bags

Fri Oct 17—1:00 PM EST Shelter IPV—Education Sharing

Sat Oct 18—Local IPV-BI Events

Sun Oct 19—National High Tea Events





**16TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

**SAVE THE
DATE**

NOV 7TH & 8TH



DOOR PRIZES
SNACKS
SALES
& MORE

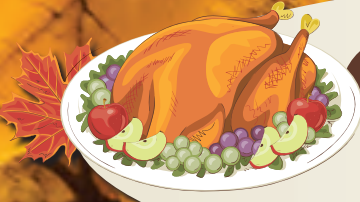


Click Before You Dig



www.clickbeforeyoudig.com
Manitoba: 1-800-940-3447
Saskatchewan: 1-866-828-4888

EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERY DAY.



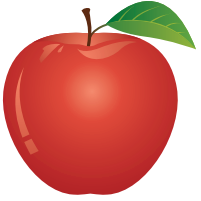
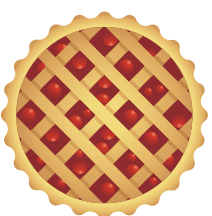
Happy THANKSGIVING

From All of Us!



START

FINISH

 L _ _ _	 B _ _ _
 R _ _ _	 A _ _ _
 C _ _ _	 P _ _

Answers: Leaf, Boot, Rake, Apple, Coat, Pie

Happy Thanksgiving

from our family to yours

Calico vegetables

- 2 cans peas and carrots, drain and reserve juice
- 1 pkg stove top stuffing, use reserved veg juice and make as directed
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 1/4-1/2 cup margarine, melted

Mix together peas and carrots, celery, onion, mayo, melted margarine and then add stuffing and half the cheese. Pour into greased casserole. Top with remaining cheese. Cook 350 for 45 minutes.

This is a family favourite that I make every holiday.



Flower Attic & Gifts

www.floweratticandgifts.ca
(204) 748-1869
Est 2009

261 7th Ave S, Virden ~ 204-748-1869

Onion Dip

Serve with crackers or bread sticks.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter, or as needed
- 1 1/4 cups chopped sweet onion (such as Vidalia®)
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir sweet onion in hot butter until browned, 5 to 7 minutes; transfer to a bowl. Add mayonnaise to the onion and stir; pour into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle Swiss cheese over the mixture.
3. Bake in preheated oven until the top is bubbling and lightly golden, about 35 minutes.



WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Winter season is around the corner
Stop in for a quote on new winter tires!



Integra Tire
Auto Centre

204-748-2894
337 King Street East, Virden, MB
100% locally owned

NG

Spelling Scramble

Unscramble these Thanksgiving mystery words!

MGILIRP _____

KYERUT _____

YGRVA _____

FFUSNITG _____

ERNVMEOB _____

Answers: Pilgrim, Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, November



Turkey Talk

Funnies for the whole family!

Why was the turkey in trouble?
He was suspected of fowl play.

Why were there no cookies on the Thanksgiving table?
Nobody wanted the “crumby” job of baking them.

Why did the turkey put down his fork?
He was stuffed!

Why did the turkey get kicked out of his rock band?
He lost his drumsticks.



Fall & Winter clothing in stock now.
Your One stop shop for all your clothing and sporting goods needs

BOURBON PECAN PIE

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons bourbon
- 2 cups pecan halves
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked deep-dish pie crust



Directions

1. Gather all your ingredients and preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Mix white sugar, brown sugar, and butter together in a bowl.
3. Stir in corn syrup, eggs, and bourbon, then fold in pecans.
4. Pour mixture into the pie crust.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) and continue to bake until the pie is set, 25 to 30 minutes more.
6. Remove from the oven and place on a wire rack. Allow to cool completely before serving.



2 Great Reasons to shop Downtown Virden.

480-7th Ave, Virden ~ 204-748-2143



LEFTOVER THANKSGIVING SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 cup shredded cooked turkey
- 1/2 cup cubed cooked ham
- 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries, chopped
- 1 hard-cooked egg, diced
- 2 tbsps chopped fresh basil leaves
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- salt and ground black pepper to taste



Directions

1. Combine the turkey, ham, cranberries, egg, and basil in a mixing bowl. Stir in the mayonnaise. Season to taste with salt and pepper.



Winter Boots in stock for the whole family including:
Baffin, Sorel, Columbia, North Face, Manitobah Mukluk, Emu, Kamik.
2 Great Reasons to shop Downtown Virden.

480-7th Ave, Virden ~ 204-748-2143

Teamwork and grants bring new playground to Kenton



Young enthusiasts help to distribute the gravel into the play structure base.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The thriving village of Kenton has more services and businesses than you'd expect to see within such a small centre, but one thing Kenton lacked was a playground with good equipment. Now, Kenton Community Playground has become a reality since a team of volunteers recently installed new equipment. Excitement ran high as, along with the adults, a crew of youngsters helped shovel the pea gravel around the play structure base.

Kenton Community Park is on the grounds of the Royal Canadian Legion #118. Here, on the colourful bandstand stage created seven years ago, a number of performers take the stage during the summer months. Adults and kids fill the park to enjoy the entertainment. The large park was the logical location for a kids' play structure.

The Legion has been on-board from the start. "Blair Fordyce at the Legion has been

the go-to guy," says Kenton resident Nicole Wilson, adding "The legion plays a big part in [helping] the small organizations of our community."

The playground creation was a big undertaking with a cost of more than \$90,000 but Kenton Community Enterprise (KCE) stepped up to start the process. They applied for grants and promoted the project, securing the financing needed to create this space that's a magnet for children.

Wilson is a member of KCE and says, "Kenton Community Enterprise is the organization in this town that keeps everything running."

The group secured a Co-op Community Spaces grant and with contributions from the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, as well as many community members, the Woodworth Legion Branch #118 has been able to create a space for all to enjoy.

Most of the playground equipment is paid for. "We have a bit more to go for signage," says Wilson. Recently, Valleyview Co-op's Fuel Good

day added more to the playground fund.

Like some other villages in Westman, Kenton has enjoyed a renaissance of sorts. New homes have been built among other well-kept properties. The village is a business hub where Valleyview Co-op grocery, farm supply & fuel, Fusion Credit Union, Redfern Farm Services, Farmers Edge, Guild Insurance, Whyte's Lumber, Woodworth Dodge and Brierwood Creek Café & Grill all provide service and employment opportunities.

Seniors Services and a library service share space in the municipal LUD office, attached to the Fire Hall.

Surrounded by agriculture, Kenton's advantageous location at the crossroads of Hwy 21 and PR 259, is central with Virden, Rivers and Hamiota around 20 minutes distant and Brandon just a 50-minute drive.

Families wanting small community living have made this idyllic town on Brierwood Creek their home. While Kenton no longer boasts a school, there's a Villages United Early Learning Centre with 16 child-care spots. For school-aged kids the municipality of Wallace-Woodworth constructed a bus stop shelter in the middle of town where K-Gr.12 students are picked up for school at Hamiota.

Royal Canadian Legion #118 clubroom and Kenton Memorial Hall are located within one building. To improve service to the community, KCE recently finalized funding and plans to upgrade the hall's kitchen. Work is expected to begin this winter.

Within the adjacent park, a special space for kids is up and running thanks to the vision of community members and businesses, the Legion and the efforts of KCE.



Volunteers installed Kenton Playground: (L-R) Lawrence Daniel, Blair Fordyce, Ron Corney, Vaughn Wilson, Ken Daniel, and Don Carter. Others (not pictured) who helped include Phil Corney, Danny and Craig Whyte, Brett Hemrica, Kent Coulter, Adam Fordyce, Patrick Routledge, and Frances Wilson.

FREEZER SEASON

Specials

60 FREEZERS IN STOCK!

3.5 cu.ft. CHEST FREEZER \$249	7.0 cu.ft. CHEST FREEZER \$299
10 cu.ft. CHEST FREEZER \$399	15 cu.ft. CHEST FREEZER \$849
25 cu.ft. CHEST FREEZER \$1149	10 cu.ft. UPRIGHT FREEZER \$699
13 cu.ft. UPRIGHT FREEZER \$799	16 cu.ft. UPRIGHT FREEZER \$899

**FINANCING
AVAILABLE**

Applying is
quick, easy, secure.

With the **BRANDSOURCE** credit card

To apply:
VISIT web.fairstone.ca/kullbergs
TEXT kullbergs to 75837 from your smartphone

BRANDSOURCE
Kullberg's
HOME FURNISHINGS

**LAYAWAY
OPTIONS**
ASK YOUR SALES ASSOCIATE

Fairstone
**FREE
DELIVERY**

within 200km
from Brandon, MB
(Manitoba only).

Ask our Sales
Associates about
Delivery Options!

FINANCING AVAILABLE BY TEXTING
KULLBERGS TO 75837
FROM YOUR SMART PHONE

346 King Street Virden, MB 204-748-3331
www.kullbergs.ca Find us on Facebook!

OTHER SPORTS EXPERIENCE HELPS SIEMENS CONTRIBUTE ON THE ICE



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps #16 Brooks Siemens.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Aversatile athlete, Brooks Siemens has developed into a valued contributor for the Virden Oil Capitals.

The 19-year-old forward from Bottineau, N.D. scored a goal and recorded an assist in the Oil Capitals' first game of this Manitoba Junior Hockey League season. As of Oct. 6, in his second season with the team, Siemens had two goals and three points through five games.

"Brooks is a very smart player who can make plays in small spaces," Virden head

coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He does a lot of little things right and, for not a huge guy, he really protects the puck well. He has fit in up the middle for us, and we are looking forward to watching him develop his confidence at this level."

Last season, the 6-foot-1, 163-pound Siemens recorded three goals and nine points in 32 games. Seven of his points came after Jan. 1, 2025. He shared the Oil Capitals' Most Improved Player Award with Marshall Light of Moosomin.

"I think the speed of his game has gotten a lot better and is still something he is working at," Ramsey

said. "Also, he has become a stronger player physically, and he has the ability to put up some offence for us."

A dual citizen of Canada and the U.S., Siemens spent the 2020-2022 seasons at Winnipeg's RINK Hockey Academy. He returned to Bottineau to play hockey and othersports. Siemens competed with his high school team at the state golf tournament. Bottineau-Rugby hockey head coach Jesse Nostdahl got to watch Siemens play baseball from Babe Ruth through high school and American Legion. He said the athlete is "about as reliable of a pitcher as they come" and "was a key player, leading his team to state his senior year."

After a few years away from the gridiron, Siemens competed in football in Grade 12. Nostdahl said, "It was cool seeing him develop as the year went on. I remember watching him catch two (touchdown) passes in his final football game." Siemens had been in track and field when he was younger.

"The other sports helped me a lot by staying in shape throughout the whole school year and into the summer-time," Siemens said. "It also is very good to always be interacting with your buddies while playing a sport together

and not getting wore out on just hockey."

Siemens starred on the ice in the North Dakota high school ranks. In his last year, the B-R captain led the state in points and goals and was named All-State.

"My favorite thing about Brooks has always been his compete level and even-keeled attitude," Nostdahl

said. "He plays loose, but confident and (with) high-competence and makes things look easy. That carries over into his leadership. Nothing gets him rattled and he stays dialed in. He's just a good person and any team is lucky to have a guy like him."

Last summer, Siemens had hoped to play Legion baseball back home, but did not due to

a knee injury sustained at the end of the Oil Caps' season. Siemens did physical therapy for about two months, which he said really helped. Billeting with the Bryants, Siemens is pleased to be back on the ice with the Oil Caps.

"I am excited about the group of guys we have this year and the opportunity to make a push for the playoffs," he said.



2025/2026 SCHEDULE

Give us a try!

Curling starts Tuesday, October 28th

Monday 4:00 pm • Junior Curling League

Get them started at a fun, inexpensive sport. Grades 4-8 only please. Starts November 4th.
Call Chris Warkentin at 204-851-2246 \$80/individual

Tuesday Mornings • 10:00 am • Senior Men's Recreational League

Do you miss your morning golf match? Give our club a try!
Come have a cup of joe, curl a fun, 8-end game with some friends and enjoy a soup and sandwich special from our canteen afterwards. Enter as individuals. Join us for the whole season or just half.
Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136 \$230/individual

Tuesday Afternoons • 12:45 pm • Tuesday Afternoon Ladies' Recreational League

Enjoy an afternoon out with the girls, with coffee and exercise included. Enter as a team or individuals.
Call Jeanette Logan 204-838-2397 or text 204-748-7422 \$920/team

Tuesday Evenings • 6:00 & 8:00 pm • Ladies' Evening Fun League

Get out of the house and enjoy a night on the ice. Stay for a beverage and enjoy a chat with the gals.
A fun, social night for experienced or beginning curlers! Enter as teams.
Text Mandy Taylor at 204-764-0003 \$920/team

Wednesday Afternoons • 4:00 pm • High School Fun League

Get your team together and try something new.
Call Mark Robertson at 204-851-5851 \$120/individual

Men's League - Wednesdays & Thursdays • 7:00 pm

Enjoy a guys night out on the ice for all skill levels. The lounge is open for a welcoming post game atmosphere * May require occasional 9 pm draws * Final scheduling dependant on entries
Call Jay Kinnaird at 204-851-1267 \$920/team

Fridays • 10:00 am • Senior Mixed League

Enter as teams or individuals in this always entertaining league for everyone who enjoys a day at the rink. Sign up for the whole season or just half.
Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136 \$230/individual

Friday Afternoon • Mixed Stick Curling

Come out and take part in this fun Curling League in its sixth season!
Enter as a 2 person team or as an individual. Throwing sticks are available for use on each sheet. No sweeping between the hog lines. Games take about 1 hour to play. Instruction provided for new and novice stick users. Draws start on Fridays at 1:00. Number of draws depends on number of teams. Sign-up for whole season or until Xmas. Drop in fees are available.
Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136 \$110 Full Season • \$55 ½ Season

CURLING FEES

First League	\$230
Second League	\$115
Third League	\$55
Junior in Regular Curling	\$80
Student Fee	\$80

Entry deadline is Monday, October 20th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 7:00 PM @ THE VCC LOUNGE
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Lions Club Donations - Part 9



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Paul Pennycook presenting a donation to Virden Club/Scouts, accepted by Harry Coleman 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.

DRAPER SUCCEEDS ON DIAMOND, IN CLASSROOM FOR JIMMIES

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Oak Lake Beach’s Natalie Draper appreciates the ups and downs of being a student-athlete.

The daughter of Erin and David Draper is now in her third year of playing softball and studying at Jamestown (N.D.) University. Last season, she helped the Jimmies make it to the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round. The biology major was named a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

“Being a student-athlete has been the most challenging but rewarding experience of my life,” Draper said. “We’ve got a great group of girls here, and I know a lot of my teammates will become lifelong friends. Being able to play with girls who are all dedicated to the game and are putting in the same work you are is an amazing experience as an athlete and a teammate. It’s not always easy, but I couldn’t imagine my life any other way.”

Throughout her softball journey, Draper has been backed by her family.

“My family has been my greatest support, and without them I wouldn’t be able to do it,” Draper said. “My mom was a college athlete before me, and learning from her and her experiences has been so helpful. I know that they’re always watching my games, whether it’s in person or through the livestream.”

Erin Draper was inducted into the Valley City State University Vikings Hall of Fame for her exploits in softball and volleyball. VCSU and Jamestown University have historically been rivals.

In fact, last spring Jamestown University captured its first postseason conference championship since 2017 by shutting out VCSU, 7-0, in the North Star Athletic Association championship game. The Jimmies, who also won the conference regular season title, compiled a 1-2 record in the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round.

“My second season was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Natalie Draper said. “We ended up winning our conference and going to Klamath Falls, Oregon, for the opening round of the national tournament. It was a year of change for me, as I changed

positions, but I felt I really came into my own and found a place for myself on the team. It was an awesome group of girls who worked really well together on and off the field, and it was truly special to be a part of.”

In her first year, Draper saw reps at shortstop. Last season, she was used at third base. Jimmies head softball coach Kevin Gall explained:

“She spent time at shortstop refining her defensive skills for an eventual move to second base or third base. She ended up at third, where the skills transferred. She has shown the ability to be very consistent in that role defensively.”

Draper grasped the opportunity to take on a bigger role in her second university season. She saw action in 35 games, batted .303, and drove in 17 runs.

“Offensively, she has shown commitment to changing her approach to be more consistent with her ‘ball in play’ percentage,” Gall said. “She is a very smart hitter and is dependable at putting good swings on pitches at key points in ballgames.”

In addition to offensive improvement and defensive play, Draper also had an impact on the team with her personality. Gall said, “Her biggest attribute is the effect that she has on her teammates. She is a very positive person, and you know what you are going to get every step of the way.”

The coach praised Draper for being smart on the field. She has also shown her intelligence in the classroom. In addition to being a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete, the biology major was a NSAA Scholar-Athlete and has been a fixture on her school’s Dean’s List. Gall said, “She has an incredible ability to remember things. She’s amazing. Whatever she does in life, she’s going to

do a good job. There is no question about that.” How has Draper balanced academics and athletics?

“It’s definitely been tough and learning time management skills is crucial,” she said. “Some days I have eight hours of class, then have to rush out of lab at the end of my day and head to practice. It’s important to use my time well in order to make sure everything gets in on time and studying happens early. That way, I can be present during practice and games, not being worried about late assignments or being unprepared for exams. As Coach Gall always says, it’s all about mindset. I’m so grateful that I get to play the sport I love at a high level and challenge myself in the classroom. Although it’s difficult at times, I know I will come out of it a better and stronger person.”



Natalie Draper of Oak Lake Beach.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1 204-748-6823

190 Nelson St. W., Virden, MB R0M 2C0 Box 975

Mutual funds and other securities are offered through Aviso Wealth, a division of Aviso Financial Inc.

PATERSONS

Barristers • Solicitors • Notaries

DANE C. KINGDON, B.A., J.D.

DKingdon@patersons.ca

463 Seventh Avenue S., Virden

P: 204-727-0685

F: 204-728-4670 / 204-727-6668

E: info@patersons.ca

www.patersons.ca

Assiniboine

WINDOW & DOOR

Supply & Install Residential Windows & Doors

- FREE ESTIMATES -

Call Brad Cole today! 204.512.3777

NEW OWNERSHIP, SAME QUALITY

McNEILL HARASYMCHUK

McCONNELL

Attorneys at Law

Glen Harasymchuk, B. Sc., LL. B. • Anique Timmerman, JD

• Jessica Humphries, JD

Buckingham Building, 243 Raglan Street West

P.O. Box 520, Virden, MB R0M 2C0

Phone: 204-748-1220 • Fax: 204-748-3007

Physiofirst

462 7th Ave South
Virden, MB
Phone: 204-748-3608
Fax: 204-748-3643
Email: phys1st@mymts.net

1129 19th Street
Brandon, MB
Phone: 204-727-6806
Fax: 204-728-3489
Email: phys1st@mymts.net

www.physiofirstclinic.ca

CANADA LLP

www.bdo.ca

Chartered Professional Accountants

Accounting and Auditing • Ag Advisory and Farm Programs

Bankruptcy and Insolvency • Business Advisory

Business Valuations • Estate and Succession Planning

Information Technology Solutions • Taxation Services

255 Wellington St W, Virden | 204-748-1200 | 1-866-236-7656

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

306.452.6016

www.mhlaw.ca @mhlaw.ca @MHLaw.ca

THE BLANCHARD

HOTEL, LOUNGE, AND RESTAURANT

Fraenkische Stuben

German - Bavarian Cuisine

Ph. 204.566.2131

Mon. – Tues. CLOSED ~ VENDOR OPEN DURING BUSINESS HOURS

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY OPEN FROM 10am – 10pm, SUNDAY 2pm – 9pm

BREAKFAST WED. – SAT. FROM 10am – 2pm

OAK RIVER, MB

Reston/Melita Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Shannon Gervin, D.C.

Box 456 Melita, MB R0M 1L0

Reston- 204-877-3104

223-4th St, Reston

Mon and Fri 8:30a - 4:30p

Melita- 204-522-3543

155 Summit St, Melita

Tues and Thurs 8:30a - 4:30p

National in scope, local in focus

Proudly providing Accounting, Consulting, Tax & Digital Services

Virden Office | 204.748.1340

Wherever business takes you MNP.ca

E F P T O Z

Virden Eyecare Centre

Dr. David Cochrane | Dr. Julie Paradine

170 NELSON STREET WEST VIRDEN, MB

204.748.1094

SPORTS

OIL CAPS SWEEP STAMPS IN WEEKEND SERIES

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals displayed both stingy defence and a productive offence as they swept the Swan Valley Stampers in a home-and-home series last weekend.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League team beat the host Stampers, 3-0, with netminder Braxton Burdeny earning his first MJHL shutout on Oct. 3. The next night, at home, the Oil Caps romped past the Swan Valley, 7-1. As of Oct. 4, the Virden team led the MJHL MGEU West Division with a 4-2-0-0 record.

"I think it just helps build our confidence," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said of the weekend series sweep. "To see us making improvements each time out is encouraging and helps guys settle in a little bit and understand how we need to play to win games."

The Oil Capitals were to play the Waywayseecappo Wolverines on the road on Oct. 8 after the Empire-Advance deadline. The two teams meet on Oct. 10 in Virden. That starts a three-game homestand for the Oil Capitals, which includes an Oct. 11 contest versus the Neepawa Titans.

Oil Caps 7, Stampers 1

After leading 1-0 following the first frame thanks to Bryan Laing's first MJHL goal, the Oil Capitals exploded for four second-period goals in front of 728 fans at the Tundra Oil & Gas Place on Oct. 4. Rhylan Baxter and Noel Englot each lit the lamp with the man advantage. Then Cohen Lewko and Brooks Siemens scored at even strength to make the score 5-0 for the hosts.

In the third period, the Oil Caps' Liam Goertzen scored his first of the season. Hometown product Bryce Bryant found the back of the net to make it 7-0 with just over six minutes gone by in the final period. Less than 20 seconds later, Finlay Johnston scored the Stampers' lone goal.

"I think we stuck to our game plan of what we wanted to accomplish offensively, and we kept putting pucks to the net and getting traffic, and eventually when you do that enough

you can find success," Ramsey said. "Their goaltender played extremely well."

Oil Capitals' rookie goalie Micky Gros earned his second win of the year, stopping 21 shots. The Virden crew sent 41 shots at Swan Valley's Easton Falls, who made 34 saves.

With a goal and two assists, Lewko earned the Co-op first star. He and the Stampers' Jaxon Haley received fighting majors in the third period. Rookie Dysen Drawk had an assist and got the second star. Laing, the game's third star, had two points. Baxter was tabbed as the Gardewine Hardest Working Player.

Oil Caps 3, Stampers 0

On the road in Swan River, Burdeny turned away all 26 shots he faced. The 20-year-old from Winnipeg is in his first Oil Caps season after spending the past two seasons with the former Winnipeg Freeze - now called the Monarchs.

"Braxton was very good again," Ramsey said. "Even though we didn't give up much, the chances we did give up were fairly good ones and he was there to settle things down. He has been great."

The Oil Capitals had 41 shots on goal. Falls had 37 stops. Bryant scored in the first period on a power play. Carson Wright had a second period goal, and Englot capped the scoring with an empty-net marker in the third. Bryant, who had two points, was the first star. Burdeny was the second. Rookie Colten Worthington recorded two assists and was the third star.

Pump Up Jams

In a video created by Cooper Charles, who heads the team's media relations and game day operations, and posted on social



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps get ready for their Saturday game against Swan Valley.

media last week, Oil Capitals players were asked what their go-to pump up song is. The athletes' musical tastes ran the gamut from rock to rap to R&B to electronic to EDM. Just a few of the artists mentioned were AC/DC, Nickelback, Guns N' Roses, Meek Mill, Drake, Leon Thomas, Martin Garrix, Shania Twain and Megan Moroney.

However, the most mentioned artist was Ty Kiddo. That is the stage name of Oil Caps forward London Hoilett. His song "Vibe 2 Night" was mentioned by a number of teammates. It was released in 2023.

Signings

The Oil Capitals are already building for next season. Last week the team announced the signing of four players for the 2026-2027 campaign. Hometown defenceman Christian Pitz, currently playing with Winnipeg's RINK Hockey Academy, was among the signings. The others included forward Shane Elder. Wawanesa (U18 AAA Southwest Cougars); defenceman Luka Fay, Winnipeg (U18 AAA Winnipeg Bruins); and forward Jack Ross (U18 AAA Winnipeg Wild).

Harvesting the old way!



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

The old-time harvest crew: Allan Brown of Virden is driving the tractor with Sid Warkentin (originally from McAuley, now from Virden) on the binder, Lynn Tutthill coming along behind the binder.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

While many farmers across Canada are taking off their crops with modern large combines this was not the case in a farm field west of Elkhorn, belonging to Ed and Pattie Paull. Instead, it was an antique binder from the Manitoba Antique Automobile Museum and a vintage tractor belonging to Lynn Tutthill.

The event held on Sept. 28, was the old-time field harvest held by the museum's Restoration Club members, who harvest a small donated field crop each fall for use in the antique threshing demonstration to be held the next summer at the Automobile Museum during its Canada Day Celebrations.

This July 1st event draws a big crowd of

both young and old, with lots of volunteers wanting to experience throwing the wheat sheaves into the rattling antique threshing machine.

This fall, a large turn out of volunteers came to help, and to watch as the antique binder moved up and down the rows of crop. A special visitor for the event was Allen Greig, former long-time and active head of the Restoration Club.

However, due to the condition of the crop from recent weather conditions and the winds, the crop had shorter heads and a definite bend in one direction. This required the binder to take the crop off in the same direction, with each pass.

Also, because of the bend in the stocks,

the sheaves were not tied in bundles. This situation left a lot of loose grain on the field which a modern combine will come in and clear up, so there is no waste.

After a few hours of work and a few plug-ups and the field event was over.

A surprise field lunch, provided by Wayne Volk's Truck Box Lunch Service, with liquid refreshments enjoyed by all!

Lynn Tutthill, head of the Restoration Club said, "I'm very happy with the turn out today that included a number of young people. On Canada Day next year at the Elkhorn Auto Museum, the three racks of wheat we collected today will be popular in our antique threshing display with people learning how it was done in the old days."

WE DISCUSS MONEY MATTERS BECAUSE MONEY...MATTERS!

GIC Rates

3.45%

1 YEAR
annual interest rate as of Oct 7, 2025
(source: Aviso Wealth)

CALL NOW

keystonewealth.ca

204-748-6823

190 Nelson St W. Virden, Mb

KEYSTONE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

aviso
wealth

Mutual funds and other securities are offered through
Aviso Wealth, a division of Aviso Financial Inc.

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise stated, mutual funds, other securities and cash balances are not covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any other government deposit insurer that insures deposits in credit unions.

PC Leader shuffles critic duties ahead of fall sitting

By Obby Khan
PC LEADER OF MANITOBA

Official
Opposition
Leader

Obby Khan announced a shuffle of responsibilities in his Shadow Cabinet today ahead of the fall sitting of the Manitoba Legislature. “The changes I’ve made to the Critics’ duties will continue to hold Wab Kinew and the NDP accountable for the broken promises and failures they’ve made over the first half of their mandate,” said Khan. “The changes build on the strengths of each PC MLA and provide them with a broader depth of knowledge in their new portfolios.”

The following Critic and Caucus duties take effect immediately.

- Caucus Officers:**
- Obby Khan (MLA for Fort Whyte) — Leader of the Official Opposition;
 - Jeff Bereza (MLA for Portage la Prairie) — Deputy Leader;
 - Kelvin Goertzen (MLA for Steinbach) — PC Caucus Chair;
 - Derek Johnson (MLA for Interlake-Gimli) — Opposition House Leader;
 - Kathleen Cook (MLA for Roblin) — Opposition Whip;
 - Josh Guenter (MLA for Borderland) — Deputy Caucus Chair;
 - Konrad Narth (MLA for La Vérendrye) — Deputy House Leader; and
 - Wayne Balcaen (MLA for Brandon West) — Deputy Whip.

- Shadow Cabinet:**
- Obby Khan — Critic for Intergovernmental Affairs and Critic for Indigenous Relations;
 - Jeff Bereza — Critic for Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, and Critic for Mental Health;
 - Ron Schuler (MLA for Springfield-Ritchot) — Critic for Manitoba Hydro;
 - Doyle Piwniuk (MLA for Turtle Mountain) — Critic for Transportation and Infrastructure;
 - Wayne Ewasko (MLA for Lac du Bonnet) — Critic for Education and Early Childhood Learning;
 - Bob Lagassé (MLA for Dawson Trail) — Critic for Sport and Critic for Francophone Affairs;
 - Greg Nesbitt (MLA for Riding Mountain) — Critic for Environment and Climate Change, and Critic for Efficiency Manitoba;
 - Rick Wowchuck (MLA for Swan River) — Critic for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures;
 - Josh Guenter — Critic for Innovation and New Technology, and Critic for Labour;
 - Wayne Balcaen — Critic for Justice and Public Safety, and Critic for Elections Manitoba;
 - Jodie Byram (MLA for Agassiz) — Critic for Families, Critic for Accessibility, Critic for Women and Gender Equity, and Critic for Culture, Heritage and Tourism;
 - Kathleen Cook — Critic for Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care;
 - Carrie Hiebert (MLA for Morden-Winkler) — Critic for Advanced Education and Training, and Critic for Immigration;
 - Trevor King (MLA for Lakeside) — Critic for Municipal and Northern Relations, and Critic for Manitoba Public Insurance;
 - Konrad Narth — Critic for Economic Development and Critic for Agriculture;
 - Richard Perchotte (MLA for Selkirk) — Critic for Public Service Delivery;
 - Lauren Stone (Midland) — Critic for Finance and Critic for the Public Utilities Board; and
 - Colleen Robbins (MLA for Spruce Woods) — Critic for Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, and Critic for Military Affairs.

CLASSIFIEDS

Tender

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has the following land for sale by tender:

RM of Two Borders SW 36-05-29 WPM 159.72 acres

There are approximately 84.70 acres in tame hay with another 50.22 acres of native/natural grass. The remaining 24.8 acres are comprised of small wetland basins, scattered throughout the property. Tame forage stand was sown/established in 2025. One existing dugout is present within native pasture area. Property being sold subject to the registration of a ‘No Break, No Drain’ Conservation Easement Agreement. Cultivation of tame forage will be permitted once every 10 years for rejuvenation purposes. No restrictions with respect to haying or grazing. One five-acre parcel will be excluded from the Conservation Agreement to allow for future building/yard site development.

Written sealed tenders are to be mailed or dropped off to the address below. Please indicate ‘**Land Tender – RM of Two Borders**’ on envelope. Bids may also be emailed to Ducks Unlimited at du_brandon@ducks.ca. Be sure to place “**Manitoba Land Tender Bid**” in the email’s subject line. Interested parties should rely on their own inspection of the property. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. **Property information packages, including a sample copy of the Conservation Agreement are available – call Scott Henowitch at 204-761-5106 to have one emailed or mailed.**

Tender Close on Monday October 27, 2025 at 4:00 PM.



Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Land Tender
2-545 Conservation Drive
Brandon, MB R7A 7L8

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has the following land for sale by tender:

Municipality of Brenda-Waskada NE 22-3-24 WPM, SW 27-3-24 WPM
& W ½ of SE 27-3-24 WPM
392 acres

Two and a half quarter-sections of land for sale. Property contains approximately 242 cultivated acres and 150 acres of low-lying marsh/wetland. Property being sold subject to the registration of a Conservation Easement Agreement. Bidders must choose one of two options:

1) Ducks Unlimited Canada places a Conservation Easement Agreement on the **WETLAND ACRES ONLY** (150 acres). Under this option, no restrictions will be placed on the cultivated cropland. Property can be used for annual grain production if desired. Cultivation into wetlands is also permitted but these ponds must not be drained or filled.

OR

2) Buyer agrees to seed the 242 cultivated acres to forage by spring of 2027 and have DUC place a Conservation Easement Agreement on the entire property. Under this option, the land may be used for haying and/or livestock grazing. DUC would allow cultivation of tame forage after 10 years, for stand rejuvenation purposes. Once broken, these acres must be seeded back to hay after 2 years of cropping. Forage acres would then remain intact for another 10-year term, before being eligible for rejuvenation once more. Five-acre parcels will be excluded from the Conservation Easement lands on each quarter section to allow for future yard site/building development. Buyer will be responsible for forage establishment and associated costs.

Bidders must clearly indicate which option they are selecting and base their offer accordingly. All bids will be considered by DUC, regardless of option chosen.

Written sealed tenders are to be mailed or dropped off to the address below. Please indicate ‘**Land Tender – Municipality of Brenda-Waskada**’ on envelope. Bids may also be emailed to Ducks Unlimited at du_brandon@ducks.ca. Be sure to place “**Manitoba Land Tender Bid**” in the email’s subject line. Interested parties should rely on their own inspection of the property. Bids on individual quarters will not be accepted. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. **Property information packages, including a sample copy of the Conservation Agreement are available – call Scott Henowitch at 204-761-5106 to have one emailed or mailed.**

Tender Closes on November 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM.



Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Land Tender
2-545 Conservation Drive
Brandon, MB R7A 7L8

Help Wanted

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BREAKFAST ROOM ATTENDANT

Comfort Inn and Suites, is now accepting applications for a Breakfast Room Attendant (Part Time, 6:00 a.m. until noon). We are seeking an outgoing individual looking for part time work approximately 3 shifts per week in our Breakfast Room. Restaurant experience is not necessary but applicants should be friendly, motivated and enjoy working with the public and meeting people from all over!

We offer the top industry wages, hands on training, flexible shifts, and a safe and fun work environment. We are seeking applicants who are friendly, work well as part of a team and are reliable above all else! If you think this is a fit for you we encourage you to send us a resume or stop in and check us out in person!

By Email: dylan.clarke@stayatchoice.com

Or Drop Off at

Comfort Inn and Suites
380 Frontage Rd West,
Box 1210
Virde, MB
R0M 2C0
204-707-6020



WOLVERINE SUPPLIES

Are you interested in working in the outdoor industry? Do you have experience and knowledge of hunting and shooting? If so, we may have a place for you! Wolverine Supplies is looking to fill full and part-time positions in sales. Must be computer literate, enjoy working with the public and hold a valid PAL or willing to obtain one. Wages based on experience. Please send resumes to genn@wolverinesupplies.com



1 River Valley Road, North
Virde, MB
wolverinesupplies.com
204-748-2454

Coming Events

Maryfield St. Andrew's United Church Fowl Supper

Sunday, October 26, 2025,
4:30-7:00pm SK time,
Maryfield Auditorium Lower
Hall, Maryfield SK

MINIOTA UCW FALL SUPPER

Sunday, October 26th
5:00 pm
at the Community Hall
Turkey and all the Trimmings
Everyone Welcome!

HEY! YOU!

**If you are reading
me, that means
others are too! Place
your Classified here!**

Wanted

**Private collector
looking to buy
firearms.**

Complete
collections,
ammunition,
estate assistance,
and hunting
related items.

Licensed and
insured.

Call or text
Rob at
204-297-9223

Service

FALL DUCT CLEANING!

Save big with our 3-in-1
Total Home Care Package.

- * Duct & Furnace
Cleaning
- * Dryer Vent Cleaning
- * Home Sanitization

Call for your free quote!

**Jet Stream
Duct Cleaning**

Ph: 204-290-7966

www.jetstreamductcleaning.com

Announcement



**Power Builder
Advertising
WORKS!**

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

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

www.mcna.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR VARIANCE

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

**Application for a Variance Order under Part 3 Table 3.6 of the
Prairie View Municipality Zoning By-Law #2018-15, as amended.**

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

DATE & TIME: October 14th, 2025, 9:25 am (0925h)

PROPOSAL: To allow for the location of a carport.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 408 Kent Street, Lots 14/19 Block 108 Plan M, Birtle, Prairie View Municipality

OWNER / APPLICANT: Karen Marshall

VARIANCE ORDER APPLICATION

ORDER NUMBER: 01-PV-25-VO

FROM: the minimum front setback of 25 feet

TO: 12 feet

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: locating a Single-Family Dwelling Use Accessory Building in the "RS" Zone.

AREA: In the northwest corner of the valley part of Birtle.

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



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

If you have any questions, please call at 1-888-919-1740 or email devofficer@midwestplanning.ca
Lisa Hamilton, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT

Notice

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR VARIANCE

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

**Application for a Variance Order under Part 3 Table 3.6 of the
Prairie View Municipality Zoning By-Law #2018-15, as amended.**

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

DATE & TIME: October 14th, 2025, 9:30 am (0930h)

PROPOSAL: To allow for the construction of addition to the existing single-family dwelling

PROPERTY LOCATION: 415 9th Street, Lots 21/21 Block 3 Plan 7490, Birtle, Prairie View Municipality

OWNER / APPLICANT: James Fulham

VARIANCE ORDER APPLICATION

ORDER NUMBER: 02-PV-25-VO

FROM: the minimum front setback of 25 feet

TO: 18 feet

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: locating a Single-Family Dwelling Use in the "RS" Zone.

AREA: In the northern part of Birtle, 0.50km north of the Birtle Hospital.



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

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

If you have any questions, please call at 1-888-919-1740 or email devofficer@midwestplanning.ca
Czarina Conde,
ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT

Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOYCE ANNE HEAMAN, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 19th day of November, 2025.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 7th day of October, 2025

GLEN HARASYMCHUK –
MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK
MCCONNELL SOLICITOR
FOR THE EXECUTORS

For Sale

MANITOBA'S LARGEST RECORD & MUSIC SALE SUN, OCT 19th 2025 10 AM – 4 PM

Over 90 tables of records, tapes, CDs, posters, books & memorabilia.

Admission \$5.00

12 and under FREE

**Caboto Centre
1055 Wilkes Ave.,
Winnipeg**

Early (8AM) admission \$30.00

**For info:
204-255-3463 or
431-374-6925**

CASH FOR COINS,
JEWELRY, GOLD,
SILVER &
PLATINUM!



**BUYING ALL
COIN COLLECTIONS
Big & Small.**

Also Numismatics,
Rare Coins, Sets,
Gold & Silver coins,
Nuggets, Sterling sets,
Old money, ROYAL
CANADIAN MINT,
FRANKLIN MINT, US
MINT, Silver Dollars,
World sets etc.

**CALL TODD NOW!
Ph: 204 - 904 - 9705
I COME TO YOU!**

Visit our website
www.empireadvance.ca

For Sale

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

*Auto *Farm *Truck
*Construction *ATV
*Motorcycle *Golf Carts
*Rechargeables *Tools
*Computers *Medical
*All phones *Chargers
*Marine *RV & more
Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN
1390 St. James St.
Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca

Auction

Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate & Moving
Oct. 15th & Oct 22nd
@ 7:00PM**

**Man Cave
Oct. 28th
@ 7:00PM**

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

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.mcna.com.
URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.
NEED SOMETHING SOLD? Online ads not getting the

results that you wanted? Let us help you book a blank **classified ad!** **SELLING SEEDS OR LAND? HAVING AN EVENT? Advertise!** You will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please Call **THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. (403) 543-0927 www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca
WANTED
WANTED: Looking for 1970-1971 Barracudas and 1969-1970 Charger's in any condition. Running or not. TOP PRICE PAID for 6 pack or Hemi car. Call 306-221-5908

HAVE NEWS?

EXTRA!

PHONE OR EMAIL US YOUR NEWS TIPS

Empire-Advance

305 Nelson St W, Virden 748-3931
sales@empireadvance.ca

Roping in CO2 is a challenge

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

When representatives for the carbon capture business, Deep Sky, spoke in Pipestone community hall in early September, the projected investment into the local economy was ... dazzling, actually. A potential 700 jobs during the installation and then 50 to 100 jobs for the next couple of decades would be a significant boost to southwestern Manitoba. Now, decision-makers including community people, have an opportunity to take a measured approach and learn about the costs, potential risks, the benefits and the ongoing sustainability of the project.

A thorough examination of carbon sequestration demands a scientific background and that's not what we will attempt to do. However, actual scientists have provided information to consider and just like purchasing a wheel loader, combine or family vehicle, you don't just take one salesperson's word.

Considerations

In the immediate term the municipalities look for boosts to population and the local economy, but Westman is not in a desperate position.

Paramount is maintaining immediate environmental (water and air) safety for residents in the near and long-term.

And how efficient is the process that's being proposed for this industry installation within the RM of Pipestone or the RM of Two Borders?

The Deep Sky carbon dioxide sequestration project is a direct air capture (DAC) process. Much of what's available on the Internet suggests that in projects around the world, the conversion rate of CO2 capture

to the energy input is not great.

AscientistwithAxleEnergy, (a UKcompanyworking to de-carbonize the electrical grid) Ben James summarized the situation saying that to capture one year of carbon production would require approximately the same amount of energy as is produced in one year throughout the world.

However, that is a generalization and at their Innisfail installation Deep Sky has been experimenting with efficiencies. The project there is now operational, CEO of Deep Sky Alex Petre recently announced.

At the September meeting in Pipestone, she explained the importance of carbon capture. "The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere is very high compared to what normal levels would look like. And so what that means is that we should remove billions of tons of CO2 from the atmosphere to go back to the previous level."

She also acknowledged that Deep Sky in Manitoba would barely make a dent in the world-wide problem.

This DAC process draws huge quantities of air into the plant, extracts CO2 from ambient air and liquifies it. Captured CO2 would be compressed and permanently stored underground in sponge-like sandstone geological formations.

The catch is that it requires energy input to capture CO2. A lot of energy. No point in using CO2 emitting energy to do that. So, hydro-electricity is the go-to. There's a huge hydro-electricity line parallel to Hwy 83 in the proposed area of southwest Manitoba. That's one reason Deep Sky is interested in building their plant in this area.

For the Deep Sky project near Pipestone, she says, "First is there is great geology here to be able to store

the CO2 that we capture. You have to have specific geology to be able to inject it underground for storage. And number two is access to renewable power. One important piece is the renewable energy source – hydro-electricity."

She went on to explain the high value of the area to Deep Sky. "So between those two things, it is really, really one of the only places in Canada and really the world where you have those two things to be able to have a project like this."

However, Manitoba Hydro released its 2024-25 annual report recently, showing a consolidated net loss of \$63 million for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. This compares to a consolidated net loss of \$157 million the previous fiscal year.

"This is the second low water year in a row and third Manitoba Hydro has experienced in four years," said President & CEO Allan Danroth.

For Deep Sky, Petre has spent over a year engaging with elected officials in southwestern Manitoba.

She said, "We have an area of interest that we have identified, and what we want to do is just make sure all those pieces are in place to press go on the project."

Petre says she spent all of last year building the Innisfail project and recently announced the project was operational. She is experienced and according to her LinkedIn profile, her background includes COO roles at Bird (econ-conscious scooter manufacturer), and for three years a VP in marketing with BlackRock, and before that, an energy consultant at Accenture.

Deep Sky has been invited back to give another public information presentation says the RM of Pipestone Deputy Reeve Randy Henuset. The date has not been set.



Like Ken & Lynn, you can:

GET A FREE HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP.

With the **Energy Efficiency Assistance Program**, you can also:

- ✔ Get your home insulated for FREE (including the materials and the installation).
- ✔ Get a new natural gas furnace upgrade for \$9.50* or \$25** per month for 5 years.
- ✔ Get FREE energy efficient light bulbs, showerheads and aerators, air sealing products, and other energy saving items.

Find out if you qualify today
efficiencyMB.ca/EEAP
204-944-8181 or toll free 1-844-944-8181



*When replacing a standard efficiency natural gas furnace.
**When replacing a mid-efficiency natural gas furnace.

GOT KOCHIA SPREADING IN YOUR FIELDS?

LET'S TALK ABOUT A NATURAL SOLUTION FOR CONTROL.

1-800-665-2494
HARVEY@ALERTAGRI.CA
HARVEY DANN CELL 1-701-213-8246

Delorme tells students: 'You'll be amazed at what we can do together'



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

The AUD is filled with students from Virden's Gr. 8-10 who await guest speaker Cadmus Delorme's presentation. Also in the audience, some teachers including VCI principal Mr. Keown and a few community members.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Grade 8, 9 and 10 students filed into the AUD Theatre on Oct. 1 where they heard Cadmus Delorme share his First Nations perspective, not with facts and figures, but in an Indigenous cadenced, storytelling style.

His stories about the creation of Turtle Island, about a trickster who could change his appearance, an eagle, a muskrat, and a turtle, among other stories held the young audience.

After an engaging introduction Delorme explained that the Metis and First Nations ancestors hundreds of years ago were the first farmers on this land.

"Did you know that the Indigenous people of that time already had an education system...?" He said the People had a health system and a justice system. "The best restorative justice system that this land has ever seen. The Indigenous people had a functional country, living on this land."

He pointed out that everyone is taught a world view by parents, family, friends and from school. Indigenous people come from a different worldview.

"We live with a Canadian world view and an Indigenous world view. And they're both beautiful."

He said the key is to "learn to coexist in both and not compete" adding, "You'll be amazed at

what we can do together."

From his Cree traditions he spoke of creation stories of how Indigenous people described this continent as Turtle Island.

"150 years ago, children between the ages of three and 10 would hear a thousand of these stories. Every story never gave you the answer. It made your brain creative. It made your heart want to learn more."

He said it taught respect for each other, the land and the animals.

"As young Canadians, you are not at the decision-making table yet. But within the next two decades, within 20 years, in this room, you will be mayors. You will be in business... in the public sector. You will start your own companies. You'll work for your family farms. You'll work for your First Nations chiefs and councils."

He pointed out that adults are now coping with a situation between two world views that they inherited.

"Why I'm telling you this now is to prepare you that you inherited a history that's not aligned..."

"First Nations and Métis people... want parity like every other Canadian while our Indigenous worldview is respected. You don't have to agree with it. But we've got to learn to understand that we just live in two worldviews."



HOW DOES YOUR INSULATION MEASURE UP?

Qualify. Insulate. Get a rebate.

Fall is a great time to add insulation to your attic, walls, and foundation to improve your home's comfort and help you reduce energy costs.

Learn more at efficiencyMB.ca/HomeInsulation.

Approval is required before you start your project.
Work with a registered contractor or retailer to qualify.

EFFICIENCY MANITOBA | **SAVE TODAY. SAVE TOMORROW.**



Good work starts with good partners.

Last year we contributed \$13.4 million to social responsibility programming in Manitoba – including \$9.4 million to over 20 community centred organizations helping to minimize harms from alcohol, gambling and cannabis, many listed below. Through partners like these, we are proud to support a network of services for Manitobans when and where they need help.

Manitoba FASD Coalition
Eaglewood Treatment Centre
Parkwood Treatment Centre
Survivors' Hope
John Howard Society Brandon
New Directions
Our Own Health Clinic
Life's Journey

Interested in partnering with us? Find out more about funding by scanning the QR code below.



MBLL.ca

MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES



#MBLLGoodTogether

Cadmus Delorme views Canadian prosperity

Indigenous and Canadian — the key to shared national success

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Cadmus Delorme, former Chief of Cowessess First Nation and now Chancellor of Regina University, was guest speaker at Town of Virden's business luncheon held in TOGPS Sunrise banquet hall on Oct. 1. His message – when Indigenous people are brought to parity with non-Indigenous Canadians it will give Canada an economic boost.

His hour-long presentation to an audience of about 85 included Virden's Mayor Tina Williams, Reeve Clayton Canart of RM of Wallace-Woodworth and members from both councils, Councillor Gerald Sandy from Canupawakpa and former chief, Lola Thunderchild, Mayor of Brandon Jeff Fawcett, RCMP Sgt. Doan and Corp. Giannico.

Delorme spoke of the social and financial milieu that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are presently working through.

"We all inherited this," he pointed out. "Nobody today created residential schools... the Indian Act... the '60s Scoop. We all inherited it, and we must acknowledge that people are healing, and people are hurting. Let's do something about it."

Affiliated with the University of Regina for more than 15 years, first as an undergraduate student (through First Nations University of Canada), he became Chair of the Board of Governors prior to being appointed chancellor.

Delorme earned a B. Admin, a Master of Public Accountancy and an Institute of Corporate Directors designation. At just 43, he's accomplished a lot including creating OneHoop Advisory Services with a focus on community development, economic growth, and reconciliation initiatives.

He credits a loving family for his success saying, "I owe everything to my parents." Like many other First Nations in the grandparent generation, Delorme's mother attended Birtle Residential School. He said, "My parents had every right to raise me with a chip on my shoulder, but they raised me to be a dreamer in this country."

Two canoes

Along with his personal story as a Cree at home on Cowessess First Nation he brought a historical perspective:

He told the story of Chief Cowessess, who in 1874 agreed to Treaty 4 after witnessing disease, the loss of the buffalo, and the arrival of settlers.

Delorme likened the ideal relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to two canoes traveling down the same river, meant to move together, learning from one another.

Instead, came the Indian Act in 1876 and a heavy-handed residential school system followed in 1883 when Sir John A. Macdonald authorized the residential school program.

He said, "The Indian Act is very anti-economic. The Indian Act was thrown in the Indigenous world view canoe without Indigenous people's consent. The Indian Act has one purpose... they tried to imprison our brains. And our canoe fell behind a little bit."

"Today in 2025, we're just trying to catch up. We're not asking Canadians to wait for us. We're not asking Canada to stop progress. No. We're asking for partnerships and resources and understanding to catch us up to where we were always supposed to be at the beginning. That's reconciliation."

It was June 2015 when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission presented an overview that included 94 Calls to Action. Drawing comparisons to New Zealand, Delorme said that after 55 years of reconciliation efforts with the indigenous Maori, their worldviews are now interwoven into every aspect of education, culture, and economics. Canada, he said, is just a decade into that same journey.

He called reconciliation an economic imperative, referring to a study by the National Indigenous Economic Development Board that states, closing the economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians could raise Canada's GDP by over \$27 billion.

"Right now, when you really break down a provincial budget, in Manitoba or Saskatchewan especially... half

of our provincial budget is social services, corrections, and who is in those? The majority, Indigenous people. We don't want pity. We don't want anybody to feel sorry for us... we want to thrive in the economic growth."

He said the gap between Indigenous and other people groups in Canada needs fixing through equal education and economic opportunity and by respecting Indigenous knowledge and values.

"If your province is 17% Indigenous and our staff that are Indigenous is 2-3%, it's not your fault that it's like that. But now that we know, how do we shift our HR policies?"

He pointed out that Indigenous people are rights holders, and meaningful partnerships must include

procurement opportunities, equity ownership, and fair representation in decision-making.

"The economic horse pulls the social cart," he said, underscoring the role of shared prosperity in national healing.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Mayor of Virden Tina Williams, Cadmus Delorme and Virden councillor, Bruce Dunning who introduced the Indigenous leader to Virden.



Rural Municipality of Ellice - Archie

– Oil Recovery Depot –

Help us put used oil in its place!

Bring your used oil, filters, containers to the St. Lazare Municipal Waste Site for recycling!



Turn in 4 litres of used oil and receive a FREE gift:

Washer Fluid ■ Roll of Shop Towels ■ Pair of Gloves

Incentives dependent on availability in stock. Maximum yearly limits in effect per customer



LIMITED TIME OFFER!!

Get your name entered to win a Woods 35L or 55L Cooler! 1 entry for every qualifying visit! 2 Draws will be made June 2026!

For more information please contact the Municipal Office:

RM OF ELLICE-ARCHIE

318 Railway Ave.

McAuley, MB

Phone: 204-722-2053

mcauley@rmofellicearchie.ca

331 Main St.

St. Lazare, MB

Phone: 204-683-2241

stlazare@rmofellicearchie.ca

WINTER WASTE SITE HOURS

(September 15th – April 30th):

Tuesday	10 am – 2 pm
Friday	9 am – 3 pm
Saturday	9 am – 12 noon

SUMMER WASTE SITE HOURS

(May 1st – September 14th):

Monday	7 pm – 9 pm
Wednesday	7 pm – 9 pm
Friday	10 am – 2 pm
Saturday	9 am – 12 noon

