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SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 5 / ADVANCE: VOL 140 NO 7 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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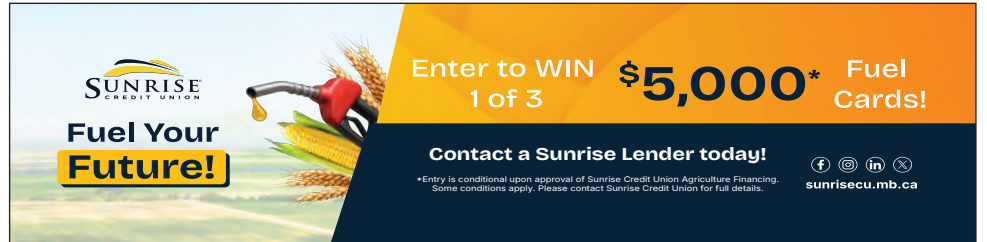
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## FLBSD seeks school bus drivers



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

In the early morning, a FLBSD bus awaits the driver at the division bus terminal in Virden's industrial park.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

As school started on Sept. 3 a shortage of bus drivers for Fort La Bosse School Division meant that 30 students from the Kola catchment area had no bus to take them to Virden, leaving it to parents to drive their own children to and from school.

Superintendent of Schools Barry Pitz says the situation has been resolved and the bus to take Kola students to Virden Collegiate Institute is running again.

Employing enough bus drivers has been a challenge in

the past and continues to be.

The part-time nature of the job means that it can be a good fit for people who like kids and are retiring but wanting to play a role in the community and earn part-time income.

"It is a rewarding part-time job... it's certainly helping out the parents and the school division in Fort La Bosse," said Pitz, adding "I know there's a great need for it right across the province, even across the border into Saskatchewan. I know they're in the same situation as we are."

*find out more about FLBSD bus drivers on page 3...*

**VIRIDEN OIL CAPITALS**

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*Inside...*



**HOCKEY DAY**  
**IN VIRIDEN** *P12*



**GRANNIES ON**  
**THE GREEN** *P11*

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**2025**  
**Dodge**  
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# Dinosaurs draw a crowd



A family at the dinosaur mini golf station.



Kids have fun around the monster dinosaurs supplied by Applause Events.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On a weekend busy with events in Westman, the Dino-saur Walk held at the Virden recreation grounds (ball diamond) was a hit with over 300 people attending. Virden’s facility bookings coordinator Tara Davies noted, “Everyone had smiles on their faces and said it was an awesome experience when they were leaving.... Some people stayed for hours, there were so many different things to do.”

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH # 8**

**Legion week September 21 to 27, 2025 – kicks off on Sunday with a Zone meeting, Monday is Poker, Wednesday the 24th General Meeting and presentation of Membership Awards for the following members.**

Ordinary	7913508	4512281		
Affiliate	30169033	7862650	7862645	
Associate	30159772	10209691	7471735	10135762
	7982961	7982932	7844731	10014180
	7712093	7602122	7844732	7857603
	4781397	4762870	6975915	6613239
			6967823	
			4772346	

Any inquiries please email 04-008@legion.ca or call the Branch 204-748-1668.

Friday open at 3PM – Meat Draws and Chase the Ace.

# Virden Ag & Parts Awarded KIOTI Dealer Excellence Award for Second Consecutive Year

Submitted  
BY VIRDEN AG & PARTS

The 5-PAW Dealer Excellence Program was established in 2008 to recognize KIOTI Dealerships that have excellent sales track records, promote professionalism, have a high level of customer satisfaction, and provide superior service on an ongoing basis. KIOTI revises the qualifications yearly to improve the standards of the dealership body. The goal of the 5-Paw Program is to recognize, reward, and motivate KIOTI’s best dealers, while giving all dealers an incentive opportunity for improving performance and meeting rigorous dealer excellence standards.

“As a relatively new dealer, achieving Certified 5-PAW status in 2023, and now Premier 5-PAW status for 2024 is a real testament to the team we’ve got,” says Lynette Grumpelt, Office Manager at Virden Ag. “I’m so proud of everything we’ve done so far and excited to see what we’ll accomplish together moving forward!”

Dealerships that achieve Certified 5-PAW Dealer status may be considered for Premier 5-Paw Status, which is the program’s highest possible honor. Virden Ag is one of only 45 Dealers in North America awarded Premier 5-Paw status for their performance in 2024.

“We know we wouldn’t achieve the successes we have as a dealership without the support of the community,” says Matt Hipwell, Dealer Principal of Virden Ag. “We’re grateful for the trust our customers place in us,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A wonderful display of KIOTI equipment at Virden Ag & Parts.

and we want to be their first choice for both sales and service. Being recognized for providing that exceptional service is incredible.”

Virden Ag celebrated 5 years in business on September 9, 2025. In addition to KIOTI, they offer a full line of lawn and garden equipment from STIHL and Cub Cadet, and Ag equipment from several brands including Vermeer, Farm King and Mandako. They employ 8 full time and several

part time staff. Their current location at 560 Commonwealth Drive, Virden, MB was completed in December 2022, offering 4,000 square feet of showroom, parts and office space, with a 3 bay service shop.

KIOTI Tractor, a division of Daedong-USA, Inc. offers compact and utility tractors from 20–140 HP, residential and commercial zero-turn mowers, UTVs and Skid Steers. North American operations began in 1986.

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Avery Brigden (Tundra), presenting to Virden Outdoor Rink representative Warren Polk.



# Vandalism mars Virden's Victoria Park



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A bathroom stall at Virden's Victoria Park where vandals damaged public property.

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Why? What does it do for someone to wreck public property, particularly facilities that they themselves might want to use sometime?

Victoria Park's new toilets are wonderful public facilities in this beautiful park that is used by many individuals and groups throughout the year. Yet someone and their sidekick has been vandalizing them. It began while the buildings were still under construction. Someone tried to start the building on fire.

In another instance the fascia/soffit was damaged.

Early on in the summer there was property damage within one of the stalls and most recently a sink was pulled off the wall and smashed.

Two different stalls have now been damaged.

"The first (damage) cost close to \$1000," says Town of Virden administration, adding "but this will be more as the sink was torn off the wall, and the lights were taken off the ceiling and thrown into the old bathrooms."

Every taxpayer in Virden has a right to be upset about this. It's public property. The bathrooms are there for the public's convenience. They are an important part of business, tourism and community life.

At this point, only one or two stalls are kept open. If there's a park event, more would be opened.

Garbage was strewn in the park, and graffiti/painting occurred on the park's bandstand. This weekend, according to Town officials, there were children on the bathroom roof.

Parents and community members

might want to pay attention to kids' whereabouts and activities.

The new bathroom facility at the spray park/baseball diamonds has also had mischief done with toilet paper and paper towels strewn about. Vandalism also occurred to a bench at the skate park.

Is this a sign of something else? Frustrated youth? People using hard drugs like meth?

If youth are responsible, the Youth Criminal Justice Act has means to apply adult law which could result in a jail term, depending upon the severity of the damage. It is considered criminal mischief and is covered in s.430 of the Criminal Code.

Graffiti is a common form of vandalism, and it's not a harmless act. Just as garbage strewn about sends a message, graffiti sends the message that nobody cares. It's a public safety matter as it can attract other forms of crime.

Damage to public facilities indicates that the vandal(s) feels disenfranchised; not part of society; not connected to the community. There's no sense of ownership and participation. The reasons for this can vary.

A local person, Kel Smith, responded to this report of public property crimes on the Town Facebook saying:

"This is disgusting to see and hear about ... all that work for something good for our park and this happens. Someone isn't right in the mind to do this to us."

Smith hit the nail on the head – it's done to us - because this is an affront to all and any Virden people and to those who visit Virden.

It's important that the perpetrator(s) be turned in.

# School bus drivers needed



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

continued from page 1

With 27 bus routes, the division tries to have spare drivers to compensate for when someone moves away, is ill or decides to retire from bus driving. However, part of the problem is the fact that it's harvest time.

"We live on the prairies, and a lot of our spare drivers are farmers, thank goodness for them, but they've got to get their crops off first before they help us out," says Pitz.

People can apply any time of year for the position of school bus driver – as a spare or regular driver.

Bus drivers have to meet licensing requirements and complete a minimum of 24 hours of instruction which includes general school bus knowledge, performing pre-trip inspections, and time in-vehicle and behind-the-wheel. And there's a test.

Every year, bus driver orientation prepares drivers for the school year, to understand what's expected and for

practical driving routines. Pitz said he attended part of the orientation this fall that was delivered by student services and the supervisor of operations.

However, the division also delivers training sessions as needed to enable new drivers to get signed up.

Parents who had to drive their children from the Kola catchment to Virden, are being remunerated at about \$18 to \$20 per trip. "For bookkeeping purposes, submit just a homemade invoice, it could be even an email that explains when they had to drive their children, when there was no bus service, and then they are compensated for that."

Bus drivers are a base of \$90 salary per day and then they are also paid per kilometer based upon the route and the drivers receive a full benefits package as well. Superintendent Pitz hopes more people will apply for this role in their community's education process.

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**GOODYEAR**



# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



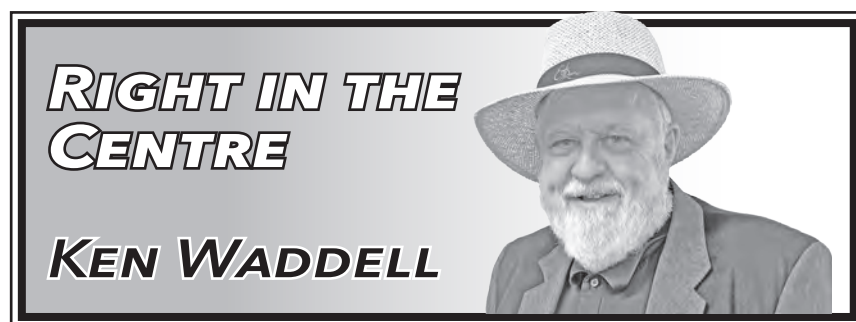
## Healthy debate is essential

When the news came out that Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA had been assassinated, I asked my staff, who is this person? I honestly had never consciously ever heard of him. My staff and others certainly had heard of him. Apparently millions of others had heard of him and watched some of his videos and programs. I have now watched one five minute video of one of his campus debates where he invited students to come up to a microphone and ask questions or state views on a variety of topics. It was a long way from the way I was taught to debate.

When I was in university in the 1960s, I, and many of my colleagues participated in debates at the faculty level and university level. I also participated at the university level and was fortunate enough to be on the Western Canadian championship debating team.

Debating was taught and encouraged as well as being quite common. It was part of the university curriculum. It was conducted in the Oxford style debate format which involves a debate on a predetermined statement – also called a “motion” – from two opposing perspectives. The two sides either argue “for” or “against” the motion within a formalized structure.

In debate competitions, you rarely knew the topic much ahead of the debate and you were assigned which side, positive or negative, a short time ahead of the debate. It was great fun, a debater learned how to speak effectively, perhaps even very well in front of a crowd. The debate expanded your mind and your abilities. They were conducted very civilly. The positive side spoke first, then the negative, then the positive and then the negative. In the rebuttal, a shorter presentation is given by one



“Civilized debate is essential and must never be squashed by violence.”

person from each side.

Sadly, there isn't much debate these days, having been long replaced by shouting, nastiness and a lot of untruths.

So when I heard that Charlie Kirk was a debater, I was intrigued that debates actually still happened. From what I saw, Kirk was quite controversial and with his style, he easily overpowered some students. I was horrified that he was assassinated in the midst of a speech. I was more horrified that some people went very public in their approval of his death. It was also a very public death, on live TV and in front of a crowd reported to be about 3,000 people. Early reports (as of Sunday, Sept 14) are that the alleged assassin was very politically motivated to pull the trigger.

I was also disturbed that some people tried to say that political assassination was a new thing in the United States. That myth was quickly laid aside by Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont. I would recommend that people look up Sanders' speech. It's the best five minutes you will invest in the study

of political violence.

Free speech is at stake in North America. People need to behave civilly and listen to all opinions. We need to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

In today's world, with all the access to information we have, we should not be short of knowledge, logic and the ability to make decisions. What we must be on guard against is the trend to shout down other peoples' opinions by smothering them in insults and strident, shouted conversation. Some conversations today resemble the depiction of lynch mobs in an old western movie.

May Charlie Kirk's death serve notice that civilized debate is essential and must never be squashed by violence. Kirk's style fell well short of the way debate and discussion should be conducted, but he should not have been assassinated.

*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.*

### Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



## We need to hear it again...

“Ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country”.

The sentence, the challenge, the marching order, was part of J.F. Kennedy's inaugural speech, delivered January 20, 1961. I remember it. It was/is a call to public service and civic action, urging citizens to contribute to the greater good rather than focusing on personal gain. We have become a generation wanting instant gratification, and have a muddy definition of what are our rights. Just with casual observation one can note the decline in service clubs; our area, thankfully has several that work well and hard for the betterment of our community. We see a marked decline in mainline church attendance, and there is a shortage of individuals that are willing to serve on boards, committees, councils, and as elected officials. I can't say that I blame anyone for not throwing their hat in the ring. Public scrutiny is invasive, slander is rife, and service is challenging. One person's opinion does make a difference, if it is respectfully heard. And we know that candidates running for a public office have great ideas, firm resolve, and make promises that cannot ever be filled. We need a change in mindset.

Nelson Mandela is noted for “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”, “It always seems impossible until it is done”, and “Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity. It is an act of justice.” Man, if that doesn't speak to the situation in our world today! In many countries education is not a normal, it is for the select few, and often, not for women. Education occurs outside of the classroom as well, thankfully! Listening to another, again, with respect, can open one's heart and mind to a new idea. Having the courage to speak carefully about contentious points, showing compassion to the marginalised, and simply being a decent human being can educate others about the freedom of choice. With the disproportionate distribution of wealth in this world, and it's horribly disproportionate – 1.1 per cent of the total population own 45.8 per cent of the total world wealth, and according to an OXFAM 2021 report, the ten richest men in the world own more than the combined wealth of 3.1 billion people, almost half of the entire population. AND their combined wealth doubled during the pandemic...Overcoming poverty is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice. May it be so.

Churchill was well spoken, often quoted. “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Almost back to the first quote by Kennedy. “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on”, and that was before the internet and social media!!! “Truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.” I think that's the one I'm waiting for, truth. Truth in personal lives, in public lives, in education and in faith. While waiting, I will not ask what my country can do for me...

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 12  
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# Elkhorn Auto Musuem: Gunnar's 55 Packard Patrician

By Barry Lambkin  
ELKHORN AUTO MUSEUM MANAGER

The Packard Patrician is an automobile which was built by the Packard Motor Car Company of Detroit, Michigan, from model years 1951 through 1956. The word "patrician" is Latin for a ruling class in Ancient Rome. It was the last "senior level" Packard until production ended in 1958 and was briefly available as an extended length limousine for 1953 and 1954 called the Corporate Executive which found few buyers.

For 1955, the entire senior line of Packards received an extensive design update that freshened the last restyling that was done in 1951. Under designer Dick Teague, the Senior Packards received a more modern grille design, "Cathedral"-styled rear taillights, hooded headlight housings and a new exterior trim layout that afforded Packard the ability to offer two- and three-tone paint combinations with the simplest of masking patterns. While Packard could not afford a whole new greenhouse for the passenger compartment, new trim at the base of the rear pillar made it look like it had a redesigned roofline. The cars were also outfitted with a wrap-around windshield, thus bringing it in line with American automobiles of the era. Inside, upholstery and bright work was also freshened, and the cars received a new dashboard layout. 1955 and 1956 instruments and controls were similar, but the 1955 dash featured a warm, bronze-like surface, and in 1956 were faced with a machined-look stainless steel facing. The 1955 Patrician was listed for US\$3,890 about

\$46,908.10 in 2025.

For 1955, the Patrician was offered as a four-door sedan only and Packard produced 9,127 of the cars. It was also the year that the company introduced their only V8 engine. For 1956, minor appearance changes included a revised headlight housing that exaggerated the front peak further forward. The area around the headlight was painted black to give the effect of greater depth. The car also received a different grille texture.

During the 1956 model year, 3,375 Patricians rolled off Packard's production line before the model was dropped by the ailing carmaker. The final Packard built was a black Patrician sedan that rolled off the Packard assembly line on June 25, 1956.

The 55 Packard at the museum was donated by Mr. Gunnar Person of Winnipeg in 2011. Gunnar was the third owner of the car when he purchased it from Gauthier Chevrolet. The second owner needed a second vehicle and could not bring himself to use the Packard as one, so he traded it off at the dealership.

Originally it was owned by the Drewry Brewery



PHOTO BY BARRY LAMBKIN

The 55 Packard at the museum was donated by Mr. Gunnar Person of Winnipeg in 2011.

Company out of Winnipeg. Drewrys Brewery was a prominent Winnipeg institution founded by Edward L. Drewry in 1877, initially operating as the Redwood Brewery. The company produced a variety of beers, most famously its lager, and was sold to local investors in 1924, becoming Drewry's Limited. The Winnipeg brewery was a significant local employer and a major contributor to the province's economy. The brand was eventually sold and the brewing operations ceased in the late 1990s, but the Drewrys brand has since been revived as a heritage beer brand.

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Animal Control: 204-851-5881

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## Employment Opportunities Chief Administrative Officer

For more info or to apply to this opportunity, contact Jen Sklar at Harris Leadership Strategies at [jen@harrisleadership.com](mailto:jen@harrisleadership.com), quoting "Project #26103"

## Fall Cleanup September 22 to October 6, 2025

During the cleanup period, crews will pick up miscellaneous refuse (excluding industrial waste such as building demolition) not deemed to be normal household waste.

Leaves and grass must be in bags or boxed – pick-up of branches is meant for trimmings, not major cuttings.

To ensure pick-up, please call the Town Office or email [info@virden.ca](mailto:info@virden.ca) with a description of the items and pick-up location (boulevard or lane and pickup address).

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

## Check your mailbox! 2025 Property tax notices have been sent out.

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

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

## Proclamation: National Legion Week September 21-27, 2025

**WHEREAS** the Royal Canadian Legion advocates for the care and benefits for all who served Canada, regardless of when or where they served;

**AND WHEREAS** the Royal Canadian Legion also provides representation and assistance to Veterans, and makes significant positive change in their lives;

**AND WHEREAS** the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 (Virden) contributes to the social and cultural wellbeing of our community through remembrance activities, charitable initiatives, and civic leadership;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Virden, I do hereby proclaim that the week of September 21 to 27, 2025 be recognized as **National Legion Week**.

Mayor  
Tina Williams

## Winter Ice Available for Booking

2025/2026 Winter Season Ice is available to book at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

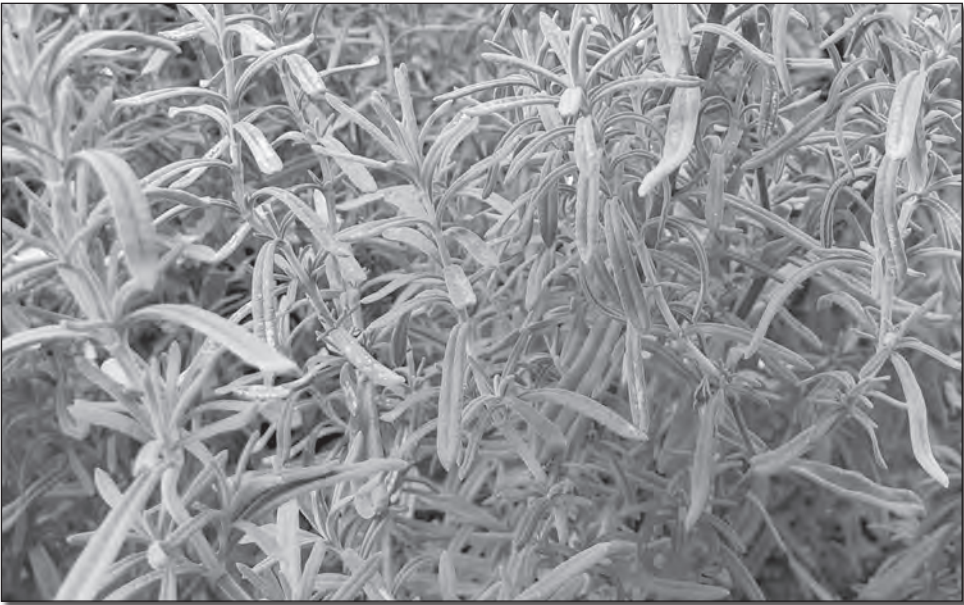
Time slots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For available times or pricing information, contact [bookings@virden.ca](mailto:bookings@virden.ca), or check the Facility Calendar at: <https://app.univerusrec.com/virdenpub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>





# Rosemary



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is a fragrant, evergreen herb native to the Mediterranean.

**Submitted**  
By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Rosemary is one of my favourite herbs. Not only is it a nice rich green year round, but it also has a crisp, almost pine-like fragrance. I love to muddle it and add it to chilled beverages and it is such a nice culinary herb with lamb or other rich red meats. I love it in breads and often add it to soups and marinades.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is native to the Mediterranean. In warmer climates it is spectacular throughout the year and can be grown as impressive hedges with added benefit. It has been used for culinary purposes for centuries, but is also considered a sacred plant, a traditional medicine ingredient and has the power to attract beneficial wildlife.

The flowers are pale blue, purple or white and attract butterflies and other pollinators. Bees are so attracted to rosemary in the spring when there are few blossoms to be had. Hoverflies and wasps which are natural predators of many garden pests are also attracted to rosemary. The strong aroma of rosemary deters many pests like aphids, mosquitos, gnats, cabbage moths and more. It has also been used as a natural flea repellent for pets.

There are also many natural health benefits to rosemary. It has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and supports digestion and gut health. As an infused oil, it can ease joint pain and muscle tension. Rosemary can also be used to stimulate circulation and improve mental clarity. It is a great hair rinse as well and brings a refreshing scent to your bath. For your personal safety, ensure you understand all of the benefits and detriments of any natural products.

When we look back in history, rosemary has been associated with remembrance, protection and good fortune. In Ancient Greek times, students would wear rosemary wreaths to improve their memory for exams. In many places, sprigs of rosemary were placed in doorways to ward off evil

spirits. It was also used as a symbol of loyalty and remembrance at weddings and funerals.

If you plant a rosemary shrub near your front door, it transforms from a great culinary herb to a symbol of protection, prosperity and peace. According to folklore and Feng Shui principles, the entrance to your home is a powerful gateway. What is placed near the door influences the flow of energy or chi into your home. The presence of rosemary close to your entrance invites clarity, protection and harmony. Rosemary acts like a living talisman, inviting good health and harmony in your home while protecting those inside.

There are also many aromatherapeutic benefits of rosemary. It boosts concentration and memory, and improves your focus. Rosemary can lift your mood and it chases away fatigue. Lightly rub the leaves and you will experience that stress and tension fade away. If you can plant rosemary by your entrance, every time you come in or go out you can experience a free dose of aromatherapy.

As far as the culture goes, rosemary is an easy plant to grow. Once established it will require very little watering. It thrives in hot, dry climates and prefers poor and rocky soil. It tolerates wind, salty air and even if planted in a very reflective full sun area, it just keeps growing. It does well in containers or planted in the ground and can be pruned into interesting topiary shapes. The only detriment is that it is not hardy enough to overwinter on the prairies. It is however an easy plant to move in and out with very few freeloaders!

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

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## HELEN DRYSDALE OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Cookies are so easy to pack in lunches and eat on the go. Some bakers find them difficult to make. Here are some tips to help with successful batches of cookies. Throw on an apron and join me!

Location in the oven affects baking. I bake one sheet of cookies at a time. The oven rack should be located in the middle of your oven from top to bottom and the cookie sheet located in the middle from side to side. Avoid dark baking sheets as they bake faster on the bottom and usually end up burning your cookies. Use shiny heavy gauge cookie sheets. They cost more but are worth the money. Just remember to keep them nice and shiny! Skip the cheap cookie sheets or use them for cooking frozen French fries.

Do not over grease the cookie sheets or grease them when the recipe does not call for it. When the sheets are over greased this can cause cookies to spread excessively or brown too quickly around the edges. You can use parchment paper instead of greasing. If your butter/margarine is too soft it can cause the cookies to spread too much. Softened butter is best, not melted butter. If using margarine use only the hard margarine, not the soft spreadable. If the butter is too cold, it won't blend with the other ingredients and you will end up with a lumpy batter and not so great cookies.

Making the dough is pretty consistent with all cookies. Mix your dry ingredients in a medium-sized bowl. In a large bowl, cream your butter and sugars, then stir in your eggs and vanilla. To this mixture, slowly add the dry ingredients until well mixed. If you have the time chill your dough for half an hour or more. Putting your dough in the fridge allows the fats to cool. As a result, the cookies will expand more slowly, holding onto their shape and texture. If you skip the chilling step, you may wind up with sad flat cookies instead of lovely chewy cookies. I often make my cookie dough the day before.

### Oatmeal cookies

These cookies are soft, chewy, and easy to add your favourite extras. Just add 1 cup raisins or nuts, or chocolate chips when you mix in the oats.

- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3 cups quick oats

Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugars until creamy before adding in the eggs and vanilla and mixing well. Mix the flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon together in a small bowl and add to the creamed mixture in small batches until it is all just combined, then add in the oats and your favourite extras as desired. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonful's onto ungreased or parchment paper covered cookie sheets. Bake or 9-11 minutes until lightly golden brown. Cool one minute on cookie sheets; remove to wire rack. Cool completely. Store tightly covered.

### Carrot oatmeal cookies

Carrot oatmeal cookies are perfect for a lunch box, midday snack or dessert.

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup carrots, shredded
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup coconut or nuts of choice (optional)
- 3/4 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350F and lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets, light-colored preferred. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, ground cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar. Add egg and vanilla and mix well. Stir the carrots in. Add the dry ingredients to the wet and mix until the dough has formed. Gently stir in the oatmeal, nuts and raisins. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and chill for at least 2 hours. Drop by rounded tablespoons two inches apart onto baking sheets. You can flatten slightly. Bake until the cookies have firmed up, 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on baking sheet for a few minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Enjoy!



# Woodworth Royal Canadian Legion Branch #118

By Francis Wilson  
LEGION SECRETARY

With the 2025 Poppy Campaign soon to begin, a blanket of red poppies blowing in the wind and covering battlefields in Europe is a well known image of Remembrance. Wherever they grow today poppies are seen as a reminder of fallen heroes – John McCrae’s poem In Flanders Fields with its famous line “In Flanders Fields the poppies grow, between the crosses, row on row” is one of the most familiar.

Poppy seeds are available to be planted and will grow into a living tribute in your yard, garden or planter. Poppies make beautiful cut flowers too. The seeds can be sown outdoors in a site in early spring or late fall. In honour of National Legion Week September 21-27, the Woodworth Legion Branch #118 has 50 seed

packages available to purchase.

If any business or individual wishes to order and purchase a memorial wreath or cross for display or laying at the Remembrance Day service please contact the Woodworth Legion at kentonlegion118@gmail.com or call 204-838-2307 and leave your message.

The Woodworth Legion will be open for the first Texas Hold’em on October 2nd and the first Chace the Ace on October 3rd.



## Occupational holistic wellness Finding balance at work and beyond

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

**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Let us be honest, work can either lift us up or wear us down. We spend so many hours on the job that it is no surprise our overall health, happiness, and energy are tied to how we feel at work. For years, workplace wellness meant things like gym discounts, free fruit bowls, or maybe a step challenge. Nice benefits, sure, but they only scratch the surface. What people are craving now is something deeper: occupational holistic wellness. This approach looks at the whole person as in body, mind, emotions, and even the environment we work in.

Think about it. You cannot separate “work you” from “home you.” If you are stressed out at the office, chances are you bring that stress to the supper table. If you feel supported and valued at work, that positivity spills into the rest of your life. Holistic wellness is about creating workplaces that nurture people in all areas, not just in their ability to meet deadlines. That might mean flexible hours so parents can make the school run, quiet corners for medita-

tion or breathing breaks, or even workshops that tackle finances, nutrition, and mental health head-on.

And here is the best part: when people feel cared for, businesses win too. Burn-out, absenteeism, and high turnover are expensive headaches for any employer. On the other side, happy and healthy employees stick around longer, bring more energy to their roles, and even spark creativity. Imagine a workplace where “stress leave” becomes less common because people have real tools to manage pressure, whether it is through mindfulness sessions, ergonomic workspaces that stop those nagging backaches, or simply knowing their boss values their well-being as much as their productivity.

The holistic approach is also about prevention, not just reaction. Stress, for instance, is more than just a bad mood. It can mess with digestion, sleep, and even the heart. When workplaces open up conversations about mental health, offer wellness breaks, or encourage unplugging from screens, they give

people a chance to reset before problems snowball. It is like giving your body and mind regular tune-ups instead of waiting for a major breakdown.

Of course, holistic wellness is not one-size-fits-all. A rural office might take meetings outside on a walking trail, while a downtown corporate hub could lean on yoga classes or tech-free Fridays. The key is listening to what employees need and creating programs with them, rather than tossing out generic solutions. When people feel heard and included, wellness stops being just another HR buzzword and becomes something real, something that works.

At the end of the day, occupational holistic wellness is about weaving health and happiness right into the fabric of work. It is about remembering that people are not just workers, they are parents, friends, caregivers, dreamers, and community members. When workplaces support the whole person, the benefits ripple far beyond office walls, creating stronger families, healthier communities, and more balanced lives.

So, the next time you think about wellness at work, picture more than free fruit bowls. Picture a place where your whole self is welcomed and where thriving is not just encouraged but celebrated.

# The story of Ken Corbett

By Jo-Anne Milne  
LEGION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

As Membership Chair, it is my privilege to announce we have 268 members:

One from the USA, 1 - New Brunswick, 1 - Ontario, 8 - Alberta, 3 - Saskatchewan, 254 from Manitoba (206 are Virdenites).

We are grateful for the members who have retained their membership here. Some are Life and Ordinary members, a number are Associates whose siblings serviced our Country.

Last year preparing Honours and Awards list, I noticed an Ordinary Member with 60 Years of Service who resides in Brandon. I contacted Major Kenneth Corbett, Retired, he said he would be honoured to come to his home Branch #8 to receive his award. He marched to our Remembrance Day service at the Aud, enjoyed lunch and received his award. His story!

- 1950 - Completed high school in Elkhorn.
- 1950-1951 Worked for the Canadian Bank of Commerce in several small towns.
- 1952-Joined the RCAF - trained as a telecom tech, air.
- 1954- Selected for Officer and aircrew training.
- 1955-Promoted to F/O and graduated with Radio Navigator wings.
- 1955-1979 Served on 435, 426, 437, 424, and 436 transport squadrons. Also completed two tours supporting UNEF2 in the mediterranean area in 1957.
- 1963-1966 Completed a four-year tour as an

- Air Traffic Controller at CFB Trenton
- 1970 Received the G. Chavez medal of merit from the Peruvian Gov’t for service in Peru with 424 Sqdn. after the massive earthquake in 1970.
- 1979 Ceased flying, reached CRA of 45 years of age.
- 1980 On ready reserve list - no service
- 1981 Recalled to active service
- 1981-1996 served in several staff officer positions at Air Command HQ Winnipeg, NDHQ Ottawa and CFB Trenton including four years Air Traffic Control at CFB Trenton.
- 1996 Retired with 43 years service completed.
- Korean War, Peace Keeping, and Cold War Veteran.
- Submitted by K. G. Corbett Maj Retired

Ken shared with me - shortly after returning from one of his tours his wife passed away leaving Ken and family members to raise 2-month, 3- and 4-year-old children. Ken re-married a gal from my community, believe it or not, my mother hosted her bridal shower. Two more children arrived - Carol had her hands full raising five children.

He also shared in the mid-1960’s the Royal Canadian Legion came to Air Force personnel asking if they would join as memberships were declining, he joined; in early 1970’s memberships opened to Sons and Daughters - my Mother joined in 1972 and was a member for 45 Years; in 1975 I joined, as memberships opened for Grandchildren of Veterans.



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# Two CAOs receive Lifetime Memberships

## Garth Mitchell to celebrate retirement

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two local Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) have been honoured by their peers with Lifetime Memberships in the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMA). However, it also signifies that both these seasoned administrators are retiring from their CAO positions.

Town of Virden's Rhonda Stewart's retirement (end of 2025) was announced early this month, and the Town is seeking someone to fill the position.

RM of Pipestone's Charlotte Parham has also retired. With Allison Volk as ACAO (Assistant), the CAO position is advertised.

Life Members are recognized for their significant contributions to the MMA association, their communities, and local government.

Local governments rely heavily on CAOs who shoulder a load of responsibility. They must understand policies of the municipality. They must know the Acts and related statutes pertaining to municipal governance and give guidance to elected municipal councils.

CAOs deal with budgets and goals of the municipality, all while overseeing multiple staff positions. They're a link between the elected council and municipal staff.

Throughout Manitoba, the job search platforms and municipal websites list job openings for chief administrators and other staff positions.

In view of Stewart's retirement, Jared Jaffray, Virden's ACAO, has served the town for several years. Jaffray attends council meetings and is up to speed in his role, which will help the Town office transition to new leadership.



RM of Pipestone CAO Charlotte Parham receives the Manitoba Municipal Administrator Lifetime Award.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Virden Chief Administrative Officer Rhonda Stewart receives the Manitoba Municipal Administrator Lifetime Award.

### Mitchell's Retirement

In the RM of Wallace-Woodworth a long serving CAO has recently retired. Garth Mitchell was CAO managing a large budget and serving a large area with two villages and many communities. He retired early in 2025 and is being recognized at a public reception on Thursday Sept. 25, between 3pm and 5pm at Elkhorn Elks Hall.

Recently Wallace-Woodworth's Assistant CAO, Iris Vercaigne, was hired as CAO. Vercaigne functioned within the RM office for some years alongside Mitchell and knew the role

well. Now the RM is seeking to fill her former role of ACAO.

The Manitoba Municipal Administrators conference drew over 270 delegates. Held in the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg this was the MMA 94th conference. Municipal administrators seem to be in high demand, however, there are 24 graduates from the training program for municipal administrators. Twelve attended this year's conference to receive their certificates. This vital training provides administrators with knowledge and skills to help them guide Manitoba's grass roots governance.

# Thank you

The Virden and District Health Auxiliary would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their generous donations to the purchase of the ultrasound machine for the Virden Health Centre. We were overwhelmed with the support of this fundraising effort.

### Businesses and Organizations:

- Virden Royal Purple #220
- Royal Canadian Legion, Oak Lake Branch #79
- Elkhorn Legion Branch #58
- Oak Lake Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Virden Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Virden Oilmen's Golf Tournament – Terry Law
- Silverline Oilfield Services
- Corex Resources
- Elkhorn Ag Society
- Oak Lake Lions Club
- Virden Lions Club
- Oak Lake Ambulance
- R. M. of Pipestone
- R. M. of Ellice-Archie – McAuley
- R. M. of Wallace-Woodworth
- Town of Virden
- Higginbotham Electric
- H. G. Directional Drilling Ltd.
- 360 Line Locating Ltd.
- Reston and Area Foundation Thomas Sill Grant
- 60494 Manitoba Ltd. – Bob and Diane Clarke
- Elkhorn Elks #381/Manitoba Elks Foundation
- In memory of Garth Routledge: Virden Food Cupboard, Virden Ladies Golf Club, Kenton/Lenore Volunteer Firefighters

### Virden and Area Community Members:

- Helen Harmon
- Jacy & Joanne Whyte
- Gordon & Thelma Quinn
- Gary Hunter
- Harry Ellis
- Rea & Linda Kinnaird
- Herb & Karen Manser
- Murray & Marion Gray
- Doug, Kathi & Laura Gatey
- Brenda Lund
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- Anonymous
- In memory of Mrs. Bouchie: Enid Haines
- In memory of Vi Leslie: Joyce McWhirter
- In memory of Doreen Grieve: R. Alex Grieve
- In memory of Maxine Heritage: Doug and Theresa Heritage and Family, Ellen Heaman, Louise Leask
- In memory of Garth Routledge: Judy Russell, Brian Nolan, Glenda Clarke, Gerald Dybish, Russell and Sharon Routledge, Rob and Marilyn Warkentin, Rick and Brenda Smith, Murray and Jeanette Routledge, Lynda McDonald, Ken and Gwen Clarke, Barry and Maxine Hayward, Maxine Routledge

Thank You!



Thank You!



Thank You!





# Fire departments get hands-on rescue training



Students lift a trailer to remove a passenger vehicle using hydraulic rams and wooden cribbing.



There were 12 students involved in the training days. Here students lift a water truck off a passenger vehicle using struts, airbags and hydraulic lifting tools.



Instructor Randy Schmitz and Virden Towing setup the scenario with a passenger vehicle under a bus.

## Submitted

BY OAK LAKE MUTUAL AID DISTRICT

The Oak Lake Mutual Aid District organized a comprehensive Heavy Rescue and Vehicle Extrication training session on Sept. 6 and 7. The event took place at the Foxtail Hauling property, providing an ideal setting for practical exercises. The course was led by Randy Schmitz, a seasoned professional from JRSServices of Alberta, who also serves as a Captain with the Calgary Fire Department. His extensive experience in emergency response and rescue operations contributed significantly to the quality of the training.

During the training, multiple realistic scenarios were set up by the instructor, utilizing Virden Towing's heavy-duty tow trucks. These scenarios were designed to replicate highway accidents, offering participants a hands-on experience in extrication techniques and rescue procedures. The use of actual heavy-duty equipment allowed students to familiarize themselves with the tools and methods used

in real-world emergencies.

Participants had the opportunity to operate specialized rescue equipment, enhancing their practical skills and understanding of vehicle extrication processes. The training emphasized safety, efficiency, and teamwork, which are critical components in emergency rescue operations. Such courses are vital for first responders, tow operators, and emergency personnel, as they prepare them to handle complex rescue situations effectively and safely.

Overall, the event provided valuable training that enhances the readiness and response capabilities of local emergency services. The collaboration between the Oak Lake Mutual Aid District, Virden Towing, and experienced instructors like Randy Schmitz underscores the importance of continuous training and skill development in emer-

gency rescue operations.

The Oak Lake Mutual Aid District (OLMAD) represents nine fire departments across specific regions in southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan, each serving their respective communities with dedicated personnel and resources. The departments included in the district are:

Oak Lake Sifton Fire Department, Pipestone Albert Fire Department, Woodworth Fire Department, Whitehead Fire Department, Wallace District Fire Department Stations 1&2, McAuley Fire Department, Maryfield Fire Department, Moosomin Fire Department

## FASTBALL MEMORIES

REF TO  
WRITER

GERRY NOLAN

One thing I have not talked about is the Kenton Cougar fastball team. One story I would like to share with you is about the first time we went to Provincials Fastball Championships in Winnipeg.

The rainy weather we have witnessed the last few days, is what it was like in Winnipeg. That weekend was cool, wet and cloudy. Sort of miserable!

We were of course very excited to be competing in the provincials for the very first time. Game one did not go our way as we lost to a team from Winnipeg. We played well, just did not get the breaks and we lost the game. To win the title meant we could not afford to lose any more games.

There are a couple of memories that will always stand out in my mind from that weekend. The first one involved myself. I got on first base with a hit in the first inning. We wanted to find out about how good our opponent catcher could throw to second, so I was given

the steal sign. On my way to second, I was going to slide into the base. As I started to slide, I saw the top of a water sprinkler site sticking up out of the ground, just a bit. I slide over it. I was not only out at second but could not play most of the weekend. Very disappointing! I injured my leg and hip. They were badly bruised. I did play briefly in our last game at the tournament. But I was not much help to our team.

The other memory of that weekend is the ball that Bob Garton hit. We called him Sam. It stuck with him for years, I think when I see him every now and then I still call him Sam.

Anyway, Sam is up to bat and hits the longest home run I ever saw in a fastball game. We were playing on a ball diamond that had a backstop about 15 or 20 yards off the street. Sam hits the ball, and it clears the trees over on the next block and takes one bounce and hits a picture window of a home across the street. A city block! That is an incredible distance for a fastball to travel. When Sam hit the ball, the ballpark went silent. I do not think we could believe what we just witnessed. That ball was smoked!

We won that game but lost our next and our first provincials were over, but we would be back again in other seasons to play at Provincial fastball tournaments.

The other hardest hit ball I saw was in Kenton. We were playing the Lenore Aces. At the time the outfield fence was a snow fence. Later we built a plywood fence around the outfield. On the fence in centre field was a 250-foot sign, hanging on the snow fence, about a foot lower than the top of the fence.

Up to the plate steps Ken Ellis, and he hits a screamer, a line drive like a missile. It hits the top of the fence and breaks off a couple of the wooden slats of the fence. When Ken hit the ball, it was not way up in the air, it was on a line. He smoked it!

I was playing second base, and Ken came down to second base and said, I guess that is a double. I said that should be a homerun, I have never seen a ball hit like that. Ken stayed at second base and the game continued.

Diesel tore the cover off the ball that game and Sam hit a moon-shot home run. I will never forget those two great memories; I was just happy to be there!

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# Royal Purple National Brain Injury Poster Contest winners



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
The winners in the High School category - Elise Fehr won first prize and Mya Irvine won second prize. Both girls are from Virden Collegiate.



Jeanne Marie Besa from Virden Junior High. She won 1st prize in the Grade 5 and 6 category. She was also the Grand Champion winner from all the posters judged at the National level.



Lucas Stephenson from Reston School. He won third prize in the Grade 1 and 2 category.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The grads of 1990 got together on August 16, at the Lions Campground to reconnect, reminisce and laugh. 35 years ago, the theme was 'Times to Remember' and now they have more. Huge thank you to the Lions Club for the venue!

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# Grannies on the green

## Oak Lake ladies tee off for a cause



1st place costume contest winners - "The Walkers" (L-R) Jenalee Walker, Laurie Lang, Michelle Jakubowski, Heather Delaquis

By Ev Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On September 13, the Oak Lake Golf Course transformed into a lively stage of laughter, costumes, and community spirit as the Ladies 1st Annual Golf Tournament – Granny Addition teed off! Forty-one women hit the greens for a full day of fun, all while raising just under five thousand dollars in support of the Oak Lake Care Centre Inc. What was billed as a golf tournament quickly turned into an unforgettable mix of humour, friendly competition, and a whole lot of granny-themed antics.

The day kicked off with check-in at 10:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 11. The best ball format kept the game moving, while the beer cart and Jell-O shot tent made sure no one went thirsty. Lunch was included in the entry fee, and supper was available after the final hole. When the clubs were finally put away, the crowd kept the energy going with karaoke, proving that the Granny Addition was more about memories than scorecards. Clubhouse manager Alayna Bailey mentioned that "It was amazing to see so many ladies dress up and come on out to support both the Golf Club and the Daycare."

The specialty holes were a highlight, and they brought out some impressive performances. On hole eight, Heather Delaquis smashed the Longest Drive, taking home one hundred and fifteen dollars. Hole nine saw Dineen Pippus sink a monster putt measuring 221 inches, which earned her eighty-three dollars. The Happy Gilmore challenge on hole six had everyone laughing, with Shawna Jones pulling off the best run-up swing. And on hole three, Gail McNish showed her skill by landing a shot just four feet from the pin to claim

Closest to the Pin.

The Granny theme truly set the tone, and the costume contest was nothing short of hilarious. First place went to "The Walkers," who embodied the theme with flair. Second place was awarded to the clever "Wrinkle in One," and third place went to "The Granny Squad," who had everyone grinning from ear to ear. Watching golfers swing clubs in wigs, shawls, and pearls was half the fun, and it gave the tournament its own unique personality.

At the heart of it all was the purpose—raising funds for the Oak Lake Care Centre Inc. Just under five thousand dollars was collected, a remarkable achievement that will go a long way in supporting the centre and its services. It was a testament to the generosity of the community and the ability to turn a day of recreation into something meaningful. Alayna proudly added that, "To say it was a success would be an understatement!"

Organizers, sponsors, and volunteers all played a huge role in making the first Granny Addition a seamless success. Their efforts ensured every detail was taken care of, from prizes to food to entertainment. Thanks to their hard work, the event not only raised money but also created a new tradition for Oak Lake. Bailey also mentioned, "It was great to have all the support which made the event so successful!"

By the end of the day, it was clear that the Ladies 1st Annual Golf Tournament Granny Addition was more than just a tournament. It was a community celebration. With the laughter, creativity, and generosity that filled the day, this event has already secured its place as a favourite on the Oak Lake calendar.

## VCI FOOTBALL TEAM LOOKING TO CLIP CLIPPERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team took on the Moosomin Generals at home on Sept 14.

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Sept. 14, the Golden Bears lost to the Moosomin Generals. There were some positives in the loss.

"The defence battled really hard," VCI coach Marc Talbot said. "They were on the field a lot. They were gassed by the end of the game. The offence is still trying to figure it out. They are trying really hard, and the payoff will come. I do like how the players play until the last whistle. It doesn't matter what the score is, the next play is the most important one."

The Golden Bears and Generals know each other well. Moosomin defensive coordinator Ace Brown explained, "we have had an ongoing relationship with Virden players coming to Moosomin in the spring to join our spring football program. The last two years Marc Talbot has brought a group of players and we have done a joint two week camp in the spring to let new players test the waters and skilled players develop their skills, while also, as coaches, learning from

each other - a great tradition that I would like to have continue well into the future."

Brown is a Lenore product who played for the Golden Bears. He currently lives in Pipestone. It is, of course, an interesting experience for him to coach against his former team.

"Going 'Home' is always fun to walk the halls and remember a younger time, while also seeing the development process that is always ongoing," Brown said. "Seeing old faces from times past and catching up is always a pleasure. It definitely brings back memories of the playing days."

With the win last week, the Generals improved to 2-0 on the season. The Golden Bears fell to 0-2. They host the Dauphin Clippers on Sept. 20 at noon. In preparation for the contest, VCI is focusing on offensive line play and getting the timing right.

"Dauphin has always played us tough in the past so we will definitely have our work cut out for us," Talbot said.



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SPORTS

HOCKEY DAY IN VIRDEN DID NOT DISAPPOINT

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Last Saturday at the Tundra Oil & Gas Place was a junior hockey fan's delight.

Teams from three different junior leagues competed in exhibition tilts on September 13 on what was called "Hockey Day in Virden." The hometown Virden Oil Capitals of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League shut out the visiting Estevan Bruins of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, 5-0. The nightcap featured a Western Hockey League battle between the Brandon Wheat Kings and the Swift Current Broncos. The Wheat Kings prevailed 3-2.

"The atmosphere was great, lots of people cheering us on," Oil Capitals forward Carson Wright said. "The WHL game definitely brought some new people to our game to see what we're about. It was a high energy game, a couple fights and a shutout win to end the preseason on a high note. A game like that should bring more people to our games, so hopefully we can start our season off strong with a lot of support from the fans."

In the WHL contest, the Wheat Kings scored all three of their markers in the second period. Chase Surkan scored twice as the Brandon team wrapped up its pre-season schedule.

"The thing I enjoyed about playing in Virden was that it was a small town community with a really nice rink," Wheat Kings veteran forward Joby Baumuller said. "We had a lot of fans at the game, which made it more fun to play in. It was a high intensity game with two really good teams and a team that we will be playing against a lot this year."

The Swift Current roster included Virden's Bryce

Bryant, who has been trying out for the squad. Broncos general manager Chad Leslie is an Elkhorn product. Manson's Kurt Rookes played for Swift Current last season.

Oil Capitals Exhibition

With a home win last Saturday, the Oil Capitals wrapped up their exhibition season. The team posted a 4-2 record in pre-season play.

New goalie Braxton Burdeny stopped all 24 shots he faced to backstop the team to a 5-0 victory over the Bruins. Wright and newcomer Tyson Ulmer each lit the lamp twice. London Hoilett also scored for Virden. Virden scored twice on the power play and once shorthanded. It was a physical contest. Virden received 72 penalty minutes on 17 infractions, while the Bruins had 14 infractions for 58 minutes.

The night before, on Sept. 12, Liam Goertzen scored the lone goal in a shootout to lift the Oil Caps to a 4-3 road victory over the Bruins. After Estevan took a 2-0 first period lead,

Daniel Tokariwski and Noel Englot scored in the second to tie things up. In the third frame, Englot's second of the night put Virden ahead, but the Bruins tied things up.



PHOTO BY BRANDON WHEAT KINGS

The Brandon Wheat Kings faced off against the Swift Current Broncos at the Tundra Oil and Gas Place last weekend.

Micky Gross earned the win in goal for Virden.

The Oil Caps fell, 4-2, to the Portage Terriers on Sept. 10 in Virden. Wright and Cole Robertson scored the hosts' goals. Burdeny stopped 24 of the 27 shots he faced.

On Sept. 9, the Oil Capitals romped past the Terriers, 8-1, on the road. Hoilett lit the lamp twice. He finished with four points. Brooks Siemens, Lucas Laramée, Englot, Miguel Bonin, Maddox Shindle, and Hunter Ethelston also scored for Virden. Gross made 14 saves on 15 shots.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Canupawakpa Dakota Nation Education Department would like to invite you to our upcoming Orange Shirt Day commemoration on Friday, September 26, 2025, at noon in Victoria Park, Virden.

Orange Shirt Day is a National Day of Remembrance and reflection that honours Residential School Survivors, their families, and the lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma. It is also a day of education and reconciliation, where communities come together to affirm that "Every Child Matters."

This year's commemoration will bring together more than 1,200 students and members of the public from across the Fort La Bosse School Division and surrounding communities. The day will include Survivor presentations, the Brandon Residential School Research Team, the Brandon United Church photo exhibit, powwow dancing, and a free community lunch.

Your support will play an important role in helping us create awareness, foster participation, and highlight the importance of reconciliation within our community.

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# SPORTS

## CLOSE TO HOME: HENRY TRANSFERS TO MINOT STATE

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Jessie Henry is taking her softball talents and academic pursuits to a place her family knows well.

The daughter of Christy and Steven Henry has transferred to Minot State University. Her mother studied speech-language pathology at the North Dakota school.

"So I've always known it as a great school. What really drew me in was their strong SLP program, which is what I plan to study too," Henry said during the summer. "Plus, I've heard so many good things from people I know who go there—it just felt like the right fit academically and socially."

She is also looking to be a good fit with the Beavers softball team on the diamond. MSU plays at the NCAA Division II level.

"I'm really looking forward to playing for MSU because it's close to home, so my family and friends can be there to support me," Henry said. "I'm also excited to join a program where I already have some friends on the team—it makes the transition easier and adds to the excitement of competing together at the next level."

She previously studied and played at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Henry's former squad and her new one both compete in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

In 2025, Henry took on a larger role in her second

year in Moorhead. She played 48 games for the Dragons and started 44 of them. Henry was utilized mostly in left field. She batted .248, scored 17 runs, and drove in 14. Henry was tied for second on the team in doubles (10) and walks (13).

"Last spring, I was able to contribute by being a versatile player. I took on a new role in the outfield and adapted quickly, which helped our defence," Henry said. "Offensively, I used my skills as a leadoff hitter to set the tone at the top of the lineup and help get things going for my team."

She continued to learn the ins and outs of playing softball at the post-secondary level. Henry said:

"College softball has definitely been more intense—the time and work you put in every day is on another level. But it's also been really fun, especially because you get to compete and train alongside your best friends every day. The commitment is bigger, but so is the reward."

Whether she played in Virden, for the Brandon-based AAA Westman Magic, the South Dakota Renegades, or any other team, Henry knew she had the support from home.

"My family has always been by my side since the moment I said I wanted to play softball," she said. "My parents have gone above and beyond—helping me practice after long days at work, my dad constantly looking for camps and opportunities, and spending countless hours driving me to games and practices."



PHOTO BY MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD.

Jessie Henry is excited to play and study at Minot State University.

They haven't missed a game since day one, and their support means the world to me. I truly wouldn't be the player I am today without them."

## OIL CAPS SEEK SUCCESS THIS SEASON

By Robin Wark  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals are ready for the 2025 hockey season - and their focus is the same as always.

"The goal every year for us is to win a championship," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said.

The team opens its regular season on the road on Sept. 19 versus the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. The Oil Capitals' home opener is Sept. 20 against the Wolverines.

Last season, a young Oil Capitals team learned a lot and compiled a 24-31-2 record. They placed fifth in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's West Division and just missed making the playoffs for the first time in 10 years. The Oil Capitals were two points behind the Wolverines for the final West playoff spot.

The Oil Capitals will pursue its championship goal with a mix of players who gained important experience last year and some talented newcomers. Ramsey said:

"Camp has been very competitive. I think we are a faster group from last year and it looks to be more skilled as well. Everyone in camp has worked hard."

Virden's own Ty Plaisier and 2024-2025 Oil Capitals team MVP Noel Englot lead a group of 13 returning players. This summer, Plaisier was named the first hometown captain of the Oil Capitals. Last season he received three team awards, including sharing the Top Defenceman Award with outgoing team captain Ethan Guthrie.

Guthrie is one of six players from last season who aged out. The Oil Capitals traded some players, such as Marek Miller and Maxx Hamelin, in the offseason. Virden's own Bryce Bryant has been in camp with the Western Hockey League's Swift Current Broncos.

Plaisier is one of five defencemen back from last season's team. The others are Rhylan Baxter, home-



Virden Oil Caps #28 Noel Englot

town product Hudson Davidson, Nathan Schaefer and Maddox Shindle.

Last season Englot paced the Oil Caps in points (44), goals (20), and assists (24) in 58 games. Also back are the team's third and fifth leading scorers from last season: Liam Goertzen (35 points) and Marshall Light (29). In a campaign split between the Oil Capitals and the then named Winnipeg Freeze (now Monarchs), Goertzen was named the Oil Capitals' Rookie of the Year. Moosomin's Light shared the team's Most Improved Player Award with Brooks Siemens, who also is back. Also returning up front for Virden are Tyson Draper of Oak Lake Beach, Cole Robertson, Carson Wright and Daniel Tokariwski.

The Oil Capitals will have new faces guarding the net this season. Former Freeze netminder Braxton



PHOTOS BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Caps #6 Ty Plaisier

Burdeny was acquired in the summer. The 20-year-old veteran from Winnipeg had a .894 save percentage last season. The other goalies with the team, as of last week, were rookies Micky Gross and Virden's own Brodie Cameron. Both played last season for the local regional U18 AAA Southwest Cougars team.

The Oil Capitals have a variety of newcomers. One of those who has impressed is London Hoilett. The veteran forward played his three previous junior seasons in the Western Hockey League.

"He was a first-round draft pick of ours and he has agreed to spend his 20-year-old season here with us," Ramsey said. "He is an exciting player on the ice and an unreal role model for our younger guys on and off the ice. We are very proud to have him on our roster this season."



# A drunken truck thief crashes into semi truck/trailer

## Westman RCMP Service Report for Sept. 7 to Sept. 13

### Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 89 calls for service. Some of these calls for service were 37 traffic offences, 9 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Check, 3 Mental Health Act, 4 Assault, 1 False Alarm, 3 Fail to Attend Court, 1 Disobeying Order of the Court, 4 Suspicious Person, 2 Uttering threats against a person, and 1 Coroner's Act - Sudden Death.

On September 8, RCMP received a 911 hang up, on call back there was a 2-vehicle motor vehicle collision on the Trans

Canada Highway in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth where RCMP members responded. A truck had collided with the rear end of a semi truck/trailer. The truck had been reported stolen, and the driver was showing signs of impairment. The 17-year-old driver of the truck was taken by EMS to Virden Hospital and a blood demand was taken. The 17-year-old driver was arrested and will attend court in November on charges of Operation while impaired (Drug) of motor vehicle, theft of truck, Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000, Fail to comply

with probation order.

On September 8, RCMP received a report of an individual violating an active peace bond in the Town of McAuley. Members attended and a statement was taken from the protected party and screen shots of the messages received. A warrant for arrest was issued for the accused 37-year-old male.

On September 11, RCMP were conducting patrol on Highway 256 in the RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle traveling 120 kilometres per hour in the 90 kilometres per hour zone. The driver was fined \$442 for speeding.

On September 12,

RCMP were dispatched to a weapons related call in the Town of Melita, while on scene, members conducted queries on the individuals which revealed outstanding warrants for a 22-year-old male that had fled the scene on foot. Patrols were conducted and the individual was located, however he fled on foot again. The 22-year-old male was then located and arrested without further issues and was remanded into custody. He appears in court this month on a charge of resisting/obstructing a peace officer in addition to his outstanding charges from warrants based out of Brandon and Oxford House.

On September 13, RCMP were dispatched to a disturbance in the Settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Members attended and learned that a female had been shot with a pellet gun multiple times as well as three individuals had been pepper sprayed. The accused 18-year-old male was located and placed under arrest. He was remanded into custody, as he had a warrant for his arrest on previous charges as well. He currently remains in custody and will appear in court for x3 charges of Assault with Weapon, Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, and x2 charges for failing to

comply with release order conditions.

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

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

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www.mhlaw.ca

**Stephen K. Branigan**  
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# Finding their roots: A historical trip

## Searching out Armitage and Heise history

### Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Don and Sandra Armitage have returned from a three-week tour of Ontario and Pennsylvania. Sandra's ancestors were Mennonites who came from Germany to Pennsylvania in 1727, and Don's family were Quakers who came to PA from England in 1839. Both families lived within an hour of each other and continued to live close by when they both moved to Ontario. The trail Don and Sandra took went to Ontario first, then to PA. After visiting Don's sister and husband near Kenora, and then friends in Arthur, Ont., the quest for ancestry began near Toronto.

### Cemetery search

Several Armitage graves were located in Newmarket and Toronto, as well as a great-great grandfather's residence. Sandra was able to locate the stone house of her great-great grandparents tucked away in a cemetery in Vaughn. It was built in 1849 and has now been nominated to be a heritage site. Sandra also made contact with a fellow descendant of her great-great-great grandfather Henry Snider, and had an interesting visit. The Heise Hill cemetery in Markham, contains the graves of many Heises, including two of the brothers who first came to Canada in 1804.

### Pennsylvania bound

On they went to Pennsylvania, after seeing a Blue Jays game, and stopping at Niagara Falls. In PA, Don was able to enlist the help of a local historical society in Solebury Township in Bucks County, and one passionate historian graciously showed them around the area to see the old house, barn and grist mill that were built in 1750 by Samuel Armitage, as well as several other Armitage markers. Here they also found ancestors in cemeteries and the original Quaker Meeting House. This area was only an hour away from New York City. Sandra was able to find the original farmstead of the first Heise born in North America, near Lebanon, PA. The land that the Heises had farmed on seemed to be very fertile land and is now a dairy farm, with a great stand of corn along the lane. It is said that the Mennonites followed the trail of Black Walnut trees, and picked land where these trees



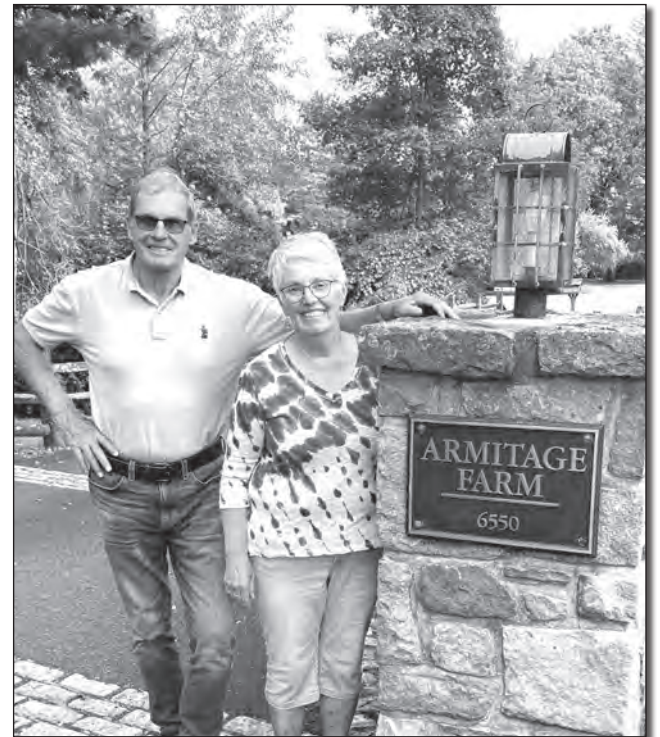
Don and Sandra took a bucket list trip - a family history hunt. Here is Sandra Armitage (nee Heise) at Henry Snider's cider mill at Black Creek. Henry was Sandra's fourth great-grandfather.

flourished in both Pennsylvania and Ontario. They recognized that where walnuts grew well, their crops would excel.

### Learning Amish and Mennonite ways

In Pennsylvania, Sandra and Don also learned about the Amish people. When driving through the winding hills, it was not uncommon to see Amish horses and buggies on the road, or encounter farm stands selling fresh produce, flowers and baking such as Shoofly Pie! There are many old stone homes, in good repair, as well as big barns, similar to the Ontario barn style. It is said that the Mennonites were very good agriculturalists, and put much priority into the building of barns.

After leaving PA, the Armitages stopped in Berlin, Ohio, also an Amish and Mennonite centre, then down to Newark, where they visited the Heisey Glass Factory. That Heisey may be a relation, but it has not been directly traced yet. From there, a stop at a friend's in Columbus, then on the road back home.



PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

Don and Sandra Armitage in Pennsylvania.

This trip has been on Don's and Sandra's bucket list for some time, and it proved to be a successful one - lots of history discovered along the 11,000K. It was truly an advantage that both families followed the same paths.

# Miniota News

### Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Murray Gurr who was the winner of a Q Country Harvest meal in the field. Due to the rainy day, the Gurr family enjoyed their meal in the house.

Trudy Watters was pleased to attend the wedding of her granddaughter (Lori's daughter), Cassidy Miller, to Evan Simard on Sept. 13 in Brandon. Congratulations Cassidy and Evan!

Congratulations to Jamie and Jessica Sheane on the birth of their son, Jasper Owen, on Sept. 12 in Brandon. Jasper is welcomed by his big sisters Jemma and Jazlynn, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Friends and neighbours arrived with combines, grain carts, trucks and semis for a community bee to harvest the valley land for Adrienne Bryant, Emily, Bailey and Quinn, and Stan and Bonnie Bryant and their family. A beautiful fall day to watch the many machines harvest the acres in a few hours. The Bryant family hosted a meal in the field for everyone, and

fellowship was enjoyed. Community spirit at its best!

Hats off to the Enhancement Committee and all their helpers for a big step towards the artificial ice project in the skating rink, as this week the cement was poured, bringing them one step closer to their goal.

The Miniota Golf Course has been the scene of many tournaments as the season winds up. Glow in the Dark Golf and a Jack and Jill day followed by a supper was enjoyed.

Visiting with John and Noreen Stowe and Kathy Meekins and Ron Huberdeau and here to attend the funeral service of Alma Stowe on Sept. 15 were: Anita and Ward Johnston, and Steven Stowe (Calgary); Sean Meekins and Dorothy White (Saskatoon); Bob Stowe and Val Fiarchuk (Oakburn); Pat Stowe (Brandon); Jan and Tristan Malanowich (Winnipeg); Erin Stowe and Ron Caswell, Abigail and McKenzie Stowe (Rocanville); Randy Stowe (Moose Jaw); Tyler, Dana and Bailee Stowe (Moosomin); Jessy and Cheyenne Stowe (Pense, Sask.); Ron and Millie Leonard (Regina); Cash Mytopher (Shoal Lake); John and June Loeppky (MacGregor); Edward and Marge Loeppky (Portage); Erma and David Loeppky (Austin).

Ken Wadham was also a visitor with John and Noreen Stowe.

"Every prayer for peace and every thought of peace showers rays of peace upon the earth." -Mary Davis



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# Lions Club Donations

## Part 6



PHOTO BY CASSY HUME

Virden Lions Club member Paul Pennycook presenting a donation to Skate Virden, accepted by Shaelyn Olafson 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.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

### SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **8th** day of **October, 2025**, at the hour of **1:30 PM**, at Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, 154023-PR 257, Virden, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

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

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

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

Dated this 4th day of September, 2025.

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



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

### SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SIFTON

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **9th** day of **October, 2025**, at the hour of **1:30 PM**, at Oak Lake Community Hall, 474 North Railway Street, Oak Lake, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

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

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

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

Dated this 4th day of September, 2025.

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





# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
JIM HEAMAN



Jim Heaman beloved husband of the late Margaret Anne and loving father of Kathy, Jan Marie, and the late Paul passed away at Elkwood Manor Elkhorn, Manitoba Saturday, September 6, 2025 at the age of 90 years.

Viewing for family and friends will be held at Carscadden Funeral Chapel – Virden Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. Interment will be in Virden Cemetery at 1:00 p.m., everyone is welcome. Funeral Service will be held at Sunrise Banquet Hall Tundra Oil & Gas Place Virden, Manitoba Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. with Cathy Coulter officiating.

For those who so desire, memorial tributes in memory of Jim may be made to Virden and Area Foundation P.O. Box 2319 Virden, MB R0M 2C0 or to Elkwood Manor Health Auxiliary P.O. Box 172 Elkhorn, MB R0M 0N0.

Messages of condolence may be placed at [www.carscaddenfuneralchapel.com](http://www.carscaddenfuneralchapel.com)

Carscadden Funeral Chapels - Virden in care of arrangements.



## Thank-you

### Thank-you

The family of Gert Davis extend heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have been there for Mum and for us. Your hugs, visits, cards, and shared memories have brought us comfort. We would also like to express our appreciation to the caregivers who provided exceptional care at Mum's home, in the hospital, and at WestMan Nursing Home. Your caring ways, kindness, compassion, and respect shown to Mum made a significant difference in her life and ours. Your dedication and support will always be remembered.

Thank you.

## Notice

### FREEHAND MEDIA

VIRDEN HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS HAVE STOPPED FOR THE YEAR AND WILL RETURN IN THE LATE SPRING OF 2026. MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED WITH THEIR VISITORS AND RELATIVES. Thank-you to the businesses who displayed the posters for me.

Kel Smith is your AMWAY AGENT if you need HOME, HEALTH, OR BEAUTY PRODUCTS ... 204-748-3321. Cut out this little advertisement and put it in your personal phoning list. I now, have the 2025/2026 catalogues.

Help with school studies, posture, manners, handwriting, etc. in exchange for a weight training partner for the fall, winter, and spring. I need a spotter. Phone 748-3321 in town on Galt.

## Help Wanted



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT DELEAU, MB.

#### WASTE TRANSFER SITE – PART-TIME POSITION

The RM of Sifton is seeking a motivated individual for a part-time position at Deleau as a Waste Transfer Site Attendant.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must work specified weekdays, weekends, and be flexible with hours.
- Must be punctual, motivated, self-starter, and able to work without supervision.
- Must have good interpersonal skills to interact politely and effectively.
- Must possess good written and record keeping skills.
- Must have the ability to meet physical demands of the position.
- Must direct all users to the appropriate bins and locations.
- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Interested candidate should submit a resume prior to 9:00 a.m. on September 29, 2025:

**Mail/Drop-off:** Waste Transfer Site – Deleau  
RM of Sifton  
293 – 2nd Ave. West  
Box 100  
Oak Lake, MB R0M 1P0

**Email:** Subject Line "Waste Transfer Site – Deleau"  
[cao@rmofsifton.com](mailto:cao@rmofsifton.com)

Please contact the RM office at 204-855-2423 if you have any questions. Only those individuals selected for a interview will be contacted.

### NOW HIRING: BOOKKEEPER

Evergreen Place & Princess Lodge are seeking a reliable and detail-oriented Bookkeeper to manage financial records.

- **Location:** Work from home
- **Hours:** 10-12 hours per week, per building
- **Flexible Schedule**

If you have bookkeeping experience and are looking for a part-time role, we'd love to hear from you!

Email applications to [Karenmck@mymts.net](mailto:Karenmck@mymts.net)

## Auctions

### MEYERSAUCTIONS.COM

ONLINE AUCTION  
Sept 25, 2025, Arden, MB

1965 Oldsmobile 98 • CND \$1000 Bill • Currency • Coins • Violin • Shop Smith Lathe • Riding & Push Mowers • Roto Tillers • Shop Tools • Antiques • Coal Oil Lamps • Red Wing Crocks • Farm Items • Poly Troughs • Fencing • Mig Welder • Cattle Items • Lift Chair • Queen Beds • Dressers • China Cabinets • Kitchen Items • Exercise Equip

Bradley Meyers Auctioneer • Text 204-476-6262

## For Sale

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1390 St. James St.  
Winnipeg  
TF 1-877-775-8271  
[www.batteryman.ca](http://www.batteryman.ca)

### FOR SALE

Electrician now retired, selling all tools of the trade, mechanical tools, supplies, and other misc. Other items for sale, tires, lawn mower, etc.

Call John for a viewing.

Ph: 204-334-1787  
for more info.

## For Sale

### FOR SALE

Lots of fabric, new child parkas, etc...  
Quilting Frame /stand  
Outdoor Christmas Decorations and 2 industrial sewing machines.  
Phone 204-748-2969

### GRAND TRUNK NOSTALGIA CLUB

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

Manitoba's Biggest Indoor Fall Vintage & Collectibles Sale with over 180 tables  
Admission: \$5.00  
12 & under FREE

**Assiniboia Downs**  
3975 Portage Ave., Wpg.  
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**CALL TODD NOW!**  
Ph: 204 - 904 - 9705  
**I COME TO YOU!**

## Notice

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: WILLIAM JAMES LARRY DUNCAN, late of the Town of Aurora, in the Province of Ontario, 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 24th day of October, 2025.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 10TH day of September, 2025

ANIQUE TIMMERMAN –  
MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK  
MCCONNELL SOLICITOR  
FOR THE EXECUTOR

## For Sale

### HAY & STRAW FOR SALE

- High-End Alfalfa
- Low-End Alfalfa
- Premium Grass
- Delivered to you
- Semi-loads

**Call or Email NOW!**

**Rob: 1-204-209-1066**  
[redriverforagesales@gmail.com](mailto:redriverforagesales@gmail.com)  
[redrivforage.com](http://redrivforage.com)

## Auctions

### Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate & Moving**  
Sept. 17 @ 7:00PM

**Firearms-Ammo & Accessories**  
Sept. 23 @ 7:00PM

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

**McSherryAuction.com**  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsberrytld@gmail.com](mailto:mcsberrytld@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](http://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](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

**ARE YOU HIRING RIGHT NOW?** Online ads not getting results? **SELLING SEEDS ORLAND?** **HAVING AN EVENT?** Let us help you book a blanket classified ad! You will be seen in the 31 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](http://www.mcna.com)  
**FINANCIAL SERVICES (NEW AD COPY)**  
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](http://www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca)  
**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY / BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
OUTFITTING BUSINESS FOR SALE - Allocation of 18 Deer, Non-Resident, Non-Canadian tags. Area 18, 18A, 18B, 18C. Tags may be split. 1-204-638-1936.

## Coming Events

Notice to members of the Riding Mountain Progressive Conservative Association. A meeting to select delegates to the Annual General Meeting of the PC Party of Manitoba on Nov. 7 and 8 will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 PM. For log-in details please call Judy at 204-773-6347.

## 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

## Coming Events

**Manitoba Women in  
Agriculture & Food  
Presents**



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

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

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Jill Verwey, Pres. Of KAP**  
Collaborative Networking,  
Panel Discussion, Meet Peers  
& Industry Leaders in person!

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

## Announcement



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Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email [classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)

[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)



== CLASSIFIEDS ==

Help Wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
UTILITY OPERATOR

Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the permanent full-time position of **Utility Operator** at the Virden Municipal Office. The Utility Operator reports to the Utility Manager and will be responsible for providing support for the water treatment; distribution operations; and wastewater systems within the Municipality, until they are certified to manage the systems on their own. This is a unionized position.

Duties and Responsibilities

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

Skills and Qualifications

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK

Job Description

The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of Accounts Payable Clerk at the Virden Municipal Office. This position may be offered as a full-time role or as a term appointment, depending on the successful candidate. The Accounts Payable Clerk reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and will be responsible for providing financial support to the CAO and the CFO.

Description and Qualifications

- Receive, process, verify, and reconcile invoices, statements, and refund requisitions, etc. - in compliance with the existing financial policies and procedures of the Municipality
- Process all approved invoices into the municipal accounting software, Muniware ensuring accurate coding and description entry
- Produce various financial statements and verify vendor accounts by reconciling monthly statements and related transactions
- Compile files for inventory and Asset Management purposes
- Ensure positive vendor relationships acting as a representative of the Municipality
- Cross training to provide other financial and administrative support ie. semi-monthly payroll; grant applications; position coverage for LUD offices and reception, as needed
- Active role in the Municipal Safety Program
- Uphold a strict level of confidentiality
- All other duties as assigned

Skills and Qualifications

- Attention to detail, thoroughness, and organizational skills are required
- Minimum 1-year previous experience as an Accounts Payable Clerk is preferred
- High school graduate at minimum; post-secondary education in a related field, would be considered an asset
- Demonstrated proficiency with computer applications – Microsoft Office products including Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- Experience with the Muniware Accounting Program – would be considered an asset
- Must be self-motivated who is able to complete data entry independently
- Customer service and negotiation skills
- Completion of the Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be considered an asset

OTHER OPENINGS LISTED:

- LANDFILL SITE ATTENDANT ~ HARGRAVE & KOLA
- COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGER
- PUBLIC WORKS STAFF POSITION

Interested candidates should submit a resume with 3 references by:  
E-mail: info@wallace-woodworth.com  
Mail/Drop-off: R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257) Virden, MB R0M 2C0

We appreciate your interest in this position.  
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.  
However, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

Wild Turkey season is open



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

Wild Turkey licences are issued, including a special youth licence. The bag limit is one turkey per licence.

Submitted

BY MANITOBA GOV.

Wild turkeys were first introduced to Manitoba in 1958 at a farm site south of Miami, led by a coalition of dedicated local game and fish organizations known as Wild Gobblers Unlimited, with support from the provincial government. Flocks quickly established themselves on the landscape after the initial introductions of imported birds, allowing for wildlife managers and volunteers to initiate an annual trap and transfer program where turkeys were trapped from healthy flocks and released into new areas. This program, along with natural dispersal has resulted in an established population that covers much of southern Manitoba.

Manitoba continues to partner with wildlife clubs to expand wild turkey range and bol-

ster populations across southern part of the province.

While many residents of the province enjoy the hunting and viewing opportunities that turkeys provide, in some situations they can come into conflict with people. The Coexisting with Wild Turkeys document provides tips on things that you can do to reduce wild turkey conflict.

Wild Turkey Hunting

Fall and spring hunting seasons are offered to Manitoba residents in twenty Game Hunting Areas (GHAs), in-

cluding a special youth licence and season. Wild Turkey season is September 15 to October 15. Bag limit is one wild turkey per licence. On average approximately 1,500 Manitobans purchase wild turkey hunting licences each year, with healthy populations and harvesting opportunity being found in many areas. More information on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and wild turkey hunting seasons can be found in the Manitoba Hunting Guide and Wildlife Lands Interactive Map.

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Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB



# From the prairies to the highlands 204 - part 3

By Gerry Nolan  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

And we are off to Turnberry to see the Donald Trump golf course amongst other sites. We were told to play a round of golf would cost \$1000. A little too steep for me. The Trump Hotel resort at Ayr is huge and at night it's lit up like a Christmas tree. I must admit seeing the golf course was exciting, but in the end, it was the third best thing I saw.

We walked a cart path out to the Turnberry Lighthouse, which was a crucial aid in navigation and provided safety for all mariners.

This is also the birthplace of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland from 1306-1329. The ruins of the castle are still visible today. The iconic Turnberry Lighthouse was built in 1873 and was a part of the renowned runways that served the Royal Air Force during World War 1 and 2.

The lighthouse features breathtaking views overlooking Ailsa Craig, Northern Ireland, the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran. The Irish Sea front with so many vistas was very beautiful.

There is also a cenotaph erected just a few steps away from the lighthouse with the names of the airmen who gave their lives for our freedom. This was a very sombre moment for all of us, as we remembered them!

We were scheduled to go to Ailsa Craig by boat, but we were unable to go due to rough water conditions. It was cloudy and rainy and very windy that day. Ailsa Craig is where the granite is acquired for most curling rocks used today. We did go to a factory where they manufacture the rocks. Sadly, they were closed but we were able to see the granite and curling rocks ready for handles in preparation for shipping.

After spending a few hours exploring, we left Turnberry and stopped at a pub called, The Boswell Arms. We had lunch there and were introduced to cider which was very enjoyable.

After leaving the pub, we stopped at Kilmarnock for ice cream, which was delicious. Most of us had our ice cream and were heading back to the van when the owner appeared and struck up a conversation with Todd and Debbie Hunter. I wonder if they were in discussions about purchasing the ice cream parlour. Maybe they could relocate it to Kenton!

After ice cream, we continued our journey back to the church. We freshened up then it was off to Wildings for supper. It was a great supper. One thing I would say is that all our meals were served hot and there were no reheated fries. They were always fresh, not full of soggy oil. After supper we headed back to the church for the rest of the evening.

When we got back to the church to top the evening off, Bowen Thornitt who is just 9, suggested we have a game of musical chairs around the 16-foot table.



This cenotaph listed the names of the Royal Air Force who gave their lives.

So that is what we did! There were a couple of innocent body checks and some unfair play by some people, moving too slowly to keep position for an empty chair, right Celia? Anyway, we had 2 rounds of musical chairs which was so much fun I think we were all kids again,

even for that moment.

I personally believe that thanks to Bowen and his sister Freya, who turned 7 while we were on our trip, this game really started to bond our group. Playing games brings out the personalities and character in people, and those early bonding moments helped us all to get to know one another. These times really cemented our group together for years to come. Thank-you Bowen and Freya Thornitt for suggesting we play musical chairs. It is amazing to think the kids really brought us closer, and they were not done with us adults yet as you will learn more going forward.

Some things I noticed that day were there are no gravel roads. They are paved or in some of the towns, they are cobbled. Most of the road's twist and turn like snakes, and there are few stop signs. You come up and they use roundabouts which is great. There is also no end to the ups and downs on the highway, but the countryside is just breathtaking. I really cannot explain how beautiful it is. If you ever get a chance to go to Scotland, put it on your bucket list, you will not be disappointed.

We saw so many dairy cattle in the lowland. There were stone fences dividing 20-to-25-acre fields. We saw lots of sheep as well. There were lots of bramble bushes as well growing to fill in holes in the stone fence. These are thorny bushes that would tear you apart if you tried to go through them.

Another thing we noticed was there were no granaries as they use sheds for storing grain. Also, no grain trucks, just tractors and grain carts.

The hills were so green, and the grass was lush due to the amount of rain they have had. Wow, what a day we had, and tomorrow we get to do it all over again. New places to go, new places to see and some more excitement along the way.

Thanks Dr. Devon Caldwell for such a wonderful day you planned for us!



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

The iconic Turnberry Lighthouse was built in 1873.

## LONG LIVE THE KING

CONCERT • WORSHIP • MESSAGE

Free All Ages Event

Thursday, Sep 25th @ 7pm

Virden Victory Church

508 9 Ave S, Virden, MB

www.longlivetheking.ca

LONG LIVE THE KING

is a Canadian rock artist and author of the book

Extraordinary Christian: For Those Not Willing To Settle



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