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RESTON FAIR MADE FOR A GOOD TIME FOR ALL



These two young lads mixed some competitive jousting with a cooling tumble into the Reston Fire Departments's portable water tank.

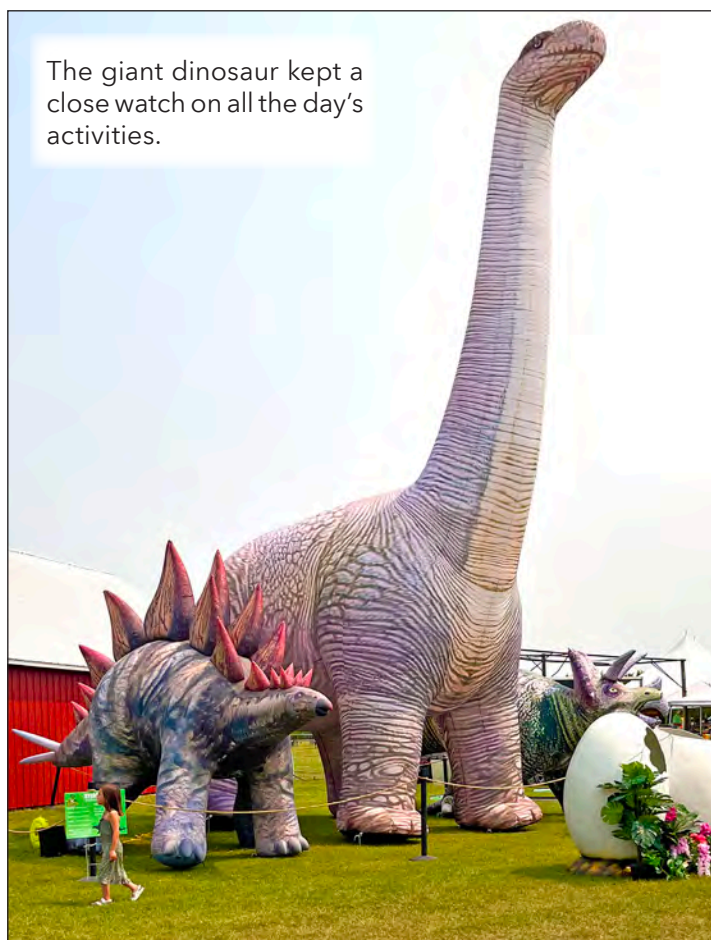
PHOTOS BY KEN WADDELL

By Ken Waddell
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Reston Fair promised some giant size items and they fulfilled their promise as exemplified by the huge inflatable dinosaur in the middle of the Fair Grounds. Spread out over two days, Reston's annual fair had activities for kids on Friday as well as a Trivia contest for older folks. The Friday events were capped off by a fireworks display.

Saturday kicked off with a pancake breakfast followed by a parade at 10 am.

The rest of the day, which was very hot and humid, provided a range of activities for young and old, including close up visits with the dinosaurs, bouncy castles and mini-golf. The local fire-fighters put in many hours in addition to marshalling the parade with their version of a dunk tank. Attendance at the events was reported to be very good. The parade featured many floats and vehicles and it was a special treat to listen to the drummers from



The giant dinosaur kept a close watch on all the day's activities.

Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation.

I was also thoroughly entertained at Reston by all the local beautiful yards, the many people we met and the warm reception offered along the parade route to my wife and I in the Virden Empire-Advance van.

My wife (Christine Lobel of Scarth) had had the pleasure of visiting Reston in the past but I don't believe I had been to town before so a visit on Fair day was a special treat for me. The Reston Park holds a special place in Christine's memory as she remembers a childhood visit to the park with her Mum during a peony season but that first visit was over 60 years ago. The park is one of Manitoba's best. A quick tour of the ball diamonds and a visit to the golf course for a good lunch made for a great day in Reston. Oh, yes and all the nice visits with some of Reston's finest citizens.



The drummers from Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation were a feature of the Reston Fair Parade on July 20.

Inside...



MINIOTA
SHIRTSLEEVE
CLASSIC 2024
P16



MILK RUN
AGRICULTURAL
FAIR WEEK
P8-9

Michelle Chyzik & Friends entertain park crowd

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Singers from Michelle Chyzik’s Konektis choir and from Virden’s musicals such as Music Man entertained a crowd from town and surrounding areas at Music in the Park, Thursday evening, July 18. Seniors came by Handi Van, people travelled from nearby towns and many a dog enjoyed an outing with their people in the park.

This breathless summer night was a perfect evening for the outdoor concert and an opportunity to hear a collection of polished, passionate musicians perform on Jubilee Stage in Virden’s Victoria Park, expertly amplified by sound technician Paul Archambault.

First up was Stephanie Bessant of Brandon, a second soprano with Konektis. Every voice brought its own unique quality. Next, another Konektis singer, Monique Waller of Lenore.

Brandon University School of Music student Dylan Southam accompanied his own smooth vocals on the Ukulele. For the old Hank Williams classic, Jambalaya (On the Bayou) Southam added a kazoo.

Michelle Chyzik sang a sweet number, “Over the Rainbow.”

Another BU music student, Daelyn Fefchak sang two of her own compositions, her style reminiscent of that famous Saskatchewan born folk singer Joni Mitchel. Fefchak performed recently in Carnegie Hall, and this night she sang about Manhattan (NYC) through the lens of a small-town gal. Her lyrics were pure poetry: “She wants so badly to fit



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Following the performance, musicians lined up on Jubilee stage (l-r) Taylor Chyzik, Stephanie Bessant, Monique Waller, Brady Chyzik, Daelyn Fefchak, Dylan Southam, Rob Lovat, Julianna Moore, and volunteer assistants with Music in the Park are Mia & Jill Radwanski (nee Wakely); extreme right Michelle Chyzik is last to hustle into position with the performers.

in but she grew up in places no one’s ever been.” Husband and wife, Brady and Taylor Chyzik thrilled the audience harmonizing on several songs including Michael Buble’s piece “Someday.”

Capping off the evening was Brandon duo, Rob Lovatt and Julianna Moore. Lovatt’s voice reminiscent of Gordon Lightfoot, as he accompanied Julianna Moore’s lovely, powerful vocals.

Friends collide on King Street



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

The Fire department are onsite controlling traffic. In the mini-mal parking lot a crowd has gathered as towing services load two pick-up trucks along King Street on Tuesday evening, July 16. The bang of a collision resounded in the neighbourhood drawing residents from their homes to see what happened, wondering if anyone was hurt. Moments later sirens were heard. Virden RCMP reports that the station received a 911 call regarding a vehicle collision at the intersection of King Street and Third Avenue in Virden. (see RCMP report page 5)

Museum Day

at the Virden
Pioneer Home Museum

Friday,
August 9
BBQ

11:00 am to
1:00 pm


Activities, games,
raffles, and toonie
tours
of the museum all
start at 11:00 am



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Letter to the Editor

RE: Carbon tax

Justin Trudeau made his carbon tax a feature of his leadership. He told Canadians his tax would be revenue-neutral and would benefit most Canadian households, while reducing emissions. But as the cost-of-living continues to increase – including higher prices for gas, groceries, and home heating – Canadians are rightly asking whether the Trudeau carbon tax is worth the cost.

According to Canada's Food Price Report, food prices will rise by 2.5 to 4.5 per cent over the course of this year. For a family of four, it will cost \$700 more for food this year than in 2023. These figures go beyond what some in our communities can afford, which explains why foodbanks had to handle a record 2 million visits in a single month last year. A million more visits are expected in 2024.

We see this in our own backyard. In Brandon, the Samaritan House food bank gave out nearly 36,000 hampers last year, a dramatic increase of 12,000, which was 50 per cent above their normal annual average.

Increases in inflation have increased the overall cost of living. While there are numerous causes of inflation, some government policies are worsening rather than alleviating it. This includes reckless government spending and tax increases. Though

the more complex issues causing inflation can't be resolved overnight, Justin Trudeau could immediately act to bring prices down by ending his addiction to inflationary reckless spending and axing his carbon tax.

The Canada Food Price Report states: "The added cost of a carbon tax will increase production and transportation costs associated with food and may be passed on to the consumer as producers try to remain profitable." Economist Trevor Tombe has looked at this issue extensively and notes that: "It's perfectly correct for opponents of the carbon tax to point out that eliminating [the carbon tax] would drop prices."

The Governor of the Bank of Canada has also confirmed that government spending and the carbon tax are making it harder to combat inflation and bring down interest rates. When asked if government spending and the Bank of Canada's attempts to control inflation are going in opposite directions, the Governor answered with a straightforward 'yes.' He further indicated that continued government spending would hinder efforts to reduce inflation, impacting grocery store prices.

The independent Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has confirmed that most families pay more in the carbon tax that they receive in the rebate. This year, Trudeau's carbon tax

will cost Manitoba families an extra \$1,750 – an amount that would mean a little less financial stress for Westman residents if they weren't forced to pay it. The PBO has also confirmed that 80 per cent of Canadian families are paying more in carbon taxes than they receive in rebates. This should come as no surprise since it adds costs to every part of the supply chain from farm to plate – on the farmer growing food, the trucker transporting it, and the store selling it.

It would be one thing if the carbon tax was actually effective. But Canada now ranks 62 out of 67 countries, dropping four places from the previous year, according to the Climate Change Performance Index. The carbon tax has not helped Canada improve our outcomes in the way it was advertised by Justin Trudeau.

There's plenty that can and must be done to reduce food prices, and I will work with all parties to bring home affordability for Westman residents. While some of these things will take time, ending inflationary spending and axing the carbon tax can be done quickly and would make a world of difference to those struggling to make ends meet. Common Sense Conservatives will axe the tax and fix the budget to bring home lower prices for Canadians.

Larry Maguire, MP
Brandon - Souris



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Tanner Lewis
Financial Advisor
Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth

A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR COTTAGE OWNERS

Capital gains taxes are a significant concern for many Canadian cottage owners. Changes in tax policies, particularly those introduced in the 2024 federal budget, have heightened these concerns.

Many cottage owners who purchased their properties decades ago have seen significant appreciation in value. For instance, some cottages, originally worth around \$50,000, are now valued at about \$250,000. The new tax rules could result in tens of thousands of dollars in additional taxes, reducing the amount that could be passed on to heirs or used for other expenses. Primary residences are exempt from capital gains taxes, but secondary properties, like cottages, are not. This distinction means families hoping to pass on their cottages face hefty tax bills. Additionally, these new tax rules make worse existing financial pressures for cottage owners. Maintenance costs for cottages have increased substantially over the years, often running into thousands of dollars annually. Upkeep expenses, property taxes, insurance, and potential renovations add to the financial burden, especially for those relying on fixed incomes or retirement savings. For some owners, renting out their cottages has become a necessary strategy to cover these costs. However, this too can be fraught with challenges, as municipalities introduce regulations and taxes on short-term rentals, adding another layer of complexity.

The emotional connection many Canadians have with their cottages further complicates the decision-making process. Cottages are often seen not just as properties but as cherished family retreats, places where generations gather and create memories. The prospect of selling these beloved properties or facing substantial tax bills when passing them on to the next generation creates a significant emotional dilemma. For many, the idea of losing a family cottage is not just a financial loss but a personal one as well.

Moreover, the broader implications of these tax changes extend to the real estate market itself. Potential buyers might be deterred by the high tax implications, leading to decreased demand and possibly affecting property values in popular cottage regions. Sellers might also face longer listing times and reduced offers, complicating their financial planning and retirement strategies.

In summary, the changes to capital gains taxes have introduced significant financial and emotional challenges for Canadian cottage owners. These changes complicate the financial strategies for those looking to maintain family legacies, manage rising costs, and navigate the evolving real estate market. As families grapple with these new realities, the dream of owning a cottage, maintaining it through generations, and enjoying a peaceful retreat by the lake becomes increasingly fraught with challenges and uncertainties.

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Public Notice

You're Invited

to share your views about the detailed
reviews of Payday Lending / Loan Rates
and the Government Cheque Cashing Fee
Tariff in Manitoba

On December 23, 2023, the federal government released draft regulations to cap the maximum cost of borrowing for payday loans at 14% of the loan value. Manitoba currently regulates the maximum cost provincially and caps high-cost credit products at 17% of the loan value. The maximum fee any "person" may charge in Manitoba to cash a government issued cheque is \$3.00 plus 2% of the face value of the cheque.

For further details, please visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

A public hearing on these two issues will be held beginning:
Friday, December 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
Please view the hearing via the PUB website.

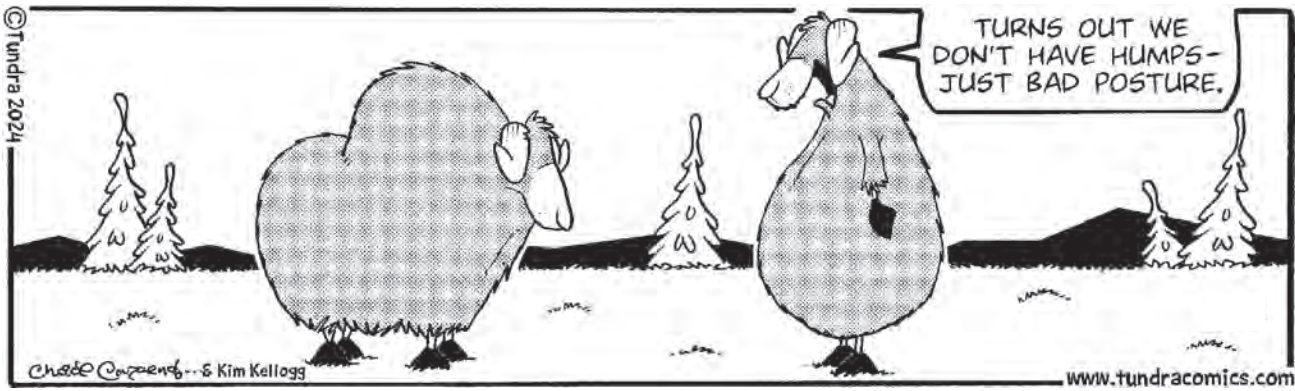
If you are interested in learning more about this detailed rates hearing, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the **Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle** at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **November 1, 2024**.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4
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Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

Tundra
By Chad Carpenter



Discerning right from wrong

I used to tell my kids, “Ask yourself if it’s right or wrong and if it’s wrong, don’t do it.” I still think it’s good advice but in the 40 years since I used spread that advice, there’s been a deluge of change about what is right or wrong.

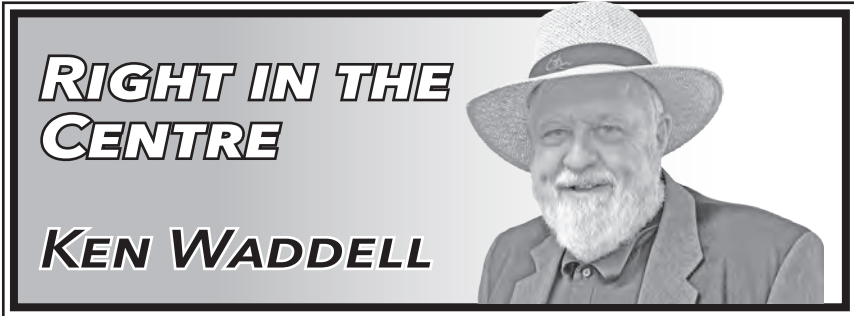
Not all of the changes have been bad. For example, smoking cigarettes isn’t as popular as it once was and I guess that’s a good thing. However smoking cigars has gained in popularity, vaping is a big thing now and now marijuana is legal and promoted. These are really pretty dumb things to do for the individual user and annoying to anyone in the immediate vicinity.

I would have to say that smoking used to be bad in my opinion and it still is. Expensive too. Don’t complain about your grocery bill if smoking products are on your shopping list.

I have a long list of things that I think are wrong. I have often written about them and I won’t bore you by re-listing. I am not sure any adult makes successful change in their habits by being told what to do. Children need to be told, but adults should just know better. It’s not as if there is shortage of information for adults.

I am more concerned about kids as more and more parents leave the instruction and care of their children to the daycare and schools.

Both adults and children learn more by example. I will give you a story about examples. My Dad taught me to encourage people and give people choices. At least he did that some of time. We lived a short five mile ride from town but we didn’t run to town every day. Up until my early teens a trip to town was a bit of



a special event. Dad would say, “Do you want to go town, just for company.” Nothing like car rides alone with your kid, even a short ride, to stimulate some talk, some rapport.

Some times I got to go to the stores with my Dad and there I learned about the wide array of food and goods that were available, even in a small town general store. The shoe and boot section had a special smell to it that still causes me some wonder. In the general store, I learned how to budget my money, how to shop and how to interact with the store staff and owners.

If it was only a quick town trip, I had to stay in the truck. Dad would park at the top of the hill on Broadway Avenue, in front of the bakery. He would walk down the street, pop into the bank, then the Post Office and head back up the hill to pick up a couple of fresh loaves of unsliced bread. Along the way, Dad would talk to people he met and while I couldn’t hear the conversations, I knew from the body language that he left everyone laughing. Keeping people jollied up was one of his many traits. I appreciate all the humorous people in my life and I wish there were more of them some days.

In the intervening 60 plus years between those town trips and now, much has changed. Values are not

taught the way they once were. The Lord’s Prayer and O’Canada are not heard in most schools. Somebody might be offended you know. Bible stories are non-existent in most schools and indeed in most homes.

If people are offended by traditional, time tested values, then they may be in for a big shock. The upcoming US election and a year from now, the Canadian election is going to be all about values. Liberal-minded people are shocked by how popular Donald Trump has become (again) and how much pressure was put on US President Biden to step aside. The reasons are very clear.

People are very tired, disgusted even, at being told, what they can say, what they can do and what ideas and policies they have to adopt, even when it amounts to perversion and stupidity. It doesn’t take much research to realize that people are fed up with many ideas that are being foisted on us.

I can’t predict how elections or the future will unfold but I do know you can only push and suppress people for limited amounts of time before there will be an eruption.

I know my Dad would have been well past his emotional breaking point by now and many of us in the next generation are getting close.



Noisy new neighbours!

I confess that I watched with interest as the couple moved in and began to set up housekeeping. Not that I could watch them from the kitchen window, but coming down the street and turning into my driveway gave me a clear, unobstructed view of their activities. So, I watched, checking progress every time I took a walk or a drive. They started out as a pretty average household. Then the kids became more active, visible and vocal. The squawking and flapping, calling for food was never ending....and I remembered that it is summer time. I noticed other things with the new neighbours as well. In a very short time there were vacant houses in the vicinity. Good, well built, homes were now unoccupied. It was disturbing. Along with the vacant homes there came a silence- other than the hullabaloo from the interlopers- there were no morning songs or evening songs filling the air. One morning, as I drew back the drapes, I made eye contact with one of the adults calmly sitting at the end of the driveway sipping away at their water. It was a beady, hooded glare, and I withdrew.

I decided, right or wrong, to research the new residents. Falco sparverius! Formerly known as ‘sparrowhawk’, in reality an American kestrel? No, more like a Merlin, but because we are Canadian prairie it could be a Prairie Falcon. That’s the one I’m settling on for now. The description in the bird book fits: “The large species, like the Prairie Falcon prey mostly on other birds, which they sometimes pick out of the air in spectacular dives, striking with extended talons.” There is one little wren, her home hidden in the grape vines in my back yard that is still cautiously moving around my back yard. And a Brown Thrasher, really quite large, is still flitting in the area. I have found feathers scattered in the garden, and the sparrow that had nested in the bird house by the driveway, isn’t around. “Like most members of the family, this species isn’t much of a nest builder. The female lays her eggs on top of a high, isolated cliff ledge; or she may also take over the abandoned nest of another bird, commonly a raven.” That makes sense too. The family lives in the very top of an evergreen, overlooking the railway tracks. Also giving the predator a great view of all of the community’s back yards. I’m not certain that their diet includes rabbits, but I have not spotted as many cavorting around lately. There could be any number of reasons for that; I can’t say that I miss the rabbits and would love to take my garden fence down before I harvest the peas. We’ll see.

Back to the birds of prey. They have a very piercing cry, and I imagine there are only a couple of fledglings, but gracious me, they set up a ruckus. I have never had the opportunity to watch one of the falcon family up close. They appear fearless. When we locked eyes, I was the first to turn away!

Atomizer invented to deliver cocaine

Virden Pioneer Home Museum

Submitted

BY VIRDEN PIONEER MUSEUM

In 1887, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss invented the first atomizer. An atomizer is a spray bottle that turns liquid into mist. It is most recognizable as perfume bottles. Dr. DeVilbiss was an otolaryngologist, who treated patients with issues concerning the nasal cavity and throat. He wanted to find an easier way to give patients a local anesthetic, which at the time was cocaine. He developed an atomizer by using a rubber bulb, a piece of metal tubing, and an oil can. This instrument allowed the local anesthetic to be dissolved in oil, and then be sprayed in the patient's mouth or nose.

As his instrument became popular among doctors, Dr. DeVilbiss decided to open a factory in Toledo, Ohio in 1890 - the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Company. The final product consisted of a glass bottle with a nozzle,

tube and rubber bulb. To spray the liquid, squeeze the rubber bulb, which pushed air into the bottle and the liquid through the nozzle.

The atomizer eventually became used for more than medical purposes. In 1907, Thomas Devilbiss joined the company and invented the spray gun, still used to paint furniture and cars. Eventually, the company started manufacturing perfume atomizers which allowed users to spray the liquid in controlled amounts, reducing the waste. Before the atomizer, people applied perfume by rubbing it into their skin using a napkin. Men would even dab the perfume using their palms. The atomizer made it easier to apply the perfume and allowed women to carry perfume with them when they travelled.

Before atomizers, per-

fume was kept in very elaborate containers. Some bottles were molded in the shape of animals, feet, birds, and human heads. Eventually, the bottles were molded in a standard shape, but were painted. Some bottles had pictures of cats, fruits, flowers, birds, and landscape scenes and were made of materials such as glass, porcelain, gold, silver, and copper. When bottles were artistically created, it was only the wealthy who could afford them. The bottles were both a container for the perfume and an art piece. The elegance of perfumes continued with the use of atomizers as an accessory.

Atomizers are still in use today. Usually in cosmetic products. The DeVilbiss business has expanded since its establishment in 1890. They continue to manufacture and sell medical products and are in the automotive refinishing business.

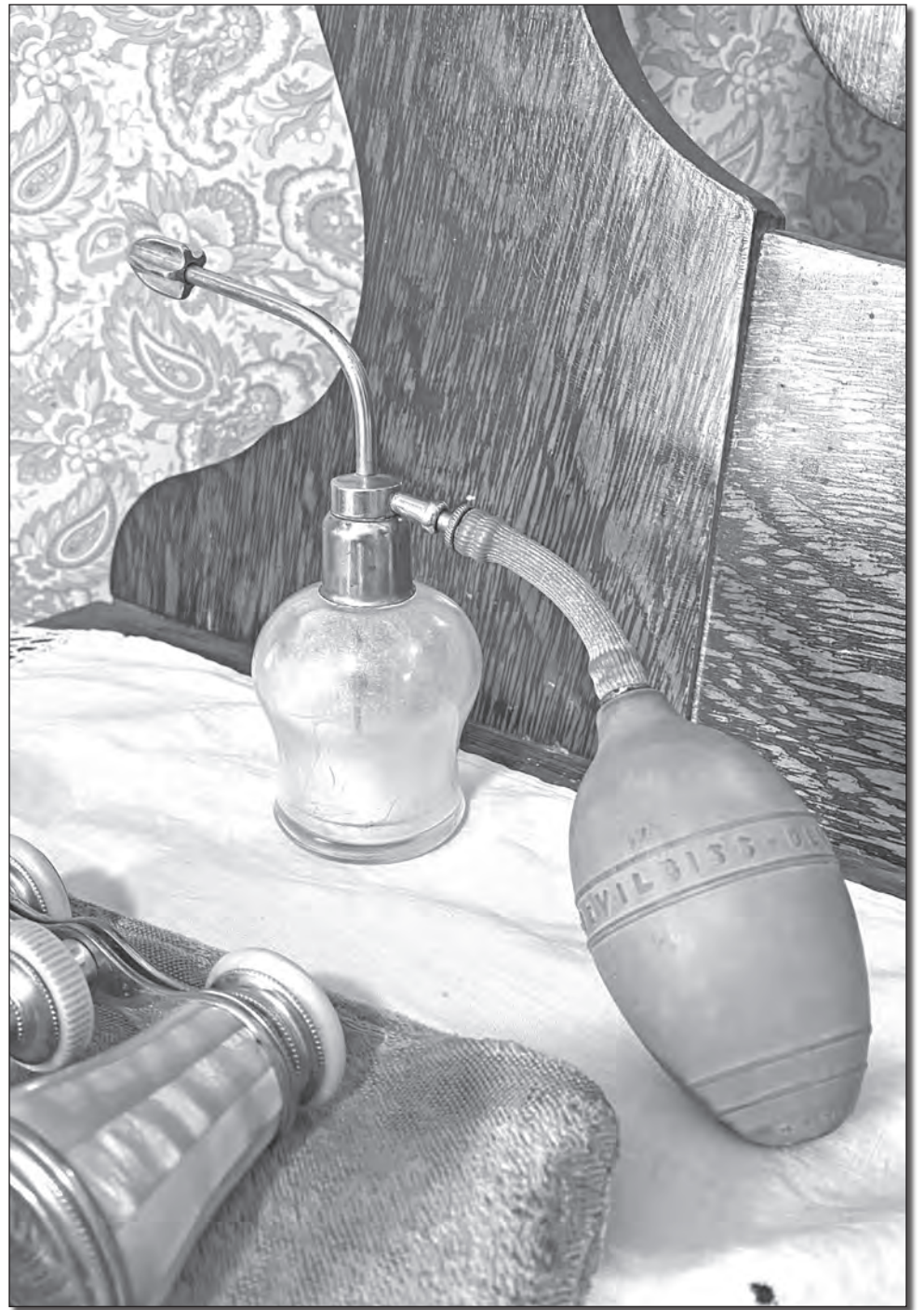


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM

Woman charged with assaults

Westman RCMP Service Report

July 14 - July 20

Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 62 calls for service; 12 were traffic related including 8 moving traffic – speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were 13 assault files, 5 theft, 3 suspicious person/vehicle/property, 9 mischief and 8 false alarm files.

July 14 - while patrolling, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Hwy #1. Radar confirmed a speed on 190 km/h in a 110 km/h zone. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was issued a traffic offence notice for speeding which carries a fine of \$1097, and a serious offence notice for driver's licence suspension.

July 14 - RCMP received a report of a stolen truck from a rural location in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. The vehicle was recovered along Hwy #1 near Brandon. Another vehicle was then stolen from this location. This vehicle was later located in Hartney. Police are still investigating the matter to identify the suspect or suspects responsible.

July 15 - RCMP received a report of a stolen truck and trailer from a residence in Virden. The trailer contained all their furniture, electronics and other personal belongings. The truck and trailer were last seen in Saskatchewan,

but has not been recovered yet. Police in Sask. have apprehended one individual who is believed to be related to the offence. Police continue to investigate.

July 16 - RCMP received a report of a female threatening residents in a home in Virden with a knife. Upon police arrival, the female had left the residence. She was later located and arrested. A 30-year-old woman was charged with assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, assault on police, resisting arrest, mischief under \$5000 and 5 counts of failing to comply with a probation order. The accused female appeared in court the following day and was released on a court order.

July 16 - Police received a 911 of a vehicle collision at the intersection of King Street and 3rd Avenue in Virden. Police, Fire and Ambulance attended the scene. One vehicle was heading northbound on King Street and the other southbound on King Street. Police obtained video footage showing both vehicles swerving towards each other. Both drivers were spoken with and it was determined that the two drivers were friends and intentionally swerved towards each other. The vehicles were towed from the location and no injuries were reported. Alcohol may have played a factor in the collision. Charges are pending.

July 19 - RCMP received a report of a wallet and cell phone stolen from a vehicle parked at a business in Virden. A suspect has not yet been identified. Police

continue to investigate.

July 19 - police received a call advising of gunshots in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community. Police attended and safely contained the location; but later determined that no firearm was used and the sound of gunshots was likely fireworks.

July 20 - RCMP received a report of a stolen vehicle that was parked outside a business in Virden. Police patrolled the area and located the vehicle parked behind another business in Virden. Police spoke with the complainant who realized he had forgotten he'd moved the vehicle to a different location.

July 20 - RCMP received a report of a stolen vehicle that was parked overnight outside a business in Virden. The vehicle was recovered in a slough near Oak Lake Beach. On the same night, another vehicle was stolen from the Oak Lake Beach area. Police continue to investigate.

There has been an increased volume of property offences, thefts, mischiefs, suspicious persons and suspicious vehicles. Police would like to remind everyone to please be diligent - ensure your property is locked up, security cameras are in place and operational, and if you do note suspicious activity, please report it immediately. In all cases of vehicle thefts, the vehicles were unlocked and the keys were inside the vehicle.

RCMP would also like to remind the public that during the summer there are multiple construction zones on our Manitoba roads. Speed limits are lower in designated construction zones, whether or not workers are present, and the fine for speeding is double the cost of a regular ticket.

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.

News from Miniota

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

Barry and Dianne Clark are first time grandparents to Lincoln James William, a son born to Katrina and Levi Ferguson on July 17 at Brandon. Congratulations to you all!

Deepest sympathy is extended to Les and Marlene Bryant and family and Jack and Irene Bryant on the death of their brother Terry on July 17. We extend our sympathy also to Terry's wife Greta and their children and grandchildren at Hinton AB.

Jeff, Tricia and Reese Lelond have returned from a trip west with many stops along the way to see the sights. They visited with Tricia's cousin Sherri (Cole) Van Vliet and her husband at their cabin in Peachland BC, and enroute home they stopped to visit Liz Hargrave and her family at Walsh AB.

Chris, Christine, Aubrey and James Tougas from Red Lake, ON made their home base with Linda Clark for the weekend while they visited with the Morton families at Hamiota and the Clark families in this area.

Sympathy is extended to Ken Fulton and his daughters Tara, Crystal and Jamie and their families on the death of Lucille Fulton. Lucille was raised at Minota, the daughter of Charles and Hilda Goodwin. Sympathy also to Lucille's siblings

Carol, Linda and Marty and their families.

A graveside service was held on July 22 at the Miniota Cemetery for Dennis Chartier. Upon completing high school Dennis moved west to Coronation AB working in the oil fields, as a meat cutter and on a construction crew. Dennis died on December 21, 2023. Sympathy is extended to his siblings Bernadette McDougall, Patricia Edgerton, Aline and Charles Deschambault, Madeline and Terry Stonehouse, and Ron and Cindy Chartier and many nieces and nephews.

Monday, July 15, the Sri Chinmoe Oneness-Home Peace Run passed through Miniota. Several young people from the Miniota Discoveries Centre and their teachers were on hand to greet the runners. The runners from all over the world including Canada, United States and Australia to name a few places took the time to stop and visit with the children, teaching them a song and allowing them to run with the group and carry the torch. Friendly people with a wonderful message!

Hats off to the Miniota Community Centre board for all their hard work in putting together the Miniota Shirt Sleeve Classic from July 19 - 21, a busy and fun weekend for all ages with something for everyone. The canteen and supper were busy spots

with many volunteers and cooks supplying food and work. A special nod goes to Bob Gardham and his ice making crew for their hard weather in this heat wave. Twenty-four rinks hit the ice. A Side Winners: Sean, April and Randy McKean B Side: Todd Brown, Brett Heaman, Anesha Heaman & Jocelyn Brown C Side: Kayla Hunter, Matthew Kulbacki, Kendall Kohinski & Robyn Lelond

Friday evening a Washers tournament was held with 24 teams participating. Winners were: A Side - Curtis Gardham and Brady Brown; B Side Tiphany Gardham and Krista Orr and C Side Jadon Howarth and Nick Pouteau.

Despite the heat, the Miniota Golf Course was a busy spot as they sponsored an 18-hole tournament. Junior: First Landon Clark, second Logan Armitage, third Mason Poppel. Ladies Under 55: First Abby Stowe, second April McKean, third Wanda Rhodes. Ladies Over 55: First Sharon McKenzie, second Sheila Sheane, third Irene Clark. Men's Under 55 First Flight: First Dustin Morton, second Cody Powell, third Jeff Poppel. Second Flight: First Brady Joseph, second Mason Kowall, third Andryn King. Third Flight: First Sheldon Doole, second Nick Pouteau, third Sheldon Moorehead. Men's 55 & Over: First Dean McConnell, second

Clay Wyborn, third Rod McKean. Second Flight: First Ron Clark, second Del Sheane, third Murray Powell.

Saturday saw the annual 5KM Color Fun Run/Walk take place sponsored by the Miniota Skating Club. With all ages participating it was a rainbow of color at the last stop.

The car rally is always a hit, and twenty-two groups of people took the tour. This year top driving awards go to Ron & Shelley Gardham, Donna Gardham, Perry & Teri Van de Kerckhove. One memorable stop was the little replica of the Arrow River Church where team members were to video themselves singing a hymn of their own choice and submit it.

The Miniota Fire Department were busy people Saturday morning as a large crowd came to enjoy a free pancake breakfast. The Dept. held a raffle of a patio set and the lucky winner was Courtney Muir. Prairie View EMO was on hand to sign residents up for Connect. They had a draw for a \$100 Co-op Gift card which was won by Chelsey Kowall.

Miniota Pickleball Club hosted a 'Fun' tournament on Saturday. There are three groups of iceballers (approximately 40 people) that regularly play during the week here in Miniota - 5 different time slots in the week. At the tournament, names were entered individually from all groups and players were randomly placed with a different partner for each

game. We had 16 people play, including players from Birtle, Isabella, Virden and Miniota. No scores were recorded but new acquaintances were made, and a good time was had by all.

Sunday saw six teams take to the ball diamonds for a slo pitch tournament. A Side Winners: Master Batters who very graciously donated their winnings back to the Miniota CC. B Side: BTS Sluggers C Side: Bad News Beers.

Sunday the 18th annual Tractor Pull Competition was held with 24 tractors.

5000 lbs & Under: First Kyle Gurr Miniota, second Gill Farms Ltd Oak River.

6000 lbs & Under: First Murray Gurr Miniota, second Kyle Gurr Miniota, third Richard Willman Griswold.

7000 lbs & Under: First Kyle Gurr Miniota, second Murray Gurr Miniota, third Darren Cuthill Welwyn SK.

8000 lbs & Under: The Calvin Bryant Memorial: First Kyle Gurr Miniota, second Murray Gurr Miniota, third Andy Corby Oak River.

9000 lbs & Under: First Gary Hall Virden, second Riley Hall Oak Lake, third Gill Farms Ltd Oak River.

10,000 lbs & Under: The Bob Bryant Memorial: First Gill Farms Ltd Oak River, second Will Cuthill Welwyn SK, third Murray Gurr Miniota.

12,000 lbs & Under: First Kyle Gurr Miniota, second Nick Dushnicky Isabella.

12,000 & Over: First Nick Dushnicky Isabella, second Danny Argue Glenlochar.

On Saturday and Sunday,

Prairie View Valley Recreation along with their helpers supplied entertainment for the youth offering face painting, games, bracelet making, disc golf, and an inflatable water slide. The Miniota Fire Department hosted their Kids' Firemen Rodeo where the kids tested out their fire fighting skills. The kids' activities were sponsored by North Mountain Welding, Prairie View Municipality, Assiniboine West Watershed District, Little Kitchen on the Prairie, Twin Valley Co-op and Fusion Credit Union.

And the weekend wouldn't be complete without the beer gardens along with music from Party Jockeys. The Miniota Community Centre is appreciative of all the support they received this weekend as they work towards their goals in raising funds to manage the facility and also for their enhancement project towards the rink and the baseball diamonds. As well as fundraisers such as this, the committee has a quarter section crop growing with this project being titled 'Grow Miniota.' Having witnessed our community in full action this weekend despite the heat temps, I felt this quote is applicable for the fine work of the MCC along with the many volunteers plus those who came out to support all the events and to enjoy the food and fellowship.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

August at the Station features Elaine Rawlings' art

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Work of renowned Manitoba artist Elaine Rawlings will be the feature exhibition in Virden's CPR Station Historic Centre gallery throughout August.

Open on weekdays, Tuesday to Saturday, Arts Mosaic also offers a number of opportunities to do art, to participate in programs and workshops there.

But the monthly art exhibition is always a drawing card. Rawlings' show, "Rural Ruins" is sure to capture the imagination. She's an example of someone who has developed their artistic eye and painting ability over decades. Her talent began to unfold when she joined Hamiota Art Club and began lessons in watercolour.

The artist's reception is Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Station at 425, 6 Ave S. and along with an opportunity to meet Elaine, you can hear live music from local singer Charley Dunning, who you may have seen on the Aud Theatre stage in

Virden's musicals.

Arts Mosaic is hosting an array of afternoon activities beginning on Aug. 7. For "Fashion Craft Day," Station assistant, Daelyn Fefchak says, "We will be making custom pin-on buttons with our button press, and painting tote bags. Youth will be leaving the event with a fun new bag and buttons to go with it."

Aug. 13 will be an afternoon of cardmaking. "It's always nice to have a stock of handmade birthday cards ready to give...."

For the older crowd, there's a tea party in Victoria Park on Aug. 26, in partnership with S.A.I.L! "Costume Closet will be providing us with fun accessories to try on while you enjoy your tea. Please R.S.V.P. by Aug. 19 to participate."

On Aug. 28 it's open mic night for musicians of all ages. "If you have a song or two you want to share, please call, message, or email us to register for open mic. It'll be a lovely night showcasing the town's talent," says Fefchak.

For all of these events, Arts Mosaic members will have early access to registration to secure their

spot. To become a member, visit artsmosaic.ca or drop by the Station to apply.

The Chess Club meets late Friday afternoons. If you're looking for a chess opponent, this is the place.

Join in on August's community art project at the Station by painting a small wood square. "You can paint an animal, a portrait, a heartwarming message, or anything you'd like," says Fefchak. "We will put all the pieces together on the wall in the gallery to create a beautiful mosaic of artwork."

There are also unique items to purchase: "Mosaic Market has a ton lovely handmade items, such as pottery, tea, paintings, accessories, home decor, soup mix, and so much more. August will see a refreshment of the Mosaic Market, so check out what's new if you're looking for a gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself."

Costume Closet, also on Sixth Ave. is open Monday and Thursday afternoons. If you're in need of an outfit for an event, stop by and check out their massive library of clothing, accessories, and props, all available for rent.

Big Game Draw Results - released July 12



FILE PHOTO

Elk, (*Cervus elaphus canadensis*), the largest and most advanced subspecies of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), found in North America.

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources has announced the 2024 hunting season will proceed as regularly scheduled.

Big game hunters are advised the 2024 big game elk, big game moose and elk land-owner draw results will be released tomorrow, Friday, July 12.

Based on this year’s review of licences, the province has made the decision to reduce the number of licences in a limited number of Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) this year in order to balance population sustainability and the needs of harvesters while still offering hunting opportunities.

There are no changes to the elk draw. The number of available moose draw licences has been reduced in four of the province’s 62 GHAs.

For more information on Manitoba wildlife and hunting, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/wildlife/index.html.

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Join the fight to protect your hunting and fishing rights

Submitted
BY MANITOBA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Manitoba Wildlife Federation asks court to intervene to stop government attack against Manitoba resident hunters

Manitoba hunters and anglers are on high alert today to protect their heritage rights following an unjustifiable and unlawful decision yesterday by the Manitoba Government that will virtually strip non-Indigenous hunters of the chance to hunt moose in northern Manitoba.

“The fear is that the

moose hunt is just the start and there will be further restrictions on hunting and fishing province-wide,” said Chris Heald, Senior Policy Advisory at the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

“When political organizations like the MKO start to manage conservation, rather than the biologists, all Manitobans will lose as our natural resources will simply be depleted,” Heald added.

“Reconciliation is

about uniting not dividing,” said Carly Deacon, Managing Director of the MWF. “The sustainability of the resource must come first, which is why we are alerting Manitoba’s 350,000 hunters and anglers to the growing threat from the Province.”

In addition to letter writing and petitions, the group is also headed to court to seek a judicial review of this wrongly directed decision from the government.

Music at the Museum

Dylan Southam

Daelyn Fetchak

Layla Gross

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

1:00 PM / 2:30 PM

FREE ENTRY

Come to the Virden Pioneer Home Museum for some live music! Feel free to bring some friends and family for a picnic or just relax as you listen to some wonderful tunes! Bring your own lawn chair!

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virdenpioneermuseum@wcgwave.ca

135TH OAK LAKE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIR

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Oak Lake celebrated its 135th Agricultural Society Fair on Saturday, July 20. The fair actually started on Friday night with some fantastic fireworks. On Saturday, Valleyview Co-op served up delicious pancakes that were free with entry.

New this year was the Ranch Horse Competition and Miniature Horse Show. This was followed by a huge town parade. Judging also started first thing in the morning for all the exhibit entries, horticultural, baking, school art, canning, sewing, quilts and so much more.

At 11am the light horse show started along with the slo pitch tournament. Opening ceremonies were held at the Bacon Chase ring. Right after the Bacon Chase began with a couple dozen kids trying hard to catch pigs running around the ring.

The Beef show kicked off the afternoon events along with all the kids' activities and the exhibit hall opened for everyone to check out the winners.

The final event of the day was the Lawn Mower Pull with a dozen entries. Everyone could watch the Lawn Mower Pull from the Beer Gardens and enjoy a nice cold beer on this very hot July day.

List of winners will be printed next week.



Wade Aitchison with his pony Star and guest rider Great Grandpa Bill Jasper. There is an 82 year difference between Great Grandpa and Great Grandson.




PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Top: Bacon Chase pig scramble was a lot of fun.

Left: Judging began on all the exhibits entered on Saturday July 20.

Bottom: The winning quilts from the Oak Lake Ag Fair exhibitors.



REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

OPERATION OF CANTEEN-OAK LAKE ARENA

The RM of Sifton is accepting proposals for the lease and operation of the Oak Lake Arena Canteen located at 474 Cameron St. West in Oak Lake.

The arena canteen contract will commence November 1st, 2024, or a date negotiated with the successful candidate. The initial term may be either 6 months or 1 year. The successful candidate would be required to be open for all arena events. However, the successful candidate will have the option to be open more often at their own discretion. It will not be a requirement, other than being open for all arena events, to be open 7 days a week or on a full-time basis. It can be run as a general canteen.

All basic canteen equipment will be supplied-deep fryer, griddle, upright freezer, large double cooler, microwave and cappuccino machine.

Sealed submissions will be accepted until August 6th, 2024 @ 9:30am

Canteen upgrades will be taking place October 1-October 31st, 2024.

Please mail/email proposals to:
OAK LAKE ARENA CANTEEN PROPOSAL
Lisa Greig, CAO
Box 100 RM of Sifton R0M 1P0
Email: cao@rmofsifton.com

The RM of Sifton reserves the right to award the proposal at their sole discretion. The highest proposal will not necessarily be accepted

120TH HARDING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIR

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Harding 120th Agricultural Society Fair kicked off with its traditional pancake breakfast on Friday, July 19. There was a huge increase in numbers this year as the Kenton businesses hosted their breakfast. They ran out of pancake mix and had to have more raced out to cover more hungry people. Then, they ran out of plates and had to borrow from the Harding Ag Supper. They estimated that 350 plus people came for breakfast on Friday, one of their biggest turn outs.

“On behalf of our directors, I’d like to thank all of the light horse and pony exhibitors for attending our 2024 fair. I hope you enjoyed it! Also, thank you so much to all of our sponsors. You are greatly appreciated,” says Wenda Best.

Thank-you for our sponsors, Redfern Farm Services, Jenna Kent, Doreen Lawlor, Woodworth Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ltd., K&T Slimmon and Family, Bill & Linda Drake, Barry Fontana (Deno Fontana Memorial), Brierwood Creek Cafe & Grill, Harder Tack & Feed, Mary Rouse Family, Shannon Lawlor Fine Art, Oaknerview Farm, Jody’s Welding, D.A.R.K. Horse & Cattle Co, Crocusview Farm, Donna Hunter. Marcia Carter, and Betty Best Family (Betty Best Memorial). List of winners will be printed next week.



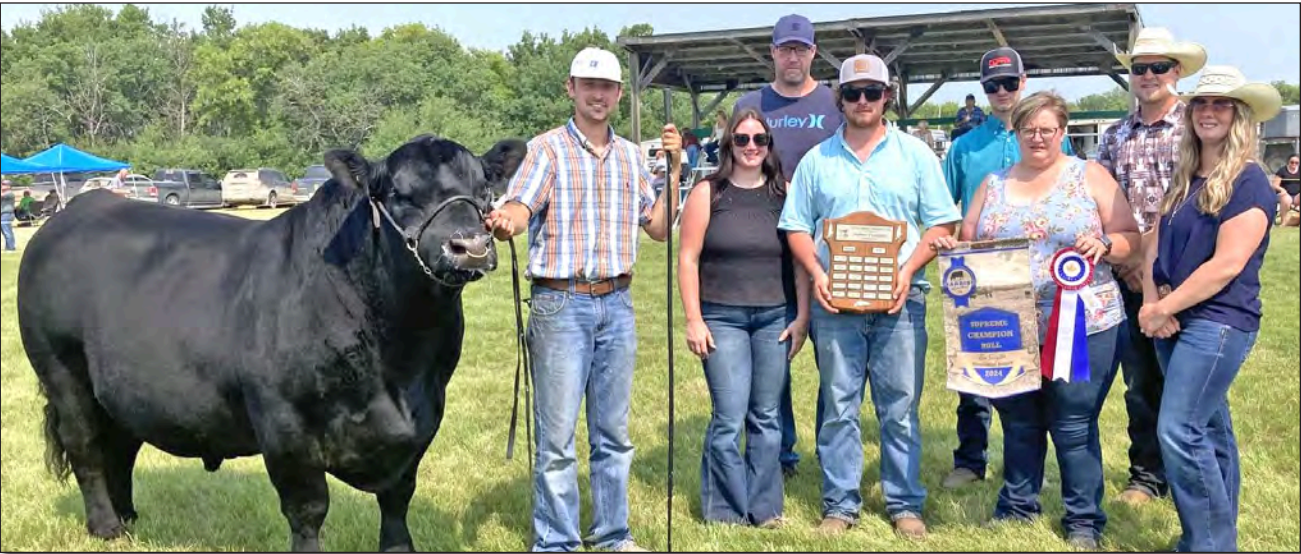
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winner of the Betty Best Memorial Plaque was Kora Thompson on Rango. Thank you to the Best family for your sponsorship of this award.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Ricki Hill riding in the pole bending competition. Pole bending is a rodeo timed event that features a horse and one mounted rider, running a weaving or serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line.



Congratulations to Bar H Land & Cattle the Hogberg family from Langenberg SK. Winner of the 2024 Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Bull Award and entry into the CN Beef Supreme at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina this fall!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Congratulations to Merit Cattle Company, the Liebreich family from Radville SK winner of the 2024 Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Female Award and entry into the CN Beef Supreme at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina this fall!



The Cattle Show had more entries this year than last and continues to grow.

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SPORTS

FOUILLARD STANDS OUT AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Miniota's Kasey Fouillard played arguably her best hockey at the right time of the season.

The Assiniboine Community College defender was named Second Team All-Tournament last spring at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Women's Division II National Championships. The daughter of Mike and Melissa Mitchell scored four goals and averaged 1.40 points per game.

"To be named to the national all-tournament second team meant a great honour to me," Fouillard said. "I wouldn't have gotten there if it truly wasn't for my teammates and the coaching staff as well."

Her efforts helped the Brandon-based ACC Cougars finished second at the national tournament, which was held in St. Louis, Mo. In the finals, ACC lost to Sault College of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., 3-0.

"The thing that I most enjoyed about the national championship was the atmosphere of the final game and the entire tournament itself," Fouillard said. "With such build up over the season for the one week, pressure was definitely at stake. As the competition was pretty high, making it to the finals was a great accomplishment of ours, finishing second out of the 32 teams in the league. The

college and our hockey manager Larry (Shannon) always does a great job of helping their athletes in preparation for the games so that we can put forth our best efforts."

Fouillard was a key contributor for the Cougars all season long. She led the team with 15 assists. Fouillard's 23 points in 20 games placed her third on the team.

"Kasey is a strong skating centre with a hard shot," said Tony Bertone, ACC's head coach last season. "Her determination to chase pucks down was an asset to our success. She played on all special teams and was a pleasure to coach."

Fouillard said she has been fortunate to have her parents supporting her throughout her hockey career.

"From when I was just a little pea in a pod and needing help to tie my skates, to playing with an ACHA D2 college team in St. Louis for the national championship, it has truly meant a great deal to me to see my family in the stands," she said. "I also can't forget my grandparents who have nonetheless been there since day 1. Don't know what I would have done without my family and all the sacrifices they have done over the years."

Fouillard graduated in June from ACC's digital art and design program. She said, "The thing that I enjoyed most about the program was the people I was surrounded by each day. From my classmates to my instructors, everyone



FILE PHOTO

is so kind-hearted and generous, it made going to class that much more enjoyable."

Home renovations is something Fouillard would like to pursue in the future. In the summer of 2023, she worked for Gardham Brothers Construction and gained valuable experience in the industry. To help her, Fouillard would like to study construction, possibly at ACC.

VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

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Senior (60 plus)	\$225.00	(\$7.75 /game)
Youth (8-17)	\$125.00	(\$4.31 /game)
Family	\$675.00	
(2 Adult & 2 Youth)		

REGULAR PRICING AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

Adult (18-59)	\$310.00	(\$10.68/game)
Senior (60 plus)	\$260.00	(\$8.96 /game)
Youth (8-17)	\$135.00	(\$4.65 /game)
Family	\$740.00	
(2 Adult & 2 Youth)		

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Adult (18 plus)	\$15.00
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SPORTS

ANDREW THRIVING AS CANISIUS STUDENT-ATHLETE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Hunter Andrew is greatly enjoying life as a student-athlete.

Last spring the son of Brock and Andrea Andrew completed his second season as a contributing member of the Canisius University men's hockey team. He has also excelled in the classroom at the Buffalo, N.Y. institution.

"I love how competitive it is and the passion behind playing for something bigger than just a team," Andrew said. "Having the support of a whole school behind you and getting to play for them makes the games feel so much more meaningful. Being able to go to school and get a degree at the same time I am playing hockey has been important to me as well. To be able to shape my life after hockey with school while I continue to chase my hockey dreams has been such a huge benefit."

A 6-foot, 175-pound forward, Andrew earned a spot in the lineup for 16 games for the Golden Griffins. They compete at the NCAA Division I level, the highest in American university athletics. Canisius University head coach Trevor Large said that Andrew has made good strides in understanding of how competitive DI hockey is.

Prior to heading to New York state, Andrew developed his game in the junior ranks with his hometown Virden Oil Capitals, the Charlotte (N.C.) Rush, and the Powell River (B.C.) Kings. At each of those stops, he posted strong offensive numbers. Large believes in Andrew's potential to produce on that side of the ice for the Golden Griffins.

"He's got a great shot. It shows up most days in practice," Large said. "We're excited about it coming to fruition for him and us in a game scenario ... he can really score. He's got a very quick release. He can shoot in different ways. He has got deception. He can beat goalies one-on-one. That's something that's very, very difficult to pull off at the Division I level."

Starting this season, Andrew and the Golden Griffins will compete in the newly formed Atlantic Hockey America conference. Formerly, they were in the Atlantic Hockey Association. In both the new AHA and the old one, there were some interesting matchups for Andrew and his teammates. For example, the Golden Griffins compete against the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology, which features Andrew's older brother Tanner at forward.

"They are definitely my favourite games of the year," the younger Andrew brother said. "They are ones I have circled on the calendar at the start of the year and they're all always really easy games to get up for. They're also typically the games where I have the most family and friends



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY TOM WOLF OF CANISIUS ATHLETICS

Hunter Andrew playing with Canisius University men's hockey team

at. Over the last two years, I've got to share those games and experiences with some of my closest family and friends and that has meant everything to me."

Another interesting aspect of AHA men's hockey is that the conference includes two American military academies: United States Air Force Academy (Colorado) and United States Military Academy (West Point, N.Y.), often referred to as Army.

"Getting to play at the military academies is always a special experience," Andrew said. "The whole process of getting clearance to go on the military base to play a hockey game is like nothing I've ever experienced. The academies are such tight-knit communities and the fans always show up for their teams, which makes it a super fun atmosphere to play in."

Andrew has excelled at combining athletics and academics. This past season he was named an AHA Student-Athlete of the Year and an AHCA/Krumpal All-American Scholar as well as being selected to the AHA All-Academic Team for the second straight year. He is a finance major with a minor in pre-law. Andrew plans to apply to law school after earning his undergraduate degree.

"I have always really enjoyed working with numbers so the classes I have gotten into in the finance world have been a really good fit for me," he said. "Canisius has been a really good fit for me academically as it has given me the chance to get a degree in finance while also preparing me for a future in law school."

Whether it be the past, present or future, Andrew knows he will always have his family's backing.

"At the end of the day, my family's support has meant everything to me," he said. "I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today without them. They have done and continue to do everything my brother and I have needed to be successful. They are so supportive of everything I do and every dream I have, I couldn't begin to repay them. They are always coming down to Buffalo and Rochester and often bringing the boys with them, so they can have a little too much fun watching me and Tan play."

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD KIRK, late of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 30th day of August, 2024.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 18th day of July, 2024.

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We thank you for your interest. Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



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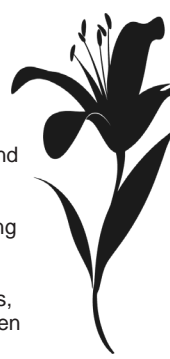
Thank you

The family of Glen Heaman

Would like to thank friends and family for their condolences that were extended to us – cards, hugs, visits and baking were so appreciated.

To the hospital staff, doctors, and nurses for your care given to Glen.

Barbara Heaman



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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
GLEN HEAMAN
DECEMBER 9, 1942 – JUNE 22, 2024



Glen Heaman, 81 of Virden, MB passed away peacefully at Virden District Hospital in the early hours of Saturday, June 22, 2024.

Glen was born on December 9, 1942, to Charlie and Millie Heaman of Hargrave, MB. He attended school in Hargrave until grade 8 when he moved to the larger school in Virden. School was not for Glen, and he left early to begin his own adventure in farming. He began at his Uncle Johnny's farm which he later purchased. Glen joined the Dragoon's Military course in 1961 to make some extra money to purchase his home parcel, Northwest of Hargrave, close to family.

Glen is survived by his wife, Barbara (Carefoot), married July 27, 1967, his children and their families; Bernard, Kathy, Ashley, Graem, Iyla, Elise, Samantha, Joshua, Michelle, Kevin, Connor, Maddy, Brendan, Mackayla, Shawn and Tyren.

Glen and his family resided at Hargrave for most of his life on the mixed farm. He rarely traveled, as farm life and animals require constant attention. He enriched his life with community service, sitting on boards, joining committees and clubs including Manitoba Pool Elevators Grain Division, Hargrave Community Club, Hargrave Memorial Rink, Virden Elks and Virden Legion. He made many friends and enjoyed his time working with them, sharing the work and many laughs along the way.

In addition to farm life, Glen worked for 28 years at Virden Auction Mart. He made more friends and community connections far and wide. There were numerous after-work card games, a pile of nickels in front of him, a drink in hand, lots of laughter.

Glen and Barbara moved to Virden in 2003, selling the farm in 2006. In Virden he enjoyed attending the Virden Oil Caps games and was a faithful season ticket holder until he couldn't manage the stairs. He also enjoyed his time in the stick-curling league for the time his health allowed it.

In 2015, Glen and Barabara moved to Bolton Place where Glen joined his cronies daily for coffee time and more laughs. Throughout his life Glen enjoyed good people, a good argument and a good laugh about it. He liked to be right, and he liked to tell you so.

A Memorial for Glen Heaman was held at the Legion Hall on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 2:00pm. Private interment.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba or the Manitoba Arthritis Society.

In Loving Memory

In loving memory of
Norman - Nov. 4, 1989
Cliff - Mar. 14, 2011
Dennis - Jul. 31, 2023

Sometimes when we are lonely, and tears come to our eyes, we think of you at peace, and know we should not cry. So when we smile and hide our heartaches, as you would want us to, and when we shed our lonely tears, no one knows but God and you.

Sadly missed by your family.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
LINDSAY EWART WHITE
FEBRUARY 16, 1968 – JUNE 29, 2024



Family gathered together on July 5, 2024, a beautiful warm sunny morning, at Virden Cemetery for a private service to celebrate the life of Lindsay Ewart White. The service was officiated by Tanis Podobni of St. Paul's United Church. Urn bearer was Lindsay's cousin, Bev Hulvershorn.

Lindsay was born in Virden on February 16, 1968, to parents Frank and Dawn White. He obtained his education in Virden, graduating from Virden Collegiate in 1986. In high school his classmates referred to him as Virden's answer to Walter Cronkite. He then attended University of Regina and completed his studies at University of Winnipeg, obtaining his Business Education Degree. Lindsay returned home to Virden where he became involved with the Access TV, Channel 12. This is where he became known as the "Camera Guy". He spent many long hard hours taping community events to be broadcast to folks of this area. Following this he worked with News In A Minute and Virden Empire-Advance.

He was very involved with the Virden Indoor Rodeo Committee for over 14 years. Lindsay had a passion for picking berries and fruit and a great love for his dad's old classic car.

Lindsay was called to his Eternal Home at age 56 on June 29, 2024, at the Virden District Hospital following a lengthy illness.

He is predeceased by his dad, Frank White, Grandparents, Grandma and Grandpa White, Grandma and Grandpa Freeman, Uncle Lloyd and Aunt Doris Lifeso, Uncle Wayne Freeman, Aunt Dianna Freeman and cousin Scott Freeman.

He is survived by his mom, Dawn White, brother and sister-in-law, Layton and Jennifer White, niece Madisyn White, nephews, Joshua (Sydney) and Zachary White, as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Lindsay, your camera, your interest in community events will be missed by many.

Lindsay is laid to rest in the Virden Cemetery Columbarium.

*"Sleep on, beloved, sleep and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best."*

Carscadden Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

For those who so desire, memorial tributes may be made to Virden and Area Foundation or a charity of choice in memory of Lindsay.

REST IN PEACE, LINDSAY

For Sale

WANTED

Coins,
Coin Collection,
Old Jewelry,



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

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- Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for **ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST**. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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Stonewall, MB
204-467-1858 or 204-886-7027
McSherryAuction.com

Cops talk car theft

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At the July 16 Town of Virden council meeting, Corporal Eduardo Giannico of Virden RCMP reported that the detachment will soon have their full complement of officers. Although Sgt. Helen Goodman is retiring on Sept. 4, her replacement Sgt. Cooper will arrive on Aug. 19, allowing an overlap of two weeks to transition. Two officers are in training in Chilliwack and two others will join the detachment in September. Coun. Mark Savy asked how Virden's Crime Severity Index (CSI) compares to other communities of similar size. The CSI measures the overall seriousness of crime from one year to the next by tracking both

the number of crimes within a community, and the severity of the crimes committed. This provides a better understanding of the impact that crime has on the community. Corp. Giannico agreed to give a presentation explaining the index at his next report to council. According to Giannico auto theft is increasing rapidly in the area and in all recent cases the keys have been left in the car. He said that these crimes are preventable if people make a habit of removing the keys when they leave the vehicle. RCMP will bring a presentation to council regarding internet and phone fraud in October. TOGP Council approved the increase in ice rental rates at

Tundra Oil and Gas Place (TOGP) in the 4-6pm time slot as well as all day Saturday and Sunday. This is prime time at TOGP and this winter the rate will increase by 2.5%, although rates for morning and early afternoon will not increase. Businesses and individuals can sponsor public skating or sticks-and-pucks time for kids this summer. Several sponsorships have already been received. Council discussed ice cancellation policies at TOGP and decided to allow changes to booking times made within the same day without loss of deposit this summer. AMM The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is proposing a resolution asking the provincial government to review the

mandate of the Manitoba Municipal Board (MMB). According to the MMB website the two main areas of its jurisdiction are to hear property assessment appeals and planning appeals and referrals. The board is a "quasi-judicial administrative tribunal" whose members are appointed, not elected. CAO Rhonda Stewart said that the board has delayed many projects including municipal borrowing by-laws. The process is so overloaded that some appeals have been delayed for years. Council agreed to support the AMM resolution for a review. SPEED SIGNS Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (ACO) Jared Jaffray reported that MPI has agreed to loan Virden two radar speed signs. These signs can be moved to different locations and will be available for five years. The Town will

be responsible for moving the signs and will add the devices to their insurance policy. To locate the signs in the safest and most effective spots, placement will be determined at the advice of RCMP. Coun. Bruce Dunning asked what data would be gathered by the signs and if there were plans to use this data for enforcement of speed limits. Jaffray replied, "To my knowledge what its recording would be the number of vehicles going down the street... and the number of vehicles speeding." OUTDOOR FURNITURE The Town recently made a request for proposals (RFP) to supply benches and garbage containers for location at public facilities. The initial response was very costly, so a second RFP was issued with better results. Barco Products is a Canadian company that provides outdoor furni-

ture, and their proposal would allow the purchase of 45 benches and 55 garbage cans for the budgeted funds. The new furniture is part of Virden's Revitalization Plan from Virden Boost committee. AUD THEATRE The seats in the Aud theatre are being replaced and council passed a resolution to engage the services of T.L. Penner Construction for project management services for the project. The Town will process and manage the financial part of the project, which involves the paying of all expenses related to the project, with the Auditorium Theatre Board reimbursing the Town of Virden for all costs. AIRPORT Council decided they required further information and discussion prior to awarding the tender for the airport expansion/rehabilitation.



Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736
Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440
Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440
Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033
Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Check your mailbox! 2024 Property Tax Notices have been sent out.

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

Upcoming Council Meetings:
Tuesday, August 20 &
Wednesday, September 4

Please Note:
Town of Virden Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM

2024 Summer Day Camp



Some spots are still available for this year's camp. Check out www.virden.ca for registration details.



Dutch Elm Disease Program

Monitoring and surveys are underway by MB Forestry & Peatlands Branch.

Inspectors will be viewing private and public properties.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440, or the Tree Line at 204-945-7866.

Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virden offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2024 property taxes. Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2023 property taxes. The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

Month of Payment	Discount Rate	Savings on \$1,000.00
July	0.75%	\$7.50

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par.

Tax prepayments can be made by mailing a cheque with the **tax roll number** written on the reverse to the Town of Virden, Box 310, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, e-transfer to clerk@virden.ca, via online banking, or by attending the Town Office in person during normal business hours.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440.

2024 Swimming Lesson registration is open

For more information, visit www.virden.ca or call the pool office at 204-748-2736 ext 3.



Summer Ice Available for Booking

\$210 + GST per hour

Non-refundable 50% deposit due at the time of booking.

Please contact Melody at the Town Office for more information.



Town Office Summer Hours

The Town of Virden Office will be closed at 4:00 PM on Fridays until August 30.



Sponsorships - Summer Ice



Local sponsorships available for summer public skate/sticks & pucks.

\$210 + GST per hour

Contact Melody at the Town Office for available times.

Virden Spray Park

Open daily 10:00 AM-8:00 PM



Honey Bees and Canola: Teaming Up for Success

Submitted

By MANITOBA CANOLA GROWERS

Canola farmers and beekeepers make a dynamic team. As with any team, communication and a clear game plan are key to their success.

Canola fields are a nectar jackpot. The bright yellow flowers are attractive to honey bees: they are easy to see and the shape of the flowers is easy to land on. Canola pollen is a good source of essential nutrients for bees, including amino acids, proteins, and fats, and canola nectar is high in sugars giving bees energy to fly, forage, and pack away stores.

The benefits go both ways. Research has shown that having pollinators near canola can lead to higher yields and improved seed ripening. An Australian study¹ revealed a decrease in the number of canola pods per plant as the distance from beehives increased.

"While there are many variables involved, we are seeing a one to two percent canola yield increase when there are bees present," says Ian Steppler, farmer, and chair of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The Steppler family farms 4,000 acres of canola, sunflowers, wheat, oats, and soybeans, they manage a 650-cow calf operation and tend to 1,500 hives near Miami, Manitoba.

There are close to 1000 beekeepers in the province and 115,000 hives. Commercial beekeepers manage the vast majority (95 percent) of those hives. This mutually beneficial partnership between bees and canola is an economic win for both beekeepers and canola farmers.

Manitoba produces more than 8,500 metric tonnes (nearly 20 million pounds) of highly prized smooth, water-white honey per year – with a value of over 50 million dollars⁽²⁾. The managed bee industry (honey bees and leafcutter bees) contributes up to 150 million dollars in increased pollination to canola, alfalfa and other crops grown in the province per year.

Protecting canola from insect pests

While a thriving beekeeping industry brings economic benefits to Manitoba, canola crops are susceptible to various insect pests which can significantly affect production and nectar yields for bees.

Every growing season is different, and insects vary by location and field conditions. Properly scouting canola fields at the correct timing to assess the level of damage or infestation can help farmers manage insects throughout the season for a successful crop.

In Manitoba, common canola insect pests include flea beetles, cutworms, diamondback moth, lygus bugs, and grasshoppers. The Canola Council of Canada recommends farmers scout fields weekly for each of these pests, and if/when insects begin to approach action thresholds, sample more frequently to determine if insecticides are necessary.

Most canola purchased in Manitoba will be pre-treated with an insecticidal seed treatment for early season protection from pests like flea beetles, but scouting is still required as protection declines over time. Many crops require an additional in-season foliar insecticide application in late May or June to protect against yield loss.

The damage levels from these pests vary, and at higher population levels, they can cause damage detrimental to grain yield in canola and pest control may be required.

"We work with agronomists to monitor thresholds. If we see patches for example, we might not pull the trigger on an insecticide, but if we start to see widespread damage, we will apply a pollinator-safe insecticide," says Steppler.

There are insecticides on the market that offer control of key insect pressures with minimal impact on bees and other pollinators, which is ideal for integrated pest management programs. Though these insecticides typically come at an increased cost, they can be highly effective and add a diversified mode of action into farmer's insecticide programs helping to manage resistance development. Farmers can consult their local retailer for these targeted and effective options.

Best management practices

If insecticides are warranted, there are best manage-

ment practices that can minimize detrimental effects on nearby beehives.

First and foremost, keeping open communication between beekeepers and farmers is crucial. Beekeepers should inform farmers of nearby fields on hive locations as they are placing them. A new app called FieldWatch that helps improve communication between farmers and beekeepers is currently being trialed in Saskatchewan and may be coming to Manitoba soon.

The Manitoba Bee Act states that all beekeepers must post a sign with their contact information at any apiary site. Farmers are also encouraged to take note of any hives near their fields.

Giving a beekeeper 48 hours notice before any application can give them enough time to relocate or cover nearby hives as necessary.

"It may not only take time for a beekeeper to reorganize their schedule or prepare equipment or staff to move colonies, but they also need to organize the new site where colonies will be placed," says Matthew Polinsky, Program Lead of the Manitoba Knowledge and Research Transfer Program for Apiculture (KRTP). "Bees can only be moved under specific conditions so that move needs to be well-timed with weather, site access, and distances. It usually also takes place under the cover of darkness after already long days in the field."

If moving bees can be avoided, application timing becomes an even more crucial factor. "Spraying in the evening is the best thing a farmer can do to protect the bees and get the full benefit of the residual effect of the product," says Steppler.

Bees are more active during the day, so if spraying in the evening is not an option, spraying very early in the morning can also reduce exposure to bees. If possible, the Canola Council of Canada recommends waiting until the field is no longer in bloom to use an insecticide in



FILE PHOTO

canola to minimize effects on bees.

Flea beetle pressure can come on quickly requiring fast action from farmers. To avoid potential insecticide spray damage to hives during the critical flea beetle window (susceptible up to the four-leaf stage), Steppler notes that it's advantageous to beekeepers if they can delay placing hives in summer yards or along fields where canola is emerging.

It is important to always read and follow product label instructions, and check pre-harvest intervals when applying an insecticide.

Beekeepers and farmers can work together by better understanding each other's practices and communicating when preparing to take an action that may impact the other party in their shared environment. Simple steps like open communication, using treatment thresholds, considering pesticides with minimal impact on beneficial insects and pollinators, as well as proper application timing will ensure the best possible outcomes for both stakeholders and a bright future for both honey and canola production in Manitoba.

This article was prepared by the Manitoba Canola Growers and the Knowledge and Research Transfer Program for Apiculture (KRTP) for their respective audiences.

Virden Canada Day Committee

Would like to thank all of the volunteers and sponsors for making Canada Day 2024 a success!

Town of Virden
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Super Thrifty
Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth
Sunrise Credit Union
Tundra Oil and Gas Partnership
Virden Ag & Parts
Rival Insurance
Virden Recreation & Watersports
Carscadden Funeral Chapel LTD.
LRB Electric
McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell
Boston Pizza
AWA A. Wilson Auto Body
Virden Eye Care
Prairie Life Dental
Fountain Tire
Four Seasons
Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 8
Lemret Investments
Virden Empire Advance

THANK YOU!



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP #2024-01 – Canteen Services

Dated: July 10th, 2024

Request for Proposals
Canteen Services at Riverdale Community Centre

ISSUE DATE: July 10th, 2024
CLOSING DATE: August 16th, 2024
CLOSING TIME: 4:30 pm

Riverdale Community Center is a municipally owned facility located in Rivers, MB. Built in 2011, this facility includes an NHL size arena, 4 sheets of curling, a 2nd-floor curling lounge, and a 300-person hall, all wheelchair accessible.

Riverdale Municipality is seeking to entertain Requests for Proposals for the operations of the canteen in the Riverdale Community Centre. The kitchen is equipped with a deep fryer, grill, dishwasher, sinks, stoves, vent hood system, toaster, microwave, freezers and a refrigerator. All other desired equipment will be the responsibility of the successful bidder.

Sealed proposals are to be submitted on or before Friday, August 16th, 2024 at 4:30 pm to:

Chief Administrative Officer, Marci Quane Riverdale Municipality
P.O. Box 520, 670-2nd Avenue
Riverdale, MB
R0K 1X0

Full Details on the Request for Proposals can be found at www.riversdaly.ca/tenders

Miniota beats heat with curling classic

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

What started out as a unique July curling event 36 years ago has exploded into the Miniota Shirtsleeve Classic weekend, three days full of a variety of events. With this year's extreme heat pushing 30 degrees, the ice plant was struggling to keep up and curling games were shortened.

From the golf tournament on Miniota's picturesque course to the car rally, there was something for all ages and abilities, including indoor events and kids' activities.

Saturday morning the Miniota Fire Department put on a free Pancake Breakfast and open house. Saturday and Sunday suppers in the rink were well attended.

Kids and families enjoyed the 5km Fun Color Run organized by the Miniota Skating Club.

Kids activities included carnival games, face painting and bracelet making provided by Valley Recreation and to cool off they headed outside to the inflatable water slides.

Sunday, the Miniota Fire Department put on a Firemen's Rodeo where kids tested out their firefighting skills.

Sunday afternoon featured the ever popular tractor pull organized by the Gurr family of Miniota with several generations volunteering, the youngest cheering from the sidelines. A John Deere from the Dushnicky family of Isabella returned the weight sleigh to start position. Sponsors' support throughout the weekend is greatly appreciated.

Miniota Shirtsleeve Classic results:

Bonspiel
A-Side: Sean, April & Randy McKean
B-Side: Todd Brown, Brett Heaman, Anesha Heaman and Jocelyn Brown

C-Side: Kayla Hunter, Matthew Kulbacki, Kendall Kohinski, and Robyn Lelond

Slo Pitch Tournament
Six teams played
A-Side: Master Batters

B-Side: BTS Sluggers
C-Side: Bad News Beers
Thanks to the A-Side winners for donating their winnings back

Washers Tournament
24 teams played Friday night

A-Side: Curtis Gardham & Brady Brown

B-Side: Tiphany Gardham & Krista Orr

C-Side: Jadon Howarth and Nick Pouteau

Car Rally

22 groups took the tour around the scenic countryside finding facts about Miniota and Area. Winners were Ron & Shelley Gardham, Donna Gardham and Teri & Perry Van de Kerckhove.

Pickleball

A fun tournament included 16 players from Birtle, Miniota, Virden and Isabella.

Tractor Pull

Miniota Antique Tractor Pull had 24 Tractors in 8 weight categories
5,000 lbs & Under
1st Kyle Gurr, Miniota, Farmall 350
2nd Gill Farms Ltd, Oak River, Super W4
6,000 lbs & Under
1st Murray Gurr, Miniota, Farmall M
2nd Kyle Gurr, Farmall 460
3rd Richard Willman, Griswold, Massy 44
7,000 lbs & Under
1st Kyle Gurr, IHC 560
2nd Murray Gurr, IHC 560
3rd D. Cuthill, Welwyn, Sask. Super WD6
8,000 lbs & Under
1st Gary Hall, Virden, IHC 660
2nd Riley Hall, Oak Lake, Case 930
3rd Gill Farms Ltd, WD9
10,000 lbs & Under
Bob Bryant Memorial
1st Gill Farms Ltd, JD 820
2nd Will Cuthill Welwyn, IHC 660
3rd Murray Gurr, IHC 660
12,000 lbs & Under
1st Kyle Gurr, IHC 806
2nd Nick Dushnicky, Isabella, JD 3130
12,000 lbs & Over
1st N. Dushnicky, JD 4020
2nd Danny Argue, Glen-

Calvin Bryant Memorial
1st Kyle Gurr, IHC 650
2nd Murray Gurr, IHC 660
3rd Andy Corby, Oak River, Case 500
9,000 lbs & Under
1st Gary Hall, Virden, IHC 660
2nd Riley Hall, Oak Lake, Case 930
3rd Gill Farms Ltd, WD9
10,000 lbs & Under
Bob Bryant Memorial
1st Gill Farms Ltd, JD 820
2nd Will Cuthill Welwyn, IHC 660
3rd Murray Gurr, IHC 660
12,000 lbs & Under
1st Kyle Gurr, IHC 806
2nd Nick Dushnicky, Isabella, JD 3130
12,000 lbs & Over
1st N. Dushnicky, JD 4020
2nd Danny Argue, Glen-

loch Farm, JD 4020

Golf Tournament
Juniors
1. Landon Clark, 98
2. Logan Armitage, 101
3. Mason Poppel, 122
Ladies under 55
1. Abby Stowe, 94
2. April McKean, 98
3. Wanda Rhodes, 100
Ladies 55+
1. Sharon McKenzie, 90
2. Sheila Sheane, 92
3. Irene Clark, 98 on count back
Men's under 55
First Flight
1. Dustin Morton, 71
2. Cody Powell, 73
3. Jeff Poppel, 75
Second Flight
1. Brady Joseph, 84
2. Mason Kowall, 86
3. Andryn King, 86
Third Flight
1. Sheldon Doole, 95
2. Nick Pouteau, 98
3. Sheldon Moorehead, 99 on count back
Men's 55+
First Flight
1. Dean McConnell, 77 on count back
2. Clay Wyburn, 77 on count back
3. Rod McKean, 78
Second Flight
1. Ron Clark, 87
2. Del Sheane, 88 on count back
3. Murray Powell, 88 on count back



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Top: Washers Tournament winners Brady Brown and Curtis Gardham with their mittful of winnings.

Left: Car rally winners (back l-r) Donna Gardham, Perry Van de Kerckhove, (front l-r) Terri Van de Kerckhove, Shelly & Ron Gardham.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

VIRDEN MINIATURE HORSE SHOW & VIRDEN DRAFT HORSE SHOW

July 27 & 28, 2024

Virden Ag Society Grounds

Halter Classes - 9:00 am

Driving Classes - 1:30 pm

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Visit our Facebook pages to see the full list of sponsors



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Admission**

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