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GOLDEN BEARS TAKE UNDEFEATED RECORD TO WINNIPEG



The Virden Collegiate Institute football team defeated the Parkwest Outlaws in the Tundra Bowl.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team is off to a 3-0 start this season.

After a season-opening home victory over the Neepawa Tigers, as previously reported in the Empire-Advance, the Golden Bears rolled past the Parkwest Outlaws 47-14 to win the Tundra Bowl on Sept. 25. VCI earned a 22-21 comeback victory in Moosomin on Oct. 3.

As of Oct. 5, the Golden Bears led the Rural Manitoba Football League's West Division standings. On Oct. 11, they visit Winnipeg's St. Vital Mustangs, the East Division's top team with a 3-0 record.

"We will have a good test this week," VCI head coach Marc Talbot said.

Golden Bears 22, Generals 21

In Moosomin, the host Generals' defence was strong in the first half against the VCI run game. Moosomin held a 14-0 lead at the half.

"The team seemed frustrated with themselves," Talbot said. "Moosomin was winning at the line of scrimmage, and, with the windy conditions, passing the ball was really tricky. During the halftime break, I calmed them down, let them know that that was the worst half of football that I've seen this team play all year. I reminded them that we are better than what is happening on the field, and we just needed to calm down and play some good old Golden Bears football."

The Golden Bears came back, took the lead and withstood a Generals comeback attempt.

"By no means was it a pretty win, not all wins will be pretty," Talbot said. "The way we won this game, I hope will give the players extra confidence that just because we are down, we are not out. If you are having a bad game, you have 30 other players on the sideline that will pick you up. I'm not happy with how we started the game, but pleased with how they battled through it."

The coach described the final two minutes as "probably the most interesting that you will find."

Late in the game, the Generals punted through the end zone to record a single point and tie the game at 21-21. The Golden Bears moved down the field on a drive that included a crucial third-down conversion on a pass from Cohen Canada to Tough. VCI attempted to earn a point by punting through the end zone. The wind prevented that tactic from being successful, but the

Golden Bears tackled the Moosomin returner in the end zone to earn a point and take the lead.

"From there, our defence was able to stop the last couple plays from the Generals to secure the win," Talbot said.

Isaiah Barrate got the VCI comeback started with a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown. He scored again by returning an interception 57 yards.

"When he wasn't scoring TDs, he was stopping the Generals with nine tackles, three interceptions, and a forced fumble," Talbot said.

Barrate's brother, Evander, a first-year player, made nine tackles and a sack. Talbot said, "I think he was playing with a chip on his shoulder as he played last year with the Moosomin Generals U15 football team."

Also on defence, John Lindsay made nine tackles. Reed Plaiser and Shane Blackshaw each had seven tackles.

Dixon Tough rushed nine times for 103 yards and a touchdown. It was his third straight game of rushing for more than 100 yards.

Golden Bears 47, Outlaws 14

VCI recorded a big win in front of VCI and Virden Junior High students in the Tundra Bowl.

"It was nice seeing how full the bleachers were," Talbot said. "We even got the town to bring in an extra set of bleachers. The players really enjoyed playing in front of the students, and I hope this will generate some excitement with the younger students, and making them aware of this great football program we have in Virden."

Talbot was most impressed by how the team's young players stepped up. First-year player Corbin Coleman scored a pair of touchdowns on two receptions for 29 yards. Last spring, he was part of the Grade 7 and 8 flag football program Talbot organized.

Devonte Chaske was a factor on defence in his first football game. Talbot said he was in the Outlaws' backfield a lot.

"When a player comes into his first game, you normally see a lot of uncertainty and hesitation," the coach said. "I didn't see that with Devonte. He turned his motor on and put the pedal down. I see lots of potential with this young player."

Kenden McLauchlan, a second-year player, also was a factor on defence. He recorded two tackles and a sack.

"He is a guy that works so hard at every practice, and every game. It is nice to see him get rewarded with a big play like that," Talbot said.



VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
VS. WINNIPEG
BLUES
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



MEET THE TOWN OF VIRDEN CANDIDATES

P6-7



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

P7

Small Town, Big Hearts



PHOTO BY MEREDITH FRYZA WOLTERS
Bryan and Meredith Wolters love to help.

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In our town of Virden, Manitoba, Meredith Fryza Wolters and her husband, Bryan, live modest lives, but the impact they make reaches thousands of miles. Operating entirely without a non-profit designation or formal charity backing, Meredith and Bryan have quietly built a vital lifeline for people in desperate need, both right in their own neighbourhood and in Canada's most remote northern communities.

No One Should Be Afraid to Ask for Help

For Meredith and Bryan, helping others is not a structured program; it is simply doing whatever a good friend or family member would do in a time of crisis. While formal social systems exist to assist those in need, accessing that help often takes time, sometimes weeks or longer. In that vulnerable gap, many people fall through the cracks. That is usually when they find their way to Meredith.

It all started a few years ago during a postal strike. Meredith and Bryan placed a little red mailbox in their front yard so local children could mail letters to Santa. But among the holiday wish lists was a heartbreaking plea from a family asking Santa for basic necessities: food, winter jackets, and winter boots. Because they were living in a tiny motel room in town that they could no longer afford, the family had not included a return address, asking instead that the gifts be left in a parking lot on Christmas Eve. Determined to help, Meredith tracked down the family. Touched by their kindness and heartbreaking situation, she posted a simple message on Facebook asking if the Virden community would pitch

in. The response was overwhelming. When the holidays ended, the mailbox was packed away, but the messages asking for help kept coming.

Meredith and Bryan opened their hearts to the challenge. While they tell everyone they cannot make absolute promises, they pledge to do their best, and so far, they have never had to turn anyone away. Every single time, they've been able to say, "Needs have been met." Meredith humbly deflects the credit, viewing herself and Bryan merely as middle-people guided by faith to connect those in need with a community eager to give.

The Unfathomable Cost of Northern Living

The couple's spirit of generosity doesn't stop in Virden. Bryan works as a Red Seal carpenter and construction foreman, heading far north to Grise Fiord, Canada's northernmost civilian community in Nunavut. Working a gruelling rotation of five to six weeks up north followed by a week and a half home in Virden, he is currently building a multi-use facility for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and a six-unit housing complex for Nunavut Housing. Whenever Bryan prepares to head back north, he never goes empty-handed. Most people down south can hardly fathom the staggering cost of living in High Arctic communities, where everyday grocery items carry eye-watering price tags:

- Baby Formula: \$90.00 for under 900g
- International Delight French Vanilla Creamer: \$44.99
- Smucker's Pure Raspberry Jam: \$34.99
- Fleischmann's Corn Starch (454g) \$29.99
- Arm & Hammer Baking Soda: \$27.99 for a standard box
- Betty Crocker Cake Mix: \$26.99 (a box easily found at Dollarama for \$2.00)
- Single Can of Campbell's Chunky Soup: \$24.99
- Co-op Gold Chocolate Pudding (4-pack): \$19.99

Seeing these extremities is a stark, grounding reminder of how much of a privilege it is simply to live in certain geographic locations. It puts daily life into perspective: even on our hardest days, our bad days often aren't so bad.

Filling Hockey Bags with Hope

Recognizing how extreme these circumstances are, Meredith and Bryan focus heavily on sending non-perishable food items and items like stuffed animals for the children up north. While they send a mix of new and gently used goods, the vast majority of what goes north is brand new. To get these crucial supplies to Grise Fiord, Bryan fills checked hockey bags, packs carry-on bags to capacity, and mails remaining packages to keep shipping costs manageable.

How You Can Help
Meredith and Bryan's work relies entirely on community generosity. If you would like to support their efforts, here is how

S.A.I.L. Seniors Day Handivan Trip



SUBMITTED PHOTO

October 1 was National Seniors Day. We wanted to offer something special and so we decided to go on a Handivan Trip with the Virden & Area Handi-Van. With a full van of people, we headed to Kenton to the Brierwood Creek Cafe & Grill for a delicious lunch. They were so accommodating to us, and we thoroughly enjoyed our lunch.

After lunch, we wanted to explore the surrounding areas. There were a few people who were from the area and they were our tour guides! We first took a drive around the town of Kenton, then headed to Kenton Dam. From there, we took the "back roads" where we saw familiar farm sites and combines on the way to Lenore. We finished the tour at Salt Lake. Most had never been or seen that area before and were impressed to see how big and beautiful that area is. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed getting out on a sunny fall day. These outings are beneficial to seniors in so many ways!

Be sure to follow our S.A.I.L. Facebook Page or find a poster in town to see where we are off to next!

you can get involved:
Check in First: Storage space is limited, and specific needs change from week to week. Please reach out to Meredith first to see what is currently needed.

How to Reach Out: Message Meredith Fryza Wolters on Facebook to connect and check current needs, or message her to request her phone number.

Drop-Offs: Once confirmed, physical donations can be placed on the donation collection pallet located in their front yard in Virden.

What Meredith and Bryan do every day is a powerful reminder of what happens when compassion meets action. Without formal titles or expectation of reward, they step into the gaps to ensure their neighbours, whether right down the street or thousands of kilometres north, are never left to face tough times alone.



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Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0
brandonadvancedhearing.ca

Willowbrook Eye Care
115 2nd Ave NW
Dauphin, MB R7N 1H4
stokeshearingclinic.ca

How local news powers local business

Submitted
By NEWS MEDIA CANADA

Spend a few minutes with a local newspaper and you get a pretty good sense of what's happening in the community.

Local newspapers don't just report on communities. They are part of them.

Every healthy community relies on trusted communication to know what's happening around them. That includes the decisions being made at town hall, the events happening this weekend and the businesses opening, growing and investing locally.

While national and international stories often dominate social media feeds, local news stays closer to home. It focuses on the people, businesses and issues that shape the community around us.

That local focus also makes newspapers an important way for businesses to connect with the people they want to reach.

Independent research shows Canadians trust newspaper advertising more than social media advertising. News Media Canada research found that 57% of Canadians trust advertising in newspapers (in traditional or online formats), compared with 22% who say the same about advertising

on Facebook and Instagram. For a local business, that trusted environment can make a difference.

Local newspapers also reflect everyday life within their communities. Grand openings, milestone anniversaries, new developments and local business achievements may not make national headlines, but they matter to the people who live there.

Pick up a local newspaper and there's a good chance you'll recognize some of the names, places and businesses in its pages. That familiarity is part of what makes local news different. It reflects the community back to the people who live there.

And the relationship works both ways. Local businesses use newspapers to reach local customers, while their advertising helps support the journalism that keeps the community informed.

The next time you pick up a newspaper, look at the local advertisers. Chances are that you have a connection to them.

This National Newspaper Week, October 4–10, celebrate the newspapers, journalists and businesses that help keep communities connected.

Learn more at www.nationalnewspaperweek.ca.

Thankful... and tired, a parent's guide to the holiday season

PARENTING
WITH PURPOSE

BETH
McCONNELL



I'm going to be honest, I love Thanksgiving. I love fall. I love pumpkins and hot apple cider. I love turkey, pie, and the way the whole season smells like cinnamon and cold air. I love the rituals, the food, the familiar rhythm of it all. But loving Thanksgiving doesn't mean it's easy. In fact, the older I get, and the more years I spend parenting through the holidays, the more I realize that joy and difficulty often sit side by side at the table.

Holidays have a way of amplifying everything. The good feels better. The hard feels harder. And for parents, that contrast can be sharp.

Traveling with kids is its own adventure. You pack snacks, activities, backup snacks, backup activities, and still somehow end up stuck in a car or airport with a child who is suddenly bored by everything except the one toy you didn't bring. You try to keep everyone fed, rested, and reasonably clean while navigating delays, detours, and the inevitable meltdown that arrives precisely when you're

nowhere near home. You tell yourself it's worth it, and it is, but that doesn't make the journey any less exhausting.

Hosting family can be wonderful, but it can also stretch you thin. There's pressure to make everything feel festive, to create memories, to keep traditions alive. Meanwhile, you're still parenting in the background: refereeing sibling arguments, wiping counters, answering questions, and trying to prevent your toddler from eating decorative gourds. You're managing personalities, expectations, and the emotional temperature of the room while also trying to baste a turkey. It's a lot, even when you love the people you're hosting.

And then there's the quiet ache that holidays can bring, the people who aren't there. Maybe it's someone you've lost. Maybe it's someone you're estranged from. Maybe it's someone who simply can't make the trip this year. Whatever the reason, that empty seat at the table has weight. Parents feel it while still trying to create

warmth and stability for their kids. You're stirring gravy with one hand and swallowing grief with the other.

But here's the part we don't say enough, loving the holidays and struggling through them are not opposites. They coexist. They always have.

Parents carry so much of the emotional load of the season. We're the ones who make the magic or at least try to, and I take being responsible for the magic in my children's lives very seriously. We're the ones who smooth the edges, who keep the day moving, who make sure the kids feel safe and loved even when the adults are tired or stressed or quietly missing someone. We're the ones who show up, again and again, even when the holiday looks different than we hoped.

And maybe that's the real heart of Thanksgiving. Not the perfect meal or the perfect gathering, but the imperfect, deeply human effort behind it. The way parents keep stitching

together moments of comfort and joy, even when the day is messy. The way we keep choosing connection, even when it takes work. The way we keep loving our kids through every version of the holiday, the loud ones, the chaotic ones, the lonely ones, the beautiful ones.

So, if this Thanksgiving feels complicated, you're not alone. If you're traveling with overtired kids, hosting more people than your house comfortably fits, or quietly grieving someone who should be there, you're not doing the holiday wrong. You're living it honestly.

And in the middle of all that complexity, there will still be small moments, a warm drink, a child's laugh, a quiet breath in the kitchen, that remind you why you love this season. My family has a tradition of going around the table to say what we are most thankful for this year. No matter how crazy the day has been, no matter if someone has been crying or we are all laughing, we tell each other what we are most grateful for, and it is one of my most cherished memories every year. It may not be perfect, but they're real. And sometimes real is better.

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For School Board Trustee,
VOTE
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RUSSELL, CRAIG. W.

RE-ELECT
BONNIE JAMES
School Board Trustee

VOTE ON OCTOBER 28, 2026

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Ward 1 - Town of Virden

Advance Polls
October 21

Vote at FLBSD office
523-9th Ave. S. Virden, MB

OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE

ELECT
TOM MAKARCHUK
FOR TOWN COUNCIL

VOTE ON OCTOBER 28, 2026

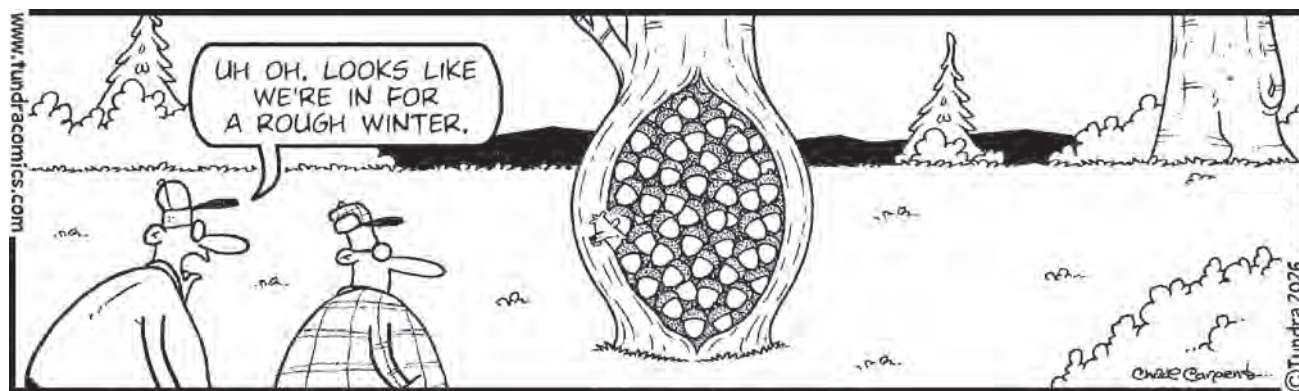
I am proud to have called Virden home for just about thirty years now. A devoted father of two and an active member of the community. First as a member of the Virden Kinsman club, later as member of the Virden Lions club, and currently as a member of the Centennial Housing Board. Just a few of my past community activities include, being involved with Virden youth soccer as a member of its executive and a coach, being a member of the properties, and finance committees of the Virden United church, and Virden scouts as a parent helper.

Professionally, I was an employee of the town of Virden, working in the water works department as a certified operator 2 for over four years. While there I was deeply involved in the commissioning the then new water treatment plant. For the past 24 years I was employed by ERCO Worldwide at the Hargrave facility running the laboratory as the chemical lab tech. I held this position until the plants closing earlier this year.

I am running for Town Council to continue to give to the community that is my home. Looking forward to being a dedicated council team member and to be an ear for all Virden's people. Respectfully, I ask for your vote on election day to be given the opportunity in having a hand in the shaping of a positive responsible future for Virden.

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Are expectations too high?

With municipal elections looming across Manitoba, it's important that every voter consider the issues that face their community. Believe me, there are many issues facing our communities. Over the past several weeks, I have been observing discussions and responses from a number of municipalities and towns.

There are some issues coming up that seem common to all our towns and RMs, the number one issue on peoples' minds seems to be roads, roads and more roads. It costs a lot of money to maintain a road in rural areas. It costs a lot more money to keep the roads paved and the potholes patched and filled. It would appear that most towns are overwhelmed with the workload. There are bone-jarring ruts and potholes in every town. I doubt at this time that the municipalities or towns have the financial resources to fix all the roads. I suspect the needed repairs will need a number of options to bring about the kind of roads we want. Local governments could possibly consider more efficient use of the resources they have in terms of staff. Another option is to take paved roads and turn them into gravel roads by re-milling the surface and then use a grader and maintain them much as in fashion that happens in rural municipalities. A third option is to make a strong appeal through the Association of Manitoba Association of Municipalities (AMM) for accessing funding for roads from the senior levels of government, namely the province and the federal government.

Just about every town and village, and therefore also the surrounding RMs, have a problem maintaining recreation facilities. It should be noted that communities such as Virden, Minnedosa and Rivers have relatively new and well-maintained recreation

facilities especially in terms of skating and curling rinks and halls. Carberry has an older facility but it's in pretty good shape. Other towns, including Neepawa are on the verge of needing major repairs or replacement. Past and recent experience shows that replacement may cost \$15-\$25 million. If we look a little further afield to Winkler, for example, a major reconstruction was the path chosen rather full replacement. Many of the towns in our newspapers coverage area are faced with repairs or replacement. As distasteful as spending that much money may seem to be, if recreation facilities are not replaced or renovated, the community could soon be no longer viable.

The third issue that I believe is common to all the communities is a lack of affordable housing. To say the words affordable housing is almost a misnomer now because housing simply isn't affordable. There are some things that could be changed. Zoning needs to be changed, some of the building regulations need to be changed, but that's a provincial matter. Then I think peoples' expectations need to change. Houses have become very large and expensive. Millions of families across Canada were raised in houses that were well under 1,000 square feet. That measurement today is considered intolerable for a family of a mom, dad and two kids. Our expectations have far exceeded our ability to pay for

them. I believe that smaller homes are the answer. Any initiative to build smaller homes should be encouraged and not frowned upon. Ironically, it seems that today's families want to have rooms big enough for every child to have a queen-size bed. Not that many years ago, two or three kids would share a so-called double bed and that was a 54 inch, not a queen. I realize that's a bit of a side-track but perhaps it is indicative of how our desires and wishes for luxury in everything has surpassed our abilities to be able to pay for such luxury.

Listed above are but three issues that I think are common to all our communities. There are many other issues as well. Hopefully, once the election dust is cleared at the end of October, the councils will be able to get to work and bring about solutions for their communities that will work and make our communities even more viable and more desirable to live in. As I said last week, municipal government is the most important level of government in Canada. Please vote, please build your councillors up and not tear them down so that we may all have a better life in the rural Manitoba we love. It's a way of life worth fighting for and allowing it to thrive and grow.

Get involved and please vote.

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 Banner & Press staff.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Thanksgiving... Gratitude

Arie, my little black Yorkie Poodle, was given to me just a bit over three years ago. She was about one year old at the time. That means that three of her four years she has been under my care, surrounded by my love. Tonight, she not only came and sat on my lap, a rare gift, she rolled over, belly up, totally relaxed, allowing me to scratch her tummy and rub her ears. The moment did not go unnoticed. I have wanted her to be a cuddler and a snuggler. She has declined almost each and every invitation. She loves to be fed, to be walked, to be played with—just don't get familiar. Sitting there, with Arie choosing me, filled me with gratitude.

Many times in every day I seek to see the good and give thanks. I think of the young man on the electric scooter... One day as he approached me, on the sidewalk, with a passenger and neither wearing helmets, I simply drew my dog right close to my side, paused, and asked him/them to not use the sidewalk. The abrupt reply—"I was born in this country" took me by surprise. It was not who they were, it was that they should not be riding on a walking path. Needless to say, that day they stood their course. Just a few days later, almost a complete repeat. Arie and I were walking, on the sidewalk, the same young man approaching—this time without a passenger. Again, I drew Arie close, and simply stood still. He made eye contact and swerved onto the grass while passing us. I was able to say thank you, whether it was heard or not. And I was filled with gratitude that the request of an old lady had been considered.

The neighbour across the back lane takes time to mow the unfenced portion of my back yard. This is a bit of give and take for they often need to use part of my property when using their back yard entrance. They understand the property line, understand that I could be a stinker, and they carefully, regularly mow what I call the back forty. And I am filled with gratitude that neighbours can be neighbourly.

There are nights that I fight with sleep. Trust me, I court her! A darkened, cool room. Limited screen time before retiring, no visible clock, only one small flickering LED light on my night noise gizmo. The ceiling fan on low, the window ajar as long as the season allows, regular routine. Trust me, I'm trying! And then there is the morning that I am amazed that I have slept well. The day is filled with casual accomplishments. It's not an effort to think or do. And I am so very filled with gratitude! I do not, ever, take a good night's sleep for granted.

The faith I hold dear fills me with daily thanksgiving, the greatest thanksgiving. The God who created me holds me from my first breath to my last breath, for my days were known before my being and I will be known always. And I am filled with gratitude in this assurance of being loved.

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Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for Sept. 27 to Oct. 3

Submitted

By WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 83 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 16 traffic offences, 7 Assaults, 6 Break and Enter, 5 Disturbances, 2 Mental Health Acts, 3 False Alarms, 3 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Checks, 2 Possession Purpose of Trafficking Drugs and 5 - 911 Acts.

On Sept. 27, RCMP received a report of an assault at a residence on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. RCMP arrived at the home and found local First Nations Safety Officers treating a 19-year-old female victim that had been stabbed. Local paramedics arrived

soon after and transported her to hospital in stable condition. RCMP investigated and determined the incident occurred following an argument at a party. The victim fled the scene and went to a relative's home, at which point RCMP and paramedics were called. A 19-year-old female suspect was located at a residence a short distance from the incident. She was arrested without incident and charged with Aggravated assault and Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and was remanded in custody.

On Sept. 27, during a routine patrol in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Members conducted traffic stop and confirmed the

identity of the driver. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$508.

On Sept. 29, RCMP executed a search warrant as part of a drug trafficking investigation at a residence on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Once inside, Virden RCMP – with assistance from the Manitoba West District Crime Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST) and Police Dog Services – found and seized cocaine, methamphetamine, prescription opioids, drug paraphernalia, Canadian cash and American money. Officers also found a number of weapons – including firearms, a knife and multiple cans of bear mace – and a bulletproof vest. Two individuals were arrested at the residence have been charged with Possession for the purpose of trafficking x3; Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000; Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose; Possession of a firearm when knowing possession is unauthorized;

Unsafe storage of firearms; Weapons possession contrary to order and fail to surrender authorization x2; Possession of controlled substance x2; Possession of body armour without a permit; and Breach of regulation under 3(1) of The Body Armour and Fortified Vehicle Control Act. Both individuals were remanded into custody. Virden RCMP continues to investigate.

On Sept. 29, RCMP received information that a male wanted on a warrant of arrest was at a licensed establishment in Virden. The male, wanted on a charge of assault causing bodily harm, was found inside the establishment and arrested without incident. After taking him into custody, officers searched the suspect and found multiple small bags believed to contain methamphetamine and cocaine. The 36-year-old male was charged with two counts of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. The male was remanded into custody, and Virden RCMP continues to investigate.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Virden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Check your mailbox! 2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

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

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

Election Officials Wanted!

The Town of Virden is looking for Election Officials to work at the polling station on October 28, 2026.

Workers must be available from approximately 7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on election day.

Previous election day experience is an asset but not required.

Training will be provided. This is a paid position.

Please contact Rhonda Stewart,
Senior Election Official
Phone: 204-851-0769

or

Email at rlstewart64@outlook.com to apply.

Proclamation of Purple Thursday October 11-17, 2026

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS Virden Royal Purple Lodge is a valuable asset to our community,

We hereby recognize Purple Thursday as a special day of recognition within our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Virden will recognize October, 15th, the third Thursday of 2026, as Canadian Royal Purple's National Purple Thursday.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Virden will recognize the third Thursday of October in 2027 and each of the following years in perpetuity, as Canadian Royal Purple's National Purple Thursday.

Request for Pricing

Fabrication, Supply and Delivery of Wayfinding Signage

The Town of Virden will accept quotations for the fabrication, supply and delivery of eight (8) cantilevered wayfinding sign assemblies at various locations throughout the Town of Virden, in accordance with the accompanying Drawings and Specifications prepared by HTFC Planning & Design (Project No. 26-024).

Full details of this opportunity are publicly available on MERX or on the Town Website.

2026 Citizen of the Year Nominations now open!

Nominate a deserving citizen for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline to submit your nomination is November 13, 2026.

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

Upcoming Council Meetings October 6 & 20

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Employment Opportunity Sanitation II Position

This is the senior position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job and able to pass a medical examination. A high school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a Class 3 with Air driver's license.

Full job description is available on the Town of Virden website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager
Town of Virden, Box 310, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0
Email: office.manager@virden.ca

Meet the Candidates running for office in Virden

Candidates running for Mayor



Tina Williams

Why do you want to be Mayor of Virden?

Virden is my home. It is important to have a council of people who can see how lucky we are to live in this community, yet who can also see that we need to continue making decisions that keep it that way.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a councillor for the Town of Virden?

Being part of everyday life in the community. That's where you see the results of your decisions and where more work needs to be done.

Its the chance for people who would never call or write a email to easily access their council.

As an elected official a conversation with a ratepayers is a great 2-way street. It can give me a new point of view and let's me fill in some information that can help them understand council's point of view.

Alot of the decisions that council makes fall into the Quality of Life category and seeing those decisions come to life in the community is why we run.



Bruce Dunning

Why do you want to be Mayor of Virden?

I have lived here all my life. I know the potential this town has for growth. We have an acute care district health facility, a regional airport, regional recreation facilities and we are located at a transportation hub, yet we are not seeing growth. We need to focus on dependable infrastructure, serviced and development ready properties and business and residential development incentives. My goal is to make our town more attractive to new residents and businesses.

What do you feel is the most important part about being a councillor for the Town of Virden?

Council members make up a very small fraction of the residents of Virden whom they are elected to represent. An important component of being a productive council is to have consistent and effective communication with the residents, businesses and volunteer groups. Communication is an essential element for building a strong and progressive community.

Candidates running for Council



Lomer Girardin

Why do you want to be a council member?

I would like to be on council so we could work as a "team" to get Virden to be thriving again. Work with a new council to better our town. Try to get our town working together again so we can be a stronger, tighter, community.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

Work together with new council to try to bring new people and businesses into our town. To help Virden grow. Make it affordable to start new businesses. To get affordable housing in Virden. Most important listen to the people of Virden and do what's best for our community.



Gord Halowaty

Why do you want to be a council member?

I care about Virden's future. Having operated the Alexandra Hotel and served for seven years on the board of Directors with the Manitoba Hotel Association. I bring proven business experience and practical leadership. I want to give back by supporting a vibrant economy, maintaining accessible infrastructure for seniors and those in need, and keeping our community welcoming for everyone.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

The most important part is a strong commitment to service and active involvement. Strong communities rely on people willing to lend a hand in time of need. I want to listen to residents, and work hard to keep Virden thriving.



Lynette Grumpelt

Why do you want to be a council member?

I'm seeking re-election for council because I'm passionate about moving our community forward for future generations. I feel I bring a valuable perspective to the table.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

I couldn't choose just one because everything is important for a different reason. Here are my top three (in no particular order):

1. Advocating for your community with higher levels of Government and building relationships with other elected officials.
2. Continue to improve your knowledge of Municipal Governance and understanding what a councillors role is in the Town.
3. Being neutral and looking at the entire community when making decisions. Remember you are a team; you're one of seven. Sometimes a vote won't go the way you want but you must support the decisions made by your council.

BE SURE TO VOTE OCTOBER 28, 2026

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Ward Travel is now

**KEYSTONE
TRAVEL**

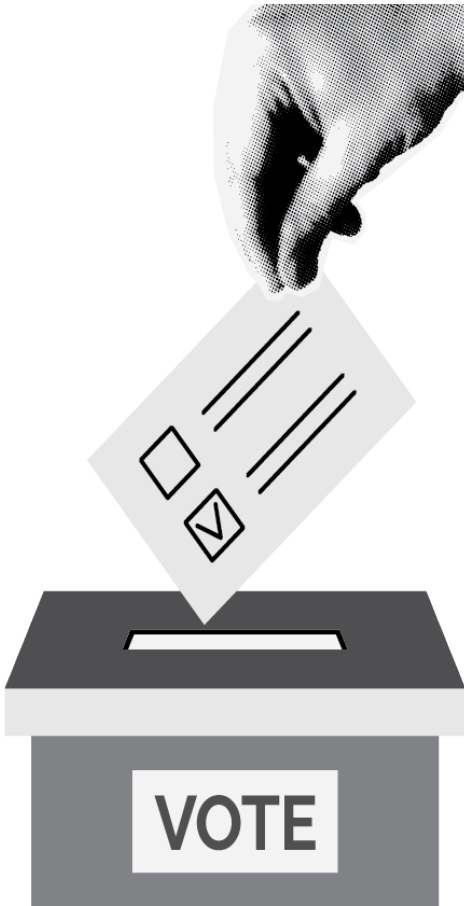
Sara Curtis stays on part-time through the transition,
so you will still see a familiar face.

WE SHOP SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

204.748.3351

190 Nelson St W, Virden, MB

admin@keystonetravel.ca



Meet the Candidates running for office in Virden

Candidates running for Council



Tom Makarchuk

Why do you want to be a council member?

Like all of the people putting their names forward, I am running for Town Council to give back to the community that has given myself and my family so much over the years. Being involved in various organizations throughout the years has given me experience in working with groups towards common goals. Therefore, I look forward to being a dedicated member of council and bringing forward the general public's suggestions and comments at meetings.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

I believe the most important part of being a councillor for the Town of Virden is making informed decisions with the goal of keeping Virden a vibrant community while working as a team and accepting, without bias, any decision made by the council. As such, I aim to approach the issues brought up by members of the public and fellow councillors with an open mind.

Alfred Hunt was unavailable to respond to the newspaper. He will have his opportunity to answer these questions when he is available.



Tara Maxwell

Why do you want to be a council member?

I want to be a council member because I care about Virden and believe my more than 15 years of municipal government experience gives me a strong understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities that come with serving on council. My experience in senior municipal management has provided practical knowledge of budgets, infrastructure, recreation, facilities, strategic planning, policy, and service delivery. I understand the important distinction between council and administration. Council provides leadership, direction, policy, and oversight, while the CAO and administration manage day-to-day operations.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

I believe the most important part is practicing good governance. This means being informed, prepared, respectful, and accountable; listening to residents; considering the needs of the community as a whole; and making responsible decisions that support Virden's long-term success. Good governance also means respecting the roles of council and administration, working collaboratively, asking questions, and understanding the financial and long-term impacts of decisions. I want to bring my municipal experience and knowledge to the council table while continuing to listen to residents and work collaboratively toward a strong future for Virden.



Travis Penner

Why do you want to be a council member?

I want to continue serving on council because I care about Virden and its future. Our town is a place where people build their lives, raise families, operate businesses and support one another.

Virden has a lot of potential, and I want to help preserve its strengths while making thoughtful decisions that will grow and move our community forward.

Council has a responsibility to manage taxpayers' money carefully and efficiently. I want to use my experience to positively contribute to decisions that maintain and improve services, and plan realistically for future needs. I want to ask questions, examine the facts, listen to residents, rely on experience, and work toward practical viable solutions. And I want to contribute to a council that welcomes opportunity and makes decisions it can clearly justify and explain to the public.

What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

The most important part is remembering whom you serve and maintain trust. A councillor must listen, consider different viewpoints and make decisions in the interests of the whole community. That requires preparation, judgment and a willingness to work constructively with fellow councillors and administration. Residents deserve accountability, clear communication and responsible use of public resources. For me, the role comes down to earning trust through consistent effort and keeping Virden's long-term interests at the centre of every decision.



Marc Savy

Why do you want to be a council member?

I have the same drive, passion and sense of duty that I've had over the last 4 years. I truly care about this community that my family has made our forever home since 2005. During my time on council, I have learned so much about how our town operates, from budgeting, asset management and municipal operations to name a few. Municipal projects take time and we have moved forward on several over the last few years, obtaining over 5 million dollars in extra government funding to see our visions become shovels in the ground. My goal is to use the experience I've gained to make practical forward-thinking decisions that support our local businesses and keep Virden a vibrant place to call home.

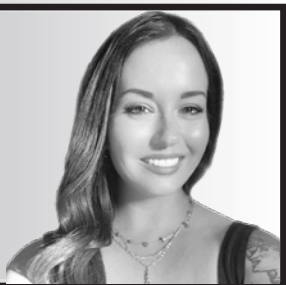
What do you feel is the most important part about a councillor for the Town of Virden?

As a councillor it's very important that we understand our role in the big picture. Council governs by setting visions and priorities for our community, by enacting Bylaws and policies that set out how this is done. Part of this role is to make sure that you familiarize yourself with budgets and major projects to ensure you understand what you are deciding on and it is in the best interests of our community. Building relationships with regional, provincial and federal partners is very important and is crucial to keeping Virden a safe, affordable place that we can call home.

Elections October 1966

TALES FROM THE ARCHIVE

LAUREN HALOWATY



Upon browsing through the archives, specifically the Wednesday, October 19, 1966, issue of the Virden Empire-Advance, I came across this write-up about the upcoming election back then. Despite there being females to vote for on the town council nowadays, the

sentiment in this article is still truly relevant today.

"Not too frequently in Virden does an election to fill vacancies on the Town Council occur. This year there is an election, since three candidates have been nominated from whom electors will choose two to represent them on the Council. All three men are worthy candidates. All three have taken part in the life of Virden community. All three are capable, interested in the affairs of the town and anxious to serve. The candidates are A. S. Case, C. S. Coleman and J. H. Leckie. In this issue, the Virden Empire-Advance presents short articles, written by the candidates, which every elector should read carefully before deciding to vote. This year the polls are located in the Council Chamber in the Municipal Building and will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Election Day, Wednesday,

October 26. With the polls centrally located and open for so lengthy a period, there is no reason why every elector of the Town of Virden should not turn out and vote. The two men elected will thus feel that they will take their seats on the Council truly representing a majority of the electors. Do make a date with yourself to go to the polls next Wednesday and cast your ballot for the two men who, you believe, will best serve you and the entire town on Council. There is a tremendous satisfaction in knowing that you have done your democratic duty and made use of the franchise that is yours because men and women in past generations have fought for the right to vote.

If you believe in democracy, make use of your voting privilege."

The Soup Ladies are back



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

The ladies of Elkhorn Auxiliary are serving soup once a month in Elkhorn.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Elkhorn Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #58 are back with their monthly soup and sandwich lunch event at the Legion Hall. This event has been going on for few years during the colder months and is a great dining event that offers a choice of three different kinds of hearty homemade soup, a variety of fresh made sandwiches and an even bigger variety of homemade desserts, with tea, coffee and water to drink. Sometimes you can have an extra dessert if the rush is over!

The lunch gathering is also a chance to meet up with some of your friends and neighbours or maybe just an opportunity to avoid cooking! The lunch is held from 11:30am until 1pm each month. The cost is \$12 and take out is available.

The meal served on October 5 featured hamburger/vegetable soup, potato vegetable soup and turkey vegetable soup. Some of the dessert items included Black Forest cherry cake, lemon meringue pie and apple pie. Something available for every persons taste buds. The attendance was a bit low for their first event, but mainly because so many farmers are hard at work trying to get their crops off before it starts to rain again. The organizers of the lunch were happy with the community and area support and are looking forward to a busy community lunch season.

The next Elkhorn Ladies Auxiliary lunch will be November 2 and all the proceeds for these lunches help the Elkhorn Legion and its auxiliary to carry on their community building work and projects.

Westman Youth Choir 2026 performing soon



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Performers from Virden, Oak Lake, Pierson and Hamiota are: Jordan Thiessen, Bruno Gibbert, Aurora White, Jesse Waldner, Micah Thiessen, Amelia Alphonso, Chloe Caldwell, Cadie Huberdeau.

Submitted
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Western Manitoba Youth Choir is preparing to tour the Westman region in October, after having two intensive weekend rehearsals at Riding Mountain Conference Centre in Wasagamung in September. The 54-voice choir is drawn from 13 Westman communities. Conductors are Marla Fontaine and Vic Pankratz, with accompanist Danielle Guina. The Tour begins in Melita Strand Theatre on Oct. 17, Deloraine Winchester Theatre on Oct. 18, Killarney United Church on Oct. 19 and First Presbyterian Church, Brandon on Oct. 20.

All performances are at 7:30pm.

Vic Pankratz –
Conductor

Vic Pankratz’s career as a singer, conductor and teacher spans Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and stages across Western Canada. He has served as artistic co-director of the Winnipeg Singers and artistic director of Prairie Voices, and has conducted numerous Manitoba youth and honour choirs. Vic is currently part of the artistic team with Dead of Winter, leading WinterSing. In 2024, he received the Manitoba Choral Association’s Award of Distinction for Artistic Excellence.

Marla Fontaine –
Conductor

Marla Fontaine is a Brandon University graduate with degrees in music, education and

choral conducting. A passionate music educator, she currently serves as choral specialist at École Secondaire Neelin High School. She also co-conducts Konektis and directs Great Plains Voices Thrive. Marla is passionate about building community and creating beauty through music.

Danielle Guina –
Collaborative Pianist

Danielle Guina is a Canadian collaborative pianist, singer and educator based in Brandon. An Eastman School of Music graduate, she teaches and performs throughout the Westman community and is a sessional instructor and staff pianist at Brandon University. Danielle has been part of WMYC since 2022.

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Town	Date	Time	Location (including address)
Elkhorn	Tue. November 10	11 am to 6 pm	Elkhorn Elks Hall (14 1 st St.)
Kenton	Mon. November 9	2 pm to 6 pm	Kenton Memorial Hall (219 Cornwall St.)
Melita	Wed. November 4	12 pm to 6 pm	Melita Legion Hall (95 Main St.)
Miniota	Thu. November 12	2 pm to 6 pm	Miniota Community Hall (568 Miniota Rd.)
Oak Lake	Mon. November 16	11 am to 6 pm	Oak Lake Legion Hall (291 Assiniboine St)
Reston	Thu. November 5	11 am to 6 pm	Reston R.E.S. Centre (143 3 rd Ave)
Virden #1	Wed. October 28	11 am to 6 pm	Sacred Heart Parish Hall (481 Queen St W.)
Virden #2	Tue. November 24	11 am to 6 pm	Sacred Heart Parish Hall



GET MORE FROM YOUR DAY...
WITH THE **Virden Empire-Advance**

Black Gold Classic

Submitted
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This year it was the 5th Black Gold Classic, running with 39 exhibitors and over 100 head attending the show on Oct 3, 2026.



Reserve Champion Bred Heifer - EMF Nevada 505N
Exhibited by Eden Meadows Farm



Reserve Champion Bull Calf - HFL Power Play ET 640P
Exhibited by Horner Cattle Company



Reserve Champion Futurity Bred Heifer - KCH Shaboozy 512N ~ Exhibited by KCH Cattle Co



Reserve Champion Futurity Cow Calf Pair - RRW Kandy 409M ~ Exhibited by Ramrod West Cattle Co



Reserve Champion Heifer Calf - HFL Ms ET 6066P
Exhibited by Horner Cattle Company



Reserve Champion Pen of 3 Class - Adam Russell and Kayla Bertholet



Champion Bred Heifer - Gass Roots Emmy
Exhibited by Brock Sigurdson
Class Sponsor Foxtail Hauling Ltd



Champion Futurity Bred Heifer - HTA Wynonna 593N
Exhibited by HTA Charolais
Class Sponsor - Taylor Oilfield Services



Champion Heifer Calf - Rafter J Jazzy 14P
Exhibited by Cindy Jack
Class Sponsor Valleyview COOP



Champion Bull Calf - HFL Bloodline ET 6060P
Exhibited by Horner Cattle Company
Class Sponsor - Canart Backhoe



Champion Futurity Cow Calf Pair - Freyburn Blackbird 36M
Exhibited by Freyburn Farms
Class Sponsor - Fast Trucking Service



Champion Pen of 3 Class - P.J.S Speckle Park
Class Sponsor - Northrok Construction Ltd

PHOTOS BY BLACK GOLD CLASSIC

Black Gold Classic would like to **THANK** all our sponsors, exhibitors, judges, Lenore 4-H Beef Club and the Virden Agriculture Society for making this show happen! We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Platinum Sponsors

Valleyview CO-OP - Heifer Calf Champion Sponsor
Taylor Oilfield - Futurity Heifer Champion Sponsor
Foxtail Hauling- Bred Heifer Champion Sponsor
Fast Trucking Service - Futurity Cow & Calf Pair Champion Sponsor
Canart Backhoe - Bull Calf Champion Sponsor
Northrok Construction Ltd - Pen of 3 Champion Sponsor

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MNP - Virden
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Virden 4H Fat Stock Association
Hargrave Shorthorns
Trouw Nutrition
Wegner Land & Cattle

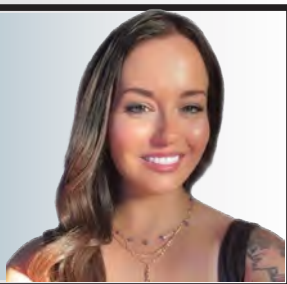
Black Gold Committee: Cody Renz, Amanda Scott, Everett More, Greg Tough, Ashlee Mitchell, Veronica Tough, Tyler Pateman, and Brooke Vandevoorde

HAPPY THA

Thanksgiving - October 1956 - 70 years ago

TALES FROM THE ARCHIVE

LAUREN
HALOWATY



This is the season of the year that inspired Canadian poet Bliss Carman to write: "The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry of bugles going by." A season of scarlets and golds, crimsons and yellows and autumn hues with which nature paints her woods. To many persons October is the loveliest month of the year. Days are sharp and clear. The mists of cool nights and the sun of the dawn wash away the dust, giving a crisp cleanliness to the countryside that is matched at no other time. The colours of the autumn leaves, the freshness of the earth and sky are just part of autumn splendor. For this is a time, too, of the harvest, the reward of labours of the spring

and summer. Crops are garnered from the fields and stored away for winters use. Because, for all its loveliness, autumn is a harbinger of months to follow when the sun will lose its warmth and the wind will bite with sharper edge. It is fitting that Canadians should have chosen this fall season to give thanks to God for their many blessings. It was in the autumn of 1621, after their first harvest, that the Pilgrims of Plymouth observed North America's first day of Thanksgiving linked directly to the soil. Such observance spread through other parts of the American colonies, but in Canada's early history Thanksgiving days were usually proclaimed only for victories in war, though once,

in 1850, a day was set aside to give thanks for cessation of an epidemic. Not until 1879 did Thanksgiving Day in Canada become an annual expression of "gratitude for an abundant harvest and other blessings", words used by the governor-general of that time, the Marquess of Lorne, in his first proclamation. From 1918 when the First World War ended until 1931, Thanksgiving Day was linked again with militant observances and was proclaimed annually to coincide with the November 11 Armistice Day. Since then, however, it has been restored as a separate celebration. All Canadians join in the observance of this day but to many city dwellers the nature of the harvest festival means little, though thousands from the cities will travel to the country and, like the poet, be shaken by the scarlet of the maples. This day, though, always will hold more significance for country folk. They too will look up to the turning leaves and gain inspiration from them, but, more, they will look down to the earth that provides their living.

What's on your Thanksgiving plate?

A 2026 Economist/YouGov poll found that turkey continues to reign supreme on the Thanksgiving dinner table. When asked what they'll be eating at Thanksgiving dinner, 67 percent of poll participants indicated they plan to eat turkey, making it the most popular food to find its way onto the dinner table for this popular holiday. Additional staples also remain wildly popular among Thanksgiving celebrants, suggesting that food among the more sacred Turkey Day traditions. **When asked what they plan to eat at Thanksgiving dinner this year, participants noted some easily recognizable favorites:**



- 56% Mash
- 55% Bread
- 54% Pie
- 51% Stuffing
- 51% Gravy
- 40% Green
- 39% Sweet
- 38% Cran
- 33% Corn

With Warmth & Appreciation at Thanksgiving

At this special time of year, we'd like to share our thanks and best wishes with everyone we know here. We love being a part of this community, and your support fills us with gratitude. You've filled our year with meaning and friendship, and we hope your season is filled with peace and joy.

Juicy Thanksgiving Turkey

Ingredients

- 2 tbsps dried parsley
- 2 tbsps ground dried rosemary
- 2 tbsps rubbed dried sage
- 2 tbsps dried thyme leaves
- 1 tbsp lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 (15 pound) whole turkey, neck and giblets removed
- 1 medium orange, cut into 8 wedges
- 1 medium onion, chopped into large pieces
- 1 medium carrot, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 2 stalks celery, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1 (750 milliliter) bottle champagne
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can chicken broth

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a roasting pan with enough aluminum foil to wrap around turkey.
2. Stir parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme, lemon-pepper seasoning, and salt together in a small bowl.
3. Rub herb mixture into turkey cavity; stuff with orange wedges, onion, carrot, and celery. Tie turkey legs together with kitchen twine; tuck wings behind body.
4. Place turkey on the foil in the roasting pan. Pour champagne and chicken broth over turkey, getting some in cavity.
5. Bring the aluminum foil up and around turkey; try to keep the foil from touching turkey.
6. Roast turkey in the preheated oven until juices run clear, 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Uncover turkey; continue cooking until skin turns golden brown, 30 to 60 minutes more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of thigh near the bone, should read 180 degrees F (80 degrees C).
7. Remove turkey from the oven, cover with two sheets of aluminum foil; let rest in a warm area, 10 to 15 minutes before carving.



May You Savor Every Moment

From the food on the table to the company all around it, may Thanksgiving Day fill your body and soul with enough joy and contentment to last all year.

Serving this community is a pleasure and a privilege, and we're so grateful to do business here. Thank you for making our year so enjoyable and successful. We couldn't do it without your trust and support.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pumpkin Cinnamon Roll Pumpkins

Ingredients

- 1 (17.5 ounce) can refrigerated cinnamon rolls with icing, such as Pillsbury® Grands!
- 5 tablespoons canned pumpkin
- 1/2 teaspoon whole milk, or as needed
- 5 small cinnamon sticks

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (180 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Separate cinnamon rolls and reserve icing. Carefully unroll each cinnamon roll into a long strip with cinnamon filling facing up. Spread 1 tablespoon pumpkin evenly over cinnamon filling on each strip; carefully re-roll into spirals.
2. Cut 5 long pieces (about 2 feet each) of kitchen twine. Place 1 cinnamon roll in center of each piece of twine. Wrap twine around cinnamon rolls several times, crossing underneath and over the top, and spacing twine evenly to create pumpkin-shaped sections. Tie twine securely, taking care not to pull tightly enough to cut into dough. Arrange cinnamon roll pumpkins on prepared baking sheet.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until puffed and golden brown, about 18 minutes. Let cool on baking sheet about 5 minutes. Carefully cut and remove twine.
4. Stir together icing from cinnamon roll can and 1/2 teaspoon milk in a small bowl until smooth and pourable, adding up to 1/2 teaspoon more milk if needed to reach desired consistency. Insert 1 cinnamon stick into center of each pumpkin. Drizzle icing evenly over warm cinnamon roll pumpkins. Serve warm.



2 Great Reasons to shop Downtown Virden.

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



THANKSGIVING

We are Grateful

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The word 'Thanksgiving' says it perfectly with its 12 letters. It's one of those words that speaks for itself. The cozy holiday is about giving thanks and being grateful for what we already have. That sentiment seems to ring true for the staff at The Empire-Advance, that what they're most thankful for cannot be purchased.

Gerry- "Thanksgiving for me is for spending time with family and friends and eating pumpkin pie! It is also all about harvest and watching the farmers get their crops done and for people finishing up canning and preserving their fresh garden produce, with no spray involved. We usually have brisket

for thanksgiving along with the usual potatoes, gravy, veggies and of course pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Because of the late combining season, Thanksgiving may be put on hold for me so all the family may get together eventually. Of course, I am always thankful for all the blessings that come this time of year. It is also a time to remember the families who have lost love ones. There will be an empty plate at the table in remembrance for people who have passed on from their time on earth."

Beth- "I am most grateful for my family every year. I am always grateful for them. My favourite food is pumpkin pie. You literally can't pry pumpkin spice from my hands. I'm spending Thanksgiving with my family, my parents and pets. My husband is

going to see his parents with our kids for a couple days, and then we will all be together again for the Thanksgiving Monday."

Lauren- "I am grateful year-round for my son who brings me joy and smiles daily, no matter what life throws at me, as well as for my family and pets. This time of year, brings cooler weather which means heartier meals and one of my favourite dishes, besides pumpkin pie of course, is turkey with the boxed stuffing and gravy, along with veggies. Sometimes I even make cabbage rolls from scratch. I'll be spending the holiday with my son, parents, sister, brother-in-law and niece."

Jessica- "I am thankful for the quiet moments, when I can sit and enjoy time with my husband at home. Spätzle was my absolute favourite dish for

thanksgiving; my uncle would make it every year right before we would sit down for supper. This thanksgiving I will be having a quiet supper at home with my husband."

Ken and Christine- "At Thanksgiving we are grateful for many things; We have learned to put things in a priority or perspective. Remember to honour faith, family, friends and finances but in that order. We are grateful for all these

four things and hope to spend time with as many family members as we can over the weekend. We like a traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey or chicken and all the trimmings topped off with pumpkin pie and whipped cream, but pizza with family is also good. We are especially thankful for our readers, advertisers and staff with the Virden Empire-Advance, you have all been very good to us."

67%
Will eat
turkey on
Thanksgiving

ned potatoes
d or rolls

ng
n beans
et potatoes
berry sauce

Best Wishes and Favorite Dishes to Everyone We Know at Thanksgiving

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Faye's Favourite Pumpkin Bars Sheet Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 Cups Flour
- 2 Tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 Tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 Tsp. Nutmeg
- 1 Cup Oil
- 1 Can Pumpkin
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 1 Tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 Tsp. Cloves
- ½ Tsp. Salt
- 4 Eggs

Directions:

Mix all together, pour onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 25-30 minutes.

Cream Cheese Icing

- 2 Cups Icing Sugar
- ½ Cup Margarine
- 3 Oz Cream Cheese
- 1 Tbsp Milk
- 1 Tsp Vanilla

Directions:

Beat until smooth. Spread on cooled cake. Keep refrigerated.



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Cranberry Sauce
Skip the can and make your own in 20 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 (12oz) package fresh cranberries

Directions:

Combine sugar and orange juice in a medium saucepan over medium heat; stir until sugar dissolves. Add cranberries and cook, stirring occasionally, until most of the berries have popped and the sauce looks slightly thickened, about 10 minutes.



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SPORTS

VCI GOLFERS LEARN, COMPETE AND ENJOY PROVINCIAL EXPERIENCE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Collegiate Institute golfers embraced the opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas and enjoy the experience together at the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association provincial championship.

At the Sept. 25 event at La Broquerie Golf, the VCI boys team of Eric Rampton, Swade Penner and Brayden Rowan placed seventh. Kasidy Hoemsen represented VCI as an individual in the girls competition.

"I love how they all encouraged each other and continued showing each other technique and club suggestions in the practice round," Julie Mathieson, one of the coaches, said of the Golden

Bears at provincials. "They were organized and kept a notebook of the various holes and which clubs they thought would work best the following day. Even the talk around the breakfast table was still about golf. This crew really loves the sport."

The boys team combined for a score of 256 at the provincial event. Rampton led the way with an 81. Penner shot an 84, while Rowan had a 91.

Rowan, who scored two birdies, enjoyed "golfing with new people in my flight and getting to know them" at the provincial tournament.

Hoemsen shot 114. She said, "I loved playing on the La Broquerie course. It was beautiful."

The VCI boys team of Rampton, Penner, Zander Clarke and Jack Murray won

the Zone 9 boys title in Virden to earn the school a provincial berth. Clarke, who did not compete at provincials due to an injury, had the lowest score at the zone event with a 78.

"I was proud of the way I golfed at zones and winning the banner with my friends was a great feeling," Clarke said. "At zones, I golfed with Souris golfers and my teammate Jack Murray. I had three birdies. My score was 78 which was the lowest score in the zone - I was proud of this. I am usually always around 78 at the course, so I was happy to do my best that day to contribute to the low score for our banner win."

The VCI girls team of Michelle Waters, Emmy Studer, Joelle Barkley and Hoemsen placed second in the zone event. Hoemsen earned a provincial spot by shooting a 45,

the lowest score of the event.

"The VCI girls golf season was very fun for the short time we had," Hoemsen said.

With a short fall season, summer is crucial for high school golfers.

"Golf is a sport where you need to be doing all summer prior to tryouts," Mathieson said. "It was evident that this crew has completed a pile of practice rounds this summer and have even participated in youth tournaments in the province. They put in the work before the short season began."

Provincials wrapped up an enjoyable season for the Golden Bears, which was supported locally.

"We are grateful for our local course, Wellview (Virden Wellview Golf Club), for allowing us to host zones at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eric Rampton, Brayden Rowan, Swade Penner and Kasidy Hoemsen represented VCI at the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association provincial championship.

course, and were thrilled to travel to La Broquerie's 18-hole course. It was beautiful! Well done to all the organizers," Mathieson said. "We want to thank TL Penner for

sponsoring the team's practice round on Thursday, Sept. 24, allowing the team to see the course prior to the provincial championship round."

SPORTS NOTES: NEW WOMEN'S SENIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE TAKES TO THE ICE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A new province-wide senior women's hockey league is set to give Manitoba players an opportunity to continue playing competitive hockey this fall.

The Manitoba Senior Women's Hockey League drops the puck on its inaugural season later this month. Anita Vachon, an Oak Lake product who is a sales agronomist with Valleyview Co-op in Virden, has helped get the league started and will play for the Hartney-based Westman Wranglers. Sioux Valley's Monet Mazawasicuna is also on the Wranglers. Miniota's Kasey Fouillard, as well as Virden products Emma Ramsey and Karissa Kirkup, will suit up for Brandon's Wheat City Wild.

"I am thrilled to be bringing women's senior hockey to Manitoba and the Westman area, and especially the town of Hartney... This opportunity has been available to men for many years now, so to be a part of the group of women who are bringing this league to life is something I am extremely proud of, and I can't wait for puck drop in two weeks," Vachon said earlier this week. "The town of Hartney has been a centre for female hockey in Manitoba for many years and it's truly fitting that they be a part of the inaugural season of the



PHOTO BY THE WESTMAN WRANGLERS

The Westman Wranglers took on the Dakota College at Bottineau women's hockey team in an exhibition game in Waskada.

Manitoba Senior Women's Hockey League. The women on the team, many played for the Westman Wildcats, and are excited to be returning to Hartney, the community has been fantastic in supporting the team, with many reaching out to volunteer at our home games. It is truly amazing to see the number of people that have stepped up to help myself and the team come together to create the league and the Westman Wranglers."

The Wranglers open their season Oct. 17 in Swan Lake against the Pembina Valley Storm before their home opener on Oct. 23 against the same squad.

"We are expecting a full barn in Hartney that day, even people in surrounding communities have let me

know they'll be there on the 23rd," Vachon said. "Lots of excitement leading up to the home opener."

The Wranglers recently got their first taste of competitive team hockey in an exhibition game in Waskada, defeating the Dakota College at Bottineau women's team 1-0.

"I wasn't sure what to expect, even for myself it had been a couple years since playing a competitive game of hockey, but the team was excited about travelling to Waskada to play the college," Vachon said. "It was great to get back onto the ice. There had been some ladies I hadn't seen since our U15/U18 playing days, so to catch up with them and play together as a team before league start was great and it ended up being a close

game. We even had quite a few fans show up, so always good to play in front of a crowd. It was also nice to see what we looked like coming together as a team, and considering we hadn't had a practice yet, it makes me feel very confident about the team heading into the season."

Last spring, the Saskatchewan Senior Women's League took a poll to see if there was interest in creating a league in Manitoba, Vachon said. Later, that league reached out looking for volunteers to help put teams together and form a league. Vachon and Cass Bonchuk discussed where a team should be and "landed on Birtle, since most of the players in the initial survey were from the Birtle/Foxwarren and Russell

area." That squad became the Southwestern Falcons. In early July, the league said another western Manitoba team was no longer being formed. Vachon made contact and created the Wranglers in Hartney.

"At this time, I am still working with Cass and the Southwestern Falcons in their team operations, while I continue to work and eventually play for the Westman Wranglers," Vachon said. "It has been a very hockey-filled summer and fall, and I am ready to see everything come together."

Icemen return

Senior hockey is coming back to Oak Lake. After many years away, a senior men's hockey squad will compete as the Oak Lake Icemen. While the last Icemen team was in the North Central Hockey

League, the new team will battle in the Tiger Hills Hockey League, which includes the Virden Oil Kings. The Icemen are looking for volunteers and sponsors. Those interested can contact the team at oaklakeicemen@gmail.com.

Brezden Impresses

Former Skate Virden athlete Breken Brezden set a new personal-best score and finished seventh at the Trialeti Trophy in Batumi, Georgia. The Dauphin product competed in senior ladies at the Oct. 1-4 event. The Trialeti Trophy is part of the ISU Challenger Series, which gives seniors skaters opportunities to gain international experience and earn World Standing Points. Brezden trained for years in Virden with coach Patty Hole.

SPORTS

BLACK-GREAVES EMBRACES 'MAMBA MENTALITY' WITH OIL CAPITALS



PHOTO BY THE VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

Lincoln Black-Greaves is a key member of the Virden Oil Capitals blue line.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

While the late Kobe Bryant excelled on the hardwood, a member of the Virden Oil Capitals has used the "Mamba Mentality" to help himself and his team on the ice.

Oil Caps second-year defenceman Lincoln Black-Greaves said he has looked up to the former Los Angeles Lakers star. He drew on some of

Bryant's approach when the local Manitoba Junior Hockey League squad made it to the league championship series last season.

"I admire his mentality and have used it myself," Black-Greaves said. "For example, last year during the playoffs, we defeated Steinbach in Game 6. We were all ecstatic and headed to the finals. However, I reminded myself, as Kobe said, 'The job wasn't finished,' so there

was nothing to be happy about."

Black-Greaves enjoys basketball and likes shooting hoops with his father and brother in the driveway of their Winnipeg home. He never played on an organized team growing up. Basketball's loss was hockey's gain, as the 6-foot-1, 185-pound Black-Greaves has become an important part of the Oil Capitals' blue line.

He was recently named the team's CD Oilwell

Player of the Month for September. In four games, Black-Greaves helped the team to a 3-1 record while recording two assists. On the Oil Capitals website, the team posted that "The returning defenceman has been a steady presence on the blue line and continues to make an impact with his complete level, physical play and reliability in the defensive zone."

In his rookie season, the 2008-born athlete saw action in 47 games. He recorded two goals and six assists for eight points. As of Oct. 4, Black-Greaves had three assists in six games this season. He was tabbed as the Gardewine Hardest Worker of the Game in a win over the defending champion Niverville Nighthawks.

"Lincoln is a big body that moves really well and has a high IQ," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He has a good stick and makes a good first pass with an ability to join the rush. He shoots the puck well and can get

pucks through to the net. He has had a good start to the season and plays in all situations for us. We are looking forward to seeing him develop into one of the top defencemen in the league."

Over the summer, Black-Greaves focused on a few different areas, including improving his speed, in preparation for his second year in Virden.

"I worked with Glenn Bruce, and he really helped me out this off-season," he said. "I can definitely see the improvements in my game. Another thing I worked on was my poise with the puck and not making rushed decisions all the time, and a big thing that I think helped tie everything together for me was just having fun out there and thinking it was pond hockey and trying new things and seeing what works and doesn't and not getting stressed out about."

Black-Greaves also found some time to get away last summer. He and

his best friend headed to Europe for a grad trip.

"We went to Spain, Ireland, Paris, Iceland, and Dublin. I think my favourite memories from that trip were going to Paris and seeing all the famous buildings that you don't get to see every day," he said. "Spain was unreal; the weather was so nice, and the beach we were at was beautiful. My favourite memory was definitely my buddy and me body surfing the huge waves and getting thrown back up to shore. Honestly, I enjoyed it all and could talk about it for hours, and I'd 100 per cent go back again in the future."

Now back in North America, Black-Greaves is enjoying his time with the Oil Capitals.

"So far, being back in Virden has been an absolutely wonderful experience," he said. "I've truly enjoyed spending quality time with the guys, and it's been a joy to create new memories with them each and every day."

OIL CAPITALS LIMIT TITANS TO TWO GOALS IN WEEKEND SWEEP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals allowed only two goals in a pair of victories over the Neepawa Titans last weekend.

Micky Gross made 16 saves on Oct. 2 as the Oil Capitals shut out the visiting Neepawa Titans 3-0. The next night, Carson Wright scored in the final minutes of regulation to lift Virden to a 3-2 win. How were the Oil Capitals able to limit the Titans to only two goals?

"We did a good job of defending the middle of the rink in our own zone and got better throughout the weekend at taking away time and space and not allowing Neepawa to have too much extended zone time. Both goalies were really good as well," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said.

The wins in the home-and-home series improved Virden's record to 5-1. The

team topped the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's MGEU West Division standings as of Oct. 4.

The Oil Capitals have a home game against the Winnipeg Freeze on Oct. 10 at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. Virden will then travel to Portage la Prairie to face the Portage Terriers on Oct. 11 before returning home to host the Dauphin Kings on Oct. 14.

Oil Capitals forward Tyson Draper, who is from Oak Lake Beach, is off to a strong start this season. As of Oct. 4, his six goals had him fifth in the MJHL behind four players with seven goals. Draper's 12 points placed him seventh in the league scoring race.

Oil Caps 3, Titans 0

With Gross and the defence keeping the Neepawa offence at bay, the Oil Caps scored one goal in each period on the way to a victory in front of 674 fans at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

Lucas Laramée lit the

lamp for Virden in the first period. Brooks Siemens scored his first of the season in the second period. Draper found the back of the net on a third-period power play.

Draper, who had two points on the night, was the First Star, while Gross was the Third Star. The Oil Capitals sent 43 shots at Titans goalie Conner Nicolson, who stopped 40 of them to earn the Second Star.

Grady Taylor, a defenceman, had two assists for Virden. He also dropped the gloves with DJ Meloney in the second period. In the third frame, the Oil Capitals' Shane Elder fought Jack Hefferan.

Oil Caps 3, Titans 2

With eight seconds left in regulation in Neepawa, Wright scored the game winner.

"Liam Goertzen did a real good job getting to the middle of the rink and through the neutral zone with speed and Tyson

Draper was able to find a loose puck and wrap it around the net for a scoring chance," Ramsey said. "Carson did a good job finishing to the net and was able to find a loose puck and put it in."

Neither team had scored in the first period. Draper scored twice in the second frame. His second goal of the game came short-handed. The Titans got two goals in between his markers, so the contest was knotted at 2-2 at the second intermission.

With three points, Draper was named the game's Second Star. New Oil Capitals goaltender Kasey Fuson made 20 saves to earn his first MJHL win.

Ryder Heaphy and Jackson Kohut scored for Neepawa. Nicolson made 24 saves. Elder and Casey Magarrell fought in the second period.

Signings

On Oct. 4, it was announced that the Western

Hockey League's Saskatoon Blades had reassigned 2008-born defenceman Spencer Kuntz to the Oil Caps. The Winnipeg product played three games for the Blades this season.

Last week, the Oil Capitals announced the signing of two players for this season. Brady Nelson is a 2007-born defenceman from Excelsior, Minn. As of Oct. 4, he had played two games for Virden. The team also announced the signing of Fuson. The 2008-born goaltender from Sturgeon County, Alta. started this season in the British Columbia Hockey League. Fuson has played in Indonesia.

The squad has also recently announced the signing of players for the 2027-28 season. The Oil Capitals have inked U18 AAA Winnipeg Wild goaltender Ardan Downey, who was born in 2010. They also signed forwards Reed Sherry and Davian

Ferland. Sherry, born in 2011, is from St. Malo and plays for Winnipeg's Rink Hockey Academy in the U18 prep ranks. The 2010-born Ferland is from Rivers and plays for the U18 AAA Notre Dame Hounds, who are based in Wilcox, Sask.

Niko Lemoine, a 2009-born defenceman, was with Virden early this campaign and has been reassigned to the U18 AAA Eastman Selects. He has signed for next season.

Former Oil Capitals player Cole Slobodian was acquired by his hometown Brandon Wheat Kings. He suited up in Virden in 2023-24 before playing for the WHL's Portland Winterhawks.

Small correction from last week's Oil Caps Centre Spread:

Stuart Smoley is still announcing for the Oil Capitals games. Unfortunately, Henry Hildabrandt has past in September.

Elkhorn Auto Museum Old Time Harvest



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

An old binder pulled by an equally old tractor works its way through a crop for the Elkhorn Auto Museum.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It was a beautiful, bright fall day on October 4, with a slight fall breeze and the occasional small flock of geese flying overhead

making their way south for the winter! The sun and the breeze were helping to dry the fields out after too many days of rain. Several members of the Elkhorn Auto Museum and friends had gathered in a grain

field north of Elkhorn to take off a grain crop the old fashioned way with antique farm equipment. This yearly event is where some equipment from the museum is used to harvest some grain. This crop has

been donated to the museum. The donation will be used next year on Canada Day at the museum's old time threshing demonstration, an event that draws a large crowd. In the field, around a

vintage binding machine, you could find the crew adjusting the gears, levers and canvases of the machine. This binder is over 100 years old. Nearby, three empty racks are ready, as are the pitch forks, to throw the sheaves up onto the wagon. As the binder goes through the grain crop, pulled by a vintage tractor, the cut bundles are tied up, and the bundles roll off the machine. As I stand in the field taking photos, I can see some large stones pushing up through the soil. Those will be removed next spring by the rock picker. When picking those rocks, an aboriginal stone hammer head might show up? Near where I am standing there was a well-

worn deer path off to the west. In the field are small tufts of green grass growing because of all the late rain. It's a peaceful scene, however the binder is having a few issues with a tear in its canvas. One hay rack is full, but the binder must go back to the museum's restoration shop for some vintage repairs. The rig and crew will be back in a few days to try again, however the weather is always a factor in the next several days just as it was 100 years ago when the binder was new. PS: My Jeep is gone after 20 years to a new home at a Moose Jaw museum. I've had a lot of adventures with it over the last 20 years. How time flies!

Motorist shaken by near miss, visibility an issue

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A driver told the Empire-Advance about a brush in the dark with an electric scooter in Virden on Sept. 22. He was shaken by what could have happened. Here is the account: Travelling on Queen St. and stopping at the 4-way stop at Third Ave. the driver was about to make a left turn, but seeing something with a single dim light approaching on the sidewalk next to Goulter School the driver waited, wondering what sort of vehicle it was.

Turned out it was a dimly lit e-scooter. Leaving the sidewalk, the scooter crossed Third Ave, proceeded along Queen. The driver waited at the 4-way for the scooter to clear the intersection then began a left turn onto Third Ave. However, there were two kids on scooters. Only the first one had a light, the second was lagging behind. It was nearly pitch dark. The motorist had stopped at the 4-way stop sign, let the visible scooter through the intersection, and before he touched the gas, he said the second scooter swooshed past seemingly out

of nowhere. Dressed in black, with no light, the second rider was almost invisible in the dark – it was a heart in your mouth moment for the driver. The extra couple of seconds pause on the motorist's part made the difference in this case. This occurred after sunset near the school where there's a 30K speed limit, but even at 30K a crash with a child on an e-bike would be tragic. This account highlights the importance of visibility, seeing and being seen.

Micro mobility has been flying under the radar

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Council members raised concerns about e-bike and e-scooter safety at Virden's Sept. 22 public council meeting. Virden RCMP Staff Sgt. McAuley attended to give the monthly report to Town Council and when the opportunity for questions arose, Councillor Mark Savy asked Sgt. McAuley if the force was policing how e-scooters are used. Safety to the kids and adults riding and safety for pedestrians is an ongoing topic that's been raised at a recent meeting of western municipalities. Personal electric vehicle (PEV) legislation is on the way, however, Sgt. McAuley said that until traffic safety laws catch up to include PEVs, there isn't a speed law or any other law to enforce, with the exception of wild recklessness.

He said, "The problem is that you're going to get kids that get hurt prior to that, right?" However, he said right now there needs to be more awareness for parents and for kids regarding the speed e-scooters can go and the danger. "It comes down to awareness, it comes down to us trying to basically be there to help out but if the parents don't care, it's tough for us to..." Coun. Savy said, "But e-scooters on sidewalks and kids under 12 not wearing helmets. It's crazy." Sgt. McAuley agreed and stated, "Kids should be wearing the helmets." Councillor Maxwell had witnessed a collision with a pedestrian. She said, "Well, it's even bystanders. I watched it in Brandon the other day, someone whipping down the sidewalk, and a kid hit another kid."

A CBC article, "E-scooter injuries on the rise across Canada, data shows" posted July 17, 2025, says, "Emergency physicians say the extent of injuries can be severe: brain, facial and dental trauma, fractures needing multiple surgeries, or traumatic brain injuries that require intensive care. The article added, "Some injuries happen when the rider is hit by a car, but physicians are also treating people who have been hit by a rider." In June of 2026, the Manitoba legislature passed Bill 43 which established regulatory framework around PEVs. However, the legislation hasn't come into force yet. Bill 43 of the Highway Traffic Act identifies PEVs as electric kick-scooters, skateboards, self-balancing scooters, e-bikes, unicycles, or similar vehicles with a maximum power output rating of 500 watts and a maximum speed of 32 kilo-

meters per hour. The bill contains age restrictions, and stipulations about where PEVs can be used. Although young kids can currently be seen on PEVs, Bill 43 says e-scooter drivers will need to be 16 years of age or older. PEVs cannot be used on highways where the posted speed limit is greater than 50 kilometers per hour. Electric bicycles are exempt from this rule. For e-bikes the age minimum will be 14. PEV use on public sidewalks will be prohibited except where there are signs or markings specifically allowing them. Helmets will be mandatory and e-scooter and e-bike drivers could even get a speeding ticket under a new speed limit of 25 kilometers per hour. At present both the Town Council and the RCMP favour more education for the public around the use of PEVs.



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AI can look like journalism. That doesn't make it journalism.

Submitted

By NEWS MEDIA CANADA

Two recent stories from Nunatsiaq News help explain the idea behind this year's National Newspaper Week AI Gorithm campaign.

The name is a play on the word "algorithm." Algorithms are powerful sets of step-by-step instructions that computer systems use. They power Artificial Intelligence tools and are used by social media platforms that feed us content we will probably like.

In this year's campaign, AI Gorithm is shown as a real person for a reason.

More and more, AI-generated news is being made to look as though a real journalist is behind it, with a name, a photo, a bio and a byline. These articles are products of complex algorithms designed to look like journalists, even when

they are fake.

Nunatsiaq News recently reported on a website using AI-generated "correspondents" to publish stories based in part on reporting done by established northern news organizations. One fictional reporter even has a realistic photo, a local-sounding name and a made-up biography.

That is exactly the point behind AI Gorithm.

Artificial Intelligence can make an algorithm look human. The campaign flips that idea around to remind us that real journalism is still done by real people; people who show up, ask questions, check facts and are accountable for what they publish.

As AI-generated content gets harder to spot, one question matters more than ever: Who actually did the reporting? Real people report real news.

Superstitions

REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN



The flip of the calendar to October means fall and, along with it, Halloween at the end of the month. With that in mind, here are a few more superstitions. I remember as a youngster, after eating turkey, there was always a contest for the wishbone and who would win. Being much younger than my brothers, they had a slight advantage over me, but Mom would oversee the contest to make sure everything was done fairly. She also encouraged me to make a wish. I can't remember anything I wished for, but it was still fun. The wishbone is considered lucky if you win and get the bigger part of the bone. Ancient Etruscans believed birds to

be mystical, powerful creatures and used their bones to make wishes. The Romans took on this belief, cracking bones for wishes, which was in turn passed on to the British during the days of the Roman Empire. Subsequently, the tradition made its way to the United States via the British, and on Thanksgiving, the turkey wishbone is considered the ultimate symbol of good luck. Do you believe in Irish myths, like leprechauns, the pot of gold, or lucky charms? For hundreds of years, horseshoes have been considered lucky to the Irish. They were hung or still are hung in homes or above the door for protection, and providing they were

pointing upward, it was believed they would store good fortune. However, a horseshoe pointing downward is apparently bad luck to the Irish, as it allows all the good luck to fall out. The Irish are considered one of the luckiest nationalities on the planet. Whether that is true or not is impossible to know, but here are the top ten lucky charms in Ireland:

1. Lucky number
2. Bracelets
3. Coins
4. Rings
5. Four-leaf clovers
6. Ladybugs
7. Socks
8. Horseshoes
9. Rainbows
10. Underwear

The use of keys as a lucky charm dates back to the ancient Greeks, who believed keys gave their prayers the power to reach the Gods. Keys are popular around the world as a key opens doors and offers opportunities, and many believe they also represent fortune and fame.

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Reflections on Prairie Life, 1926

REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN



While my wife and I were watching Happy Days, a classic family favourite, an episode came on where the characters buried a time capsule and wondered what the future would look like. That got us thinking about what life was like right here a century ago in 1926. In 1926, the Roaring Twenties were in full swing across Winnipeg, bringing modern electricity, jazz, and automobiles. Meanwhile, just a short drive away in rural communities like Virden, daily life was still a relentless test of physical endurance, defined by the transition from draft horses to early gas-pow-

ered engines. Outside the major cities, life was rugged and physically demanding. While city dwellers enjoyed indoor plumbing and electric appliances, the average farm woman was still hauling heavy pails of water from hand pumps and scrubbing laundry by hand on washboards. No one was sitting around watching television or scrolling on cell phones, they simply did not exist! Telephones were still luxury items in the countryside. Travel was slow, relying on rough dirt roads that turned into deep mud during the spring thaw (much like some of our gravel roads after a heavy rain today!).

A Turning Point in Prairie Farming

For years, farmers were skeptical of gas tractors, preferring reliable horse teams. However, by 1926, the iconic John Deere Model D tractor was sweeping across the Prairies. Demand skyrocketed as farmers realized they could harvest far more acreage with significantly less manual labour. At the same time, innovations like the Winnipeg-made Stewart Sheaf Loader were gaining popularity across Manitoba fields, dramatically reducing the gruelling physical work of gathering crop bundles by hand. Big scientific strides were happening, too. The Dominion Rust Research Laboratory was completed in early 1926 on the grounds of the University of Manitoba. Scientists there began breeding disease-resistant wheat varieties that would safeguard Prairie agriculture for decades to come. Stay tuned, I will be digging into more 1926-time capsule surprises next week!

REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN



The 2026-27 regular season in the National Hockey League began on October 2 for the Winnipeg Jets with a 4-3 overtime loss to the Boston Bruins. In what was an exciting, well-played game for the first game of the season, I believe Winnipeg fans will have a lot to look forward to this season. Was it entertaining? Yes! The influx of youth which is new to the team this year will lift the Jets to, at very least, some exciting matches this campaign. Watching the rookies on the Jets was exciting. Tyrel Bauer on defense, who got into his first National Hockey League

fight and then stood up for a teammate who was knocked down, is something the Jets have been sorely missing. Tyrel Bauer became a fan favorite, just like that! He is physical and took on the Bruins' enforcer and left him bloodied. Tyrel already has his role figured out. Viggo Björck is an incredibly talented 18-year-old player. He looked good and was even on the ice for the three-on-three overtime. He outmaneuvered three Boston players, and while there was no scoring opportunity on the play, he showed how quick and determined he was,

competing for loose pucks. Brad Lambert also looked good. He is a strong skater, and his quickness with his linemates Adam Lowry and Morgan Barron should bring a particularly good line to the Jets. The Jets' fourth line needs to figure things out quickly. Cole Koepke, who is a quick, strong skater, was a healthy scratch. Nino Niederreiter looked like he was skating in mud, going slower. His legs are too slow for the pace that the Jets need to play at. Vladislav Namestnikov can skate but has a bad habit of hanging on to the puck too long and will not shoot. Alex Iafallo can play anywhere on any line at any time. The Jets should use Brayden Yager instead of Nino and let him develop in the National Hockey League. Like I said, it was a good game to start the season. Let's hope there are many more of them this season.

JETS YOUTH

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



Notice of Election

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Town of Virden will be taken to elect Mayor and Councillors from the following duly nominated candidates:

For the offices of Councillor:	For the office of Mayor:
HUNT, Alfred	DUNNING, Bruce
HALOWATY, Gord	WILLIAMS, Tina
PENNER, Travis	
SAVY, Marc	
MAKARCHUK, Tom	
MAXWELL, Tara	
GRUMPELT, Lynette	
GIRARDIN, Lomer	

(Note: listed in order as per random draw for order on ballots)

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October, 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at **Sunrise Banquet Hall, Tundra Oil and Gas Place, 900 5th Avenue South, Virden, Manitoba**

Identification may be required before being allowed to vote.

A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at: **Sunrise Banquet Hall, Tundra Oil and Gas Place, 900 5th Avenue South, Virden, Manitoba** and will be open on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 between 8:00am and 8:00pm

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following health care facilities on election day:

1. Virden Hospital/Westman Nursing Home	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
2. Sherwood PCH	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at Box 310, 236 Wellington Street West, Virden, Manitoba, R0M2C0. Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

If applying in person*, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026, during regular business hours.

* A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email**, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026

** A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Rhonda Stewart, Senior Election Official Town of Virden
Phone: 204-851-0769
Email: rlstewart@outlook.com

Coming Events

Maryfield St. Andrew's United Church Fowl Supper

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

from 4:30-7:00 pm SK time.
Maryfield Auditorium Lower Hall, Maryfield, SK

MINIOTA UCW
TURKEY SUPPER

Sunday, October 25th
5:00 pm
In the Miniota Community Centre
568 Miniota Road
Turkey and all the Trimmings
Adults \$20 10 & Under \$6 5 & Under Free

Virden Pioneer Home Museum
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026
At 2 p.m. in The Council Chambers
Town of Virden

All people interested in keeping our local Museum open to Public are urged to attend
New Board Members always welcome

VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO & WILD WEST DATE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 16
7:30 p.m.
Virden Legion

Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2027 Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Ellice - Archie has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 318 Railway Avenue in the Village of McAuley and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 & 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act.

42(1) APPLICATION FOR REVISION

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

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

43(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application for revision must:

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

The Board of Revision will sit on **Friday, November 13h, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** in the council chambers of the R.M. of Ellice - Archie, 318 Railway Avenue, McAuley, Manitoba to hear applications that have been duly deposited.

The **FINAL** date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is Wednesday, October 28th, 2026.

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

Dated this 29th day of September 2026

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Fort La Bosse School Division will be taken to elect School Trustees from the following duly nominated candidates:

WARD 1

Craig Russell
Bonnie James
Michael Theriault

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at:

Fort La Bosse School Division Administration Office, 523 9th Ave. S., Virden - Eligible voters residing in WARD 1 (Town of Virden)

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example – driver’s license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Fort La Bosse School Division Office, 523 9th Ave S and will be open for voting Wednesday the 21st day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at Fort La Bosse School Division, Box 1420, Virden MB, R0M 2C0, email kreid@flbsd.mb.ca

If applying in person, a voter may apply between the 30th day of September 2026 and the 25th day of October 2026. A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Kent Reid
Senior Election Official
Fort La Bosse School Division
204-748-2692

Thank-you

Thank-you

On Friday August 7th, we held our annual Museum Day BBQ fundraiser. Having the town, sponsor, volunteer, visit and enjoying our Annual Museum BBQ Day was truly amazing. A huge thank you to all our sponsors, without you it would have not been a great success.

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

Thursday, October 15th, 2026
5:30 pm at the V.A.L.C.
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HAVE NEWS?

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Council seeks solution for false alarms

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Both police and the fire department race to calls from crime prevention alarms and fire alarms. When a crew of firefighters and equipment respond or when police officers are called from their beds to an alarm, there's a cost involved to the responders and a financial cost to the Town. But when an alarm goes off, it could be the real thing. A response is required.

During the RCMP presentation to the Town of Virden Council meeting, (Sept. 22), Councillor Mark Savy remarked on the three false alarm calls to the police force in August.

He wondered if these were repeat false alarms.

Staff Sgt. McAuley referred to past experience in the Alberta town of Okotoks as an example of what some

municipalities have done. At that time, a business or individual could be charged if there are repeated false alarm calls. He said after a first response to what turned out to be a false alarm, "then the second one was \$75."

In Okotoks, a notice would be placed on the site door with the date and time of response to the false alarm.

Coun. Savy noted the cost of false alarm calls. "This could possibly cost us overtime if it's happening at three, four in the morning, when there's no member available," he said.

Sgt. McAuley indicated that it is a common problem. "We used to have a little thing we'd put on your door that said the RCMP showed up, we signed the date and time."

It was a discussion. No resolutions came out of the conversation.

Miniota News

Submitted
By LINDA CLARK

News from our corner of the world is a little scarce, as everyone has welcomed the 'harvest' weather, and are hard at taking off the crop. As we approach the Thanksgiving weekend, we are all grateful for this reprieve in the weather. Our countryside is most beautiful with all the variations of colours!

While our farm families are busy harvesting, it is also the time of year for purging. Our Annual Rink Sale has been postponed for another

week, so keep on purging, for your things might become another person's treasures, and the funds go to a great cause to support our Miniota Community Centre facilities, our hall and rink. As well, the Miniota Facility Enhancement Project committee is gearing up for their Sportsman's Dinner once again, and this year you don't want to miss the comedian they are bringing to

town. Happy Thanksgiving to all our readers, near and far! From Insightful Intuitive: "It's important to realize that you are living inside one of your answered prayers while you wait for your next one. There's always a place for gratitude."

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Pipestone friends tour Ireland

By VEA Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Kim MacKenzie was requested to share about her recent trip to Ireland. Here it is.

I just returned from a lovely holiday on the Emerald Isle. We (Kim and husband Graham) had visited Ireland in 2019 to see the Irish National Stud at Kildare and stayed near Monasteravin with the Hyland Family, but this time it was a ladies' trip to Dublin with a couple of side trips.

Ireland's history of Viking and English rule to the tragic potato famine and in more recent time, a split into two separate regions, makes for a complex story.

We caught the Dublin city highlights from the 'hop-on hop-off' buses, listening to the educational and entertaining commentary of each driver.

One of the highlights was being able to book the elusive tickets for Kilmainham Gaol prior to arriving.

The weather was so beautiful I got sunburned

the first day, so much for rainy Ireland!

Dublin center is divided by the Liffey River and there are many bridges you can cross. One of the most famous is the Ha'Penny Bridge and we discovered the Ha'Penny Bridge Inn located on the south side. It is a family run pub. Owner Mik and one of the regular customers were more than eager to chat, kind of reminded me of Pipestone Hotel.

We took a day tour to Belfast in Northern Ireland. The two countries are separate but you cross right through from south to north with no border check. Our destination was the UNESCO world site, the Giant's Causeway on the northern coast. Another gorgeous day but with the strong cool winds off the North Atlantic we were glad we had dressed in layers.

Graham's maternal Kennedy great-great-grandparents were married at Ballintoy in County Antrim just a short drive from the causeway. I talked nicely to

the tour guide and he had the bus slow as we turned back inland. I was able to snap a photo of the church from the bus.

The Ships

We headed back to Belfast to view the Titanic Experience located on the exact dock yards where the ship was built. It opened in 2012 for the 100th anniversary of the tragic sinking.

We also caught a dart train to Dalkey for another side trip to Dalkey Castle, have lunch, stroll around the lovely little village and sit by the harbour watching the big ships go by.

We saw so much, but one of the last sites we visited was the Jeanie Johnston, a replica of one of the famine ships used to sail Irish emigrants to North America. A couple of interesting facts: it was built in Canada and of all the famine ships it was famous for the care and attention given the passengers as not one soul died on the six-week crossings aboard the Jeanie Johnston. The same cannot be said for

the other ships that came to be known as coffin ships. Up to 200 people each trip would make the journey in cramped quarters below. Canadian lumber would fill the hold for the return trip.

Food & Drink

We ate some traditional simple, hearty Irish food. The best fish 'n chips in Dublin does not serve wine but you can pop across the street to another pub, buy a glass of wine and bring it back! We skipped trying Guinness, perhaps that will be a reason to go back. We conversed with many of the locals and found them very friendly whether helping with directions or commenting on the state of politics. We discovered everyone is rooting for Canada, from the eccentric bookstore owner in Dublin to a shop keeper in Dalkey.

So, been to Ireland twice and I must be blessed because I've only had blue sunny skies both trips. Ireland is such a beautiful country and not impossible to see a good chunk of it in a short visit but so much



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kim on the Jeanie Johnson replica says, "Can't imagine crossing the Atlantic on this small boat! Those below deck were allowed up for half an hour per day but on most ships would never see the light of day until arriving."

more to see!

The history of the country is confusing. Just yesterday there was to be a parade of the Orange Order on Garvaghy Road in Northern Ireland that was blocked by protestors of both faiths. I messaged my friend in Belfast to ask about it and he said there's

been peace for nearly 30 years but some politicians won't leave it alone and "let the rest of us get on with it and live life."

Thanks to Linda and Heather who were great travel companions. We learned lots, laughed lots and made memories to last a lifetime!

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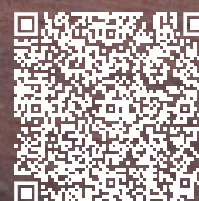
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