



# Please Take One-FREE

## THE OUTLOOK

### INC. ALL PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITIES

Volume 14, Issue 3 Feb 19 2025

## A Reflection on 17 Years of Palliative Care

**NEXT OUTLOOK  
DATES!!**

**MARCH 12**

**APRIL 2**

**birtleoutlook@live.ca**

**204-847-0117**

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

**Deadline—Monday 9am  
prior to release.**

**Weather Outlook**

**Wed Feb 19 -22  
Sunny**



**Thurs Feb 20 -18  
Partially sunny**



**Fri. Feb 21 -9  
Partially Sunny**



**Sat. Feb 22 1  
Partially Sunny**



**Sun. Feb 23 1  
Cloudy**



A Letter from Lynette Snow

After much reflection, I write to inform you of my decision to step away from my role with the palliative care program. After 17 years of deeply meaningful work, I find myself at a point where I feel it is time to take a step back and allow others to continue the invaluable work we've all been a part of.

Looking back on my time with the program, I am filled with gratitude for the relationships forged and the profound experiences I've had alongside both the incredible team and the patients we served. This journey has enriched me in ways I never expected and has shaped not only my professional path but my personal outlook on life, compassion, and the importance of dignity in care.

I am incredibly proud of the work we've done together, the strides we've made, and the difference we've created in the lives of those in need. It has been an honor to be part of such a dedicated and compassionate team. While I am stepping away from my role, I remain committed to the values and vision that guide the palliative care program and will continue to carry those lessons with me moving forward.

Please know that I am deeply grateful for the support, mentorship, and collaboration that have been extended to me throughout this journey. I wish the program, its staff, and



the patients it serves nothing but continued success and progress in the years ahead.


Thank you once again for allowing me to be part of such an impactful and life-affirming initiative. I will always look back on my time here with fondness and respect.

### A Lifelong Commitment to Compassionate Care

As I reflect on the journey that has brought me to this point in my career, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the experiences and lessons I've learned over the years. Nursing has been my calling from



*(Continued on page 2)*

# TWIN VALLEY TREASURE Hunt



## February TREASURE REVEAL

**Movie Night Package**  
Includes a 55" Sony 4K Ultra LED TV,  
Sony 4K Ultra Blu-Ray Player &  
a Basket of Co-op Snacks!  
\$1600 Value



Visit [www.twinvalleyco-op.crs](http://www.twinvalleyco-op.crs) for contest details!

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(Continued from page 1)

the very beginning, and it has been a truly rewarding career. I graduated from Red River Community College's Nursing Program 48 years ago, and from that moment on, I never looked back.

The day my brother Fred and I graduated from RRCC at the same time, our mom could not have been prouder. That moment is etched in my heart because I truly believed that nursing was where I was meant to be. Born on September 10, 1954, in Cochenour, Ontario, I'm the oldest of five children. In 1970, my family moved to Birtle right in the middle of my Grade 12 year. At the time, I wasn't thrilled about the change, but my parents worked hard, first at Brau's IGA and later at The Birtle Abattoir. I even learned how to cut and wrap meat alongside my dad, which turned out to be a handy skill years later when my husband, Wayne, opened Snow's Meats in 2006.

After completing my nursing education, I met Wayne, and we've now been married for 45 years. We have two adult children, Bridgette and Tyler, and three grandchildren, Mason, Finn, and Casey.

My career began at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg, where I worked for 20 years. I loved every moment in the nursery, caring for sweet little babies. When the nursery closed, I transferred to orthopedics, and from there, my path took me into community health. For 11 years, I worked with VON Manitoba and Norwest Community Outreach, providing foot care to low-income individuals. There were four of us nurses managing almost 1,000 patients, but it was an incredibly fulfilling experience.

In 2007, I was fortunate enough to take on the role of Palliative Care Coordinator of Volunteers at the Birtle Health Centre. For 17 years, I've had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated team, serving patients and families during such a difficult time. One of the greatest accomplishments during my time in this role was organizing the La-

dies Night fundraiser, an idea that came to life after my sister Janie, our daughters, and I attended a similar event in Moosomin. On the way home we thought, We could do this!! An idea transpired. I talked to Susanne Burdett, a very supportive board member at the time. Susanne said "Go For It". We did. With so many helpful volunteers over the years we were able to make it a huge success. We had the support each year from Tracy Myhill, owner of Junction 16 to help us along with the fashion show and her new ideas of entertainment and the help and support of countless volunteers, the event grew into an annual success, raising significant funds for the program.

But perhaps the most rewarding part of my work in palliative care has been the opportunity to be there for patients and their families, offering a listening ear, a comforting hand, or simply being present during difficult times. It was never just a job for me—it was a calling, one that I carried out with compassion, empathy, and dedication. Each patient and their family touched me in ways I will never forget.

Palliative care is about more than just medical treatment; it's about providing dignity, comfort, and respect during the final stages of life. I've learned as much from the patients I served as they've learned from me. Every story, every tear, every laugh will stay with me always.

As I retire and spend more time with my husband and our puppy, Lady, I look back with pride at all that we accomplished together. I am deeply thankful for the team, the patients, and the community that supported us throughout the years. I may be stepping away from my official role, but the values and lessons of palliative care will remain close to my heart forever.

With much love,

Lynette Snow

## Birtle Pharmacy

808 Main Street



204-842-5333

Alison & Steve Desjardins

birtlepharmacy@gmail.com

**Rx PharmaChoice**  
*Advice for Life*

### HELP WANTED

#### BIRTLE & AREA PALLIATIVE CARE COMMITTEE

Looking to hire someone to fill the position of Palliative Care Coordinator of Volunteers located in the Birtle Health Centre. This person will work collaboratively with Prairie Mountain Health programs (Palliative Care) and PMH facility personnel to provide palliative care services to the clientele it serves. Flexible hours averaging 8 hours a week, dependent on work load.

Wage negotiable dependent on qualifications.

For more information contact: Jean Fouillard  
email: zi23@mynetsnet.ca, call or text 204/821-5443  
Closing date: March 15th, 2025

# ISABELLA NEWS - By Linda Clark

Feb 4/25

With interest I read the 1936 program of the North Western Marquette festival held in Hamiota. Do you recognize these names? Shirley Scarth, Viola Douglas, Kathleen Coxworth, Robert Scarth, Eric Robinson, Betty Lawn, Thelma Norrie, Hollis Lints, Chrissie Lints, Mabel Clark, June Finkbeiner, Flora Scarth, Beatrice Robinson, Doreen Shurvell, Lorne Finkbeiner, Donna Douglas, Russell Clark and Frank Stevenson. Just some of the many talented Isabella young people who participated in festival many many years ago. Thank you to Jo Ann Ramsey for sharing this with me.



**Open Pickleball  
Starts up again this  
Thurs Jan 9th  
6:00 to 7:30pm**

**Birtle Elementary.  
Everyone welcome.  
We have extra paddles.  
No cost program.**



**Miniota Fire Department presents:**  
**—11th Annual—  
FISHING DERBY**  
*Hooper's Lake*

**Door  
Prizes!  
50/50  
Draw!**

**\$10 Derby  
Registration  
12PM-4PM  
BBQ Lunch**



**All proceeds go towards the Volunteer Fire Department**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9 2025**

**2 HOLE LIMIT  
CATCH AND RELEASE NORTHERN PIKE  
SHACKS WELCOME  
BRING YOUR OWN BAIT & PAIL**

**CONTACT  
RODNEY FOR  
INFORMATION @  
204-851-5186**

## *New Hours at the Birtle Value Shoppe*

**Monday - 1:30-4:30  
Wednesday - 1:30-4:30  
Thursday - 4:30-7:30  
Friday - 1:30-4:30**



### *Looking for a place to rent for your next Meeting in Birtle?*

Contact the Birtle Miniota CDC to rent our boardroom in Birtle. Includes usage of tables, chairs and kitchenette

1 HOUR \$15 4 HOURS \$35 1 DAY (12hrs) \$70

**FREE WIFI**

**Contact us today! 684 Main Street, Birtle 204-842-3602**

Hi there!

My name is Fallon and I am the Program Coordinator at the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. We run a community-based water monitoring network that samples water across Manitoba. We are currently looking for volunteers to sample at one of our sites near Birtle, MB – just north of Solsgirth, MB. Our sampling protocol is easy to understand and we provide all of the training, equipment and other supports that volunteers might need. I was wondering if any community members would be interested in this opportunity. If so please contact me for more information.

Thank you in advance for your time and I look forward to hearing from you!

Lake Winnipeg Foundation

**Fallon Moreau** (she/her)

Program Coordinator

[fallon@lakewinnipegfoundation.org](mailto:fallon@lakewinnipegfoundation.org)

107-62 Hargrave Street | Winnipeg,  
MB R3C 1N1

Treaty 1 Territory & Homeland of  
the Metis Nation

[lakewinnipegfoundation.org](http://lakewinnipegfoundation.org)

A clean, healthy Lake Winnipeg and  
watershed, now and for future gener-  
ations.



Join our Team at the

## BIRTLE FOOD STORE

Part-time Adult position available

Contact HR for more  
information or to discuss  
your interest!

Ph: 204-842-3905  
Ph: 204-842-2832  
[hr@twinvalley.crs](mailto:hr@twinvalley.crs)

**CO-OP**  
Twin Valley

Grocery Fresh  
Department



Miniota Skating  
Club invites you to

# Carnival Smorg Supper

**Sunday March 2nd**  
**5:00pm**  
**Miniota Community Hall**  
Adults \$20 12&Under \$10  
Preschool Free

Menu: Ham, Meatballs, perogies, veggies, macaroni  
salad, potatoe salad, lettuce salad, variety of  
desserts and beverage

**Come watch the**  
**Miniota Skating Club Ice Show**  
**at 3:00pm then stay for supper**



# Winter Wonderland

Join the Miniota Skating Club for a Magical Celebration!

**SUNDAY MARCH 2ND AT 3:00PM**

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$5, STUDENTS \$2 &  
PRESCHOOL FREE**

**Join us after for a smorg supper in the  
Miniota Hall following the show**

DAN MAZIER – MP Dauphin—Swan River—  
Neepawa

On Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 I had the privilege of presenting a King Charles III Coronation Medal to a truly deserving member of our community—Margaret Ashcroft.

Margaret has graciously given her time to the community for many years—serving the Birdtail Country Museum, the Birdtail Valley Drop-In Centre, and many other initiatives.

I was pleased to recognize Margaret with this distinct honour at the Birdtail Valley Drop-In Centre



Your hard work and  
generosity as a volunteer  
have touched many lives.  
Thank you for making a  
positive impact on  
our community

**Birtle Library Hours**

MONDAY	.....	4:30PM-7:30PM
TUESDAY	.....	1:30PM-6:00PM
WEDNESDAY	.....	4:30PM-7:30PM
SATURDAY	.....	10:30AM-2:30PM

**Everyone should know  
about: PAP TEST**

**Women Wellness Clinic Date:  
Cervical Screening**

**March 4, 2025**  
9 AM – 3 PM

**Location: Birtle Medical Clinic**

[www.prairiemountainhealth.ca](http://www.prairiemountainhealth.ca)      Call: 204-842-3990

**PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH**

**HOW TO: FIND PVM SNOWPLOWS ONLINE**

- Please visit [myprairieview.ca](http://myprairieview.ca)
- Select the tab “LOCAL GOVERNMENT”
- Select “SNOW PLOW ROUTES”
- Select Click “HERE”
- You will be directed to a map that shows where our snowplows have most recently been; updated hourly

## Honoring a Lifelong Reader: The Donald Kay Smith Avid Reader Award

In a beautiful tribute to a man who cherished books and fondly remembered his time in Birtle, a generous donation of US\$5,000 will be used to establish an annual student avid reader award in memory of Donald Kay Smith. The award, set to benefit local students and their schools' libraries, is an endowment that ensures a legacy of reading for years to come.

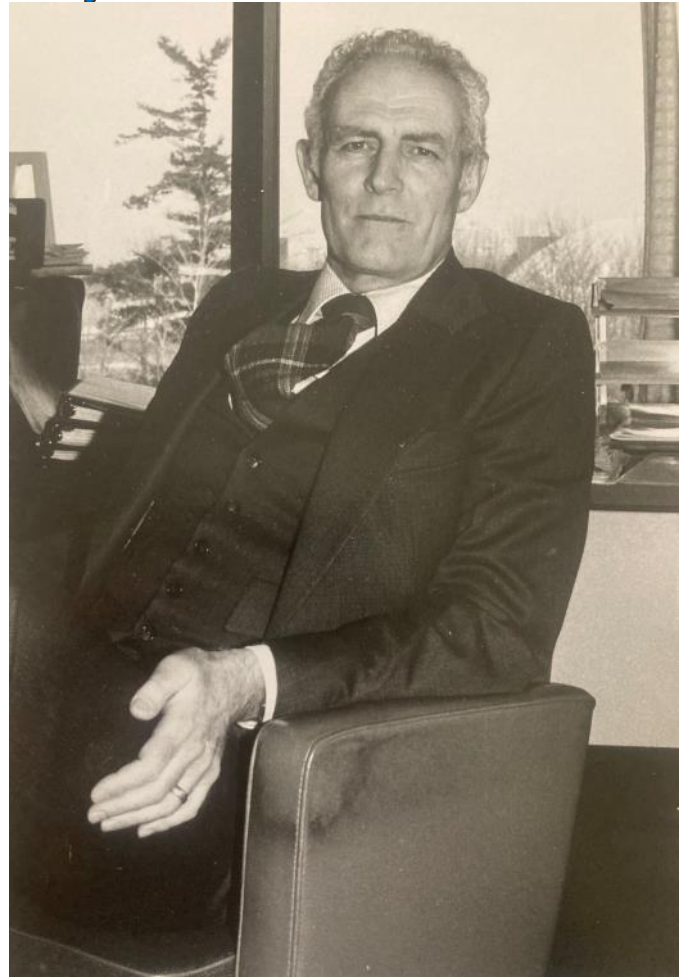
Donald Kay Smith, who passed away in 2023 at the age of 97, spent part of his childhood in Birtle and carried fond memories of the community throughout his life. As an avid reader, it was no surprise that his family wanted to support the Birtle Library with a donation in his honor.

The board of the Birtle & Foxwarren Libraries, after thoughtful consideration, decided that the best way to use the donation was by creating a lasting annual award for students to encourage a passion for reading. This award will inspire young readers to continue their lifelong journey with books, while simultaneously enriching the school libraries in Birtle.

The Donald Kay Smith Annual Avid Reader Award will provide a student, or a classroom of students, with the opportunity to choose books for their school library, under the guidance of their school librarian, ensuring that the funds benefit the local school community. The award will be funded by the earnings of an endowment established with the Birtle & District Foundation, which, in turn, invests with The Winnipeg Foundation.

In addition to the generous donation from Donald Kay Smith's family, The Value Shoppe has contributed Cdn\$1,650, and the Birtle Lions have added \$2,000 to further bolster the endowment. With these combined contributions, it is anticipated that approximately \$450 will be available each year for new books in Birtle schools, making a meaningful difference for both students and their schools. If anyone else would like to contribute to this fund please contact the Birtle Foundation or the Birtle Library.

The Donald Kay Smith Annual Avid Reader Award is more than just an honor; it is a commit-



ment to the future of reading in Birtle, helping to ensure that the love of books continues to thrive in the hearts of young readers for many generations. With the support of the Birtle community, this fund will continue to encourage life-long learning and a love of reading, which were values of the man it was created to honor.

Join our Team for the 2025 Season at the



*Birtle Riverside Golf*

### **CLUBHOUSE OPPORTUNITIES:   COURSE OPPORTUNITIES:**

Clubhouse Manager  
Clubhouse Staff

Greenskeeper Assistants

Applications can be sent to Birtle Riverside Golf Course by mail or email:  
Box 418, Birtle, MB R0M 0C0  
[birtleriversidegolf@gmail.com](mailto:birtleriversidegolf@gmail.com)

*Thanks for your interest in making the  
2025 Golf Season in Birtle a success!*

# SNOWSHOES

Tag Birtle Miniota CDC & Valley Recreation District



**FREE TO USE!**

YOU CAN ALSO #EXPLOREPRAIRIEVIEW

5 PAIRS

60/120/160/200/250 LB



BIRTLE MINIOTA & DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



All we ask is that you take a picture while enjoying the trails and TAG us on Facebook or Insta. This will help us promote the trail and our area. We hope you have so much fun!!



## Birtle Drop In Centre Annual Meeting



Wednesday, March 26th  
10 a.m. at the Drop In



## 12th Annual Vintage Snowmobile Derby & Show Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025 Birtle, MB

For more info. call  
Kevin 204-773-6405  
Or  
Butch 204-773-6413



Registration 11 AM—1 PM @ Birtle Fire Hall

**This ride is intended for vintage sleds 25 yrs. or older**

It has been created with the Vintage Snowmobiles in mind

The ~ 20 mi. long trail will be well marked with some of it winding through scenic Birdtail Valley

**There will be a Vintage Sled display area in front of the Fire Hall  
For your enjoyment**

Riders: \$10.00 or 3/\$20.00

Silent riders: \$5.00 or 3/\$10.00

**50% Payout**



Lunch will be provided after the ride at the Fire Hall

**Door prize will be drawn at lunch!!**

Proceeds go to the Birtle Fire Department *Special Equipment Fund*

# BIRTLE NEWS - By Jan Fleury

Feb. 4/25

Joan Taylor of Calgary, AB spent over a month visiting with family and friends in the area before returning to Alberta on January 30th.

Condolences of the Birtle community are extended to the family and friends of Michele Cyrenne who passed away January 29th after a battle with cancer at the age of 52. Michele operated Midaga's Coffee Shop while living in Birtle before she moved to Brandon.

Birtle Arena was a busy place last weekend, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, as they hosted the U13 Provincial Play-Ins. Unfortunately, our local Shoal Lake/Birtle team was not successful in advancing to the Provincials.

Sympathy is being sent to the family and friends of Bruce Gooda who passed away on January 30th at the Birtle PCH. Bruce and his family moved to Birtle and ran a PMU operation south of town which was later turned into a large shop. He will be missed dearly by his two daughters and their families.

Get well wishes are being sent to Fred Kestirke who, at the time of writing, is re-cooperating from surgery in Winnipeg.

Word has been received of the passing of Omar Hanson of Virden who passed away January 31 at

the age of 80. Omar worked at the Birtle Residential School and after it closed he worked on the Ray Cooley farm before re-locating to Virden. Condolences to his family and friends.

Congratulations to Alessandra Luch on the grand opening of her studio on Feb. 1st. Her studio features hand crafted goods and sewing repairs located in the Birtle CDC building.

Feb 11/25

A huge shout out to Lois Davison as she retires from volunteering at the Value Shoppe in Birtle over the past several years. Enjoy the next chapter Lois and thank you for all you time and effort put into making the Value Shoppe a great asset to our community.

Shauna Sauk has returned from spending time enjoying warmer weather in Mexico the last couple of weeks.

Not much to report this week, but would like to wish all the readers a Happy Valentine's day and also hope you enjoy the long weekend and celebrate Louis Riel Day on Monday, Feb.17. Stay warm!

Feb 18/25 Congratulations to Margaret Ashcroft who was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal at the Birtle DropIn Centre by Dan Mazier, MP, with family and friends attending on Feb. 11th. This medal is presented in recognition of a member of the community for their committed volunteer services. You truly deserve this recognition Margaret!

The BCI girls and boys curling teams travelled to Beausejour last week to compete in the Manitoba High School Athletic Assoc. provincial playdowns. The girls team went undefeated in round robin play but unfortunately lost in the semi-final while the boys ended round robin play with a close win but did not qualify for playoffs.

The Birtle Arena was the scene of the annual "Falcon's Hockey Sticks It To Cancer" game on Feb. 14th. Proceeds of this fund-raiser went to Russell Cancer Care and Hamiota Cancer Facility. Great job Falcons!

Birtle Curling Club hosted a 2 on 2 Bonspiel on Louis Riel Day, Feb. 17. Despite the -40 temperature, 12 teams braved the weather to compete and enjoy a fun time.



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# Valley Service for Seniors Expands to Support Funeral Luncheons in the Community

For decades, local church groups, like the United Church Women (UCW), have been organizing and providing funeral luncheons, offering a comforting space for grieving families and the wider community to come together. These luncheons have become an important tradition, providing not only nourishment but also emotional support during difficult times. However, as congregations have shrunk and volunteer bases have dwindled, many church groups are finding it harder to continue providing this essential service.

This past summer, the UCW, after years of dedicated service, made the difficult decision to stop catering funeral lunches due to a smaller volunteer base. Recognizing the growing need in the community, Valley Service for Seniors has stepped forward to fill this gap.

## A New Chapter in Community Support

Valley Service for Seniors in Birtle has taken on the responsibility of organizing funeral luncheons, not only as a way to support grieving families but also to raise funds for senior programs in the community. This initiative will help ensure that families still have access to this vital service, while also benefiting the senior community. The volunteer board at Valley Service for Seniors is dedicated to making these luncheons a continued success.

“We understand how meaningful these luncheons are,” says a representative from the Valley Service for Seniors board. “They provide a chance for families to reflect, support each other, and share memories in a safe, comforting space. At the same time, it’s an opportunity for us to raise funds to support our senior programs, which are more important than ever.”

## How the Community Can Help

To make the funeral luncheons a success, Valley Service for Seniors is seeking help from the community in two key ways:

1. **Donations of Dainties or Cookies:** Donations of dainties, cookies, or baked goods are needed to make the luncheons more special. These sweet treats help create a warm, inviting atmosphere



for those attending.

2. **Volunteering Your Time:** Organizing and hosting a funeral luncheon takes a lot of hands-on effort. Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation, serving, and cleanup. Even if you can spare a few hours, your help will be greatly appreciated and make a difference to the families being served.

## A Helping Hand for Families in Need

Funeral luncheons are an important tradition that allow people to gather, mourn, and support one another. With the support of Valley Service for Seniors, these gatherings will continue, ensuring families have the comfort and care they need in times of loss. At the same time, this service will raise crucial funds for programs that benefit seniors in the community.

The Valley Service for Seniors board invites community members to get involved in any way they can, whether by donating baked goods, volunteering time, or simply spreading the word.

Your involvement will have a lasting impact on both families in mourning and seniors in the community.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Valley Service for Seniors for more information on how you can contribute. Together, we can continue to support one another during challenging times and ensure our community remains strong and connected.

# KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE 2025

## HOW IT WORKS

### PHASE ONE JAN 1—MARCH 2

The competition begins with the **Nomination and Rally** phase, during which communities across Canada submit stories explaining why their community should be the next Kraft Hockeyville. Our judges then review the nominations, calculate the total scores, and select the **Top 4 finalists** with the highest scores. The Top 4 then compete head-to-head in a round of **voting** to determine the winner.

### NEXT PHASES

JUDGING MARCH 3-15

TOP 4 ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 15

VOTING APRIL 4 - 5

WINNER ANNOUNCED APRIL 5

## Submit Your Stories & Pictures



**RALLY TOGETHER. WIN TOGETHER.**

### BIRTLE

Let's give our arena the chance to score big

KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE 2025 GRAND PRIZE

**AN NHL® GAME AND \$250,000  
IN ARENA UPGRADES**

All three runner-ups will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades.

**SHOW US WHAT Birtle District  
Community Centre MEANS TO YOU  
AND YOUR COMMUNITY.**

Get in on all the action at:

<https://hockeyville.kraftheinz.com/community/birtledistrictcommunitycentre>



**RALLY TOGETHER. WIN TOGETHER.**

### FOXWARREN

Let's give our arena the chance to score big

KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE 2025 GRAND PRIZE

**AN NHL® GAME AND \$250,000  
IN ARENA UPGRADES**

All three runner-ups will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades.

**SHOW US WHAT Foxwarren Arena  
MEANS TO YOU AND YOUR  
COMMUNITY.**

Get in on all the action at:

<https://hockeyville.kraftheinz.com/community/foxwarrenarena>

## Birtle & District Foundation



Birtle Centre For The Arts would like to thank the Birtle & District Foundation for the financial support for our accessibility bathroom renovation. It is bright, spacious and best of all functional for any-

one who is in a wheelchair, uses a walker or other mobility aid.

Your contributions over the years have made so many of our renovations and upgrades possible. Like many other organizations in our community, we are thankful for your ongoing support.



## LANDFILL HOURS

AS OF OCTOBER 1ST

## MINIOTA LANDFILL

TUESDAY

3:00-4:30PM

FRIDAY

10:00-11:30AM & 3:00-4:30PM

SATURDAY

9:15AM-12:00PM

Let's Celebrate Class of 1975!

*Class of 1975 - We are Looking for You! The 50th Year Reunion is now being planned for June 28th, 2025 and we don't want you to miss out. Contact [heathermiller\\_dtm@shaw.ca](mailto:heathermiller_dtm@shaw.ca) so we can get you on the email list with all the details.*

**CLASS  
OF  
1975**

## SNOW PLOWING PRIVATE PROPERTIES

**Snow from private driveways/lanes  
cannot be left on the municipal  
roadway or shoulders.**

Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze and create a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Piles of snow also increase the chance of drifting on the roadway.

ACCIDENTS AND  
DAMAGE CAUSED BY  
SNOW PILES PLACED  
IN THE ROADWAY  
MAY RESULT IN  
LIABILITY TO THE  
PROPERTY OWNER.



# MINIOTA GOLF CLUB

## Join Our Team

Accepting Applications for 2025 Season

Greens-keeper  
Greens-keeper Assistant  
Club House Manager  
Club House Manager Assistants

Applications to be sent to:

Miniota Golf Club  
"Applications"  
PO Box 291  
Miniota, MB R0M 1M0  
or norjst@gmail.com

For more information contact:  
Noreen at 204 748-5567



The Miniota Community Centre is starting 2025 off with an online 50/50 fundraiser! The Raffle will run from now till our Annual Spring Steak Night Fundraiser which will be held Friday April 11, 2025.

The proceeds from the 50/50 will be split between our Facility Expansion Project and the ongoing maintenance of our current facility. Thank you and good luck to everyone!



## LOANS SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEARNING



Community  
Futures Westman

## LENDING CIRCLES

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- STRUCTURED AGREEMENTS



### Contact Us!

Ruth Loewen  
Lending Circles Coordinator  
204-726-1513  
loewenr@cfwestman.ca

*Apply to join!*



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Développement économique Canada pour les Prairies

[www.lendingcircles.ca](http://www.lendingcircles.ca)

Miniota  
Community  
Centre  
**50/50**  
Raffle

# Donald SMITH Obituary

September 24, 1925 - February 23, 2023

We are saddened to announce the passing of Donald Kay Smith, who died peacefully on February 23, 2023, at the age of 97, at the Village of Riverside Glen in Guelph, Ontario.

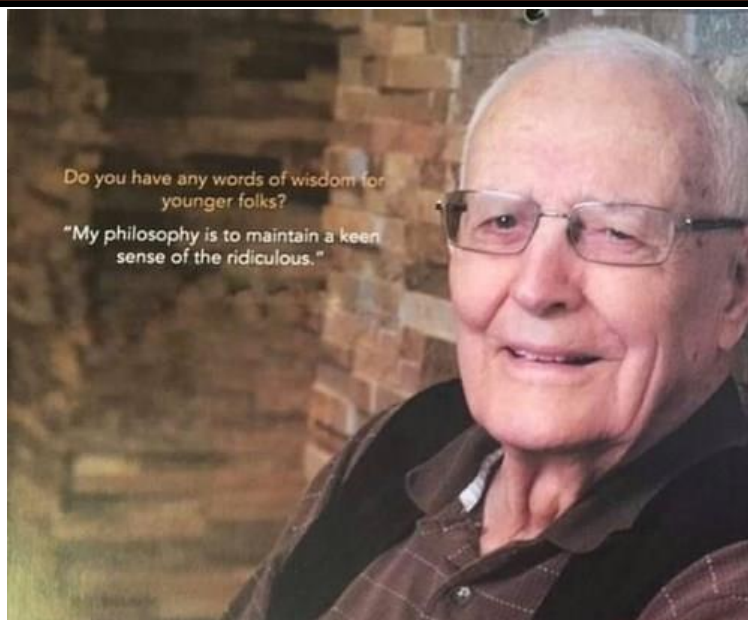
Don was born on September 24, 1925 to Arthur G. and Edith Smith in Rosburn, Manitoba. Tragically, he lost his mother soon after birth and was raised by his adoring aunt Margaret "Peg" Smith until his father married Eleanor Scott, who was the loving mother of Don and his 3 siblings Ken, Jean and Tom. He grew up in Birtle where he raised bees, played the trombone and developed a passion for golf working at the Birtle Riverside Golf Course.

After graduating from high school in 1944, he joined the Air Force and then was transferred to the Army for infantry training. After the war, he received a Bachelors of Science from the University of Manitoba, where he met and married Marjorie Bernice Hacking on November 10, 1949. Together they raised four children, while Don worked at Air Force weather stations across Canada. He continued his education, earning a Masters degree in Meteorology from University of Toronto in 1960 and ultimately held the title Director General of Field Services in the Canada Atmospheric Environment Service.

Don was deeply saddened when he lost his wife Marjorie to breast cancer in 1980 but was fortunate to find love again with his second wife, Maria Theresia "Kit" Loogman, whom he married in 1982. Together, they spent a happy 31 years until her passing in 2013.

Don's professional accomplishments include his appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization in 1984, where he planned one of the first international meetings to raise alarm about global climate change. He and Kit spent three enriching years in Geneva before retiring to Grimsby, Ontario. In retirement, he devoted himself to his passions for golf, gardening, bridge and reading. He read widely, covering diverse topics including philosophy, history, political theory, and fiction. He kept detailed notes on his readings that reflect his deep intellectual curiosity and keen analytic ability and which he often shared in his letters to family. He also collected the Smith family history into a well-written chronicle which will be an important legacy for the generations that follow him. In his final years, Don found comfort in visits from family, meals in the dining room, and his love of reading, which continued voraciously until his eyesight began to fail.

He was a loving brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his brother Tom and wife Midge Smith; his son Arthur William Smith and fiancée



Cheryl Mitchell; his daughter Karen Kaye Smith-McCune, husband Joseph "Mike" McCune, granddaughter Louise McCune and partner Vincent Hiscock, and granddaughter Emma McCune Handel and husband Nicholas Handel; his daughter Linda Merle Craig, granddaughter Sandy Smith and partner Aaron Streeton, and granddaughter Kyla and husband Nathan Crowe; his son David Brian Kenneth Smith, granddaughter Sara and husband Jamie Scholtes and great-grandchildren Honor and Petrie, granddaughter Andrea Smith and partner Thomas Burden, grandson Kevin Smith and wife Whitney Swan and great-grandsons Desmond and Donovan Smith, and granddaughter Elyse Smith.

Don's gracious and friendly manner was evident to everyone who met him. He was a gifted conversationalist with a broad fund of knowledge and a wry sense of humor. He loved nature and being outdoors, as manifest in his love of golf, gardening, canoeing, and camping, and later in life, his outings to Lake Eerie with Kit. All his life, he was keenly interested in the birds that would visit his yard. He also loved music and he had an uncanny ability to find the right song for the occasion.

The family plans to hold a memorial in Birtle, Manitoba at a later date. Those wishing to honor his memory are encouraged to make a donation to the causes he supported throughout his life such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or the World Wildlife Fund.

Don will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and his legacy will live on through the memories of his friends, family and colleagues.

# VALLEY SERVICES for SENIORS

**Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 9-4pm PH: 204-842-3296**

[Valleyserviceforseniors@gmail.com](mailto:Valleyserviceforseniors@gmail.com)

Facebook: Valley Service for Seniors-Birtle

## Weekly Activities

Tuesday 9-10 Walking  
10-11 Exercises  
11 Coffee  
Wednesday 9-10 Walking  
9-4 Office and home visits  
Thursday 9-10 Walking  
10-11 Exercises  
1:30 Floor Curling

## VICTORIA LIFELINE

Medical Alert Service  
24-7 Response  
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Proven fall detection Technology  
No Landline Required  
Call Shauna 204-842-3296

Serving the needs of our Community Seniors

FOXWARREN SERVICE TO SENIORS

BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY 2-4 PM

\$1.00 PER FOUR CARDS ....

PRIZES TO BE WON ! COME ON IN &  
ENJOY AN AFTERNOON WITH FRIENDS ,  
EVERYONE WELCOME.. COFFEE/TEA  
AVAILABLE



## MINIOTA HAIR SALON

*Rental Space*

123 North  
Railway Ave



*Daily & Monthly  
Rates Available*

2 STATIONS - WASHER & DRYER - WASHROOM - KITCHEN AREA

Contact Birtle Miniota & District Development Corporation  
Phone: 204-842-3602 Email: [cdc@myprairieview.ca](mailto:cdc@myprairieview.ca)

Greetings from  
the Birtle  
Breakfast  
Group in Bran-  
don.

We meet at  
Smitty's (north  
hill) first Tues-  
day of each month. 9 am

Come join us for some great remi-  
niscing.



# MINIOTA HAPPENINGS

From the desk of Linda Clark

Feb 4/25

Our thoughts are with Ernie Stowe who is now a resident at Assiniboine Centre due to failing health. Ernie would welcome visitors from home.

My apologies to Grandma Joan Brown from Virden for missing her name in the congratulatory announcement for her new grandson Koen Leslie, born to Claudia Bryant and Lance Brown. Congratulations Grandma Joan!

Winners of the Miniota Family Bonspiel on February 1st were: 1) Nick Young with his rink of Tracy Lelond Young, Tristan Gardham and Dusty Hill and 2) Kerrie Williams with her rink of Bob Gardham, Lisa Zurbyk and Corbin Buchanan. Lots of great Disney costumes to add to the fun day! Winners of the costume competition went to Ken and Marie Nolan and their granddaughters Gracie and Kinsley Muir and Ellie Nolan. Congrats to all!

Ashlyn and Adrianna Cousins, Sawyer Sheane, Luna and Belle Stone, members of the Prairie View Gymnastics club attended the regional gymnastics competition held at Neepawa on the weekend. Congratulations Girls on your showing!

The U11 Miniota team hosted a one day tournament with teams coming from Gimli, Birtle, Moosomin and Tri Valley.

The U13 Miniota Elkhorn C-Hawks qualified for provincial this past weekend, winning the two games they needed to qualify. Good luck at Provincials in March!

I received a gift in the mail this week which brought back memories of festival days- the program of the North Western Marquette Festival held in Hamiota in May of 1936. Community will recognize many of the names from the Arrow River-Miniota Area: Ford Wiggins, Bernice Wiggins, Helen Tennant, Ila Lelond, Muriel Lelond, Bill Hurlin, Margaret Bonner, Mrs. E. Johnson, Everett Tennant, John Mitchell, Jessie Mitchell, Jennie Bonner, Elmer Lelond, Joyce Lelond, Norman Lelond, Gladys Kirton, Mary Carnegie, Barbara Hurlin, Robbie Lelond, and Thelma Mitchell. Many gifted musical people from our communities! Thank you Jo Ann for sharing this with me.

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour." Maya Angelou

Feb 10/25

Congratulations to Carson Brown who skipped his Team Brown to the top spot in the U15 Man Sask Sliding Stars at the Virden Curling Club.

Miniota Elkhorn Players, Coaches and Parents hosted a U13 hockey tournament, being played at both the Miniota and Elkhorn rinks. Teams came from Virden, Shoal Lake/Birtle, Brandon Penguins, St. James, Brandon Predators, Brandon Oilers and Neepawa. Neepawa Funk were the A Side winners of the tournament. Congratulations to our Miniota Elkhorn team who were successful in winning the B Side Banner!

The Miniota U7 team hosted a tournament on Sunday with Hamiota, Elkhorn and Birtle attending. A full house to watch

these young players! And then the U 15 Miniota/Elkhorn/Birtle team played a game facing a loss against Gladstone/Neepawa.

Tiffany and Coralee Anderson travelled to Saskatoon where Coralee, a member of the team from Langenburg Evangelical Fellowship, participated at the Erindale Alliance Church in the annual Bible Quiz. Congratulations to Coralee who placed second in the B Division! This is Coralee's sixth and final year to participate.

"Out of clutter, find Simplicity. From discord, find Harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Albert Einstein

Feb 17/25

Our sympathy is extended to David and Angie Strachan and Doug and Karen Strachan and their families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Shirley Strachan at her residence at The Sherwood in Virden. Shirley was a long time Miniota community resident and friend and a supporter of the church and community activities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephanie (Walker) Rewerts and her sons Gage and Caden on the death of her husband and the boys' father, Jerrett Rewerts. Our thoughts also go out to Alan and Janine Walker, Lacey and Walter Lavalee, and Colby and Kacie Walker and their families at this sad and difficult time.

The Birtle Collegiate Falcons hockey team held their annual Stick It to Cancer fundraiser, with all funds being divided and donated to the Hamiota Chemo Unit and the Russell Chemo Unit. Miniota players on the team are Baker Bryant, Clayton Judd, Logan Armitage, Maddox Couvier, Rain Gies, and Aiden Lewis, along with one of their coaches Trevor Lewis. The Falcons lost their game to the Hamiota Huskies. Michelle Bryant spoke of her parents, Brian and Gail Salmon's journey with cancer, and Monelle, Baker and Hadley Bryant dropped the puck to begin the evening. A great event sponsored and supported by many.

I Love to Read was celebrated at the Miniota School on Valentine's Day with each student inviting a guest to come and share their reading with. A full house for sure!

Saturday saw the Miniota Community rink a busy spot with the Snowflake team playing Virden, U7 against Birtle and U9 against Virden.

Sunday the Miniota Elkhorn Birtle U15 team hosted a one day tournament with teams coming from Brandon, Dauphin and Portage. The B Side event went to Brandon Senators over the Dauphin Kings. Our C Hawks took the A side in overtime against the Portage Terriers. Congratulations to the boys, their coaches and the parents!

Saturday, February 15 was the 60th anniversary of our maple leaf flag. Many residents had flags flying to celebrate this anniversary.

"Keep Calm and Love Canada" A Facebook Post.



## Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

Need a hand with your taxes?  
See if you qualify for this **FREE** program

Can I get my income tax done through this **FREE** program?

Yes... if you are one of the following listed below:



- One person with income under \$35,000
- Two persons with income under \$45,000
- Three persons with income under \$47,500  
plus add \$2,500 for each additional dependent



When should this program **NOT** be used?

When there is income from:

A business | farming | rental property | capital gains  
or if someone is bankrupt or deceased.



**When and where** can I drop off my information?

**BIRTLE Services for Seniors**

663 Main St. | Birtle, MB | Tues. Wed. Thurs: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Drop Off: March 3 to May 2



**What do I bring?**

T3, T4, T4a, T5, T5007 forms

**Receipts for:** daycare expenses, charitable donations, rent,  
tuition, medical expenses (not paid by insurance company.)

If you are unable to access the site please email [CVITP@pmh-mb.ca](mailto:CVITP@pmh-mb.ca) for options.

This program is approved by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), Coordinated by Prairie Mountain Health  
and ran by CRA trained community volunteers.



Join us for the 32nd  
**Miniota Summer Bonspiel**  
**July 17 - 20, 2025**  
Get your rink signed up to guarantee a spot!  
Early Bird Entries \$180 - Till May 1st  
After May 1st - Entry Fee \$200  
Curlers must be available to curl Thursday - Sunday  
Call/text Loree Gardham at 204-851-5221  
Cash Prizes - Calcutta - Saturday Social with Band  
The Curling Bonspiel is the main highlight to our Shirtsleeve Classic Weekend that includes golf tournament, slo pitch tournament, community suppers, social with band, kids activities, tractor pull, car rally and so much more! A fun filled weekend for our community.

## FOXWARREN LEISURE CENTRE BREAKFAST



**WHEN: 23 FEBRUARY 2025**

**COST: \$10.00/ADULT**

**\$ 5.00/ 12 AND UNDER**

**TIME: 10:00 AM TO 1:00PM**

PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGES, FRUIT CUP, BEVERAGE, ETC.

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PHONE: 204-842-3602 CELL: 431-257-1111

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**BIRTLE MINIOTA & DISTRICT  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**



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Help us share Prairie View  
stories in the Birtle Outlook

Please submit your story to:

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