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THE OUTLOOK INC. ALL PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITIES

Volume 12, Issue 12 Nov 29 2023

"GINO - A CHILD OF WAR" PACKS MINIOTA HALL

During this month of Remembrance and reflection on current and past atrocities, this article is very appreciated and fitting.

Out of the ruins of World War Two, an incredible story of compassion inspires filmmakers and audiences. Anne Davison with Linda Clark

Just three weeks prior to Remembrance Day Miniota Community Hall was filled to capacity for the premier viewing of *Gino - A Child of War*.

The story revolves around an act of compassion by Second World War soldiers, a story that has drawn the interest of many and is due to become a motion picture, says the film's producer. It's a story that is characterized as "the Canadian way." Emcee for the event, Linda Clark introduced the docudrama.

The account began back in 1940 when several young Miniota men enlisted in the army at the beginning of World War 2. Those men who were placed in the same regiment were Les Bryant, Jim Ewing, Jack Hanlin, Mel McKenzie, and Lloyd Oliver (still 17 at the time).



Tony Battista executive producer, Travis Oliver, Julia Schettler, Brian Oliver, Dennis Oliver, Darcy Oliver, Ted Oliver, Dina and Tanya Barnes.

This docudrama tells of these soldiers finding Gino, 5, starving and alone in the countryside near Torrice, south of Rome. The soldiers basically adopted him, and kept their "little soldier boy" safe for nearly a year until Gino was discovered by the higher ups of the military. The soldiers were ordered to put the child in an orphanage prior to their moving camp.

Les Bryant and Lloyd Oliver took it upon themselves to place Gino with an Italian family they knew.

Years later, Lloyd and Beth Oliver tracked down Gino, now an adult, and stayed in touch with him and his family. Gino made a trip years later

(Continued on page 2)

Miniota Curling Club

Junior Curling
Thursdays
5:30 pm - Ages 9 to 11
6:30 pm - Ages 12 & up
Contact Steph Brown to register - 204-851-6585

Open Curling
Mondays - 7:00 pm
Thursdays - 1:30 pm
Contact Loree Gardham to register - 204-567-3760

November 20th to December 18th, 2023
&
January 8th to March 11th, 2024

Rates:
\$75.00 for half season
\$150.00 for full season
\$185.00 for twice a week

Weather Outlook

- Wed Nov 29 -2** ☀️
Mainly Sunny
- Thurs Nov 30 -4** ☁️
Cloudy w/Sunny Break
- Fri. Dec 1 -4** ☀️☁️
Mix Sun/Clouds
- Sat. Dec 2 -2** ☀️☁️
Mix Sun/Clouds
- Sun. Dec 3 -3** ☀️☁️
Mainly Sunny

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(Continued from page 1)



to Miniota, to meet these Canadian soldiers and their families.

"This docudrama was a wonderful warm-hearted story that was well received by the audience," says Clark, a Miniota resident and councillor for Prairie View Municipality.

Attending this event from Calgary where the film was made, was the director Robert Curtin and the executive producer Tony Battista. Barry Porter who played the part of Lloyd Oliver in his later years was in attendance along with his aunt Martha Hodkinson (pic above) (of Solgirth, Man.).

Also, Dina Aretti and family members from Brandon came to be acknowledged for Dina's role in translating many letters between the Olivers and Gino through the years.

Clark said that because of the importance of this story to the families of the five Miniota soldiers, each of these men was represented on Friday evening: Les Bryant by his daughter Myrna and Cam Schweitzer and granddaughter Regan and Marc Simard; Jack Hanlin by his children David, Janet and Rita and their spouses; Mel McKenzie by his son Chris McKenzie from Okotoks, Alta. and Lloyd Oliver by his children Dennis, Brian, Darcy, and Julia and their children and grandchildren. As well, Mert Massey a member of this regiment who was key in this story was represented by two nephews, Bill and Rob who came from



Birtle Legion No. 55 attends Miniota Hall in honour of the veterans of the Second World War in the story of Gino - Child of War: Noreen Stowe, Jean Fouillard, Marcel Fouillard, Roger Wilson. John Stowe (not pictured) at mic.

Ninette, Man.

The Birtle Legion #55 attended and Legion Member John Stowe led the crowd in a brief service of Remembrance. The Oliver family hosted a supper for those who had come from a distance. The Miniota Community Centre committee was on hand to provide refreshments.

Darcy Oliver and his children Amanda, Ted and Tanya had travelled to Italy this past summer for the first viewing of the docudrama and a visit with Gino and his family. It has now been viewed in Calgary and Winnipeg and will be shown in Toronto in April.

"Indeed, we as a community were so pleased to be placed on the circuit of premiers, as the story began here in Miniota with five of our soldiers," says Clark, adding, "As we know, our Canadian soldiers are held in high esteem for their acts of kindness and bravery in many European towns."

GINO DISCOVERED

Tony Battista, former Canadian Defence Attaché to Italy, discovered this story over 10 years ago at a ceremony where Gino was about to receive documentation, missing for 70 years, confirming his birthplace and parentage.

Battista was fascinated by the account of Gino and his Canadian saviors. He explains, "I met Gino for the very first time when he got his true identity back on the 16th of December, 2012. And, I fell in love with the story and I loved the soldiers that saved him."

It was a story that needed to be told and Battista began searching for a production company with the resources to make it happen.

"Hollywood wanted to do it. They offered Gino... money to buy the rights to his story. But they

(Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 2)

wanted to make the story, that it was an American soldier saving Gino," he said.

"Gino refused and he called me." He told Battista that the soldiers had to be Canadians and he invited Battista's help.

Much research was required. Mariangela Rondinelli, a teacher from near Ravenna, became interested and did a lot of research in Italy, along with two others there. Canadian researchers were involved and many interviews were done with Gino prior to the Covid pandemic."

An award-winning production company in Calgary was chosen for this project. When the pandemic ended, Combined Forces Production, a partnership of Robert Curtin and Karen Storwick created the script and filmed *Gino - Child of War*.

Battista spoke of the people who worked so hard to bring such a warm story to film and he used the term 'The Canadian Way'.

"Here we are full circle," he said, following the Miniota airing of the docudrama.

Battista reflects, "Out of the ruins of World War Two, this kind of incredible human activity, the highest standard, and it came from Canadian soldiers." Gino called them his Canadian guardian angels.

Before the young Canadian soldiers left Italy so many years ago, they raised the equivalent of \$4,000 for Gino's education. It was not wasted. Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia became an engineer. He married and raised a family and is a grandfather. The last of these Canadian guardian angels, Lloyd (Red) Oliver died on the sixth of July 2012. Five months and a few days before Gino received his



David Hanlin (l) son of Jack Hanlin and Brian Oliver, son of Lloyd (Red) Oliver visit after the docudrama concludes

real identity.

In Miniota, Brian Oliver among many family members, watched the show from the front row. Brian and son Travis couldn't leave the farm last June to attend the premiere in Italy. He was visibly moved, seeing the story of his father Lloyd as a young man in war, and of Gino's story.

He said he was surprised by the amount of Italian content.

Asked if it brought him pride in his father, Oliver said, "Yeah," adding, "We've been more or less raised with it all the time. As kids, we knew about Gino. Dad would tell the story. Yeah, Dad didn't read us books he told you stories."

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BIRTLE DROP IN CENTRE ACTIVITIES

With the end of summer, activities are picking up at the Drop In Centre.

- Monday mornings from 0930 to 1045 – open for coffee
- Tuesday mornings 10 am seniors exercise class / 1045 coffee
- Tuesday afternoons 1:30 Dominoes
- Wednesday afternoons 1:30- 4:00 available for drop in use of games, wifi, pool tables, shuffleboard and floor curling etc.
- Wednesday evenings Valley Rec sponsored Cardio beats exercise class 7p.m.
- Thursday mornings 10 am seniors' exercises / 1045 coffee
- Thursday afternoons 1:30 – 4:00 Floor curling
- Friday morning Service for Seniors sponsored drum exercise class 10:00
- Friday evenings 7 p.m. drop in pool games

The fourth Thursday of every month there is a Congregate meal. Contact Shauna for more information or sign up the week prior at the Drop In Centre.

If you wish to book the Facilities for a private function, contact Roberta at (204) 842-5109

Stop in and check out the activities and join us for coffee and a visit.

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MINIOTA DROP IN CENTRE HAPPENINGS

COFFEE (\$1.00) Refills Free
Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

GAMES (\$1.00)
Floor Shuffle Tuesday and Thursday Mornings
9:30 to 11:00 – no set schedule – if you wish to get a game, come on in and play!

MONDAY AFTERNOONS (1:30)
(alternating games each Monday of the Month)
\$2.00 including refreshments
Rotation of games beginning May 2/22:

- SPADES
- DOMINOES
- SCRABBLE
- STICKS
- CRIBBAGE/CROKINOLE
- AGGRAVATION
- 10 WHIST

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS (1:30)
Canasta
\$2.00 including refreshments

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ON IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, A FRIENDLY GAME OR TWO, AND SOME FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW!!

MMSTS Christmas Party



December 9th, 2023
Miniota Community Hall

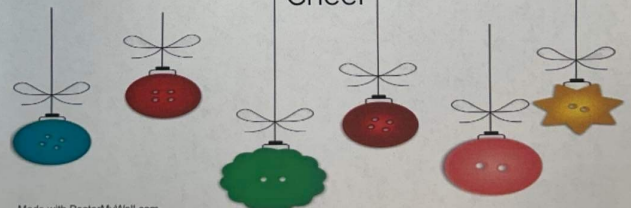


Potluck Supper & Reindeer games

Doors open at 4:00
supper at 5:00

Raffle prizes & 50/50 draw

Bring a non perishable for Christmas
Cheer



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BIRTLE NEWS - By Jan Fleury

Nov 7 2023

Sympathy of the community is being expressed to the family and friends of Delmar Bamford who passed away at age 94 on October 24th at home with his family by his side. He will be missed by his wife of 71 years, Iris, and his children Jean (Peter) Ashcroft, Donna Bamford (Rick), Keith (Joy) Bamford, Lorrain Davidson (Emery), and Terry (Teri) Bamford and their families, as well as his sister Velma Clayton and several nieces and nephews.

Long time resident of Springside Apts., Vera Salmon has moved to Pioneer Lodge. Her boys and her grandchildren helped with the move on October 29th. Kristen Larsen came from Brandon and Colin Salmon from Souris to help move their Grandma.

Steve Bray and Susanna Deluca visited with Pat Bray and area family members on the Oct. 28th weekend. They attended to funeral service for Pat's sister Betty Howard in Miniota.

I (Jan) had a visit from Mona Cooley of Calgary on Nov. 3rd. She had come to see her brother Ted Morton in the Virden Hospital arriving before Ted passed away on Nov. 2nd. Our thoughts are with Ted's family and friends.

Congratulations to the BCI Falcon boys grade 7 & 8 volleyball team who defeated Hamiota to bring home the A side Banner in the divisional tournament. The grade 7 & 8 girls did well also at the divisional tournament with Birtle 1 team finishing 2nd and the Birtle 2 team finishing 3rd. Way to go kids!

Evelyn Casey is spending a few days visiting with her parents Dave and Brennie Bicknell. A Happy Birthday to Dave who joined the octogenarian club on October 30th. Congratulations Dave!

Nov 14 2023

Sympathy of the Birtle community is extended to the family and friends of Bill Stewart of Foxwarren who passed away on Nov. 1 at the age of 71. He will be dearly missed by his wife Donna and children Nicki and Tyler. Bill served on the R. M. of Birtle council for several years.

Condolences to Denise and Bruce Koroscil and their family on the passing of Denise's mom, Joan Odium, on Nov. 5th at age 92.

Margaret Kotelniski and her daughters Brittany Asselstine and Nancy Kotelniski as well as her sister Geraldine Johnston enjoyed a trip to Ottawa last week to visit Margaret's daughter Dalene Kotelniski. They attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Memorial on Nov. 11th and were overwhelmed by the amount of people who were there.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Marilyn Reid who passed away on Nov. 12th at the Hamiota PCH. Marilyn is the daughter of the late Frank and Hannah Reid and is survived by her siblings Linda Clark, Harold Reid and Donna (Scott) Gammack and their families.

Curling got underway at the Birtle Curling Club this week while the arena has been open for awhile with several activities happening. With the temperatures well above normal, some have dug out their golf clubs again.

Nov. 21 2023

Many Bomber fans watched and cheered for the team but the end result was not what the fans wanted. Next season!

The annual family dance was held on Saturday Nov. 18. It is held each year to welcome newcomers to the community and recognize volunteers as well as our local firefighters. The members of the Birtle Lions Club were awarded for their many hours of volunteering in our community. Members of the Birtle Fire Dept. were presented with years of service awards with Stella Willander for 5 years, Jason Salmon for 10 years, Chris Iverson for 20 years and Kevin Hickman

for 45 years. Thank you to all members of both of these services for the great work you do. The children in attendance had lots of fun with crafts, treats and dancing!



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Nick Bonchuk who passed away at Morley House PCH on Nov. 16 at the age of 97. He will be remembered by his wife of 50 years, Gladys and his step-children Dennis, Grant and Kim and their families. He was predeceased by his 9 older siblings as well as step-son Terry.

Condolences to the family and friends of May Finlay who passed away on Nov. 17 at the age of 71. She will be dearly missed by her husband Russell, daughter Tanya (Paul), son Sean (Shelby), grandson Noah and siblings Marie, Robert and Raymond Desjarlais.

Glenn and Marg Hodgson have returned home after a road trip to Banff, AB., spending a few days at the beautiful Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel attending the Knowledge Bureau's Acuity 2023 conference Nov 12-14th, 2023.

Marg has held a Distinguished Financial Advisor, Tax Service Specialist, DFA designation since 2007, and had been invited to attend this conference to accept a Fellow of Distinguished Financial Services, FDFS award. The award was earned by close to 100 individuals. Among them and mostly also attending this 20th Anniversary conference, were Senator Patricia Bovey, Dave Christianson, Larry Frostiak, Dr Jack Mintz, Kim Moody, Doug Nelson, Gordon Pape, Alan Rowell and Jim Ruta. This national financial educational institute handed out this new designation to those that epitomized a life-long commitment to sharing education, stewardship and advocacy for their clients' financial futures, and a commitment to engaging others in high standards of professional excellence to shape the future of their industry.

The Hodgson's drove west on #1 highway on Nov 10th and the snow disappeared by the time they reached Moose Jaw SK and driving home on highway #16 were nearly to Binscarth before we saw enough snow to need our winter boots again, and then had to shovel a path to the door of our house by the time we got home on Nov 16th!

Road trips usually involve visits along the wayhad a chat with, but missed Darryl and Lois Stroh who now live in Medicine Hat, ABhad a sleep over with Wendy and Rick Dale, a life long family friend, formerly from St Lazare, son of Tom & Eileen Dale living in Hay Lakes, ABHad a coffee with Gerald & Liz Wallack formerly from Virden, and neighbours from the Narrows now in Red Deer, ABand finally enjoyed lunches with Marg's cousins in Camrose, AB and Yorkton, SK!

Nov 28 2023

Sympathy of the community is extended to the family and friends of Danny Workman of Solsgirth who passed away November 20th. Danny will be missed by his wife Karen and daughter Carrie-Ann and son Patrick and their families as well as his siblings Edward and Bev and their families.

A group of golfers travelled to Phoenix last week and enjoyed golfing at some of the area courses. Al Bray, Leonard Jensen, Ken Farquhar, and Bill McArthur, were joined by Ron Huberdeau of Isabella, Derek Jensen of Brandon, and Don Carter and Blaire Fordyce of Kenton. The weather was great for golfing!

Condolences to Charmaine and Brian Bicknell on the passing of Charmaine's Dad, John Meroniuk of Sturgis District in Saskatchewan who passed away on Nov. 18th at the age of 92.

The town was busy on Nov. 25th with the Christmas Markets at the Birtle Drop In and The Birtle Centre of the Arts with the Value Shoppe open as well as Modern Mini and Me set up in the CDC Building.

Let's "Sing In" Christmas Together... Grinches Welcome!!!

**Birtle Anglican Church Festival of Lessons & Carols
10:30 am on Sunday, December 17**

I don't think I've ever met anyone who doesn't like music; although, like Sasquatches and Oogopogo, I personally cannot claim with ironclad certainty that they DON'T exist. My earliest memories of music are from growing up in a family that regularly attended church – singing in the Christmas pageant, joining a bunch of kids at the pastor's house under the kind direction of his sweet wife, learning to sing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* before they moved away from the community of Inglis when I was in first grade. Later I recall that Mrs. Koppetsky, our primary school music teacher, and also a church member -- whose love of music was altogether winsome and infectious -- taught my classmates and me some of the wonderful songs from the musical *Mary Poppins*.

As a child of workaholic parents in a big family on a busy mixed farm, formal musical training was not a priority. Not even on the radar screen, truthfully. Nevertheless, my dad recalls that one of his first big investments, even when they really could ill afford it, was a quality record player encased in a beautiful wood cabinet. My mom's love of fine music ensured that albums in many musical styles existed for our interest and enjoyment. I seem to recall that two of my sisters and I (maybe more than once?) sung til our older sisters yelled at us to "SHUT UP!!!!!" Not hard to imagine that THAT could get annoying for teen girls!

Later in life when one of those older sisters (Mona Paradine, for those who perhaps knew her from her tenure at Birtle's Morningstar Daycare) passed away far too early, music was literally the only thing that brought any ease to that year of suffering. Have you ever heard the aria from George Frideric Handel's *Rodelinda* opera entitled *Art Thou Troubled?* I heard it years ago on an Aled Jones album called *Pie Jesu*. The ensuing lyric responds thus to the question: *music will calm thee. Art thou* ('are you' in non-baroque, current plainspeak) *weary? Rest shall be thine* (yours). *Music, source of all gladness, heals thy sadness; music, ever divine. Music calleth with voice divine.* I couldn't agree more!

I was fortunate to live in Edmonton at the time and therefore blessed to have easy access to attend a great big bunch of live concerts that year which at times moved me to tears, but they were of the healing variety... musical artists as varied as Pitbull, Flo Rida, Steve Bell, Paul McCartney, Michael W. Smith, Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Robin Mark, John McDermott and Jimmy Rankin. These concert experiences honestly felt at that time like balm for my aching soul, and a pure gift from above.



Jimmy, of *The Rankin Family* fame, was ironically mourning the recent death of one of his sisters too, and at the time touring for a solo Christmas album which is quite honestly a (hidden?) Canadian treasure, IMHO. It's called *Tinsel Town*, and on regular rotation in my music listening room this season.

It's a fabulous mix of Christmas classics and original tunes. In one he writes: *shake off your mittens, hang your snow-suit up, pour some hot chocolate in your favourite cup, tune up the guitar and I'll get on the piano...* wouldn't that *Boogie Woogie Christmas*



be a fantastic legit east coast party experience!?! He also wrote a sweet ode to December where he sings: *I'm as sentimental as you can get; don't wanna say goodbye to Christmas yet. 'Cause I'm a sucker for some mistletoe, Charlie Brown's my favourite Christmas show, I could watch it over and over; to me, that's as good as it gets.* A rousing AMEN, Jimmy!

Charlie Brown's Christmas story pivots on Linus' reading of the Bethlehem story to the other children from the Gospel of Luke, doesn't it? In the Anglican Christian tradition exists a delightful annual event called *The Festival of Lessons and Carols*, which is nothing more, or less, than an hour-long service of nine



Bible readings interspersed with Christmas songs and carols. The first one on record at King's College, Cambridge in England was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. One of my favourite Christmas albums is a live recording of one these festivals from King's College, with its banks of magnificent pipes behind a majestic organ, and sublime solo and choir performances interspersed with readings in formal "King's English" diction.



Now, we can't offer you THAT here in Birtle, but the essential form is sure to be enjoyed by all in attendance at **St. George's Anglican Church, at the riverbank end of Vine street in Birtle, on Sunday, December 17th at 10:30 AM.** We'd be ever so pleased to have you join us, and sing along as you wish. And, who knows? I might just be able to talk those two sisters into singing a Christmas hymn or carol with me, just for YOU! I think we've improved a bit with the benefit of time, age and varied tutelage...

A WORD or 2 FOR THE GRINCHIES

I just KNOW you're out there. And your family member(s) may be interested to attend, but are afraid to broach the subject with you, even though they want you to come too. Here are some facts for you to ponder...

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

It's free. The church won't ask for money. They might leave a vessel at the back entryway in which current church members may place their offerings. But keep your wallet in your pocket. It's all good. Hand-to-heart honest!

This is a historic treasure of a local building. I'm very much enjoying the gradual adventure of its exploration as a regular visitor. And really the ONLY way to enjoy its glorious stained glass artwork is from INSIDE of the building, with daytime light streaming in. Come for the ambience – and bring ear-plugs if that's what pleases you.

If you cannot carry a tune despite being provided a bucket (which we will **not** be distributing, btw), please know there's no need to sing in participation. You can even close your eyes... people might just think you're deep in meditative contemplation.

NO SERMON to induce feelings or thoughts of any variety. Readings, songs, carols, and that's it. Finit-o.

I will PERSONALLY GUARANTEE that neither you nor the building will be struck by lightning when you set foot in a church, of all places.... *** WINK ;)

SEE? No reason left NOT to come, if you're around the area on the morning of Sunday the 17th of December.

Your friends and neighbors at St. George's will be looking forward to welcoming you there. And I'd LOVE to meet you and hear all about YOUR early musical influences.

Perhaps you'll even leave feeling inspired to gather a posse and go sing a few Christmas

carols for someone in your circle of friends and family who's unable to regularly leave their residence due to age or illness. Wouldn't that be lovely? Bucket or no bucket, I'm willing to bet **they'll** think so. J

Karen Marshall, *B. Comm.(hons)* is a new community member who moved to Birtle from Edmonton in June, and in October took up residence in the riverbank home formerly owned by Hayley Matiowsky. Why Birtle, you might ask? Because in addition to its being an altogether delightful place, it's home to her beloved sister Brenda and her favourite brother-in-law, Roger Wilson!! Following a career in administration, recruitment and leadership in the non-profit and post-secondary education sectors, she's early retired due to a permanent disability.

BIRTLE & AREA GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

THIRD WEDNESDAY of Month
7pm at
Birtle Centre for the Arts

**Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20
2023**

For Further Information
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TO REGISTER: REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BIRTLEARTS.CA/CURRENT_CLASSES. CLICK ON THE CLASS POSTER AND THE REGISTRATION FORM WILL POP UP. YOU CAN ALSO CALL 204-842-3846 OR EMAIL INFO@BIRTLEARTS.CA FEE MUST BE PAID TO SECURE YOUR SPOT. IT CAN BE REFUNDED UP TO ONE WEEK BEFORE THE CLASS. E-TRANSFER TO INFO@BIRTLEARTS.CA AND NOTE WHAT CLASS YOU ARE PAYING FOR IN THE MESSAGE. MAIL CHEQUES TO BOX 460, BIRTLE, MB R0M0C0

THE VALUE SHOPPE



Drop in Pool



Looking for a fun outing on a Friday night, this event is for Adults, Seniors and Teens 16+

No experience needed, just come out and have fun while practicing your game or learning to play.

Every Friday night from 7pm to 10pm starting on Oct 6th.

We have three pool tables open to play Snooker, 8 Ball, 9 Ball and pool cues to use.

Drop in fee of \$5.00 per night with unlimited play.

Location: Birtle Drop in Centre

In partnership with Valley Service for Seniors and Valley Recreation

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BRANDON UNIVERSITY

BIRTLE LIONS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY

On November 18th approximately 135 individuals gathered at the Birtle Community Hall to welcome new residents (households) to the Birtle Community. Also during the evening we were able to present years of service awards to members of the Birtle fire department. Receiving awards were.

For the year 2023

- 5 years Stella Wilander,
- 10 years Jason Salmon
- 20 years Chris Iverson
- 45 years Kevin Hickman

Kevin Hickman received special recognition for being a member of the Birtle fire department for an astounding 45 Years. What a milestone to have achieved. Congratulations Kevin! Kevin received a special award for this milestone.

The Prairie View Municipality and The Birtle Miniota CDC also presented a Distinguished Volunteer Award. This years recipient was the Birtle Lions Club. Below is the presentation.

The Birtle Lions Club was formed in 1959 and continues to be a strong and vibrant club with 29 members.

Their mission is to serve their community, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Club International.

In 1983, the Birtle Lions Club initiated the Lions' Journey for Sight snowmobile fundraising event which has grown to become a provincial fundraising program that has contributed approximately 1.5 million dollars to the Lions Eye Bank since inception.

They are also widely known for their local fundraising efforts; 200 Club ticket sales, former weekly Lions bingos, Thursday evenings at the Value Shop and most recently their annual Grain for Green Project which generates approximately \$50,000 annually. Because of these efforts they have not only been able to support national organizations such as the Dog Guides, Diabetes Association and Disaster Relief efforts, but also local groups that are dedicated to growing and enhancing our community. In the last 3 years the Birtle Lions Club have given \$100,000 to local community organizations and events. \$40,000 to National Organizations endorsed by Lions International and over \$28,000 to assist with medical expenses of local people who are dealing with the challenges of illness.

The Birtle Lions club meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Birtle Drop In Centre, where guests and new members are always welcome.

We are proud to recognize all of their efforts this evening. Please give a round of applause for this organization as we ask its members to come forward and receive this years Distinguished Volunteer Award.



Roger Wilson With Lions Members Ryan Kirkpatrick & Murray Donald



NEW DATE

“A JOURNEY”

A GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

to be held on Sunday,
December 3rd 2023
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at
the Miniota
Community Centre



The workshop will offer speakers, conversation, sound therapy and fellowship.

Cost \$10

To register call Linda 204-567-3847 or text 204-851-2619

Register by Nov 27th

This is open to all who travel the journey of grief.

MINIOTA HAPPENINGS

From the desk of Linda Clark

Nov 1 2023

Our Miniota community extends sympathy to Dean and Debbie Fenty and their family on the death of Dean's mom Lottie Fenty at the Virden Hospital on October 24th. Sympathy also to Dean's siblings Bud, Carol and Don and Audrey.

Terry Howard and his family, Saskatoon, and Cindy Howard and Mike Shewchuk, Cranbrook were home to attend their mother Betty Howard's funeral on October 28th.

Parents and grandparents enjoyed the annual Halloween parade on Tuesday afternoon at the Miniota School. A Miniota Tradition! A cool night for our trick or treaters as winter has hit!

Shoppers from near and far enjoyed the re-grand opening of Studio 83 here in Miniota. Congrats Jen!

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." John F. Kennedy

Nov 7 2023

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Scott Morton, Owen Morton, Jason Morton and Kelly Morton and their families on the death of their dad and grandfather, Ted Morton, who died on November 2nd at the Virden and District Hospital. Sympathy also to Ted's extended family and friends. Tammy Morton Rogers, Vancouver Island and Mona Cooley, Calgary visited with their uncle Ted prior to his death.

David and Dorothy Howard and Delbert and Pat Cole visited with Kathy Taylor and Tom Swiston in Winnipeg, to help Tom celebrate his birthday. The three couples were then joined by Rob and Marilyn Warkentin and Barry and Maxine Hayward, Virden in attending the Paul Brandt concert.

Congratulations to the Miniota School Grade 7 & 8 girls and their coach Tricia Lelond, who were successful in winning the A Side South Division Volleyball Tournament at Hamiota on November 2nd. They now proceed to play the North Side of Parkwest School Division. Good luck Girls! As well Mr. Lewis with his team of Grade 7 & 8 students participated at Hamiota, but did not proceed to the finals.

Bob and Donna Gardham and Delbert and Pat Cole travelled to Shaunavon SK to visit with Dennis and Sherilyn Stewart. These three couples all celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries this fall.

The Miniota UCW turkey supper was held on Sunday, November 5th, and despite a rough weather start to the day, was most successful with a great crowd coming from surrounding towns to join our community people.

The Miniota School would welcome community to attend their annual Remembrance Day service on November 10th at 10:30. Always a touching service by the students.

"War itself is, of course, a form of madness. It's hardly a civilized pursuit. It's amazing how we spend so much time inventing devices to kill each other and so little time working on how to achieve peace."

Walter Cronkite

This year may each of us take a moment to REMEMBER all who made such great sacrifices, so we could enjoy the freedoms we have. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Nov 14 2023

Congratulations to Bob and Donna Gardham who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on November 17th. A wonderful milestone to reach!

Sarah Jane Thomas, daughter of Owen and Jodie Thomas, and sister to Emma, was baptized at the Miniota United Church on November

12th. Many family members of the Thomas's and Hodgin's family were present for the occasion. How wonderful that Great Grandma Vi Joseph could attend this sacrament service.

Our Miniota rink will be a beehive of activity before long with the curling season starting this week. Of course some cooler temps will need to prevail before the skating ice is ready, however our hockey players are already enjoying the season in other rinks.

Hats off to the Miniota Community Centre board and helpers who have been busy with updates to the facility! Wishing everyone a good season!

Christmas is a coming! The Memorial Tree will be lit in early December and everyone can purchase their memorial bulbs at the Fusion credit union once again beginning this week.

"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right." Peter Marshall

Nov 21 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Jeannine and Andrew Cymbalisky and their children on the death of Jeannine's father, Wayne Baki at Yarmouth. Our thoughts are with you all.

Congratulations are in order to Murray Jorgensen - Skip, Randy McKean-third, Tim Weber-second, and lead Don Williams on winning a spot at the Masters Provincials at Portage la Prairie in February. Good luck!

Krista and Khloe Brown travelled to Blaine Minnesota where Khloe played for the Rivalry Cup with her Yellowhead Bantam AAA Team. In this Canada vs USA competition, their team had 2 wins, 2 ties, and 1 loss. A great weekend of wearing the Canada Maple Leaf on their hockey jerseys, plus some shopping at the Mall of America, the Letterman store and team bonding over meals.

Linda Clark flew to Ottawa for family time with Julie and Kevin Halipchuk, Aidan, Reese and Carley enjoying a basketball tournament, some hockey and birthday and early Christmas celebrations.

Our community is gearing up for the Christmas season. Lights and decorations are appearing to add to the festivities.

"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live." Dalai Lama

Nov 28 2023

On Sunday, November 26th the Miniota Hall was full as the Miniota UCW hosted a craft sale and luncheon. The day was a great success with 35 tables of various crafts and wares. Approximately 150 attended to shop and kept our ladies in the kitchen quite busy. Big thank you to all the vendors and volunteers who made the day a success.

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C.S. Lewis



Miniota & Area Foundation

It is that time of year again!

The Miniota & Area Foundation is now accepting applications for funding from any charitable, cultural, education or recreational organizations in the area, and wishes to invite anyone who holds a Revenue Canada Charitable Registration number to submit an application.

Grant decisions will be made by the board in accordance with the Foundation objectives and guidelines.

Completed applications for funding will be received until December 15th, 2023 by email to miniotaafd@gmail.com or being mailed to PO Box 70 Miniota, MB R0M 1M0.

Please feel free to share with any groups/organizations you think may be interested.

*To receive a PDF Grant Application copy, please email miniotaafd@gmail.com and we would be happy to send your organization one



Birtle Miniota CDC
204-842-3602
cdc@myprairieview.ca

SPACE FOR RENT

123 North Railway Avenue , Miniota MB

442 sq' HAIR SALON
\$400.00 per month

323 sq' OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE
\$285.00 per month



visit www.myprairieview.ca for more photos and information



CHRISTMAS

In Miniota!!

AT MINIOTA RINK

DECEMBER 10

2:00-4:00

PICTURES WITH SANTA. CRAFTS. HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES



*Cookies supplied by The UCW ladies
Crafts supplied by Valley Rec.*

Birtle & Area Christmas Cheer



Help us decorate our Mitten Tree with mittens, gloves, socks, hats & scarves for all ages

Located in the CDC building

What's new at the Birdtail Country Museum?

The Birdtail Country Museum board had its "moving forward" meeting on November 11th to plan for a spring/summer opening in 2024. The Board consists of Margaret Ashcroft (chair), Val Thomson, May Wady, Lorraine Snow, Doug Sansom, Brenda Evans, Mikalya Smart, Rodney and Raymond Smith and Bunny Corr. The museum board accepts with regret the resignation of Treasurer Brenda and Secretary Ron Samchuk who have been involved in all aspects of the museum from its inception in the early 1980's. Their dedication over the years is much appreciated.

The pandemic and mold issues due to a leaky roof have kept the museum closed these last few years and people have missed being able to enjoy Birtle's history and what the museum has to offer. Now that the mold has been taken care and the building thoroughly cleaned plans are afoot to revitalize the museum by sprucing up the inside and creating new artifact displays.

Many new ideas were shared at this meeting and committees formed to tackle fundraising, events and promotions, artifact inventory and displays and building upkeep. Fundraising is a priority due to very little income for the past four years. Consider making a donation or becoming a board member to help the museum get back on its feet.



We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in all aspects of the museum. If you have an interest in preserving Birtle's history please get in touch by contacting Margaret Ashcroft at 842-5103. Watch for further updates!

Birtle Ag. Society

Annual Sleigh Ride

December 16th, 2023

Ride approx. 6 miles round trip, up the Scenic Birdtail Valley. Wiener Roast at halfway point.



REGISTRATION 11:00AM-12:00PM, @ THE FAIRGROUNDS (THE LARIAT)



RIDERS = 1 FOR \$10.00 OR 3 FOR \$20.00

SILENT= 1 FOR \$5.00 OR 3 FOR \$10.00

PROGRESSIVE 50/50 AVAILABLE NOW TILL DRAW DATE, DEC. 16TH 2023

All teams & horse back riders are welcome! Contact Jim Lane 204-842-3658 for more information



Lottery Licence # S 20/2023, 21/2023

Miniota & Area Christmas Cheer

We are currently accepting monetary donations to put towards spreading Christmas Cheer to those in need.

Donation bags are located at:
 Fusion Credit Union - Miniota Branch
 Twin Valley Coop - Miniota Grocery

To receive a charitable donation receipt please make your cheque payable to "Miniota United Church Sunday School"
 Donation bags will be picked up Thursday Dec.21st

If you know of anyone who could use some "Christmas Cheer" contact the Municipal Office to bring forth a name.

Skate with SANTA

COME AND JOIN US ON
 Sunday Dec 10th, 2023
 11am to 2:30pm

ACTIVITIES IN THE RINK

Crafts & Colouring Contest 11am to 1:30pm
 Skate with Santa 12 to 1:30pm
 Santa Photos (\$5.00) 1:30pm
 Kitchen will be open.
 50/50 Draw.

Silver Collection at Door

Presented by: Birtle Rink Board,
 Valley Recreation, Birtle Pharmacy.

ISABELLA NEWS - By Linda Clark

Marilynn Reid, daughter of the late Frank and Hannah Reid, and sister to Linda Clark, Harold Reid and Donna (Scott) Gammack died at Birch Lodge PCH at Hamiota on November 12th. Marilyn was raised in our Isabella community enjoying the many activities a small community offers including education, skating and curling, 4-H and piano, CGIT and Sunday School and choir at the Isabella United Church. She went on to become a teacher and enjoyed her career in both Manitoba and Alberta. Sympathy is extended to her family. A graveside service will be held at the Isabella cemetery at a later date.

Our community also extends sympathy to Carolyn (Heise) Somerville and her daughters, Tegan (Emanuel) Vieira and

Chelsea Somerville on the death of Rob, dear husband and dad. Rob enjoyed his career as a speech-language pathologist.



He died on November 9th in Winnipeg. Sympathy also to Carolyn's siblings Allan Heise and Sandra and Don Armitage and family.

Our community extends a warm welcome to Darren and Karen Kirk and their sons John and Jack to the Rawlings residence on the former Bill and Connie Choituik farm. Welcome Folks!

Small Town Christmas LIGHT UP CONTEST

TOWNS OF BIRTLE, MINIOTA & FOXWARREN plus WARDS 1 & 2

- Two Prizes for each location. \$25 shop local Gift Certificate for each winner. Sponsored by Prairie View Municipality
- Rural Residents must email cdc@myprairieview.ca to be included in the judging tour.
- Judging will take place Dec 6th-15th.
- Winners Announced Dec. 15/22

LET'S LIGHT UP PRAIRIE VIEW

PRAIRIE VIEW BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

\$100 PRIZE FROM THE BIRTLE MINIOTA CDC

JUDGING DEC 6-14

MUST REGISTER TO BE ENTERED
email cdc@myprairieview.ca
Decorations must be visible from outside

Birtle & Area

Christmas Cheer Board

We are gearing up for the 2023 festive season! The committee is now accepting donations of money, non-perishable food and gifts. Financial donations can be mailed to:

Lucille Fulton
PO Box 411
Birtle, MB R0M 0C0
or dropped off at the RM office.

Tax receipts will be issued for monetary donations of \$250.00 or greater, if the cheque is made out to the Birtle Foundation and earmarked Christmas Cheer.

Food and gifts for all ages can be dropped off at Twin Valley Co-op Grocery Store (food donation box) or the CDC building. Mittens, gloves, toques, neck warmers & socks for all ages are always welcome as well as personal items like soap, lotions, toothbrushes and paste.

For Hamper requests/referrals; Call Jean at 204-842-3828 or Susanne at 1-204-512-0324 by Monday, December 12th, 2023. Hampers will be packed on December 15th and delivered on the 16th.

Thank you for your continued support

FOXWARREN CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY POTLUCK SUPPER

Foxwarren Leisure Centre
Sunday December 3rd, 2023
5:30 PM

Bring Your Favourite Food and Your Whole Family! Let's Enjoy A Great Evening Together!
EVERYONE WELCOME

Note: We are holding a Paper Bag Auction and a Silent Auction so if you have something that you would like to donate towards those auctions, please leave the item at the Leisure Centre or phone for pickup 204-847-2080 or 204-773-0225. Thank you.



Looking for a special Christmas gift for the history lover in your family?

Pivotal Events, Birtle's Significant Historical Themes and Events, researched and written by Nathan Hasselstrom, is available for purchase at the Birtle Pharmacy or Prairie View RM office for a cost of \$45. You won't find a more comprehensive document describing the significant events that shaped Birtle over the past 135 years. A fascinating look into Birtle's past!

All proceeds go to the Birdtail Country Museum.



PIVOTAL EVENTS

Birtle's Significant Historical Themes and Events



MINIOTA

Christmas Parade

10 DEC 23 | STARTS AT 6:00 p.m

Contact Courtney Muir to register your float:
Text: 573-3185

Floats will meet at 5:30 to line up at the hall

Made with PosterMyWall.com

MINIOTA KIDS WINTER PAINT PARTY

Ages: 6-12 Cost-\$5
December 5th - 3:40-5:00
Miniota School
Registration sponsored in part by:
To register call 204-764-2400 or email: midwestartscentre@gmail.com
Spaces are limited. Prepayment is required to reserve your space

Miniota Moms & Tots Group

We invite you to come out and enjoy this program at no cost.
(Newborn to age 6)

We understand the need to have quality time with your younger kids that allows you to take a break from your regular routine. This group was organized with the idea of incorporating a safe atmosphere for the kids to play in and build on their social and play skills while having fun with other children. Plus, you as a mom deserve some interactive socialization that helps to keep you uplifted in a positive way.

Coffee and snacks provided as well as art supplies.

Each Wed from 9:30am to 11am in the Community Hall.

Sponsored by: Valley Recreation, Birtle Lions Club, Twin Valley Co-op.

Assiniboine Community College brings childcare assistant program to Birtle

By Harry Callaghan Nov 28, 2023 | 10:20 AM

Assiniboine Community College has announced that a part-time Childcare Assistant course is being held in Birtle at the Birtle Collegiate, starting in **January 2024**.

In Manitoba, there is a requirement for Child Care Assistants (CCAs) and licensed home-based child care providers to complete a 40-hour early childhood education course within their first year of employment. Assiniboine is now offering several new and accelerated options for one of the CCA-accredited courses – the Overview of Early Childhood.

“This new offering from Assiniboine will provide new CCAs and licensed home-based child care providers with a faster and more efficient means of obtaining their required certification”, said Ryan Cardwell, Chair of Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Assiniboine.

This course, being offered in Birtle along with several other rural communities in the coming months, was made possible by a \$11.4 million dollar investment from both the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, which included expanded programming options for other early learning and child care training and education at Assiniboine.

“The importance of quality child care cannot be overstated, particularly in rural areas where access to such services may be limited. The CCA course plays a vital role in addressing this gap by providing essential training for individuals passionate about contributing to the well-being and early development of children,” said Cardwell. “The Overview of Early Childhood course is a vital component in helping new professionals develop an understanding of the foundational concepts and principles of early childhood education. This is critical as they start working with children and families. We are excited to bring this course to Birtle”.

The labour market demand in early learning is high, and the college is committed to preparing individuals for work in this important field throughout the province.

The three week course will be held at Birtle Collegiate beginning January 9, 2024. The cost for participants, as well as the dates and times for the CCA course can be found at [Child Care Assistant \(CCA\) | Assiniboine College](#)



**BECOME A
CHILD CARE
ASSISTANT**
in Birtle

**Accelerate your training
and earn your CCA in less
than three weeks!**

Apply today!



2023 2024 Miniota Curling Club Bonspiels

December 16th Junior - \$60.00 per rink
Contact Steph Brown to register - 204-851-6585

January 19th to 21st Open - \$120.00 per rink
Contact Loree Gardham to register 204-567-3760

March 2nd & 3rd Senior - \$60.00 per rink
Contact Loree Gardham to register 204-567-3760



STILL A FEW LEFT FOR STOCKING STUFFERS!

These beautiful magnets from various locations throughout Prairie View Municipality are for sale through the Birtle Miniota CDC. \$2 each or \$3 if you would like us to mail them out to you. Available at RM Offices or give us a call 204-842-3602.



TUNE IN to 99.9 FM BIRTLE'S VERY OWN CHRISTMAS MUSIC STATION

When you are in the mood to hear the sounds of the season at home or in your car, tune to 99.9 on the FM dial of your radio. Besides the music, listen for Christmas greetings and memories from people around town.

Birtle & Area Christmas Cheer

For Hamper referrals/requests Call
 Jean (204)842-3828
 or
 Susanne (204)512-0324

ALLIANCE ACCOUNTING GROUP
 CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS INC.

684 Main Street Birtle CDC Building
 Drop Box available. Please call ahead.
To make an appointment, please contact our Hamiota office at 204-764-2544

Tina Collier CPA, CGA, CMAA
 in attendance 204-813-4198
allianceaccounting.ca

Bi-Weekly Outlook Submission Deadline
MONDAY's at 9 am.
 Email birtleoutlook@live.ca
 Call 204-847-0117

Praire View Business Directory

"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

"December: A month of lights, snow, coziness, and feasts; time to make amends and tie up loose ends; finish what you started and make your wishes come true."

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fulcheramanda3@gmail.com
 1-204-821-4546