



Please Take One-FREE

THE OUTLOOK INC. ALL PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITIES

Volume 13, Issue 13 Nov 20 2024

Birtle's Fall Fest - A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!

NEXT OUTLOOK DATES!!

DEC 11

JAN 8

birtleoutlook@live.ca

204-847-0117

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

Deadline—Monday 9am prior to release.

Weather Outlook

Wed Nov 20 -8

Windy



Thurs Nov 21 -11

Cloudy



Fri. Nov 22 -14

Sunny



Sat. Nov 23 -14

Cloudy



Sun. Nov 24 -8

Partly Sunny



On Friday, November 8th, we celebrated Birtle's Fall Fest, a day filled with activities for both kids and adults. Modern Mini & Me, Vybe Salon, and Esthetics by Kaitlyn hosted a market in the CDC building, which also marked the grand opening of Dayna Gillon's Vybe Salon. Around 20 vendors set up shop, offering a wide variety of items including baked goods, clothing, canned goods, crafts, and much more. Many shoppers came through the door to explore the local offerings.

The beautiful, unseasonably warm weather was an added bonus, as the CDC and Services for Seniors staff organized a range of outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy. Fusion Credit Union and North Star Insurance sponsored horse-drawn wagon rides by Norman Graham, while talented face painter Courtney Muir wowed the kids with her artwork. The day was further enlivened by a special visit from Fusion's Fat Cat, which delighted everyone.

The Birtle Miniota & District CDC hosted a wiener roast, while Services for Seniors provided outdoor games, including a bean bag toss.

To wrap up the festivities, we held the annual Welcome to Birtle, Volunteer Appreciation, and Family Dance at the Birtle Community Hall. Around 125 people gathered to welcome new residents (households) to the Birtle community. We also had the privilege of presenting Years of Service Awards to members of the Birtle Fire Department. This year's awardees were:

- **10 years:** Travis Suski
- **20 years:** Christine Radlinski

Additionally, the Prairie View Municipality and Birtle Miniota CDC presented the Distinguished Volunteer Award. This year's recipient was



Lucille Fulton. The award was presented by Dana Bartheaux. Below is the presentation in her honor:

Presentation for Lucille Fulton:

Lucille was an incredibly community minded person and was always willing to lend a hand in any way she could. I had the pleasure of volunteering with Lucille as part of many different community organizations and events including the Birtle Agricultural Society, The Christmas Cheer Board, The Birtle and Area Food Bank, the Family Dance/Volunteer Award Event. I also know that there were many other organizations

(Continued on page 2)



Win BIG this holiday season!



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Twin Valley



SERVING BIRTLE, MINIOTA, FOXWARREN, BEULAH, SOLSGIRTH, ISABELLA, ARROW RIVER, CRANDALL
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(Continued from page 1)

she was part of, such as the Birtle & District Foundation.

Lucille was one of those volunteers that always showed up to meetings and was willing to take part in extra initiatives that supported the growth of any community organization. Lucille was a hard working volunteer that was not afraid to get her hands dirty.

Some of the things I can remember her participating in were countless hours of food prep for the yearly Birtle Ag Fair Community meals, making and donating pies (usually sour cream and raisin), making and selling 50/50 tickets, painting the main riding ring at the fair grounds, setting up for the fair, cleaning up before, during and after at the Lariat on the fair grounds, taking part in the home-living section of the fair, taking home-living registrations, selling gate tickets, taking shifts in the Lariat, working at the door of countless events and fundraisers.

As we all know it takes volunteers to make our small town communities grow and thrive, which includes many different people of a variety of age, experience and knowledge that they bring to the table. Lucille was not afraid to speak up and share her valuable experiences and opinions which often included a willingness to listen to new ideas and ways of doing things; she was very open-minded to supporting new ideas.

Lucille was also the Treasurer of Christmas Cheer and the Birtle and Area Food Bank for many years, right up until June 2024. These are just a tiny few of the volunteering roles that Lucille held over the years within the community of Birtle and in recognizing her efforts to continuously and selflessly help to build and support our beautiful community she will forever be remembered and her presence missed. Thank you Lucille.

Lucille passed away in July 2024. Receiving the award on her behalf were her daughter, Jamie Fulton, and her husband, Ken Fulton.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Sally Donald for the wonderful decorations and to Nancy Evans for her help. Martyn Lamb from Valley Recreation provided a fun "Construction



Reeve Roger Wilson, Travis Suski, Councillors Darcy Oliver, Trent Peel, Morley Butler, & Christine Radlinsky

Selfie" area, and a huge thank you goes out to The Twin Valley Co-op, who generously sponsored the evening by providing refreshments for kids and adults, as well as chips, cups, and other supplies. It's truly heartwarming to receive such incredible support from our community.



Birtle Pharmacy

808 Main Street



204-842-5333

Alison & Steve Desjardins

birtlepharmacy@gmail.com

Rx PharmaChoice
Advice for Life

ISABELLA NEWS - By Linda Clark

Oct. 23 2024

A gathering was held at the Isabella Sports grounds this past week, to enjoy a quick game of baseball, as a farewell to the backstop fence and baseball dugouts, which our Isabella community has donated to support the Miniota Enhancement Committee in their project of adding another baseball diamond. While sad to see a part of our history moving on as for many years The Isabella Reds played from this diamond, however it is also exciting to know that this will be put to good use by youth in our area. Possibly the oldest player taking part in this 'Last Hurrah' game was Murray Sutherland and the youngest Rhett Knight. Fun and laughs were enjoyed!

Several ladies of the community gave the Isabella Community Hall a fall cleaning in preparation for the upcoming roast beef supper.

Oct 29 2024

Sunday, October 27th saw a full house at the Isabella Community Hall to enjoy roast beef with all the trimmings. The beautiful day brought out people from all parts of Manitoba and even a couple of folk from Saskatchewan who were out touring

the area. Although our community is getting smaller in numbers, it was wonderful to have all hands on deck, with ages ranging from 8 to 90 years young, to ensure a wonderful meal was prepared for our guests. The Isabella Community Women's group are appreciative of all the work and cooking done by our people and for the support of our guests.

Nov 11 2024

Isabella: Word has been received of the death of John Heise of Calgary. John was the youngest son of Russel and Thirza Heise and raised on the farm (now the farm home of Kendall and Angie Heise) at Isabella with his siblings Dave, Doug, Art, and Lawrence. John loved to return to Isabella for community and family celebrations. We extend our sympathy to his children in Calgary, his brother Lawrence and Lynn Heise, Winnipeg and sister-in-law Margaret L. Heise, Hamiota and his many nieces and nephews.



Christmas
CRAFTING WITH
Sally
MONDAY DEC 2ND, 1PM
BIRTLE DROP IN CENTRE
We will be creating and designing
Christmas displays.
REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00
LIMITED SPACE SO BOOK EARLY

TO BOOK YOUR SPOT CONTACT SHAUNA AT 204-842-3296



SPONSORED BY VALLEY SERVICES FOR SENIORS
AND VALLEY RECREATION

Birtle Centre for the Arts
REGISTRATIONS SPONSORED IN PART BY VALLEY RECREATION
Christmas
CRAFT FOR KIDS
GRADES K - 4
NOVEMBER 27, 2024
3:30 - 4:30 PM
REGISTRATION FEE: \$10
WHERE: 671 MAIN ST, BIRTLE, MB R0M 0C0
INSTRUCTOR: SALLY DONALD
TO REGISTER: REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BIRTHEARTS.CA/CURRENT-CLASSES.
CLICK ON THE CLASS POSTER AND THE REGISTRATIONS FORM WILL POP UP.
YOU CAN ALSO CALL PAT AT 204-842-3846 OR EMAIL INFO@BIRTHEARTS.CA.
THE REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE PAID TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.
E-TRANSFER TO INFO@BIRTHEARTS.CA
(AND NOTE WHAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR IN THE MESSAGE AREA)
OR MAIL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO
"BIRTLE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS" BOX 460, BIRTLE, MB R0M0C0
REFUNDS CAN BE ISSUED UP TO ONE WEEK BEFORE THE CLASS.

With the generous support of the Manitoba Arts Council
CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL
The Value Shoppe

Love Your Life

All About the Food Bank & Gratitude!

The Birtle and Area Food Bank serves all of Prairie View Municipality and is located in the community of Birtle at the Birtle United Church. Anyone who lives in Prairie View Municipality that needs some support is welcome to access the Food Bank. We offer three different sized hampers; single, couple, family and the size someone receives depends on the number of individuals living in the household. We are open the first and third Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12pm. We are only open for the first Wednesday in December and then we switch over to The Christmas Cheer Board for the remainder of the month. All people that access the food bank are welcome to access Christmas Cheer hampers if they choose to. Anyone needing some extra support during the holiday season are also welcome to access the Christmas Cheer Hampers; please see the ad for how to access the referral system.

The Birtle and Area Food Bank is ran entirely by a group of Volunteers and we are always open to welcoming more.

All of the food we give out is supported by donations from individuals, businesses, foundations and grants. We rely on the monetary donations as well as the food

that is donated throughout the year to be able to continue to support those who need our assistance. The number of people throughout Prairie View that access the food bank has grown steadily over the last two years and even more so this year. With the cost of living rising it makes meeting basic needs more difficult for most. If you

are interested in supporting the food bank, non-perishable food items can be left in the box by the door inside the Birtle Twin Valley Co-op Grocery Store and monetary donations can be made through the Birtle & District Foundation; tax deductible receipts are issued for donations of \$20 and over.

We cannot possibly mention everyone by name that we need to thank and we mostly don't make a habit of it on purpose because of the fear of accidentally forgetting to mention someone. If you have supported the Food Bank in anyway over the past year we really appreciate your help and could not do it without you, from the bottom of our hearts we thank you.

Having said that we do need to give a shout out to Zachary Miller along with some help from his Mom Theresa Miller (pictured above), whom for the past two years have driven to Portage and Carberry to gather as many free potatoes as they and their vehicle could carry, usually at least two loads per year. This year Zach borrowed a truck and loaded it to overflowing with potatoes and brought it home to Shoal Lake where he and his Mom reside. The potatoes Zach brought back he also delivered to help support the Shoal Lake Food Bank, The Birtle and Area Food Bank and The Russell Food Bank along with countless individuals throughout the communities of Shoal Lake and Birtle. Thank you so much Zachary and Theresa, those potatoes have helped to feed many people!!!

If you have any questions about the Food Bank or how to access it, you are welcome to text or call Dana @ 204-773-6518.



We would like to invite the Communities of Miniota, Arrow River, Beulah, Isabella and Crandall to an information meeting regarding "reactivating" our Age Friendly Initiative in our Municipality.

On: Tuesday Dec 10th at 7pm
Miniota Hall

An invitation to the Foxwarren Community to attend the same meeting on:
Wed Dec 11th at 10am
Leisure Centre

Why should you attend?
Your presence, your voice and your actions have the power to make a difference to encourage healthy lifestyles, inclusion, accessibility and a supported age group.

Presentation by Marg Fraser "our local Consultant with Manitoba Association of Senior Communities" followed by a discussion session.

AGE FRIENDLY
Manitoba

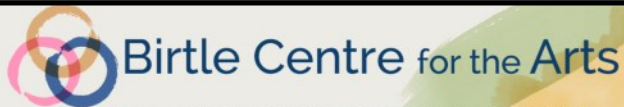
For more info contact Martyn at 204-842-3460
recreation@myprairieview.ca

Thank you...it really does take a village!

As the chairperson of the Food Bank it is my responsibility to get the food ordered, delivered and the shelves stocked. I fractured both my arms this year and it has been a long process of healing and with that, I needed to ask for and find lots of extra support to get the job done. Thank you to Jean Kowal, Susanne Burdett, The TVC- Birtle Grocery Staff, Keaton Fulham, Jen Iverson, Cory Sakal, Larry Austin, Bev Lee, Steve Desjardins and Aaron Bell for all of your help as well as the food bank clients that also helped to haul food into the church for me. It may have been a small thing to you, maybe even just a moment of kindness that you didn't know was huge to me, or just part of your job but to me it has meant so much and I truly appreciated the help to continue to get the job done this year!

With kindness and appreciation,

Dana Barteaux



KIDS WOOD PAINTING

paint a sunset picture on wood

Instructor: After 5 Designs

Date: Dec 7th from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Registration fee: \$45

Age groups: K to Gr.10

Where: 671 Main St, Birtle, MB R0M 0C0

To register: Register online at www.birtlearths.ca/current-classes. **Need to have registrations, payment and stencil choice received by Nov 28.**

Click on the class poster and the registrations form will pop up. You can also call Pat at 204-842-3846 or email info@birtlearths.ca. The registration fee must be paid to secure your spot. Refunds can be issued up to one week before the class. E-transfer to info@birtlearths.ca and note what you are paying for in the message area or mail cheques payable to "Birtle Centre for the Arts" Box 460, Birtle, MB R0M0C0



23rd ANNUAL HOOPER'S LAKE BUCKNIGHT



SATURDAY, Nov 30, 2024

BEULAH COMMUNITY HALL

6:00PM - MIDNIGHT

*ALL HEAD ENTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR GRAND PRIZE DRAW
OF AN ENGRAVED FLINT LOCK MUZZLE LOADER
2024 SEASON HEADS ONLY
ALL HEADS MUST BE LEGALLY TAGGED*

*~ ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY 8PM ~
HEAD ENTRY \$20 EACH*

**ADMISSION \$15.00 12 & UNDER \$5.00
FOOD INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION**

DOOR PRIZE, LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

7 Trophy categories: Mens, Ladies, Junior, Ugly & Muley

OFFICIALLY REGISTERED WITH MANITOBA BIG GAME TROPHY ASSOCIATION

Let's Celebrate Class of 1975!

If you graduated from the Birtle Collegiate 50 years ago next June we want to hear from you! Contact Heather at heather-miller_dtm@shaw.ca Let's see YOU next June (2025)!



BIRTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



On November 14th [Kristin Lane](#) and [Christine Radalinsky](#) were at the Birtle Elementary school to discuss fire safety with the kids. They also demonstrated donning the proper protective equipment to enter a fire. All the students were very attentive and responded well to watching Kristen put on all her gear. Now that they've seen a person is under all that gear the hope is they won't be afraid of the Fire Fighters when they see them.



Prairie View Municipality

DECLARATION OF ELECTION

Pursuant to Section 117(1) of the Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act, I, Charlene Bonchuk, Senior Election Official for the Local Authority of Prairie View do hereby declare the following nominated candidate duly elected to the office of Councillor Ward 2:

ROBERT BONCHUK

Birtle Centre for the Arts
Creating Community

Adult Sign Painting

custom stencils available!
direct message the instructor at Hello.after5designs@gmail.com

Instructor: After 5 Designs
Date: Dec 7th 6:30 - 9:30pm
Registration fee: \$65
Age groups: Adult
Where: 671 Main St, Birtle, MB ROM OCO
To register: Register online at www.birtlearts.ca/current-classes. **Need to have registrations, payment and stencil choice received by Nov 28.**

Click on the class poster and the registrations form will pop up. You can also call Pat at 204-842-3846 or email info@birtlearts.ca.
The registration fee must be paid to secure your spot. Refunds can be issued up to one week before the class.
E-transfer to info@birtlearts.ca and note what you are paying for in the message area or mail cheques payable to "Birtle Centre for the Arts" Box 460, Birtle, MB ROMOCO

BCA events are possible thanks to the support from: The Value Shoppe

Birtle Library Hours

Monday 4:30 PM – 7:30PM
Tuesday 1:30 PM – 6:00PM
Wednesday 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Saturday 10:30 PM - 2:30 PM



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204-748-1788

info@pphmb.com

Box 1389, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0

LANDFILL HOURS

AS OF OCTOBER 1ST

BIRTLE LANDFILL

TUESDAY	1:15-3:15PM
WEDNESDAY	3:00-5:00PM
THURSDAY	1:15-3:15PM
FRIDAY	3:00-5:00PM
SATURDAY	10:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00-4:00PM

CHRISTMAS CHEER SEASON!



Birtle and Area Christmas Cheer Board is working to prepare for the 2024 season. Hamper requests will be accepted until December 10th. Referrals or requests can be made by calling Jean at 204-842-3828 or Susanne at 1-204-512-0324. Referrals will also be accepted during regular food bank hours. (1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month)

As always, the committee relies on the support from community members.

We are seeking monetary donations which may be dropped off at the RM office or mailed to Box 517 Birtle MB. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of 20.00 or greater, if the cheque is written to the Birtle Foundation and earmarked Christmas Cheer.

Donations of non-perishable food, personal care products, non-battery -operated toys, and cold weather accessories (hats, mitts, scarves, socks) for all ages can be left in the Food Bank Box at the entrance to the Co-op Grocery store in Birtle.

Thank you for your continued support.

New Hours
at the Birtle Value Shoppe

Monday - 130-430
Wednesday - 130-430
Thursday - 430-730
Friday - 130-430

OPEN

Birtle & Area
Food Bank
Serving all of Prairie View Municipality

LOCATED: BIRTLE UNITED CHURCH
OPEN: 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS
10:00AM-12:00PM

Donations can be left at the Birtle Twin Valley Coop Food Store. Thank you!

Unexpired & Non Perishable Food Only, Please

For more info, call:
204-773-6518

CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY POTLUCK SUPPER
FOXWARREN LEISURE CENTRE

Bring your favorite food and your whole family!
Let's Enjoy a great evening together!!

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!
EVERYONE WELCOME

SUNDAY 8 DEC AT 5:30 PM

We are holding a Paper Bag Auction and a Silent Auction so if you have something that you would like to donate toward these auctions, please leave the item at the Leisure Centre or phone for pick-up at the following Ph# 204-847-2080 or 204-773-0225. Thank you

Prairie View Municipality and Birtle Miniota & District Development Corporation are pleased to announce a new grant incentive for local businesses!

COMMERCIAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Program Details:

- The CBIP is designed to assist property owners and business tenants to enhance commercial properties.
- Recipients will receive a reimbursement for up to 50% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000.00 per commercial property.
- Associated costs for building rehabilitation and facade improvements of commercial and mixed use buildings are eligible.



Check out www.myprairieview.ca/p/birtle-miniota-cdc or contact BMDDC Phone 204-842-3602 Email zjebb@myprairieview.ca



The Santa mailbox at the Miniota Post Office is ready to go for all of the Santa letters to be dropped off. I will make sure they get delivered to the north pole and they will be delivered back to the Miniota Post Office by "Santa's Elves" to be delivered to the boys and girls!! a special shout out to the talented Donna Brown for making me the fabulous Santa letter mailbox for our Post Office!!



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

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.



BIRTLE PERSONAL CARE HOME



IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!

Volunteers Needed For:

- "Be a Friend" Volunteers spend time one to one with residents (visits, reading, walking, playing games etc.)
- Assist residents with bingo
- Assist residents with cards and games, bowling or crafts
- Assist recreation staff on hosting special events such as birthday parties
- Have a musical talent to share with the residents?



Do You:

- Have spare time and want to make a difference and enhance the lives of our residents?
- Enjoy socializing and helping others?

If this sounds like you and you are interested in making a difference at Birtle PCH please pick up a volunteer application from the facility or contact Marsha Fergue at 204-476-7550 or mfergue@pmh-mb.ca for more information.



Join our Team at the

BIRTLE FOOD STORE

Are you interested in any of these positions?

Grocery Department: Clerk Cashiers
Bakery/Deli Department: Bake-Off/Deli Clerks



Casual, Part-Time,
Full-time with Benefits
Flexible Working Hours

Contact HR for more information
or to discuss your interest!

Ph: 204-842-3905

Ph: 204-842-2832

hr@twinvalley.crs



Open House

you're invited

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

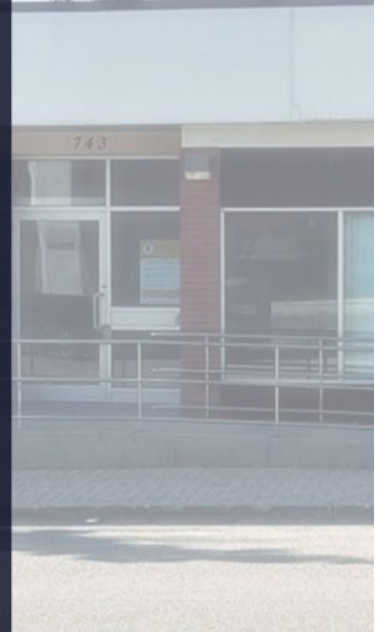
743 Main Street

Birtle

3:00pm-6:00pm

Come see our newly renovated space, meet our team, and learn more about what we have to offer.

ENTER TO WIN DOOR PRIZES!



Miniota Skating Club

Instructor
Andrea Langlois

If your kids are interested in skating this season contact Tamra Fenty at 204-648-7757

Season runs mid
December to March

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 OR cdc@myprairieview.ca

BIRTLE NEWS - By Jan Fleury

Oct. 22/24

Bev Lee's Thanksgiving visitors were her daughter Cincy Copeland and boys Kingston and Hayden and her son Kelly, his wife Shannon and their daughter Anastasia Lee all from Winnipeg. Bev has been in Winnipeg this past week attending MMF meetings.

Colleen and Mark Talbot of Dauphin and Barb Birch of Virden and her step-son Rowdy Revoy visited with Nancy Birch for Thanksgiving.

Sympathy of the Birtle community is extended to the family and friends of Connie (Bonner) Ryan of Sunnyside Manor who passed away on October 15th at the age of 93. She will be missed by her husband of 71 years, Elmer, and her children Meredith Lavoie, Shelley Ryan, and Rebecca McCarthy and their families as well as nieces and nephews.

Congratulations to Fabien and Beth Peters who were married on Sat. Oct. 19th.

Martha, Scott and Shirley Hodkinson were visiting with family in Birtle last weekend and called in on Jerry Lyttle at Sunnyside Manor. They enjoyed visiting outdoors on a warm October day.

Apparently there is another phone scam going about with the caller saying they are from the Legion Poppy Fund and requesting a donation. Do not donate as the Legion says they do not solicit donations over the phone.

Oct. 29/24

Congratulations to Bill and Eileen Kowaluk who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct. 31. They were married Oct. 31, 1959!

I (Jan) wish to apologize to the family of the late Connie Ryan as I made an error in the report in last week's issue by missing to include their youngest daughter Maureen (Gord) Loewen.

Congratulations to Robert Bonchuk on being elected to the Prairie View Municipality council as representative of Ward 2!

Sympathy of the community is extended to the family and friends of Rose Tutkaluk who passed away at Morley House in Shoal Lake on Oct. 26th at the age of 95.

Visiting with Gary and Eileen Dimond this past month have been Pam and Katelynn Coates of Saskatoon, SK and Lance Dimond of Napa, CA.

The Halloween Howl sponsored by the Prairie View Gymnastics Club was very well attended by lots of ghosts and goblins on Sat. Oct. 25th. They will be out and about on Thursday the 31st to collect their treats. Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Nov 5/24

Word has been received of the sudden passing of Suzanne Sterling in Thunder Bay, ON on October 28, 2024 at the age of 58. Suzanne was the daughter of the late Ray and Wilma (Stowe) Sterling of Beulah and attended school in Birtle. Sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

Jo-Anne and Kevin Hickman have returned from a bus tour to

Branson, Missouri and Memphis and Nashville, TN as well as stops along the way to and from these points. Hi-lights included the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and an extensive tour of Elvis Presley's home, the Graceland Mansion in Memphis. They report a very busy but really enjoyable tour.



Nov 12/24

Last weekend was a busy one in Birtle. The Fall Fest was held Friday Nov. 8th with a weiner and marshmallow roast, horse drawn wagon rides, face painting and Senior games all in the Town Square and a Fall Fest Vendors Market held in the CDC building. Then it was on to the Community Hall for the annual family dance. There were activities for the kids, dancing and the annual welcome to new citizens and honouring of our volunteers. The Fire Department awards were presented by Prairie View Council to Christine Radalinsky for 20 years of service and the Travis Suski for 10 years service. Congratulations and thank you for your service. Saturday evening was the annual Birtle Minor Hockey Hat Auction at the arena. On Monday the annual Remembrance Day service was held at St. George's Anglican Church and the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph following.

Congratulations to Vybe Salon on their Grand Opening celebration on Nov. 8th.

Visitors over the weekend with Bev Lee were her son Kelly, his wife Shannon and their daughter Anastasia Lee of Winnipeg. They also enjoyed spending time visiting with his cousin Danny Hayden and his wife Dana.

Gary and Eileen Dimond enjoyed a visit last week from her brother Brian Delichte and his wife Muriel from Milton, ON

FOOD DRIVE
TO HELP SUPPORT CHRISTMAS CHEER!
When: December 6th
Time: 1-5pm
Where: On main street Birtle in front of the grocery store!!
Please stop by and join us, with support of BCI students...in spreading some holiday cheer this winter season by helping us to **FILL THE TRAILER!!!!**
What: non-perishable food items, Christmas treats, non-battery operated toys, personal hygiene products as well as warm mitts and toques for all ages!!!
All items will be gifted to Christmas Cheer in support of filling hampers this year!!! 'Tis the season of giving!
Any questions, call or text Dana @ 204-773-6518

MINIOTA COMMUNITY TIPS THEIR HAT TO ALL THEIR SPONSORS

The Facility Enhancement Committee has had a very busy and productive couple of weeks and we have so many people to thank for that!

First up, GROWING MINIOTA.

This project was originally slated to begin in the spring of 2025. But when an opportunity arose, our committee saw it as a sign to get "growing" this year. With the land rental secured, our farming crew began our first Growing Miniota agricultural adventure. We didn't know what to expect but the generosity of our community members and surrounding businesses was nothing short of amazing as we were able to raise \$67,000!!! From seeding, to spraying to harvest, we were truly blessed and it's because of the following people and businesses;

BUSINESSES

- Brevant
 - Bayer
 - Nielsen Seeds
 - Thunder Seeds
 - **Syngenta**
 - **BASF**
 - **Twin Valley Co-op Ltd** - Miniota
- Agro
- **Cargill**
 - Richardson
 - ADAMA
 - Northstar Insurance

- Additional Municipal Hail Insurance
 - Trevor Armitage Farms
- LAND OWNERS
- Kelvin and Becki Wall
- SEEDING
- Field Prep
- Lelond Farms - Luke Lelond
 - Edward Lelond
- Planting
- Clark Farms Isabella Ltd - Trevor Clark
- Land Rolling
- **Gardham Farms LTD.**- Blair & Frank Gardham
- Spraying
- Young Farms Ltd - Nick Young
 - Andrew and Ryan Lelond
 - Bell Century Farms - Jamie Bell
- HARVEST
- Combine Operators
- Sheldon Doole
 - Randy McKean (operated by Darryl Brown)
 - Nick Young
 - Ryan Lelond
 - Trevor Armitage
 - Alan Walker
- Grain Carts
- Luke Lelond
 - Duncan Lelond - operated by Dave Colli
- Trucks
- Bicknells
 - Norries
 - Blair Gardham

- Trevor Clark
- Jamie Bell

Our second thank you is for the SPORTSMAN'S DINNER.

Putting on a function like the Sportsman's Dinner for the first time is always a gamble. But as the saying goes, "no risk, no reward". Well this risk certainly paid off as we made **\$45,000!!** We had a fantastic turnout for our event and have so many thank you's to say for making the evening a success!

THANK YOU:

- to everyone who attended
- to those who purchased 50/50 and raffle tickets
- Jeff Odgers for being our guest speaker
- Brandon Crowe for interviewing Jeff
- Rhett Parks for being our hat auctioneer
- Loree Gardham for helping decorate
- to everyone who purchased hats (see photo for names)

This event wouldn't have been possible without the donations from our amazing sponsors. From table purchases, to raffle prizes, to monetary donations, we are beyond grateful for your generosity. (see photo for list of businesses and names)

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2024-2025



Open Curling

Monday Afternoons at 1:30 pm
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Fees:

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2 times per week: \$185 for full season
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Drop in: \$15 per time

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Greetings from the Birtle Breakfast Group in Brandon. We meet at Smitty's (north hill) first Tuesday of each month. 9 am

Come join us for some great reminiscing.



RIPARIAN FOREST UPGRADES

Check out the new educational panels that were just installed at the end of October at the Assiniboine Riparian Forest!

Did you know the Assiniboine Riparian Forest was a multi-year project that began in 2008 with 5.14 acres of native grassland boarding the Assiniboine River along Highway 83. It has over 900 trees and borders the bank of the Assiniboine River. Fall is the perfect time of year to go for a nature hike on the walking paths, check out the picnic area, and learn more about the forest. It is a great educational site. We are proud to show off the new kiosk. Go check it out when you can



*It's beginning
TO LOOK A LOT
like Christmas*

Santa Clause is comin to town!
December 8, 2024
2:00 at Miniota Rink

Christmas Crafts Pictures with Santa
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Christmas Parade
7:00
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\$5/child
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Community Life

Miniota UGW Presents
CHRISTMAS
Craft Sale

Sunday, November 24th 2024
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Miniota Community Hall

Admission: \$2.00 Per Person
12 & Under Free

Lunch Served:
Soup, Sandwiches, Dessert
& Coffee/Tea

Contact Ioree to Book a Table
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From A Young RCAF Pilot To Senior Golf Champion

A Life's Story

Second World War veteran traded in wings for titles on the links in later years

By: Jim Timlick

Clifford Jack Widdicombe was one of the most grounded people you were ever likely to meet.

Known as Jack, Widdicombe was born May 2, 1921, on his family's farm near the town of Foxwarren and spent the majority of his life there. He took over the family farm soon after the Second World War and, in 1947, married his high school sweetheart, Florence Peterson, with whom he raised three children, Melva, Daryl and Penny.

He became well-known in the community thanks in large part to his willingness to help others. He operated the local snowplow for several winters, coached and refereed minor hockey for many seasons and served on the board of the Manitoba Pool Elevators.

As grounded as he was, Widdicombe also soared to great heights — literally.

In 1940, he joined the Canadian Officers Program while studying agriculture at the University of Manitoba and two years later enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. In July of 1943, he sailed to England aboard the troop ship *Louis Pasteur*. Soon after, the young pilot was assigned to the 419 "Moose" squadron of the RCAF and flew Lancaster bombers over Germany until peace was declared in 1945.

He died in June following a bout with cancer. He was 103.

Penny Menzies says her dad rarely spoke with her and her siblings about his wartime experiences, but those events had a profound influence on him. He viewed the world from a global perspective for the rest of his days.

It didn't come as much of a surprise when Widdicombe decided to join up. One of 11 children, three of his older brothers had already done so and he felt a patriotic duty to do likewise, Menzies says.

A 19-year-old Widdicombe originally signed up for the infantry. However, after a few days of basic training, he determined that, at 5-7, he would be at a distinct disadvantage in any ground battle and submitted a request to switch over to the Air Force. The request wasn't well received.

"The Army guys didn't have a very positive attitude about that," Menzies says, laughing.

"(But) the Air Force recruitment office was just across the field from where he was training and he walked over and signed up and said, 'I don't want to be in the Army.' The Air Force was glad to have him. They said the best way to hide from the Army was to join the Air Force. Short, skinny guys were good for (flying) Lancasters."

In total, Widdicombe took part in 23 missions during the war; only once did his plane incur serious damage. One of those missions was the bombing of Dresden, Germany, that took place between Feb. 13 and 15, 1945. Some 800 bombers took part in the raid that nearly destroyed the city and is viewed as one of the most pivotal and controversial battles of the war.

Although he never talked about the battle, Menzies says it was obvious it still troubled him many years later.

"There was a big fuss one time about the Dresden airstrike. They were making a big thing about the British bombers being blamed for all the civilian deaths. He was pretty tied up in knots about that," she says.

"My mother had to explain to us to 'stay out of dad's road for a while, he's not in a very good mood.' That's all I heard about it, but I do know that it obviously bothered him."

Widdicombe flew back to Canada in 1945 and was stationed in Newfoundland. He expected to be redeployed to the conflict in the Pacific but that plan was abandoned after the Japanese surrendered in August of that year.

While he was glad to be done with the fighting, Widdicombe never entirely forgot the war or the people he fought with.

Menzies says there were times her dad seemed to feel a sense of survivor's remorse, something she attributes in part to the fact that a couple of fellow pilots who swapped leaves with her dad never came back from missions he was originally scheduled to fly.

Widdicombe stayed in touch with his crewmates following the war and the group used to meet regularly until 2015, when only he remained. That was hardly a surprise considering all they endured together, his daughter says.

"I think that the situations they were in, their lives were de-



With pilot Peter Moodie (right) in 2018, Second World War veteran Jack Widdicombe last flew a Tiger Moth biplane at age 97, making a couple of passes over his old family farm near Foxwarren.

(Continued from page 14)

pendent on each other. I think when you're in those kind of life-or-death situations with people, you form a pretty major bond," says Menzies.

Widdicombe returned to Foxwarren soon after flying back to Canada. One of the first things he did upon his return was to reacquire the family farm — which had gone into receivership while he was overseas — thanks to a loan provided through the Veterans' Land Act.

At about the same time, he proposed to Florence and they were married a short time later. They originally met as kids when Jack would drive a horse and grain cart from the family farm to an elevator in Chillon that was managed by Florence's dad. The couple would have celebrated their 77th anniversary on Sept. 23 of this year.

Menzies says her parents were a case of opposites attracting.

"My dad was a much more taciturn kind of person and my mom was a very outgoing, social-butterfly type," she says. "But I think the reason they got along so well was they were both ... very, very intelligent. They could share intelligently with each other about ideas or anything. They were kind of the yin and yang of each other."

One of Widdicombe's driving passions throughout his life was sports. As a young man, he played hockey in the winter and baseball during the summer.

Interestingly, it wasn't until age 65, when he retired from farming, that Widdicombe took up golfing. He turned out to be a quick learner. He medalled at multiple Manitoba and Canadian Senior Games and in 2011 earned silver at the International Summer Games in Houston at the age of 90.

He celebrated his 100th birthday by playing 18 holes and continued to golf until his physical health started to decline two years later.

John McNarry got to meet Widdicombe several times over the years thanks to his dad, Leon, who served with him during the

Second World War. McNarry was always struck by how pleasant Widdicombe was despite what he must have endured during the war.

"I can't think what it must have been like to be involved in the fighting," says McNarry, president of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum in Brandon. "I've been in most of those old aircraft, but in peacetime. I can't imagine having to do the jobs they did."

One of McNarry's most enduring memories of his dad's friend was formed in 2018, when he and fellow museum volunteer Peter Moodie were flying a vintage Tiger Moth plane as part of an airshow being hosted by the Russell Flying Club.

They asked Widdicombe if he would like to go with one of them for a flight in the two-seater, one of the first aircraft he learned to fly. A few days later, Widdicombe was climbing into the plane's tiny cockpit with Moodie.

Once they were in the air, Moodie asked him if he wanted to take over the controls. He flew the duo over his old family farm near Foxwarren for a couple of passes before piloting the plane back to Russell, where Moodie took over to land it. Widdicombe was 97 at the time but still sharp as a tack, McNarry says.

"He enjoyed that flight thoroughly; I know he did. What impressed me is he could still handle the airplane so well at his age," he says.

Menzies says while it was tough to say goodbye to her dad, his was a life well lived.

"It's sad that he's gone, but he had 103 years of very, very busy, fulfilling and interesting years, and we're grateful for



A 19-year-old Widdicombe (right) originally signed up for the infantry but switched to the Air Force, keeping in touch with crewmates until 2015, when only he remained



Jack Widdicombe with wife Penny on her 90th

MINIOTA HAPPENINGS

From the desk of Linda Clark

Oct. 23 2024

Sympathy is extended to Rodney and Sharie Haines and Michelle and Alex Menzies and their families on the death of their dad and grandpa Wilson Haines on October 9th at the Moosomin Southest Integrated Care Centre. For many years Wilson farmed in the Two Creeks area. He was predeceased by his first wife Judy. Sympathy also to his brother, Ken and Debbie Haines of Ezterhazy and sister-in-law Enid Haines and her family.

Miniota was a hub of activity this past weekend, first with the annual rink sale being held on Friday night. One could begin their sale evening with a bowl of chili or hot dog and dessert prior to the sale. Auctioneer Richard Bramley kept everyone entertained as he moved the sale along quickly. Once again many items for sale all donated by individuals and families in support of our Community Centre facilities.

Saturday night the Enhancement Committee for the Miniota Rink and Sports Grounds hosted a Sportsman's Dinner with over 200 people attending. We are most appreciative of the many who came from surrounding communities such as Beulah, Birtle, McAuley, Elkhorn, Virden, Rocanville, Brandon and Hamiota in support of our project and to enjoy roast beef and all the trimmings catered by Little Kitchen on the Prairie. Jeff Poppel, chairperson for the Enhancement Committee gave an update explaining the future plans for our facilities as well as the progress of fundraising to date. Following the delicious meal, Brandon Crowe of Virden interviewed Jeff Odgers from Spy Hill who was our guest speaker for the evening. Jeff, a former NHL'er shared many interesting stories of his hockey career as well as the life lessons learned. Jeff now farms back home at Spy Hill with his family. Following hearing Jeff, auctioneer Rhett Parks, capably handled the auction of 32 hats from NHL teams as well as our local hockey hats. Wonderful response from the crowd for this auction as well as for all the draws available. Stay tuned for the next event this committee will be organizing.

Lori Rowan shared with me the death of Barry Leary at Kitimat BC on July 12, 2024 at 82 years of age. Barry was born to Frank and Joan Leary in Niagara Falls on April 2, 1942. He grew up in Miniota and moved to Calgary when he was a teen. He married Jacqueline Vance from Crandall. Barry worked in the automotive business. Barry is survived by his wife Jacqueline, his daughter Heather, son Scott, four grandchildren and his sister Sharon(Gary) Lampitt. A family graveside service was held west of Calgary where he purchased land many years ago. Sympathy from the Miniota community is extended to Barry's family.

W. Clement Stone said, "There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative."

Oct. 29 2024

Don and Sandra Armitage travelled to Brooks, Calgary and Banff to attend Don's 50th veterinary class reunion on October 19 and 20th. Much visiting was done along the way with

friends in Brooks, Lyle's family in Calgary and with the 14 classmates attending the reunion. It was a great follow-up to our 50th wedding anniversary weekend.

A beautiful outdoors fall wedding was celebrated on October 27th at Miniota. Congratulations to Colby Walker and Kacie Funk who were married on the Walker farm with the wedding reception and dance at the Miniota Community Centre Hall.

With the beautiful weather continuing it has given the Enhancement Committee for the Rink and Sports Grounds the opportunity to begin work on the new ball diamond as they moved the backstop fence and other equipment from the Isabella sports grounds to Miniota.

We are praying this beautiful weather continues as we welcome all the little ghosts and goblins on Thursday evening. We hope everyone has a fun Halloween.

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful." Albert Schweitzer

Nov 4 2024

Beautiful weather on October 31st brought out many trick and treaters in our community. One home clocked in with 99 visitors. It was great to see the Miniota Fire Department out patrolling the streets to keep everyone safe. Hats off to the Miniota School Grade 5 and 6's who also collected food staples for the upcoming Christmas hampers!

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Linda Young and their family on the death of Jim's eldest sister Mary in England, following a long fight with cancer. Mary had been predeceased by their brother Robert.

Our community also extends sympathy to Margaret Taylor and her family on the death of her brother and their uncle Gerry Heapy. Following a career in the RCMP Gerry had returned home to farm and live at Oak River.

"We may come from a different race and culture, and we may live different lifestyles. Yet may we remember to open our hearts and live together on this beautiful planet treating one another with love and kindness." Tracey Smith

Nov 11 2024

Miniota: The Enhancement Committee for the Rink and Sports grounds held a public meeting on November 7th to inform the community of their plans and progress to date. About 30 people attended in person with another 23 watching the livestream. The chairperson Jeff Poppel shared that the project was well received by the community and those in attendance. Door to door canvassing will begin this



(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

next week. The public is welcome to reach out to a committee member with their donation or you can wait for a visit. The committee is very hopeful for a successful canvassing campaign.

Miniota School students and staff held their annual Remembrance Day program on November 8th with community members in attendance. This school service is much appreciated by community members as a service is no longer held. Following the service family members were pleased to view the Remembrance Day posters which students have created for the annual Legion contest, and we wish our students well for their endeavours.

Doreen Clark is now a resident at Birch Lodge PCH in Hamiota and we wish her well in her new home.

Joan Taylor and Elizabeth Hargrave travelled from Alberta home to Miniota, staying with Edward and Beth Lelond. They attended the funeral of their uncle Gerry Heapy at Oak River along with other family members.

Our Miniota community extends our deepest sympathy to Barry Stamford and his sons Colby and Riley on the death of his wife and their mother Barb, and also to extended family members. Our thoughts are with you at this sad time.

I, Linda, enjoyed a visit to Ottawa to spend time with Julie and Kevin Halichuk, Aidan, Reese and Carley. We all enjoyed a weekend at the Jay Peak REsort in Vermont USA. November 11th saw Julie and I at the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day service. A warm memory from 25 years ago, my mother, Bill and myself along with Julie attended the service on Parliament Hill. I recall feeling very emotional watching the veterans of World War 1 and 2 file past us. Bill recognized Wilf Wasteste from Birdtail Sioux as he marched with the native contingent. Bill called out his name and Wilf turned giving us a smile and a wave. It was good to stand amongst the huge crowd of approximately 35,000 to pay our respects and remember. Certainly the service with the veterans, the 21 gun salute, the flyover, the bands and the many different groups of armed forces elicits much gratitude for the freedom we hold in our country. As we walked away from the service we often heard folks thanking a veteran for their service.

"They gave their tomorrows For our today. We Remember."



Did you know...?

Rural property owners have the option of signing a snow removal waiver, which allows Public Works to go onto the property and use municipal equipment, for a fee.

The municipality will not provide snow removal custom work unless the owners of the rural property have signed a release for snow removal.



Snow removal waivers can be signed at either Miniota or Birtle offices, or emailed by request.

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