



Tell-It-Gram

News from RM of Oakview

Vol. 3

December 2025

*Thank You to Everyone who has contributed this year to
the TIG! We appreciate you!*

From all of us at the Tell-It-Gram

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas

And all the best in

2026!

Dec. 12—Oak River Tree Lighting

Dec. 14—RC Nursery School Christmas Concert

Dec. 25—Christmas

December 26—Boxing Day

January 1—New Year's Day



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF OAKVIEW

Oak River - 204-566-2146 info@rmfoakview.ca

Rapid City - 204-826-2515 adminrc@rmfoakview.ca

Check out our website: rmfoakview.ca or our Facebook Page

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT MODERATE Facebook. If you have legitimate concerns, please contact the office staff at one of the above numbers.

Minutes can be found on the R.M. of Oakview Website

Upcoming Council Meetings

December 16—Rapid City

January 13 Oak River



FYI

The TIG is a monthly newsletter put together by the RM of Oakview and the Rapid City Regional Library. It is free to residents of the RM of Oakview and is available around the 10th of the month.

To contribute articles pertaining to your organization or community activities, please send it to: rclib@wcgwave.ca or drop it off at the RM Offices either in Oak River or Rapid City.

Submissions to the TIG must be in by the 1st of the month or by the 4th at the very latest!



The Digital Billboard is a great place for business and community members to put their Christmas Greetings and best wishes on!!

Scan this QR code to access the online info & request form. Fill out the form and submit it online to get started.



Soon you will also find links to the request form on Facebook and local websites.

BILLBOARD SIGN INFORMATION:

For Personal/Private message: \$10.00. This is for one slide - images or text and Maximum 1 week on display.

For Business: 3 slides—Images or Text. 1 day message—\$20.00. 1 week message—\$60.00. 1 month message—\$75.00. Continuous—Annualized rate of \$50.00/month.

For Public Service/Community/Municipal Announcements—N/C. 1 slide—Images or Text. Maximum 2 weeks on display.

Please note 1 slide can contain 1 of the following:

- Small Font—Approx. 24 characters per line (including spaces), max. 5 lines.
- Large Font—Approx 12 characters per line (including spaces), max. 3 lines.
- One or more images
- Combination of images and text (side by side or image in background). Remember background images can reduce readability.
- No refund for removals.
- Must be relevant to the R.M. of Oakview or Town of Rapid City.
- Please try to provide at least 1 week notice.

If you have any questions, please contact a Lion's member and they will help you.

Cont.

In other Lions news, a donation of \$500 was made to a local family for medical and travel expenses. After discussion regarding Hurricane Mellisa. We donate \$1000 to LCIF specifically for relief for Hurricane Mellisa. We received a thank you letter from Len Luker for our donation to the Minnedosa Centennial Handi-Van and Lion Lawrence reports we will have a magnetic sign (s) that will be attached to the side of the van for a min two months each year.



Also a letter from the Erickson Lions Club with an update on the fence that was built for the Berg family. From local generous donations. It is now complete and has made a big difference in the life of their young son.

We have journey for sight 50-50 raffle tickets for sale. Five dollars a ticket chance to win up to \$12,500. The proceeds from this raffle directly support the Lions foundation of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario's charitable programs. We are proud to announce that Mary Phillips will be riding Her Snowmobile in the last leg of the journey for sight. More information to follow on how to sponsor Mary on this ride of journey for sight.

Lion Dan

JOURNEY FOR SIGHT
40th Anniversary 1986 - 2026

50/50 RAFFLE TICKET

NO. 2701

\$5 PER TICKET

Proceeds from this raffle directly support the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario's charitable programs

DRAWING DETAILS
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 AT 1 PM
SMITTY'S RESTAURANT
1601 MAIN STREET
DAUPHIN, MANITOBA, R7N 3J5

WIN! 50% OF TICKET SALES (UP TO \$12,500)

LIONS FOUNDATION of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario

Ticket NO. 2701
FULL NAME: _____
ADDRESS 1: _____
ADDRESS 2: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOUR HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN 2026

MICHELLE WEIGHELL NURSE PRACTITIONER
Box 187 RAPID CITY, MB
PHONE 204-720-9944



DialMyCalls!!

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



SIGN UP FOR THE NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM - RECEIVE IMPORTANT TEXTS/VOICE MESSAGES/EMAILS FROM THE RM OF OAKVIEW!!



Updates On:

Utilities, Roads, Weather, Closures and so much more.

Visit our website: www.rmof oakview.ca, call 204-566-2146 or stop by the office to sign up!!

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON SPARKLE WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER!

FROM ALL OF US AT THE RAPID CITY 4-H BEEF CLUB WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!





ATTENTION

Utility Users

With the cold weather upon us, please remember to check under your mobile and crawl spaces to ensure that your heat tape/heat is working. So that your water lines do not freeze!!

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Please accept this message as your invitation to join us on Sunday 14th December for our annual Christmas Concert at 10:00AM in the Community Legion Hall.

Our latest fundraiser is going on till the 14th which is a Giftcard Tree Raffle. Raffle price is only \$2.00 which could win you \$100.00 in cards. Tickets are available at the Library, RM Office and any parents or staff.

“Home” is getting closer. Cross your fingers that if everything goes well, we will be back in our space in January 2026. We can’t wait!!

A big “Thank You” to Ruth Paul for her wonderful donation of Christmas items! The joy they have brought to the children is priceless. You are a “star” Ruth!!

From all of us here at the Nursery School we are wishing everyone a safe, happy and joyful Christmas and a wonderful 2026!

Rapid City and District Wildlife Association report for November 2025

The Wildlife Association is pleased to announce that Texas Hold'em Poker Night has been a huge success and will continue to run every Tuesday night at the Queens Hotel, starting at 7:30pm.

Series # 18 of the Rapid City and District Wildlife Association Chase the Ace has started after John Delgish won Series #17 and took home 2,688.60 on Oct 25th. Congratulations John. Presently the CTA total is 1,728.00 with a possible winner receiving 60% of the total plus 60% of that evenings revenue.

The Chase the Ace runs every Saturday night at the Queens Hotel from 6pm to 8pm.

Rapid City Wildlife presently has 51 memberships broken down into 32 family memberships, 19 single memberships and 1 youth.

This translates into just over 90 men, women, and children that are part of the Rapid City and District Wildlife Association. If you or your family are interested in joining the Wildlife club contact Gary Phillips or myself Bob Christie.



*Oak River & Area
Memory Tree Lighting*

Friday, December 12, 2025
6:00 P.M.

**Memory Tree Lighting at the
Millennium Park**

Sleigh Rides, Hot Chocolate, Bonfire,
Weiner Roast Bring your own roasting stick!!

***Following the sleigh rides, please join us at
the Oak River Rink for a bouncy castle,
treat bags and photos with Santa.***

*Memory Lights can be purchased at the RM Of Oakview
Office in Oak River*



Everyone Welcome!

Sponsored by the Blanshard CDC, Fusion Credit
Union, Oak River Quickfreeze and Oak River Fire
Department

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Oak River Waste Transfer Site

Will be CLOSED
Thursday December
25th and Thursday
January 1st.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**



Rapid City Chamber of Commerce

The Rapid City Chamber of Commerce held their meeting on Nov. 19 at 7:30pm at the Queen's Hotel with nine members present. Members present were Doug & Bernice Finlay, Michelle Weighell, Mellissa Macdonald, Gavin Rynolds, Alexandria Grace, Theresa Blaauwijkl, John Dalgleish and Elisa Crompton. Doug called the meeting to order at 7:30 and introduced guest speaker Stephen Chychota, Chamber Relations Coordinator. Stephen made a very informative presentation on the benefits of being a Chamber member.

After Stephens presentation we moved into our regular meeting. Bernice read the minutes of the last meeting. They were moved and seconded by Theresa and Michelle. C. The treasurers report showed a bank balance of \$9602.07.

We then discussed the Old Fashioned Christmas:

Craft tables are all booked.

Permits are all approved.

Church will lead carol singing at 6:30

Gavin will bring in light.

Memory tree light sing up sheets are at the hotel and library.

Kid's activities are in place, Alexandria and Michelle are in charge of this.

Gerald Bos will bring in windbreak panels.

Brenda King is doing noon lunch

Peter is bringing horses and sleighs

Michelle will look after supplies for wiener roast and gift baskets.

Bernice has put Christmas greetings in the TIG from Chamber. We are looking for someone who can make use of the two popcorn machines we have as we are not using them anymore. Next meeting is set for January 21, 2026 at the Queen's Hotel at 7:30. Meeting was adjourned by Theresa and John. C.

*May the beauty of the
holiday season be a constant
reminder of the goodness in
life. Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Rapid City

Wildlife Association



Rapid City Emergency Services would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Rapid City Library Report

A funny thing happened awhile back. We completely missed sending in our new book order. When we realized we weren't getting new books and then discovered why—we quickly got to work and rectified the situation and now it is like the best time ever because we have all our favorite author's books at once, just waiting to be read!! We have Louise Penny, and Robert Gailbraith, and Susan Mallory and Danielle Steele and that's just the tip of the iceberg! Plus, if you like a spicy romance, have we got a series for you! I know it is a busy time of year, but there are also a lot of really cute Christmas reads that could just make your Christmas season complete!

We are continuing getting things put back together at the library. A HUGE thank you to Ernie Paul, who fixed the drywall in the bathroom after we took out the cabinets on the wall. It looks great Ernie!!

One of the first things we needed to replace was our vacuum and the second was our Christmas Tree! Thank heavens for Black Friday sales—we now have a new Christmas tree for Sally to decorate! Can't wait to see what she does. We have no idea where our Christmas decorations are, but thankfully Ruth Paul was downsizing and donated a bunch of tree ornaments for us to use! You are an angel Ruth!

Our bookclub met for their last meeting of the year and we were all to read a banned book. It was interesting to see what books were picked, why they were banned and if the reader thought that was appropriate. Fun fact, nobody really could understand why the majority of the books had been banned and some of them were old favorites that really had us wondering! It did make for great conversation and it led to our reading the book *Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt for our January meeting.

We have been watching the progress in the basement with great anticipation as the walls now have paint on them and hopefully soon we will have lights and heat in the basement as well! Our flooring is scheduled to be put down in the next week or so and then it is just the plumbing and finishing touches. It will be so nice to have the Nursery School back home where they belong! It also means that fingers crossed we will be able to have Story Time again in January.

This time last year, we were winding down a fun-filled 50th Anniversary year. I sure didn't predict any of the things that have happened this year here at the library. We were having such fun with our Teach a Talent programming and planning all sorts of fun with our Story Time kids and then we had the flood and things changed on a dime. We would really like to take this opportunity to say how grateful we are for our community who gave us so much support and understanding as we navigated this crazy year! I would personally like to thank Sally, Michelle and Colton for being absolutely wonderful in helping with all the things that I couldn't do. I could not have done it without you!!



As the year comes to a close, the Rapid City Regional Library Board and Staff would like to extend our warmest Christmas wishes to our wonderfully supportive community. Whether it was helping us move, supporting the programming we did get to do, taking out books or just stopping in to check on us—we truly appreciate it and we say a heartfelt Thank You! May 2026 be a year full of fun and great reads and we look forward to seeing you at the library!

Rapid City 4H Beef Club Report

December 2025

On October 7th, 2025, the Rapid City 4H Beef Club held their reorganizational meeting in Rapid City. The club had 16 members present and had a wrap up meeting of the 2024-2025 year. Old business was handled and nominations and elections for executive were held. Reports were given on Achievement Day, Fat Stock in Neepawa, and our club wind-up at Souris pool.

The winner of the John Inglis Bursary to help with the purchase of a 4H animal was Kate Hinsburg. Congratulations Kate and thank you to our generous donators of the bursary.

The 2025-2026 Executive

President: Kendra Hinsburg

Vice-President: Breelee Bootsman

Secretary: Kate Hinsburg

Treasurer: Swayzie Bootsman

Club Reporter: Benson Bootsman

Club Photographer: Ryler van Meijl

Head Leader: Kerri Hinsburg

Leaders at Large: Kendra Bootsman, Jolie Bootsman, Carol Lowery, Eric van Meijl, Taylor Carvey-Ginter

For the 2025-2026 year there are 6 cloverbud, 6 junior, 1 intermediate and 3 senior members. The members have signed up to complete 29 different projects encompassing yearling heifers, market steers, progeny heifers and continuation pairs.

Our first weigh day and Christmas get together will be held on December 14th. The kids have planned a Christmas gift exchange for the afternoon. It's always exciting to see all the member's choices of project animals.

Submitted by Club Reporter

Benson Bootsman

Love and friendship are the ingredients to a very merry Christmas. Hope you have the most wonderful day!

Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year

The Rapid City Ag Society



Christmas is a reminder that light always returns, hope always wins, and love always finds a way. May this season inspire you to believe in miracles, embrace joy, and carry kindness wherever you go.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
Ryan, Chelsey and Halsey



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing our patrons a joyous Christmas and all the best for the year ahead.

From

Coralie, Vera and Denise at the Rapid City Post Office.



The Rapid City Chamber of Commerce wishes to extend a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a year ahead filled with much HAPPINESS and GREAT MEMORIES to each and every member of our great community. We live in a great community and by working together we can do great things. The Chamber appreciates all the support we get for the events we sponsor throughout the year and look forward to continuing these in 2026.



From our home to yours, we hope you have a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Merry Christmas

Bonnie Lee Wright and family

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a Christmas that's merry and bright.

Sheila and Yool Sharp



Let Every Day Be Christmas!

*Christmas is forever, not just one day,
For sharing, loving, giving, not to put away
Like bells, and lights, and tinsel in a box on a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do for yourself.
Merry Christmas and all the best wishes for 2026.
Bernice Finlay (Country Lane Sewing)*



May the holiday season bring you special moments and happy memories.

Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year from the Staff at

Rapid City Memorials.



May the spirit of Christmas bring you comfort, peace, and happiness.

All the best in the New Year.

Frank Hyndman



Merry Christmas! Wishing you all the best this holiday season!

Lloyd Evans

Councillor



Sending you Christmas Cheer from
Warm and wonderful Mexico!

All the best to my friends and
Family in 2026

Edie Evans

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May your Christmas sparkle with happiness! May your sugar cookies taste delicious and may all your Christmas wishes come true!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from the Town Daycare ladies

and their littles!



From Our house to yours, we wish you all a Christmas full of love, joy and laughter and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Theresa and Arnold Blaauwijkel and family.



Wishing you and your family a season full of light and laughter. Merry Christmas Everyone.

Daryl and Marie Andrew



May your family have a holiday season that is full of wonderful surprises, treats and nonstop laughter."

Chris and Shirley Martin

Wishing you a holiday filled with all the blessings of the season

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Don and Loretta Waldon



Hope the magic of Christmas fills your heart and home this season . May you have a wonderful Christmas season!

Lloyd and Joanne Evans



May the magic of Christmas fill your home with joy and your heart with love. From our family to yours we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Tom and Jackie English



May your heart be light and your Christmas bright!

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2026!

Jim and Janet Fearnley



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

BRIDGEMAN LAND AND LIVESTOCK

KIRK, GAIL, TYLER, KRISTY & TACI



May the joy and magic of Christmas stay with you throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Terry and Grant Gill



Sending you festive vibes and Christmas cheer, because this time of year is oh so dear!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Reeve Bob and Joy Christie



Here's to a Christmas filled with moments so delightful, they twinkle in your memory like fairy lights on a winter's night

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2026!

Sally and Vivian Evans



Oak River News

Some pictures from Friday Night's cheque presentations by Rivers and Area Community Foundation. The picture with me (Bill Aaroe) in it was the presentation to the Oak River Legion #150 of \$1000 to help with replacing the sidewalk to the Memorial Hall in OR. The other two are to the Clack Museum, \$1200 if memory serves, to help pay for a new security system.

The Rivers and Area Community Foundation had a theme for the evening of wearing your favourite team's jersey; so many of us were wearing jerseys of the Oak River Dodgers and Terry Radcliffe was wearing the jersey of the Cardale Cougars. I am not sure what the others were.

Terri Gourlay is the Daughter in law of Jerry Gourlay (3rd from the left in the photo with me) who is both a member of the OR Legion and on the board with the R&ACF.

Receiving the cheques are Diane Kuculym for the Legion and Maxine Shamray for the Clack Museum.



HISTORY HOOKS

-Canadian History You May Not Know About by Yool Sharp

CHILD EMANCIPATOR THOMAS BANARDO AND HIS RUSSEL BOYS FARM

England struggled to emerge from the Middle Ages to a new society. The masses fled the land, flocking to the great cities. The Industrial Revolution plunged the nation into greatness but also despair. Unemployment was rampant. Masses of humanity sought to bury their despair in gin parlors, brothels and rat infested alleys and poverty and illiteracy raged. Homeless underworld children evolved, scavenging for sustenance, wandered by day and shivered at night. Psychological, emotional and physical exploitation of children and parents perpetuated the poverty cycle, and continued the treadmill of man's inhumanity to man.

At this time, a young Irishman rose to become the greatest "Child Emancipator" in history. Thomas John Banardo, was born 4th July, 1845, in Dublin, of devout Quaker parents. Early in life he declared himself an Agnostic, but in a few years after attending a revival meeting he was converted to an Evangelist.

In 1886, Banardo entered the London Medical School to prepare for the Foreign Mission Field. However, a cholera outbreak saw him volunteer as a medic in East London. Here he discovered human miseries he had never imagined. Overwhelmed with the needs of the poor in his street ministry work he organized a Ragged School, which he set up in an abandoned donkey shed. One night as he prepared to lock up, he spotted a tiny figure crouching behind the heater. It was a boy in rags, whom Banardo accosted sharply.

"Wake up! Off to your mother! You were nearly locked in for the night!" The boy's face was white with fatigue and hunger. "Well that would suit me fine, sire! I ain't got no mother."

"Well, then off to your father."

"Got no father either, sire."

"Away, then, to your home, wherever it is."

"Ain't got no home, sire."

"Are there more like you?" Banardo asked the trembling lad.

"Oh, yes Sire." Was the reply.

Banardo then followed the boy through London's back alleys. To his horror, he discovered countless children whose faces, aged with cold and hunger, bore witness to the untold miseries of child life. Shocked by the discovery, Banardo accepted an invitation to address a large mission rally in London. The following day newspapers headlined this startling discovery of children struggling for existence in the core of a great metropolis. Lord Shaftesbury, a leader of social reform, was shocked. That night, Banardo lead him and a group of wealthy associates into an army of destitute children. As they departed, Shaftesbury said to the young medic: "It may be God is calling you to labour as his chosen missionary among the homeless children of this metropolis. The whole of London shall know about this."

Thomas Banardo had found his mission. He successfully publicized his concern for homeless children and established the East End Juvenile Mission attracting hundreds of destitute children. In spite of financial problems, Banardo determined never to turn away any child in need. The Banardo home motto became, "No Destitute Child Ever Refused."

Although Banardo was sensitive to the problems faced by homeless girls, his rescue work among female children posed problems, as he was a bachelor. In 1873, Banardo married Syrie Elmslie and their home became the nucleus for their rescue work among homeless and destitute girls. In 1881 Banardo established a Labour House for young men who were unemployed and a young women's hostel. In 1884 he opened a home for abandoned

Cont.

and destitute infants. Banardo's open door policy continued to attract thousands. Within ten years of operation Banardo homes were receiving and caring for more children than any other agency in England. At first his protégés were trained in domestics and trades and he secured employment for them in Britain. But soon there were fewer and fewer employment opportunities for his graduates. He then started to plan for youth and infants from these establishments to be emigrated to Canada. There had been a requirement for agricultural labour in Canada as far back as the 1860's but Banardo, although convinced child emigration was essential, proceeded with caution. Over the next few years he sent small groups of male and female youth to Canada, primarily to Upper Canada (Ontario), Lower Canada (Quebec), and the Maritimes. In most instances they were received into homes, mainly on farms, where they were well treated. Unfortunately there were too many instances where they were treated as little more than slaves, poorly fed and clothed, beaten and sexually molested. Banardo and his associates monitored the youth and were able to remove them from such homes in most instances.

As the great railway schemes unfolded, the Canadian West experienced immense expansion. Large areas of fertile land opened for settlement and the demand for immigrants seemed insatiable. Bernardo acknowledged this and reported:

"We will have to build our own houses, to break up the soil, to plow and sow, to stock and develop. Should this scheme prosper, I will be able to place out upon the land not less than 200 big fellows every year."

He contacted Charles Tupper, Canada's High Commissioner in Britain regarding what land could be obtained:

"My Committee would not be content to accept any land offered to them by the Government. It would be of great importance to us that the land should be of first rate quality and situated in a most favourable position. Should the Dominion Government not feel free to co-operate with us to this extent or in the manner we desire, or to such an extent as would make it advisable for us to attempt an enterprise of that character, I am instructed to make way to the United States and there endeavor to obtain land in such position as may best meet the requirements of our growing institution."

Needless to say, the later part of this statement got the Canadian bureaucracy's attention. After two years of negotiation, Banardo secured land in Canada's newly opened Northwest, near Russell, Manitoba. The area contained rich loam deposits, rolling pasturage and a branch of the Assiniboine River. By 1887 the farm had acquired 8,900 acres. Architects designed the farm complex for which building cost was approximately \$10,000.00. Banardo's comment was "Although not considered ideal, yet it has, through the unceasing labour of the resident manager, been made a fairly comfortable structure." Farm buildings consisted of large cow and horse stables, a piggery, a creamery, a pump house, all were stationed a distance from the main building.

In 1887, 34 youths from Banardo's Labour House in London were selected to begin the colonization, their ages from 17 to 20. The cost to outfit and transport each youth was about \$25.00, which under an agreement with the Canadian Government, stated that the emigrant was bound to give labour on the farm in return for his emigration costs. The youth were trained at the Industrial Farm in all areas of agriculture in order to equip them for homesteading. There was keen competition among them in the matter of saving money for a homestead. When Banardo visited the farm he noted: "Some of the garments exhibited the most striking ingenuity- I never saw such picturesque patches in my life." The ruddy faces and bright eyes of the prospective homesteaders impressed him. The Governor General and his Lady, later paid the farm a visit where there were now 64 youths.

Cont.

He then spoke to them dwelling on the advantages which the fine healthy looking lads enjoyed in this great, free, fertile country. Banardo offered a system of bonuses for energetic effort and homesteader's progress. The first few months they would work on their own homestead then be employed with their ox team on the Home Farm with the exception of their own harvest. The first winter they were expected to winter on their land, drawing on their capital for the keeping of their oxen on the Home Farm. The second spring they would be supporting two people, himself and a young Banardo boy or maybe a wife.

In 1896, Canadian newspapers reported that the Northwest suffered from a "Famine of women", who would make good farmers wives, and they should be immigrated as quickly as possible. They would give more energy to weak and ineffectual effort of lone young farmers. Bernardo girls from Ontario were offered encouragement to seek their fortunes in Canada's west.

Banardo received many letters from industrial farm homesteaders—below is an example: "I took the homestead fever, which I thought was a good idea. It was fine until my sister left. If she does not come back you had better send me a young lady, as I have got to be one of the large farmers around here. I can stick it out for a while longer, as I think it is time I was getting married, so if you know of a young lady who would suit me, send her along." Signed C.A.C. Biggar, Sask.

In 1905, three years after Banardo's death, the Industrial Farm was closed down. Thousands of dependent boys and girls from crowded cities had been given new hope and opportunity in Canada's West. Like most immigrants they arrived as paupers but rose to become Canada's successful prairie farmers, industrialists, and professionals. Today their descendants mold and guide the nation that opened its great fertile space to their forebearers, who came as frightened children trembling into the beautiful arms of the New World.



Thomas John Banardo



A group picture of orphans.



Barnardo Home in Russel, MB

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!



It was chilly weather, but the warm hearts of our community greeted the members of the Rapid City Emergency Services vehicles as they drove around with special guest Santa Claus and family members collecting non-perishable goods from the citizens of Rapid City. It was wonderful to see such generosity and it all goes toward helping Christmas Cheer fill the Christmas Hampers.

Christmas Cheer Hampers are put together by the Cadurcis Community United Church. The Christmas Cheer committee can not say Thank You enough to the members of the RCES for going around and collecting the donations. It makes a huge difference to our Christmas Cheer Campaign. We also can't thank the community of Rapid City enough for their generosity—both with the food drive and with the donations given to the grade 3/4 class back at Halloween which also helps to fill the hampers.

This year the need seems to be higher than ever, and we realize that everyone is feeling the pinch of escalating prices. That's why we appreciate all the donations—big and small because they are all important in making someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter.

Donations will be continued to be accepted at the Rapid City Regional Library right up until the 16th of December. Delivery of the hampers will take place on the 18th of December.

On behalf of everyone at Cadurcis Community United Church's Christmas Cheer Committee—we say a very heartfelt thank you and we wish you all a blessed Christmas!

AROUND THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THE YARD WITH ME

Hello again everyone and welcome to December with only a few days left before Christmas Day. Hope everyone has done some shopping with only a wee bit left to get. It seems like 2025 has gone by way too quickly, hopefully 2026 will not seem so rushed/busy. I prefer life at a slower pace.

This past October I brought some of my geraniums and petunias into the house for the winter. Most of the “garden literature” says to put them into cold storage so that you can take cuttings of the best for the following year. Well I don’t think that this was anything I wanted to do because they were all blooming so beautifully. It would have been a shame for me to lob them off and keep them in the dark coldroom all winter. I’m a plant lover and so naturally I cut off any damaged branches and spent blooms, tidied them up, sprayed with repellent for insects, watered them well and brought them in. I’ve made room for all of them under the grow lights and today the petunias have six full blooms of a variety of purple/white flowers with two buds just about open. There are 14 with two in full bloom and 12 others with buds. I have two African violets and both have buds just getting ready to open. The angel wing begonia is sporting beautiful pink flowers and two orchids are in bloom. Oh and the Kalanchoe is in bud and I believe it has orange flowers, it has not bloomed since last spring and the mini hoya bella hanging in the south window has plenty of buds once again.

My paternal grandmother kept houseplants all year round. She had a table in the front room beneath a north facing window. African violets were her favourite plant and she had quite a variety along that table. I believe she and some of her friends used to take cuttings from their violets and then share with one another. Among her very best granny friends were Aggie Burr and Beth Northam. Aggie was of Scottish descent and she and granny shared similar recipes between them. Oatcakes were one of their favourite food items. They had to be buttered with a small slice of cheese to go on top mmmmmmm. Oh my mind just went back to 1962 and sitting in her kitchen after school eating these oakcakes. Pretty sure 1962 was a good year.

Anyhow, I’ve been making a few handmade Christmas cards lately and I hope to have enough done to give to family and friends. I’m using watercolour for these cards so they don’t take long to make as they dry quickly. One quick sketch and just the right amount of water and paint and it’s done.

The library is back in business once again and the staff seem to have it up and running as if nothing had ever happened. Kudos to everyone who made this possible. The book club has been going regardless of the mini chaos and it seems like we’ve gained a few more members. How amazing is that and what a great book club we have. Thank you Shirley for everything you have done for those of us taking part in this club. We wouldn’t have gotten this far without all your help. In fact all the library staff, full time, part time and casual are all amazing. They know exactly what we’re looking for be it fiction or non-fiction. Their expertise is second to none and the town is lucky to have such a dedicated group of librarians. Keep up the good work.

So how about a few quick to make snacky items to have on hand over the holidays. You can always make the Nuts’n bolts standby that mom used to make when we were kids. Or the recipe on the back of the Popcorn twists bag where you make a brown sugar sauce and pour it over the top and bake for an hour or so, mm good. But how about something different.

Cont.

A friend of mine brought these to art club last week and we devoured them.

Cuban lunch

1 pkg of each peanut butter chips

Chocolate chips

Butterscotch chips

1/2 cup crushed potato chips

1/2 c chopped peanuts

Melt first three ingredients, add crushed chips and peanuts. Drop by teaspoon into mini muffin papers and cool in fridge. Makes about 55-60 small mini bites

Nutty Rice Krispie Cookies Yield 2 dozen cookies

1 pkg white baking chips

1/4 c creamy peanut butter

1 c mini marshmallows

1 c Rice Krispies

1 c salted peanuts



In large microwave-safe bowl, melt baking chips stir until smooth. Stir in peanut butter until blended

Add marshmallows, rice krispies and peanuts. Drop mixture by spoonfuls onto waxed paper or into mini muffin papers. Cool completely, store in airtight container

Chocolate Haystacks Yield 3 dozen

2 c semisweet chocolate chips

1 pkg butterscotch chips

4 c crispy chow mein noodles

In a microwave or stove top melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips. Stir until smooth. Gently stir in noodles

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto waxed paper or mini muffin papers

Refrigerate 10-15 minutes or until set

Chex Christmas Mix This makes enough for approx 24 people

3 c Cheerios	2 C corn chex
3 c Rice Chex	1 C Pretzel Sticks
3 c Wheat Chex	2-3 C M&M's

24 oz white chocolate with extra 4-8 oz if needed

In large bowl combine the Cheerios, Chex, pretzels and m&m's. Mix them up a bit, making sure everything is evenly distributed

Meanwhile, over a double boiler, melt the white chocolate. Once the chocolate has melted and is smooth, drizzle over the cereal mix and combine with wooden spoon. Be prepared All this cereal plus the pretzels is 12 cups so it makes a large batch

Make sure the cereal is all covered with chocolate, use the extra if needed

Once the batch has been combined lay it out to dry on large sheet of parchment or wax paper on cookie sheets or use the counter top or table. Let dry one hour so the chocolate is cooled and hard. Break it up into medium pieces and store in airtight container in fridge or freezer.

Tips

Use parchment for an easy cleanup. This is sticky stuff, work quickly. It firms up fast so spread quickly into corners and every nook. Sprinkle m&m's or candy cane pieces or anything that add a festive look

Chocolate Crispies Yield 2 dozen

1 c semisweet chocolate chips

1 c mint chips

2 tbsp melted butter

2 c Rice Krispies

1/2 c peanuts

Combine chips and butter in top of double boiler. Stir until chips are completely melted and well blended

Remove from heat, stir in cereal and nuts Place by spoonful into mini muffin papers. Refrigerate and keep in airtight container.

Well that's about it for the last column of the year. Best Christmas wishes to each and everyone who reads this monthly paper, may Santa grant you all your wishes.

Until next year

me



Oak River Legion Branch # 150 Update

The Oak River Legion Branch #150 has been busy during the last few weeks. On Friday, November 7th, 2025, several members of the Oak River Legion attended a Remembrance Service at the Oak River School. The branch has a Remembrance Day annual poster/poem competition and the Oak River School, the Oak River Colony School, and the Westview Colony School entered colored posters, black and white posters, and poems for the different age categories. A monetary award is given to all the students who enter the competition. The Branch's first placed winners from each of the categories are forwarded to our Zone for judging and if they win there they are forwarded to the District. First placed winners are then judged for our District, winners then move on to Provincial judging. All firsts move on to national judging. Members of the Branch handed out the prizes to the students in the Oak River School after the Remembrance Service at the school and then attended Westview Colony and Oak River Colony to hand out the prizes at those schools. First prize winners are as follows: Primary colour poster – Alyssa Oraschuk; Primary Black & White poster – Calvin Kleinsasser; Junior Colour poster – Erika Wurtz; Junior Black & White poster – Silas Kleinsasser; Intermediate Colour poster – Katarina Stahl; Intermediate Black & White Poster – Rachel Stahl; Senior Black & White poster – Kristian Stahl; Junior Poem – Maria Maendel; Intermediate poem – Jacobi Kleinsasser. Congratulations to all our winners! The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would like to thank the schools for enabling their students to take part in the competition and like to thank everyone who came out to the Oak River school to take part in the service.

The Oak River Ladies Auxiliary has a successful tea from 2-3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 7th, 2025. Raffles were held for two gift certificates and the two lucky winners were Brent and Wendi Burt.

On Sunday, November 9th, 2025, the Remembrance Service was held at the Oak River United Church at 9:00 a.m. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 was pleased to have in attendance 4 cadets from the 317 Strathclair Royal Canadian Air Cadets as well as our MLA Greg Nesbitt. Special thanks to Julie Hutton whom lead the service, pianist Allan Hyndman, bugle player Mark Humphries, and Bridget and Nate Stewart for placing the poppies. Comrade Bill Aaroe read the Honour Roll from the First and Second World Wars assisted by Sue Parker. Pinning on the poppies were Bridget and Nate Stewart. Mark Humphries played the Last Post. Following the service, Comrade Gerry Gourlay led the Legion members; the Legion Ladies Auxiliary; and the Cadets carried the wreaths to the cenotaph in front of the Oak River Memorial Hall. Wreaths were laid by Comrade Gerry Gourlay, MLA Greg Nesbitt; R. M. of Oakview Councillor Bill Aaroe and Comrade Kuculym. Refreshments and social time followed in the Memorial Hall.

On Friday, November 14th, 2025, several members of the Oak River Legion #150 attended the Rivers and Area Community Foundation awards evening in the Rivers Legion Hall. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would like to thank the Rivers and Area Community Foundation for their generous grant of \$1,250. to go towards the removal and replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Oak River Memorial Hall. The evening was enjoyed by all that attended.

The Royal Canadian Legion turns 100 in 2026, and the Dominion Executive Council and Provincial Commands have some exciting news to share starting January 5th, 2026. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would love to have new members join our Legion so if you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact Comrade Ivy Heapy for more information.

The First Christmas Present

views are those of the author and not necessarily those of the TIG This is a paid submission

A little snow, some cold temperatures, carols on the radio and tv and we're in the mood for Christmas celebrations. In keeping with my 2025 articles defending the truth of the Bible I would like to pass on some interesting things I've learned recently from a very relaxing book about the Truth of Christmas and how recent archaeology and finer translations of the Greek text of the New Testament prove the Christmas story.

The book is called "Christmas – the rest of the Story" by Rick Renner.

I found my copy on Kobo, but I did see it on Amazon as well. Renner begins with memories of his childhood and how his parents always read the Christmas story from Luke 2 before the children were allowed to open their presents. He felt this was an effective way to teach children where and how the story of Christmas began – with the first Christmas gift – the Son of God who came to earth to save us from our sins.

There is so much to learn from this charming book; I just want to tease you a little with a few facts found in the first couple of chapters. Hopefully this will whet your appetite so that you'll want to read the rest of the book!

Most nativity scenes show Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus in a wooden stable with the child laid in a wooden manger. However given the land on which Bethlehem lay that seems unlikely, Bethlehem was built upon an outcropping of rock. Researchers have learned that in those days the citizens of Bethlehem used the rocky caves of the area for stabling their animals. Inside the numerous caves were found holes bored out of the sides of the cave walls for hitching livestock and below those holes were troughs carved deeply out of the rock walls which were used to hold feed and water for the animals of the town.

One of the most frequent accusations about the historicity or reliability of the Bible stories is a supposed lack of local corroboration. However, in this case there is both. The citizens of Bethlehem knew that Jesus, who was well known to them, had been born in their town and they knew exactly which cave was his birthplace. This became evident as early as 150 AD when famous Christian defender Justin Martyr, who lived only 30 miles from Bethlehem, went to that town and inquired of the residents about the birthplace of Christ and was immediately led to the cave where His birth took place.

A second witness, early church father Origen wrote in 248 AD that many visitors were still able to visit Bethlehem and have the cave pointed out to them.

Josephus (37 AD – 100 AD), the famous Jewish and Roman historian, also wrote about the stone manger in the caves of Bethlehem.

The location was so well known that in 320 AD Helena, the mother of emperor Constantine, travelled to Israel to locate the sites of Jesus' life.

Even then, the people who lived in Bethlehem were still able to identify the cave in which Jesus was born. From that information the first church building was erected over the site of that cave in 326 AD. In 339 AD the now famous Church of the Nativity was dedicated. Over the years it has been expanded and elaborately decorated, but still, even now, a pilgrim or tourist can still go into that Church, descend to the lower level and look through a hole surrounded by a star and see the actual place where Jesus, the first Christmas present, was born.



DRIPS FROM THE TAP



WANTED!

The Rapid City Dragon Hockey team is looking for kids of all ages to come and play hockey this season.

There is a shortage in the 7 and under team and the 11 and up team. Teenager teams are very sparse this year, so if you are interested, please contact Rapidcityhockey@gmail.com. There is a fee, but pay arrangements can be worked out!

REMINDER

The weather has definitely turned colder, but that doesn't mean that the ice on the river is super thick yet. Please put safety first, and wait a little longer before testing out the ice. If the weather stays cold—it won't be too much longer before it is safe to go on the ice!

THANK YOU

A big thanks to the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce and all their helpers who made the Old Fashioned Christmas so much fun!! It is a great way to kick off the December festivities!!

BRAVO!!!

Congratulations to the staff and students of the Rapid City Elementary School on a fantastic Christmas Concert that they put on December 4th at the school. It is a lot of work to put on a concert and two shows in one day make for a very busy day! We sure appreciate all the work and enjoy watching our kids on display!! Thank you for such a great job!

Great job everyone!!!

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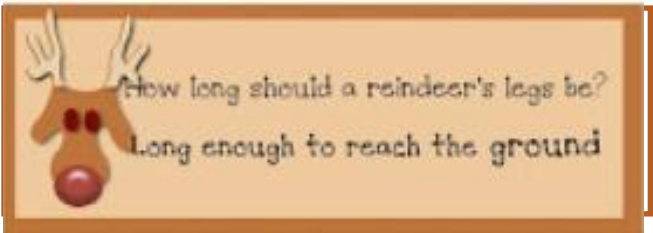


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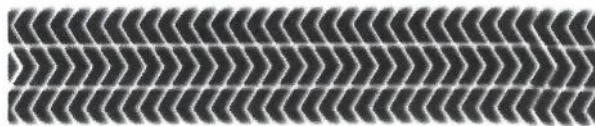
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