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" A Reason for All Seasons"

Recreational Facilities

1) Pool

The facility, located at 220 Lyons Street E. includes a 100 foot waterslide, a zero entry access, a children play pool and a 6 lane, 25 meter swimming pool with a 3 meter diving area. The facility operates during the months of June, July and August and is host to annual swimming lessons and life guard training. Scheduling information is available at the below website or by contacting 204-748-1854 <http://www.vcrc.info/>

2) Virden Wellview Golf Course

Manitoba golf was born in Virden in 1892. As the first golf course in the province, Virden Well View Golf Club is classically designed with wide fairways and deep, windswept grassy roughs. Located just west on Highway #83 and PR#257. In 1995 the Club undertook a long-term rebuilding plan which to date has seen four new greens and even new tee boxes added. The long-range plan is to have all greens replaced and a practice area incorporated into the layout. It is located 1.6 kilometers due west of Virden on Provincial Road # 257. The course is a nine hole course with a maximum regular total yardage of 2913. Special discounts are available for frequent players. The clubhouse provides licensed dining and snack facilities. Golf cart rentals are available during regular tee off hours. Tee Off Hours: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm Contact Number: 204-748-1721

3) Hockey Arena

The hockey arena complex includes an artificial ice surface with a seating capacity of 1800 fans. The facility is operated by the Town of Virden. A full complement of minor and adult ice sports activities is offered through the facility. Rental rates and reservations are available by contacting the Parks and Recreation Manager at 204-748-2440.

4) Curling Arena

The Virden Curling Club is an independent organization. They operate a 4 sheet artificial curling ice arena which is located at 170 Lyons Street E, next to the ice hockey arena and swimming pool.

5) Tennis Courts

The Town of Virden has two outdoor surfaced tennis courts, located in Victoria Park. These are open for use from May to September. Further information is available by contacting the Parks and Recreation Manager at 748-2440

6) Snowmobile Trails

The region has several groomed snowmobile trails. These are maintained by an local independent snowmobile organization, called Virden Valley Runners. Snowmobile Route Maps and further information is available at the following website.

<http://www.snoman.mb.ca/> or by contacting Virden Recreation at 748-2060

7) Four Season's Island Resort

Located approximately 15 miles to the southeast of Virden is Oak lake Beach and Four Season's Island Resort. Further information about Four Season's Island resort can be obtained by going to the below website <http://www.fourseasonslandresort.com/> or by contacting 855-2307

8) Four Season's Golf Course

A developed 18 hole golf course beautifully landscaped.

9) Cottage and Condo Development

The resort includes a cottage development area and a new proposed condo development area.

10) Water and Lake Sports

Oak Lake is known locally for its summer and winter fishing activities. Fish populations are enhanced through the use of a large aeration system during the winter months. The lake also provides water sport enthusiasts a location for water skiing and jet boating.

Campground Facilities

Seasonal and occasional camping spots are available. Fully serviced seasonal camping spots are available including on site wastewater line.

1) Lion's Campground

The Lion's Campground is located on Provincial Road 257, across from Virden Collegiate. There are a total of 32 fully serviced sites and 15 partially serviced sites. In addition there is a separate tenting area. The campground also equipped with modern handicap accessible washrooms and showers. Further information and reservation are available by calling 748-2660 or 748-6393

2) **Eternal Springs**

Eternal Springs is located 7 miles directly east of Virden and includes 2 small stocked trout ponds, a 66 foot swinging bridge, BBQ pits, hiking trails and day use picnic areas. The site is maintained by local volunteers.

3) **Four Seasons Island Resort**

Located 6 miles south of Hwy # 1 on PR # 254, there are 260 camping sites available including C-store. Further information and reservations at Four Season's Island resort can be obtained by going to the below website <http://www.fourseasonsislandresort.com/> or by contacting 855-2307

4) **Aspen Grove**

Located 9 miles east of Virden, Aspen Grove campground offers a heated swimming pool, Laundromat, C-Store, min-golf, washrooms/ showers and serviced camp sites. Additional information or reservations can be made by calling 855-2260

Parks Facilities

1) **Victoria Park**

The entrance to Victoria park is located on 7th Ave. S between Lyons and Lacrosse Streets. The large well treed park includes a War Memorial, bandstand, hard surfaced tennis courts, picnic areas and walking paths.

2) **Centennial Park**

Centennial Park is a picturesque creek side park located on Nelson Street just at the Scallion Creek crossing.

VIRDEN TOURISM HERITAGE BUILDINGS and SITES

Virden is well known for its many restored heritage buildings, dating back to the early 1880s. Architectural styles are varied with most of the heritage being of either fieldstone or brick construction.

Many of the structures are unique in western Canada, in architectural style and purpose. Examples include the Aud Theater, which is unique in style as an example of a restored turn of the century opera house. Another example is St Mary's Anglican Church, whose unique fieldstone construction exemplifies 1800s English style construction using abutments and high pitched roofs.

Virden's unique history as an early railroad center, has also left the community with a central business district, rich with heritage brick buildings, constructed at the turn of the century. Currently the community is beginning to undertake a process to re-establish the turn of the century heritage character to the central business district.

Canadian Pacific Railway Station

Located at 425 - 6th Avenue S, the Canadian Railway Station was constructed in 1900 after the original wood frame station burnt in 1899. It has been restored and declared a heritage building in 1994. It's unique fieldstone and overhanging eaves style was common with many rail stations in larger centers. In the early years, many new immigrant farmers and businessmen would have first disembarked from the train at this location and passed through the doors of this station. Today, it houses many community based organizations including the "Virden and Area Arts Council", the "Virden Chamber of Commerce" and "Kelchris". Also included is an art gallery and a separate board room area.

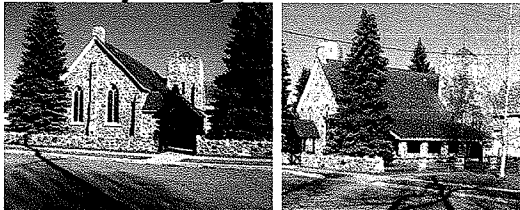
The Aud Theater



The Aud Theatre was built in 1911 as part of the municipal building. The building was open to the public on February 29, 1912. The building consisted of a government telephone exchange room, new court room, three large offices, and the opera house, costing \$32,500.00. The population at this time was about 1500. The Aud Theatre was built by W.T. Manser. The comedy "the Misogynist" was the first to play in the theatre. The Great Eastern Sign Painting Co. of Toronto supplied the 22x30ft curtain. During the 30's and 40's the Aud was a movie theatre. The Ceiling on the stage was originally 40ft high but it was lowered to 24ft to save heat. The building was originally heated by steam which was replaced with electric heat in 1984-85 after the renovation and re-opening in 1983. When the theatre fell into disrepair it closed as a movie theatre and the town council was preparing to demolish it. A local steering committee was formed to save it, and after substantial renovations, it was re-opened in April 1983. The

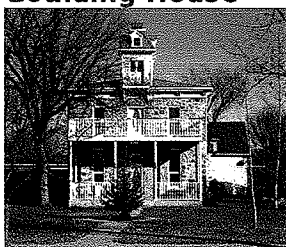
lower level consists of 257 seats and the upper level consists of 210 seats. The majestic curve of the balcony gives the audience a panoramic view of the stage. On either side this are two double decker boxes or loges which add an air of sophistication.

St. Mary's Anglican Church



This structure is a great example of fieldstone construction. Much of the stone for the fieldstone construction came from along the top of the Assiniboine River Valley. The first church was a frame structure built by Clayton & Sons in 1885. This was the first church building in Virden. Masonry work was done by Mr. Saul of Carberry with carpentry done by Mr. Harrington, of Winnipeg. Walter Chesterton a Winnipeg architect designed this notable structure while building the school across the street. The cloister and fence were added in 1952. The church features two stained glass windows created by famous artist and sculptor Leo Mol. The church also features a stained glass medallion window. This window was presented by the city of Brugge, Belgium to honor the 12th Manitoba Dragoons.

Goulding House



Located at 677 - 9th Avenue, it is today a private residence. Built in 1893 by Dr. Goulding, the fieldstone house represents a prime example of early prairie architectural designs with bi-level verandas and upper look out.

Virden Pioneer Home Museum



Located at 390 King Street, and Established in 1970, the museum holds over 6,000 items relating to the Victorian era of Virden's history. The museum itself was constructed in 1888 and the displays depicts a Victorian era home. The museum is open daily from June 1 to August 31 and it is staffed by youth dressed in attire of that era. Staff provide daily interpretive tours of the museum and in August an annual "Museum Day" is held with active displays of crafts such as quilting and yarn spinning.

Fort Montagne a La Bosse

Fort Montagne a La Bosse is one of the most significant historical sites in western Manitoba. Located approximately 2.5 miles directly east of Virden, along the original # 1 Highway, the Fort Montagne a La Bosse site is marked by a cairn which was erected in 1933.

Although it appears there is little left of the historic fort, it played a major role in the expansion of the fur trade to the north west. As one of a series of supply forts for the Northwest Company scattered along the Assiniboine River, it has hosted a list of memorable early explorers and fur traders. It played a role in the Lewis and Clark " Corps of Discovery" exploration tour, as a jumping off point for Northwest Company men who were entrusted with communicating with Lewis and Clark prior to their westward exploration of the United States northwest.

Established in 1790 by the Northwest Company, it was composed of a stockade and several cabins. During the initial years it was the furthest west post within the "Assiniboine Region" and served as the jumping off and supply point for expeditions to the west. It's primary role was one of pemmican supplier for Assiniboine River travelers and for the Red River district in general. This was due to the abundant buffalo which roamed the plains in the region.

In 1804, Fort Montagne a La Bosse was the connecting link for Northwest Company personnel to connect up with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Several letters were passed back and forth through Fort Montagne a La Bosse, between Lewis and Clark and the then Assiniboine District head of the Northwest Company, Charles Chaboillez.

The following is several excerpts form various journals and books.

"One such passage from the manuscript copy of Hannon's journal anticipated, perhaps, the most important of all North American exploratory adventures:"

"November 24, Saturday [1804] A Man arrived from Montagne a la Basse, with a letter from Mr. Chaboillez which informs me that two Captains Clarke & Lewis & one hundred & eighty Soldiers had arrived at the Mandelle [i.e. Mandan] Village on the Missouri [sic] River -- who invite Mr. Chaboillez to go & pay them a visit (which is only a distance of five or Six Days march from where he is). It is said that on their arrival there they hoisted the American Flag and told the Natives that they were not come among them to traffic, but merely to see the Country, and that as soon as the navigation was open they should continue their route across the Rocky Mountains & then down to the Pacific Ocean. They also made the Natives a few trifling presents, as well as repaired their Guns & Axes &c gratis. Mr Chaboillez writes that they behave remarkably honourably towards his people who are there to traffic with the Natives.[12]"

"It appears that the invitation extended to Mr. Chaboillez was accepted; for Sergeant Patrick Gass, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition wintering at the Mandan Village (near the present site of Bismarck, North Dakota), made the following entry in his *A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of A Corps of Discovery* . . . (London, 1808):"

"Sunday 16th [December, 1804] Three of the traders from the N. W. Company came to our fort, and brought a letter to our commanding officers. They remained with us all night. The object of the visits we received from the N. W. Company, was to ascertain our motives for visiting that country, and to gain information with respect to the change of Government.[13]"

Daniel Harmon also wrote:

"**April 10, Wednesday - 1805** - On the 24th Ult. I accompanied by one Man a Horse back sat off for Montagne a la Basse, and when we were arrived there we were not a little surprised to find the Gates shut and about eighty Lodges of Crees & Assiniboins encamped about the Fort, who threatened to massacre all the White People who were in it, and those blood thirsty Savages had the boldness to throw Balls over the Palisades & tell our People to gather them up, as they might probably want them a few Days hence. I after having past several Days there sat off to return home but as I got out of the Fort Gate, three rascally Indians stepped up towards me, one of whom laid hold of my Horses Bridle and stopped my Horse, in saying that he belonged to him and added that he would take him from me. However I told him that he had sold the Beast to Mr. Chaboillez, and he had given him to me, therefore he must go and speak to that Gentleman about the Horse as I had nothing to do with him, but the rascal would not let go of the Bridle, and when I saw that, I gave a pretty good blow with the butt end of my whip on his knuckles and then another to my Horse, which made him spring forward & leave the Indian behind, & so I continued my route. But the villain with one of his companions followed us nearly half of the Day, but after that we saw them no more. On my return I remained four Days at Riviere qui Appelle where I passed my time very agreeably in the company of Messrs. John McDonald & Thomas McMurray (both for the X. Y. Company) and Andrew Poitras - but in leaving that place I had the River to cross, and at that late Season the ice was bad, so much so that my Horse with me upon him fell through twice, and the last time I was very nigh going under the Ice, but kind Providence spared me once more."

J B Tyrrell in 1890 visited the site with most of the fort outline still being visible. Although he gave some conflicting information as to it's location due to misinterpretation of maps most likely, it is generally accepted that the site he visited is the site located 3 miles due east of Virden, on the edge of the Assiniboine Valley, in the RM of Woodworth.

Over the last decade research has been undertaken, to further define this fort as one of earliest in the area. Work is continuing to be done to define the site and to develop a integrated history of it's role in the exploration and expansion into western Canada.

Costume Closet

Locate at 484 6th Avenue S. the costume closet is a unique collection of over 15,000 costume items. The selection is varied from early era evening gowns, to military uniforms, to Halloween costumes. The facility has provided costumes to various local theater productions or school performances and has received donated materials from throughout Canada and the United States.