

The Citizen

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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Elects a New Councillor

■ Nathan Dueck was elected to town council in the by-election on September 14.

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LOCAL NEWS

In Appreciation of Volunteer Firefighters

■ How much do we know about our fire departments? Jacqueline Chartrand unveils the realities of life as a volunteer firefighter.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Synchronized Skating Comes to Niverville

■ This winter, Meghan Rafferty is starting a new synchronized skating program to Niverville.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dressing 'Em Up

■ Get in the Halloween spirit at Dress 'Em Up, Niverville's very own costume shop.

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Imagine Runners Undeterred by Poor Weather

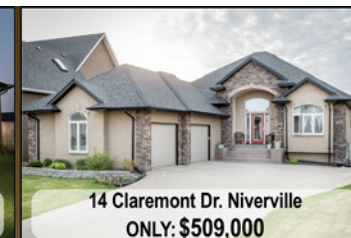
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by CARI OLSCHESKI

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Nathan Dueck Wins Council Seat



NATHAN DUECK
53.8% 278 VOTES



JOHN FALK
33.6% 174 VOTES



LOUISE BILLOWS
12.6% 65 VOTES

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville residents selected a new town councillor in the by-election on September 14. Nathan Dueck won the seat with 278 votes.

John Falk, who had been attempting to regain the seat he vacated earlier this year to run in the provincial election, came in second with 174 votes. Louise Billows fell into third place with 65 votes. Voter turnout is pegged at 19 percent.

"I knew what I had to do, which is introduce myself to the community," Dueck says. "I thought there was only going to be about 20 percent of people voting, so it wasn't surprising. But it was disappointing."

He knocked on hundreds of doors in the two weeks leading up to the vote. "I first went to every single house in The Highlands, and I talked to every single person there—or at least I tried to—and by the time I had gone through Fifth



Nathan Dueck getting sworn in by Chief Administrative Officer Jim Buys.

✉ EVAN BRAUN

Avenue, I was confident in what I wanted to bring to the table. I was confident in terms of what I wanted to do. I think I had a game plan at that point."

Dueck says he had a meeting with Mayor Myron Dyck

shortly after the election to welcome him to council and give him an orientation. Dueck was then sworn in at the regular council meeting held the evening of Tuesday, September 20.

"In the meeting, I was

probably familiar with about 60 percent of the issues," Dueck says of the learning curve. "I think overall the counsellors were really very helpful."

Dueck adds that he will be working hard in the

coming weeks to get himself up to speed. One area which he's particularly eager to engage with is the effort to expand the use of town water. "As far as a benefit to the community, that's going to be massive in terms of just bringing down people's insurance costs. If we can bring down our cost of living by \$300 to \$400 per year just in fire suppressants, that's going to be massive."

After talking to as many people as he could during the campaign, and learning what their concerns were, Dueck wants to encourage people to speak up. His email address is included below.

"Everyone has my email address," he says. "They're more than welcome to use it. They're more than welcome to email me any concerns they have, because it's important to get involved."

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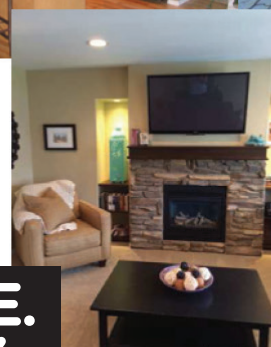
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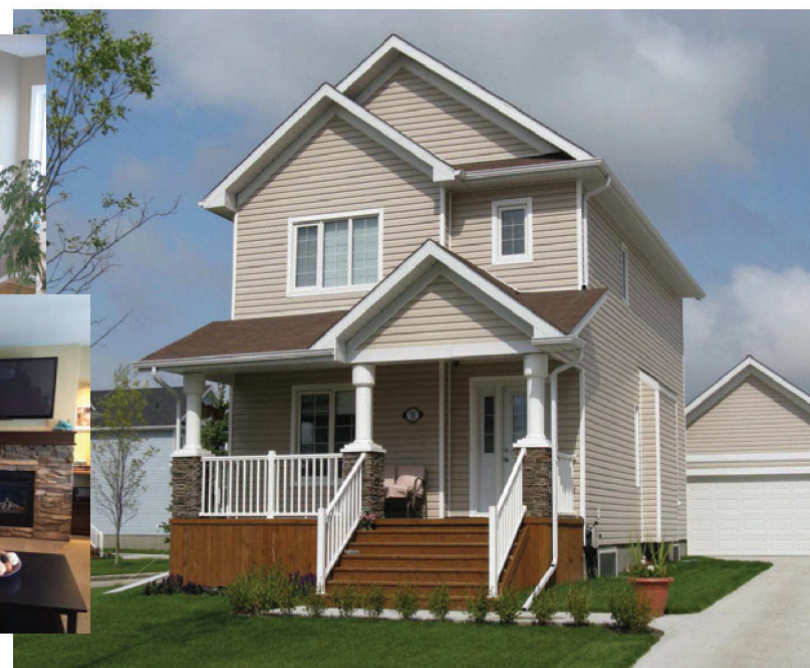
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Riding for a Purpose

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Terry Martin from Niverville has been participating in Ride for Refuge almost since its inception in Kitchener-Waterloo. Although Martin didn't begin riding until 2008, the event's inaugural ride in 2004 was a fresh idea, with just 20 riders raising \$20,000 for a charity called International Teams, which worked with refugees.

"It was actually a friend of mine who decided he would ride his bike," says Martin. "He was working for a mission at the time."

Within a few years, more riders got involved, and by 2008 it had outgrown the original mission and become its own foundation, Blue Sea Philanthropy. Martin says that's when it mushroomed, changing the goal from raising money specifically for refugees to including a host of other charities helping the displaced, the vulnerable, and the exploited. Today, there are dozens of rides across Canada. In 2015, 6,600 riders in 30 locations raised \$2 million for 225 different partner charities.

In the event's 12-year history, the numbers are even more impressive. More than \$10 million has been raised in total for over 300 charities. And every year seems to surpass the year before. This year's national goal is \$2.5 million.

In 2010, instead of making the trip to Kitchener-Waterloo again, Martin decided it was time for Manitoba to have a ride of its own. "That year, we had the first one here in Niverville. We had about 40 people out and we raised about \$6,000. But unknown to me, there was another group in Winnipeg that same year. And I didn't know that. So we joined forces in 2011 and put together a ride team."



Cyclists gather for the 2015 ride.

GLASS FLOOR MEDIA

The 2011 ride had about 125 riders raising \$60,000.

"We were pumped," says Martin. "For a first year, that was really good. And then it's just grown. Last year, we had 260 participants who raised \$124,000. This year, we're poised to come close to 500 participants and we hope to raise \$145,000."

It's not just riders, he clarifies. Last year, they added a walk as well. The goal has been to make the family-friendly event as inclusive as possible, regardless of a person's age or fitness level. Martin says that's one of the things that makes Ride for Refuge so unique.

"There are kids there riding wee little bikes, there are kids along in pull-along bikes, there are retired people riding cruising bikes, people walking... it's for everybody," Martin says. "And then there's some really avid cyclists, too, that will do the 50K."

One of the best parts of the ride for Martin is seeing such a diverse range of participants—parents with kids in tow, people in wheelchairs, seniors, and so on. "A fond, vivid memory I have from last year was watching a person with

mobility challenges cross the finish line on crutches with a huge smile as everyone around cheered. The person looked so proud and special."

This year, the ride will begin at the Covenant Christian Reformed Church, at the north end of Gateway in North Kildonan. There are three different routes available—a 10K, 25K, and 50K. The 10K route follows a bike path that proceeds down Gateway, the 25K route goes up into East St. Paul to the Bird's Hill area, and the 50K takes riders all the way to Lockport. The walk option is 5K and follows the Bunn's Creek trail.

"The way this event works is that charities can partner with Ride for Refuge and they become partner charities," Martin explains. "Partner charities put teams into the ride, and those teams go out and get sponsors. After it's all over, the charity gets a grant of up to 80 percent of what the team has raised."

To be a partner charity, you have to apply and be approved by the organization. "The ride is for raising funds for the displaced, vulnerable, and exploited. That's sort of the roadway,

so to speak, and any charity that works with those groups of people can be a partner in the ride."

Martin's charity is Rising Above. Not only will Martin's team be raising money for Rising Above, but it's the host charity for the whole event. That means Rising Above has the responsibility to plan the event and bear the organizing costs, which is where sponsors come in. This year, Rising Above's financial sponsors are Wm. Dyck & Sons, Qualico Homes, Funk's Toyota, Hulls Bookstore, Niverville Credit Union, Lakeview Insurance Brokers, and Valleywest Landscaping. Rest stop hosts are Concordia Church of God and Oakbank Baptist Church. Woodcock Cycle and CHVN Radio will provide ride day support, and the Clarence Braun & Wesley Dowse Realty Town has donated lunch.

"Rising Above helps aboriginal people heal and rise above abuses," Martin says of his ministry, "so that they can come to experience life, identity, and purpose as they were created to. That's our mission statement."

The ministry does this through conferences and workshops which draw people together who have been affected by abuse, such as in residential schools. They also have a counselling centre in Thunder Bay that's open every day.

Martin is counting down the days to this year's ride. "The day is just exhilarating," he says. "I just get such a charge out of it, seeing all these people come together, riding for one purpose. They're from many different charities, but really there's something that unites them all—and that's really cool."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.canada.rideforrefuge.org/location/winnipeg

IN BRIEF

Ritchot Celebrates Volunteerism at Annual Event

By Lesley Gaudry

The third Municipality of Ritchot Volunteer Appreciation Evening on September 27, held at the Farm and Food Discovery Centre in Glenlea, was a great success. With over 100 volunteers representing 20 organizations in the municipality, the evening provided an opportunity for local volunteers to share stories and socialize with their fellow residents.

Locally sourced appetizers included rosemary chicken skewers, roasted vegetable tart with Bothwell cheese, bison-stuffed mushrooms, goldeye fritters, vanilla bean mousse stuffed strawberries, and roasted hemp seed truffles. Local craft beers from Torque, Half Pints, and Fort Garry were available for sample, as well as four different wines. Manitoba singer Rheanne Gagnon performed some acoustic sets that had the crowd clapping and singing along.

The Farm and Food Discovery Centre, an extension of the University of Manitoba Agriculture Department Glenlea Research Station, hosts programs, special events, school tours, and is also a meeting venue.

The municipality thanked all volunteers for their hard work and dedication to make Ritchot a better place.

The oldest volunteer at the event was 83, and the youngest was nine. The volunteers represented groups from recreation and playground groups, to a French language group, to a health-based fitness group, to firefighters, to seniors clubs, and everything in between.

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Roger Perron directing the tree-planters.

CHANTALE LECOCQ

Île-des-Chênes Students Go Tree-Planting

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On September 20, a group of Grade 7-8 students from the Île-des-Chênes school spent the morning planting trees at the TransCanada Centre. The trees were planted directly north of the TransCanada Centre and the Île-des-Chênes Arena.

"This space is very open and there is no protection from wind or snow," says Roger Perron, Director of the TransCanada Centre. "The 110-children daycare that has space in the TransCanada Centre often utilizes this green space for their activities. These trees will provide some protection from the elements and, in due course, shade."

Perron adds that when the

trees are larger, people who rent the TransCanada Centre for weddings, socials, and other events can use the space to take photos.

In total, 285 trees were planted in two and a half hours. All the holes had been dug in advance. The project had the support of the RM of Ritchot and Hometown Manitoba's tree-planting program.

"The real highlight is how enthused the students were in helping out," says Perron. "They were happy to be out of school [and] we had a great sunny day temperature around 20°C."

As a thank you for their work, each of the 47 participating students received a pair of gardening gloves from the TransCanada Centre, as well as a free lunch donated by

Chicken Chef in Lorette.

"I think it's very important to get kids involved in community service," says Chantale Lecocq, a teacher whose French Immersion class participated in the event. "It gives them a sense of pride in their community and also a sense of responsibility for it. It also makes them feel proud of themselves. At the same time, it teaches the students skills they won't normally learn at school and might not learn at home either."

Lecocq notes that Grade 7-8 students from the school also volunteer at the monthly senior luncheon held at the TransCanada Centre. They serve food and drinks, and help with cleanup afterward.

Donate Your Tabs, Help Change a Life

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Every year, Tabs for Wheelchairs collects and recycles tabs from drink cans and uses the proceeds to purchase a specialized wheelchair for someone in need. In June 2016, a wheelchair was presented to Jessica Rempel, who was born with spina bifida and nerve damage to her lower spine. The wheelchair is helping Jessica to live a more independent life.

Next year's recipient, Delaney Kolowca, is a Grade 10 student at St. Boniface Diocesan High School who has Gorlin syndrome, a genetic

condition that increases a person's risk of developing tumours. At the age of 12, Delaney had 17 jaw tumours removed. The following year, more than 120 skin cancer spots were removed.

Delaney was also born with scoliosis, which affects the curvature of the spine. After an unsuccessful surgery on November 10, 2014, she became paralyzed from the mid-chest down and spent nine months at the Children's Hospital. Receiving a wheelchair will greatly improve her mobility.

Many local schools and businesses accept tab donations throughout the year,

including Niverville Elementary School, Country Snacks, Niverville Bigway, Gabrielle-Roy in Île-des-Chênes, Ecole Île-des-Chênes, and Ecole St. Adolphe.

Tabs for Wheelchairs is also supported by St. Boniface Bag, which supplies them with tab bags free of charge; Reimer Express Lines, which transports the tabs; and Western Scrap Metals, which recycles and purchases the metal.

Tabs for Wheelchairs is operated by Holy Cross School in Winnipeg as part of its community outreach program.

Growing Hope

Local producers are partnering with national charities and urban donors to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

By Eric Peterson

A local initiative is bringing together urban dwellers and farmers to help ease suffering half a world away.

This year marks the second season for the Grow Hope Project, a unique effort of the Mennonite Central Committee, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Artel Farms of Niverville to take on the refugee crisis in Syria.

The Grow Hope Project is a community growing project with a difference. Rather than simply bringing together producers to grow food for the needy, Grow Hope seeks to involve city folks.

"The Grow Hope Project started last year," explains MCC volunteer Ed Barkman. "It grew around the notion of growing projects being typically farmer-driven. The Grow Hope model involves urban people giving input cash."

Grant Dyck, whose family owns and operates the 14,000-acre Artel Farms, was a driving force behind the project. Dyck says the idea has been marinating for years.

"The Canadian Foodgrains Bank has always been a part of our farm," explains Dyck. "My father was part of it. My uncle helped start it. They offer the most efficient use of resources with regards to the sustainability of food aid."



EVAN BRAUN

Barkman explains the project and why it has so much potential to make a difference in the parts of the world where this type of aid is most needed. "The money is raised primarily by urban folks, given to the farmer at \$300 an acre. Grant grows and sells the crop and all the money goes into a donation. If they can sell it at something close to \$500 an acre, that \$300 donation becomes a \$500 donation. Then with the government matching it becomes up to \$1,500."

In 2015, MCC applied the funds raised to a number of needy regions worldwide.

"The idea didn't originally target any particular country, region, or disaster," Barkman says. But this year, with the Syrian refugee crisis so top of mind, he says it made sense to concentrate efforts there. "The money is sent to Syria

and neighbouring countries where displaced Syrians go, by supporting people displaced with the hope they may be able to stay there and eventually go home."

In 2015, wheat was the project's crop of choice. This year it was soybeans.

Dyck and company have a system in place that ensures donors see the highest return for their gift. "We call it first fruit. We use the highest average yield for that crop from the farm." That way, the project is protected against the possibility of an underperforming field.

Dyck also points out that even though the bean crop came off in late September, there's still time to support the project. "I'd like to keep it open for people until November 15," he says. "The beans aren't all sold until December, so people can still sponsor an acre if they

want."

David Turner, Communications Coordinator for MCC Manitoba, says people like Barkman and Dyck are the heart and soul of the Grow Hope Project.

"A lot of the initiative for this came from Grant," says Turner. "The volunteers have put so much energy and enthusiasm into this."

If you know Grant Dyck, you won't be surprised to learn that his enthusiasm is only increasing and he sees a big future for the endeavour. Dyck points out that the initiative spread to two farms in Ontario and one in Saskatchewan this year, but he's not willing to stop there.

"I'd like to see this really ramp up, where you'd drive down the TransCanada Highway and see the signs everywhere," he says. "If this is well received and people are interested, the sky's the limit. We could do 10,000 acres across the country."

Dyck will consider including corporate donors in the future and involving both rural and Winnipeg schools in a way that would allow students to learn about agriculture and the world they live in at the same time.

"We're bridging the urban/rural gap," summarizes Dyck. "For a good cause."

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One Big Day for Imagine

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Imagine Mental Health Matters is quickly becoming a household phrase in Niverville, and that's exactly what this not-for-profit organization is after. What better way to eliminate the stigma attached to mental illness than to get everyone talking about it?

On Wednesday, September 21, the Imagine team attempted something altogether different to get people talking. They involved the community in their fundraising and anti-stigma efforts by hosting One Big Day for Imagine.

The all-day event began at 9:00 a.m. on the Niverville Credit Union parking lot where community "celebrities" were individually hoisted to the top of a 40-foot boom on a scissor lift donated by Peak Renovations. Armed with only a cell phone, each participant was given an opportunity to contact family, friends, and neighbours to make the necessary donations to



Ferd Klassen and Imagine founder Mona Stott.

© JAZMIN DOBSON

get them down again. The catch? Each donator could decide whether their financial contribution would send the participant higher, bring them down, or spin them around.

"I think the funniest part of the day was when Denver Wieler pledged for Willie [Schroeder] and took it upon himself to give Willie a shake up in the boom," says Jazmin

Dobson of the Imagine team.

Local celebrities who came forward to face their fear of heights included Carl Fast, Willie Schroeder, Clare Braun, John Schmitke, Keith Bueckert, Ferd Klassen, and Niverville mayor Myron Dyck. Though each participant managed to bring in hundreds of dollars in donations,

Ferd Klassen took the lead with a whopping \$3,500 raised.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness and offset the \$30,000 costs of the Imagine Run held every year at Hespeler Park. Onsite to promote the event were Country 107.7, Mix 96, AM1250, and CHVN radio stations.

Approximately 200 people attended the Main Street event, enjoying cinnamon buns and coffee donated by Slice of Life and a barbecue lunch donated by Wm. Dyck & Sons and Bigway Foods. Anya's Hair Studio donated all of the proceeds from their morning's business to Imagine while Niverville Chicken Chef donated \$5 from every large pizza sold. At the end of the day, the Imagine team raised \$11,000 in support of mental health and suicide prevention.

"We are amazed and overwhelmed," says Dobson. "We did not advertise much, as we weren't sure of the response we would receive."

Imagine Runners Undeterred by Poor Weather

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

For the ninth year running, Imagine Mental Health Matters drew crowds to Hespeler Park for a day of family fun with a sombre theme: there is no shame when it comes to mental health struggles and suicide is preventable.

On September 24, approximately 300 people of all ages weathered the spats of rain and high humidity to join the Imagine team for a five-kilometre run or walk. A portion of the running

course is called the Lonely Mile, an emotionally charged stretch lined with placards bearing the names of friends and loved ones who have lost their fight with mental illness.

The Imagine event continues to gain notoriety in the southeast as a safe place to talk about hard issues. Year after year people show up in clusters, donning personalized shirts imprinted with the faces of loved ones who died of suicide.

"The event [is always] an emotional experience," says Jazmin Dobson, event coordinator. "People mourn their lost loved ones, and

embrace their own journey. In that sense, the event [is] a huge success."

Believing that mental health and suicide affects all ages, Imagine has worked hard to create a family-friendly day with bouncy castles, midway rides, a kids show with an anti-bullying message, and a wholesome line-up of stage musicians and comedians.

The mental health awareness event was backed, as always, by outstanding sponsors and volunteers.

"A big thanks goes to the Westman wrestlers," says Dobson. "They spent the whole day with us [and]

did a great job with a smile on their face. Crystal Springs' barbeque was absolutely delicious. They did an amazing job as they always do."

Without question, the Imagine team are achieving what they set out to do nine years ago.

"Every time I am somewhere and representing Imagine, everyone is so open and willing to talk about their own struggles and experiences, and that's exactly what we're going for," adds Dobson. "We need to normalize the discussion of mental health."

IN BRIEF



Prov Throws Biggest Welcome Week

When students arrived for the fall semester of Providence University College, they were treated to the biggest Welcome Week celebration in the school's history. The five-day event featured numerous free games and contests, including Giant Battleship, Giant Kerplunk, Bubble Soccer, and Bouncy Jousting. The City Harmonic played a concert on Friday, following a block party and barbecue.

The annual Welcome Banquet took place on Saturday, September 3, and on Monday students and staff drove to Winnipeg to take in a Goldeyes baseball game.

"It feels like Christmas Eve!" said Leshia Knopf, Director of Student Development at Providence in the lead-up to the event. "We have so many exciting events planned for Welcome Week and are eager to finally get the fun started."

Classes began Tuesday, September 5.



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Senior and Junior Wellness

Exam and Bloodwork

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Infections

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Senior Wellness

For Pets Over Age 7

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Canine Kennel Cough

What is it? And what you can do about it

“Kennel Cough” is a blanket term used to refer to the most prevalent upper respiratory disease in dogs. Also known as infectious tracheobronchitis, there are many organisms involved. It is a highly infective disease found worldwide and infects a high number of dogs each year.

The causes of kennel cough may be viral (e.g. parainfluenza virus), bacterial, or a combination of both. The most common bacterial agent isolated from dogs with tracheobronchitis is the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. Viruses have been generally thought to be the initial invaders, producing inflammation of the respiratory tract which makes invasion by bacteria such as *Bordetella* possible. However, studies of *Bordetella* virulence have shown that *Bordetella* organisms can attach and invade without any viral coinfection.

Signs can occur anywhere from 2 -14 days after exposure. The signs are usually a dry, hacking cough with retching or gagging. There may also be nasal discharge. Most pets continue to eat and drink, but the disease may progress to lethargy, inappetence, fever and pneumonia.

Direct contact with an infected dog is the most common cause. However, if a dog coughs or sneezes, the causative organisms can be carried home on an inanimate object. **Plus, *Bordetella* may continue to be shed by dogs anywhere from 6 to 14 weeks after signs of the disease have resolved.**

Basically, all dogs. Those with frequent contact with other dogs (dog parks, groomers, doggy daycare, obedience classes, boarding kennels) are more likely to come in contact with the disease. High risk groups include dogs with compromised immune systems such as puppies, older or sick dogs, or dogs on certain medications (e.g. steroids). These dogs are more at risk of developing the severe forms of the disease. **Did you know that *Bordetellosis* in dogs, cats, and other animals may be zoonotic (transferrable to humans) or an opportunistic infection? Several reports have documented human infection associated with suppressed immune systems.**

Normally the clinical signs will resolve within 7-10 days. However, most owners bring their pets in to get help to alleviate the cough and make their pet more comfortable. Both dogs and owners may become sleep-deprived from the constant coughing. If your pet has a decrease in appetite, becomes lethargic or a cough that persists, it is important to have them evaluated by a veterinarian. There are other diseases that can cause your dog to cough and your veterinarian is the best source to determine this.

Remember, there are many causes for kennel cough. Vaccines against some of the viral causes of kennel cough are part of your dog's core vaccines. At Sage Creek Animal Hospital, we have made *Bordetella* immunization part of your dog's core vaccines. It is an annual vaccine that will help to protect your dog against the most common causative agent of kennel cough. It is available as an injectable, oral or intranasal vaccine and the route is determined by your veterinarian.

No vaccine is 100%, but by giving your dog the *Bordetella* vaccine, you reduce its risk of developing serious illness, reduce the severity and duration of clinical signs and protect other pets that may be part of the high risk groups.

IN BRIEF

Hanover Reappoints Board Chair

On September 6, the board of the Hanover School Division reappointed Ron Falk as Board Chair and Rick Peters as Vice Board Chair for another year-long term. The decision was reached during a trustee vote at a public board meeting.

Falk was first elected as a trustee in 1992, representing Steinbach, and has served as Board Chair from 2002–2008, and then again from 2014 to the present. Peters was first elected to the board in 2014, representing Grunthal, and has been serving as Vice Chair since 2015.



Construction at Shell/Tim Horton's site. RAY DOWSE

Shell/Tim Horton's Opening Delayed

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

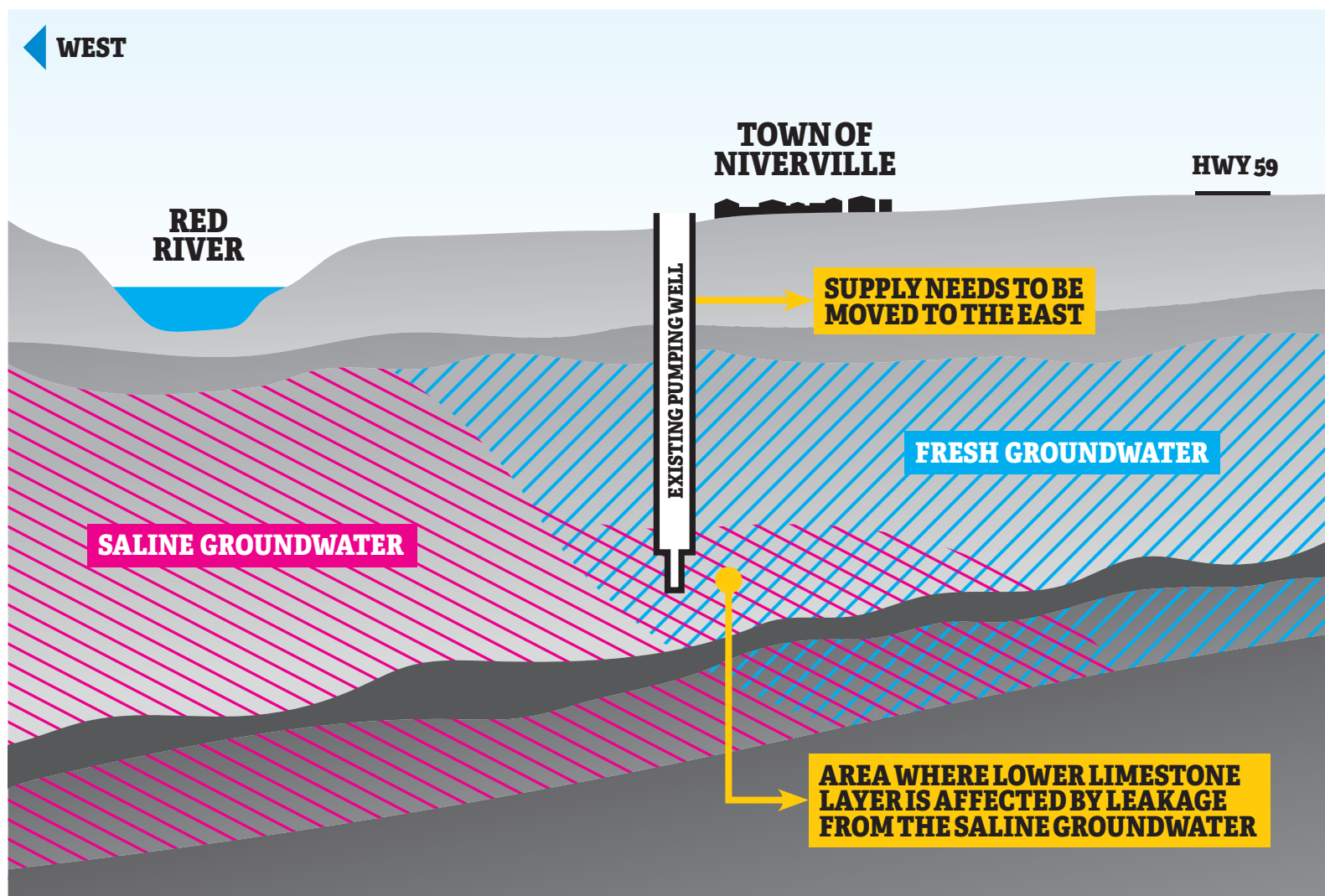
It was announced in June that Niverville will soon be getting its own Shell gas bar and attached Tim Horton's restaurant at the corner of Highway 311 and Krahn Road, in front of The Highlands subdivision. Construction has been underway throughout the summer.

Miguel Forest, who will own the building and operate the Shell station, initially estimated that the businesses would be open on December 1. That date has since been pushed back a few weeks.

"Tim's wants to open December 1, but that won't happen," says Forest. "The holdup will be getting power to the site. Hydro won't be ready for the beginning of December."

Forest says the new plan is to be open by the end of December. All of the underground construction is to be complete by October 8 to maintain quality of the work before the cold weather arrives. However, Forest acknowledges that many factors could come into play to change this plan.

A franchisee has been selected to operate the Tim Horton's, although no names have yet been announced.



The Search for a



BRENDA
SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

An informational open house was held on September 22 at the Niverville Heritage Centre to inform Niverville and surrounding area residents about the process of locating a new water supply to sustain the needs of this growing community.

Hosting the event were Friesen Drillers Ltd. of Steinbach and Landmark Planning & Design Inc. (LP&DI) of Winnipeg, contracted by the Town of Niverville to perform the studies required to locate a new well site. Professionals from both companies were onsite to answer questions and alleviate any concerns the community may have going forward.

Earlier this summer, town council shared concerns about the existing wells which supply the Spruce Drive treatment



Niverville's water treatment facility at Spruce and 5th Avenue.

NATALIE BATKIS

plant, in turn supplying water to The Highlands, Fifth Avenue Estates, and Prairie Crossings. On numerous occasions, it became apparent that the existing wells were not able to keep up with growing demand, resulting in council's request to residents to alternate lawn-watering days.

"The initial wells constructed in 2002 were designed for a very small subdivision," says Jeff Bell,

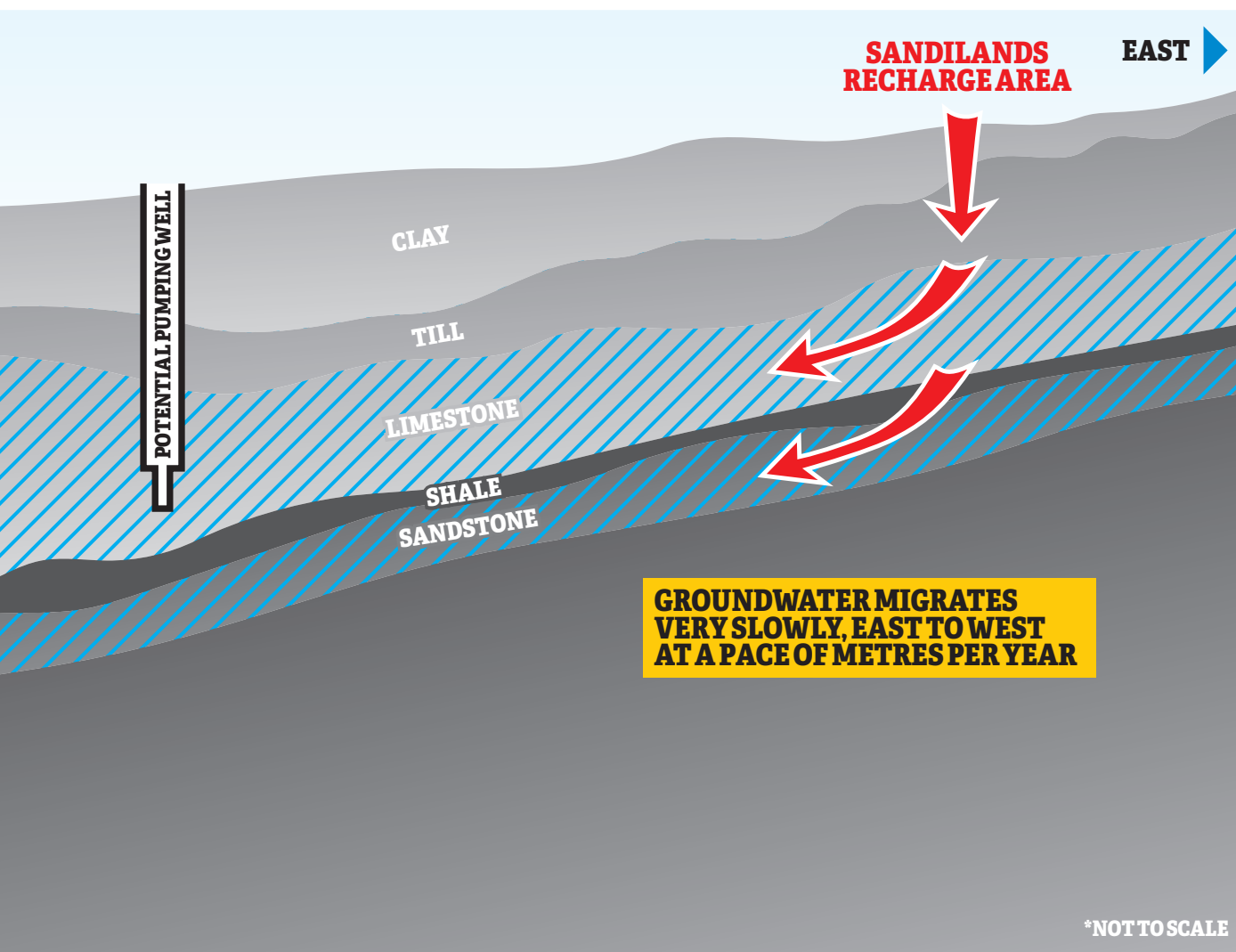
hydrogeological engineer for Friesen Drillers. "I am certain that no one [back then] was sure how things would work and how fast things would develop. When [residential growth occurred], the wells began to pump at higher rates. Unfortunately for the site, the wells encountered large sand-filled sinkholes in the limestone bedrock. When pumping at lower volumes, the sand did not lift. When

pumped at higher volumes, the sand began to lift, creating treatment and turbidity problems."

Apart from sandy sinkholes beneath us, a second problem lies in the salinity (dissolved salt content) of the underground water directly beneath and to the west of Niverville. The closer to the Red River, the higher the salinity. Fresh water appears in greater abundance to the east, providing cleaner options.

"West of Niverville, the carbonate aquifer becomes saline naturally," says Bell. "This is very old water that was forced into the formation many years ago. To the east, freshwater is recharged into the aquifer from the Sandilands area. This is why we need to go east for a water supply of a high capacity for Niverville."

In terms of individual homeowner wells, Bell says there is no problem pumping from the aquifer beneath us. "It might be just fine to pump lower volumes [as is the case



Water Supply

with wells that service just a few homes], but when we are talking of pumping larger volumes for a town, we need to go where the aquifer offers the freshest water supply.”

For this reason, a target study area has been established east of Highway 59 and several miles north and south of Highway 311. The study area shows promise based on existing wells in the area that are providing quality water both at low-volume and high-volume demand and without disturbing agriculture.

The study, expected to be completed by fall of next year, includes applying for groundwater exploration permits, completing a test drilling program, assessing the effects both to the quality of the new well and existing wells, preparing reports and license applications, and finally construction if the tests prove positive and licenses are granted.

Since early summer, LP&DI have been meeting with stakeholders—homeowners and landowners, rural municipality councils, and others in and

around the proposed testing area—to educate on the process and gain permission to proceed.

“We’ve had excellent participation—over 90 percent—and solid feedback from residents and landowners in the study area,” says Donovan Toews of LP&DI. “None have suggested that we should not conduct our research in order to determine if there is a reliable and sustainable water source in the area. Most have expressed appreciation for the method of consultation thus far. We

have committed to ongoing sharing of our findings as we move along.”

Because the process will take time, LP&DI recommend interim solutions to the Town of Niverville in managing their existing water supply. These include making technical adjustments to treatment to reduce fine particles in the water, making no new connections to the existing supply, eliminating cyclical (start-stop) pumping for now, and implementing conservation measures.

CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

What should be the priority when it comes to town water with the knowledge that the well currently supplying water to Niverville, built in 2002, was designed for a small subdivision and is no longer sufficient to meet the community's growing needs?

- ☐ **A** - Put a hold on any expansion to town water, including new development, until a long-term water solution has been established.
- ☐ **B** - Push forward with the initiative to expand town water, but implement more conservation measures, like alternating lawn-watering days.
- ☐ **C** - Have another opinion? Tell us what you think!

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

What do you think about the province's decision in 2014 to decline Niverville and Hanover's joint annexation proposal due to its scope, leading to the scaled-down version that has now been approved?

A - The larger annexation proposal was more forward-thinking. Now Niverville will be forced to grow in piecemeal fashion, and the industrial park is still too disconnected from the rest of the community.

80%

B - The province had a good rationale for limiting the town's expansion. It's important to keep agricultural land agricultural.

16%

C - Have another opinion? Tell us what you think!

4%

SOME OF YOUR COMMENTS:

Resubmit under the new government. If it's forward thinking, it definitely doesn't fit the NDP

Niverville is one of the fastest growing communities in the country. Census backs this up. The province needs to be nimble with these types of circumstances and our MLA needs to do more than smack talking the former government and stand up for his constituency. I support the new multiplex whole-heartedly. Our town needs this for the youth.



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Heaps of Dreeps.

DUSTIN KRAHN

Heaps of Fundraising

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

This year marked the third annual Heaps of Dreeps fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The fundraiser, which took place on September 10, is held in remembrance of Drew Cook, who passed away suddenly in 2013 from a heart condition he didn't know he had.

Ashley Humphrey, Cook's widow, started and has run the event all three years, but she didn't initially know if it would still happen in 2016. However, thanks to many local business donations a few weeks before the event, the event came together.

"The setup was better this year than last," says Humphrey, "and even though there were a lot more people attending last year, we raised the same amount of money. So that was awesome to see! The fireworks this year were the best by far!"

As with previous events, music is the glue that binds the event together.

"The Heaps of Dreeps stage has been a highlight every year," says Evan St. Cyr, the event's music coordinator, "where a large group of friends in the music scene collaborate to perform in a variety of genres to put on over a 12-hour show. From indie to sultry, country to hip hop, rock to folk to EDM [electronic dance music], and everything in between. All the musicians generously donate their time and performance, which helps this fundraiser party to continue. An amazing day and night of musical entertainment is put on all for a great cause."

One week after the event, Humphrey dropped off a cheque totaling \$12,355 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. If all goes well, there will be a fourth fundraiser next year.



Future location of NCU's Steinbach branch.

NIVERVILLE CREDIT UNION

Niverville Credit Union Opening New Branch

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Credit Union (NCU) is expanding its reach, opening its first branch in Steinbach. The new branch will be located in the Penfeld Professional Centre at 150 Penfeld Drive directly behind the Smith, Neufeld, Jodoin Law Office on Highway 12, on the site of the old Birchwood Funeral Chapel.

"Niverville Credit Union has decided to take this step in order to better serve our growing member base in the Steinbach area and to participate in [its] future growth,"

says Ken Rempel, CEO of NCU.

Rempel says that Steinbach's trading area serves a population of 50,000 people and the city of Steinbach is experiencing exponential growth similar to that of Niverville. The Penfeld Professional Centre was chosen, in part, because the centre is currently home to a service sector well-suited to NCU's financial services, including real estate, legal, and insurance firms.

"Upon completion of the Steinbach branch, Niverville Credit Union will have locations in the three main growth areas of south-eastern Manitoba, those being

Niverville, Steinbach, and the communities of Landmark and Lorette, which are served by our Landmark branch," says Rempel.

The NCU was first established in 1949 as the Niverville Credit Union Society Ltd. and had 23 members subscribed for a total of \$150.75 in shares. At its inception, the maximum any member was allowed to loan was \$100. Since its beginnings in an office in a B/A (gas) station on Main Street, NCU has relocated to its own building and undergone several expansions. In its 65 years of business, NCU has grown from 23 members to 7,500. Total shares

have grown from \$150 to \$250 million.

According to Rempel, the process of opening NCU's new Steinbach branch includes finalizing the layout and blueprints, finalizing technology investments, and staffing, all of which are well underway. Approximately 2,800 square feet of space in the Penfeld Professional Centre will be dedicated to NCU.

The opening of the Steinbach branch is expected to take place sometime this winter.



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For **Schools and Daycares**: Friday full-day workshop in Oct., Nov., and Dec.
Managing Behaviour, Positive Behaviour Strategies, Understanding Diagnoses, and more!

Special group for **Foster Parents** or those looking to become Foster Parents:
Meets every Wednesday afternoon from Oct. 12-Dec. 14

Manitobans to Walk for Freedom in October

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

The third annual A21 Walk for Freedom will make its way around the world on October 15. The global event will include more than 250 walks in 39 countries, raising awareness for the 27 million victims of human trafficking. The Winnipeg walk, which is hosted by Mary-Clara Saunders from Niverville, is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. and will be held at the Polo Park mall.

A21, established in 2007, is a worldwide non-profit committed to abolishing human trafficking in the twenty-first century. The Walk for Freedom is their collective effort to heighten awareness of modern-day slavery and raise funds in order to implement what they refer to as their 4P Paradigm: prevention, through awareness and education; protection, for victims through restorative programs; prosecution, by pursuing justice; and

partnership, by aligning with people and agencies that have a like-minded passion.

Human trafficking is a global reality that affects every continent and economic structure. A21 Winnipeg is looking for both volunteers and walkers to take part in this year's event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A21winnipeg@gmail.com

New Fire Hall Considered for Ste. Agathe

By Eric Peterson

A proposal to construct a new fire hall in Ste. Agathe is gaining momentum. The council of the RM of Ritchot, at its October 4 meeting, will consider a proposal to borrow \$2.5 million to pay for the construction of the fire hall and the purchase of a fire truck, plus associated fire-fighting equipment and training. The loan would be repaid over a period of 20 years.

Jackie Smith, Ritchot's mayor, says a public meeting about the fire hall on September 14 demonstrated support for the project. "The feedback from the CAO is that there were no objections," says Smith. "Before we go to the effort, we had to make sure people were happy being asked to fund it."

Smith says plans for the fire

hall have been in the works for a while. Meetings were held last winter for the purpose of recruiting volunteer firefighters, and the response was encouraging.

"We are looking for about 15 to 20 volunteers per hall," says Smith, while adding that bigger numbers are needed because many volunteers may work in the city and have trouble responding quickly. "We need to know enough people will show up for calls."

Smith says the new fire hall is just a matter of meeting the evolving needs of the municipality. "The town has expanded. The industrial park has expanded and there are plans to expand it further. We have two grain terminals. We have the hemp oil facility. We have to make sure we are

able to respond timely and efficiently for our ratepayers."

Before plans can go ahead, the proposed borrowing bylaw will have to pass three readings. Once approved, however, most of the plans are in place to move quickly.

The new fire hall will be built on municipal land north of Highway 305 and east of the service road on the west edge of Ste. Agathe.

For Smith, there's reason for optimism that the new fire hall could be up and running by the end of next year. "We have the land. We have an idea of the building we want. It sounds like we are going ahead. Now it's just the red tape."

The RM of Ritchot currently has two fire halls in operation, one in St Adolphe and one in Île-des-Chênes.

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Nathan Dueck

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Thank you to all the citizens that went out and voted. I wanted to thank personally my family, friends, and people that directly supported our cause in the campaign. I look forward to serving you as your elected town official.

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Community Builders: Mona Stott

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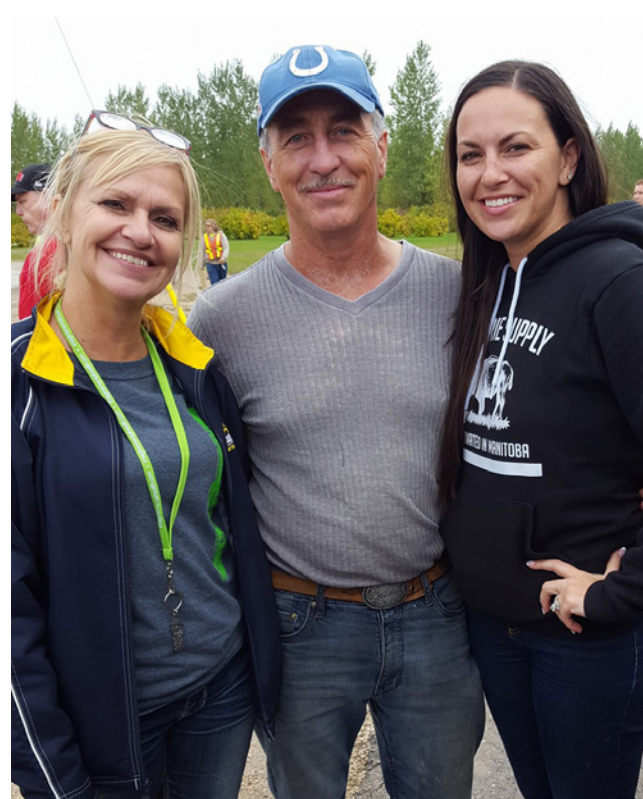
By Clarence Braun

As I sit down to write this story, I feel challenged. How do you share the story of loss, of the pain of losing your precious child, in a way that honours their journey? How do you convey the emotion and passion in a way that empowers us as opposed to making us feel like victims when tragedies occur?

It's easier to tell the stories of people who have passed on having lived long lives and mostly completed their journeys. More difficult are the stories of raw emotion and grief. When it comes to the Imagine Run, you cannot talk about the success without first having a conversation about the pain and impact of mental illness within our communities.

Mona Aubin Stott, the youngest of six children, was born in St. Adolphe. Even as a child, she was aware that her mother struggled with mental illness. Mona recalls that her mother was hospitalized on numerous occasions in psychiatric wards. Shock treatments were used and medicine was prescribed. The medical profession was still learning how to deal with patients in mental crisis.

Unlike cancer, heart disease, or other physical disorders, mental illness was the ailment that people, for the most part, did not talk about. As a child growing up, I heard the Low German phrase "narfa troble," which described a person who seemed physically healthy but had a hidden malady.



Mona and Jeff Stott, with daughter Danielle.

© JAZMIN DOBSON

Mona married Jeff Stott in 1980 at the age of 17. They were blessed with two children, the oldest being Danielle and the second a son named Joey. Mona speaks of the difficulties of getting married at a young age, of having two children before she was 20, and of experiencing financial strains on the family farm.

In 1987, in the middle of the above pressure, Jeff attempted suicide, and it was Mona and her young daughter who were there to rescue him. Just as in her own family, she and Jeff never shared their story

and this was kept as quiet as possible. After all, what would people say when they heard that a vibrant, well-respected family in the community was dealing with something so stigmatic as a suicide attempt?

That tragedy was to be relived on June 17, 2007, when the reality of mental illness visited this family in an unimaginable way. On that evening, Joey attempted to take his own life. Though found and rushed to the hospital, he did not survive. Heartbreakingly, his funeral took place on his twenty-fifth birthday.

This time, there would no silence. They could not pretend like it hadn't happened.

Through the coming years and months, Mona and Jeff came to see and understand the value of sharing their journey. That November, Mona held the first Imagine Run, a marathon in Winnipeg. Mona's heart and passion to bring awareness to mental health issues grew stronger, and over the years Imagine has grown and thrived.

The Imagine Run is now held every September in Niverville, attracting thousands of people and impacting others far beyond our community with a message that silence about mental health is not golden. The goal is to end the stigma, to give people permission to talk openly about their journeys.

We live in a world of diminished hope, a world where when someone asks how you're doing, the expected answer is "I'm doing good." The challenge is still before us in many ways, but thanks to Mona, Jeff, and many volunteers, Imagine is having an impact.

Imagine if we lived in communities where people could feel safe about sharing their stories honestly. Imagine a community where we know our neighbours so well that these heart-to-heart conversations actually do occur. Imagine if we all cared! Thank you, Mona, and to those on the Imagine team who are demonstrating that care in our community.

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IN BRIEF



New books purchased for the NES library in honour of Ruth McKnight. SHARON REMPEL

Books Purchased in Honour of Former Librarian

This summer, a farewell event was held for former Niverville Collegiate teacher Harry McKnight, who had decided to leave Niverville to spend more time with his children.

At that event, donations were made in honour of McKnight's wife Ruth, who served as the Niverville Elementary School (NES) librarian from 1977 to 2008. According to Sharon Rempel, current library clerk at NES, \$235 was received and 26 new books were purchased, including picture books and chapter books.

Rempel wishes to pass on her thanks for everyone who contributed and honoured Ruth in this way.

Buller School Open for Business

By Alissa Moffit

There is a unique and innovative new business school in southern Manitoba.

On Tuesday, September 20, Providence University College launched the Buller School of Business. As explained by Dr. David Johnson, Providence President, the new educational centre was named after Kitchen Craft founders Herb and Erna Buller because of "their commitment to their church and to many Christian causes around the world, including Providence, and because of their strong commitment to bringing their faith into their business."

Prior to an all-community event of music, speeches, and a lunch, Johnson gave Providence board chairman Gordon Giesbrecht and Emerson MLA Cliff Graydon a private tour of the new facilities.

Afterward, in the presence of politicians, board members, faculty, staff, and students, Providence launched its Impact 20/20 campaign.

"The goal of Impact 20/20 is to secure \$12.5 million in private



Dr. David Johnson alongside Herb and Erna Buller. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

funding by the year 2020, only four short years from now," explained Johnson. "As of today we have received \$8.75 million in cash and pledges."

Impact 20/20 has five main objectives. Its first priority is to provide an excellent education to Providence students. The second is to provide courses that students need in order to serve in the marketplace and churches to

the best of their abilities. Thirdly, Providence will continue to provide a thriving Christian environment for its students. The campaign will also provide students with more financial assistance through scholarships. The fifth and final goal is to provide staff with more training.

Impact 20/20 is intended to foster a unique atmosphere at Providence. The Buller School of Business is the first step in that

direction.

"The new school will help develop difference-makers at Providence, students who will move into or even start businesses that will make a positive impact in communities in Manitoba, Canada, and around the world," said Johnson.

The Buller School of Business emphasizes business ethics, environmental sustainability, entrepreneurial small businesses, and creative problem-solving, all within the framework of a Christian lifestyle. By providing small classes, student can receive more personal mentorship. Co-op placements give students the opportunity for real-world experience and résumé building.

"With the new facilities, it is exciting to see a visual of how Providence cannot just survive, but thrive," said Laura McDowell, a senior student and current Business Major. "I trust that these changes will help the students to also thrive when they go from this place to be difference-makers who glorify God in all that they do."

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Council Connections

Are you wondering if Niverville should have 5 or 6 councillors? Where exactly are my tax dollars going? What is going on with the golf course? What is council doing in regards to policing? Are we going to need more lagoon capacity soon? Do we have enough water? When is a new school coming?

If you are seeking answers to these questions or others, council will be holding an open house at the south end of the arena on October 27 from 7pm to 830pm. Various stations will be set up around the room with information on these topics and others. All council members and some staff will be in attendance to assist in answering questions and provide information. This is your chance to speak one on one with your council members as well as staff members and to get answers to those questions that you may have been discussing on social media or coffee row.

Can't make it, or have other topics you would like information on? You can either stop by and ask your question directly to a council member or you can email it to feedback@whereyoubelong.ca.

As council will be holding its annual planning session on November 18-19 it is our wish to hear from you on these important issues. This planning session will set the vision for Niverville for 2017 and beyond and we really would love to hear your input!

Looking forward to seeing all of you on October 27 at the arena at 7pm!

Privileged to serve as your mayor,
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Lice, the Pesky Parasite

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

School is officially back in full swing. For the next ten months, your children will be bringing home copious amounts of permission slips, homework assignments, and reading material. Many children will also be bringing home lice. While some school years are worse than others, lice in the early school years is a dreaded reality.

Though lice are as common to humans as fleas to a dog, they come with a certain yuck factor that can cause panic to set in when they're discovered. The stigma attached to lice is a direct result of the misinformation that circulates about them.

Experts in the field suggest that lice are generally harmless. They are not carriers of disease and pose no immediate threat to the host on whose head they reside. Since lice may cause itchiness of the scalp, there have been cases where infections occurred from scratching. Mostly, they are a cosmetic problem rather than a medical one.

The common head louse is a wingless insect about the size of a sesame seed. It makes its home on the human scalp and survives exclusively on human blood. Unlike the flea, it is unable to jump and can only transfer from one person to another through head to head contact. Rarely, if ever, are lice transferred through sharing of hats or hairbrushes.

Without treatment, a louse family can live on the scalp indefinitely, laying eggs and growing rapidly in population. The female louse can lay up to four eggs per day near the base of the hair shaft where the temperature is warmest. The egg is attached with a kind of glue, making the removal of the nit (the outer shell of a louse egg) extremely difficult.

Much of the stigma lies in the belief that lice are a result of uncleanliness, but in reality, lice are not particular that way. They will take a clean or dirty head of hair without bias.

"The reason lice are more common with school age kids is because they are in closer confines and are more likely to have head to head contact with each other," says Sarah Phillips of Slice of Lice in Winnipeg. Her head lice and nit



Sarah Phillips outside Slice of Lice in Winnipeg.

SARAH PHILLIPS

removal service came about after her own daughter came home with lice some years ago. "I had a really hard time getting rid of it. I hated the stress and frustration it caused to my family. I hated how alone I felt as well. I never wanted anyone to feel the way I did. So here I am."

Phillips fondly refers to herself now as the Chief Picking Officer of her lice removal service. Her clients know her as the Lice Lady. Her process includes using a special comb designed for extraction of the bugs and eggs and seeing the client in another week for a follow-up head check. She also sells products to help repel lice in the first place.

Signs to watch for, she says, are scratching at the scalp, especially when your child isn't paying attention, like while watching TV or sleeping. Children may also develop a rash on the back of the neck, experience gland swelling, or be tired or cranky even when they're getting plenty of sleep.

"The bugs do their work at night as they do not like the light," Phillips says.

Phillips recommends that parents arm themselves with some of the tools of her trade before their children come home with the problem. Peppermint spray and nit combs are among the items she sells at her location at 39 St. Anne's Road. Weekly spraying and combing of your child's hair at home goes a long way toward prevention or catching it early. Tying their hair back can also help.

Kids and parents can assist in preventing lice from becoming a school-wide epidemic.

"When there is [the discovery] of head lice, it is extremely important that the parents tell the school and the child's closest friends as, without communication, the lice will keep spreading from head to head," says Phillips. "You have to be a friend and tell a friend. Someone gave lice to your child, your child

will pass it to someone else and so on."

She suggests that school staff play an important role by sending home notices with up-to-date information. "Education is the best defence for battling head lice," says Phillips. "I would love to see head checks done in schools again."

Finally, Phillips closes in on the myth that lice removal is a matter of all-out warfare in the household. "You do not need to bag things up when lice are found. Too much emphasis is placed on cleaning the house [and] your time is better spent on the child's head as well as communicating with your child's friends. Lice do not live off [of] the head, nor do the nits lay in wait for the perfect moment to hatch and re-infest your family."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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IN BRIEF

FIRE SAFETY TIPS



October 9–15 is Fire Prevention Week across the country, and our local fire departments use this opportunity to make school presentations and talk about fire safety. But what about for those who don't get the benefit of a classroom presentation? Keith Bueckert, Niverville's Fire Chief, has provided a list of ten key things we all need to remember when it comes to fire prevention.

1. SMOKE ALARMS

Have smoke alarms on every level of your home. Make sure they're working and check them regularly.

2. BATTERIES

Change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at least once a year, but twice a year is recommended.

3. CHANGE SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms need to be changed every 10 years. Consider replacing battery-operated alarms with 10-year lithium alarms that don't require battery changes. Hardwired alarms are best.

4. FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Have a fire escape plan and practice it. Have a meeting place and know two ways out of your bedroom.

5. ESCAPE TIME

Remember that when smoke alarms are activated in a house fire, you have three minutes to escape your home.

6. PROPER DISPOSAL

Dispose of cigarettes and cigarette ash properly. Especially do not dispose of them in potted plants.

7. EXTENSION CORDS

Extension cords should not be used for running fridges or freezers where a fixed wall plug is not available. This is one of the biggest fire hazards in Manitoba. Appliances need to be connected directly into a wall plug.

8. VEHICLES SAFETY

Vehicles do not need to be plugged in when they're in a garage, even if the garage isn't heated.

9. GARAGE SAFETY

If you discover a fire in your garage, do not open the overhead door.

10. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in any house with gas- or wood-burning appliance. There should be one on every level of the home.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE



GLASS FLOOR MEDIA

Merrick Sandulak

Merrick Sandulak has been a volunteer firefighter in Niverville for three years and has lived in town since 2000. After graduating from high school, he worked as a welder for three years.

Sandulak had his first encounter with firefighters when he landed in the burn unit at Health Sciences Centre, having survived a freak industrial accident with severe burns to his upper body and face. There, he met firefighters who had been injured in a fire that had claimed the lives of two deputy chiefs. Sandulak was so impressed by the camaraderie of the firefighters and how they spoke of the guys back at their fire hall.

"It really piqued my interest," Sandulak says, who gradually worked himself back to full-time work by the age of 22.

In 2013, he became a volunteer firefighter in Niverville, earning his HAZMAT (hazardous material) certification and Level I within a year. Next, he hopes to achieve Emergency Medical Responder and Firefighter Level II. He has his Class 4 driver's license and has already written the test for air brake certification.

Sandulak currently works full-time as an estimator for Fusion Industries. He is married to Larissa and has two boys and a girl between the ages of two and six.

His first firefighting experience came when he responded to a big barn on fire not far from Niverville. The full contingent of volunteer firefighters was present.

"I recall thinking how chaotic it would be, but I was impressed how our leaders delegated jobs," he says. "We each focused on the job we were given, and with that teamwork everything went smoothly. We are taught so much by the eight members who work full-time for the City of Winnipeg. They share their knowledge and experience with newbies in a very respectful and generous way."

Sandulak acknowledged that firefighting isn't always glamorous, specifically when it comes to remaining onsite after a call. "Very often one truck and crew remain on the site watching for flare-ups and following a backhoe or tractor that is removing and exposing hot spots. The rest of us return to the hall where hoses are laid out and washed along with trucks, masks, and turnout gear. Inner and outer shells have to be washed separately in 45-minute cycles in our commercial washer, and then dried on a special dryer rack. Air tanks get refilled."

The order and cleanliness of the fire hall is impressive, thanks to special racks for all the turnout gear. When asked about this, Sandulak grins with pride. "I had something to do with that," he says. "My welding skills came in real handy. It's a great feeling to give back to the community."



Volunteering

Just how much does the average citizen know

By Jacqueline Chartrand

We frequently see fire trucks and ambulances at the scenes of accidents and fires, but who are these first responders? Well, the ones wearing white helmets are chiefs and deputy chiefs, and the blue helmets are worn by medical staff, readily distinguishable from the regular black helmets.

Now, check your calendars to see how many hours you dedicate to volunteer work, and compare that tally to what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter.

As soon as volunteers are signed on, they commit to 300 hours of training in first aid, CPR, hazardous materials training, and Firefighter Level I. This is over and above their regular jobs. Niverville Fire Chief Keith Bueckert says that as of September 20, his 25 volunteer firefighters and five paramedics have

completed 2,500 hours of training and attending events where their presence is requested by the community. These hours do not include the time spent responding to the 156 calls received since January, 50 of which were fire calls. That's equal to the total number of calls for all of 2015, so incidents are on the rise. Chief Bueckert and Deputy Chiefs Stan Hiebert and Brad Wasilishuk are charged with ensuring those responses are safe, efficient, and thorough.

Niverville's fire department is rich in talent and expertise. Eight of the 25 volunteers are career firefighters and the five medical emergency first responders include Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs), one of whom is an instructor at Red River College. There are three training officers, including Spencer Hunt, whose

grandfather served the department in earlier years.

The average career span of a volunteer firefighter is five to seven years, so diversity is crucial to the maintenance of a responsive department. Different age levels are needed, as well as people who work full-time and part-time jobs, not to mention shift workers.

Of the Niverville department's \$165,000 budget, \$35,000 is dedicated to the cost of training, which is ongoing every second Tuesday of the month. The cost of outfitting one firefighter with turnout gear—including boots, helmet, radio, and flashlight—is about \$5,500, and that equipment must be renewed every ten years. At the biweekly meetings, training and drills are conducted for car fires, grass fires, structure fires, vehicle extrication, etc.

"This outstanding department is the culmination of many years

of dedication by many people," Bueckert emphasizes. "It is a privileged responsibility to ensure this proud tradition is maintained. We have tremendous support from the mayor, council, and the community."

It all began in 1958 with Fire Chief John Enns, Assistant Chief David Stoesz, and six volunteers. The fire truck was a 1949 Dodge, purchased and rebuilt by Stoesz. According to Barb Friesen's article in *Niverville: A History (1878-1986)*, the brigade consisted of 15 members by 1986. Ten fire phones were installed in ten members' homes and rang all at once when "4700" was dialled to report a fire, and all members were enrolled in a new provincial training program. In 1980, a Mutual Aid System was coordinated which consisted of nine fire departments that committed to help each other. Today's



to Save Lives

How about their community fire department?

Mutual Aid District includes many municipalities, but the St.-Pierre-Jolys, Landmark, St. Adolphe, and Île-des-Chênes fire departments are the most likely to be called first.

Today, all 30 volunteers have a pager that allows them to send an "I am responding" message to the incident commander so decisions can be made about whether or not to summon help from other departments. The new fire hydrants along Main Street Niverville will be a huge boost on many levels, requiring less shuttling of water.

The present fire hall at 309 Bronstone Drive is the third hall in the history of the department and barely holds the two red fire pumpers (500-gallon capacity), the yellow water tanker (1,000 gallons) and the first responder vehicle. The department's ten self-contained breathing apparatuses are scheduled for a costly upgrade this year.

As Niverville expands, a modern facility to accommodate the growing need will likely have to be considered by town council.

The department conducts extensive community outreach each year. For Fire Safety Week (October 9–15), members of the department will visit the schools, address the seniors at a special luncheon, and visit daycares. Routine fire inspections are performed for businesses and multi-family buildings.

"We have great fun at kids camps at the park," says Bueckert, "participating in water fights and talking to them about safety."

Each district has a Burn Fund Safety Trailer to use as an educational tool at events such as the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair. Also, volunteer firefighters sell the majority of tickets sold for the Firefighters Burn Fund.

Every year on November 11, Niverville's fire department hosts a free perogy dinner at the Golden Friendship Centre, where attendees have the opportunity to place donations in a firefighter's boot. The proceeds are used to purchase equipment. For example, three such annual fundraisers paid for the air tank filler that now makes it unnecessary for Niverville firefighters to drive to LaBroquerie to refill air tanks.

The Niverville fire department has a distinguished lifetime honorary member, Gary Macdonald, who recently received the Mary Beth Dolin Award to commemorate his excellent leadership and dedication. Macdonald was a career firefighter with the St. James Fire Department and has worked for many years with the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner. He has served as a safety officer, a

training officer, a counsellor, and is still active in Critical Incident Stress Management, which is offered within 48 hours of a traumatic event. Macdonald was one of two founders of the Manitoba Firefighters Burn Fund. Despite the fact that he now lives in St. Norbert, he attends every biweekly meeting.

"This current group of volunteers is the finest group yet that I have had the privilege to work with," Macdonald says.

On Tuesday, October 11, you can stop by the Niverville Fire Department Open House from 5:30–8:00 p.m. The New Bothwell Fire Department is also hosting an open house, on October 7 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. at the Bothwell Christian Fellowship Church.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Tara Fehr

Tara Fehr approached her interview with a smile and a sweeping statement: "I feel this department has given me so much more than I could ever give back."

Fehr and her husband moved to Niverville in 2006. While being a stay-at-home mom of three boys, she completed an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course and joined the volunteer firefighters.

"Getting my pager on my birthday was the most exciting gift I ever received," Fehr says.

True to the "two in, two out" rule, training and testing for Level I are always done with a partner. In September 2014, Fehr was one of nine who acquired their Level I firefighter status.

"It was an awesome experience to graduate with eight others. It's the best family you could want to be in," Fehr and two others took their paramedic course together and graduated in June. She will begin working for Southern Health this fall.

Fehr believes family support is essential for anyone who wants to become a volunteer firefighter. Apart from pager calls at all hours, the time commitment for a paramedic firefighter is considerable, including biweekly meetings and training, and another monthly meeting for EMR personnel.

Niverville has three EMR platoons that rotate for maintenance checks of equipment. They also check medical supplies, expiry dates, inventory, etc.

Maintaining physical fitness is paramount and especially key for someone like Tara who is only five-foot-three. The same practical tests are applied to men and women.

"It's not about the individual, though," Fehr says. "It's team effort, team environment, having each other's back, helping each other out. As one of five women in the department, I have experienced nothing but respect and support."

Fehr has profound respect for her leaders, colleagues, and the people they help, especially their privacy (which can be particularly difficult in a small town where everyone seems to know everyone).

When asked what she feels when approaching a critical accident scene, she replies, "A definite sense of calmness."

She recalls a time when she was in Winnipeg as a young adult and an ambulance sped by with its siren wailing. "I felt an urgent desire to be on that ambulance. There's a saying about this work, that you don't choose it, it chooses you. I think there's some truth to that."

Commentary

The Cost of Growth



New developments in Winnipeg, like Bridgewater in Waverley West, come with a cost.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

By Greg Fehr

After a short time in government, we see the age of accountability and austerity entering the halls on Broadway as Premier Pallister and his government strive to right the good ship Manitoba. While it's beyond debate that the ship was listing and likely had a few holes in the hull, it's debatable as to whether it was really in imminent danger of sinking or whether this is simply politics at work.

Most definitely, some processes and policies were non-functional or unrealistic. As an example, the East Side Road Authority, with its mandate to not only plan and build a road but also prepare communities along the way for new business, was doomed to falter... and eventually fail.

Noble goals, but with such vast mandates, authorities or committees tend to spread their attention and skills too thin, accomplishing little on all fronts. And while it is also accepted that the recipe for

most government initiatives is good intentions with a dash of political motivation, it is not unusual for governments in their honeymoon period to bring down the axe on programs that have over-spiced the second ingredient.

This mindset of cost-cutting appears to be in direct contradiction to the City of Winnipeg and their discussion about growth fees. The contradiction isn't lost on the premier, who has publically expressed his displeasure with the idea and has encouraged city council to find cost savings rather than "tax" new development.

What may be lost on the premier, though, is the fundamental difference between the finances of municipalities and the province, especially as it pertains to growth.

While the responsibilities and resources of the federal and provincial governments were well laid out at Confederation and modified as required, the municipalities are simply children of the province. Restricted to the resources

granted to them in the form of property taxes, municipalities have adequately performed their initial mandate of providing basic services such as streets and drainage. The municipal system performed well in the beginning, but as the mandate changed through heightened citizen expectations, this singular source of revenue became stretched. When it could be stretched no more, projects were deferred (and deferred again and again in some cases), creating the deficits in infrastructure and services we have today.

Standing still isn't an option for any community (or province). You're either growing or you're shrinking. As such, growth is the preferable option. But while growth does have cost impacts on provincial and federal services, these are more than offset by the legislated abilities to tax that growth at various levels and through various facets of life. Contrarily, municipal governments only have property tax revenue through which to fund

increased operational demand. Increasing property taxes usually does fund operations adequately, but it doesn't fund future capital replacement. It's enough to clear the streets and patch the potholes, but municipalities can't put away enough to replace a street when its 30-year lifespan comes to an end.

So at first glance, Winnipeg's proposed growth fees may seem to be the workings of a spend-thrift government, but in actuality there may be fiscal prudence and ratepayer equity in this process. If growth drives the need for capital investment, then imposing growth fees on new development may be more equitable than spreading the cost of growth through the entire tax base, including existing property owners. Growth fees already exist in many municipalities across the country, and this is certainly the reasoning for many of them.

Will growth fees impact development and citizens? Yes, likely both positively and negatively. New development will need to pass on these costs to the price of lots, inflating the land value of new homes. Yet this will likely also exert upward pressure on the value of existing homes—and that increase may also benefit the capital region outside of Winnipeg, as the gap in pricing widens further. In the end, the price changes will become the new norm and the market will adjust and find a way to operate in balance.

The premier has vowed to find cost savings through efficiency and analysis, and I believe that he has and he will find more. Perhaps he and his team will find enough savings to produce additional resources for municipalities struggling with their ballooned mandates. If not additional resources, perhaps it's time to take some responsibilities back off the overflowing municipal plate.

Look on the Bright Side: What You Sow, You Grow

Changing Our Lives by Making Different Choices

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

It's harvest time and we are hopeful that this season's yield is a profitable one. Farmers are working day and night to gather their crops while avid gardeners busily preserve the fruits and vegetables they have grown.

Taking stock of the crop is the best way to determine if changes need to be made when the planting season rolls around again. We must remember that the output of any task is most greatly affected by the input. For farmers, that should cause one to choose the highest quality seed. Planting the best seeds in fertile, nutrient-rich soil and making sure they get healthy doses of sun and rain leads to strongly rooted plants that withstand the crueler aspects of nature, greatly increasing their chances of survival.

The same is true for us! Our hearts and minds are the soil in which our thoughts and beliefs, the seeds, are planted. Our personal harvest is measureable by what we produce or experience in our everyday lives. Are we enjoying peaceful and contented lives? Have we been generous to others and ourselves? Have our heartfelt dreams and desires come to fruition? Or have our yields been a bit skimpy?

Sowing seeds of worry and doubt guarantees us a meagre, if not barren, harvest. Choosing instead to sow seeds of love, kindness, acceptance, and forgiveness will always produce a bumper crop.

These cooler months offer us solace, a quiet place for rest and constructive reflection—a much-needed reprieve from the toil. It is a time to cultivate thankful hearts while allowing past mistakes and negative attitudes to be ploughed under in preparation for something better.

The good news is that we always get a do-over—a second, third, or even umpteenth chance to sow again. We change our lives by making different choices, whether in thought or deed or both, thus producing hearty new seed. Through positive change, we can rest assured that we will soon reap a most abundant and rewarding harvest!

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Make the Choice to Be Thankful

In a world as broken as ours, sometimes we can feel guilty for everything we have. Instead let's be generous and thankful.

By Christopher Marchand

A recent United Nations report states that one of every 113 persons on our planet is a refugee, is seeking asylum, or has been displaced. Over 65 million people find themselves in one of these categories. The evening news brings the reality in to our homes with images of kids in tattered clothes, adults carrying worn suitcases, and families living in the kind of emergency shelters we might use for a weekend campout.

I'm not sure about you, but when I think of people living in these kinds of conditions, enjoying a Canadian thanksgiving feels immoral. How can I sit down to a thanksgiving meal with my family, sharing in the joy of abundance, when I know that so many in our world have precious little for which to be thankful?

I guess my feelings are not unlike survivor guilt. This is the kind of guilt we might feel when we survive a traumatic event which results in another person's serious injury or death. Survivor guilt torments us with questions like "Why you and not me?" and if we're not careful, it can take us down a dangerous road into feelings of helplessness, depression, substance abuse, and even



© DREAMSTIME

suicidal thoughts.

How then do we cultivate thankfulness in a way that's respectful and compassionate to those in need, while not slipping into the mess of pain associated with survivor guilt? Here are three ideas for you to consider.

First, serve. We can't change the fact that 65 million people are displaced, but that does not mean that we're powerless. We can visit someone in need right here in our area. We can sew a blanket at the MCC knowing that the work of our hands may one day find its way to the shoulders of a person in a refugee camp. We can join Open Doors, a brand new refugee support group in Niverville committed to bringing refugees into Manitoba (see their Facebook page below).

Second, share. Break the power of greed in your life by freely giving of your time,

money, or possessions to someone in need. Take some friends to Siloam Mission and make a meal. Sponsor a child and literally change a life.

Third, practice thankfulness daily. I have a friend living with a terminal illness. She begins each day with a list of reasons to be thankful. It sounds crazy, and yet it's incredibly empowering to know that even when life is hard, we still have the power to choose our response.

Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl once wrote, "Forces beyond your control can take away everything you possess except one thing: your freedom to choose how you will respond." This thanksgiving, let's make the choice to be thankful.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/Open-Doors-Niverville-1015690245185045/



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Learning Self-Defence

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As September rolls around, many women get back into their routines. Summer is over, and if you're a mom like me, school has begun and extracurricular activities take up many evenings. It can be hard to find time for fitness, which is why I work out early in the morning.

ShopGym Niverville, the gym I'm a member at, now hosts a women's self-defence class taught by Chris Friesen, who owns the other gym in town, Average Joe Fitness. Though I missed out on the first class held in August, I made it to the one on September 16.

Friesen has been teaching self-defence classes since 2013 and was the first certified partner with SAFE International, a program started in Toronto by Chris Roberts.

The class is two and a half hours long. Before I went, I thought, *How can there be that much to teach?* After the class was done, I felt like there was so much more for me to learn.

Once I got there and introductions were done, Friesen talked to us 12 women for about 20 minutes. The first thing he focused on was the importance of always being aware of one's surroundings. The truth is, dangerous situations can present themselves no matter where you are, but most often tricky situations can be avoided. By being aware of your surroundings, staying



Irene Carriere takes out her instructor at ShopGym's self-defence class in Niverville.

SHERRISSE FAST

off your phone's apps, and listening to your gut instinct, you can avoid, for example, getting on an elevator with a stranger you don't feel comfortable with. We talked through many uncomfortable scenarios.

After Friesen talked about a gun attack, it was time to put words into action. He asked me to come up to demonstrate to the rest of the class how to move a gun barrel away from one's body.

(Sidebar: keep in mind that you need to read the situation first, since engagement may not always be the best response. We talked through many life-or-death situations, with the emphasis on survival. Any attacker wants one of three things: your possessions, your body, or your life. Figuring out which one they want, and how to respond, is step one.)

Immediately following the gun

attack demonstration, we paired up and practiced with plastic guns. We practiced this a lot because if you ever find yourself held at gunpoint, you won't have time to think. Instinct and training will take over.

To end the night, we worked on what to do if someone comes at you with a knife. Talk about a scary situation! Then, to make it all the more real, Friesen put on a full body armour suit and came at us with a plastic (but real-looking!) knife. Each of us took turns trying to control the weapon and then taking out our attacker.

Let me say, as someone who grew up learning to be polite to everyone I meet, it initially felt really weird and wrong to hit someone in the face and body as hard as I could. The mantra "Never stop" and "Never give up" was said over and over. If you stop, you could die.

It was a sobering class, to say the least, but it also equips women to fight for their lives.

The biggest thing I took away from the class is to trust my instinct. If I'm being attacked, I need to act like a cat being given a bath: always go for the head, and act crazy. It just may save your life.

There were girls as young as 14 in our class, which was appropriate since Friesen also does training in high schools. It's valuable information for any woman to hear, no matter their age. Friesen also offers private party classes and said that the best number to have in a class is about ten women.

There is no set number of classes one should attend in order to feel comfortable with the techniques, though. You can always learn and practice more.

EVENT GUIDE

Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Mondays & Wednesdays, October 10–November 16
6:30 p.m., \$150 per session or \$15 drop-in.
South End of Arena, Niverville

Mad Love Fitness: Interval Training

Tuesdays, September 20–October 25
6:00 p.m., \$15 drop-in.
South End of Arena, Niverville

Yoga: Flow & Yin

Wednesdays, September 14–October 26
7:00 & 8:15 p.m., \$15 drop-in.
Curling Rink Basement, Niverville

Body Rolling Session

Mondays, October 17–December 12
6:00–8:30 p.m. \$150 per 8 sessions.
Curling Rink Basement, Niverville

Mommy & Baby Classes

Thursdays, September 29–December 15
Tummy Time (0–5 months), 9:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Move Baby (6–12 Months), 10:00 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Tiny Gym (12–18 months), 10:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Tot Gym (18 months–3 years), 11:15 a.m., \$100 per 10 weeks.
Kinder Gym (3–5 years), 12:15 p.m., \$100 per 10 weeks.
South End of Arena, Niverville

Niverville Fire & EMS

Barbecue & Open House
Tuesday, October 11, 5:30–8:00 p.m.
309 Bronstone Drive, Niverville

Zumba (Île-des-Chênes)

Mondays, starting October 3, 7:00–8:15 p.m.
TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

New Bothwell Fire Department Open House

Friday, October 7, 5:30–8:00 p.m.
Bothwell Christian Fellowship Church

Quilting: 9-Patch Window Pane

Thursdays, October 6–November 10
\$112.50, 6:00–8:30 p.m.
Curling Rink Basement, Niverville

Dr. Mom Taking Care of your Family

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 a.m., \$5.
Curling Rink Basement, Niverville

Hunter Education Course (ages 10+)

Saturday, October 15, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., \$55.
South End of Arena, Niverville

Niverville Bench League (18+)

Wednesdays, starting October 12
9:30 p.m., \$8 drop-in.
Niverville Arena

Ste-Agathe Ladies Rec Hockey

Sundays, starting October 2
6:45 p.m., Ste Agathe Arena
cougarsrechokey@gmail.com

Athena Women's Hockey (St. Adolphe)

Sundays, starting October 9
7:45 p.m., St. Adolphe Arena
bahia@envypaintanddesign.com

St. Adolphe Curling

Leagues start October 10
curlstadolphe@gmail.com

Public Skating

Fridays 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
Niverville Arena, Free.

Sticks & Pucks

Fridays, 4:30–5:15 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Niverville Arena, Free.

In-service Public Skating

Friday, October 21
Public Skating, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Sticks & Pucks, 3:45–5:15 p.m.
Niverville Arena, Free.

For More Information:

www.nivervillerecreation.com

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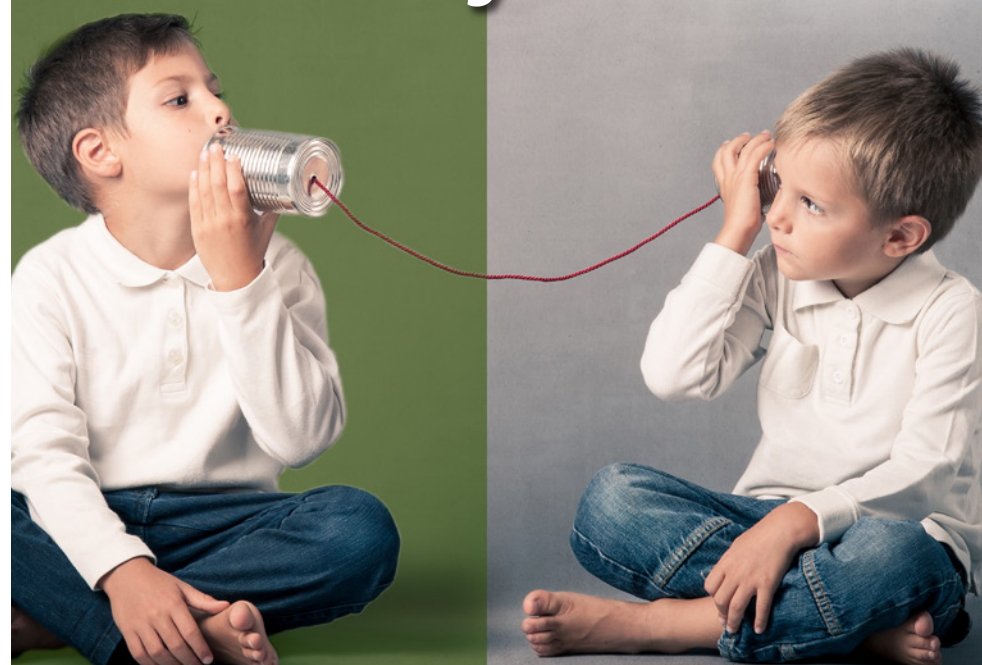
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Synchronized Skating Comes to Niverville



CHANTEL TODD

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Almost everyone has heard of synchronized swimming—swimmers performing a synchronized dance routine in the water—but what about synchronized skating? Starting this year, Niverville has its own synchronized skating program.

So, what is synchronized skating? It's a team discipline of figure skating that involves a minimum of eight athletes, moving in unison and performing group elements and challenging footwork. Coach Meghan Rafferty of the Niverville Skating Club explains that synchronized skating is growing in popularity, both nationally and internationally. In fact, it's being considered as a new sport at the next Winter Olympics.

"I was really excited to get a team started in Niverville because it adds a different team experience for these athletes," Rafferty says. "Competing in singles is great, but that is



DREAMSTIME

individual. I'd love to give these skaters the opportunity to learn what it's like to work as a team."

Rafferty and the Skating Club have been planning the new program for quite some time. This includes figuring out a team name, making music selections, off-ice planning, and determining costumes.

This past spring, Rafferty had the pleasure of travelling to Newfoundland with Skate Canada to sit in on their synchro sessions and learn more about what the program has to offer. "Skaters who pursue

it can eventually be on university teams, travel across the country, become professional coaches... really the sky is the limit, so I just can't wait to build this program in Niverville."

The synchronized skating team is planning to perform in exhibitions throughout the season in preparation for the final competition in Dauphin in March.

"That's the realistic goal for the first season," says Rafferty, "and we will build on that next year to hopefully be competing two or three times across

Manitoba."

Rafferty would like to add a huge thank you to the community, parents, and board for their support of the new synchronized skating program. Along with synchronized skating, the Skating Club offers the Learn to Skate program for children and adults, figure skating, and power skating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

niverillesc@gmail.com

Red River Rage Eye Successful Start

By Dave Aitken

Another ringette season is upon us and it's already shaping up to be another successful season for Red River Rage ringette. This year, there are 61 total players registered with the Ringette 4 You (R4U) team, two

U10 teams, a U12 team, and a U14 team. Practices will start at the beginning of October, with games beginning towards the end of October.

On October 1, the Red River Rage will host a Come Try Ringette event from 1:45–2:45 p.m. at the Ste. Agathe Arena.

To register, contact Heather Wallace (contact info below). New players are invited to come out with their skates, helmets, and warm clothes to learn all about the great game of ringette.

The catchment area for the Red River Rage includes

Niverville, Ste. Agathe, and St. Adolphe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

hwallace@mymts.net

IN BRIEF

High Hopes for Gab-Roy's Varsity and JV Boys

By Michel Lavergne

Gabrielle-Roy's Varsity Boys volleyball team will be young this year, with almost all of its players in Grade 11. These new players stepping onto the court are fresh from their silver medal finish at last season's Junior Varsity A/AA Provincials, and are looking forward to their first year at the Varsity level.

The Varsity team opened its season at the University of Winnipeg tournament and will next attend the 24-team Seven Oaks tournament in late September. They hope

to build on the bronze medal finish of last year's Varsity Boys at the AA Provincials.

The Junior Varsity Boys team returned home from the University of Brandon tournament with a respectable second place finish in their pool. This, too, is a young team with only two returning JV players, but they are working hard to learn the game and acquire the skills to again represent Gabrielle-Roy at the provincial level.

The JV team will be travelling to Morris Collegiate for its next tournament.



Ray Dowse and Bryan Trottier

RENE ABGRALL

Trottier and Dowse Win Men's League

After a fun and competitive summer, the Old Drovers Run men's league saw 14 teams make the playoff draw.

The finale took place on Friday, September 23, between the team of Bryan

Trottier and Ray Dowse and the top-seeded Scott Wallace and Eric Austman.

Trottier and Dowse won the match, taking top honours for the league's inaugural season.



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IN BRIEF

Free Public Skating

By Chantel Todd

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Local businesses have once again opened their arms to sponsor public skating and the Sticks & Pucks program at the Niverville Arena. Although the arena is still seeking a few more sponsors, they would like to thank Southern Comfort Mechanical, Niverville Chicken Chef, Artel Farms, and The Great GORP Project for their sponsorship.

Skating will take place on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The first day of public

skating is Friday, October 14. For details, see this month's recreation calendar.

On school in-service days, October 21, November 11, and November 14, skating will be scheduled to begin early, at 2:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ If you'd like to get the public skating schedule on your smartphone, download the SportsEngine app. You'll be prompted to enter your team ID, which is 1038172.

Minor Hockey Gearing Up in IDC

By Dave Bosshart

With another hockey season upon us, the Île-des-Chênes Minor Hockey Association (IDCMHA) welcomes all the families that are returning, as well as new families joining this year.

The IDCMHA had its registration night on September 12. At this time, they expect to have three Initiation teams, three Novice teams, two Atom teams, and two Pee Wee teams. The number of Bantam and Midget teams are yet to be determined.

Shane Pelletier, President of the IDC Arena Board, and his volunteer team performed some major upgrades to the floors and ice at the arena during the off-season.

The IDCMHA has also updated its website (see below). The site includes everything a person needs to know about upcoming events, camps, contacts, and useful links for the teams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.idcmha.ca

Lady Panthers Roar to Winning Record

By Gerald Negrave

The NCI Lady Panthers soccer team has roared to a 6-2 start to the season. Led by Julia Beer in goal and Cathlin Berndt on the back line, the Panthers' rock-solid defence has allowed only two goals in its last four games. The speed and strength of the Pastoor sisters, Shayna and Ashleigh, has produced

numerous scoring chances and an impressive team total of 20 goals.

The short fall season ends with Zone playoffs on October 6 in Steinbach. Our Lady Panthers hope to make it to Provincials. With the skill and passion they have shown so far this season, their target looks very achievable. Go Panthers!



The NCI Lady Panthers soccer team

■ SUSAN THOMPSON

Registration Open for Royals Ringette



R4U, U10, U12, U14, and U16 players.

■ NEVIN GIESBRECHT

By Mark Ratz

The Lorette Royals Ringette Association is a well-established

club available to players ages three to 19 in the Landmark, Ste. Anne, Dufresne, Île-des-Chênes, Grande Pointe, and

Lorette catchment areas. The Royals promote fair play, fun, fitness, and friendship in an environment dedicated to personal development.

It's also a great way to get out of chores! "Sorry, Mom, I can't sweep the floor. I have ringette tonight!"

The Royals are icing six teams this year: R4U (for those ages three to eight), U10, U12, U14, U19, and an "A" U16 team, co-hosted by the Springfield Ringette Association, which is especially exciting for those who enjoy watching high calibre of Ringette or

have ambitions to play at this level someday.

Though the season hasn't officially begun, the players are hard at work in a pre-season conditioning camp at the Île-des-Chênes Arena, where all home games are played.

There is still plenty of time to register. Information is available at the website (to the right).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.loretteringette.weebly.com

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Ella Fixe

Ella Fixe is 12 years old and in Grade 7 at NCI. She has been dancing since she was three years old. Last year, after moving to Niverville, Ella joined the Prairie Soul Dance Company, entering in the competitive classes. She has a passion for ballet as well as contemporary/lyrical.

In 2015, Ella acquired a huge passion for track, and this summer she competed as part of the Eastman track team at the Manitoba Summer Games in Steinbach. Ella looks forward to being able to pursue track by joining a team in Winnipeg and getting further training.

Ella loves being surrounded by her friends and soaking in all the math and science she can.

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The Chamber corner

Chamber golf fundraiser a success

Despite a morning of rain tailing off to light showers in the afternoon, the chamber's 14th annual golf tournament was a resounding success. A big thank you is extended to our dedicated members, friends, and sponsors. Funds raised at the tournament are directed to the chamber's annual work on behalf of the business community.

We'd like to thank these supporters plus all those who golfed.

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• Maple Leaf Agri-Farms • Horizon Livestock & Poultry Supply

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• vonRiese Homes • Southern Comfort Mechanical
• Niverville Heritage Centre & Niverville Heritage Life Personal Care Home • Spectis Moulders

Bronze level

• Artel Farms & The Great GORP Project • Benefits U
• Blue River Group • Excel Cleaners • Heritage Lane Builders
• Red River Group • Rempel Insurance • Sparkline • The Highlands
• The Niverville Citizen

Lunch

• Manitoba Pork • Country Snacks

Golfers' gift bags & prizes

• Brio Insurance • D&M Rentals • Shannon Martin • Quarry Oaks
• Quick Care Home Health Care Professionals • Niverville Bigway
• Red River Group • The Great GORP Project • Wiens Furniture
• The Town of Niverville • Trotco Electric • Niverville Heritage Centre
• Niverville Chamber of Commerce



2016 winners
Chamber President Mel Buhler (l) presents the trophy to tournament winners Kevin Burton and Kenner Harms of Golden West Radio and Dave Aitken and Ferd Klassen of Niverville Autobody.



President: Mel Buhler
Co-ordinator: Dawn Harris
Email: chamber@niverville.com
www.niverville.com



Heather Miller, Eric King, Clayton Smeltz, John Funk, Clare Braun, Myron Dyck, and Libby Hanna raise the multiplex fundraising thermometer outside of the town office.

TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

Multiplex Fundraising Thermometer Ticks Upward

By Heather Miller

On September 6, Niverville's town council heard the second and third reading of its borrowing-by-law to extend \$5 million to the Niverville multiplex. The motion was passed. As a result, the thermometer outside of the town office rose 30 percent of the way to the project's \$16.5 million goal.

In mid-August, the fundraising committee submitted its first ask to the federal and provincial governments under the Small Communities Fund. This fund was created as a federal-provincial cost-shared program to provide infrastructure improvements, including recreation facilities, to communities with less than 100,000 residents. The project

is based on a one-third federal share, one-third provincial share, and one-third municipal share. The committee's ask from this program was for \$10 million to match the Town of Niverville's \$5 million donation.

The committee is now awaiting an answer from the government on how much the multiplex project qualifies for to move forward with the build.

The last fundraising barbecue was held on Wednesday, September 7 in the Son City parking lot. The committee would like to thank their volunteers, the businesses that allowed the use of their parking lots, Winkler Meats, and Bigway for their support this summer.

The next event will be the

annual Niverville Winterfest & Market on Saturday, November 19. The fundraising committee will be at the south end of the Niverville Arena, serving supper with Santa. Also, the business fundraising team is getting ready to meet with local and regional businesses to ask for financial support. The residential fundraising team is hard at work planning events for the spring of 2017.

As always, Bigway Bucks are still available for purchase for your grocery needs at Niverville Bigway. They are sold in denominations of \$20. Ten percent of the proceeds come back to the Niverville Multiplex.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca.

MARY KAY

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ROYAL LEPAGE
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Alumni, Hall of Fame, and Trades

As time ticks down on the NHL pre-season, Winnipeg Jets fans have a lot to look forward to, including the Heritage Classic.

By Lorelei Leona

It's going to be a big year for the Winnipeg Jets. The team, celebrating its sixth year in the NHL, is set to host two outdoor games, as well as launch their team Hall of Fame.

The October 22 alumni game, the first-ever NHL outdoor game in Winnipeg, will showcase old-time talent between former Jets and Oilers. Among the returning elite are fan favourites Teemu Selanne and Wayne Gretzky. Gretzky, who will lead the Oilers, will be joined by Mark Messier, Kevin Lowe, and Charlie Huddy, the Jets' current assistant coach. Dale Hawerchuk will not only be team captain of the Jets alumni, but he was also part of the committee in charge of selecting players. The Jets' 21-player roster also includes Thomas Steen and Dave Babych.

A familiar face among fans and players alike, Hawerchuk's return to Winnipeg gives him the opportunity to watch a player he helped develop during his time as head coach in Juniors for the Barrie Colts. Former Colt and current Jets centre man Mark Scheifele will be in the lineup as the



Action underway at the MTS Centre.

DREAMSTIME

Jets take on the Oilers in the Heritage Classic the following day. The Heritage Classic will mark the team's fifth game of the season.

The pair of outdoor games will take place at Investors Group Field, home of the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers, which can hold over 30,000 fans. That will make it the biggest venue most of the players have ever played in.

While it's too soon to anticipate any specific matchups, it will be exciting to watch young guns Connor McDavid

and Jesse Puljujärvi battle against the Jets' Patrick Laine and Nikolaj Ehlers.

The Winnipeg Jets are also ready to launch their Hall of Fame in the week leading up to the Alumni and Heritage Classic. According to a statement from the Jets, the Hall of Fame was "created to acknowledge the rich history of the team, which began with the World Hockey Association, and quickly reached international significance." The first three players inducted will be Bobby Hull, Anders Hedberg, and

Ulf Nilsson, a trio that made up the infamous "hot line." Hull is the only inductee not making an appearance at the inaugural ceremony due to personal reasons.

In other news, four-year defenseman Jacob Trouba has demanded a trade, citing lack of ice time. The right shot defenceman and restricted free agent is currently owned by the Winnipeg Jets for the next four years. With the Jets having two established right shot defencemen locked in, with

Byfuglien and Myers, Trouba is left to play third line unless he's willing to switch to the left side.

A statement released on September 23 by Trouba's agent says, "Our client, Jacob Trouba will not be attending the Winnipeg Jets NHL training camp. Since May, we have been working with the Jets management in an effort to facilitate the trade of Jacob's rights."

With the absence of Trouba during the Heritage Classic, as well as potentially the rest of the season, the team will likely be looking to younger players to fill the void.

The Jets' front office also released a statement regarding the situation: "Over the last three seasons, Jacob Trouba has played a key role for the Winnipeg Jets and in our view still represents an important part of the long term future of our club. As such, any decisions made regarding Jacob Trouba will be made in the best interest of the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club."

Needless to say, it's shaping up to be an interesting first month for the Jets.





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Arts & Entertainment

Costumes Galore at Local Rental Shop

Need help getting into the Halloween spirit? Local costumer Laura Zacharias has you covered.



Halloween just wouldn't be complete without a great costume, whether it's for trick-or-treating or just going to a party. Thankfully, you don't have to go far to rent a costume, as Niverville has its own costume rental shop, Dress 'Em Up, run by Laura Zacharias.

Dress 'Em Up isn't just for Halloween outfits, as it's open year-round. Zacharias rents costumes for socials, birthday parties, dramas, musical theatre, and Christmas events.

"I have been involved with plays in my church for many years and rented costumes from D&M Rentals on occasion when they did this," says Zacharias. "In the spring of 2013, I went to D&M to rent a Roman soldier costume and was told they no longer rented costumes, but that they were available for purchase. My husband and I immediately thought this would be a good opportunity, as then I would



Costume selections at Dress 'Em Up in Niverville.

LAURA ZACHARIAS

have many costumes available to me for the dramas I am involved in, and I could start a small business as well."

The costumes come in many sizes, ranging from toddler to adult-plus sizes. They also come in a variety of themes, including renaissance, pirate, western, and popular characters from movies,

television, and storybooks.

"I also have [costumes from] various decades, from the 1800s, 1930s, 1950s, and 1970s," Zacharias adds. "I have different ethnic costumes from German, Chinese, Indonesian, and Ancient Greece. I even have Santa suits and Mrs. Claus."

Dress 'Em Up has over 50

costumes available, and the selection continues to grow each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/Laura-Zacharias-Dress-Em-Up-Costume-Rentals-723037521046087

EVENT GUIDE

Neufeld Garage Fall Supper & Dance

October 1 | 5:30 p.m.
Neufeld's Garage, Randolph. Adults \$25, ages 8-3 \$12.

Painting on the Prairies

October 5 | 7:00 p.m.
Slice of Life, Niverville. \$35.

Matt Falk at Edge Expo

October 6 | 12:30 p.m.
Mennonite Heritage Village, Steinbach. \$30.

Exhibit Opening - Expressions

October 7 | 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Steinbach Arts Council, Steinbach. Free.

Using Your DSLR Camera

Thursdays, October 20 & 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m., \$55.
Southern Comfort Boardroom, Niverville

Al Simmons, Koncerts 4 Kidz! Series

October 22 | 2:00-4:00pm
SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$14.

Eighth Day (Southern Gospel Concert)

October 23 | 7:00 p.m.
Steinbach CMC, Steinbach. Free.

Painting on the Prairies

October 25 | 7:00 p.m.
Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Send your event listing to:

■ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

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204-392-3030

KatieKnebel@royallepage.ca

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Musical Theatre on Offer at Prairie Soul

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Starting last year, the Prairie Soul Dance Company has offered two different musical theatre classes. This gives students who love musical theatre a chance to be involved at a much more focused level than they would be just through annual high school productions.

"We started up a Broadway class and a Musical Theatre class again last season," says Danielle Auld and Melanie Ducharme, sisters and owners of Prairie Soul Dance Company. "For the upcoming season, we have also added a Performing Arts Ensemble class where students will attend various festivals and perform at

additional community events."

These programs are for students ages six and up. They also cover a wide range of artistic ability for those who can sing and dance. The types of performances cover a range of material, from Disney shows to *Anne of Green Gables*, *Annie*, *Hairspray*, and more.

The sisters explain the different classes. "Broadway is a fun intro to the songs and style of Broadway musicals, incorporating elements of basic dance steps, acting, drama, performing arts, and theatre. Musical Theatre is a fun, interactive class exploring musicals and performing arts through acting, characterization, vocal technique, performing vocally while dancing,

and occasionally live musical accompaniment. Performing Arts Ensemble is a fusion of the two classes."

Regional musicals, such as the ones performed at Rainbow Stage in Winnipeg, often have one or two parts that are open to children. For example, the last show done, *Shrek*, featured a few child and teen performers. Classes at Prairie Soul Dance could open up opportunities like these for students in the future.

"Students will perform at our annual May recital," Ducharme and Auld say. "Students will also attend the Southeastern Manitoba Festival in March as well as the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival in May."

Last year, the programs were received well by the community. The classes are taught by two local women, Janeen Peters and Beth Downey Sawatzky. Both of them took the Musical Theatre class in the early 2000s when the studio was called Sadler School of Dance.

"The classes are designed to get students moving, build self-esteem, meet new friends, and have fun!" the Auld and Ducharme add.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.prairiesouldance.com

The City Harmonic Anchors Welcome Week

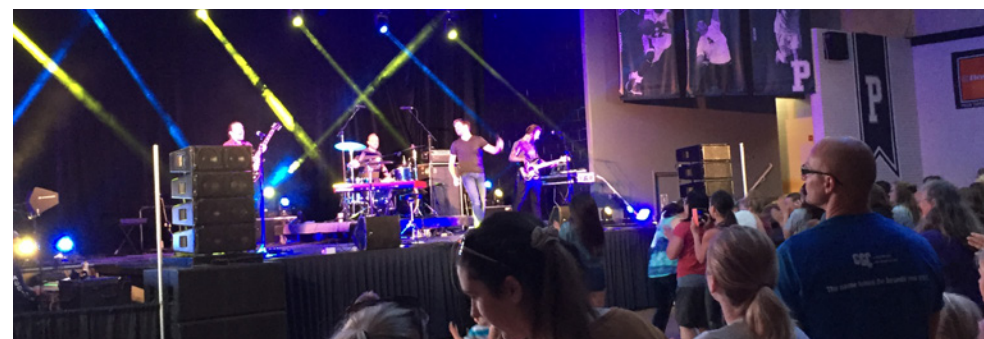
By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Every September at Providence University College, the campus and its staff put on Welcome Week events. This year, the college brought in Juno-award-winning Christian band The City Harmonic to cap off the week with a free concert open to the public.

Roughly 600 people attended the concert held in Providence's gymnasium.

"About half of those in attendance were students," says Jerrad Peters, Creative Content Specialist for the college. "A lot of people from the surrounding community—from Niverville, Steinbach, and Winnipeg—made the trek



The City Harmonic takes the stage at Providence.

✉ SYLVIA ST. CYR

to Otterburne."

The band has performed in Manitoba once before, at Calvary Temple two years ago. That concert was grander in that there were a lot more people in attendance and the band had an opening act. The concert at Providence had a

very intimate feel, with a small group of people singing and dancing their way to the front of the stage. The band also stuck around afterwards to sign merchandise and pose for pictures with fans.

"We have been blown away by the positive feedback," says

Peters. "The City Harmonic has a way of resonating with their audiences and I think we saw that happen on September 2. We are positioning ourselves to be one of the leading Christian universities in Canada, and putting on big-ticket events comes with the territory."

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Eileen Davage painting her son Sam's face.

EILEEN DAVAGE

Halloween Face-Painting for All Ages

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Fall is officially upon us, and with the weather change comes thoughts of Halloween. Most kids love the opportunity to dress up and collect tons of candy. Those who love Halloween often go all-out: costumes, decorations, and scary makeup.

Niverville's own Eileen Davage, who does face-painting for children's birthday parties, also does Halloween makeup. "Halloween has always been my favourite holiday," says Davage. "It allows me to experiment with some pretty cool special effects techniques! Part of the fun with face-painting is the variety of artwork I get to create, everything from superheroes to princesses to villains and monsters."

But that's just for kids, right? What about adults?

"I see a lot of adults on Halloween weekend," adds Davage, pointing out that she does face-painting for all age ranges.

By the time Halloween rolls around, Davage says she's completely booked up. Although anyone can go to Walmart and get Halloween face paint, it takes talent to apply it properly. Also, store brand face paints often aren't good quality, or are very watered down. Davage uses professional face paint that is highly pigmented and won't cause a skin reaction.

"I've been face-painting professionally for three years," Davage says. "My husband is military and we tend to move every few years. I wanted to do something fun to keep me busy that I could take with me no matter where we go and would also allow me to stay at home with my children until they went to school full-time."

Davage is also a certified

professional photographer and works as a graphic designer.

Though Halloween is a busy time of year for Davage, most of her face-painting is done throughout the year at children's birthday parties. "The great thing about birthday party face-painting is that it's not seasonal. I can work anywhere from four to 16 parties per month. I've also painted fantasy makeup designs at a bachelorette party and Mardi-Gras-style masks at an adult-only masquerade ball."

Davage says that the demand for this particular skill has grown in the rural area recently. "The community has been amazing in supporting me and I am so very thankful."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/face-paintbyeileen

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Last Month's Winner
Isabella McLendon
Age: 3



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The fire truck gets Sparky to the fire fast! Colour it **RED** with a **WHITE** stripe.

Sparky's boots protect his feet. Colour them **YELLOW**.

Draw yourself next to Sparky!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2			3			4	5			6	
						7						
8		9	10						11	12		
	13							14				
15						16						17
	18								19			
20				21				22				
23	24	25	26					27	28	29	30	
31				32				33				
	34							35				
36												
37								38				

Across

- 1. Import or export duty
- 4. Raise
- 8. Large portable radio
- 13. Pull in
- 14. Dogs
- 15. Result
- 16. US
- 18. Realizes
- 19. Nourishment
- 21. Cramp
- 23. Obscene
- 27. Imitates
- 31. City in S Argentina
- 33. Carriage
- 34. Dactyls
- 35. The two
- 36. Meteorologist
- 37. Surprise attack
- 38. Entirely

Down

- 2. S Tennessee town
- 3. Corpulence
- 5. Site
- 6. Mural
- 7. Magical incantation
- 9. Simplicity
- 10. Loyal
- 11. Breaking waves
- 12. Trinity
- 17. Trouble
- 20. Viral problem
- 22. Tragedy by Shakespeare
- 24. Admiration
- 25. Stop
- 26. Two items of the same kind
- 28. Pitiful
- 29. Uses up
- 30. Institution for teaching
- 32. Combustion residue

Answers to this month's puzzle can be found in the Classified section on page 35.

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Remembrance Day Honour Roll

The Niverville Remembrance Day Planning Committee is putting out a call to Armed Forces Personnel and Veteran residents of Niverville and surrounding area who wish to be included in the Honour Roll by name and picture, which is shown leading up to the Remembrance Day Ceremony. All interested please contact Lora at 204-388-6536 by October 28, 2016.



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The Citizen

Contact Evan Braun at:
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

FUN & GAMES

This Month's
Crossword Puzzle
Answers

1	T	2	A	3	R	4	F	5	U	6	P	7	L	8	I	9	F	10	T
11	G	12	H	13	E	14	T	15	O	16	B	17	L	18	A	19	C	20	R
21	E	22	A	23	R	24	N	25	R	26	C	27	U	28	R	29	S	30	
31	E	32	N	33	S	34	U	35	E	36	A	37	M	38	E	39	R	40	I
41	S	42	E	43	E	44	S	45	C	46	F	47	O	48	O	49	O	50	D
51	F	52	S	53	P	54	A	55	S	56	M	57	O	58		59		60	
61	L	62	E	63	W	64	D	65	D	66	A	67	P	68	E	69	S	70	
71	U	72	S	73	H	74	U	75	I	76	A	77	C	78	O	79	A	80	C
81	T	82	O	83	E	84	S	85	B	86	B	87	O	88	T	89	H	90	
91	W	92	E	93	A	94	T	95	H	96	E	97	R	98	P	99	E	100	R
101	E	102	A	103	T	104	E	105	A	106	P	107	T	108	R	109	S	110	O
111	A	112	M	113	B	114	U	115	S	116	H	117	W	118	H	119	O	120	L
121	L	122	L	123	L	124	L	125	L	126	L	127	L	128	L	129	L	130	L

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