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LOCAL NEWS

Dollar Store to Open Doors in Niverville

■ The Great Canadian Dollar Store is poised to begin construction on a brand-new location in Niverville.

Details on Page 9



LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands Partners with Local Grower to Offer Fresh Produce

■ Due to the generosity of an anonymous local donor, Helping Hands has been able to enter into a partnership with a local grower to offer at-need families access to fresh produce.

Details on Page 4

SPORTS & RECREATION

St. Adolphe Athlete Drafted to Juniors

■ Matt Egan of St. Adolphe has been drafted by the Swan River Stampers to participate in their 2018 training camp.

Details on Page 24

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fair Weathers the Storm of Change

■ This year's Olde Tyme Country Fair saw a lot of change behind the scenes. Event organizers are optimistic about the future.

Details on Page 26



Local Graduates Ready to Take on New Challenges >>> DETAILS ON PAGE 15, 30-31

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DID YOU
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*If you are new to Niverville
or have been here a while...*

In 2016 a water line was brought down Main Street to provide potable water service to Main Street businesses. While met with some controversy, thanks to big picture thinking, it is this same water line that now services the new high school and proposed Community Resource Centre project.

In 2016 a multi-year \$1 million dollar project to renew all the Main Street sidewalks was started. The new sidewalks have improved pedestrian travel and have also enhanced the face of Main Street making the businesses more attractive to passers by.

In 2017 a \$1 million dollar three year project to rebuild and pave 6th Avenue South was started. Lights for some intersections and roundabouts for others are part of engineers recommendations. Council is working with Manitoba Infrastructure to see these plans become reality.

In 2018 a \$2.5 million dollar major water project was completed. New wells have been drilled thanks to the good relationship we have with our neighbours in the RM of Hanover. This new water source will provide a supply of water that will meet our town's needs for many years.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Your Council is available to answer your questions and hear your comments. To reach specific Council members please find our emails here:
www.wheretheyoubelong.ca/contact-us/town-council



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Helping Hands Partners with Local Grower	4
Providence Home to Extensive Hymnal Collection	5
Daman Named Chairman of Federal Advisory Panel	6
GORP Goes to China	7
Mental Health Awareness Re-Imagined	8
Great Canadian Dollar Store Coming to Niverville	9
The Benefits of Foraging for Food in a Modern World	10
C. Brown Launches Unique Autobody Shop	11
Recycling: Why Is it So Confusing?	12
Travelers Rest, Play, and Stay at Arrowhead	14
Local Students Recognized at Legislature	18
The Game of Life	20
Klassen Takes Medals at Manitoba 55+ Games	22
Two Niverville Teams Win Soccer Gold	23
Wildcats Celebrate Successful Season	24
Local Teenager Gets Drafted by Swan River Stamps	25
Niverville Fair Weathers the Storm of Change	26
Raising a Glass to Homebrewers	27
Put Some Zip into Your Summer	28

The Citizen

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Trio of Niverville Councillors Seek Re-Election



EVAN BRAUN
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Three members of Niverville's town council are eager to throw their hats in the ring for re-election. Earlier this month, councillors Chris Wiebe, Nathan Dueck, and Kevin Stott all announced their intention to run for second terms. The province-wide municipal election will take place October 24. All three councillors are finishing up their first terms, although in Dueck's case he has only served two years, since he took over his position in 2016 when former councillor John Falk stepped down.

With the town in constant growth mode over the last decade, council has been pushing initiatives on several fronts. All three councillors cite the same major accomplishments as being highlights of the past term—the development of the business park, the installation of a water main along Main Street, the start of construction of the new high school, and the continuing efforts to realize the dream of the Community Resource Centre.

“Through partnership with Hanover School Division, the Public School Finance Board, and the Province of Manitoba, we as a community have, as we speak, a new high school in the ground,” says Dueck. “The Community Resource Centre is firmly rooted and we are in the planning stages of the sports facility. That will be a shared facility for our citizens, neighbours, and our students. The project is really a first of its kind in Manitoba.”

Wiebe, too, is enthusiastic about the Community Resource Centre. He cites an internal report which shows that the current arena draws about 20,000 people each year—and so he wonders, how many more people will be drawn to the new, state-of-the-art campus? Not only does he say the facility will improve and expand the town's recreation offices, but it will create a tremendous amount of economic growth in all sectors. As a result, Niverville is poised to become a major hub.

The delivery of town water, Dueck adds, is a key reason why the high school and Community Resource Centre are happening, and

the recent upgrades to the water system will allow new developments—residential, commercial, and industrial—to flourish.

“One of the things we ran on was getting more business in town,” says Stott, referring to the previous municipal election campaign in 2014. “We're only starting to see the beginning of it. But we have plenty of interest and lots, and we're hoping within the next six months or so we'll see it pay off and we'll have a bunch of businesses [there]. The public will see that it is working.”

The splash pad in Hespeler Park is something Wiebe is especially proud of. “Building that splash pad is all about giving back to the community.”

Dueck in particular is excited about the formation of Niverville's new health advisory committee, the purpose of which is to retain and attract new medical professionals and business to town.



WIEBE: PATIENCE AND ACCEPTING CRITICISM

Each councillor sees in themselves key strengths and leadership qualities that have allowed them to make specific contributions to the overall puzzle that is town council.

“Patience,” says Wiebe, hitting an introspective note. He says that when you storm out on every issue, problems can escalate very quickly. “I didn't used to have patience for politics, and my maturity has been in recognizing that. But I've learned that patience is an area where I can contribute.”

He also has learned the importance of being able to accept criticism. “Sometimes the first reaction is, ‘I'm right.’ But criticism is a form of democracy. You have to own it and don't take it personally.”

Wiebe adds that public criticism is often the main way in which citizens can engage in the democratic process, and

as such it's important not to get your back up every time you hear something you don't appreciate.

On a practical level, Wiebe says that he brings a lot of leadership expertise in the area of infrastructure. He has 38 years of experience building sewer lines, airports, developments, streets, and sidewalks—just to name a few—everywhere from western Ontario to Saskatchewan, and throughout Manitoba as far north as Gillam, both in rural and urban settings. His expertise has been instrumental in weening the town off some of its dependence on engineering firms and providing confidence to council's decisions, especially in terms of budgeting, and in the everyday operations of the Public Works department.

“I feel that I've been able to give confidence to Public Works,” Wiebe says. “They are very capable, but sometimes they just need someone to back them up.”



STOTT: IT'S ALL IN THE ROOTS

“What do I bring? I think I bring some of the roots,” says Stott about what he brings to council's team dynamic. “I've been in town all my life. I'm out there still participating in a lot of things, like I'm in the golf league, I'm in the curling league. I think I have that voice of the town. My mother is still in town in the [Niverville Credit Union Manor]. When you're in there as a visitor, you talk to the seniors and learn about their concerns. I've been here all my life.”

Overall, Stott is really happy with the working dynamic on council over the past several years.

“One thing I want to put a highlight on is that we gelled so well together,” he says. “It's been a really nice council to work with.”



DUECK: POSITIVITY AND COMMUNICATION

“The ability to see a different side of the coin, or a different goal or purpose, is a strength,” says Dueck. “I would consider myself a very positive person... and I am passionate about everything I do. I rarely give up.”

Dueck also believes that he has adopted a common belief held by many people in Niverville: that nothing is impossible so long as we find a unique way to do it.

Although Dueck didn't specifically mention this aspect of himself, his fellow councillors were quick to appreciate his strength in terms of staying active on social media and providing much-valued communication to residents there.

“I have taken it upon myself as a goal to work with the people in this town who reach out and look for better understanding,” Dueck says, “to sit down and go through their concerns to make Niverville better, and make sure we find better and new ways to evolve communication in our town.”

Although Dueck looks forward to many more years on council, he acknowledges that it's no cakewalk. “My time on council for the last two years has been an amazing experience,” he says. “It is, however, a large investment of yourself... I am very blessed that I have energy and the support of my wife and our two young daughters.”

THE TERM AHEAD

Despite several notable achievements, the work of a town council is never done, and a great many important projects remain in the future should these councillors get re-elected to continue their work.

“We have a whole pile of stuff started and halfway

through, and we'd sure like to finish it and bring those things to town before we do retire from the political field,” Stott says. “And with a new CEO coming in, you just hope that he has some experience on council [to back him up]. That would be a good thing for the community. A lot of people look at the CEO as just working in the office, but [former CEO Jim Buys] had a relationship with many people and politicians around us that he got to know over a period of time... A lot of things that do happen in the town, it's about relationships and knowing who to talk to.”

Over the course of the past year, Eric King has been getting ready to take over the CEO position full-time with Buys's departure.

In addition to the high school and bringing the Community Resource Centre to fruition, Wiebe is looking forward to turning more attention to the burgeoning business park, as well as shepherding new developments. He also sees that the town still has a lot of infrastructure needs to prioritize in the coming years.

Wiebe also cites the town's joint work with the Niverville Chamber of Commerce to develop a business mentorship program, to provide support systems for young or otherwise inexperienced entrepreneurs to get their businesses off to promising beginnings.

“Starting a business is hard when you don't have someone to knock ideas out with,” Wiebe says.

“The priorities for the years ahead, in my opinion, is to strive for balance,” says Dueck. “Niverville has, over the last decade, had the privilege of seeing massive population growth. However, our priorities over the next decade no doubt have to pertain to growth of industry and commercial development for local jobs. Long-term health projects are currently high on this council's agenda, and [it] will need to be even higher as our population grows and evolves.”

Finally, Dueck says that the town's ever-increasing demand for public safety services, including fire and policing, will need to be addressed in the coming years.

IN BRIEF



Ethan Maroni & Jordan Sinclair at the ball hockey tournament. LYNNETTE DELARONDE

Wm. Dyck & Sons Hosts Customer Appreciation Day

Wm. Dyck & Sons in Niverville threw their Customer Appreciation Day on Sunday, June 3. The parking lot filled up quickly on this sunny afternoon.

Customers took in a boisterous three-on-three ball hockey tournament, a petting zoo, and bouncy castles. The day also included face-painting and bingo, with free popcorn, cotton candy. The store also gave away seedlings.

Niverville's Fire and Emergency Services Department was on hand to cook up a barbecue lunch from 12:30-2:00 p.m., raising funds for the purchase of extraction hand tools.

Helping Hands Partners with Local Grower

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

With the help of a generous anonymous donor, Niverville Helping Hands is able to team up this year with a local grower, Niverville Homegrown, in order to provide fresh produce to families in need.

"We had a donor who approached us in the spring, inquiring whether they could sponsor a CSA box through Niverville Homegrown for our clients," says Ashley Chamberlain of Helping Hands.

CSA stands for community-supported agriculture, and the CSA box model typically involves independent farmers delivering weekly boxes of fresh produce to households. Unfortunately, it was quickly decided that this wouldn't be a good fit for the clients of Helping Hands.

Nonetheless, Chamberlain says that Helping Hands was immediately intrigued by the suggestion.

"We loved the idea, but we weren't sure how that could work," she says. "It got us to thinking, though, and we arranged to meet with Chantal Wieler, owner and operator of Niverville Homegrown, to discuss whether she would be interested in partnering."

"When I was first approached with the idea of partnering with Helping Hands, I thought it was a great idea!" says Wieler. "I've been thinking for a while about how to get fresh produce into the



Chantal Wieler, owner and operator of Niverville Homegrown.

CHANTAL WIELER

hands of those less fortunate in my community. For the last six years, I have brought all my surplus at the end of the season to a few shelters in Winnipeg, but I love the idea of being able to fill a local need, too."

The two organizations soon came to a workable solution. Instead of distributing weekly boxes of produce, Helping Hands will distribute vouchers which can be redeemed at Wieler's fresh produce stand.

"That way, people can come shop for the fresh produce of their choice, not just what I pack in the bins," Wieler says. "I set up my vegetable stand in front of Niverville Bigway every Wednesday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. starting in mid-July, and that is where the

vouchers can be redeemed. This seemed like the easiest way to get clients the freshest produce of their choice."

This is similar to an existing Helping Hands program whereby clients receive vouchers for milk and eggs that can be picked up at Niverville Bigway and New B's in New Bothwell.

"Starting in July we will distribute those coupons to our folks, and then Chantal will bill us back for coupons used," says Chamberlain. "We so far have an amount that was donated exclusively for this project, and we may use some of our operating budget toward it as well."

Chamberlain says that she is excited to branch out in ways that

increase the nutritional benefits of the foods they provide.

"Food insecurity is a real issue," Chamberlain adds. "Those who have limited budgets will tend to purchase items that have a longer shelf life. While those items can be fine nutrition choices, it's a nice, and often healthier, option to have fresh vegetables and fruits available. I'm excited that this partnership will give people some of those options, on a small scale, but also that it provides the dignity of choice, which is something that we are talking about a lot with our team and trying to find ways to improve our services to the community where we can. At the same time, we are supporting a local business, so the result is a beautiful cycle that stands to benefit everyone."

Chamberlain adds that Helping Hands is extremely grateful to the generous donor who made this possible. "We love when members of the community share ideas with us. Our community has been generous to us and allowed us to give generously to our clients. We are really just a vehicle through which the community gives back to itself, and we have been so fortunate to have been the afforded the opportunity to pilot this project."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivervillehelpinghands.org
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Providence Home to Extensive Hymnal Collection

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Providence University College in Otterburne is now home to one of the largest collections of hymnals in the country. The collection, donated by Don Thiessen, who ran the college's music department in the mid-1980s, includes approximately 2,300 hymnals of varying age and rarity.

"The earliest books go back to the early 1800s," says Dr. David Sawatzky, Associate Professor of Music at Providence. "A lot of them are turn-of-the-century hymnals and these are all from various denominations. Some of them are from the U.S. We have Presbyterian hymnals, a number of Methodist books, Catholic, Mennonite, Baptist... oh goodness, we have all kinds."

Sawatzky says that Thiessen approached the school in the fall of 2017 and began the conversation about gifting the books, which he had been collecting since his tenure at Providence.

"In his office one day, probably around 1980, he noticed that he had about 20 hymnals on his shelf that he used for a variety of things," Sawatzky says. "And slowly it became 50, and he realized he had a collection. So he just kept going. For the next 40 years, he would visit antique booksellers, yard sales, used bookstores, and if he found a hymnal that he knew he didn't have, he would purchase it."

On one occasion, Thiessen attended a big used book sale in Pennsylvania and ended up returning home with 60 hymnals



Don Thiessen, collector of hymnals, recently made a sizable donation of books to Providence.

PROVIDENCE

at once. When pressed by his wife about what he intended to do with them, he just said, "Well, I'm going to collect them!"

"So this built up over time, and then in the last number of years he had shelves [installed] in his garage—the books took up an entire wall—and he felt it was time to do something with them. It was time to donate them somewhere," says Sawatzky. "He looked around, contacted several academic libraries in the country, and there was little interest expressed. Then he came to Prov and asked us. I looked at [the collection] and I said, 'Well, sure!' Providence considers itself part of the evangelical tradition, it's a Christian school, and from my point of view nothing could enhance our music program

better than something like this. I have students that will have never opened a hymnal before in their life. Now they have this collection at hand. It's a great window into the past."

According to Sawatzky, if you want to know the theology of the church, you should look at what it sings—because theology and music are so intertwined. Indeed, he points out that the earliest hymnals weren't owned by churches. They were owned by families and individuals. When a person came to church, they carried their Bible in one hand and their hymnal in the other.

"I think [these hymnals] are a great value," he says. "I mean, it's no secret that hymnals are kind of disappearing from our churches.

I find that to be really unfortunate. The collection is a really great window into Protestant Christianity between the 1800s and 1900s and 2000s and how they thought of their churches. What was important to them? What kind of things did they think? There's one hymnal, *The Sacred Harp*, from the Appalachians from years ago, and when you look at that, the first 50 pages of it are like a theory textbook on how to read music. The churches felt that it was important for their congregations to be able to read music. They thought music literacy and hymn-singing was an important endeavour for the church. And I feel that right now we're sort of losing that."

Members of the public who would like to view the collection are welcome to drop by the college anytime during office hours.

"We have the collection in our choir library," says Sawatzky. "If they come during office hours, sometime during the day to Providence, we could show them up there and they could browse at their will. We would gladly show them around and let them look. And if they want to take something out, then we could arrange that."

He notes that the books aren't yet catalogued, which is a process that will definitely take some time. After all, the collection came with an extensive bibliography that runs 128 pages long.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For a complete listing of the hymnals: www.prov.ca/media/3107/hymnals.pdf

IN BRIEF

Niverville School Construction on Track

Construction on Niverville's new high school, which began in late March, is right on track, according to Hanover School Division superintendent Randy Dueck. Dry weather early on in the spring allowed Red Lake Construction to make quick progress.

"The weather's been fantastic, which has been super for us," says Dueck. "Red Lake Construction has been right on track. What a construction company will do is they'll create a timeline of various aspects and various set points along the way, so we can see are they on time or are they not on time. Currently Red Lake is right on track with their timeline as they established in the tender. So we're feeling very good about that."

Dueck notes that the building is taking shape, with some of the walls coming up.

"I would really encourage people to take a look online where you can see video of the school coming up and get a really good sense of how well it's going," Dueck adds.

More details about the construction process are available on the school division's website (below).


FOR MORE INFORMATION


■ <https://niverville.hsd.ca>

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IN BRIEF

Niverville Represented at Manufacturing Conference

Niverville was well represented at this year's LEAN Manufacturing Conference, hosted by Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the country's leading trade and industry association. The conference was held on June 4-7 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Over 800 delegates from across the continent attended, including representatives from the public sector, private industry, crown corporations, and entrepreneurs. Niverville came in as a gold sponsor of the event.

"The town took part because sponsorship of events like this is part of the town's economic growth strategy, implemented last year," says Eric King, Niverville's chief administrative officer. "It provides us with a great networking opportunity to get new leads on businesses interested in moving into town. This, in turn, benefits taxpayers by increasing [the property tax] assessment base and bringing new jobs to our community."

The town's economic growth strategy is a recent initiative of council, working together with the Chamber of Commerce, to grow Niverville's business sector. Town representatives teamed up with local business reps at Niverville's custom-built booth for the three-day event, ready to boast the opportunities awaiting manufacturers and business owners in this rapidly growing community.

"We had three or four large businesses express varying levels of interest in the community," says King. "And over 100 people took information away with them about why Niverville is a great place to live or setup a business."

Daman Named Chairman of Federal Advisory Panel

Former mayor is honoured by the opportunity to serve.

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Former Niverville mayor Gordon Daman is simultaneously humbled and honoured at his recent appointment to an esteemed position in the federal government.

"It is likely going to be a pinnacle appointment [for me] professionally, but it is more than that," says Daman. "It is a culmination of my local service on council in Niverville, which led to my appointment and provincial service on the Manitoba Municipal Board, to now an appointment that leads me to serve at a federal level."

Daman was selected from among a number of highly qualified applicants to assume the role of chairman of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Dispute Advisory Panel (PLTDAP). While the title sounds like a mouthful, the panel's job is relatively straightforward.

The federal government owns property and buildings in municipalities across the country. These might include, for example, properties owned by crown corporations such as Canada Post or RCMP detachments. According to the Constitution Act of 1867, federal corporations are considered exempt from paying local property taxes or any other tax levies assigned by municipal and provincial governments.

"We make payments in lieu of taxes to recognize the services we receive from municipal governments and to pay our share of the costs to municipalities where our property is located," reads a statement on the Government of Canada website. "However, in light of our constitutional exemption from taxation, these payments

are made at the discretion of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement or the heads of Crown corporations."¹

In other words, because the federal government doesn't pay taxes to provinces and municipalities, they instead compensate them through direct payments based on fairness, taking into consideration the taxes paid by other property owners in that district.

A branch of the federal government, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), administers the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program. Each year, \$570 million is distributed across the country to compensate the approximate 22,000 federal properties located in almost 1,200 jurisdictions.

The PLTDAP panel, on which Daman will soon sit, is comprised of two members from each province and territory. Occasionally, when disputes arise between taxing authorities and PSPC, the committee's job is to provide advice to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, in order to assist in finding a resolution.

Disputes can occur over local property valuation, property dimensions, or rates used to calculate payment in lieu of taxes. Claims for late payment supplements might also funnel through this panel. As well, they will provide advice to upper management of crown corporations.

"Essentially, this is like a board of revision at a local level, [to] which property owners can appeal the assessment of their home or business," Daman says. "But, in this case, it is for municipalities wanting to appeal what the federal

government has deemed the value to be for buildings the Crown owns throughout Canada."

Without question, Daman's many years of work in property appraisal, as president of the Red River Group, makes him uniquely qualified for this position. But his background in municipal politics, he says, also plays a significant role.

He first learned of the position opening through the Appraisal Institute of Canada and his application was submitted in early 2017. Applicants must provide six reference checks and go through the vetting processes of the Canadian Security Intelligence Services, RCMP, and Canada Revenue Agency. Daman was then invited to an interview in Ottawa, which his schedule was unable to permit. He was, however, allowed to conduct a video conference interview with members of the Privy Council, the Prime Minister's Office, and PSPC staff.

Following the interview, Daman was not only accepted as board member, but also recommended as chairman to the PLTDAP panel.

"After numerous discussions with officials in Ottawa to get a firm idea on the time commitment involved and, most importantly, discussions with family and colleagues, I decided to say yes to their recommendation," Daman says. "I then had to wait a bit longer to see if Cabinet would approve the recommendation from Minister Qualtrough. Based on my understanding, the Governor General released the Order in Council earlier this month."

One of Daman's few shortcomings throughout the vetting

process was, admittedly, the fact that he's not functionally bilingual.

"That was a concern. However, I was told that as the selection process included a full matrix of skill-sets, my other skills outweighed this limitation," Daman muses. "There are other board members who are bilingual that will be able to act as case managers or chair hearings for the panel."

Understandably, this new position will require some weaning of other commitments to which he's been invested over the years. As of July, Daman will be stepping away from his position with the Manitoba Municipal Board. His role on various Heritage Centre boards will also need to be filled by a newly elected board member this summer. Daman says that he will continue to be an active and ongoing supporter of the Heritage Centre and is thankful to the Town of Niverville as a whole.

"Simply put, this is not simply my appointment but an appointment for Niverville on the national scene, as without the support from citizens to allow me to serve on council from 1998 to 2006, I would not have gained the experience necessary to serve in this role," Daman concludes. "So I am indebted to my home community for this appointment and in particular [to] former mayor Clare Braun for asking me to consider serving on council."

REFERENCES

¹ "Understanding Payments in Lieu of Taxes," *Government of Canada*, May 29, 2018 (<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/biens-property/peri-pilt/comprendre-understand-eng.html>).



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GORP Goes to China

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Fast-paced doesn't even begin to describe the life of Colleen Dyck, owner of The Great GORP Project of Niverville and innovator of the popular GORP energy bar. In the past few years, her company has witnessed rapid change and growth. Their product line has expanded and the energy bars are finally pushing through complex trade barriers into the U.S. market.

In May, Dyck took a giant leap across the ocean to introduce her product line to an international market: China.

"I'm always reaching for the next thing," says Dyck. "I have to be careful that I don't spread myself too thin, but at the same time that's just how my brain works."

Dyck came across the Chinese opportunity organically. A Chinese-Canadian trade company with home bases in British Columbia and Beijing reached out to her after seeing GORP bars in a Vancouver retail outlet. The immediately saw that the product had incredible potential in southeast Asia.

"There's an emerging middle class that is growing exponentially in China and these are the types of products that they're looking for," Dyck says, adding that the trade company was impressed with GORP's philosophy and all-Canadian ingredients.

After introductions and numerous meetings to map out a strategy, the company welcomed Dyck on board as a Canadian partner, and together they worked out plans for GORP's newest product line: Oh Canada Oatmeal Blend.

"It's basically a breakfast cereal," Dyck explains. "Essentially,



Colleen Dyck of GORP takes her business to China.

COLLEEN DYCK

it's oats amped up with some flax and Manitoba berries. There's nothing complicated about it, but [the Chinese] seem to really have an appetite for Canadian food. There's a certain belief that the air and the water is clean here. They hold up Canada as a country whose food regulations are super stiff, and they know that they are getting really safe food [that] is produced in a clean environment."

While Dyck worked out the details for the new product line, the trade company set the stage for GORP's Asian debut. Their first stop was SIAL China, one of the world's largest food trade shows, which hosts companies from around the globe.

After an exhausting flight and facing a 13-hour time difference, Dyck went right to work at the three-day trade show. Her job was mostly one of support while her partners performed the work of extolling the virtues of GORP in a variety of Chinese dialects.

"They hosted me beautifully," says Dyck. "They set up the [trade show] booth and got everything translated into Chinese... I just showed up and helped them."

One day of recovery was all she was allowed, and then the

team jumped another flight to Beijing, taking the product to gyms, health food stores, and supermarkets across China's capital city. Business meetings were held in the newly assigned GORP office to assess the success of their endeavour.

Dyck's whirlwind tour wouldn't have been complete without an excursion to the city's greatest sites, the Great Wall and Forbidden City. Tasting the local dishes, too, was high on her bucket list.

"The food was what excited me," Dyck muses. "I ate everything they served—all the intestines, the snails, the things with eyes that I didn't know what they were. I ate a lot of things that I wasn't really sure of. [My partners] were actually really impressed."

Back at home, Dyck and the trade team are busy working through labelling regulations, import/export laws, and the copious red tape required to turn this dream into a reality. While the Chinese authorities have limited expectations of what goes on a food label, language translation isn't among them. In fact, she's been instructed to print the labels in English, giving the Chinese market further proof that the

product is truly manufactured in Canada.

The ingredients, though, will require a few small tweaks. For example, the Chinese pallet is conditioned to tasting cinnamon in savoury dishes, as opposed to sweet, and the country also has a ban on hemp products.

Dyck is fully cognizant of the risks she faces with international trade, including the costs of storing large quantities of product awaiting shipment, investing in product that isn't yet sold, and a reduced cash flow as receivables stretch out over much longer periods of time. One way to alleviate that, she says, is to break into the market with presales for a period of time.

"We're still a small company," she says. "It's a stretch for us and it's scary. It's not a sure thing and there's still a lot for us to lose if it doesn't work."

Production is one thing Dyck isn't worried about. With the recent expansion of the facility on their existing site, she says she's confident that, with enough staff, they'll be able to quadruple their production levels within their current space.

Always one step ahead, Dyck is already working out the dynamics of her next potential Canadian product launch.

"I'm working on protein shakes," she says. "I came up with a chai hot chocolate [shake mix]. I'm thinking that might be the next big thing. But, in the end, I'm a really crappy implementer. I'm way more of a visionary/creative person. So I just have to make sure that I bring in the right people with the strengths that I don't have."

IN BRIEF



Cody Quiring of Providence, Ryan Hamm of BSI Niverville, and Dan McLeod, Providence's Director of Facilities Management.

BSI Donates to Prov Residence

BSI Insurance has donated \$1,500 to Providence University College in Otterburne to help with improvements and upgrades to the Providence House Residence. These upgrades are key to maintaining safety and accessibility for students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

The faith-based university educates 550 students each year and has more than 40 students and their families living in this residence. The donation is made through BSI Insurance's Because We Care Initiative.

HUB Branch Announces CRC Donation Drive

HUB International's Niverville branch has launched an initiative to raise funds for the town's Community Resource Centre. The branch will donate \$25 for every home, business, and farm quote done through the local office in the months of June, July, and August. Customers who get quotes are under no obligation to make a purchase.

The final donation is anticipated to take place in late 2018.

It's possible that the actual donation will exceed \$25 per quote, according to HUB. They are in the process of approaching other insurance markets to see if they may be willing to participate with the quote initiative. The goal of this program is to help bring visibility to the CRC project and encourage others to get on board with the fundraising efforts.

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Mental Health Awareness Re-Imagined

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Going into their eleventh year, the Imagine Mental Health Matters team wants the public to know that while they've closed the chapter on Niverville's annual family fun run, at least for this year, they aren't going anywhere. Instead they are working on new ideas, events, and initiatives that will keep people talking about mental health and suicide prevention.

This year, Imagine will host their third annual One Big Day for Imagine, along with other fundraising efforts that have yet to be finalized, including raffles, an outdoor family movie nights on a giant inflatable screen, and a hole-in-one contest with huge potential prizes.

"Imagine was always intended to be known as a group of individuals who worked to destigmatize mental health and suicide," says Mona Stott, founder of the non-profit organization. "We are more than just the run. We want to continue to have a presence throughout the year. Local doctors have affirmed that Imagine has done impactful things in the surrounding communities."

Mental health and suicide awareness took on a whole new relevance for Stott 11 years ago after her son Joey's death by suicide. Imagine Mental Health Matters was a positive result of that pain and it has been Stott's passion ever since to start the conversation and keep it going.

"There's a lot of people that we meet on a daily basis that look fine but may be struggling," Stott says. "If we can save one life by reaching out to them and giving them the strength to get help, then it's worth every ounce of effort we've put in!"

The newest member to the volunteer committee, Miranda



Local celebrities are hoisted into the air on One Big Day for Imagine.

IMAGINE

Huppe, is a Niverville resident and registered nurse. She is excited to join the Imagine team and is passionate about mental health. She currently manages the organization's emails and is working to bring Imagine into the local schools. The hope is to normalize the conversation about mental health at all age levels, because it still holds a lot of stigma in our society.

"She's got the healthcare experience to speak the language and be safe about it," Stott says.

Both Stott and Huppe agree that educating young people is vital, as they are just as susceptible to mental health issues as everyone else. However, children don't necessarily have the vocabulary to express their feelings. This is why it is essential to teach them to recognize and implement coping strategies. Elementary schools are already using many techniques, such as helping young people to connect colours and facial images to emotions. The goal is to help parents use similar techniques at home to provide consistent care.

In high school, Huppe says, life can be challenging for some students. "You're branching away from your parents and finding out

who you are. Students need to be aware of the resources out there to better equip them on how to manage difficult situations."

Though the details are yet to be worked out, Imagine is excited that discussions are already underway with Niverville Collegiate Institute to bring these techniques to the school in the coming year.

Huppe also speaks of patients who admit to internalizing mental health struggles that started in childhood. They are constantly in fear of being mocked or ridiculed by those around them, thus preventing them from seeking help. This causes their illness to get progressively worse.

"I've had patients say to me, 'If only I had known in school how to deal with it and where to go [for help], then I would not be hospitalized,'" Huppe says.

Stott's and Huppe's joint desire is to help people understand that mental illness is like any physical ailment and there is no shame in it. To do this, conversations need to happen regularly—and this starts by reaching out for help.

"Many people think it's a weakness to ask for help, but it's actually a strength to speak up," says Stott. "Has Imagine broken the barrier?"

Some. Have we got a long way to go? Absolutely!"

To get this message across, the One Big Day for Imagine event encourages people to pick up their cell phones and call someone when they find themselves experiencing a mental health crisis or are struggling with thoughts of suicide.

Participants of One Big Day will be harnessed in and then hoisted into the air on a 40-foot boom attached to a scissor lift. Once sky-born, they will use their personal cell phones to connect with family and friends. The participants' goal will be to solicit funds by advocating for mental health, which will assist the Imagine team in furthering the cause.

Stott says that while the Imagine team is already actively seeking candidates, they welcome age-appropriate individuals, 12 years and up, to register in advance.

Whether you're keen on going up on the boom or not, everyone is invited to come out and participate. Bouncy castles and Floyd the Clown will be on the premises for families to enjoy. A \$5 barbecue will be provided by Crystal Springs Hutterite Colony.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Niverville Bigway parking lot. The event will be broadcast live by several local media stations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To register for One Big Day for Imagine, visit www.imaginementalhealth.com, or join the cause on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImagineWpg

■ If anyone is or knows someone in crisis, contact the Canadian Crisis Support Line by phone (1-833-456-4566), by text (45645), or by online chat (www.crisiservicescanada.ca).



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Site map of the new commercial development in front of Old Drivers Run.

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Great Canadian Dollar Store Coming to Niverville

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Niverville and the surrounding area will soon be able to cut out one extra trip to the city. Construction on the Great Canadian Dollar Store will begin early this summer and provide the region's thrifty shoppers with over 6,500 square feet of great deals.

Located at 40 Drivers Run, the store will be the newest feature along Niverville's business hub bordering the golf course on the west end of town. An ample parking area will tie in with the existing parking at Tim Hortons and the Shell gas station.

"We anticipate that construction will begin in the coming weeks," says Ray Dowse of Westside Properties Inc. in Niverville. Three Way Builders of Steinbach has been contracted for the build. Len Neufeld, owner of Three Way Builders, is a partner in Westside Properties Inc. along with Dan Harder.

"Our goal is to use as many

local trades and suppliers as possible in the development of the project," Dowse adds.

The Great Canadian Dollar Store will comprise only one part of a multi-unit commercial development. Phase one will include two separate buildings, the first of which will include the dollar store plus an additional 2,475 square feet of space for the inclusion of one or two more businesses with their own storefronts.

The second building will stand separate from the first and be constructed with a drive-thru restaurant in mind. Dowse says it is too soon to disclose the restaurant franchise looking at this space, but details will be forthcoming very soon.

Phase two will include a third commercial building just east of the restaurant. In total, 31,000 square feet of commercial retail space will soon be available at this site.

"I am in conversation with several other organizations that have an interest in potential occupancy in future phases at this site," says

Dowse. "I'm optimistic, based on current interest, that more announcements for future phases will be made in the not so distant future. Niverville and region are now at a population where these businesses can not only come to town and sustain themselves, but also flourish as growth in the town and region continue. I am very pleased to see this project move forward and excited for the franchisees as they invest in our community. It's exciting to see new amenities and jobs being created locally."

The Great Canadian Dollar Store will be owned and operated by a group whose company is based out of Steinbach. The Niverville store will be one of their four dollar stores in Manitoba, including one in Steinbach.

This all-Canadian franchise has been in business for 25 years, spreading out with 114 stores from coast to coast and as far north as Whitehorse. Their stated goal is to encourage franchisees to focus on quality, value, and exceptional customer service.

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The Benefits of Foraging for Food in a Modern World

By Brenda Sawatzky

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In this day and age, foraging for edible food usually constitutes a trip to the backyard garden for some fresh greens or a weekly outing to the local supermarket. Laura Reeves of Prairie Shore Botanicals, though, is reintroducing Manitobans to their ancestral past, offering courses which can help you recognize, harvest, and prepare a large variety of edible, medicinal, or otherwise useful wild plants that are growing within walking distance of your home or cottage.

Reeves kickstarted her business in 2012 when she became concerned that people were becoming too disconnected with nature and the valuable resources it offers. A botanist for 20 years, she also gives courses on wilderness survival skills, and willow and bulrush basket-weaving.

Much of her experience was gained in the years she worked on the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. From this emerged a desire to share her unique perspective with others, a perspective that would “get people just as excited about their own backyard as the Amazon rainforest.”

“When people become more aware of nature, whether it’s through foraging or any other wilderness skill at the most basic level, they start to appreciate everything around them more,” Reeves says. “When you learn to forage your own food, weave your own basket, make your own medicine, or start a bow-drill fire, you don’t view life the same anymore. You don’t take things for granted.”

Reeves offers full-day classes called Wild Edible Adventures from her home in Gardenton, Manitoba. But she also holds workshops around the province, capitalizing on the vast array of beneficial and under-rated plants many just view as nuisances. Common chickweed, portulaca, and lamb’s quarters are just a few of the naturally occurring greens that yield



Laura Reeves of Prairie Shore Botanicals.

© CINDY BALKWILL PHOTOGRAPHY

high levels of nutrients and protein.

Dandelions, she says, are probably the most underrated plant for their nourishment and medicinal use. Absolutely every part of the plant, from root to flower, holds incredible benefits. They are high in iron and make an effective detoxifier. The root can be roasted and used as a coffee substitute and research is currently being done to test the plant’s potency for fighting cancer.

Oak trees, too, naturally provide both food and medicine. The tree contains tannins, a compound that aids in healing wounds. Reeves used this method to heal a gash on her leg, and she says that the result was nothing short of miraculous. Acorns, the seeds of an oak tree, are the forgotten food which were once a staple in many of indigenous peoples’ diets.

But, she warns, unless you are certain about what you are picking and eating, it’s best to have a certified botanist, such as herself, for guidance in recognizing what’s safe to consume and what’s not.

“First and foremost, people should know what the plant is before they put it in their mouth,” says Reeves. “Some plants have poisonous lookalikes, and

though very few are deadly, some may cause gastrointestinal distress or severe irritation to the mouth, throat, or skin. That said, there’s no reason to be afraid of eating wild plants as long as you can correctly identify them.”

Identifying them, she says, isn’t as difficult as one might expect once you know what to look for. Reeves has dedicated herself to using wild edible plants as much as possible.

“I pursued my passion for wilderness skills and discovered that these skills are best learned when we have a need to learn them,” Reeves adds. “Since I had no need to forage my own food—I had a job and grocery stores weren’t far away—I decided to create a need for wild edibles. I started by eliminating certain foods from my diet. The first thing to go was store-bought juice, because once I knew how many local plants contain vitamin C it seemed ridiculous to source this nutrient from 2,000-plus kilometers away when it’s available right outside my door. By doing this, I found my awareness and appreciation of my surroundings growing immensely. It’s been over 20 years and I continue to incorporate as many wild foods into my diet as possible.”

Reeves also carries a product line of wild or wild-harvested herbs and a homemade healing salve she calls Sap ‘n’ Salvy. The salve contains a combination of ingredients such as poplar leaf bud extract and white spruce sap, both known for their antimicrobial properties and ability to draw infection from a wound and promote healing. It’s been used effectively for everything from open wounds to burns to psoriasis and insect stings.

Unsurprisingly, Reeves’ dedication to natural plant use includes a respect for the earth and all that grows on it.

“My motto is ‘plants before profit,’ so I always make sure my actions will leave an area the same or better than I found it,” says Reeves. “For example, to ensure that individual plants will continue to grow and reproduce, I may only harvest the top few inches, so the plant can regrow and continue to flower and set seed. I grew up believing that humans were nothing more than a scourge on the earth and that the earth would be better off if humans didn’t exist. It seemed like wherever humans went, all that remained was a path of destruction.

But I’ve since changed my view. On many occasions, I’ve seen how people, acting with a caretaker attitude, have left a path of life and abundance behind.”

Her basket-weaving classes, too, often develop unique connections between the weaver and the natural world.

“I’ve seen people totally transformed by making a willow basket,” Reeves says. “A willow is no longer just a willow. A wetland is no longer wasteland. And there are suddenly real people and real plants behind those baskets you buy at Canadian Tire. No matter how someone’s basket turns out, they’re proud of it. And if and when it does break, it’ll go back to the land rather than sitting in a landfill for centuries to come. They’re going to fill it with berries or mushrooms and get a small taste of what it was like to live pre-grocery-stores days. In short, people become more empathic.”

Reeves says that she has her father to thank for her childhood introduction to the benefits of local plants and wildlife. To further promote her passions to the world, she’s published a book called Laura Reeves’ Guide to Useful Plants: From Acorns to Zoomsticks.

But one of her favourite outlets is still the direct approach: interaction with a group of plant enthusiasts from young to old through her customized outdoor classrooms.

“This weekend I’m heading to Caddy Lake to teach Girl Guides how to identify wild edibles and introduce them to some of the ones growing in the area,” Reeves says of her busy summer schedule. “On June 16, I’ll be at Cityfolk Farm near Grand Beach teaching people how to develop a more personal relationship with the plants around them.”

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C. Brown Launches Unique Autobody Shop

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

C. Brown's Autobody and Hot Rod Shop is open for business and offers a multi-dimensional take on autobody repairs. Located at 2185 Highway 59 between Niverville and Île-des-Chênes, the shop offers all the traditional autobody repairs and services. But they also provide custom body work for hot rod enthusiasts.

"We've had people that want to make minor changes to their cars, and they are usually hot rods," says owner Carol Brown. "[We might also take] somebody that wants to add a hood scoop to their car. Instead of going to Canadian Tire to pick up this fake hood scoop and stick it on their car, we can actually mould one into the original hood so that it is the real deal. [We can also make other] minor changes to the body—add something, take something away. It's creative hot-rodding."

Custom work isn't the only thing that sets Brown's shop apart. To her knowledge, it's the only Manitoba autobody shop owned and operated by a female drag racer. A female autobody apprentice also helps round out her staff of four full-time and two part-time employees and certainly makes her business unique in what's historically been considered a man's trade.

Brown's love for fast cars began as a child.

"I was born and raised in a neighbourhood where there were a lot of fast cars: the Challengers, the Chargers, the 'Cudas," Brown says. "I had more interest in the cars than I did in having a tea party with my friends. It's definitely my passion."

As a young woman, she began to collect her own fixer-uppers, teaching herself the tenets of autobody repair on the street fronting her home. Today she's the owner



Carol Brown with her husband Brian and autobody staff.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

of a 2017 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat in a unique paint shade she likes to call "plum-crazy purple." The Hellcat is one of few vehicles factory-equipped for extreme speed. It comes with two key fobs. The street fob provides an engine performance of up to 500 horsepower. With the racing fob, she has access to 700 horsepower.

For the past six years, she has been a regular at the Interlake Dragway near Gimli and sits on the committee of the Drag Racers Association of Manitoba.

"I can go 126 miles per hour," Brown says. In metric, that's 203 kilometres per hour. "I like to go fast. I can probably count on one hand how many female drivers there are [at the track]. My kids' friends say, 'You have the coolest mom ever!' I just love a challenge."

Brown says that it's taken some tenacity and guts to prove herself worthy in this male-dominated sport. But

she's come out a winner on more than one occasion and has even received a few awards. Now, with her experience in the autobody trade, she can walk the walk and talk the talk.

Brown got her start in the autobody business in 2016 when she became partner in Yegros' Custom Hot Rods in Steinbach. She eventually bought out her partner and began actively seeking a larger shop to grow her business.

"This place just kind of dropped into our lap and we couldn't pass it up," Brown says of the former GDS Autobody shop. "It's got great accessibility right on the highway."

She opened the doors for the first time in January, and on April 25 they celebrated their official grand opening.

Shop manager Gerald Blair assists her in running the crew, and Blair's wife often steps in to give Brown a break from reception duties.

Admittedly, Brown is still happiest when she's in the shop, "getting dirty with the boys."

Not to overlook her female apprentice, Kissy, who's got

some spunk of her own.

"She's a bundle of energy," Brown says. "She has everything that we could possibly want in an employee."

While Manitoba Public

Insurance jobs will remain their primary bread and butter, Brown anticipates being able to take on about one custom autobody job per year. On top of regular body work, C. Brown's also offers safety inspections, wheel alignments, oil changes, and windshield replacement. Brown anticipates having regular specials on an ongoing basis.

"We like to take our customer service a step further," Brown adds. "We offer courtesy cars and shuttle services. [We provide] a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere. I know for myself that I've walked into places and felt intimidated and treated differently because I'm a woman. I don't do that here regardless of whether you're male, female, grandma, or some teenager off the street. I'll treat everybody equally."

While she's had a number of other professions over the years, this one suits her passions better than anything she's done before.

"I love this atmosphere," Brown concludes. "My shop is like my baby. I wouldn't see myself anywhere else."

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Recycling: Why Is it So Confusing?

What can you put in your blue bin, and what can't you? It's complicated. The rules are constantly changing, and we have to stay on top of them.



BRENDA SAWATZKY

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Recycling, in theory, should come naturally to us by now. We've been doing it since the 1980s. Paper, plastic, cans, and bottles. What could be simpler? These are, in fact, the mainstays of the household recycling list. But depending on the sorters and buyers of these products, the types of paper, plastic, cans, and bottles that are accepted changes over time.

Case in point, this past December some confusion ensued on a community Facebook site after a post from Niverville's town council regarding which types of paper can and cannot be recycled. Unlike previous years, residents could now recycle gift wrap. But not paper plates.

So what changed?

THE LEVELS OF RECYCLING

Recycling is the process of getting disposable products from a resident's blue box to a manufacturer interested in repurposing those materials. This process includes a pick-up company to retrieve the loads, a sorting company to receive, separate, and bale the material, and a buyer willing to pay the sorter for those materials. Typically, municipal councils choose the pick-up company, the pick-up company chooses the sorter, and the sorter finds the buyer.

When the public is advised of a change to what they can recycle, the buyer is most likely the cause. Why? Because the main principle driving recycling is profit.

According to the Miller Recycling Corporation (MRC), a large American recycler, China is the largest purchaser of the world's recycled materials. In fact, much of the world's manufacturing has relocated there to take advantage of cheap labour and technological advancements.

"With a majority of the recycling

industry's 'eggs in one basket,' when China's economy slowed so did the demand for these commodities and prices plunged," writes Randy Miller of MRC. "It is a commonly known fact in the recycling industry [that] when markets are 'soft,' and supply exceeds demand... foreign buyers become particular about the material they are buying. They no longer need to tolerate contaminated material—and commonly reject loads they have accepted in the past. This puts further strain on the US based recycling markets, and recyclers that are trying to remain profitable."¹

But the buyer isn't the only one who determines which items we can throw into our blue bins and which we can't. The sorting facility chosen by our local pick-up company also has an influence. Most sorting facilities have staff members dedicated to seeking out buyers. If there is a buyer for a particular product and the price they're paying substantiates the cost to separate, bail, and ship it, then it's blue-bin-worthy. Thus, what's accepted in Niverville and Ritchot might be different than what's accepted in the City of Winnipeg.

Miller, GFL, and Emittera are a few of the big players in Manitoba. Rural services include Eastman Recycling Services out of Steinbach and SMILE of St. Malo Inc. Niverville has used both facilities in the past, but due to their small size they are no longer able to handle the quantity of recycling generated by Niverville's residents.

Since the introduction of the larger blue bins to both Niverville and Ritchot, all recyclable materials now go to a sorting company in Winnipeg. Bristol Hauling is the pick-up company for Niverville and G&R Garbage Disposal out of St. Malo covers Ritchot.

SORTING BEGINS AT HOME

Packaging manufacturers are driven by social change to produce recyclable packaging, which is why many

of our plastic and paper products are labelled recyclable. The reality is a bit more complicated. When making these claims, they hold to a number of assumptions that aren't necessarily true—that there's a current demand for the product and that the local sorter has a buyer lined up.

Therefore, the labels can be unreliable. Some plastic grocery bags, for example, state that they are recyclable even though there aren't any sorters in Manitoba who have buyers for them. That means they're non-recyclable in our area. It's always best to check your local municipal website or the pick-up company's website for currently acceptable products.

The condition of the products we pitch into the blue box is subject to change based on demand. It wasn't long ago that Recycle Manitoba held an advertising campaign indicating that it wasn't necessary to rinse our recyclables. But today, products will get thrown into a dumpster and sent to the landfill if they aren't rinsed and relatively clean.

Remember the three R's? Reduce, reuse, recycle. Well, it seems we need to consider a fourth R: refuse.

That said, Emanuel Toews of Bristol Hauling is generally happy with the way Niverville residents are sorting their garbage.

"So far, [our sorting company has] always been accepting our material," says Toews. "They don't have too many complaints about it. Once there's too much [non-recyclable] garbage, they say something. We don't pick up the recyclables at the residence if they have too much garbage [mixed in]. We've had some [occasions] where people will put all kinds of yard waste or diapers in. That's where we draw the line."

Toews says that his recycling pick-up drivers can exit the cab and pull a lever to see exactly what people are putting in their bins. The town will be notified should a resident demonstrate non-compliance, at which point, Toews says,

the resident may be refused further pick-up services.

"The problem with putting stuff in your blue bin that isn't accepted in the recycling system, whether that's an orange peel or a type of plastic that's not accepted, is it can reduce the value of the load that's being sold and it can potentially... even mean that some of the recycling loads have to be thrown in the garbage, which is exactly what we don't want when we're recycling," said Teresa Loo of the Green Action Centre to CBC News.²

But why should we care about all this? Why should we take the time to rinse, sort, and stay abreast of recycling changes? If not for environmental reasons, then the answer is, once again, profit.

RECYCLING PAYS

Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) is an industry-funded non-profit organization that operates the province-wide recycling program. MMSM collects levies from industry stewards for a large variety of recyclable products. This accounts for 80 percent of the costs incurred to recycle. Municipalities pay the remaining 20 percent.

In turn, municipalities recover a monetary kickback based on the tonnage of recyclable materials they send to the sorter. In 2017, Niverville received almost \$110,000 in reimbursement from MMSM. Ritchot's recyclables gained them a return of around \$98,000. There is no monetary gain when sending garbage to the landfill, only a cost.

Toews says the cost of taking garbage to a landfill is significantly higher than taking it to a sorting company. But the cost of sorting goes up, too, if the recyclable materials are too contaminated with non-recyclable garbage.

"If our whole province is recycling better, then everyone's rates can come down," Toews says. "That's why they try and persuade everyone in Manitoba to know how to recycle."

WHAT CAN WE RECYCLE RIGHT NOW?

For the blue bins, it's fairly simple: aluminum and tin cans, paper of almost every variety, cardboard (including milk cartons and tetra juice packs), and plastics with the numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. Acceptable plastic products include soft drink bottles, milk jugs, ice cream pails, margarine and yogurt containers, shampoo and liquid laundry detergent containers, and condiments bottles.

The list of what's not accepted is much longer and a quick check of your pick-up company's website can clarify this list for you. The short list includes aluminum foil; Styrofoam; coffee pods, cups, and lids; paper towels, plates, napkins, and tissues; food pouch packaging; plastic cutlery; wax paper; and plastic bags.

Bristol Hauling provides its own recycling services for many items you can't throw into the blue bin. These include steel, batteries, electronics, and tires, all accepted at no cost to the person dropping it off.

Old paint can be brought in its original container to Wm. Dyck & Sons in Niverville. Many other retail outlets also offer recycling drop-off for items such as ink and toner cartridges, unused medications, and hazardous waste materials.

In the end, we all can and should do our part. In the words of Robert Swan, a polar explorer and advocate for environmental issues, "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

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² Holly Caruk, "What Goes in Your Blue Bin and What Doesn't?" *CBC News*. Date of access: May 28, 2018 (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-manitoba-recycling-rules-1.4625533>). Video clip.

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Afternoons include fun at the splash pad, a scavenger hunt, tours of a business or two and more. Niverville Bigway is on board to show campers what goes on behind the scenes at a grocery store.

Friday afternoon its time to sell those handmade products at the Niverville Heritage Centre's Farmers Market.

For registration forms go to niverville.com/activities/biz-camp-for-kids or email: chamber@niverville.com.

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Roy Finch. Finch Computers provides many computer repair & IT services and Primate WebFX specializes in creating web designs that are functional, beautiful and target your audience.

Elvin Krahn. BDC works closely with entrepreneurs to provide solutions that support their growth initiatives.

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Lise and Bruce Bale with two of their three children after another busy day managing the Arrowhead RV Park. **■** FIONA ROBINSON

Travelers Rest, Play, and Stay at Arrowhead

By Fiona Robinson

It's another hot day in Île-des-Chênes, where Lise and Bruce Bale balance family life with customers on the phone and checking in at the office. The couple purchased Arrowhead RV Park from Lise's parents in 2015, the same year their youngest of three children was born. At the time, they were both working full-time, Bruce as an electrician and Lise as an HR director, and the chance to own and operate an RV park seemed like an opportunity to slow things down and spend more time at home with the kids.

"I didn't want our lives to be consumed by commuting to daycare," Lise says. "It felt like a better lifestyle for us and the kids. I can always work around stuff going on in the park."

Lise tends to the clientele, office work, and gardening while Bruce stays on top of hardware and maintenance. With their own residence onsite, the couple employs one full-time employee and two part-time employees who cover the week to keep the place running shipshape. Indeed, the team has created a picturesque landscape with RVs lined up along a lightly treed park complete with a picnic area, neatly manicured gardens, play structure, and sandbox.

Even so, the key perks of

the park extend well beyond the view.

"We have full hook-ups on our sites, including septic, water, and electricity," says Bruce.

"Our customers tell us that we are one of the top three RV parks for wireless internet in Canada," Lise adds. "If you don't have internet, people are not going to stay. That's how they keep in touch with their families and do their banking."

People also pay high compliments to the onsite washroom and coin-op laundry facility, which is somewhat unique for a RV park.

"People tell us our washrooms are homey, clean, and pretty, which means a lot to travellers," Lise says.

In addition to wireless internet and home-like amenities, the park also boasts full limestone lots, a valued perk for anyone who has tried to park an RV in Manitoba mud.

In the summer, Arrowhead RV Park is kept busy with an ongoing stream of customers.

"We are the first to open in the spring and the last to close in the fall," offers Bruce.

Most of their customers are seniors or recently retired folks and the couple figures that about 50 percent of them are snowbirds who have family here and travel south to the States when the snow arrives. Other customers include those working in the

area or just coming through as part of their recreational journey.

"The mentality of most of our customers seems to be that you park, and then you go visit stuff," says Lise.

There's plenty to see and do with Steinbach and Winnipeg in proximity and plenty of smaller towns in between. Lise acts as a concierge to push local events and attractions like the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair and the Steinbach Mennonite Heritage Village. Meanwhile, Arrowhead RV Park serves as a quiet, convenient place to rest in the heart of country living.

Now well into their third busy season, the Bale household has its plate full with three active kids and an RV park operating at capacity during the Canada Day long weekend. As for the future, the Bales have their hands full for now, but Lise is still looking to the future: "I hope one of our kids will become a third-generation RV Park owner."

The youngest son seems to agree, but then quickly gets distracted by the play area where a red tractor beckons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.arrowheadrvpark.ca

■ www.facebook.com/arrowheadrvpark

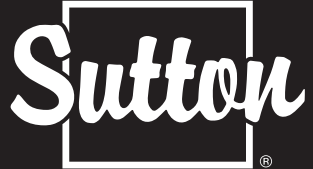
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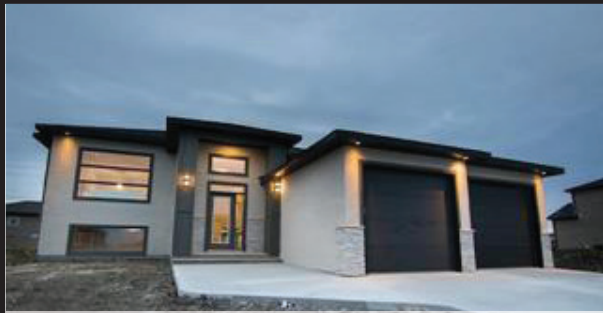

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Leah Reimer, Shannon Martin, Maddie Thompson, Marcus Jofre, and Corey Golden. Floor: Suzanne Mathieu, the students' teacher.

SHANNON MARTIN

Local Students Recognized at Legislature

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

A group of seven teenage entrepreneurs from Niverville got a boost earlier this month when they paid a visit to the Manitoba Legislature on Monday, June 4 to hear MLA Shannon Martin deliver a Private Member's Statement in their honour. Martin congratulated the students on their success and entrepreneurial vision.

Grade 11 students Maddie Thompson, Leah Reimer, Marcus Jofre, Corey Golden, Jazmyne Lajeunesse, Shudaye Fast, and Diana Laso started a clothing brand earlier this year, called Social Clothing, designed to appeal

specifically to Manitoba teens. Their first collection, Stylish Simplicity, came out this spring. It features a comfy light grey hoodie, a maroon crewneck featuring the iconic Esplanade Riel, and a simple tee.

The students entered their business in the Asper New Venture Championship in late May, and although they didn't come away with any scholarships, Maddie Thompson took third place in the competition for best logo.

"I'm pretty happy with placing third in the logo competition... especially considering that there were plenty of other companies who entered," says Maddie Thompson. "Most of them have been around much

longer than Social Clothing. We didn't make the finals for our business plan at the Manitoba High School New Venture Championships, but next year we hope to."

Thompson, who was previously behind a fashion line for Triple Flip when she worked for them as a design intern, adds that the overall experience of starting the company has been incredible.

"With Social Clothing I have much more freedom [than with Triple Flip]," she says. "I get to do my own thing and oversee all aspects of how a business is run as the CEO. I am also the CMO. I have learned so much from running Social Clothing along with my amazing colleagues

and friends."

Thompson is also quick to credit the group's business teacher, Suzanne Mathieu. "Without her help, the business wouldn't exist. It's so heartwarming seeing everyone in the community and surrounding communities wearing our clothing and supporting us."

To check out the company's clothing in person, you can visit their booth at the Niverville Farmer's Market on Friday, July 20 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Heritage Centre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ socialclothinginfo@gmail.com

IN BRIEF

Horizon Niverville to Close Doors

By Liz Byron

Come fall of this year, Horizon Livestock & Poultry Supply will be closing up shop and vacating their Niverville store at 329 Bronstone Drive.

The company, which provides products and service to the local agriculture industry, has existed since 1996 and currently has locations in Niverville, Steinbach, and Winnipeg. In 2016, Horizon merged with Penner Farm Services and Paradigm Agri-Solutions. Although all three still operate under their separate names, Horizon and Penner Farm Services collaborate on providing farm services and are considered sister organizations.

The decision to close the Niverville branch of Horizon was a difficult one, says Penner senior executive Jeremy Hildebrand.

"Niverville is a very well-performing store," he says, "And closing a community store is not something we do lightly or without good reason."

The closure is a strategic move to be able to keep their customers happy with the services they need at the cost they want.

"As we reviewed how we operate, we saw that the local farmers' appetite for cost savings was higher than their desire for convenience, generally speaking," Hildebrand explains. "This was one of the ways which we could deliver better value

back to the farmers."

Since Horizon and Penner Farm Services will still have locations in Winnipeg, Steinbach, and Blumenort, customers will still have access to the same products and services, but eliminating the Niverville store reduces the overlap in service areas.

"Previously, the old use for Horizon Niverville was Puratone and Maple Leaf warehousing, and now our warehouse is in Winnipeg, so there was a redundancy there," Hildebrand adds.

Although the closure should not affect customers' abilities to get supplies, Hildebrand says the company is aware that change can be a challenge. He sees this as an opportunity for the company's relationship with their customers, though.

"We recognize that this offers each farmer an opportunity to think about how they do business. It's our job to keep them convinced that the quality of our services is as good or better than anyone else's."

An official closing date has not yet been announced, but Hildebrand says that the specific date will be communicated by the Horizon store to customers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Randy Zacharias, Niverville Store Manager: rzacharias@horizonhasit.ca or (204) 388-9333.

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Local Graduates Ready to Take on New Challenges

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The end of June marked a time of auspicious celebrations for students in Niverville and Ritchot. A total of 61 graduates from Niverville Collegiate Institute (NCI) and 63 graduates of École Gabrielle-Roy took to the stage in cap and gown to commemorate their remarkable achievement and receive their high school diplomas.

Convocation for Gabrielle-Roy students took place on June 21 at the Prairie Rose Evangelical Church in Landmark. It was followed with a banquet and ball on June 22 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.

Two valedictorians were chosen by their peers to speak on behalf of the students of Gabrielle-Roy: Annick Clément and Ariel Hébert.

"Many thanks to the teachers and the staff for sharing your time, your knowledge, your talents, your support, and your patience. Without you, we would not be here," they said. "There are many things we have learned throughout our time in high school. We are all marathon runners, because we needed to run from our cars to school to be on time to class. We also know exactly how long it takes to get to the city and back if you use a bit of extra speed. We are dodgeball professionals, because we won almost every game since



NCI valedictorian Lijah Doell.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

ninth grade, and we have also learned how to be a family and help each other out."

Well over half of the grad students were awarded almost \$50,000 in bursaries, prizes, and scholarships. A new bursary was given away this year to honour Paul-ette Laurencelle, a student who passed away in 1994. The esteemed Governor General's Academic Medal, awarded to the student graduating with the highest grade point average from a Canadian high school, college, or university program, went to Emily Tremblay.

"These past four years have been very memorable, from the first day of school... to the last days of school," the valedictorians concluded. "Now we are at the end of this chapter and it's time to turn the page. We are all going to have new experiences in these coming chapters. Whatever your future holds... I wish you success and happiness."

The convocation and banquet for NCI students took place on June 27 at the Fourth Avenue Bible Church and Niverville Heritage Centre. This year's valedictorian, chosen by his peers, was Lijah Doell.

Doell compared their high school years to a game of Monopoly. The table game's premise, he said, is to invest in properties and gain enough money to win. Likewise, students at NCI made investments in different kinds of "property" throughout their high school years, property that will help them better the course of their future. These investments have included creativity, compassion, commitment, character, and communication.

"Will the investments we have made be enough to help us reach our goals?" Doell asked the grads. "During our journey, there will be a variety of games we take part in where it'll feel at times like the dice just isn't bouncing

our way. We might feel like we just picked up the 'go to jail' card... As we go through those times, we know we will fight with the properties we've invested in to overcome adversity and challenges that knock us down. As long as we remember the success that comes from the journey, we pick ourselves up and revise our game plan, [and] we will be able to succeed."

Almost \$73,000 in bursaries, scholarships, and awards were presented to just over one-third of the grads. The Governor General's Academic Medal was awarded to Bailey Hiebert.

By far the biggest scholarship awarded this year was the University of British Columbia's Centennial scholarship for a sum of \$23,000 per year for four years. The deserving recipient was Marlon Wilson.

Wilson began attending NCI at the age of 17. Coming from a Manitoba reserve, he lacked high school credits and needed to start his journey in Grade Nine in order to attain them. Moving in with a local family, Wilson set his sights on his dream and overcame many odds. In his Grade 12 year, he became student council treasurer and yearbook editor. He also volunteered in Winnipeg's core with inner city youth. He will be going on to study at UBC in their prestigious business program.

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Commentary

Leadership that Stands the Test of Time

With the municipal elections coming up this fall, on October 24, voters will be looking to our slates of candidates and judging them based on their ideas and platforms. Sometimes we spend so much time evaluating candidates by their politics, though, that we forget to evaluate them as potential leaders. For the next few months, columnist Clarence Braun, former mayor of Niverville, will be writing about the qualities of leadership we should look for in those who will lead our communities for the next four years.

By Clarence Braun

One of the great challenges we face today is gaining an understanding of leadership—not only understanding it, but relating it to our present cultural understanding of what leadership means.

We have all experienced the impact of leadership in our lives. We were all children and we all had a parent, or parents, who exhibited certain qualities that impacted our lives—often in ways we might not be aware of. The combination of loving, caring, absent, emotionally distant, or abusive parents have impacted us all, and many of us have spent our lifetimes navigating some pain received during childhood.

Our parents were our early leaders. What they modelled for us formed our first experiences, and from those experiences we made certain determinations about things we love or hate about people in authority, and sometimes even specific leaders.

As we grow older, we all become leaders to somebody. Perhaps it's our own children, or our nieces and nephews, or co-workers. All of us in some way are being followed by others who respect or have an appreciation for our perspectives.

We experience leaders in

our schools, churches, municipal councils, and in provincial and federal governments, and we carry deep feelings towards those leaders who have impacted us in positive and negative ways.

Recently, I expressed appreciation for a certain high school teacher only to see a friend of mine virtually recoil at the mention of this person's name. His experience was completely different from mine.

For example, one person might love their gym teacher. Another, not being athletic, might have felt minimized and ridiculed in gym class for years.

Or perhaps someone in government has made a decision that came to impact you in terms of your personal freedom, a business opportunity, or a relationship. It's important to note that every decision made by leaders in any sphere will benefit one person while at the same time negatively impacting someone else. It can be difficult to absorb the emotions that come from being caught in this win-lose proposition.

As someone who has served in leadership on a municipal council, in a church, and in business—I even ran for federal office once—I have experienced and seen much.

There are different styles of leadership and there are different talents and gifts that leaders bring to the table. Most would concur that the reason for community service is to create a better community. The desire to enhance the quality of life for others is a noble and worthy cause. Yet there are some core values that we must live by in order to create trust among the people that we serve. Our intentions to benefit and the decisions we ultimately make have impacts on those we serve.

So how do leaders function to ensure that they create the

least amount of pain among the people they serve?

There are a few telling barometers to consider. Whether you are a parent, are involved in church leadership, serve in government, or operate a business, what leadership

qualities will stand the test of time? Let's ask ourselves the following questions.

What is your core belief about what leaders look like? How do you view the power that leaders hold? Do you believe that your life has been

hindered by how leaders have made certain decisions?

If you serve in a leadership role right now, what do you believe to be the greatest attributes of leadership? What do you see as your primary responsibility to the

community you serve? What is the one thing that would define success as the end of your term of service?

Asking these questions is just the beginning. Over the next few months, we'll delve deeper into these questions.

The Game of Life

By Erica Kehler

Earlier this year, while the Stanley Cup playoffs were in full swing, whiteout parties were a happening thing—after all, everyone loves a good game! But consider: is it fair that these players are getting paid anywhere from \$450,000 a year to Jonathan Toews making \$13.8 million dollars for the 2017–2018 season?¹

This isn't to suggest that hockey players shouldn't get paid, of course, but do they really need this much to live their dream of doing what they love?

Canada is a very rich country, but receiving almost \$14 million to play a sport is a bit extreme nonetheless. Maybe it's time for us to rethink where we're letting our money go and figure out how we can make change for the better.

Depending on rankings, soldiers in the Canadian Armed Forces will make up to \$55,000 a year, according to *The Globe and Mail*.² That's \$400,000 less than the lowest paid NHL hockey player! These people are literally sticking their necks out for us, fighting to give us the freedom we far too often take for granted.

The University of Western Ontario did a study a while back and found that about a decade after returning back to unstructured civilization, many veterans become

homeless.³ The ones we owe so much to lose so much support when they return. We common folk don't understand, and will never really understand, the struggle it is for returning soldiers to integrate back into civilization.

As Canadians, if we're going to give of anything, it will be our money. So why don't we support our troops more? Imagine the change we could make if we put our money towards organizations that help our returning veterans. Instead of investing millions of dollars into the national "hockey fund," we could put that money into creating proper supports for those who struggle with mental health from their time in the Armed Forces.

Then we have the people who literally come to the rescue when your grandma's car rolls into the ditch after hitting ice in the dead of winter. According to information on the City of Winnipeg's website, the most you can make after spending four years as an advanced care paramedic (the highest level) is \$93,733, which is still way less than a bottom-of-the-barrel NHL player.⁴ Canadians make 12 million 911 calls every year, meaning that many of us have or will need their help at least once in our lives.⁵

First responders feel the same stress to maintain physically fitness as any athlete, but their fitness is needed to save

lives during a crisis rather than just perform well at sport.

Post-traumatic stress isn't an uncommon occurrence among our first responders, because every day they are ready to step into whatever nasty chaos comes about—and they are prepared to do everything they can. After years of seeing people in their worst moments, it's no surprise that paramedics are likely to develop PTSD.⁶

In a day and age in which we talk so much about fairness, maybe it's time we take a look at our priorities and rethink how we're treating those who are there for us when we really need it.

Hockey is important to many of us in this wonderful country, but who do you suppose fought to give us the freedom we have today to throw big parties on the streets of Winnipeg? The soldiers fighting our battles overseas. The paramedics who launch headlong into dangerous situations to save people they don't even know. The biggest difference you'll see between being a professional hockey player and being a paramedic is that one is more or less about personal gain while the other is about making daily sacrifices on behalf of others.

Hockey players, of course, can also appreciate everything paramedics do for them, and we can all appreciate what our veterans have done for us

in keeping our families safe. It's time we stepped up to the plate to help those returning from overseas postings and love them as they adjust back to the average person's lifestyle—it's not enough to just honour them once a year in a formal way.

To lose a game or lose a life. Where will you put your money?

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Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

Memories of the 4th Ritchot Chamber Golf Tournament

A group of 50 local business leaders teed off in early summer at the 4th Annual Ritchot Regional Chamber Golf Tournament held at the Lorette Golf Course. Everyone managed to golf the full 18 holes with enough shade, drinks, and sunscreen to beat the heat wave. The smiles (above) tell the story. We'd like to thank everyone who participated and sponsored the event. We'll definitely do it again next year!

The Chamber Gala and Business Awards Dinner November 10, 2018 | TransCanada Centre

Save the date now! The annual gala and awards dinner date is set for November 10, to beat the rush on holiday parties so business members can attend. It's never too early to think of emergent and established businesses that should be awarded for their role in the community.

Remember to support Ritchot Businesses this Summer

Remember to shop local to support your regional economy. Pick up your summer beach and barbecue items at a local hardware store or grocery store, find a local farmer's market, take advantage of kids camps for daycare, and support local tourism opportunities. There's so much to do and find in the Ritchot region to enjoy the summer season.

First Aid & CPR Training (EFA-C & AED) | Fall 2018

This session was postponed for Fall 2018, date to be determined. Contact Trina Brule for details: trina@seineriversafety.ca.

Growing Strong

We welcomed the Wildlife Haven in Île-des-Chênes as a Chamber member this month. This is the time of year when they need donations to feed the many orphaned animals that arrive with the season. Please visit their website (www.wildlifehaven.ca) to find out how you can help.

Would you like to find out more about the benefits of becoming a Chamber member? Contact Fiona Robinson, Executive Director, at 204-881-2351 or fiona@ritchotchamber.com.

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Klassen Takes Medals at Manitoba 55+ Games



BRENDA SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Sandra Klassen of Niverville is a prime example of staying fit and having fun, even as we age. This was her first year signing up to compete in the annual Manitoba 55+ Games, and she came out a winner in every category in which she was entered.

"I was getting bored with my exercise routine, so I thought I needed a challenge," says Klassen. "Everybody's there just to have a good time and everybody's cheering everybody else on. It was really a good time."

This year's games, held in Glenboro, Manitoba from June 12-14, included competitive events such as swimming, pickleball, slow pitch, and track. Klassen took gold medals in both the 100-meter run and ladies golf.

She also received a bronze medal for her third-place win in an event called the "predicted walk." Klassen describes this event as a one-kilometre walk through the beautiful Spruce Woods

park using walking poles. Speed, in this event, doesn't determine the winner. Each entrant must submit a prediction in advance, based on the time they think it will take them to complete the walk. The winner is the one who comes closest to finishing within their predicted time.

Of the 100-metre race event, she says, "I figured there'd be some young puppy coming in at 55 [years of age] and just beating everybody."

Klassen surprised herself with her medal wins. Although she's still one of the younger competitors at 60 years of age, she hadn't competed in events like this since high school.

"In some of the longer races, they combine the men and the women," Klassen says. "Some people were at least in their seventies and they were running the 1,500-metre [or even longer]."

Klassen estimates that there were around 300 participants in this year's event, along with a large contingent of family and friends to cheer them on. Events took place within the community and surrounding area. The track



Sandra Klassen of Niverville.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

events and opening and closing ceremonies were held at the Glenboro high school.

While she trained for her track events on hard surfaces back home, she was surprised to find that the school had no official track. She'd failed to bring cleats for the grassy

section provided by the Glenboro school and didn't anticipate the hilly, sandy trek which would affect her time in the predicted walk.

"When we all lined up, I leaned over and said, 'If any of us falls, we'll stop and help the other person up and

then we'll all run to the end, okay?'" says Klassen, making light of the casual nature in which the track races were set up.

The competitive spirit doesn't only encompass physical challenges. Skill-testing games such as Whist, Cribbage, Snooker, and Scrabble brought in competitors from around the province, too. And, for the creative participants, a variety of arts and crafts were provided to round out the varied interests of today's seniors.

The Manitoba 55+ Games are an initiative of the Active Living Coalition for Older Adults (ALCOA), which is comprised of 53 partner and supporting partner organizations committed to encouraging and promoting active aging in Manitoba.

"Our population of older adults is growing and we need to find solutions now to ensure that seniors are healthy, active, and able to fully participate and contribute to their communities," states the ALCOA website. "With financial assistance from Seniors and Healthy

Aging Secretariat and other funders, we act as a catalyst for change."

With her recent wins and newfound zeal for competitive senior sport, Klassen has already booked her flight to the Canada 55+ Games being held in St. John, New Brunswick from August 21-24.

"It's going to be beautiful, and so far they're so welcoming," Klassen says. "I paid \$143 for [enrolling in the games], but you get the shuttles, a luncheon, a parade that we all come in with, a T-shirt, and there's a gala supper."

She teases that her husband is her only official sponsor, although he'll be in Saskatchewan cheering on his beloved Roughriders during her Canada Games excursion later this summer. She's booked herself into the Villa Madonna Retreat House during her stay in New Brunswick. Situated right on the ocean, she hopes a little rest and relaxation will be included in the adventure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.alcoamb.org/main



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The Niverville Boys U10 Gladiators: Kerrick Neil, Max Dowse, Tom Bray, Todd Neil (coach), Raine Doiron, CARA DOWSE Dallin Hornung, Zachary Normand, Kaleb Collette, Micah Penner, Levi Brandt, Michael Olatundun, and Ethan Bowyer.



The Niverville Girls U10 Warriors: Aryana Wiens, Keira Fast, Brynne Knebel, Preslay Foster, Willa Dowse, CARA DOWSE Bria Foster (coach), Claire Grantham, Piper Pohrebniuk, Bella Giardino, Abby Unrau, Rayann Englisbee, and Anna Fortarz.

Two Niverville Teams Win Soccer Gold

By Cara Dowse

Several Niverville U10 soccer teams came home with medals from the season-ending tournament which took place in Beausejour on Saturday, June 23. Teams from Niverville, Steinbach, Grunthal, Vita, Beausejour, Landmark, Ste. Anne, Anola, Tyndall, and Blumenort all showed up to compete on a day that started out cool but ended with scorching heat.

On the boys side, the Niverville Gladiators played their first game at 9:00 a.m., beating the Niverville Warriors 6-2. They then won their second game against Hanover Boulanger by a score of 2-0. In the gold medal game, the Niverville Gladiators beat the Niverville Chargers 5-4 in a dramatic come from behind victory after going down by four goals

On the girls side, the Niverville Warriors played two

round robin games, losing the first to the Niverville Knights 1-0, but they bounced back with a 2-1 victory over the Niverville Chargers. There was a four-way tie for first, but when points for and against were calculated, the Niverville Warriors made the final. They went on to win a hard-fought match against the Niverville Chargers, defeating them 2-0 to win gold.

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Ava Sinclair

Ava is nine years old and just finished Grade Four. She is an extremely talented soccer player who plays with heart and an endless amount of determination. This spring, she played for the Niverville Warriors U10 girls team. Her ability to control the ball and awareness of her teammates on the field make Ava a great team player and leader. During the winter months, she plays ringette for the Red River Rage. A true natural athlete with a competitive edge, she has a great future ahead of her in whatever sports she chooses to pursue.

Wildcats Celebrate Successful Season

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Wildcats girls softball program was a success this season, with only a few games needing to be cancelled due to rain or bad weather. Throughout the season, the diamonds at Hespeler Park were filled with girls softball, boys baseball, as well as adult slow pitch and a U6 Rally Caps for young boys and girls.

"It is so enjoyable to hear the energy and cheers from the teams, and see the excitement for the game," say girls softball reps Chad and Dana Johnston. "Great season, Wildcats!"

The Wildcats program started at the end of April, when the girls began practicing indoors at Ste. Agathe. They continued practices until the outdoor diamonds were ready and eventually concluded the season with a tournament at the end of June.

This year, Niverville had six girls softball squads—two U8 teams, two U10 teams, 1 U12 team, and one U14 team. Niverville also had one U16 player who combined with another community's team, adding up to 47 total players from town.

The Niverville Wildcats play in the Southeast Girls Softball league, which includes travel to local communities such as St. Malo, Ste. Agathe, Blumenort, Mitchell, Île-des-Chênes, La Broquiere, Grunthal, Steinbach, and Landmark.

The year-end Softball Jamboree tournament was held in



The Niverville U14 Wildcats, with players from Landmark.

CHAD JOHNSTON

Mitchell on June 22–24.

"Our U8 teams had a rain delay and finished the season with their Jamboree on Monday, June 26, where they had fun playing ball and completing skills at different stations," say the Johnstons. "Our U10 teams combined for the Jamboree and played two games. They won both their games. Way to go, U10 players. It was so fun to see how far you have all come this season."

The U12 team won silver at the weekend tournament. They played hard, winning their first three games and earning a spot in the gold medal round.

"Their spirits were high, as you could hear them cheering on their team the whole tournament," the Johnstons say. "Way to go, U12!"

They couple adds that the U14 team also played hard and had an exciting weekend, where they won the bronze medal—a great way to end the season.

"The U14 team had its struggles in that we didn't have enough girls register out of our town to form a team," says coach Jen Buhler, who adds that this is the first time Niverville has fielded a U14 team. "So we had to join with the town of Landmark to make a team of ten. We had some injured players early on, and with girls having other commitments we often found ourselves playing with seven or eight players."

Buhler adds that the squad definitely improved over the course of the season, losing the majority of games at the beginning but coming to a winning end.

"I really appreciate that we have a coordinator who recognizes that us girls have specific needs, as far as equipment," says Buhler. "[Chad] has been very supportive in helping us out with that. In the past, we often got leftovers from the hardball program, but now girls softball has some of its own

catchers gear, and slowly we'll add to our bat collection for the girls."

Beyond that, Buhler is quick to emphasize her love for the sport. "I just love girls softball. It's a great team sport for the girls. They can support one another and cheer each other on while developing skills to improve their game. I also love that, if they want, there are many opportunities to continue playing at a college level. Lots of colleges in the United States offer scholarships to players of many different levels. I myself know of a couple ladies who live locally who have and played on scholarship in the States."

The Johnstons make a point of congratulations all of the various Wildcats teams, specifically thanking them for their hard play, for learning new skills, and most of all for having fun out on the field.

"We offer a big thanks to all our coaches and parent volunteers for all your time, commitment, dedication, energy, and encouragement to each of the girls and teams," the Johnstons conclude. "Without you, the season would not be a success and you made it a fun season for all."

Registration for the 2019 season will begin around March and take place at the Niverville Arena. The Johnstons suggest that players and parents, new and old alike, keep their eyes open for dates and more information.

They add that they're hoping to organize development and pitching clinics this winter.

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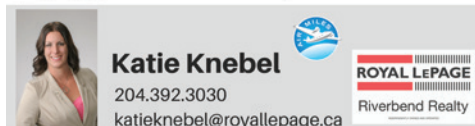
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Matt Egan on the ice.

JEFF EGAN

Local Teenager Gets Drafted by Swan River Stamps

By Liz Byron

Matt Egan started playing hockey when he was only five years old. A decade later, the St. Adolphe resident is about to take a big step in his on-ice career: in early September, he's heading out to Swan Valley to participate in the Swan River Stampeders' 2018 Main Camp.

Egan was drafted fifteenth overall by the Stampeders, which is one of 11 franchises in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. At only 15 years old, Egan is still a year too young to play Junior A hockey full-time, but his talent was enough to catch the team's eye, and to bring him out to their Main Camp this fall.

"The draft process was really cool," says Egan, who plays forward. "It's all done online, and then scouts reached out to me before the draft, just to talk and see if I was interested."

After eight years of playing minor hockey with St. Adolphe, he moved on to the more competitive AA Bantam Southwest Jets. From

there, he went on to play with the AAA Bantam Eastman Selects for the 2017-2018 season, averaging 0.70 points per game.

Now that he has turned 15, he has aged out of the Bantam category and will be moving into the Midget level for players under 18. After camp with the Stampeders, the high schooler hopes to play with the AAA Midget Eastman Selects until he is old enough to play with the Junior A Stampeders.

The move to the Junior A is a big step, not just in terms of the level of hockey being played, but in terms of location. Since the drive to Swan Valley is more than five hours long, playing for that team would require Egan to live there.

"I would get a billet family and live up there with that family," he explains.

It would be a sacrifice to be away from his family, but one he is willing to make to play at the highest level available at his age. He thrives on the intensity of the competition.

"What really got me into hockey

in the first place was the competitiveness. I really love that drive to win. Even when we don't win, that push to think, 'Well, what do we do to win the next one?' is great."

With three years of high school left to complete, time management has been an important skill for Egan to learn, particularly since he spends at least 20 hours a week on hockey—including on-ice and off-ice training.

"My mom and dad help me out a lot. Balancing school and hockey can be challenging," he says, "but what I usually do is get right to studying once I get home, and try to do as much homework as I can at lunch time. I work really hard to keep up with everything."

Hard work is something Egan embraces.

"Natural skill is nice, but hard work is really key," he says. "Hard work takes you places and it pays off. It paid off for me when I heard my name called in the draft. I was really honoured and I'm looking forward to moving on up."

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Arts & Entertainment

Niverville Fair Weathers the Storm of Change

By Evan Braun

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Another Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair has come and gone, leaving area residents with the warm glow of fond memories, not to mention a few thrills. Fair organizer Dustin Krahn confirms that overall, the event went really well. The weather, too, did its part to make the event successful—for the most part. It seems like Friday night wouldn't be the same without at least a sprinkle of rain to cause fairgoers to head for the nearest shelter.

"We had a little bit of rain on Friday, but not enough to put a damper on things, and people found good use of the new tent area that we set up [next to the beer gardens]," says Krahn. "The only thing that was cancelled was one of the motocross shows, because the street was still too wet and slippery. Other than that, the weather was nice and the wind levels were low enough to allow the bikers to perform as scheduled, which isn't always the case."

A big question every year is how many came through the gate. This year, due to the addition of a youth price level, the answer is: "It's complicated." The fair doesn't have the resources to track how many people at each price level show up at the gate and pay cash, instead relying on estimates based on the total revenue.

"It's somewhat tricky to say with certainty," Krahn notes. "Using the same percentage split between youth and adult tickets as with the online sales, we would have seen roughly 3,700 people on Friday and just under 6,000 on Saturday. My best guess is that these numbers could be off. Friday could easily have heavier kids attendance, raising the number, and Saturday could have less, lowering it. But those are just assumptions."

One way or another, thousands of people wandered the street over the course of the weekend.

Of course, the relatively tranquil sights of a crowded



Country star Chad Brownlee performs on the main stage at the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair.

✉ DUSTIN KRAHN

Main Street sometimes mask some drama behind the scenes. Despite the organizers' best laid plans, one thing or another is bound to go wrong—and this year that "one thing" very nearly turned out to be catastrophic. Though no one outside Command & Control would have noticed anything amiss.

"Interestingly, the biggest potential snag for the weekend could have been the generator," Krahn says. "Although it would have been unnoticed by everyone, right as the Saturday evening concerts started, the massive generator that powers everything starting giving us warning messages. Essentially, it was still making power, but the alternator was starting to fail and wasn't making enough power to keep the generator running... so we scrambled to find our local electrical gurus."

All's well that ends well. After an hour or so, a workaround was found and everyone's panic subsided.

"Having that unit fail would have been a really, really bad thing!" Krahn muses.

CHANGES AND VOLUNTEERISM

To the casual fairgoer, this year's fair may have felt familiar. But those who have been

following the news over the course of the last year know that this year's Old Tyme Country Fair was always going to see some significant changes. Not to mention a decreased budget.

These cost-saving measures were meant to make the fair more sustainable into the future, so that an ill-timed rainout or two didn't threaten to kill the whole thing for good.

"It's up to us whether we want to step up and continue with it or let it fizzle out. So we hope the next generation wants to jump in and get involved so that we can keep it going."

Dustin Krahn | Niverville Fair Committee

"We've already had a follow-up meeting and the consensus is that most of the changes went really well," Krahn says. "Aside for a few surprises, things ran on budget and on time."

One of the more noticeable changes was the relocation of the main stage from the south side of the street to the north side, and the addition of a large tent next to the beer gardens. This extra tent housed performances from

local artists over the course of the weekend.

"We had quite a bit of positive feedback about the stage location and the new 'beer tent,' as it seems to have been coined," he adds. "From an organization perspective, this layout worked really well. There are some obvious downsides to stage location—for example, the extreme flanks of the bleachers don't offer the best view, and it's

number of volunteers. The fair committee kicked up their recruitment efforts into high gear leading up to this summer's event.

"There are always gaps and shortages in the end, but we did manage to fill most of the important slots," Krahn points out. "It often seems recruiting volunteers early is the challenge, but when the need becomes real it's great to see people stepping up!"

That said, there's still some work to do. Many long-term volunteers are in the process of retiring, with more and more stepping back each year. Krahn says that the fair needs to figure out how to engage the younger generation and encourage them to take the reins.

Krahn says that he's encouraged about this year's changes, and that they bode well for the future. That said, focusing on finances and developing a more stable approach to planning the fair is only one piece of the puzzle.

"From my perspective, the next couple of years will probably dictate the future of our fair," says Krahn. "I see us being at a crossroads of sorts, where the original founders of the fair and the original army of volunteers that has run it for the last 23 years are now

more difficult to spread the sound down the street—but we will be weighing the pros and cons, and seeing if any possible solutions exist once we begin planning again."

Krahn is confident that the beer tent, and its bevy of local entertainers, will make a return in 2019.

PASSING THE TORCH

Another bit of drama plaguing the fair in recent years has been the steady decline in the

trying to pass the torch. It's up to us whether we want to step up and continue with it or let it fizzle out. So we hope the next generation wants to jump in and get involved so that we can keep it going."

So many people need to be thanked for this year's success. Specifically, Krahn would like to recognize the community, the sponsors, and the countless volunteers who did pitch in.

"It all adds up to make a successful event, and we really have no way of thanking them enough! We encourage everyone and anyone to join us, send feedback, or pitch in with fun ideas."

SPECIAL THANKS

Although it would be impractical to name every person who contributes to the Olde Tyme Country Fair, the organizing committee came to appreciate one particular volunteer this year.

After 23 years, Elaine Krahn stepped down from her role as entertainment and main stage coordinator. And it would be an understatement to say that her absence was felt by everyone behind the scenes.

"I may be slightly biased, because she is my mom, but the committee and I think we can speak for the community as a whole in saying a huge thank you to her for all the hard work she has poured into the fair," Krahn says. "She has been a major contributor to the fair since it began in 1996, and it certainly wouldn't be where it is today without all of her work. I'm sure she will laugh or grin when she reads this, because we all learned firsthand this year how insanely big her job was! From my perspective, it was nice to see her on the street, visiting and enjoying the fair that she helped build. I don't think I have ever seen her more than 100 feet away from the command centre before, so it was great to see her out on the street enjoying herself. Hopefully we did it justice for her!"

CITIZEN POLL

Were you happy with the new additions and changes made to the Niverville Fair in 2018?

- YES.** From my perspective, the fair went over very smoothly.
- NO.** There were a few hiccups this year that I hope the committee can iron out before next June.
- UNSURE?** Let us know what you think.

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Are you happy with the way your community has been redistricted according to the new report by the Boundaries Commission?

YES. I feel the members of the Boundaries Commission have done a good job of achieving population balance while respecting regional relationships.

5%

NO. I am concerned that my community will not be well served by the proposed changes.

95%

YOUR COMMENTS:

Great question. It does separate up from our closest neighbours and could take us off the map for important government funding.

Niverville isn't a rural area, shouldn't be in a rural riding. If 35% to 50% of working aged adults work in Winnipeg we should be in a more capital city zoned riding.

Raising a Glass to Homebrewers

By Eric Peterson

From the ancient Egyptians to Homer Simpson, just about all of us have an understanding of one simple fact: beer is delicious. And if that beer happens to be real cold and the weather outside happens to be real warm, well then, we've got a recipe for a good day.

For most of us, we'll take that beer from just about anywhere we can get it. But some of our more discerning fellow suds lovers prefer a more personalized product.

Recent years have seen an increase in the number of beer lovers brewing their own at home. The American Homebrewers Association estimates that there are now 1.1 million home brew hobbyists in the U.S. and that 40 percent of them started during the last four years. The numbers of homebrewers in Canada are harder to find, but evidence in our region suggests a similar trend.

St. Adolphe resident Paul Tower is the co-proprietor of Grain to Grass Brewing Supply on St. Mary's Road in Winnipeg. He says the homebrewing hobby is a social thing for many.

"You see groups of guys. Two or three guys getting together on a Sunday," says Tower. "Brewing a batch together. Having a BBQ."

In fact, Tower says that Grain to Glass owes its existence to some degree to the social aspect of the hobby. Tower was a guitarist who was already homebrewing when he met Brad Blahnik, another local axeman who was putting together a band. After the two became friends, Blahnik, a resident of Grande Pointe, decided to try his hand at homebrewing and the rest is history.

"I was homebrewing



DEPOSITPHOTOS

and Brad got really into it," explains Tower. "He made a Brewhouse Red Ale and an IPA and he was hooked. Every single Monday we would be brewing. We got better. We started to develop our own recipes."

Eventually they decided to make a business of their passion and the idea for Grain to Glass was born. Tower says it all came together relatively quickly.

"We would order stuff from the States, but shipping was expensive," he explains. "I was in sales already, so I had an idea how things work. I started contacting vendors and we put together a business plan."

The store has been open for just over three years now.

One of their loyal customers is Niverville resident Bobby Buhay.

"It's turned into just a crazy hobby. I'm trying to get more people into it," says Buhay, who has tied local homebrewers together through Facebook to try each other's products and share tips. "It's

easy to make beer. A little bit of effort. A little bit of love. You can make a good product."

Buhay began homebrewing about five years ago and he is proof you don't need a lot of space to do it. He started out in a small apartment in Osborne Village and has his brewing gear in his bedroom closet. Recently he and his girlfriend had a son, a three-month-old Luke, and the brewing room at their Niverville home became the baby's room.

"Now I have my fermenting pails in the dining room," laughs Buhay. "My bottles are in the spare room. I didn't get to brew much for a couple of months."

Buhay still uses beer-making kits he buys mostly at Grain to Glass. Eventually, he hopes to graduate to all-grain brewing. Tower says once you're doing that, you're playing with the big boys.

"Basically you are doing the same work a brewer does," Tower says. "You're going to be brewing a beer as good or better as what you're buying."

Along those lines, Grain to Glass is now carrying the RoboBrew, a sort of all-in-one piece of grain-brewing equipment. Buhay will have to convince his girlfriend that it's a good investment, but he and others are frothing with excitement about RoboBrew's potential.

"Earlier today we had a guy come in who used to homebrew 25 years ago before life and stuff got in the way," explains Tower. "He wanted to see the RoboBrew, and on the day he took one home. He's getting back into it after 25 years."

Such is the power of RoboBrew.

Most homebrewers prefer not to buy beer from the store. One reason is the cost savings of homebrewing. Buhay says that if he chooses, he can brew about 60 bottles for \$25. Plus, you avoid the heavy tax markup of store-bought beer.

But both men point out that it's more about the creativity than the cost.

"I used to drink Bud Light," says Buhay. "Bud Light tastes like water to me now."

Tower says that homebrewing is more of a community than a solitary hobby. "I get to see it every day," he explains. "Even if I'm in the store helping somebody and there're two or three other guys in the store, they're [saying] 'Hey man, what are you making?' And they start helping each other out. Everybody is super nice. Super open."

So let's raise our mugs for the homebrewers this summer. The guys willing to do a little bit more than go to the store.

If you think you might be interested in homebrewing, you can visit Grain to Glass at 579 St. Mary's Road in Winnipeg.

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Put Some Zip into Your Summer

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Clint and Angie Masse believe that outdoor adventure doesn't have to be restricted to vacations in exotic locales. It can happen right here, just a stone's throw from home, in sunny southeastern Manitoba.

Just minutes north of St. Adolphe on Highway 200, Amazing Zip Lines delivers loads of adventure for adrenaline junkies and outdoor enthusiasts. Introduced to the A Maze in Corn fun park in 2012, the zip line adventure has been designed by world-class professionals and would make a worthy part of anyone's zip line tour.

The course in its entirety boasts seven zip line towers, each about 100 feet in height, providing stunning aerial views over a coulee, through canopies of trees, and across the expansive corn maze. Other dramatic features include the Air Stair, a log and rope suspension bridge; the Geronimo Jump, a ten-foot bungee free fall (optional, of course); and a dual race zip line where competition with friends is part of the fun.

The entire zip line course offers about two hours of activity where your feet never once touch the ground. A training zip line is available for those needing to get a feel for the adventure before taking flight around the course.

"The people that built this course were passionate about zip lining in a different way," says Clint Masse. "It's called a full interactive tour."

Unlike many zip line companies, who maximize profit by getting as many people down the zip line as quickly as possible, Amazing Zip Lines focuses on taking your time, enjoying the view, and getting the most out of the experience.

Masse, who hired zip line professionals from Colorado to design the course, says that each rider can manipulate the brakes, allowing for better control. At times, he says, they might brake too soon and a Mission Impossible-style manoeuvre may be part of the adventure to get yourself across to the next tower.

Fully certified guides with more than 60 hours of training, paired with professional-grade harnesses, ensures the safety of every participant. The



Amazing Zip Lines near St. Adolphe.

BLACK CHAIR MARKETING

course is suitable for adventurers of all ages. A minimum weight restriction of 70 pounds is required for optimal speed on the line.

Come August, when the corn maze is open for business, the zip line tour package will include a trek through the winding 14-acre labyrinth. Later in the fall, the maze will be transformed by more than \$20,000 worth of what Masse calls "scare nonsense," creating the ultimate Haunted Forest adventure in plenty of time for Halloween.

A Maze in Corn is a labour of love for the couple and their two sons. It was conceived ten years ago as a means to provide something for Angie to do during the summer months when she wasn't teaching schoolchildren. They admittedly had no business plan, and to this day the park has been developing in piecemeal fashion, each new phase being introduced as they dream up new ideas for their quarter section of land.

Today, it has become their full-time job. Throughout the summer and fall, families can interact with the baby animals of the petting zoo, climb the giant bale pyramid, ride the ponies, or enjoy a hay ride pulled by a team of Clydesdale horses. A Snack Shack and collection of fire pits are available across the grounds as well.

As the season progresses, the Masses sell their brand of sweet corn—not the corn maze variety—planted and harvested by their two young sons. Customers can also choose from thousands of pumpkins grown on their

five-acre pumpkin patch and piled high inside the Pumpkin Barn.

"People like pretty pumpkins, not just anything we grow," Masse said. "Now I have to grow three times more acres and I just pick the really pretty ones."

But it's paid off. Last year, their pumpkin business grossed \$40,000. And generally speaking, the number of visitors who come through each year is also growing. In the last few years, they've averaged about 20,000 visitors for the Haunted Forest alone.

"That definitely was a growth factor, because the corn maze and haunt [feature] is a really strong pairing," he adds.

But for the zip line, those numbers are well below the couple's hopes. With an investment of \$600,000, the Masses were assured by zip line professionals that customers would come by the tens of thousands for that feature alone. Accordingly, they equipped themselves with enough harnesses to meet the needs of 40,000 clients in a season and hired and trained enough guides to prepare for the droves of adventure-seekers. Last year, just 1,420 customers used the zip line.

"Most people, I kid you not, think these are telephone poles up here," Masse laughs, citing that the majority of their zip line business comes from Winnipeg and tourists visiting the area. "The problem with a zip line in a non-tourist destination is [that] people go on zip lines to interact with [non-typical] geography. But if you're

from Winnipeg, this is your local geography and people don't want to interact with it. If you go to the mountains, you ask yourself, 'How do I want to engage the mountains? Well, I want to go zip lining because now I'm really engaging the mountains.'"

To counter that, the Masses invest about \$70,000 per year to advertise the zip line.

"During that whole process of pushing the zip line, the corn maze sales went up more than enough to cover the expense in advertising," Masse says. "So it hasn't been a total loss. It's maybe given us some notoriety. We're the corn maze with the zip line."

Because creative minds are never idle, the Masses have plans for their newest phase of A Maze in Corn: a winter fun park set to commence this year, which will extend their working season and help offset the overhead further. The experimental stage of this endeavour began last winter with the installation of a \$50,000 giant hydraulic toboggan slide set against one of the zip towers and standing about 75 feet at its push-off point. Masse describes it as kamikaze in nature, good for adrenaline junkies.

For 2019 and onward, plans include a variety of slides for all ages and levels of daring, a snow maze, a snow castle, a warm-up barn, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and Christmas tree sales. The recent purchase of a snow-making machine will be put to good use in the creation of the winter park.

Already last year, Masse provided manmade snow for the Festival du Voyageur. His state-of-the-art machine can pump 100 gallons of water per minute at 400 psi (pounds per square inch). About 150 semi-truckloads of snow were trucked off to Winnipeg. This coming winter, he expects to sell around 400 loads, sourced from the bordering Seine River diversion.

"[The winter park will be] a phase growth," says Masse. "The zip line I did all in one big shot, but my bank account doesn't want me to do it that way anymore. It's certainly the most fun business to own, but it's a hobby [at best]. It's all about getting that big smile on people's faces and when you can do that, it's all worth it."

IN BRIEF

Singer-Songwriter Brings Her Show Back Home

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Christina Colyn, Manitoba born and raised, came home in early June to hit the stage with songs from her new album, *Uncaged*, with a June 2 performance at the West End Cultural Centre. The album is a reflection of her own journey of self-discovery and breaking away from personally imposed limitations.

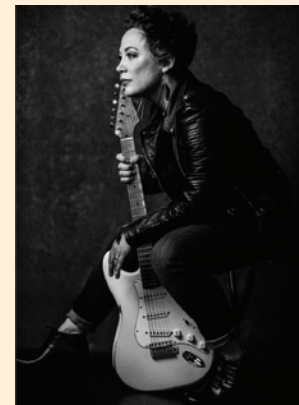
"[The title] carries special meaning for me," says Colyn. "I believe the biggest limitation to becoming the best versions of ourselves exist within our own heads. Creating this album was, in fact, a movement beyond the many limitations I had set for myself. It took a lot of effort to push myself back into a near-forgotten creative space. But arriving there felt like coming home to my true self. While I feel a great sense of personal connection to these songs, I want this project to serve as an inspiration to others on their own journey towards stepping beyond that which might be holding them back. These songs also speak well to the collective human experience. They are a gift for anyone who may find themselves within the stories they tell."

Though she currently hails from Calgary, Colyn was raised in New Bothwell and graduated from the Niverville Collegiate in 1995. Her peers back in the day will have known her as Christina Friesen, daughter of Bernard and Jo-Ann Friesen.

Hers was a musical family, her father the inspiration for her love of the guitar. Colyn's been singing at public events since she was five years old and began writing her own music at the age of 12.

"Growing up, we would play southern gospel music as a family in local churches around the southeast," Colyn fondly recalls. "In my teens I performed at various events such as local festivals, weddings, and funerals. I ended up marrying a musician and over the years we have performed together periodically in various settings."

After the birth of her three daughters, Colyn took a hiatus from performing to



dedicate herself to the job of parenting. She eventually integrated her musical skills into her motherhood role by offering weekly music therapy sessions in her daughter's exceptional needs classroom.

Over the years, songwriting remained a constant in her life. In 2016, she was presented with an opportunity that would lead her down a new path—a Calgary area producer was interested in recording her collection of original songs.

"Since my daughters were approaching young adulthood, I decided it was time to pursue my passion for writing and performing again," Colyn says. "So that is what I did. During this time, I have been playing in live music venues and at local summer festivals. When I was considering the release of this album, I felt it was important to come back to my home province and honour the place of my upbringing, where it all began for me."

Colyn's musical style is influenced by roots rock, blues, soul, and gospel music, all genres she has grown to love over the years. She's comfortable performing with a full instrumental band or in more intimate acoustic settings.

"I believe that music is the language of the heart and soul," Colyn adds. "Every song created invites the listener on a journey into various experiences contained within the lyrics. My songs tell stories. Some of them are mine, some belong to other people. I am a connector and music is my bridge to accomplish just that."

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 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY NICHOLAS LEPAGE	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY JACQUELINE LUSSIER	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY ANIQUE MANAIGRE	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY CELINA MANAIGRE	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY AMBER MARKWART	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY MADISON MOINS	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY JESSE MOROZ	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY ALLISSA MORRICE	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY MICHAEL PERSCHEL	 L'ÉCOLE GABRIELLE-ROY TYLER PILON



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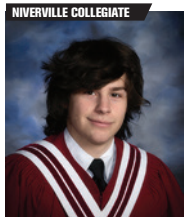
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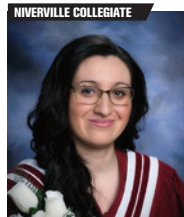
Celebrating
GRADUATES OF 2018



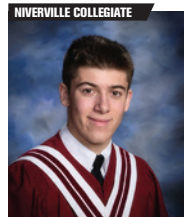
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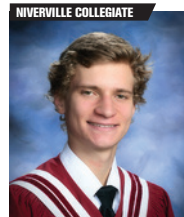
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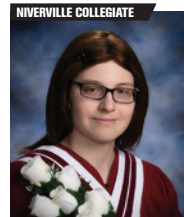
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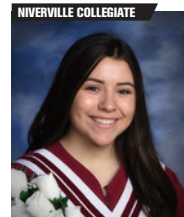
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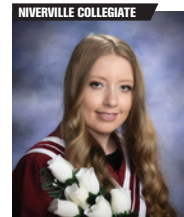
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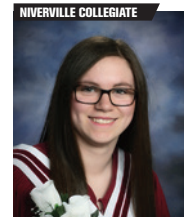
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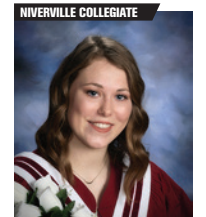
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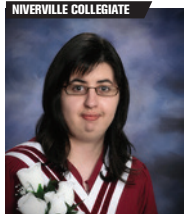
MACKENZIE EDEN



ALYSSA ENGLISBEE



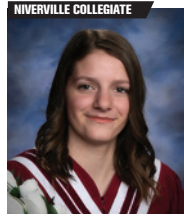
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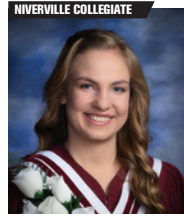
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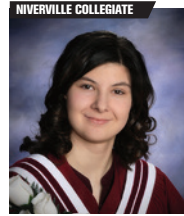
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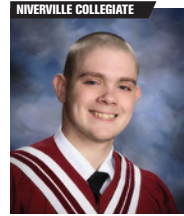
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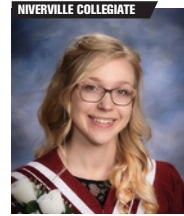
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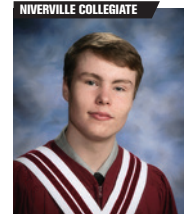
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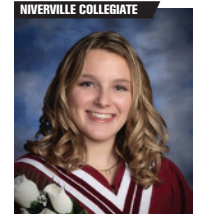
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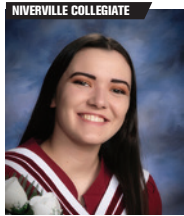
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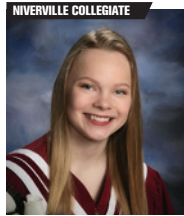
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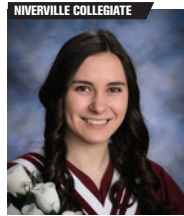
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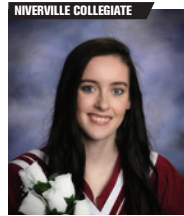
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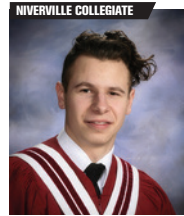
HOLLIE REIMER



ANNA SCHMIDT



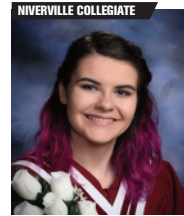
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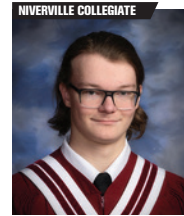
ZACHERY STEINGART



JORDAN STEPHENS



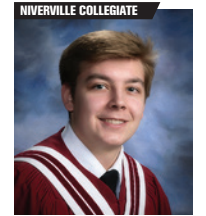
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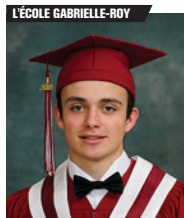
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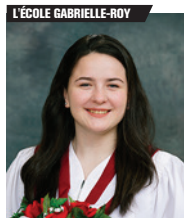
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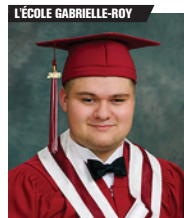
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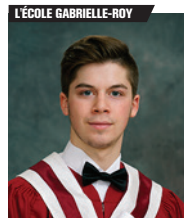
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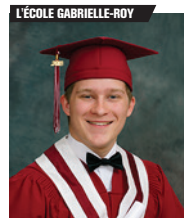
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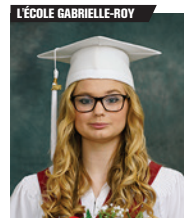
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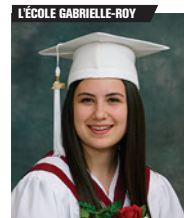
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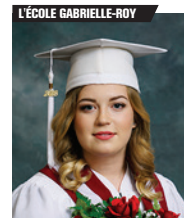
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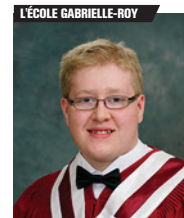
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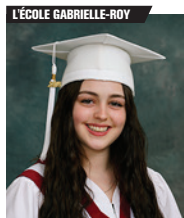
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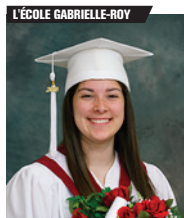
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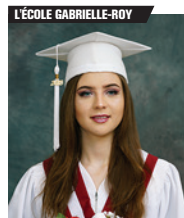
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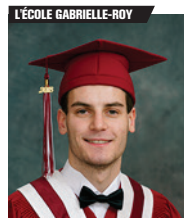
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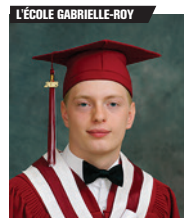
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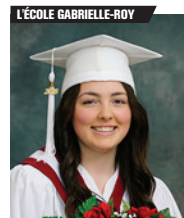
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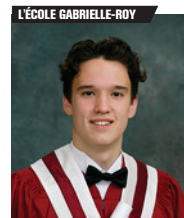
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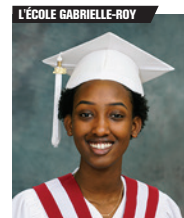
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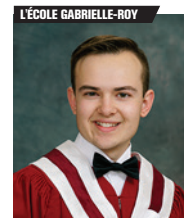
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ADRIAN KALYNIUK



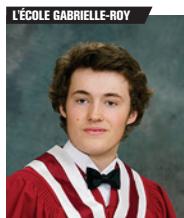
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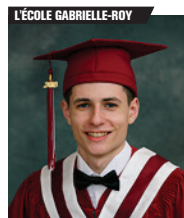
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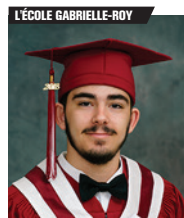
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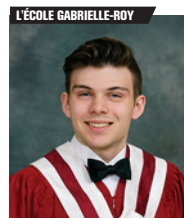
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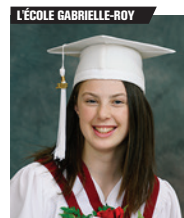
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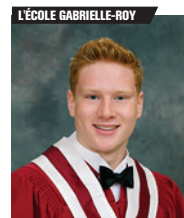
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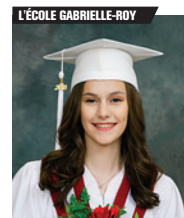
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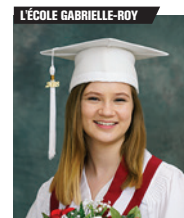
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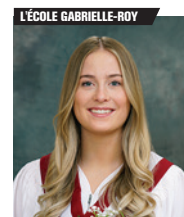
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