

The Citizen

Free PLEASE TAKE ONE

VOLUME 11 - ISSUE 7

JULY 2025

www.nivervillecitizen.com

DISTRIBUTED FREE TO NIVERVILLE, ÎLE-DES-CHÊNES, STE. AGATHE, ST. ADOLPHE, TOUROND, OTTERBURNE, NEW BOTHWELL, AND GLENLEA



**WM. DYCK
& SONS**
(1993)
LTD.

SCAN ME!



LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Approves First Six-Storey Building

■ A new mixed-use building will soon get underway in Niverville along Drovers Run, with commercial units on the first floor.

Details on Pages 3-5

LOCAL NEWS

Manitoba Faces Record Housing Market Disparity

■ There are simply not enough new home builds in Manitoba to keep up with population growth, a problem that has gotten worse.

Details on Pages 18-19



SPORTS & REC

Running Solo, Together

■ Many local athletes achieved great personal times at this year's Manitoba Marathon. In fact, the running community in Niverville is stronger than ever in recent years with the development of a new running club.

Details on Page 25

ARTS & CULTURE

After the Fair Is Over

■ The Niverville Fair had another banner year in 2025, but a lot of work is still to be done after the last fairgoers head home on Saturday night.

Details on Page 26



Introducing the Grads of 2025!

▶▶ READ MORE ON PAGES 11-15

© BRENDA SAWATZKY

Mortgages
made for
real life



Life is complicated.
Your mortgage shouldn't be.

SCU.MB.CA/MYNEXTMORTGAGE

SCU

WM. DYCK & SONS

DRAIN THE COSTS

PLUMBING SALE

JULY 1st - 31st

 <p>KD53L / KD53R</p> <p>MIROLIN EMPIRE MULTI-PIECE TUB & SHOWER</p> <p>\$1,699.99 \$1,499.98</p>	 <p>SH53L / SH53R</p> <p>MIROLIN MADISON 5 SHOWER</p> <p>\$1,799.99 \$1,599.98</p>	 <p>RH-05</p> <p>WANHUI 17" COMFORT HEIGHT TOILET</p> <p>LIMIT 2 PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>\$199.99 \$119.98</p>	 <p>8P8-WS2-CLCC</p> <p>PFISTER TUB & SHOWER CHROME SET</p> <p>\$199.99 \$99.98</p>
 <p>15828LF</p> <p>DELTA DALLACE CHROME BASIN FAUCET</p> <p>LIMIT 2 PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>\$179.99 \$79.98</p>	 <p>LF-042-SLCC</p> <p>PFISTER SELIA CHROME BASIN FAUCET</p> <p>LIMIT 2 PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>\$129.99 \$64.98</p>	 <p>2563LF-BL-LPU</p> <p>DELTA KITANO BLACK BASIN FAUCET</p> <p>\$149.99 \$69.98</p>	 <p>LF-WL2-23OC</p> <p>PFISTER CLASSIC CHROME BASIC FACURT</p> <p>\$69.99 \$41.98</p>
 <p>15828LF-BL</p> <p>DELTA DALLACE BLACK BASIN FAUCET</p> <p>LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>\$199.99 \$89.98</p>	 <p>563LF-SS-LPU</p> <p>DELTA KITANO STAINLESS BASIN FAUCET</p> <p>LIMIT 2 PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>\$169.99 \$69.98</p>	 <p>31 1/4" X 18" X 9" DEEP</p> <p>STAINLESS UNDERMOUNT DOUBLE BOWL</p> <p>\$299.99 \$179.98</p>	 <p>316</p> <p>UNDER MOUNT CHINA BASIN SINK 18" X 13"</p> <p>\$69.99 \$34.98</p>

VISIT US IN-STORE OR SEE FLYER FOR FULL DETAILS

WHAT'S INSIDE

Blacksmith Seeks National Support for Local PTSD Care	6
Ritchot Council Talks Cost of Cyber Breach and Emergency Response Measures	8
Niverville Recreation Launches New Mobile App	8
Ritchot Ready for EV Carshare Program this Fall	9
Niverville's Mayor Talks Annexation Updates and Lower-Cost Housing	10
NHS Celebrates Largest Grad Yet	11
Proud to Be Francophone: Gab-Roy Celebrates Grad 2025	12
Graduation 2025	14
SRSD Faces Another Budgeting Error, This Time a Positive One	16
Indigenous People's Day Celebration Hosted in St. Adolphe	17
RM of Ritchot Hires Cybersecurity Monitoring Specialists	17
Disparity in Manitoba Housing Market a Growing Problem	18
Local Pickleball Enthusiasts Fare Well at 2025 Seniors Games	20
Nighthawks Coach Invited to Work with Jets Draftees	21
Niverville Teen to Represent Manitoba in Rugby at Canada Summer Games	23
Once Open, Prairie Roots Fitness to Focus on Community	24
Running Solo, Together: The Rise of Niverville's Running Community	25
After the Fair Is Over	26



A conceptual (not final) rendering of the new mixed used building to be built on Drovers Run. FAIRWAY VISTAS INC.

Council Approves Niverville's First Six-Storey Building

By Brenda Sawatzky
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On June 17, a group of local developers were tasked with selling their concept for Niverville's first six-storey building to both council and the general public.

At a public meeting held in council chambers, Ray Dowse, on behalf of Fairway Vistas Inc., asked for a variation request which would allow the construction of a multiuse complex at 400 and 500 Drovers Run.

After much discussion and debate, council voted unanimously in favour of the request.

Once built, it will house commercial units on the main level and residential units on the five levels above. The variation application included a request to build to a maximum of 71 feet from grade to

façade parapet, making it the tallest building in Niverville to date.

Three residents approached council to voice their disapproval, not with the development or developers but with the idea of a six-storey building in general.

One voiced their approval of the concept.

Two letters of opposition were read into the public record. As well, council made note of a petition they'd received which voiced disapproval over such a six-storey complex. It contained 281 signatures, only 122 of which council could be confirmed as belonging to Niverville residents.

FAIRWAY VISTAS MAKES THEIR CASE

Delegates at Tuesday's council meeting included Dowse and two of his partners, Bryan Trottier and

Wes Dowse. The team came prepared with a series of visual displays to accompany their presentation.

Prior to opening the public hearing, Mayor Myron Dyck reminded those gathered that the issue at hand was the specific building, not residential growth in general.

"There's people that have concerns about small-town feel and how big the community's getting," Dyck said. "This [hearing is only] about the height of a building... If this [request] is passed, then formal development plans will have to come to council... where it'll need to meet provincial requirements for drainage and municipal standards for parking and everything from where the lights go to where signage goes."

As part of Dowse's opening

(continued on page 5)



JOIN TODAY

and get

SUMMER FOR FREE!

SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.



204-961-1919

40 Drovers Run, Niverville

facebook.com/anytimefitnessniverville

FOR DETAILS VISIT ANYTIMEFITNESS.COM



Box 266, Niverville, MB R0A 1E0
www.nivervillecitizen.com

Managing Editor:
Evan Braun

Sales Manager:
Ray Dowse

Operations Manager:
Cara Dowse

Design/Production Manager:
Dustin Krahn

Contributors:
Evan Braun, Brenda Sawatzky,
Holly Dunphy

CONTACT US

Letters to the Editor:
editor@nivervillecitizen.com


Advertising Sales:
sales@nivervillecitizen.com

Classifieds/General Information:
info@nivervillecitizen.com

Artwork/Ad Proofs/Graphics:
ads@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Citizen is published monthly and distributed through Canada Post to all those with a postal box in Niverville, Île-des-Chênes, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, New Bethwell, Otterburne, and Tourond. Additional copies are distributed to businesses in the aforementioned communities. The paper is printed in Canada by Derksen Printers Ltd. Republishing of this paper in whole or in part without prior approval is strictly prohibited.

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



The advertising deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of each month. The paper will be distributed the first week of every month.

Our commitment to the reader is to provide a professional and reliable means of communication that both residents and businesses will value. This newspaper is 100 percent supported by those who choose to advertise within it. Readers who support the businesses who advertise in this publication are also supporting the development and circulation of future issues of this newspaper. Together, we can help build stronger communities.

FREE TO SHARE. PLEASE RECYCLE.





Let us help you create a space you love to live in



DOLLHOUSE DESIGN

www.dollhousedesign.ca
204.782.8610



Niverville
Family Chiropractic

We've got more than just your back.

Our Services:

- Chiropractic
- Pelvic Floor Physio
- Massage Therapy
- Naturopathic Medicine

Ph: (204) 881-5555
nivervillefamilychiro.com



chamber of commerce | **CHAMBER news**

EMAIL: chamber@niverville.com PHONE: 204-388-6140

President: Elvin Krahn | Vice-President: Ben Dueck | Executive Director: Bre-Ann Boulet
Treasurer: Nicholas Bergmann | Members: Sara Kindzierski, Ferd Klassen,
Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo, Annie Ross, Dean DeLorme, Jenn Elliot, Andrea Dempster

www.niverville.com

Niverville Chamber of Commerce Annual

GOLF TOURNEY



AUGUST 21, 2025 | OLD DROVERS RUN

MEMBERS \$175 | NON-MEMBERS \$205
Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, Two Beverages & Dinner

EVENT SPONSORS
Signage, Social Media, Newsletter & Site Recognition for all sponsors.

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$2,000 8 Golf Passes, Meals & Promo.
GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,250 4 Golf Passes, Meals & Promo.
SILVER SPONSOR - \$750 2 Golf Passes, Meals & Promo.
HOLE SPONSOR - \$400 Spot on hole, Meals, Promo & Engage with Golfers.
MARKET SPONSOR - \$350 Spot near Pro-shop, Meals, Promo & Engage with Golfers.

INCLUDES GST

To join or for any inquiries, contact us at 204-388-6140 or email chamber@niverville.com. Be part of our growing community, and let's work together towards a prosperous future!

Advertise With Us!

sales@nivervillecitizen.com **The Citizen**

trotco
ELECTRIC INC.



BRYAN TROTTER
204-371-8342 bryan@trotco.ca

MITT

We've had a glow-up.
New brand, fresh vibe.
Same practical approach to getting you career-ready.

See what's new at **MITT.ca**



It's your
journey

Delaquis Antiques FURNITURE

- SALES •
- REFINISHING •
- REPAIRS •

204-388-4850
pgdelaquis@gmail.com

MIGHTY DUCTS
CLEANING CO. LTD.



Richard Kirwan
204.392.5665
richard@mightyducts.ca
www.mightyducts.ca

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL DUCT CLEANING

(continued from page 3)

presentation, he reminded those gathered that his local company has been an active developer in Niverville for the past 15 years, not an outsider interested in mere profit margins.

Over the years, they've been responsible for the restoration of much of Niverville's Main Street, taking down or refurbishing old buildings and turning out aesthetically pleasing commercial units for both new and established businesses.

Examples include the business mall located at 226 Main Street, which is the site of Anya's Hair Studio on the east end of Main. Towards the west side, there's the Canada Post and One Insurance building, which sits next door to Niverville Physio, barBURRITO, and Santa Lucia Pizza.

Fairway Vistas is also responsible for most of the new commercial development along Drovers Run on the west side of the railway tracks, including virtually everything between Smitty's Restaurant and the Shell gas station.

"Over the course of [the last] ten years, we're proud to have 14 businesses occupying roughly 35,000 square feet at those sites," Dowse said.

Six years ago, the team began looking at adding multifamily housing to their business endeavours.

That decision, he said, was in response to Statistics Canada data indicating that renter households are now significantly outpacing owner households.

"Before 2011, apartments accounted for less than 40 percent of building permits. But in 2021, they accounted for 73.2 percent of building permits in Canada," Dowse said. "These stats translate directly to what we're seeing in Niverville."

Combining commercial builds with residential, as this team proposes, is simply a more cost-effective model for everyone involved, from builder to resident.

"The roughly 100 residential suites [will] mitigate commercial occupancy costs for businesses so we can continue accommodating commercial entities looking for entry points in the community," said Dowse.

As for the proposed location,



Developer Ray Dowse addresses Niverville's town council.

BY BRENDA SAWATZKY

Dowse says it's ideal considering that this zone is already established with multifamily and commercial units. As well, it's optimally located for easy access to a wide range of commercial and recreational amenities and is in close proximity to schools and the downtown area.

In defending the proposed 71-foot height, which is what is needed for a six-storey building, he points out that it's not that very big a stretch from the 50-foot Jette Studios building or the 57-foot Heritage Centre.

"This site is ideal for taller buildings being that it is a commercial site with Main Street frontage," Dowse argued. "It's not in the core area of town, it's not in Fifth Avenue Estates or The Highlands, and it does not back onto bungalows or single-family dwellings."

Dowse then presented a graphic used by the person responsible for the petition that had been circulated prior to the public meeting. It depicted a 16-storey skyscraper at the heart of a neighbourhood of single-family dwellings.

"If I saw that rendering for a project here in Niverville, I'd have concerns of my own," Dowse said. "I want to assure everyone that this is very misleading and not an accurate representation of what's being proposed on this site."

At the same time, Dowse said he doesn't recommend that council create a carte blanche bylaw endorsing all six-storey builds going forward. Instead he suggests that approval should be given on a case-by-case basis.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

One by one, three residents stepped forward to address council.

"I see the stretch of going from three to six storeys as a big leap," said one resident. "Prior to moving to Niverville I lived in Sage Creek and I saw, in the time that we lived there, land getting repurposed, based on the growth of Sage Creek, into five- to six- or even eight-storey apartment buildings and condos. It really changed the feel of the community."

By the time they had their first child, he added, the area had grown to the degree that kids were being bussed out of the community to schools in other parts of the city.

"It's looking like the city across the street from my house," stated another resident living on Church Street. "This sets a precedent. Now [in the new empty development] beside me, they're going to say, 'Well, this guy got a six-storey building,' and so it will go."

She queried whether buildings of this size are being seen in other small towns in Manitoba.

Mayor Dyck was able to name a few such buildings in the city of Steinbach. While Steinbach is not a small town, he argued that Niverville is set to become Manitoba's next city very soon.

"Are we slamming the door [to residential development] today?" Dyck asked rhetorically. "Are we slamming the door next year? When are we slamming the door?"

Councillor Meghan Beasant also weighed in, suggesting that

closing the door to residential growth means limiting the potential for businesses who operate in Niverville.

As well, she said, it doesn't consider the needs of future generations in terms of housing.

"In ten years, my child is going to need somewhere to live. And unless I can provide him with a down-payment for a home, not likely, they'll need to have options," Beasant said. "I would rather see the options be here than to say to my child, 'This town has not planned for your future. You need to go elsewhere.'"

Counsellor Nathan Dueck, too, had a point to make.

Prior to 2018, he said, town zoning bylaws allowed for buildings up to eight storeys in height. In 2018, council changed the bylaw, making it a requirement for a public hearing to be held when a proposal is received for a new build which exceeds two storeys. This was done to allow for public input with every such proposal.

To further assure residents of council's intentionality, Mayor Dyck indicated that conversations surrounding the look of the future Niverville take place on a regular basis around their boardroom table.

"Are we going to have six-storey buildings up and down Main Street so you feel like you're driving through a tunnel?" Dyck asked. "Those are conversations that we have."

To prevent that, Dyck says they follow commonly used development design guidelines. Typically, commercial development would run alongside major thoroughfares, followed by multistorey housing behind, and finally single-family dwellings would take up the rear.

To the question of school capacity keeping up with growth, Dueck had more to say.

"We've had the opportunity in the last two weeks to meet with the premier... to pitch the idea of Niverville becoming the next city," said Dueck. "[We need them to recognize] the need for more money for roads and infrastructure, for schools, for healthcare... We are very much on the radar of the capital region and the existing government for preparing to become the best city in Manitoba in the next year or two."

IN BRIEF

Ritchot Fire Crews Lend Wildfire Aid

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Back in May, volunteer firefighters from Ritchot assisted in Manitoba's wildfires. Deputy Fire Chief Paul Houle says a six-member headed to Woodridge.

"What they ended up doing was going door to door handing out evacuation notices," Houle says. "At that time, it was critical that everybody get out of there because the fire was headed that way."

By mid-May, another crew, including Houle, were in the West Hawk and Caddy Lake area working on "value protection," which refers to doing everything possible to protect things of value that lie in the line of fire. In this case, it included mostly privately owned cottages.

This time, the call came directly from the Office of the Fire Commissioner. When a situation reaches that level of emergency, the province kicks in additional assistance for fire crews. Houle's team was put up in the local hotel and provided with meals.

They were put to work installing sprinkler systems onto buildings throughout the area that could be at risk.

"Pretty much every building got one," Houle says. "At that time, the fire was about two kilometres away and they were concerned that the wind may shift and bring the fire through that cottage neighbourhood. We actually brought our pumper truck which was sucking from the lake and running lake water through all of these sprinklers."

Once the sprinklers were tested, portable pumps were connected to replace the pumper truck.

Bristal
HAULING



The right mortgage
is right around the corner.

Visit Caisse.biz

Caisse Financial Group

Caisse
Assiniboine
Credit Union

Blacksmith Seeks National Support for Local PTSD Care

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

St. Adolphe is home to a small backyard shop run by a small-town blacksmith, but the proprietor dreams in ways that are anything but small.

Cameron Bennett is the brainchild and driving force behind Forging Ahead Inc., a nonprofit whose goal is to help PTSD sufferers find therapeutic and creative ways to manage their traumatic stress.

Bennett is a veteran of the Canadian military, having served for two decades as a peacekeeper in places like Yugoslavia and Afghanistan before being released in 2018 with PTSD.

Sometime later, Bennett discovered blacksmithing and has since made it his mission to help others in the same way he's been helped.

On May 30, Bennett was joined by a contingent of prominent Manitoba leaders for a firsthand look at what his organization is all about. Attendees included MP Ted Falk and MLAs David Pankratz, Billie Cross, Shannon Corbet, and Robert Loiselle. Loiselle has worked as a blacksmith at Lower Fort Garry.

Bennett took advantage of their visit to his shop on Hebert Road by pitching an idea for which his passion runs deep.

"I told them I've taken this as far as I can," Bennett says. "I know we can keep doing it like this with the sponsors around here, but we can't get it to the next level until we get more influence and more connections. Just imagine what we could do with provincial healthcare support."

Without government funding, he told them, his homespun charity, which runs on local support, will have limited reach among the thousands of PTSD sufferers out there.

But it's not just the ears of Manitoba politicians that are perking up. In recent months, Bennett has garnered the attention of a researcher



Cameron Bennett of St. Adolphe is seeking support to develop an innovative local mental health centre.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

at University of Toronto, Linna Tam-Seto, who has developed a mentorship program for women in the Canadian Armed Forces suffering from the effects of military sexual trauma.

Tam-Seto is a faculty member of the Families Matter Research Group, working towards the betterment of the health and well-being of security and defence families.

According to Bennett, when Tam-Seto reached out to him she asked to collaborate with him on research she's hoping to conduct on helping PTSD sufferers effectively transition back into society.

Pending funding approval, the research is expected to get underway this fall.

Bennett and Tam-Seto will also attend an international convention in October where researchers from around the world will converge to network and share their ideas.

Bennett has been asked to speak.

His message won't focus solely on the therapeutic benefits of blacksmithing. This specific art holds no special magic when it comes to managing PTSD. He believes, though, that there is an art or hands-on skill out there that could offer life-saving benefits for almost all of those afflicted with this stress-related disorder.

"These are ways that a lot of veterans and first responders find a sense of peace and calm," Bennett says. "The arts offer a sense of control... a sense of job accomplishment and problem-solving skills."

What these quiet skills don't do, he says, is activate all the negative triggers that keep PTSD sufferers spiralling.

Should Tam-Seto receive the green light to carry out her research, Bennett is hopeful that her findings

will in turn kickstart a movement toward creative art therapy in medicine across the country.

"Mental health [struggles] are, in my opinion, the biggest problem coming in the future, so we need to get ahead of it now," Bennett says. "Especially with new funding for the military coming. That means they're going to have more [veterans] coming out with mental health problems."

The type of mental health centre that Bennett dreams of would look similar to the Haliburton School of Art and Design in Ontario, where he trained to become a certified blacksmith.

Unlike Haliburton, Bennett's would run as a charity, allowing users of all economic backgrounds to access it.

Ideally, the school would offer degrees in many disciplines, including painting, sculpting, woodworking, stone masonry, and blacksmithing. It

may even include wilderness survival skills.

Bennett sees Niverville as the prime location for just such a facility.

But the facility would offer far more than just a school. There would be a full range of wraparound services onsite, such as psychologists and social workers. On the grounds, special focal points could be developed where mindfulness, yoga, and meditation practices are encouraged.

"Then we can talk to Homes for Heroes [Foundation]," says Bennett. "You could have apartments for veterans to stay and get long-term care. [This would be] a Canada-first. The first centre for preventative mental healthcare."

Of course, such a facility would provide a certain economic spinoff for the community as well. A gift shop or farmer's market onsite would draw in shoppers looking for unique quality handmade items. And income derived from these sales would not only benefit the artist but also help the facility, further subsidizing classes for future students.

The icing on the cake, for Bennett, would be to build a nearby park where statues or cairns, created by the craftspeople, would be erected, telling the history of Canada's military and first responders and breaking down the stigma of PTSD.

It's forward-thinking from the perspective of a healthcare system that currently treats mental health issues with revolving door services with questionable efficacy. Most often these services only become available when the sufferer reaches a breaking point, such as through drug addiction or suicidal ideation.

Bennett wants to see a medical system that offers preventative services to keep sufferers from getting to that point in the first place.

"This is the stopgap in the mental health system that is missing," he says. "This would be there to help them recover and give them hope again."



CHRISTOPHER HOFER
YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

CALL ME TODAY FOR A FREE MARKET EVALUATION!



204-807-5701

chrishoferrealtor@gmail.com

www.christopherhofer.ca



**YOU COULD
WIN**

CURRENT JACKPOT IS OVER

\$33,000

EVERY MONDAY AT SMITTY'S NIVERVILLE

DOOR PRIZES FROM 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM | FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

**SKIP
THE LINE**

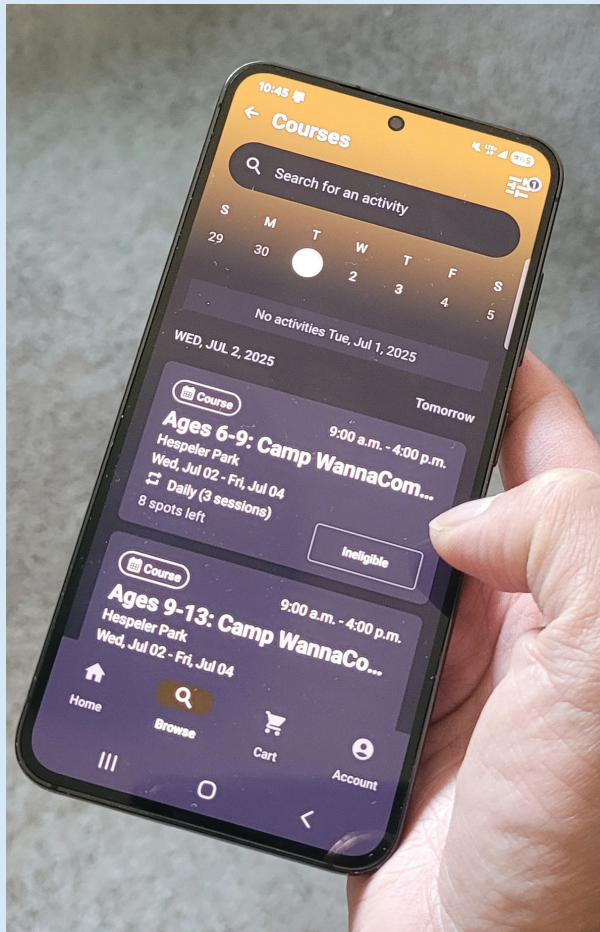


**BUY
ONLINE**

Purchasers do not need to be present to win. If a winner is not present, they will be contacted by phone. If required, 3 attempts to make contact will be made over the course of 5 minutes. If a winner does not respond within that time a new winner will be drawn. Cut-off for ticket purchases will be at 8:15 p.m. every Monday. Sales for the following week will resume approximately 1 hour after each draw. Draw time is 8:30 p.m. Tickets may only be purchased by those 18 years of age and older who are residents of Manitoba or who are in Manitoba at the time of the purchase.

LGCA 8417-RF-45289

IN BRIEF



The new Niverville rec mobile app.

EVAN BRAUN

Niverville Recreation Launches New Mobile App

By Brenda Sawatzky
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On July 1, Niverville Recreation unveiled a major upgrade to help locals better access their services: a new, more user-friendly mobile app to facilitate bookings.

Registration for programs, events, and classes can now be done on the Perfect Mind app via mobile device.

"This new app is the next step in providing further recreation and wellness opportunities to our community," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "Our hope is that by making it easier to access recreation programming through this app, active living in Niverville can continue to improve and grow."

Mobile device users can now browse programs, courses, and other Niverville Recreation offerings on the intuitive app.

Users can apply filters to help narrow down their preferences as well as get

specific recommendations on programs that might interest them.

Programs which people have already signed up for in the past and future can also be seen.

Perhaps one of the best features is the ability to carry a digital version of the CRRC membership card punch pass, providing easy access to the facility.

According to the team, this is just phase one of what's to come. New features will continue to be rolled out as the year progresses.

"We often receive feedback from users asking about an app," says Warren Britton, Director of Recreation and Wellness. "The creation of this app now allows users to have greater accessibility to the programs we offer and does it in a way that requires no extra fees, accounts, or technical knowledge."

You can find the app on the iOS App Store and the Google Play Store under the title "Niverville Recreation."

Ritchot Council Talks Cost of Cyber Breach and Emergency Response Measures

By Brenda Sawatzky
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Ritchot's council met for their bimonthly public meeting on June 3 to discuss a brief list of items on their agenda.

Included was a report by CAO Shane Ray on costs incurred by the RM in recent weeks.

One of them referred to a \$127,000 cheque ready to be issued to a company for their work on a cyberbreach at the RM office last year.

"This is one of the companies that's been working on the cyber incident," Ray told council. "It's important to note that this will be covered through insurance. We are paying that upfront and then we'll be reimbursed by insurance once we've finished things up with them."

The cyberbreach was originally discovered by RM staff on December 15. Six months later, little information has been forthcoming from the municipal office regarding the nature or severity of the breach.

Inquiries from *The Citizen* resulted in a single response from the mayor, indicating that council was not allowed to discuss details of the data breach.



Ritchot's council meets on June 3.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

On June 4, locals received notification that the RM's systems were now back up and running, allowing the municipality to once again issue tax and utility bills.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The RM's emergency response coordinator, Harold Schlamp, attended the meeting virtually to provide an update on his continued work within the municipality.

"The municipal emergency plan was reviewed and endorsed by council by way of resolution," Schlamp said. "It has been approved by Manitoba Emergency Measures for

another year."

Also recently approved is Schlamp's position for another three-year term.

While natural disasters haven't been an issue for residents of Ritchot yet in 2025, Schlamp's role is to actively ready the municipality for unexpected changes.

Thankfully, Ritchot experienced no spring flooding this year despite the fact that Schlamp and his team were told to prepare for some possibility.

At this point, tornado response and fire safety are on Schlamp's mind. He will be working with the local fire

chief to discuss the RM's tornado contingency plan.

"This will ensure that we have a working template to consider in case of a touch-down event," Schlamp said.

If dry conditions persist throughout the summer, Schlamp says the RM's water supply could also be impacted.

"I had a meeting with [operations manager] Mike Dumaine about the lack of rainfall and what affect this will have on our water supply. He assured me that, at this time, there's no concerns, but he anticipates sending out a water conservation policy this summer."

Call: 204-883-2403
Email: rick@paulsseptic.ca

St. Adolphe 204-883-2403

Regular Septic Cleaning Advantages

- Prevent overflow around septic tank or field
- Prevent foul odours
- Prevent slow drainage
- Prevent sewage back up into home
- Prevent pooling areas around septic tank or field
- Prevent sludge blockages in pipes

Porta Rental Services

- Wedding Events
- Corporate Events
- Private Events
- Construction Use
- Handicap Rentals
- Hand Wash Rentals

Septic Services

- Septic Tanks
- Holding Tanks
- Business Parks
- Emergency Pump Outs

Working for You

LANDSCAPING SERVICES

CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE

204-296-3698

spring@patersonyardworks.ca

www.patersonyardworks.ca

Ritchot Ready for EV Carshare Program this Fall

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Throughout the summer, Ritchot will be collecting and compiling resident feedback for the carshare program they plan to jumpstart this fall.

On June 10 and 12, Ritchot staffers Ryan Faucher and Uriel Jelin held special feedback nights, inviting residents to come, chat, and offer ideas on what a good carsharing program would look like.

As well, in an effort to encourage carpooling, Faucher and Jelin want to know how best to enable that kind of initiative, too.

Last year, the RM put out a survey which garnered several hundred responses.

"Over 100 people were interested in carsharing or carpooling," Faucher says. "So this is basically building off of that feedback. You said you were interested. Now what would you like to see?"

Over the past 18 months, Ritchot has been working on building their EV inventory for the program.

Already, two EV pickup trucks have been acquired and soon 23 chargers will be added to the municipality's infrastructure.

In the coming months, Faucher anticipates picking up two or three more EV vehicles.

"We have the trucks, but we found that they're a little large for most people," Faucher says. "There's more interest in a smaller vehicle, car or van, so we're looking at different options there."

At present, the trucks are equipped with special software and hardware to make them carshare ready. This will allow users to lock and unlock the vehicle through an app on their phone. A key will be located within



Ryan Faucher with one of Ritchot's electric trucks.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

the vehicle which can be enabled through the carshare app as well. It's a similar system, Faucher says, to how the Winnipeg carshare program operates.

To date, most of the cost of the vehicles, chargers, and computerized add-ons have been paid for through federal government grants designated specifically for rural community transportation initiatives.

"They're trying to find ways to help rural communities have options," Faucher says. "They are trying to show people, especially in rural environments, that an electric vehicle can be feasible."

Over the past year, the RM admin staff have been test-driving the carshare vehicles in order to work out the kinks before they open the program up to the public.

"Because of this, we learned there is a need for an RFID card in the vehicle so that, if you go somewhere and you get out of the vehicle and take the card with you, if for some reason your phone doesn't connect in that area, you can still get in and out."

Once the program is in full gear, Faucher anticipates that some of the vehicles will be available for use 24/7, 365 days of the year.

There are a number of groups he can already imagine making good use of the carshare program. Some will be the organizations that rely on volunteers to drive seniors to appointments and shopping.

"A lot of times they may find that they have the volunteers, but the cost of using private vehicles is getting expensive."

Students commuting to university or college would also benefit from the program.

"If you've got five people that are all driving to St. Boniface every day, for example, insuring their vehicles and putting gas in and paying for

parking, replace those five vehicles with one and the amount of money those five people now keep in their pockets is, on average, \$1,000 per month."

Further to that, he adds, those savings are then spent within the community, creating an economic benefit for everyone.

For every carshare vehicle made available to the public, Faucher says 11 privately owned vehicles are taken off the road.

And since the RM's vehicles are electric, residents will financially benefit further.

"As far as fuel goes, because they charge off the grid and the rates Manitobans pay is quite low, it's almost a ten-to-one savings of gas to electricity."

As for insurance on the shared vehicles, Faucher says rental fees will cover that cost.

And for many users, their personal credit card offers coverage on the cost of a deductible on a rental car when an accident occurs.

For those residents who aren't yet sold on the idea of driving an EV vehicle, Faucher says the best way to become convinced is to try one for yourself.

This then becomes another good reason for a municipal carshare program, since people can test drive indefinitely, for all intents and purposes.

Faucher's not too worried, though. Even before the EV program in the RM has begun, the existing chargers are getting plenty of use. In one month alone, the IDC charger was used 89 times by 28 different drivers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To provide feedback on the carshare or carpooling program, visit www.ritchot.com.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- > FAMILY LAW
- > REAL ESTATE LAW
- > WILLS AND ESTATE
- > CIVIL LITIGATION
- > IMMIGRATION LAW
- > DISPUTE RESOLUTION

CAM'S

LAW OFFICE

1-431-588-2702

Unit B4 - 10 Cedar Dr, P.O. Box 175
Niverville, Manitoba R0A 1E0

info@camslawoffice.com
www.camslawoffice.com

prairie soul

DANCE COMPANY

**Join us for our
2025/2026 Season**

Online Registration Now Open!

Directors:
Melanie Ducharme
Danielle Auld

info@prairiesouldancecompany.ca
204-392-5624
10 Cedar Drive, Niverville

Follow us on
f i

Graydon

VETERINARY CORPORATION

Drs Graydon, Joshi and Funk

PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA SINCE 2009

St. Pierre: 204-433-7956
Vita: 204-425-3264

www.graydonvet.com



AUTOWORKS
Sparkline
SERVICE CENTRE

Alignments- Brakes-Tire-Safeties
Diagnostics-Free Shuttle and Courtesy Car

30 CEDAR DRIVE, NIVERVILLE, MB
204-388-4888 **www.sparkline.ca**

Niverville's Mayor Talks Annexation Updates and Lower-Cost Housing

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

For Niverville's mayor, Myron Dyck, May was a busy month.

At council's public meeting on June 3, he shared some thoughts on his recent activities in his bimonthly mayor's report.

ANNEXATION UPDATE

Niverville's anticipated annexation of land on its east side is still up in the air, Dyck says, following the province's decision in November to decline a joint proposal with the neighbouring of RM of Hanover to grow the community by 2,600 acres.

"The past [provincial] administration had asked us to present a 50-year plan," Dyck said. "So we presented a 50-year plan. Then the new administration comes in and they say, 'We're [wanting] a 20- to 25-year plan.' So we've submitted it, and Hanover signed off on it."

That amended plan was submitted in March. Technically speaking, according to provincial bylaw, Niverville's council won't get another audience with the province on this subject until March 2026.

"We will do our homework on our end," Dyck said. "The landowners who will be a part of the 25-year plan will be communicated with. This time we will be setting up meetings. I will be talking to each one of them, face to face."

LOWER-COST HOUSING INITIATIVES

In recent days, Dyck attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' conference held in Ottawa. The prime minister addressed the attendees, in addition to other federal leaders.

One exceptional aspect of



Mayor Myron Dyck and CAO Eric King.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

the event, for Dyck, was a tour of the Water Ridge District, demonstrating an innovative new kind of neighbourhood being constructed on 310 acres of a decommissioned air force base.

"It's inclusive," Dyck said. "You have people with million-dollar homes and you have people on rent assist or, the way they call it, lower-market homes."

What makes this project especially unique, he added, is the way in which each pocket community is being created. Imagine a square block of homes, he says, where there are no private front or backyards. Instead all the homes face a central shared courtyard.

"That's where you have your community garden," Dyck said. "That's where you have your big park and greenspace for kids to play. It just becomes a gathering place that you've essentially created."

Only sidewalks exist within the interior of the block and they are 11 feet wide to accommodate foot and bicycle

movement only. Streets and parking exist on the perimeter of the neighbourhood.

It's an ideal, Dyck says, that might give communities like Niverville the opportunity to provide attractive neighbourhoods that offer lower-market housing options during these tough economic times.

While Niverville's council doesn't see it as part of their mandate to invest in housing, Dyck says other councils across the nation are setting up housing corporations which run at an arm's length to council, similar to a community development corporation (CDC).

"Let's say, for instance, we were to set up the Niverville Housing Corporation," Dyck tells *The Citizen*. "It would be a group of non-elected officials who would then be able to apply for grants that are given to housing corporations that are looking to do lower-market [housing]."

It's food for thought, Dyck says, and an important part of ensuring that every resident has access to affordable living within the community.

Dine in | Take Out | Private Room Rentals | Online Ordering

Hespele's
 COOKHOUSE & TAVERN

11am-9pm- Sunday-Wednesday
 11am-11pm Thursday-Sunday

DINING WITH US MATTERS
 We are a Non Profit that supports the Niverville Heritage Centre.

204-388-2100 **www.hespelescokhouse.com**

NHS Celebrates Largest Grad Yet

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On June 25, the Niverville High School auditorium was filled to capacity as hundreds of townspeople gathered to celebrate what proved to be the school's biggest graduating class yet.

Garbed in traditional black and red, 92 Grade 12 students stepped forward to receive their high school diplomas. That number was up 20 students over last year.

This year marked a first for Paul Grosskopf, who assumed the position of principal last September.

"Our students didn't just attend school," Grosskopf said. "They built it with us. They asked big questions leading to hard conversations and found a place, not just in the classrooms, but in a culture... You've shown us what's possible when we support each other, believing in each other and ourselves. You're the heartbeat of this school and the promise of this town. Wherever your next steps take you, never forget that you were shaped by a village that believes in you still."

Hanover School Division (HSD) board trustee Dallas Wiebe gave a brief presentation, acknowledging the incredible achievements made by this year's grad class. He pointed out two for special mention.

Edlynne Paez took an active role in leadership throughout her high school career, sitting on the HSD and provincial student advisory councils. Earlier this year, she was invited to Ottawa to present at the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit.

Paez was the recipient of the Loran Scholarship Award, valued at over \$100,000.

In a similar vein, Emily Plessis made an impact closer to home.

"I read earlier today about her



This year's valedictorian, Emily Plessis, addresses the NHS graduating class of 2025.

■ BRENDA SAWATZKY

passion for spending time with the elderly," Wiebe said. "Her care and compassion should inspire all of us who have loved ones to care for."

Special guest speaker at this year's event was Mark Eichhorst, alumni of Niverville Collegiate Institute. His career spanned 34 years working as a diplomat for the Canadian government, serving in posts across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

"My challenge to the group that already has [post-secondary] plans: don't forget about this incredible little town, the values and connections and friendships you have developed during your time here," Eichhorst said. "They are extremely valuable and will come in handy down the road."

By the same token, he reminded students not to get stuck in their small town but to explore the world beyond Niverville and Canada and allow that experience to shape them.

"Look for opportunities to spend a bit longer somewhere, to really get to know the people," he continued. "Study exchanges or work abroad programs are excellent options."

For those still unsure of their future career paths, Eichhorst suggested that they take plenty of time to try out a variety of jobs before making a choice. Eichhorst admitted to working as a heavy machine operator, a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesperson, a substitute teacher, and a tree planter, among a variety of other jobs, before becoming a diplomat.

Chosen by her peers to represent them as valedictorian was Emily Plessis.

Plessis encouraged her fellow graduates to view this day as a beginning rather than an end.

"We could sit and think of all the things that are coming to an end today, but we are much better off thinking of all the new moments we will create in the years to come," Plessis said. "Every memory, lesson, and challenge adds up to who we are now. This is something worth pausing to appreciate and acknowledge before rushing into the next steps of life."

Plessis briefly took the class down memory lane, regaling them with the many ways in which they had built

bonds over their years of schooling together.

"What makes this class really special isn't just our fun energy," she said. "It's the beautiful way that we exist together... We didn't always have the same interests or friends, but even in those differences we found connection... It didn't stop anyone from giving help and support to someone who needed it... We always found ways to lift one another up."

NHS AWARDS

The school's administration was proud to distribute \$26,000 in scholarships and awards this year.

Eighteen students were selected from the grad class to receive 21 awards offered by various individuals and organizations.

The most prestigious of awards, the Governor General's bronze medal, was awarded to Sam Huebert.

Awards for \$1,000 were presented by the Town of Niverville and the Niverville Credit Union to students Samantha Taylor and Owen Poettcker. The Wiens Young Leader Award of

\$1,000 does not require postsecondary enrollment and was offered to Delaney Kelly.

Once again, the Grant family provided two \$1,000 scholarships in honour of their sons David and Andrew. The recipients were Evgenii Slesarchuk and Chloe Jeung. Preference for these awards were given to students taking ongoing studies in the sciences and the trades.

This year's \$1,000 Lana Dyck Joy Award, contributed by Mayor Myron Dyck, focused on someone who demonstrates selfless love towards others. It was awarded to Shayna Harnett.

New this year was the Hanover Teachers' Association Award for \$1,000, which went to Megan Pinkerton.

The Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship of \$1,000, provided by the University of Manitoba, was extended to Talan Huppe.

Two Niverville Physiotherapy Athletic Awards for \$600 each were taken by Madison Williams and Charlee Tannahill.

Four \$500 awards were provided by the Ivy Friesen Memorial, Niverville Firefighters, One Insurance, and Future in Trades. The recipients included Brenae Aitken, Brittany Collette, Ava Fast, and Ben Johnson.

The Springfield-Ritchot MLA's Citizenship Scholarship provided two \$500 awards, one to Edlynne Paez and another to Saige Houlbrook. Students Madison Williams and Ava Fast received other \$500 awards from the MCC Thrift Store.

New this year was the Betty Harder Community Volunteer Award for \$500, given to a student who demonstrated a volunteer spirit in the school and community. This award went to Norah Friesen.

Finally, two \$200 awards were provided by the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to students Norah Friesen and Brenae Aitken.

N+A TRUCKING NOW A PROUD MEMBER OF:



- Safety Inspection Station (COI 4500kg up)
- Truck and Trailer Repairs All Makes & Models
- Industrial/Construction Equipment Repairs
- Parts Sales All Makes & Models
- Hydraulic Hose Manufacturing

COME SEE OUR PARTS
DEPARTMENT AT 369
BRONSTONE DRIVE

www.nandatrucking.com

204-388-4509

TR Bookkeeping Service



Full Cycle
Bookkeeping



Payroll
Processing



Income
Tax

Providing bookkeeping services for over 25 years.
We can help you prosper with reliable, affordable and quality service.

204-333-6757



tammy@trbookkeepingservice.ca



trbookkeepingservice.ca

Proud to Be Francophone: Gab-Roy Celebrates Grad 2025

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A record 65 graduates donned cap and gown this year, receiving well-deserved diplomas from École/Collège Régional Gabrielle-Roy (Gab-Roy).

A dinner and dance reception was held at the Victoria Inn on June 20. The St. Boniface Cathedral was filled to capacity on June 24 for the convocation.

"This year the cathedral was full," says Gab-Roy principal Patrice Harvey. "If I had to estimate, there was close to 500 or 600 people there. It was amazing."

Harvey says enrollment has been on a steady incline over the past few years and next year the grad number could reach 75.

The graduates come from Lorette, Île-des-Chênes, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, Niverville, Landmark, and Grande Pointe, all communities realizing varying levels of population growth.

Harvey says this year's grads were a truly exceptional group of students. "They are respectful, engaged in their studies, engaged in leadership in the school, and engaged in their community," says Harvey.

A total of 26 Gab-Roy grads are enrolled at the Université de Saint-Boniface this coming fall. It's an indication to Harvey that these students are proud of their francophone heritage.

For Gab-Roy admin, it's also a source of pride when students continuing their postsecondary education in French outnumber that of Winnipeg's largest French school, Collège Louis-Riel.

"One of our goals is to develop the French identity for our students," Harvey says. "When we see the students continuing in French, we're proud because that's good for our French



The Gab-Roy graduating class of 2025.

ECOLE GAB-ROY

community... Maybe they will then work in French, and when they will have kids, they will speak French."

Harvey was one of two speakers at this year's grad ceremony. The other was Jennifer Wiebe, the school's director of programming.

Harvey's message to his graduating students was one of encouragement for them to celebrate their achievements regardless of the effort it takes to see them through.

"They all have the same diploma, a piece of paper that says they [completed] high school," says Harvey. "But behind each diploma they have a unique story."

As a father and principal, Harvey is aware of the struggle some students face just to get to graduation day, while others seem to breeze through. It's that struggle, he says, that develops perseverance and fortitude, and these skills will go far in helping them achieve success in other endeavours in life.

Chosen by their peers to be this year's valedictorians were Mattieu de Rocquigny and Nathan Anderson.

"So here we are, ready for the future they say," de Rocquigny said to his fellow grads. "It's always funny to hear that from parents, grandparents, or really anyone over the age of 20. But let's be real: some of us still struggle to use a printer, or need to Google how long to boil water for pasta. And yet, despite our small gaps in life skills, we've tackled exams, pulled off last-minute oral presentations, and survived 9:00 a.m. classes. That's real resilience. Maybe we don't know exactly what the future holds, but one thing's for sure: we've got great instincts. We know how to adapt, how to improvise, and most importantly how to laugh. And if that's not a form of intelligence, then maybe we need to redefine it."

He reminded his classmates to go into their future taking one step at a time with perseverance, open-mindedness, the courage to ask questions, and the strength to get back up when things get hard.

"This year, we experienced what it felt like to be the oldest students in the

school... though we did find ourselves on the losing side of history with our crushing defeat in the grade war," Anderson said. "Truth be told, even though we wanted to win, I wouldn't say the grade war was a total loss. The event brought us closer together, and for perhaps the first time in our high school journey we were united as a class—as friends... That loss wasn't our first in life, and it certainly won't be our last. If there's one thing I've learned at Collège Gabrielle-Roy, it's that a defeat surrounded by those you love is never really a loss."

While the school takes pride in every one of its students, Harvey is quick to point out that each one is backed by an army of supportive parents and guardians. That was demonstrated throughout the year, but especially toward the end through the thoughtful organization of this year's grad reception.

GAB-ROY AWARD WINNERS

Approximately 29 students were honoured with 37 scholarships from a variety

of donors this year.

Harvey had the honour of presenting the esteemed Governor General's bronze medal to Emma Natividad.

Taking the \$1,500 Encouragement Scholarship was Cadence McCabe.

Awards of \$1,000 included the University of Manitoba Chown Centennial Scholarship and the AEFM-Claude Vigier Scholarship, taken by Juliette Danaïs-Small and Roxanne Marcoux respectively.

The Luc Gosselin Memorial Scholarship honoured two students with \$1,000 each, Jesslyn Neumann and Alek Ouimet.

Receiving the DSFM scholarship for \$800 was Samuel Burelle. Cadence McCabe was awarded the \$750 Clearview Consumer Co-op Scholarship.

A total of 12 \$500 awards were provided by Knights of Columbus (Lorette-Jubenville Council), Lorette Thrifty Treasures, Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League, the Municipality of Taché, the Jeannot Robert fund, MLA Ron Schuler, the Steinbach and Assiniboine Credit Unions, Villa Youville, Bold Commerce, Dufresne Pharmacy, and Centennial Gravel.

Stellan Chammartin was the recipient of three and Alek Ouimet two. Other award winners included Sebastian Verrier, David Lemoine, Riley Chammartin, Emma Natividad, Martin de Moissac, and Jesslyn Neumann.

Another 16 awards were presented for amounts under \$500. The students receiving these awards were Riley Bosuyt, David Lemoine, Coral Lee Fieber, Sébastien Sarrasin, Benoit Grondin, Mélanie Palud, Janelle Trudeau, Aiden Berard, and Roxanne Marcoux.

Alek Ouimet and Mattieu de Rocquigny each took two of these awards and Nathan Anderson three.

Honours for Athlete of the Year went to Raihana Laarissa and Daniel Lothar.

YGP
YOUR GROCERY PEOPLE

**FULL SERVICE GROCERY,
LIQUOR & BEER VENDOR**

259 MAIN STREET, NIVERVILLE

**Advertise
With Us!**

sales@nivervillecitizen.com

The **Citizen**

JWH
MECHANICAL

Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning

204-388-5366

As you mark your way in the world, never lose SIGHT of the things that matter most. Congratulations from the staff at Clarity Vision!



CLARITY VISION



204-540-0250



10 Cedar Dr Unit C2, Niverville, MB

www.clarityvision.ca

Niverville Heritage

DENTAL CENTRE

C O N G R A T S !

Class of 2025

A special congrats to our very own Jaidyn Dueck, Kali Chiborak, Kael Chiborak and all of our patient graduates who we watched grow up in our dental chair!
-The NHDC Gals

204-388-9694

www.nivervilledental.com

**GRUNTHAL
LUMBER**



KICKOFF SOCIAL
KICKOFF SOCIAL
SEPTEMBER 20TH

BUY KICKOFF TICKETS HERE



Licensed Event!

**TORQUE
BREWING**



BAND ANNOUNCEMENT!

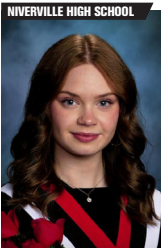
8PM - 1AM | OUTDOOR RINK
BESIDE CENTENNIAL ARENA

\$20 PER TICKET

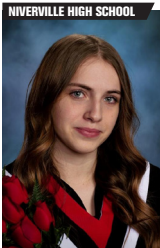
*17 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HOME OPENING GAME FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH!

<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CLASS OF 2025</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>BRENÆ AITKEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>IVY ALGUIRE</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ESABELLA ARAUZ</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>GAVIN AUSTMAN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ANDREW BEAUDIN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>MALAKAI BERGEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>RYDER BERNIER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ETHAN BLAKESTON-SHAVER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>DYLAN BRIDGES</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>DANIELLE BUCHOLZ</div>	
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>LOGAN BUCZKO</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>LANDEN BUHLER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KAYLEE CAMPBELL</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SEOJIN CHAE</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KAEL CHIBORAK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KALI CHIBORAK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>BRITTANY COLLETTE</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ALEXANDRA CUCCARO</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>HANNAH DEGUELDRÉ</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KAIDYS DERECHEY</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>EMILY DRUET</div>
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>JADYN DUECK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KEZIA DYCK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>AVA FAST</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>LUKE FEHR</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>EMILY FRIESEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>GRACIE FRIESEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>NORAH FRIESEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SERENA FRIESEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SKYLAR FUNK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>BROCK GEISSLER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SERGIO GIARDINO</div>
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>JOANNA GINTER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KATIE-ANN GRAVELINE</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>BLAISE GUINDON</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>GAVIN HALL</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CHARLES HARDER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SHAYNA HARNETT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>DANYEL HEPPNER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ETHAN HIEBERT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KEEGAN HIEBERT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>KAYSON HORNUNG</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SAGE HOULBROOK</div>
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SAMUEL HUEBERT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>TALAN HUPPE</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>AVA HYDUK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CHLOE JEONG</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>BENJAMIN JOHNSON</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ABIGAIL JOHNSTON</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CIARA KEHLER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>DELANEY KELLY</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>TANNER KOSHOWSKI</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ANNIKA KRAHN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>JOSHUA LODGE</div>
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SAMARA LOEWEN</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>COURTNEY MAGILL</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>RAELENE MORROW- KAKEWASH</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>AUSTIN NASKRENT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>DANIELLE NEUFELD</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>JULIANA OTT</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>EDLYNE PAEZ</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>MEGAN PINKERTON</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CAYDEN PIPES</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>EMILY PLESSIS</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SYDNEY PLETT</div>
	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>OWEN POETTCKER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>NICHOLAS PRITCHARD</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CALI RICHARDS</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>ALIAH ROMOLO</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>OWEN ROSS</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>SAMBA SALL</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>FAITH SAUNDERS</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>LUCAS SCHEPP</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>EVGENII SLESARCHUK</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>AUSTIN SPENCER</div>	<div>NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <div></div> <div>CHARLEE TANNAHILL</div>



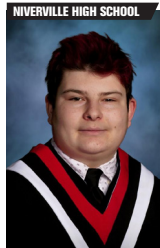
SAMANTHA
TAYLOR



EMMA
UNRAU



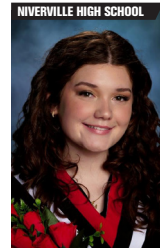
CASSIUS
WALKER



GADON
WIEBE



GEORGIA
WIEBE



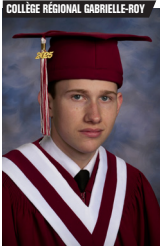
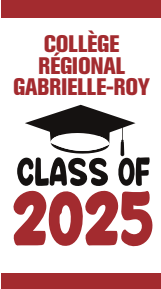
MADISON
WILLIAMS



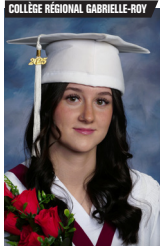
NATHAN
ZAMKOTOWICH



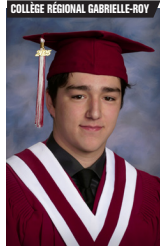
CHRISTOPHER
ZEILSTRA



NATHAN
ANDERSON



AMÉLIE
BEAUDRY



AIDEN
BERARD



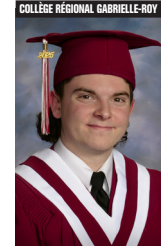
ANASTASIA
BOGE



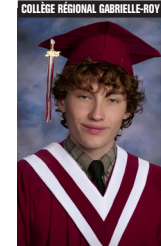
JACOB
BOISJOLI



CHRISTOPHER
BOLIVAR



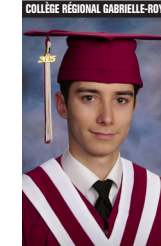
RILEY
BOSSUYT



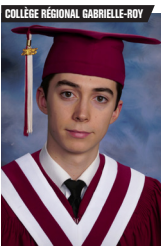
SAMUEL
BURELLE



COLIN
CANTIN



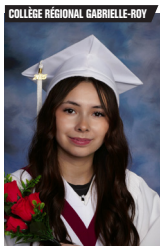
ANDREW
CHAMMARTIN



RILEY
CHAMMARTIN



STELLAN
CHAMMARTIN



GABRIELLE
COMIA



NOVA
COOPER



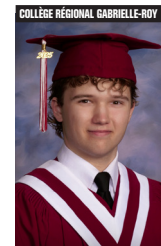
JULIETTE
DANAIS-SMALL



CALDER
DAVID



MARTIN
DE MOISSAC



MATTIEU
DEROQUIGNY



CORAL LEE
FIEBER



DYLAN
FISSETTE



MADYSON
GAUTHIER



CALEB
GELINEAU



XAVIER
GELINEAU



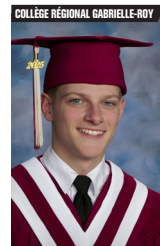
JEAN-MICHEL
GENDRON



KAYLA
GERBER



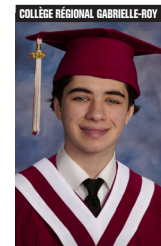
JACOB
GIRARDIN



BERNOIT
GRONDIN



ZACKARIE
HILDEBRAND



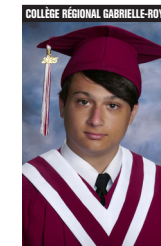
ALEX
JACQUES



LUCAS
JOHANNESON



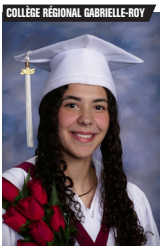
PAUL
JULIEN



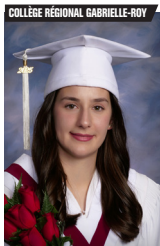
JONATHAN
KELLY



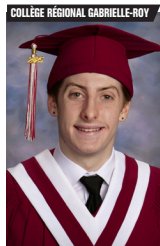
ZACHARY
KUFFEL



RAIHANA
LAARISSA



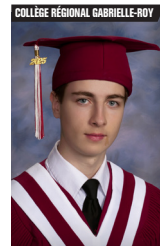
KATRIE
LABOSSIÈRE



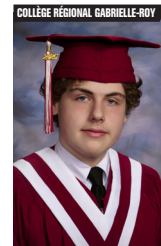
RILEY
LAFOND



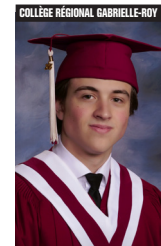
LILYANNA
LANCIAULT-PROUX



TYSON
LAROCHE



JOE
LEBEL



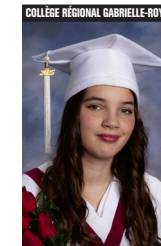
MAXIM
LEDUCHOWSKI



DAVID
LEMOINE



ROXANNE
MARCOUX



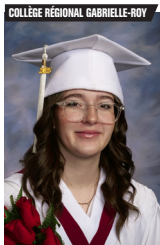
CADENCE
MCCABE



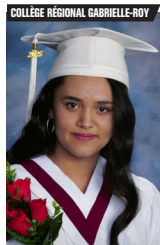
BRODY
MICHAUD



PRIYA
MILAN



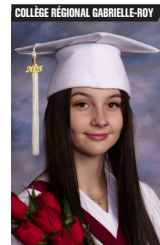
JULIE
MORRISSETTE



EMMA
NATIVIDAD



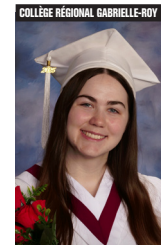
JESSLYN
NEUMANN



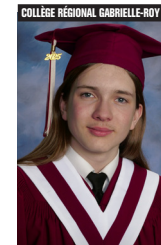
CLOE
NORMAND



ALEK
OUIMET



MÉLANIE
PALUD



ANDRÉ
POIRIER



CELESTE
RITCHOT



DANICA
ROUIRE



SÉBASTIEN
SARRASIN



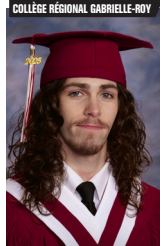
ZOÉ
SAURETTE



KIAN
SCHELLER



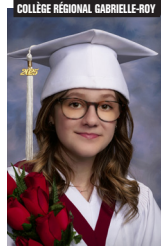
EMERALD
SEBASTIAN



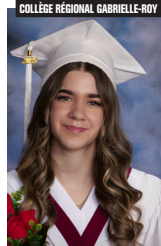
ÉLIE
TARDIFF-BREEN



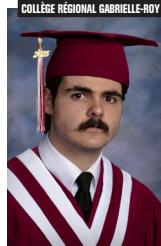
KAITLYN
TAYLOR



AVERY
TOYNE



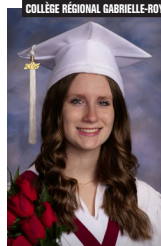
JANELLE
TRUDEAU



KYLE
VACHON



SEBASTIAN
VERRIER



TAYLOR
WARKENTIN

SRSD Faces Another Budgeting Error, This Time a Positive One

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

For the second time in two years, administrators and board members of the Seine River School Division (SRSD) have publicly admitting to a significant error affecting their budget.

This time around, though, things are looking significantly more optimistic.

"A recent review of our financials identified a miscalculation in some projected figures in this current year's budget," says a recently released statement from the school division. "These projections, which were developed under previous leadership, were found to be inaccurate. With corrected data now in place, the division is on track to eliminate its deficit this year and is instead trending toward a modest surplus."

In the summer of 2023, a budgeting error was discovered by an incoming secretary treasurer that shocked division administration.

Instead of facing a surplus, as expected, they were told that the real story was a \$1.3 million deficit. If they proceeded as per usual, that deficit would grow to over \$5 million by the end of the 2023-24 school year.

In the following months, the trustee board and administration jumped into action, involving the province and setting about making deep cuts through a new austerity budget.

If all went as hoped, the deficit could be eliminated within three years' time.

Now, with the discovery of the latest error, the deficit has been cleared a full two years sooner than expected.

"This one was simply a miscalculation that was put into the

budget that wasn't caught before the budget was passed last year," Bloomfield says.

Had it been caught earlier, she says some unnecessary cuts to staffing and programming could have been avoided.

In both instances, when the errors were revealed through a public statement, references were made to the errors occurring under previous leadership.

According to Bloomfield, school budget creation is a collaborative springtime effort between the secretary treasurer and superintendent. Once completed, the budget goes before the board of trustees for discussion and approval.

But the administrative shakeup the division has been through in the past years may have some bearing on what's going on.

In 2023, Amanda Senkowski was hired by the division for the position of secretary treasurer.

Superintendent Ryan Anderson had been on the job for one year at that point.

It was Senkowski who discovered the massive deficit issue in July 2023.

In the spring of 2024, Anderson resigned his position. The division didn't find another superintendent to replace him until Colin Campbell arrived in December 2024.

In January 2025, Senkowski left her post and was replaced by incoming Karastin Michalycia.

It was Michalycia and Campbell who discovered the most recent error.

"The new people had come in and it was right in the middle of passing the budget," says Bloomfield. "They started delving into things to learn more about the division, then discovered the error."

While the second surprising discovery indicates a modest surplus, Bloomfield says it won't be used to

reinstate programming that was cut, such as division-funded bussing or the Kids at Play program.

That's because the surplus is finite, she says, and cannot be used for programs that require ongoing funding.

"In the austerity year, we deferred a bus purchase, so we have authorized two new bus purchases. We're looking at other [things] but there's been no decisions made."

Bloomfield admits that it wasn't easy for the division administration or board to publicize their budget error the first time around, let alone the second.

"At the end of the day, it's hard to [admit], but we just wanted to be transparent that the error was made," says Bloomfield. "We came clean with the Minister of Education and we came clean with our communities, our parents, and our staff. We feel that that's the only way."






SAY YES TO SUN PROTECTION



Red River Co-op Pharmacy - Niverville
103-101 2nd Ave S. | (204) 388-6910

Congratulations
CLASS OF 2025

TED FALK MP
PROVENCHER
ted.falk@parl.gc.ca
tedfalk.ca 204-326-9889

Indigenous People's Day Celebration Hosted in St. Adolphe

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On June 21, festivities took place across the country in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

This year, St. Adolphe played host to its first such celebration, organized by the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Southeast Region St. Adolphe Local (SRSAL), as well as the Friendship Trail committee.

Held on the grounds of the Ritchot civic office, the local celebration reflected on the deep Metis roots of the region while, at the same time, providing the ideal opportunity to officially unveil the town's newly installed Red River Metis cart.

Deputy Mayor Shane Pelletier officiated the ceremony while his daughter Zoe, secretary of the SRSAL, raised the Metis flag.

Janessa Roy, volunteer with Moon Time Connections, danced a traditional Red River jig and The Wagons performed from the main stage in the afternoon.

Pelletier regaled the gathered crowd with a bit of local Metis history, beginning with Grande Pointe.

"The small but vibrant community was home to a mix of French, European, and English families," Pelletier said. "Life centred around the Seine River until the construction of the Pembina Branch Railway in 1874, which brought new opportunities and growth. Many locals helped build the railway, and soon after a train station and stockyard were added."

St. Adolphe, then known as Pointe Coupée, was founded by the Metis in the early 1800s. They played a significant role in the 1869 Metis Resistance.

"When a survey crew arrived in defiance of a Metis



Shane Pelletier speaks in St. Adolphe.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

land claim, the community stood firm, removing survey stakes, burning supplies and defending their rights," Pelletier continued.

Pointe à Grouette was the early name of Ste. Agathe. Here, Metis once settled along the riverbank, enjoying the area for its wealth of resources.

"They were skilled buffalo hunters, freighters, and farmers, and they even operated a salt-making enterprise. The area was rich in culture and community spirit."

According to Pelletier, the Red River cart was an essential part of Metis life, used to transport goods, families, and tools across great distances. These carts made a distinctive high-pitched squeal that could be heard for miles around.

Eventually, the sound became synonymous with the movement and presence of the Metis people.

"The cart carried more than just goods," Pelletier said. "It carried family, it carried resistance and resilience. As we place this cart beside our municipal office, we recognize that the Metis story is not just a part of our past, it is alive in the foundations of our region and community today."

MMF Minister Shawn Nault also took to the podium that afternoon. The blue Metis flag, he explained, was first flown on June 19, 1816.

The infinity symbol emblazoned on the flag bears a dual meaning. First, it represents the continual flow of Red River cart wheels in the nineteenth century.

As well, it's indicative of the ongoing Metis bloodline, passed from generation to generation.

"It has taken 150 years for us to get the recognition and some of the respect that should have been given to us long ago, but now it is happening," Nault said.

According to Nault, the Metis peoples were granted self-governance by the federal government via the MMF on June 6, 2021.

Andrew Carriere is the acting vice president of the MMF. He, too, addressed the crowd.

Recently, he said, the federal government granted \$15 million to the MMF to assist them in promoting, preserving, and teaching the Michif language to Metis children. The Michif language is a combination of French, Cree, and Ojibway and was all but lost

during the residential school years.

Carriere and his descendants have lived in this region for the past 500 years. The Metis originally covered an area from northwestern Ontario to the mountains of Alberta and from Churchill down to North Dakota.

"In 1970, there was a big battle where the English tried to get rid of the French Metis," Carriere later told *The Citizen*. "As a matter of fact, there was a time when the European thought of the Indigenous people as animals without a soul, so there was an actual hunt [to get rid of us]."

Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations, he says, are helping to restore a sense of pride after decades of cultural repression. Despite their mix of cultures, they enjoy a language, dance, music, and traditional practices that are distinctly theirs.

The traditional Metis sash, Carriere adds, has significance that is similar to the Scottish tartan in that the colours and design represent a specific family clan.

Attendees to the Saturday event were invited to apply for their Metis citizenship. Carriere says there are approximately 200,000 residents of Manitoba who would qualify for Metis status.

In order to qualify, an individual must have record of original Metis descendants hailing from this region. The St. Boniface Genealogy Society can help track family history to determine that.

Once members of the MMF, residents can take advantage of subsidies on prescription drugs and funeral expenses for seniors, tuition and book subsidies for students, and daycare and homebuyers' subsidies for families.

As well, they can enjoy special hunting and fishing benefits.

INBRIEF



DEPOSITPHOTOS

RM of Ritchot Hires Cybersecurity Monitoring Specialists

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

At their June 18 public meeting, Ritchot's council briefly discussed their need to beef up cybersecurity after months of cleanup effort stemming from a security breach that took place last December.

To date, little public information has been forthcoming regarding that breach. At the Wednesday meeting, CAO Shane Ray told *The Citizen* that it is still too early to discuss what took place since the investigation is still ongoing.

Ray had one recommendation for council, though, and that was that the RM continue to pay for cybersecurity monitoring until the end of the year.

According to Ray, Cyber Clan was hired in the early months when the breach was discovered and has been servicing the RM ever since. The company is there to monitor civic office workstations and laptops, servers, user mailboxes, as well as data usage.

"They look at unsupported log sources, security networks, and unsupported

website login," Ray added.

It will also warn them, he said, when internal users access websites with less than adequate security systems.

Counsellor Janine Boulanger queried whether it's not enough to have the RM's data backup stored offsite.

"Obviously you guys feel this is necessary with what we've come through, but I just need to be convinced that... we're not being sold or snowballed on something [we don't need]," Boulanger said.

Ray responded.

"Do we feel it's worth it? Yes," he replied. "We feel it's important to provide that secondary coverage to ensure that we are covered for another cybersecurity incident. We're separating security away from managed services, so we'll have two different companies looking after it."

On top of cybersecurity monitoring, the RM will be creating some new cybersecurity policy which includes an incidence response plan.

After this discussion, council voted unanimously in favour of extending the contract with Cyber Clan.



ARE YOU IN THE *market?*
I'm your local real estate expert!



204.914.2522

staceyheiderealtor@gmail.com

www.StaceyHeide.com

real

Disparity in Manitoba Housing Market a Growing Problem

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Whether you're a real estate agent, potential homebuyer, or real estate speculator, one fact is clear about Manitoba's current housing market: there are not enough homes in the province to meet demand—not even remotely so.

According to the Fraser Institute, a Canadian watchdog for government policy, Manitoba's housing prices have seen a dramatic incline in recent years. Average sale prices, they say, have nearly quadrupled in just a few years' time.¹

Simply put, this is because house prices and rents increase with rises in demand, and in 2025 demand far exceeds supply.

It's a fairly recent phenomenon, says Steve Lafleur for the Fraser Institute. In the latter twentieth century, Manitoba was seeing around 1.2 new residents per housing start.

By 2016, this ratio rose to around 2.8 new residents per new home.

In 2022, though, that number leapt upwards to 4.6 new residents per new build, the highest it had been in many decades.

For a variety of reasons, Manitoba's builders aren't keeping pace with population growth.

For example, housing completions in the 1970s averaged twice that of population growth. In



Dan Vermette, local real estate agent

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

2022, new home builds only met about one-fifth the number of new residents coming in.

It is helpful to note, though, that population growth in recent years has been more than eight times what it was in the 1970s, yet new housing has increased by only about 1.5 times.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CHMC), 260,000 homes will need to be built in Manitoba in the next five years in order to match demand and restore affordability.

Unfortunately, the Fraser Institute says that governments in Manitoba, both provincial and

municipal, have been slow to create policy which would boost housing construction.

LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

Dan Vermette is a real estate agent with RE/MAX Performance and he lives in Île-des-Chênes. About 50 percent of his home sales occur in

Winnipeg. The rest are in rural areas like Ritchot and Niverville.

Vermette says that residential developers have been doing a number of things to try building new homes that are also affordably priced.

The latest trend, he says, is in density construction, both in Winnipeg and, more recently, in rural communities. Older homes are often razed and replaced with more units that are compact in size.

"In the city, they're splitting the 60-foot-wide lots into 30s or 25s and [smaller homes] are being built on them or duplexes, triplexes, or fourplexes," Vermette says. "What I see in the country is... subdivisions with 70-foot country lots, they are gone. We're squished down to city lot [sizes], almost. Fifty-foot [widths] is now considered average to large. That's why you see only two stories being built. There's no space for the sprawl of a big bungalow anymore."

In an age when the cost of building materials continues to climb, this is one of the only ways for a builder to cut new home prices since the lot comprises about one-quarter of the home's value.

But in Vermette's estimation, builders may need to think in even smaller terms. For example, micro homes with square footages of around 400 to 500 could be the next best option in terms of affordability.

Before that can happen, though,

JUNE 26–JULY 16, 2025

BOXING WEEK

in July

EVENT

Whirlpool **MAYTAG** **KitchenAid**

Buy 2 eligible kitchen major appliances
SAVE \$150*

Buy 3 eligible kitchen major appliances
SAVE \$300**

wiens
FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

132 MAIN STREET
NIVERVILLE, MANITOBA

PHONE: 204-388-4149
sales@wiensfurniture.ca

TOLL FREE: 888-33-WIENS
www.wiensfurniture.ca

*Receive instant savings of \$150 (before taxes) when you purchase two (2) qualifying Whirlpool®, Maytag® and/or KitchenAid® major kitchen appliances. **Receive instant savings of \$300 (before taxes) when you purchase three (3) or more qualifying Whirlpool®, Maytag® and/or KitchenAid® major kitchen appliances. Qualifying purchases may include multiple eligible brands. Multiple purchases must be made at the same time from the same participating authorized Canadian Whirlpool®, Maytag® or KitchenAid® dealer. Qualifying purchases must be made between June 26 – July 16, 2025. Open to Canadian residents only. Offer is not cumulative and cannot be combined with any other Whirlpool®, Maytag® or KitchenAid® appliance offer. Offer is not available to second channel dealers, builders or contractors. All models may not be available at all dealers. No substitute models qualify. See Sales Associate for list of qualifying models. Dealer

builders and municipal governments will have to change the way they view the tiny home concept and create policy to support it.

"There will have to be a ton of homes coming onto the market and less buyers to turn the tables around," Vermette says. "If we had a surplus of inventory, prices will decrease, but I still don't see that coming."

In the meantime, first-time buyers can expect to pay approximately \$430,000 to \$450,000 for a starter home in the city, according to Vermette. It's a bit less in rural areas, where averages may be closer to \$350,000 to \$400,000.

"The houses that you get for that price are okay. You get a 1970s bungalow in St. Adolphe for \$400,000. As soon as you go up to \$450,000 or \$500,000, you cut down the noise and now you get much more house for your money."

The problem with a glut in demand for mid-range pricing is that it drives up the sale price on all mid-range homes and new builds. Both builders and real estate agents watch those numbers to value their new build or next sale.

Despite tough economic times, Vermette says there is still a significant demand for high-end housing, too.

"We've never sold more million-dollar [and higher] homes as we are doing now," he says.

Looking back at the last five years, he says it's hard to put a finger on just one thing that's caused the market's disparity.

Without a doubt, the pandemic played a part. In the early stages people were paralyzed by fear of what the future held, and no one was buying. Then the Bank of Canada dropped interest rates and everyone rushed to take advantage, flooding the market with buyers.

Those interest rates have since stabilized, but a stable bank rate is as good as a low one, Vermette says. People can hang their hat on that kind of stability.

Equally important is what has happened with immigration in recent years. During the pandemic, applications for immigration were put on hold. Later, the floodgates opened up.

According to the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, migrants from other provinces or countries were responsible for 37,000 of the nearly 39,000 new Manitobans in 2024 alone.²

Of course, this puts an added strain on an already saturated housing market.

"The demand is huge," Vermette says. "Almost every house in Winnipeg is seeing multiple offers and [many] over list price. I'm seeing that in the country now too."

Recently, in Lorette, Vermette says his clients received \$60,000 over asking price,

and this isn't uncommon.

In his 30 years in real estate, Vermette says he's seen this kind of market phenomenon only once or twice. In those cases, the rush to buy and overbid was caused by low interest rates combined with economic stability.

TIPS FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS

Until the market adjusts, Vermette has a few tips for his clients when hunting for a new home.

Getting preapproved for financing, Vermette says, is the very first step, even before you start shopping.

Next, ensure that you have an optimal deposit to put down on a home. For some, this may mean liquidating their RRSPs.

The higher the deposit, he says, the more credible you are to the seller since your risk of walking away from a deal is less likely when there's more at stake.

Finally, minimizing conditions placed on a deal will help bump you closer to the top of the list in times when numerous bids are on the table.

If you want a home inspection done, Vermette says you should get that done before you put in an offer.

"Don't put that in as a condition in your offer because you'll get kicked out [of the running] right away."

To prevent the need for writing a condition of

purchase pending the sale of existing property, Vermette suggests to his clients that they sell their home first and, for added security, have a potential co-signer in place just in case.

As for sellers, it's more straightforward.

Good staging of the home, of course, is essential. Sometimes it's a matter of cleaning and decluttering. Other times, hiring a professional stager to replace existing furnishings with more stylish décor can be effective in garnering the best offers.

Vacant homes never show well, Vermette says.

Finally, trust your real estate agent when it comes to asking price. Agents have immediate access to all the recent home sales in any particular neighbourhood and are in an optimal position to determine what the market will bear.

REFERENCES

¹ Steve Lafleur, "Manitoba's Gap Between Homebuilding and Population Growth Widest in 40 Years," Fraser Institute. November 27, 2023 (<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/commentary/manitobas-gap-between-homebuilding-and-population-growth-widest-40-years>).

² "Demographic Estimates by Age and Gender," Manitoba Bureau of Statistics. July 2024 (https://www.gov.mb.ca/mbs/publications/mbs510_pop_agegender_bulletin_2024_a01.pdf).

CITIZEN POLL

Is the housing disparity in Manitoba a problem that will eventually self-correct or is outside intervention needed to expedite a solution?



It will self-correct. Market demand is in a constant state of flux and will eventually balance out again, given time.



It requires intervention. Waiting for self-correction will take too long and we will lose residents if action isn't taken.

Have a more nuanced opinion?
Leave us a comment online.

VOTENOW AT www.nivervillecitizen.com

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Is it the job of government to ensure that everyone who wants daycare can afford and access it, regardless of family income level?

Yes. Subsidizing daycare is a good way to bolster the economy. This service should be available who wants it.

40%

No. Daycare should be subsidized based on income, similar to the federal dental program, for example.

60%

YOUR COMMENTS:

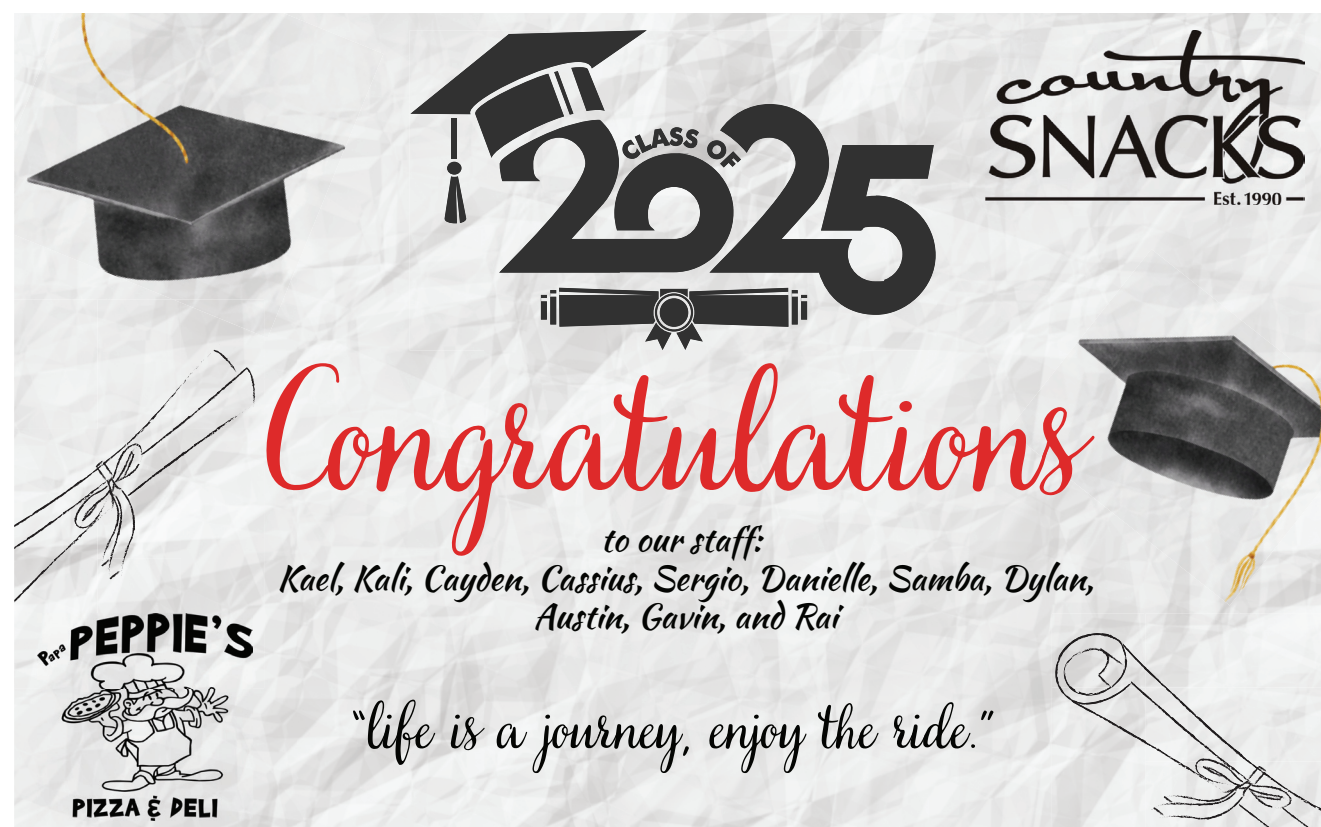
If subsidized daycare for all meant there were also spots for all who need it, then I fully support the initiative. Unfortunately, the reality is that there are not enough subsidized spots, so a higher earning, double-income family may get subsidized daycare, while a struggling, single parent may have to pay triple at a home daycare. Until we have programs for all children, subsidy should only be available to those who NEED it.

Yes. Raising children is the role of the family government. Not the civic governments.

Subsidize daycare may not be crucial to young families, but any savings by working parents almost certainly will go back into our economy through renovations, paying off mortgages, saving for first time homebuyers, children's sports and recreation, etc. All is beneficial for the local economy.

Daycare is a tax-funded service, not a universal right.

Stop making people pay for others exorbitant having of kids they can't afford.



Sports & Recreation

Local Pickleball Fare Well at Seniors Games, Funding at Risk

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

From June 3–5, well over 1,000 senior athletes converged on Steinbach to participate in the 2025 Manitoba 55+ Games.

At least three residents from Ritchot and Niverville emerged with medals thanks to their dedication to and love of pickleball.

Taking silver were Neal Hastings of St. Adolphe, as well as Perry Daigle of St. Pierre-Jolys. Also from St. Adolphe was Gerard Gill, who walked away with a bronze medal. Daigle and Gill are regulars to Niverville's CRRC daytime pickleball programming.

The senior men's pickleball competition took place on the morning of June 5.

HASTINGS AND BRADFORD

Neal Hastings and his partner Ken Bradford of St. Andrews were registered in the 60–64 age group of the 4.0 category. In the Manitoba Games, this is the highest category in which one can register.

The duo walked away with a silver after five round robin and two playoff games. As impressive as the second-place finish is, though, Hastings says it wasn't his personal best.

"I won a gold medal in Halifax in the men's 60+ [category] last year," says Neal. "I've won a few gold medals in provincial tournaments over the years, so I kind of hoped I'd do better."

Hastings has played with a variety of different partners in men's pickleball competitions, as well as partnering with his wife when he plays in the mixed category.

Together, the husband-wife team took gold medals at the 2022 and 2024 Manitoba Games and silver medals in 2023 and 2025.



Ron Poirier and Perry Daigle.

The pair first became interested in the sport four years ago and they haven't looked back since. As winter snowbirds, they play numerous times per week in warmer climes.

When back on home turf, Hastings plays with a group of friends at the Dakota Community Centre.

Hastings is also involved in the organization of the Pickleball Canada National Championships, which is coming to Winnipeg this year. Already, he says, more than 700 people are registered to play at the Taylor Tennis Centre, where 32 courts will be set up for the event.

Why is pickleball such a growing phenomenon in the senior community? Hastings says there are a number of factors.

"It's physical fitness, it's a whole bunch of laughs, and it's getting together with [friends] three times a week and just having a good time."

DAIGLE AND POIRIER

Competing in the 60–64 age bracket at a 3.0 level was Perry Daigle and



Gary Gerylo and Gerard Gill.

his partner Ron Poirier, staff sergeant of the St. Pierre-Jolys RCMP department.

For Daigle, the Manitoba Games were a completely new experience, having only played a number of lowkey tournaments in Niverville prior.

"The facilities [in Steinbach] were wonderful," Daigle says. "They had nine courts in the new arena. I'd never made it to the finals anywhere before, so [it was interesting that] they had a referee monitoring the [lines] and the score."

For Daigle and Poirier, the gold medal was well within reach as they played a nip-and-tuck closing game. Leading their opponents with a score of 11–10, the opposition jumped ahead in the end to nab the win.

Daigle joined the pickleball craze only two years ago. He admits that he draws on his ping pong skill from decades earlier.

Court dimensions, he believes, is one of the reasons that pickleball



Neal Hastings and Ken Bradford.

captures the interest of senior citizens.

"It's the size of the court and the number of people," Daigle says. "You have only a little bit of real estate to look after, which is doable for people our age."

GILL AND GERYLO

Partners Gerard Gill and Gary Gerylo played in the 65–69 age group at a level of 3.0. The games in Steinbach qualified as Gill's second time in the Manitoba competition.

Until recently, Gill's sport of preference was badminton, in which he has competed on a national level, including at the U.S. national seniors games, which boasts itself as the largest seniors multisport event in the world.

For Gill, pickleball felt like a natural transition from there.

"The switch to pickleball was necessitated by my shoulder," Gill says. "All those overhead strokes in badminton and my shoulder said, 'That's enough!' So I took up

pickleball."

While competition is in his blood, he admits that, these days, entering events like the Manitoba Games is mostly about meeting other like-minded people and having fun.

"I thought [the Steinbach Games] were really well run," Gill says. "The times were accurate and it flowed really well. I hadn't been in that Southeast Event Centre before and it's gorgeous."

THE SENIORS GAMES

The Manitoba 55+ Games take place every other year, in odd years. Winners of the provincial competitions can move on to the Canada 55+ Games, held in even years.

Steinbach has played host to the Manitoba Games twice before, in 1993 and 2011.

Unfortunately for the winners of the 2025 provincial games, there will be no Canada 55+ games in 2026.

According to the Canadian Senior Games Association (CSGA), next year's nationals, which were scheduled to take place in Winnipeg, have been postponed to 2028 due to funding challenges and rapid growth in participation.

"This is such an unfortunate situation where we have a national event that encourages so many seniors to stay both physically and mentally active, and yet, despite constant door knocking, emails, and grant applications, we can't find the funding to support it," says CSGA President Dave Finn.

Supporters and participants are encouraged to contact their local members of Parliament to encourage government funding that ensures the long-term success of the national games.



PLANNING A ROOF UPGRADE OR SEEKING EXPERT ADVICE?

contact us today to receive a

FREE QUOTE and ROOF INSPECTION

Email us at quotes@ajaxroofing.ca or visit our website www.ajaxroofing.ca



Robert Pambrun.

C/O ROBERT PAMBRUN

Nighthawks Coach Invited to Work with Jets Draftees

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Robert Pambrun has been working with the Nighthawks as their head strength, conditioning, and sport sciences coach for the past three years. This month, Pambrun will add to his resume when he joins the coaches of the Winnipeg Jets for the NHL team's annual development camps.

As a volunteer coach, Pambrun will be working with young up-and-coming draft picks and those who have a shot at making the Jets roster in the coming years.

He'll be providing on- and off-ice fitness testing and creating specialized training workouts.

"It's quite remarkable and encouraging to know that all the hard work I've been putting into this is being recognized at the highest level of hockey," says Pambrun. "I'm very excited to help them out and leave a good impression."

Pambrun says it was thanks to a series of fortunate events and connections that he was chosen for the role.

"I was at an MJHL event and was talking with the scouting coordinator for the Winnipeg Jets," Pambrun says. "We were discussing some of the players that I had previously worked with and the role I had with the Niverville Nighthawks, and one thing led to another."

At one time in his life, Pambrun was also a junior hockey player, but a knee injury ended his career.

Since then, he's focused his energy on becoming a professional trainer and bodybuilder.

He owns his own fitness consulting company, called Team Prep Starz, and runs a hockey academy alongside.

Many of Pambrun's clients connect with him online for advice on improving their sport performance, physique, or overall health. He prepares virtual training programs and nutrition plans with them.

One aspect of improving an athlete's performance, he says, is to assess their habits away from the rink.

"I'll have them explain to me in great detail what their game day routine is and I'll find flaws in their routine and ways that we can actually improve."

For Pambrun, working at the Jets development camps will make him as much a student as a coach. He anticipates that the mentorship he receives from these NHL coaches will translate into making him an even better coach to the Nighthawks this fall.

"Everything that we're going to be doing here at this camp falls in line with everything that I currently do with the Nighthawks," he says. "Being able to see what the NHL does at their level is going to give me a little bit more insight that can translate into the work that I do with the Nighthawks."

SMITH • NEUFELD • JODOIN LLP
LAW OFFICES

- Real Estate Transactions
- Corporate Law
- Agriculture Law
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Estate Administration

204-388-9300

| www.snj.ca



NO LIMITS UNDERGROUND SEWER & WATER

- EFFECTIVE PIPE REPAIR SOLUTIONS
- COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGNS
- SPECIALIZING IN DIRECTIONAL DRILLING
- LOW PRESSURE MUNICIPAL SEWER HOOK UPS



CONTACT US

(431)348-0440

KEITH.TUCKETT@NLUMB.CA



New stories published *daily!*

The Citizen

www.nivervillecitizen.com

RED RIVER GROUP
REAL PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

Real Estate Appraisals | Property Management | Reserve Fund Studies | Real Property Consulting

1-855-371-5833 | www.redrivergroup.ca



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Three Way Builders
Ajax Roofing
Allied Pioneer Industries
Atco Structures
Ball Insurance
Beaver Bus Line
Black Fly
Boulet Sheet Metal
Brian Chornoboy
Bristol Hauling
Dairy Queen (Nick Hagidiakow)
Duke's Burger
Dowse Ventures
Excel Graphics
Giant Step Brands LTD
Gordon Food Services
Heritage Builders
Lansard Bros Roofing
MacMor Industries
Matula Roofing
Maplewood Golf Club
Nathan Duek - Councillor
Negash Coffee
Niakwa Pizza
Empire Commodities Trading Company
Tony Martone Personal Real Estate Corp
Clarence Braun Personal Real Estate Corp
IG Private Wealth Management - Cameron Rennie & Associates

Pizza Pizza Niverville
Prairie Sky Properties
Richardson Pioneer
RuffMutts
Santa Lucia Niverville
Stainless Concepts
Smitty's
Subway
The Citizen
Torque Brewing
Trans Canada Brewing
Trotco Electric
Von Ast
Vogt Building Construction
Westland Construction Ltd
Wiens Furniture
Winnipeg Vinyl Fence
Winnipeg Construction Association
Winnipeg Hyundai
Your Grocery People
Zone Garage Manitoba



COMING SOON

NIVERVILLE'S EXCLUSIVE SPIN + BARRE STUDIO



WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU
NIVERVILLE!
WE'RE SO EXCITED TO BRING
YOU SPIN, BARRE FUSION AND
MORE!

-STEPHANIE AND MAXINE
CO-OWNERS, ATELIER CYCLE+

Atelier CYCLE+

@ATELIERCYCLENIVERVILLE

@ATELIERCYCLE+

WWW.ATELIERCYCLE.CA

SMALL TOWN, BIG SAVINGS. SMALL TOWN, BIG IMPACT.



WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, OUR ENERGY AND BILL SAVINGS ARE ANYTHING BUT SMALL.

Did you know that we have energy efficiency advocates in Manitoba? Their role is designed to serve the local community, helping homes and businesses save energy, money, and the environment.

Advocates are familiar with their community and Efficiency Manitoba's offers. And you may have one in your area!

Saving is easier when we work together — and even easier when we bring the savings straight to you.

To see if there's an advocate
in your community, visit
efficiencyMB.ca/CEEP.



Niverville Teen to Represent Manitoba in Rugby at Canada Summer Games

By Holly Dunphy

It's a milestone year for 17-year-old Niverville athlete Zoe Bardal as she prepares to represent Manitoba this August at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Starting on August 11, and continuing through August 13, Bardal and her talented teammates will compete in U18 rugby sevens against Canada's top teams.

Bardal, who graduates this year from Steinbach Regional Secondary School with a culinary major, will play the position of winger number seven.

Rugby sevens, also known simply as "sevens," is a style of rugby that makes up seven players playing seven-minute halves. This is opposed to a more typical rugby match with 15 players playing 40-minute halves.

While rugby is a somewhat lesser-known sport in rural Manitoba, the community is close-knit. And in a sport known to be quite rough, Bardal says its players are steeped in community, safety awareness, and respect.

"We're enemies on the field, but we're always friends off the field, no matter what team you're on," she says. "It's such a community sport."

Growing up, Bardal was no stranger to participation in sports, beginning with figure skating at the age of five. She progressed through the years to compete at the Star 3 level, specializing in the elements category and developing a proficiency for a move known as the spiral.

In 2018, at the age of 12,



Zoe Bardal of Niverville.

C/O ZOE BARDAL

Bardal pronounced her "retirement" from skating, as her mother fondly recalls, following a silver medal win with her Niverville synchronized skating team.

At ten, after years of watching rugby with her dad, Bardal joined a flag rugby team in Niverville. After a brief hiatus, she then joined the Niverville High School rugby team before transferring to Steinbach Regional, where she took on the position of hooker from Grades 10 to 12 with the Steinbach Sabres.

In the summer of 2024, the Sabres made their way to the Manitoba Summer Games in Dauphin and placed fourth.

That's when Bardal and others received a letter of invitation from this year's coaches to train and try out for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

Bardal is excited over the timing, since these games only happen every four years.

"I'm actually at the perfect age," she says. "Same with the Manitoba Summer Games as well. I hit the absolute jackpot. I know how lucky I am. Very, very lucky."

Bardal's invitation to compete in Newfoundland, however, is anything but luck. The game requires strength, power, speed, endurance, agility, and mental toughness—and Bardal has those qualities in spades.

"I used to be one of the slowest on the team, so I started doing speed training at the running track here in Niverville. I didn't really know what to do, but I would just do interval training—sprinting, walking, sprinting, and doing the stretches and warmups."

Following training in December 2024, Bardal incorporated coach-led speed training.

In April 2025, she discovered that she had advanced through the first round of provincial team cuts.

The top athletes were then invited to a school in British Columbia that specializes in high-performance rugby training, combining the program with academics.

Bardal's efforts have also earned accolades from someone she looks up to and admires in the sport—Tahnee Grosskopf, a coach and

physical education teacher in Steinbach. Grosskopf is also the daughter of Colleen Horton, a past Team Canada rugby player and Rugby Manitoba Hall of Famer. From Grosskopf, Bardal has received several playful yet meaningful awards: Ultimate Unicorn of Supreme Glory, the Sponge Award recognizing her curiosity and enthusiasm, and Outstanding Play as Hooker for her performance in the front position.

In Newfoundland, Bardal will play winger number seven, a position often referred to affectionately as "wheels." It's an endearing way to acknowledge that the player has speed—another confirmation that Bardal's training has paid off.

As Bardal heads east, she remains rooted in Niverville and the surrounding community. She's already looking ahead to how she can bring more awareness to the game of rugby in southern Manitoba. She hopes to develop her coaching skills under Grosskopf's mentorship and invites anyone curious about the sport to come down to the Maple Grove Rugby Park in south Winnipeg.

"Maple Grove Rugby Park becomes like a home to everybody," Bardal says of the local rugby community. "You can show up any day and there's always rugby going on. You meet so many amazing people."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To keep up on Bardal's progress, the games in Newfoundland can be streamed from www.canada-games.ca.

Public
Utilities
Board

Public Notice

You're Invited to share your views about the rate application filed by Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2026 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

For further details, please contact MPI at inquiries@mpi.mb.ca or visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **September 30, 2025**.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Manitoba Public Utilities Board

400-330 Portage Avenue,

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

Phone: 204-945-2638

Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

Leaving a job with health benefits?

Remain protected!

Buy a plan today at mb.bluecross.ca
or contact your trusted broker.

*Trademark of the CABCP †Trademark of the BCBSA



MANITOBA
BLUE CROSS®
THE COLOUR OF CARING®



Do you have a *real* financial plan?

41% of financial plans don't address tax planning needs. A *real* plan should include tax strategies, investments, retirement, and more.

Contact us today by phone or email to receive your complimentary Tax Planning guide.



204-792-2489 | donald.courcelles@igpwm.ca

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.



**COLLISION REPAIR
AUTO GLASS REPAIR & REPLACEMENT**

direct *repair*

Ferd Klassen
Phone: 204.388.4657
Fax: 204.388.4394
Email: info@nivervilleautobody.ca



www.nivervilleautobody.ca

autopac
A Manitoba Public Insurance product

ACCREDITED



Cornie Friesen, one of the owners of Prairie Roots Fitness in Niverville.

BY BRENDA SAWATZKY

Niverville's Prairie Roots Fitness Focuses on Community

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

With council's recent approval for the opening of Prairie Roots Fitness, residents of Niverville now have one more option for getting into shape.

Cornie Friesen is one of four owners of the new gym, which has opened its door at 1-746 Schultz Avenue in the Niverville Industrial Park.

Friesen says that their business model is reflected in the name. And Prairie Roots isn't a brand or a franchise. It's homespun, it's grassroots, and it's all about community.

The team of owners intends to build an energy in their new fitness club that exudes a welcoming atmosphere and plenty of close-knit camaraderie.

Earlier this year, the quartet purchased some of the equipment from ShopGym upon its closure. They are adding a complement of new items to fill out the 1,200 square feet of space.

Prairie Roots offers 24/7 access through the use of a phone app, allowing members to come and go at their leisure.

They also hope to offer something unique.

"We will have memberships and personal training, but we'll also be doing group fitness and sports team training," Friesen says.

They plan to begin noon bootcamp classes and grow to include other options as demand dictates. These might include kickboxing, yoga, and anything that requires a large open space.

Prairie Fitness has another edge over other facilities, too: their in-house coach and fitness trainer, Marvin Warkentin.

"He worked at ShopGym and everybody loves Marvin," Friesen says.

By fall, the team will be adding a second fitness coach to their lineup, extending the classes and timeslots they can offer.

According to Friesen, another distinct advantage of a Prairie Roots membership is that you won't have to buy a full year upfront. Friesen says membership will be available on month-to-month or half-year segments. Renewable punch cards will be available for

group classes, giving patrons greater flexibility.

If Prairie Roots fully lives up to its name, Friesen believes that it's imperative to invest in the health and well-being of the community. That is why the team is already in talks with Helping Hands about partnering on fitness fundraisers that promote active living while filling the shelves of the local food bank.

Another obvious partnership, Friesen says, would be a collaboration with Run Niverville, a group that promotes fitness through annual three- and five-kilometre runs.

"This gym is all about community," Friesen says. "That's one part that we can't stress enough. We want to create partnerships with businesses, partnerships with people and with [organizations]."

Prairie Roots's website is up and running and the doors open. Anyone with questions are welcomed to drop by or go online.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.prairierootsfitness.ca



Rauno & Corina Ruus

Ile des Chenes, MB

info@balticathletics.com

Running Solo, Together: The Rise of Niverville's Running Community

By Holly Dunphy

While running is generally considered to be an independent sport, local runners in Niverville are proving that a supportive community can push runners to reach their goals—and sometimes exceed them.

On June 15, about 60 runners from Niverville joined almost 13,000 participants of the Manitoba Marathon in Winnipeg. Among them were a high school teacher, a student eager to improve in the sport, and a local resident who saw a need and launched a run club.

Niverville High School math teacher and avid runner Giuseppe D'Amico ran the full marathon, placing fifth in the male 20–24 age category and thirty-fifth overall.

After falling ill just weeks before the race, D'Amico adjusted his usual preparation but still finished in 3:03, shy of his 2:45–2:50 goal.

“[Being sick] might have played a factor in finishing how I did, and it may not have,” says D'Amico. “There is a lot of being kind to yourself. I say that to my athletes and students at school. I also need to remember to practice what I preach. You need to be able to be okay with yourself. You're going to have bad races and you're going to have bad weeks. It's just part of it, just like in life there are ups and downs.”

D'Amico began running in 2021, starting out by taking to the streets of Niverville.

“I began running to keep active over the COVID pandemic,” he says. “And then it became something I enjoy and somewhat of a hobby.”

Even in -30°C weather, he ran several times a week, often logging 25 to 37 kilometres on Saturdays and up to 120 kilometres total weekly before joining the local NIV Run Club, founded by another local marathon runner, Carson Wiebe.

Combining his background in classical history, mathematics, and teaching, D'Amico brings all three into his approach to the sport.

“Marathons come from an ancient Greek myth of a messenger



Participants with the NIV Run Club at Hespeler Park in Niverville.

CARSON WIEBE

running from the city of Marathon back to Athens to announce that they had won the war,” D'Amico explains. “And that distance is close to what the modern-day marathon is.”

The modern-day full marathon was later standardized at the current 42.195 kilometres.

“This year Richard Toews, a physical education teacher here [at NHS], and I have been continuing to grow our cross-country program,” he adds. “Two years ago, we had two students participate and this year we ended with over 20 signed up. This past fall, our junior varsity girls got silver at cross-country provincials.”

D'Amico worked with Wiebe to find another way to further develop his students' running technique over the summer, inviting them to link up with the NIV Run Club in preparation for the short cross-country season in the fall.

As in teaching and life, running demands patience, rhythm, and belief in growth over time.

“You don't need to run continuously to be a runner,” he says. “Drop by the NIV Run Club if you're interested. That's it. There are people at all levels to run with. End your run feeling good and being good to yourself.”

Among the growing number of cross-country and track students is Grade 10 student Natalie Froese, a student of D'Amico's, who celebrated running her first half-marathon at this year's Manitoba Marathon.

Froese placed fifth in her age category with a time of 1:47.

“I always knew that I wanted to join track, but when I tried I was so bad at it. I decided that I could not be this bad at something and that I had to get better,” Froese says. “Being part of a relay with teammates motivated me to want to improve my time. Throughout the summer I practiced and, in the fall, joined cross-country at the high school with the help and guidance of Mr. D'Amico.”

Eighteen weeks out from the

half-marathon, D'Amico provided Froese and a few other students with a preparatory plan to enhance her running technique and endurance.

“Before the training plan, the longest I had run was six kilometres. When I saw that the first run on the training plan was ten kilometres, my first thought was ‘I have never done this before.’ But I did it and realized that it wasn't so bad.”

Froese wants to encourage others who may be nervous to attempt a marathon.

“Personally, the adrenaline of the race helped a lot. If anyone is thinking they're going to run a slow race, just bet on yourself. You're probably more capable than you think.”

She aims to make the podium at the track and cross-country provincials this coming school year after a disappointing cancellation of the previous year's competition due to poor air quality.

This summer, NIV Run Club offers a valuable space for high

school students to train together in anticipation of the fall's short but intense cross-country season.

Carson Wiebe, founder of NIV Run Club, moved to Niverville with his wife Mikaela in 2017. Since then, he has laid down roots, growing their family with the addition of two children.

On June 15, his family was present at the Manitoba Marathon to cheer him on as he crossed the finish line.

After making the decision to split from a 3:30 pacer-led group around the 16-mile mark, Wiebe was able to finish with a time faster than he had originally set out to achieve. He placed twenty-sixth in the male 30–34 age category and 140th overall with a time of 3:29.

In 2021, Wiebe began running solo through various Niverville neighbourhoods in the warmer months and took to the indoor track at the CRRC during the colder ones.

“It was apparent that there were many runners in this town, but no community program or run club available,” Wiebe says.

He went on to help launch the NIV Run Club in 2024 with the support of local sponsors, including Jessi from Country Snacks, who provides baked goods to participants, and Matthew Sieben from Railway Roasters in Winnipeg, who provides decaf coffee and cold brew.

“We meet every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Hespeler Park, choosing a new five-kilometre route through town,” he says. “Some weeks we see more than 20 runners showing up. Everyone is welcome. Runners will often break into smaller groups based on pace, sharing conversation, a love for running, and building new friendships. These are a few of the things that keep people coming back week after week.”

From students finding their stride to seasoned runners building a community, the Manitoba Marathon serves as a marker of personal progress and a reminder that solo efforts are often made stronger by the community around them.

MEL'S
SEPTIC SERVICES
SINCE 1989

Year round service
Servicing Southeast Manitoba
24 hour Emergency Services
Residential and Commercial

call or text
204-388-4201

EXCEL GRAPHICS

GRAPHIC DESIGN DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING VEHICLE DECALS LARGE FORMAT PRINTING

204.388.4279 • 77 MAIN STREET, NIVERVILLE, MB
www.excelgraphics.ca

RITCHOT
MUNICIPALITÉ
MUNICIPALITY

Country Skies. City Ties.
Sous le ciel de la campagne.

Advertise With Us!

sales@nivervillecitizen.com

The Citizen

Arts & Culture

After the Fair Is Over

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Another Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair has come and gone, and most of us are already looking toward our next big summer adventure.

But for the hard-working fair committee, there's still much to do once the last guest leaves the street.

In fact, it takes a whole other army of volunteers on Sunday of the fair weekend to wrap things up. Fences and stages are deconstructed, ticket booths and tables are hauled away, and signage and tents are wrapped up and tucked into storage.

Unless it's a rain year, as this year was. Then most of these items are unwrapped and unravelled a few days later, wiped down, dried, and then returned to storage until next year.

In the days following the fair, the committee reunites to take care of all the final details, including number-crunching and assessing the things that worked and those that didn't.

The Citizen dropped by for one of the committee's wrap-up meetings to get their thoughts on this year's big event.

The 2025 committee consists of 19 core members, each with their individual roles and responsibilities. They've been volunteering on the committee for between three and 15 years, some longer when you consider their years of regular fair volunteering.

As they collected on the Wednesday after the fair to mull over the weekend's many highs and fewer lows, they all agreed that this year's dump of rain put only a mild damper on spirits.

The street seemed as full as it ever was, with likely between 15,000 to 20,000 guests over the course of two days.

"People were seeing the value in presales and pre-pickups to get through the gates a lot faster," says Jonelle Donnelly.

Equally pleasing for this group of organizers was the return of attendees on Saturday night after a bout of torrential rain caused a temporary exodus during the mainstage shows.



Back Row: Jenn Trinkies, Taylor Friesen, Nathan Buhler, and Jonelle Donnelly. Front Row: Irene Unrau, Raesha Enns, Dana Reuther, and Amanda Dumont.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

Despite the fact that the rainstorm was forecasted well in advance, the committee says online presales were hot this year, reaching previous year sales levels in record time.

"I think we had a killer lineup this year," says Raesha Enns. "We also had different entertainment that we haven't had before. The wrestlers were new, the snowmobile in the [extreme] motocross, and Al Simmons was big."

This year, unlike some others, they didn't need to shut down gate sales on Saturday night and send people home due to overcapacity. For the committee, this was a pleasant outcome.

For the most part, the weekend went off without a hitch, with the exception of the rain.

The mainstage artists were readying for a full night of entertaining the hundreds of attendees when the skies opened up. The first act, Quentin Blair, volunteered to play on the Play Now stage inside a tent.

"I think he managed to play a 30-minute show while they got the mainstage dried and safe and made sure everything was working," Enns says.

The other artists—Doc Walker, Michelle Wright, Jason McCoy,

and Jess Moskaluke—huddled in for discussion on who should play if limited playtime was available.

"Everyone unanimously was, like, 'No, everyone should cut [their show short] so that everyone gets a chance to play,' says Enns. "They were very supportive of each other and supportive of us."

Distant lightning and windy conditions left only two options, though: either don't play or take the show inside the nearby tent.

They opted for the latter.

"One thing that I think most people don't realize is what those entertainers have to do to [take their performance to another stage]," Irene Unrau says. "They're not taking their own equipment along. They are playing someone else's instrument and saying, 'Okay, let's do this.' They are simply doing it because they want people to get a show."

Meanwhile, back in the green room, Moskaluke and Wright banded together to create a live Facebook video to keep the crowds outside informed and entertained as the rain pelted down.

Later, they took their impromptu duo to the tent stage.

"When Jess was finishing up in the Play Now tent, we all got to be

there for the last song and Michelle Wright joined her on stage and they sang Shania Twain's 'Man! I Feel Like a Woman,'" says Donnelly. "I thought that was just really, really cool."

In the 15 years that Dustin Krahn has been on the committee, he says this is the first year where the mainstage had to be shut down for the night due to weather.

Family entertainer Al Simmons got his stage appearance in and, according to the committee, stayed long after he was done to help them keep things going.

"He helped everybody," Amanda Dumont says. "He was soaking wet and in there helping."

With all their weather woes, though, the committee agrees that it didn't deter their resolve.

"With the rain and everything, it just throws a bunch of chaos at you," Krahn says. "But we are a higher-functioning group when there's stuff going wrong."

For as many hours as this group dedicates to this annual event, they somehow always circle back to their gratitude for the community champions who come to their aid year after year.

"The church coordinates their own volunteers to come out and

help clean up Friday night and Saturday night," Donnelly says. "They've been here until the sun is coming up [some years]. This year, we also coordinated volunteers to come on Sunday afternoon and help us clean up. They were a bunch of high school students. They worked through the rain and they get a special shoutout. They were absolutely amazing!"

In a similar vein, the committee knows they can count on one particular family who takes personal responsibility for cleaning up the schoolyard after the fireworks every year, without fail.

"There's those people that we don't call, we don't text, they just show up," Enns says. "People like that are invaluable."

According to the committee, it takes around \$375,000 to pull off a fair of this magnitude every year. The good news is there is some funding available from three levels of government, which certainly helps, they say.

Local business sponsorship and ticket sales cover the rest.

"If you consider our budget, a little under one-third of that comes from sponsorship," says Shereen Rashwan.

It's a tricky balance for this team to create two solid days of back-to-back entertainment and still keep the tickets affordable for fairgoers, but they've been finding ways to do that.

Online sales with early bird pricing is one way for attendees to get a discount.

Another is simply to become one of the 300 weekend volunteers who make the fair go. In recent years, volunteers have received free wristbands just for taking a shift.

When asked when they'll begin planning for next year, Krahn says it started three months ago. While they're hesitant to throw out any teasers just yet, some 2026 stage entertainers are already booked.

This year, 30-year fair veteran Jeff Stott didn't make it to the fair due to a serious accident just weeks earlier. Even so, he was doing live interviews with radio stations to promote the event. The fair committee sends Jeff a very special shoutout, reminding him that he was missed.

Does Your Child Struggle with Bed Wetting?

Bed wetting—medically known as nocturnal enuresis—is a common concern for many families. It refers to the involuntary release of urine during sleep and is typically diagnosed when it occurs at least twice a week in children over the age of five. While it can be frustrating for both parents and children, it’s important to remember that this is a medical issue, not a behavioural one.

Both boys and girls can be affected, and it often impacts a child’s self-esteem, confidence, and even their social life. If you suspect your child is experiencing nocturnal enuresis, it’s important to speak with your primary healthcare provider.

In many cases, consulting with a pelvic floor physiotherapist can be extremely beneficial. These professionals specialize in exercises, toileting strategies, and lifestyle adjustments that support healthy bladder habits and improve control. A physiotherapist can help identify contributing factors such as muscle coordination, posture, and daily habits that might be affecting bladder function.

With the right support, most children see significant improvement. Early intervention can reduce stress, support development, and give your child the confidence they deserve.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, we invite you to call our clinic. Our team is here to help.



NIVERVILLE

PHYSIOTHERAPY

& SPORTS INJURY CLINIC

Call Niverville Physiotherapy at 204-388-5217 or visit us at our new location #3-31 Main St.



VALLEY FIBER

Ultra-fast, reliable internet for Manitobans.



The Future of Internet is Local.

Valley Fiber is committed to delivering a fiber internet network that rural communities deserve. Stream movies, make video calls and more – and never worry about lag time or inconsistent signals. We’re there for you like a good neighbour.

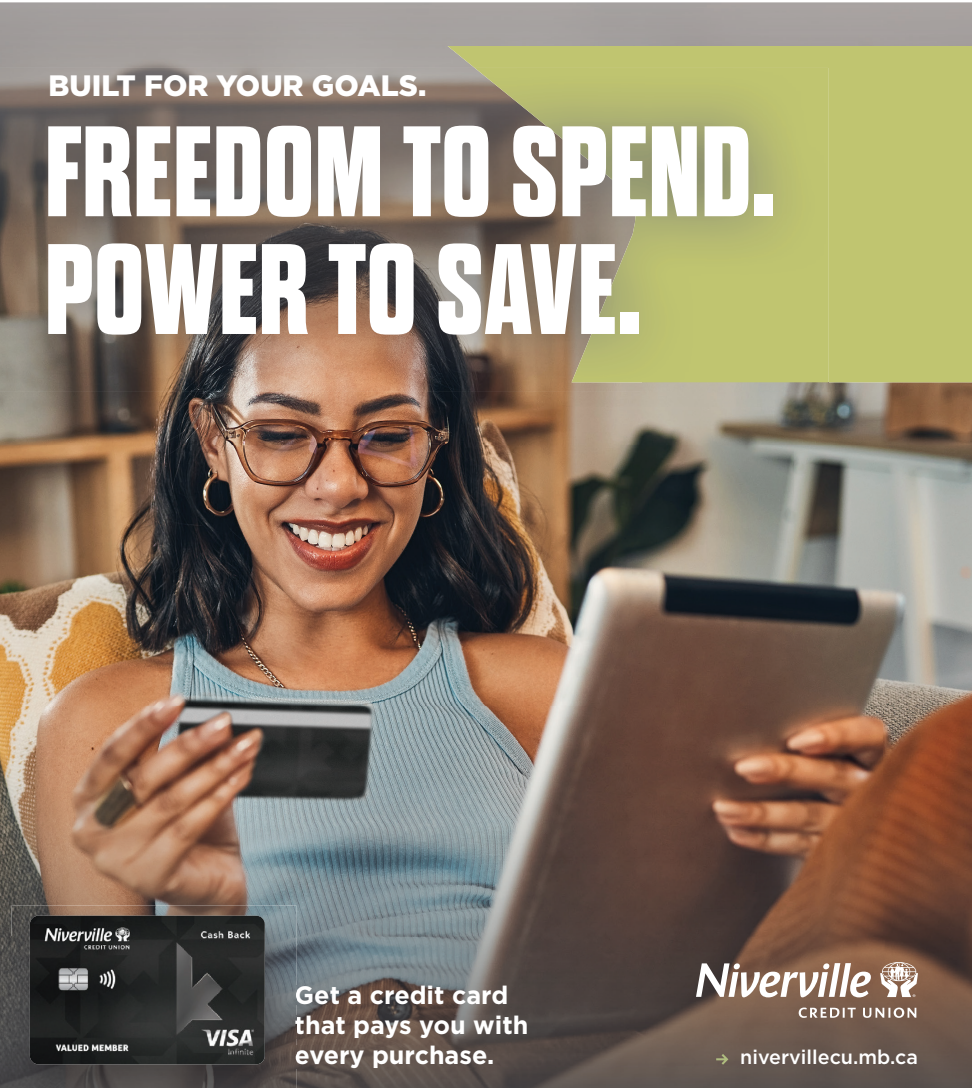
Sign up online or by phone.


shop.valleyfiber.ca | 1-800-958-5698

As not all homes are on our fiber line, availability may vary. Check website for eligibility for fiber and wireless internet.


BUILT FOR YOUR GOALS.

FREEDOM TO SPEND. POWER TO SAVE.






Cash Back



VALUED MEMBER

Get a credit card that pays you with every purchase.



→ nivervillecu.mb.ca



“We lowered our energy bill. You can too.”

– KEN & LYNN



Like Ken & Lynn, you can:

GET A FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT.

With the **Energy Efficiency Assistance Program**, you can also:

- ✓ Get your home insulated for FREE (including the materials and the installation).
- ✓ Get a subsidized heating system upgrade.*
- ✓ Get FREE energy efficient light bulbs, showerheads and aerators, air sealing products, and other energy saving items.

Find out if you qualify today

efficiencyMB.ca/EEAP
204-944-8181 or toll free 1-888-944-8181

*Dependent on existing heating system.



EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2025



Ron R. Schuler

Ron@RonSchuler.com

MLA for Springfield-Ritchot



FLOORING CENTRE

FLOORING SALE

TORLYS



OLYMPIC 2 STOCK VINYL PLANK

3 COLORS SYDNEY, TOKYO AND ATHENS & OVER 10,000 SF OF EACH

ONLY FROM JULY 4 - AUGUST 2 | SEE STORE FOR DETAILS