

The Citizen

Free PLEASE TAKE ONE

VOLUME 9 - ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2023

www.nivervillecitizen.com

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

Niverville CREDIT UNION

REWARDS FOR REFERRALS

REFER A FRIEND AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$250 GIFT CARD AND A CHANCE TO WIN OUR GRAND PRIZE AT OUR AGM.



- PARKING LOT LINE PAINTING •
- PARKING LOT SWEEPING •
- SNOW REMOVAL •
- PARKING LOT SANDING •
- YARD CARE •

204-388-6577

www.dandmgroundservices.com



LOCAL NEWS

The Citizen News Team: We Are Your Neighbours

■ To mark our eighth anniversary, *The Citizen* team is taking the opportunity to tell our story, celebrate local news, and reintroduce ourselves to readers.

Details on Pages 6-7

LOCAL NEWS

Ritchot to Launch EV Car Share Initiative

■ With the help of a grant, and in collaboration with neighbouring RMs, Ritchot residents will soon have access to rented electric cars.

Details on Page 8

LOCAL NEWS

Yes, Niverville's Movie Studio Is Still Happening

■ Despite delays, the people behind Jette Studio are moving full speed ahead on their state-of-the-art production facility.

Details on Page 17

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Fests Make Triumphant Return

■ This year's Cheyenne Summer Fest and Frog Follies saw a return to form for family-friendly summer fun.

Details on Pages 22-23



Niverville Nighthawks Gear Up for Season Opener

➤ **READ MORE ON PAGES 9-12**

CRYSTAL STOTT

Live life and save for it

No matter what you're saving for, you need to get the most from your money. With SCU's High Interest Savings Account, you'll earn interest right from dollar one.

SCU.MB.CA/SAVINGS



EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES™

NIVERVILLE



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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Liquor Strike Disrupts Manitoba Summer **4**
- The Citizen News Team: We Are Your Neighbours **6**
- Reduced Speed Zone Reminders for Niverville and Ritchot **7**
- Ritchot Takes First Steps Towards EV Car Share Initiative **8**
- Communities in Bloom Judges Visit Niverville **9**
- Niverville Commons Owners Promote New Developments **10**
- Ritchot Launches Native Grasslands Restoration Projects **10**
- Nighthawks Prepare for Season Opener **11**
- Giving Back: Building Community by Showing Up **12**
- Kevin Pauls: Voice of the Nighthawks **12**
- Playing the Long Game: The Nighthawks Have a Vision for the Future **14**
- Memory Garden Brings Joy to Aging Seniors **16**
- Friendship Trail to Host Truth and Reconciliation Event **16**
- Niverville's Movie Studio Delayed But Still Rolling Ahead **17**
- Peace Trek Raises Funds for Mental Health and Historical Preservation **18**
- Big Changes in Store for Whitetail Meadow **18**
- Ritchot Council Denies Two Requests for Uses in Ag Zones **20**
- Not in My Backyard? In Defence of Community Support for Mental Health **22**
- Summer Festivals Return to Pre-Pandemic Form **22**

First Street Residents Still Waiting for Sidewalk on Busy Street

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

One year ago, residents living along a two-block stretch of Niverville's First Street South reached out to *The Citizen* with concern over the state of their street's sidewalk, portions of which were as good as unusable.

Twelve months later, the entire sidewalk has been removed and there's no promise of a new one.

Most would say that the town made the right choice in removing the sidewalk based on the state it was in—broken, disjointed, and overgrown in places. In fact, the residents here would agree, citing the unreliability of winter snow-clearing due to the sidewalk's rough condition.

Still, they had hoped town council would respond to their appeals for a replacement sidewalk, even if it ran for only a few blocks.

Crystal Isaak lives on the corner of Fifth Avenue South and First Street South. When the sidewalk bordering her property was removed and filled in this summer, she reached out to council, appealing for a new sidewalk installation.

"[Our street is] unlike [new] developments," Isaak told council. "There are no curves or bays or cul-de-sacs. We are used as a straightaway through town and a way to access businesses. Our street supports the function of Main Street in a significant way."

While Isaak is relatively new to her current residence, she lived in another house along First Street South more than a decade ago and has witnessed firsthand how this once relatively quiet street has morphed into a busy thoroughfare.

The annual fair is just one example of a time when the street becomes overwhelmed with foot and vehicular traffic for days on end.

That's just one weekend per year. The balance of the year, she says, does see a lower volume of traffic overall, but it's still more or less



Crystal Isaak and her two children after the sidewalk along First Street South was removed this summer. **BY BRENDA SAWATZKY**

constant and at times moves way too fast to share the road safely with the prolific number of pedestrians and bikers.

Things have gotten worse, she adds, since the traffic light was installed at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main. Now a lot of the northbound traffic on Fifth Avenue turns onto her street to avoid having to wait at the red light. Oftentimes they're in a hurry and making up for lost time along this stretch.

As well, Isaak sees a lot of people using First Street South as a preferred way to access Main Street businesses from the rear, avoiding the need for U-turns on Main Street.

Isaak prefers this option herself. "When I go to the chiropractor, for example, I would drive up First and go a block further [than needed], then turn [onto Main] so that I could park easily."

Isaak adds that First Street South has also become a popular route for parents travelling on foot with their children.

"When we moved in last fall, I watched all of the moms walking their kids down Fifth, but they don't go to Main," says Isaak. "They turn on First to bring their kids to the

elementary school."

The reason, she says, lies in the number of hazards awaiting young families along Main Street between Fifth and Fourth Avenues. Within one block, pedestrians have to navigate two very busy parking egresses, at the MCC Thrift Store and Niverville Autobody.

After that, they still need to cross the busy intersection at Fourth Avenue to reach the pedestrian crosswalk. Taking residential streets all the way to the crosswalk, Isaak says, just makes more sense.

Sherry Unrau and Curtis Lee are two other First Street South residents who miss having a sidewalk in front of their properties.

"This street constantly has people on it," says Unrau, who has four children of her own. "It's dangerous. On our block alone, there are at least 14 kids. Most of those go to one of the three schools in town and, therefore, go in all different directions. This isn't something petty or cosmetic we are asking for. Just a safe way for our friends and neighbours to get around."

Lee concurs with the others.

(continued on page 4)

We have every tool you need to be successful on your fitness journey!

JOIN TODAY AND RECEIVE

50% OFF ENROLLMENT

AND

50% OFF 1ST MONTH

Visit, Call or Email for More Details



204-961-1919

40 Drovers Run, Niverville

facebook.com/anytimefitnessniverville
FOR DETAILS VISIT **ANYTIMEFITNESS.COM**

The Citizen

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,
Daniel Dacombe, Ty Dilello, Sara Beth Dacombe

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, Illes-Chênes, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, New Bothwell, 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.



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

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

IN BRIEF

Liquor Strike Disrupts Manitoba Summer

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

For most of the summer, unionized Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries (MBLL) workers were on strike, seeking wage increases to compensate for high inflation.

The strike was resolved in late August, with workers voting to accept a new contract that would see them earn two percent increases for each of the next four years.

By the midpoint of summer, the August long weekend, many Manitobans were facing bare shelves and long lines.

Private liquor vendors, such as the one found at Your Grocery People (YGP) in Niverville, the Esso station in St. Adolphe, and the Île-des-Chênes Country Store, still offered liquor sales throughout the closures.

However, that's not to say they were unaffected. According to John Schmitke of YGP, it only takes a week to run out of all the most popular brands and price points.

"It really only takes one missed order and then you're out of all of your top selling stuff," says Schmitke. "We order on demand, so we order just what we need to [carry us through until] our next order."

Three weeks without the arrival of new stock at YGP meant that many shelves were empty. The only items that remained by August were less popular spirits and alcohol with less attractive price points.

In the end, Schmitke is a grocer first with a side business of alcohol sales, which assured he would get by.

"There isn't enough [profit] in liquor for a private retailer to only sell liquor, which is why, in rural Manitoba, they all sell other things."

(continued from page 3)

"As the town grows, businesses on Main Street are welcoming more customers while welcoming more vehicular traffic," says Lee. "That traffic bleeds onto adjoining streets like ours. We are [within] walking distance of three churches, an elementary school, and Main Street. Kids are on bikes, families are out walking their pets, all on the street, all in the path of some people driving ridiculously fast down First Street South just to avoid Main Street during peak rush hour times."

MAYOR WEIGHS IN

First Street South is, far and away, not the only residential street in Niverville without a sidewalk. At this point, the only east to west running streets with sidewalks in the original parts of Niverville are Third Street South and First Street North.

The sidewalk on Third Street South runs for only two blocks, passing by the middle school. The First Street North sidewalk runs past the elementary school and continues for the whole length of the street.

Even in the newer developments, sidewalks aren't necessarily the norm. Many residential streets, including many through streets such as Claremont Drive, have no sidewalks.

Mayor Myron Dyck says the reason is typically twofold.

When a development goes in, it's generally important to the developer—and eventually the buyer—to maintain affordable lot prices. Any added infrastructure, such as sidewalks, drives up the price of the lots.

Additionally, not every resident sees the merit in having a sidewalk on their street.

"We tried to put in a sidewalk on an existing street in Fifth Avenue Estates east and met with strong resistance," says Mayor Dyck. "Owners want to enjoy all of their front yard, even though the front part is owned by the town. Some had underground sprinklers or trees or plantings and did not want them disturbed."

In recent years, town council created a development plan to address aging infrastructure in the town's original sections. Their focus has been to concentrate

efforts on the north-to-south running sidewalks, moving everyone to and from areas of commerce.

The goal for Niverville's core area, according to Dyck, is to get to a place where every resident has to walk only half a block before they reach a sidewalk.

As for the sidewalk removed on First Street South, Dyck says it posed a safety hazard due to heaving and there are no current plans to replace it.

Budgets play into that decision, he says, suggesting that the level of need in the community tends to surpass the level of available funding.

But logistics, too, play a factor.

The drainage ditches running along both the north and south sides of First Street South are needed in times of heavy rainfall.

So to install a new up-to-code sidewalk on either side of the street would mean encroaching heavily on a lot of front yard space, not to mention the potential loss of mature trees and shrubs to make room for the sidewalk.

"I would say that answer is not a hard 'no,' but right now there are other priorities where the time and money is needed more," Dyck says, citing deteriorating streets and underground sewer infrastructure. "In the realm of the big picture, while they may not like it, they [should] at least understand it is nothing personal. There is only so much money to go around."

Still, he adds, if the residents of First Street South are all in agreement over the need for a sidewalk, he recommends that petition signatures be collected and delivered to council for their consideration.

If others feel as Isaak does, the response could be telling.

"I can't speak for council," Isaak says. "I know they have a lot to weigh. I can only speak for us homeowners when I say we would be more than happy to give up a little bit of our yard for a sidewalk because the benefit far outweighs losing a couple of square feet of front yard."

Unrau agrees that you can't put a price on pedestrian safety.

"I invite Mayor Dyck to come and observe the traffic on school mornings or afternoons from my driveway," Unrau says. "I'm not asking for miracles here. I'm asking for a safe place for people to walk so they aren't hit by vehicles."

URBAN PLANNING

The Citizen reached out to Donovan Toews of Landmark Planning and Design Inc. to get some idea on what urban planners consider when determining the need for sidewalks in older communities and new developments.

For the most part, Toews says, a local council has the ultimate authority to determine the infrastructure that takes priority, and oftentimes their decisions are based on budget.

"Every municipality gets to decide that for themselves, so that's why you see some differences from one place to the next," says Toews. "If we were advising, we would also take those local contexts into account. The bottom line for us is, 'What makes sense? Where do people want to go and is it safe for people to get there? Will this become an access route for a well-travelled destination like a school or grocery store?'"

Most urban or transportation planners, he says, use a framework of road hierarchies to help determine where sidewalks and pathways should be incorporated.

At the lowest end of the hierarchy is the local road, which is what runs through most residential neighbourhoods. Here, driveways have direct access to the street and, more often than not, sidewalks are not incorporated since traffic volumes are fairly low by comparison.

Next you have the collector road. These are the streets that the local roads feed into. Examples in Niverville include Hampton Drive and St. Andrews Way. Sidewalks can be found along collector roads in most communities due to higher traffic volumes. In newer developments, a wider right of way is usually created in order to accommodate sidewalks or pathways.

"In Winnipeg, where you've got public transit, buses will only travel on collectors," Toews says. "They don't put them on local roads, so that should be another consideration there."

Collector roads likewise feed into arterial roads, and finally, arterial roads feed into expressways.

Highway 311 would act as Niverville's expressway, although

Toews says it already has more accesses than most expressways would.

Examples of expressways in Winnipeg would include Sterling Lyon Parkway or Chief Peguis Trail. Here, Toews adds, you will often notice asphalt pathways running alongside the expressway since they are more regional in nature and foot and bike traffic travels longer distances to get to their destinations.

"Depending on the status of the street, it has something to say about traffic volumes and that has something to say about whether sidewalks are needed or not," Toews says. "On most local streets, generally you don't need a sidewalk. So when people say we should have sidewalks everywhere, I say not necessarily. Is it actually worth the cost and environmental impact of having concrete everywhere?"

Toews agrees that growing pains are often experienced in rural communities as they expand, making infrastructure planning a distinct challenge for councils to have to deal with.

"In a situation like Niverville, where it was a small town for a long time and then it experienced major growth, new administrations try to get good systems for a growing town. In cases like this, you'll often have an inconsistency between the new and the old developments. It is difficult to deal with."

Adding to that predicament, he says, are the headaches council may face when homeowners along a certain street don't agree amongst themselves on what is best for their neighbourhood.

SIDEWALK HISTORY

One may speculate on the history behind the First Street South sidewalk, which was only installed over two blocks and then stopped short. Town lore suggests that it was Mr. Alex Fast Sr. who paid out of pocket to have at least some of it installed many decades ago.

Niverville town councillor Bill Fast says that his family can substantiate that claim.

They know, for certain, that their father wanted a sidewalk to transport his family by foot from their home on Fifth Avenue South to the Fourth Avenue Bible Church.

As to the reason for the second block of sidewalk, Fast is unsure about his father's involvement.



FREE
HOME MARKET
EVALUATION

Katie Knebel
204-392-3030



ROYAL LEPAGE
Riverbend Realty

Very
Our Rates are Competitive and
We Offer Flexible Conditions



Caisse.biz



Caisse
Financial Group

OAKLEY OPTICAL EYECARE CENTRE

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1952



CALL TO BOOK YOUR NEXT EYE EXAM

WE BILL DIRECTLY TO MOST INSURANCE PROVIDERS



VIEW OUR NEWEST STYLES

@OAKLEYOPTICALCARE

CONTACT US

1-1574 REGENT AVE W
130-1570 KENASTON BLVD
110-3025 PORTAGE AVE

204.654.3937
204.489.2146
204.831.5409



New stories published *daily!*

The Citizen

www.nivervillecitizen.com

IG PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT **COURCELLES GROUP**

Do you have a *real* financial plan?

56% of financial plans don't address estate planning.

A *real* plan should also include tax strategies, investments, retirement, and more.

Want to know the difference a *real* financial plan can make?

Let us show you!



www.courcellesgroup.com | 204.792.2489

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

NOT BY CHANGE.



Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.

NCU student lines of credit allow you to open the next chapter.

Niverville CREDIT UNION

nivervillecu.mb.ca

The Citizen News Team: We Are Your Neighbours

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

September 2023 marks exactly eight years since *The Citizen* newspaper made its debut. The new publication was met with such optimism in 2015 that, before long, its circulation grew beyond Niverville to include most of the neighbouring towns.

The trailblazers behind this project included a group of lifelong Niverville residents—Evan Braun, Dustin Krahn, and Ray and Cara Dowse. Between them, they had the skills and business savvy to make it work.

At the time, Braun had already been a professional book editor for 12 years, contracting for a local publishing company and doing freelance editorial work on the side. Although he had studied journalism in college, his greatest personal triumphs included the publication of three novels. And he has continued to write many more.

Krahn was and still is a self-employed professional graphic designer who operates a successful business, Excel Graphics, on Main Street in Niverville. Since 2009, he has been specializing in graphic layout, design, and printing.

As a husband-and-wife team, the Dowses had many years of experience in entrepreneurship, managing their various projects through Dowse Ventures. In 2015, Ray had recently stepped down from his position as senior executive for BSI Insurance, turning to work in the area of business development. He also works for



Dylan Zacharias, Dustin Krahn, Ray Dowse, Evan Braun, Cara Dowse, and Brenda Sawatzky.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

HUB International Insurance.

When they began discussions on launching *The Citizen*, this quartet was ready to defy those who believed newspapers, particularly of the print variety, were no longer relevant.

“Conventional wisdom confidently declared that print journalism was dead and that the whole model should be buried and forgotten,” says Braun, *The Citizen*'s managing editor. “But our little corner of southeastern

Manitoba has always been great at bucking trends and all the local communities have been supportive from the beginning. What I've since realized is that we were living in a news desert. Despite being a bustling, growing town, Niverville didn't have a dedicated news source... and it needed one.”

Of course, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Winnipeg Sun*, and *Carillon* were readily available to rural

residents, but these publications covered such a broad area that neither Niverville or Ritchot made the headlines unless a story was highly momentous or unusually tragic in nature.

The Citizen wanted to create a publication with a distinctly local focus, where every story would matter to every resident—something that would handily fill the void left by a short-lived Niverville newsletter

that had been making the rounds, called Talk of the Town.

“Who was telling stories of local importance?” asks Braun. “Literally nobody. And that's the most interesting and engaging type of news, really. Who doesn't want to hear the exciting things that their neighbours are doing? Maybe someone is going to an international gymnastics competition or winning an award for community service. Or what about that new business about to open up that needs a bit of a boost? Or that recent controversial decision by town council that wasn't being fully investigated? No one was telling these kinds of stories, certainly not in any depth. That's what was so exciting about *The Citizen* right from the start.”

BIRTH OF A NEWSPAPER

Braun recalls the early meetings, in which the foursome deliberated for hours over the type of news they would produce—and how it should be done.

The original proposal was for something more like a newsletter.

Before long, their ambitions morphed into a full-on newspaper. They believed the growing region would have many stories to tell in the coming years.

The only problem, Braun says, is that every one of them was already a busy entrepreneur with full-time jobs and they were about to spread themselves even thinner, and into unknown territory.

“I soon realized that this was not going to be a small project, and it



SMITH-NEUFELD-JODOIN
LAW OFFICES

- Real Estate Transactions
- Corporate Law
- Agriculture Law
- Wills
- Estates
- Succession Planning
- Civil Litigation

Unit B - 62 Main Street, Niverville
Tel. 204-388-9300 | Fax: 204-388-9350

www.snj.ca

HEAVY TRUCK, TRAILER & EQUIPMENT SALES

N&A
TRUCKING
& LEASING LTD.

Box 458
Niverville, MB.
ROA 1E0

PHONE: 1-204-388-4509

FAX: 1-204-388-6283

EMAIL: nandatrucking@hotmail.com

REPAIRS & PARTS ON ALL MAKES & MODELS

certainly wouldn't be a matter of an hour or two of extra editing on the side, as I had at first envisioned," Braun says. "Suddenly I had to think about journalistic integrity, ensuring good and reliable reporting, and how to recruit staff. And then pull it off month after month. To be honest, it was a bit daunting, but looking back I can say the whole experience has been a rewarding one."

Ray Dowse set to work promoting the project and securing the local advertisers needed to sustain a newspaper that would be free to the public.

Meanwhile, Braun tapped the shoulders of prospective writers, finding recruits to join him on the journalistic team.

The first of those recruits, Brenda Sawatzky, was thrilled at the opportunity to work with Braun and the team from the start. She was familiar with Braun's work, and he with hers.

As a budding writer, Sawatzky was keen on honing her craft and ready to dive into a new kind of community service after the sale of the Niverville business she had run with her husband for 23 years.

FIRST PRINT EDITION

The very first edition of *The Citizen* debuted in September 2015. It was a full-colour 24-page paper featuring local news, sports, and entertainment.

This first foray into print held details and renderings of a proposed Niverville recreation complex that seemed almost too good to be true. As well, a new community splash pad was about to take shape in Hespeler Park.

Writer and comedian Matt Falk covered an early interview with Niverville's own Jordan St. Cyr, just prior to the singer-songwriter going on to garner great acclaim.

The paper's classified section felt homey. There was also a crossword puzzle, a kids colouring contest, and a recipe for the fall season.

Four months later, in January 2016, the newspaper's circulation expanded to include most residents of Ritchot, as well as the communities of Tourond,

Otterburne, and New Bothwell.

At this point, *The Citizen's* team made the decision to restrict further regional growth.

This area, previously underserved, now had its own local paper dedicated 100 percent to their small but vibrant region. Again, the goal was for every page to be relevant to locals, giving advertisers a prime opportunity to reach their target market.

In due time, an attractive website also came to be, allowing *The Citizen* to get even more news out to their readership—and in a more timely manner.

THE CITIZEN OVER THE YEARS

Although the paper didn't grow much in terms of its geography, it didn't take long for the ownership team to branch out and add an alluring new publication to its offerings, a feature called *Homes and Communities*.

The annual magazine has been rolling off the presses ever since, getting into thousands of mailboxes beyond the local area. It has helped to attract many newcomers to the region.

"From early on, the physical paper became only a piece of what we do," says Dowse. "We are the leaders in local news, but we also have taken on a bit more on the marketing and visual side of things. Again, when you have a diverse ownership group all with key individual strengths, it does lend itself to considering opportunities that don't necessarily land within the traditional newspaper box."

In 2020, another resident of Niverville, Dylan Zacharias, became the fifth member of the shareholder team, entering as the paper's new sales and marketing representative.

Zacharias works full-time as a physical education teacher at Steinbach Christian School. He also works as the school's public relations and marketing specialist.

The opportunity, for Zacharias, felt like a good fit.

"I believed *The Citizen* was Niverville's best outlet for local and surrounding businesses to promote themselves to local

consumers," says Zacharias. "It was a unique beginning, as I started in peak COVID. However, it led me to grow my passion for supporting local businesses. When I first joined the team, I assumed the future would be to continue publishing a monthly paper for the region and making sure everyone got the best story in their hands. But looking back on this three years later, we have become something much bigger than that."

Early in 2022, *The Citizen* also invited Sawatzky to join them at the ownership table. This completed the circle, adding a permanent and full-time journalist to the mix.

That same year, *The Citizen* partnered with the Niverville Nighthawks to unveil the first annual magazine celebrating the team. The second annual Nighthawks magazine is about to go to print, coinciding with the start of the new hockey season.

"For a company with a core of six who all have full-time jobs on the side, *The Citizen* has grown exponentially," says Zacharias. "Simply for these reasons, and Niverville being the fastest growing community in Manitoba, I believe *The Citizen* is still in its beginning stages. So stay tuned!"

THE CITIZEN IN 2023

In just eight short years, the paper has grown and evolved at a steady pace, leaping from its original 2,500 papers per month to a total circulation of 6,600 in the last few years. Six full- and part-time journalists round off the writing team, producing, on average, one news story per day.

The Citizen's website boasts an average of 25,000+ monthly pageviews.

As for the print edition, it is estimated that each paper is read three times before it's recycled. According to News Media Canada, the average reader rate for news publications in Canada comes to about 2.4.

In the coming months, *The Citizen's* online readership will notice another change. The time has come to develop and unveil a

much-improved website, able to showcase bigger and better stories, with more pictures and unique features.

And, of course, the site will feature better advertising opportunities for local businesses.

It's the local businesses, after all, that really make the whole endeavour possible.

"It's important to keep in mind that local journalism is facing big challenges right now, particularly in light of the recent moves from tech giants like Meta to remove journalism from its social media feeds," Braun says. "But the world around us is always changing and throwing new curveballs our way. The challenge is always to grow and adapt. If we couldn't grow and adapt, we wouldn't have tried to start a newspaper in 2015 when so many other local papers were in the process of shutting down. Good things are ahead for our region, and we plan to be around to report on them for many, many years to come."

FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

"It's always satisfying to create something brand new that makes an impact on the community, and to see *The Citizen* continue to not only be relevant, but to meet the needs and bring value to the local region, really does bring me joy!" says Dowse. "We want people to read about what is transpiring in the community and region. When controversial items arise, the content brings accountability and visibility, and people can choose where they stand on those items." Braun is equally enthusiastic.

"Have I mentioned how rewarding it is to help promote all the local people doing amazing things?" asks Braun. "Sure, but let me mention it again. For the most part, we are telling stories no one else is telling—and certainly no one is telling them to such a detailed and extensive degree. Nothing could be more satisfying. Every month we hear from people who are appreciative of the degree of balance and thoughtfulness we bring to our coverage, which is gratifying."

IN BRIEF

Reduced Speed Zone Reminders for Niverville and Ritchot

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

With kids heading back to school, drivers are reminded to slow down to 30 kilometres per hour in reduced speed zones beginning on September 1.

Last year, a few blocks of St. Adolphe's Main Street became a reduced speed zone to aid in safer passage for the town's children attending École St. Adolphe. Commuters are strongly urged to drive with extra caution in this area.

Another school zone is found along Highway 305 in Ste. Agathe, as well as along Dumaine Road in Île-des-Chênes.

Similarly, in Niverville, a speed zone is in force along First Street North bordering the north side of the elementary school.

Niverville residents should watch for a brand-new school zone soon to be instated along Fifth Avenue South. The zone runs between Third Street and Fourth Street.

It is anticipated that the province will have reduced speed signs installed here by the middle of September. In the meantime, Niverville's town council asks residents to put their reduced speed into practice on the first day of school on September 6.

Drivers should also practice extra vigilance at the two new crosswalks along Fifth Avenue South, located at the north and south entrances to Hampton Drive.



FREE
HOME MARKET
EVALUATION

Katie Knebel
204-392-3030

ROYAL LEPAGE
Riverbend Realty



AREAS OF PRACTICE

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



1-431-588-2702

2 - 18 3rd Ave S, P.O. Box 165
Niverville, Manitoba R0A 1E0

info@camslawoffice.com
www.camslawoffice.com



autopac | ACCREDITED
A Manitoba Public Insurance product



George Dyck
George Dyck & Son

311 highway | Box 433, Niverville, Manitoba R0A 1E0

PHONE: 204-388-4870
EMAIL: geodyck@hotmail.com

Quality & reliable service. Over 10,000 windshields installed.

Some Things are Best Left to the Professionals!



YGP
YOUR GROCERY PEOPLE



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

259 MAIN STREET, NIVERVILLE

CITIZEN POLL

If a car share program were to be created in your community, would you consider taking advantage of it?

- Yes. A program like this would eliminate the need for a second vehicle.
- No. I am primarily interested in driving vehicles which my family owns.

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

Enter to Win

Take part in our monthly poll for your chance to win a \$10 gift card to a local business!



Congratulations to last month's winner:
KEVIN YAKABOWSKI

VOTE NOW AT www.nivervillecitizen.com

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

How would you be affected if Google and Meta (Facebook and Instagram) banned the viewing and sharing of all news on their platforms?

I would be greatly affected. Much of the news I consume comes to me via social media and Google searches.

43%

It would not affect me. I don't search for or share news on those platforms and would not miss it.

57%

YOUR COMMENTS:

It's not only about the affect. It's about government control. The more Canadian citizens ignore this, the more they think they can take from us. We've already been witness to the large scale control they've had for the past three years and too many just willingly complied without using critical thinking. Imagine the total deterioration of this country in such a short time span.

It's as easy as going to the Canadian news providers website of your choice directly... social media links can never be fully trusted anyways.

I get my news directly from the Niverville Citizen and other direct sources online.

Although I don't generally find news on Facebook, I believe banning it from social media platforms is a form on censorship that our population should not tolerate.

I get a lot of news shared from legitimate sources on platforms like Meta. Their changes will not have a big impact on me, though, as I've now bookmarked this site and will be coming here directly instead. Journalists, not Meta, deserve to be compensated for the content journalists create.

Ritchot Takes First Steps Towards EV Car Share Initiative

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Thanks in part to funding from the provincial government's Conservation and Climate Fund, the RM of Ritchot will soon be creating an electric vehicle (EV) car share program for their residents.

Provincial funding to the tune of \$150,000 will be split between the RMs of Ritchot and De Salaberry and the Village of St. Pierre-Jolys, all working collaboratively toward the same goal.

The intermunicipal collaboration happened as a direct response to the Southeast Regional Transportation Initiative (SRTI), a program intended to address public transit issues and seek solutions for Manitobans living in the rural southeast.

The SRTI came about after a series of discussions took place between the RM of Piney and Eco-West Canada. Over the course of the next year, rural communities throughout the southeast were invited to get on board.

"Public transportation isn't only for people living in cities," says Melanie Parent, coordinator for the Piney Community Resource Council. "It's a service deserving of all Manitobans, both rural and urban. Improving public transit is about giving residents of southeast Manitoba the freedom of equal access to social, health, and economic opportunities that enhance our quality of life."

Ryan Faucher, economic development officer for the RM of Ritchot, was quick to buy into the philosophy of the SRTI. Ritchot is now considered the lead municipality between its regional collective, which includes De Salaberry and St. Pierre-Jolys.

"There's actually two spin-offs occurring [from the SRTI talks]," says Faucher. "One is the car share that we're doing and the RM of Piney is doing one that addresses a seniors handi-van aspect."

The concept being adopted by the Ritchot municipal collective will look much like Winnipeg's Peg City Car Co-op. They all hope to purchase one or more EVs



An EV charging station in Niverville.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

for their region that could be rented to residents at a nominal cost.

According to Faucher, the RM of De Salaberry is looking to host their car share program at the local seniors complex, providing a way for seniors to get around independently without the need for car ownership.

In Ritchot, Faucher anticipates making the program available to every resident by placing at least one electric car share vehicle in each of the communities, including Howden.

"Residents would be able to rent by the hour and by the day," Faucher says. "It's basically a form of affordable public transit... because that's one of the things that's generally lacking once you leave the Perimeter."

This publicly owned car share program, in general, will pave the way for local families to cut back on the number of personal vehicles they need to own.

"Looking at multifamily [development] parking in communities, you might go by apartments where people are parked on the highway or parked on the street because everybody has that second or third vehicle."

Oftentimes, he says, the second and third vehicles owned by a family are not daily commuters. Instead they provide occasional wheels when one vehicle just isn't enough, like getting to occasional medical appointments

of."

According to Faucher, EV vehicles vary in price between around \$50,000 for a base model SUV to \$100,000 for a multi-passenger van. The provincial funding received is merely seed money to help get the program jumpstarted.

The Ritchot collective is also applying for other grants which have been made available through the Green Municipal Fund and the federal government's Rural Transit Solutions Fund.

If the applications are approved, the capital cost of all the vehicles and some charging stations will be fully covered.

In the end, Ritchot will run its individual car share programs at the locations of their charging stations. The TC Energy Centre would be the location in Île-des-Chênes while St. Adolphe's ride share vehicles would be stored at the civic centre.

Ste. Agathe residents will find their car share at the arena and Grande Pointe's would be located at the clubhouse.

"We're looking at a mix of vehicle types, depending on community demographics," Faucher says.

He anticipates that at least one of the vehicles would be a multi-passenger van which could be put to use by many of the local sport teams or clubs. Another could well be a pickup truck for times when a load needs to be hauled.

As for administration of the program, Faucher says that the details have not yet been finalized. It's possible that each community may be responsible for their own management.

Alternatively, the three collaborative municipalities may choose to have one centralized administrator act as a kind of fleet coordinator from the Ritchot municipal office.

Assuming government grant funding comes through for them this fall, Faucher says the rollout will begin very shortly afterward.

"We're hoping to [start with] a demonstrator vehicle to work out the kinks and stuff before the end of the year and then we'll look at a full rollout next spring."

or driving the kids to a game.

"They may have a truck just so that they can go and get that sheet of plywood once per year," says Faucher. "So we'd be providing something in the communities where people can make that big shopping trip to Home Depot or Costco to get the bulkier items."

Statistically speaking, Faucher says that, for every car share vehicle a community can provide for its residents, 11 privately owned vehicles can be eliminated.

And reducing the number of vehicles each family owns comes with massive economic benefits as well.

The average cost of owning a vehicle today comes to around \$8,500 per year. With insurance alone averaging around \$1,200 to \$1,500 annually, it's a steep cost to pay for the luxury of owning an infrequently used vehicle.

With environmental sustainability being on everyone's minds these days, for some it only makes sense to get a car share initiative off to an ecologically sound start.

"Part of this [initiative] is to look at it as an accelerator for EV adoption," says Faucher. "There's still a lot of hesitancy in Manitoba and obviously in rural [areas] about the viability of EVs. So this gives the opportunity for people to see them and take them for a test drive to experience them, rather than having to make the commitment of buying a vehicle that they're not sure

Communities in Bloom Judges Visit Niverville

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On July 26–27, the Niverville chapter of Communities in Bloom (CiB) played host to two judges from the provincial CiB organization.

After three years of absence, the judges were back in town for a tour of the community and to reacquaint themselves with the local volunteers who make Niverville a beautiful place to live.

Judge Barb Forster hails from Rossburn and is new to CiB judging this year. She was accompanied by Hugh Skinner of Roblin, a veteran CiB judge who's been visiting and critiquing communities for 15 years. Five of those years were served as a national CiB judge.

CiB Canada celebrated its first year as a national beautification organization in 1995. Four years later, the first Manitoba chapter was created. CiB Manitoba is administered by a part-time program coordinator and a volunteer board.

Over the years, more than 60 Manitoba communities have been involved as CiB members.

Niverville joined the ranks eight years ago.

CiB Manitoba is driven by a commitment to help foster civic pride through beautification initiatives taken on by local volunteers. In recent years, the organization has also looked at these efforts through the lens of climate change and environmental concerns.



Communities in Bloom judges come to Niverville, meeting past and present local volunteers.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

CiB judges are asked to evaluate the communities they visit based on six criteria.

The first is the effort taken to keep tidy the community's structures in terms of weed, litter, and graffiti.

Next, they check parks and green-spaces for floral and ornamental plant displays and evaluate landscaped areas based on colour, texture, regional suitability, the incorporation of native species, and maintenance.

The urban canopy matters, too, in terms of long- and short-term planning and care of a healthy tree population.

Judges also assess a community based on environmental action initiatives regarding waste and sewage disposal, pest management, and

water conservation.

Finally, they look for a clear emphasis on heritage preservation.

"We've de-emphasized the competitive nature of the provincial program," Skinner told *The Citizen*. "We do an evaluation and you'll get a score. In the national program it's very competitive, but we've decided in the provincial program it's better to encourage participation. We think that the communities that are involved in CiB derive a significant benefit from having outside eyes come in and look at their community and offer constructive criticism."

Niverville should be receiving their report card from the CiB judges in a couple of months, Skinner says, once they've completed their assessment

and compiled a list of short- and long-term recommendations.

Niverville CiB committee member Shirley Hoult says they take those recommendations very seriously.

"Every year we collect the recommendations and we put together a presentation on how we as a committee can help the community reach some of those recommendations," Hoult says. "We present that to the town council prior to their annual planning meeting. It's obvious that they have actually taken what we've presented to heart and improvements have been made."

Both Skinner and Forster were impressed by their meeting with Mayor Myron Dyck during their short stay.

"When we had our meeting with the mayor this morning, he showed significant vision for the future," Skinner said.

CiB Niverville is comprised of eight volunteer members: Shirley Hoult, Annette Bryant, Carla Janzen, Erin Reimer, Heather Watt, Nazli Sharma, Roz Krahn, and Terry Martin.

Annette Fast is a member of the Steinbach Horticultural Society and a Niverville community champion who has long been investing her expertise into local beautification and growing initiatives alongside the CiB board.

On July 28, the committee hosted a luncheon for the judges and invited all of this year's community Green Thumb award winners to attend.

On display were more than 500 poppies which had been hand crocheted by local women. These will be draped over the fence near the Remembrance Day cairn from November 1–11 this year.

Thanks to their partnership with Tim Hortons, the Niverville CiB was able to present a cheque to volunteers of the Golden Friendship Circle, assisting them with their kitchen renovation project.

Skinner took a moment to address the group gathered for the luncheon.

"I judged in the national program for five years and it was the most interesting engagement that I've had in my life," Skinner told them. "I've travelled from Castlegar, B.C. to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and people show you the best of what they have to offer."

RED RIVER
RAGE
FREE

COME TRY RINGETTE EVENT
SEPTEMBER 9
NIVERVILLE CRRC
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

2023/2024
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
APPROACHING!

REGISTER NOW!

WWW.REDRIVERRAGERINGETTE.CA



From
The
Inkwell

An evening of fictional
& personal stories from
local writers

HOSTED BY: I Help You Write Things
TICKETS: \$10.00
DATE: Monday, October 2, 2023
LOCATION: Niverville Heritage Centre

TO BUY TICKETS:
Scan the QR Code
Visit www.ihelpyouwritethings.com
Email info@ihelpyouwritethings.com



SCAN FOR TIX

AJAX
ROOFING
SERVING MANITOBA SINCE 1977

• SHINGLES • METAL • CEDAR •
• CUSTOM METAL FLASHINGS •

KERRY DYCK **BRADY DYCK**
204-371-9450 204-232-8492

CALL US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

WD WM. DYCK
& SONS (1993)

IN BRIEF

Ritchot Launches Native Grasslands Restoration Projects

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A restoration of native grasslands is just one of the many earth-friendly sights residents of Ritchot may notice in the coming years thanks to a municipal undertaking called the Seeds of Sustainability project.

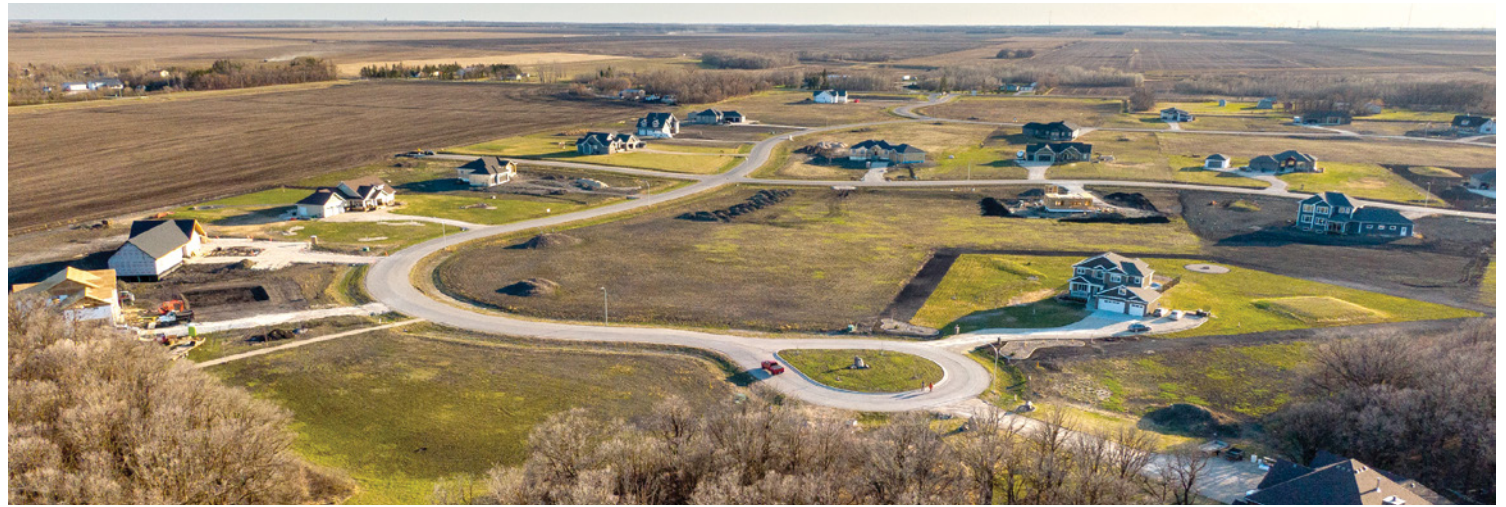
The promise of an \$8,000 grant from the province's Conservation and Climate Fund will help kickstart the project, allowing for the first stages of native flora to be planted in the RM's parks, along trails, and around retention ponds.

"The RM deems this an important project because of the negative impacts of climate change," says Danielle Peters, the municipality's coordinator of community engagement and activation. "And native landscapes can have a major positive ecological impact on our communities."

Throughout this project, the RM's goals are to strengthen the region's biodiversity, improve ecosystem resilience, support healthy wildlife habitats, and encourage an increase in pollinator populations.

But this is a massive undertaking that will require education and resident buy-in. When all is said and done, the RM hopes for the project to be driven by the community rather than simply mandated by council.

"This project will bring together professionals, residents, and local organizations to educate, inspire, and provide resources for individuals to actively contribute to the conservation of our local environment," says Peters.



The Grande residential development in Grande Pointe.

C/O SCHINKEL PROPERTIES

Niverville Commons Owners Promote New Developments

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A new ownership team has taken over Niverville Commons, the commercial development on the east end of Main Street.

Realtor Mike Fast and his partner Bob Schinkel of Schinkel Properties (SP) are picking up where previous owners Sean Conway and Katie Knebel left off at 10 Cedar Drive and 290 Main Street.

"I was asked to sell the Commons and over time ended up partnering with SP to purchase it," says Fast. "Niverville is growing like crazy and SP already owns and manages similar commercial spaces in Steinbach and Oakbank, so this seemed like a good fit."

Schinke says that SP has made a name for themselves in southeast Manitoba over the past few decades.

"We started in the mid-1980s with the building of Victoria Plaza in Steinbach and continued growing since then," Schinkel says. "We manage more than 300,000 square feet of commercial space in rural Manitoba. At some point we decided hotels were worth a try and now we own six of them."

Schinke says that he and Fast liked the direction that Conway and Knebel had been headed

with Niverville Commons, as well as the recent upgrades they'd completed.

Since SP and Fast have taken over, four unused spaces on the second level of 290 Main Street are being converted into residential suites. They will be ready by mid-August.

Soon the exterior of the building will see a fresh coat of paint.

Although much of Niverville's new development is currently focused on the community's west side, these owners aren't deterred.

On the contrary, they believe they have an advantage in commercial space offerings.

"All towns need a variety of commercial space and Niverville Commons can lease at a fraction of the price of new," says Fast. "With the cost of everything rising so quickly, we are finding that businesses are looking for value and vacancies in this sector have been low. It's also in a great, easy-to-get-to location on Main Street."

RESIDENTIAL COUNTRY LIVING IN PETITE POINTE

These same partners own another development called Petite Pointe, a unique country living residential development located outside of Lorette.

Modeled after The Grande in Grande Pointe, Petite Pointe's

major selling features are its expansive two- to three-acre lots located in a pastoral setting close to major amenities. Its location is just minutes from Deacon's Corner and the intersection of the Perimeter and Highway 59 on Winnipeg's south side.

"Often when we develop there are multiple partners involved, so each development ends up being unique," Fast says. "SP has a history of bringing [ownership] groups together and has the people in place to take a development from inception to completion, which is the case in Petite Pointe."

Phase one of the 115-acre site has been developed into 48 lots, which are now for sale.

"We would expect to see a mix of homes," Fast says. "But typically folks buy a two-acre lot to sprawl out in with a bungalow and some extra garage space or room for toys like boats, snowmobiles, RVs, etc."

There are two other features of Petite Pointe, though, that set it apart according to Fast.

"The entire site is flood-protected by a berm that we built," he says of the development. "For other two-acre lots in the area, they would have to perch their home to beyond the one-in-200-year flood levels as set by the province. We considered perching, but it poses a big question mark for buyers about

how much fill they would need to bring in to accomplish raising the house that high."

Instead Fast and his partners hired engineers to draw up a berm solution that surrounds the entire development, in turn adding an attractive shelter while helping to maintain consistent grading from property to property inside the development.

The second unique factor is the requirement that all participating homebuilders meet architectural guidelines which are specific to Petite Pointe.

"Buyers often have hesitations towards the guidelines until they understand what the intent of them is," Fast says. "The way I describe them is that someone cares about the house your neighbour is going to build, which in turn protects the value of your home. No one wants to build a beautiful home that they invest their life savings into and then have a neighbour build a substandard home which would reduce the value of your home."

Fast says that a similar model was used in The Grande development and everyone is so far very pleased with the results.

Petite Pointe lots, he says, cater to the folk who love their space as well as the peaceful quiet and wide-open skies unmarred by urban light pollution.



FREE
HOME MARKET
EVALUATION

Katie Knebel
204-392-3030



ROYAL LEPAGE
Riverbend Realty



NICK BERGMANN

RE/MAX
ONE GROUP

Let's connect about your property needs

**Award-winning service built
around client satisfaction**

204-230-6762

HOME OPENER SEPT. 22



VS



SCAN HERE
TO PURCHASE
TICKETS



BEER GARDENS IN THE MPR ROOM ALONG WITH TORQUE | THE FLIGHT CREW TO DROP THE PUCK | PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS



CRYSTAL STOTT

Nighthawks Prepare for Season Opener

By Ty Dilello

tdilello@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Nighthawks are gearing up for the 2023-24 MJHL season. Everyone involved is going into September with high anticipation.

The fun will kick off with a series of exhibition matches, the first three home dates being September 7, September 12, and September 13. These games will be the perfect opportunity to get your lungs in practice for what promises to be a long, intense season of great junior hockey.

Training camp is already underway, having begun on August 30, with all the players and

coaches casting their eye towards the most important date on the calendar: the home opener on September 22 at the CRRC. At 7:00 p.m. that night, the puck will drop, pitting the Nighthawks against the Selkirk Steelers.

Unlike last season, which hosted an enormous party for the first home game, this year the team won't have quite the same level of fanfare and extracurriculars on the night of the big game.

However, the Nighthawks are still planning something special, in the form of a season kickoff bash one week earlier. The team, in conjunction with the town of Niverville, will host the party on September 15 at the CRRC.

That day, fans will have the opportunity to play road hockey with the Nighthawks themselves.

Many details are still in the works, but there will be a range of games, prizes, food vendors, and lots of fun for all the kids and families who attend. Details will be announced on the team's official X/Twitter feed in the coming weeks, as well as announced on *The Citizen* website.

It's also not too late to secure season tickets. For those who still need them, Nighthawks season tickets can be ordered for \$335 apiece for adults and \$190 for anyone between the ages of three and 17 years old.

Finally, the Nighthawks' annual

golf tournament is right around the corner. The event will be held on September 8 at the picturesque Maplewood Golf Club.

This will be a celebration of sportsmanship, networking, and the shared pursuit of excellence.

The entry fee is \$175 per player or \$700 per team.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To ensure fans have all the information they need, and to secure one's spot at the golf tournament, the person to contact is Kevin Pauls, the team's marketing and game day director. Pauls is the go-to resource for registration details and other inquiries. Reach out at kpauls@mjlhNighthawks.ca.

EXHIBITION HOME GAMES

THURSDAY
SEPT. 7



VS



7 P.M. PUCKDROP

TUESDAY
SEPT. 12



VS



7 P.M. PUCKDROP

WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 13



VS



7 P.M. PUCKDROP

SCAN HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS



JWH
MECHANICAL
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning
204-388-5366

Graydon
VETERINARY CORPORATION
Drs Venessa Graydon, Anne Whipple & Julia Domke
PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA FOR THE LAST 12 YEARS
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
20 CEDAR DRIVE, NIVERVILLE, MB
204-388-4888 www.sparkline.ca



SEASON KICKOFF BASH UNLEASH THE NIGHTHAWKS

Giving Back: Building Community by Showing Up

By Ty Dilello

tdilello@nivervillecitizen.com

The Nighthawks were out in force all of last year, getting involved in the community in a host of ways. That trend is only going to get stronger as time goes on.

According to head coach Kelvin Cech, it's an important part of the team's culture.

"For us, getting to connect with the community and the people in town is the most important thing for us and the players," says Cech. "The players are here to play hockey first and foremost. But these guys have wanted to help out and get involved in the community during their free time. From the start, we have wanted kids with character and compete. We've said it from the start, and everyone we've brought in has been tremendous humans on and off the ice. That shows with all of the work they've done in the Niverville area last season."

The Nighthawks plan to do even more throughout the community for this upcoming season, so stay tuned. You will likely see the players throughout town doing their part to help out.

Here are some of the many community engagements the Nighthawks took part in during the 2022-23 campaign.

Minor hockey mentoring. Last season, each player was paired up with a Niverville minor hockey team. The Nighthawks worked with those teams' coaches and attended one practice a week, demonstrating skills and interacting with the stars of tomorrow. The successful and ongoing initiative helps to build connection and form meaningful personal bonds between local kids and the Nighthawks.

The snow angels. This initiative connects players with those who physically cannot shovel their own sidewalks, windrows, or driveways. Last season, Evan Bortis organized his fellow players, deploying them to the 17 homes on the team's list after snowfall events.

Special needs gym class. This started off as a volunteer initiative from Gail Chornoboy. Throughout the previous season, the special needs class at Niverville High School got a chance to get to know the team. The students came to the CRRC



The Flight Crew was an invaluable part of the Nighthawks team last season.

RAEYLN VOULGARIS

multiplex at 2:00 on Thursday afternoons to interact with the players.

The Flight Crew. The same special needs class from the high school gave back by coming to the rink every day to do laundry, fill water bottles, take out garbage and recycling, and help with all sorts of important day-to-day tasks around the rink.

Cemetery visit. Last fall, the team took part in an effort to help clean up Niverville's cemetery.

MCC Thrift Store. Between October and November, the Nighthawks sent out player volunteers to sort shoes, clean furniture, set up Christmas decorations, and otherwise do their part to keep the facility in tip-top shape.

Truth and Reconciliation walk. For Truth and Reconciliation Day last September, the team joined local schools on their walk for solidarity.

Halloween skate. For Halloween, the Nighthawks hosted a special skating event in which all the players dressed up in costumes and skated with the public. The players also handed out candy bags. Lots of fun was had by all!

Remembrance Day. On November 11, not only did the team show up en masse to observe the important occasion at the town's annual ceremony, but they got involved the day before by moving chairs and tables to the hall for the ceremony.

Ugly Christmas sweater skate. Similar to what they'd done on Halloween, on December 16 the Nighthawks took part in an Ugly Christmas sweater skate. The turnout was high, with mini-stick games happening at one end of the arena while free-skating took place at the other. It was a great end-of-year sendoff for the

players as they prepared to head home for the holidays.

Helping Hands. On December 19, the team moved and sorted food donations for Helping Hands, helping to get holiday baskets to local

families in need. This proved to be a fantastic opportunity to give back.

Drop-in centre. In February, a flight of Nighthawks players visited the local YFC drop-in centre for an exchange of skills. The players

passed on their hockey expertise, and the drop-in youth in turn showed them the ins and outs of playing pool and table tennis.

School visits. Throughout February, the Nighthawks visited Niverville Elementary School and Niverville Middle School as part of I Love to Read month. The first visit to the elementary school included a sprawling floor hockey game. The other visits saw the players read to the students.

Daycare reading. The players also helped bring a love of reading to kids at the local daycare at the CRRC, reading books.

Ste. Agathe community skate. Niverville certainly wasn't the only town to get some love from the Nighthawks. The team also headed over to the Ste. Agathe arena to take part in a public skate.

Kevin Pauls: Voice of the Nighthawks

By Ty Dilello

tdilello@nivervillecitizen.com

Kevin Pauls, the official broadcaster for Nighthawks radio and Hockey TV, was born in Winnipeg in 1977 and then raised in Morden, where he continues to live with his wife and three kids.

"I grew up playing every sport, including hockey, just not organized," says Pauls. "My dad built me rinks, and I skated and practiced there."

Pauls has also coached at all levels of minor hockey as well as some high school and Manitoba development programs. Prior to joining the Nighthawks, he served with the MJHL's Winkler Flyers as their broadcaster.

"I've always been an avid hockey fan," he says. "I grew up watching a lot of hockey and have been a New Jersey Devils fan since the late 1980s. Southern Manitoba had plenty of good hockey to watch at the rink, so I was always at Morden Redskins, Pembina Valley Hawks, or Winkler Flyers games whenever possible."

Besides watching his kids play, Pauls' favourite moment in hockey was seeing the New Jersey Devils



Kevin Pauls.

CRYSTAL STOTT

win the Stanley Cup in 2000.

"Jason Arnott scored in double overtime as some friends and I watched on a tiny 13-inch TV at a cabin. We went bananas. My friends and I have a tradition of watching hockey outside on the deck, weather permitting, and I'd have to say that's my favourite thing about hockey now."

Since first getting into broadcasting in 2009, Pauls has called games for Manitoba AAA U18, SEMHL, High School Hockey, and now the MJHL.

After spending the inaugural season as the official voice of the Nighthawks, Pauls has taken on a new role

with the team: marketing and game day director. He has already started his new responsibilities, which will be in addition to his ongoing role as the Hockey TV commentator.

From his unique vantage point, Pauls thought that the team's first season was really special.

"It was cool to be a fly on the wall for all of the firsts, like the first goal, the first win, and all of the fantastic games. Making the playoffs was really cool, and being able to bring the emotion of those events to people on TV and radio was unreal for my daughter and me."

Indeed, Pauls' daughter Lua is right by his side for the broadcasts.

With a new season kicking off, Pauls can hardly wait to get things cranked up all over again.

"Being able to contribute in the capacity of marketing and game day operations, as well as my broadcasting duties, is such an exciting thing for not only myself but my family as well," says Pauls. "They know this is something I've always wanted to do, so this has all just been so cool. The first season was indeed special, but there are so many great things to come. We are just getting started. I cannot wait for what's next."



SEPTEMBER 15 | 5:00-8:00PM

Family Skate with Nighthawk Players • Games • Ball Hockey Tournament
• Prizes • Autograph Alley • Bounce-y house • Face Painting • And much more...



Niverville
WHERE YOU BELONG

FIRST ANNUAL
NIVERVILLE NIGHTHAWKS
GOLF
TOURNAMENT



\$175 PER PLAYER | \$700 PER TEAM

SEPTEMBER 8
2023
MAPLEWOOD GOLF CLUB

REGISTER NOW

VISIT:
tickets.mjhlighthawks.ca

OR EMAIL:
kpauls@mjhlighthawks.ca

HOME OPENER
SEPT. 22



VS



SCAN HERE
TO PURCHASE
TICKETS



BEER GARDENS IN THE MPR ROOM ALONG WITH TORQUE | THE FLIGHT CREW TO DROP THE PUCK | PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

PLAYING THE LONG GAME:

The Nighthawks Have a Vision for the Future

By Ty Dilello

tdilello@nivervillecitizen.com

A lot goes into building a championship-calibre MJHL franchise year after year after year. For the Nighthawks, pulling off the first season was a huge milestone.

But it's only the first step.

Despite making the postseason in the inaugural season, the organization knows that it's going to be a long and winding road—a road that will hopefully lead to many championships for Niverville.

"It was important to us when this thing started a year and a half ago that we wanted to bring a competitive team to Niverville," says assistant general manager Mike McAulay. "We just didn't want to come in and limp around the league, so it was important to us that we found the right players to be competitive from the get-go. Being a year-one playoff team was always the goal. And we want to set that as the bar going forward. That's the minimum standard for us."

From his past experiences in coaching, head coach Kelvin Cech has seen on previous stops how powerful it is when you have high-character kids playing in town.

"Hockey ops-wise and staff-wise, we just want to see Niverville continue to be a destination for players, and we want it to be built around the players and built around bringing in the best players and the best human beings



The 2022-23 Niverville Nighthawks.

JUSTIN BRAUN

possible," says Cech.

Cech wants to see everything about the program continue to improve.

This includes the product on the ice, the culture off the ice, the facility itself, and the team's sponsorship and connections with the community and its many businesses.

In a results-based league like the MJHL, though, building a championship-calibre team is ultimately the

number one goal.

This is top of mind for everyone involved.

"We want to be a team that is knocking on the door deep in the playoffs every season and going on runs," says Cech. "And I know it's very easy to just say that."

So what do the Nighthawks need to do to make that happen?

"We just have to treat the players

right," says the coach. "At least, this is what I believe. Championship franchises are built around the players, coaches, training staff, medical staff, the volunteers, and just the people who have a hand in it on a daily basis. I think we need to build something that attracts those players. We've got people like Mike McAulay and our scouting staff who find players and find people to come in and contribute

to the team and are good players."

The Nighthawks are eager to attract the most elite players they can find, because that elite team is going to turn around and win championships for Niverville.

"Ultimately, it takes guys who go out on the ice every night to win games and put the puck in the net. And we want to keep bringing those guys in."

CHURCH OF THE ROCK™
NIVERVILLE

Join us on Sundays at 10:25AM
NIVERVILLE HERITAGE CENTRE, 100C HERITAGE TRAIL

See what our church family is all about!
KNOW GOD LIVE FREE FIND PURPOSE

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

CALL STACEY HEIDE TODAY
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!



204.914.2522
StaceyHeide@royallepage.ca
www.StaceyHeide.com

ROYAL LEPAGE
Prime Real Estate
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

All real estate services provided by Royce Finley Personal Real Estate Corporation
Not intended to solicit properties already listed.



Looking for fun & adventure?
Want to make new friends?
If so, join the

3234 Manitoba Horse Army Cadets

For youth, ages 12 to 18
We meet September to June – Thursdays 6:30 to 9:00 pm
In the St-Pierre Community Hall

Registration night is Sept 7, 2023 @ 7pm

(but registration is open all year)

Please bring participant's Birth Certificate and MB Health Card

Enrollment is FREE!

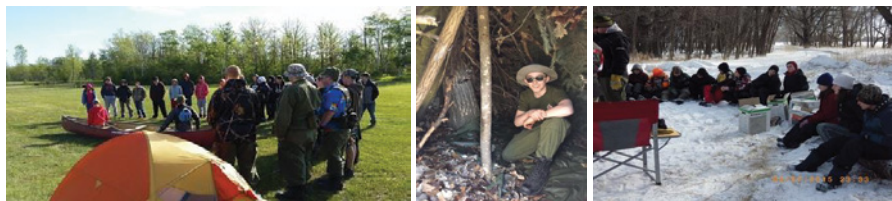
PARTICIPATE IN: Leadership, Citizenship, Community Service, Sports, Marksmanship, Drill, Orienteering and more!

For more information, please contact:

Capt Phil Atkinson
Commanding Officer, 3234 Manitoba Horse
Royal Canadian Army Cadets Corps
phillip.atkinson@cadets.gc.ca

View our facebook page at:

[3234 Manitoba Horse St Pierre Army Cadets](#) | [Saint-Pierre-Jolys MB](#) | [Facebook](#)



Naturopathic medicine & Acupuncture in Niverville

At Niverville Family Chiropractic - 106 Main St, Unit 102



Dr. Azza ElBakry
NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR

- Gut health •
- Detecting and healing food sensitivities •
- Hormonal balance & Women's health •
- Chronic inflammation and pains •
- Cancer care & Mistletoe therapy •
- IV therapies (coming soon) •

BOOK ONLINE:

www.naturecure-clinic.janeapp.com

BOOK BY PHONE:

431-277-9977



**Winnipeg
Mennonite
School**

EXPERIENCE

Premier education

Middle Years enrichment

Students experience learning outside the classroom



Strong academics

Caring teachers work with students to achieve educational excellence



visit www.mennoniteschool.ca

Do you have pain with intercourse?

At our clinic we will often see patients diagnosed with:

Vulvodynia - chronic pain or discomfort of the vulva.

Vaginismus - an involuntary tightening of the vaginal muscles which prevents penetration.

Dyspareunia - recurring genital pain caused by penetration.

Pelvic floor therapists can provide management strategies of these conditions, manual therapy to improve the relaxation/lengthening of these muscles, and suggest exercises/techniques that patients can work on at home to improve their symptoms.

You do not need to suffer in silence. Consult your primary healthcare provider to see if pelvic floor therapy may be the right treatment option for you.



**NIVERVILLE
PHYSIOTHERAPY
& SPORTS INJURY CLINIC**

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

IN BRIEF

Friendship Trail to Host Truth and Reconciliation Event

By Sara Beth Dacombe
sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

On Saturday, September 30 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., the St. Adolphe Friendship Trail Volunteer Group (FTVG) will host a Truth and Reconciliation Day event in honour of residential school survivors.

Gerry Lagasse is an active member in the FTVG and helps to maintain the site year-round. He also helps organize initiatives like group hikes, bonfires, and educational activities, including the annual Truth and Reconciliation Day event.

"The trail offers physical, mental, and spiritual well-being for our lovely community and all surrounding communities," says Lagasse.

Lagasse says that everyone is invited to the trail north of St. Adolphe to take part in educational activities honouring truth and reconciliation as well as fun events intended to bring the community together.

There will be a scavenger hunt for the children, woodcarving, fiddling and guitar, hoop dancers, and a presentation of the Orange Shirt Story.

A Red River cart will be on display and the RCMP tipi will be set up with volunteers on hand to discuss the

experiences and traditions of Indigenous people.

The Manitoba Métis Federation mobile unit will be on location for Métis citizenship registration and card renewal, as well as harvesters cards and tags available.

The St. Adolphe FTVG consists of five local seniors with a proud average age of "73 years young." The group started the Friendship Trail in 2019 and, in response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and its calls for reconciling acts for the future of Indigenous peoples in Canada, began to look for ways to tie in the beautiful riverside trail and the local history of the Métis in the Ritcho area.

The trail is a little over two kilometres long and is situated on the east side of the Red River north of St. Adolphe. There are four entrances along the trail, each of which are clearly marked with flags.

In 2022, the Friendship Trail secured a \$2,000 grant from the David Suzuki Foundation Healing Forest Initiative. They also received a Nature Award from Recreation Manitoba in March 2023 for having being a bird and deer sanctuary and connecting the community to nature through activities and education.

Memory Garden Brings Joy to Aging Seniors

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

Residents of the Heritage Life Personal Care Home (HLPCH) in Niverville received a special gift on August 23 as the facility's new Memory Garden was unveiled.

Accompanying PCH residents for the ribbon cutting ceremony were MP Ted Falk, Memory Garden committee members, as well as the wide variety of donors who made the project possible.

The unveiling ceremony also coincided with the tenth anniversary of the HLPCH.

The Memory Garden is a multisensory tactile garden specially designed with aging seniors in mind.

Features include an arbour surrounded by herb and butterfly gardens, a fountain, and a putting green.

Paintings by local seniors are scattered throughout a vast variety of plants and flowers, and an imported xylophone and drum set encourage residents to explore their musical abilities.

Nearby, a hand-crafted metal tree stands tall, showcasing the various donors that made it all possible. Local business Fusion Industries was commissioned for this



Ken Rempel, Shelly Mall, Anne Eastman, Shirley Hoult, Bonny Friesen, and Ted Falk. **BRENDA SAWATZKY**

piece of art.

Members of the three-person Memory Garden committee include Shirley Hoult of Communities in Bloom, Annette Fast, and Bonny Friesen, resource coordinator for the HLPCH.

Some of the leading donors behind the \$115,000 project include the Niverville Health and Community Foundation and Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. (NHHI).

"This project represents our community's commitment to the residents of the personal care home," said Anne Eastman, board member of the NHHI. "The garden plays a major part in their health and wellbeing. It helps to maintain all of their sensory functions from vision to hearing to smell, touch and taste."

MP Ted Falk also addressed the many gathered for the auspicious event.

"I'm delighted that the federal government through their New Horizons for Seniors program was able to provide \$25,000 towards the completion of this project," he told the gathered crowd.

HLPCH director, Shelly Mall, says that the garden has already proven its worth. A new resident who was experiencing reticence over their move into the facility felt a distinct sense of calm as they toured the new garden space.

Fast says that the memory garden dream began in 2021 upon the passing of resident Fred Kaita, an avid horticulturalist and community champion.

Before Kaita's passing,

he left his first legacy to the local seniors by creating the Norman Wittick rose garden on the grounds of the HLPCH.

Donations poured in upon Kaita's passing and the Memory Garden project was thus born.


Fast became involved in the committee due to her own love of horticulture, but she was also inspired by her mother, who lived at the HLPCH at the time. Fast witnessed firsthand the hardships posed on care home residents and their loved ones during the pandemic years.

Unfortunately, her mother never lived to see the unveiling of the Memory Garden.

"We saw the need to have something a little bit more special here during COVID because it was just devastating for families and for the residents that they could not go anywhere," says Fast.

Along with grants and foundation funders, an impressive array of individuals donated both financially and physically to bring the project to life.

The HLPCH Memory Garden, as unique and special as it is, is not open to the public. This little piece of heaven is here for the HLPCH residents and the loved ones who come to call.




Buy More Save More
Bonus Package

INSTANT REBATES UP TO

\$3000*

on qualifying Bosch Appliance Packages

**Bring out the best
in your kitchen.**



The all-new Bosch dishwashers are here! Our dishwashers offer the legendary quality and timeless design you expect, featuring quiet operation and our core wash and dry performance. Now's the time to step into a Bosch with Instant Rebates worth up to \$3000.

Up to \$1,800 on select Bosch appliances plus up to \$1,200 bonus instant rebate on qualifying kitchen packages (some products are excluded). See dealer for full terms & conditions or visit bosch-home.ca/en/special-offers

Offer valid on purchases made between September 7, 2023 – October 26, 2023.

*Rebate amount will vary depending on the amount of qualifying Bosch Appliance products purchased up to a maximum of \$3,000. Ascenta/100 series dishwashers are excluded from this promotional offer. All images are for illustration only, actual may vary. See dealer for more information.

*See in-store for full terms and conditions.

E&OE © 2023 BSH Home Appliances Ltd. All rights reserved.

Niverville's Movie Studio Delayed But Still Rolling Ahead

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

For many residents of the rural southeast, the wait for tangible proof of Niverville's promised movie studio may have seemed interminable. However, the project is still very much going forward, even though there is little evidence on the ground—so far.

Over the years, Niverville's town council has retained the services of Gord Daman to provide consultation on economic development and act as a government liaison for several ambitious projects undertaken over the years, including the CRRC as well as the upcoming \$110 million wastewater treatment project.

To ensure the arrival of Jette Studios, first announced in March, Daman has again been contracted to put his expertise to use. He's been working alongside the studio's owner, Juliette Hagopian, to keep things moving in the right direction.

"It is something of significant interest to the community to make sure that this succeeds," Daman says. "While it's been delayed, like so many things post-COVID for a variety of reasons, the full intent is still to be moving forward with construction by mid-fall. [Hagopian is] disappointed by that herself, because she needs to have everything up and ready by early to mid-spring. There are folks that want to use the facility and start producing movies, so that's something that she's very much focused on. The timeline is tight, but she believes she can deliver that."

Behind the scenes, Daman says, a lot of wheels and gears need to be greased before construction can begin.

While the land developer works through a mire of red tape for titles and subdivision rulings, Hagopian is faced with building local connections and making countless decisions while navigating the legal



Juliette Hagopian.

BY BRENDA SAWATZKY



Gord Daman.

BY C/O GORD DAMAN

requirements for a type of project so new to Manitoba.

"Juliette is extremely excited about moving forward, but it's just taking her a bit longer to pull together the broad range of items, from contracts to relationships related to... the film industry," Daman says.

While many of the original plans for the studio remain intact from the spring announcement, some aspects of the project may be shifting somewhat.

Daman says there has been some reconsideration given to the inflatable tent-like structure, known as a popup soundstage. This facility was to mirror the one recently installed by Hagopian's partners, Volume Global, in New York City.

Questions have arisen as to whether a different kind of structure might be more suitable to Manitoba's tough climate.

But while these decisions slow the process, Daman says there is an upside to taking a bit more time to be thorough. He explains that the company's reworked business plan is allowing them to consider the possibility of an earlier buildout for phase two of the project.

The state-of-the-art soundstage planned for phase one is to

be followed by other onsite infrastructure which will make it possible for the company to provide movie production services from start to finish.

Originally expected to begin a year or two later, Daman says that Jette Studios has developed a plan to jump into phase two as soon as phase one is complete.

Daman says that he has been thoroughly impressed by Hagopian and her business model so far. Her wide-angle vision for this studio puts less emphasis on her own success and more on the greater stage of the burgeoning Manitoba film industry as a whole.

"This is about developing a campus that will sincerely become a pinnacle for film development across the country that will, if she's successful, rival the Toronto and Vancouver sites."

Hagopian's dream for film production in Niverville is indeed very big, and one that could change the look of the local industry.

Niverville's production campus will be constructed as a one-stop shop for movie producers, providing office space, a carpenter mill, and a post-production facility that includes visual effects, picture, and

sound editing bays. To top it off, a 50-seat Dolby Atmos finishing theatre is planned to allow producers to view the final product.

But that's not all. Hagopian's vision also includes the building of a labour force in this province that, until now, has mostly been transient in nature, flying from location to location as needed.

Hagopian's plan is to create a studio where a good portion of the needed workforce is housed within the community on a short- or long-term basis. For this purpose, she has retained the option for an additional 14 acres of land next to the studio for the buildout of high-density housing if needed.

Training for this workforce is another component of the project—and one that has not been overlooked.

"Juliette has met with the province in regard to workforce training, acknowledging the fact that, if she's going to realize the vision that she has, related to the outgrowth of a campus which potentially could have 600 to 700 workers, workforce training is extremely important," says Daman.

The province has been receptive to working toward that goal, according to Daman, as they recognize the

significant economic impact that can be made by smoothing the way for Jette Studios and the local film industry in general.

Daman says that in his line of business, people with Hagopian's level of selfless passion don't come along every day.

"I have had the opportunity to work in municipalities across the province and I get to meet incredible folks that have profound visions for growing 'common good' in all of their communities," he says. "But I have met few individuals like Juliette who sincerely did not need to do this. She has her own studio in Winnipeg and she could simply carry on and make \$5- and \$10-million movies and she would have been fine. But her passion is driven by the future of the industry and by a younger generation of filmmakers."

There are countless lessons to be learned through experiences like this one, Daman says, not the least of which is the importance of relationship-building when it comes to paving the way to a brighter future.

In the case of Hagopian and Jette Studios, it all began with the lifelong friendship she's had with Niverville resident Henok Gabre, owner of Negash Coffee.

From there, the spark was ignited.

"Never underestimate the unique nature of our community and the importance of connecting with neighbouring friends," says Daman, "because one never knows how those conversations will actually connect to help deepen our community. At the end of the day, it's about relationships."

As to other exciting things residents should expect in the spring of 2024, Daman says that the previously announced upgrades in Niverville to Highway 311 are still on track. Last spring, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Doyle Piwniuk promised nearly \$41 million in upgrades that may include a roundabout and eventual twinning between the railway tracks and Wallace Road.



Hespeler's is participating in

BURGER DAYS

September 9TH - 16TH

COME TRY OUR

Ultimate Deli Stack



Peace Trek Raises Funds for Mental Health and Historical Preservation

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On August 19, 20 cyclists departed from the historic Mennonite Landing, located at the confluence of the Rat River and Red River, trekking their way along the Peace Trail to raise funds for the Eden Foundation and the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) in Steinbach.

For the second year running, the Peace Trek seeks not only to raise funds for some valuable causes but also to encourage recreational, social, and spiritual well-being while reliving some of Manitoba's earliest Mennonite history.

Nearly \$15,000 was raised this year.

The Peace Trail winds along its course for 45 kilometres, beginning at the landing site near the corner of Highways 311 and 200. It then follows what historians believe would have been the approximate route taken by many early Mennonites upon their arrival in Manitoba nearly 150 years ago.

The trail heads eastward along a series of rural roads and country paths, taking trekkers past six



Local historian Ernie Braun reads a blessing at the Peace Trek kickoff.

📷 NATHAN DYCK

historical landmarks before it ends at the Dirk Willems Peace Garden at the Mennonite Heritage Village.

The landmarks en route include the Métis lot commemorative plaques, the Shantz Sheds cairn, the Tourond Creek Discovery Centre, the site of the old Randolph Chortitz church, the Rosenthal Nature Park, and the Keating Cairn.

Gary Dyck is the executive director of the MHV. He says that the trail first began development about three

years ago and there's still a great deal to be done to complete the overall project.

Still to come are the addition of rest stops, footbridges, and other amenities to enhance the journey for trekkers wanting to retrace their ancestors' first movements.

He says that the first part of the trail closely mirrors the Mennonites' actual trek, because it heads straight to the Shantz Sheds.

"When they got off the steamboat,

they made the trek to the sheds that the Métis had constructed for them," says Dyck.

From there, he says, some Mennonite families headed straight east while others took a more southeasterly direction, settling new locations that would eventually become known as Kleefeld, Grunthal, Blumenort, Steinbach, and a number of other villages along the way.

The Peace Trail was created to

capture significant bits of Mennonite history as it goes.

"These different special things along the way just make the trail more significant, historically and spiritually," Dyck says.

The inclusion of the Tourond Creek Discovery Centre is intended to pay tribute to the many watersheds the Mennonite settlers would have watched for when determining where to settle.

These watersheds were essential to the settlers' ultimate survival in the unforgiving prairie.

The 2023 Peace Trek included a small ceremony at both ends of the trail. Local Niverville historian Ernie Braun kicked off the event by reading a blessing provided by Métis elder Lucy Guiboche.

With this year's Peace Trek behind him, Dyck says that he's already looking forward to next year's event.

"Next year will actually be bigger, because it will be the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Mennonite [arrival]," says Dyck.

Early planning for the 2024 event suggests that it may stretch over two days and include an actual ox cart pulled by oxen, accompanied by cyclists and other trekkers.

Big Changes in Store for Whitetail Meadow

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Six years after the iconic red barn at the west end of Highway 311 opened its doors, Whitetail Meadow is making room for guests to enjoy the pastoral site almost every day of the year.

Two new structures are on the rise next to the honeymoon cottage.

The new tent-like structure, known as the pavilion, will accommodate weddings booked at Whitetail Meadow in 2024.

When not in use for weddings, the pavilion, with capacity for 250, will be available for family reunions and other medium to large events.

Its open-air concept will lend itself to summer farmers markets.

"Unlike tent rentals or other seasonal wedding structure options, our structure is permanent, so on days with wild winds or pouring rain it will feel very solid," says Lori Neufeld, co-owner of Whitetail Meadow. "We



The new pavilion under construction at Whitetail Meadow.

📷 BRENDA SAWATZKY

will have large barn-type doors that guests can close in case of inclement weather. There will be pot lights as well as chandeliers, and of course Edison lights to illuminate the treed paths that lead to our riverside ceremony sites. We will also have a large patio area with a fireplace for guests to mingle."

A second building near the pavilion will provide space for washrooms and a walk-up bar.

Moving the wedding venue away from the barn, Neufeld says, will allow a broader range of clientele.

While nothing's been finalized, current plans for the barn include its conversion to a year-round café, gift shop, and winter market.

The Neufelds plan to continue sourcing goods, gifts, and provisions as locally as possible. And their love of the region means they'll look for ways to share the space with families in the surrounding communities.

"We are excited about the prospect of offering pop-up dinners and various other community events throughout the year," says Neufeld. "Although we want to grow some

of our ideas organically, we'd love to offer winter activities such as ice-skating and ski and snowshoe trails with a great place to warm up and grab a hot toddy afterwards."

Plans are already underway for a big Canada Day celebration in 2024.

The campus's cozy Marigold Cottage will serve a broader purpose as well. The once-exclusive bridal retreat will open its doors to the general public, providing visitors to the area with a comfortable stay and all the amenities, including a full kitchen, hot tub, and

balcony overlooking the landscaped grounds.

Plans for the current conversion of Whitetail Meadow began after COVID-19 restrictions began to lift.

"We felt that Whitetail Meadow's potential was limited as a wedding venue only," Neufeld says. "We really want this to be a space that we can share with everyone. Being open as a café and market year-round will also allow us to provide public activities without necessarily charging admission, as we've had to do in the past. We want this to be a fun and affordable place for people to come visit, shop, and dine."

In recent years, Neufeld and her husband Dave have been joined by their son, David Jr. and his wife Jenn, creating a well-rounded management team.

The soft opening of the new and improved Whitetail Meadow site is set to take place this coming December.



ColorProof
COLOR CARE AUTHORITY

ÉMINENCE
ORGANIC SKIN CARE
HUNGARY SINCE 1959

GOLDWELL

amika:

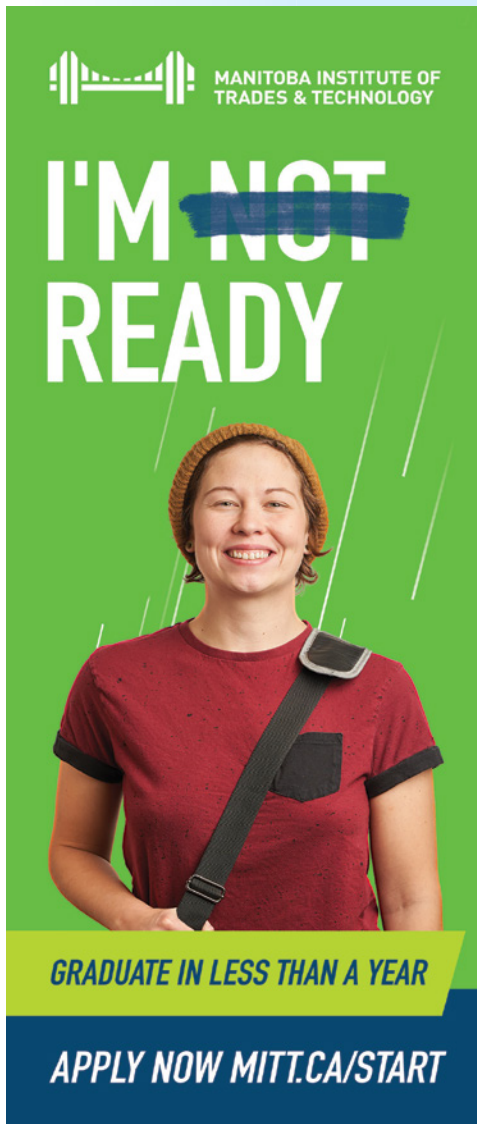
donehairskinandnails.com



SCOPE
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Building stronger leaders
and healthier teams

DARRELL KEHLER
Leadership Coach & Consultant
www.scopeleadership.com

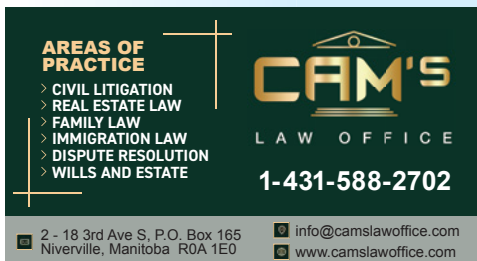


MANITOBA INSTITUTE OF
TRADES & TECHNOLOGY

**I'M NOT
READY**

GRADUATE IN LESS THAN A YEAR

APPLY NOW MITT.CA/START



AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

CAM'S
LAW OFFICE

1-431-588-2702

2 - 18 3rd Ave S, P.O. Box 165
Niverville, Manitoba R0A 1E0

info@camslawoffice.com
www.camslawoffice.com



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

President: Elvin Krahn | Vice-President: Ben Dueck | Executive Director: Bre-Ann Boulet
Treasurer: Nicholas Bergmann | Executive Member: Karen Albaugh
Members: Bryan Trottier, Sara Matwychuk, Brenda Sawatzky, Ferd Klassen

www.niverville.com



Winning team - Trotco Electric (Bryan Trottier, Derek Chubey, Keith Hooper, John Hendrix)

Our Annual Chamber Golf Tournament was a huge success!

Thank you to our amazing sponsors for their contribution.

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

- The Town of Niverville • WM Dyck & Sons •

GOLD SPONSORS:

- BSI Insurance • Fusion Industries • Ben Sawatzky Electric •
- Wiens Furniture • Von Ast Construction • Trotco Electric •

SILVER SPONSOR:

- JP Craft •

Hole Sponsors:

- Niverville Nighthawks and Torque Brewing • Talk to the Tail •
- TrueView Home Inspection • Red River Group • Smitty's Niverville
- RBC Steinbach • Clarity Vision • Nick Bergmann Realtor

DRINK AND MEAL SPONSORS:

- Talk to the Tail • Tim Horton's Niverville • Pita Pit • Sherlock

SWAG BAGS SPONSOR:

- The Citizen •

TEXAS MICKEY:

- Bryan Trottier •

Special thanks to Brad from Old Drover's Run for all of the help!



Lynley Box
Physiotherapy

204-803-9276
lynleyboxphysio.com

Thank you for your patience while I was away on maternity leave. I am now accepting new and returning clients.

With 5 years of experience in adult pelvic floor therapy, I am excited to expand this care to children to address their unique needs.

In clinic or home visits available to suit your needs.

PRICKLY PEAR

ORGANIC BODY SUGARING

"I love how prickly your legs feel."

-Said no one ever



Unit B, 10 Cedar Drive, Niverville

204.782.8610 pricklypearsugaring@gmail.com

 pricklypearbodysugaring



trotco
ELECTRIC INC.

24seven
CORPORATE
A VENTURA Development

BRYAN TROTTIER
204.371.3342 bryan@trotco.ca



country
SNACKS

Est. 1990

Home of Manitoba's Best Soft Ice Cream!

Delaquis Antiques FURNITURE

- SALES •
- REFINISHING •
- REPAIRS •

204-388-4850
pgdelaquis@gmail.com

Ritchot Council Denies Two Requests for Uses in Ag Zones

By Brenda Sawatzky

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On August 16, Ritchot's council denied applications for two conditional use permit requests.

Both were for alternative uses in areas designated agricultural limited and both faced unanimous objection.

AGGREGATE MINING FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The first application came from Nelson River Construction regarding a section of land owned by Bau-Four Developments Ltd. near Ste. Agathe.

Nelson River, contracted by the province for roadwork along Highway 75, hoped to extract clay materials from the property for use in the reconstruction of 13 kilometres of highway shoulder embankments between Ste. Agathe and Highway 205.

President of Nelson River Construction, Gord Lee, approached council to make the request and answer questions as they arose.

The extraction of materials, he said, would last only a brief period of time, beginning this fall and running to the spring of 2024, after which period the property would be regraded and sold.

The company would ensure that a 60-foot buffer remained

between the excavation area and the nearest neighbouring property.

Approximately 80,000 cubic meters of ground aggregate would be extracted from this property, but the quantity could vary by up to 20 percent, Lee told council.

Moving this amount of dirt in the scheduled timeframe would require between 100 to 200 semitrailers per day.

According to Lee, his company has done similar aggregate mining for a variety of projects across the province.

"We've created a lot of lakes as a result of these excavations," said Lee. "At the end of the day, what we give you... is a beautiful body of water. They turn into RV sites with sort of a manmade lake you can park a camper around. In the communities that we've worked in, we've never seen the creation of a waterhole that seemed negative."

Lee added that the pond would be graded to Manitoba standards, would not compromise the bank of the nearby Red River, and could ultimately prove useful to surrounding landowners for irrigation purposes.

"I profoundly disagree that this lot will be in better shape when you leave than when you got there," Councillor Shane Pelletier told Lee. "We're rendering the lot pretty much



Ritchot's council meets on August 16.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

useless for any other activity in the future... It's supposed to be returned to ag land once you're done mining it. Now, there's no way that can happen without filling the hole up."

Mayor Chris Ewen echoed Councillor Pelletier's thoughts and reiterated council's mandate to attempt to preserve, wherever possible, municipal agricultural lands.

"If we could get the material from the right-of-way off the highway, we wouldn't be having this conversation," Lee responded. "But unfortunately our provincial highways department hasn't made that available to us, and we have asked."

Two residents on neighbouring land approached council to speak against the proposal, one a direct neighbour to the south. Earlier that week he'd submitted a multipage report to council in support of his objection.

"This is not a pond, it's a lake," he told council. "A pond is an acre. This is five acres, 16 feet deep... I can't see how it's any benefit to the RM to have a standing body of water."

His primary concerns, he said, were the noise disruptions caused by upwards of 200 trucks per day along with inevitable pest issues and safety risks posed by a significant body of water so near to his property line.

Councillor Janine Boulanger suggested the addition of conditions which would limit the hours of operation to working hours from Monday to Friday.

"It's a great opportunity, for sure," Ewen concluded. "We need the economic growth and we need that highway to be fixed, 100 percent. But I think there's other opportunities in other places."

Ewen offered to write a letter to the province on Nelson

River's behalf, encouraging them to reconsider the use of materials excavated from highway rights-of-way.

HOME-BASED BUSINESS FOR VISION BOARD WORKSHOPS

Ritchot resident Pauline Grouette also approached council at Wednesday's meeting. She requested a permit to run a home-based business from her property on Marchand Road.

The request included the construction of a building separate from her home where vision board workshops could be hosted.

As a vision board facilitator and coach, Marchand told council, her workshops have been held offsite or online until now.

Given the nature of her clientele, Grouette believes that a safe rural locale would be beneficial for clients dealing with mental health issues.

"There is no one in Manitoba who offers vision board workshops like this," she said. "Traffic would be very limited [to my facility]. I would hold two workshops per month... and five to ten people at most... because it's about wellness and getting back to nature."

One neighbouring resident approached council demonstrating vehement objection to the proposition. The access

driveway between Grouette and herself is shared, she told council, with the main access lying on her own property.

Traffic and driveway maintenance were among her main concerns.

She also reminded council that the land in question is zoned ag limited, where commercial uses have no place.

"The shared access is not for commercial purposes," she said. "It's a private contract between two individuals. It's for private use only and cannot be turned into a public road and that's what she's attempting to do."

This neighbour worried, too, that if workshop attendees were allowed to roam Grouette's property, it may put her own children at risk.

Councillor Boulanger agreed.

"I'd be concerned about the safety of the neighbouring people," Boulanger remarked. "If this is a vision board for wellness, it sounds like mental health... I can't imagine having anybody scarier on my property or the property beside me than somebody that's not well mentally."

As well, she added, Marchand Road is already compromised and adding to the traffic wouldn't be a good idea.

Grouette's request was declined.



Niverville Family Chiropractic

Offering proactive, quality healthcare for families since 2007.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
Contact us to schedule your appointment.

Family Friendly Chiropractic Care.

nivervillefamilychiro.com Ph: (204) 388-6195

55 PLUS APARTMENT RENTAL IN NIVERVILLE

55 plus apartment building located in Niverville has a 1-bedroom suite available for rent. Niverville Place is a 14-suite single level apartment within walking distance of many local facilities including a grocery store.

The available suite is newly renovated with kitchen cabinets, windows, flooring, lighting, paint plus new fridge & stove:

- 575 sq ft
- 1 bedroom
- 1 bathroom
- storage room
- air conditioning
- outdoor parking spot
- common room available for socializing
- on-site common area coin operated laundry facilities

Rent is \$950.00 per month the rent includes water & sewer. A list of 3 references needs to be provided and confirmed before a potential tenant is accepted. Once accepted a credit bureau authorization form needs to be signed by the new potential tenant.

To apply, please contact Nicole English:
Email: nicole.english@nivervillecu.mb.ca
Phone: 204-388-4747



HANOVER SCREW PILE

Foundation Repair, underpinning, levelling, water proofing

Cottage levelling

Solar ground mounts

Piles for Houses, decks, sun rooms

General Construction framing, decks, fences

204-388-9037

HanoverScrewPile.ca

Commentary

Not in My Backyard? In Defence of Community Support for Mental Health

By Daniel Dacombe

Recently, a resident of the RM of Richot made a request at a council meeting to host a home-based business at their property. This business would conduct workshops in a rural, natural environment for individuals working on their mental health.

For a number of salient reasons, including zoning issues and questions about road access, that request was denied.

However, in the course of the discussion a local councillor made a comment about not being able to imagine anything “scarier on my property or the property beside me than somebody that’s not well mentally.”

Putting aside the way in which that perspective further victimizes individuals experiencing mental health crises, this incident is a curious local example of a phenomenon that for the past 40 years has been studied under the phrase “not in my backyard,” which is sometimes shortened to NIMBY.

The origin of this idea goes back to the early 1980s, if not earlier, and appeared in newspapers first as a description of citizens’ oppositional reactions to local land development.

The implication of the phrase “not in my backyard” is not that individuals necessarily think a development in question shouldn’t happen anywhere—just that it shouldn’t happen *here*, near *my* property, where it could potentially affect me and/or the value of my land.

Initially, nimbyism was brought up in relation to infrastructure development, waste facilities, and certain types of businesses—such as



DEPOSITPHOTOS

adult video stores, if anyone remembers what those were.

But the idea quickly became associated with people’s responses to accommodations or services that primarily benefit people dealing with disadvantages. Think: subsidized housing, halfway housing for people in substance use recovery, group homes for individuals with physical or mental disabilities, homeless shelters, and supportive housing for individuals with mental health issues.

These have all become primary targets of NIMBY politics.

Even homes designed for families with lower incomes have been criticized for this reason, as has been seen in our local area—or anywhere else one cares to look.

Especially in the United States, some groups have leveraged NIMBY ideology to support racially segregated neighbourhoods.

The outcry in Winnipeg over the “urban reserve” at the former

Kapyong Barracks along Kenaston Boulevard shows that we Canadians are not immune from these prejudices.

When it comes to mental health supports being located in the community, few people making NIMBY arguments would say that individuals in recovery don’t deserve support. They certainly don’t believe our communities shouldn’t have homeless shelters at all.

Rather, they want them to be somewhere isolated, away from the rest of the community, thus minimizing the community’s exposure to perceived or assumed negative consequences.

These hypothetical consequences often include damage to property, reduced value, and the risk of violence to local families (especially children). They may ask, “Isn’t it better to put these services far away and avoid any possible dangers?”

These arguments are often made independent of actual data, which

especially in cases of mental health issues show that the lack of access to services and the imposition of distance from support systems are clear predictors of poor mental health outcomes.

When we locate services in accessible places, people in need are able to reach them more easily—and these people tend to get better.

By contrast, there has been no consistent data to support the idea that mental health facilities of any kind negatively impact property values. Such concerns feed the growing public perception, reflected in the Richot councillor’s recent comments, that individuals with mental health issues represent a violent danger to society.

According to National Stigma Studies between 1996 and 2018, the public in North America increasingly perceives that people with mental health issues—specifically schizophrenia, alcohol issues, and major depression—are a danger to

themselves or others.

Pertaining to schizophrenia alone, 60 percent of those surveyed indicated that an individual with schizophrenia is a danger to others.

While this data is American, the perception in Canada is evolving in a similar direction.

The fear is not supported by the data. Individuals with mental health issues are drastically, overwhelmingly, more likely to be victims of violent crime than they are to be perpetrators.

In fact, a comprehensive review of many studies investigating the confluence of mental illness and violence found that if all violent acts committed by individuals with psychotic or mood disorders were eliminated from society, interpersonal violence would drop by a mere four percent. The vast majority of violent acts would continue unabated.

Clearly, the stigma is unfounded.

We should be extremely cautious when we feel the impulse to limit mental health supports in our communities.

Statistically, one in three Canadians will experience a mental illness. It is likely that many of us who would say “not in my backyard” will one day need those services.

Improving access to such services, making them more available, and reducing barriers is a kind, supportive way in which we can further build community.

It makes good sense to reduce stigma through education and by creating opportunities for our neighbours to get the help they need. After all, if we are determined to avoid people in crisis, we will have lonely lives indeed.

prairie soul
DANCE COMPANY

2023/2024 Season Registration
On Now!

EMAIL US FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Directors:
Melanie Ducharme
Danielle Auld

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

Follow us on
f i

performance
insulation

Suppliers and installers of
complete insulation packages

performance-insulation.ca
204-408-3310

- Attic Blow in
- Spray foam
- BIBS – High Performance Insulation System
- Wall insulation

FREE ESTIMATES

Bristal
HAULING

Arts & Entertainment

Summer Festivals Return to Pre-Pandemic Form

By Sara Beth Dacombe

✉ sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

Summer festivals across our corner of the southeast returned in style this year, after having been cancelled or offering only limited programming during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After Niverville's successful Olde Tyme Country Fair in June, crowds also came back to Ste. Agathe and St. Pierre-Jolys to enjoy the full spectrum of fun, food, and community-minded festivities.

In each case, the crowds were rewarded with outstanding weather.

CHEYENNE SUMMER FEST

The Cheyenne Summer Festival was held in Ste. Agathe on July 14-15, offering entertainment for the whole family with music, fireworks, a ball tournament, a horseshoe tournament, activities for kids, Fris-Nok, and more.

The event is also known for its annual pancake breakfast and parade, neither of which disappointed.

Organizers put in an incredible amount of work before the event in order to deliver the thirty-fourth Cheyenne Festival. The weekend brought together the entire community for a celebration filled with joy, music, sports, and delicious



Frog Follies board members with children's entertainer Al Simmons.

📷 FROG FOLLIES COMMITTEE

food.

Eric Gagnon chairs the organizing committee and gave an enthusiastic review of the event.

He says that the parade down Pembina Trails was filled with colourful floats, enthusiastic participants, and smiling faces lining the streets. It showcased a spirit of togetherness and community pride.

Music enthusiasts were treated

to an unforgettable performance by the talented band 5-GPT. Their rock tunes and energetic beats had everyone dancing and singing along.

"The night sky was illuminated with a mesmerizing display of fireworks, painting vibrant colours that left the audience in awe," says Gagnon. "A perfect ending to an already spectacular day!"

Saturday featured the annual

pancake breakfast with musical entertainment provided by the melodies of Simon Reimer.

Sports lovers had a blast participating in a series of tournaments, featuring baseball, horseshoe, and Fris-Nok. Gagnon says the friendly competition brought out the best in everyone and fostered a sense of camaraderie.

"And the highly anticipated

Cheyenne Supper, catered by Chicken Delight, was a... delight!" he adds. "The entertainment from Quantum Dance Studio was nothing short of mesmerizing. The perfect combination of food and performance left everyone with cherished memories. To top it all off, the Circus Social, featuring DJ Jay Walker, was a night of pure joy and dancing under the stars. It was the perfect way to end the festival, leaving everyone with a spring in their step."

Even though the festival had been able to host some activities in 2022, this year's event built upon those efforts and brought the event back put to its pre-COVID level.

"It had been two years since we had put on a proper festival, and we had many new folks join the committee," he says. "Thankfully, with these new members came fresh ideas. We built on that momentum... and are looking extremely forward to the Cheyenne Summer Festival's thirty-fifth anniversary next year."

Gagnon credits the hard-working organizers, as well as the many committed volunteers, for the success of the event.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank our amazing organizing committee," he says. "Our committee is composed of a good mix of new faces and veterans, and their volunteerism is deeply appreciated by the

DOWSE VENTURES
NIVERVILLE COMMERCIAL LEASE SOLUTIONS
www.dowseventures.com | 204-346-3041

EXCEL GRAPHICS
GRAPHIC DESIGN DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING VEHICLE DECALS LARGE FORMAT PRINTING
204.388.4279 • 77 MAIN STREET, NIVERVILLE, MB
www.excelgraphics.ca

got stuff?
STORAGE
204-392-5472
nivervilleindoorstorage@gmail.com
299 Main Street, Niverville
We Reward Referrals!

Little Flower Shop
www.littleflowershopevents.ca

Gan's Kitchen
CHINESE & CANADIAN FOOD EXPERIENCE
154 MAIN STREET, NIVERVILLE 204-388-6904

MIGHTY DUCTS
CLEANING CO. LTD.
Richard Kirwan
204.392.5665
richard@mightyducts.ca
www.mightyducts.ca
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL DUCT CLEANING

MEL'S SEPTIC SERVICES
SINCE 1989
Year round service
Servicing Southeast Manitoba
24 hour Emergency Services
Residential and Commercial
204-388-4201
call or text

OAK ISLAND DESIGNS
Justin Patenaude
204.955.0092
info@oakislanddesigns.com
Website design • Logo design • Shopify
Content & SEO • Website management
www.oakislanddesigns.com



Fun was had by all at the annual Cheyenne Summer Fest.

CHEYENNE SUMMER FEST COMMITTEE

community of Ste. Agathe.”
The Cheyenne Summer Fest would also not be possible without dedicated sponsors, which include the federal and provincial government, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, the RM of Ritchot, and many other local partners.

FROG FOLLIES

The annual Frog Follies took place in St. Pierre-Jolys on August 10-13.

The event has been running since 1970 when the festival was first created to welcome Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles on their visit to Manitoba. The royals spent 20 minutes in town to commemorate the event—and the rest is history.

“Minus the COVID years, we haven’t missed a beat,” says Frog Follies president Roxane Gagné.

Despite having skipped a few years, organizers rallied. This year’s festival featured the Flame Syndicate Show, the Roseau River Dance Troupe, creative genius and

children’s entertainer Al Simmons, Diamond Disc Dogs, some French traditional bands (such as Cht’koot), and many outstanding musical guests.

“Notable this year was the recollaboration with the St. Pierre-Jolys Agricultural Society. We joined forces after several years apart,” says Gagné. “[It was a] huge success with more entries this year, the Best in Show going to local artist Robert Lahaie for a gorgeous wood sculpture. We also formed a new collaboration with the Stand Market and Events from Kleefeld.”

The weather was great and challenges minimal.

“Except for wasp management, and drawing more ‘young adults’ to the festival,” she adds. “We have a plan for next year to have a more appealing night for that age group.”

The frog-jumping competition is always a hit with festivalgoers, young and old. A representative from Fort Whyte Alive was onsite to

emcee the contest and provide lots of information about the athletic amphibians.

The winner of this year’s competition was six-year-old Colten Poirier, who also happened to be the volunteer responsible for catching, caring for, and releasing the frogs back to their natural habitat afterwards.

Admission for the agricultural fair and all entertainment on the exhibition grounds was free and the board wishes to thank all of their amazing sponsors for their commitment to making the event a success. Board members included Roxane Gagné, Josée Curé, Rolly Gagné, Janessa Alumba, Tammy Gigolyk, Brigitte Kelly, and Lukas Hadley.

“We have several sponsors listed on our Facebook page and most are from the St. Pierre Chamber of Commerce. Too many to list!”

Gagné also gave a special mention to Ralph Collette from St. Pierre En Boom for being “a super volunteer.”



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

- KEN & LYNN



Like Ken & Lynn, you can:

GET A FREE HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP.

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

- ✓ Get your home insulated for FREE (including the materials and the installation).
- ✓ Get a new natural gas furnace upgrade for \$9.50* or \$25** per month for 5 years.
- ✓ 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
204-944-8088 or toll free 1-888-944-8088



*When replacing a standard efficiency natural gas furnace.
**When replacing a mid-efficiency natural gas furnace.

Natural gas efficiency programs are funded in part by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.



329 Bronstone Drive
Niverville, MB
R0A 1E0



1-204-388-4600
feedback@whereyoubelong.ca
www.whereyoubelong.ca

Niverville’s 2023 property tax bills have been mailed.

If you have not received your bill, you may request a copy. New property owners are reminded that they are responsible for the payment of the property taxes whether or not they have received a tax notice in their name. If you would like to request a copy of the tax statement for your property or have questions regarding your property taxes, email taxes@whereyoubelong.ca or call 204-388-4600 ext. 1209.

All tax payments must be received in the Town Office (329 Bronstone Drive) by 5 p.m. on the due date. Cheques may be post-dated to the due date (Sept. 29, 2023) but must be received by the Town Office **on or before September 29, 2023, by 5 p.m.** or they will be considered late and will be subject to a penalty. Receipts may be emailed upon request or picked up at the Town Office.

All property taxes remaining subsequently unpaid are subject by law to a penalty of 1.25% per month (compounded annually). **STATEMENTS CURRENTLY SHOWING ARREARS WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES.** Call the Town Office or log in to your eServices account for an updated balance on the day the payment will be remitted. Please allow at least 3 business days for bank processing.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the “Town of Niverville”.

Visit www.whereyoubelong.ca for the various payment options.

Serving Winnipeg & the Rural SouthEast

Fleuriste Flowers

431-977-0777
www.xoflowers.biz

ALAIN ROBERT
President

Box 128
Ste-Agathe, MB
R0G 1Y0

alain@steagatheservice.com
PHONE: 204-882-2155
FAX: 204-882-2189

COMPLETE CAR CARE SERVICE

www.steagatheservice.com

MUNICIPALITÉ RITCHOT
MUNICIPALITY

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

AVERAGE JOE'S FITNESS

204-408-8855 | info@averagejoesfitness.ca
10 Cedar Drive, Niverville

SIGN UP TODAY
averagejoesfitness.clickfunnels.com/signup-checkout



SITE FEATURES:

- VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
- GATED, WELL LIT COMPOUND
- 24 HOUR ACCESS
- AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS
- MONTH TO MONTH RENTALS
- NEWLY PAVED SITE
- EPOXY SEALED FLOORS

NEW SELF-STORAGE UNITS

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

NON CLIMATE CONTROLLED

5' x 10'	10' x 10'
\$89	\$149
10' x 15'	8' x 20'
\$199	\$209
10' x 20'	12' x 20'
\$249	\$279

85% FULL

CLIMATE CONTROLLED

5' x 10'	7½" x 10'
\$109	\$149
10' x 10'	10' x 15'
\$179	\$269
10' x 17½'	10' x 20'
\$289	\$319



OUTDOOR PARKING STALLS

- \$45 10' WIDE; MAX 20' LONG
- \$60 12' WIDE; MAX 30' LONG
- \$65 12' WIDE; MAX 38' LONG

