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## LOCAL NEWS

### The results of the federal election are in.

Details on Page 4



### Niverville Remembers

■ We've got all the details of this year's Remembrance Day service on November 11.

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## SPORTS & RECREATION

### Sizing Up the Jets

■ Niverville's own Tim Hiebert watches every home game from the press box. His monthly column begins now.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### The Marc and Mandy Show

■ Believe it or not, Blumenort is home to a nationally syndicated television program. Matt Falk has the details.

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School overcrowding a concern as enrollment continues to increase.

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Niverville Elementary School.

■ DUSTIN KRAHN | EXCEL GRAPHICS

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Marshall Douglas, Doug Dyck, and Justin Dyck accept their awards.

DOUG DYCK

# Heritage Lane Builders Wins Big at Parade

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

At the fall Parade of Homes award ceremony on October 17, Heritage Lane Builders took home 4 awards for houses built in Niverville and St. Adolphe. Among the prizes were 2 gold, 1 bronze, and a special recognition honour.

"Our homes were single family, and the awards go by price category," says Doug Dyck, President of Heritage Lane Builders, a family company which he operates along with his two sons, Justin and Marshall. "1 of the golds was

\$417,900, the other gold was \$339,900, and the bronze was \$354,900. The special recognition was a townhouse."

The special recognition award exists for noteworthy homes which do not have significant competition in their category.

Since they started competing in the Parade in 2008, Dyck's company has seen great success, winning awards in 6 out of 7 years. Notably, Heritage Lane also won 3 golds this previous spring.

"The criteria is based on quality of finish," says Dyck. "All the representatives of the

Parade are well-versed in the qualities of the build." He adds that winning these awards is about more than the finish; it's about what people can't see.

While many builders are active in Niverville, Heritage Lane Builders is the only company that is COR certified (Certificate of Recognition), a safety program required by the Parade of Homes.

Overall, this fall's Parade had 130 homes from 33 developers in 35 different developments. The Parade is operated by the Manitoba Homebuilders Association.



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# Ted Falk Wins Re-Election in Provencher, Liberals Take Power

By Evan Braun and Brenda Sawatzky

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On Election Day, October 19, Conservative MP Ted Falk won re-election in the riding of Provencher. However, this time he'll head back to Ottawa as an opposition Member of Parliament—and 60 of his former colleagues in the Conservative caucus won't be joining him.

That's because the Liberals, under the leadership of Justin Trudeau, surged from just 36 seats to an improbable 184, more than enough to form a majority government in the 338-seat House of Commons, a result few political observers saw coming.

"It's disappointing, of course. We would have much preferred another majority mandate for our Conservative party," Falk says. "So that will be interesting, but we'll adjust. We'll do what we have to and we'll build relationships with the Liberals."

Falk earned 55.8 percent of the vote, down slightly from 58.2 percent in the 2013 by-election when he replaced outgoing Conservative MP Vic Toews. In 2011, Toews had been elected with 70.6 percent of the vote.

"I feel absolutely wonderful about the numbers," says Terry Hayward, the Liberal Party

candidate. He took second place with 34.4 percent. "We've improved our vote count substantially since 2011, when we only had 7 percent of the vote. That's a great compliment to the great team I had."

Hayward says that even he did not expect the overwhelming Liberal majority that voters across the country delivered. "But I felt things change about 3 weeks ago, even at the doors here in Provencher. We were getting people interested in what we were saying."

"With the strong surge that the Liberals have had the last couple of weeks, I'm actually really happy with my numbers," Falk says about the local results. "It looks like I'm in the low to mid-50s. And it would have been nice to be closer to 70."

Voter turnout in Provencher improved significantly. According to data from Elections Canada, the turnout here was 69.81 percent, up from 62 percent in 2011 and only 34 percent in 2013. The national turnout was 68.5 percent, the highest this country has seen since 1993.

This year's 11-week campaign was one of the longest

in Canadian history, and also the costliest, with the Conservatives calling the election all the way back on August 2. Normally, elections in Canada last 36 days. This one was more than twice that length.

"For us, obviously, the campaign was very long," Falk says. "We would have preferred a campaign that would have been a more 36-day campaign as opposed to 11 weeks. I think there's obviously things that the national leaders would have

proud of that. It's something that there was pressure for us to do, because statistics show that it works."

"All 4 of us ran a very positive campaign," Hayward agrees, referring to Falk, NDP candidate Les Lilley, and Jeff Wheelodon from the Green Party. "On the national front, I couldn't be more proud of anyone than I am of our leader, Justin Trudeau. It was a positive message he gave... I applaud him for being such a very positive individual."

On election night, Trudeau sounded a conciliatory note when addressing the nation from his home riding in Montreal. "Stephen Harper has served this country for a decade, and as with anyone who has devoted their life to this country, we thank [him] for his service," Trudeau says. "I want to remind everyone, as I said many times over the course of this campaign, Conservatives are not our enemies; they're our neighbours. Leadership is about bringing people of all different perspectives together."

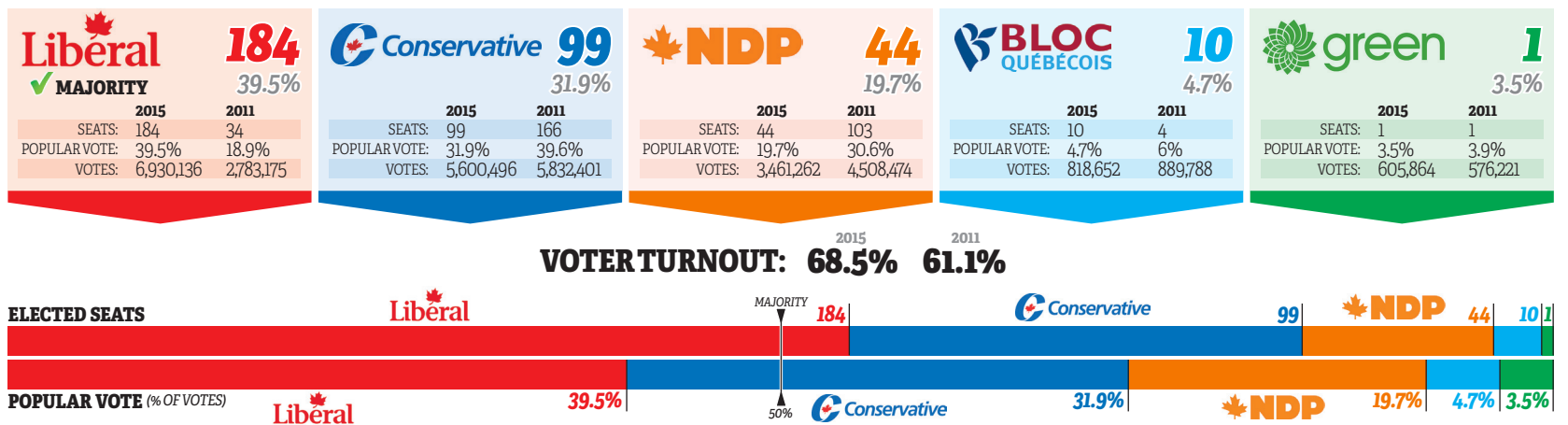
"In the last 9 and a half years, I have had the incredible honour to serve as your

prime minister," Harper said from Calgary, appearing in good spirits despite his party's setbacks. "Our country is one of the most enduring democracies in the world today, and today for the 42nd time in 148 years, Canadians have chosen a national Parliament. While tonight's result is certainly not the one we had hoped for, the people are never wrong. The people have elected a Liberal government, a result that we accept without hesitation."

In a short statement, Harper stepped down from his leadership of the Conservative Party. He will continue to serve as a Member of Parliament for his constituents in Calgary Heritage.

Trudeau ended the night with an infusion of optimism for the future of our country. "My friends, we beat fear with hope. We beat cynicism with hard work. We beat negative, divisive politics with a positive vision that brings Canadians together. Most of all, we defeated the idea that Canadians should be satisfied with less, that good enough is good enough, and that better just isn't possible. Well, my friends, this is Canada. And in Canada, better is always possible."

## "We'll do what we have to and we'll build relationships with the Liberals."



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# Commentary



Trudeau on the campaign trail.

DREAMSTIME

# Real Change is Here

By Greg Fehr

While party strategists may lay the best plans and pollsters the most refined algorithms, it is ultimately the voice of the people that roars loudest. And so we sit following an election with unprecedented final tallies, wondering how this came to be.

Watching the polls on a daily basis leading up to Monday's finale, the direction was fairly clear. Change was coming and our two frontrunner parties were on the decline. The final predictions prior to polls closing accurately predicted a Liberal victory with the question of minority/majority largely swirling in the direction of the Quebecois vote.

There is no doubt that many Tory strategists viewed the early and decisive win in Atlantic Canada with mixed thoughts. They saw a region

they had already lost months ago confirm their Liberal intentions, but they also saw extreme margins of victory that essentially used up more votes than necessary to secure seats. Quick calculations were likely made to see if these inefficiencies had bled off enough of the projected Liberal popular vote for Tories to still secure seats in Ontario and Quebec. Ultimately, many of the ridings in the rest of the country were won with more traditional vote percentages, leading to a significant number of new Liberal MPs.

It is also interesting to speculate on the impact of strategic voting. While difficult to measure, the numbers indicate that this had a big impact in many close ridings. It can only be described as a close to perfect transfer of the vote from the NDP to the Liberals (with some transfer also from the Greens). Indeed, many ridings that

might otherwise have seen a Tory victory with about 30 percent of the vote (the result of vote-splitting) went Liberal instead.

In this age of technology, information moves fast, and many people got on board with the movement to "vote out Harper." Strategists of all stripes will be planning countermeasures in future elections—because if such a strategy, along with an increased showing from youth and First Nations voters, can turn a minority prediction into a reasonable majority, it cannot be ignored. The higher voter turnout is an indication of this, and let us all hope for the health and future of our democracy that this is only the beginning of increased engagement.

While Mr. Harper, during the final weeks of the campaign, said, "It is not about me," it seems that few people, including him, really believed that. We

need only listen to the critics, many within his own party, to agree with the adage that this election was a referendum on the leadership of Stephen Harper. While I am confident that history will show the positive impacts of his time in office, today's analysts put the blame squarely on his shoulders. This may not be fair, but in true Maritime fashion, the captain goes down with the ship. This is not a new story. In every election, while some people are voting in a party, the bulk of the populace is really voting the incumbent out.

With the dust settling and the wounds mostly licked, we now turn to the question of how the new Parliament will function. Mr. Trudeau has said that "Conservatives are not our enemies, they are our neighbours" and "338 MPs were elected in this nation and I intend to work with all

of them." But what will this look like in action? While we may feel encouraged by what appears to be a return to cooperation and civility, we are not naïve. We know that all-party Kumbaya sessions are unlikely.

A pragmatic expectation is a more respectful dialogue between MPs of all stripes and increased autonomy for MPs and cabinet ministers. It may be a given, but respect for the justice system should also result—a refreshing change after a decade of workarounds and disagreements with the Supreme Court. All of these changes should result in more balanced decision-making. If this is achieved, it will not only be a victory for Mr. Trudeau and his caucus, but for all Canadians who don't play the House of Commons game but ultimately live the consequences.



# The Chamber Corner



## Winterfest & Market - count the sleeps

Circle the date on your calendar and join the fun!

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Niverville Community Services, Niverville Elementary School Parent Council, and the Girl Guides of Canada for this great event.

The chamber is hosting the first ever Winterfest Market in the Niverville High School. We have a variety of enthusiastic vendors whose products will make great gifts or a special little something just for you. We have .... handcrafted jewelry; body creams and lotions; lots of goodies, candies, cookies, cakes, buns, and preserves; cosmetics, hair, and nail products; knitted and crocheted goods; glass art and painting; flower arrangements; mukluks; woodworking; clothing and lots, lots more.

### Schedule (Free admission to all events)

**Market:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Niverville Collegiate, 161 5th Avenue S.

**Holiday shoppes for kids:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Photos with Santa, Holiday Gift Shop and more.

Niverville Elementary, 181 Main Street

**Skating with Santa:** 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

**Dinner with Santa (\$4):** 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
Both at the Niverville arena

**Community Christmas Tree Lighting**  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Hot chocolate, sleigh rides, carolling

## Volunteer of the month

Mayor Myron Dyck (l) on behalf of Town Council and Mel Buhler (r) on behalf of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce were pleased to award the Volunteer Appreciation Award for October to John (m), Tom and Bonnie Schmitke. The Schmitkes, owners of Niverville Bigway, are true community supporters. They generously volunteer their products for fundraisers, school programs, charities, and local community events, contributing to the success of projects that help make Niverville such a great place to live.



## Wine & cheese mixer

The chamber's fourth wine and cheese mixer was a little sweeter this year with the addition of chocolate to the mix. Members had a great time updating each other on their business ventures and shared some personal insights when answering surprise questions. The chamber would like to thank Chris Lenchyshyn of Prairie Wide Spray Foam for sponsoring the event.

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Artist's rendering of the new Heritage Life Retirement Living building.

STEVEN NEUFELD

# \$14-Million Facility Rounds Out 55-Plus Living in Niverville

By Natalie Batkis

nbatkis@nivervillecitizen.com

If you've been around the Niverville Heritage Centre recently, it's hard to miss the construction happening on the southeast corner of the campus. This new \$14-million facility is the Heritage Life Retirement Living complex and it's the last piece of a dream that started over 15 years ago.

Steven Neufeld, Chief Executive Officer of the Heritage Centre and the Executive Director of the Personal Care Home, explains how the Heritage Centre campus came to be.

"I served on Town Council between 2000-2004, and we were facing the reality that the aging community was

declining," says Neufeld.

Essentially, without basic support services, seniors were leaving.

"The idea that we had was to create what we had termed 'aging in place,'" Neufeld explains. "Aging in place' means you have independent living, assisted living, supported living, and personal care home options."

The dream was to build an intergenerational facility—a gathering place for the entire community—and create various levels of living options for people 55-plus and for those requiring assisted living. The first priority was to build the Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC).

In 2004, the Town of Niverville purchased the existing

banquet facility on the Heritage Centre site from a private owner and added the PHCC and commercial space. In 2005, Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. (NHHI), a not-for-profit corporation established by the Town of Niverville, began operating as an "arm's length" entity to own, develop, and manage assets within the Town of Niverville and region. The NHHI opened the Niverville Credit Union Manor and accompanying atrium in May 2007.

In 2009, NHHI purchased the St. Adolphe Personal Care Home and lobbied Manitoba Health to rebuild it. Due to periodic flooding, it couldn't be rebuilt in St. Adolphe, so the facility was built at the Heritage

Centre campus.

The Heritage Life Personal Care Home opened in 2013. The \$13.8-million, 80-bed facility was the country's first special-care unit tailored for aggressive Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

With 3 levels of the "aging in place" continuum established, it was time to tackle the independent living component, which brings us to the current construction.

The Heritage Life Retirement Living project, being built by Von Ast Construction, will be a 4-storey, 46-suite life lease residence that will also include 2 hotel rooms available to the general public.

Included among the amenities: a variety of suite sizes,

heated underground parking, large storage lockers, balconies, and a variety of à la carte services such as housekeeping, laundry, and food services.

In addition, the new life lease project will house the new Primary Care Access Centre (PCAC). Located on the main level, the goal of the new PCAC is to create a single-access point for health care services. The long-term plan is to move towards 24-hour access, 7 days a week.

"We don't ever look at this just for Niverville," Neufeld says. "We look to our friends and neighbours from Hanover, Ritchot, and Taché that will also benefit from this."

The services located in the current PHCC will be relocated

to the new building. Services will include access to primary care clinicians, such as physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants, as well as access to nurses, lab services, a chronic disease team, public health, Family First program, and mental health services. The vacant space at the current PHCC will be used to create more services for families.

"Now when you look at the demographics, the percentage of seniors 65-plus is in the healthy range," Neufeld says. "The community responded to that need and we've seen that change happen."

The expected completion date of the Heritage Life Retirement Living residence is February 1, 2017.

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# Is a New School



**BRENDA  
SAWATZKY**

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Three years after the provincial government's initiative to reduce class sizes, an expansion of Niverville Elementary School (NES) has finally been approved. The Kindergarten to Grade 4 school will see the addition of 5 new classrooms by fall of 2016. The province's mandate is to ensure a maximum of 20 children per K-3 classroom to allow for more one-on-one time with teachers during these critical early years. The province is giving school divisions 5 years to implement the initiative, and by September 2017 all Manitoba schools will need to be compliant.

The issue of overcrowding is not new to our community. In 2010, the number of students at the elementary school had increased to the degree that something had to be done. The school was bursting at the seams. A plan was implemented to move Grades 5 and 6 to the high

school (NCI), allowing NES to become an "early years" school and incorporating a "middle to senior years" model at NCI. This model is not new to rural schools in the Hanoi district.

The decision left some parents questioning the move. NCI was already full to capacity. The division's decision required portable huts. Many wondered if the school's infrastructure and programming could accommodate the extra students.

"Having my daughter in Grade 6, I was aware and concerned about programming at the high school," says Chris Chapman. "I knew that physical education had a minimum number of minutes per cycle and all other subjects had percentages. When I asked at the [parent/division] meeting about accommodations to meet [PE] minimum standards, the response I got was they could make up missed time during recess. I responded that if that was the solution, then we could also teach ELA and math at recess as well."

Chapman says he was given contradicting answers regarding the ratio of portables to green space. He and his family have since moved to Winnipeg, stating that his children's education was the catalyst for change.

Hank Dueck, recently retired senior years teacher at NCI, recalls the Grades 5 and 6 integration well. "The young ones added a new life to the school," he says, adding that the school quickly put into plans a division between seniors and middle-year students, freeing up the west wing for seniors only. He says that from a teacher's standpoint, portables are not a bad thing. They are newly constructed, quiet classrooms with more floor space than the typical class. They have their own lockers and lots of windows.

Adding the huts, though, didn't address an existing problem. Dueck notes that the senior hallway, where the lockers are located, has been too congested for

years. Between classes, the hallway is so thick with seniors that it's impossible to avoid bumping and pushing.

"The seniors hallway is so full that, as a staff person, it was almost impossible to go to the office and get back for my next class in the allotted time," Dueck says. A similar problem exists for the students requiring washroom breaks between classes, as the washrooms are located in the middle-years section.

Dueck also recalls a year when over 35 students signed up for his biology class. He had chairs for only 32. On addressing the concern with administration, the only options were to offer some students correspondence courses or a transfer to another of the limited classes in the same timeslot.

At the elementary school, the computer lab has been relinquished to regular classroom space, states the mother

of 2 NES students. All of the computers were relocated to the library and a few classrooms, making it difficult for a group of students to learn computer skills at the same time. Also, what was once a resource room now doubles as a hallway to the newly added huts.

"The state of our schools has literally scared people away. Many of these people have decided to move to another community," says a local residential developer. "We regularly field questions from families looking at moving into Niverville. We always get asked about the schools, and we always say we have great teachers here. Upon visiting, though, prospective clients notice that the schools are really full."

He points out that their decision to move elsewhere affects all of us through a reduced tax base, the loss of



Year of the last addition to Niverville Collegiate.

**1992**

Population increase in Niverville since 1995.

**3,284**

Niverville's percentage of population growth since 1995

**300%**

New babies born in Niverville in 2014.

**100**



# in Our Future?

potential new business, and the loss of new consumers for local business.

While an addition to NES and portables at NCI aid in the short term, how long will it take to get a third school? And how many portables will we see in the interim?

Randy Dueck, superintendent of the Hanover School Division, says that it is not up to the division to decide. While the division is responsible for operations and certain infrastructure costs, all capital costs come from the province's Public Schools Finance Board.

"The province is very hesitant to approve in-anticipation-of-growth," says Dueck. "Without portables you're never going to make a case for a new school." He also adds that, as far as he knows, there is no maximum number of allowable portables per school. One school, Dueck says, had up to 40 portables at one time. He says that the division has been asking for a new school in Niverville for the last 3 years. The division's hope is to see a new Grade 9 to 12 building, converting the current high school to a middle school.

Town councillor Kevin Stott anxiously awaits the province's approval of a new high school. As for location, he suggests that the green space by the arena and future multiplex site would be ideal due to its proximity to existing and proposed recreation facilities.

"The current NCI gym is not big enough to host tournaments," Stott says, adding that the regulation-size courts planned for the multiplex would save the province and division money in the end. He also suggests that the next population growth will be to the west of town, making the site more residentially centralized.

Even with the promise of an addition to our elementary school, there is a risk that it will barely suffice. In 2014 alone, 100 new babies were born to Niverville families. To stay within the province's model of 20 students per class, we will require 5 classrooms for these new little residents alone.

To put Niverville's growth in perspective, in 1995 the population was 1,416. Today, we are at an estimated 4,700 people. In the last 20 years, our population has increased by almost 300 percent. With the exception of portable huts, there has not been a single major upgrade or addition to either school during that period.

Though many small communities in Hanover

are experiencing significant growth, Steinbach is the only community to see any capital funding from the province in the last 5 years. In 2012, the Clearspring Middle School was built at a cost of \$26 million. In 2014, the Steinbach Regional Secondary School (SRSS) underwent an upgrade just shy of \$40.5 million.

Shannon Martin, Niverville's MLA, says that Niverville's school issue is far from unique. Communities across the province are experiencing similar problems.

"I'm not sure why the government is reluctant," Martin says, pointing out that certain electoral districts seem to be the recipients of new schools faster. "It's unfortunate that it appears that NDP-held areas get schools before non-NDP areas. At the end of the day, it shouldn't matter which government is in office. These decisions should be made exclusively on need."

In the meantime, the wait for adequate educational facilities and resources in Niverville continues.

"[Niverville's] administration and staff are doing the very best they can with the resources they've been allocated," says Hank Dueck. "What parents need to recognize is that they have more influence on this process than they realize."

Dueck encourages us to speak to our local MLA, Shannon Martin.

## School Taxes and the Mill Rate

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Every year in September, whether you're a homeowner, farmer, landlord, or business owner, you contribute to education funding in the Hanover School Division. In Manitoba, as in many provinces, it appears as a school division levy on your property tax bill.

Though the Niverville town office is expected by law to collect this levy, our town council has no input into how the school division mill rate is determined. That mill rate, calculated as a percentage, is set by the Hanover School Division during their annual budget assessment each spring. Once established, the mill rate is forwarded to the town office, who calculates what each property owner will pay based on a portion of the estimated market value of their properties.

One mill represents \$1 of taxes for every thousand dollars of portioned assessment. "Portioned assessment" means that you are only taxed on a portion of your property's value. This amount is determined by a provincial property classification based on the type of property, size, use, and ownership of land and buildings. Since the current Hanover mill rate is set at 16 percent, property owners will be charged on a portion of their property times 16.

If you are a business owner, you pay school taxes on both your residence and business property. If you are a farmer, you are taxed on your land, residence, and buildings. If you are a cottage owner, you are charged for both residences.

School taxes comprise approximately 50 percent of each property tax bill you receive. Almost one-third of education funding comes from property taxes. The balance is funded by the province's general revenues.

Some people question the province's model of taxing property owners for school funding. The Manitoba Education Finance Coalition—a

collection of Manitoba farm boards, realtors, and businesses—says that this type of taxation does not put municipalities in a favourable light when trying to attract new businesses.

According to MEFC's Let's Pay Fair website, the province needs to put education funding on the same level as health care and other social services, all paid from provincial general revenues. This would aid in providing a more equitable distribution of taxes to non-property owners, as well as relieve businesses and farmers of much of their tax burden. It would also benefit multiple property owners.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland have already adopted this model. Other provinces, like Ontario and Saskatchewan, are actively reducing education tax on property year after year.

A study done by the Canada West Foundation in 2009 showed Winnipeg as having the highest residential education property tax per capita in comparison to all the other major western Canadian cities.

Jon Young, head of the department of education administration at the University of Manitoba, refutes the idea of removing the mill rate taxes established by school divisions. In a letter to the Winnipeg Free Press in 2004, he states that each new provincial government might have a different commitment to education. Removing the mill rate would also put education in competition with all the other social services for its share of provincial revenues.

He suggests that giving our locally elected school board the authority to establish the local tax rate ensures that schools receive appropriate funding. This, of course, only ensures adequate operational funding, since capital costs (such as school buildings) are currently under the province's umbrella.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.letspayfair.com](http://www.letspayfair.com)

**The Hanover School Division is holding a public consultation regarding the upcoming budget on Tuesday, November 17.**

✉ DUSTIN KRAHN | EXCEL GRAPHICS

### CITIZEN POLL

#### THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

**Do you feel the Hanover School Division and the provincial government have adequately represented Niverville in addressing the town's growing education needs?**

☐ **YES**—The existing infrastructure is enough for now.

☐ **NO**—Our schools are seriously overcrowded and more needs to be done.

☐ **INDIFFERENT**—This issue doesn't affect me.

#### VOTENOW AT

[www.nivervillecitizen.com](http://www.nivervillecitizen.com)

See last month's poll results on page 11





Site of the new wildlife hospital and education centre.

S. LONEY

# Wildlife Hospital and Education Centre Coming to Île-des-Chênes

SYLVIA  
ST. CYR

sstcy@nivervillecitizen.com

If you attended the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair this past year, you may have noticed a few people walking around carrying exotic birds on their arms. They were from the Wildlife Haven Centre, based out of Île-des-Chênes, Manitoba. Since 1984, they have helped over 35,000 injured and orphaned wildlife.

Wildlife Haven is currently working on an exciting new \$2.5 million wildlife hospital and education centre, which will hopefully be up and running by the summer of 2016. As of now, the centre offers free care and rehabilitation to any found wildlife, whether hurt or orphaned.

"In 2014, we kicked off a capital campaign to raise \$2.5 million. Funds collected to date is \$1.4 million," says project manager Roger Perron. "We have started building and hope to have the shell of the building up before the winter." He adds that they receive no government funding and therefore depend solely on donations.

So what will this new 18-acre development include?

"There will be something for everyone. The education centre will be open to the public for all ages. We want to be a destination of choice for schools, tourists, and the general public. We will offer a unique experience to visitors on wildlife," Perron explains. "We are also developing onsite a natural wetland area, where a pond will be stocked with fish. We are also developing a tall grass

prairie demo site."

As for the hospital, it will be anything but a typical hospital in the sense we're used to. It will feature a variety of enclosures for the wildlife to heal in, including a flyaway that allows birds to exercise and practice flying prior to release. Another feature is a waterfowl enclosure of ponds for ducks, geese, and other large birds to swim about.

"We currently operate with about 90 volunteers, some in the hospital and others in the outreach wildlife educational programming," says Perron.

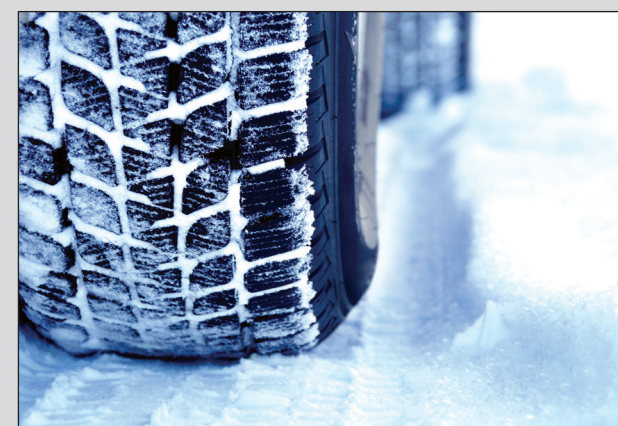
Judy Robertson has been volunteering with Wildlife Haven for more than 10 years. "I did not have any prior experience with wild animals. I did have my own pets, but the experience is very different. Wild animals look at people as predators."

Robertson conducts some of the education presentations when schools take field trips to the centre. "I was nervous," she says about her first presentation. "But I had my card notes with me. I saw the excited faces of the Grade 2 children and knew it would be okay. I have been invited back every year since."

There are highs and lows with any volunteering position. "My favourite part of volunteering is working with our amazing non-releasable education ambassadors," Robertson says. "Least favourite is that you aren't able to give every animal coming through the door a second chance."

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.wildlifehaven.ca



## Winter Tires Help Drivers Get a Grip

By Eric Peterson

Skating and sliding are without question two favourite winter activities in these parts. It's just that most of us prefer to do them on a local rink or toboggan hill, not on a provincial highway. So it comes as no surprise that a healthy number of Manitobans are choosing to take advantage of Manitoba Public Insurance's Winter Tire Program.

The initiative is designed to make it easier and more economical to outfit your personal vehicles with winter tires. According to Brenda Sawatzky of Sparkline Autoworks in Niverville, the program is making a difference.

"MPI is doing a pretty good job of advertising," says Sawatzky. "We've been impressed."

The program provides low interest financing, prime plus two percent, to eligible Manitobans toward the purchase of winter tires and associated costs. They will finance you for up to \$2,000 per vehicle and you can spread your payments out from 1 to 4 years.

"The program is pretty straightforward," says Evan

Wachtendorf of Sparkline. "All customers have to do is come see us. We'll give them the options, explain them, and make sure they're eligible for the program."

Sawatzky and her husband Al recently sold Sparkline to long-time employee Will Elliot, but she's seen firsthand the growth in the winter tire market. "We just put winter tires on our vehicle for the first time 10 years ago. It's quite amazing how far winter tires have come."

Winter tires give drivers better control in colder climates by providing superior traction.

"Winter tires have softer compound rubber, which in colder weather helps conform to the road to maintain full contact with the road," explains Wachtendorf.

"No question they make a difference," adds Sawatzky. "This is an excellent program. A great way to get more people driving winter tires. That makes everybody safer on the road."

The MPI website lists two eligible retailers in Niverville: McNaughton Mechanical Service at 120 Cedar Drive and Sparkline Autoworks at 20 Cedar Drive.

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# Plastic: A 21st-Century Plague

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Plastic is everywhere. From cellophane to storage bags to water bottles, it has become one of the most widely used synthetic products for food and garbage containment since World War II. Loved for its versatility, it is lightweight, inexpensive to produce, strong, and waterproof.

But plastic has a dark side.

Dubbed "the most ubiquitous consumer item in the world" by Guinness World Records, it has also become the leading source of pollution worldwide. Our landscapes and beaches are littered with it, city sewers clogged, landfills overflowing, and oceans overrun. It is killing our wildlife and poisoning our bodies.

"The plastic bag has come to represent the collective sins of the age of plastic," says Susan Freinkel, author of *Plastic: A Toxic Love Story*. The world consumes more than 1 million plastic shopping bags every minute. Over the last 10 years, we have produced more plastic than during the whole last century. And 50 percent of the plastic we use, we use only once and then throw it away. Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth four times.

Unlike most other garbage, plastic doesn't biodegrade. It is estimated to take 500 to 1,000 years to completely break down. The earth can't digest plastic, and it cannot eliminate it. Although it tries, transporting it through sewers and waterways and rivers, eventually it ends up in the ocean.

Today, billions of pounds of plastic can be found in the oceans, swirling in currents and piling up in what's become known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Located in the North Pacific off the coast of California, it is only one of a collection of oceanic garbage sites in the world. It has a floating mass twice the size of Texas, the plastic pieces of which outnumber sea life 6 to 1. These pieces break down into smaller and smaller pieces, winding up in the bellies of animals, killing 1 million sea birds and 100,000 sea mammals annually.

"Stop already," you're saying. But there's more. Plastic is made from petroleum products. Every year we use 17 million barrels of oil to create plastic water bottles alone. That's enough to fuel 1 million cars. What's more disturbing is that plastics contain toxins like flame retardants, BPAs, and PVCs, which leach poisons into our ground water, lakes, rivers, and oceans, affecting

sea life and our own bodies. 93 percent of us test positive for plastic toxins. These toxins are responsible for cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption, and a host of other ailments.

What can we do? One option is bioplastics, made from natural vegetable oils, fats, or cornstarch. But that would require using much-needed farmland, taking away from our current food supply. Another option is to recycle, but it's an expensive endeavour which doesn't address the toxicity issue. Only 6.5% of our plastic is being recycled today.

The best response is to eliminate. We can start with single-use plastics: disposable water bottles, bags, straws, coffee cup lids, Slurpee cups, take-out containers, plastic utensils, and diapers. Use cloth grocery bags, take your coffee mug to the corner store, use reusable water bottles, and take a lunch box to work. Online companies like Life Without Plastic offer earth-friendly options from hemp sandwich bags to bamboo eating utensils, and Little Tree Huggers designs modern cloth diapers.

It's up to us to break the plastic addiction and stop the monster in its tracks. And the best time to do it is right now.

## LAST MONTH'S POLL QUESTION

**With the recent increase in vehicle thefts in town, do you feel Niverville should have an increased RCMP presence?**

**YES** – Niverville needs more police protection.

**79%**

**NO** – The current level of police protection is adequate.

**21%**

**INDIFFERENT** – My life isn't affected by the police one way or another.

**0%**

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# Growing Season Comes to a Close



**By Evan Braun**

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

As the cold weather approaches and the fields transform back into rolling scrubland from the bursting oases of greens, yellows, and blues they were just one month ago, we have the opportunity to reflect on another year in Niverville's biggest and oldest industry: agriculture.

"As farmers we would like to

have the public know a little bit more about what we're up to," says local farmer Ken Krahn, who cultivates close to 3,000 acres, an average-sized family farm. "I think generally the harvest has been coming along quite smoothly for most."

Every growing season is a bit different, and a bit of a gamble considering some of the extreme weather of the last several years.

"In the last 10 years, we've had the coldest, the hottest, the driest, and the wettest [years on record]," says Dustin Wiebe. He farms 4,300 acres stretching from the south perimeter to Mitchell.

This year, Krahn grew wheat, canola, soybeans, and corn. Although most of the crops did quite well, the wheat was hit hard. "That's because of heavy wind and heavy rain throughout the growing season," Krahn says. "It flattened the crop, so it was a challenge to harvest. And because it was flattened early in the season, the nutrients weren't able to feed the crop as well."

The culprit was a windstorm in early July, which struck right when the crop was heaviest. "It's green and heavy, and it just didn't have the strength to stand up."

Wiebe's wheat crop met a similar fate. "We had 95 percent of our wheat knocked on the ground. So we were not happy with the wheat field, not in comparison to other years." Fortunately, inclement weather didn't put a damper on the rest of his fields. "It's one of those things. All in all, I think this crop was average."

"The biggest concern we have here in the southeast is not drought but excessive rain," Krahn says. "I know some did get excessive rain, but we got quite fortunate."

Wiebe agrees, and breaks down the numbers. "When Niverville had that rainstorm last year, with 4 to 5 inches, if you get that on a field, then 1 inch of rain on a square mile is 17 million gallons. You times that by 4 inches of rain, and that's a lot of water that's gonna come off the field." In those situations, he says that his best fields are those closest to the river, which have a 40-foot slope to drain the water. Some of the fields closer to Niverville are slower going.

"Our canola did well, and beans have done very well," Krahn reports. At the time of this writing, Krahn was preparing to start harvesting corn, which also looked strong. "We've had a good long season. We had a couple of frosts, but we had a long enough season so that the frost isn't damaging the crop." Late-season frost, he says, can help by drying down mature fields.

This year, Krahn is also planting some winter wheat. "We seed it now and harvest it in the summertime."

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# Pipeline Explosion Raises Safety Concerns



**NATALIE BATKIS**

✉ nbatkis@nivervillecitizen.com

On September 15, 2015, a natural gas explosion and fire began at TransCanada's St. Vincent Compressor Station in Kittson County, Minnesota, just across the border from Ridgeville, Manitoba. RCMP notified a few properties along the border but no homes were evacuated.

With this recent explosion, Niverville residents wonder about the safety of these natural gas pipelines and compressor stations. Less than two years ago, a natural gas leak near Otterburne left thousands in southern Manitoba without heat for days, including residents of Niverville. Temperatures hovered around the -20C range, a very stressful experience for those without heat in their homes and businesses.

"I was fortunate enough to have a spouse with the means to devise effective temporary heating," says Leah, who lives in Fifth Avenue Estates. "I cannot say what we would have done had he been away on business during that time. It certainly was unsettling to think that my very young son and I might have had to fend for ourselves."

In July 2015, the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) of Canada released a report into its findings of the Otterburne explosion. The report stated that a crack in the pipeline, believed to have been there for 50 years, ruptured and caused the explosion.

According to Davis Sheremata, External Communications and Media Relations for TransCanada Corporation, many factors led to the Otterburne explosion.

"The TSB has found that the weld, which led to the incident, had safely operated for more than 50 years; however, an unprecedented combination of circumstances including extreme frost, heavy equipment in the area and the absence of gas flow in the line for 20 days, likely caused the fracture," he explains.

According to Sheremata, TransCanada worked around the clock to restore service and provided backup sources of heat to the more than 4,000 Manitobans affected. "After the incident, we thoroughly inspected the pipeline and related infrastructure, including a physical inspection of all similar welds, to ensure it could be returned to service safely."

TransCanada continues to locate and repair manufacturing defects by enhancing material specifications and construction practices which, according to Sheremata, exceed industry standards.

"Our current welding and testing processes are designed to locate small features like the one that led to the Otterburne incident," he says. "Through our Pipeline Integrity Management Program, we are continually testing new technologies to advance our capabilities for inspecting pipelines."

For Leah, there's always the concern that another incident, similar to the Otterburne and Kittson County explosions, could happen.

"It was of concern to learn of the recent incident," she says. "I am hopeful that TransCanada will be on highest alert from here on in and that additional protocols will be put into place in order to minimize risk."

Sheremata says TransCanada has spent an average of \$900 million per year over



The 2014 Otterburne pipeline explosion.

✉ JASON THOMPSON

the last three years on pipeline integrity and preventative maintenance programs and that safety is always top priority.

"We have demonstrated this by safely transporting over 1 billion barrels of crude oil through our Keystone Pipeline System since 2010. Keystone includes 864 kilometres of converted natural gas pipeline across the prairies. We will take similar measures used in converting natural gas pipelines for Keystone to ensure that Energy East operates safely and with minimal impact on the environment."

TransCanada has identified the source of the incident at the St. Vincent Compressor Station: the failure of a manufactured component on a location indicator tool used when an internal inspection was performed on the pipe. According to TransCanada, there was no mainline pipeline rupture, no substantial damage to equipment and facilities from the fire, and no impact on service to customers in the area.

## Wiens Furniture Plans Big Expansion



An artist's rendering of the new addition.

✉ WIENS FURNITURE

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Wiens Furniture is in the process of adding 5,000 square feet of new retail space to their store on Main Street. Construction is already underway.

"The space is going to be all appliances," says Dylan Wiens, Sales Manager. "We're scaling into more high-end appliances. We'll showcase entry-level to mid-grade as well as premium appliance brands."

Among the brands customers can expect to find are Sub-Zero and Wolf, Thermador, GE Monogram, Kitchenaid, and Bosch. "Basically we'll have a full line of appliances from your \$399 dishwasher to your \$15,000 fridge," says Wiens.

The store currently has 2,500 square feet of floor space dedicated to appliances, so the expansion will double the size of that department. The plan is to renovate the existing space to include a more expansive selection of

furniture and mattresses.

A soft opening is planned for either late spring or early summer, and within the year all upgrades and additions will be complete and a grand opening can take place.

"We're not just a bedroom community of Winnipeg," Wiens says, pointing out that the store has a loyal customer base throughout Manitoba and some parts of Ontario. "We have a lot to offer here in Niverville that people don't have to go to Winnipeg for."

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Jack Stott and fellow veterans marching to the Niverville Cenotaph.

MARGARET STOTT

## COMMUNITY BUILDERS

# I Will Never Forget

## John Henry (Jack) Stott: January 20, 1924–April 26, 2011

By Clarence Braun

As a kid growing up in Niverville, I so well remember the times when Jack Stott came to the school on Remembrance Day to talk about his experiences as a soldier.

Some time back, I had the opportunity to meet with the former Premier of Manitoba and former Governor General of Canada, the Honourable Ed Schreyer. He said, "There is no war that is good." But he followed that up by stating that World War II was probably the most unavoidable war of the 20th century.

It was this war that Jack Stott and others from the Niverville area experienced. As a kid, I was aware that there were a limited number of people in our community who could personally speak of having experienced the devastation of war.

Having lived in Niverville all my life, I was aware of a certain unspoken stigma attached to the mostly non-Mennonite people who had fought in wars. And there seemed to be certain injustice and lack of honour and respect shown to those who had risked their lives for the betterment of our community and country.

The personal sacrifices made by Jack Stott and others paved a way for a world free of



Jack Stott with wife Margaret at the Niverville Cenotaph.

MARGARET STOTT

hatred.

I will never forget that Sunday afternoon in August 2007 when over 1000 people filled Main Street as we in Niverville honoured our pioneers and veterans for the first time. I have always believed that something changed in our community that day. The memorial at the cemetery is to serve as a reminder to future generations of the contributions of both the

pioneers and veterans who were so much a part of our communities past and present.

I will never forget that first Remembrance Day service when over 400 people gathered at the Niverville Elementary School and then marched to the memorial at the cemetery. The numbers were astounding as the community, for the first time, publicly responded to acknowledge the courage and

commitment of Jack Stott and others.

I will never forget the tears in Jack's eyes as I shook his hand that day and thanked him for his courage and commitment. That first Remembrance Day service saw hundreds walk by and shake the hands of Jack and other veterans, thanking them.

I will never forget the Remembrance Day service when I interviewed Jack about the war. Many tears were shed that day as he bared his heart in front of family, friends, and the community.

As I reflect on my years as the mayor of Niverville, there are no better memories than the ones I just shared. To honour and respect, to care and to share: that is what makes a community.

Jack was much more than a soldier. He was a loving husband to Margaret and a father to nine children. The impact of the Stott family through business investments, agriculture, and community resonates throughout our town to this day.

We are in the season of remembering and honouring, and I for one will never forget the impact of Jack Stott and his forever place of respect in our community.

## Just a Common Soldier (A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.  
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,  
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.  
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,  
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land  
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,  
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know  
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,  
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.vaincourthomestead.com



# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

10:00 a.m. at the Niverville Heritage Centre | Commemorating 70 Years Since the End of World War II



## What Can We Do to Help These People?



2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, with Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945. But here in Canada, to the generations since that have little connection to those historic events, it can be hard to appreciate the magnitude of the war years—and specifically, Canada's role in them.

On the other side of the Atlantic, younger generations don't all suffer this same form of amnesia. In the Netherlands, for example, Canada's role is celebrated.

"The Canadians were involved throughout all of the conflicts, in all aspects," says Ian Wallace, an organizer of this year's Remembrance Day event in Niverville. "But in terms of the Netherlands, we had a unique role. Other armies moved on into Germany and fought on other fronts. This was one of the last vestiges of the Nazis, of the Germans, in the occupied parts of Europe. And it was the Canadian task to liberate the Netherlands. So yes, the Canadians are venerated."

The Netherlands celebrates their liberation on May 5, and Canadians have always played a major role in that.



"To this day," Wallace says, "the Netherlands sends over hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of tulip bulbs to adorn Parliament Hill as a sign of respect, as a gift to the Canadian people."

The key engagement was the Battle of the Scheldt, a long and bloody campaign in which approximately 170,000 Canadian ground troops, led by Lieutenant General Guy Simonds, struggled against deeply entrenched German fortifications to open the Scheldt estuary and provide

deep water access to the port of Antwerp. In anticipation of the Allied advance, the German army heavily mined the area, both on land and in the water.

The protracted battle lasted nearly two months, from the first attacks on September 13, 1944 to November 8, when the port was finally cleared. It was a costly victory, with 12,873 casualties on the Allied side. 6,367 of those were Canadians. Throughout the region, even more lost their lives.

"It was the final battle, and it was a bloody, horrible battle,"

Wallace says. "The other thing that Canadians are recognized for over there is the extreme human suffering that occurred during the occupation. You had a country that was on the verge of starvation, and the Canadians opened their arms and said, 'What can we do to help these people?' So it wasn't just a military exercise. It was a humanitarian exercise as well."

### A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On November 11, all of Canada will fall silent in remembrance of the men and women

who put their lives on the line in service to their country and the cause of freedom.

"The whole purpose of the day, to start with, is to remember those that served. We just went through this incredible election in the last 78–79 days. That is part in parcel of what we're recognizing," Wallace reminds us. "These men and women sacrificed so that we can live in a country where this can happen. So the main focus is honouring that service. And not to say that war is a wonderful thing, but to ensure that this

doesn't happen again, and to empathize with their efforts. I don't think most people understand the sacrifices that have gone into building this country."

Niverville's Remembrance Day event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre. Part of the goal is to create awareness and education. This year, the planning committee has arranged for a speaker who experienced the liberation firsthand and can describe what it was like to live in the occupied Netherlands.

"We can only give a small taste of what it was like for them, but nonetheless we want to keep that memory alive and to understand the significance of those sacrifices," Wallace says. "We certainly encourage the community to come out, as they have, in large numbers."

After the speaker, lunch will be provided.

Niverville's Remembrance Day event is not town-sponsored and takes shape every year solely through donations and the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

"We rely entirely on the good graces of the people who show up," Wallace adds, "so that we can pay the bagpiper, pay for the hall, rent the chairs that people sit in."

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## Council Connections

You know fall has arrived when the lakes are filled with geese. This fall has been great in that warm temperatures have hopefully allowed all of us to complete our yard work.

*Here are a few highlights from recent Council activities:*

- Council met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the New Building Canada Fund awarded for the expansion of potable water services to the business district. Being planned as soon as engineers have determined various connection costs alternatives is a town hall meeting with our business community. The meeting date will be advertised with Council looking forward to hearing comments from all participants.
- The Niverville Crime Prevention Patrol is an ever growing number of community members that want to discourage opportunities for criminals to commit crime. It does not advocate patrol members to take any action when observing suspicious activity. The patrol members only serve as the „eyes and ears” and will report their observations to law enforcement. For more information please email [NCPP@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:NCPP@whereyoubelong.ca). Application forms are available at the Town office. Time commitment is as little as two hours a month, and it's a great way to meet your neighbours too!

*As your mayor, I had opportunity to represent Council...*

- At the provincial pre-budget meeting in Ile Des Chenes and to personally speak with Finance Minister Greg Dewar about the needs for Niverville and area. Issues discussed included the future twinning of PTH 59 and our community's long term infrastructure requirements.
- At a meeting with the Hanover School Division superintendent regarding community educational objectives. We reviewed school enrollment as well as received an update on the NES building expansion. Enrollment is about the same at NCI with 60-75 students per gra-

de and up at NES with 85-95 students per grade. The expansion of NES is on schedule with the contract to be awarded next month with completion in time for the start of the 2016 school year.

- As our community's transportation expectations evolve so does the need to examine the Town's parking requirements. This has become apparent especially around multi-family buildings where ever increasing parking concerns are being heard. Council is considering revising future parking space requirements from the current 1.5 spaces per residential unit to 2.0 spaces plus visitor parking. This is to ensure no conflict between various housing developments. Council welcomes citizen's insights on this matter especially as it relates to higher density developments.
- With community growth also comes the need to review our response to emergency situations. In preparation for this year's Planning Session, Council is looking forward to its strategic planning session with our Fire & EMS Services department. This meeting will be an opportunity for Council to hear the long term vision from our front line staff.
- No doubt we are all looking forward to seeing the new traffic control lights operational at the intersection of PR 59 and PTH 311. Kudos to MIT for making it happen. The safety and efficiency factors will be welcomed. Council will continue its dialogue with MIT regarding the twinning of PTH 59 to this intersection.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to hear from you at [feedback@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:feedback@whereyoubelong.ca).

Sincerely,

**Myron Dyck,**  
Mayor

*Public Skating is FREE for the 2015/2016 season! Proudly sponsored by Maple Leaf, Chicken Chef, Southern Comfort Mechanical Inc., Von Ast Construction, Artel Farms Ltd., and The Great GORP Project Inc.*

*Get the Public Skating Schedule on your Smart Phone by downloading 'Sport NGIN' app, type in team ID 1038172*

*Halloween Public Skating & Activities on October 31 from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM.*

### Moving in or out?

*If you are moving into Niverville or out, we need to hear from you! Please call the Town Office at 204-388-4600 ext. 110 or email [accounts@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:accounts@whereyoubelong.ca) and provide the following information:*

- *Move in/out date*
- *Water meter reading (if connected to Town water)*
- *Name(s) to appear on the bill if different from the property owner*
- *Complete contact information (mailing address, service address, phone number and email address)*



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1-204-388-4600  
[feedback@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:feedback@whereyoubelong.ca)  
[www.whereyoubelong.ca](http://www.whereyoubelong.ca)



## EVENT GUIDE

**Niverville Heritage Centre Gala**Heritage Centre  
Saturday, November 7**Teen Challenge Banquet**Heritage Centre  
Tuesday, November 10**Remembrance Day Service**Heritage Centre  
Wednesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m.**Hanover School Division**Public Consultation on Budget  
November 17, 2015**Niverville Winterfest & Market**November 21  
(More details on page 21)**Send your event listing to:**

info@nivervillecitizen.com

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# New Bothwell Fire Dept. Holds Fundraiser

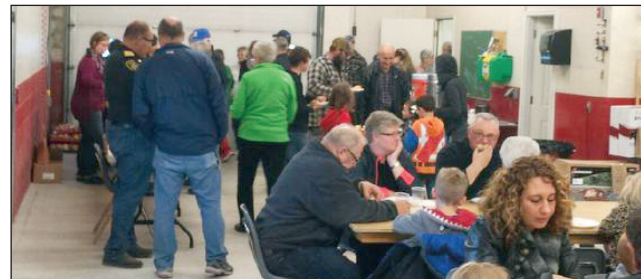
**By Evan Braun**

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

At their annual fundraiser on October 9, the New Bothwell Fire Department raised \$2,600 toward the purchase of additional equipment for the fire hall. The fundraiser was held at the hall in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

"Approximately 260 people came through our doors," says District Fire Chief Rob Hiebert. "It was a good turnout. We had well over 50 silent auction prizes to give away."

In previous years, the raised



The fundraiser in full swing at the New Bothwell fire hall. NEW BOTHWELL FIRE DEPT.

funds have helped buy expensive items like the Jaws of Life, struts, and portable water tanks. While no specific new piece of equipment has been announced yet, this year's

money will go in the kitty for the next big purchase.

"\$2,600 is a great start, but sometimes it takes a few years to raise money as the need arises," Hiebert says.

The fire department had a burn trailer on site which people could tour to learn more about what to do during various fire emergencies. They also had burn stations and a water hose for kids to spread water.

Earlier in the week, the New Bothwell Fire Department visited the local school. "We had a firefighter rodeo at the high school," Hiebert says. Students there competed to roll fire hoses, climb ladders, and run an obstacle course loaded down with heavy fire-fighting gear. Teachers were pitted against students.

## Protect Yourself from Becoming a Victim of Fraud

**Kristina Gerbrandt**

Niverville Credit Union

The media often reports about victims of scams and fraud. More recently, we have been hearing about Canada Revenue Agency scams. You might have even received an email or text message regarding this. Fraudulent communication comes in various types, such as telephone calls, letters, emails, and text messages.

Canada Revenue Agency, also known as CRA, does not communicate in the following ways. They don't send emails

with links, asking for you to provide personal or financial information, nor do they send text messages, asking for any kind of personal information. They don't request payments by prepaid credit cards or provide personal information to another person, unless formal authorization is provided by the taxpayer. They will also never leave personal information on an answering machine.

Dorothy Dyck, Compliance Administrator at Niverville Credit Union, recently received a call from someone stating they were from CRA.

"I received a call from a male. He stated he was calling from Canada Revenue Taxation, and continued to state it several times throughout the conversation."

Being an employee of a financial institution, you familiarize yourself with fraudulent activity and develop an instinct. "The man was very insistent and instructed me to not hang up," Dyck says.

If you are ever in doubt about the information you have been given, or are contacted by someone you are unsure of, follow up with the

company, ask them for a phone number to call them back at, then provide that number to local authorities or contact someone you trust to help you investigate further.

If you have been a victim of a scam or fraud, please contact your local law enforcement, along with any company you believe your information may have been compromised with. You may also contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: 1-888-495-8501 or visit their website at [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

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# Sports & Recreation



The view from Tim Hiebert's media perch at the Jets' home opener.

TIM HIEBERT

## Sizing Up the Jets



**TIM HIEBERT**

thiebert@nivervillecitizen.com

The last time we saw our beloved Winnipeg Jets, they were licking their wounds from a first-round playoff sweep at the hands of the Anaheim Ducks. Many names have changed on the roster since then, but unlike most teams it wasn't a big trade or flashy free agent signing that switched things up. Most of the changes have come from within, as some of their top prospects were able to claim spots on the opening day roster after a strong pre-season.

The most notable prospect is Nikolaj Ehlers, who still has a year of eligibility left in juniors. After two dominant seasons in the QMJHL, where he registered back-to-back 100-point seasons, Ehlers was

anything but a long shot to make the team out of training camp. He secured a role on the second line and will primarily play with Mark Scheifele and Mathieu Perreault to start the season. The 19-year-old has the potential to be the team's leading scorer in a few years, if not sooner.

Nic Petan and Andrew Copp also made the opening day roster and will have lesser roles as they team with veteran Chris Thorburn on the fourth line. Petan is a wizard with the puck and will definitely see some time on the power play this season. Copp will center the fourth line and play more of a checking role.

There was also the return of a familiar face in Alex Burmistrov. Burmistrov played the last two seasons in the KHL after the Jets were unable to resign him. Now 24, Burmistrov returns a little wiser, and hopefully a little more

mature. He was not a fan of former Jets coach Claude Noel but seems to have gotten a fresh start under Paul Maurice. He was signed for a third of the price that Michael Frolik got in Calgary and could be a really good value if he can duplicate most of Frolik's production last season.

Besides Frolik, other departures from last year's roster include Jim Slater, Eric O'Dell, Keaton Ellerby, T.J. Galiardi, Lee Stempniak, and Jiri Tlustý. Tlustý and Stempniak both ended up in New Jersey on 1-year contracts while O'Dell signed with Ottawa. Ellerby, Galiardi, and Slater couldn't find NHL jobs and wound up signing overseas.

Two contract situations to keep an eye on are those of Dustin Byfuglien and Andrew Ladd. Both are set to become unrestricted free agents next summer as neither were signed to extensions this offseason. Ladd, team captain, seems the most likely to return, but

signing Byfuglien to a long-term contract for big money could prove a lot more difficult. The Jets already have Myers, Enstrom, and Stuart locked up for a few years on defense and will need to save cap room to sign Trouba, Scheifele, and Lowry to extensions next summer when they are restricted free agents.

It's hard to believe that this is already the fifth season of the Jets 2.0. Every time they've dropped the puck on a new season, I've felt that the roster was better than the one before. This year's team is the deepest and most talented we've seen yet. Making the playoffs in the West is never easy, but they will definitely be in the hunt again. Hopefully we'll see whiteout conditions return to Winnipeg next April.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.jetsstatsguy.com](http://www.jetsstatsguy.com)

■ Twitter: @JetsStatsGuy, @NHLRosters

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Public Skating

Fridays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.  
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.–12:15  
Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–12:15  
Helmets are required. Niverville Arena, FREE.

#### Sticks & Pucks

Fridays, 5:00–5:45 p.m.  
Sundays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.  
Helmets are required. Niverville Arena, FREE.

#### Halloween Public Skating

Saturday, October 31, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Dress up in your Halloween costume (no capes or long dresses). Helmets are required. Public Skating: 11:00 a.m.–12:15. Crafts and activities after skating.

#### In-service Public Skating

Monday, November 2, 2:00–3:30 p.m.  
Helmets are required. Sticks & Pucks to follow.

#### Lego Camp

Monday, November 2 (in-service)  
Superhero theme, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

#### Sewing Camp

Friday, November 13 (in-service)  
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

#### Adult Rec Hockey Drop-in

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Niverville Arena  
9:30–10:30 p.m., \$10 drop-in fee

#### Zumba

Tuesdays until December 2  
South End of Arena, 7:30 p.m. Drop in for \$10.

#### First Aid (Recertification) & CPR (Level C)

Thursday, November 5, 2015  
South end of Arena, 6:00–10:00 PM

#### Essential Oils 101

Saturday, November 7  
South End of Arena, 10:00 a.m.–12:00

#### In-service Public Skating

Monday, November 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m.  
Helmets are required. Sticks & Pucks to follow.

#### Lego Camp

Monday, November 13 (in-service)  
Space adventure theme, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

#### Learn to Knit

Mondays, November 19–December 7  
Curling Rink, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

#### Home Alone Program (Ages 9+)

Thursday, November 19  
South End of Arena, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

#### Bootcamp

Mondays/Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30  
South End of Arena. Drop in for \$15

#### Zumba

Tuesdays, 7:30–8:30  
South End of Arena. Drop in for \$15

#### Yoga

Wednesdays 7:00–9:15  
Curling Rink. Drop in for \$15

Send your event listing to [cgadient@nivervillecitizen.com](mailto:cgadient@nivervillecitizen.com)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.nivillerecreation.com](http://www.nivillerecreation.com)

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Niverville Novice A Clippers.

HEATHER KNIP

# Hockey Season Kicks into Gear

By Jason Hudson

The Clipper Ice Sports hockey season is in full swing. CIS has a record number of children participating in hockey this season. Niverville is also fortunate to host a regional Bantam AA girls hockey team which

features many local players. Niverville will host three tournaments this season (Novice, Atom, and Pee Wee) along with the Rural Bantam Girls Provincial Championships in February, which will showcase some of the top Bantam AA girls in the province.

CIS is extremely fortunate to have a number of parent volunteers who help coach and manage the teams in order to make things run as smoothly as possible. In total, there are approximately 40 volunteers, including some who take positions on the CIS Executive. Without

these individuals, CIS would not be able to exist.

If you haven't been to the rink lately to take in a game, please do so this fall and winter to support our local Niverville/Ste. Agathe hockey players. See you at the rink!

IN BRIEF

## Niverville Hosts Volleyball Tournaments

By Chantel Gadiant

On October 9–10, Niverville Collegiate and Providence College hosted a pair of volleyball tournaments for the Junior Varsity and Varsity boys teams.

Gabrielle-Roy's Varsity team beat Niverville in the third set 15–13 for first place in the tournament, and Killarney defeated Portage la Prairie for third place. Gabrielle-Roy (Île-des-Chênes) took the final against Green Valley (Grunthal) for the Junior Varsity tournament. Both of the Niverville teams are highly ranked in the province.

The Varsity boys have two separate tournaments coming up in Selkirk and Brandon.

Niverville's Varsity girls are currently ranked sixth in the province and will take the court for a tournament in Lorette on November 6–7. The Junior Varsity girls are fighting for a playoff spot in early November.

## Power Smart "AA" High School Volleyball Rankings

GIRLS

1. Killarney Raiders (1)
2. Major Pratt Trojans (Russell) (2)
3. Neepawa Tigers (3)
4. Green Valley Pirates (Grunthal) (6)
5. Gabrielle Roy Les Roys (Île Des Chenes) (7)
6. Niverville Panthers (4)
7. Boissevain Broncos (5)
8. Morris Mavericks (8)
9. Ashern Cobras (9)
10. Souris Sabres (NR)

BOYS

1. Major Pratt Trojans (Russell) (1)
2. Niverville Panthers (3)
3. Gabrielle Roy Les Roys (Île Des Chenes) (2)
4. Steinbach Christian Flames (4)
5. Killarney Raiders (5)
6. Warren Wildcats (6)
7. Carman Cougars (7)
8. Boissevain Broncos (8)
9. Goose Lake Raiders (Roblin) (9)
10. Green Valley Pirates (Grunthal) (10)

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HOME MARKET EVALUATION

Katie Knebel

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# Niverville Competes at Soccer Provincials

By Gerald Negrave

The high school soccer season has drawn to a close. The NCI girls team played well throughout the year but were disappointed after losing a provincial wildcard game to Altona. The score was close, 1 to 0, and the game hard-fought.

The boys team played in

Provincials on October 16–17 at the Steinbach Soccer Complex, and fared better. They captured the bronze medal, shutting out Hapnot Collegiate by a score of 3 to 0. Tournament all-stars included Chris Giesbrecht and Brendan Derksen.

Both boys and girls teams were very young, with the

majority of starting players in Grades 9 and 10. This bodes well for coming years as the players gain experience—and a bit of muscle.

Thanks to Conrad Dueck, Dwayne Penner, Gerald Negrave, and Dave Aitken for coaching this year.

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# Niverville to Hold First Winterfest and Market



2014 Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

CARA DOWSE

## By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's Community Christmas Tree Lighting committee is embracing a new concept this year. In past years, the evening event, planned by the Chamber of Commerce, included carols, sleigh rides, hot

chocolate, candles, and of course the lighting of the Christmas tree on Main Street.

This year, the Chamber is reaching out to local organizations to make the event even larger. They are working with Niverville Recreation, the Niverville Elementary School, and the Girl Guides.

Niverville's first Winterfest and Market will be held on Saturday, November 21, taking place throughout the day and at various locales around town.

The day will kick off with a market at the high school from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. With 40 vendors selling unique Christmas gifts and products,

it will be a great opportunity to get ahead on your Christmas shopping. You'll find handcrafted jewellery, body creams and lotions, goodies and preserves, hair and nail products, glass art, paintings, clothing, scarves, and lots more.

The elementary school will also host a day's worth of activities for kids, including 5 holiday-themed shops: Santa's Photo Shoppe (photos will cost \$5), the Holiday Gift Shoppe, the Sweet Shoppe, the Mystery Shoppe (to purchase raffle tickets for gift baskets), and the Elves Work Shoppe. The elves will help kids create crafts, play games, and do face-painting. Running from 10:00 a.m. and wrapping up at 3:00 p.m.

The day will end at the Niverville Arena, with an opportunity to skate with Santa from 3:45-5:15, and have supper with Santa from 5:00-6:30. The Christmas tree lighting will take place from 6:30-8:00, with carols, sleigh rides, and hot chocolate.

In addition, local businesses are encouraged to run sales or door-crasher offers that day.

Volunteers are needed for the tree lighting event. If you're interested, contact Dawn Harris at [chamber@niverville.com](mailto:chamber@niverville.com). To volunteer as an elf or Santa's helper, contact [nspa-parentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:nspa-parentcouncil@gmail.com).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.niverville.com](http://www.niverville.com)

## PROFILE



GRAEME AND MARISKA LOEPPKY

## Alyssa Loeppky: Athlete of the Month

Alyssa Loeppky, 5, skates with the Niverville Skating Club and attends Niverville Elementary School. Alyssa started skating in October 2014 and has made a lot of progress since her first days. She is now working to complete Stage 2 in the Can-Skate program and has received ribbons for balance, agility, and control. She is able to confidently skate backwards, turn, stop, and skate forwards on the fast track.

On top of her strong on-ice skills, Alyssa brings a great attitude to every session. She often brings a crew of family to cheer her on. This year, Alyssa gets to be the big sister on the ice, as her little sister Caitlyn has joined the club as well.

The Niverville Skating Club would like to congratulate Alyssa on being chosen Athlete of the Month and wish her many more years of enjoying her time on the ice!

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# Shake, Shake, Zumba!

**fitville**



Last month, I talked about my bootcamp experience. In the meantime, I finished another session at the end of October. It's been great! I might be getting some abs, or so I think. But I can successfully do 200 pushups in an hour along with a bunch of other crazy exercises!

Now on to my next fitness adventure: Zumba!

For those who don't know what Zumba is, it's a Latin-American-inspired dance and aerobic exercise designed for fitness and fun. So basically you are dancing, moving your hips, doing some salsa, and having a blast. I honestly leave Zumba class happier than I arrived. The class is such high



Zumba in action.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

energy and the instructor is so much fun. I have a smile the size of Canada during Zumba class.

Zumba makes me feel like I'm in a whole other country, dancing the night away, learning new moves, shaking my hips! It's a lot of fun and I'm working out at the same time. I don't even realize I'm burning calories.

In September, I talked about the Fitbit I got from a friend. I've still been wearing it every day and getting around 10,000 steps a day. Well, I tracked how many steps I took at the second Zumba class—and I was shocked! I took over 4,500 steps in one hour, almost half my daily goal. This is pretty awesome, not to mention the calories burned and muscles that got worked.

Zumba class starts off with a warm-up song, not too fast of a beat but just enough to get your whole body moving and warmed up. Then we move on to faster upbeat Latin-American songs, and even some top hits. We dance for an hour, with a few water breaks between songs. To me, it's a rush of endorphins and I feel amazing and happy.

Towards the end of class, we always do a song's worth of abdominal workouts, which is a great way to add to my bootcamp abs! Then we have a cool-down, a slow song to stretch and relax our way down.

I cannot express how much I love Zumba and how it makes me feel. I find myself dancing while I'm cooking supper or washing the dishes. Even as I'm writing this, I'm moving my hips and my shoulders to the beat in my head. If Zumba was offered every night, I would be there in a heartbeat.

If you want to join me at Zumba, class takes place on Tuesdays from 7:30–8:30 p.m. at the South End of Arena, and it runs until December 1. Drop-in fees apply.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.nivervillerecreation.com](http://www.nivervillerecreation.com)

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Niverville Community Resident & Wyatt Dowling Branch Manager, Debra Pearson



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# Entertainment

## Made by Maddie: Clothing Designer at 13



**SYLVIA  
ST. CYR**

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

At first glance, Maddie Thompson, only 13, may seem like an ordinary junior high student. What sets her apart? Many things, one of them the fact that she is a professional clothing designer, with clothes available in stores across the country.

Thompson lives in Niverville and has been drawing for a year and a half. Her favourite type of drawing is clothing designs.

After drawing her own ball gown design, Thompson got an idea while walking through the mall. She passed one of her favourite stores, Triple Flip, and decided to send them her design via Instagram. She didn't think much of it after that.

The CEO and marketing manager did, so they replied and wanted to meet Thompson.

Linda Maslechko, owner of Triple Flip, asked Thompson to design some active wear for teens, as that is the focus of their company.

Being only 13, Triple Flip told her not to get her hopes up once she submitted her designs. So when they said yes, Thompson was ecstatic and her parents were very proud.

A couple of months later, after many Skype calls, the line "Made



Maddie Thompson alongside her creations at Triple Flip in Winnipeg.

✉ SUSAN THOMPSON

by Maddie" came out in Triple Flip stores all across Canada, including one in St. Vital mall.

At the launch party in Winnipeg, Thompson and her friends had a blast, including acting as live mannequins in the window wearing her designs.

Thompson has more designs coming out this March/April for Triple Flip's spring line.

When asked if she could see herself continuing this after high

school, Thompson replied, "Yes, I hope to continue with drawing in general, for sure. As for designing, I hope that I have the chance to continue with it in university."

That possibility looks promising as Triple Flip has offered Thompson an unpaid internship. "Because of my age they cannot pay me but will give me any references that I need in the future."

Just the fact that she gets this opportunity at such a young age is

incredible.

Where does her inspiration come from? "It usually comes from stuff around me. I usually get the best idea when I'm not doing anything."

Not doing anything may prove hard for Thompson as, on top of designing active wear, she plays soccer, takes art lessons, swimming lessons, and is the middle years Vice President at her school.

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Old Time Country Dance

October 30 | 8:00 p.m.  
(featuring Small Town Limits)  
Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$16.

#### Raising Hope Adoption

October 30 | 7:00 p.m.  
Fundraiser with Matt Falk  
EMC Gym, Steinbach. \$30.

#### Old Time Country Band

November 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7:00 p.m.  
Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$1.

#### Games Day at the Library

November 7 | 12:00–5:00 p.m.  
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. FREE.

#### Shaun & Sylvia St. Cyr Live

November 14 | 9:00 p.m.  
Hespeler's Tavern, Niverville.

#### Games Day at the Library

November 18 | 6:00–8:30 p.m.  
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. FREE.

#### Smile 2Night with Matt Falk

November 19 | 7:00 p.m.  
Providence University College, Otterburne. FREE.

#### Page to Film Night: Night At The Museum 2

November 20 | 7:00–8:30 p.m.  
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. FREE.

#### Elvis & The Blackwoods

November 20 | 7:00 p.m.  
Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church, Steinbach. \$25–\$35.

#### Painting On The Prairies: A Kids Paint Party

November 21 | 2:00 p.m.  
Cripple Creek Farm, Otterburne. \$25.

#### A Christmas Carol

November 27 | 7:00 p.m.  
Solo Performance by John D. Huston  
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. \$10.

#### 3rd Annual Christmas Craft Show

November 28 | 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Slice Of Life, Niverville. FREE.

Send your event listing to:

✉ mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

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## Our Mistake...

Bruce Kroeker's picture was inadvertently left out of last month's ad showing Sutton's Niverville Agents. Our apologies to Bruce.

Bruce lives in Niverville, is a valued Sutton agent and encourages his past and future clients to contact him for all of their real estate needs.



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# Nationally Syndicated TV Show Filmed in Blumenort



**MATT FALK**

mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

The Marc and Mandy Show is a design and lifestyle program airing weekly on Global TV. What makes it special is that it's filmed in Blumenort, Manitoba. So why would a national show decide to work out of a small town?

"We love the southeast," says Marc Atiyolil, co-host of The Marc and Mandy Show. "Our sister company, Canadian Home Trends Magazine, is headquartered out of Blumenort, so it made sense to keep it all in one location."

When you drive by the small, unassuming office building just west of the intersection of Highways 12 and 311, you'd never expect it to house a nationally syndicated television program. But what's going on inside might shock you even more.

"Our studio has been a labor of love," said Atiyolil. The tiny space doesn't feel like a typical big-time Hollywood set, but it's a fully equipped professional television studio that can seat and accommodate a live studio audience.

The show is run like any other. After the live audience is ushered in, they're warmed up by the show's producer, Johnny Conway. He does a fabulous job getting the ball rolling

and making the audience feel comfortable.

Then Marc and Mandy come out and record their segments. Segments include home decorating tips, fashion trends, entertainment news, and more.

"Our set is very versatile," says Atiyolil. "Whether we are hosting a fashion show or cooking in our custom kitchen, we bring the excitement right to you."

The married couple's chemistry shines brightest during the opening show banter. The whole show feels as casual as the studio looks, and that's part of its trademark charm. "We are real, live, down-to-earth people who just want to help you get the most out of life. At the end of the day, we understand busy schedules, family demands, and general life craziness and want to give you ways to make it all a little easier and a lot more fun."

The audience was spoiled during an episode I saw filmed. They received hundreds of dollars of free prizes and giveaways. Needless to say, everyone left in high spirits.

Anyone is able to be part of the audience. "When you come for a day of filming, we have fun," said Atiyolil. "We feed you a great lunch, plus everyone gets to take home awesome gifts."

The biggest advantage of filming in a small town is that word gets around fast. The outpouring of support for this show from the community has

been enormous. "You don't have to move to the big city areas to give that national feel to a show. We believe that the best things start right in your own hometown."

Despite its humble location, the program is not elementary. These are professional hosts, and it shows. Atiyolil is the editor-in-chief of Canadian Home Trends Magazine. He also writes the weekly syndicated newspaper column "From Drab to Fab," which explores how easy it is for homeowners to create designer accessories using everyday items from around their homes.

Mandy MacLaren, the show's co-host, is the lifestyle editor of Canadian Home Trends Magazine. She is also the founder of an aromatherapy product line that offers women 100 percent natural bath and body products.

The number one question they get goes something like this: how can you work with your spouse every single day? Atiyolil's answer? "If you're going to spend as much time as it takes on set to film a show, why not do it with your best friend?"

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To get free tickets to be part of the studio audience, visit:

www.marcandmandy.com.



Mandy MacLaren and Marc Atiyolil, co-hosts of The Marc and Mandy show.

WWW.MARCATIYOLIL.COM

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# Imagine Combines Run with Family Fun

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

This year's Imagine Run took place on September 26 and was a big success, according to organizer and co-founder Mona Stott. The annual event, which includes both a walk and a run component, raises awareness about the importance of mental health and confronts the stigma head-on.

"This is the second year of changing out the format from the early morning," says Stott. "For the avid competitive runner who likes to do the morning run, this was a huge adjustment for them. But right from the get-go, as much as we were putting on an event for using the run as a venue or a vehicle to attract people, our goal was to have a family event, to attract families to come out and enjoy food and camaraderie."

At Hespeler Park after the main run-walk, food was provided by the Crystal Springs Hutterite colony, and John Falk organized a diverse line-up of family-friendly entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening.

Not everything quite went according to plan. Because of the unusually high winds,

Stott says they weren't able to launch Chinese lanterns as planned. The movie in the park also had to be cancelled when the inflatable screen could not stand up to the elements.

"We had 85 kilometre-per-hour winds, but it could have been rain, it could have been snow," Stott says. "It was a warm, embracing wind, and we ran with it. Pardon the pun! It was an amazing day."

Just shy of 700 runners participated in the run-walk, which is slightly down from previous years. Stott attributes this to not offering the half-marathon. The number of people who showed up at Hespeler Park, however, far exceeded expectations.

"That has grown immensely," said Stott of the evening festivities. "We even had seniors here this year, and I'm sure the weather had something to do with it. Which was nice to see. We've had people say, 'I just love that it's in the evening. We get to do stuff. Even if we can't make the walk, we can come for the evening.' We're learning and trying to make it so people want to get on board and support such a good cause."

Though the run takes place just once per year, Stott is eager

for opportunities to keep people talking about mental health all year long. This holiday season, she and her team of volunteers will be holding a Christmas raffle. Next year's Imagine Run is already scheduled for Saturday, September 24.

"We're trying to have a presence throughout the year," Stott adds. "But again, these are all volunteers and it gets a little exhausting. So we need people coming on board."

If you'd like to volunteer for next year's run or get involved with the planning committee, Stott encourages you to visit the Imagine Run website and get in contact with her. She also encourages people who came this year to send in any pictures they took.

"Staying in the dark and being silent, we don't make progress, and 8 years ago I said enough," Stott finishes. "I have lived with this all my life, with my mother, with my husband... I wasn't staying silent anymore. I wanted to get the message out, and someone needed to take the lid off Pandora's box, and I hope it never gets shut again."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

■ [www.imaginementalhealth.com](http://www.imaginementalhealth.com)

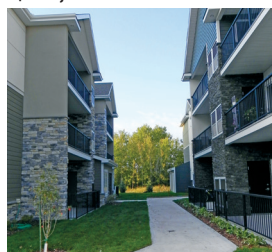


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According to WRA sold stats for 2014 Bob and Renee sold 30% of single family dwellings in Niverville

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Don't miss this incredible bargain on a recently finished 980 Sq. ft. 2 bedroom 2 bathroom condo that our vendor is selling below cost! Vendor spent \$9400 in additional upgrades and you can reap those benefits. Real Maple Tuscan Wood cabinets, large two tier island with extra plug, under cabinet and over sink lighting, shut off valves under sinks, upgraded flooring, upgrade to Frigidaire Gallery Series s/s kitchen appliances, in-suite laundry with stacking washer and dryer included, huge balcony, warranty, low condo fees, pet friendly, 2 parking stalls (5-302 & 6-102)



## 39 Wyndham Court, Niverville, MB R0A 0A2 1588 Sq. Ft. \$319,900

Stylish brand new 1588 Sq. Ft. two storey in Fifth Avenue Estates. A large livingroom with cozy fireplace and an open concept for families to stay connected. Maple kitchen, plenty of storage, pantry & island. Tucked away on this level is a convenient 2 pc bath. The upper level offers 3 bedrooms and a 4 pc main bath. The master has a walk in closet and 4 pc ensuite and laundry is also located on this level. Other features include a deep double 24x24 garage, ICF foundation, a/c, sump, HRV, 5 year home builders warranty and paved driveway. Still time to add your own personal touch with paint selections, flooring and cabinets from builder selections.



## 128 Breckenridge Drive, Niverville, MB R0A 0A2 1379 Sq. Ft. \$359,900

Brand new 1379 sq. ft bi-level home in Fifth Avenue Estates. Gleaming hardwoods, open concept kitchen with island and pantry. Beautiful gas fireplace in the living room and tray ceiling. The master bedroom has a walk in closet & en-suite 4 pc bath. Another 4 pc bath is just down the hall. Two more bedrooms on the main level. A large entrance with ample closet space leads to the 24x24 double attached garage. The basement has large windows for natural daylight. The lower level is partially completed being insulated and drywalled. There is a rough in for a future bathroom, A/C, sump pump, gas HE furnace, ledger board for future deck, 2x6 construction for garage, built on piles, ICF foundation. Book your showing!



## 25088 Road 35N Road, Kleeferd \$219,900

Situated on 2 fully matured acres (formerly a nursery) sits a remodeled 3 bedroom cabover style home. Lovely updated kitchen with Kitchen Craft cabinets and portable island. Appliances such as fridge, stove, washer and dryer are included. A huge dining room leads to another large living room with gas stove. There is a 4 pc bath on the main level as well as a Master bedroom and a second bedroom. Head upstairs and there is library area, a 3 pc bath and another bedroom. The back entry leads to the utility room which holds the washer/dryer, furnace and water softener. There is a good size single attached garage. Three more out buildings on the property of which one is a garage space for your toys and garden tools, a shed, a granny house also used as storage. Some of the upgrades are: newer shingles, new flooring throughout, new paint inside and out, some new windows, upgraded baths, ceiling fans, insulation blown into attic by previous owners. This home is too good to miss!



## 117 Therrien Street, Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0 1949 Sq. Ft. \$429,900

A welcoming front entry way leads to a formal dining area with bay window & hardwoods. The eat in kitchen has an island, pantry, s/s appliances, a tiled backsplash & computer station. Cozy fireplace in the living room. A garden door to a large deck & massive back yard with fire pit. 2 pc bath & laundry just off the 2 car garage. The master has plenty of room for a king size bed. The walk in closet is large & the master en-suite has a tiled shower with body jets. Two more good sized bedrooms and a loft which could be a fourth bedroom/T.V. area or office. The lower level is developed with a rec room, dry bar, play room, office space, 3 pc with walk in shower & heated tiled floors. Move before school starts! A/C, sump, Hi E furnace, shed, room to park RV.



## 45165 PR210 Road, La Broquerie, MB R0A 0W0 2644 Sq. Ft. \$618,500

Amazing country retreat setting in this 2644 sq ft bungalow. 4 bedrooms & 2.5 bathrooms this home is designed for comfort & functionality, and luxury. Tons of large windows, a cozy wood burning stove, cedar closet, huge laundry & storage area as well. The grand kitchen is open concept. A huge triple garage has geothermal heat with one bay as the workshop area. Screened porch along the back of the home, an additional separate car port & fenced dog run also. Take a stroll along the manicured paths that lead you to the bbq & screened gazebo area nestled next to the winding Seine river. Let your green thumb thrive in the private greenhouse & all the perennial flower beds & in ground sprinklers. Seeing is believing in this country setting so book your showing and make this your new home!



## Heading out of country soon?

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# International Artist Opens Local Studio

By Matt Falk

✉ mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

Minister Henry Ward Beecher once said, "Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures." If that's true, then CD Muckosky's soul is whimsical and bright.

Muckosky recently opened a new art studio in her hometown of Niverville. This Little Light Artistry is a mixed media studio for all ages and stages of artists. The studio is less focused on traditional fine art rules and more on letting go and finding the freedom to create from within. "Once people feel free," she says, "I've found that the rest falls into place amazingly and great things happen with their art!"

Besides being a proud mother and wife, Muckosky describes herself as a spirit-filled artist and teacher. And boy does she teach! She's taught students all over the world, including France, Italy, England, Wales, Holland, America, and right here in Canada.

"I've always loved sharing what I'm passionate about and encouraging others," says Muckosky. "Sometimes art can say what we have no words for, and art can be a really vulnerable thing for a lot of people. Being someone's guide and connecting with them in a way that helps them better express their story, well, there's really nothing like it!"

Muckosky is especially passionate about helping families reconnect with each other through the medium of art.

"In a time where people are running all over... and so often have their attention caught up in technology and devices, growing a skill with the people you love has become an extra special—and far too rare—activity."

She holds special parent-child "together time" classes because she truly believes that art helps families.

These skills translate past the studio, too. Muckosky talks of people's anxieties disappearing as their artistic confidence grows. "I think everyone goes home from art class breathing a little deeper and seeing the world just a few shades brighter."

This Little Light Artistry runs yearly classes ending with an art show at the Heritage Centre in June where each artist has their own exhibit. They also run shorter sessions and special events throughout the year.

"I am most inspired in the stillness," said Muckosky. "I shut off my thinking so it doesn't stand in the way, and just allow the layers of my life to stir up a visual story. I allow the song in my heart to pour out through my hands, and watch as something wondrous takes shape."

The new studio has two classrooms, a room where Muckosky's online classes are filmed, and a new art supply/gift shop.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.cdmuckosky.com](http://www.cdmuckosky.com)



Local artist CD Muckosky.

■ [WWW.CDMUCKOSKY.COM](http://WWW.CDMUCKOSKY.COM)

## A Christmas Carol Done Differently

By Matt Falk

✉ mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

*A Christmas Carol* may very well be one of the most popular holiday stories of all time. What many don't know is that the author, Charles Dickens himself, wrote and performed a one-man play of his beloved novella for many years. It was a thrilling and funny show in which he played all the characters and provided the

narration.

In that same tradition, Canadian actor John D. Huston has been mesmerizing audiences for nearly 23 years with his rendition. Huston's show is developed from Charles Dickens' own script and working notes.

The good news for us? This enchanting Christmas show is coming to southeastern Manitoba.

The Jake Epp Library will

host the unforgettable performance on November 27 at 7:00 p.m. The library will be decking their halls with some unique décor, helping you visualize the time period of the play.

The library has never hosted live theatre before, so this is a new experience. Head librarian Carolyn Graham says, "We are excited to bring a classic Christmas story to life in a different way."

The National Post described

the show as "powerful one man theatre," and said of John D. Huston that he is "a master storyteller."

Drama students from Manitoba schools will be invited to attend a private matinee preview before the general public gets to see it. Tickets are only \$10, but there is limited seating.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.jakeepplibrary.com](http://www.jakeepplibrary.com)



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### Have a recipe you'd like to share?

Please send your Christmas baking recipes to:  
info@nivervillecitizen.com by November 15.



## Easy Weeknight Dinner

Submitted by Cara Dowse



### Pasta with Spicy Sausage and Cream - Serves 6

**Ingredients:**

1/8 c. butter	225 g sausage
1 lg. tin diced tomatoes or 700 g. fresh ripe tomatoes (peeled and chopped)	(1 pkg. Johnsonville's Hot Italian), sliced into rounds
4 garlic cloves	Pinch of dried chili flakes
2 tsp. rosemary (chopped)	3/4 c. cream
Some sugar, salt and pepper	2 tbsp. chopped parsley
	Penne pasta
	Parmesan cheese

**Directions:**


Melt the butter in a large saucepan, then add the chopped tomatoes, garlic and rosemary. Season with salt, pepper, and sugar. Cook until the tomatoes have just begun to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the sausage to the pan with the chili flakes, cream, and half of the chopped parsley. Allow to simmer with the lid off until the mixture reduces by half, stirring frequently. Take off the heat and taste for seasoning. Cook the pasta in a large pot of boiling water, then drain and toss with sauce. Put into a great big serving bowl and scatter with the grated parmesan cheese and the rest of the parsley.

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### Roasted Sweet Potato Salad with Horseradish Cheddar



Prep Time **20 minutes**  
Cooking Time **25 minutes**  
Yields **4-6 servings**

### INGREDIENTS

4 lbs	Sweet Potatoes, peeled and diced	1 cup	Bothwell Horseradish Cheddar, shredded (reserve some for garnish)
3/4 cup	Green onion, chopped (reserve some for garnish)	3 tbs	Apple cider vinegar
8 strips	Thick cut bacon, cooked & chopped (reserve some for garnish)	1 cup	Sour cream
		1/2 cup	Mayonnaise
			Salt & pepper (to taste)
			Olive oil (drizzle)

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Lightly coat sweet potatoes in olive oil and bake until soft (approx. 20 minutes). Let cool.

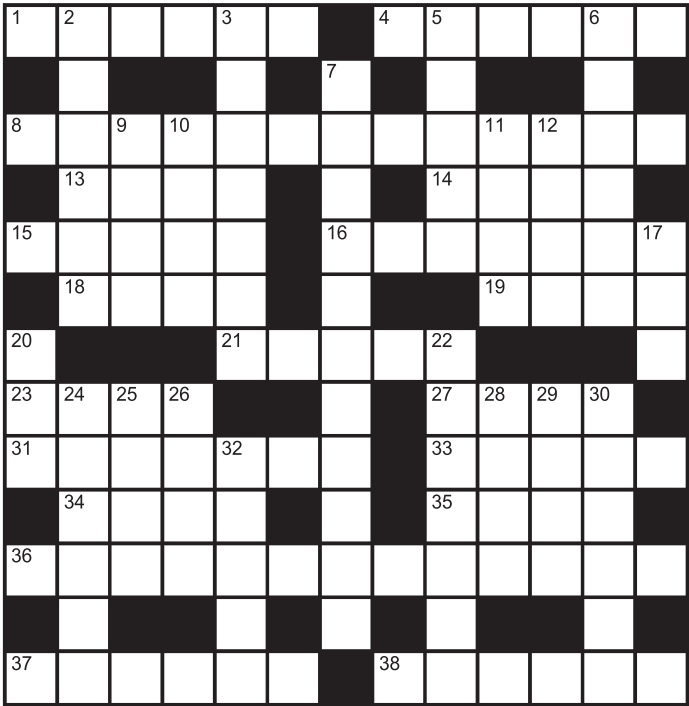
Mix vinegar, sour cream and mayonnaise for dressing and set aside.

In a large bowl combine roasted sweet potatoes, green onion, bacon and cheese. Toss with dressing, season to taste with salt & pepper and refrigerate until cooled.

Top with garnish before serving.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
- 1. Bureau
  - 4. Feature
  - 8. Sympathetic
  - 13. Sheep cries
  - 14. Game controllers
  - 15. Mangles
  - 16. Sort out
  - 18. Calcium compound
  - 19. Drink to excess
  - 21. Yacht
  - 23. Ego
  - 27. State in the W United States
  - 31. Sluggishness
  - 33. Old French coin
  - 34. Achiever
  - 35. Beyond help
  - 36. Sympathetic
  - 37. Up-to-date
  - 38. Oppose

- DOWN**
- 2. Worldwide
  - 3. Grades
  - 5. Grocery
  - 6. Sauce
  - 7. Any mental disease
  - 9. Island in central Hawaii
  - 10. Inner surface of the hand
  - 11. Trim
  - 12. Thickly curled hairdo
  - 17. Vigor
  - 20. Pressure measure
  - 22. Throb
  - 24. Make beloved
  - 25. Central Mexican city
  - 26. Male name
  - 28. Travel from place to place
  - 29. Wife of one's uncle
  - 30. Walkers
  - 32. Wooded

Answers to this month's puzzle can be found in the Classified section on page 31.

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# Colouring Contest

Kids twelve years of age and under are eligible to win a prize, to be provided by contest's sponsor. Drop off completed artwork at the sponsoring business by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th of the month. The winner will be notified on or before the 17th. Should the sponsor not hear back from the winner in a timely manner, a new winner will be selected. A photo of the winner will be posted in the following issue.

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Age \_\_\_\_\_

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#### JOB POSTINGS



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For more information or to apply for one of our available opportunities contact us at:

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204-899-1709  
www.quick-care.ca

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Niverville Helping Hands Christmas Drive**

Niverville Helping Hands Christmas Drive will be held this year on December 15. If you would like to request a hamper or know of someone in need of a Christmas Hamper please call 204-392-5699. Did you know that you can also sponsor a Christmas Hamper? For more information give us a call. Request deadline is November 26, 2015.

**Correction**

In the October 2015 edition, a photo of Alex Fast was incorrectly attributed to Annette Fast. The photo was actually taken by Wade Kehler of Studio 479.

#### SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE



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#### JOB POSTINGS



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Support adults living with intellectual disabilities to live full and meaningful lives. Facilitate growth, development and active community life.

Join our team. Currently hiring casual positions in Niverville and St Pierre, with possibility of future part-time/full time positions. Please visit our website for future job postings that may include part time and full time positions.

**www.envisioncl.com**

**Qualifications:**

- Committed to providing exceptional supports and services to individuals living with intellectual disabilities
- Minimum of Canadian Grade 10 education or equivalent
- Strong community values
- Team players who demonstrate a positive attitude
- Valid Manitoba Driver's License and access to a vehicle
- 18 years or older

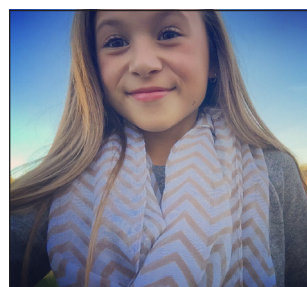
**Please send resumes to:**  
Cathy Jago - Human Resources  
enVision Community Living  
84 Brandt Street, Steinbach, MB R0E 1E1  
Fax (204) 346-3639  
hr@envisioncl.com

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted

#### BIRTHDAYS



**Happy Birthday to Bryan & Melanie**



**Happy 10th Birthday Taylor!**  
A decade old and you have accomplished so much. We are so proud of you. Love you lots! Love Dad, Mom and Hudson!

#### This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers

1	A	G	E	N	C	Y	4	A	S	P	E	C	T
2	L						7	P	T				A
3	C	O	M	P	A	S	10	S	I	O	N	A	T
4	B	A	A	S	Y	14	R	E	F	S			
5	M	A	U	L	S	16	C	L	E	A	R	U	P
6	L	I	M	E	H	19	T	O	P	E			
7	P					21	S	L	O	O	P		
8	S	E	L	F		24	P						
9	I	N	E	R	T	27	U	T	A	H			
10	D	O	E	R	T	30	L	O	U	I	S		
11	T	E	N	D	E	R	H	E	A	R	T	E	D
12	A					33	E	Y					
13	T	R	E	N	D	Y	36	R	E	S	I	S	T



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