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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Faces Policing Decision

 Big changes are on the horizon for Niverville's police services.
 Details on Page 4



Local GORP Businesswomen Making Waves Details on Page 16

SPORTS & RECREATION

Former Clipper Turning Heads Out West

 Tyler Anderson, formerly a Clipper, is having a stellar season playing for the West Kelowna Warriors.
 Details on Page 20

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Painting On The Prairies

 A new paint party business debuts in the southeast region. Matt Falk has the details.
 Details on Page 26



Province in talks with municipalities to twin the stretch of road to the Highway 52 corner.









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D JOEY VILLANUEVA

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2 LOCAL NEWS

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ON OLD DROVERS RUN



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The Citizen Expands Reach

By Evan Braun

ditor@nivervillecitizen.com

Since its debut at the end of August, The Citizen has been growing fast. The initial business plan was to create a 16- to 20-page monthly paper focused primarily on Niverville and print 2,500 copies. This was just enough to put a copy in each of Niverville's 1,890 mailboxes and stock local businesses.

As readers may have noticed, the first 5 issues have been a lot bigger than that-and distribution is up, too.

"We hand-delivered papers to all businesses in surrounding communities to gauge the uptake," says Ray Dowse, one-quarter of the paper's ownership group. The other owners are Evan Braun, Dustin Krahn, and Cara Dowse. "As each month passed, demand grew. The number of papers being taken in by many of those communities around

Niverville increased with each issue we delivered."

The response has been very positive, so Dowse has been restocking businesses often. By December 2016, the distribution had inched up to 3,000.

Starting with this issue, The Citizen is expanding its reach to better meet demand. The ownership group has elected to begin mail drops in Îledes-Chênes, New Bothwell, Otterburne, Ste. Agathe, and Tourond. The difference so far is that, unlike in Niverville, it is only possible to distribute the paper in those towns to mailboxes that allow flyers. Dowse will continue to hand-deliver the paper to businesses in all of those communities, as well as St. Adolphe and Landmark.

Overall, this increases The Citizen's distribution to 4,200 copies per month. There has also been an accompanying increase in email subscriptions, which readers can sign up

v Medical Clinic CARA DOWSE

> **FOR MORE INFORMATION** www.nivervillecitizen.com

Are you an amateur (or professional) journalist?

We are looking for reporters from New Bothwell, Landmark, Île des Chênes, Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, and Otterburne to join our freelance news team.

Contact Evan Braun at: editor@nivervillecitizen.com

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Big Policing Decisions on the Horizon for Town Council



In recent months, Niverville's community Facebook pages have been abuzz with stories of property theft and damage in and around town. Some argue that Niverville needs a stronger police presence while others suggest that community members need to get more involved with crime prevention. From the town council's perspective, policing is going to become a very important issue in the next few years.

According to the Police Services Act of Manitoba, once a town reaches a population of 5,000 people, the level of policing must increase. After the release of the 2011 census, Niverville's population was 3,540 people. Town officials estimate that the current population is just shy of the 5,000 mark.

"The next census comes out in 2016," says Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck, "and if it's found that our population is over 5,000, it's going to tip the threshold and we're going to have to find monies for additional policing, monies that will be taken from other areas."

When it comes to the type of policing a community can choose from, there are 4 options available. The Police Services Act states that an urban area (which can be a town, village, or city) may establish their own police service, contract the services of the RCMP, operate a joint regional police service with other communities, or contract another community's police services.

Niverville currently contracts the St-Pierre-Jolys RCMP detachment to provide policing to the town at the cost of around \$220,000 annually. According to the mayor, when the population reaches 5,000 and services are required to increase, the cost to use the RCMP's policing services will increase to between \$750,000 and \$1 million per year.

"We currently share the St-Pierre detachment with this greater area and they go to calls based on priority," Dyck explains. "There are other communities that have more priorities more often than Niverville."

Niverville's local RCMP office, which is not regularly staffed.

The Town of Niverville had an RCMP member working from the public service building, but because it was a parttime position the mayor admits it has been difficult to keep the position filled.

'We've been talking to **RCMP Staff Sergeant Poirier** and they are having a similar issue staffing someone parttime in Lorette. We're hoping to hire a full-time person who can spend half of the time in Niverville and half of the time in Lorette," Dyck says.

While having a part-time RCMP member working in town will help provide a police presence in the community, it also allows residents to do criminal record checks and to report incidents locally rather than having to travel to other communities.

In the past, Niverville has also entertained the idea of setting up its own local independent police department but, according to Dyck, the cost has always been a concern. While bigger centres like Morden and Winkler have their own independent police departments, they also receive more taxes because they have larger business sectors.

'While Niverville has population, we need business development in the community to give us more sustainable monies coming in for the needs we do have," Dyck says.

A LOOK AT INDEPENDENT POLICING IN MANITOBA

Marc Robichaud has been the police chief of the Ste. Anne Police Department for 7 years and has 24 years of experience in policing and security management. The Ste. Anne Police **Department** is an independent police service which consists of 4 constables and 20 auxiliary members who volunteer their time. The department operates under the general direction and supervision of a police board and is funded through tax dollars, grants, and enforcement revenue. There are about 1,600 residents in Ste. Anne.

"Because we're an independent police service, we receive a grant from the province of Manitoba," Robichaud explains. "It's a per capita grant for protective services and, based on the size of this community, the grant is about \$200,000 a year. We also receive revenue from the enforcement we do and anything outside of that is the responsibility of taxpayers."

Last year, the Ste. Anne Police Department expenses totaled \$460,000. Once the amount of money received through grants and enforcement revenue was deducted, the total amount to taxpayers was \$203,000. Based on information in their budget, the town of Ste. Anne only pays the RCMP \$300 a year for additional support.

According to Robichaud, there is always an officer on duty and usually a volunteer, night when officers are on-call. He says that their average response time to a call is about 4 minutes and, when it comes to vehicle thefts and property damage, that's not a common occurrence in their town.

here," Robichaud says. "People know that our members are out patrolling and that's a deterrent for most people."

The members of the Ste. Anne Police Department are trained through accredited police programs like the one offered by the Winnipeg Police Service, and the auxiliary members are trained by the local officers.

Robichaud emphasizes the importance of the relationship they have with the RCMP. They work collaboratively on a number of fronts and that makes for a good balance in the town's policing strategy.

"From a day-to-day perspective, we're able to deal with 99 percent of everything that comes up," Robichaud says, "but we couldn't do what we do here without the RCMP. If something big happened like a murder, we wouldn't have the resources to deal with that."

There are, however, a number of challenges when running an independent police department. Two of the biggest hurdles are limited budgets and the ability to retain employees.

The RCMP pay their people well and are able to retain them. We don't pay anywhere

near what the RCMP pay their employees so we don't keep people as long," Robichaud explains.

Like the RCMP, the Ste. Anne Police Department is also very involved in outreach programs. "We're in the schools every day. We run the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). We've had noon hour basketball games. We try to be a positive presence in the community."

In Niverville, there won't be any changes to policing in the immediate future. In the meantime, Mayor Dyck says the community needs to work together to help avoid some of these crimes that have become too commonplace. He suggests people lock the doors to their homes and vehicles and avoid leaving valuables visible in vehicles and on their properties. He also suggests residents contact the Niverville Crime Prevention Patrol (NCPP) to see how they can get involved (see below for contact information).

"There are things we could do on the policing side but there are also things we could do on the volunteer side. Often times, eyes on the community serve as a deterrent for a lot of these crimes," Dyck says.

He also reminds citizens how important it is to report any crime to the RCMP.

"Instead of telling the Facebookworld about these crimes, make sure you tell the RCMP," he says. "Facebook isn't going to make you safe but the RCMP will. It's good to give your neighbours a heads up, but please make sure you report it."

He adds, "I don't like it that things are happening in the community, but in the whole scope of things, what we're hearing from the RCMP is that compared to other communities, Niverville doesn't have the same level of crime as other areas."

The RCMP did not return our calls for comment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ncpp@wherevoubelong.ca

NATALIE BATKIS and there is a brief period over-

"That just doesn't happen

CITIZEN POLL

THISMONTH'SQUESTION:

What kind of police services should Niverville pursue as its population climbs past 5,000?

A-An independent police service.

B-Contract services to the RCMP.

C-Joint regional services with nearby communities.

D-Contract another town's police service.

VOTENOWAT www.nivervillecitizen.com

1 LAST MONTH'S QUESTION

What do you feel should be the next step in addressing the shortfall of childcare space in Niverville?

Encourage more private home daycares to open up in town.

7%

Spearhead a community effort to attract a second commercial daycare. 64%

Lobby levels of government for grant money to use toward expanding the current daycare or the development of a new daycare. 29%



1 Landsbury Terrace, Niverville

Keat ng

Katie Knebel ROYAL LEPAGE 204-392-3030 Riverbend Realt KatieKnebel@royallepage.ca

Bold Commerce: Inventors at Heart

By Sylvia St. Cyr ⊠ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

For a business owner who sells product, breaking into the twenty-first century can be a daunting task. That's where Bold Commerce comes in.

It started with a meeting at Robin's Donuts back in 2012, with 4 innovative guys talking about creating an app together for some extra beer money. Today, 3 short years later, they are a company with 65 employees

and looking to hire 15 more. After quitting their day jobs by spring 2013, the 4 guys—Stefan Maynard, Jay Myers, Eric Boisjoli, and Yvan Boisjoli-moved the business out of their basements to their first 1,500-square-foot office in Île-des-Chênes.

Though the business started with designing one app to help stores sell more product, now it is so much more.

"We are a full custom eCommerce agency," explains Yvan Boisjoli. "We can help businesses online by setting up their store, theme, and make any custom app integration they can think of. Our first goal is to make sure they have the best support experience out there, and of course increase [their] sales."

The staff of Bold Commerce

with all sorts of clients, from

small ma-and-pa operati-

ons all the way to Fortune

500 companies like Cirque

is working with the Sho-

pify, a Canadian company

that develops computer

software for online stores

and point-of-sale systems.

200,000 merchants cur-

number one partner glo-

bally out of 50,000 part-

ners," says Boisjoli. "They

will always be our main

for people to go to. They

a great place that people

want to work for. That's

why they have free daily

Bold Commerce strives

"We are now Shopify's

rently use its platform.

The core of the business

du Soleil.

focus."

Bold Commerce works lunches, beer on tap, video games, a foosball table, and no set work hours.

Jay Myers, one of the founders, says, "That's a good bottom line, to enjoy what you do."

"The 4 owners sit amongst all the employees and in the trenches," shares Boisjoli. "Culture and work environment is our number one focus."

Twice a year, they shut down the office for what they call a "hack day." On hack days, the staff are encouraged to work on anything they want that will improve life at Bold.

Their motto is #innoto be more than just a job vateordie. They've taken on Google's philosophy want their company to be of spending 20 percent of their resources developing new and interesting ideas. Boisjoli says, "This is just

YVAN BOISJOLI because of our love of developing new apps and technology. We currently have 5 projects in the works that are not eCommerce-focu-

sed." When businesses buy one of Bold Commerce's apps to help make their company more successful, it can come with a lot of questions.

"We've always put customer service ahead of everything else," says Boisjoli. "We aren't happy until our customers are happy. Our support staff is currently 30 percent of all our staff and we plan on adding more to make sure we can handle all the questions."

With over 3,000 positive reviews and only 5 or 6 negative ones, their customer service efforts are paying off.

Employees of Bold come from all over, including from Winnipeg, Steinbach, St. Adolphe, St. Jean, and Morris. 4 of their employees come from Niverville.

LOCAL NEWS

The company is broken up into 2 different departments: apps and experts. As of right now, they have 21 apps online. Their goal for 2016 is to create an app per month.

"We were the first app developers to build apps that make the store owners money, so that was a big reason for our success," says Boisjoli. "We kind've went against what apps were meant to be early on in the Shopify app store and built apps to help stores increase their bottom line."

Bold Commerce currently has 3 office spaces, including 2 in the Trans-Canada Centre of Île-des-Chênes. That brings their space to 6,500 square feet.

"We are entertaining the idea of moving to Winnipeg. We do plan on keeping a remote office open in Îledes-Chênes regardless what we do next," Boisjoli says. "We're busier than ever. Although our roles have changed, there hasn't been any slowing down."

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.boldcommerce.ca

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2015 Year in Review

As 2015 comes to an end, we take a look back at some of the most significant stories that have affected our town.

Niverville Fair Celebrates Twentieth Anniversary

SUMMARY:

Niverville's Olde Tyme Country Fair marked its twentieth anniversary this past June. The turnout was 7,500, down slightly due to weather and strong competition from other regional events.

"Our family looks forward to the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair every year! It is a great kickoff to the summer. We love running into people we know from the community on the street. The energy and atmosphere is fun and friendly and makes us feel proud to be part of a community that does such an exceptional job of mixing big city talent with small town touches. This event pulls our diverse town together and even makes us newbies feel like lifers."

–Sheri Austman



New Traffic Lights Installed

SUMMARY:

New traffic lights were installed this winter at the corner of Highways 59 and 311.

"My wife and I keep hearing people say positive things about the lights. The lights bring awareness to the fact that this is a busy intersection. If those lights save one life, or save one family from getting into an accident, then they have done their job." —Barry Piasta New Sidewalks on

Main Street

SUMMARY:

New sidewalks have been built on the south side of Main Street from Fourth Avenue to Fifth Avenue. The rest of Main Street will follow over the next 5 years.

"We are so thankful to have the new sidewalk. It adds safety and beauty in front of my hair studio. It has a clean look and is very functional for parked bicycles and strollers." —Anna Sawatzky



Sports Multiplex Plans Unveiled

SUMMARY:

Plans have been drawn up and fundraising is underway for a new year-round indoor sports multiplex to be built adjacent to the Niverville Centennial Arena.

"CIS [Clipper Ice Sports] is very excited with the announcement of a new facility. As our membership grows, the demand for more ice time is definitely a challenge. The second ice surface will help eliminate some of the challenges of scheduling practices." —Jeff Spencer



Niverville Earns Wetlands Award

SUMMARY:

The Town of Niverville, partnering with Ducks Unlimited, cleaned up its former municipal lagoon, using native plants to remove contaminants from the ground. The first-of-its-kind project earned the town a 2014 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award for Innovation and Research for Sustainability.



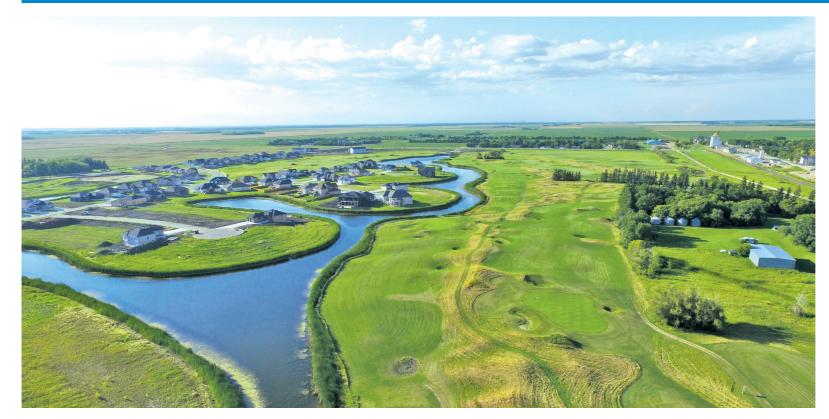
Heading out of country soon?

Going on a vacation? Or maybe a business trip? Let us advise you on how to remain healthy and make the best of your time away. We are a full service travel health Clinic right here in Niverville, offering up to date, tailored advice for your trip.

We stock all required vaccinations, but being prepared is a lot more than just getting your "shots".

Visit our website or give us a call for information on how to book your consult.

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Splash Pad Announced

SUMMARY:

Next summer, Niverville will be home to a 3,500-square-foot splash pad in Hespeler Park. The site, located between Soccer Pitch and Baseball Diamond 4, will include washrooms and change rooms, along with a canteen to provide healthy snacks.

"We are so excited for the new splash pad! Our kids will be at the perfect age to use the splash pad next summer and we are so looking forward to having one so close by. We moved to town this past year and the amenities and activities that are available to our children are awesome." —Andrea Funk

New Post Office Under Construction

SUMMARY:

After years of growth and a cramped facility, Niverville's post office is finally getting the upgrade it needs, with a 1,000-square-foot addition.



The Heritage Centre Expands

SUMMARY:

Construction began this year on the latest wing of the Heritage Centre, which will include a new medical centre and 46-suite retirement living facility. The \$14 million project will open in 2017.

"I'm really impressed with the Heritage Centre and how [Niverville has] been growing it. I'm very impressed at the way that you see that health is not just hospital... I would say that you folks are doing it in Niverville, that this Heritage Centre, and the amazing services that you're providing, particularly to the elderly in this community... is pure second stage Medicare."

—Dr. Michael Rachlis



Town Throws First Annual Winterfest

SUMMARY:

This year, Niverville held its first Winterfest, which included local vendors, skating, dinner, caroling, and a host of activities for kids. Festivities took place at the Niverville Collegiate, Niverville Elementary School, and Niverville Arena grounds.

"Thank you so very much! It was a wonderful time and I will for sure take part next year again." —Shanda Offenberger



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Niverville Gets a Newspaper

SUMMARY:

The Niverville Citizen debuted in August and has been growing ever since. The distribution has recently upticked from 2,500 to 4,200, with many surrounding communities now included in the monthly mail-drop.

"Love The Citizen. It's informative and entertaining, and I really enjoy reading about our small community. Keep up the great work!" —Juli Harder

Old Drovers Run Opens

SUMMARY:

Old Drovers Run golf course opened its first 7 holes for free weekend play this past fall. 9 holes will be playable in the spring.

"My impressions of this course is that it will be the best 9-hole course in the area. It is challenging and fun to play, it's easy to walk, and the contours of the fairways are great. The greens are large and undulating, and all were in pretty good shape. There is risk and reward on certain holes, especially on the fourth, as you can drive the green and go for eagle or have a good chance at birdie. The par 5's are nice and long, and you can find your balls more easily now with the grass cut back. I look forward to being a member there for many years to come!" -René Abgrall

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Sewing for Angels



Losing a child around, before, or after birth is a lot for any parent to endure. That's where people like Carolyn Turcotte come in.

Turcotte has been volunteering for a year and half with an organization called Manitoba Angel Dresses, which takes in used dresses that women don't wear anymore-mostly wedding, grad, or bridesmaids dresses-and cuts and sews them into tiny dresses or outfits. These outfits are then handed out to families that have lost children due to miscarriage, still birth, or SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).

With some miscarriages, there is nothing to show and no body to bury. That's why receiving this gift of something tangible can be a help in the grieving process.

"Providing an outfit is just one less thing to have to look for or shop for at this time," Turcotte explains. "I am sure the stores don't even have clothing small enough for some of the angels."

Manitoba Angel Dresses is



always looking for volunteers, especially seamstresses. While having sewing experience is great, it's not necessary. But Turcotte has been sewing since she was a kid. "I also have a certificate in fashion and design. I love being creative, and this lets this happen. I must say I try to make each dress unique just like babies really are."

Each dress or outfit takes approximately one to two hours to complete.

Often, losing a baby happens in a hospital setting. That's how the partnership between Manitoba Angel Dresses and Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach came about.

"One of our coordinators contacted the hospital and arranged to meet up and donate some dresses that were already sewn," Turcotte says.

50 years ago, many topics were completely taboo to talk about. Suicide, depression, or even miscarriage would never come up in conversation.

"I think that society as a whole is talking more and more about life and death in general.

Turcotte says. "It is still very hard for people to talk about their infants' loss, but I think it has been more recognized now than before."

With 1 in 4 women experiencing some sort of infant loss, being able to connect with others who have felt the same pain is important.

🖨 IN BRIEF

Local Family Raises Money to Bring Ailing Grandfather Homefor Christmas

In early November, Niverville resident Neil Nickel fell ill while visiting family in Bolivia. Since that time, the family has been faced with tens of thousands of dollars of medical bills.

After visiting a hospital with flu-like symptoms, it was revealed that Nickel had a ruptured intestine, a result of scar tissue from an earlier gall bladder surgery more than 30 years ago. Afterward he suffered two strokes.

While the family has dipped into savings to cover the cost of hospital care in Bolivia, they have set up a GoFundMe page to help raise money to cover the costs of the air ambulance, which is \$86,800. At the time of this writing, more than \$20,000 has been raised.

Nickel did not have travel health insurance, since he has been denied coverage for past health issues. He has since been able to return home, to be with his family for the holidays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.gofundme.com/x8em44dg

Contest Recognizes Disabled Entrepreneurs



By Evan Braun ⊠ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Since 2011, the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Community Futures Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Programs (EDP) have run an annual contest to recognize and celebrate the many success stories of rural businesspeople who live with disabilities and ongoing health challenges. This year's Just Watch ME! video contest is currently accepting entries.

"If you are an entrepreneur with a disability or a health condition and have a business success story to share, you could win up to \$1000 and great prizes," says Susan Bater, the EDP manager for rural Manitoba.

To enter, people need to shoot a short video about their business, 2 or 3 minutes long, and upload it to the contest website. Entries will be accepted until January 20, 2016. A public voting process, alongside a panel of 5 judges, will select winners in two categories: seasoned entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Last year's winner, 17-yearold Sydney Deneka of Beausejour, saw increased exposure. "It helped spread the word about my blanket business," says Deneka, who has Coffin-Siris syndrome, a severe developmental disability. "I have a new work room thanks to the \$1,000 prize money I won and a new website!"

According to estimates, 1.3 billion people around the world self-identify as living with a disability, and those numbers are growing. The number in Canada is 16 percent of the population.

"This is such a great opportunity for people living with disabilities to showcase their talents and passions," says Lorraine Nickel, Evening News anchor for Global Winnipeg and this year's contest ambassador. "I can't wait to see who's next."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.justwatchmecontest.ca



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Changes on Horizon for D&M Rentals

By Evan Braun

ditor@nivervillecitizen.com

Local business D&M Rentals is on the verge of making some big changes.

"Right now we offer construction equipment, and we are getting out of that," says Kevin Derksen, who has operated the company with his wife Charmaign since 2007.

Derksen says that a lot of the smaller businesses which D&M has serviced have been getting out of the market in recent years.

The company's new focus will

rentals. This includes tents, tables, chairs, dance floors, and indoor and outdoor staging.

"All the event products have really taken off," says Derksen. "This is now our fourth season doing tents, and like any business, you want growth to happen. This year it skyrocketed and exceeded our expectations. There's been growth every year. My feeling is that people like to spend money on entertainment. It's a way to escape sometimes and just have fun."

The construction rental side of the business has been largely

be on entertainment and event localized to the Niverville area, whereas the event rentals have significantly broadened their footprint. They've worked with clients in Hecla, La Rivière, Manitou, Portage la Prairie, Emerson, and even locations north of Kenora. In addition to weddings, there have also been a growing number of corporate events, community fairs, and festivals.

The change is going to happen this winter and will eventually involve a move to a new location. "We've talked about leasing or selling our building," says Derksen. "The building isn't suited for the

items we want to get into and the way we want to expand. So the plan right now is to put up another building in this area that will be better situated for us."

Derksen notes that their business philosophy is to chase what people are asking for, to embrace change, and to do both with excellence.

"But D&M is still going to be around," he wants to assure people. "That is key. We love this community and D&M is still going to be a part of it. That's not changing. We're just changing what we do."

IN BRIEF

Providence Adds Business Administration Program

Starting in the 2016–17 school year. Otterburne's Providence University College will offer a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) through the college's Buller Centre for Business.

"The BBA will elevate the business degree to a higher level," says Providence President David Johnson. "Students will be able to pursue an MBA more readily. It will add significant course material and move students into larger business spheres through internships and other contacts in the business world."

The new program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and character required for effective service in administrative and leadership positions. Course will include International Business, Entrepreneurship, Studies in Leadership, and Management Information Systems.

Students can already apply for the new program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.providenceuc.ca

Limos and Lunch for Grade 6 Class

On Tuesday, December 15, a group of 48 Grade 6 students from the Niverville Collegiate got to go on the ride of their lives. Three limos pulled up to the school and took the students for a free lunch at Boston Pizza in Winnipeg.

The limo lunch was a prize for those who sold at least 15 boxes of cookies in a recent fundraiser to raise money for an upcoming winter camp school trip. This is the second year that the school has run the fundraiser.



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Sledding Season Gets Off to Late Start

By Eric Peterson

To a lot of folks, the late start to this year's winter was a blessing. A welcome little delay before the world turned cold and the wind began its brutal assault. Literally, the calm before the storms.

For others, the late winter was a curse. Each passing day of green and brown terrain a painful delay. An opportunity

lost. Anxiety building as they town councillor and local gazed skyward waiting for the welcome white snow to turn our region into a frozen playground.

You will know these people as snowmobilers, and the trails around Niverville are their little piece of winter paradise.

"This was the second year in a row where the start of winter was a little disappointing," notes Kevin Stott, Niverville snowmobile enthusiast. However, with January now underway and snow blanketing the ground, Stott and company can rest assured that the snowmobile season has officially begun in Southeastern Manitoba.

For avid sledders and casual hobbyists alike, the areas around Niverville provide some prime riding terrain.

"We have a good amount of highway trails," says Stott while pointing out that Niverville is surrounded by a perimeter trail and that town to town travel is common in the area.

As for snowmobiling in Niverville town limits, local bylaws ensure minimal disturbance for town residents. Sleds are restricted to coming in and out of town by the shortest route possible and only for gas and food.

Most trails in Manitoba are maintained by local snowmobile clubs under the umbrella of Snoman Inc. Snoman, along with Manitoba Public Insurance, administer the Snopass initiative, the province's snowmobile licensing program.

The Snopass costs \$150 for the season, but the fine for being on the trails without one is over \$400. New this year, your Snopass comes with a bright orange plate, making it easier to identify which sleds are and are not properly registered.

Besides avoiding the fine, there is another reason to make sure you have your Snopass. Fees go back to the member clubs to help maintain the over 12,000 kilometres of trails in the province. Stott says that this helps ensure a better sledding experience for everyone.

"I'm very pleased with the amount of maintenance," says Stott, noting that better groomed trails mean more time riding his sled and less time repairing it.

Finally, Stott has some common sense advice for all sledders this winter: "Have a lot of fun but drive safely. Nothing ruins a good time like an accident."

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.snoman.mb.ca

The orner HAPPY **NEW YEAR!**

Water for Main Street meeting: January 18, 7 p.m.

The Chamber will be hosting a meeting in conjunction with the Town of Niverville for business owners and other interested people in the West Ballroom, Heritage Centre on Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposal to bring town water to Main Street businesses.

The cost of the two million dollar project will be split three ways. The province and the federal governments are contributing funding for two-thirds of the project. The remaining one-third, just under \$700,000, will be covered through the hookup fees to the users who will benefit from the service. The Town of Niverville is contributing \$100,000 to assist businesses/property owners with hookup costs. The remaining \$600,000 will be recovered from the hookup fees to each business/property owner.

Costs to property owners will be discussed as well as the merits of having Main Street hooked up to the town's water system.

Businesses are encouraged to bring their questions and comments.

Volunteer of the month



(L to R) Mayor Myron Dyck, Lora Wachtendorf, Janis Keam, Elaine Krahn, Debbie Colley, Ian Wallace, Abe Klassen, Louise Hiebert, Laurie Stott, Donald Stott, and Shirley Hoult, representing the Chamber.

Mayor Myron Dyck on behalf of NIverville Town Council and Shirley Hoult on behalf of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce were pleased to present the Volunteer Appreciation Award for the month of December 2015 to the Remembrance Day Planning Committee. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, and the Remembrance Day Service at the Heritage Centre drew upwards of 800 people, the largest number of participants since the program began in 2004. A memorable service takes place every year as the result of the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers.

Chamber activities helped make Winterfest a success.

The Chamber-sponsored Winterfest craft market at the Niverville Collegiate Institute was a huge success with 42 vendors and close to 500 shoppers on November 21. The day concluded with the tree lighting at the arena and carolling by the Crystal Spring Colony choir.





That's Right for You **By Debra Pearson** where the other driver is at fault, you can sue them. If Wyatt Dowling Insurance Brokers

Find the Coverage

Snowmobiles are all about having fun, right? You may consider them toys, but let's face it-they're expensive toys. So you need to make sure your baby is taken care of, just in case anything should happen, whether at home or out and about on the snow-covered trails.

Snowmobile insurance comes with a variety of coverage options. In order to determine the options that suit you and your family best, it's important to know the financial risks you face from a snowmobile accident.

Your snowmobile registration does not automatically provide coverage for damage you cause, damage or theft of your machine, or your injuries. Even a careful snowmobile rider taking all the right precautions can experience an accident.

Collision coverage insures the damage to your snowmobile from an impact, including if it were to fall off your trailer while being transported. Comprehensive coverage protects you for loss caused by such perils as fire, vandalism, hail, and theft. By combining collision and comprehensive coverage, you have the best protection.

And what about you and your passengers? MPI's personal injury protection doesn't extend to you driving or being a passenger on a snowmobile or ATV. If you're in a collision

they don't have third-party liability coverage, or the court doesn't award in your favour, that could leave you having to pay for certain medical treatments, job loss, disability, and permanent impairment, among other costs. You can protect yourself by purchasing accident benefits coverage. These benefits are paid out regardless of fault.

If you cause personal injury or property damage while operating your snowmobile, you can be sued. Covering the costs of the injury yourself could mean financial ruin. Your registration provides basic \$500,000 third-party liability protection, as well as uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, which protects you against others who don't carry adequate insurance. As with your car liability, it can be increased to \$1, \$2, or \$5 million.

Along with being able to provide the best coverage options for your needs, an insurance broker can provide you with the appropriate registration, license plate, and trail pass. Many brokers have access to private extension coverage, so contact your insurance broker to point you in the right direction and guide you to the right snowmobile insurance policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.wyattdowling.ca

🖨 IN BRIEF



EVAN BRAUN Raffle winner Mel Bergen arrives to claim her prizes

Imagine Christmas Raffle **Draws Winner**

By Evan Braun

ditor@nivervillecitizen.com

After weeks of selling tickets, a winner was drawn Wednesday, December 23 for the first annual Imagine Mental Health Matters Christmas raffle.

Christmas is an especially difficult time for people suffering from depression, says Mona Stott, who was on hand with 4 other members of the Imagine board—John Falk, Peter Braun, Bob Davey, and Deryk Loeppky-to draw the winning entry.

Immediately after drawing the winning ticket, John Falk phoned the winner, Melanie Bergen, to deliver the good news.

'I never win anything," Bergen said, still trying to grasp what had happened. "Like, ever."

The prizes, valued at \$3,000, included Winnipeg Jets tickets, Jets gear, a watch, a swivel recliner, and a \$500 travel voucher.

Raffle tickets were sold by the Niverville Credit Union and Niverville Bigway, and the prizes were donated by Wes-Man Mechanical, Ixtapa Travel, Mokada Jewelery, Wiens Furniture, and Algonquin Travel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.imaginementalhealth.com

Community Builders: One of the Early Pioneers Joyce Mabel Fuller Church: 1907–1992

By Clarence Braun

Joyce Church was born in the town of Tonbridge in Kent, England in 1907. She came over to Canada in 1911 at the age of 4 years old with her parents and her only sister, Doris.

They settled in Transcona upon their arrival and her father, William Fuller, took a job working as a railway man. In 1917, the family moved to St. Vital and Joyce graduated from Windsor Park High School. After high school, Joyce completed a program at Success Business College and took a job at the T. Eaton Company Ltd.

Joyce married Charles Church in 1932 and moved from Winnipeg to Niverville. Their home was located on the road directly south of Arena Road.

Joyce was an early pioneer who left her mark on many aspects of our community.

As I scrolled through *Niverville*: A History, by the Niverville District Historical Society, it became apparent to me that the English and Scottish families who immigrated to this country had a great value for education. In this area, Joyce made a significant contribution. Before the consolidation of schools into the Hanover School Division, the Niverville Consolidated School District included Kingswood, St. Adolphe, and part of the Leblanc area. Education was truly the responsibility of the local community, and Joyce served as the school

district's secretary for 13 years. She encouraged her children to complete postsecondary



Jovce Church

education, and her son Ken and daughter Doris both graduated from university. The majority of Mennonite settlers in Niverville at the time probably didn't have the same value for education.

Joyce was a charter member of the Niverville Women's Institute. Started by Irene Grant in 1949, the charter included the names of 39 women. Their passion to improve the community through contributions to education, sports, 4H clubs, and health care are legendary.

Joyce and Charles were the first residential developers in Niverville. The area west and north of the railway tracks was the first

significant expansion to Niverville since the establishment of the original town site by William Hespeler in 1887. The names Ritchot Drive and Church Street reflect that the area, though part of Niverville in every way, was actually located in the Municipality of Ritchot. The Church name reflects who owned and developed the land. The home at the southeast corner of Ritchot and Main Street was the first home built, and it was Charles' and Joyce's retirement home.

Joyce and Charles were active proponents of the Niverville Community Club from its earliest time. Their home was a gathering

place for those interested in sports, and this was expanded to include the site now occupied by the Niverville Centennial Arena. Joyce's grandson Kerry mentioned to me that she would monitor the activities there, and she made sure to step outside at 8:00 every evening to blow the whistle, indicating it was time to go home.

After the death of her husband in September 1962, she and her son Ken determined to donate a 17-acre parcel of land to the Village of Niverville in honor of Charles. The land was to be used exclusively for the immediate and long-term recreational benefit of the community. It was a large gift, and in 1967 this became the home of the Niverville Centennial Arena and, later on, the Niverville Curling Club.

When the Golden Friendship Circle was formed, Joyce was its first secretary treasurer. She was also a committed lifelong contributor and member at the Niverville United Church and served in many capacities there during her life.

Joyce was one of a kind. She was one of those support people who makes a way for things to happen. Her willingness to contribute to the vision of others through service is evidence of her great character. She lived her life selflessly and her commitment to community life at so many levels was truly remarkable.

Joyce passed away on October 9, 1992. Our community was the beneficiary of her love and care. May we consider our own contributions so that we will be thus remembered.

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Oh, The Places You'll Go

By Brenda Sawatzky

⊠ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Living in Manitoba, somewhere around the moment we replace our flip-flops for mukluks, we begin pining for a return to the warm, lazy days of summer. It's not that we don't love our province in wintertime. Manitoba has its share of exotic beauty. Fresh falling snow, trees laden thick with frost, Christmas lights that emerge amidst a monochrome landscape beckoning the arrival of our favourite winter holiday.

But when the joyful sound of wrapping-paper-ripping subsides, and the beautiful snowscape takes on a greybrown hue, we remember our summer-lust and the joy of jacketless freedom. That's when many of us scour the

internet for an escape from the mundane.

Dr. Seuss understood this. In his famous children's tale, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*, he penned whimsical rhymes to describe our angst: "And when you're in a slump you're not in for much fun. Un-slumping yourself is not easily done."

Dr. Seuss, it seems, didn't have a good travel agent. Or perhaps he'd tried navigating the countless online travel sites looking for the best deal. Unless you have the time, determination, and patience to map out your own idyllic getaway, he's right: un-slumping yourself can be tough.

Travel agents, on the other hand, can make it easy and fun-and they are more than just a vehicle to book your holiday. They'll offer you advice on resorts you'll love versus those that don't give you value for your hard-earned dollar. They've been there and have seen them firsthand. They'll let you know when visas are required and give you tips on safety, currency exchange, insurance, airline and resort services, gratuities, and items you may not think to bring.

A common misconception is that a travel agent can't get you the same deal as internet travel sites. The truth is, a commission is factored into your online booking, even though you've done all the work yourself. Why not pay the same commission to a travel agent to do the work for you? You might be surprised that they can often get you the same price.

The added value in a travel agent is having someone to help you through the bumps and hiccups that can occur

en route-missed or cancelled flights, insurance claims, passport loss, or resorts that don't live up to their promises. A travel agent is there for you from lift-off to landing and has the pull to make things happen.

Travel agents make it their job to know the best vacation spots for romance or family fun. If you're looking for something off the beaten trail, something with adventure, or a thrill factor, your agent can help. If they've never been there, they usually know someone who has.

Dr. Seuss had the right of it! "Be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray, or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea, you're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your [adventure] is waiting so get on your way!"



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Traffic flows down to 2 lanes along Highway 59 near Île-des-Chênes. D JOEY VILLANUEVA

Further Twinning of Highway 59 on the Table

Twinning Highway 59 south of Île-des-Chênes has been speculated upon and remains a sincere hope for those living on or driving that route.



With new traffic lights at the corner of Highways 311 and 59, many are now anxiously awaiting the next phase of a highway project that could make their daily commute to Winnipeg safer still.

In 2006, a portion of this busy transportation artery was twinned from Winnipeg to Île-des-Chênes. A Manitoba government news release dated November 2006 delivered the following comments from the Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) minister on the \$41 million project: "The growing traffic volumes between Winnipeg and communities in the southeast region reflect the booming local economy. This expanded corridor will enhance capacity, promote tourism and increase safety at the same time."

In the 10 years since, while communities south of Île-des-Chênes have continued to see exponential growth, further twinning seems to be all but forgotten.

In the spring of 2015, representatives from 5 municipalities and the towns of Niverville and St-Pierre-Jolys formed a group called the Highway 59 Partners. Their objective is to address the needs of all communities in the southeast in terms of twinning the highway.

"First it's a functional study to see where the highway would go," say Mona Fallis, Mayor of St-Pierre-Jolys and spokesperson for Partners, "where it would make sense for all the municipalities involved and where it would cause the least amount of disruption to residents who already live there."

In fall, the Partners met with MIT to encourage the twinning project, as well as to promote conversation with the province before a plan is acted on. Fallis was hopeful after the initial meeting. "The discussions have started. We've never had that before. So, once there's dialogue, we can progress." She anticipates further meetings with MIT throughout 2016.

Larry Halayko, executive director of construction and maintenance for MIT, says that further twinning of PTH 59 is not currently part of their approved multiyear capital program. He adds that the province is planning a functional design study of the stretch of highway from Île-des-Chênes to PTH 52 sometime in 2017. This will provide them with information regarding highway alignment, right-of-way requirements, and cost estimates. The study would take approximately 18 months to complete. He declined to offer a timeline from study completion to project commencement.

Melanie Trepanier of Niverville knows firsthand the dangers of driving this stretch of highway. On August 6, 2015, she received a phone call that every parent fears. Her daughter Brittany and a friend were driving their usual route home from Winnipeg. Stopped on the highway to make an east turn, Trepanier's daughter noticed, too late, a car from the rear that wasn't slowing down. Trepanier's car was rear-ended at highway speed by a distracted driver, her vehicle demolished and the incident just short of fatal.

"There are lots of homes on either side of this highway that [drivers] have to stop and turn at," says Trepanier. "I fear for myself and my family every single day."

Trepanier and her husband arrived at the scene of the accident to a hysterical daughter and an unconscious passenger, both trapped until the Jaws of Life arrived to release them. The driver who struck them walked away without injury.

"As a mother I felt completely helpless. All I could do was stroke my daughter's hair and tell her everything is going to be alright."

Her daughter's passenger suffered a fractured skull and has no memory of the accident. Trepanier's daughter sought the help of a counsellor for PTSD and still experiences headaches and shoulder pain. She now avoids Highway 59, choosing alternate routes to get home.

Stories abound of speeding and impatient drivers on this two-lane stretch of highway, of bad weather conditions that reduce visibility for long tracts where the roadway lies unsheltered. When there is only a single lane headed in either direction, there are no options for slower traffic to yield to the right, granting safe passing options to faster drivers.

Karen Friesen recalls her Highway 59 commutes in winter. "I had to get to work just like everyone else. I left early in bad weather knowing that road conditions wouldn't be great." In a compact car with no winter tires or 4-by-4, she chose to reduce her speed.

"Loads of people honked at me," Friesen says. "I couldn't pull over to let them pass for fear I'd get stuck in the snow. I will never forget how I felt, with tears in my eyes, because I was being harassed by the [driver] behind me, scared that they would be pulling aridiculous move to get in front of me."

Halayko of MIT says that the province regularly monitors traffic loads and safety concerns on all provincial highways. Factors they use to consider a twinning project are an evaluation of traffic volumes, traffic mix, terrain, access management, and estimated cost of construction. These things, he suggests, will impact prioritization.

In the meantime, as is so often the case, others wonder whether it will take a fatality or two to set the gears in motion.



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Disappointing Resurfacing on PR PR 200

By Brenda Sawatzky ⊠ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Construction on PR 200 (St. Mary's Road) just south of St. Adolphe was a sore spot for many commuters this past summer. From reduced speed limits to dreadful road conditions to resurfacing that seemed to go on without end, many Nivervillers chose alternate routes to avoid the ongoing frustration. When the road work appeared complete, many wondered if there had been any improvement at all.

Brett Wareham of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) admits that, though it's better than before, the finished product isn't what they were hoping for.

They explored a somewhat experimental model for the new top coat which involved recycling the asphalt that had been removed from

the construction project on Highway 75. The process involved incorporating the milled asphalt from Highway 75 into the existing layers of gravel on PR 200 along with an asphalt rejuvenator. The intent was to add strength to the road

"It's disappointing. The process for PR 200 was new and will need to be modified in the future so this doesn't happen again.'

Brett Wareham Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

subgrade and help stabilize it. This involved the use of graders and was treated the same as a conventional base-laying operation.

However, the expected smoothness was not achieved.

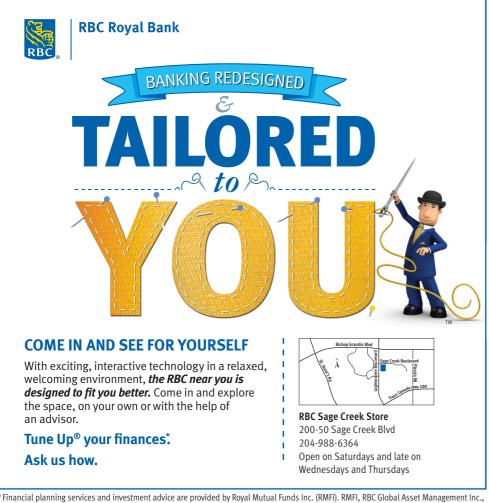
"It's disappointing," Wareham says. "The process for PR 200 was new and will need to be modified in the future so this

doesn't happen again."

According to the International Roughness Index, the standard measurement for ascertaining road conditions, the current surface roughness measures 2.8, whereas it was 3.0 before. The goal is to achieve a 2.2 or lower.

Wareham adds that a process called microsurfacing was used on Highways 59 and 52 with much better results. This process involves the use of a slurry mixture of asphalt cement, water, aggregate and concrete cement laid down in a liquid form so it can spread out and fill the ruts and minor deviations. It sets very hard and creates a road more resistant to ruts

"We're going to leave it for now," Wareham concludes, indicating that there are no further plans to improve on the highway at this point.



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GORP Putting Niverville on the Map



If you've been living in Niverville for at least a year or two, chances are good you've heard the word GORP at some point—and didn't quite know what you were hearing. So what's GORP, and where did it come from?

It's an all-natural energy bar, and it came from local businesswoman Colleen Dyck's kitchen.

"I started doing triathlons in 2004," says Dyck. "I had to drive into the city to do the swim training, and that's when this all came about. Because after swimming I was hungry as a horse, and so I was swinging through McDonalds on the way out, and I'm thinking, 'Okay, I know this is a bad idea.""

Unlike most of us, Dyck quit the habit and took action. "I started using energy bars, just the ones that were on the market, and what I found is that they had a weird, wonky aftertaste."

The bars gave her a lot of intestinal upset, and with a bit of research she found out that those bars contained a lot of low-quality ingredients, cheap proteins, and high-fructose corn syrup.

"Just a lot of stuff I didn't want to be ingesting," Dyck says. "So I thought, I could do this better in my kitchen."

The result is Dyck's signature GORP bars, which came about after a lot of research and experimentation. Before long, she was run ragged trying to satisfy orders from family and friends. So she stepped up her game.

"I majored in entrepreneurship at Red River, so I knew that was something that was in me," Dyck says. "Ihad no idea what an incredibly long, hard process it would be to get a shelf life without using preservatives, to round up the money to do all the testing... and then all the regulation, and then trying to find a facility to try to manufacture in."

To make matters worse, her house



Colleen Dyck outside the GORP kitchen.

then burned to the ground. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it allowed Dyck to design a new home which could include an industrial kitchen in the basement.

Dyck has always been passionate about keeping her product as fresh as possible. After 8 years of testing, she managed to achieve a 225-day shelf life, or 7 and a half months. "The initial backlash I got from distributors and retailers was strong and swift. They wanted a year. Two years. And I'm like, no, I don't think the public wants to be eating stuff that's been sitting in a warehouse for a year."

Dyck says it's important to stick to your guns when it comes to your core values. She refers to it as authenticity, and works hard to build it into every aspect of her business.

"I think that a lot of companies start out with the best of intentions," Dyck says. "You get told in the industry, 'But this is the way everyone does it. Why are you trying to swim against the tide? What do you know, little lady?"

Despite many people urging her to change her recipe, to only sprinkle in the expensive ingredients, the active ingredients that set her bars apart from the rest of the market, she decided to keep her product as highquality as possible. Today, manufacturing about 30,000 bars a day and employing a staff of 20, she is using almost exactly the same recipe she started out with.

The bars are now available in more than 600 retail stores across Canada, including some sizeable chains. "We're in Mountain Equipment Co-op, and that's coast to coast. We're in Federated Co-op, in a certain segment of their grocery chain," she says. "Then the Northwest Company took us on, and they service a lot of stores in the north." Next up was Domo Gas, who contacted Dyck out of the blue. "They took us into all 44 of their gas stations from here to B.C. And because of them, the distributor that they use took us on." After that, the bars started to appear in convenience chains throughout B.C., and in Calgary and Toronto.

You may also have seen the bars in Shoppers Drug Mart, who is currently doing a test with Dyck's product. "We're only in about 11 of their stores, but you never know. They've got 1,300 locations across the country."

So far, retailers and distributors have been reaching out to her rather than the other way around, but that's not to say her company doesn't have innovative marketing ideas.

"We're going to make a 'culture committee.'We're going to start showing up at emergency wards, or wherever, with GORP bars for people. We're going to bomb neighbourhoods and

JEN MORIN

just put them on the street and hang a bar on everyone's door, in parking lots. [We want to] engage the community in a different way."

Several professional sports teams have been vocal sponsors, including the Winnipeg Jets. Two years ago, former Jet Zach Bogosian offered to give a free endorsement. To this day, the Jets buy directly from Dyck and stock their dressing room.

As a result of GORP, Dyck has become a presence in the world of ag business, sitting on the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council and the Manitoba Food Processors training board. Recently, she was invited to sit on a speaking panel in Ottawa on the subject of Canada's future role as one of the most trusted food sources in the world. Alongside her were heavyweights like Michael McCain (of McCain Foods), Amanda Lang (of the CBC's Lang and O'Leary Exchange), and representatives from A&W and giant internet retailer Alibaba.

"I felt very unqualified to be sitting on this panel," Dyck says. "I actually emailed them back and said, you know who you're talking to? I make energy bars in my basement. Let's be clear. I am not a big deal. You might have the wrong person. And they said, 'Nope, you came recommended and we want you.""

One of the most frequent questions Dyck gets asked is: when are you going to move your business? "When are you going to go to Winnipeg? You should move it to Calgary, or you should outsource production. That's crazy talk as far as I'm concerned."

Dyck says nothing makes her happier than to be working in Niverville and creating jobs for the highcalibre people here. "I'm honoured to be able to provide jobs in this town. I look forward to providing hundreds more if I can."

FOR MORE INFORMATION Www.gorpworld.com

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Council Connections

On behalf of Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!

The month of December has been a time for Council to assess what has been completed in 2015 and what will be needed to be completed in 2016.

January has a full agenda for Council as many meetings are planned. The largest of these meetings will be the annual planning session. This is a weekend where Council puts in long days to master plan for the community for both the current year and five and ten years onward.

In addition to this weekend planning session, meetings with both the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation and the Department of Justice will be held in the first half of January. This will be a time for Council to discuss challenges and opportunities related to community infrastructure needs and bylaw enforcement.

The new year will see a new initiative in terms of marketing the community. A marketing firm was hired in the fall to update the Town website and to assist in keeping the Town's social media presence relevant. A feasibility study for the new field house is underway. This is a necessary step required in order to be able to request funding from other levels of government.

The new year will also see the Main Street business community receive upgraded water service. Money from the Federal and Provincial governments are assisting in this project. This will allow businesses to be able to install sprinklers or other fire suppression means thus further ensuring the safety of their staff and customers. A Town hall meeting is being planned in January to provide more information to the business community about this project.

2016 looks to be a busy but exciting year. The new life lease with new medical space will be nearing completion and getting ready for its 2017 grand opening, a provincial election will be held in April, and the splash pad in Hespeler Park will be opening in the spring! Council is looking forward to the coming year and to working hard to meet the many needs of this great community!

Myron Dyck Mayor

COMING TO NIVERVILLE IN 2016!



Early in the new year, the Town of Niverville will be moving to a waste cart system of garbage removal. Full details will be provided in a future newsletter and posted on our Website and Facebook.



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Commentary Open for Business

By Ray Dowse

Numerous articles and studies have remarked on the incredible residential growth Niverville and the surrounding area has experienced over the past decade. We see it in our overcrowded schools, the extensive waiting list for daycare facilities, and in the number of new homes being built year after year.

Our community is now nudging 5,000 residents, and when we include our catchment area the population is around 10,000. The current pace will see this community become the next city in the province of Manitoba-when our population hits 7,500-and these figures will grab the attention of entrepreneurs looking for expansion opportunities, including national chains. Niverville is on the cusp of experiencing the kind

have long expected.

Some people feel that as we reach that population milestone, we can expect businesses to line up for the opportunity to open their doors here. If only it were that easy. There are many obstacles to overcome before people will take the risk to start businesses in our backyard.

The recent news of a grant from the federal and provincial governments to expand town water to our business sector is a step in the right direction. It is important for Niverville to have defined pricing for the cost of bringing town water, sewer, fiber optic cable, and other key amenities to the emerging commercial areas. The more unknowns there are in a business plan, the more speculative the risk becomes, and the less likely it will be for an investor

of commercial growth many of us to select our community as a place to do business.

Our proximity to Winnipeg is a double-edged sword. Being a relatively easy drive to the Perimeter Highway is one of the reasons we have experienced a population boom. The problem, from a local business standpoint, is that many new residents continue with their buying habits in Winnipeg rather than encouraging similar products, services, and pricing closer to home.

Even with the challenge of competing with Winnipeg, local businesses have the opportunity to thrive. Commercial land and lease rates will typically be lower here than in Winnipeg. From a resource standpoint, a number of households in Niverville have double incomes, and many of these families would relish the opportunity to have at least one member of the household work locally to save on commuting costs. This results in a strong demand for local jobs and a highly skilled pool of candidates who will not require as hefty a salary as is needed in the Winnipeg market.

Ultimately, we stand to gain much more in the commercial sector. The key to our success in the coming years will be determined by how well our business leaders, politicians, investors, and residents can work together and focus on achieving a common goal for this community. If we can do this, 2016 may very well be the year Niverville begins to experience the business growth that many of us have been waiting for.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.niverville.com

P ANALYSIS

The Regional Economic Analysis Process (REAP) Report, completed by the province for Niverville and the Municipality of Ritchot in August 2014, highlights some interesting facts. Not only is this region one of the fastest growing, it is also one of the youngest and highest-earning in the province.

For this article, we have extracted several graphs from the report. However, the full report can be viewed on the Chamber of Commerce website (www.niverville.com). Click the "Business" tab, then the "Reg. Economic Development" link.

FIGURE 2 - POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL

The 20–44 age group represents the region's young workforce. This is the age of most new business entrepreneurs. The higher percentage of people in the 30-44 age range, combined with a young population, is a positive indicator for the future.

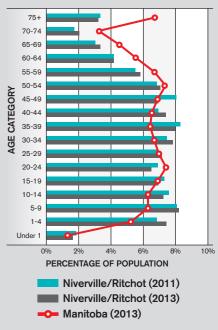


FIGURE 3 - HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

Our region boasts one of the highest average household incomes in Manitoba with nearly 35 percent of households earning over \$100,000 per year. The provincial average has just 22 percent of households in that bracket. On the other end of the scale, only 14 percent of local households earn under \$40,000 per year, where the provincial average is 32 percent.

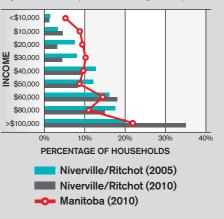
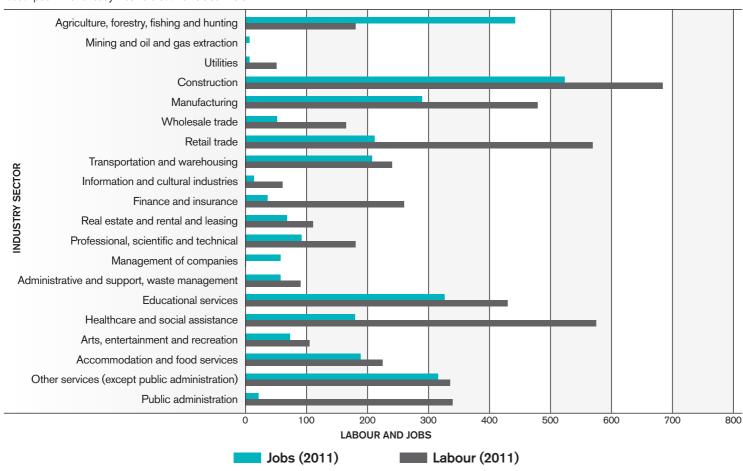


FIGURE 1 - NIVERVILLE/RITCHOT LABOUR VS. JOBS

The chart outlines the disparity between jobs and labour in most industries in our region. This indicates an opportunity for new industry to draw from the large and growing labour pool which already lives here but works elsewhere.



A Lesson for the Boys and Girls of Broadway

By Greg Fehr

The national media are positively giddy with their newfound (rediscovered?) access to our parliamentary representatives, and most notably the Prime Minister himself. Not only is the press once again abuzz with activity, but all manner of photo ops and interviews are available to them from Trudeau's airport greeting of refugees to his thoughts on Star Wars: The Force Awakens. The optimists are calling this the dawn of a golden age while the pessimists simply write it off as politicking. But if the first week of parliament is any indication, we are moving toward a new culture in the great halls. True to promise, we see changes in the operation of the House and the inclusion of all parties in its shape and design.

Despite any motivations and agendas that may exist, it is becoming clear that when the honeymoon ends, our parliamentarians will be working in a more civil and inclusive environment. Perhaps young Mr. Trudeau did retain something from his father. Despite the senior Trudeau's shortcomings (east-west relations, the National Energy Policy, etc.), he had a deep passion for the value of parliament and the parliamentary process, partially due to the era in which he served, which was in many ways a golden age itself. Writing often for the political journal Cité Libre, he spoke firmly and often



Manitoba Provincial Legislature.

bluntly about the importance of all players, including opposition, in producing decisions that were truly in the best interest of all Canadians.

What will be most interesting, and most beneficial to us as citizens, is watching the impact that this groundswell has on our other political horizons. Federal policy, direction, and culture has always had an impact on the provinces, and by proxy on our local councils. Do not misunderstand, this groundswell is not partisan; it may have all three of our provincial parties questioning their stance and learning new dance steps.

Our current ruling NDP has the distinction of being criticized as often for their ADOBE STOCK

non-cooperative approach and failure to communicate as they are for their policies. Take the PST increase; while none of us enjoy paying the extra one percent, its need is largely understood. What is beyond comprehension is how little consultation took place and how poorly its intent was communicated. Unfortunately, this has become the modus operandi of our provincial government, leading to suspicions of hidden agendas and incompetenceor worse, indifference.

The official opposition may fare no better in their quest to conform to our new political reality. While the nomination and election of progressive candidates put the PCs in a position to win the election, they must break the stigma of arrogance and callous policy that has always plagued the right wing. PC leadership must release its central grip and let some of its best and brightest shine. The lesson from the feds may be that the people want progressive politics and MLAs who can represent their constituents fully, not just within the realm of party rhetoric.

Our provincial Liberal leader is looking to rebuild and capitalize on the Red Wave that seems to be sweeping the nation. Unfortunately, while she seems to have grasped the slant of public opinion, her strategy of focusing on opportunistic and ill-thought policy is doomed to fail. Perhaps these are merely the failings of the small staff provided to a single member party, but policies such as a blanket two-year rent freeze could not be proposed by anyone who had done the research. Yes, the idea of cheaper booze from my local privateer may garner some votes, but the majority of voters will seek a little more substance.

It is time for the boys and girls of Broadway to head back to school. We, the citizens, are tired of games. We want effective government. We want transparency, not in the form of reports and press releases, but true honesty from our leaders. It's a simple lesson, but they must be ready for the final test. It's worth 100 percent of their grade and is scheduled for April 19.

The Place I Call Home

By Hilda Barton

Niverville is the place I call home. I haven't lived there in over 35 years, yet it still brings back wonderful memories of my younger years. I was born in Paraguay and moved to Canada within 6 months of my birth. We lived on what was then William Street and I walked to school every day rain, sleet, or snow.

After high school, a year in England, and a few living in Winnipeg, I moved with my American husband to Tennessee, leaving my large close-knit family behind. The bravado of youth and the prospect of adventure beckoned loudly. I quickly opened a hairstyling shop and began to know the natives. As a Canadian, I was full of attitude regarding Americans and their ways. I engaged new friends and acquaintances with gusto, debating the black/white problem and the American love affair with guns. With the idealism of youth, I thought I knew better.

From my new friends, the most egregious sin I encountered was a complete ignorance of Canada and Canadians. More than once I heard "Canada is communist, right?" or "Canadians live in igloos, right?" By contrast, as Canadians living next door to the USA, America was always on our radar.

I found Americans friendly despite their lack of knowledge about the rest of the world. However, in the south, something else became clear. Contrary to my upbringing, where being direct in conversation was a virtue, asking questions in my new homeland was interpreted as inquisitive or just plain rude. The people's warm friendliness threw me off, because I interpreted my conversations literally. If a new friend said she would like to have me over, I thought that's what she intended. It took some time before I understood that the words were a cultural norm, and often no dinner invitation would be forthcoming. No malice or slight was implied in this.

Time has passed and I have more than acclimated to my adopted country. I am blessed with many friends. When I am asked if I know someone's friend John who lives in Ontario, I just smile and say no. I don't bother to huff and puff. During discussions about the Second Amendment (the right to bear arms), I understand the rationale and complexity of the debate.

Throughout my time in the southern USA, my pride in Canada and being a Canadian has increased. My small town roots make me proud. In Niverville, I developed an appetite for travel and for knowing and connecting with people. Niverville was a safe place to grow up. Although we were not very diverse back then—and we were plenty judgmental—the years seem to have mellowed the community.

Though my decisions led me into a broader world, I love to come home and catch up with the people and growth taking place. Niverville is unique, changing and growing in size and inclusivity. I would like to think I mirror that!



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Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sundays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Helmets are required. Niverville Arena, FREE.

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

Public Skating Fridays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Sticks & Pucks

Bench League Hockey Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 p.m

Niverville Arena, \$8 drop-in fee.

Adult Rec Hockey Thursdays, 9:30–10:30 p.m. Niverville Arena, \$10 drop-in fee.

Tuesdays, January 5-March 8.

South End of Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Cost \$85 (or \$10 drop-in fee)

Cost \$150 (or \$15 drop-in fee)

Zumba (New Session)

Sports & Recreation Former Clipper Making Strides in Kelowna

By Sawyer Klassen

It's a trade that has so far worked out very well for Tyler Anderson.

Last year, the former Niverville Clippers defenseman registered 3 goals and 8 assists in 48 games with the Kindersley Klippers of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL), his first season of Junior A hockey. He wouldn't get a second season with the team, however, as he was traded to the West Kelowna Warriors of the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL) in the summer.

So far, Anderson has greatly benefited from the trade. With a record of 19 wins, 13 losses, and 2 overtime losses, the Warriors currently sit third in the Interior Division. Although he only has one assist in those 34 games, the defensive stalwart has been making an impact for the Warriors after a short adjustment period to the Junior A league.

"It was tough at first, just because it was a different league with a new team, new friends, and just

everything was different," Anderson recalled of the transition from the SJHL to the BCHL. "It's a faster and better league, and I think I've adjusted pretty well so far."

Anderson also had to undergo a large adjustment off the ice, as he was no longer in a small town. With a population of 4,600 people, Kindersley is a similar size to Niverville. West Kelowna, however, is a city of over 30,000 people in the Okanagan Valley, a highly populated urban area. With that said, the change was one Anderson is greatly in favour of.

"I love the Okanagan. I live in Peachland, which is right on the water," he noted. "I get to wake up and see the lake every morning. Kindersley was a good town too, but it was pretty small. Here we're in West Kelowna which has Kelowna [metro population 180,000] right next to it, there's Vernon [population 40,000] just down the road, and other big cities. You meet a lot of people and it has a big impact."

After arriving in West



Tyler Anderson on the ice for the West Kelowna Warriors

Kelowna in August, Anderson immediately fell in love with the region. While he had been to B.C. before, it was his first time experiencing the Okanagan. He noted the valley is quite beautiful, particularly in winter. He joked the coldest winter day is like a spring day back in Manitoba. He also credits his billet family for helping him make the adjustment to life halfway across the continent. Their continuous support of him has been a great factor in helping him settle in.

The trade has not only gone well for Anderson off the ice, but also on it. He has nothing but positive things to say about the Warriors organization, particularly the coaching staff, whom he noted has helped him elevate his game.

"Definitely speed for sure," Anderson said, describing how he has improved as a player since coming to B.C. "I've turned more into a leader for this season I think. I'm a veteran guy and hopefully I've helped the young guys mature."

With one year of Junior eligibility remaining, Anderson would ideally

love to earn a scholarship to an NCAA school to not only continue playing hockey at a high level, but also begin working on his post-secondary education. If that doesn't work out, he would like to play for a CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) school such as the University of Manitoba.

Those goals are still 2 vears down the road, however. For now, Anderson is focusing on one thing: helping the West Kelowna Warriors win as many games as possible.

Yoga (New Session) Core Flow & Yin Yoga Mondays, January 4–February 29 Curling Rink, 7:00 and 8:15 p.m. Cost \$90 for one or \$175 for both

TUFF-N-UP Bootcamp (New Session)

Mondays/Wednesdays, January 4–February 9. South End of Arena, 6:30 p.m.

New Body (Fitness Class) Wednesdays, January 6–February 24 South End of Arena, 9:30 a.m. Cost \$75 (or \$10 drop-in fee)

Body Rolling Posterior Workshop Thursday, January 7, 6:30–8:00 p.m. South End of Arena, Cost \$40.

Fundamentals of Food Safety January 17, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. South End of Arena, Cost \$117.

Essential Oil Workshop Saturday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 South End of Arena, Cost \$10.

Body Rolling Anterior Workshop Thursday, January 28, 6:30–8:00 p.m. South End of Arena, Cost \$40.

For More Information:

www.nivervillerecreation.com

Send your event listing to: cgadient@nivervillecitizen.com



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Varsity Girls Finish Strong

By Carl Fast

The Niverville Varsity girls finished their year off strong at Provincials. They placed second in round robin play, beating Morris, Gabrielle Roy, and Memorial High before losing to Major Pratt, who ultimately won the silver.

On Saturday, November 28, the girls won their first playoff match against Neepawa. In their next game, they came up against Killarney, the top ranked team all year. The girls battled hard, but they just didn't have enough energy to compete with the talented Killarney team, which went on to win Provincials.

The girls finished fourth and should be very proud of them-selves.

Jordyn Olafson was voted an all-star for the tournament, which was well deserved.



The R4U Red River Rage ringette team.

Ringette Program Thriving in Southeast

By Christie Harder

The Red River Rage ringette program is thriving in our community. 60 players are registered in the local program this year. While most communities are worried about nothaving enough players to form a team, Niverville's biggest challenge is making sure the players get enough ice time.

The Ringette 4 U (R4U) program, created 3 years ago, divides players into 3 groups according to strength. For both practice and game time, the ice is divided into 3 sections, allowing players more ice time. This allows for more one-onone coaching and faster skill development. The Manitoba Ringette Association provides lesson plans as well as trained instructors for each practice and game to ensure that players are taught the skills needed to succeed.

The local club includes players from Niverville, Ste.

Agathe, and St. Adolphe. Its focus is to develop strong athletes in a fun and positive environment, and to build lifelong friendships and selfconfidence.

"As a coach, it's always so amazing to see how quickly the players learn and grow," says coach Christie Harder. "Kids that can't stand on their skates at the beginning of the season are scoring goals by Christmas time!"



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JENNIFER LOEPPKY



Junior Varsity Panthers Win Provincial Title



Niverville's Junior Varsity Boys volleyball team

By Terry Martin

The Niverville Collegiate Junior Varsity Boys volleyball team capped off their stellar season by capturing the A/AA provincial championship on November 21. The boys advanced through the 3-day tournament without a loss to meet Gabrielle-Roy, their zone arch rivals, in the finals.

The stage was set for a rematch of the Zone 13 final played between these teams 3 weeks earlier. In that zone final, the Panthers took command in the first set, winning 25–15. Gabrielle-Roy stormed back in the second set to mount a 23-18 lead. In a nail-biting finish, the Panthers served up 7 straight points to steal the set and win the zone, earning the top ranking in the province.

Needless to say, Gabrielle-Roy had something to prove in

the provincial final. They jumped out to a 12-2 lead in the first set. After that shellacking, Panther head coach Ron Limpright instilled confidence in his boys, telling them, "It's only the first set, it's not over. Let's just win the second one."

In the second set, the Panthers were able to put up some big blocks and hits to jump out to an early lead. Gabrielle-Roy battled hard to bring the game close at many intervals, but the Panthers hung on to win 25-19, forcing a tie-breaker.

traded points, but the Panthers remained out front and sealed the deal with a 15–11 win.

power hitters Lijah Doell, Austin Anderson, and Joel Dueck; setter Josh Limpright; middle attackers Parker Davis, Justin Friesen, Bailey Hiebert, and Keenan Deorksen; and right side Nate Martin and Guippe D'Amico. The team was coached by Ron Limpright and Terry Martin.

In the final set, the teams

The team consisted of

🖨 IN BRIEF

Winterfest Makes **Successful Debut**

By Chantel Gadient

On Saturday, November 21, Niverville held its first annual Winterfest and Market. The event was a big success, with over 40 vendors setting up shop at the high school market. At the elementary school, visitors could take photos with Santa, play games, get their faces painted, and drop by the Holiday Gift Shoppe,

set up for children to buy gifts for their families and giftwrap them.

Skating, supper, caroling, and sleigh rides followed at the Niverville Arena. The evening was capped off with the annual Christmas tree lighting. In all, more than 500 visitors showed up, assuring that the Winterfest and Market will return in 2016.

Outdoor Skating Rinks

By Chantel Gadient

As temperatures drop, the Town of Niverville has committed to prepare 3 outdoor skating rinks. The proposed locations are at the Maranatha Church parking lot, the Fourth Ave. Bible Church parking lot, and the Niverville Arena. However, the condition of the rinks will be weather-dependant.

Ryan Dyck, the town's Operations Manager, explains that if the weather continues to be on the warmer side, as it was throughout much of December, we may not have outdoor skating

rinks this year.

Let's hope for colder weather in the New Year so we can go skating outside and play some pick-up hockey. When the benches and nets are put out on the rinks, that means they are ready to be used.

There is also free public skating at the Niverville Arena on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Visit the Niverville Recreation website for details on public skating times.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nivervillerecreation.com

Varsity Boys Take Second Place at Provincials

By Evan Braun

⊠ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's Varsity Boys volleyball team came just a hair short at the Provincials tournament held in Dominion City on November 26-28. They fell in a close final to the Major Pratt

Trojans, from Russell. Their only loss in the round robin had also been to Major Pratt.

Niverville won the first set handily (25-13), but then lost the much closer second set (21-25). Major Pratt took first place after winning the tiebreaker 15–13.

"They had a very, very good team this year," says Elfriede Giesbrecht, whose son Chris Giesbrecht played for Niverville. "It's just too bad they couldn't win."

Niverville players Markus Renaud and Chris Giesbrecht were selected as tournament

all-stars. This year's team was coached by Ron Limpright.

The team had qualified for Provincials by beating the Goose Lake High Raiders in back-to-back sets on November 14.



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O PROFILE



ADAM BUSS PHOTOGRAPHY

Hannah Aitken: Athlete of the Month

Hannah has been playing ringette for our local Red River Rage ringette team for the last 5 years. This past spring, she tried out for the U14 AA Eastman Flames team and made the squad of 16 girls, where she plays forward.

Hannah loves the game of ringette, enjoys being active, and is a great team player. When she is not on the ice, she plays soccer and volleyball. In her free time, Hannah enjoys writing, art, and helping her younger sister's U10 ringette team with practices. She is a Grade 7 student at Niverville Collegiate.



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Setting Manageable Goals

fitville



Happy New Year! We often try to set New Year's resolutions to get fit or be healthy. I know I have tried to set goals like "I'm going to exercise more," and frankly dropped those goals after the first month. One of the most common mis-

takes in making fitness goals is making goals way too broad. Sure, you were thinking long-term when you said "I want to exercise more," but you need to think short-term. Think of short-term goals as subgoals for your main long-term goal. Let's start here: grab a piece of

paper and write down your main

goal. For example, my main goal is "I want to exercise more." Write your goal BIG on your paper. Writing down your fitness goals will make yourself accountable for your goals and make it real. Post it on your fridge or at your office desk so you can see it every day.

Next, how do you want to exercise more? For myself, I love dancing, so one of my sub-goals is "Attend Zumba classes once a week for the next 10 weeks." When you are writing out your sub-goals, make sure you include what type of exercise or activity you want to do (Zumba), the frequency (once a week) and the duration (10 weeks). Having such specific sub-goals will make it easier to achieve your goals. Make sure you write down goals that are possible; goals that are too challenging will get thrown in the trash in less than a month.

Here's what not to do. My goal shouldn't be "I want to run a marathon by February 2016." I have never run a marathon in my life. I hate running. Even a specific sub-goal like "I will run 30 minutes per day for one week, then increase the time by 10 minutes every day," for me, would be impossible. Iwould give up on the first day of my 30-minute run.

Instead the goal could be: "I want to run a marathon by June 2016." This would give me at least 5 months to start training for this marathon. I could start off small and then work my way up. My first sub-goal would be "Walk for 20 minutes, with 2 minutes of jogging, once a day for the first week." My second sub-goal would be "Walk for 20 minutes with 5 intervals of 2-minute jogs every day for the second week," and so on. Since I'd be preparing for a marathon, I would work my goal up to running 26 miles.

Anyway, I will not be running a marathon any time soon. I honestly really hate running. I would rather walk briskly or jog for a bit. I will be sticking to Zumba and walking for at least 30 minutes per day, every day.

Stay motivated and focus on what is most important to you. Remember to write down goals that are achievable, and be specific about what you want to do, the frequency, and the duration.

Curling Season On Thin Ice

By Joel Martens

If someone were to ask me for an example of global warming, they would need to look no further than the past starting dates at the Niverville Curling Club. 25 years ago, it was not uncommon for us to start curling by December 1. Last year, we threw our first rock on January 6. It is now the third week of

December as I stare out onto the bare sand floor at the NCC. Normally, we would have our ice done and be concentrating on preparing for league play. Having a hand in making the ice since the mid 90s, I can honestly say this is by far the warmest start to winter and the curling season that I can remember.

ling season that I can remember. For those who might not realize, the NCC is a 3-sheet natural ice facility, which relies entirely on mother nature to maintain the ice temperature. Each year a dedicated group of volunteers help make the ice and organize the league that runs on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. This year put a lot of extra pressure on our volunteers, as we all had to find time during the busy holiday season.

Other programs running at the NCC include Junior Curling, the famous 2-on-2 bonspiel, Couples Curling, and Intro to Curling for the



Sand floor at the Niverville Curling Club, where low temperatures have delayed ice making

high school gym class.

Over the last couple of months, the NCC has gone through two renovation projects. The first project, on the strength of a \$10,000 accessibility grant from the province, allowed us to remodel the men's and women's bathrooms from top to bottom. The second project concentrated on the basement, where new paint, flooring, and cabinets were installed. Not only will these changes benefit the curlers of NCC, but also other organizations that are able to rent the space for activities like yoga, birthday parties, and family gatherings.

This year's curling season is

D JOEL MARTENS

set to begin on January 5, provided mother nature cooperates, and the NCC volunteers are able to finish making the ice surface. Here's hoping Santa brings some cold temperatures with him from the North Pole. Until next time... hurry hard!

Stuck in the Penalty Box



The Jets play a pretty rough brand of hockey. They are big, they are physical, and for the most part this is a good thing. The problem comes when they go beyond the acceptable level of physical play and start taking penalties. Not all penalties are bad, but the undisciplined and overaggressive plays make coaches want to pull their hair out.

Winnipeg has become notorious for its penalties. Since the beginning of the 2014-15 season, they lead the league in shorthanded minutes (427) and have given up the second most power play goals (83). Their tendency to take penalties is compounded by the fact that they have a mediocre penalty kill. During this same stretch, they've been able to kill off only 80 percent of their penalties. This season has been noticeably worse, as that number falls to 75 percent. The only bright side to all these penalties is that the Jets lead the NHL in shorthanded goals with 15

So who is to blame for these ugly numbers? According to the fans at the MTS Centre, it must be those pesky referees. Some of the loudest moments during Jets home games come from the "Ref, you suck" chants. Obviously, the calls don't always go the Jets' way, but I don't think we can put all the blame on the refs. Is it the coaches? Maurice likes to play physical, but the players need to know when to rein it in and play smarter.

So if it's on the players, who are the most at fault? As of this writing, the Jets have 7 players in the top 150 in penalty minutes per 60 minutes. Not surprisingly, Anthony Peluso and Chris Thorburn are the highest ranking Jets on this list. Most of these minutes come from fighting majors, but there's certainly more than enough undisciplined minors in those totals too. The next 5 are Mark Stuart, Dustin Byfuglien, Jacob Trouba, Ben Chiarot, and Adam Lowry. A message was sent to Lowry recently as he was demoted to the Manitoba Moose after taking a bad penalty in a loss to St. Louis on December 15. It's been a rough start to the year for Lowry, and

hopefully his time in the AHL will get him back on track.

The penalty trend has been especially bad the past 2 seasons, but if we go back even further we see that Winnipeg has had a negative penalty minute differential every year since relocating from Atlanta.

The power play hasn't been much better than the penalty kill this year. The Jets' twentyseventh-ranked power play has only scored on 15 percent of its opportunities. The average NHL team has a combined penalty kill and power play percentage of 100. Winnipeg's is 92.5 percent, second worst in the NHL. The top teams are Boston (109.4 percent), St. Louis (108.2 percent) and Montreal (106.7 percent).

The Jets must find a way to stay out of the penalty box. They could learn a few lessons from some of their Central Division rivals as Chicago and Minnesota; each have over 100 fewer penalty kills since the start of last season. Bad habits can be hard to break, but the more time this team spends sitting in the "sin bin," the less likely they are to make a playoff push.

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By Jason Hudson

It is finally starting to look like hockey season outside. Inside the rink, Clipper Ice Sports (CIS) is continuing to see some great success.

The Squirt division has started to play games in the new Hockey Manitoba cross-ice format, which allows for more puck touches and quicker development.

The Novice A team recently travelled to Portage la Prairie for a tournament and were very successful, going 4–0 while facing teams they normally do not have an opportunity to play.

In Niverville, the Pee Wee division hosted a tournament. The A team had a hard-fought tournament and came out on top as their division winners. The C team also had a great tournament but unfortunately did not make it to the finals.

In the New Year, Niverville will host a Novice level tournament as well as the Bantam Girls Provincials. Like all tournaments we host, these events are strongly supported by our local business community.

League play for all Novice and Bantam teams is proceeding. While the results are mixed, the kids are having fun and improving their skills at the same time.

On behalf of the CIS Executive and our membership, I would like to wish everyone nothing but the best in 2016.



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Arts & Entertainment Painting On The Prairies Facilitates Creative Fun



Sisters-in-law Amber Van Ma'iingan and Katrina Hiebert have been hosting paint parties since July 2015. The idea for Painting On The Prairies came to Van Ma'iingan after hearing about other popular paint party nights across North America.

"Katrina was the first person I approached with my idea about being my co-artist and co-instructor, because I knew she was a wonderful artist," said Van Ma'iingan. "So we both started painting, and as soon as we had 3 paintings we started setting up parties."

If you attend a Painting On The Prairies party, you don't have to bring anything. Van Ma'iingan and Hiebert supply canvases, easels, paint, brushes, and anything else you might need. All you have to do is show up ready to create.

Van Ma'iingan and Hiebert walk the clients, step by step, through a painting chosen ahead of time. The paintings are specifically chosen with beginners in mind. An art degree is not necessary. The whole evening is structured more like a party than an art lesson. "We encourage creativity and fun and want people to relax and let loose," Van Ma'iingan says.

People are also encouraged to make the painting their own by changing up colours and elements as they feel comfortable. At the end of the night, everyone leaves with their own artwork. "The best part is how different yet beautiful



Amber Van Ma'iingan and Katrina Hiebert hosting a paint party.

everyone's paintings always turn out," says Van Ma'iingan.

The success of Painting On The Prairies is certainly growing. "People love it for different reasons," says Hiebert. "From some I hear it's because it's relaxing, from some because it's exciting. But overall I believe that people love being creative. Coming to a party, we give them the tools and the time to indulge in some creativity."

Van Ma'iingan continually hears from clients how therapeutic painting is. "It is a social activity that gets people interacting and laughing, and in the end you feel lighter because you painted away all your stress and anxiety from the day."

The two instructors are both capable artists themselves. Hiebert has been painting for nearly 20 years. She decided to pursue it when she was in elementary school when she spent her allowance on a canvas and a multipack of paints. Van Ma'iingan has been doing mostly pencil portraits, but in the last year she switched over to this new medium.

The transition from artist to teacher came naturally to both women. Hiebert says she enjoys the energy and excitement that's in the room, and the challenge of breaking down the creative process, and Van Ma'iingan says it's her favourite part of the business.

"I love teaching," says Van Ma'iingan. "I am a very social person and no matter how tired or stressed I feel before a party, it is the people and the teaching and the interacting that give me a boost and soon I feel like I am leaving behind all my stress and anxiety."

The parties can take place anywhere from a restaurant to a café to a home or an office. Private parties are usually smaller, with 10 to 15 painters, and public parties have grown as large as 30 people. Tickets are generally \$35.

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.ontheprairies.ca

EVENT GUIDE

Old Time Country Band

December 30, January 6, 13, 20, 27 | 7:00 p.m. Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$1.00

New Year's Eve

featuring Small Town Saints, Brady Dyck, Whiskey Talks Unplugged, and DJ Ineffable December 31 | 9:00 p.m. Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern, Niverville. \$20.

Masquerade Ball, featuring F & R Sound

December 31 | 8:00 p.m. Steinbach Legion, Steinbach. \$25.

Mission: Munsch Possible,

A Family Holiday Show January 15 | 6:45 SRSS, Steinbach. \$12.

Author Reading: Laura Reeves and Miranda Ward January 18 | 7:00 p.m. Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Painting On The Prairies

January 19/7:00 p.m. Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Games Night

January 20 6:00 p.m. Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Story Hour January 21, 28 | 1:30 p.m. (Also 10:30 p.m., January 28) Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Send your event listing to: mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com





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🖨 IN BRIEF

NCI Drama Decision Delayed

By Matt Falk

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Auditions for the 2016 NCI high school drama production took place on December 14-15. The auditions were headed up by the drama's director, Deana Wiebe. 16 kids, many of them first-timers, are vying for a role in the May production.

Students auditioned with a wide array of monologues ranging from Monty Python to Alice in Wonderland to A Few Good Men. "The students seemed more prepared than they have in years," says Wiebe. "Almost everybody had their audition piece completely memorized and rehearsed.

A play had been selected weeks prior to the auditions, but something rare has thrown a wrench in the plans.

"There were a lot of really talented newcomers that we didn't count on," says Wiebe. The play being considered didn't leave room for the number of talented kids who auditioned. Wiebe doesn't want to turn anyone away, especially in their senior year. "This is the last year a lot of these kids have to be a part of the school's drama. I'd hate to turn them away just because the play has too small of a cast."

New plays—like Pride & Prejudice, Cheaper by the Dozen, and The Man Who Came to Dinner—are being considered and a final decision will be made in January, with rehearsals starting at the beginning of the new semester

Typically the roles are handed out before Christmas break, but that is not a possibility this year. "I suppose this is a good problem to have," says Wiebe. "We have too many talented actors, and I don't want to waste any of them."

Looking Back at the Niverville Drama Club

By Matt Falk M mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

For over 20 years, the Niverville Drama Club has been entertaining and celebrating our town. Though it is on a temporary hiatus, the club is still very much alive in the minds of many Niverville artists.

The NDC grew out of a town choir that David Wiebe conducted in the 1990s. Monologues and skits were written by Cathy Krahn and performed as a part of the choir's performances. When the choir disbanded, the Niverville Drama Club was officially born.

"Several of the choir members were interested in acting and notices were put up in town inviting anyone interested to join us," says Krahn. The plays themselves were often written by Krahn. "Once I knew how many actors were flushed out of the 'Niverville bush,' a play would be written."

As a rule, the plays were always written with the actors in mind. The club was an ensemble and every member got an interesting role and quite a bit of time on stage. "A personal philosophy was that everyone who came to our drama club deserved a fairly substantial role," Krahn says.

Keanan Byggdin, who spent many years in Niverville and is now living near Halifax, joined the club in 2002. "The other members of the club were all very welcoming, and being new to the area at the time I really appreciated the sense of belonging and community that I gained from my participation in the group."

'There have been many



Josiah Speers, Keanan Byggdin, Kerensa Mamchuk, Joel Wiebe, Connor Wiebe, Josiah Letkeman, Chris Reimer, and Bethany Speers at a rehearsal.

CATHY KRAHN

wonderful people involved with the drama club over the years," says Krahn. "Some have passed on, some not able to act anymore, some still participating in the arts, some moved away, and others waiting for another opportunity to arise. Each person that has ever been part of the club has enriched my life—greatly. There were many rehearsal nights in our basement where we laughed 'til our faces ached and tears fell. Lines were butchered, rehearsed and perfected."

The group learned quickly how to produce and perform pieces on a shoestring budget. Sets were designed and built to fit in the backseat of a van and be assembled with ease. It was always a group effort and a team mentality onstage and off. Actors would work together and often stay long after the audience had gone to clean up. "This is an extremely valuable les-

son for any aspiring actor to learn," said Byggdin. "[It has] served me well as I've continued on in the Manitoba, and now Nova Scotia, theatre scenes."

The troupe performed at every conceivable venue across Niverville from the Golden Friendship Centre to the arena to the Heritage Centre. They produced original comedies, off-kilter murder mysteries, skits, and monologues. Some of the plays included Niverville News & Entertainment 311, Insane Sketches from a Little Village, and Clewed Out.

Occasionally a traditional drama was performed, like Arrivals & Departures by Carol Shields or Agatha Chrstie's The Mouse Trap, but patrons often remarked that they liked the plays about Niverville

the best. "They were able to watch classical drama at the theatres in Winnipeg," says Krahn. "But theatre featuring your quirky town and nutty neighbour who you met on stage could only be had in local theatre, and that's what we tried to deliver."

Even though the NDC is on a break, the break is interrupted from time to time. For instance, David Wiebe and Cathy Krahn performed for 2 events in Niverville this past summer.

"The rewards of writing about a town you love, producing, interacting, and developing ideas with the cast, and audience applause is too great to stay away from," Krahn says. 'Niverville has a great deal of acting talent, and some actors from before, and many new faces will be a part of the future Drama Club."



New Year, New Goals

By Susan Watson

Setting lofty goals are often not specific enough to achieve long-lasting results. Many people set out to eat more vegetables, stop dining at drive-thru restaurants, and ditch junk food once and for all. Such big commitments are better achieved by breaking them down into smaller, more manageable nutrition choices. For example, instead of cutting out restaurants entirely, try to start packing a lunch more often.

To start your health off right in 2016, try these 5 simple tips.

1. Start off by looking to the rainbow for inspiration. Brightly coloured vegetables, especially leafy greens, are full of vitamins, antioxidants, and fibre. An added bonus is that they are low in calories and leave you feeling fuller for longer. Think beyond iceberg lettuce and try to incorporate a vegetable in every meal. Carrots or zucchini can be shredded into everything from casseroles to muffins. Steamed, roasted, baked... the possibilities are endless.



2. Think about eating your calories, not drinking them. Keep a tally on liquid calories. An extra glass of wine or an afternoon latte can add up unexpectedly. Fluids don't contribute to the feeling of fullness the same way solid foods do, and you may end up taking in more calories than needed. While a sugary drink every now and then won't hurt you, try to rehydrate with water. 3. Consider non-meat sources of protein, such as beans, peas, lentils, and chickpeas because they are lower in saturated and trans fats, while also containing more fibre. Choosing alternative sources of protein introduces different nutrients to your diet and can offer up new twists to existing favourite dishes such as pizza, salads, and soups. 4. Cook with confidence. Remember, healthy meals do not have to be extravagant or expensive. As the cook, you control every ingredient that goes in your dish. Like with any new skill, it takes time to truly get the hang of it. So go ahead and embrace the challenge without fussing about whether it will taste good or bad.

5. Finally, remember that treats are treats! Attempting to change your diet overnight is an impossible task. Rather than cutting out the indulgent foods you love, cut out the guilt. Focus on portion size when eating high-calorie foods. Keep these treats as once-in-awhile indulgences, such as a small dessert when going out with friends.

This year, tackle your intention to change by breaking your goals into small steps. Aim to be 80 percent confident that you'll be able to achieve them. Small steps can make large differences and make it easier to track successes along the way.



🖨 IN BRIEF

Elementary school students CARA DOWSE perform at the annual Christmas play.

Elementary Students Perform Christmas Play

The Niverville Elementary School performed their annual Christmas play on Wednesday, December 16, and Friday, December 18. Students shared traditional carols, dances, and poems from many different countries and ended the show with a round version of The Huron Carol.

The production, entitled "Christmas Around the World," was scheduled to play twice both days, with matinee and evening performances. Half of the classes performed on Wednesday, with the second half scheduled to perform on Thursday. Unfortunately, due to our first winter storm of the season, the Thursday performances were cancelled and postponed to a single performance on Friday morning. Some Kindergarten classes were unable to participate.



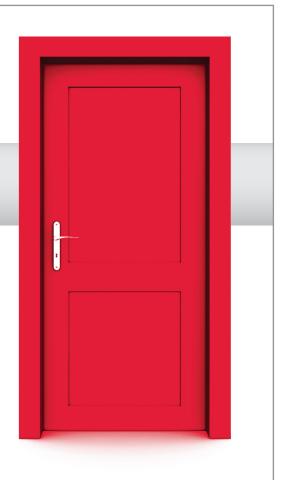
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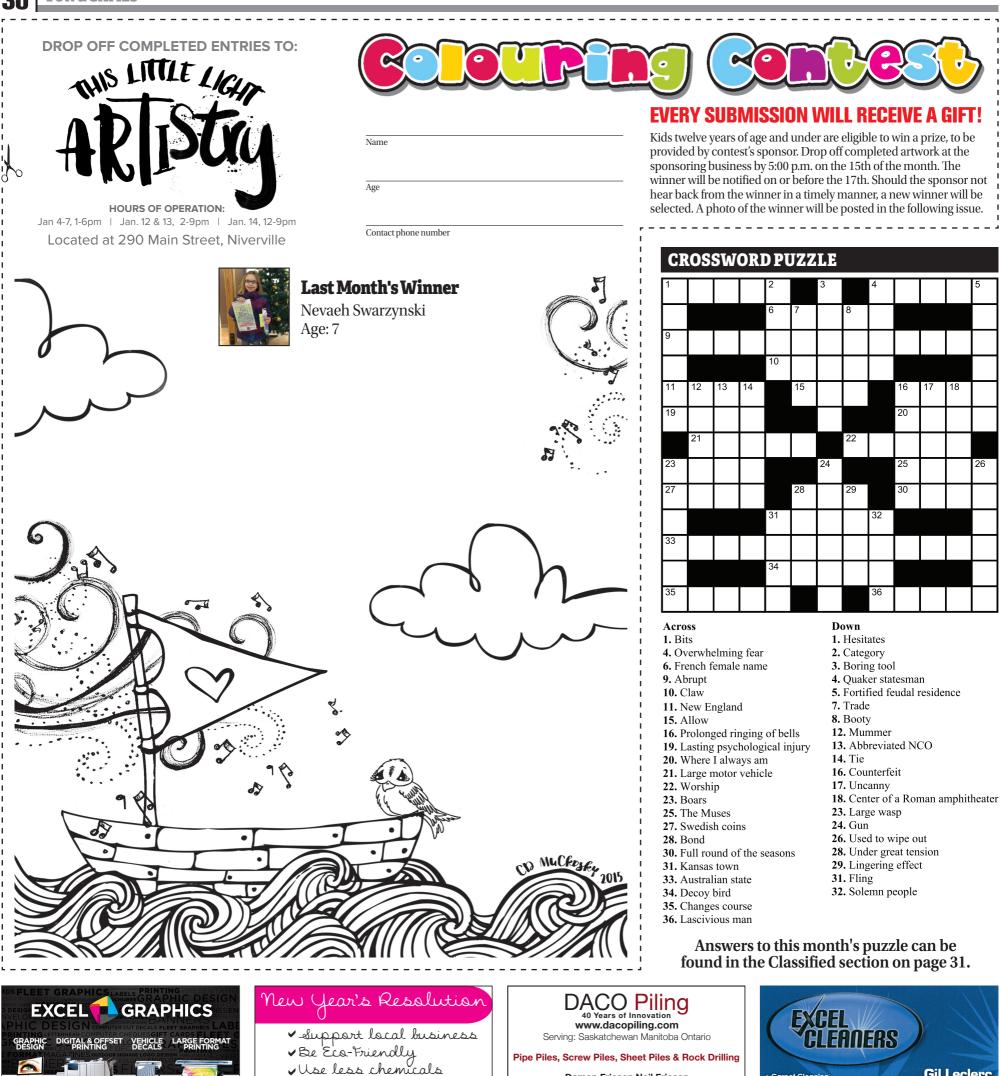
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Best wishes Niverville Citizen on your inaugural year! Niverville Community Resident & Wyatt Dowling Branch Manager, Debra Pearson



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