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LOCAL NEWS

Council Follow-Up

■ As Niverville's town council heads to their annual planning sessions, we take a look back at their 2016 initiatives.

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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Invests in Water Infrastructure

■ Almost 3,000 metres of new pipes are being installed to improve water services.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Local Dancers Competing in Germany

■ A team of talented tap dancers from Niverville are getting ready to perform on the world stage in Germany this month.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Author Takes on Infertility Struggle

■ Local writer Vicki Olatundun releases her first book, *Unleash Your Crazy to Win*.

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Niverville Prepares to Mark Remembrance Day

» DETAILS ON PAGE 3



Attendees at Niverville's Remembrance Day service laying their poppies.

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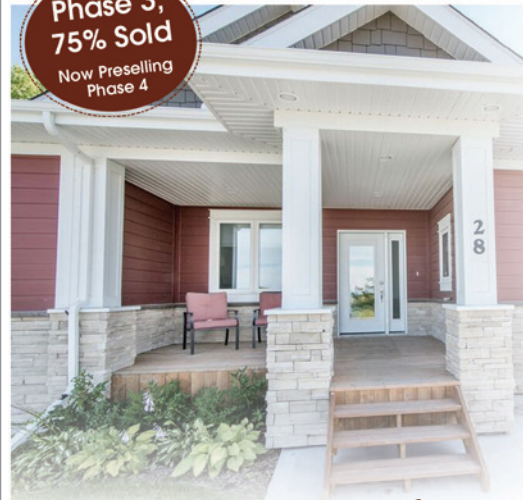
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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016

10:00 a.m. at the Niverville Heritage Centre



Remembrance Day in Niverville: A Celebration of Peace



An elderly lady sits down beside her friend at the Niverville Credit Union Manor. Her friend asks, "Where were you this morning?" The elderly lady replies, "At the Remembrance Day ceremony here in town. Why didn't you go?" Her friend says bluntly, "I don't believe in war." The elderly lady responds thoughtfully, "Neither do I."

According to Elaine Krahn, this was a conversation her mother, Margaret Stott, had with a friend just a few years ago. Krahn's father, Jack Stott, had served in World War II and it wasn't something their family would ever brush under the rug, let alone forget. In fact, like many members of the community whose family members made the ultimate sacrifice to fight for peace, they wanted to continue to share these stories. It continues to be important to them.

Prior to 1997, if citizens of Niverville wanted to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies, they visited other communities, like Ste. Agathe or St-Pierre-Jolys, because there wasn't a ceremony in town.

For some community members, the lack of local recognition was disappointing. Many of their parents, grandparents, children, aunts, and uncles had either served during wars or were currently serving our country. They knew they had to commemorate these people closer to home.



From left: Reverend Paul Lampman, Manitoba MLA Jon Reyes, Royal Canadian Mint Board of Directors member Bonnie Staples-Lyon and Second World War veteran and former Winnipeg Grenadier George Peterson unveil a silver coin commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong.

For nearly 20 years now, private citizens have come together to commemorate Remembrance Day in Niverville. The services aren't organized by the town itself but rather by families who want to honour their loved ones in the community they live in.

The first few ceremonies took place at the Niverville Elementary School and the Niverville United Church. When the Heritage Centre opened, the ceremonies were moved there to make room for more people. Last year's service had over 800 people in attendance, making it the second largest service in the province, according to the committee.

Lora Wachtendorf has been on the Remembrance Day committee for a number of years. Her father served in World War II and was a prisoner of war for four years. She explains why this day means so much to her.

"I think Remembrance Day is important, not just to my family because my

father served in the war, but it is important to Canada," Wachtendorf says. "Had it not been for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to fight for peace, we, as Canadians, could be living very different lives. We are free to vote, free to be educated, free to have careers, free to have families and free to pursue the lives we want. We can never forget that."

"I've been to ceremonies all over Canada, including Ottawa, and, in my opinion, Niverville's Remembrance Day ceremonies are the best I've had the privilege to attend," Wachtendorf adds. "It's an honour to help bring this event to our community each year."

This year's service will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp at the Heritage Centre. With attendance increasing each year, the committee suggests that you come early if you would like a good seat. There will be seating available in the ballroom as well as in the atrium. The ceremony is usually one hour

long and is followed by a light lunch which is open to all who attend.

Lorraine Kehler, former principal of Niverville Elementary School, will be welcoming guests. Kehler's son, Samuel Kehler, currently serves as an officer in the Navy. The Master of Ceremonies will be Ian Wallace, whose father John Wallace served in World War II. Ian's mother, Cicely Wallace, was a war bride.

The guest speaker will be World War II veteran George Peterson, who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong. 1,975 soldiers were sent to Hong Kong in November 1941 and nearly 550 were killed before Emperor Hirohito accepted the unconditional surrender of his forces on August 15, 1945. Prior to that, Peterson, now 95, had been taken as a prisoner of war. Prisoners in the camps

were treated as slaves and tortured and malnourished for years.

Peterson has received many honours for serving his country. As recent as this past month, he was a special guest at the unveiling of a new coin by the Royal Canadian Mint that will commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong.

As in past years, there will be the commemorative laying of wreaths by community members and service personnel, with an important involvement by community children. The Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Niverville Fire and Emergency Services, and many other service people will be represented. A full two minutes of silence will close the ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

The program will be filled with music and video presentations to engage and educate. The committee encourages families to attend to help teach the next generation about the importance of this day.

Poppies will be available, with all donations going to support veterans and their families. Out of respect, there will be a designated area where people can lay their poppies once the ceremony has ended. Donations will also be accepted to help cover the cost of the event and future Remembrance Day ceremonies.

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A Review of Town Council's 2016 Initiatives



BRENDA SAWATZKY

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Niverville's town council will soon be settling in for another annual weekend of community planning and goal-setting. It's at these think-tanks where ideas hatch and plans grow, without the usual interruptions of a counsellor's daily routine. The 2017 planning session will be held November 18-19 at the Clarion Hotel in Winnipeg.

As council gets ready to look ahead, The Citizen would like to look back at the initiatives that took root in the past year, those that didn't, and those that are still awaiting the right moment to sprout.

Among those initiatives was council's consideration to permit food trucks to set up for events at Hespeler Park. With the installation of a canteen in the new splash park, council felt it wise to give opportunity for local sport and social organizations to operate a food service in the canteen to raise funds that would stay in the community. Due to delays in the construction of the splash pad, the question of food truck permits will be delayed until 2017.

Also on the agenda for Hespeler Park was improved lighting along the pathways. Though the single experimental solar light that was

installed years ago has worked well, it was an expensive venture and replacement parts are slow in coming. Vandalism is also a big concern.

With this in mind, council spent time researching the merits of LED versus solar lights. With a potential cost coming in at around \$100,000, council is currently seeking government grants to offset the cost to residents.

This past summer, council was pleased to see additional funding in place to add three extra Green Team members to the staff. Though they'd applied to both the provincial and federal governments for more funding, only a portion of their request was granted. This resulted in our Green Team growing from nine staffers in 2015 to 12 staffers in 2016.

Recognizing that a limited Green Team staff can only do so much, council proposed an initiative to work alongside local organizations or individuals willing to take on some of the town's beautification needs. For the second year, council was pleased to work together with the local Communities in Bloom delegation.

"This committee has done various initiatives throughout town and are looking for volunteers," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "They presented... some suggestions for continuing to improve the beautification of our town. Council will be



Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck.

SHARI DYCK

reviewing their requests at our planning session to see which of the requests will be done for 2017."

The adopt-a-tree proposal was tabled due to bigger summer priorities but will be looked at again for next year. Council will consider hiring an arborist to tend the community's trees, but they still want to encourage residents to get involved on a voluntary basis if they have a passion for shrubs and trees.

Water continues to be a high priority to council.

Another January initiative was to pursue the idea of a rain barrel program to allow homeowners to retain rainwater, taking pressure off the sewer system during high rain events. This collected rainwater would also help alleviate excessive watering for gardens, reducing demand on the water treatment plant. Counsellor Kevin Stott inquired with the Seine-Rat River Conservation District regarding a rain barrel incentive program which would have provided rain barrels at low cost to residents of

Niverville. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to lack of interest from communities in their area.

Council's commitment to encouraging neighbourhood street parties and local events was made tangible this year with a block party trailer outfitted with tables, chairs, a barbecue, games, and coolers, and it is available to any resident free of charge. During its first summer in operation, the trailer was rented 20 times. Furthering its usefulness, the Friends of the Plex made good use of the trailer throughout the summer as a fundraising tool for the upcoming multiplex, hosting lunchtime barbecues around town. Town councillors and staff were regularly on hand to set up and serve at these events.

Council is still in the process of tapping on shoulders to find willing volunteers for a doctor recruitment taskforce.

"The role of this taskforce would be to develop a strategy to attract and retain doctors in Niverville," says Mayor Dyck. "If there are members in the community who would be interested in being a part of this taskforce, they can contact the town office."

A high priority on council's list this year was the pursuit of additional schools for our community.

"This past August our full council met with the full

Hanover School Division board including our school trustees," says Dyck. "We were invited to have supper with them at their office. It was at this time that the school needs of Niverville were brought forward including French Immersion, special trades for a new high school [and] how a new multiplex could be shared in some sort of partnership agreement for their students."

This past year, Hanover put forward their five-year capital plan and Niverville is now top on the list for a new elementary school. A new high school has also been requested. The final decision will be made by the province.

Council also continues to meet with our local MLA, Shannon Martin, about school overcrowding. Martin is aware of the request and has been asked to do his part in regards to securing new schools.

"At the end of the day, it's about numbers, not politics, that will see a school announced," says Dyck. "Currently there are other communities such as Sage Creek... that are ahead of Niverville in terms of need."

SEE PREVIOUS ARTICLE

■ We previously covered 2016's town planning sessions: www.nivervillecitizen.com/news/local/town-council-whats-on-the-table-for-2016



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CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

With Niverville's town council about to sit down for another year's planning sessions, which of the following issues are the most important to you?

Rate the following issues on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being unimportant and 5 being very important.

- A- Improving and expanding water infrastructure.
- B- Developing the town's newly annexed lands.
- C- Effectively delivering police services.
- D- Pushing for the construction of new schools.
- E- Working to build the multiplex.
- F- Increasing the number of town councillors.

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

What should be the priority when it comes to town water with the knowledge that the well currently supplying water to Niverville, built in 2002, was designed for a small subdivision and is no longer sufficient to meet the community's growing needs?

- A- Put a hold on any expansion to town water, including new development, until a long-term water solution has been established.

50%

- B- Push forward with the initiative to expand town water, but implement more conservation measures, like alternating lawn-watering days.

31%

- C- Have another opinion? Tell us what you think!

19%

SOME OF YOUR COMMENTS:

"I want to see the town continue to grow both from a residential and business standpoint. If our current water source is incapable of meeting our long term needs, then I agree we need to take the necessary measures to move it to help ensure long-term sustainability and growth."

"Council has denied for a few years now there is a water supply problem while trying to push expansion. This just proves they will lie to us to push their agenda of forcing all residence to hook up to town water even though they can't support capacity demands."

"The Highlands should have their own water system. Especially with the new commercial development there, And do not force people on wells to connect with Town water."

"Treatment plant is no good without water supply."

"The town can't expand anymore as it is in regard to water and daycare. There are too many families requiring daycare and not enough room. Just like too many houses requiring water and not having enough."

Raising Awareness and Funds for Diabetes

By Brenda Sawatzky

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For 37 years, Mitch Beauchemin has been a type 1 diabetic. He understands the struggles of living with the disease as well as anyone. Now, as an advocate for the Canadian Diabetes Association, he wants to help other sufferers gain access to the necessary tools and information to control the disease and get their lives back on track.

On November 12, Beauchemin is holding a fundraiser to do just that. The evening event, called "Let's Get Pumped," is planned to include a luncheon, the live band MosquitoZ, a host of speakers, a silent auction, and a 50/50 draw. It will be held at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes from 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

"Guests at this awareness social will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with friends and family and learn more about how people live with diabetes day to day," says Beauchemin.

Keynote speakers will include Canadian Diabetes Association educator Sherri Pockett, MLA Bob Lagasse, MP Ted Falk, and Sarah Baker, ambassador of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

"I'm doing this event because living with type 1 diabetes is a 24/7 job," says Beauchemin. For many years he struggled to keep his blood sugar under control, volunteering for trial studies and trying a variety of different doctor-recommended insulins, some of which had a negative effect.

But not being able to get his blood sugar under control had dire implications. He has suffered nerve damage in his feet; cramps in his hands, feet, and legs; and recently he was



Mitch Beauchemin with his insulin pump.

STEINBACHONLINE.COM

diagnosed with Stage 5 kidney disease. Since his kidneys only function at 15 percent of normal, doctors suggest he may be a candidate for a transplant or dialysis in the near future.

At this point, Beauchemin's doctor recommended an insulin pump. According to Beauchemin, the cost was steep—between \$7,000 and \$10,000 per unit, not including supplies needed to accompany it. Currently, Manitoba Health only covers the cost of pumps for patients 18 years or younger.

"Once you turn 19 you're on your own," says Beauchemin. "That's why I'm doing this. It's not only for me, but for all

diabetics in this province. If the government would spend money now they would save millions in the long run."

He adds that the cost of a kidney transplant runs about \$30,000 while dialysis costs Manitoba Health \$60,000 per patient. He has since invested in a pump of his own but wants to change these difficult circumstances for other diabetes sufferers in Manitoba.

"The problem with government is that they only think in four-year [terms]. They have to think down the road 10, 20, 30 years," Beauchemin says that diabetics are at risk of losing limbs and their eyesight. They are also susceptible to heart

disease, kidney disease, nerve damage, and premature death. "I hope government will open their eyes and pay for these [insulin pumps] so we can take care of ourselves and be less of a burden on the healthcare system."

All proceeds from the event will go to support the Canadian Diabetes Association. Tickets are \$15 and are available through the contact information below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ 204-878-9423 or 204-270-0179
■ quadsquad1959@hotmail.com

The Citizen Wants to Hear Your Holiday Memories!

The holidays are a time for coming together and making memories. In our December issue, we will be sharing stories from a diverse range of readers. Young or old? From this country or another? We want to hear from you. What are the memories that stick with you, the fond (or not so fond) Christmases you will never forget?

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Students Take Action to Effect Change

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

This fall and winter, a class of Grade 12 students at Niverville Collegiate are raising awareness for a host of important causes. The students have enrolled in a course called Global Issues, which is designed to empower students to bring about change.

"The course is an elective for Grade 12 students in social studies," says NCI teacher Adrienne Happychuk. "We choose to offer it because of its focus on global issues, awareness, and social justice."

Global Issues 40S serves as a replacement for a previous World Issues course, which the government ultimately retired due to the new course's improved focus on sustainability, citizenship, and bringing awareness to global issues.

Happychuk says she starts every class by asking a simple question: "How will you change the world for the better?"

A key part of the course encourages students to do just that. Each student is required to complete a Take Action project, which involves anything from volunteer work to fundraising for a local or global cause or creating awareness campaigns on global and social justice issues. The project, a mandatory component of the course, serves as their final assessment.

Justin Braun, 18, will fundraise to improve access to music education. "I love music, and I love making music," he says. "One of the ways I'm raising money is by offering guitar lessons. I'm at a level in guitar where I can teach beginners, and I know people



Justin Braun will be offering guitar lessons for a charitable cause.

JUSTIN BRAUN

in Niverville who can't afford it. That inspired me."

Braun has been taking lessons since the age of eight, and he sees this as an opportunity to pay it forward. In addition to teaching guitar, Braun will also run a CD drive, collect unused and unwanted instruments, and accept donations.

Other students have pledged to raise money and awareness for diverse causes like cancer research, the Children's Wish Foundation, Siloam Mission, orphans in Uganda, and the Winnipeg Humane Society. And that's only a small sampling of the projects announced so far.

Braun says that when it comes to choosing a cause and planning a campaign, the

possibilities are endless—but when it comes to making those plans a reality, the course offers accountability. "There's lots of planning. If you're raising books, you can't just throw a box in a foyer somewhere that says 'Books' and get one book at the end of it. You have to have structure, a carefully written-out plan, an essay for why you're doing it... and if it works. You can do whatever you want, but at the very end you have to present what you've done."

Braun adds that he hopes to continue his endeavour beyond the school year.

"The objective of the course is to have youth learn about, understand, and think critically about global issues and social justice, and teach them about

the importance of citizenship and social justice locally, nationally, and internationally," says Happychuk. "The course is valuable because it helps them learn to become good global citizens and focus on issues beyond those that only affect themselves and to look beyond themselves to how they can make the world a better place."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For a breakdown of the course's goals and subjects, the curriculum guide can be viewed at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/global_issues

■ For further information on each student's Take Action project, visit www.nci.hsd.ca

IN BRIEF

Elementary School Addition on Schedule

By Evan Braun

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The Niverville Elementary School addition, which has been underway throughout the summer and fall, is on track for completion at the end of October, confirms Hanover School Division Superintendent Randy Dueck. The addition will introduce five urgently needed new classrooms to the crowded school.

Since the start of the school year in September, four Grade 4 classes have been accommodated in existing spaces, including the library, music room, and multipurpose room.

"Accommodation has gone well for the Grade 4 classes," Dueck says. "Each teacher worked to make the spaces homeroom/classroom friendly, and HSD ensured every room was equipped with the needed technology and instructional furnishings."

In the meantime, the school has worked to minimize the impact of these disruptions.

"Through the use of book carts and scheduled classroom use, students have been able to check out books

on a regular basis. Music classes have been taking place in a spare room that comfortably holds upwards of 25 students in that space," Dueck says. "All in all, it has gone well. Teachers, students, and parents have been very patient, accommodating, and supportive of this temporary arrangement. That being said, we do look forward to the new addition opening very soon. The expanded space will be welcomed."

Earlier this year, the Hanover School Division placed two new Niverville schools on its five-year capital plan, including a 650-seat elementary school. Those requests are currently being reviewed by the provincial government.

"As we continue to see the growth in Niverville, we're aware that Niverville Elementary School, even with the addition that's being built right now, it's not going to be too long before it just doesn't suffice," Dueck said in May. "How the province then chooses to respond to this request, and when they choose to respond to the request, will be interesting."

Perogy Fundraiser

Mark your calendars! The Niverville Fire & EMS Department will be hosting their annual perogy dinner fundraiser on Friday, November 11 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the

Golden Friendship Centre. Donations will be accepted. This year's fundraising goal is to purchase farm accident rescue equipment.

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Providence Boasts High, Diverse Enrollment

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

With 493 post-secondary students enrolled in classes this year, Providence is boasting its highest enrollment since the 2009–10 academic year. The school has welcomed 165 new students this fall and improved its retention of former students by 15 percent, according to reports provided by Providence. The number of international students has grown

from 81 last year to 110, the highest in the school's history.

The recent growth also comes on the heels of the introduction of new undergraduate and degree programs, particularly in the areas of business and science education.

"Among the most popular study areas at the University College is our Business program, which is now offering a Bachelor of Business Administration," reads the report. "Bachelor of Arts programs, such

as Aviation, Communications & Media, Sociology/Social Science and TESOL [Teaching English as a Second Language] are also robust, and Psychology is our fastest-growing major. Our new Science courses are also very popular."

The seminary's Counselling program has also experienced sustained growth, with 121 students this year across all formats and disciplines.

Winnipeg's Ride for Refuge Reaches New Heights

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The annual Ride for Refuge took place in Winnipeg on October 1 and was a big success.

"This year's event exceeded all expectations," says Terry Martin of Niverville, one of the event's chief organizers. "The weather on October 1 was gorgeous. 600 people participated, compared to 360 last year, representing 27 different charities... and together all those charities raised \$177,200... for their life-changing work among the displaced, vulnerable, and exploited people in Winnipeg, in Manitoba, and around the world."

Last year's ride raised \$124,000, making this year especially productive. Out of 27 ride locations across Canada, Winnipeg was ranked third in terms of participants, donors, and dollars raised. The only two locations to beat it were Kitchener-Waterloo, where the ride originated, and Vancouver.

Martin says there were 7,165 participants across the country representing 252 charities for a total haul of \$2,086,000.

Ride for Refuge is unique in that it attracts participants of all ages and physical fitness levels.



Back (L–R): Ruth Bergen, Brian Bergen, and Leah Dyck.
Front (L–R): Shiloh Bergen, Elinorah Bergen, and Mikayla Dyck.

✉ BRENDA MARTIN

"I rode this year, probably one of the oldest," says Niverville resident Roger Armbruster. This year, his fourth, he cycled in support of Forever Families of Canada. "I was privileged to ride with both some of my children and grandchildren [pictured above]. It was a great family bonding time!"

Armbruster points to the physical and social benefits of partnering with the ride. "As for physical benefit, one can choose to either walk five kilometres, or cycle for five, ten, 25, or 50 kilometres. For myself, as a 72-year-old man, cycling for some ten kilometers was just about my limit, but I felt energized and rejuvenated afterwards. Socially, it has great benefit to connect you with people from so many different walks of life... After the cycling, there is an opportunity to engage with people

who represent the different charities, and there is truly a sense that we are all on the same team, all on the same side, all on the same squad as friends and as partners who want to make a difference for other people who are marginalized in some way."

The financial benefits are clear, according to Armbruster, in reference to Winnipeg's record-breaking fundraising effort this year.

"[The money] will not come near to helping everybody in the world, let alone in the city of Winnipeg," Armbruster says, "yet the help that is given to these charities will mean the world to some people, one person at a time."

Both Armbruster and Martin look forward to next year's ride, and encourage people to participate and team up with charities that inspire them.

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Young Woman Makes Big Difference

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

While most tweens fill their free time with video games, TV, and hanging out with friends, 12-year-old Rhea Peters is in her family's kitchen baking up a storm. For a little more than a month, Peters has dedicated every spare moment whipping up cookies and muffins by the hundreds. Behind her commitment to such a massive culinary undertaking is a desire to help kids in another part of the world go to summer camp.

When missionaries Scott and Patsy Buhler visited Peters' church this past summer, they put out a call to the congregation for financial help. The Buhlers, who have served for the past 18 years in Brazil, have dedicated their lives to camp ministries. Their dream is to build a camp lodge that will belong to Quest Brazil, the ministry they serve. For the past eight years they've been renting space for their year-round camps.

"My dad went to Brazil in April to help with the first phase of the project," says Peters. "A couple months later, Scott and Patsy came to Canada. While they were here, they were talking about ways we can help support the project and the idea came to me."

Convinced she could help, if only in a small way, Peters solicited her parents' approval to advertise and sell baked goods and donate the



Rhea Peters baking up a storm.

KRISTY PETERS

proceeds.

"It's just what I do," says Peters with the confidence of a young entrepreneur. "I have a company named Sweet Tooth Baking and have baked for a lot of people in the last two years. It is really something I love to do. I wanted to support Quest Brazil because there are not that many camps in Brazil that give opportunities for kids to learn about Jesus, and here in Canada we have more opportunities to go to camp."

Peters created an advertisement and used social media to get the word out. Immediately,

orders started coming in. "My goal at the beginning was [to raise] \$500. In about two weeks, I had already accomplished that one and orders were still flying in so we just kept going. Right now we have \$1,150."

As if taking on such a lofty task wasn't enough, Peters also plays ringette and volleyball, attends youth group, sits on student council at the Niverville Collegiate, and babysits on the side. This past summer, Peters and a friend ran a day camp for nine children under the age of seven. They organized, advertised, and

supervised the entire week of activities for seven and a half hours per day.

When asked what she'd say to others who are unsure how to help people in need, Peters says, "I would tell them to find a way to use their hobbies [and] passions helping others."

As for her own hobbies, Peters may have found her future calling.

"I definitely would love to be a full-time baker, but even if I'm not it will be one of my greatest passions."

IN BRIEF

New Water Infrastructure Coming to Niverville

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is continuing to expand its water services.

A water main is being installed along Sixth Avenue South from Main Street to Errington Way, which will be connected to the existing system via a new line that runs west into Cobblestone Court. The estimated cost of the loop, which will run 725 metres, is \$131,000.

New water infrastructure is also on the way for residents of The Highlands. Another water main will be installed along Crown Valley Road and Krahn Road, extending the network from Claremont Drive to the south entrance of St. Andrews Way. This 2,250-metre line carries an estimated cost of \$359,000 and is scheduled for completion in 2017.

The town has also begun work on upgrades to the Spruce Drive water treatment plant, including a larger pump, a larger generator, and other upgrades aimed to improve fire protection services for commercial businesses. These improvements are pegged at \$400,000.

These projects will be largely paid for through cost savings that resulted from this summer's installation of a water main along Main Street, a project which came in substantially under-budget.

"The Main Street project was completed for \$1.2 million instead of \$2.0 million,"

says Eric King, Niverville's Finance Manager. "The costs for this project were shared equally by the Town, province and the federal government. This provided an opportunity for Council to apply to expand the scope of the project and make additional water infrastructure improvements. Expanding the scope of the project has been approved by both federal and provincial governments."

The town's share of those cost savings equals \$681,000, a bit shy of the \$890,000 improvements that have been announced this month. According to King, town council is in talks with developers Heritage Lane Builders and Sunset Estates regarding cost-sharing proposals. Heritage Lane Builders is developing the LegacyRidge neighbourhood on vacant land west of Sixth Avenue and north of Cobblestone Court. Sunset Estates is in the process of developing The Highlands.

Pro-Starr HDD, a horizontal directional drilling company based in Steinbach, conducted the Main Street water main installation this summer. They have also been awarded the contract to complete the new water lines.

King says that these improved water services will help ensure that Niverville continues to enjoy sustainable development and economic growth.



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IN BRIEF

Local Builder Wins Award

Heritage Lane Builders has won yet another Parade of Homes award. President Doug Dyck was on hand at this year's ceremony to accept a silver award for the company's show home at 114 Claremont Drive in Niverville.

Since Heritage Lane Builders started competing in the Parade in 2008, it has seen great success, winning awards in all but one year. Dyck operates the company alongside his two sons, Justin and Marshall.

The Parade of Homes, a biannual event put on by the Manitoba Home Builders' Association, ran from September 10 to October 2. It will return next spring.

Providence Hires New Director

Providence Theology Seminary has recently hired Dr. Rob Hughes to assume the new role of Director of Distance Education Learning. Hughes is currently the Program Director at Florida State University's Center for Global Engagement in Tallahassee, but will relocate to Manitoba in early 2017.

"We are committed to strategic growth in the area of Distance Education Learning and are confident that Rob will lead this growth with his expertise and experience," says Dr. Stan Hamm, Academic Dean of Providence Theological Seminary.

The seminary has more than 100 Distance Education students registered this semester.

Support Group Offers Common Ground

Local parents are banding together to offer support for special needs caregivers.

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

When Jonathan and Leah Dyck's second daughter was born with a rare genetic condition that would significantly affect her development and learning capacity, they had no idea that the struggles they faced would become an avenue for reaching out to other parents like themselves. This Common Ground (TCG) is a newly founded support and resource group in Niverville. The goal is to provide a place for parents, foster parents, and caregivers to collaborate and share in the realities of caring for someone with special needs.

"There are actually many incredible blessings and opportunities to be celebrated and we like to express and honour those," says Leah Dyck of parenting a special needs child. "However, there are struggles as well. Finding quality respite, managing multiple appointments, finding the balance between doing therapy and life, the sense of isolation [and] fatigue from dealing with physical or emotional needs, to name a few. [TCG] seeks to create a regular, meaningful time for people to come together and relate to others with similar experiences."

Dyck well recalls the days and months after their daughter's birth. They faced appointments and tests and long waits for answers. Upon receiving the difficult news of her diagnosis, they were forced to face their fears head-on and restructure their lives to make



TCG board members Laurie Loeppky, Lisa Fehr, Caroline Kopytko, Leah Dyck, and Lynsday Eidse. THIS COMMON GROUND

room for the challenges ahead. All while parenting an active toddler at home.

"Jonathan and I had a lot of support from our family, friends, and church group. In those early days, they supplied us with meals, encouragement, a listening ear, and prayer. It was not an easy time, but their support made it doable. I realized that not everyone who goes through this has the same support that we did and a growing desire to share this with others began."

It wasn't difficult finding other parents who recognized the need for such a support group. Together with four other parents of special needs children, ranging in age from toddler to adult, a plan was hatched for TCG.

As the name suggests, the group's goal is to help others realize that they are far from alone. Bringing parents and caregivers together can create an atmosphere of sharing and learning from each other's

experiences, finding solutions to everyday problems, and giving them the encouragement needed to keep going when times are tough.

To get the message out, the group created a Facebook page. Within a short period of time, families from around Manitoba joined. Their first monthly support meeting was held in September at the Fourth Avenue Bible Church. Though the first meeting's attendance was relatively small, Dyck is confident that will change as word spreads.

Along with providing an opportunity for parent networking, the group is already planning ahead for upcoming events. These might include guest speakers who offer financial advice on registered disability savings plans, professionals in counselling services, and governmental support workers.

"One exciting possibility is to begin a Music & Movement Program for children who

have special needs," says Dyck. "There are many fantastic sports programs available in Niverville, but none are fitting for children that have physical and developmental challenges. We want to change that and bring something new to Niverville. [This] will provide a suitable, structured opportunity for kids to increase their physical activity, meet other kids in our community that also face similar challenges, and have a lot of fun in the process."

Although the term "special needs" can be broad in scope, TCG is open to caregivers who require extra consideration resulting from learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or emotional and behavioural challenges.

"Although every special needs child is different and every family is unique, there are some common concerns that link parents of challenged kids, including getting appropriate care and accommodations,

promoting acceptance in the extended family, school and community, planning for an uncertain future, and adjusting routines and expectations," adds Dyck.

TCG also welcomes older parents of grown, dependent children, recognizing that once you are a special needs parent you are that parent for life. These parents and caregivers are oftentimes still struggling many years in but have a wealth of experience and knowledge that is invaluable to younger parents.

"Niverville is a fantastic community in which to raise a family," says Dyck. "We've been blessed with administration that seeks to grow and strengthen our town. We have many great teachers and support staff within our schools. We have services in the community that promote health and wellness. This Common Ground wants to add another layer to the Niverville community. There are [many] families whose lives are affected by special needs. However, there are not many supports in the South Eastman area for [these] families and we have a vision about how that can change and are excited about that."

This Common Ground meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the youth room at the Fourth Avenue Bible Church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/commongroundsupport



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Southern Comfort Moves to Bronstone Location

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Southern Comfort Mechanical has moved from their previous location at the corner of Main Street and Arena Road to a new space at 369 Bronstone Drive.

"We started planning the move in May and started moving on August 12, and should be complete by the end of October," says Paul Neufeld, President of Southern Comfort. "We outgrew our office, so an addition to our old office would have been necessary if we had stayed there."

Neufeld adds that the company requires substantial outdoor space to store material

and equipment. The new property, which has a fenced-in yard, allows them to keep those items secure and further out of sight.

"The fenced-in yard is a plus," Neufeld says. "This gives us the ability to stage our outgoing shipments as efficiently as we can without worrying about the appearance of that busy corner to people of the town."

A further benefit is the increased office space and higher ceilings, which allow for the installation of higher racking.

Neufeld says the company originally looked to relocate to Winnipeg and searched for

properties in the south side of the city. "Most of our suppliers, workforce, and projects are currently in Winnipeg," he says. "After a lot of strategic planning, we were able to revamp the logistics... and felt staying out of Winnipeg was okay. Also, with smartphones and cloud-based programs, our field supervisors don't need to come to the office as much as they had to in the past."

Southern Mechanical's previous location on Main Street, which has a 2,400-square foot and an additional 1,200 square feet of office space, is currently available for lease. Neufeld says they would also consider selling the whole building.

Fundraisers Continue for Niverville Multiplex

By Heather Miller

On September 18, the fundraising committee for the Niverville Multiplex hosted The Sky's the Limit in Hespeler Park. The event featured a barbecue, face-painting, a Jets ticket raffle, and live entertainment from The Band RBB and Wildflower. Despite some rain showers, the committee was pleased with the turnout and says the event could not have happened without the assistance of organizers Val Funk and Lise Peters and a small army of volunteers.

Every Wednesday evening, the Friends of the Plex are hosting a Chase the Ace fundraiser at Hespeler's Tavern & Cookhouse. Players purchase raffle tickets each evening, with a winner being selected at the

end of the night. The winner then has a chance to draw from a deck of cards. If they draw the ace of spades, the winner takes home 40 percent of the pot, while 50 percent will go to the multiplex and ten percent will go towards starting the next round. If the ace of spades remains undrawn, the winner takes home ten percent of the night's pot and 40 percent accumulates toward the next week's pot, with 50 percent going to the multiplex. Each week the ace of spades isn't chosen, the pot grows bigger.

Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern is supporting the multiplex in another way. During the month of November, the Plex Special will be a fish and chips platter. Three dollars from every purchase will be donated to the multiplex.

Planning is underway for a community auction in the spring of 2017, a fun-filled evening consisting of a meal and an auction of items donated by the local communities. In the coming months, the Friends of the Plex will be seeking donations from local residents and businesses.

Volunteers are still needed to help plan and organize events, particularly for Chase the Ace and the upcoming Supper with Santa at Niverville's second annual Winterfest on November 19 (contact information below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca
■ www.nivervillemultiplex.ca

The Chamber corner

Save the date



Saturday
November 19

The chamber of commerce is hosting the following events.

The Winterfest market and craft sale: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Centre Atrium, 100 Heritage Trail, west end of town, just east of the tracks, and then south.

- 45-plus vendors featuring handcrafted jewellery; body, skin & hair care products; food, baked goods & candies; glass, pottery, photographic, woodworking and concrete art and décor; sewn, knitted and crocheted goods; baby products; clothing; and lots, lots more. For a full listing of vendors: www.niverville.com

Community tree lighting: 6:30 p.m. Niverville Credit Union parking lot. Horse wagon rides, hot chocolate, carols.

Other Winterfest events: Holiday Shoppes for Kids, Niverville Elementary School; Skating with Santa, Niverville Arena; Supper by Niverville Multiplex Committee, Niverville Arena. For details visit www.facebook.com/NivervilleWinterfest.

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce encourages sustainable economic development through advocacy for and support of local business.



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Bringing Asia a Little Closer to Home

By Brenda Sawatzky

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With franchise restaurants buying up real estate on every corner, it sometimes feels like the homespun mom-and-pop shops of yesteryear are losing ground. But every now and then something appears in your periphery, not announcing itself with relentless TV ads, but by word of mouth that travels on the tongues of happy customers.

The newly opened Thai On 59 in Île-des-Chênes is just that kind of family-owned eatery. The owner, Peter Houmphanh, credits his family as the gears that make the engine run. His mother operates as head chef, bringing years of previous restaurant experience. His wife April manages the kitchen, his brothers fill in as sous chefs, and his younger sister manages customer service. Occasionally, April's siblings may be called in for backup.

"My inspiration for opening this restaurant is my mom's cooking," says Houmphanh.

"I grew up eating it all my life and I wanted to share it with everybody. All my mom's recipes are handed down from her grandmother back in Laos. These recipes were taught [to her] when she was young. You can't get more authentic than that."

Thai On 59's menu is a collection of attractively plated Asian dishes, including stir-fries, satays, sweet and sour meats, noodles, and of course, Asian curry.

Being no stranger to Asian food myself, having spent a month travelling Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, I was anxious to try the food and was not disappointed. It delivered on both taste and authenticity.

Hubby and I dug into the Deluxe Mee Krob, a delicious combination of chicken, pork, seafood, and vegetables on a bed of chow mein noodles. The dish we chose to complement it was the Buddha Curry, because in my mind, you can't experience Thai food without some curry.

On their own, both dishes

contained just the right amount of heat to tease the palette but not overwhelm the food. Unwittingly, we doused our portions from a tiny dish of chili oil served on the side. Not for the faint of heart, the chili oil transformed our meals from comfortably delectable to flaming pass-the-water-pitcher hot. Next time we'll be more cautious. But it didn't sway us from knowing that there would be a next time dining at this restaurant.

Houmphanh takes pride in his restaurant's locally sourced food. His chicken comes from Waldner Meats in Niverville while his vegetables and other ingredients come from markets in Winnipeg.

"Everything is always prepared fresh," adds Houmphanh. "That's the only way to go."

Like many Thai restaurants, Pad Thai is a popular dish, followed by the teriyaki and cashew stir-fries and curry dishes. The Thai-Way 59 Platter is quickly becoming a new favourite with its combination of spring rolls, crab

puffs, calamari, shrimp, and vegetable tempura.

Though only a month in business, Houmphanh has already noticed that his clientele is coming from a much larger area than just Île-des-Chênes. The staff take the time to ask customers where they're from, and based on this knowledge, Houmphanh hopes to someday expand his business into other communities. Because the restaurant is visible from the highway, Thai On 59 is sure to become a pit stop for hungry commuters as well.

Thai On 59 caters to both take-out and eat-in customers. The uniquely Asian décor of the 1,200-square-foot dining room is attractively lit with subtle pendant lighting, offering a romantic international experience close to home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/thaion59



Thai On 59 in Île-des-Chênes.

■ SAMANTHA HOUMPHANH

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Council Connections

Driving around the countryside at this time of year and seeing the equipment in the fields bringing in the harvest always leaves me with a good feeling. Perhaps I sense the satisfaction and accomplishment a producer must feel that in spite of the risks taken such as volatile commodity prices and unknown weather, they have succeeded in producing a harvest. In a similar way Council uses the fall to reflect on projects planned, started, and in spite of the unknowns and risks, completed. This year saw the splash pad open in Hespeler Park in July and a significant water main project including fire hydrants completed as well. And now, just like the ag producer, there is little time to reflect on what is done, and plans begin in earnest for what projects will be planned and the risks and unknowns weighed for 2017.

On November 17 and 18 Council will be holding two ten hour sessions where planning the 2017 year and beyond will occur. In preparation for that planning session an open house was held. To all who took the time to come to the open house on October 27th we as Council thank you for your input! Your ideas and suggestions are important to us as we work together with all of you to move Niverville forward. If you were not able to attend the open house and wish to convey your questions or ideas to Council we can always be reached at feedback@whereyoubelong.ca. Council is also open and available to meet with you to listen to any suggestions and ideas you may have for us.

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Community Builders: None Came Back Unscarred

John Muir, Veteran of World War I

By Clarence Braun

John Muir was born in Galston, Scotland in 1897 and immigrated to Canada with his siblings and parents in 1904. They settled in Winnipeg on Lavinia Street just north of Portage Avenue.

John was barely 18 years old when he walked into the recruiting office in Winnipeg on April 7, 1915 and enlisted to fight overseas in World War I. Well over 670,000 enlisted from Canada and John was to be one of over 421,000 who left Canada to join the fight. The early hope had been for a war of short duration. However, by the time of the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918, 17 million lives had been lost and over 20 million people had been wounded. The loss of life for Canadian soldiers was significant; over 60,000 lost their lives and another 170,000 received injuries.

As I thought about why John would have put his life in grave danger, I read the following quote from *The Globe and Mail*: "As one of the British-born soldiers remarked years after the war, 'I felt I had to go back to England. I was an Englishman, and I thought they might need me.'" In speaking with family members and other friends in the community, this rationale seems to fit John.

The war was brutal. The trenches where John fought were inhabited with rats, and lice were prevalent. Water filled the trenches, and as a result millions experienced trench



John and Mary Ellen Muir.

THE MUIR FAMILY

foot, a disease that resulted from men standing in water for hours at a time. In many cases, gangrene set in and soldiers lost toes, feet, and sometimes entire limbs.

Because of John's small stature and his prowess as a marksman, he became a sniper in the war effort.

In WWI, the German army first utilized gas to wound and kill Allied soldiers. John was one of the soldiers who encountered mustard gas, and its impact lasted his entire life. His lungs were damaged and he struggled with shortness of breath, a consistent hacking cough that never left. Nonetheless, John was one of the fortunate ones who came home alive.

After the signing of the armistice, John went to Belgium and spent over a year in

a peacekeeping initiative. He was awarded the War Cross in Belgium for his bravery and valour. Later, he returned to Manitoba and spent a few years at a soldier resettlement camp in La Broquerie.

John's parents had moved to Niverville while he was away at war, but later in life, after the passing of his father in November 1936, John and his brother Bob took over the family farm. They farmed that land together until John's marriage on October 20, 1939, to Mary Ellen Church. Bob, who had also married, moved to another acreage while John and Mary Ellen stayed put.

John loved the farm. His concern was for his children to get an education, to have more opportunity than he had experienced. He loved sports and the children still

have memories of attending baseball tournaments together, and specifically his love of wrestling. Curling was another favourite pastime.

Yet John became silent when it came to talking about his experiences in the war. It's a silence I have encountered with other men I've interviewed in the last 20 years. They saw things that most of us have never seen. They experienced unimaginable horror and loss.

The cheering and excitement that preceded the announcement of war has long passed. The collective world community lost so much. Millions died and many millions were wounded. Many came back with physical wounds, but none came back unscarred.

John and Mary Ellen had six children. John Junior, Robert, and Ken are now deceased. Eileen and Frances live in Winnipeg, and Ellen lives in St. Adolphe. John passed away on June 16, 1980, after spending a year at the Deer Lodge Hospital. Mary Ellen passed away in 1991 after spending some years at the St. Adolphe nursing home.

We honour you, John. Your sacrifice and bravery are a part of the reason we enjoy our freedoms in Canada today.

CITATION

■ Tim Cook, *The Globe and Mail*, "The Eager Doomed: The Story of Canada's Original WWI Recruits." August 1, 2014.

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IN BRIEF

Theatre Production Tells Local LGBTQ Stories

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On October 28–29, Steinbach Neighbours for Community will be staging *Still Listening... Voices Among Us*, a theatre production that strives to tell stories based on the experiences of local members of the LGBTQ community.

Val Hiebert, who wrote and directed the production, has spent a considerable amount of time listening to people tell their stories. The eight fictional characters in *Still Listening* represent the 29 people who spoke with her, including LGBTQ individuals, parents and families, and community allies, all of whom live in southeastern Manitoba. Hiebert says that much of the show's dialogue has been drawn verbatim from their real-life stories.

The show includes music performances directed by Millie Hildebrand.

Hiebert, an associate professor at Providence University College, emphasizes that the goal of the show is to start conversations. "We're really looking to connect with what I think is a really

large group of people in this area who do want to enter into real authentic listening conversations and see if we can't find a better way than to continue to polarize," Hiebert said in *The Carillon*.

Steinbach Neighbours for Community is comprised of individuals who are working to promote understanding and acceptance of diversity in our communities.

"We acknowledge that there are numerous sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, locally and globally," says a statement on their website. "The common goal of SNFC is to facilitate the conversation while providing insight and education around this often divisive subject."

The performances will take place both evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the SRSS theatre in Steinbach. Tickets are available for \$10 at the Steinbach Arts Council office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.steinbachneighboursforcommunity.com

Steinbach Woman Named Liberal Leader

The Manitoba Liberals have chosen a new interim leader. Judy Klassen of Steinbach was named leader on October 21. In April, Klassen was elected MLA for the northern riding of Kewatinook. Klassen says that she will work to build the party and ensure

that the Liberals' voice is heard.

Previous Liberal leader Rana Bokhari served for three years. Bokhari stepped down in September, following the party's disappointing third place showing in the spring election.

The Hampers Overfloweth at Helping Hands

By Jacqueline Chartrand

Three highly successful food drives conducted in Niverville during the month of October have ensured that Helping Hands will have full hampers this winter for the needy in Niverville, New Bothwell, Otterburne, and Ste Agathe.

Volunteer Program Coordinator Christina Adolade will be leaving her post after three years of service, and she is leaving Helping Hands fully stocked thanks to Farm Credit Corporation's Drive Away Hunger Campaign 2016, which netted 2,400 pounds of food and \$400 worth of Co-op gift cards. Helping Hands' fall food drive saw 4,009 items collected, including \$260 in cash donations. Niverville Volunteer Firefighters also held a 'Tin for the Bin' campaign during their recent open house and collected \$600 cash which they chose to donate to Helping Hands.

At Helping Hands, a dynamic team of 15 hard-working volunteers take turns preparing food hampers every second Thursday. Clients phone in their request to Helping Hands' cell phone number (204-392-5699), and those messages are retrieved and responded to with few questions asked.

Regrettably, two longtime volunteers, Alvera Hiebert (volunteer coordinator) and Len McKelvey (past co-chair), will also be leaving the program, creating a vital need for replacements.



The overflowing pantry at Helping Hands.

CHRISTINA ABOLADE

Watch for posters with Christmas hamper request details and for strategically placed boxes for the 2016 toy drive. Churches will be invited to donate baked goodies that will be wrapped and frozen for festive meals; purchases of fresh items such as meat and bread are the norm. Gifts will be wrapped, Christmas cards prepared, and volunteer drivers contacted. The Christmas drive will be accomplished in a well-coordinated bustle of good will and hard work.

Helping Hands is approaching its thirtieth year and has flourished due to the dedication of many volunteers. Several years ago, a gaily painted food bin was built and donated by a local craftsman, Andrew MacFarlane, and is still used by organizations to invite their members to contribute food items. Monetary donations

are essential and appreciated to meet the costs of running such an operation (costs include cell phone services, printing vouchers and posters, meat purchases, etc). The most expensive cost is insurance, approximately \$900.

Helping Hands works in close cooperation with other food banks, especially Southeast Food Bank in Steinbach. Bothwell Cheese generously donates hundreds of pounds of cheese to that location and Niverville picks up 50 pounds at a time to be cut up and vacuum-packed for distribution. Excess food is shared among food banks.

Resources get drained over the summer months when the Niverville food bank assists additional clients from Île-des-Chênes, whose own food bank closes for the summer.

Helping Hands welcomes

corporate and church support in the form of reduced prices for products, donated space (Niverville Community Fellowship Church), sponsorships, and toy drive activities. The Niverville Credit Union offers space for board meetings as needed, and it's also the location of the massive gift-wrap undertaking at Christmas. In the past, volunteer firefighters have delivered the hampers, and they will probably be called upon again this year.

Please call Helping Hands if you wish to participate in Christmas hamper preparations. A larger number of hands are required for this annual task. Volunteer opportunities on the board of directors will shortly open up and regular volunteers are welcome every second Thursday afternoon.

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Commentary



Are We the Bloodthirsty Crowds of Ancient Rome?

By Greg Fehr

As Canadians, we have enjoyed the unusual amount of entertainment presented by the political arm wrestle taking place south of the 49th. The current contest borders on a gong show. In most presidential contests, the complexity of the system, combined with the uniquely American ability to viciously attack opponents on all levels (personally and ideologically), produces the show. The American Empire has been likened to the historical Roman Empire, with New York as the new Rome, and perhaps our U.S. friends have embraced more than just empirical aspirations; they seem to lust for blood sport as well, with Washington D.C. as the new colosseum.

Yet this collapse into childhood antics also scares the hell out of us—and if it doesn't, it should. Let's not be so ideological that we cannot

accept a certain amount of gameplay in our politics. This gameplay should bring to the forefront issues facing our society. The issues that come up in campaigns often become the priorities of our next leaders. In credit to the game, solutions often arise from a combination of all candidates' thoughts. At minimum, new leaders find their ideas moderated through the input of their opponents.

We are dealing with an already weakened system wrought with mistrust, internal and external. With the rise of every government, it's not a matter of whether there will be scandal; it's a question of when. And as a populace, we show no grace. We relish the pessimism rather than embrace disappointment. This misguided energy is also directed by the media, which sometimes forgets their role in our process and touts sensationalism rather than focussing on the news.

People on both sides of the border

are talking about electoral system reform. Whether it's the removal of super-delegates in U.S. primaries or the adoption of proportional representation, our leaders are responding to our frustration. But do we have the appetite to simply change the rules of the game? We want cleaner play with fewer penalties.

On a larger scale, we're also talking about widespread cultural change, something not easily accomplished.

We hear the buzzword "transparency" flouted here and there. What we're really talking about is a return to basic principles—values such as honesty, courtesy, and respect—that cross all political stripes and borders. We need to respect and trust our leaders, and we need the same from them. We can't expect leaders to match our own philosophies perfectly, but we can expect them to respect all views. Indeed, we can't expect perfect leaders at all, but we can expect ones who

take responsibility, learn, and move on.

As I've watched my son move through the various levels of organized football, I've been impressed with the emphasis placed on sportsmanship and showing respect for the other team; without the other team, you wouldn't have a game, nor any challenge to get better. Even after a solid tackle, it's not uncommon to see the opposing player offer a hand up. We must treat our opponents for what they really are: comrades in the same fight.

At the end of the day, players in any game respond to two things. First, they play according to their opponent's strategy. If they're playing a fast and aggressive team, a calculated approach doesn't work; a similarly assertive response is required. Secondly, they respond to the fans. If fans cheer certain actions while remain silent for others, the players react and

adjust. Soccer players in European leagues will attest to this, saying that if you don't respect the wishes of the fans, you may not make it out of the stadium unscathed.

As such, I suspect it is us fans (citizens) who determine how the game is played. If we're like the rowdy, bloodthirsty crowds of ancient Rome, we should expect our political gladiators to deliver on those desires.

True change has always, and will always, come from the masses. We, as the collective "fans", have the true ability to change the culture. Are we the fans who check out early because we think we know the outcome? Are we tired of watching something we don't like? Are we cheering for the fights more than the victories? If we are, we may need to adjust our choices in what we consider entertainment.



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Look on the Bright Side: Red, White, and Feeling Blue

Using the election to examine our own behaviour.

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

I am an American by birth and was always very proud to be a citizen of both Canada and the United States—that is, until I began watching the presidential debates. My focus quickly shifted from the election platforms to the personal shortcomings of each candidate. I began feeding off the constant negative barrage both seen and heard on TV and social media. This left me feeling unsure about America's future and unsure about my ongoing allegiance to her.

Although at times the behaviour of each candidate was extremely questionable, it was more my own behaviour and participation in the dissemination of these events that left me feeling blue. Pondering this, I realized that I was becoming part of the problem. I had become distracted and

drawn away from what was important: personal virtue, character, and controlling things I can control, mainly my tongue.

As Mahatma Ghandi so eloquently said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." Remembering these words, I couldn't simply stand on the sidelines, casting judgment over everything I deemed to be wrong. Instead I decided to involve myself in doing the things I believe are important.

I was further moved by a quote by President Obama regarding each individual's responsibility to bring change: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek!"

Wow! So this wasn't a spectator sport after all. I couldn't expect others to shoulder the weight. I not only needed

to change my attitude, but actually become the change I desired to see.

I therefore will be refraining from the more negative aspects of the current election and instead focus my attention, time, and energy on having a more constructive and positive outlook.

Democracy may have revealed its darker side for the moment, but it's still democracy just the same and therefore something we can all be grateful for.

These next four years may be some of the toughest yet for our neighbours to the south (and those who are their friends), so I am determined, more now than ever, to be a part of the solution by uplifting and encouraging all my fellow citizens whether they live across the street or across the border.



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Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter

By Keiron Berndt

I hate to be the one to break the news, but winter is coming. The last of the warm summer days spent cruising down the countryside with the windows down and hair flying in the breeze are behind us. And what lies ahead looks bleak and depressing to many.

Most people spend the autumn worrying about shovelling snow, not slipping on ice, or winterizing their boats and cabins, while the minority prepare their vehicles for the frozen tundra that is soon to be upon us.

But preparing our vehicles for winter is critically important.

WINTER TIRES

People think that winter tires aren't necessary, but it's the polar opposite. Drivers assume that all-season tires are sufficient for, well, all seasons. They're sadly and dangerously mistaken.

All-season tires are made from a rubber composition designed to become insufficient in temperatures below 7°C, rendering them ultimately useless in colder weather, never mind when snow blankets the road. This in turn results in a loss of traction, shorter stopping distances, and a higher risk of getting stuck—or worse. All-season tires are not only unsuitable for colder weather, they're dangerous for everyone.

Drivers assume that a winter tire is a winter tire, but not all tires are created equal. The Department of Transportation



ADOBE STOCK

sets standards and rigorous testing for winter tires to ensure that only the safest tires are allowed on the road. To ensure your tires are DOT-approved, look for the snowflake symbol on the sidewall of each tire.

Winter tires can be expensive. Thankfully, the Manitoba Public Insurance Winter Tire Program is here to help. MPI offers up to \$2,000 per vehicle, including financing for rims, tire stems, shop supplies, wheel alignment, and more. However, MPI doesn't allocate financing towards any repairs on tires or storage of tires, unless they're purchased during the initial sale.

When changing your tires, be sure to check your tire pressure often and set it to the

recommended pressure for your vehicle. This can be found in the door jamb of most vehicles, or in the vehicle's owner's manual.

OIL AND FLUIDS

A big part of what keeps your engine running is oil, which lubricates and protects the moving parts of the engine. Certain oils are affected differently by cold weather and can affect the viscosity of the oil. For example, synthetic oil flows better in colder weather due to its molecular composition that allows it to not lose viscosity.

Most oil thickens as the weather gets colder, keeping the oil from circulating throughout the engine and inducing more engine wear.

This is where a block heater comes in. A block heater might be a no-brainer for many, but others don't even know what block heaters do.

A block heater utilizes an electric heating element to heats the coolant, thus warming the engine block so that the engine turns over easily when it's cranked. This not only reduces the stress on your battery, but the starter motor and, more importantly, the engine.

Ensuring that you're using the correct fluids in your vehicle can also make all the difference. For example, winter windshield washer fluid is key throughout the winter and spring months so that it doesn't freeze in the reservoir.

Coolant is a similar story. The recommended coolant for the winter is 60/40 (meaning it's composed of 60 percent coolant and 40 percent water). This combination is preferable because it does the job of cooling and additionally protects the vital internals of the cooling systems. The water in the coolant removes heat from the engine block and runs it through the heater core, which in turn creates heat for the cabin.

Using winter tires and the correct fluids and oil in your vehicle is the first step to preparing for winter. Actually being prepared is another thing entirely. Be sure to keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. This should include a blanket, jumper cables, a shovel, gloves, and a phone charger that can be used in the car.

Stay safe out there!



ADOBE STOCK

The Threat of Black Ice

Black ice is one of the most infamous road hazards in the winter. Here are some tips to help you stay vigilant.

By Keiron Berndt

Living in Manitoba in the summer months has its dangers, like being carried off by a horde of mosquitos or suffering a slight sunburn. However, winter brings more severe dangers and less forgiving consequences to those who aren't careful.

One of the most dangerous threats in winter is black ice. Black ice gets its name from the way it looks on asphalt, but it's actually transparent, which makes it incredibly hard to spot while driving.

Black ice appears when the air temperature is around zero degrees and it's caused by rain that freezes on contact, freezing rain, or rain that freezes just before contact (also known as sleet). Another cause is melting snow that then freezes with a rapid temperature change, creating road conditions similar to an ice rink.

HOW TO SPOT BLACK ICE

Modern technology helps recognize when black ice is a threat. Most vehicles these days have on-board thermometers that allow the driver to know the exterior air temperature. When the temperature approaches zero degrees, the thermometer lets the driver know when to be extra cautious.

While black ice is transparent, dark spots on an otherwise dry road can be an indicator. Bridges, overpasses, wooded or shady areas, and intersections are places where black ice may form more frequently. It's also more likely to form in the mornings or at dusk, so being aware of the times can make it easier to spot.

WHAT MAKES BLACK ICE SO DANGEROUS?

Besides the fact that it's close to invisible and prominent over bridges, shady areas, and overpasses, driving on black ice is much more dangerous than driving on snow. This is because of the lack of friction; driving on snow creates more friction against winter tires.

So what should you do if you hit a patch of black ice? First of all, don't panic once you make contact with the ice. If you panic, you're almost guaranteed to slam on the brakes or overcorrect your slide. Instead, keep your steering wheel steady in both hands, lift your foot off the accelerator, and remain calm as your car slows down. That way, you can slowly guide yourself to safety.

There are many hazards on the road during the winter time. Be sure to stay alert in all conditions, especially when visibility is low.

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▣ CINDY PLESSIS

The Rage Are Red Hot

By Cindy Plessis

If you've ever attended a Red River Rage R4U ringette game, you've most likely heard the team chant: "Our team is red hot!" This year, with ten girls aged four to eight, that chant will be shouted with lots of energy. The R4U program aims to give girls under eight the equal opportunity to develop skating and

ringette skills.

"My only expectation for this year is for all of our girls to have fun and enjoy every moment out on the ice," says head coach Leanne Harder. "We are so excited to see many new faces this year. We have seven out of ten girls who are playing ringette for the first time! It is so exciting and we look forward to what this year has to bring."

Harder brings years of ringette experience to the team and looks forward to watching these girls develop skills that will help them for many years down the road.

Although the team has only ten players (last year's team had 19), the Rage is looking forward to a great season with lots of ice time for everyone.

"We, as parents, really love the

camaraderie between the girls on and off the ice!" says Mel Bergen, whose daughter is in her second year with the Rage. "Also, as an all-girl sport, it serves as a great sport to empower our girls. We are excited for another year of fun!"

The R4U program focuses on letting everyone play, no matter their skill level or ability.

Record Registration for Clipper Ice Sports

By Jason Hudson

Another hockey season is upon us here in Niverville/St. Agathe! We are extremely fortunate to have yet another record year when it comes to registration numbers. To put it in perspective, Clipper Ice Sports (CIS) is almost at the same number of children registered to play as the

City of Steinbach this year. We also have something we haven't had for quite some time: a Midget team. Another bonus this year is four Novice teams (in the past, we've had just three).

Local players have already had quite a bit of success when it comes to trying out for regional teams such as the South West Jets Bantam

team, the Eastman Selects, and the Eastman Pee Wee AA team.

CIS has some great programs in place this year to further player and coach development, which is the key to success both on and off the ice. One such program is a Pee Wee skills night (for 11–12-year-olds) to provide training both for players and coaches. Hockey Manitoba

will hold skills nights with several organizations this year, with Niverville hosting a few of them.

As always, CIS could not function without the countless volunteers who keep everything running. We thank the many coaches, managers, and parent volunteers for all they do.

EVENT GUIDE

Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Mondays and Wednesdays, October 10–November 16
6:30 p.m., \$15 (drop-in).
South End of Arena, Niverville

Yoga: Flow & Yin

Mondays, November 14–December 19
Flow: 7:00 p.m., \$73.50. Yin: 8:15 p.m., \$73.50.
Curling Rink Basement, Niverville, \$15 (drop-in).

Baby & Tot Gymnastics

Thursdays, September 29–December 15
Tummy Time (0–5 months), 9:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Move Baby (6–12 Months), 10:00 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Tiny Gym (12–18 months), 10:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in.
Tot Gym (18 months–3 years), 11:15 a.m., \$10 drop-in.
Kinder Gym (3–5 years), 12:15 p.m., \$10 drop-in.
South End of Arena, Niverville

Mindfulness

Thursday, November 24
7:00–9:00 p.m.
South End of Arena, Niverville. Free.

Ritchot Senior Services (Cardio Fit)

Mondays, November 7–28, 9:30 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Ritchot Senior Services (Chair Fit)

Mondays, November 7–28, 11:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Ritchot Senior Services (Yoga)

Wednesdays, November 2–30, 1:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Ritchot Senior Services (Muscle Fit)

Thursdays, November 3–24, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Ritchot Senior Services (Coffee Talk)

Tuesday, November 8 & November 29, 10:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Ritchot Senior Services (Drumming)

Thursdays, November 2–24, 1:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Grande Pointe Bingo Bowl

Friday, November 4, 9:30 p.m.–midnight.
Grande Pointe Park

Niverville Bench League (18+)

Starting Wednesdays, October 12, 9:30 p.m.
Niverville Arena, \$8 (drop-in).

Niverville Adult Hockey (Drop-in)

Starting Saturdays, November 5, 7:45 p.m.
Niverville Arena, \$10. Bring full equipment.

Ste-Agathe Ladies Rec Hockey

Starting Sundays, October 2, 6:45 p.m.
Ste Agathe Arena

Athena Women's Hockey (St. Adolphe)

Starting Sundays, October 9, 7:45 p.m.
St. Adolphe Arena

Public Skating (Niverville)

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–noon.
Niverville Arena, Free.

Sticks & Pucks (Niverville)

Fridays, 4:30–5:15 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Niverville Arena, Free.

In-service Public Skating (Niverville)

Friday, November 11
Public Skating: 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Sticks & Pucks: 3:45–5:15 p.m.
Niverville Arena, Free.

Emergency First Aid & CPR (Level C)

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
South End of Arena, Niverville. \$85.

Public Skating (St. Adolphe)

Sundays, 5:30–6:15 p.m.
St. Adolphe Arena, Free.

Send your event listing to:

■ cgadient@nivervillecitizen.com



At Winterfest this year, you'll have the chance to get your photo taken with Santa.

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Winterfest Is Coming

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's second annual Winterfest & Market is well on its way. On Saturday, November 19, families can experience a fun-filled day to get into the winter and Christmas spirit.

The Winterfest Committee, which has been hard at work throughout the year to plan this year's event, is comprised of four local groups coming together as one—the Niverville Elementary

School Parent Advisory Council, the Niverville Chamber of Commerce, Niverville Recreation, and the Niverville Multiplex. This is in addition to an invaluable host of volunteers.

During the day from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., guests can visit the annual Holiday Shoppes at the Niverville Elementary School. People are encouraged to bring their children to get a \$5 digital photo with Santa, enter the Mystery Shoppe raffle, and get a jumpstart on holiday baking at the Sweet

Shoppe. Children will join forces with personal elf-shoppers at the Holiday Gift Shoppe for kids-style shopping for the whole family—no adults allowed!

The craft sale and market will be held at the Heritage Centre atrium this year. The market will feature more than 40 vendors and run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In the evening, families can head to the Niverville Arena to skate with Santa from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., then grab a bite to eat in support of the Niverville Multiplex. The \$5 combo

will include a hot dog, chips, and a drink.

Lastly, the annual Christmas tree lighting will take place in the Niverville Credit Union parking lot. Dress warm, grab a candle, drink a hot chocolate, and belt out a few carols. Free sleigh rides will follow the lighting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/NivervilleWinterfest

Île-des-Chênes to Ice Ten Teams

By Renata Wall

It's official: the Île-des-Chênes Minor Hockey Association (IDCMHA) will have ten home teams this year. After four weeks of practices, all teams were on the ice for the first Saturday of the regular season—eight at home and two away.

For those who want to spend more time at the rink, Île-des-Chênes will be hosting multiple tournaments this year: Atom (December 2–4), Novice (February 3–5), and Initiation (January 14). Details will be posted on the IDCMHA webpage (below). Registration is open and filling quickly.

In addition to taking in the on-ice action, spectators will be able to grab a bite at the Zamboni Grill.

The IDCMHA wishes to thank Niverville and St. Adolphe for welcoming some Île-des-Chênes players into their rinks when there weren't enough players to fill the roster. Île-des-Chênes' Bantam

players will join with St. Adolphe and the Midget players will play in Niverville. That is small town community spirit at work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.idcmha.ca

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If you've met a modern 11-year-old girl, then you probably know the kinds of things Caydence is interested in—Minecraft, stuffed animals, hanging out with friends, and the Musically app. But what few people know is her passion for cheerleading.

Starting her second year in Scorpions Elite Cheer based out of Steinbach, Caydence can lift the spirits of anyone when needed. Whether it's doing jumps, cartwheels, flips, or handsprings in the front yard, or practicing her routine with teammates at the gym, smiles are always on the horizon. Some say cheer is a sport, but if you asked Caydence she would say it's a lifestyle.

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IN BRIEF

Scorpion Elite Shows its Halloween Cheer

From 4:00–6:00 p.m. on October 29, Scorpions Elite Cheer is holding a Trunk-or-Treat fundraising event. Cars will fill the Scorpions parking lot at 34062 Bush Farm Road (3.5 kilometres south of Highway 52, next to Flippers Gymnastics) where families can trick-or-treat in a safe and fun environment. The event is geared for kids up to age 14.

Once everyone has picked up their treats outside, there will be a Halloween party inside the gym from 6:00–8:00 p.m. This event will include games, scary stories, music, a costume contest, and a cheer demonstration—a great opportunity to come and see what this growing sport is all about.

The cost for the party is \$5 per child. All money raised will help support the travel costs for the Scorpions senior team, which hopes to travel to Florida for the World Summits Competition.

Families are asked to bring bags or pillowcases to gather treats. Scorpions Elite Cheer will also accept non-perishable food donations for South East Helping Hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@scorpionscheer.com

\$474,900



474 5th Ave South, Niverville

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204-392-3030

KatieKnebel@royallepage.ca

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Pre-game action at the 2016 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic at Investors Group Field.

RAY DOWSE

Not Yet in the Groove

By Lorelei Leona

Only five games into the season and it has already been a whirlwind start for the Jets. The team has experienced their first outdoor game, changes in net, and record-setting performances by the young guns.

With the trades and negotiations in the off-season, one of the most noticeable moves has been placing veteran netminder Ondrej Pavelec on waivers and sending him down to the AHL's Manitoba Moose. Pavelec, who has spent his entire NHL career with the franchise (including its stint in Atlanta), was entering the last year in his five-year deal. When his salary exceeded the cap, he was one of a handful of cuts to the roster at the beginning of the season. Pavelec ended last season playing 33 games, and with a 13-13-4 record and .904 save percentage, the veteran was beat out by Connor Hellebuyck and Michael Hutchinson in

the team's training camp.

Starting the season, Hutchinson and Hellebuyck have combined to appear in 102 NHL games (73 and 29), and have posted save percentages of .911 and .914 respectively, compared to Pavelec's 371 career games and an overall .907 save percentage. While both players started the preseason out strong, and have shown that they have the potential to be starting goaltenders, their performance so far this season has been less than exciting. Both netminders have had inconsistent performances, allowing a total of 19 goal against and individual save percentages under the NHL average of .900, ranking near the bottom of the league.

Although the season has only just started, one can't help but wonder if sending a sure thing in Pavelec down to the farm team was the right decision so early. However, Pavelec's performance

with the Moose isn't much better, with second year pro Eric Comrie posting better numbers through their first three games. It looks like head coach Paul Maurice might be on the right track in doing a lot of rearranging this season.

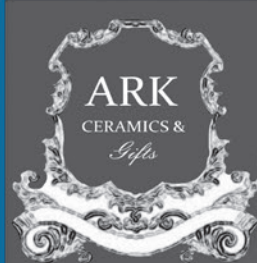
While the team has had some subpar performances thus far, one thing is certain: Patrik Laine is living up to the hype. The 18-year-old came out of the gate strong, notching two points (1 goal, 1 assist) against the Hurricanes in his first career game. The rookie was the talk of the town three games later as he followed up his impressive first performance with his first career hat trick against Toronto on October 19. Laine is the youngest player in franchise history to score a hat trick, doing so in his fourth game.

The Jets are currently sitting at a 2-3-0 record with 14 goals for, and three players—Scheifele (3), Wheeler (3), and Laine

(4)—posting half of them. In the two games in which Laine scored, the Jets won. Both wins were also in overtime with the Jets having come from behind. They were behind 4-1 in Carolina on opening night, and down 4-0 in Toronto during what would turn out to be a memorable evening. Outside of the team's two wins, the Jets have only scored four goals in their three losses.

While it looks like the season is just getting started for one Jets star, the season might be coming to an end for another. Time is ticking on Jacob Trouba, as the defenseman is still without a contract. If he doesn't sign with a team before December 1, he won't be able to play anywhere in the NHL this season.

Needless to say, it looks like the team is likely going to do some more shuffling before they find their groove.



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The Scorpion Elite Cheer team.

NATALIE BATKIS

Scorpions Elite Cheer Takes Canada by Storm

NATALIE
BATKIS

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Down a gravel road just outside of Steinbach, big things are happening in a small town Quonset. One of Canada's up-and-coming cheerleading teams, Scorpions Elite Cheer, is launching its seventh season and it looks to be one of its most thrilling years yet, with a bid for the World Summits Competition in Florida a real possibility.

In 2010, Andrew and Tiffany Recksiedler decided to open their own cheerleading gym in Steinbach. The husband and wife team had competed and coached in other cheerleading gyms for many years and wanted to start their own program.

"We actually never planned on having our own gym," Tiffany says. "Andrew and I both

loved cheer and decided to start a program at Lorette Collegiate. We had 15 kids interested so we rented out space to practice with them. They ended up winning first place in their first competition and received second place at provincials... Before we knew it, people were asking if we could coach younger teams and it just grew from there."

Since their modest beginnings in 2010, the team has grown from 15 to 100 students and has held the title of Provincial Champs four years in a row. The team also holds national titles.

Last year, their Senior Co-ed 4.2 team, Strike Force, were named the National Grand Champions, edging out fan favourites and reality television stars The Great White Sharks in their combined score at the three-day event. The Junior Level 3 team, Black Venom, came in third in their

division, finishing less than half a point out of first place.

The National Grand Championship, held annually in Niagara Falls, had 365 teams competing with over 7,000 athletes.

The Scorpions Senior 4.2 team also won first place at an international competition in Vancouver called Sea to Sky.

Even with all these titles under their belts, the Recksiedlers remain humble. The gym is relatively new, the coaches are young, and their practice space, while filled with state-of-the-art equipment, is a renovated barn. But as the parents, students, and coaching staff will tell you, the walls of this gym aren't what make it vibrant; it's the people and supportive atmosphere that keep families coming back year after year.

"Scorpions Elite Cheer has had a huge impact on my daughter and our family," says

Laura Slipec, whose daughter Emma is part of the Youth Level 1 Strikers. "Emma has shown a greater understanding of what it means to be on a team and how to trust others. She displays less anxiety in certain situations and is so much happier... She dreams of eventually becoming a cheer coach."

Marcy Wiebe has had three daughters in the program at various points and has also seen positive changes in her children. Her eight-year-old daughter Isabella is part of the Mini Level 1 Stingers and the Youth Level 1 Strikers. Her four-year-old daughter Alyssa is part of the Tiny Level 1 Pinchers.

"Isabella was really a high-strung kid with lots of anxiety and it's really made a difference in her self-confidence. It used to be that she would cry before school and she didn't want to go," Wiebe says. "She

was very introverted and now she is far more comfortable with crowds and handling herself in those situations."

The culture within the gym makes it a family-friendly place where, as parents and athletes insist, teammates become friends and friends become family.

"The sense of family is so strong with the Scorpions," Slipec says. "It is beautiful to see the older kids cheer on and encourage the younger kids. The competitions are both exciting for the parents and athletes alike."

Wiebe agrees the environment is very supportive but also appreciates the emphasis the gym puts on strong values. "First of all, I love Tiffany and Andrew; I think they do a phenomenal job. I like that they aren't a babysitting facility. The kids actually have to work hard and there are consequences when they misbehave," says

Wiebe. "I like that they are very big on integrity and they put that responsibility on the athletes as well as the parents. I think that says a lot about the culture of our gym."

Wiebe laughs, adding, "I never pictured myself as a cheer mom and now I'm hooked."

Scorpions Elite Cheer offers both recreational and competitive cheerleading from ages three to 17+. The gym also provides tumbling classes throughout the year, as well as summer programs. Students from all over southern Manitoba are part of this elite team, including athletes from Niverville. In the past, athletes have even driven in from out of province to be on the team.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.scorpionscheer.com

IN BRIEF

Disappointing Finish for Panthers Soccer

By Gerald Negrave

The NCI Lady Panthers soccer team had a disappointing end to an otherwise stellar season. The girls lost in Zones and then failed to win a wildcard game versus Altona. Despite not going to Provincials, the girls were pleased with the progress they made this year. They finished the season with ten wins, four losses, and one tie. Next year, the team will remain largely intact, losing only two graduating Grade 12 players from the roster.

VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

"AA" High School Volleyball Power Rankings

- GIRLS
- 1. Morris Mavericks (1)
 - 2. Niverville Panthers (2)
 - 3. Green Valley Pirates (Grunthal) (3)
 - 4. Major Pratt Trojans (Russell) (4)
 - 5. MacGregor Mustangs (5)
 - 6. Gimli Lakers (6)
 - 7. Killarney Raiders (9)
 - 8. Warren Wildcats (10)
 - 9. Carberry Cougars (8)
 - 10. Goose Lake Angels (Roblin) (7)

- BOYS
- 1. Major Pratt Trojans (Russell) (1)
 - 2. Carman Cougars (2)
 - 3. Killarney Raiders (3)
 - 4. Warren Wildcats (4)
 - 5. Niverville Panthers (5)
 - 6. Steinbach Christian Flames (6)
 - 7. Teulon Saints (7)
 - 8. Souris Sabres (8)
 - 9. Gabrielle Roy Les Roy (Ile Des Chenes) (9)
 - 10. Goose Lake Raiders (Roblin) (10)

"A/AA" Junior Varsity High School Volleyball Power Rankings

- GIRLS
- 1. Green Valley Pirates (Grunthal) (1)
 - 2. Miami Marlins (3)
 - 3. Gabrielle Roy Les Roy (Ile Des Chenes) (4)
 - 4. Major Pratt Trojans (Russell) (NR)
 - 5. Steinbach Christian Flames (5)
 - 6. Immanuel Christian Falcons (7)
 - 7. Goose Lake Angels (Roblin) (NR)
 - 8. Gilbert Plains Trojans (NR)

- BOYS
- 1. Steinbach Christian Flames (1)
 - 2. St. Pauls Barons (Elie) (NR)
 - 3. Carman Cougars (2)
 - 4. Green Valley Pirates (Grunthal) (3)
 - 5. MacGregor Mustangs (4)
 - 6. Gabrielle Roy Les Roy (Ile Des Chenes) (5)
 - 7. Goose Lake Raiders (Roblin) (6)
 - 8. Hamiota Huskies (7)



Marcus Zeilstra, Arabella Zeilstra, Dayna Ens, and Juliana Zeilstra sporting their Team Canada jackets.

JACKIE ENS

Local Dancers Competing in Germany

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Four dancers from Niverville—Dayna Ens, Arabella Zeilstra, Juliana Zeilstra, and Marcus Zeilstra—have qualified to represent Canada West (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) at the World Tap Championships in Riesa, Germany. The dancers will travel to

Germany from November 27 to December 4, tap dancing in groups, solos, and a production number that combines all 43 Canadian competitors. "It will be one unforgettable routine," says Lisa Zeilstra, owner and financial director of Kickit Dance Studio in Winnipeg. "Nothing could be more exciting." Dancing has always been a

passion for these four, who have been competing since the age of six. Currently all four dance at Kickit Dance Studio in all disciplines, rehearsing many hours every week. In preparation for Germany, they are rehearsing an additional 15 hours on weekends. "[We're excited] to be able to represent a country that we love so much in such a huge honour!" the

dancers said in a statement. "With so many countries competing, the level of tap dance is going to be unbelievable and we get to be a part of that experience." Their passion for dance also reflects their passion for their community, and they are all involved with after-school activities like volleyball, hockey, and ringette.

Volleyball Action Heats Up at Gabrielle-Roy

By Michel Lavergne

Gabrielle-Roy's Junior Varsity Boys team has done well enough to earn an early rank of sixth overall in the MHSAA provincial top ten, in the A/AA category. Nonetheless, coaches Michel Lavergne and Roger Vermette feel the team has much to learn—and room to grow. Though the team has performed well in tournament round robin play, they often show their youth in the

playoffs. The Varsity Boys recently won the Gimli High School AA tournament, but they have had their fair share of struggles in the league due to missing players. The MHSAA had them ranked ninth overall to start the season. Meanwhile, the Junior Varsity Girls are enjoying a great start to the season and are currently ranked third in A/AA.



Adrian Kalyniuk, Stéphane Smith, Jordan Reuvers, Daniel Joannis, Théo Delaquis, and Justin Boisjoli. On the floor: Dére Roy.

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CHANTEL TODD

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I spend a lot of time outdoors during the beautiful summer months and put aside my high-intensity exercise routine. With the weather cooling off and the sun setting before I'm done work, I find it hard to get motivated to go for even a simple walk, never mind exercise. But now that summer is officially over and winter is here, I think to myself, *No more excuses. It's time to get back into the fitness routine.*

There is a light! In my living room, that is. I recently chatted with my best friend about how I don't have motivation to work out anymore. She was in the same predicament and suggested we try working out by watching fitness videos. I had to laugh, as it brought back a memory of finding a VHS tape in my parents' basement called *Buns of Steel with Greg Smithy*.

But all jokes aside, we YouTube'd a fitness video and wirelessly synced it to my smart TV. The hardest aspect of this was trying to pick a video to play, but wait! I now had to actually work out, sweat, and get into it.

The first group of exercises, which had me sweating buckets, was only the warm-up. What the heck was I getting myself into? I should mention I had to move my coffee table to the side so I had room on my area rug rather than the hardwood floor.



Chantel Todd rocking her exercise routine.

CHANEL TODD

After this so-called warm-up came the first set of exercises. Legs! Lunges, squats, jack press squats, other lunges, break, repeat times three. Done! Well, so I thought. It had only been eight minutes. Only 29 minutes and 10 seconds left!

Next was the cardio section, with jumping jacks for five minutes. Lots of heavy breathing. Oh my, what had I gotten myself into? Repeat times three, done.

Okay, on to the next round: upper body. Then the next

round: core. Then, wait, was that the final round? Yes!

I'm drenched in sweat and hurting everywhere, but I'm alive.

Walking hurt for a few days afterwards, but I had to admit I was feeling pretty good about myself. The workout video inspired me to set a goal for the month of November: to do the at-home workout at least twice a week, and gradually build it up to four days.

Now, who's with me on this?

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Arts & Entertainment



Erin Wiebe alongside her creations.

JEREMY WIEBE

Local Artist Adds Colour through Homemade Décor



SYLVIA
ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Erin Wiebe is the sole owner and operator of Design Elements, a local business specializing in handmade party décor. Wiebe runs the business from home, but ships to customers all over Canada and the United States.

"I run an online shop on Etsy, which is a global marketplace for

handmade or vintage goods," says Wiebe. "I make mostly paper décor for parties, showers, weddings, or just to decorate your personal space. Items include banners, garlands, confetti, and lots of custom pieces that my customers request."

Her fascination with handmade décor started as a hobby back in April 2015.

"By the fall, business started picking up as my shop started to get noticed," Wiebe says. "In January this year, it really took off and is

now full-time."

With two kids in school and one at home, the job allows Wiebe the opportunity to stay creative and busy while staying home with her two-year-old.

"I've done interior design, cake baking/decorating, photography, and now the party décor," Wiebe adds. "My background in interior design has been pivotal in the process, as scale, colour, and symmetry are really important to make eye-catching pieces. I love doing

anything that lets me express creativity, and I've always enjoyed doing crafts and working with my hands."

The décor is fully customizable if you have a specific idea in mind, or you can pick from her previous designs on her website (below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.etsy.com/ca/shop/DesignElementsByErin

EVENT GUIDE

Still Listening... Voices Among Us

Film Premiere - October 28-29 | 7:30 p.m.
SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$10.

Mural Painting Workshops

November 2-3 | 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Legion Community Hall, Steinbach. Free.

Mural Unveiling Celebration

November 4 | 1:30 p.m.
Community Plaza, Steinbach. Free.

Elvis and The Blackwoods

November 4 | 7:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church, Steinbach.

Piano Duo (Fortin-Poirier)

November 7 | 7:30 p.m.
SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$18.

South East Art Show and Sale

November 5 | 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Clearspring Mall, Steinbach. Free.

The Hiding Place Drama

November 12 at 7:00pm | November 13 at 3:00pm
SBC, Steinbach. \$8-\$15.

Teen Challenge Banquet

November 14 | 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Heritage Centre, Niverville. Free.
(Reservation required)

Painting on the Prairies

November 29 | 7:00 p.m.
Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Send your event listing to:

■ [sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com](mailto:sscyr@nivervillecitizen.com)

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Abigail Olfert.

JESSIE OLFERT

Art: A Peace to Take Refuge In

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

When people start to show artistic talent and ability, it's usually at a young age... which is exactly what happened for Abigail Olfert.

"I grew up in a home where creativity was greatly encouraged by my parents, so naturally I began to develop my own interests and style in the arts," says Olfert, a Grade 12 student at NCL. "In Grade Nine, I became enthralled, inspired, and oh so excited to be taught and challenged in an atmosphere bursting with creativity, led by the inspiring art teachers

Mr. Clark and Miss Scott. It sparked something within me, and to this day it's hard to find me without some sort of paint or pencil smudge on my hands and arms, and even sometimes in my hair."

Although art can take many forms, Olfert prefers working on a canvas. "My personal favourites are painting, with watercolour and acrylic, and drawing," she adds.

The picture Olfert is holding in the picture carries a lot of personal meaning for the artist. "The painting is that of one of my close friends, Megan Sawatzky. It's also a take on the WWII 'We Can Do

It' poster which I am so fond of, displaying female strength and courage... I like to think of [Megan] as the girl with the strongest heart, and our very own Rosie the Riveter here in Niverville."

Painting classes have become increasingly popular in the past year. Many people are joining the trend and finding that painting is a very relaxing and enjoyable experience, an opportunity to let one's creativity run wild. Olfert recently became an art teacher herself, at This Little Light Artistry, a local company run by CD Muckosky.

"My inspiration is mainly

sourced from two areas," Olfert offers. "My faith, as well as the profound mystery that is people."

As a student about to graduate from high school, the future is very much on Olfert's mind. "I would love for art to be a part of my future. I'm not sure where exactly, whether a part of my future career or just a hobby, but I know that I can't not do art, because to me, art has become not only a way of expressing myself but also a place of comfort and peace to take refuge in."



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THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**

Author Takes New Approach to Infertility



bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

If you've ever been called unreasonable or crazy, you may have taken offense. According to mainstream thinking, so-called crazy people are the ones who do irrational things like threatening a pregnant woman while wearing a clown suit, skateboarding on the ledge of a 20-story building just for media hype, or running for president with a divisive campaign strategy.

But call Niverville author Vicki Olatundun crazy and she'll say, "Why thank you!"

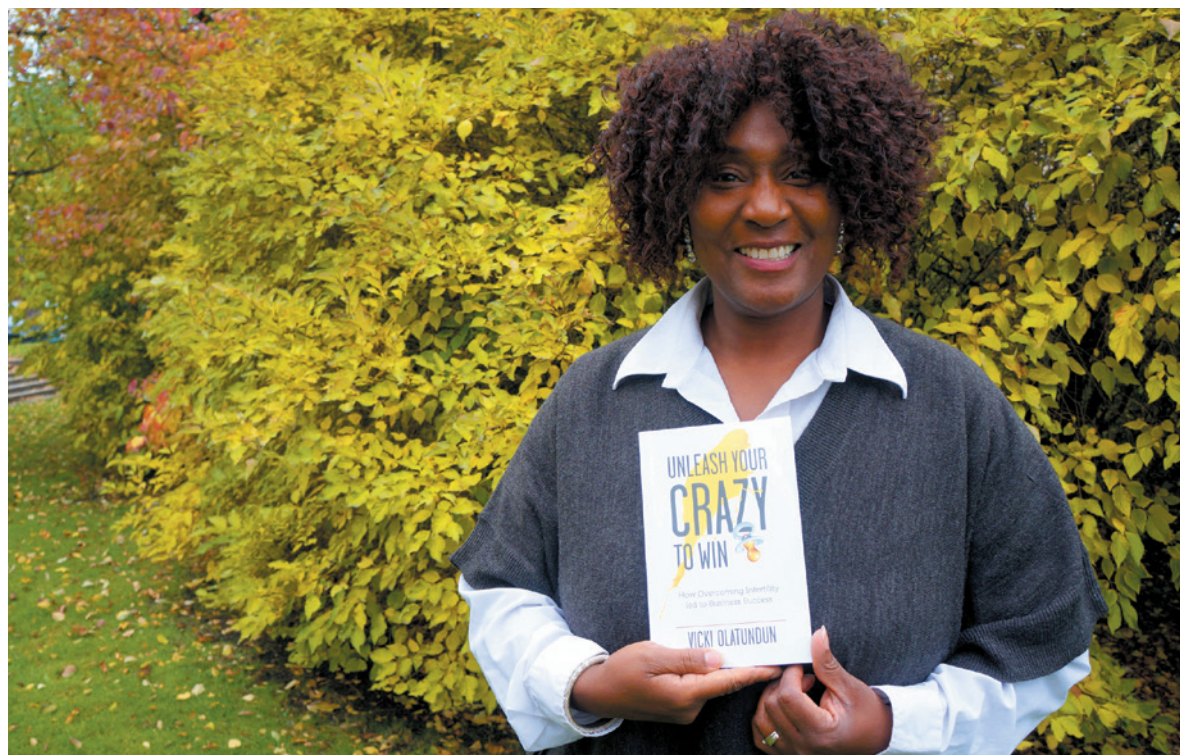
In her debut book, *Unleash Your Crazy to Win*, Olatundun takes a close look at what she calls the crazy—or unreasonableness—that resides in all of us. The difference, according to her, is that the unreasonable person within us is equally capable of amazing feats of irrational behaviour as well as earth-changing accomplishment.

Much of her life's inspiration is drawn from this quote by George Bernard Shaw: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world, the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

The subtitle of Olatundun's new release, *How Overcoming Infertility Led to Business Success*, seems at first to indicate an author with an overactive imagination. How could anyone connect the dots between these vastly different themes? Speaking from the experiences of her own life, Olatundun does just that.

The first part of her book reveals the true story of an author faced with one of life's toughest blows for a woman: the diagnosis of infertility. After trying every possible medical intervention, her doctors gave up, but not Olatundun. In the relatable voice of a friend pouring her heart out over coffee and scones, she writes with vulnerability, honesty, and frankness.

Though the end of her infertility struggle is hard to fathom, Olatundun



Local author Vicki Olatundun.

RACHEL SIEMENS

eventually gives birth to not one but two children—a girl and a boy—without the aid of anything but her strong determination to never take no for an answer.

Olatundun, a motivational speaker and guest lecturer, understood the need to share her incredible story. "I had come out of a very trying situation and I thought that it was a great idea to share it because I was sure that there were so many people and families out there that had the same experience. I wanted to share that it was possible... to turn their story around."

This became the impetus for her book. During her own struggle, Olatundun found many books that didn't inspire her to keep trying. Others were overly technical, written from a medical standpoint.

"I wanted a real human story. I didn't find any, so I thought, well, I can write it. Because I've experienced it from a non-pharmaceutical, non-scientific level. I experienced it as a human and I wanted to share it

that way."

In the second part of the book, Olatundun draws correlations between her infertility and all the other struggles she's faced in life. Here, we get to know her business side.

Beginning her career as a criminal law attorney, Olatundun soon moved on to areas of work that were closer to her heart: administration in non-profit organizations. For many years, she worked as the Human Resource Director at a homeless shelter in Winnipeg. Eventually, circumstances led her to take a pay cut and begin an incredible journey fighting for the life of a dying family resource centre in Steinbach.

Olatundun tells the story of a struggling non-profit, a group of volunteers and employees who had lost hope, a building in a desperate state of disrepair, and a community that didn't recognize the value of the centre's outreach. Her words to the interviewer as she applied for the job of executive director: "If you do not want change,

please do not hire me."

They did hire her, and really big change is what they got, so much so that today the resource centre is proudly situated in a newly renovated building with most of its materials donated by a generous community. Against all odds, she led her team into a new and exciting future. The centre has become an icon for how a community can grow and thrive by taking care of its single moms, tired dads, and children who would otherwise go without.

"If you're trying to do something that's wild and [seemingly] impossible and no one has said to you 'You're crazy' yet, the dream isn't big enough," says Olatundun. "I find that a lot of the ideas that I have, to the normal person, seem quite crazy. And when I feel that sense of 'You're crazy!', I feel like 'Yup, I'm definitely on the right path.' So for me crazy has been pretty much a buzzword for the things I want to do. I'm a visionary. I do big things, huge things."

But Olatundun's book is anything but a chance to fly her own flag of self-importance. The message throughout rings with opportunity and hope, regardless of one's circumstances. Time and again she gives examples of people who dreamed big. One of her favourites is Roger Bannister, a British Olympian who, in 1954, ran the first ever 1,500-meter race in under four minutes. They said it couldn't be done, but Bannister did it.

In her book, Olatundun opens part two by saying, "Common sense says to accept the cards you have been dealt. But crazy takes the cards, changes the game and plays to win." The same principles she used to overcome infertility, she says, can be applied to other areas of our lives, whether it's in business, family, or emotional and physical health.

"I think my hope is that when people read the book they will look at areas of 'infertility' in their lives and know that they don't have to stay that way," Olatundun says. "It gives you permission to get in the race. The biggest thing for me when I crossed the finish line was being able to turn around and say, 'You, get in the race.' You can pull people from the stands and say, 'Come to the start line. You can run too.'" Olatundun calls this the ripple effect of the unreasonable person.

She is already working on her second book, which is no walk in the park when you work a full-time job, are raising two young children, and your husband works away from home and only returns for a few days every couple of weeks. But she is, after all, unreasonable enough to find the time to do what compels her.

It's no surprise that she was recognized as one of 40 female change-makers in *Canadian Living's* January 2015 edition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ *Unleash Your Crazy to Win* is currently available to purchase on Amazon.ca, as well as at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg and Halls in Steinbach.



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Maureen Hildebrand-Gilroyed.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

Young at Heart: Making Friends through Books

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Once we become adults, responsibility can easily take over our lives. When we were children, we pursued fun activities that we enjoyed. If we're not careful, though, adult life and routine can take over. This new series is here to encourage you to find what you love, or have always wanted to try, and go for it.

If you've been an avid reader all your life, or only discovered how much you enjoyed reading once you were out of school (like me), you're not alone. We often read alone, but reading doesn't have to be a solitary activity. There are book clubs out there for all genres and readers.

One group in Niverville gets together once a month in the basement of the United Church (though the club itself is not religious). The group, led by Maureen Hildebrand-Gilroyed, meets every first Monday of the month to discuss a

book that was suggested the month prior. The club focuses on fiction, but books can be anything from historical to romance... and there have even been a couple of science fiction entries in recent years.

So far only women have attended the club, but men are more than welcome—even encouraged!—to join.

"We are very respectful and tolerant to each other," says Hildebrand-Gilroyed. "You do not need to have read the book or finished the book—sometimes people say that helps motivate them to read/finish the book, other times (when we don't like it) we are okay not to read/finish."

Residents of Ritchot have access to two book clubs run by employees of the Ritchot Library, one in Île-des-Chênes and the other in Ste. Agathe. They meet on the last Wednesday of every month.

The Île-des-Chênes club meets regularly at the Capo di Grande coffeehouse.

"We generally take turns

choosing books of interest to us, fiction mostly," says Library Director Michelle McEwan.

If you don't have time to read a book every month, that's okay too. The point of most book clubs is getting out of your house and connecting with people who have similar interests. This holds true even if you've only read half the book.

There's no "one way" to run a book club, naturally, so people also have the option of starting their own clubs and reading groups. For example, I hosted a non-fiction book club out of my home a few years back. The group met every week to discuss one chapter of our book, so it took us 18 weeks to complete it. Someone always brought dessert while we sipped on tea or coffee.

So what's the bottom line? A book club can be whatever you make of it, and oftentimes it's a perfect excuse to socialize with other adults. Who said kids get to have all the fun?

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Colouring Contest

Niverville Heritage DENTAL CENTRE

DROP OFF COMPLETED ENTRIES TO:
**NIVERVILLE HERITAGE
DENTAL CENTRE**

Located on the main floor of the Niverville
Heritage Centre, 111 - 2nd Ave South

Name _____

Age _____

Contact phone number _____

EVERY SUBMISSION WILL RECEIVE A GIFT!

Kids 12 years of age and under are eligible to win a prize, to be provided by contest's sponsor. Drop off completed artwork at the sponsoring business by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th of the month. The winner will be notified on or before the 17th. Should the sponsor not hear back from the winner in a timely manner, a new winner will be selected. A photo of the winner will be posted in the following issue.



Last Month's Winner
Arianna Thiessen
Age: 5



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2			3			4	5			6	
						7						
8		9	10						11	12		
		13							14			
15							16					17
		18								19		
20					21				22			
23	24	25	26						27	28	29	30
31					32				33			
		34							35			
36												
37									38			

- Across**
- 1. In a foreign country
 - 4. Short and thick
 - 8. Fight for political and economic power
 - 13. Female given name
 - 14. Instrument
 - 15. Deep pink color
 - 16. Feed bag
 - 18. Printing mistake
 - 19. Face
 - 21. Cat sound
 - 23. Red variety of corundum
 - 27. Beams
 - 31. Attired
 - 33. Father of Methuselah
 - 34. Remuneration
 - 35. Eyelid infection
 - 36. Societies
 - 37. Absence of passion
 - 38. Judaic

- Down**
- 2. Round of voting
 - 3. King David's favorite son
 - 5. Praises extravagantly
 - 6. Simple song
 - 7. Establish a norm
 - 9. Speculative
 - 10. Smack
 - 11. Departs
 - 12. Arid Asian area
 - 17. Treasure
 - 20. Norwegian coin
 - 22. Engage in close hand-to-hand combat
 - 24. Expose
 - 25. Boast
 - 26. Indian exercise method
 - 28. Opposed to
 - 29. Up and down toy
 - 30. Perfumes
 - 32. Long hard seat

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN
OUR TEAM

The Friends of the Plex are looking for volunteers to join our team!

If you are interested in getting involved, email us at multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca or visit www.nivervillemultiplex.ca for more information.

Together, we can.



SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE



295 Main Street - Niverville

5377 sq ft of office/professional space still available on a beautiful treed lot that offers great visibility on main traffic route, lit parking lot, vehicle plug in's, high-end finishing throughout, back patio, and more. Space to be split into sections to suit your business needs! Call Ray for details or to arrange a viewing: (204) 346-3041



Commercial Space For Lease

Commercial building in Niverville, great location on Main Street fronting the arena & across from the golf course. Building offers 1200 sq ft of office space, 2400 sq ft heated shop and 3200 sq ft of cold storage on 1 acre. Could be separated into smaller rental spaces. Call 204-346-3041 for more detail.



970 Sq Ft Commercial Space for Lease - Niverville

Highly visible building at 349 Bronstone Drive in Niverville offers a beautifully finished 2nd floor commercial space for lease, available immediately. Main area is an open 25' x 38' space with warming kitchen for lunch & coffee, plus entrance area. Access to common bathrooms. Gross lease is \$1000/month.

Call 204-346-3041 or e-mail raydowse@icloud.com for more information or to schedule a viewing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANCE & ITALY
COMMUNITY TRIP

Spring Break, 2018 (March 22 – 31, 2018)
Educational group tour in conjunction with EF Tours

Destinations: Florence; Venice; Pisa;
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Open to all NCI Students*, their
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(*Student travellers MUST be in minimum Gr. 10 or above
upon departure in March, 2018)

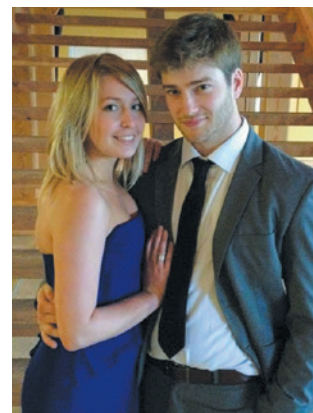
Cost includes hotels, airfare; ground transport on luxury tour bus; daily breakfast/dinner; dedicated tour guide & admission fees to all venues.

**Spending money, lunches, optional excursions & tipping not included*

**Flexible payment plans available*

Contact Tour Leader – Ms. Adrienne Happychuk; Sr. High Teacher @
Europe2018@shaw.ca if interested/for more info.

Travel spots still available - book early to lock
in the best price!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Nicholas Bergmann & Nicole Braun on their recent engagement!

Fall Protection
Training - Manitoba
& Ontario Standards

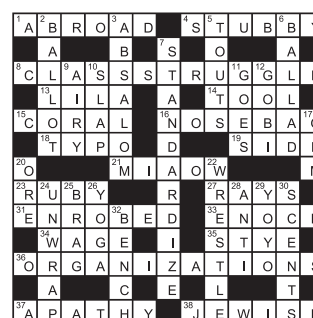
If you or your employees are working at heights in Ontario and have not yet taken the Fall Protection Training, consider a group training session this November. Often Manitoba contractors/workers cross the border into Ontario cottage country or cities and do not realize they could be shut down for lack of training that meets the Ontario fall protection standard. Training will be facilitated by Hazmasters - Winnipeg location, but will depend on registration numbers.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

please contact Trina at
Seine River Safety
Solutions:

trina@seineriversafety.ca
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FUN & GAMES

This Month's
Crossword Puzzle
Answers

JOB POSTINGS



Sparkline Autoworks is seeking a full time automotive technician. Experience required. Looking for a motivated individual. Red Seal and Government Safety Inspection certifications preferred but not required. Wage dependant on skill level. Benefits after 3 months.

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This position will include planning and participating in activities and events for residents with various interests.

We are looking for someone with experience who enjoys working with elderly persons where some residents have cognitive impairment.

For more information please see our website at
www.heritagecentre.ca/careers/nivervilleheritagecentre.ca

If you are interested submit your resume and
cover letter to jobs@heritagecentre.ca.



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