

# The Citizen

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## 69th Annual General Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2017, 7PM

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### LOCAL NEWS

#### Tim Hortons to Open in Mid-December

■ New details emerge about the new Tim Hortons restaurant opening in Niverville.

Details on Page 3

### LOCAL NEWS

#### Ritchot Announces Main St. Revitalizations

■ Main Streets in Île-des-Chênes, St. Adolphe, and Ste. Agathe to get makeovers.

Details on Page 17



### SPORTS & RECREATION

#### Panthers in Provincial Volleyball Action

■ The Junior Varsity boys won the AAA Provincials, and the Varsity boys are headed to the AA Provincials ranked in first place.

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### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!

■ It'll be a *Charlie Brown* Christmas at NCI, as the school preps its first musical in 16 years.

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# Fire Services Change for Many Rural Residents



» DETAILS ON PAGES 10-12

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# Tim Hortons to Open in December

By Sylvia St. Cyr  
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If you live in or around Niverville, you probably already know that a Tim Hortons and Shell gas bar are coming to the west side of town, at the corner of Highway 311 and Krahn Road in front of the golf course. The establishment is scheduled to open at the end of December, with the grand opening celebration taking place in the new year.

Tim Hortons and Shell are the first major franchises to open in Niverville since Subway established its Main Street location several years ago.

Kari Wilson, General Manager of Operations for the new Tim Hortons, is working with franchisee William Kent. “We have been involved with Tim Hortons for about 18 years,” says Wilson. “Our Niverville location will be the eleventh [store] in our group of family-owned restaurants.”

The dining room will have room for roughly 25 people. The location will include a drive thru, a welcome feature for early morning commuters wanting



Construction continues on the new Tim Hortons and Shell gas station. RAY DOWSE

their coffee and donuts in a hurry.

“We chose Niverville because it is a growing community that we would like to be a part of,” says Wilson. “I am responsible for hiring and training the 15 or so team members that we will need.”

The adjacent Shell station is also in the hiring process.

“I am always pleased to see business owners willing to set up in Niverville,” says Mayor Myron Dyck, “both existing ones who continue to serve our community needs, and new ones who are looking to be part of our great business community. It was a mandate of this council to increase business in our town, and I wish the owners of the [Tim Hortons and Shell] much success.”

Although the hours of operation are not finalized, Tim Hortons will likely be open from early morning until late evening.

## Niverville Council Announces 2017 Priorities

By Brenda Sawatzky  
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

With the 2017 planning session weekend behind them, Niverville council and senior town staff members are preparing to forge ahead with a number of new and ongoing initiatives for 2017. Much consideration was given to long-term planning as well, looking at the community’s needs over the next ten years.

“I have always enjoyed the annual planning session,” says Mayor Myron Dyck. “It is a time where council goes over the requests from all department managers and community groups. This year council met for 22 hours over two days and spent that time going over the various requests, assessing the needs of our community as a whole, and then producing a plan to meet those needs.

The weekend is a time where council has lively discussions and each councillor makes passionate cases for what they believe should be the priorities for 2017, 2018, and in the next few years.”

In a recent press release, council outlined three priorities they intend to address in 2017.

With the pending annexation of land from the RM of Hanover scheduled to come into effect January 1, one of council’s primary goals will be to continue development of the Niverville Business Park. Phase one will begin with the registration and development of 30 acres of the new 180-acre parcel of land. It will include 23 lots varying in size from a half-acre to two acres. Council plans to have the engineering, legal, and design services completed in January, after which time

tendering and construction can occur.

Council has set a tentative date of 2018 for the construction of the multiplex field-house and arena, mindful of the extensive fundraising still required for the project. Throughout 2017, council will continue to assist in the project through planning and fundraising. Their goal is to help secure funding from a variety of levels: government, businesses, foundations, and private citizen donations.

Finally, council has been listening to resident concerns regarding high traffic areas and the busy intersections where access to Main Street has become difficult. Some Main Street intersections in question are the ones at Sixth Avenue and Fifth Avenue, both used by many commuters living in Fifth Avenue Estates, and the turnoff at Krahn Road, which leads to the new Tim Hortons and Shell station as well as the Highlands development.

Over the course of the next year, council is planning to initiate a community access management functional study, in cooperation with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. The study will examine a variety of options, including turning lanes, traffic lights, and roundabouts (similar to Hampton Drive south), all considered excellent tools for handling large traffic volumes. The goal for Niverville will be to develop a strategic plan that will serve as a guide for road development in the future. The study will also enable town

council to access infrastructure grants offered by the province.

Though many other subjects were up for discussion at the recent planning session, council still has much work to do in prioritizing them. Some initiatives will be dependent on the April 2017 budget.

“We look forward to getting started [on] rolling... town initiatives out in the coming year,” says Councillor Nathan Dueck. “Hundreds of ideas were shared and expressed [at the planning sessions] and I look forward to having these ideas put into action in the years to come.”

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# Co-Op Opens Second IDC Location

By Eric Peterson

While excitement about Niverville's second gas station and accompanying coffee options has reached a fever pitch this holiday season, another nearby town is about to have one more choice when it comes time to fill 'er up.

A new Co-op gas station and car wash is set to open in Île-des-Chênes on Quest Boulevard early in 2017. This will be the second Co-op in the town and Henry Nickel, General Manager of Ste. Anne Co-operative Oil Limited, says the time was right to expand.

"The current location is supported very well," says Nickel. He adds that the first store and its customers were facing some challenges brought about by the growth of the town. "We grew out of the space with lineups and so on. That's when



The new Co-op gas station and car wash in Île-des-Chênes.

DUSTIN KRAHN

you know it's time to do more, to look at expansion."

While the current Co-op in Île-des-Chênes is a franchise, the new station will be corporately owned and operated.

Nickel says construction is going well and the company is hoping to

be filling tanks within weeks. "It's supposed to be completed toward the end of the year, open in early January if they're on schedule."

In addition to stopping for gas and convenience items, Nickel says Île-des-Chênes residents will be able to keep their vehicles nice

and shiny at the new Co-op.

"We're going to have a self-serve wand wash with all the bells and whistles," says Nickel.

Of course, easier access to gas won't be the only benefit to the town. New business means new jobs and Nickel says the new location is currently looking for full- and part-time staff.

In the end, though, it's all about the customers—and a growing community like Île-des-Chênes demands more amenities and services.

"We are looking forward to serving our members better with our new location," concludes Nickel.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Job applications can be sent to [denms@stacooop.com](mailto:denms@stacooop.com).

# Open Health Niverville Unveiled at Gala

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Niverville's innovative new primary care access centre was the focus of the tenth annual Heritage Centre fundraising gala held on November 5. The Heritage Centre banquet hall staff rose to the occasion, providing champagne and prime rib in a glamorous *Phantom of the Opera*-themed setting for 250 attendees. The event proceeds, totalling \$45,000, will help to fund improvements to the new centre, expected to open in the spring of 2017.

A cornerstone of the evening was the unveiling of the medical centre's new name: Open Health Niverville.

"It is my hope, in presenting to you Open Health Niverville, that we tie our healthcare aspirations to those of this town, for whom I am both grateful and proud," said Dr. Chris Burnett of the Niverville

Medical Clinic. "We seek to create an environment that offers appropriate care, locally, timely and convenient, open to all regardless of race, religion, social standing, or sexual orientation. [The name] Open Health expresses our desire."

The new 5,000-square-foot facility, to be located on the ground floor of the life lease project, will provide easy single-entry access to all of Niverville's medical services including primary healthcare, lab services, a chronic disease team, public health, a Family First program, and mental health services.

As master of ceremonies, Mayor Myron Dyck opened the evening with a word of hope. "It is said [that] one draft horse can pull 8,000 pounds," Dyck said. "Two together, you would think, could pull 16,000 pounds, but you would be wrong. Two working together can pull 24,000 pounds. But this is still not all. Once the horses train and

become familiar with one another they can actually pull 32,000 pounds, four times what one can do on their own. The application is obvious. We need everyone to work together to truly be a healthy community."

Award-winning humourist and keynote speaker Bill Carr kept the audience in stitches with his slapstick approach to work, family, and life. He completed his comedic routine on a more serious note, moved by the vision of a small community's drive to create a model such as the Heritage Centre campus.

"You have a sense of community, a sense of vision, and a sense of value that is invaluable," Carr said.

Before the evening closed, Heritage Holdings Inc. spokesperson Gord Daman took to the stage to pay tribute to a key player in the Heritage Centre's success, George Sawatzky, an all-around community builder. Daman recounted

Sawatzky's many years of work as the big-hearted manager of the Niverville Credit Union, his 50 years of volunteer service, and his behind-the-scenes philanthropy.

"That same quiet and unadvertised commitment of generosity that George holds deep in the recesses of his heart and soul has helped to shape and create what we all take for granted here today at the Heritage Centre," said Daman. "It was with great regret that our board accepted George's retirement from the Heritage Centre earlier this year. While no one is indispensable, some are certainly harder to replace than others, and replacing George as a board member will not be easy."

Sawatzky was presented with a plaque in recognition of his many years of service on the Heritage Centre committees.

## The Citizen Alters Release Schedule

Evan Braun

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Starting in the new year, The Citizen is changing its release schedule.

For the last year and a half, the paper has been coming out on the last Thursday of each month. This meant that the January paper came out at the end of December, the February paper came out at the end of January, etc.

As of January, the paper will instead come out on the first Thursday of the month.

## Friends of the Plex Plan Community Auction

By Heather Miller

On May 5, the Friends of the Plex will be putting on a community auction gala, a fun-filled evening consisting of a meal and an auction of items donated by the community.

Donations so far include a backyard catered meal for 15 to 20 people and a framed and signed Blake Wheeler Jets jersey. The committee has been reaching out to residents and businesses about further donations. The donations could range from cookies, pies, borscht, or spring rolls to a grass-cutting service, a week at a cottage, or gift certificates to local businesses.

Each month, Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern offers a menu item in support of the Niverville Multiplex. For December, the Plex special will be their new Cookhouse Cookie, and the Cookhouse Coffee. \$2 from each cookie and \$1 from each coffee will be donated to the multiplex.

While the Friends of the Plex patiently wait for a response from both the federal and provincial governments on grant applications, they look forward to the new year. Upon confirmation of government funding, Niverville's town council will put out an open call for bids from contractors on the design and construction of the multiplex.

The Chase the Ace contest is still ongoing each Wednesday at Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern. The pot grows bigger each week until the ace of spades is drawn. Bigway Bucks are still available for \$20 denominations at the Niverville Credit Union and the town office.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca)



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**We encourage our readers to recognize and support those people and businesses who continue to help make this region a great place to live, work, and play!**

# Merry Christmas



*The* **Citizen**



## IN BRIEF



The Niverville Fire and Emergency Services Department. **TYLER NEUFELD**

## Fire Department Raises Money for Training Site

Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Fire and Emergency Services Department held their annual perogy dinner fundraiser on November 11 at the Golden Friendship Centre. This year, it is estimated that about 400 people attended from the community, collectively raising \$5,000 for the department. In the last few years, the perogy dinner has become a popular event.

It had previously been announced that the next fundraising goal would involve the purchase of farm accident rescue equipment. With the recent announcement in the change to Niverville's response area, Fire Chief Keith Bueckert says the department is developing a new plan.

"We have turned our plan now to making a fire training site in town with burn containers, and with the future goal of several other training pieces," says Bueckert. "We are still working to get farm/heavy rescue equipment and grain rescue. But we are going to work towards this with private grants."

Bueckert adds that the department will also use a portion of the money to purchase EMS training dolls. These are used to train members in medical crises, such as childbirth and airway emergencies.

"A big thank you to the community for all the support," says Bueckert. The department also wishes to thank Niverville Bigway and Chicken Chef for their generous food donations, and the many talented volunteer cooks at the Golden Friendship Centre.

# Niverville Autobody Plans Major Expansion

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The key to small-town business success can typically be summed up in a few words: understanding your customers' needs and delivering beyond their expectations. Ferd Klassen of Niverville Autobody has built his business around that motto.

Oftentimes, the sign of a successful business is growth and Klassen is excited to expand his business for the second time since he purchased it in 2008. Niverville Autobody first opened its doors in 1976.

"Our business and customer base has been growing every year and we recognize the need to be able to provide a great service in a fair and reasonable amount of time without sacrificing quality," says Klassen. "We have been adding staff and are at the point now where we recognize we need more space for production. With the changing environment in the collision repair industry... comes training and equipment requirements that enable us to be able to provide collision repair services to most models today."

The expansion will develop into Klassen's newly acquired lot just west of the existing building and will add 3,850 square feet of space. This will allow room for the body repair shop to install a state-of-the-art down-draft finishing spray booth, which is a high-tech, well-ventilated enclosure for applying new paint to vehicles. The current spray booth will be removed to provide



Ferd Klassen, owner of Niverville Autobody.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

more room for auto glass repair and replacement and detailing departments.

Though he doesn't anticipate adding additional staff immediately, it's something Klassen will be looking at in the future.

"Providing our staff with the... updated training, access to repair information along with the current equipment technology, we are in a great position to achieve our goals," adds Klassen.

Niverville Autobody attracts

clients from Niverville and all over southeast Manitoba, including Winnipeg. New customers are walking through the doors regularly and Klassen credits his happy customers for providing a lot of his advertising by word of mouth.

"[In] my experience running a business, the people in Niverville and local communities love to support local. We are grateful for the customers we have and welcome them back. We are hoping to have an open house sometime in

late spring to show off our facility and provide some insight to our community as to how their vehicle moves through our shop," says Klassen.

Von Ast Construction of Niverville has been contracted for the new build.

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NATALIE BATKIS

# Niverville Remembers

## 700 people gather to acknowledge our troops' sacrifices.

By Natalie Batkis

nbatkis@nivervillecitizen.com

On November 11, 2016, about 700 people gathered at the Niverville Heritage Centre to honour the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, our country during times of war, conflict, and peace. With Remembrance Day falling on a Friday, the organizing committee, comprised of private citizen volunteers, wasn't sure how many people to expect. This year's attendance was just shy of last year's 800 attendees.

This year's program was filled with video and musical presentations including a special song written by Bob Thompson called "Canadian Soldier." His daughter Emily Thompson accompanied him on stage to sing it. Melanie Bergen assisted the Girl Guides, Brownies, and Sparks in the singing of *O Canada*. Bergen also performed "We'll Meet Again" and

"God Save the Queen."

Lorraine Kehler welcomed guests by sharing her experience as a mother with a son in the Canadian Forces. Kehler's son, Samuel Kehler, currently serves as an officer in the navy.

Following these welcoming remarks, young members of the community, including Shelby Vernier, Brett Zacharias, Brendan Derksen, and Hana Stott, recited *In Flanders Fields*.

As a sign of solemn observance, five cadets from the 170th St. James Squadron, including Vigil Commander Aiden Bruce, Samuel Harder, Ryleigh Bruce, Vanessa Harder, and Derek Kehler, held vigil of the memorial on stage. This act of respect is usually performed at a cenotaph or memorial site when ceremonies are held outdoors.

This year's guest speaker was World War II veteran George Peterson. Peterson is a recipient of both the

Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

For 20 minutes, Peterson participated in a question-and-answer period with host Ian Wallace, whose father John Wallace also served in WWII. Peterson explained how many lives were tragically lost in the Battle of Hong Kong and in prisoner of war camps.

"290 Canadians died in action and, after four years in captivity, more than 250 passed away... Today, there are 18 of us left and I'm going to be the last one to go," he quipped.

While Peterson still has a sharp sense of humour, when Wallace asked him about his time as a POW, his tone changed.

"We were treated worse than they treated their animals. We were their slaves," he said. "We didn't have names, we had numbers. In the coal mines, we were working anywhere from 10, 12, to sometimes 14-hour

days until we had put out our quota. At the time, we were fed 1,900 calories of food a day. For the work we were doing, we should have been eating at least 3,000 to 4,000 calories a day... We didn't live, we survived."

Before ending his conversation with Peterson, Wallace asked him to share his final thoughts on war.

"War has never solved any problems at all. There are no winners in war, but a great deal of losers," Peterson said. "People like Hitler, Mussolini, Hirohito, Churchill, Roosevelt; let them fight each other in the frontlines and see how long it would take them to get to the negotiation table. War doesn't solve anything."

After the guest speaker left the stage, the service continued with the Acts of Remembrance and the wreath-laying ceremony, which included a bugle call and bagpipe music. Wreaths were laid by members of the community including local

politicians, members of the Canadian Forces, RCMP, and the Niverville Fire and EMS. The service ended with a closing prayer by Roger Armbruster.

Guests and attendees were invited to a light lunch prepared and served by Heritage Centre staff. This provided an opportunity for people to sit and visit while reflecting on the service.

This year was the first time Elaine Bernardin attended the Remembrance Day service in Niverville with her family, who live in the community.

"It's not much for me to take an hour or so out of the year to stop and think about what this day really means. It is a very small price to pay when I consider stories like George Peterson's," Bernardin says. "There were moments where I had to wipe tears from my eyes today. The entire service was very moving."

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Councillors mingle with residents at open house.

RAY DOWSE

## Niverville Council Reaches Out at Open House

Amidst cries for greater transparency, Niverville's town council hosts elaborate public info session, with low turnout.

By Beth A. Downey

For years, Niverville's town council has faced two persistent accusations: first, that they're uncommunicative, regularly leaving locals in the dark. Second, that this failure to communicate is a sign not simply of negligence, but of council's scorn for transparency. But are these accusations fair?

In response, council held an open house on October 27 at the south end of the arena. The goals were clear. On one hand, it would demonstrate that council had registered the complaints and were ready to remedy them. On the other, it would allow council to underline the ways in which it has been communicating up to now and dispel the non-transparency myth once and for all.

The open house was announced in a town-wide bulletin mailed to each household. Emails were sent, tweets tweeted, notices posted all over the web.

Every major issue—from water treatment and access, to overcrowding in schools, to multiplex plans, to policing—was represented. Each had a designated presentation station with literature provided and a stack of feedback materials for attendees to fill out and submit. "Literature" here does not mean dull, three-panel pamphlets. This was a multimedia affair, including three-foot-high presentation boards in full colour, a photo album of town beautification projects, and a video compilation on local greenspace maintenance.

Another strong merit was human representation. All five council members were on hand to answer questions and receive feedback in person. This, along with the obvious time and work that had been put into the event, made it all the more frustrating that the one key thing missing from Niverville Talks 3.0 was, well, Niverville. Of approximately 5,000 residents, 50 to 60 residents attended.

Mayor Myron Dyck freely admits that outward communication from council has been inadequate in the past, and says this very likely contributed to the disconnect both sides now face.

"People from Niverville understand the importance of investing in community. This is an active, internally engaged town," he said, the words echoing with sad irony in the largely empty room. "Most of what we're fighting here is a prejudice, perceived notions about what politicians are; we're trying to break that stigma."

Dyck suggested that one key, lingering problem on council is a lack of savvy as to how to cut through today's web chatter.

Councillor Chris Wiebe, who has sat on council for two years, echoed these sentiments. He explains that while it may seem counterintuitive, the issue lies not in a dearth of information, but in a surplus.

"In this day and age, with so many [platforms], people become immune to communications," says Wiebe. "When you want to know something,

you go find it. But you filter your search, and it's easy to filter out very important information by accident—and when that happens, people get upset. So, for us, it's an issue of how we can consistently get the information into people's hands."

Nathan Dueck, council's newest member, says that disorganized information output, combined with a suspicious public, is doing real damage to local public relations.

"Everybody is a partial expert in something, but sometimes a little bit of information can be a dangerous thing," says Dueck. "It results in fraught conversations in backyards or around water-coolers where somebody knows something, they read something somewhere, but nobody really knows the whole story, and these chats breed misconception, fear, and reactivity. Rumour is a huge problem. Social media, for instance, is great for venting, but bad for productive discussion, bad for fact-checking and accountability."

Mayor Dyck says councillors used to have specific portfolios—including, for instance, communications—but that business is now handled in common between all members. However, he suggested this may need review.

"We are actively entertaining the idea of expanding," Dyck says. "We want council to effectively represent the community we serve and that may well mean adding new councillors to include a broader range of skillsets."

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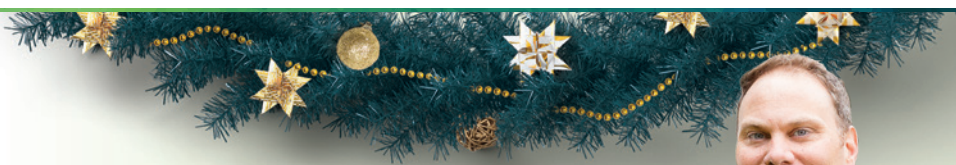
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## CLOSER LOOK

**Hanover Fire Department's Equipment and Capability****Fire Department Overview**

- 3 fire stations (New Bothwell, Kleefeld, and Grunthal).
- 10 apparatuses, including 3 pumpers, 3 tankers, 3 rescues, 1 bush truck/mini-pumper, 1 chief's unit, and 3 ATV/UTV with pumps. (The UTV is an all-terrain vehicle used to fight backcountry wildfires. It carries 2 firefighters, a pump, and a water supply).
- 2 sets of extrication tools (New Bothwell and Kleefeld).
- Farm-accident-rescue-capable.

**Training Levels**

- 52 members either in training or having completed Firefighting Level 1.
- 20 members having completed Firefighter Level 2.
- 52 members with ICS 100 training. (ICS 100 is a course that certifies a firefighter to work within a chain of command.)
- 45 members with Hazmat Ops training.
- 45 members with vehicle extraction training. (Training and certification for using the Jaws of Life.)
- 6 members with GSAR training. (GSAR stands for ground search and rescue. This training involves learning techniques and systems for searching for missing persons.)
- 6 members training in rescue practises.
- 6 emergency service instructors (ESI), Level 1.
- 8 emergency medical responders (EMR).
- 6 primary care paramedics (PCP).

**Equipment List (New Bothwell Station)**

- Engine 441 - 2014 Freightliner/GEV; 1250 GPM Waterous pump; 1000 Imp. Gal. tank
- Tanker 541 - 2003 Freightliner/GEV; 1500 Imp. Gal. tank; 400 gpm Honda pump
- Rescue 241 - 2000 Freightliner/ITB; walk in rescue; with extrication

**Niverville Fire Department's Equipment and Capability****Training Levels**

- 32 members in the Niverville Fire & EMS Service.
- 27 members with Firefighting Level 1.
- 11 members with Firefighting Level 2.
- 32 members with ICS 100 training.
- 20 members with Hazmat Ops training.
- 28 members with Hazmat Awareness training.
- 28 members with vehicle extrication training.
- 10 members with GSAR training.
- 10 members with training in rescue practices
- 5 emergency service instructors (ESI), Level 1.
- 8 emergency medical responders (EMR)
- 14 primary care paramedics (PCP)
- 10 members with fire ground management training.
- 17 members with water rescue training.
- 4 members trained with fire investigation.
- 2 advanced care paramedics (ACP)

**Equipment List (Trucks)**

- 2009 E-One—1,250 gallons per minute/1,000 gallons.
- 2013 E-One—1,500 gallons per minute/1,000 gallons (with Jaws of Life and water rescue equipment).
- 1994 GMC tanker—1,500 gallons.
- 1998 GMC Suburban Rescue.

# Fire Services Change for Many Rural Residents



BRENDA SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Rural residents living just outside the Town of Niverville's boundaries on the north, south, and east sides will soon see their fire protection services change. As of January 1, 2017, the New Bothwell fire department in the RM of Hanover will be the first to be dispatched to calls in these areas.

This is not the first time Hanover has attempted to change fire services to the area surrounding Niverville, but according to residents, previous attempts were reversed after petitions were collected by affected property owners. Though Hanover's latest decision was formally drawn up a while ago, many residents only became aware of the decision through local media sources.

"The decision was made through the Niverville annexation discussions between both municipalities back in 2013," says Luc Lahaie, chief administrative officer (CAO) of the RM of Hanover. "Upon the release of the initial annexation proposal to the public, the annexation agreement was discussed in *The Carillon* and [local] radio station in [the] latter half of 2014. We understand this isn't a popular decision, but Hanover council and administration really feel comfortable in their skin in making this decision. We are extremely confident in our fire protection abilities being the best in the province."

The areas affected by the decision will include all property outside of Niverville's town limits with the exception of areas west of town belonging to the Ritchot municipality. For decades prior, the RM of Hanover and Niverville worked cooperatively through a fire protection agreement allowing the Niverville fire department to respond to calls outside of town limits. Hanover compensated Niverville \$12,000 per year for these services.

"The annexation agreement... included the request from Hanover to manage their own affairs in regards to fire protection," says Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck. "Our council stated its reasons why this would not be welcomed by some residents. So, what does this mean? Simply put, the RM of Hanover was paying the Town of Niverville when it responded to certain calls. This



Terry Dowse with newspaper clippings of the tragedy that claimed her husband and son.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

payment will now stop as the RM of Hanover will no longer pay as of January 1. So the question was asked, 'Let's not worry about the money. Can't we just go and help?' Now we have the liability issue. If something happens on a site we do not have jurisdiction over, that means our fire service members and the town as a whole could be [held] liable and the matter of insurance and being sued comes into play. Our fire executive has stated that if they are not authorized to attend... due to liability issues."

Since the time the collaborative agreement was struck between the two councils years ago, Hanover has been working to upgrade the New Bothwell fire department's equipment and staff in preparation for this move.

"Hanover has one of the largest, best equipped, best trained, and highly skilled fire departments in the province," says Lahaie. "We feel we can provide the same or better service as the Niverville fire department. At the annual Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs conferences, Hanover was considered to be a leader amongst all paid volunteer

fire departments."

Lahaie adds that Hanover is currently working to create a new fire service agreement with Niverville which will come into effect at the time of the other changes.

"Under the [new] Reciprocal Fire Agreement effective January 1, [for] any large fire or MVC (motor vehicle collision), Hanover will call Niverville immediately to assist," says Lahaie.

**FIRE STILL HAUNTS LOCAL MOTHER**

On a crisp winter night in 1994, Terry Dowse, wife and mother of three, woke up to smoke so thick she couldn't see her hands in front of her face. She vividly recalls her husband's panicked voice calling to the family to wake up and get out of the house. The furnace had malfunctioned, swiftly sending smoke and flames throughout the house.

The family's home was located on Prefontaine Road, one-quarter mile from Highway 59. Terry's husband George made sure she and the two older boys got out safely. That's when they realized that George Jr, just ten years old, had not come down from his upstairs bedroom.

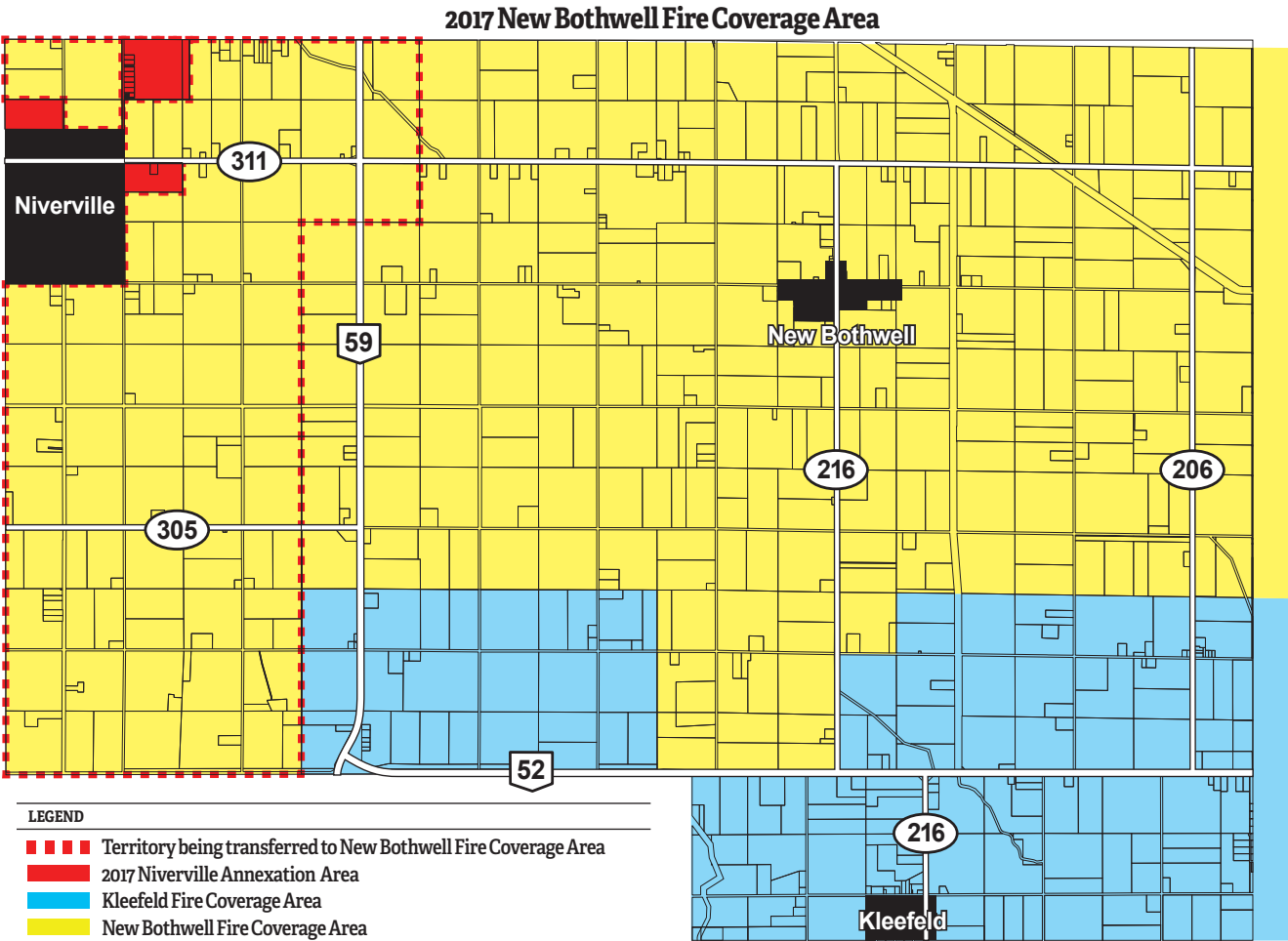
George went back inside to save his son while another son ran barefoot in minus-thirty weather to the neighbours to call 911.

That was the last time Dowse saw her husband alive. George and the youngest son succumbed to the fire before firefighters could save them. The responding fire department came from Lorette, approximately 20 kilometres from the Dowse home. Firefighters also came from Landmark, 15 kilometres away. The Niverville fire department, about seven kilometres away, was unable to respond because of the home's location about a mile outside their municipal jurisdiction.

"I didn't know where the [boundaries] were," says Dowse. "I was just a mom. I worked part-time and [George] was gone a lot. People [might] have been saved if they would have been there five minutes earlier."

Dowse understands the critical nature of response times when every moment counts in an emergency. Though she can only speculate as to whether her family's outcome could have been different, she is appalled by municipal boundaries that separate us in times when common sense





should prevail.

"We're talking about life and death," says Dowse. "We're talking about a family devastated. Get your head on straight. If you're [the] closer [fire department] you should be the ones coming. I would say to these [legislators], 'What if it was you? What if it was your family?'"

Mayor Dyck of Niverville



Luc Lahaie, CAO of the RM of Hanover. MARLENE FAST PHOTOGRAPHY

suggests that Manitoba's system of municipal fire protection needs work.

"This boundary issue is not unique to Niverville. It exists all over the province," says Dyck. "Thus, municipal leaders are engaged in discussions all over the province on how to

**HOW WILL HANOVER'S DECISION AFFECT EMR SERVICES?**

Emergency medical responders (EMR) are often the first to respond on the scene when a medical emergency is taking place. Niverville resident Steven Cope is grateful every day

better provide service. Some on our council like the Province of Ontario's model where concentric circles provide the boundary and municipal boundaries are irrelevant. It is this approach our council believes makes more sense. We will need a provincial mandate, however, to implement such a system."

for the Niverville EMR's quick response that saved his wife's life.

In June 2015, Maureen Cope was driving home from Winnipeg. Steven was in the passenger seat and their daughters in the rear. Just miles from the Highway 311 turnoff, Maureen had a heart attack behind the wheel and slumped over, unconscious. Thankfully, Steven had the wherewithal to take over from the passenger seat, using one hand to prop up his wife and another to apply the vehicle's brakes. Upon getting the vehicle under control, he called 911. The operator coached him in CPR, assuring him that an ambulance had been dispatched.

Based on Cope's phone log from that night, he estimates that the Niverville EMR were onsite within ten minutes of his call to 911. Quickly assessing her condition, first responders applied the defibrillator to her chest, shocking her heart back into action and keeping her condition steady until the ambulance arrived.

"I figure ten minutes is a pretty fantastic response time considering they were all volunteers," says Cope. "There shouldn't be questions as to whose jurisdiction it is, because those questions and that confusion can cost time. And in [my wife's] case a life,

because from every doctor we've talked to, it's a miracle that she's still here. She was dead. If that response time would have been an extra three or four minutes because they came from [farther away]? The human brain can only go four or five minutes without oxygen."

According to Jim Buys, CAO of the Town of Niverville, EMR boundaries will not change with the Hanover decision. Fire and EMR services fall under different sets of rules. Fire services are governed by the Municipal Act and municipalities set their own standards. EMR services are governed by the health region and the province sets those standards.

Niverville EMR boundaries will continue to extend west of Niverville to Highway 200, north to Highway 210, south to Highway 305, and up to a short section east of Highway 59.

"Only fire service response is being amended," says Lahaie. "EMR is not being affected as the Town of Niverville will continue providing these services to this area in Hanover, as they are also providing these services to areas in the RM of Ritchot and the RM of Tache, without Niverville fire department needing to provide fire services to those areas."

(continued on page 12)

CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

How do you think the upcoming change in fire protection boundaries will affect properties north, south, and east of Niverville?

A - The RM of Hanover can adequately protect those properties.

B - Those properties will be less protected under the new agreement.

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

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

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?

AVERAGED RESPONSES:

A - Improving and expanding water infrastructure. 2.63

B - Developing the town's newly annexed lands. 2.37

C - Effectively delivering police services. 3.86

D - Pushing for the construction of new schools. 4.28

E - Working to build the multiplex. 3.44

F - Increasing the number of town councillors. 2.34



(continued from page 11)

**MUTUAL AID DISTRICTS**

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is a provincially governed organization whose mission statement reads, "To safeguard both persons and property from fire and life safety hazards through education, investigation, emergency response and code application."

Operating under the Municipal Act, the OFC has divided the province into 17 Mutual Aid Districts (MAD) and encourages communities across Manitoba to participate in mutual aid agreements with other fire departments within their district.

According to the OFC website, "The Mutual Aid System is a no-charge reciprocal system of emergency response and assistance that towns, villages and municipalities in southern Manitoba can access through their local fire departments. The main focus of the Mutual Aid System is to make a large number of resources available in a pre-arranged, organized fashion at no additional cost to the town, village or municipality requiring assistance during a large-scale emergency situation."

For years, the Niverville fire department has partnered with the Eastman MAD, which includes the Ritchot municipality to the west of Niverville. Each MAD has a coordinator responsible for smooth and efficient fire responses between the participating communities. It is the coordinator's responsibility to ensure that no participating fire department goes without backup protection in the event of an emergency.

Because participation is optional and the system is set up on a no-charge basis (MAD-participating fire



Maureen and Steven Cope.

STEVEN COPE

departments do not charge each other for the assistance they give), some towns and municipalities choose rather to create fire protective agreements with their neighbouring municipalities and fire departments. In such cases, payment terms are negotiated.

The RM of Hanover does not belong to a MAD.

"Up until 1995, Hanover was part of Eastman Mutual Aid District," says Lahaie. "The purpose of a provincial mutual aid system is for fire departments to provide an organized assist to each other during a large incident that would have depleted a fire department's resources, free of charge. At that time, most municipal fire departments in Eastman were poorly equipped, poorly maintained, understaffed and poorly supported. Hanover and Steinbach were the exception and, as a result, we were providing a lot of 'first call in'

responses outside of our municipality. Hanover ratepayers were paying for and providing much of the fire protection in the region. When Hanover council asked their neighbours to make changes and start providing more funding for their own fire departments, they instructed their fire chiefs to vote to remove Hanover and Steinbach from Eastman Mutual Aid. Since then, Hanover has paid neighbouring [municipalities] for services."

**FIRE SERVICES AND HOUSE INSURANCE**

Though fire department response time is at the top of residents' concerns, some homeowners affected by Hanover's decision might also expect changes to their house insurance. Licensed insurance broker Deb Pearson says that insurance companies use three categories to determine a property's insurance costs:

whether it is hydrant-protected, semi-protected (within 13 kilometres of the responding fire department), or unprotected (more than 13 kilometres from the responding fire department).

Pearson says it is important to note that the insurance company looks at the property's distance from the responding fire department, not the nearest fire department.

"I did a homeowner's quote based on a house insured for \$300,000 and there was a \$500 difference between semi- and unprotected," says Pearson.

Lahaie says that Hanover council has been in contact with insurance companies to verify the impact of their decision. "Insurance rates shall not change as most residences would fall within the 13 kilometres. Farms are calculated individually."

**IN BRIEF**

The 2016 MCMA awards.

NANCI DAGG

**Olde Tyme Country Fair Nominated for MCMA**

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On September 1, the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair was nominated for its first Manitoba Country Music Award in the Festival or Event of the Year category.

According to the MCMA's website, this award recognizes events in Manitoba that focus on "the development and promotion of Manitoba country music talent through the presentation of Manitoba country music talent as well as through, but not limited to, community involvement, promotions, leadership and recognition."

Unfortunately, Niverville's fair did not take home the prize when the awards were handed out on November 10 at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre in downtown Winnipeg. The award went to Dauphin Country Fest.

"We were a bit surprised to be nominated for Festival of the Year," says Dustin Krahn, Promotions and Sponsorship Coordinator for the Olde Tyme Country Fair. "It is definitely a huge honour for us to even be considered. It is always nice to be noticed and

get a bit of a pat on the back from within the industry! We love to showcase local artists. A lot of the other nominees and award winners have performed at our fair over the years and we are very happy to see so many of them doing well and succeeding."

Other nominees included Festival du Voyageur, Greg Arcade's Thursday Night Country Showcase (at Wee Johnny's), the Morden Corn and Apple Festival, the Red River Ex, Rossburn DUKE Fest, Steinbach Summer In The City, Stonewall Quarry Days, and Winkler Harvest Festival.

The MCMA awards are voted on by its membership, comprised of people in the local music industry.

"We were extremely happy with the awards show this year," says Janelle Johnson, a music publicist and director on MCMA's board. "Manitoba is bursting with talent and the Manitoba Country Music Association works hard to showcase that!"

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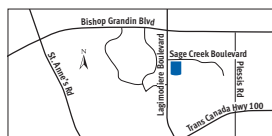
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### IN BRIEF

## School Addition Complete



A classroom in the new addition.

EMILY KIPE



New hallway at the elementary school.

CARA DOWSE

After months of construction, the new addition at the Niverville Elementary School is complete. In mid-November, teachers began the process of moving four Grade 4 classes and one Grade 3 class from their temporary lodgings, including the library, music room, and multipurpose room, into their new classrooms.

The new addition helps to relieve stress caused by the town's ever-growing population, although the elementary school remains at full capacity.

The Hanover School Division has requested a new 650-seat elementary school for Niverville from the province. The division has not yet heard any word on the status of that request.

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# Community Builders: Libby Hanna

## So Many Gifts We Need to Unwrap

By Clarence Braun

I well remember Libby Hanna from the first time I saw her in the halls of Niverville Collegiate back in 1973. She had just moved into the area and had settled in Otterburne where her father Ken was President of Providence College and Theological Seminary. She was entering Grade 10 that year and it did not take long for her to connect with people, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

Libby was born the oldest of two children to Ken and Mary Hanna. She was well travelled by the time she moved to southeast Manitoba. She was born in Tennessee, and when she was three years old her parents moved to Dallas, Texas, where her father continued his education at the Dallas Theological Seminary. At eight years of age, Libby moved with her family to Winnipeg, where her father took on the responsibilities as registrar, and then president, at Winnipeg Bible College (which later moved to Otterburne and was renamed Providence College).

Though small in stature, there was nothing small in Libby's way of thinking. Libby held to beliefs about fairness and justice. She had an easy-going disposition but was formidable in any debate or discussion on issues she was passionate about.

After graduation, she enrolled at the University of Winnipeg and then continued on to the University of Manitoba. Libby married Chris



Libby Hanna.

LIBBY HANNA

Wiebe in 1976, and in the next chapter of her life she opened a retail clothing store in Winnipeg. While pursuing business, her first child was born, and a few years later Libby found out she was pregnant with twins. Sensing that this was more than she was prepared for, she sold the store and settled into raising her family on their property just outside of Niverville.

The year 1985 brought more change as Chris' father passed away and Libby joined her husband to build their growing business, Wiebe's Excavating.

Libby's volunteering efforts can only be described as incredible. As a mother of three children, she got involved in the local preschool program.

As the children grew, she was involved in the parent council for many years and started the Junior Achievement program at Niverville Collegiate. She served on the executive of Clipper Ice Sports and managed ringette teams. She also held executive positions on both Eastman Ringette and the Manitoba Ringette Association. Other involvements were with the Niverville Horticultural Society, serving on the Western District Advisory Council for South Eastman Health, and joining South Eastman Health's Start Fresh Committee to help community members fight chronic disease issues.

She taught Sunday School at her church and now sits on the

board of Providence College. Libby also serves on the board of the Niverville Credit Union and is a co-chair of the Niverville Multiplex team.

When I asked her for highlights from the thousands of volunteer hours she has given, she told a story about Growing Minds, the community daycare. Developing Growing Minds took volunteers many years to accomplish. There were many obstacles to overcome, and they heard a lot of nos along the way. When the project came to fruition Libby stepped down and others have come along to support this ever-expanding community program.

Numerous times when we spoke she mentioned the aspect of teamwork and recounted the names of so many others who were a part of her volunteering journey. Libby expressed how involvement with the community has increased her understanding of the importance of working with people and showing value for people's different gifts.

"When thinking about all of the new people that have moved to Niverville, there are so many gifts we need to help unwrap," she said. That statement so well defines the heart of openness we need to have for the people who choose to invest their lives in our community.

On behalf of the citizens of Niverville and the surrounding communities, we say thank you. Libby, you have lived a life of sharing and caring. May you enjoy the best years yet ahead.

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# High Schoolers Tackle Global Issues

As part of Niverville Collegiate's Global Issues 40S course, a class of Grade 12 students is raising awareness—and funds—for causes that are important to them. The Citizen has partnered with the class to help get the word out about what they're doing—and what our readers can do to help.

## STUDENT:

■ Madison DeLaronde

## CAUSE:

■ The Winnipeg Humane Society.

### 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

My goal is to become a part of the WHS volunteer committee and complete a minimum of 55 hours... where I dedicate my time assisting the foundation and improving each animal's quality of life. I plan on investing a minimum of four hours per week in different departments where I can obtain knowledge via specific training methods to apply in the work environment.

### 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I have considered getting involved at the Winnipeg Humane Society in the past, but this particular Take Action Project motivated me to pursue the goal with an immense sense of compassion and determination. Animals have always held a special place in my heart and the fact that I get to set aside a few hours per week to get engaged and make a difference gives me great satisfaction.

### 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I'm going to create awareness by printing out posters and hanging them around town (Subway, Bank, Co-op, etc.), making social media announcements (Twitter, Instagram, etc.), and promotion via word of mouth to friends and family.

## STUDENT:

■ Megan Sawatzky

## CAUSE:

■ Raising money and accepting donations for kids in Ethiopia.

### 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

My goal is to collect a minimum of 100 hoodies, as well

as \$100 in proceeds. From November 23–25, Cristel Falk and I will be selling Jones bottles for \$2.50 and baked goods for \$0.50 apiece. I'm spending every Monday on this project at school, and if extra time is needed I'll be working on it at home. I will be collecting hoodies during the bake sale.

### 2. Why is this cause important to you?

Four years ago, my family adopted a boy from Ethiopia, so ever since then I've had a heart for the children of Ethiopia. Hoodies are needed because Ethiopia has really high elevation and at night it can get quite cold and kids need to keep warm. I think it's a privilege to make their lives a little better.

### 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I plan on using posters, school announcements, and posts on Facebook and Instagram.

## STUDENT:

■ Cristel Falk

## CAUSE:

■ Watoto Child Care Ministries, Uganda.

### 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

I'm raising money for the Watoto organization in Uganda. The mothers there can only work so much to provide food and water for their family but can't afford clothing for their little ones... My goal is to reach at least \$100. Megan Sawatzky and I are selling Jones bottles and baked goods at NCI November 23–25.

### 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I saw the Watoto choir perform in New Bothwell. Many kids shared their story and that's what motivated me to help in a way to make their lives a little better. It's important to me because I love kids, and for me to make their life a little better or easier is a huge privilege.

### 3. What actions are you taking



Danae Ruchkall attending Steinbach Pride this summer.

■ DANA RUCHKALL

## STUDENT:

■ Danae Ruchkall

## CAUSE:

■ Education and awareness of LGBTQ issues.

### 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

There are currently 561 students and 57 staff members at NCI. I want everyone in our school to at least hear about my Global Issues project, so it can encourage more positive conversations surrounding this subject. I hope that through further education, more people will value a wider sense of diversity.

On December 9, there will be a schoolwide rainbow dress-up day in support of the LGBTQ community. I am also going to set up a display in the front lobby of our school in the morning that will stay up throughout the day. This display will provide information about the topic. There will be posters, pamphlets, and books for whoever wants to learn more. Also, 400 free rainbow wristbands will be available for any students or staff who would like one.

It is significant that I chose December 9, because it is the day before National Human Rights Day.

### 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I attended the first-ever Steinbach Pride Parade on July 9 of this year, which sparked my interest in this topic. I am very passionate about all things surrounding human rights. I believe that one of the most important things to remember is that we are all human. No matter what race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc., everyone deserves to be treated equally and with respect.

I officially decided to pursue this topic for my take action project when I was looking on cbc.ca and I found an article about our school division titled "Hanover School Division stands behind policy prohibiting LGBTQ issues in classroom." The article is about a mother who requested a change in policy because she was worried about her child being bullied for having same-sex parents, and Hanover School Division decided to keep their policies that middle school teachers cannot discuss same-sex relationships in the classroom. By making the subject untalkable, we are creating fear in the minds of young people. This is something that exists in the world today and should be acknowledged.

### 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I am going to advertise a week before my event. I am going to create posters to put up on the bulletin boards and I will ask teachers if I can put them up in their classrooms. I am going to create an announcement that will be read every day that week. I am going to create an Instagram post with all the information about my Take Action Project and post it on my personal account because a lot of the students in our school follow me. I am also planning on asking to put a write-up on the school website about my project.

## STUDENT:

■ Riley Fast

## CAUSE:

■ Cancer research.

### 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

For my Take Action Project, I am having a basketball tournament at NCI. The tournament will happen sometime in January, with the Varsity team [playing] against another Varsity team. My goal is to sell out all of the tickets so the entire gym is full (preferably a gym full of people wearing pink T-shirts).



## 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I was motivated to have a basketball game for cancer research because someone

very close to me has cancer and a basketball game is a good way to get the community together for a good cause.

## 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I will make posts on Facebook, put posters up around the school, invite family members, and tell people to spread the word.

### STUDENT:

■ Sarah Lindsay

### CAUSE:

■ Siloam Mission.

## 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

For my Take Action Project, I am collecting products for Siloam Mission throughout the month of November. I am collecting clothes, winter clothes, hygiene products, and money. More specifically, I'm looking for jackets, hoodies, scarves, mittens, pants, boots, etc. I hope to collect 100 items of clothing. I am planning on having my donation box in the lobby of school and collect through my school as well as through family and friends in my community. I am targeting all grades throughout my school, along with staff members.

## 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I am motivated to reach out to Siloam Mission because they are such a great organization that continues to make a difference in people's lives. As winter comes closer, a lot of homeless people are without proper clothing that protects

them from our harsh weather and it's important to give what you can... This subject is important to me because in previous years I've been a part of multiple drives for different women's shelters in Winnipeg.

## 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I am going to be announce this every day at my school, make posters to hang up in the school and in classrooms, and use word of mouth by going into these classrooms to help reach my target audience. I can also get teachers to give announcements to their classes. I am planning on also using my personal social media to raise awareness on how long I am collecting and what I'm collecting. I'll be contacting my family and friends to help contribute and putting up an ad on my school's website to help reach the students' parents as well.

### STUDENT:

■ Mariah Fehr

### CAUSE:

■ The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St. Boniface Hospital.

## 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

I plan to collect donations for about two weeks, from November 1-15. My goal for donations is to collect a minimum of \$200. All donations will go towards the purchase of sleepers and receiving blankets.

## 2. Why is this cause important to you?

I chose this particular cause because I was born three months early at St. Boniface Hospital at two pounds, 13 ounces and had to spend the first three months of my life in the Neo-



Mariah Fehr is raising funds for the St. Boniface Hospital NICU. ■ MARIAH FEHR

natal Intensive Care Unit. I know how terrified my parents were because they didn't know whether or not I would make it. It makes me feel good that I can help other children and families in this position. Whether it's something big or small, it can have an impact on their life.

## 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I am going to raise awareness by putting posters around the senior hallway and hand out cards to Grades 5-8 so they can bring them home and discuss it with their parents. I'm also going to put it on announcements and on social media.

### STUDENT:

■ Nicholas Tunny

### CAUSE:

■ The Homeless Centre in Steinbach.

## 1. What does your campaign plan to accomplish?

I hope to collect a minimum of \$30 for the Homeless Centre by

selling cookies at the school for \$0.50 each. Leftover food will be donated to the homeless after the bake sale.

## 2. Why is this cause important to you?

My former resource teacher, Irene Kroeker, works at the Steinbach Homeless Centre and when I talked to her about my idea to do a bake sale, she was very supportive and was glad to take any kind of food or little money to the people who are in need. Every little bit helps.

## 3. What actions are you taking to get the word out?

I am going to raise awareness for my cause by putting posters on the bulletin board in the school hallway and advertise on the school intercom five consecutive mornings before the fundraiser takes place on Wednesday, November 9. I will also make a note on the school blog.

## IN BRIEF



Main Street in Île-des-Chênes.

■ DUSTIN KRAHN

## Ritchot Tackles Main Street Revitalization

By Natalie Batkis

✉ nbatkis@nivervillecitizen.com

The Rural Municipality of Ritchot is working with HTFC Planning & Design to create plans to revitalize the main streets of three of its biggest communities: St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Île-des-Chênes.

Lesley Gaudry, Ritchot's economic development officer, explains that the goal is to design main streets that are intended to bring the community together in strategic meeting places while driving economic growth.

"We have three towns that have changed quite a bit demographically as well as geographically over the last ten years, mostly due to residential expansion as well as a bit of commercial expansion in Île-des-Chênes and industrial expansion in Ste. Agathe," Gaudry explains. "We're doing this project so that each main street can become a vibrant business district. We are taking a serious look at our main streets and want to explore design features that enhance walkability and flow for multiple modes of traffic like vehicles and bikes."

As Gaudry explains, there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. "You can't have a recipe and say here's what we need

to do. Each town has its own unique sense of place, so that's why we planned workshops in each community."

Over the past few weeks, HTFC Planning & Design has conducted workshops to bring stakeholders together to help reach a consensus on development directions. The stakeholders included anyone who had a vested interest in the main street such as non-profit organizations, parent advisory committees, seniors groups, and owners of storefront businesses.

From these workshops, HTFC Planning & Design will come up with concept plans and drawings for the three individual main streets. Open houses will be held in each community early in the new year to share the plans with stakeholders.

"From there, we will end up with some drawings with budget estimates and we will then be able to use those plans for the short-term and long-term development of these communities," Gaudry explains. "These plans can then be used as infrastructure documents as well as an economic development documents."

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# Son City Lunches: Service with a Smile

For over 30 years, tireless volunteers have been serving lunch to high school students in Niverville, receiving nothing in return but smiles and gratitude.

By Jacqueline Chartrand

Who doesn't remember the monotony of eating lunch at school? What parent wouldn't appreciate a break from planning and preparing lunches for their teenagers? Well, every Tuesday at noon, ten regular volunteers (and three subs) provide that reprieve by preparing lunch for up to 200 high school students in Niverville—and all it costs is two toonies.

Lunches are served at Son City, across the street from NCI, rotating through seven menus—lasagne with bread sticks, chili and tacos, quesadillas, pizza buns, chicken fingers, and perogies with farmer sausage. The meals, served with a salad or vegetable, are prepared between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Multiple helpings are permitted, but only one dessert per student. Desserts vary from week to week and include ice cream cones, Rice Krispies squares, brownies, cream puffs, ice cream sandwiches, and ice cream treats. The favourite drink, hands down, is the slushy.

The basement hall quickly fills with kids who, when seated, are asked to remove their hats for prayer and a five-minute devotional presented by one of six youth pastors who serve in Niverville. These ministers value the weekly lunch as a connecting point with youth, where they can engage with kids in an informal manner.

Then kids line up at two



Volunteers Carisa Klassen, Meeka Sawatzky, Marlene Stott, Tess Klassen (on lap), Kayloma Capps, and Mary Ann Friesen.

JACQUELINE CHARTRAND

food stations and are almost magically served up within a half-hour. The day this reporter attended, 144 lunches were served, 50 fewer than the week before. Veteran volunteer leader Evelyn Rempel speculated that the lower numbers were due to the long weekend and kids thinking it was Monday.

First-time volunteer Jennifer fondly remembers her Son City lunch days as a student back in 1991 when the cost was two loonies and the drink served was warm orange crush.

Indeed, the two slush machines are a treasure and have a special history. Eight years ago, high school sociology teacher Brad Mehling encouraged a group of his students to submit essays for an opportunity to win a \$2,000 grant. They had to explain why a deserving charity that reached out to the community should win. Curtis Sawatzky's essay about the Son City lunch ministry won. The money, given by the Loewen Foundation, enabled the purchase of the two slush machines, one of which had to be replaced

last year for a cost of about \$3,600. They are the unique domains of Marlene Stott, who knows how to work them and prepares trays of slushies in advance and places them in the chest freezers. It's something to behold when Evelyn approaches those trays and flips the straws into the glasses two by two.

"Evelyn does everything," the volunteers crow about their leader of ten years. "She is amazing!"

Evelyn bakes homemade croutons for salads, grates bulk cheese at home, and fills

her SUV with supplies from Wholesale Club (a four-hour task every second week).

"It is so full that I have had to open the box of breadsticks and poke individual packages into small spaces to get them in!" Evelyn says, laughing. When she's five minutes from Niverville, she phones ahead and several volunteers appear to help unload. "We almost break even. Word of Life makes up any shortfall from their funds."

The ministry originated in 1986 when Tassos Xanthopoulos was senior pastor of

Word of Life Church. The youth pastor, Paul Derksen, proposed the lunch as an outreach of Life Ministries to Youth. Joy, Xanthopoulos' wife, agreed to do all the cooking for the 25 students who regularly showed up. She led the ministry for many years with the aid of a few volunteers.

At the mid-morning break, one volunteer produces a dessert and coffee is served. Volunteer Lois Wiebe smiles as she says, "Here there is ministry within the ministry, an opportunity to serve each other, bond, and form friendships. It's an exciting thing to be a part of!"

The dessert volunteer is the one to take the tea towels and aprons home to be washed. Victoria and Marg Paver made specially designed aprons with a Son City logo sewn on them that capture the spirit of the volunteers in a very charming way.

Volunteers stand for almost four hours and dishes are washed by hand. The organization is breathtaking. For instance, I witnessed three large boxes of chicken breasts being precooked for a meal two weeks in advance because the ovens would be needed the following week to cook lasagne. Five batches of brownies were being prepared on huge baking sheets for the next Tuesday.

"Kids really are thankful," says volunteer Kayloma Capps. "They'll say thanks every time they're served." Well, most of them anyway.

## Happy Holidays!

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# Christmas Memories 2016

With Christmas upon us, The Citizen invited locals to submit stories of their favourite holiday memories.

## The Story of Ten Apples

By Linda Kasdorf Klippenstein

In the late 1920s, my mother and her family moved to a part of eastern Russia where only ten miles and the Amur River separated them from China. Communism was advancing and the people of her village had to make the life-or-death decision to flee Russia on the very cold winter night of December 30, 1929. The entire village had to leave behind the majority of their possessions to avoid drawing attention to their planned escape. 62 horse-drawn sleds loaded with bare necessities crossed the frozen river during the night. The villagers, frozen to the core, reached safety in China just before dawn the next morning.

It was a time of famine and hardship, and they experienced God's faithfulness. The assistance provided by MCC was God's provision to help them survive. My grandmother often suppressed her own hunger while giving her last morsels of food to her ten hungry children. This strong, determined, and caring mother looked like an old woman at the time of her death at age 57.

Through the years, there were no Christmas presents. One Christmas, however, my grandfather managed to buy one apple for each of his children. The children shouted with glee. They all gulped their apple down, with the exception of one child. My mother took one calculated bite per day to make the apple last longer.

To this day, I have ten little apples hanging on our Christmas tree in thanksgiving to God—and to remind me where I came from. The tradition has passed on to my daughter, who also hangs ten little apples from her tree, and she tells the story to our young grandchildren.

## In Memory of Dad (John J. Neufeld)

By Ruth Neufeld

Dad would always make Christmas special, like it should be. One Christmas, he carved wooden semi-trucks for each of the 12 grandsons, and before he passed on he was in the process of making each of us children a cedar chess set. He would give each of us a portion of money so we could buy something special that we needed. He even made each of his seven children

a grandfather clock.

He and Mom encouraged each of us so much to fulfill our dreams. They prayed every night that we would experience Jesus as our personal saviour and that we would follow Him.

Mom misses you so much, Dad... and so do we. I never really got to say goodbye. I'll always treasure the kiss I gave you the last weekend my boys and I had with you. So this is my goodbye by writing this memory of you. Thanks for being our dad. We appreciate you!

## The Fondue Fire

By Ray Dowse

I am very fortunate to have married into a wonderful family 13 years ago, who have some great Christmas traditions. One tradition in particular takes place every Christmas Eve—the family fondue! Everyone preps for weeks and days leading up to it.

The fondue of Christmas Eve 2013 was particularly memorable. Because this type of dinner is a long process, the fondue burners run out of fuel and require a top-up halfway through the meal. The flame in the pot in front of Papa dwindled and eventually burnt

out, so I moved the empty burner from under the pot to an open spot on the table and poured new fluid into it, with Papa waiting to light it. Just as I finished my pour and the flow began to slow from the bottle, Papa lit the burner... however, the flame travelled from the burner up to the bottle in my hand with incredible speed. Startled, I jerked my hand away, causing fluid in the mostly full bottle to spill over the table—and unfortunately onto both Papa and me.

At that point, things got a little hairy. In an instant, the dinner table, Papa, and I were all on fire. I remember standing there with the front of my shirt in flames, using my free arm to pat out the fire on my chest, all the while holding the bottle in the other hand that was burning like an Olympic torch.

All I did was spread the fuel and fire on my shirt, and after three or four swipes I needed to take further action. Like Hulk Hogan in a vintage WWE wrestling match, I grabbed each side of my button-up shirt and tore the flaming garment off my body, the front buttons flying off like popcorn kernels in an overheated air popper. The shirt hit the floor in a pile and the flame was quickly put out. But now

we had another issue: tearing off my shirt required both hands, and in the process I tossed the fuel bottle behind me. In an instant, the carpet burst into flames.

At this point, we have Papa on fire, the dining room table on fire, and the carpet on fire—not exactly the relaxing evening of fellowship we would typically expect on Christmas Eve. But the quick-thinking family used water and blankets to douse the flames in short order, and the fire was put out.

As smoke lingered in the air, everyone was present except our two children, who were four and five at the time. After a quick search, we noticed the front door to the house was wide open. Like Usain Bolt, the kids had dashed up the stairs and out the door. Great to see those teachings from Uncle Keith [Bueckert] over the years had made an impression on them!

Once the adrenaline subsided, we cleaned up and finished our fondue with only a few minor casualties to speak of—a tablecloth, two shirts, one eyebrow (thankfully Papa grew a new one), and a melted section of carpet which remains to this day.

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# Commentary

## A Philosophy of Nationalism

By Greg Fehr

The world has truly lost a great leader in the death of Fidel Castro. This greatness is unarguable, for by greatness I mean charismatic leadership and creation of change. What will likely be debated is whether the good of the man, the good of his actions, outweighed the bad. And, as is often the case, determining this tally may lead to a study of the alternatives, those that were and those that could be.

Most immediately, we have a typical Western democracy reaction to the political system under which Cuba has been governed for the past 50-plus years. The disdainful rhetoric for socialist ideology (including actual communism) makes it difficult for many people to see the complex situation that was (and is) facing the region, and consequently see deeper into the man who not only transformed Cuba but became a catalyst for change throughout Central and South America.

There is additionally a very Canadian connection, as this situation helped in earlier years to establish and clarify our foreign policy in a way that was independent of our American neighbours and British colonial leaders. While often credited to Pierre Trudeau, this foreign policy shift actually began with Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Dief the Chief is often accused of puppeting American policy, yet his decision to not immediately back Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis created an opening for Canada, while respecting American might, to



Yangiyyer, Uzbekistan, May 11, 1963: Residents welcome Fidel Castro.

EMKAPLIN / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

stand on its own two feet. Without this break, the uniquely Canadian position established by Trudeau may not have been possible. This was unpopular, nationally and globally, and would haunt Diefenbaker for years. And it was surprising, given his open disdain for communism and the Soviet threat of the time, for he saw parallel evils in the Soviet conquest and American colonialism of Latin America. Perhaps it was this comparison that allowed him to see past the threat of a Soviet world order—or, as some say, it may have been pure indecisiveness of a

man torn between two evils.

When Trudeau entered the scene, he came with a more moderate view. He still saw the evils of the communist regimes, but he could appreciate the moderated stance of Castro himself, who was tied closer to nationalism than communism. While ultimately steering Cuba toward communism, Castro never embraced, nor was he motivated by, Marxist ideals. His nationalist agenda drove the revolution, and his pragmatism required that he partner with the socialist rebels to ensure victory against the corrupt

American-backed government of Fulgencio Batista. Indeed, it can be argued that the American embargo to follow backfired, since it solidified the Soviet Union as an economic support in Cuba.

Nationalism is independent of political stripe and is simply defined as the ability of a people to control their own destiny and economics without interference from outside parties. Malcolm X also spoke heavily of nationalism as the answer to the challenges facing African-Americans in the lead-up to the 1964 U.S. elections.

As Canada broke from the American norm on foreign policy, perhaps the ideology of independence and exercising control of one's own affairs helped create a brotherly connection between the Canadian and Cuban people and their leaders.

Nationalism, put in the proper context of a true and just system, is an empowering and uplifting philosophy. Who can argue that it is the right of all people to enjoy this freedom of thought without interference, or subtle duress, from outside sources, whether that be other countries or internal social groups? When a community or country controls its own economics and politics, it keeps control of its money and resources rather than seeing it siphoned off. As was the case in Latin America (and still is, to some extent), political and financial interests were skewed to benefit the U.S., and why not? Any entity, political or otherwise, would be foolish not to be self-serving—putting aside ethics, of course, and political agendas, regardless of rhetoric, are not driven by ethics; they are driven by economics.

So in context, we see the complexity of the situation in the persona of Fidel Castro. Perhaps when the dust settles and change continues to come to the Cuban people, we'll better see the patriotic motivations behind his embrace of nationalism. And perhaps we'll better understand his pragmatic concessions, while still being able to critique the challenges and wrongs they led to.



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## Look on the Bright Side: Sincerity Is Always in Season

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

These last few weeks have found me sifting through the aftermath of the U.S. election in the hope of finding some salvageable life lessons with which to move forward. One thing I have learned is that I no longer desire to be a brick in any wall that serves to further alienate me from others.

So I was challenged, to say the least, when someone recently asked for my thoughts about the ongoing controversy surrounding Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

As I cautiously waded into the fray, I began to wonder whether saying Merry Christmas (in defence of faith) or Happy Holidays (to be politically correct) somehow both miss the point of what the season is

all about.

If I were to stay within the confines of these two choices, I would be forced to choose sides, stooping to the level of right and wrong, good or bad, us versus them. I feel that decisions made in this arena are motivated more by fear and pride than by a genuine desire to say something meaningful to others. What we need is to find the true meaning and essence of a greeting in the hope of gaining a new perspective.

So back to the books I went, in search of some proverbial light!

What I quickly discovered, and had already suspected, is that true meaning and purpose has been lost in this muddle. A greeting is supposed to be a blessing, given from the heart. It's not an opportunity to make

our own beliefs known. So although our words are important, they are merely wrapping paper around the real gift: our sincere intent to acknowledge another.

Desiring that my sentiments be sincere frees me from trying to be right or fearing that I may say the wrong thing. It's important to remember that greetings are more easily received when they are felt and not just heard. Only when my intentions become more about blessing than professing am I able to make a meaningful connection.

It is with this newfound wisdom that I sincerely wish you and yours love and peace throughout this joyous season!

## The Government Shall be Upon His Shoulders

By Roger Armbruster

King Herod, who ruled Judea when Jesus was born, was a brutal man who killed his father-in-law, several of his ten wives, and two of his sons. He ruthlessly suppressed any challenge to his rule. Herod's heavy taxes, used to pay for lavish projects, forced an unfair burden on the Jewish citizens who were in a state of groaning over the oppressive Roman rule.

To top it all off, when Herod heard that a king had been born in Bethlehem and realized that three wise men from the east weren't going to oblige him, he became so exceedingly angry that he sent soldiers to put to death all the male children in Bethlehem who were two years of age or younger.

One has to ask, why the rage? Why the anger over Somebody who claimed to have authority from an invisible Kingdom, but who also said to his followers, "Put your sword into the sheath"?

Why the antagonism towards One who told His followers, who wanted

to call down fire upon Samaritans of a certain village, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of"?

Why the bitter venom towards One who was to simply "go about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil"?

I believe that Jesus was a threat to Herod's kingdom, as He is to all tyrants who have been motivated by the love of power. Conversely, Jesus is motivated by the power of love.

In Herod's kingdom, authority was based on controlling others. In Jesus' Kingdom, authority is based on serving others. In Herod's kingdom, greatness was determined by how many serve one. In Jesus' Kingdom, greatness is determined by how many one serves.

In Herod's kingdom, trust was put in the power of the sword. In Jesus' Kingdom, trust is put in the power of the cross. Herod's kingdom sought to control human behaviour through intimidation and domination. Jesus' Kingdom seeks to transform lives from the inside out.

Herod's kingdom was based on

force. Jesus' Kingdom is based on consent. Herod's battles suppressed human enemies and battled other humans. The adherents of Jesus' Kingdom were taught to love their earthly enemies and to bless those who cursed them, to wrestle only against the cosmic spiritual powers of this present darkness.


Christians are never to impose their faith, but are to bring the internal government of God based upon serving others into the external authority structures of our land, which are impersonal and control people from the outside in.

Jesus could easily have chosen to become a political and military leader to throw off the Roman yoke by force. Instead He chose to trust His Father to ultimately give Him the kingdoms of this world by way of the cross and transformation from within. May we choose Christ, and honour the King of kings, this Christmas.

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# Sports & Recreation

## Working Up a Burn

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**CHANTEL TODD**

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Some of us have had the privilege to take skating lessons when we were young, less fragile, and able to bounce back up from a hefty fall. Others of us, frankly, weren't that interested in learning how to skate.

I went to the Niverville Arena on a Tuesday evening with my skates, helmet, snow pants, and of course my Jets jersey. Now, I've been playing a little bit of pick-up hockey, but I'm nowhere near a confident skater.

I took skating lessons when I was child, roughly 18 years ago, and have skated only on and off over the years.

The Niverville Skating Club had invited me to attend their Adult CanSkate class one evening. "Sure," I said. "I could probably learn a thing or two while I'm out there."

We all gear up, a group of ten adult skaters, and head onto the ice.

First things first: we warm up, skating laps around the rink. Me being me, with the music playing, I danced to the beat and glided around. I did lose my balance a couple times. Note to future self: not a good idea to dance while skating.

Next we got split into two



Meghan Rafferty and Chantel Todd.

CHANTEL TODD

groups—beginner skaters and novice skaters—and were shared between Coach Meghan and her assistant Cory. What we did next was great! It was like navigating an obstacle course except you're learning different skating techniques and glides and pushes and stopping and turning...

(On a side note, I was put into the novice skaters group, as I have some previous experience, so I'm not 100 percent sure what they teach the beginner skaters.)

After about 15 minutes of running through the first course with

Coach Meghan, which was a ton of fun, we took a minute lap skate.

We went to learn the next set of skills with Cory, and the beginner skaters went with Coach Meghan. This course was way more complex and involved skating backward, doing backward hops, and doing mini-jump spins. Cory demonstrated it all with such grace and effortlessness.

*I am never going to be able to do all that, I thought. I can barely skate backward!*

Lo and behold, I did it! I skated backward and did backward hops.

I even finished the mini-jump spins around the cones. I got better and faster with each round.

After the second course, we did a couple cooldown laps and stretching, ending the night with burning legs and smiles as wide as the moon itself. I felt proud of myself.

I was so impressed with how the whole session went that I'm planning to register in January for the Adult CanSkate session. I can't wait to improve my skating skills more, and gain confidence on the ice anywhere I go.

## Junior Varsity Panthers Win Provincials

The Niverville Panthers Junior Varsity volleyball team won the AAA Provincials this past weekend, defeating the Linden Christian Wings in straight sets in Landmark on Saturday, November 26.

The Panthers won the first two sets 25-21 and 25-19, but initially trailed 8-4 in the third. The team

rallied and went on an eight-point run after the teams changed sides to win.

Keenan Doerksen and Nathan Rempel were named tournament all-stars while Josh Limpright was selected as the most valuable player.



The Niverville Panthers Junior Varsity volleyball team.

DAWN SCHMIDT

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Tuff-n-Up Bootcamp

Mondays, November 21–December 19, 6:30 p.m.  
South End of Arena, \$15 (drop-in)

#### Yoga: Flow & Yin

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

#### Youth Curling Registration

December 21 deadline  
Tuesdays, January 10–February 21  
Niverville Curling Rink, 7:00–9:00 p.m., \$40/child

#### Ritchot Senior Services (Cardio Fit)

Mondays, December 5–12, 9:30 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe, 204-883-2880

#### Ritchot Senior Services (Chair Fit)

Mondays, December 5–12, 11:00 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe, 204-883-2880

#### Ritchot Senior Services (Yoga)

Wednesdays, December 7–14, 10:00 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe, 204-883-2880

#### Ritchot Senior Services (Muscle Fit)

Thursdays, December 8–15, 9:30–10:30 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe 204-883-2880

#### Ritchot Senior Services

Alzheimer Touch Quilt Project  
Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe, 204-883-2880

#### Ritchot Senior Services

Forever Young Dance Club  
Saturday, December 10, 7:00–10:00 p.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe, 204-883-2880

#### Pickle Ball

Thursdays, 6:00–7:30 p.m.  
St. Adolphe School Gym

#### Indoor Walking (Île-des-Chênes)

Monday/Wednesday/ Friday, 9:00–10:00 a.m.  
TransCanada Centre

#### Yoga (Île-des-Chênes)

Mondays, December 5–19, 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesdays, December 6–13 6:30 p.m.  
TransCanada Centre

#### St. Adolphe Pancake Breakfast & Skate with Santa

Sunday, December 4, 9:30–12:30  
St. Adolphe Community Club

#### Niverville Bench League (18+)

Wednesdays, December 7–28  
Niverville Arena, 9:30 p.m., \$8 (drop-in)

#### Niverville Adult Hockey

Saturdays, December 10–17  
Niverville Arena, 6:15 p.m., \$10 (drop-in)  
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#### Ste. Agathe Ladies Rec Hockey

Starting Sundays, October 2  
Ste Agathe Arena, 6:45 p.m.  
cougarsrechockey@gmail.com

#### Public Skating (St. Adolphe)

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

#### Free Skate (Île-des-Chênes)

Sundays, 12:45–1:45 p.m.  
Wednesdays, 3:30–4:45 p.m.  
Île-des-Chênes Arena

#### Public Skating (Ste. Agathe)

Tuesdays, 4:15–5:15 p.m.  
Friday, 8:00–9:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 12:15–1:15 p.m.  
Ste. Agathe Arena

**Send your event listing to:**

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(from left to right) Patrick Roy, Thomas Maynard, Greg Fast (assistant coach), William Paterson, Zach Maynard, Mason French, Jeremie Weir, Conner Davis, Koleton Peters, Sebastien Boisjoli, Ethan Fehr, Matthew Egan, Deklan Wiebe, Hayden Fast, Dylan Peters, Koltan Carels, Rochonne Henry, David Maynard (head coach), and Dustin Wiebe (assistant coach). Missing: Jaden Catellier.

## Southwest Jets Emphasize Teamwork

By Sheri Fast

The Southwest Jets AA (Bantam) hockey club is comprised of 13-14-year-old players from the southwest part of Manitoba's Eastman region. The communities involved are Niverville, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, St. Pierre, St. Malo, Grunthal, Dominion City, Vita, and as far south as Emerson.

The team is structured for those looking to develop their hockey skills to a high level. Players are

selected through a tryout process and the team plays against other Bantam AA teams including the Winkler Flyers, Seine River Snipers, Interlake Lightning, Central Plains Capitals, Southeast Blizzard, Northern Knights, Pembina West Rockets, Kenora Thistles, and PV East Twisters.

"I approach this year with different goals as previous years because of the overwhelming amount of 13 year-olds compared to 14 year-olds," says head coach David

Maynard. "For most people, winning is their primary measurement of success, but for me effort level and willingness to play the right way are more important. Teaching these kids that teamwork will always get you further than being an individual is my focus for this year and every year. Sounds simple, but it can be and was much more difficult in previous years. This year, the group has bought in rather early to the team concept, which makes it a lot easier as a coaching staff. This

team made me proud of their compete level because I was expecting struggles, at least in the beginning of the year. The fact that we've gone .500 over the first four games is a pleasant surprise."

The team has nine home and away games and will participate in two tournaments this season, in Garson, Manitoba and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

## Novice A Clippers Off to Perfect Start

Laura Hudson

The Novice A Clippers are off to a roaring start this season, currently sitting tied atop the standings with a perfect 6-0 record. The team sports 75 goals for and only 20 goals against.

The team is comprised of five

returning players—Logan Barnabe, Haven Wiebe, Tristan Cousineau, Noah Hudson, and Max Dowse. New to the Novice A team this year are Cheyenne Scott-Cooke, Aaron Schmidtke, Luca Nurse, Chase Hopkins, Xander Admiraal, Kaleb Collette, and Niko Lemoine. The team's head coach is Eric

Cousineau, with assistants Jason Hudson and Ray Dowse.

The team has earned their record with some strong team play and hard work, which has the players' confidence growing every time they hit the ice.

The team does not have a full-time goalie, meaning that the

players have been taking turns putting on the pads, many of them testing out the position for the first time.

Their most recent weekend of league play saw them come away with a 7-3 win against Mitchell and a 15-1 victory over Grunthal.

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OF  
THE MONTH**



### Evan Groening

Evan is an 11-year-old Grade 6 student at NCI and a member of the Eastman Selects South Pee Wee AA team. Evan is focused and driven to succeed, which is evident in his strong academic results as well as his position on the Selects. When Evan heard he was eligible to try out for the 12-year-old squad, he set his goal to earn a position. Throughout the summer, Evan focused on his dry land training and attended a number of hockey development camps with the intent of entering tryouts in his best condition. All of his hard work paid off and his spot on the team was confirmed after a rigorous tryout process. Since joining the team, Evan has continued to strive to do his best and he focusses on putting out his best effort every time he steps on the ice.

When he isn't playing hockey in a rink, on the street, or on a pond, he enjoys golf, watersports, and spending time with family, friends, and his two dogs Stuey and Hurley.



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# Pilots Finish Second at National Championship

**Evan Braun**

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For the second year running, the Providence Pilots women's volleyball team finished second at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division II National Championship in Florida, coming up short in their November 19 final against Wisconsin's Maranatha Baptist Title. This was Maranatha's second consecutive title.

Leading up to the final match, the Pilots dropped only two sets in round robin play, winning games against Manhattan Christian College of Kansas, Texas-based Arlington Baptist College, and Kentucky Christian College.



Pilots in action at NCCAA championship.

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

"This was nothing short of an incredible week," says Kyle Guenther, head coach, of the tournament. "We played well on the first day in the Manhattan and Arlington matches. Against Kentucky we came out stronger in most

categories and topped a very good team to win our pool."

The Pilots advanced to the final after sweeping fourth-ranked Randall in three straight sets.

It was the closest thing I've seen to flawless volleyball from our

team," says Guenther, who was recognized by the NCCAA as the North Region Coach of the Year in early November. "It was so much fun to watch the women enjoy the moment and play so well on the big stage."

Three Pilots players—Sara Barker, Sam Bridle, and Shayna Staerk—were named to the All-Tournament Team. Bridle and Danella Alvaro also earned the First-Team All-American distinction. Third-year right-side LaRae Driedger from Steinbach was honoured as a Scholar Athlete.

Following the MCCA tournament, the Pilots return home to defend their Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference title.

## IN BRIEF



Back row: Kristy Peters (manager), Sarah Arnal (coach), and Dan DeRocquigny (assistant coach). Middle row: Mallory Wallace, Kara DeRocquigny, Gracie Peters, Mya Arnal, and Macy Wallace. Front row: Brinley Harder, Talia Raine, Ava Sinclair, Jill Loeppky, and Bella Austman.

## Red River Rage Ice Two Teams

By Taran J. Peters

The Red River Rage U10 age group is fortunate enough this year to have two teams of ten girls each. The U10 A2 team is the younger of the two teams and has had an exciting start to the season, as many of the girls have never played in league games without coaches on the ice.

The girls have shown significant improvement from game to game, which has been very exciting to watch. The team narrowly lost their first two games in the Winnipeg Ringette League but came out on top with their first win of the season with a 9-6 win at the Gateway Recreation Centre.

Last weekend, the two U10 teams paired up to make one large team and joined the U12 and U14 Rage in Brandon for their annual tournament. With a full bench and lots of fresh legs, the U10 Rage team played a solid tournament and finished with a 3-1 record.

The girls are having a lot of fun and look forward to an exciting season.

## Novice B Clippers Earn Bronze

The Novice B Clippers played a tournament in Springfield from November 17-20 and came home with a bronze medal for their strong effort. In their final game, the Clippers beat the St. Andrews White Aces by a score of 6-0.

# Winterfest Draws Big Numbers

**By Chantel Todd**

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

For Winterfest this November, the weather decided to stay in the range of fall temperatures, with no snow on the radar and a calm day on the horizon.

Winterfest started off at 10:00 a.m. with the Holiday Shoppes at the Niverville Elementary School (NES), hosted by the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). There were lots of shops for children and parents alike to participate in, such as the Sweet Shoppe, Mystery Shoppe,

Elves Work Shoppe, and Holiday Gift Shoppe (no parents allowed, as children shopped for their families). When Santa paid a visit, children were able to sit on his lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas while getting their pictures snapped. The Holiday Shoppes hosted 769 people throughout the course of the day.

The Winterfest Market & Craft Sale also started at 10:00 a.m., this time in the Niverville Heritage Centre atrium. The Niverville Chamber of Commerce hosted over 50 vendors, mostly of handcrafted

items. Many locals took tables to showcase their goodies, ranging from handcrafted jewellery; body, skin, and hair care products; and woodworking and concrete art. The market saw over 800 visitors in the five hours it was open.

Santa was a busy man. After stopping by the Holiday Shoppes, he skated over to the Niverville Arena. During the skate, the Niverville Multiplex hosted a \$5 supper, serving over 117 people in the south end. It was overall a successful evening at the Niverville Arena.

To end the full day of festivities,

the annual tree lighting commenced in the Niverville Credit Union parking lot. Jordan St. Cyr sang carols with the scent of candles and hot chocolate in the air. It was truly a perfect evening to be outside. After carols, the sleigh rides began. Almost all the 150 people who attended waited patiently in line to catch a ride around town.

The Winterfest committee would like to thank the many volunteers who put in countless hours to help make Niverville's second annual Winterfest & Market a success for all.



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## IN BRIEF

## Novice Elks Hit the Ice

By Robyn Waddell

The hockey season has officially started for the Novice Elks in Île-des-Chênes. This year, there are all three divisions—A, B, and C—of Novice Elks. After a September training camp, and evaluations done by GTP Performance Hockey, the teams began their practices.

The season-opener took place on October 22, with all three teams of excited seven- and eight-year-olds hitting the ice. Novice is the first chance that players get to play full-ice games, so afterward there were some tired girls and boys.

The level of experience varies, with some players in their fifth season and others in their first. The improvement amongst young players is amazing.

This year's Novice tournament is full for all divisions and will take place February 3–5. Teams will be participating from all over Manitoba.

The league is also running three daycamps by Billy Keane on in-service days. These camps will be open to Novice, Atom, and Pee Wee players and should be a great way to spend the day off school.

In October, Île-des-Chênes started offering Sticks and Pucks on Wednesdays for their 7:00 a.m. skate, and it's open to all levels.

The Île-des-Chênes Minor Hockey Association would also like to thank all the coaches and volunteers for their contribution in the past couple of months.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.icdmha.ca](http://www.icdmha.ca)

# Varsity Boys Headed to Provincials

By Terry Martin

The Niverville Collegiate Varsity Boys volleyball team have earned a berth in the AA provincial tournament to be held in Carman, December 1–3. They enter the tournament ranked number one in the province at the AA level.

The young team, which only has two players in Grade 12, is not a powerhouse by the standards of stature and power, but they run a varied attack keeping their often taller opponents off-balance, and what they lack in power they make up for in smart hitting. At the same time, they are very strong defensively, covering the court and passing the ball well.

In league play, the Varsity Panthers capped off an undefeated season by beating Green Valley in the league final in a close, well-played match. The win earned them a trip to Pine Falls to play the northern winner in their zone. The team took the match in two straight sets to capture the Zone 13 banner.

Winning a zone banner is always a gratifying



Photo Caption: Back row: Ron Limpright (head coach), Justin Braun, Guippe D'Amico, Austin Anderson, Jordan Meyer, Parker Davis, and Marlen Wall (assistant coach). Front row: Keegan Beer, Josh Limpright, Nate Martin, and Lijah Doell. Taken after winning the league championship.

accomplishment, but perhaps equally gratifying for the coaches, players, parents, and school administration was a letter from the principal of Pine Falls

school. In his letter to the NCI administration, he praised the Panthers for their effort and skill. But what impressed him even more was their sportsmanship

on the court. He admitted that the games were pretty lopsided, but he commended the NCI boys for the character they displayed in that while they continued to play hard, they conducted themselves with humility.

The final step on the road to clinching a provincials berth was to place in the top two of a four-team qualifying tournament. They put on a strong performance, placing first in the tourney by winning every set.

The ten-team provincial tournament draw has them pooled with Carman (ranked third, and also the host team), their league rivals Steinbach Christian (ranked fifth), Tuelon (ranked seventh), and Souris (ranked ninth). The other pool in the draw has their league archrivals, Green Valley, ranked second as favourites.

Could this year's Provincials be a Zone 13 showdown? NCI has been here before. Coach Limpright will be looking for redemption this year after coming up short in the provincial final the previous two years.

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## Council Connections

This past month the following are some of the issues that council dealt with.

- The Federal Government has a grant program for rail crossing safety. They will fund up to 80% of approved projects. Council has asked staff to look into this further and report back to council.
- Council has asked staff to look into the St Pierre model for incorporating bylaw enforcement and animal control into one role.
- Council had its quarterly meeting with the RCMP Staff Sergeant and brought forward concerns regarding vandalism and requested a greater police presence. Council is making a request once again for volunteers to come forward to assist with the Niverville Crime Prevention Patrol. At one time Niverville had over 3 dozen such volunteers who would patrol at night on a regular basis. There is a co-ordinator that is working but he needs more volunteers for this program to run more efficiently.
- November 18 and 19 all of council met for its annual planning session where plans for 2017 and beyond were discussed and plans of action brought forward. More information about the results of this planning will be coming in the following weeks.

Just a reminder that if you wish to convey your questions or ideas to council we can always be reached at [feedback@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto: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.

On behalf of council I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Privileged to serve as your mayor,  
Myron Dyck

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To Our Very Valued Patients,

You may have seen our post on Facebook about some very exciting news that we have to share with you. However, if you missed it, here it is!

Dr. Sunayna Gupta, along with her husband Gaurav, and son Niam, are thrilled to be welcoming a new addition to their family in January!

Beginning mid January, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Darci Bonar will be practicing here at Niverville Heritage Dental while Dr. Gupta is away spending valuable time with her new bundle of joy. Dr. Gupta will be returning on a part time basis in June, and if all goes as planned, she will be back at the office full time in September.

Dr. Bonar was born and raised in Brandon, Manitoba and graduated with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry.

She has served the profession locally as an instructor at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry and has also enjoyed being part of the Faculty of Dentistry Student Membership Program. She is a member of the Canadian Dental Association, the Manitoba Dental Association, the Winnipeg Dental Society and the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Bonar practices all aspects of general dentistry including childrens' dentistry, restorative and aesthetic dentistry, endodontics (root canal), prosthodontics (dentures, crowns, bridges), and oral surgery. Dr. Bonar will be practicing both here in Niverville, as well as Tuxedo Dental Group in the city.

Dr. Bonar is not only a colleague, but a classmate and friend of Dr. Gupta, and we are so excited to have her join the team. Dr. Gupta plans on returning to the practice by the end of June.

At this time, we would also like to remind you to book any outstanding treatment in order to use up your insurance prior to year end, before it's too late. We are also scheduling appointments for the first 2 weeks of January with Dr. Gupta, before she is away on maternity leave, for any outstanding treatment you are waiting to have completed.

**Please note, we are closed the week of December 26th returning Monday, January 2nd, therefore be sure to book your appointments soon to avoid disappointment!**

Sincerely,

Dr. Sunayna Gupta & the Team at Niverville Heritage Dental Centre



**Dr. Sunayna Gupta**



**Dr. Darci Bonar**

*Wishing you a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season!*

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# Jets Forced to Rely on Young Guns

With arguably the hardest schedule in the league, and one of the youngest teams, the Jets have been inconsistent through the first quarter of the season.



**TIM HIEBERT**

thiebert@nivervillecitizen.com

I was all set to write a glowing article about the Jets after they finished a 4-0-1 stretch early in November. Coming off impressive home wins over the likes of Chicago and Los Angeles, the Jets had the second most points in the Western Conference, albeit with a few extra games played than most teams. Regardless, the team set off on their longest road trip of the year, a five-gamer with stops in Philadelphia, Boston, Carolina, Minnesota, and Nashville. The Jets would lose all five games in regulation, coming back from the trip with zero points earned and a deflated, tired bunch of players.

So what happened?

The Jets have had arguably the hardest schedule in the NHL through the first quarter of the season. They've played the most road games and the most games total. They've had injuries... a lot of injuries.

At one point, they had six of their top nine forwards from opening night out of the lineup. Bryan Little, Joel Armia, Matthieu Perreault, Drew Stafford, Kyle Connor, and Shawn Matthias have all missed big

chunks of time. The biggest loss was Bryan Little, who got hurt in game one and has yet to return. Losing your number two centre is hard, but it's even harder when your number three centre (Perreault) goes down as well. Adam Lowry has stepped up his game and played well with an increased role, but it's incredibly hard to replace what those two players bring to the team.

They've also been depleted on the back end, as Jacob Trouba (contract holdout), Tyler Myers (injury), Mark Stuart (injury), and now Toby Enstrom (personal) have been out of the lineup. Rookie Josh Morrissey has looked good, but they've had to play Dustin Byfuglien too much. He currently leads the league in minutes played per game. Luckily, the Jets have a much deeper roster this season. Guys have been called up from the Moose and produced almost immediately. Nic Petan, Marko Dano, and Andrew Copp all made significant contributions while seeing their first NHL action of the season.

Unfortunately, they haven't been able to continue that play over the past five games.

This team is young. With an average age of about 25 years, they are one of the youngest teams in the league. Young players bring

upside, energy, and optimism—but also mistakes, inexperience, and inconsistency. One of the Jets' biggest weaknesses so far has been their struggles in the faceoff circle. They're currently only winning 44.3 percent of faceoffs, which is the third worst percentage in the last 20 years. Only Tampa Bay in 1997-98 and Edmonton in 2010-11 have been lower. Young players tend to struggle in the faceoff circle, so with their top two veteran centres injured, it's been extra tough.

The Jets' youngest player is 18-year-old Patrik Laine. With 12 goals and two hat tricks in his first 18 games, he's been the talk of the league. The Jets have a bright future with Laine, Nikolaj Ehlers, Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, and Josh Morrissey leading the way. But right now, they are relying on their young players a little too much to expect consistent results. The plan this season was to let the young guys play, but injuries have forced them into roles they're not necessarily ready for.

Connor Hellebuyck has been thrust into the number one goalie role with mixed results. With Ondrej Pavelec toiling away in the AHL, Hellebuyck has started the majority of games. He's definitely the best option Winnipeg has

right now, but he's struggled to provide the elite goaltending that Stanley-Cup-calibre teams need. He'll be fine in the long run, but for now expectations need to be kept in check. Michael Hutchinson has struggled in his handful of starts and doesn't look to be a long-term solution. He's signed until the end of next season, so he'll most likely keep the backup role until at least then. Ondrej Pavelec's contract is up at the end of this season and will most likely not be back with the organization.

So how good is this team? Are they the team that rattled off that 4-0-1 stretch or the team that lost all five games on a long road trip? The answer probably falls somewhere in between. Bryan Little is set to return from injury soon, which should help their chances of getting back into the playoff race.

It should also help that their hardest portion of the schedule is over. The team went almost a month without having time for a real practice. Hopefully some quality practice time and the ability to sleep in their own beds again will help this young team get back on track before it's too late.

## IN BRIEF

### Niverville Arena Holiday Public Skating Schedule

#### Friday, December 23

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-5:15 p.m.

#### Saturday, December 24

- Skating 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 11:45-1:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, December 27

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-4:45 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 28

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-4:45 p.m.

#### Friday, December 30

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-5:15 p.m.

#### Saturday, December 31

- Skating 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 11:45-1:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 3

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-4:45 p.m.

#### Wednesday, January 4

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-4:45 p.m.

#### Friday, January 5

- Skating 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks 3:45-5:15 p.m.



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### ShopGym Kids:

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# Arts & Entertainment



The father-daughter dance at Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair.

BRIGITTE SIMARD

## Young at Heart: Oh, to Dance!

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. The Young at Heart series continues this month to encourage you to find what you love, or have always wanted to try, and go for it.



SYLVIA  
ST. CYR

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

I've heard many adults at a socials or weddings say, "I'll need some liquid courage before I even think about going out onto the dance floor." There are two types of dancing: the one where you sway back and forth, hoping you don't look like a fool, and then there's the feel-the-music, move-your-body-to-the-rhythm type of dancing.

The interesting thing is, if you're

willing to learn, I believe you can move from the first category to the second, with some practice. Despite my Mennonite background (and we all know Mennonites don't dance), I've always enjoyed moving to the music.

I took ballet lessons when I was five years old, and I've also witnessed many professional ballet performances. My duck waddle was far from the graceful movements I saw on stage. But just because I may never be a professional dancer doesn't mean I can't learn a few new moves as an adult and dance away my stress.

I'll never forget when I first saw *So You Think You Can Dance* a few years ago and watched the contestants pour their heart and soul into their routines. I was especially drawn to the contemporary style of dance.

If you didn't grow up taking dance lessons, it may seem like the opportunity has passed you by. After some research, however, I've found that quite a few dance studios out there cater to adults who want to learn.

Prairie Soul Dance Company in Niverville offers month-long Adult

Jazz and Hip-Hop classes for \$60. There's also a ballet class on offer. If you're thinking of a fun way to workout, while learning some new moves, this is about the same price as a gym membership.

"We welcome all levels in our classes, from beginner to experienced," say Danielle Auld and Melanie Ducharme, the sisters who run Prairie Soul. "Our instructors adapt the classes to suit all levels."

When I was 17, I took a hip-hop dance class with a bunch of 12-year-olds. I felt embarrassed and out of place, as I was about a foot taller than the rest of the class. With an adult hip-hop class, at least you're with a group of people at the same level as you.

Marquis Dance Academy just opened in Sage Creek and has a new 8,000-square-foot facility. They teach Adult Tap and Hip-Hop classes all year round.

Perhaps you've always wanted to take ballet but never had the chance. The good news is that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company offers a five-week summer program for adults of all skill levels and ages. They offer ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, and modern dance classes. If you

don't know if you want to commit to an entire program, they also have a drop-in rate of \$20.

If you've ever seen ballroom dancers in action, and wanted to try it, there are studios in Winnipeg and Steinbach that offer instruction for every skill level. They teach dances like the rumba, jive, cha-cha, tango, waltz, and the foxtrot.

"Nine years ago, I decided to take three beginner classes at Ted Motyka's Dance Studio [in Winnipeg], to see if I might like it," says local dancer Rudolf Klassen, who's in his 50s. "Apparently I like it a lot, because I've been taking lessons ever since, and I'm loving it. I've also danced in Toronto at several dance studios, and of course when I'm on vacation in places like Mexico and Cuba. It's wonderful to dance your heart out!"

At the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair this past summer, it was fantastic to see so many dads out on the dance floor with their daughters—and they held their own.

No matter your age, gender, or skill level, it's never too late to learn how to dance.

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Winter Craft and Trade Show

December 1 | 5:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.  
Recreation Centre, New Bothwell. Free.

#### Jordan St. Cyr, A Night of Worship

December 7 | 7:00 p.m.  
Niverville Community Fellowship, Niverville. Free.

#### Dessert Theatre

December 8 | 6:00 p.m.  
Morris Multiplex, Morris. \$20.

#### Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

December 13 | 7:30 p.m.  
Steinbach Mennonite Church, Steinbach. \$12–26.

#### Canvas & Cabernet...Paint Nite

December 15 | 6:30 p.m.  
Steinbach Cultural Arts Centre, Steinbach. \$35.

#### Charlie Brown Musical

December 15–16 | 7:00 p.m.  
Niverville Collegiate Institute, Niverville. \$5.

#### Matt Falk Comedy

December 16 | 7:00 p.m.  
St. Pierre Bible Fellowship, St. Pierre. Free.

#### Christmas Dessert Fundraiser with Matt Falk

December 17 | 7:00 p.m.  
Landmark Christian Fellowship, Landmark. Free.

#### Painting on the Prairies

December 20 | 7:00 p.m.  
Hespellers Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

#### NES Christmas Concert

December 20–21 | 1:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Niverville Elementary School, Niverville. Free.

#### Send your event listing to:

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

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## IN BRIEF

# Charlie Brown Coming to Town

By Sylvia St. Cyr

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It's been 16 years since the students at NCI have performed a musical, but they are bringing it back for this year's Christmas play with *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The musical will take place December 15-16 with a pair of 7:00 p.m. performances.

"Students had to audition with Mrs. Horne and me by singing a song and reading a part from the script," says Deanna Wiebe, the show's director. Auditions ran in early October. "We enjoyed listening to many wonderful performances and it wasn't easy choosing which person would take which role."

NCI will stage two plays a year: this one, involving Grade 7 and 8 students, and another play in spring for the seniors.

"Isaiah Klassen is playing Charlie Brown," Wiebe says. "He is in Grade 9 and we brought him down because we needed a solid experienced actor to anchor the musical since this is the first musical that NCI has done

in many, many years. Lucy is played by Stefanie Zacharias. Sally is played by Janae Wolfe. Linus is played by Hannah Bergen. Schroeder is played by Jonathan Hiebert, and Snoopy by Marissa Jensen."

Students have been rehearsing every lunch hour since mid-October. Leading up to the opening night, the cast will have several after-school rehearsals as well.

"The fun part has been finding a spot to rehearse," says Wiebe. "Sometimes it is in the band room and sometimes a classroom, but on really crazy days, we are in the hallway or squished into my guidance office."

Two other teachers, Tony Clark and Dwayne Penner, helped build the set. On top of the six main characters, there will be a chorus and side roles.

"The performing arts are alive and well at NCI!" Wiebe adds. "We have many talented kids and I love providing opportunities for them to learn more and showcase their abilities."

Tickets will be \$5 and sold at the door.

## NES Christmas Concert

The Niverville Elementary School will be performing their annual Christmas concert on December 20-21, showcasing the talents of students from Kindergarten

to Grade 2. This year's theme is "Holiday Windows."

Afternoon shows will take place at 1:30 p.m. and evening shows at 7:00 p.m.

# Raising the Curtain on Better Understanding

By Brenda Sawatzky

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In one of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books, a character once said, "Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery."

On October 28-29, the theatre production *Still Listening... Voices Among Us* took to the stage at the Steinbach Regional Secondary School with an ambitious goal: to raise the curtain on a better understanding of those in the LGBTTTQI community and the families that love them.

"Understanding the lived experiences of marginalized voices is a central process in developing empathy, which then informs our responses and interactions with them and about them," says playwright and director Val Hiebert. "Without genuine understanding we fail to see the humanity in the other—their pain, their joy, their brokenness, and their goodness. We fail to see that, in the end, they are just like us. That they are not they at all; they are actually we. That was the inspiration for the entire project—wanting to amplify the voices and lived experiences of our LGBTTTQI neighbours so that we can all grow in understanding, wisdom, and welcome."

The project began with Steinbach Neighbours for Community (SNFC), a group of individuals whose objective is to promote understanding and acceptance of the human diversity among us. Hiebert and fellow SNFC member Donna Snider conducted extensive interviews with local LGBTTTQI persons, parents,



The cast answers questions after the show.

GRANT BURR (THE CARILLON)

spouses, and allies. A total of 29 people came forward to tell their stories, all of them current or previous residents of south-east Manitoba. They ranged in age from teens to adults in their sixties.

"The most powerful theme that was present in so many of the interviews was the incredible amount of grace and forgiveness that LGBTTTQI and their families extend to those who condemn them. Their example of love and welcome, in the midst of the many forms of rejection they face, will always stay with me. They modelled a generosity of spirit that was at times almost breathtaking. I so much wished that everyone could have been a fly on the wall to hear their stories firsthand, because it is impossible to hear them and not be changed in some way."

Their words were recorded, then transcribed, and eventually a script was created, 80 percent of which was

a word-for-word retelling through the voices of eight fictitious characters on stage. The actors, too, ranged in age from their teens to senior citizens, and each delivered a powerful message fraught with angst, pain, courage, fear, self-doubt, forgiveness, acceptance, and unacceptance.

"It's very powerful to hear your own words and experiences shared on stage for others to hear," says Damon Klassen, former Niverville resident and interviewee for the production. "My life growing up in Niverville was not unique. It's a story that hundreds of LGBTQ individuals have experienced and are still experiencing today in southeastern Manitoba. If sharing my story can help someone through their own challenging experiences, or maybe even help someone to recognize how hurtful they've been to the LGBTQ community, then revisiting some of those painful memories is worth it."

The play's message was further enhanced by spoken word poetry, a choir, and musicians led by Millie Hildebrand, well known in the southeast for her extensive career including work with the Faith and Life Women's Chorus.

According to Hiebert and Hildebrand, actors and musicians were not difficult to find despite the potentially controversial nature of the production.

"In fact, it was easy," says Hildebrand. "All said yes. All spoke highly of the experience that provided an opportunity to highlight their dedication to this important conversation in our community and beyond."

The most telling indication of the impact of any theatrical presentation is audience response. According to Hiebert, the auditorium was packed for each performance.

"There was a full standing ovation both nights," Hiebert says. "In all my years as a director, producer, actor, and theatre-goer I have never seen such an instantaneous full-house standing ovation. I stood at the back and wept as I watched it happen. The simple fact that two-thirds of the audience stayed for the [performer-audience] conversation afterwards was remarkable. That never happens."

As to whether the production will be taken on the road, Hiebert says the possibility will be addressed at the next SNFC meeting.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ LGBTTTQI stands for those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, queer, or intersex.

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LESLIE BARDAL

## A New, Cutting-Edge Business

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Local artisan Jon Bardal of Niverville has recently turned his hobby of custom knife-making into a business.

"It was only after a few friends and neighbors saw my knives and inquired about buying them that Signy Rose Steel was born last October," says Bardal, who creates all of his custom knives in his garage. As the business continues to grow, he has plans in place to build a hobby shop in his backyard. "After the passing of my mother last year, I took a leave of absence from my day job as a journeyman electrician. From my grieving and soul-searching came a new hobby. I have always loved woodworking in my spare time. One day I woke up and thought, *I have all the tools necessary, so let's give it a try!*"

To date, Bardal has created 13 custom knives. He builds knives from scratch and sells his own designs. He also creates custom orders for customers.

"I can make knives one of three ways," he says. "One, I order a blank blade and create the handle for it. Two, I cut out a blade from a steel bar or upcycled steel such as a saw or lawnmower blade. Three, I make my own blade by forging metal and repurposing it. All my handles are custom and my own design. I use deer/elk antler, a variety of woods, or a process of upcycling t-shirts and pants called micarta to make a layered/pressed epoxy resin block. I can also revitalize existing knives by sharpening, cleaning, and/or creating new handles for them."

For hunters or fishermen who skin and gut their own game to people who simply

enjoy collecting knives, a custom knife is special. To be able to buy from a local artisan and talk through the process is a big reason Bardal does what he does.

"The most difficult knife I created was my custom camp knife, for which I used all hand tools, before I purchased my belt grinder, and only a hand-made coffee can forge."

Bardal also created a handle made out of deer antler and brass for a customer.

Signy Rose Steel will have a booth set up this February at the St. Valentine's Horror Con in Winnipeg, as well as the Spring Fling Artisan Show in Niverville this May.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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**Last Month's Winner**  
Ava Hyduk  
Age: 9



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37									38			

- Across**

  - 1. Pitted
  - 4. Pertaining to a sponge
  - 8. Specialist in mathematics
  - 13. Match
  - 14. In the greatest degree
  - 15. Find the answer
  - 16. Virginia cape
  - 18. Places a ball
  - 19. Oceanic abyss
  - 21. Bell-shaped flower
  - 23. Semitic person
  - 27. Without self-control
  - 31. With a quick succession of beats
  - 33. Nursemaid
  - 34. Long, cylindrical piece of wood
  - 35. Vehicle
  - 36. Not fully conscious
  - 37. Potent
  - 38. Intolerance of another race
- Down**

  - 2. Drink container
  - 3. Highest mountain
  - 5. Leading
  - 6. Beard
  - 7. Shrewd
  - 9. Narrative
  - 10. Bee dwelling
  - 11. Cable
  - 12. Small island
  - 17. Agent
  - 20. Hole
  - 22. Cure-all
  - 24. Most mature
  - 25. Tiny piece
  - 26. Striking volcanic island
  - 28. Hawaiian island
  - 29. Aware of
  - 30. Whips with lashes of leather thongs
  - 32. Hickory-nut

Answers to this month's puzzle can be found in the Classified section on page 35.



## 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](mailto:multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca) or visit [www.nivervillemultiplex.ca](http://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.



## 790 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](mailto: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;  
French Riviera; Monaco, Paris & Versailles

Open to all NCI Students\*, their  
Family & Friends

(\*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](mailto:Europe2018@shaw.ca) if interested/for more info.

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

Martin/Dad!  
We love you!

Marissa, Serena, Erin  
& Jonathan Hawk

Happy 6th  
Birthday Dozer!

Love Dad, Mom and Boo Boo

This Month's Crossword  
Puzzle Answers

1	S	T	O	N	E	D	8	S	P	O	N	G	Y
2	E	V					7	C	S	R		O	
3	M	A	T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C	I	A	N
4	P	A	I	R	L		14	M	O	S	T		
5	S	O	L	V	E		16	C	H	A	R	L	E
6	T	E	E	S	U		19	D	E	E			
20	G						22	P					
23							21	T	U	L	I	P	
24	A	R	A	B			27	A	M	O	K		
25	I	T	A	P	A	T	28						
26	P	O	L	E	I		33	N	A	N	N		
34							36	A	U	T	O		
35	S	E	M	I	C	O	N	S	C	I	O	U	S
36	S	A	G	E									
37	S	T	R	O	N	G							
38							38	R	A	C	I	S	

## OBITUARIES



## PETER BUHLER

April 22, 1931–November 1, 2016

Peter Buhler, 85, of New Bothwell, MB, passed away on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at Bethesda Regional Health Centre, Steinbach, MB.

Peter lived his life with his cup always half full. Not half empty. He always tried to be a positive influence wherever he went and whatever he did. One of our favourite lines from him was if your day was not going all that great, he would say, "Tomorrow will be a better day, yeah." We will miss you, Pete/Dad.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Birchwood Funeral Chapel in Steinbach.

## Christmas Dessert Fundraiser

FEATURING COMEDIAN MATT FALK

AN EVENING OF COMEDY, LIVE  
MUSIC & DELICIOUS DESSERTS



Join us in raising support for  
Zambian Orphans for 1 year

Saturday, December 17th, 7pm  
at Landmark Christian Fellowship  
172 Main St, Landmark

Please RSVP by calling 204-355-4928  
or at [landmarkchristianfellowship.com/zambia](http://landmarkchristianfellowship.com/zambia)



Canadian Blood Services  
*it's in you to give*

## BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Tuesday, December 20  
Niverville Heritage Centre

## JOB POSTINGS

*Anya's*  
HAIR STUDIO  
& aesthetics

NOW HIRING

## Licensed Hairstylist

We are looking for an experienced Hairstylist that is reliable, honest, friendly, and can work in a team environment.  
Start date: immediately

Bring resumes in person to  
226 Main St. Niverville, MB. R0A 1E0  
or email to [anyashairstudio@gmail.com](mailto:anyashairstudio@gmail.com).  
Phone 204-388-5495 for inquiries.



POSITION AVAILABLE

FULL-TIME  
PRODUCE MANAGER

Contact John at 204-388-4676  
for more information.

Drop of applications and resumes at  
Niverville Bigway - 259 Main Street, Niverville





# Merry Christmas

*Christmas brings friends & family together. It helps us appreciate the love in our lives we often take for granted. May the true meaning of the holiday season fill your heart and home with many blessings!*



## WM. DYCK & SONS GIFT CARDS

Available in any denomination. The perfect gift for friends and family!



**STORE HOURS:**  
MON-FRI: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
WED & THURS: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
SAT: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

204-388-4727  
262 Main Street, Niverville, MB  
[www.wmdyck.com](http://www.wmdyck.com)