

The Citizen

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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville is gearing up for its fourth annual Southeast Home Inspirations Show.

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LOCAL NEWS

New Chief of Police Takes Over

■ Sergeant Rheal Gravel has stepped into the leadership role of St. Pierre's RCMP.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Red River Rage Come Up Big

■ Our local teams take home two golds and a silver at ringette playoffs.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mennonite Film Premieres

■ The Citizen's very own Matt Falk stars in a short film documentary about the inherent humour in Mennonite culture.

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Niverville & Homes Communities
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John Falk Steps Down from Council, Will Run for Liberals

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New Doctor Joins Niverville Clinic

By Jacqueline Chartrand

The Niverville Medical Clinic will be undergoing staff changes on April 1 which will enable them to accept new patients, welcome news for those who have moved to Niverville in the past year.

Dr. Kiannaz Kiani, one of the clinic's three current doctors, will be moving her practice to St.-Pierre-Jolys. Her current patients will still be able to access her care there if they so choose. Kiani arrived in the spring of 2014 and resides in Winnipeg.

Dr. Mina Antonious will replace her, beginning his four-year contract with Southern Health-Santé Sud by moving to Niverville and establishing his own practice as a family physician. As part of his family medicine residency, Antonious served this past year on rotation at the Health Sciences Centre, Grace Hospital, and St Boniface Hospital. He looks forward to looking after patients of all ages and doing his part to help the clinic meet its aim of offering timely access to appropriate and effective medical care.

Antonious's special interest is emergency medicine in its two forms, medical emergencies such as strokes or heart attacks, and surgical emergencies such as fractures.



Dr. Mina Antonious.

DR. MINA ANTONIOUS

"The primary purpose of rural physicians," Antonious says, "is to stabilize patients in crisis to the point where they can be transported to large medical centres. The difference between urban and rural settings is that in large centres, entire teams of doctors and

nurses diagnose and treat a patient in emergency care; in rural settings, the physician is making decisions alone with the possible support of a nurse or two."

Antonious began his medical training in Egypt, where he was born. After serving the

mandatory two years' return of service in Egypt as a general practitioner, he moved to British Columbia and worked for the B.C. College of Physicians until 2015, when he qualified as an international medical graduate (someone who has completed postgraduate residency training outside Canada or the United States).

From that pool of medical graduates, Southern Health selected him to sponsor his professional development. He is enthusiastic to be a part of the multidisciplinary team at the Niverville Medical Clinic.

In the near future, a new nurse practitioner will be joining the team as well. Laura Hill has been the sole NP with the clinic since 2013. Like Hill, the new NP will have her own patient list with duties similar to that of a family physician. Nurse practitioners can prescribe medications and order tests for their patients.

Doctors Mairi and Chris Burnett established Niverville Medical Clinic in 2005, pioneering the concept of a multidisciplinary primary care team that incorporates both regional health and private venture partnership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivmedical.ca

IN BRIEF

Town Council: What's on the Table for 2016?

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On January 15-16, Town Council hunkered down for an extended group think at its annual planning sessions. This weekend-long summit provides an uninterrupted opportunity to hash through plans and possibilities for the coming year and rally around strategies to bring them to life.

Items on the agenda included permits for vendors and food carts, solar light options for the pathways in Hespeler Park, and hiring more Green Team members to ensure there will be enough staff for increased town maintenance during the summer months.

Council members are keenly aware that there is rarely enough staffed manpower to attend to every tree, shrub, and flowerbed in town. Consideration was given to outsourcing some of the flora and fauna work to individuals or volunteer groups. Adopt-a-Tree was presented as a further option to share in the upkeep and beautification of our green spaces.

Discussion was given to a number of programs or services not currently part of the community. Volunteers are recognized by council as the backbone of Niverville, championing new initiatives. Council welcomes anyone with an idea to come forward and present a plan, as well as to join or create volunteer groups to carry out these

initiatives.

Council strongly advocated for neighbourhood street parties. They looked at ways of providing financial assistance to encourage more of this kind of spirited culture.

With water being foremost on council's mind, a rain barrel program was considered, allowing homeowners to retain rainwater, which would take pressure off the sewer system during high rain events. These saved water resources could then be used for watering lawns and gardens. The town will be in contact with the Seine-Rat River Conservation District for potential funding.

Council would like to establish a community steering committee to mobilize doctor recruitment for the new medical clinic, which hopes to offer expanded hours when it opens next year.

Finally, a decision was made to meet with the Hanover School Board and provincial officials to urge them to consider French immersion and special trades programs for both existing and new schools.

Many of these initiatives, however, come with a cost. Members of council will need to ensure that the budget provides for any or all of the proposals put forth at the planning sessions. The 2016 budget will be up for review in April.

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John Falk Steps Down from Council, Will Run for Liberals

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On Monday, February 22, Niverville resident John Falk threw his hat in the ring as the Manitoba Liberal candidate for the Morris constituency. A gathering of friends, family, and media were on hand for the announcement at Slice of Life bakery.

"I have given much thought to this opportunity over the last month and am humbled and excited to have the chance to represent the people in the Morris Riding, which includes the Town of Niverville," says Falk, who has served for the last seven years as a town councillor.

Falk has long been a respected community member and family man. For many years he has served on the Imagine Run board, whose goal is to reduce the stigma of mental health problems. He has also volunteered his time to coach many local sports teams.

With this announcement, Falk has chosen to step down from his role on town council. "We explored whether there was an opportunity to take a leave of absence," Falk says. "That's not something that Manitoba Elections allows."

"I am honoured by the sacrifice of John Falk to give up his council seat to seek election as a Liberal MLA," says Manitoba Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari. "John is a well respected businessman and will give residents a real choice in the coming election."

It all started when Falk, who acknowledges that he has never had aspirations to run for provincial politics, received an email near the end of January asking if he would consider having a meeting at the Liberal Party headquarters in Winnipeg.

"I thought it might be a joke," Falk says. "I just wanted to see if it was real. And obviously it was. Long story short, that one meeting turned into three very, very positive meetings with Rana Bokhari, the leader of the Liberal Party, and just a



John Falk announces his candidacy for the Manitoba Liberals. RAY DOWSE

couple of days ago I made the final decision to jump in and go for it."

Falk says that many aspects of the Liberal platform strongly resonate with him. "The Liberals believe in business, they believe in fiscal responsibility, but they also have, in my opinion, much more of a social conscience than the PCs do."

In addition to the platform, Falk was highly impressed by Rana Bokhari.

"There was a real strong accord that I struck with Rana Bokhari," Falk says. "I love her passion. I love what she stands for. I like the fact that she's from rural Manitoba. She understands rural Manitoba. She grew up on a chicken farm in Anola. And as a lawyer, she's obviously very educated... she speaks from her heart, she wears her heart on her sleeve. She will be an excellent premier."

Falk sees the Liberals as providing a real alternative. "This is one of the fastest growing economies in our province and I want to offer people here a voice. The NDP ignore us and the PCs take us for granted. I will work hard to make sure the people in the Morris

constituency are heard, and our region gets the attention it deserves."

The Manitoba Liberals are polling higher than they have in 20 years, with some polls placing them several points ahead of the unpopular NDP.

Among the Liberals' policy proposals is a commitment to give the proceeds of last year's one-percent PST increase directly to the municipalities, in addition to the current levels of funding.

"The municipalities understand best what they need," Falk says. "It shouldn't be up to the province to tell them where to spend their money."

Falk says that the Liberals share Manitobans' values in many other key areas, including arts and culture funding and providing better treatment for mental illness. They are also interested in exploring a minimum income program.

"I'm going into this to win, knowing full well that it'll be very much an uphill battle," Falk says. "But I really believe that I have made the right choice. I've got complete peace about it."

Subway Set to Open in St. Adolphe

By Eric Peterson

As another sign of a community on the rise, St. Adolphe now has its very own Subway restaurant. Footlong fans will be able to stop by 511 Main Street and get their fill of one of the world's most popular food franchises.

Jim Matthewman owns the new restaurant, as well as eight other Subway franchises in rural areas around Manitoba. He says now is just the time to break into the St. Adolphe market.

"The town is expanding. This is a market that's been untapped," notes Matthewman. "We're looking forward to getting it kicked off."

There may still be some people in North America who have not yet tried a Subway sandwich, but it's not a huge number and it's dropping daily. The new St. Adolphe location joins a family of more than 44,000 Subway locations in 111 countries around the world.

Subway is often the first chain restaurant to set up shop in a small population centre, and their entry into St Adolphe provides residents with more options at mealtime.

Matthewman says they've already hired some staff but will continue looking for others to join their team.

"You can apply online at mysubwaycareer.com," says Matthewman.

Hookup Fees Not Included in Main Street Water Cost

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

As previously reported, Niverville's town council hosted a meeting on January 18 with residents and business community members to discuss a plan to bring town water to Main Street. Property owners in the affected areas are on the hook for \$600,000 of the total bill, based on the length of their frontage. An additional \$1.3 million is covered by a grant from the Building Canada Fund and the Town of Niverville.

At that meeting, there emerged some confusion about whether or not the frontage fee includes the cost of hooking up individual properties to the main line. While the consulting engineer indicated that the hookup fee was included, it has since been

confirmed that the hookup will, in fact, be an additional cost.

"That line from the main line to the business or home, that is not part of the cost," says Mayor Myron Dyck, adding that the main line will include curb stops to which property owners can connect. "The owner will be responsible for digging and the length of pipe from the curb stop to the home or business."

Dyck says there is still concern among some property owners as to how the cost is being distributed. "Some business owners want the chance to speak with council, and we have invited them for the purpose of hearing them to see what suggestions may come forward."

Council has not yet set a policy stating whether hooking up to town water will be mandatory.

René Abgrall

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New Auto Repair Shop Opens in Ste. Agathe

By Keiron Berndt

They say practice makes perfect, and Ernie and Carol Lemoine, owners of E&C Repair Shop in Ste. Agathe, know all about practice. Ernie has been working as a certified mechanic for over 40 years.

"[We] wanted to find a business so both of us could work together," says Ernie.

He believes that his competitive advantage comes from making sure that only quality work leaves the shop, and serving all vehicles—whether semi-trucks, trailers, or any make and model of car—at a reasonable price. He says he personally takes each vehicle for a drive before diagnosing the issue, and again after repairing the problem to ensure the predicament is fixed.

"Finding the problem is the hardest part," Ernie says, "but the best part is fixing it."



Carol and Ernie Lemoine outside their shop.

KEIRON BERNDT

In October, Ernie and Carol opened E&C Repair Shop, a registered vehicle safety inspection station, and are already receiving bookings for the coming spring. Ernie wrenches away on vehicles while Carol answers the phones, schedules

appointments, and manages the books.

Carol says their focus is on gaining new customers in the surrounding area who need their tractors, trucks, trailers, and cars repaired, inspected, and safetied.



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IN BRIEF

Firefighters Needed in Ste. Agathe

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Ste. Agathe is in the midst of recruiting volunteer firefighters in preparation for the planned construction of a new fire hall in the community.

"The RM of Ritchot has it in their plans to proceed with this, the first step," says Claude Lemoine, President of Ste. Agathe's Community Development Inc., a newly formed committee that works to progress initiatives benefitting the town. "One of the major hurdles we need to jump over, if you will, is recruitment."

Two recruitment meetings have been held so far, on January 21 and February 25. Lemoine guesses there were between 30 and 40 people who attended the January

meeting, though it is unclear how many applications have been received so far.

"To a certain degree, we've been pressuring the RM about this," says Lemoine. "We'll make sure to inform people of the meetings, but the construction is going to be by the RM, the reviewing of application is up to the fire chief, and all the capital costs and so forth are all on the RM."

Ritchot's fire chief is Scott Weir, who works out of St. Adolphe.

"The RM of Ritchot has a fire hall in St. Adolphe and Îles-Chênes, and they serve the whole RM," Lemoine explains. When there's a fire in Ste. Agathe, help usually comes from St. Adolphe. "If there's a larger fire, then Niverville would come out."

RCMP Conducts Vehicle Checks in Niverville

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

From January 3–20, the RCMP was busy in Niverville conducting checks and assessments on parked vehicles. This action was done in response to vehicle thefts and break-ins reported in the past several months.

"The purpose of the checks was twofold," says Constable Trevor Larade of the St. Pierre RCMP detachment. "One was to determine the level of security residents were taking with their personal vehicles... The second was to provide feedback and information in a documented format as an educational tool on how important it is to lock their vehicles and take simple measures to ensure valuables were not left in plain sight."

Indeed, this reporter woke up one cold January morning to find just such a notice on my car's windshield (pictured).

"A total of 35 vehicles were checked," says Larade. "25 were locked with no valuables in plain sight. Seven were locked with valuables in plain sight. Three vehicles were left completely unlocked."

As the letters emphasized, it is important to lock our



Notices like these were left on many parked cars in Niverville.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

vehicles and ensure that there are no valuables lying around.

"The message to residents is that once your vehicle is locked and no valuables can be seen inside, you are reducing your chances of being victimized,"

Larade says. "It is a matter of not enabling the crime by providing opportunity to criminals. A few simple steps and good habits go a long way to not becoming a victim."

Larade says that all the

checked vehicles were easily accessible to the public, including those in lots or those parked on the side of the road. The constable points out, however, that vehicles in driveways are no less at risk.

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A flash flood on August 29, 2015 covers Main Street from curb to curb.

DUSTIN KRAHN

Mayor Advises Flood Vigilance

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

After so many long, cold winter months, Manitobans tend to excitedly usher in the warmer temperatures that come with spring. With these temperatures come melting snow, and sometimes flooding.

If you've lived in Niverville for a while, flooding isn't totally new to you. No one is likely to forget the infamous flood of

1997, when the Red River crept right up to our town's proverbial doorstep.

That was an extreme case, but as homeowners it's always good to be proactive in ensuring our basements stay dry.

"Ensure your downspouts on your eaves extend away from your house and are not clogged with leaves or debris," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "One wants to have water directed away from the foundation...

Make sure that your home has weeping tile around the foundation. This combo, with a sump pump, will direct ground water away."

Flooding can occur from melting snow, but also heavy bouts of rain. Last August 29, Niverville received seven inches of rain within an hour and several dozen homes suffered flood damage.

Most of Niverville is flat, but a few areas are slightly more

prone to flooding. "These are Roselawn Bay and Vista Cove area," says Dyck.

Last summer, the town put a new policy in place for homeowners. "The public works building provides sandbags and sand," he says. "You will need to pick up the materials, but they are provided free of charge to residents who may want to put a layer or two around their house to prevent water from ditches and such

creeping up their yards and into their window wells."

The town is taking two actions to ensure residents incur less damage. "First of all, the town has purchased some fixed and mobile generators to ensure that our lift stations that pump out the sewer system can continue to operate in the event of a power failure. Secondly, the town is just tendering out a project in the next couple of weeks that

will see water flow [under] the railway tracks. This will allow water in the ditches to move faster as the rail bed and the existing culverts have been a bottle neck where water can only flow so quickly... Council is optimistic that construction will begin on that project this year."

If flooding does occur, contact your insurance agent right away.



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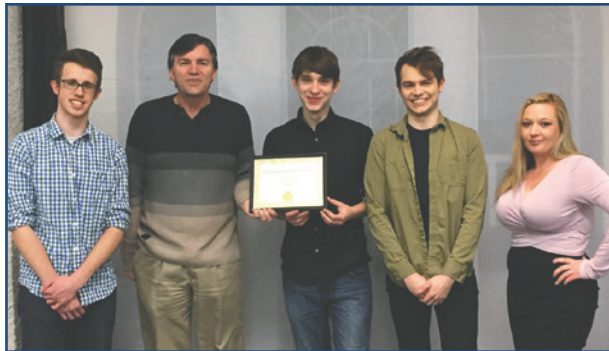
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Businesses nominated for the award can be found at the chamber's website: www.niverville.com. Then email your vote to chamber@niverville.com.

Deadline to vote is March 18.

Volunteer of the month

Three high school students, who gave back to their recently retired school librarian, have been awarded the Volunteer Appreciation Award for the month of February. Dylan Asmundsen, Dylan Butler, and Cory Ellis banded together to organize a bingo fundraiser for the Nickel Family.



L to r: Dylan Butler, Mayor Myron Dyck, Cory Ellis, Dylan Asmundsen, Jenifer Bardarson, director, Niverville Chamber of Commerce.

The fundraiser was held on January 14 at the Niverville Collegiate Institute and raised around \$3,500.

Chamber surveys members

In mid-February, the chamber surveyed its members on how the chamber can meet the needs of the business community in Niverville. A similar survey was last conducted in 2011. Just over 50 percent of the membership responded, which is a tremendous response rate.

Ranked of greatest importance to members is that the chamber be a voice for business and that it actively engage with town council regarding the needs of the business community. Survey respondents also are strongly supportive of developing a buy local program that would help residents think of Niverville and area businesses as their first stop to shop.

Of the services and activities in which the chamber is involved, the Volunteer Appreciation Award and high school scholarships were viewed as important by 75 percent of those who answered the survey.

The chamber's board of directors is using the information from the survey in its strategic planning that is currently taking place.



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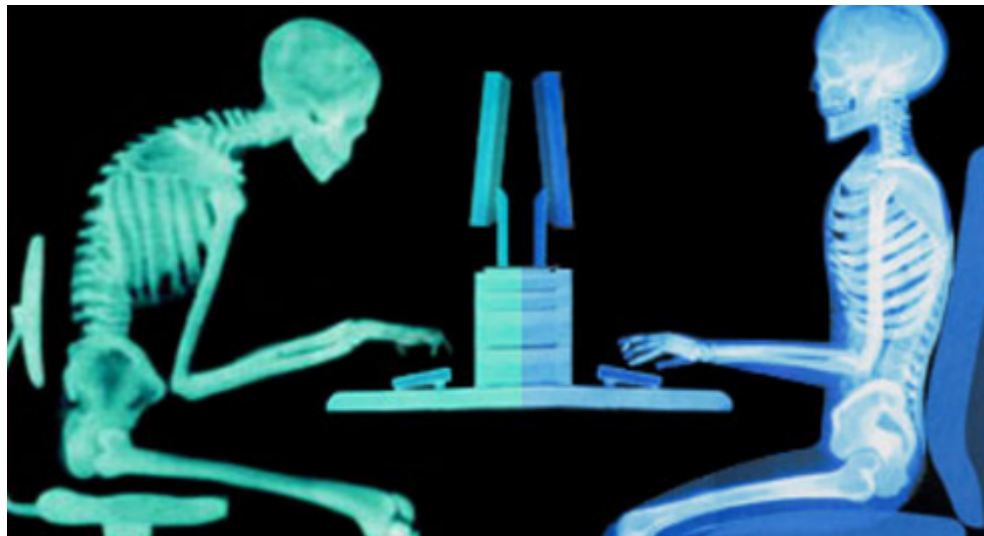
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The Consequences of Poor Posture

By Andrew Neufeld, BMR (PT)

Niverville Physiotherapy

A possible cause of headaches and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction is poor posture. Proper postural alignment involves ensuring that the head, shoulders, and hips align vertically when in a sitting position. When standing, they should be aligned with the ankles. This allows the muscles that run from the spine, shoulders, and ribcage to balance the head on top of the spine.

When a person develops a forward head posture (FWP), the head starts to sit in front of that line, causing some muscles, like the posterior occipitals (small muscles the run from the head to the spine) to shorten or get tight. Other muscles, like the longus colli (small muscles along the front of the spine) lengthen and

weaken. This muscle imbalance will lead to movement dysfunction in the cervical spine, and potentially in the temporomandibular joint, becoming a source of pain and discomfort.

The human head weighs between ten and 16 pounds. This is similar to a gallon of water. Think of how much harder your muscles have to work when you hold that pail of water out in front of you, compared to holding it at your side. That is what happens to the muscles in your neck. They have to work as much as four times harder to hold your head up as compared to when you are in proper alignment.

When muscles are active, they release lactic acid. This is what makes a person feel sore when they start a new exercise program or do work they aren't used to. When the muscles in

the neck work harder, they release more lactic acid, and over time this may cause your neck to feel stiff and tight.

If you think that your posture isn't good, have someone take a picture of you from the side and look to see how you are aligned. If you are not aligned, try to make the correction and see how it feels. It will probably feel unnatural, and might even feel painful as you are not used to being in that position. Your body has adapted to your poor posture over time, some muscles lengthening and others shortening, so it will take some time to adjust.

If you need some help identifying whether your posture is optimal or contributing to the symptoms you may be having, please consult a qualified registered health care professional.

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The showroom at last year's Southeast Home Inspirations Show.

STUDIO 479

Niverville's Biggest Home Show Yet

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Over the past three years, the Niverville Heritage Centre has hosted the Southeast Home Inspirations Show. This year, the show will take place March 18–20. Shows like these don't happen without a lot of hard work and sponsors. This year's main sponsor is the Niverville Credit Union (NCU).

The show started back in 2013 and its attendance has grown by about 25 percent each year. The event has three coordinators: John Falk, Melanie Giesbrecht, and Dawn Schmidt.

"Last year approximately 1,200 people came out over the course of the weekend," says Falk.

Melanie Giesbrecht adds, "Whether you're renovating, buying a house, or building a new house, there are all of these different trades and people that you can connect with, in all of southeastern Manitoba, to help

you out with whatever your project is."

Exhibitors come from Steinbach, Landmark, Lorette, and of course Niverville. The companies set up booths to showcase what their businesses have to offer.

"We have everything from builders to painters," Giesbrecht says. "We have some lifestyle vendors like gym and massage, Pampered Chef, RBC, and dog grooming. A little bit of everything."

Because of the credit union's sponsorship, non-profit groups such as L'Arche, Cadets, and Eastman Safety Training can set up a booth for no charge. This helps showcase organizations that wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity.

"This show is a lot more than just showrooms or about buying products," Falk says. "This makes us different than any of the other trade shows."

Families are more than welcome to attend. This year's show will feature

a special section called the NCU Neighbourhood, a kids centre with fun activities like face-painting and balloon animals.

The home show brings out a large number of people from Winnipeg, providing the town an opportunity to show visitors just how much Niverville has to offer.

This year's grand prize giveaway is \$5,000 in creative cash donated by the NCU. What is creative cash, you may ask? It's money that can be used towards any of the exhibitors' products or services. Anyone 18 years or older can enter.

"You could use it to buy new furniture or build a deck, or [as] a down payment," Giesbrecht says. "Because it goes back to the exhibitors, it's a win/win for everyone."

Throughout the weekend, the main stage will feature presentations and demonstrations. There will be one presentation on Friday, two on

Saturday, and the last one on Sunday. Previous years' presentations have included "How to Properly Design the Layout of Your House" and "Bringing Your Dream Home to Life."

The featured presenter this year is Niverville's own Kelsey Kosman of Dollhouse Designs. Her presentation is called "Designing Your Life." The focus will be the ways in which interior design plays a role in many aspects of a person's life.

Dollhouse Designs has been a part of this event for three years. "I see a huge advantage of being a part of this show," says Kosman. "The traffic generated gives me an opportunity to get face-to-face with potential clients. Since Dollhouse Designs does not sell a product, it's especially important for us to do trade shows, such as the Home Inspirations Show. This is how we educate the public about the services available to them when they are ready to tackle their next renovation

project."

Heritage Lane Builders, a local building company since 1987, has also attended for the past three years. Owner Doug Dyck says, "I man the booth, as it is very important to me to meet people. I get to educate people on the build process, costs, and design ideas. We do not place the expectation to sell at the show, but just make contact with those considering building or buying a home."

You can find all the info for the presentations in a minibook that is being sent to all homes in Niverville this month, or on the event's website (see below).

Admission is \$5. Children ages ten and under attend free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.heritagecentre.ca/event-centre

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New Chief of Police at St. Pierre Detachment

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

For the last seven years, Staff Sergeant Ron Poirier served as chief of police of the RCMP detachment in St.-Pierre-Jolys. As of February 1, 2016, the command has changed over to Sergeant Rheal Gravel.

Sergeant Gravel brings lots of experience to this new position. "I have 29 years of service with the RCMP, having served in Quebec in federal and international border enforcement."

After transferring to Manitoba in 2002, Gravel served at the Powerpoint/Pine Falls detachment, at Winnipeg's RCMP headquarters, and previously in St.-Pierre-Jolys. He has also worked in federal enforcement, and as a human resources officer. His many positions include Emergency Response Team member and the commander of a federal unit.



New police chief Sergeant Rheal Gravel.

ST-PIERRE-JOLYS RCMP

The detachment has 18 people on staff, 15 of whom are officers and three public service employees.

On top of their physical office, satellite offices are in the works. "We have two satellite offices situated in Niverville

and Lorette which will be operational in the near future."

"Proactive policing strategies with community involvement is my main objective," Gravel says. "[Also] increased visibility of our members in the communities. Another goal of

mine is to heighten service delivery and have ongoing reduction of criminal activity."

This position is a good opportunity for Sergeant Gravel, as he worked previously as a corporal supervisor in St.-Pierre-Jolys from 2007-2010. "I always wanted the opportunity to return to St. Pierre as the unit commander," he says.

"My first day back to the community after being away for six years was like returning home," Gravel adds. "I am eager to establish myself in my new functions to serve and protect the people of my detachment area."

The St.-Pierre-Jolys detachment serves four rural municipalities: Tache, Hanover, DeSalaberry, and Ritchot.

Staff Sergeant Ron Poirier will be returning to Headquarters as the Senior Planning Analyst in the Operational Strategy Branch.

St. Adolphe Throws Winter Carnival

By Eric Peterson

There are few things more reliable than winter. It never misses a year and it always shows up with a bag full of cold, wind, and snow. But if there's one thing as sure as the coming of winter in Manitoba, it's the fact that we'll find a way to embrace and celebrate it.

One example close to home is the annual St. Adolphe Winter Carnival.

The carnival has been a part of winter in St Adolphe

for almost as long as hot cocoa with mini marshmallows, and this year was no different. In fact, the 2016 carnival, held January 27-29, was as action-packed as any that came before it.

Carnival coordinator Nicole Lindholm points out that part of the event's success and longevity is the diverse line up of fun it offers.

"We have different events for different people," says Lindholm.

In addition to the usual

jam-packed schedule—kids and youth dances, a cribbage tournament, family bingo, a curling funspiel, adult social on Saturday night, and a kiddie carnival—this year's event added a Carnival Riot for the pre-teen crowd.

"It was a hoot," says Lindholm. "We had about 50 kids playing different cooperative games."

Of course, no winter celebration in Canada is complete without a good dose of hockey, and this event is no different.

The carnival always features Hawks Hockey Day, where each St. Adolphe team plays a home game. The annual Taylor Christensen Memorial Game helps fund two Hawks players to attend hockey camp.

In the end, says Lindholm, the St. Adolphe Winter Carnival is really all about engendering a sense of community. "People laugh, they hang out, they enjoy themselves," she says. "It's a great weekend."



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The Heritage Centre

Part Two: The Passion Behind the Dream

"We want to be leaders in the province and the country in healthcare services."

—Steve Neufeld, Heritage Centre CEO



BRENDA SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Though the Niverville Heritage Centre (NHC) is an attractive collection of buildings and amenities, there lies a soul within that resounds loudly when you stop to listen. They are the visionaries, past and present, who speak with a voice for change. They have a story to tell about making the seemingly impossible possible.

Much of the story of the NHC revolves around two great themes: full-scale housing options for seniors, making it possible for us all to remain here until the day we die, and a broad range of medical services for the entire community.

It can be said that the starting point for both began with Norman Wittick, a pioneer of Niverville and a community champion. He was instrumental in forming the Niverville Health Foundation (NHF) and bringing the first medical doctors to town. Though he himself had to leave the

community to pursue aging options in his later years, Wittick bequeathed a financial legacy to his beloved hometown that would set the stage for our current medical facility and aging-in-place model.

Many champions have followed—too many to name. This story is about altruism at its finest, winning against impressive odds, and proving that dreams are never too big.

"My parents were fortunate to be able to benefit from the rapid build-out of a complete range of senior services in Niverville," says resident Norman Klippenstein. "The fact that our family can walk over, in just a few minutes, to see our mother at any time of day is invaluable to us and has made a world of difference to her quality of life, allowing her to keep the close connection she needs with her family."

The NHF, a community volunteer group, can be credited for its tireless fundraising efforts that brought us the original 55-plus residences and much of the continuum of aging and medical facilities. Much of their fundraising takes place at the annual Heritage Centre gala. We can state that because of them, our facilities are fully community-owned, with little to no outside financial assistance from the government.



The old St. Adolphe nursing home.

DUSTIN KRAHN

Another level of fundraising happens through the local Church Advisory Council, which collects and administers donated funds so that lower-income earners have equal access to seniors care at our facilities. The names of those in need are never revealed to this group, just the need, providing anonymity for the recipients. The goal is that no individual should ever be turned away due to financial barriers.

In the case of assisted living, there is no government assistance available for capital costs or resident care. Many assisted living facilities are privately run, making them costly options for seniors. There are also not enough facilities,

potentially due to a lack of profit motivation to build them. Our facility, the Niverville Credit Union Manor, not only provides suites at competitive rates but includes daily meal service, laundry service, and light housekeeping—services that seniors in other facilities pay a premium to receive.

Nominal government funding becomes available at the supportive living level, but only for home care. This isn't nearly adequate to provide the 24-hour care that our manor residents have access to. Due to our unique relationship with our Regional Health Authority (RHA), our residents are cared for by certified, professional staff as opposed to many

private facilities, the staffs of which may not be provincially regulated.

At the final stage of senior care is the personal care home (PCH). Based on the odds stacked against us, Niverville should never have had one. We were in a Catch-22 position, with elders leaving our town for communities with seniors amenities. This made us, for decades, a young town with a median age of about 30 and not enough of an aging population for Manitoba Health to deem us in need.

Unlike the first levels of seniors care, PCHs are funded by the government for both resident care and capital costs. Capital cost funding, though,

is very difficult to attain, and if granted can take many more years to be realized. After ongoing pursuit and years of being told no, Niverville's community leaders fell upon an unlikely loophole: along with the RHA, they pursued Manitoba Health one more time for permission to acquire the rights to the St. Adolphe nursing home. Once again, through strategic planning, the resulting facility here is completely community-owned.

Unique to many other PCHs, ours contains a second floor Special Care Unit, with staffing qualified to care for those with the different characteristics of dementia.

Bonny Friesen, local resident and Resource Coordinator for the PCH, is a strong proponent of the PCH's function within the Heritage Centre. Her parents have also benefited from our seniors facilities.

"Heritage Life is unique in that it is attached to a whole complex of activity," says Friesen. "This is a huge advantage, as the daycare children often come to visit the residents. We have had activities where the children have joined the elderly to do crafts, visit, or sing. Families can take their loved ones to the restaurant without having to go outside. Our residents

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The Heritage Centre atrium.

NIVERVILLE HERITAGE CENTRE

can make use of the atrium for walking and exercise therapy.”

Lack of good nutrition and loneliness are believed to be contributors to the onset of dementia. Enjoying communal, nutritiously prepared meals helps alleviate those concerns, along with the community connection offered by a shared public facility such as ours and the coming and going of little ones through their doors.

Not to be dismissed are the medical and primary care amenities we rely on. Doctors Chris and Mairi Burnett came to Niverville in 2005. Born in Scotland, trained in Belgium, and having practiced in countries around the world, the Burnetts chose to make Niverville their home, raising three sons here.

“Our aim is to build a robust primary care system that will outlast a couple of strange Scottish physicians, that will grow with the needs of the community, surviving the passing fads of government,” says Dr. Chris. “This town has a unique position, and I think vision, that makes that a possibility.”

The Burnetts partner with the RHA to deliver a wide scope of medical care. These include family medicine, travel health, public health and mental health services, homecare services, and a lab. Dr. Mairi brings experience in reproductive and women’s health.

By the spring of 2017, a new modern clinic will join the upcoming life lease building, providing main floor access to all medical services in

one location. The intent is to create the kind of facility that will attract more doctors, provide clinical rooms for more advanced services, and cater to the public with longer hours, more days per week.

“We want to be leaders in the province and the country in healthcare services,” says Steve Neufeld, CEO of the Niverville Heritage Centre. “We have three doctors now, but the goal is to get to five.”

Though many provincial doctors are recruited on a contract basis, the Burnetts believe in a pay-for-service model. This means that doctors benefit based on the number of patients they attend to. Elsewhere, doctors are not encouraged to see many patients, because they are paid the same whether they see two

per day or ten.

And when the Burnetts move on, the clinic will remain an asset of the community.

“We own no structure, other than some computers and desks,” says Dr. Chris. “Thankfully, gone are the days when a physician’s future income was dictated by a practice they sell at a later date. This building will continue to be owned by [those] who built it. The tricky thing about vision is that it needs to be shared and jointly owned.”

If we take a look backward, a mere ten years into Niverville’s past, it’s clear that we’ve come a very long way. And when you step outside of the shadow of the Heritage Centre building, a bright light shines on the people and passion that made it all possible.

INBRIEF



Construction site at Niverville Elementary School.

DUSTIN KRAHN

Elementary School Addition Under Construction

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Construction is underway on a new wing to the Niverville Elementary School. The school’s 6,414-square-foot addition will include five new classrooms.

“The addition will hold the four Grade 4 classrooms and one Grade 3 class,” says Principal Judy Hiebert. “This will open up some space next year and therefore we will have room for the fifth Grade 2 class.”

According to Bob Proulx, the Hanover School Division’s Director of Facilities, the anticipated timeline for completing construction and opening the new facility is September 2016, just in time for the new school year.

In previous years, the need for new classrooms eliminated the science room and computer lab.

“We will not bring back a science lab, as we do not need one in an early years school,” says Hiebert. “The previous computer lab will not be reassembled, as the school

division is moving away from ‘going to the computer lab.’ Some computers have been relocated to the library and others are in classrooms. The laptops, which were added this school year, are in carts which provide flexibility for teachers to book for their entire class or for small groups.”

Hiebert says that the school’s previous resource room was renovated to include a hallway. “We have made changes with this renovation to create a learning support room, which is working well and we expect it to remain as is for next year.”

Next year, two current classrooms are expected to come available.

One of the present Grade 2 classrooms will transition into a multipurpose space for activities such as art, small group learning, multi-class meetings, and student clubs. The former computer lab, which currently holds a Grade 3 class, will be used as an additional resource room.

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IN BRIEF

New Garbage Carts Not Free**By Evan Braun**

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

In the February edition of The Citizen, we reported that Niverville will be moving to an automated waste collection service using carts which will be provided to each household for free. Since that time, new information has come to light. The town has advised that, in fact, the new garbage carts will not be free.

"The cost of the waste carts will be levied through a five-year local improvement on property taxes," said a notice from the town office. Only property owners who use the carts will be affected by the tax.

The notice adds that the waste cart is to remain with the property in the event that a transfer of ownership occurs.

The new carts are expected to go into effect this spring.

To Sponsor or Not to Sponsor?

By the end of 2014, the world had 20 million refugees, 4.5 million of which were Syrian.

By Brenda Sawatzky

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On January 26, the Niverville Ministerial hosted its first meeting in response to the possibility of sponsoring Syrian refugees as a community. Niverville Christian Fellowship pastor Chris Marchand chaired the meeting, which was attended by a variety of church representatives and community members.

The meeting opened with the introduction of Arnisel Mesidor, coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Migration and Resettlement Program. Mesidor, himself an immigrant to Canada, began with some basic facts about the refugee crisis around the world.

By the end of 2014, there were 20 million refugees, 4.5 million of which were Syrian.

Over 50 percent of refugees, regardless of their nationality, are children or youth. Though many of these refugees have found temporary homes in camps, the developing countries that host them are struggling with their own populations and economic difficulties. Worldwide sponsorship of displaced people amounts to a mere one percent.

Mesidor continued with the three C's of refugee sponsorship: cost, community, and commitment.

The average cost of sponsoring one person is \$12,600. For a family of four, it is \$27,000. The government will kick in about a third of this cost.

The word community, in this context, refers to the group of volunteers whose purpose it would be to see to the needs of the family, assisting them in establishing a home

and providing them with the fundamental tools of living as Canadian citizens.

The commitment to the family is a legal obligation for one year, according to the government's sponsorship policies. Mesidor suggests that most sponsorships go far beyond one year.

There are other options for sponsorship. Those include sending supplies, healthcare, and education directly to the refugee camps via MCC, or finding a local settlement agency to volunteer at, thus assisting refugees who've already been sponsored by another group.

On February 16, a follow-up meeting was held to determine, after the three-week break, the level of "buy-in" for those in attendance, as well as the churches and friends they represented.

Discussion ensued and stories were shared of personal immigration experiences, as well as the joys and cautions of past sponsorships.

Josie Fast, Niverville resident and employee of Eastman Immigrant Services in Steinbach, answered many difficult questions. Her passion for refugee families is a testament to her years spent helping people settle into their sponsorship communities.

"This is such a great opportunity for a community to need each other," says Fast. "It's a common fabric that joins us together, like a quilt. We will be better people for it."

Through first-hand experience, Fast appealed to the group to consider carefully the extreme cost of time and energy required when a new family arrives.

"It's exhausting," she

warned, and takes more than just a few keen individuals to see it through. "I think when we look outside of ourselves and how we can better other people's lives, it becomes a great way to grow a community."

Chris Marchand will be inviting a member of Altona's Build a Village organization to a future meeting to offer logistical insight into sponsorship. Altona has so far sponsored 15 families, and more are on the way this year.

The next meeting in Niverville is scheduled for March 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Niverville Community Fellowship. Marchand would like to extend a welcome to anyone who has not yet attended a meeting to show up and make their voice heard.

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Council Connections

Recently many of us will have celebrated Valentine's Day. A time of year where one focuses on the love they have for other special people in their lives. I have spoken often about things I love about this community and I want to share another with you. I love the way the people of Niverville look to help others. Specifically, in winter, where residents are out clearing not just their own driveways and walkways, but the driveways and walkways of their neighbours who either can't afford to have someone else do it, or are not physically able to do it themselves. That kind of thoughtfulness and helping those in need always warms my heart when I drive by and see this labour of love in action. To all who look after those who cannot always help themselves, I want to say a big thank you to you for your service to our community!

As was mentioned in my column last month council had its planning session in January. From those meetings council is now looking at completing its annual budget. This is due in April each year. Various planning, research, and prioritizing of projects have been the focus

of council's committee and council meetings in February. This will continue in March and culminate in the completion of the 2016 budget. Council is looking forward to the Federal budget in March so as to see what sort of projects and grant opportunities may be available. This will then assist council in pushing some projects forward in order to capture available federal dollars.

Just a reminder that the garbage cart program will be rolled out once the snow is gone. This 64 gallon cart will replace the current 37 gallon allowable garbage limit. Look for more information in coming editions of this paper, as well as on the Town of Niverville website. If you have any questions about this waste collection program or anything else, you can always send your questions to feedback@whereyoubelong.ca

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- Teach our children that shirts, towels, toys, etc. cannot be flushed into the sewer system.
- In case of sewer backup, please contact the Town first. Town staff will check the sewer main in front of your home to help identify where the problem may be located. Call 204-388-4600 ext 111 and leave a message. Messages are checked regularly.

When a sewer problem is first noticed – stop flushing and/or draining water within your home. Your sewer backup valve, if operating correctly, should prevent sewer from the main line from backing up into your home. Environmental responsibility begins at home.

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Providence Organizes Regional Lecture Series

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Throughout February and March, professors from Providence University College are taking their lectures on a regional tour, including stops in Steinbach, Winkler, and Winnipeg. This is the fourth year that Providence has organized the tour.

February stops in the series featured lectures in all three

cities with subjects ranging from the Bible in contemporary politics and the social history of the quilt to a Christian approach to the environment and Jehovah's Witnesses.

"It's important for the general public to experience first-hand the discourse that occurs in universities," says Dennis Hiebert, a sociology professor and Chair of the Scholarship Committee at Providence.

The lectures serve to give

the public an appreciation for the scope of interdisciplinary scholarship offered by the university.

As for professors, Hiebert says that "taking their scholarship beyond the classroom and into the public square is not only what they are contracted to do, but also what they love to do."

Admission to all lectures is free and no registration is required.

Upcoming Lecture Schedule

"David Bowie in Darkness: How Celebrities Navigate the Mediated World"

Nicholas Greco, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communications and Media

March 1: Steinbach—Eastman Education Centre (385 Loewen Blvd.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

March 5: Winnipeg—McNally Robinson Bookstore (1120 Grant Ave.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

"Human Rights and Religion: Their Awkward Waltz"

Dennis Hiebert, Ph.D., Professor Sociology

March 8: Steinbach—Eastman Education Centre (385 Loewen Blvd.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

March 12: Winnipeg—McNally Robinson Bookstore (1120 Grant Ave.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

"Jesus and Women: The Untold Stories"

Val Hiebert, Ph.D. (Cand.), Assistant Professor of Sociology

March 15: Steinbach—Eastman Education Centre (385 Loewen Blvd.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

March 19: Winnipeg—McNally Robinson Bookstore (1120 Grant Ave.), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

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A Quieter, More Relaxed Way of Living

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BRENDA SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

"Where You Belong" has become more than just a motto for the rapidly expanding and diverse Town of Niverville. Community visionaries, town council, businesses, and residents have built this community on dreams and hard work. Niverville has become a model community for many others struggling for survival.

Early visionaries knew that in order to build a thriving community, there needed to be a strong aggregate of residents from newborns and youth to families and seniors in order to create balanced and flourishing neighbourhoods.

In the last 15 years, Niverville has seen massive growth and made major strides. Progress is evident around every corner.

The Heritage Centre is only one example of it. Sitting at the heart of the community on nine acres of land, the campus is a hub for community life. With a daycare, licensed restaurant, banquet and event centre, full-time doctors, and a dental clinic, the centre provides services for every age. Connecting all of these amenities is

an aging-in-place philosophy, allowing residents to move as needed through independent living, assisted living, supportive living, and the personal care home. Interaction takes place here from birth to the end of life, all under one roof.

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce is a forward-thinking group of local business owners who work hard to help existing businesses grow and also draw new, innovative business into the town's dynamic corporate landscape. The town also has a business park that's primed for industrial growth.

Residential and commercial developers are numerous here, building condos, starter homes, and dream homes in beautiful developments that offer safe, quiet, and family-friendly living. Tradespeople are abundant as well, calling Niverville home and working with small town pride.

Recreation opportunities abound. Hespeler Park is home to regulation soccer fields and baseball diamonds, playground equipment, and a splash park scheduled for the summer of 2016. The Centennial Arena and curling rink offers team hockey, recreational skating, and curling at all skill levels. A variety of outdoor rinks are

scattered throughout town. The construction of an innovative dog park is underway and will be ready for the summer of 2016.

Friends of the Plex is a steering committee comprised of residents and council members working towards the building of a multi-use indoor recreational facility and upgraded arena. This complex has the potential to add sports courts, a running track, an indoor playground, and many common use spaces.

Old Drovers Run is a links-style golf course on the edge of town, surrounded by an upscale residential development called The Highlands, hemmed by a walking path that also winds through Hespeler Park and continues along the Crow Wing Trail.

The Niverville Recreation Committee works hard at developing programming for all ages, year-round. The Prairie Soul Dance Company, bursting with vibrant energy, caters to children ages three and up. The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair hits Main Street every year for a weekend of high-end entertainment, a midway, and nonstop food and fun.

Education is a backbone of the community. Two schools

cover all educational needs from preschool to Grade 12. A third school is on the table, as well as a potential French immersion option in the future. The elementary school is currently undergoing an expansion that will address the provincial plan to limit class sizes to 20 children in the early years.

Niverville had its beginnings as a small prairie town, and many of those rustic qualities remain in spite of nearby Winnipeg's big-city influence. The railway still runs through town, announcing its coming and going with a friendly tug of its horn. Children still congregate at outdoor rinks or on streets for good, old-fashioned games of street hockey. Families connect with their neighbours at block parties and around backyard fire pits.

"Niverville is truly an intergenerational community with a people who live with purpose and passion," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "From our various amenities and parks to our great schools and businesses, and our great community groups and organizations, [this] is a community where our residents would love to show you why Niverville is where you belong."



Prairie Crossings condominium.

PRAIRIE CROSSINGS

Not Your Average Condominium Experience

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

When you enter the Prairie Crossings condominium development in Niverville, you get the feeling that it's a community within a community. Indeed, its developers, Prairie Sky Properties, describe it as a place designed to offer the comfort and security of a "pocket community."

"After we purchased the property that Prairie Crossings sits on we began a journey that involved sitting down with several design firms to come up with something very unique and different," says Jeremy Braun of Prairie Sky Properties. "The one that we did not see in our research was an actual community that featured both apartment-style and townhouse-style units. We wanted a place where grandparents could sit on their front porches that overlook the playground and enjoy watching the children. A place that would be safe for families from the earliest age to the retirement years."

The layout of the neighbourhood is smartly planned, with all the condominium units circling an acre and a half of family-friendly green space. This allows for open views of walking paths, play structures, sitting areas, and the central water feature. It is not at all typical of the average neighbourhood, where living room views are limited to the neighbour's front yard.

Much thought has been given to privacy. The entire community is fenced off from the broader community, affording it a further sense of solitude and serenity.

Townhouse designs range

from bungalow to two-storey and three-storey homes, each with an attached, insulated garage. The open-concept interiors feature nine-foot ceilings to maximize the spacious feel. Each townhouse comes standard with an electric fireplace and covered deck that easily converts into a three- or four-season sunroom. The bungalows include full unfinished basements. All the homes come with a six-piece stainless steel appliance package with varying numbers of bedroom, bathroom, and ensuite options.

"What's unique about Prairie Crossings is that people have more options to choose finishes that make it truly their home, their personal style," says Braun. "Our homes are built with the highest quality finish product and workmanship, and boast the longest and best possible warranties available through the New Home Warranty Program of Manitoba."

If apartment-style living is your preference, there are also elevator-equipped, three-storey condominium dwellings with one, two, and three-bedroom options in a variety of floor plans.

"I don't just build in this community," Braun adds. "My kids go to school here, my wife and I shop here, and I have coached sports here. We are ingrained in this community and I feel that this heightens our desire to create and develop homes that we are very proud of."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Olde Tyme Country Fair a Town Highlight

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair, one of the largest fairs of its kind in the province, will take over Main Street for its annual weekend-long street festival on June 10–11. In 2015, the fair celebrated its twentieth anniversary.

“The biggest year would have been 15,000 people over the course of the weekend,” says Dustin Krahn, who serves as Promotions and Sponsorship Coordinator for the Fair Committee.

Many world-renowned artists have taken the stage in Niverville, including Dean Brody, Tim Hicks, Brett Kissel, and Emerson Drive.

This year, the fair will be welcoming another big name in the Canadian country music scene. Though the planning committee has already booked several acts, final



Dean Brody performs in 2012.

SOULPIX PHOTOGRAPHY

announcements have not yet been made.

Other prominent acts have included Xtreme Motocross, the Freestyle Sportbike Stunt Team, and Full Metal Jousting. Wondershows Midway provides an impressive combination of rides, games, and concessions.

More than 300 people

volunteer their time every year to bring the fair to life, and the support of local business is no less critical.

Tickets for the 2016 Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair go on sale May 1.

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Construction crew at work in Niverville.

PRAIRIE CROSSINGS

Manitoba's Fastest Growing Community Keeps Growing

By Natalie Batkis

nbatkis@nivervillecitizen.com

After the release of the census in 2011, Niverville was awarded the title of fastest growing community in Manitoba with a population of 3,540 people. That number may not seem like a lot, but when you consider that the town saw 43.7 percent growth in five years, it's pretty impressive. Town officials estimate that the current population is just shy of 5,000. So why are people seeking out this small town just south of Winnipeg?

Clarence Braun, a partner with Team Preferred Choice (a member of Sutton Group-Kilkenny Real Estate), says that a number of factors have worked together to create this population boom.

According to Braun, the market really took off in 2005 with the addition of two new developments:

Fifth Avenue Estates on the southeast corner of Niverville and Crow Wing on the west side of town, which has since been sold and renamed The Highlands.

"The reality is that it doesn't cost any more to build a house in Winnipeg than it does to build a house in Niverville," Braun says, "but the land in the city costs so much more."

The housing shortage in Winnipeg also positively impacted Niverville's growth. People could find homes here to accommodate their families with just a short commute to and from the big city.

"We were affected by the housing shortage in Winnipeg that has now become more of a balanced market," says Wesley Dowse, also a partner with Team Preferred Choice. "As a result, we have seen that our market has become balanced. In my opinion,

Niverville follows the patterns that we see happening in Winnipeg, just at a slower rate."

And there is something to be said about the charm of small-town living.

"There is a feeling amongst people that they want to get out of the rat race and come to a quieter place," Braun says. "People like the idea that they can buy an affordable house in a growing community that is smaller and safer to raise kids."

However, as is the case in most parts of the country, the market in Niverville has slowed slightly over the last few years. There were 175 houses sold in 2012 and only 108 in 2015. The average price of homes sold in Niverville has also decreased. In 2014, the average sale price for a home was \$305,823, but in 2015 it decreased to \$300,855.

"We experienced a slowdown

in sales during 2013 and 2014," Dowse says. "We bounced back a little in 2015 and I expect, with all the development in the works, we are going to see 2016 surpass last year's sales."

In order for Niverville to continue to flourish, Dowse says the conversation now needs to shift to commercial expansion.

"Often as we have people traveling from Winnipeg for open houses or viewings, they want to know what kind of amenities are available in town," Dowse explains. "I think we are at the stage where we need to offer some national franchise amenities in amongst our awesome home-grown business community. I believe it will help with the visual appeal and perpetuate the next phase of growth."

Legacy Ridge: Customized Homes at Affordable Prices

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Standing proudly along the eastern boundary of Niverville, Legacy Ridge has an open and expansive view of southeast Manitoba's wide open landscape.

The family-based development company behind Legacy Ridge, Heritage Lane Builders, has a long and diverse history of home-building going back to 1987. They boast an impressive track record of outstanding customer service, quality workmanship, and customer satisfaction.

"The approach we take [to building a home] is hands-on," says Doug Dyck, owner of Heritage Lane Builders. "The customer experience is based on face to face meetings [between builder and client] to help them transition from the design stage to the completed build. We take as much stress out of the build as we can. It's our job and what we do well."

Legacy Ridge was planned to be a unique subdivision with more affordability for new homebuyers. In order to satisfy this demand, the development team traveled to Calgary and spent a few days looking at what was happening in that market. Dyck says that the trip opened his eyes to the fact that they could have an affordable price point without giving up on design and style.

Homes in the Legacy Ridge community are designed as two-story side-by-sides, creating a reduced footprint while providing plenty of privacy and personal green space. There are four exterior design concepts, from modern to traditional, with multiple colour schemes and finishes available to personalize each property and improve curb appeal. This helps set it apart from many cookie-cutter-style neighbourhoods.

Interior design and finishing packages prove even more diverse. With almost 1,250 square feet of living space, the developers offer nine main floor and upstairs layout combinations, depending on each family's storage, bedroom, bathroom, and entertaining needs. Homeowners can choose from multiple interior finishing options or upgrade to more sophisticated packages.

Each home comes with a full unfinished basement, an insulated garage, and a backyard patio door.

"It's as close to custom as it can be, with an affordable purchase price," says Dyck.

The Legacy Ridge community complements the already established town around it. Paved sidewalks allow for short walks to numerous children's play areas and ponds surrounded by walking paths.

The developers are COR certified (Certificate of Recognition), part of the Manitoba Home Builders Association, and a member of the National Home Warranty Group.

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Niverville: Open for Business

By Ray Dowse

rdowse@nivervillecitizen.com

Numerous articles and studies have remarked on the incredible residential growth Niverville and the surrounding area has experienced over the past decade. The most recent census data indicates that the town grew an astonishing 43.7 percent between surveys. The growth is especially evident when looking at the expansion of local schools, recreation programs, and the number of new homes being built on an annual basis.

Niverville is on the cusp of reaching 5,000 residents, and when we include the surrounding catchment area the population comes in at approximately 10,000 people. If growth continues at its current pace, the community is poised to

become the next official city in the province of Manitoba, when the population hits 7,500.

The Regional Economic Analysis Process (REAP) Report, completed by the province of Manitoba for Niverville and the Municipality of Ritchot in August 2014, highlights some interesting facts. Not only is this region one of the fastest growing, it is also one of the youngest and highest-earning in the province. These are the types of figures and trends that will grab the attention of businesspeople and entrepreneurs looking for expansion opportunities, including national chains.

There are many reasons for businesses to consider opening up shop or relocating to Niverville. From an occupancy cost standpoint, commercial land and

lease rates will typically be lower here than in Winnipeg. Regarding resources, Niverville boasts one of the youngest populations in the province with an average age of 31 as per the most recent census.

The community also has a high number of households with double incomes, and many of these families would relish the opportunity to have at least one member of the household work locally to save on commuting costs and remain nearby where their children go to school. This results in a strong demand for local jobs and a highly skilled pool of candidates who will not require as hefty a salary as is needed in the Winnipeg market.

Chamber of Commerce President Mel Buhler says that the Chamber is actively and regularly engaging town council. "Our main

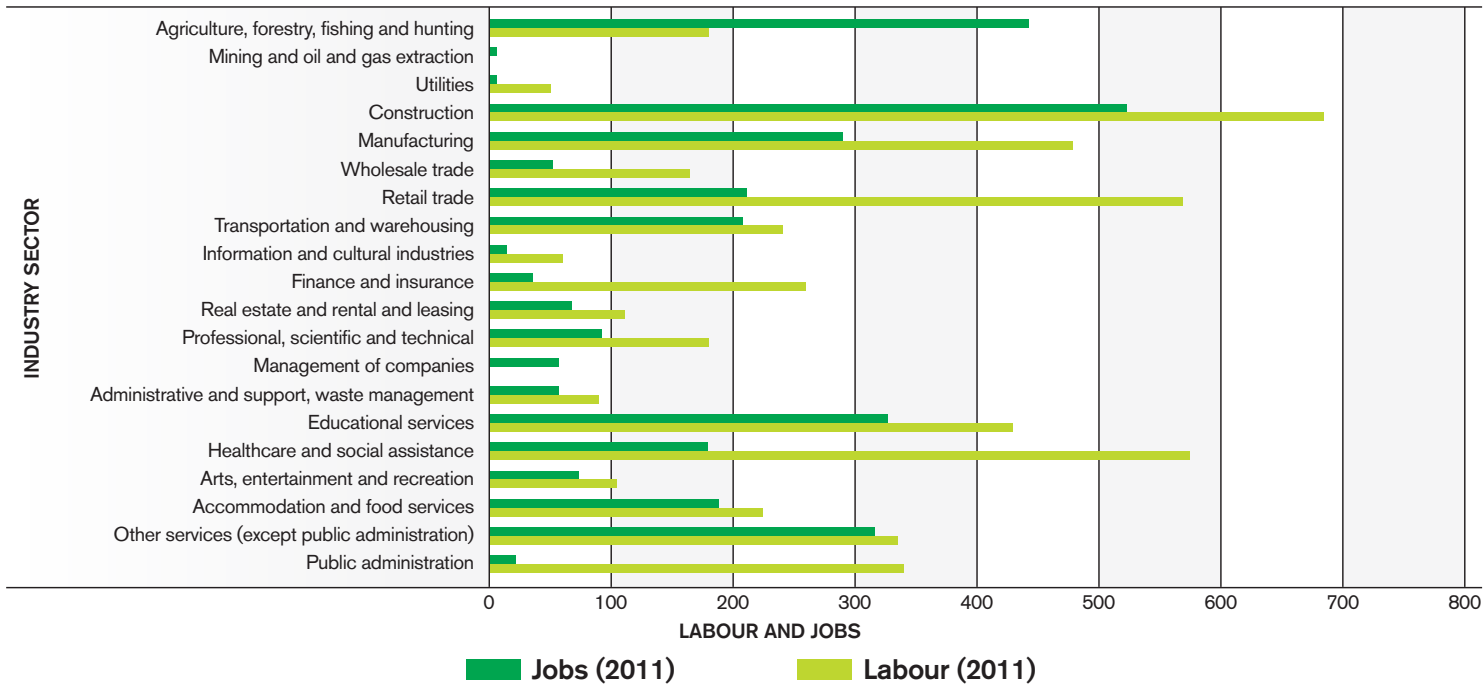
focus is what we can do for Niverville businesses, the already existing businesses, and also see what are the needs that are missing from the community, to encourage new business coming in. And then to work also with council."

Buhler says that the Chamber also holds quarterly strategic planning meetings with its membership. "We've got some brilliant people out there who have great ideas," he says.

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

FIGURE 1 - NIVERVILLE/RITCHOT LABOUR VS. JOBS

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



ANALYSIS

FIGURE 2 - POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL

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

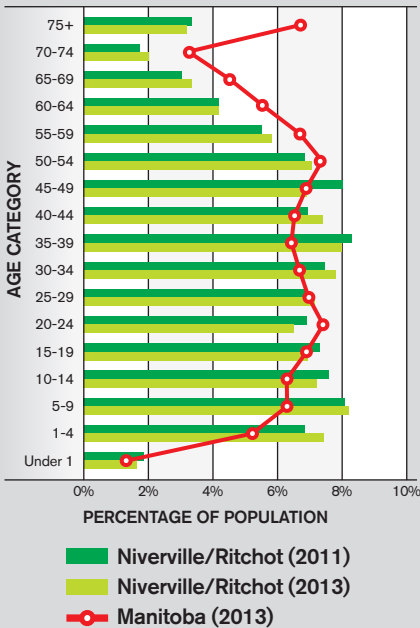
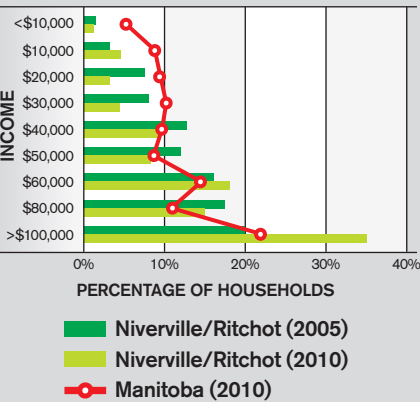


FIGURE 3 - HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

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



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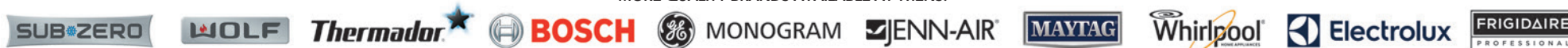
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A Quieter, More Relaxed Way of Living

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A beautiful stretch of highway takes you from Winnipeg to The Highlands, winding south alongside the Red River to Niverville, Manitoba. Though only 20 minutes from Winnipeg, this endless stretch of fields and wooded riverbanks lets you know that you've entered a quieter, more relaxed way of living.

"The Highlands offers all of the amenities of city living with the feel of country living," says Len Peters, developer of The Highlands. "We are certainly not just another city subdivision."

Peters and his team have worked hard to build a rural development community, focusing their energy on creating lots that feel open and spacious. "The vast majority of our lots back onto open spaces of lakes and a golf course."

The Highlands is a strategically planned neighbourhood.



The Highlands on Old Drovers Run.

WWW.HIGHLANDSLIVING.CA

Separating most of the residences from the highway is the beautiful links-style golf course, Old Drovers Run, set to officially open in the spring of 2016. Designed by Graham Cooke International Golf Course architects, they are intentionally landscaped to echo some of Scotland's most historic courses.

There will be nine holes

playable in the summer of 2016. Men's and women's leagues, as well as a junior program, are currently being organized. Award-winning golf instructors have been hired to teach the junior program.

Open to the community last summer, the course was very well received by the public.

This year, developers of The Highlands are offering two free

single-season passes for every new lot purchase.

When it's finished, the development will feature over two miles of paved paths and walkways leading to the course and community parks, as well as over 30 acres of lakes. The Highlands Park, currently in progress, will be surrounded by greenery and add to the country charm with a variety

of picnic areas and active play areas. Families will be able to enjoy a gaming bowl and sports field that transforms into an outdoor hockey rink in the winter months.

The single-family lots in the residential areas range in size from 60 to 80 feet wide. Regular lots start at \$80,000, with walk-out basement lots starting at \$99,000. The development

caters to a wide demographic, from singles to families to seniors. There is even a selection of attached homes with high-end finishes and open-concept floor plans.

Also in the community is the Highlands Village, with four- and five-plex multifamily townhouses. These are two- and three-storey homes within easy access of the golf course. This part of the development is situated on its own expansive green space.

Peters touches on one of the most impressive reasons to make The Highlands your home: "The Highlands is situated on a sprawling landscape with unimpeded views and... of course, the sunsets. Spectacular sunsets!"

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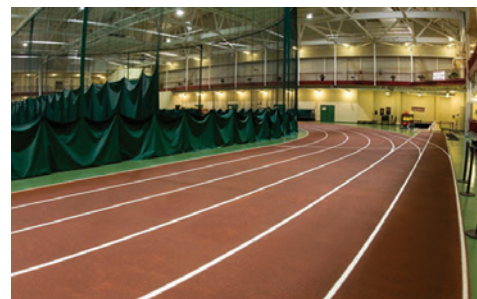
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Year-Round Sports Multiplex and New Arena Coming Soon



EVAN
BRAUN

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Friends of the Plex, a local committee of volunteers, has been hard at work for the past year developing plans for a year-round indoor sports multiplex and new arena to be built in the Town of Niverville. Working alongside Town Council, they are currently in the fundraising stages.

These multiplex and new arena facilities are to be constructed alongside the existing Niverville Centennial Arena.

The new 33,000-square-foot arena sits at the center of the proposed plan, with an ice surface measuring 85 by 200 feet and accompanying dressing rooms equipped with washrooms and showers.

The adjacent multiplex will contain 36,000 square feet of floor space and feature a running track as well as space that can be easily converted into a 15,000-square-foot indoor soccer field, two basketball courts, four volleyball courts, and six badminton courts. Netting and curtains can be erected between sports activities. In addition to warm-up and training areas, the multiplex plan also calls for six dressing rooms.

A mezzanine level will provide casual seating for 250 spectators on the multiplex side, and 600 spectators on the arena side. The common area fronting the property will include an extensive multilevel children's playground feature.

"The side-by-side plan is the more cost-effective solution," says Kerry Church, spokesperson for Friends of

the Plex. He says a number of other potential site plans were considered. "This ties well into construction phasing and best leverages the existing arena."

The focal point of the building's exterior is undoubtedly the re-creation of Niverville's original grain elevator, which will serve as the main entrance. This heritage feature harkens back to 1879, when William Hespeler put Niverville on the map by constructing Western Canada's very first grain elevator. The round structure was a one of a kind.

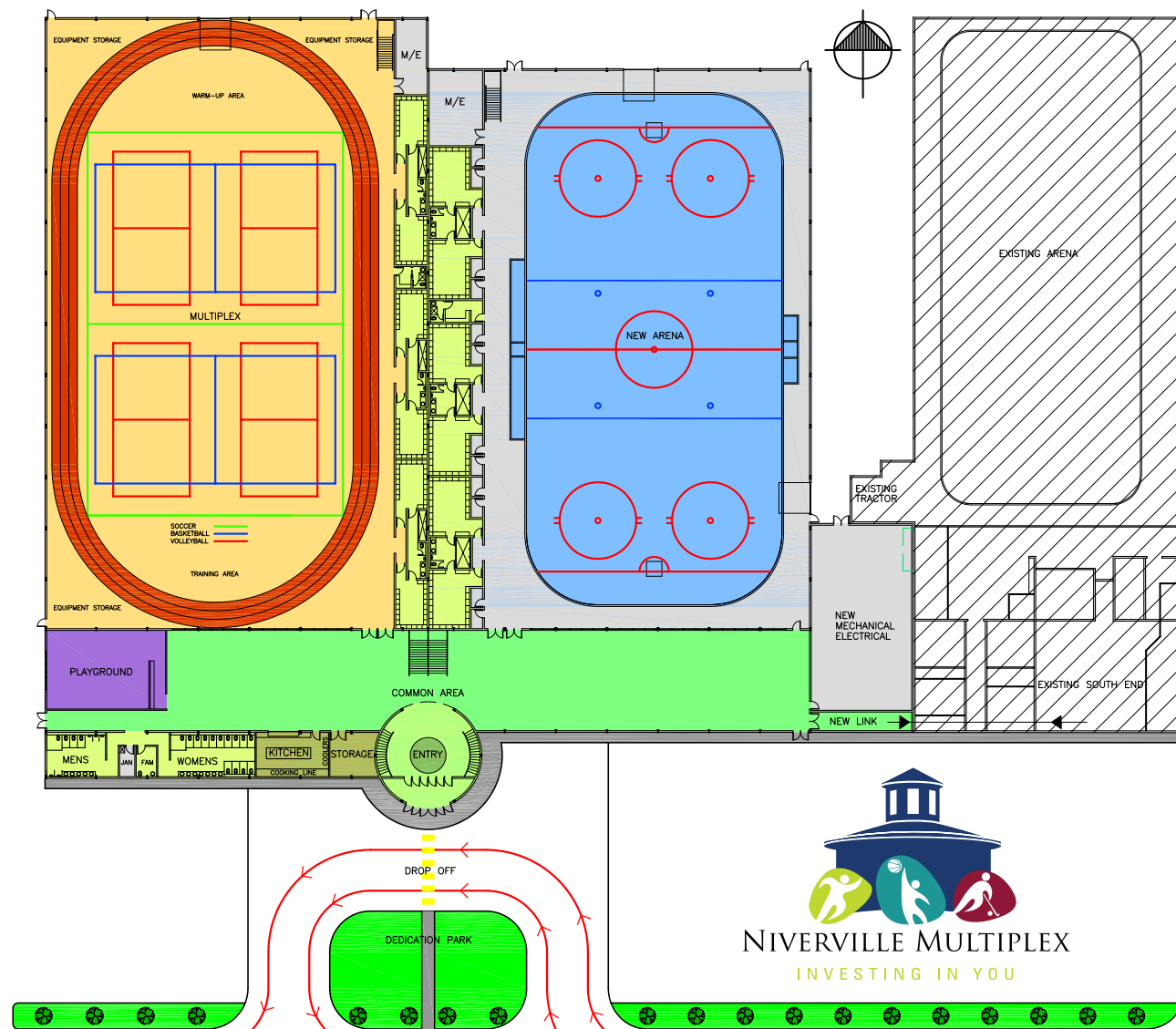
"We have a very creative committee," says Church. "We thought, 'What are the things we can do to generate a broad range of support? What is the symbol that is Niverville?' The grain elevator, historically, is something that is part of our roots."

The existing arena will remain operational throughout the construction process, with a link provided between it and the new common area. This link will allow for the continued use of existing office and meeting areas, maintenance areas, and dressing rooms.

In short, these new facilities are spacious, flexible, and ambitious. And of course, they won't come cheap.

The price tag is a cool \$16 million, excluding future plans to refurbish the old arena. The Town of Niverville has pledged the first \$5 million, seed money to get the ball rolling.

"The Town is pleased to be donating toward such a terrific project that truly meets the needs of our community," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "The donation will be drawn from the existing Recreation



Niverville multiplex and new arena conceptual floor plan.

Infrastructure Reserve Fund, which Council has been building for a few years, and from new monies that will need to be borrowed to top up the difference."

No new taxes are planned. Since the detailed plan was unveiled last September, the

Friends of the Plex have begun their fundraising efforts in earnest, reaching out to members of the community and other levels of government.

"We're going to have to be aggressive with fundraising," Church adds. He says it is important to move as quickly

as possible in order for the project to maintain strong momentum.

The group expects the fundraising will take at least 18 months.

Three volunteer information sessions have been held so far, with the most recent taking

place on Saturday, February 20. In total, the group would like to engage about 100 volunteers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.niverrivemultiplex.ca
■ email: friendsoftheplex@gmail.com

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Rendering of the proposed splash pad layout.

WATERPLAY SOLUTIONS CORP.

New Splash Pad Coming This Summer

By Evan Braun and Chantel Gadiant

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

This summer, Niverville is poised to pull back the curtain on its new community splash pad. The effort officially began with a ceremonial sod-turning event on September 16, 2015.

"We hope to have this facility built by July 1, 2016," says Chantel Gadiant, Niverville's Recreation Director. She adds that the deadline for the project, failing a summer opening, is October 2016.

The 3,500-square-foot splash pad will be located in Hespeler Park. The site, wedged between Soccer Pitch A and Baseball Diamond 4, is bordered on the north by a

shelter belt of trees, and the south side is sheltered by the maintenance building.

"We see construction and completion of the splash pad as a great way to jump into and lead off a new era of development for Niverville," says Mayor Myron Dyck.

The pad is designed to awaken the imagination, encourage outdoor play, and provide a comfortable and safe area for parents and caregivers to bring their children. The design is bright and colourful, and inclusive of all ages and abilities. It features two distinct areas: a toddler water play area for ages 0-3, and a family area for ages 3-12.

Features included in the toddler area are three water

hoops, a Spinny Squirt, and various in-ground jets and sprayers. The family area will include a whale (four hoops and a whale tail), a Sky-brella, two water cannons, a Mix n' Match 5 (with a Sneaky Soaker, Sunny Flower, and variety of spouts), and further in-ground jets and sprayers.

Last summer, the Town of Niverville received a \$56,405 grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for a building featuring male and female washrooms and change rooms, along with a canteen to provide healthy snacks. These features will be attached to the existing maintenance building.

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Heritage Life: Premier Retirement Living

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Heritage Life Retirement Living (HLRL) is a unique and affordable life lease retirement residence being constructed in the heart of the bustling Town of Niverville, just 20 minutes south of Winnipeg. Though retirement living projects are not new, HLRL boasts a philosophy and model that few others offer.

The philosophy: to provide an affordable financing structure aimed to assist in an easy, financially manageable transition. The model: to create a gathering place for the entire community that includes a full range of aging-in-place amenities.

This life lease residence, the crowning phase of the Niverville Heritage Centre campus, will sit on a nine-acre parcel of developed land. The campus

is a 15-year community dream and currently offers a full range of aging-in-place housing options, including an assisted living and supportive housing (Niverville Credit Union Manor) and the Heritage Life Personal Care Home.

The campus also includes a primary health care centre, a medical clinic with three full-time doctors, a childcare centre, a dental centre, and a hair salon. Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, a timber frame atrium and a banquet/event centre serve as community gathering places for all ages. Every aspect of this amazing campus is under one roof and is accessible to people of all mobility levels. The heart of the campus grounds are adorned with the volunteer-run Niverville Heritage Gardens, cultivated and enjoyed by young and old alike.

The project caters mainly

to senior adults (55-plus). It will provide individuals with smaller, more manageable housing options than a full-sized home. Residents will have a lifetime right to occupy a unit, with the assurance that their neighbours will be in the same age category.

HLRL offers six different suite designs ranging in size of 741 square feet to over 1,600 square feet, each with its own balcony and optional sunroom. Included in the cost, residents will have access to heated underground parking and a storage locker. The building will include a large common area for social gatherings, with on-site catering services available, a workshop for hobbyists, a craft and games area, lounges, and a fitness centre. Two hotel-style suites will be available to the residents and community at large. Optional services will include housekeeping, meal,

and laundry services.

Residents will also have convenient access to outdoor walkways and gardens, as well as adult day programs. Community businesses offer grocery and prescription delivery.

Two buy-in options are available. The guaranteed buyback option allows buyers to leverage their home equity against a suite with no need to later list or sell the property upon departure. The equity-based option allows for full upfront payment, so the owner can sell the suite and gain potential equity from it.

Anticipated occupancy is set for February 2017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.heritagecentre.ca/life-lease
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NIVERVILLE
HERITAGE CENTRE

Community Builders: From an Internment Camp to Community Leader

By Clare Braun

When we speak of those who were integral in Niverville from 1960 until today, there are few names that resonate as a community builder more than Fred Kaita.

Fred was born in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia. As a Japanese Canadian, he along with 22,000 others were targeted under the War Measures Act after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was the moment when the Allies declared war on Japan. After the attack, there was tremendous hostility towards Japan, and it was further directed to those Canadians of Japanese descent. These citizens were removed from their properties and many had their businesses and homes seized by the Government of Canada. The properties and businesses were sold and the money used to pay for their internment in camps.

Despite the injustice of this act and the emotional impact it had on the Japanese community, Fred made the decision to contribute to the country that had taken him from his home.

After being released from the camps, he came to Manitoba in 1948 and got involved in his life's great passion: gardening. He was involved in establishing one of the first commercial strawberry farms in Headingley, Manitoba. Fred was also the president and driving force behind the Niverville Horticultural Society.

As his next-door neighbour for the better part of 20 years, I was aware that if I didn't take care of the dandelions on my yard, Fred would get up early in the morning and take care of them himself. He was gracious, pleasant, and I wouldn't know that he had done anything until I noticed the weeds starting to wilt.

Fred was a kind, unassuming man. He was a leader, but not in the cultural norm that is so prevalent today. He was a leader because he had the heart to serve and he did it so well.

He was highly regarded. From the early 50s until his retirement, he was one of the



Fred Kaita.

TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

most respected men in the hatchery business. Not only was he President of Keystone Hatchery in Niverville, but he served as President of the Manitoba Hatchery Association, Director of the Canadian Hatchery Association, and a director of the Canadian Farm Bureau.

In his home community of Niverville, he served as a director of the Community Club, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Niverville Fair Committee. He served on Town Council, was President of the Golden Friendship Centre, and was also a charter member and officer for the Lions Club. In probably his most significant contribution, he was a key driving force of the history book entitled *Niverville: A History* (1879-1986).

In his early retirement years, Fred and his wife Edna moved from their home on Roselawn Bay to Steinbach. While living in that community, he involved himself in the gardening club and today there is a bursary named in his honour. It is

called the Fred Kaita Master Gardener Bursary Award.

Fred was a gentle and caring husband to Edna (who pre-deceased him), father to Percy, Perry, Cheryl, and Karen, and grandfather to eight grandchildren.

Fred is living out the last years of his life on the farm owned by his daughter Cheryl and son-in-law Scott Rempel. I had hoped to sit down with Fred and speak with him for this article, so I called Scott in late December to arrange a meeting time. I was told that it would not be possible due to his present health. I was saddened by that as I reflected on the incredibly rich life that Fred lived. He was my neighbour for all those years and yet I had never taken much time to know him.

As we go about our lives, may we all be more aware of our neighbours. May we take more time to engage with family and friends. May we honour those who surround our lives so that we all live with fewer regrets.



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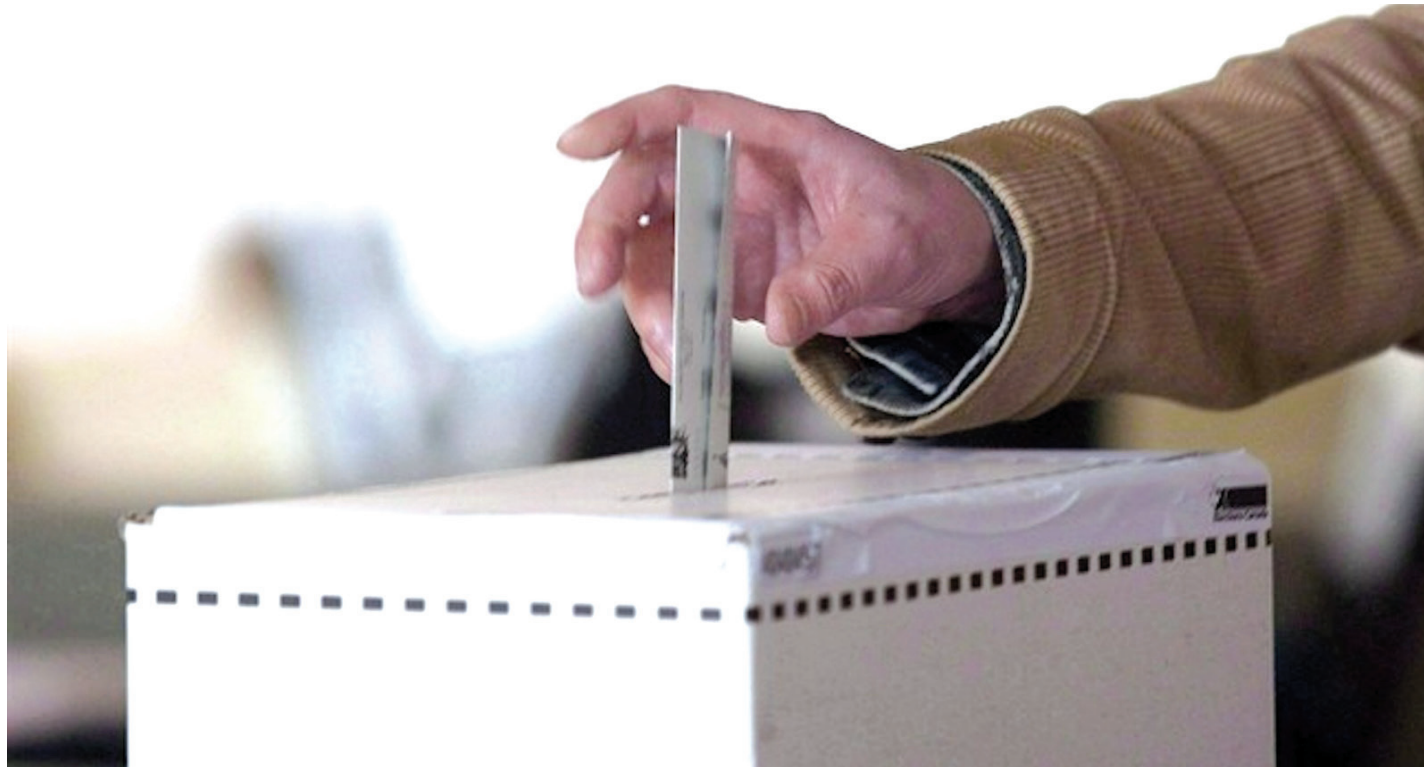
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"Where friends meet friends"

Commentary



The Winds of Change Are A-Blowing

By Greg Fehr

A force is awakening—not only in a galaxy far, far away, but in our own backyard. A new political consciousness has arrived with-in our youth and the First Nations, and this force has the potential to change the landscape.

This political awakening can be seen in the analysis of the last federal election. The unprecedented engagement by the youth vote played a significant role in the Liberal majority. The youth embraced the positive messaging and sent the message that stodgy old negative politics have no place in their world order. The electoral train that was headed on a straight track to American-style attack politics was abruptly derailed, or at minimum had the handbrake pulled. And like any derailment or hard stop, those who didn't grab a handrail fell down.

The First Nations people are awakening to political maturity—at an alarming rate. Yes,

alarming, not because it is bad (on the contrary) but rather because this scares the hell out of the old establishment. And if they aren't shaken up, they should be. Whenever you have a block of people of like mind or culture representing a growing percentage of the electorate, they have the potential to determine political outcomes. While the rest of the electorate remains divided along party lines and caught up in party rhetoric, our indigenous brothers and sisters are banding together. Yes, nothing creates unity and strength more than adversity. You can only leave a group underrepresented for so long before they take a pragmatic approach and begin to shift the world around them.

Enter the new face of candidates such as Wab Kinew in Fort Rouge. Transported to national fame through the CBC's Canada Reads program, this accomplished author, speaker, chief, and proud aboriginal will undoubtedly give the NDP

a strong edge in this constituency. I suspect both opponents, including the Liberal leader, are feeling the need to crank up their game. Interestingly, rather than capitalize on his race and run in a heavy First Nations area, he and the party executives have chosen a diverse and progressive urban area. Rather than have the focus on "what" he is, we can focus on "who" he is. Will he still bring the First Nations perspective to office if he wins? Absolutely, just as we all bring a piece of who we are to every endeavour. But the focus is on the man and his qualifications.

When we look back at Quebec in the 1950s and 60s, we saw a francophone population focused not on what they could accomplish as Quebecois but rather the injustices of the past. We are now seeing them realize their potential within a united Canada, partially due to their own internal perspective shift; focusing on the past tends to polarize the rest of the population.

As our non-mainstream candidates—such as the youth, First Nations, and those representing other minorities—shift the focus to their abilities and qualifications, they will be well positioned to win constituencies and bring their perspectives to office where they can champion positive change.

Yes, the winds are poised to shift. These changes will undoubtedly come with some upset, but ultimately they'll lead to more balanced decisions. It has always been the case that when diverse perspectives confront a challenge, the collective shaping produces better legislation. And while that legislation may not mesh perfectly with any single philosophy, it will for the most part be universally compatible. Let the winds of change blow, for while they may mess our hair, they also blow away the dust.

COMMENTARY

Look on the Bright Side: The Gift of Kindness

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Aesop is reported to have said, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." I love this quote because it doesn't matter whether the act is large or small, random or intended; all forms of kindness can have a profound effect on the health of the giver, receiver, and observer.

In fact, some researchers believe we are "hard-wired" for kindness.

Our bodies come equipped with a quartet of feel-good hormones: oxytocin, dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins. Incredibly, each of these is activated during an encounter with kindness. The vagus nerve, the longest cranial nerve in the body, literally warms up the heart when stimulated. This produces oxytocin, the "soothing" or "love" hormone. When released into the brain, it affects our emotional, cognitive, and social behaviours, contributing to relaxation, trust, and psychological stability.

Serotonin helps us to feel significant and important. Dopamine encourages positive attitudes and behaviour. Endorphins alleviate anxiety and depression, diminishing physical pain. Working together, they boost our physical and emotional wellbeing, strengthening our immune systems while decreasing disease and disorders.

Fascinated by this, I turned to my daughter-in-law Heather, who recently had an experience that left her with similar feelings.

"After briefly mentioning to my neighbour my need of a clothes iron," Heather told me, "I received a text from her saying that irons were on sale and could she pick one up for me? With four kids in tow, she still made me a priority! I was overwhelmed that she had paid such close attention to what I had shared and took the time to check out this item for me. This left me feeling thought of, important, and worthy of her time and effort. It may not have been a big deal to her, but it sure was to me!"

My friend Roseanne Friesen from Steinbach had a similar experience when she went out to eat with her family one evening.

"Neil and I had taken our family to a Winnipeg restaurant to celebrate our child's eighteenth birthday," Rosanne told me. "We were overwhelmed with emotion when told a fellow diner had paid our bill! We looked around to say thank you, but this person had left. I was moved to tears."

She goes on to say, "It was not a small bill. We all felt incredibly blessed. This has had a profound impact on our family!"

Kindness, although a human quality, rises above mere ego. With no need of payback, it instead kindles a desire within the recipient to "pay it forward." Kindness does, however, require an action to realize its potential. Actions can be as simple as smiling at a stranger, paying for someone's coffee, volunteering your time, donating blood, or helping a neighbour.

If experiencing the many benefits of kindness results in greater physical and mental wellbeing and a more positive outlook on life, may we all avail ourselves of this incredible gift.

The Hope of Easter

By Roger Armbruster

Death is the enemy of all humanity. Facing the common enemy of death is grounds for uniting all humans. The death rate is the same for the human race—one death for every birth.

Yet our emotions and desires tell us that there's something about death that just isn't right. Every person who has died up until now has been buried with potential that was not yet realized, gifts that were left dormant, and abilities that were yet undeveloped. Some intuitive sense tells us that it is just not right that the human longing for immortality should be forever suppressed and crushed.

The concept of "eternal return" says that the physical body has been recurring, and will continue to recur, in some form for an infinite number of cycles of death and rebirth across infinite time or space. This concept was founded in ancient Egypt and subsequently taken up by other mystical religions which do not see a supernatural power that can break the cycles of nature. In this view, time is viewed as being cyclical, not linear, or moving with direction toward a life which will never die.



The end of the Apostles' Creed proclaims, "I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." By this truth, we affirm the immortality to which redeemed humanity is destined, and the evidence for that faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ whose bodily resurrection is but the first fruits of a much greater harvest to come.

There is reasonable evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. It is hard to believe that those who claimed to see Him after finding

the tomb was empty were merely hallucinating; such encounters are experienced by more high-strung and imaginative types. But on one occasion, a crowd of 500 people with a wide variety of dispositions all claimed that they saw Christ.

Moreover, hallucinations are highly individualistic because their source is in the subconscious mind. No two persons will experience exactly the same phenomenon, but with the eyewitnesses of the resurrection, groups both

large and small experienced the same "hallucination" after their eyes were opened.

Finally, a great company exists throughout the world today called "the Church." It can be traced back in history to a beginning point in Jerusalem at about 30 A.D. To what did it owe its origin? Its earliest records clearly state that its origin dates from the empty tomb of its Founder.

"I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." By this truth, we affirm the dignity of the human person, and in particular of the immortality of the human body.

Jesus had no army, yet kings feared him. He won no military battles, yet He won the hearts of people in every nation on earth. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today in the hearts of millions.

Today, our blessed hope is that not only is death an enemy, but that it is a defeated enemy in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who broke the cycles of nature. It is also the last enemy of the human race. That is a prize, a goal well worth pressing toward.

CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Will John Falk joining the Liberals change how you vote in the upcoming provincial election?

(SEE STORY ON PAGE 4.)

- ☐ **YES** - It has definitely changed which party I will support with my vote.
- ☐ **NO** - I had made my mind up before the announcement was made.
- ☐ **MAYBE** - I want to hear more about what he plans to do before I decide.



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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Who should be responsible to pay the \$500,000 balance to bring town water to Main Street?

Those who get access to town water should pay the full amount.

20%

The town should split the tab with the impacted landowners.

25%

The town should pay the entire amount as part of their commitment to business development.

35%

The \$500,000 should be allocated to all residents and businesses, as we all benefit from Main Street development.

20%

Are you an amateur (or professional) journalist?

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

Contact Evan Braun at:
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Niverville, Manitoba
The Citizen

Sports & Recreation



Chantel Gadiant and Mackenzie Scharf snowshoeing in the Whiteshell.

by JEN GADIANT

The Art of Snowshoeing

By Chantel Gadiant

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

One of my New Year's resolutions is to try new activities, so once a month I get out and do something new, or at least an activity I haven't done since I was a child. With all the snow and colder temperatures, I am definitely in winter mode.

After 15 minutes of packing on layers of long-sleeve shirts, sweaters, long johns, and both scarves under my jacket and over my jacket, I'm finally ready to get out the door into the white haze of a Manitoba winter.

I have wanted to try snowshoeing, go downhill skiing (it's been over seven years), skate the River Trail at the Forks, and build a snow fort. Hopefully I will be able to do all these activities before the snow is gone!

It all begins with snowshoeing. When I mentioned to my best friend, Mackenzie, that I was going to write an article on snowshoeing, she was already on board before I asked if she wanted to join in on my adventure. Off we went to my parents' cabin in Whiteshell Provincial Park, snowshoes in hand.

Snowshoes are made for you to basically float on top of the snow. The wideness of snowshoe is meant to distribute your weight across the surface. Snowshoes helped hunters move faster and quickly over deep snow, to find new sources of food and make transportation easier in the fur trade businesses.

Making snowshoes was perfected by the indigenous peoples, and they were mostly carved out of birch or hard ash trees, then covered with stretched animal skin and rawhide. In today's world, we have

snowshoes made out of lightweight aluminum frames with steel cleats, but I'm sure you can find the large wooden snowshoes, too.

Back to my adventure. Mackenzie and I bundled up with layers upon layers of clothing, as we happened to go snowshoeing on two of the coldest days of winter. It was around -28 degrees, plus the wind chill, which was probably around -38 in the open areas.

We got outside and struggled to reach our feet to strap on the snowshoes from the layers of clothing, so we helped each other out by strapping each other's feet into the shoes. Then off we went.

We went down to the beautiful, snow-covered lake and started our trek. At first it was weird to walk with the wide snowshoes, but we quickly adapted and cruised along the shoreline. It was so easy to walk

on the snow, and soon enough we had been out there for 40 minutes. We came close to open water on the lake, then quickly turned around and headed back to shore. For those going out onto lakes for recreational activities, be aware of open water!

If you're looking for an easy outdoor recreational activity for the whole family, snowshoeing may be for you. It is tons of fun, easy, can make walking on snow that much easier, and affordable. I had a blast snowshoeing, and I will be doing it again any chance I get.

I hope everyone gets out and enjoys Manitoba's lovely winter months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.canadianicons.ca/snowshoe.php

EVENT GUIDE

Public Skating (last day is March 13)
Fridays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m.
Helmets are required. Niverville Arena, FREE.

Sticks & Pucks (last day is March 13)
Fridays, 5:00–5:45 p.m.
Sundays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
Helmets are required. Niverville Arena, FREE.

Bench League Hockey
Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 p.m.
Niverville Arena, \$8 drop-in fee.

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

Niverville Spring Sports Registration
Thursday, March 3, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
South End of Niverville Arena.

Île-des-Chênes/Lorette Soccer Registration
Wednesday, March 16, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Gabrielle Roy School, front lobby.

St. Adolphe Rec Soccer Registration
Tuesday, March 22, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 23, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Pioneer Hall, St. Adolphe.

Île-des-Chênes/Seine River Minor Baseball Registration
Online Registration at www.srmb.ca.

Emergency First Aid & CPR (Level C)
Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
South End of Arena, \$85.

Hunter Education Course
Saturday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
South End of Arena, \$55.

Zumba
Tuesdays, January 5–March 15
South End of Arena, 7:30 p.m.
\$10 drop-in fee.

Yoga (New Session)
Mondays, March 7–April 25
Curling Rink, 7:00 p.m. \$90.

TUFF-N-UP Bootcamp
Mondays/Wednesdays, February 15–March 23
South End of Arena, 6:30 p.m.
\$15 drop-in fee.

Spring Break Camps
Art, Gardening, Babysitting Course, Science, Home Alone
March 28–April 1
South End of Arena, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

For More Information:
■ www.niverrillerecreation.com

Send your event listing to:
■ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com



The gold medal finalists from the U12 team.

STU GINTER



The Red River Rage U14 team.

LISA ZEILSTRA



The gold medal finalists from the U10 team.

MELISSA NEUFELD

Red River Rage Teams Win Gold

By Michelle Friesen

This year's U14 Red River Rage ringette team pulls together players from many communities, including Ste. Agathe,

Aubigny, Niverville, Grunthal, St. Malo, Dominion City, and Arnaud. For some players, this is their first year. Others have been playing for seven years.

They have learned much

from each other. The thing they all have in common is a love for ringette, a sport that encourages team play.

The U14 team has become a formidable opponent to most

other teams in the league. They went 3-3-0 in the second half of the season, placed second in the Eastman playoffs, and look forward to playing in the Winnipeg Ringette League playoffs.

The Red River Rage organization would also like to send out a huge congratulations to the U12 team for their gold medal win over Lorette with a score of 11-4 in the Eastman

playoffs, and also to the U10 team for their gold medal win over Springfield with a score of 11-10.

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Ringette Season Draws to a Close

By Jeff Tutkaluk

Eastman Ringette Association

The annual Eastman Ringette League Championships were held February 11-15 in Ste. Agathe, Manitoba. The event showcased 18 teams with the participation of over 200 girls from Eastman community clubs including Beausejour, Grunthal, Lorette, Springfield, Steinbach,

and the Red River region. The play-off weekend determined the Eastman League champions in the U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19 divisions.

As well as determining league champions and provincial representatives at the U14 and older divisions, the annual playoffs provide the athletes with an opportunity to participate in a competitive environment, provide local officials

an opportunity to work championship-level games, and increase the visibility of the sport.

Congratulations to all participants in this year's event. The 2015-2016 Eastman League Champions are: U10—Red River Rage, U12—Red River Rage, U14—Steinbach Panthers, U16—Grunthal Red Wings, and U19—Lorette Royals.

Finally, thanks to all the

volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the playoffs such a success. Without your efforts, these events wouldn't be possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.eastmanringetteleague.com
- www.manitobaringette.ca

IN BRIEF

The Importance of Character in Sport

By Jason Hudson

Results on the scoreboard obviously determine the path of the team, but more importantly they determine the character of a child. How does the child handle defeat? Are they gracious, are they level-headed? The same questions could be asked for how they react to winning a game.

As coaches, we always look to build a better player and team on the ice, but we also strive to build character and a better individual off the ice. In a team environment, regardless of the sport, a person's character is displayed in a variety of ways. It could be the vocal leader who inspires the team, or the quiet individual who inspires others by her/his actions on the ice. It also could be that teammate who checks in with a friend when they are not quite themselves. It could also be that child who never, ever quits, both in games and practice.

As coaches, these are all teachable moments. Though it may not seem important in the big picture, to the child who is inspired, it can be a huge moment. It could be the moment when they find their individual leadership style, or their character. For coaches, that is the single best moment we can witness.

The moral of the story is that while coaches may not be perfect, they most certainly have the best interest of your child in mind. They want nothing more than your child to succeed—not only in sport, but in life. Every child has character; it is just a matter of when their true character will show.

The next time you see your child's coach, regardless of the sport, take a moment to thank them for inspiring your child. For me, the coach who inspired me most was Warren Wallin, and to this day I am thankful for the lessons on and off the field that he provided me.



The NHL Draft

ADOBE STOCK

The Consolation of the Draft



thiebert@nivervillecitizen.com

Things are looking bleak for the Jets as we head into the home stretch of the season. It's been a disappointing season, but there is always hope... hope that next year will be better. With the playoffs out of the picture, it's time to start thinking about their draft position and the possibilities of selecting a top young talent.

With every loss, the Jets increase their chances of getting a top three pick in the 2016 NHL Entry Draft. For the first time ever, each non-playoff team will have a chance to secure the first, second, or third pick. In past years, only the first pick was up for grabs during

the draft lottery. Each team will have different odds of winning a top spot. The team with the worst record will have a 20 percent chance of winning the draft while the best non-playoff team will have only a one percent chance. The team with the worst record will finish with a pick no worse than fourth overall.

Getting a top three pick in this year's draft could be a huge boost to the Jets as they try to reconfigure a roster that made the playoffs last year. At the time of this writing, they have the third worst record in the league, giving them an 11.5 percent chance of winning the lottery.

There is no Connor McDavid in this year's draft, but the top prospects are very talented. In fact, two of the top prospects have an interesting connection to the original Winnipeg Jets that left us so

long ago. The number one ranked prospect, Auston Matthews, in a dynamic forward who is originally from Arizona. Here's a kid who may only be interested in hockey because our old Jets moved into his neck of the woods. Imagine the irony of the Jets 2.0 franchise player coming from Arizona. Another top prospect with ties to Winnipeg is a kid by the name of Matthew Tkachuk. Yep, the son of former Jets 1.0 star Keith Tkachuk. It would be surreal to see another Tkachuk put on a Winnipeg Jets jersey.

Winnipeg currently has seven picks in the upcoming seven-round draft. They traded away their third round pick in a trade deadline deal last year to acquire Jiri Tlustý from Carolina. They do have two first round picks, though, since they acquired Chicago's pick in the

recent Andrew Ladd trade. That pick will most likely be a late-round pick, but it's never a bad thing to stockpile early round picks. With Dustin Byfuglien recently resigned to a five-year extension, Ladd was the most desired Jets player among playoff contenders.

As tough as it is to watch your favourite team lose on a regular basis, it might be the best way to turn things around relatively quickly. Adding a player like Auston Matthews could make a huge difference.

And who knows? If Andrew Ladd likes Winnipeg as much as he says, maybe he'll sign back with Winnipeg in the offseason. Stranger things have happened. (I certainly wouldn't bet on it, though.)

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Skiing, Me?

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This past month, I went downhill skiing. Did I ever have a blast! I felt like a kid again, with the freedom of flying down a snow-covered hill—except with the added confidence of not falling down.

A small group of friends packed up on a beautiful morning and headed out to the hills at Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes in the Whiteshell. We waited in line for twenty minutes to get our lift ticket and ski rentals, then off we went. I packed on layers of clothing in the lobby, stepped into my clunky ski boots and helmet, and headed outside. After 15 minutes, I was sweating. I had overdressed by a lot, but I was too excited to go back inside and take off some layers.

We started off going down the bunny hills, nice and steady, and trying not to run over all the beginner skiers out there. The most interesting part was learning how to use the T-bar to get up the hill. It was literally a metal bar with a two-by-two piece of wood; you weren't supposed to sit on it, but rather let it push you up the hill. Thankfully, I caught on quick and never fell off. There were a handful of people who didn't catch on, and fell off halfway up.

We had the option to use the rope to get up the hill, too, but I used it once and ripped my gloves. After that, I decided to stick to the T-bar.

Whenever I got to the top of the



Chantel and friends on the slopes at Falcon Lake.

CHANTAL PLETT

hill, I could ski down either side of the hill, left or right, which then split into three or four routes to the bottom. At first we all went together as a group, following each other like a conga line.

After about two hours, everyone went inside except me. I was having

way too much fun by myself. I got up the hill, then down, up the hill and down again in a matter of minutes. I did four and half hours of skiing that day and had so much fun that I begged the ski operators to let me go up one more time before they shut down the hill for the evening.

Get outside and have fun in Manitoba's winter wonderland. There is more to do outside in the snow than you might think. Be active, have fun, and always be open to try something new.

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THE MONTH**



Keegan Beer

Keegan Beer is a Grade 10 student at NCI. He enjoys baseball, basketball, and playing the drums. He is currently on the JV basketball team and says that he enjoys the competitiveness of the sport, hanging out with his teammates, and of course scoring lots of baskets. Keegan was also chosen as Athlete of the Week by the MHSAA (Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association) for the week of February 2, 2016.

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Spring Registration Night in Niverville

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes all sorts of fun. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 3. Spring Registration Night takes place from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the south end of the Niverville Arena. Come on by and register for all your favourite activities.

Niverville has several wonderful children's sports programs run exclusively by volunteers, including Youth Baseball, Youth Soccer, and Youth Rugby. And this year we have a new program, run by Old Drovers Run: Junior Golfing.

Niverville's Youth Baseball team, the Wildcats, has a program for almost every age. Starting at age four,

athletes learn the basic skills of throwing, catching, hitting, and running. By the time they reach Pee Wee at age 15, they're highly involved in the game and travelling to other communities.

The Niverville Knights, the Youth Soccer club, starts at age five and runs to age eight with the mini soccer program. Athletes from nine to 17 can join the Eastman Youth Soccer League, which plays teams from the surrounding communities.

Junior Golfing will take place at the Old Drovers Run golf course. The Junior Future Link Program will be taught by award-winning golf instructors. More details are to come at Spring Registration Night.

Niverville Recreation also has some springtime fun lined

up for spring break, including art camp, science camp, gardening camp, a babysitting course, and the Home Alone program. New this spring is a ten-week gymnastics program for ages four to seven.

Let's not forget about the adults, though. The adult slo-pitch league is in its third year, and it's strictly recreational. It started with eight teams in its first year, but this year that has risen to as many as 16. You can register as a team or individual player.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.niverrillerecreation.com

Comets Locked in Semifinal Battle

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

After four games, the Lorette/Île-des-Chênes Comets and Red River Mudbugs are tied two games apiece in the Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League semifinals. The Comets finished the regular season in second place, just behind the Steinbach Huskies. The Comets won eight out of their last ten games.

The Mudbugs, who defeated the Mitchell Mohawks three games to zero to make the semifinals, took the

first game with a 4–3 final. In the second game, on February 22, the Comets fought hard, winning 4–3 in overtime.

The Mudbugs roared back in game three, winning 3–1. The Comets swept the fourth game with a 4–0 shutout.

The next two games take place on March 1 in Île-des-Chênes and March 4 in St. Jean.

Coach Pelletier says their goaltenders have been superb in the past ten games. "Especially Travis Bonnefoy," he says, "who amassed a 7–3–0–1 record with a 2.25 goal against and .925 save percentage, which

earned him the Goaltender of the Year award."

The Comets' leading goal-scorer for the season was TJ Romanishen. "[He] put up 11 goals and ten assists for 21 points in only 12 games," Pelletier says.

Fourth place Springfield Extreme and fifth place Grunthal Red Wings are fighting it out in their own best-of-five series to determine who will play the Steinbach Huskies in the semifinals.

The championship final will be a best-of-seven series.



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NCI Succeeds on the Basketball Court

By Judith Hinton

The basketball season is well underway at NCI. The serving, volleying, bumping, and spiking of the volleyball court have been traded in for the passing, shooting, layups, and foul shots of the basketball court.

This year, NCI boasts a total of nine teams (up from eight last year, and seven the year before) ranging from Grade 7's

and 8's to Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity. For the first time in five years, there is a Varsity Girls team. A total of 97 students are playing this year.

As of February 15, one JV Boys team and the Varsity Boys are ranked first and second respectively in the province and are expected to go on to represent the district at Provincials, to be held in mid-March.

The Grade 7 and 8 teams

have had some good success this season as well. The talent on these teams bodes well for the future of the basketball program at NCI.

The Grade 5 and 6 students also have an opportunity to try out the sport in the sports clubs held twice a week (once for the girls and once for the boys). During these sessions, the students are able to practice their skills and play developmental

games that give them a taste for the sport.

Of course, there would be no program without the players. They go onto the court and give it their all each and every time. They come to the gym in the morning, at breaks, and after school to sneak in a few more baskets and participate in intramural games. They look at available slots and ask their coaches to schedule another

practice and give up their evenings, and some weekends. They represent NCI well as good citizens.

I would be remiss not to recognize and thank the coaches of all these teams. Many community and staff members give of their time and talent to give to the NCI community. We would not see such great success without them.

One final note of thanks

goes out to the Niverville Elementary School. Because they allow the NCI sports programs to use their gym space, all the after-school practices can run without anyone having to stay up until midnight.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nci.hsd.ca

Gearing Up for Rugby Season

By Chantel Gadiant

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is full of sports and recreation activities for children and youth. But did you know there is also a rugby program for those three to 15 years old?

Rugby is a team sport played with an oval ball that can be kicked, carried, and passed from hand to hand. The object is to score points by carrying or kicking the ball behind the opponents' goal line. Basically, it's a mashup of soccer and football.

The Niverville Rugby Football Club was formed in the spring of 2011. According to organizer Chris Chapman, it was the first of its kind in Manitoba. The club has since become one of three nationally

sponsored Rookie Rugby programs in the province. This program is supported by Rugby Manitoba's youth development officers, many volunteers from the rugby community, and of course the wonderful parent volunteers.

There are three levels available.

Mini-Rugby is for ages three to six. At this level, practices run for 40 minutes and focus on motor skills, learning to run, and passing and kicking a rugby ball. These players don't play any actual game. They learn the fundamentals first.

At the Flag Rugby level, for ages seven to 15, athletes improve their running, passing, kicking, and running skills, along with catching and defensive flag removal. Players both practice and play games,

and also participate in annual tournaments.

Tackle Rugby is for ages ten to 15. These athletes continue to improve their skills, along with learning the skills of tackling. Contact and non-contact games are played, and there are annual tournaments. Players registered in the Tackle Rugby program also get to play in Flag Rugby free of charge.

You can register your child for rugby at Niverville Recreation's spring registration night on Thursday, March 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the south end of the Niverville Arena.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivillerecreation.com

■ www.rugbymanitoba.com



Mini-Rugby at Hespeler Park.

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Arts & Entertainment

Federal Lights Album an Homage to Manitobans

REVIEW | FEDERAL LIGHTS-COEUR DE LION



Federal Lights from left: Jason Pankratz, Jodi Roy, Jean Guy Roy, Rob Mitchell, David Pankratz.

MIKE LATCHISLAW

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

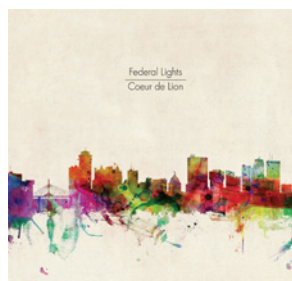
Federal Lights, the Winnipeg-based pop rock group with Niverville roots, has spent the last few years touring extensively throughout Canada and Europe.

In 2013, the band signed with Aporia Records in Toronto and released their critically acclaimed album *We Were Found in the Fog*. Three previous performances at the famous Reeperbahn Festival in Hamburg, Germany led to a successful 12-date European tour in 2014, with a 2015 return to the Reeperbahn for a sold-out performance. This last year found the band back in the studio recording their latest project, the newly released *Coeur de Lion* (Lionheart).

"The name really is an homage

to the people of Manitoba," explains front man Jean Guy Roy. "You have to have strength to live here, to endure the weather, the remote location, and the solitude. Things that the rest of the country doesn't always understand."

This new 12-track compilation begins with a short yet artfully composed instrumental piece that sets the stage for further listening pleasure. The more upbeat "Into the Ground," the album's first single release, along with "This Town" and the equally heartfelt "You and I" are solid well-delivered tunes



worthy of being added to anyone's personal playlist.

"The songs are about finding beauty and profundity in the mundane, everyday moments," says Roy. Tracks "Amelia,"

"Dark of the Night," and "Then Came the Light" carry weight by exploring the more profound, sometimes darker and poignant emotions associated with love.

The deep richness of Roy's vocals perfectly resonate with the melodic, graceful voice of his wife, Jodi, who takes the lead on title track "Coeur de Lion." Further accompaniment by Robert

Mitchell, David Pankratz, and Jason Pankratz seamlessly ties together the band's signature sound.

With the release of *Coeur de Lion*, 2016 has already seen Federal Lights back on the road, touring across Canada with plans to return to Germany and the UK. They bring their show home to Winnipeg fans on March 10 at The Good Will Social Club, 625 Portage Avenue. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Ticketfly.

Coeur de Lion is available on iTunes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.federalights.org
www.facebook.com/federalights

EVENT GUIDE

Old Time Country Band

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 7:00 p.m.
Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$1.00

Story Hour

March 3, 10, 17, 24 | 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Games Day

March 5 | 12:00–5:00 p.m.
March 16 | 6:00–8:30 p.m.
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Watoto Children's Choir (Oh What Love Tour)

March 5 | 6:00 p.m.
Bothwell Christian Fellowship Church, New Bothwell. Free.

Big Dave McLean

March 5 | 7:30 p.m.
Granite House Lounge-Curling Club, Steinbach. Free.

Old Time Dance

March 12 | 7:30 p.m.
St. Adolphe Community Centre, St. Adolphe.

Painting On The Prairies (Fall Splendor)

March 15 | 7:00 p.m. (18+)
Capo di Grande, Ile-des-Chênes. \$45.

Bethesda Health Care Auxiliary Book Fair

March 16–19 | 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Clearspring Centre, Steinbach.

Country Classic Night

March 18 | 7:30 p.m.
PW Enns Concert Hall, Winkler. \$15.

Painting On The Prairies (Turtle Tale)

March 21 | 2:00 p.m. (6+)
Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Altona.

The Fretless All-Ages Concert

March 22 | 9:30 a.m.
Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$6.

Painting On The Prairies (Nesting)

March 22 | 7:00 p.m. (12+)
Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

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Niverville
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Clinic Update

Niverville Medical Clinic is sad to announce that Dr. Kiani will be leaving her practice to start work in St. Pierre, effective March 9. Her start date in St. Pierre is towards the end of April.

However, we are very pleased to announce that Dr. Antonious will be joining our group on April 4. He will be happy to assume the care of any patients of Dr. Kiani who may wish it, as well as take on new patients. He will work full-time at our clinic and have admitting privileges at St. Pierre. Living in Niverville, he will also provide care to the Heritage Life Personal Care Home.

Former patients of Dr. Kiani will have three options:

- They can remain patients of the clinic and be seen by Dr. Antonious (or our new nurse practitioner, scheduled to start in spring).
- They can move their file to St. Pierre and continue to be seen there by Dr. Kiani.
- They can request that their chart be transferred to another clinic (at the expense of the patient).

Our remaining clinicians will be happy care for Dr. Kiani's patients until Dr. Antonious begins in April.

We are excited by the future of primary care in our community. We will have five clinicians working in the center by this summer, and then we'll be moving to our new location in the spring of 2017. With more clinicians and a new building, we'll be looking at extending our hours.

The coming together of the various services offered by both the Regional Health Authority and the Niverville Medical Clinic, in a new facility built specifically for this purpose, will benefit our community tremendously. We thank you for your support.

Reminder: We currently allow for three drop-in appointments per day, starting at 8:30 a.m. Each of our clinicians are also available for same-day appointments, which can be accessed after 9:00 a.m. on the day of the appointment. From April onward, Dr. Antonious will be serving drop-in appointments for anyone in our area, with extended hours from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.



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Film premiere at the Keystone Cinema in Steinbach.

JON GOINGS

That Mennonite Joke Premieres in Manitoba

By Matt Falk

✉ mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

On February 6, 2014, only three months after my wife and I moved back home to Niverville from our two-year stay in Ontario, I got an email from a filmmaker in Winnipeg named Orlando Braun. The subject line of the email read “Menno Documentary Inquiry.”

The next day, we were having coffee—not yarba—at a café near the Exchange District. It was in this meeting with Orlando that I heard the five strangest words I’d ever heard: “Mennonites are hot right now.” He was quoting a colleague of his and trying to stress that this was the perfect time to make a film, *That Mennonite Joke*.

Let me say that this is not the

first time someone has googled “Mennonite comedian” and sent me an email. A couple of years prior, my wife and I were contacted by a major television production company in the States. They wanted to see what would happen if they put us on an old order Mennonite colony and filmed it as a reality series. The show never got off the ground due to some creative differences between the producers.

So when Orlando pitched me the idea of a documentary about Mennonite humour, I was excited, despite the fact that it could turn out to be the shortest documentary ever made.

For the next year and a half, director Orlando Braun and producer Jorge Requena followed me around. We went to

comedy clubs, bookstores, theatres, and private homes. We talked to prominent authors, performers, curators, and professors who were fascinated by and immersed in Mennonite culture.

It was in this meeting with Orlando that I heard the five strangest words I’d ever heard: “Mennonites are hot right now.”

Here’s something I didn’t expect: the interviews I did actually started to influence my stand-up comedy. As a result, whole new sections of my act got developed. All of that was captured on film.

One of the highlights of this project for me was talking

with award-winning author Miriam Toews. She’s made Mennonites mainstream with her candid and humorous prose. We talked about how comedy and tragedy are very closely related—and exploiting

the apparent juxtaposition can actually help to create a heightened sense of comedy.

The movie debuted on February 6, 2016, exactly two years to the day that Orlando sent me that initial email. The premiere was held at the Keystone Cinema in Steinbach. It marks the

first-ever world premiere of a film in that city.

The event was sold-out and there was standing-room only for the last handful of guests. Many were turned away at the door. I have a feeling that the promises of “free admission” and “free fasha” had something to do with that. Do we know our demographic or what?

It was a thrilling experience, sitting in a movie theatre and watching myself on the big screen. I can honestly say that I was only nervous for a few moments. As soon as I heard the audience laughing, I felt comfortable.

Next, the movie went on to the Winnipeg Real to Reel Film Festival, with two more sold-out screenings. Our little picture even took home the award for Best Short Documentary.

Then it was on to another prominent festival in Winnipeg, the Shärt International Comedy Film Fest.

The goal is to tour the movie across North America, and possibly even turn it into a full-length feature.

I’m exceptionally pleased with the movie. My hope is that it makes people more aware—and with any luck, more proud of their heritage. Delving into my roots certainly did that for me, while giving me a ton of new material.

You can watch *That Mennonite Joke* anytime for free on MTS Video On Demand, and it’ll be on Bravo next year. Or watch for it at a screening or film festival near you.

From Carpenter to Photographer

By Matt Falk

mfalk@nivervillecitizen.com

30-year-old Kaeleb Visram only began taking pictures a year ago, but in that short time something remarkable has happened. He's gone from working full-time at his own successful carpentry business to becoming a professional photographer.

Last year, Visram borrowed his sister's camera in hopes of taking pictures of one of his jobsites. The goal was to take a few simple shots and upload those images to his website.

"This was the first time I ever used a decent camera," says Visram. He found the process inspiring. "That sparked something in me."

Soon after, he went on a family vacation to Mexico. He brought along a small point-and-shoot camera to take vacation photos, but the spark that had been ignited on the jobsite was growing into a fire.

"I was up every night until one or two in the morning, online, learning about photography," says Visram.

This unexpected new hobby was taking on a life of its own. When he got back from vacation, his appetite



Kaeleb Visram.

JOSHUA SPEERS

for photography continued to grow. When he found out that a friend was selling an old camera—a six-megapixel Nikon D40—Visram decided to buy it.

In the beginning, Visram was really into street photography, a genre that focuses on pictures of everyday people living everyday lives. "I love

people, so I thought it was cool to find beauty and art just in everyday life, in the mundane," says Visram. "There was something about that I liked."

Glancing at Visram's repertoire online, you'll notice that his photos range from deep, dark, and soulful to vivid and hopeful. This wide range of style shifts for Visram on an almost

daily basis. "I think, partially, who you are at the time will show through your photography. I'd expect that my style will probably change as I grow as a person."

Visram works with a new multimedia company in Niverville called Glass Floor Media. Originally he was brought on for his business and

administrative skills. After successfully creating and running a business of his own, he held expertise that is invaluable to a young creative company.

But lately, Visram has been taking more of an artistic role. "My whole life, I had that desire to be artistic," he says, "but I was too scared to show that to the world because I was afraid of what they would think of it."

Now Visram can be seen taking pictures for companies, ministries, and individuals. He's photographed weddings, family portraits, and big live events.

"I let myself experience something I was too scared to step into," says Visram. "I discovered a whole other side of myself. It actually changed the course of my life."

Visram attributes his success and happiness as an artist to his motivations. "I wanted to be artistic because that's the way God created me, not because of what people will think of what I create."

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WEB: www.dandmrentals.com

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DROP OFF COMPLETED ENTRIES TO:



HOURS OF OPERATION:
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 9am - 4:30pm
WEDNESDAY: 9am - 7pm
SATURDAY: 9am - 12pm

Located at 62 Main Street, Niverville

Colouring Contest

Name _____

Age _____

Contact phone number _____

EVERY SUBMISSION WILL RECEIVE A GIFT!

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



Last Month's Winner
Cheyenne Scott
Age: 8



© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

- Across**
- 4. Spanish shout of triumph
 - 9. Fathers
 - 12. Republic in E Africa
 - 14. Act of despoliation
 - 15. Girl's name
 - 16. It will
 - 17. English public school
 - 18. Incorrectly
 - 20. Preamble
 - 21. Enduring
 - 25. Flatten on impact
 - 27. Niggle
 - 31. Vomit
 - 33. Through
 - 34. Delicatessen
 - 35. Money
 - 36. Heavy
 - 37. Merciful
 - 38. Valued mineral

- Down**
- 1. Raise
 - 2. First of fourth month
 - 3. Tree
 - 5. Plucked instrument
 - 6. Swellhead
 - 7. Unplanned
 - 8. Characteristic language of a particular group
 - 10. Hits lightly
 - 11. Exchange for money
 - 13. Soon
 - 19. Long
 - 22. Hinged table leg
 - 23. Convenient for use
 - 24. Moved over ice
 - 26. Copied
 - 28. Irritate
 - 29. Old yous
 - 30. Prissy
 - 32. Fermented grape juice

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

BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED AD TODAY! Email: info@nivervillecitizen.com

JOB POSTINGS

OPEN CASTING CALL

Niverville Heritage Micro Documentary

ROLE DESCRIPTION:

Interview subjects and facilitate conversation
Read scripted narration
Act out simple creative scenes (non-dialogue)

APPLICANT MUST BE:

18 - 40 years of age
Resident of Niverville
Well spoken, professional, and confident leading conversation
Able and willing to take direction

AVAILABILITY

March 16th - April 29th
On call / Flexible schedule
Days, evenings, and weekends
20-40 hours

Monetary compensation for time spent will be decided at hiring. It is beneficial for the applicants family to make a brief appearance in the film.

If you have an interest in learning about the heritage of Niverville, and contributing to this project, please contact us for more information.



info@glassfloormedia.ca

SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE



295 Main Street - Niverville

295 Main Street - 9100+ Sq Ft office / professional building on a beautiful treed lot offers great visibility on main traffic route, lot 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Towards An Understanding of Our Shared History with Canada's Indigenous Peoples

MUSIC & TESTIMONY BY NIVERVILLE'S OWN
RISE ABOVE BAND AND COMPANY
SERVING WITH RISING ABOVE AND MY PEOPLE IN MINISTRY TO FIRST NATIONS



Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 pm

Niverville United Church

55 1st Street North

For Information Phone:

Rising Above: 204.388.5408 or United Church 204.388.4634

"Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

Complete Accounting Solutions Inc. in Niverville has an immediate opening for a temporary full-time administrative position, with potential to become permanent. The position will include reception, administrative duties, and light bookkeeping. We require a reliable person with excellent interpersonal skills. A knowledge of QuickBooks would be an asset. Please email your resume along with your salary expectations to jamesf@jrfca.com or fax it to (204) 388-4358.



Hemp Oil Canada, Inc. is currently seeking two full-time employees:

- Packaging Assistant
- Production Assistant

Please email your resume to hr@hempoilcan.com to apply.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



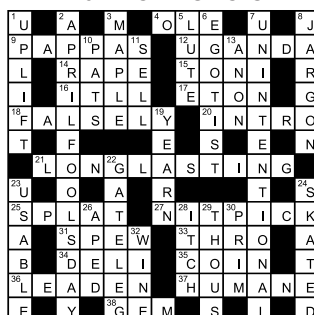
Free Community Movie Night

"Inside Out"

March 30 at 6:30pm

Fourth Ave Bible Church

This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers



We're Hiring

Prior construction experience a plus but willing to train the right person.

Resume can be e-mailed to:
jobs@inexplastering.com

Regular Mail or Drop off in person to:
IN-EX Plastering & Stucco
Box 1168 - 349 Bronstone Drive
Niverville, MB
R0A 1E0

BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to Niverville's solo cup side-sipper RENE ABGRALL!
Luv your Family & Friends



Happy 8th Birthday to our energetic & fun-loving Max!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-school Registration

The Niverville Co-Op Preschool will be holding Registration for the 2016-2017 school year on TUESDAY, APRIL 12th from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Registration will be held in our Preschool class room at the south-end of the Niverville Elementary School. Use the south-entrance door by the construction site.

Our preschool program runs Monday - Thursday, morning or afternoon. Our morning program is from 9:00am - 11:30am. And our afternoon program runs from 1:00pm - 3:20pm. Sign-up sheets will be available, please come with a few days in mind as spaces fill up quickly and are on a first come, first serve basis.

You may choose 1 session (1 day) a week, or 2 sessions (2 days) a week.

\$20 a month for 1 session a week
\$40 a month for 2 sessions a week

Please bring a post-dated cheque with you.

Made out to: NCP

Date: June 20, 2016

Memo: Clearly write your child's full name in the memo

More info to come at Registration night.

Should you have any questions please email Irene Falk at ncpreschool@gmail.com

We are looking for a dynamic, licensed hairstylist (with clientele) to add to our team.

The successful candidate must be willing to work evenings & weekends.

Check out the salon at www.donehairstylistandnails.com

Interested stylists please email us with any questions to donehairstylistandnails@shaw.ca and ask for Karen

done hair, skin & nails

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair has several volunteer positions that need to be filled on our committee, including:

- Main Stage Coordinator assistant(s)
- Children's Entertainment Coordinator assistant(s)
- In-house Photographer/Videographer
- Pursue and complete detailed grant applications

Even if none of these positions sound like they would work for you, we openly welcome any fresh minds with new ideas and will find a fit for you somewhere utilizing your specific skill set.

Contact info@nivervillefair.com for more details.



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 friendsoftheplex@gmail.com or visit www.nivervillemultiplex.ca for more information.

Together, we can.





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