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LOCAL NEWS

Daycare Spots in Jeopardy

■ Growing Minds daycare is critically short on space, in search of fall solution.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Richert kicks off 2016 racing season

■ Local race car driver David Richert gets his season off the ground in Spain.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gord Bamford Takes the Fair Mainstage

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PETS

Innovative Dog Park on the Way

■ This month, we shine a spotlight on some important stories impacting local pet owners.

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French Children's Show Shooting in Niverville

» PAGE 25

The cast of Canot Cocasse. Top: Marie-Anne Beaudette-Dallaire, André Vignon-Tessier. Bottom: Josée Kornelson, Carmen Clément, Téa Pelletier-Lavack, and Charles Clément.

by STEVEN K JOHNSON

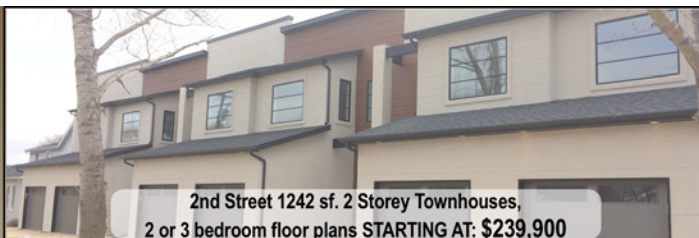
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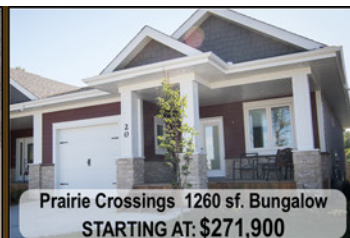
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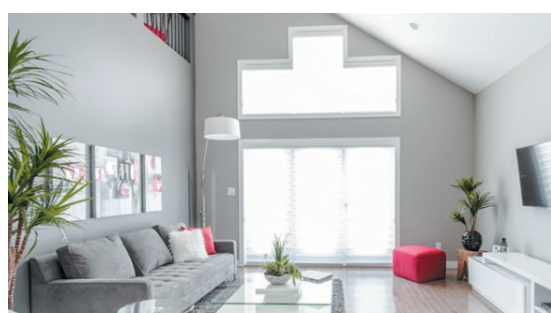
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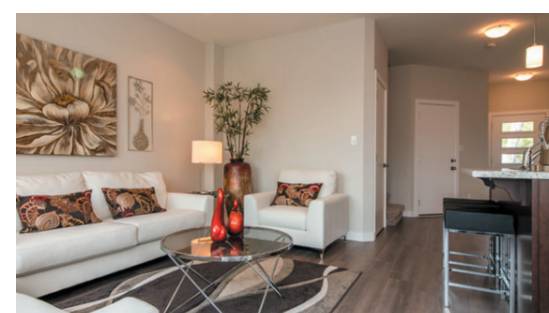
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Coffee House Looks to Expand Franchise

The owner of a popular Île-des-Chênes coffee house has designs on opening a Niverville location.

By Eric Peterson

Chris Ewan, owner and operator of Capo Di Grande, says he's been looking for an opportunity to break into the Niverville market.

"We're trying to figure something out. We want to be in Niverville by early spring or late spring next year."

A Niverville location would be the third for Capo Di Grande. They started with a seasonal coffee shop inside their family-owned hotel in Grand Marais near Grand Beach. Then came the successful Île-des-Chênes coffee shop and eatery a little over a year and a half ago. Ewan says that venture has worked out great,

even though they hadn't really been looking at the town as a potential home for a new shop.

"My father drove by one day," explains Ewan. "He just called me up and we fell in love with it and we've been here ever since."

Ewan says Île-des-Chênes has proven to be the perfect spot for the kind of coffee experience his business offers. "The support in this community is immense. I have nothing but good things to say about Île-des-Chênes. I've never seen a place as supporting and really into quality coffee."

While Capo Di Grande might be best known as a coffee house, they take a lot of pride in serving up a diversity of food

and drink options. They're a popular breakfast spot and keep a steady pace right until the night-time snackers are satisfied. Plus, they're one of the few coffee houses that are licensed.

In addition to food and drink, Ewan and company have worked to make Capo Di Grande a bit of an event centre. They host paint parties, game nights, live music events, and even have an annual street hockey tournament in their parking lot.

As for what a Niverville location might look like, Ewan says he's keeping an open mind. They have looked at an existing business but are certainly ready to go into a new space as

well. They had even considered a pop-up shop but found the red tape too restrictive.

For now, Ewan and company are just happy to be doing what they do best in Île-des-Chênes.

"People love good coffee," he says. "And they love locally roasted coffee."

Ewan also wants people to know that the busier they get, the more great people they need. "Our employees are the best," he says proudly. "And we're always looking for more of the same."

You can find Capo Di Grande at 597 Meadowlark Boulevard in Île-des-Chênes.



Capo Di Grande in Île-des-Chênes.

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Answers May Be in Store for Daycare Crisis

By Brenda Sawatzky

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On April 7, Growing Minds Child Care (GMCC) held an informational meeting at the Heritage Centre to relay a sombre message. Come September, GMCC may not be able to offer school-age care for up to 14 of 17 children enrolled in its program who are entering Grade One. The reason? Not enough space.

This is not the first time GMCC has faced this issue. In the past, two satellite locations were opened on Main Street specifically for school-age care. Though it's not ideal for the daycare facility to spread itself across town, it has been a short-term solution to a long-term issue, and it's worked.

"We don't like to put Band-Aids on things," says Jason Moran, GMCC board and strategic planning committee member. "We are looking for a longer term fix."

The difference, until recently, was the lack of further space to expand into—that is, space equipped or affordably priced to meet the unique requirements of a licensed childcare facility.

One problem is that a school-age program only requires space for partial days during the school year—7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.—with the exception of full days on statutory and school

holidays. GMCC must still pay for a full day's use even though they only charge parents for part of the day.

The facility must be in close proximity to the schools so children can walk back and forth. According to government standards, it requires an outside play area, washrooms, and plenty of natural light. School-age care cannot be connected to pre-Kindergarten space.

Staffing requirements also pose a problem. After-school staff must be qualified Early Childhood Environment (ECE)

This is the first time GMCC has ever had to consider ending care for children already enrolled in their program.

"We need more space, more staff, and more money," says a member of the GMCC staff. Because registered daycares are not-for-profit organizations, they don't have capital project funding.

The current 14-space shortage is only the tip of the iceberg. With more children aging into the school-age program than out, an additional 120 spots are required in the next five years to accommodate the families

in the Heritage Centre, but it will only be available once the medical facility moves into the new life lease building. This could accommodate 45 to 57 extra children.

Over the last several months, GMCC board members have engaged with the ownership group at 295 Main Street (the old Puratone building) to explore options and opportunities.

"We have had dialogue over the past four months," says Ray Dowse, co-owner of the building. "Our discussions have identified some options,

love this community," says resident Helen Peters. "We have two children, both [of whom] have been in Growing Minds daycare since they were six months old. I will be heartbroken if I have to leave this town because there is no school-age care available for my children."

Similar sentiments were shared by other parents in attendance at the meeting, suggesting that the lack of daycare options may see many young families uproot and move to communities or cities where daycare is more available.

Since the April 7 meeting, the GMCC board of directors have been pleased to see options come to the forefront.

"Since the parent meeting... the Growing Minds board of directors has received a great deal of support from parents, community, and business partners alike," says board member Jennifer Duff. "We are currently exploring space options that could potentially be in place by September and expect to receive required information by the end of April so we can assess the options against licensing, operational requirements, and financial viability. We are very thankful to the community. They have rallied behind us very quickly and reached out in many ways to address this issue as their own."

"We don't like to put Band-Aids on things. We are looking for a longer term fix."

Jason Moran

GMCC board and strategic planning committee member.

2 or 3 and maintain a ratio of one staff per 15 children. They are required to work part-time in split shifts, which makes recruiting difficult.

GMCC reached out to town council, elected officials, the Heritage Centre, the Hanover School Division (HSD), and private enterprises for help.

GMCC staff and their board of directors have been working to address the problem of space for some time. The April 7 meeting came about once the results of their outreach and hard work began to look grim.

already enrolled.

Morris MLA Shannon Martin, Mayor Myron Dyck, John Falk, Steve Neufeld of the Heritage Centre, and a number of church leaders attended the meeting. Their participation revealed a number of options, but no short-term solutions.

According to Mayor Dyck, council would consider incorporating a daycare facility into the proposed multiplex—but that is still three to five years away. In the spring of 2017, an additional 5,000 square feet has been designated for GMCC

and we feel there is reason for optimism."

Churches have been receptive to GMCC's inquiries for space. Here, too, there are significant hurdles, such as daycare storage needs as well as the churches' own weekday programming and funerals. HSD has been approached for daycare space in the schools, but given the number of huts being introduced to accommodate students, this does not appear favourable.

"I moved to town four years ago and have grown to

THANK YOU

Dawson Trail constituents, for putting your trust in me.

Bob Lagassé

DAWSON TRAIL



Photo by Alison Ralph

CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Do you believe the shortfall in available daycare space will impact town population?

- ☐ **YES** - Daycare availability is often a deciding factor in choosing where to live.
- ☐ **NO** - If there is a daycare shortfall, parents are likely to find alternative arrangements.

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Does Niverville have an adequate number of councillors to meet its needs?

YES - Four councillors are sufficient.

29%

NO - The town could benefit from additional councillors.

71%

YOUR COMMENTS:

"I think the work needing to be done should be spread to another councillor."

"It would be helpful if council was more accessible as well."

"More people at the table brings wisdom, creativity, gifting and balance."

"Likely enough, but not opposed to hearing if there is a good case for more."

Manitoba PCs Sweep to Historic Victory

PC	40
SEATS: 40	2011 19
POPULAR VOTE: 53.4%	43.7%
VOTES: 229,518	188,528

(NDP)	14
SEATS: 14	2011 37
POPULAR VOTE: 25.6%	46.2%
VOTES: 109,905	199,066

LIBERAL	3
SEATS: 3	2011 1
POPULAR VOTE: 14.2%	7.5%
VOTES: 60,905	32,420

green	0
SEATS: 0	2011 0
POPULAR VOTE: 5.2%	2.5%
VOTES: 22,123	10,886

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Progressive Conservatives won a majority government in convincing fashion in the April 19 provincial election, securing a historic 40 seats in the 57-seat Legislature, a feat never before accomplished in the modern era. This includes majority wins in the local ridings of Morris, Dawson Trail, Steinbach, and Emerson.

"It's still sinking in, to be honest," says Shannon Martin, MLA for Morris, who was first elected in a 2014 by-election. "The results are beyond my expectations, that's for sure. I would have never imagined in my wildest dreams that we would get 40 seats. Shocking numbers."

In addition to sweeping victories across rural Manitoba, the PCs broke new ground in Winnipeg, winning in areas they haven't competed in for decades.

PC Leader and Premier-designate Brian Pallister spoke to a roaring crowd of supporters on election night. "After years of division, we now have an opportunity to build a better future for all Manitobans together," Pallister said.

Key promises from the PCs included rolling back the PST to



Shannon Martin on election night with his wife Tricia and children Jack, Kara, and Tess.

GLENN DICKSON

seven percent, reducing costs by making government more efficient, and addressing Manitoba's high debt.

"Our leader put forward a plan that clearly resonated with Manitobans," says Martin. "[It was] a clear repudiation of 17 and a half years of mediocrity and a campaign of fear led by the NDP. I'm not underestimating the work cut out for us, but I know we have a clear mandate from the people of Manitoba."

The NDP saw their support

collapse in all areas of the province, dropping from 35 seats to 14. On election night, Greg Selinger announced that he would be stepping down as leader of the party.

Despite some promising polling at the start of the campaign, the Manitoba Liberals were unable to secure the breakthroughs they had hoped for. The silver lining is that they were able to increase their representation in the Legislature from one seat to three. Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari placed a

disappointing third place in her home riding of Fort Rouge.

"I think the biggest thing Manitobans want is a responsible government that's going to listen to them," says John Falk, who ran for the Liberals in Morris. "And they believe the PCs will do that, and keep taxes lower and hopefully spur our economy a little bit. You got to give the PCs credit. They ran, for the most part, a very good campaign. The people of Manitoba wanted change, and they didn't, obviously, look at the Manitoba Liberal Party as a viable alternative. I think that's fair, because it's very much rebuilding now."

Falk says he is confident that Martin will continue to work hard for the best interests of the riding.

"I give full credit to my wife and my kids and their undying love of their husband and father," Falk said, in the process of taking down campaign signs. "And my grandkids love me still!"

Martin is excited to get back to work. "There's 40 MLAs now on the government side to play a role in government," he says. "I have no doubt that there will be a role for each and every one of us to start this new journey. I'm looking forward to whatever comes my way."

Morris

PC	SHANNON MARTIN
75.7%	6,970 VOTES

LIBERAL	JOHN FALK
15%	1,409 VOTES

(NDP)	MOHAMED ALI
9.1%	834 VOTES

Dawson Trail

PC	BOB LAGASSE
53.6%	4,424 VOTES

(NDP)	ROXANE DUBOIS
20.3%	1,674 VOTES

LIBERAL	TERRY HAYWARD
20%	1,647 VOTES

Steinbach

PC	KELVIN GOERTZEN
89.2%	6,979 VOTES

LIBERAL	DAKOTA YOUNG-BROWN
5.9%	458 VOTES

(NDP)	KATHLEEN MCCALLUM
4.9%	387 VOTES

Emerson

PC	CLIFF GRAYDON
72.8%	4,942 VOTES

(NDP)	ALANNA JONES
20.9%	1,419 VOTES

LIBERAL	LOREN BRAUL
6.3%	431 VOTES

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Chef Adds Flavour to Landmark's Business Scene



Chef Enzo Costantini at Big E's 206 Grill in Landmark.

BY BRENDA SAWATZKY

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

As its name suggests, Landmark's claim to fame is its unique location at the longitudinal centre of Canada. The cozy rural town caught the eye of Winnipeg chef Enzo Costantini for his newest entrepreneurial venture: Big E's 206 Grill.

"I was looking for a restaurant in the city, actually, but then I saw the ad and decided to come out and take a look," says Costantini.

He was immediately impressed with the community and its quick access to Winnipeg, where he resides. But it's not his first foray into the small town experience, having worked as a chef in Sioux Lookout, Ontario in his earlier years.

Costantini proudly boasts a long history of chef experience, from the Caboto Centre, a banquet facility specializing in Italian cuisine, to Hy's Steakhouse and later his very own restaurant on Corydon: Sofia's Café. It's his diverse restaurant

experience that makes him a well-rounded chef. During his years at the Caboto Centre, he catered the Italian pavilion at Folklorama. At Hy's, he learned the fine art of broiling the perfect steak and prime rib.

Though his Italian-influenced spaghetti, fettuccine, and chicken parmesan are on the menu, Big E's cuisine options are varied and small-town traditional. The chef's signature dish is a one-pound burger topped with chili, cheese, bacon, coleslaw, onions, lettuce,

and tomato. The dish is aptly named the Big E burger, bearing the nickname of its formidable creator. The burger stands eight inches tall and has been a regular patron request. One could speculate on the kind of dare it might take to polish off a feast of that size.

When asked whether his Italian background makes his pizza different from the average, Costantini says it does. "To me the biggest flavour in the pizza should be the sauce. That's what makes a pizza more than anything else." This chef makes his own sauce from scratch, as he does with most of the dressings and staples of his entrees.

To fully appreciate what a Red Seal chef means to a small town eatery, one must experience it. And so I did, joined by hubby and sister in the comfortable deli-style atmosphere of the Main Street business. Between us, lunch consisted of a chicken Caesar salad, a chicken bacon wrap, and a sausage and eggs breakfast. Though my wrap was fresh and flavourful, with hand-breaded chicken and crispy bacon, I couldn't help but steal my fork into hubby's plate for a taste of his buttery-fried potatoes and thick-cut toast. It was worth it. Judging by the fact that virtually every table in the restaurant was full, others think so too.

In business now for two months, Costantini is looking forward to hosting theme nights featuring prime rib and other fine dining. The restaurant is fully licensed, and by fall he's hoping to incorporate a broiler into the kitchen which will enable him to add quality steaks to the menu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/biges206grill

IN BRIEF

Niverville and French Immersion: A Follow-Up

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

In our article last month entitled "The Demand for French Immersion," we got a few details wrong and we would like to take this opportunity to make some corrections.

Originally we wrote that Niverville had roughly 120 students attending French immersion in surrounding towns. In fact, there are a total of 98 students from Niverville attending French schools. 48 of these attend French immersion, and 50 attend DSFM schools, but these numbers are on the rise. In the Hanover School Division, 350 students attend French schools outside of the division.

One key difference between French immersion and DSFM (Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine) is that French immersion generally corresponds with parents in English, whereas DSFM is French-only.

HSD has hired a consultant to investigate the need for a French immersion school serving students in the district. Our article indicated that HSD would make a decision about the consultant's analysis by the end of June, but in fact the division only expects to receive the analysis in that timeframe.

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Change Starts Here at Home

When it comes to maintaining our compost site in Niverville, are we doing enough?

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Though composting takes place on a small scale in Niverville, it has yet to gain traction. A limited-use compost pile exists beside the curling rink, but only grass clippings and leaves are accepted. The town offers compost bins at low cost, but how many of us take advantage?

Perhaps the problem lies in the fact that many of us don't understand why composting is important. To better understand the importance of composting, we must recognize what happens when we don't compost.

According to Environment Canada, vegetable and fruit peels, greens, egg shells, and spoiled produce constitute about 40 percent of residential waste. If we don't compost, it means we are bagging and sending to the landfill almost twice as much garbage as necessary. Though food waste biodegrades, plastic does not. Simple composting could reduce plastic garbage bags in landfills by almost half.

Another hazard of food waste is methane. Environment Canada stats show that methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of worsening global warming. Emissions from landfills account for 20 percent of Canada's methane gasses.

Food waste produces methane when it undergoes anaerobic decomposition, which happens when the waste is buried in a landfill and does not receive oxygen. Proper composting requires oxygen. This can be accomplished with



The community compost area in Niverville.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

regular turning of the compost and the use of worms or other living organisms.

Since food waste contains a significant amount of liquid, leachate occurs regularly in landfill sites. Leachate is liquid that drains from wet waste products, passing through or dissolving toxic materials and absorbing it into the ground. Leachate also contains pathogens, disease-producing agents created by bacteria.

More and more, communities around the globe are looking for ways to deal with landfill issues. There is a growing drive to remove compostable materials from landfills. Community composting programs are beneficial in terms of protecting the environment and improving the soil composition in our backyard gardens.

Eldon Wallman, head of the solid waste department in Steinbach, is responsible for the compost site located one mile south of the city. Wallman and one other town employee received training through Manitoba Conservation.

"[The training] was money well spent," says Wallman. "It gave us a clear working knowledge on how to correctly produce consistent, clean material

to give back to the public."

Their method is to place compostable material in windrows. These are turned and mixed weekly with a loader for oxygenation. Internal temperatures are monitored to ensure optimal decomposition and that any pathogens are killed.

A balance of nitrogen to carbon must be maintained. Carbon comes from leaves, paper, and woodchips while nitrogen comes from wet materials like grass, fruit, and vegetables. A good indicator of a proper nitrogen-carbon mix is the lack of bad odour. Good compost should have little odour apart from a normal earthy smell.

Residents of Steinbach can deliver their household organic waste to depots around the city throughout the summer. Compost can also be delivered directly to the compost site. The composting process takes three to four months to complete, at which time the finished product becomes available to residents at no charge.

"I love the fact that we can take your organic waste... and in a few months give you back something so beneficial for your yard that store-bought fertilizers simply cannot

duplicate," says Wallman. "And of course, the more we divert greatly adds to the longevity of the landfill. In this day and age of strict environmental regulations, the cost of starting a new landfill site are astronomical."

Town of Niverville employee Ryan Dyck says that its local compost site is often misused and misunderstood. "The idea behind this facility was never just a place to dump organic matter. The goal from the very outset has always been to turn the clippings [and] leaves into reusable compost material."

Dyck has been involved in the compost site for over a decade but has never received any formal training.

"The Town uses all of the composting material it creates in various landscaping projects," says Dyck. "In years past we had no way to screen the compost and it was always full of 'junk' that was thrown into the pile... That made the material really inefficient to use because we would spend so much time picking out the garbage that was in it. In recent years we work alongside Garrett Wieler [who] screens the compost material when it becomes ready for use. We then mix it with topsoil and [it] makes an excellent top dressing for our various projects like the Highlands Park."

Given the complex nature of proper composting, will Niverville residents be confident enough to compost their own food waste? Does Steinbach have a model our community should work towards? Whatever direction we go, the environment won't wait for us. Change starts here at home.

IN BRIEF

Composting Tips Made Simple

Compost is a gardener's gold. It acts as a fertilizer for garden beds and won't burn plants like chemical fertilizers. Adding it to your garden will improve the overall texture of the soil, allowing it to retain and drain water better.

The four elements of good compost are: heat, nutrient mix, oxygen, and moisture. The nutrient mix refers to the balance of carbon and nitrogen.

You can feed your compost bin two main types of organic materials: greens and browns. Greens are high in nitrogen and described as "wet." Browns are "dry" materials and high in carbon. Try to maintain a balance weight of 50/50 greens to browns. Since greens are typically heavier, you should add two to three buckets of browns for every bucket of greens.

Green materials include vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags and leaves, fresh grass clippings, and plant trimmings from your garden and houseplants. Brown materials include dry leaves, straw and dry hay, woodchips and sawdust from untreated wood, dried grass clippings, shredded paper, egg and nut shells, hair, feathers and animal fur, and shredded paper.

Do not compost meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, oily foods or grease, bones, pet waste, diseased plants and plant seeds, or anything

treated with pesticides.

To compost, chop your materials into small pieces, helping them to break down faster. Use a mulching lawnmower for finer grass clippings. Keep a pail or box of brown material near the compost bin and cover your layer of green material with a layer of brown material to cut down on flies and odours. When composting whole plants, remove seed heads and seed pods. If possible, avoid adding roots of plants that could generate a whole new plant.

Stir the compost every two weeks. Stirring adds oxygen to the mix and moves fresh nutrients to the centre. The middle of a compost pile should be 57 to 65 degrees Celsius. The higher the heat, the faster the materials break down. Using a black bin located in direct sunlight speeds the heating process.

Each time you stir the compost, check the moisture level. The compost should be moist like a damp sponge. If the contents are too dry, it will take too long to compost. If too wet, the contents may begin to smell. Locating your bin near a water hose makes watering easy. Covering the bin with a tarp helps it to retain moisture longer.

Think of your compost bin as a pet. It shouldn't be neglected and it needs to be fed a nutritious diet for optimum health. Happy composting!

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Look on the Bright Side: It Takes a Village

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Most parents would agree that the help and encouragement of family, friends, and community is essential in raising a child. No one knows this better than the Becenko family of Niverville.

When Ryan was just 18 months old, he developed a blood infection that produced a spiking fever of over 41 degrees, causing him to seizure. The resultant brain damage was later diagnosed as cortical apraxia, which is the loss of one's ability to carry out familiar and purposeful movements because of sensory or motor impairment.

"We did developmental home programs and occupational therapy at the Children's Hospital for many years," says Susan Becenko, Ryan's mom. "Ryan was the first cognitively challenged student to attend junior high in Niverville. After completing Grade Nine, Ryan attended the Special Education Program at the SRSS. He was then integrated into classes that were modified for him. He graduated in 2003 with 32 credits!"

Ryan began his work experience while still in school, first with Bigway Foods and Falk Nurseries. After graduation, Ryan worked with the Town of Niverville as the Town Pride Maintainer, going around town and picking up litter. He also worked for Giz's Garden Centre and until last year cleaned at the arena. His work for Wm. Dyck and Sons had him stocking shelves and putting together BBQs and



Ryan Becenko stocking shelves at Wm. Dyck and Sons. SUSAN BECENKO

wheelbarrows.

"In order to do these jobs, Ryan needed a job coach and we had to apply for provincial funding for this," Susan explains.

Speaking personally, I had the pleasure of getting to know Ryan when we both worked at the Heritage Centre. He always greeted everyone with a big smile while diligently cleaning the floors.

"Our dream was always to have Ryan be a part of his own community," Susan says. "He loves being a part of Niverville and visiting with people in

the store and clinic. Everyone seems to know him!"

She adds that the community has always given Ryan enormous support. "Our claim to fame is that we are Ryan's parents. We are proud of Ryan and so grateful to the people that have given him the opportunity to be a valuable asset to our community."

Ryan is a very kind, conscientious, and contributing adult due to the love, encouragement, and support of both his family and the "village" that has claimed him as their own.



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IN BRIEF

Family Raises Money for Critical Surgery

Lyndsay and David Eidse of Niverville are planning a fundraiser to cover the costs of an upcoming surgery for their eight-year-old son Tyrrel, who has cerebral palsy. Tyrrel requires a wheelchair to get around, and he experiences a lot of pain in his legs.

"We have exhausted every option possible here in Canada for helping our son with his pain management and releasing the spasticity in his legs and hips," the Eidses say. "We have found a surgery offered in Texas that will achieve this for him."

The surgery, called SPML (selective percutaneous myofascial lengthening), is minimally invasive and offers the best result with the smallest amount of scar tissue. However, because they must travel to Texas, the Eidses need to raise \$30,000.

The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 28, at Ashgrove Acres at 7:00 p.m. The Craig and Ash Band, a celebrated Winnipeg-based country music act, will be performing.

Individual tickets are available for \$20, as well as table sponsorship for \$150.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ dleidse@mymts.net

Niverville Council Unveils Financial Plan

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On April 5, Niverville's town council presented the first reading of its 2016 financial plan.

It goes without question that the subject of greatest concern for many residents is the level of school and property taxes. This year, the property tax is going to climb by two percent, which works out to \$40 per average home. The average home in Niverville is currently assessed at \$291,000, a sharp 38 percent increase in value from just five years ago, when that figure was \$211,000.

This increase is somewhat offset

by an accompanying decrease in school taxes. Because Niverville has grown so rapidly, the \$3 million levy from the Hanover School Division is able to be spread over a larger number of properties. The result is an \$11-dollar savings on the overall tax bill.

The budget for general government services will be going up to \$806,685 in 2016, from an actual \$581,660 being spent in 2015. This 39 percent increase is meant to anticipate additional staff, new software, and an IT upgrade.

The financial plan shows that no by-law officer was hired last year, despite the 2015 budget calling for

one. The 2015 budget had included \$38,000 for an Economic Development Officer (EDO), but that position was also not filled. Nonetheless, the amount of money set aside for economic development will be increased this year by \$15,000 to further promote the Niverville Business Park.

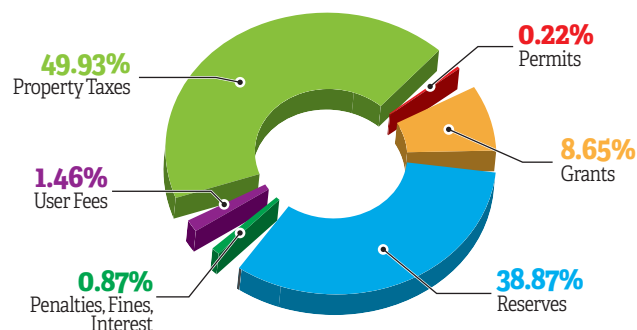
In 2016, Niverville will see its transportation service budget increase by \$40,000, marking a further investment in road maintenance and repairs. An additional \$21,000 has been earmarked for improvements to the Main Street cemetery.

One of the steepest budget

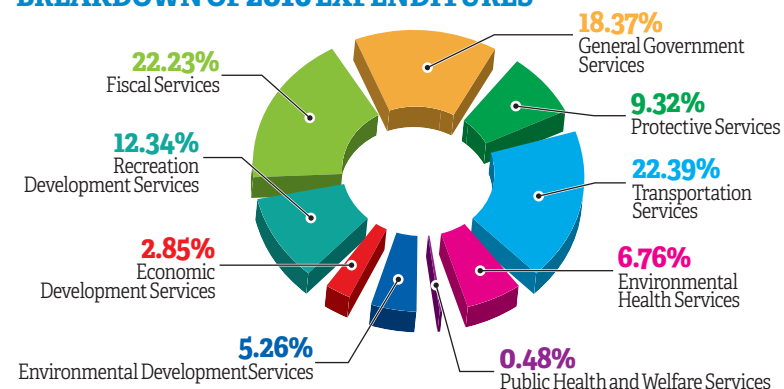
increases concerns recreation programs, which has gone up by \$200,000 to accommodate the new splash pad and moving faster on the proposed multiplex.

\$1 million of surplus from 2015 was transferred into the town's reserve fund, which is expected to fund a number of projects in the coming year. These projects include the completion of the splash pad (as well as the adjacent canteen and washrooms), the construction of Highlands Park, tourist signage, the next phase of new sidewalks along Main Street, and the installation of a main water line down Main Street.

BREAKDOWN OF 2016 REVENUES



BREAKDOWN OF 2016 EXPENDITURES



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Niverville Chamber Hands Out Business Awards

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of this year's Business Awards at their annual general meeting on April 21.

The Customer Service Award, decided by a public vote, was Done: Hair, Skin, and Nails. Owner and operator Karen Albaugh accepted the award. Also nominated were Bigway Foods, Corolla Designs, Country Snacks, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Niverville Autobody, and Quick Care.

Niverville Credit Union was given the Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award, which recognizes a business that has made outstanding contributions to the community.

The biggest award of the night, Business of the Year, went to GORP and its

owner and founder Colleen Dyck. Last month, Dyck was also the recipient of the prestigious national Mompreneurial Award at a ceremony in Toronto.

Clarence Braun, the evening's keynote speaker, shared the reasons he is passionate about Niverville's business community and thanked those business people, as well as past councils, who have paved the way. He also addressed the importance of doing things differently to encourage residents to shop local, ending with a challenge for the business community and council to work together to provide better retail and services.

An election was held to fill four directorships. Bryan Trotter (Trotco Electric) and Guy Britten (Ruffmutts) were voted in alongside incumbents Karen Albaugh and John Magri (Wm Dyck's).



Colleen Dyck receives Business of the Year award from Chamber Director Andy Anderson

DAWN HARRIS

Revised Water Proposal Well Received

Approximately 50 percent of property owners have signed on.

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

At the end of March, Niverville's council sent out a revision to their original town water plan. Business owners and residents along the first-phase route for infrastructure installation were given until April 8 to ask questions of council and opt in to the plan.

"The response to the project itself has been positive," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "The issue

has been around who should pay for [water infrastructure] and how much [each should pay]. But as to the merit of the project, [it was] well received."

In the new proposal, the town will cover all costs for the main water line as well as fire hydrants. Property owners have the option of paying nothing at all with the understanding that hooking up to the main line in the future will be at full cost. Those who choose to hook up immediately will be

required to pay their frontage fee, at a reduced rate, to have a curb stop installed on their property as well as a line from the main line to the curb stop.

As of April 8, approximately 50 percent of the property owners signed up to pay for their frontage fee. This does not necessarily constitute 50 percent of the cost, since different frontage fees apply to each landowner.

"Council is going ahead with the project," says Dyck.

"[The] next step is [to let] the engineers know how many connections there will be. [We] will have the project put together to go to tender shortly."

Dyck says they are hoping for a tender to happen by June. In this case, construction should begin in July or August with an approximate October completion date. That way, they will still be able to take full advantage of government funding.

"We appreciate the sincere thought and effort that the town council has put into this project," says Kenton Pilek of Spectis Moulders Inc. "The new plan, as set out in the letter, suits the current needs of both Spectis Moulders and Exclusive Cabinetry, while also allowing for future connection to the water system as required."

At least one homeowner along the route was happy with the deal as well.

"The revision was a more reasonable and equitable compromise than the initial proposal," says resident Brent Byggdin. "I appreciated the effort Mayor Dyck made to respond to the various points and concerns I raised. Given the curb cap hookup cost adjustment from the original proposal put forward, I believe it offers reasonable cost shared value for both the town and the homeowner."

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The Chamber Corner

We have an awesome opportunity.
— Clare Braun

Congratulations to our award winning businesses

Colleen Dyck's **The Great GORP Project** received the **Outstanding Business of the Year Award** at the chamber's annual general meeting, April 21. Congratulations are also due to the other nominees: Heritage Lane Builders, Wiens Furniture, Bigway, and Fusion Industries.

Karen Albaugh's **done. hair, skin & nails** received the **Outstanding Customer Service Award**. Congratulations are also due to the other nominees: Bigway, Corolla Designs, Country Snacks, Mary Kay (Joyce Harnett), Niverville Autobody and Quick Care.

The team at **Niverville Credit Union** received the **Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award** for contribution to the community. Congratulations are also due to the other nominees: MacFarlane Handyman Services and Von Ast Construction.

We need to be a team

In addressing the Chamber's AGM, businessman and former mayor Clare Braun told the crowd that we all have to work together – businesses, town council, residents, and the chamber if we are to capitalize on opportunities. He said that business offerings have not kept pace with residential growth. We need to make sure we have not settled into bedroom community thinking. Being a destination is often thought of as bringing visitors into a community; however, Mr. Braun said that Niverville has a challenge to become a shopping destination for those who live here. Mr. Braun said that looking to the example set by the prior generation of business developers gives him faith that Niverville can master its challenges.

Volunteer of the month

Mayor Myron Dyck, on behalf of Town Council, and Mel Buhler, on behalf of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce, were pleased to award the Volunteer Appreciation Award for the month of April to Annette Fast.

Principal among Annette's many contributions to the community is her work with Growing Minds Child Care and her horticultural interests. Annette was on the founding board of Growing Minds. She was one of the people responsible for resurrecting the Junior Gardener's program, which now has up to 40 children involved every year. Annette helped plan and develop the gardens at the Niverville Heritage Community Gardens. She is currently on the Communities in Bloom Committee.



President: Mel Buhler Co-ordinator: Dawn Harris
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Danica Cuddeford with her three younger sisters—Alyssa, Isabella, and Sophia Wiebe.

AMBER HAYWARD

High School Student Recognized as Woman of Distinction

By Jacqueline Chartrand

Last month, Danica Cuddeford, a Grade 12 student of Niverville Collegiate Institute (NCI), was one of six graduating students in rural Manitoba to be nominated for The Prairie Award of Promise at the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. This award, which comes with an MPI-sponsored \$2,000 scholarship for post-secondary studies, recognizes young women between the ages of 18 and 29 who show leadership and maturity and serve as role models for their peers.

Cuddeford has accomplished

this in her school, her community, and beyond. Her scholastic achievement (a 96 percent average) has included service as Vice President of the NCI Student Council, hours spent as a volunteer tutor, and participation in the environmentalist group SWAG (Students Working Around the Globe) and the anti-tobacco club SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco). In the community, she volunteers at a personal care home and has been a Sunday school teacher and child-care worker. In April 2015, Cuddeford was on the senior cheer team that won their division in the Sea to Sky international cheerleading

competition.

Cuddeford credits her parents' belief in her as a major source of motivation.

"I've always had pretty high expectations of myself," she adds, "because everything in me wants to be my best as a role model for my younger sisters."

She provides before- and after-school care of siblings and holds down a part-time job at Subway. Cuddeford also has a major interest in the plight of the homeless and participates in the Real World Homeless Situation project.

Before the end of the school year, she intends to recruit and organize

another core group of students to serve as volunteers at the personal care home.

"My teacher, Miss Cadgia, nominated me and I feel so blessed and honoured that she would do that for me," Cuddeford says. "I just had to give her a big hug!"

The presentation of the award will be made on May 4. If Cuddeford wins, the scholarship will go toward her studies at the University of Manitoba this fall.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.ywinnipeg.ca/programs/community-initiatives/women-of-distinction

IN BRIEF

Niverville Moves Forward with Refugee Sponsorship

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

After four public meetings and presentations by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Build a Village of Altona, a group of local humanitarians is prepared to spearhead a campaign to bring at least one refugee family to Niverville.

The most recent meeting on April 11 was attended by numerous residents willing to volunteer their time in areas of language interpretation, transportation, housing, education, employment, life skills, finance, and healthcare. Though the volunteer response has been good, more are always welcome to lighten the load and help out in any capacity.

"Twenty people [have] committed to join together to help a family in crisis come to Canada," says Chris Marchand, interim chairperson for the refugee discussion. "Although we don't have exact numbers yet, we've been told that it will cost around \$30,000. As a committed group... we'll be looking to our community to help us make this dream a reality."

According to Arisnel Mesidor, MCC's Migration & Resettlement Program coordinator, the wait time for a refugee family to reach Canada is anywhere from six to eighteen months.

Fundraising and marketing volunteers will be working over the next few months to get the message out to all residents. Karen and Damon Friesen of Niverville will be creating a Facebook page that anyone can join to stay up-to-date on the sponsorship process. The committee is looking at ways to make donations tax deductible.

Donations can be dropped off at Niverville Community Fellowship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To make a donation, volunteer, or find out more, contact Josie Fast: josephinefast@outlook.com.

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Everything You Need to Know about Mortgages

By Kristina Gerbrandt & Stacy Hamm

Niverville Credit Union

Life is full of special moments. One in particular could be purchasing a home, for which you'll probably need to obtain your first mortgage. If you're in that situation, congratulations. But where do you even begin?

Let's start at the beginning.

You've found your dream home and can't wait to fill it with furniture. Start with your financial institution and get a preapproved mortgage. This will give you an idea of what you can afford and if you're able to purchase your dream home or something more modest. Your quoted interest rate will be guaranteed for 90 to 120 days (depending on your institution), should the rate increase during that period.

Next, there are two types of mortgages: conventional mortgages and high-ratio mortgages. A conventional mortgage is when your mortgage covers less than 80 percent of the property's lending value. For example, if your home costs \$200,000, you'd require a mortgage for \$160,000 or less. A high-ratio mortgage means that you're borrowing more than 80 percent. In this situation, your financial provider will require you to get loan insurance.

Once you've figured out your mortgage amount, you need to choose what kind of term you want. Before deciding, think carefully. A longer term protects you from interest rate increases. A shorter term could be a benefit if you think the rate will decrease in the near future. If you're unsure of what type of

term to choose, discuss this with your lender.

Mortgage interest rates work in a few different ways. You can lock in your interest rate so that it will not change within the length of your term. This is called a fixed rate mortgage. If you want the interest rate to change according to the market, you'll want the variable rate.

You may ask what the difference is between a closed and open mortgage. A closed mortgage is meant for making normal payments and nothing more. If you want to make extra payments towards your closed mortgage, there are usually restrictions or penalties. Many people like the closed mortgage if they're on a tight budget. An open mortgage gives you the option to pay off the mortgage faster with extra payments at any time. The open mortgage might be recommended if you're planning to resell your home in the near future.

The time it takes you to pay off the mortgage is called amortization. Many people schedule their mortgages to be paid over 25 years. Payments can be made monthly, biweekly, or weekly. This is called the payment structure. The more payments you make, the less interest you pay, because each time you make a payment, the principal gets lower.

Let's recap. Conventional mortgage or high-ratio mortgage? How long do you want to have your mortgage for? How about the interest rate? Is the mortgage open or closed? What's the payment structure?

Visit your local financial institution for any questions you might have.

Community Builders: Roger Armbruster Bringing Hope to the Hopeless



Roger Armbruster.

by KAELEB VISRAM

By Clare Braun

I first met Roger the year he moved to Niverville, in 1976. He was born in Edmonton, Alberta—of good German stock—and grew up in a family with five other siblings.

Roger's parents moved the family to Three Hills, Alberta as Roger was entering the fourth grade, and that's where he completed high school. He then went on to attend Prairie Bible Institute, also in Three Hills. It was here that he met Marge Friesen, who was also attending the school but came from the Niverville area. They married in 1970 and Roger went on to earn his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta.

Once they moved to Niverville, Roger connected with many people in the community, and out of those relationships was born the Maranatha Church. Roger

was unorthodox in his leadership style, and those of us who were with him from the beginning didn't fully understand him. He saw things from perspectives that many around him did not see, and after some deliberation Roger and the family moved away again, this time to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

This proved to be a pivotal time in his life. Roger had come to realize that what he carried within him did not fit the model of a typical pastor. In Prince Albert, Roger saw firsthand the dilemma of the First Nations people, and he chose to invest himself in reaching out to the them as well as seeking to connect with the inmates at the maximum security prison there.

His and Marge's home became a place where broken people found hope and love. Food, clothing, and whatever was needed were always available as long as

Roger and Marge had the resources to help. He had come to believe that every person has value, every person has the image of God in their DNA, and no one should be discounted by the unfortunate circumstances they may have encountered in life.

I have personally met some of the hardened criminals whose lives were permanently changed by encountering hope, love, and the offer of a second chance through Roger's life. He had come to realize that prison had no power to bring hope to truly hopeless situations; the best prison could do was cause a person to pause and reflect.

Roger and his family moved back to Manitoba in 1986, and have lived here ever since.

His heart to listen and understand without judgement has opened doors to connect with First Nations and Inuit leaders and people across Canada and the north. He has led teams into communities that have been devastated by addiction. Communities like Clyde River, where the addiction rate was over 75 percent and the debt load was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Roger led a team into that community, and today that community is being transformed.

Roger's passion for the causes most people run from has been noted by those in political offices at the highest level. He has been given opportunities most of us would readily take, yet he has politely declined them in order to further his life's work.

In Niverville, people who know Roger see him as a community builder. He has a passion to bring down the walls that separate people. He is respected and honoured as one who by example seeks to build bridges.

Roger has come to know and understand that only when we are willing to hear one another can we develop the meaningful relationships that build a community.



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Unwanted items left at the end of a driveway are up for grabs.

Getting into the Spring-Cleaning Spirit

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

As the snow melts and the trees bud, thoughts of manicured lawns and clean houses set in. Spring cleaning is on the brain. Once we get into our basements, storage rooms, or garages, we often find old or unused items we no longer want. But what can we do with these unwanted things?

The Town of Niverville has set up quite a few options. The first is the community-wide garage sale, an excellent way to get rid of things you no longer have use for. It also keeps funds in the community and items out of our landfills.

"This year, the community garage sale is on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30," says Chantal Gadiant, Recreation Director.

Maps of the participating homes will be printed and displayed at Bigway, Country

Snacks, and the town office. 85 homes participated in last year's community garage sale.

After the garage sale, if you have any big items left over, you can deposit them at the end of your driveway on May 1, the town's free giveaway day. If you see something at the end of a driveway that you could use, pick it up!

You can also bring anything (except ozone-depleting appliances) to the arena and place it in one of the big bins. These bins will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on April 30 and May 1.

Other options for getting rid of unwanted items include selling them online using sites like Kijiji or the local Niverville Buy, Sell, and Trade Facebook page.

"Ultimately, what I love about it is that you can select what you want and I love the upcycling aspect of it," says Niverville resident Jen

Neufeld. "I can get a piece of well-loved furniture, paint it, and it looks brand new."

If time is a major factor for you, the local MCC thrift store is a great place to give away gently used items. Keep in mind: they do not take broken appliances. All proceeds are used locally and globally to meet basic human needs and work for peace and justice.

The Town of Niverville is also teaming up with NCI to clean up the town. On April 29, all students of NCI, along with teachers, will be split into groups and directed to every part of town to pick up garbage.

"Once a garbage bag is full, the students will leave it for a town staff member to pick it up that evening," says teacher Deanna Wiebe. "We end the day with a treat for all involved. It's a win/win situation."

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THE NIVERVILLE CITIZEN | MAY 2016

Commentary

Employing the Wisdom of Solomon

Now the people have spoken—and quite loudly.

By Greg Fehr

We all knew that change was a-comin' but the extent is staggering. The historically large majority handed to the Progressive Conservatives can only be interpreted one way: change is needed and if we are swinging the pendulum, it's going all the way.

Brian Pallister's impending move to the Premier's office is no surprise. Its former occupant is likely questioning his decision to remain leader during the dissent last year. If he's not, I'm sure the NDP party executive is. The fall of the NDP was not a vote against the party;

it was a vote of non-confidence in the leader. This non-confidence was shored up by the exodus of veteran MLAs who may not all have left due to Greg Selinger, but their departure sent a signal nonetheless.

Ultimately, with Mr. Selinger's resignation as leader, the NDP is in prime position for a rebuild of their brand. Attempting to cover both the left and centre has, some would say, left them stretched thin with a diluted mandate. There is no heir apparent, but there are a number of skilled veterans and rookies to choose from. A careful choice for interim leader, such as James

Allum, may serve them well. As they move towards a new leader, the choice of position on the political spectrum will determine their future and likely impact the positions of the other parties.

Such as the Manitoba Liberals. Rana Bokhari has announced she has no intention of resigning her leadership. And though handily defeated in her own riding, the Liberals can claim some success, having tripled their seat count. A strong hand on the party rudder will be critical as the NDP refocus, potentially leaving the middle ground open again. If the Liberals can

reclaim the moderate centre, their proverbial motherland, we will see the multiparty system truly return to Manitoba. While Ms. Bokhari's long-term future remains clouded, it may be wise to allow her to remain if she has the energy to continue the fight.

Our new premier has some tough decisions to make in this honeymoon period. Decisions that will not only have a significant impact on the direction of government, but will send a strong message to the public... and his own party. Mr. Pallister will need to employ the wisdom of Solomon to find the right mix of talented

individuals, rewarding those who have done their time in opposition and raising the profile of new MLAs.

The party is full of talented people, including local MLAs Kelvin Goertzen and Shannon Martin. Goertzen appears to be a natural for Attorney General, and he has developed good relationships through his work as house leader.

Ensuring appropriate positions for the new MLAs and the women in caucus will be challenging in light of Mr. Pallister's promise to reduce the number of ministers. Perhaps he will couple his wisdom with some cunning and create

a variety of junior positions—secretary and assistant minister positions.

We are, at the end of the day, a public that cares less about the internal manoeuvring of government and more about what it all means to us. For example, we have the gold at the end of the mandate rainbow to look forward to: the much publicized cut to the PST. We should hope that it's not fool's gold, as most people never really noticed the one percent increase.

So what does it mean to us? In this question, we should wish our government the most wisdom.

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THE NIVERVILLE CITIZEN | MAY 2016

COMMENTARY | 17

When Equality Feels Like Oppression

By Michelle McHale

Diversity. Inclusion. Most people will tell you that they believe in these things. Most people believe that they live it. Most believe that everyone should be treated equally... until there is something about treating another person equally that makes them feel uncomfortable.

I'm uncertain who coined this, but there is a saying: "When you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression." Privilege can be understood by asking yourself, "Have I ever wondered if someone would accept me because of something I can't change about myself, such as skin colour, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability?" If the answer is no, you are accustomed to privilege.

Although I am indeed gay and am hearing all kinds of people comment about that right now, I still have other privilege granted by the way our society has been unfairly constructed to favour people with light-coloured skin.

Perhaps people cannot be faulted for privilege that's granted to them by virtue of the family they were born into, the religion they were taught, or the colour of their skin. But we are at fault when someone presents us with their discriminatory experience and we dismiss it because it's not like anything we currently know or believe to be true. As the years have passed, even issues that people once felt were the "will of God"

to stand against have changed.

For instance, we learned over time that it is not okay to treat others differently because of the colour of their skin or to deny those with disabilities access to opportunities made available to those of us with bodies that happen to function without issue.

We live in a society where power imbalance has always been normal, and this has created biases in us that we're often not even aware of. It makes sense, then, that certain privilege (such as belonging to a historically popular religion) skews our ability to recognize a violation of a human right that isn't threatened in our own lives.

There is significant research to show that LGBTTTQ* folks are at higher risk of bullying and hate crimes than heterosexual people. I believe that fear and lack of understanding about the experience of LGBTTTQ* people factors into the lack of acceptance we too often encounter.

One point that is chronically misunderstood is that being LGBTTTQ* is not just about our sexuality—just as heterosexual people do not exclusively identify themselves by their sexuality. It's unfortunate that we are labelled based on whom we are attracted to. I believe this takes a person's individuality out of the mix in a subliminal way that is unfortunate and misleading.

To those who are uneducated about the natural state of being LGBTTTQ*, these labels

shine the spotlight where it need not be. I also believe that labels greatly increase the length of time it takes for us to recognize our intrinsic value—separate from sex, and separate from another. I do believe that one day we will not need these labels, in the same way that heterosexual people do not feel the need to use a label for themselves.

Identifying as LGBTTTQ* is about being human. It is about finding a way to risk being vulnerable with the world to be authentic. It is then about going out into the world, unabashedly, as ourselves. Regardless of sexual orientation, these are difficult and challenging tasks.

For an LGBTTTQ* person, these are things that have to be done every day, in every setting. These things are difficult right now in the environment we have in rural Manitoba and with the homophobia and discrimination that so many in the LGBTTTQ* community have to battle.

We need to recognize the fear we experience when our privilege is threatened. We need to educate ourselves to understand what makes us fearful in order to overcome that fear.

The next time someone says they are being intimidated or asked to change something about themselves that is impossible to change, listen. And never miss an opportunity to use your privilege to stand up for another human being's rights.

Support the Niverville Multiplex



The Friends of the Plex are asking for your donations during our **COMMUNITY-WIDE** Garage Sale. This is a great way to bring the community together and kick off our fundraising for the Multiplex. We are asking for homeowners who are hosting a garage sale to donate a portion of their sales to the multiplex - every dollar counts! Another option to consider would be getting your neighbours or a few families together to do a multi-family garage sale, with all or a portion of the proceeds going to the **NIVERVILLE MULTIPLEX**.

Every donation is greatly appreciated and gets us one step closer to our goal. Please drop off any donations at the TOWN OFFICE, 86 Main Street, Niverville. Donors will be named upon request.

Donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt.



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THE NIVERVILLE CITIZEN | MAY 2016

Sports & Recreation

Freefallin'

fitville

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Ever wonder what it's like to go flying in the sky? The thrill of looking below and seeing the squares of land, the blue lakes and ponds, and the tiny cars driving by? The chill of being 11,000 feet in the air, hearing wind buzz past and the guy behind you telling you what's coming next?

Now, I'm not talking about flying in an airplane. I'm talking about jumping out of one.

One year ago, my friend Michelle had a crazy idea and needed another crazy friend to share the idea—me. When she asked me to go skydiving, at first I said, "No way!" But she persuaded me by saying that it would be half off if we booked right away. As I typed in my credit card information online, my heart began to race, my palms getting sweaty. Was I actually going to do this? Was I actually going skydiving?

The day came fast. May 30, 2015. 11:00 a.m., to be exact.

As we rode up to Adventure Skydiving in Steinbach, my heart pumped as fast as the day I made the booking. My stomach turned as we filled out paperwork and watched a 10-minute video on the "happy banana," a pose in which



Chantel plummeting to the earth.

CHANTEL GADIANT

you arch your back and open your arms and legs so that your body looks like a banana. The happy banana is what you do when freefalling out of the plane.

We suited up in silly jumpsuits, helmets with goggles, and the harness. Then away we went. Michelle went first with the instructor; it was a tandem skydive, so you're strapped to the instructor and don't have to do anything other than be the happy banana.

Michelle got into the plane, along with two other skydivers who were jumping solo. Up they went, and went and went. It seemed like 15 to 20 minutes before we saw these tiny little dots jump out of a plane. It was exciting to see the two solo jumpers doing tricks and flips during their freefall.

Next, I saw Michelle and the

instructor with their parachute, gliding through the sky. Watching her coming in for landing meant I was next. A perfect landing, and Michelle was alive and smiling. It was the thrill of her life, she said. Then she jokingly asked if she could go again.

Me next! My heart pounded as I climbed into the plane, my stomach in knots. Up we went, high into the sky, up and up and up. As we neared 11,000 feet, the instructor hooked our harnesses together and secured the straps, with me connected to the front of him. I felt like a puppet; wherever he moved, I moved.

He opened the door and yelled, "Put your feet on that black step." While hanging out the plane, holding onto nothing, I thought, *This is it. I'm already out of the plane. I can't turn back now.*

Out we went.

I did the happy banana with the wind blowing 10,000 miles an hour in my face. We were falling—freely. And it went on for what felt like forever (but it was really only 40 to 60 seconds). I yelled the whole way down... but the details aren't fit to print.

Then he pulled the parachute, and bam! We instantly slowed. As we glided through the sky like a bird, he handed me the handles to the parachute. I thought to myself, *Umm, no thanks, take these back!* But he was persistent and wanted me to pull the handles to move us left or right.

Before long, we were getting ready to land. I had to hold my legs up straight, parallel with the ground, to slide across a field of dandelions. Still yelling, I lay on the ground for a good five minutes before I could stand up. I had dandelions in my mouth, in my hair, down my shirt, and even in my ears—but I was alive.

The adrenaline rush was significant, and then the anxiety hit me. I felt like I was going to throw up. But boy was it worth it!

What a thrill! I still can't believe I went skydiving. Would I do it again? Probably not, but it's well worth the story.

EVENT GUIDE

Yoga (New Session)

Wednesdays, May 4–June 29
Curling Rink, Niverville 7:00 p.m. & 8:15 p.m.
Flow Yoga, \$105. Ying Yoga, \$105. Both Yogas, \$183.75.

Tuff-n-up Bootcamp (New Session)

Mondays/Wednesdays, May 16–June 11
South End of Arena, Niverville, 6:30 p.m.
\$150 full-time, \$75 half-time. \$15 drop-in fee.

Toastmasters

Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
Heritage Manor, Niverville. Family Room
Guests are welcome to attend.

Clipper Ice Sports General Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
Heritage Centre, West Ballroom

Community Garage Sale

April 29–30
Maps available at town office, Co-op, and Bigway.
Register your address: 207-371-9662

Free Giveaway Day

Sunday, May 1

Town Clean-up Days

April 30–May 1
See page 15 for details.

Multiplex Pancake Breakfast

May 14, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Niverville Centennial Arena

Summer Camp Information

Registration Opens May 27.
Stay tuned for details.

Canadian Firearm Safety (PAL) (Ages 12+)

Saturday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
South End of Arena, \$90 (+GST).

Luc Gosselin Volleyball Tournament

May 27–28
Île-des-Chênes, Gabrielle Roy. \$90/team.
www.lucgosselinvolleyball.com

Zumba

Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:00–8:15 p.m.
TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes, \$10 drop-in fee.

Ritchot Services to Seniors Walking Club

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe

Ritchot Services to Seniors Open Gym

Mondays & Fridays, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe
Equipment includes treadmills and bikes.

Ritchot Services to Seniors Third Annual Walkathon

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe

Seniors Walking Club

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

Seniors Yoga

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.
TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

Yoga

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

Dog Obedience

October–November
Wednesdays, 7:45–8:45 p.m.
South End of Arena, Niverville, \$105.

For More Information:

■ www.niverrillerecreation.com

Send your event listing to:

■ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

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Three Tips to Spring Clean Your Eating Habits

By Susan Watson

Registered Dietitian

Did your eating habits fall off track this winter? Well, now that spring is here, it's the perfect time to spring clean your eating and refresh old eating habits. Here are three simple tips you can take to improve your eating and form new habits this spring:

1. Have a plan. Meal-planning is my number one tip for healthy eating success. If you don't have a plan or know what you're going to eat for your meals, the likelihood of making a poor choice is quite high.

Meal-planning is cost-effective and can be a healthy way to set yourself up for

success for the week ahead. By taking time to decide what you will make for the week and having the ingredients ready to go, you will be less likely to rely on unhealthy convenience foods. Having a grocery list and sticking to it will help you save money and calories by avoiding unplanned purchases and resisting tempting deals on unhealthy foods.

Work smarter, not harder when meal-planning. Cook for future nights by doubling your recipes and storing meal-sized portions in the freezer that can be reheated in the microwave. Cook planned extras and reinvent an ingredient to save time in the kitchen. For example, make a big batch of

shredded chicken using a slow cooker and create four different entrees such as chicken quesadillas, chicken casserole, barbecue chicken pizza, and chicken tacos.

2. Eat out less. Eating out at restaurants is the source of too much fat and salt in our diet. There are very few healthy choices when eating out, so it's best to enjoy those foods on special occasions. Try eating at home more often by replicating your favourite restaurant meals but putting a healthy spin on it. Rather than going through the drive-thru on Friday night, try making homemade baked chicken fingers with baked yam fries and carrot sticks.

3. Find new ways to enjoy your greens. Having a hard time eating veggies? There are many ways to cook vegetables to make them taste delicious and still be very healthy. Switch it up by using different cooking methods like barbecuing, steaming, roasting, boiling, or sautéing. Add different herbs and spices like garlic powder, basil, cumin, lemon pepper, or dill. Try to have a salad at lunch and supper with at least five colours. Use low-fat salad dressing or dip to help eat your veggies. You can even add your veggies to a smoothie.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.alittlenutrition.com/blog

Registration Open for Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Love, unite, and cherish were the three words Luc Gosselin lived by before his sudden passing in April 2005 at the age of 15. He attended College Regional Gabrielle-Roy School in Île-des-Chênes and had a true passion for volleyball.

That same month, Luc's family and friends developed the Luc Gosselin Commemorative Bursary to continue

Luc's legacy by encouraging future students to pursue their dreams. To qualify for the bursary—given to those attending post-secondary education, undertaking a special project, or pursuing sport at an elite level—students must demonstrate leadership qualities, be an encouragement and support to their peers, have a positive attitude, and engage enthusiastically in their community or school.

This year, the twelfth

annual Luc Gosselin Commemorative Volleyball Tournament will be held on Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28. The tournament will take place at Gabrielle-Roy in Île-des-Chênes, with a few teams scheduled to play at Centre Scholaire Leo-Remillard in south St. Vital on Friday.

New this year is a 40-team limit for registration, and the deadline to register is May 16.

There are three categories of play: elite, intermediate,

and recreational. To play in the elite tournament, players must have club, university, or college experience. To play in intermediate, players should have experience playing on an organized team. First-time players are welcome at the recreational level.

The cost is \$90 per team, for any level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.lucgosselinvolleyball.com

Blue Jays All-Stars Headed to Manitoba

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Ever wonder what it would be like to learn skills from former Major League Baseball all-stars? Your chance is coming this summer at Île-des-Chênes' Optimist Park. Alumni instructors from the Toronto Blue Jays are coming to Manitoba, including Roberto Alomar, Devon White, Lloyd Moseby, and Duane Ward. They'll be here for two days to participate in the Blue Jays Honda Super Camp.

The Blue Jays Baseball Academy started the summer camp six years ago in partnership with Baseball Canada and Little League Canada. Their goal is to increase and promote youth participation

in baseball. Ever since, communities have been bringing in all-star players to teach young players important skills.

The Blue Jays Honda Super Camps are being held across Canada in 14 different communities, coast to coast. Last year, the camp was held in Brandon.

The two-day summer camp takes place July 20–21 for players between the ages of nine and 16. All participants will receive a Blue Jays hat, T-shirt, and autographs from the alumni when they register for the camp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.bluejays.com/camps

Explore Your Equestrian Side

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Living in rural Manitoba has its perks. There are a lot of farms around, most devoted to grain or cows or chickens. But there are also a few ranches.

The two nearest horse ranches are Horseback River Trails, located in Otterburne, and the Misty River Ranch, just outside Île-des-Chênes. Both ranches provide full days of fun summer camps and lessons for children.

Other nearby ranches include Aurora Farm outside St. Norbert, Lea Bank Equestrian Centre near Brunkild, St. Andrews Stables in Stoney Mountain, and Birds Hill Park Ranch in, you guessed it, Birds

Hill Park.

At these equestrian camps, children and youth learn horsemanship skills and horse management, teaching young riders about grooming, saddling one's horse, horse-to-rider communication, and riding techniques. Camps may also include crafts and games.

Advanced campers can also attend specific camps to learn dressage (a French word which means "training"), hunter/jumper skills, and jumping fences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.horsebackrivertrails.com

■ www.mistyriverranch.com

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Jessie Stott

Jessie is just finishing her junior year at the University of Connecticut, a Division 1 school where she plays for the Huskies. She started playing hockey at age four and was part of the Clipper Ice Sports program until her Pee Wee year when she moved over to the St. Adolphe Minor Hockey girls program. From there, she made the Eastman Selects Bantam AA team and Midget AAA team. In Grade 11, she switched schools and attended Balmoral Hall in Winnipeg. In Grade 12, she was part of the inaugural Titans Prep program at Shaftesbury High School and was a member of Team Manitoba at the U18 national championships where they won a silver medal.

Jessie has been blessed to have extremely good volunteer coaches who were passionate and dedicated. The work ethic and encouragement they gave her has helped her achieve her goals.

Old Drovers Run League Play

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

As you dust off your golf clubs, waiting for the spring leagues to begin, consider playing local at Niverville's Old Drovers Run.

Monday nights is the Ladies' League, starting on May 9 and running through September 12. You can sign up as an individual or in a group. Each week will feature different games. The Ladies League is guaranteed 16 games, with seven

holes each, for \$365.

The Men's League takes place Tuesday and Wednesday nights, starting on May 17 and ending on September 6. Tuesdays will feature different games and competitions each week. Sign up as an individual or team of four. Wednesdays will feature 2-vs.-2 matches, so you'll need to sign up as a team of two to play against other teams throughout the year. The Men's League has a guaranteed 17 games with seven holes, for \$365.

All league players will get access to the driving range before the evening games begin, along with guaranteed rain checks for every week a player misses.

Old Drovers Run also has Junior golf passes, and a Junior Future Links Program. The Junior golf pass is \$300, for ages 11 to 17 years old. This includes unlimited play on weekdays until 4:00 p.m. and after 6:00 p.m., as well as on weekends and holidays after 2:00 p.m.

The Future Links Program is

a four-stage developmental program that will give new players an opportunity to learn the game. The program will run for three consecutive Saturday afternoons in May and cost \$69.

Currently, Old Drovers Run has seven holes, with the hope of having all nine open by August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.olddroversrunc.com

■ adam@olddroversrunc.ca

Five Positives from an Overall Negative Season

By Tim Hiebert

It's often easy to look at the negative when it comes to professional sports. It was a disappointing 2015-16 season for the Jets, but there were some encouraging aspects within the mess. Instead of rehashing the low points, let's take a look at the top five stories from this past season.

Perhaps the biggest positive story was the play of Mark Scheifele. The 23-year-old really came on strong this season, especially down the stretch while playing on a line with Nikolaj Ehlers and Blake Wheeler. Scheifele was third in league scoring after the all-star break as he racked up 37 points in 33 games. Only Sidney Crosby and Joe Thornton had more points in the second half of the season. Scheifele scored an impressive 29 goals on the year, which led the team and doubled his previous career totals. He looks to be a solid first line center next year, possibly taking that role from Bryan Little.

A big part of Scheifele's success was playing beside Blake Wheeler.



Wheeler posted a career high 78 points and finished in a tie for sixth in league scoring. Wheeler's strong play resulted in a roster spot on Team USA at the World Cup of Hockey next fall. After representing his home country at the last Olympics, Wheeler will have a much bigger role this time around. With Andrew Ladd traded at the deadline, all signs point to Wheeler being named the next Jets captain.

Teaming up with Wheeler on Team USA will be none other than Dustin Byfuglien. Snubbed from the last Olympics team, Byfuglien has proven to be a much more reliable and consistent player over the last two seasons under Paul Maurice. GM Kevin Cheveldayoff

rewarded the big man with a five-year contract extension that will keep him in Winnipeg until 2021. Byfuglien had perhaps his best season as a Jet as he posted 53 points (19 goals, 34 assists) and led the team with over 25 minutes of ice time per game, a career high. He also had his healthiest season since 2010-11, as he played in all but one game.

An injury to Ondrej Pavelec early in the season led to top goalie prospect Connor Hellebuyck getting an earlier than expected start to his NHL career. After posting solid numbers in the AHL for the Moose, Hellebuyck continued to impress after being called up to the big club. He got the majority of

starts while with the Jets and earned 13 wins in 26 games. He also posted an impressive save percentage of 0.918 and a goals against average of 2.34. He is certainly the Jets goalie of the future, but with Pavelec under contract until 2017, it's unclear what his role will be at the start of next season.

A few days after the season ended, the Jets made news by signing prospect Kyle Connor to an entry level contract. Connor decided to leave the University of Michigan and start his pro career at the age of 19. He had a dominating season for Michigan, posting 71 points in 38 games, and he was nominated for the Hobey Baker award. This annual award is given to the top NCAA men's hockey player. The seventeenth overall pick in the 2015 draft has a good chance of making the Jets' roster next season.

So there you have it: five positives from an overall negative season. Let's keep the positivity going as we look ahead. The Jets will be one of the youngest teams next year and have a bright future ahead of them.

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Richert Signs with Cram Motorsport, Competes in First Race of Season

By Keiron Berndt

Professional race car driver, and Niverville native, David Richert has signed with Cram Motorsport to race in the Euro-cup Formula Renault Championship. Cram Motorsport has a long history of creating high-pedigree drivers, including F1 stars Felipe Massa and Pastor Maldonado, and Indianapolis 500 winner Tony Kanaan.

"We are happy to have David driving for Cram Motorsport," says Gabriele Rosei, owner and co-founder of Cram Motorsport. "We want to give David the opportunity to succeed and it's clear he is doing everything possible to maximize the resources he has available."

Helping to make this season happen, one of Richert's new corporate partners for 2016 is Diabolica Wines, located in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Other new sponsors include Karma Property Development, Loewen, and R.R. Dobel Insurance. Returning this year is long-time supporter Silver Jeans Co.

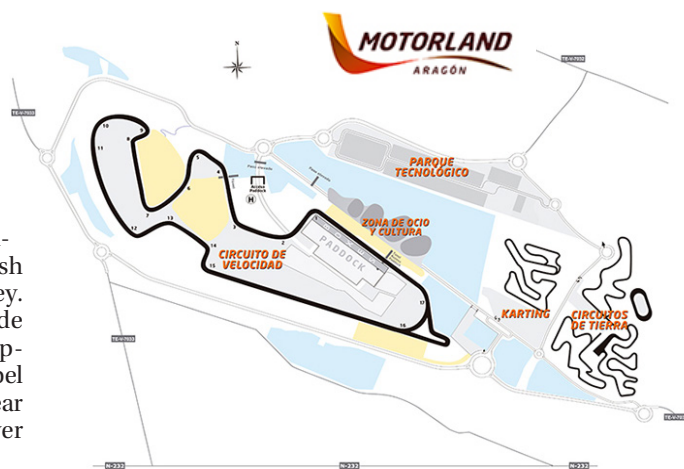
The first three races of the season were held April 15 in front of 51,000 spectators in initially dry, sizzling conditions at the Motorland Aragon race circuit in Spain, home to the Moto GP, FIM Superbike World Championship, and the Championship of Speed of Spain.

Richert's weekend got off to a rough start after a 160 kilometre per hour high-speed spin during the qualifying round caused damage to his



David Richert on the track.

WWW.RICHERTRACING.COM



tires. After battling through the resulting vibration, Richert managed a twentieth-place finish.

The second race proved to be a daring one as rain began to fall on the circuit, catching many teams and drivers off-guard. Richert moved up the grid to eighteenth place after the second race.

The final race of the weekend saw Richert finish

twenty-second after an exhilarating battle with American driver David Porcelli. The two drivers exchanged swift laps, with Porcelli eventually edging across the finish line just eight-tenths of a second ahead of Richert.

Richert is confident that with the support of his sponsors, and friends and fans back home, he can continue to improve.

"Obviously the spin in qualifying was not ideal," says Richert, "but I'm very happy with the steady progress we made throughout the event."

He now sets his sights on the next race, to be hosted May 26-29 in Monte Carlo, one of the grandest and most extravagant events in the world: the Monaco Grand Prix.

"I have had the opportunity to visit Monaco on several occasions, but I have always refused to go," says Richert. "I wanted my first trip there to be for the purpose of driving a race car. I'm excited that this year I will finally have the chance to live that dream."

Check back with The Citizen next month for an update on Richert as he represents Canada across the globe.

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Council Connections

The month of April is budget month. Now that the finance team has crunched the numbers and council has approved the budget some of the highlights include the following:

- This year's budget is approved at \$2,968,322. This represents a 2% increase to last year and when the additional assessment from new construction in 2015 is added this equates to a 9.09% increase from last year.
- The road budget is increasing by 17% from last year. Most of the work targeted will be in the south central portion of town.
- Almost \$200,000 is budgeted for the construction of the canteen and washrooms at the new splash pad in Hespeler Park.
- \$100,000 has been budgeted for a newer tractor to assist with snow clearing.
- Main Street will see money set aside for more sidewalk restoration.
- The Fire Department will receive funding for better communication equipment and additional breathing apparatus.
- In regards to utilities money is being directed to drainage, lagoon upgrades, and a master plan for potable water.
- The town logo, website, and branding in general is changing. A new logo and new website will be rolled out in the next couple of months.
- Also money is budgeted for the multiplex project and costs that will be incurred as we prepare for the date when construction will start. Just a heads up that the fundraising campaign for the multiplex will be starting in earnest in May. As an aside here \$10,000 has been put into the budget to outfit a 16' pull behind trailer for the purpose of community building. This trailer will be used for fundraising for the multiplex but can also be had for neighbourhood block parties. It will be free of charge and contain tables, chairs, and outdoor games such as ladder ball so as to encourage street parties. A damage deposit will be required. You can book the trailer and get more information by contacting the town office.

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Mayor



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

May 14th

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Niverville Centennial Arena

You are invited to join us for a pancake breakfast on May 14th to help to kick off the fundraising drive for the Niverville Multiplex!

Breakfast will be served between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with the following activities available from 9 a.m. until noon:

Kids Activities
Gift Basket Raffle
Conceptual Design of Multiplex
Information on Future Fundraising Events

Come out and connect with your fellow community members to enjoy a good breakfast, activities for the kids, and to learn more about this exciting new project. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Questions? Contact multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca
This event is hosted by the Friends of the Plex.*



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Arts & Entertainment

Gord Bamford Takes the Fair Mainstage

Beer could be on tap in this year's concert area.



By Eric Peterson

You and your drinking buddy could be drinking Buddy while listening to Drinkin Buddy at this year's Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair. Let's explain.

Firstly, the Niverville Fair Committee has announced Gord Bamford, whose 2007 hit "Drinkin Buddy" helped establish him as a Canadian country star, as the mainstage headliner for this year's Saturday night concert on June 11.

And if you're amongst the crowd who've been clamouring for suds sales at the fair, good news could be on the way.

At their April meeting, Niverville's town council approved the Fair Committee's request to sell beer in the concert area during the Saturday night country music show. If approval comes next from the Manitoba Liquor and Gaming Authority, this will be the first year cold ones will be served up at the Niverville event.

Fair Committee Marketing Coordinator Dustin Krahn says the decision reflects a changing community. "It's definitely not something that would have gone over well 10 years ago," says Krahn, adding that the committee isn't looking to host a rowdy party but is responding to the wishes

of fairgoers. "We have a younger community. And the Saturday night attracts a lot of people coming from Winnipeg. We've heard what people want."

What people also want, and have come to expect, is a big-name headliner on stage to close out the fair's Saturday mainstage lineup, and Bamford fits the bill. A 16-time Canadian Country Music Award-winning artist, Bamford boasts a list of hit songs longer than a June night.

"This is going to be a concert of hit songs people will know. He's one of the more well known acts in Canada," says Krahn while comparing Bamford to 2012 headliner

Dean Brody. "He has just as many hits. He's a big name. We're pretty excited to see how the turnout is."

Krahn jokes that by the time the Ferris wheel comes down at the end of the weekend, work is already underway on next year's show. The committee starts by throwing around ideas and liaising with agents and industry folks about what acts may be available the following June.

In the case of Bamford, he will be touring in support of his seventh studio album, *Tin Roof*, which was released in April. Bamford has a reputation as a well-respected musician and songwriter as well as a hit-maker. Even the most casual country music fan will recognize his hit songs "Blame it on That Red Dress," "Little Guy," "Day Job," and "Leaning on a Lonesome Song." Additionally, his foundation has raised over \$2.3 million in support of youth support initiatives across Canada.

Bamford will be preceded on stage by one of Canada's most talked about up and coming country acts, The Washboard Union. The two-act combo will make this year's mainstage lineup one of the strongest since the fair began booking big-name acts in 2008.

As for the beer, if the fair gets that MLGA approval, it will be available in the concert area during the Saturday night show only and won't affect the fair's family-first approach. After this year, the plan going forward will be reviewed.

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair runs Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivervillefair.com

EVENT GUIDE

NES Spring Play (Rats)

April 27-28 | 7:00 p.m.
Niverville Elementary School, Niverville, Free.

Sisters of the Holy Rock

May 1 | 2:00 p.m.
Ecole Communautaire Real Berard, St. Pierre, \$20.

Matt Falk Comedy Night

May 5 | Doors open 6:30 p.m., show at 7:00.
La Salle Community Fellowship, La Salle, \$10.

Celebrate the Arts (Gala Fundraiser)

May 6 | 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
Friedensfeld Community Centre
Call 346-1077 to reserve a table

Painting on the Prairies

May 7 | 2:00 p.m.
Slice of Life Café, Niverville. \$35.

St. Michael's Parish Spring Supper and Dance

May 7 | 5:00 p.m.
The Pansy Hall, Steinbach. \$20.

Painting on the Prairies

May 10 | 7:00 p.m.
Dawson Trail Motor Inn, Lorette. \$35.

Matt Falk Comedy Night (Gala Fundraiser)

May 16 | 6:30 p.m.
Evangelical Free Church, Winnipeg. \$50.

Amanda Legault's Book Launch (In My Wake)

May 19 | 7:00 p.m.
Slice of Life, Niverville. Free.

Spring on the Farm

May 23 | Starts at 10:30 a.m.
Mennonite Heritage Village, Steinbach. \$10.

Painting on the Prairies

May 26 | 7:00 p.m.
Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Whiskey Talks, opening for Wakefyre

May 28 | 9:00 p.m.
The Pyramid Cabaret, Winnipeg. \$10.

Send your event listing to:

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French Children's Show Shooting in Niverville



EVAN
BRAUN

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

To the average pedestrian walking through Niverville, the former church on Third Avenue South may seem all but abandoned. But appearances can be deceiving. Since last November, the building has been home to a bustling television set.

When I tentatively stepped through the south entrance of the building one Friday morning in April, I didn't know what to expect. The lights were low, but I could make out the silhouettes of people standing in the foyer, quiet as church mice, and a plethora of props, costumes, and shrubbery hung over nearby sawhorses.

Then a voice, cutting clear through the silence: "Coupez!"

My French may be rusty, but I could recognize a director's authoritative "Cut!" in any language.

After a few introductions, the production manager showed me into the set. The former church sanctuary had been transformed into a lush campsite, complete with trees and grass, rocks, split logs, a canoe, and a tent. Behind the rocks and trees, a realistic blue sky presided over the campsite.

The show is called *Canot Cocasse*, a 13-part series that has been shooting since November and will wrap in May.

"It's a French children's television series," says producer Charles Clément. "The word *cocasse* is loosely translated to 'crazy.' It's a really cool word, very kid-friendly... I would say our targeted sweet spot



The cast and crew of *Canot Cocasse* prepare to shoot a scene.

EVAN BRAUN

is five- to seven-year-olds. It's meant to be an educational series, a fun series, an adventure series. A series where the kids will have lots of fun, hopefully crack out a few laughs, and then also learn a bunch of things. Things about the natural world, the natural sciences, and also just basic life lessons—how to be perseverant, how to share, how to be patient, how to be generous, how to not leave your friends aside in a moment of euphoria or excitement."

In the show, the kids are off at summer camp with their families. While there, they occasionally run off to find their aunt, who's often flanked by a pair of stout, old-school voyageurs. Clément himself plays one of the voyageurs.

While principal photography is being shot in Niverville,

the live-action footage will only account for about half of the show's running time. That's because *Canot Cocasse* is a hybrid series, with a mixture of live-action and animated content.

"In the 22-minute show, you have approximate five minutes at the start, which is live action," Clément says. "Then [the characters] become the animated versions of themselves and they go off to learn about the world... so that at the end of that 10-minute animated adventure, they come back here in the live-action world."

The animation is largely done by Loogaroo, a company in New Brunswick.

Clément likes to emphasize the educational value of the show, which he developed after watching *Magic Schoolbus*

with his own kids.

"With immersion schools in Canada being as prominent as they are," he says, "with so many thousands of kids across Canada taking French in immersion schools, this can hopefully be a tool that our broadcasters will use to reach out to those kids so that they have something fun to watch, to learn the language and re-enforce the teachings that they're being taught at school."

When the show airs in January 2017, it will appear on two main broadcasters: UnisTV, a mandatory specialty channel carried across the country, and APTN, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

"I myself am a proud Metis French Canadian kid from St. Boniface, so our company is Aboriginal-owned," says

Clément. "We've worked on many different projects with the APTN over the years. Children's series, documentary series, music and variety series. APTN is a great and valued partner of ours."

Canot Cocasse is produced by Manito Media, a company owned by Clément's brother Patrick. "He's the main owner of the company. He's my little brother, but he's kind of my boss in a way. It's a family affair, a family company."

Some many rightly wonder what brought a production like this to Niverville. When I asked Clément how their cast and crew, up to 25 strong, ended up here, he smiled broadly.

"Why not Niverville?" he wonders aloud. "We were looking for a [space] that was big, but not too big. We were

looking for a place that was completely available to us for the length of time that we needed it."

He explains that many warehouse locations in Winnipeg want tenants to sign five-year leases, an untenable prospect for a project like this. But he also needed a building that would allow them to construct sets that could stand for months at a time, and accommodate short shooting days, since the young cast isn't available to work long hours.

To avoid these problems, they set their sights on the outskirts of Winnipeg. "One of our crew knew someone who knew someone—you know Manitoba!—and here we were one day meeting with the representatives from the church," Clément says. "They were extremely gracious. And when they heard about the good intentions of our show, they thought, well, what better way to help offset some of the hard costs of having this building empty?"

It helps that the commute is easy, with most of the crew living in the southeast corner of the city. And at least one crew member is a long-time resident of Niverville.

"It's worked out great so far," Clément adds. "It's been a great place to set up camp, so to speak, and the community and the building has afforded us everything we've needed."

If the second season materializes, something he is busily trying to arrange, Clément says he would love nothing better than to come back to Niverville.



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The Journey to Nashville



SYLVIA
ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Regardless of how you get there, Nashville (a.k.a. Music City) has beckoned many aspiring musicians, songwriters, and producers. This includes six artists from Niverville: Brady Kenneth, Gerry St. Cyr, Shaun St. Cyr, Jordan St. Cyr, and Evan St. Cyr.

Gerry St. Cyr started playing acoustic guitar and singing folk music when he was 19. "I went to Nashville for the first time about seven years ago," says Gerry. "That's when I began to realize how awesome songwriting can be. It led me on a whole other journey."

The journey to Nashville soon inspired the rest of his family. Back in 2013, a regional competition called The Great Canadian Song Search came to Winnipeg. Gerry's second-born son Jordan took part.

"After, I was somewhat discovered by another songwriter, Jaylene Johnson," Jordan says. "[She] eventually saw the potential in me and took me to Nashville a year later."

Evan, the youngest of the St. Cyr brothers, started his musical journey playing in bands with Jordan and Shaun. This included the heavy metal band Fallen, Groundswell, Lady Venom, and Red Riot. He even dabbled in pop music with friend and co-writer Brady Friesen in a band called Gin n' Tronic.

"This was my transition from band to producer," says Evan. "I started really taking it



Evan St. Cyr, Brady Kenneth, Shaun St. Cyr, and Gerry St. Cyr on a recent trip to Nashville.

SYLVIA ST. CYR

seriously. In late 2012, I built a studio with Marshall Krahn and my dad." Niverville-based Arcade Studios has so far recorded and produced three records for local artists. "A producer has to know all the aspects of music. Learning the writing [and] learning the engineering on a Nashville level to be a competitor in the market is mandatory for me."

The eldest St. Cyr brother, Shaun, got into music at age 12, when his dad bought him a piano. He went from lead singer in Fallen to rhythm

guitar and back-up vocals in bands with his brothers.

"Back then, as far as songwriting, I wrote a few, but most of them were written by Jordan," Shaun says. "Then I moved into the band Whiskey Talks with Chad Friesen, Joel Enns, and Jarred Lawrence."

This last month was Shaun's first trip to Nashville. "The Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) holds a conference," Shaun adds, "and my brother Jord really encouraged me to go, and it was life-changing for

me."

Brady Dyck, now known professionally as Brady Kenneth, is no stranger to Nashville himself. Growing up, Brady heard his dad playing guitar and picked it up at age 12.

"I finally settled in with a metal band named Still Village, who I fronted for about eight years," Kenneth says. "About four years ago, I went through some big changes in my life and somehow caught the country bug. I did a solo record, called *Backroads*, out of my living room. Then Evan and I

decided to get serious about it, and teamed up to write my new EP, *That's the Way She Goes*."

Contrary to popular belief, country music isn't the only music played in the state of Tennessee. "Even though Nashville is primarily country, it's starting to expand. The indie scene in Nashville is huge," says Jordan, who is primarily a roots and folk artist. "Nashville answered a lot of questions for me as far as finding a place where I fit in. When you're being affirmed by Tom Johnson of the Doobie

Brothers, saying, 'Man, you got an awesome voice,' you're gonna take that home with you and you're gonna sing the best concert of your life."

The southern hospitality is palpable. When you go into a café or bar, you'll always be greeted with a friendly, "How y'all doing today?" And according to one of the locals, there are never any bar fights.

"Nashville draws musical talent because of the way the community embraces musicians," says Shaun. "I mean, they accept you, whoever you are or where you're from or what level you're at... You can make a lot of connections real fast. No one judges you for where you're at, but just encourages you to be better."

On his most recent trip, Evan had the opportunity to work with top-line engineers and producers. "To be surrounded by talent, it humbles you in a way that you want to learn. If you're up for the challenge, you have your road cut out for you."

Gerry, who definitely will be returning to Nashville at some point, says, "Nashville is known as the Mecca. If you're serious about your craft and getting better, you just have to go. I would encourage anyone who has a dream in music, when it comes to writing songs, that's the place to go."

Brady Kenneth will open for The Washboard Union on the mainstage at this year's Niverville fair. Jordan and Shaun St. Cyr will also be performing, along with other local musicians, on Friday night.

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Manitoba Author Releases Heart-Wrenching Memoir

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

In My Wake tells the inspiring true story of one woman's struggle for survival after a life-altering accident, and the journey of faith she took on the way back to life. That woman is local author Amanda Legault, formerly of Niverville and currently of Plum Coulee.

In 2009, as Amanda was driving to meet a friend for coffee, her car was crushed underneath a semitrailer and dragged for a kilometre. The paramedics had to use the Jaws of Life to get her out of the wreckage, after which she was airlifted to the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

As she lay in a coma for almost three weeks, neither her family nor the doctors knew if she would ever walk again, talk again, or remember a thing.

"What could have been a tragedy became one of the most redeeming parts of my life so far," Legault recalls. "It brought my family and I so much closer. It helped us all to see more of what really matters to us, and that tiny things are just that: tiny. Flirting with death has that effect—it grows people up really fast."

Legault has since made a full recovery, but she writes in



Author Amanda Legault.

BOB SIEMENS

intimate detail about the brutal transition she went through to be whole again. "I have always loved writing. It was one of those things that was easy and felt natural to me. Not like math. I would love to write more books. I have tried writing fiction before, but writing this memoir was bang on for me. I discovered that my passion lies in writing non-fiction."

Although this is Legault's first published work, the words are written in an easy-to-read yet gripping way. For anyone who has been through a life-changing event, or is in need of some hope, *In My Wake* is

sure to satisfy.

"I am so excited to share my journey and I'm thrilled that people are reading my book," Legault says. "To anyone who has read it or is going to, thank you for letting me share my story with you."

This July, Amanda, her husband Kyle, and their two kids are travelling to Toronto where she will be featured on the national Christian talk show *100 Huntley Street*.

In My Wake is available to purchase at Slice of Life in Niverville, Halls in Steinbach, and can be purchased online at major book vendors.


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Meet Niverville's Fur Champion

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Barry Piasta is more than just a dog lover. He's a kind-hearted soul and advocate for dogs and cats across Manitoba. What drives him is a desire to put an end to the greed that perpetuates puppy mills and the ignorance that leads to unnecessary animal reproduction and abandonment. Piasta is the founder of Dog Adoption Manitoba.

"My drive... is to help animals," says Piasta. "I have always had a love for dogs. I wish that humans could love as unconditionally as they do."

According to Piasta, there are too many unloved dogs and cats and not enough homes available for them. Currently, he says, there are over 50 animal rescue locations in Manitoba with a combined total of about 800 animals in their care. Piasta estimates there are at least 300,000 stray cats

in the province. Add to that the thousands of pups being bred annually by backyard, for-profit breeders and the number of animals needing homes becomes staggering.

Dog Adoption Manitoba's mandate is to promote animal rescue through fundraisers and public awareness. Three successful pet adoption events have been held in Niverville and, along with the help of Piasta's family and volunteers, 2013 became the largest event of its kind in Canada.

Piasta works alongside three local veterinary hospitals who, together, have created low-cost spay and neuter programs for pet owners. Over 450 animals have been through the program from as far away as Virden, Dauphin, and Ontario.

Together with his daughter, Piasta runs a campaign called Hot Car Awareness, reminding pet owners of the dangers of leaving animals unattended in vehicles during the summer

months. Through donated funds, they have installed 290 warning signs at businesses and parking lots across Manitoba, Ontario, and Minnesota, free of charge.

Piasta's newest venture is the creation of a unique dog park in Niverville. With the help of a committee and generous donors, the current dog park at the arena grounds will soon be equipped with jumps, climbs, weaving poles, benches, and a photo prop for pet owners, with the potential for more equipment to be added in the future. Piasta says that without the help of donors, the equipment would have run upwards of \$10,000.

"Because of the uniqueness of this park, I can see it drawing people from Winnipeg [and other communities] to come out and enjoy the dog park and visit a business here in town or even discover our great community and move to Niverville," he says. "Niverville will be the

first community in Manitoba with such a ground-breaking dog park and I am sure [it will] become the blueprint of parks to come."

Once the park is complete, his hope is to attract agility events, training, and dog shows on a national and international scale.

A grand opening for the new dog park has been set for July 23, although the equipment will be ready for use before that. Piasta's committee is planning a fun event. Canines and their owners will be encouraged to compete in a variety of Olympics-style games designed to promote bonding between pets and their fur families.

Piasta anticipates the participation of veterinarians and other pet-related specialists at the event as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.dogadoptionmb.com



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How to Protect Against Lyme Disease

By Dr. Venessa Graydon

Graydon Veterinary Services

Spring is here! We know this because we are starting to see wood ticks hitchhiking and attaching to our furry friends. This may signal spring in Manitoba, but it's also a sign of something much more ominous.

Lyme disease is now considered endemic in Manitoba, and that should put us on the defensive. Although the bite only happens during tick season, the bacterium stays in the system year-round.

How is Lyme disease spread? The bacterial agent *Borrelia burgdorferii* is carried by deer ticks. The bacteria live in the ticks' stomach and can be transferred to your pet when the tick takes a meal. Fact: ticks start looking for a blood meal when the temperature outside reaches four degrees Celsius. The bacteria then go into your pets' blood, where it has the potential to cause disease.

Most pets can fight off this infection without us even noticing anything happened. In about 20 percent of cases,

however, the pet gets sick.

Here are some things to watch for: fever, general malaise, severe shifting leg lameness without apparent cause, and frequent urination. These symptoms can appear long after the initial tick bite, as the disease can remain dormant. The most common symptom seen at our clinic is lameness, with fever a close second.

How can we prevent Lyme disease? By preventing tick bites to begin with, by killing the tick once it has bitten, and vaccinating against the disease.

There are many products available for the prevention of tick bites, and some work better than others. Consult your veterinarian on which product and preventative is right for your pet's lifestyle.

By vaccinating against the progression of the disease, you are providing your pet a better way to defend itself. The animal is trying to do this anyway, but you are giving it a head start by giving it the tools it needs to do the job more effectively.

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The Benefits of Raw Pet Food

By Guy Britten

Many of us by now have heard of people feeding their pets raw pet food, and may even have a friend or acquaintance who raves about how good it is for their pet. There is no doubt that a raw diet is becoming more and more popular amongst pet owners.

You can find numerous articles on the internet discussing the benefits of raw food. Articles rave about how a raw diet reduces common pet maladies and that pets have more energy and achieve a healthier weight. It leads to better oral health, better breath, less waste, and reduces or eliminates allergic reactions. Other articles speak of the danger of salmonella or of people handling raw food.

Like many of you, I always fed my dogs kibble. I had friends tell me about how

they fed their dogs and cats raw food, but I thought it to be expensive and inconvenient—and even unnecessary. About two years ago, after a conversation with Barry Piasta about his success with raw pet food (specifically how his dog no longer had allergic reactions), I decided to start feeding our Bull Mastiff and French Mastiff a raw diet. Immediately I saw both dogs become a lot more excited about eating. And they certainly produced a lot less waste. Later, they became leaner and more muscular, and had better breath and better oral hygiene.

They were just healthier overall, and did I mention less waste?

For anyone who's wary of raw pet food but wants what's best for their pet, I would recommend talking about the benefits with someone who

feeds raw food to their pets. It's a lot cheaper and more convenient than what is generally believed.

Certainly, raw food has to be handled correctly to protect you and your pet. Kibble and raw food alike have had recalls. Regardless of the type of pet food you decide to buy, it's important to research the company you are buying it from. Check the recall history of the specific pet food. Recall histories are available on a number of websites.

A raw diet may not be for every owner, and there is even the odd pet that doesn't take to a raw diet, but if you're looking to feed your pet the best, you have to consider a raw diet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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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
Willa Dowse
Age: 6



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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. Law enforcement agency
 - 9. In favor of fighting
 - 12. Disclose
 - 14. Roster
 - 15. State of USA
 - 16. Horse's gait
 - 17. Quartz grains
 - 18. Official permit
 - 20. Male name
 - 21. Sedative
 - 25. California town
 - 27. One who encourages
 - 31. Kiln for drying hops
 - 33. Become roused from sleep
 - 34. Former Yugoslav President
 - 35. Cut
 - 36. Spice
 - 37. Islamic
 - 38. Domesticated canid
- Down**

 - 1. Mars
 - 2. Florida town
 - 3. Wand
 - 5. Biographies
 - 6. Congestion reliever
 - 7. Pleasantly
 - 8. Early stage of life
 - 10. Had on
 - 11. Vermin
 - 13. Of high grade
 - 19. Beyond what is usual
 - 22. Blighted
 - 23. Upward slope
 - 24. Containing cream
 - 26. Disfigure
 - 28. Traveled through water
 - 29. Native of Saxony
 - 30. Small guitars
 - 32. Republic in W Africa

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANCE & ITALY COMMUNITY TRIP

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

Destinations: Florence; Venice; Pisa;
French Riviera; Monaco, Paris & Versailles

Open to all Niverville Students*, their Family & Friends

(*Student travellers MUST be in minimum Gr. 10 or above
upon departure in March, 2018)

Cost includes hotels, airfare; ground transport on luxury tour bus; daily
breakfast/dinner; dedicated tour guide & admission fees to all venues.
*Spending money, lunches, optional excursions & tipping not included

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

NIVERVILLE helpinghands MINISTRY

Niverville Helping Hands will be having their Annual Spring
Food Drive in May. Door Hangers will be distributed on
Wednesday May 4th in the evening with the pick up of
items on Friday May 6th
by our Community Youth Groups.

Niverville Helping Hands are in need of the following items:
Cereal, Juice, Canned Fruit, Canned Veggies, Canned
Meat, Pasta, Rice

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation you can
either give it to the Youth Group as they come to your door
or you can send them to

Niverville Helping Hands Ministry
PO Box 1201
Niverville, MB R0A 1E0

The Niverville Coop Playgroup

The Niverville Coop Playgroup is looking for
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contact Irene Falk at ncpreschool@gmail.com

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We Need You!

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.



Niverville Gardening Committee

Contact cgluckwell@yahoo.com
or amgatey@yahoo.com to volunteer

Weedless Wednesdays

Consider donating one or two hours a week to help
work in the Norman Wittick Memorial Gardens and
Pioneer Commemorative Gardens.(9am)

Junior Gardeners

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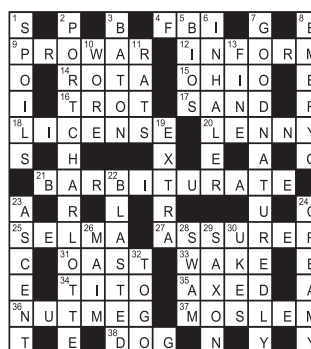


Happy 60th to the best
Wife, Mom, & Nana!



Happy Birthday Wes!
Love ya! Nancy, Leah & Joshua

This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers



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- Perform regular truck/trailer inspections.
- Report all maintenance requirements to supervisor.
- Keep tractor/trailer unit clean and well organized.
- Complete all necessary paperwork as mandated.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including some weekends.

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION:

- Valid Class 1A Driver's License with favorable Driver's Abstract.
- Minimum of 1 year of experience driving truck/trailer unit.
- Strong communication skills, both orally and written.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Experience working with livestock is preferred.

We offer a competitive compensation structure, including an enhanced benefit
package, company pension plan, and provide opportunity for growth and
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Maple Leaf Inc. is an equal opportunity employer that embraces diversity in the
workplace and encourages applications from qualified women, men, visible
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applications from all interested individuals; however only those candidates
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Please fax or email your cover letter and résumé to:

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Maple Leaf Agri-Farms
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