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## LOCAL NEWS

### What's Really Going On with Town Water?

■ Town residents have been getting water usage warnings. Brenda Sawatzky investigates.

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## LOCAL NEWS

### A Clash Over Human Rights

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### Speedway Unveils Summer Schedule

■ The Red River Co-op Speedway is off to the races. Check out their June race schedule.

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### Painting the Town Red

■ This month, The Citizen turns its attention to great (and unknown) local painters.

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# Bumpy Rollout for Niverville's New Tax Incentive Policy

Benefits offered to business development on Main Street, life lease housing, and daycare facilities.

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Aerial view of Main Street Niverville.

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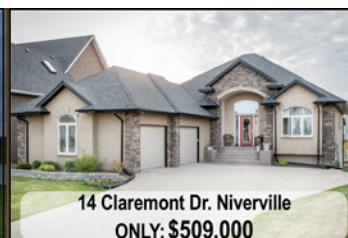
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# Medical Students Visit Niverville Clinic

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

A small dose of rural life has turned out to be the perfect prescription for a group of three future doctors. Medical students Riley Workman, Matthew Van Otterloo, and Zana Alai, spent the last week of May in Niverville. All three agreed that this has been a vital part of their education.

Rural Week, a part of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine curriculum, gives first-year medical students the opportunity to experience not only what rural medicine is like, but rural life as well.

"It allows those who have never experienced rural medicine before to get a feel for what the field is like," says Workman, "and to understand the opportunities that are available for a career and a special kind of life-style within a smaller community."

"It is very important to get exposure to rural communities," Van Otterloo agrees, "in order to both understand the unique health needs that exist as well as the strengths that make these communities the wonderful places they are!"



Doctors and students at the Niverville Medical Clinic.

RILEY WORKMAN

Alai concurs. "Understanding the unique strengths and challenges that rural communities face will allow me to more effectively advocate as a future healthcare provider."

Heather Cassady, receptionist at the town office, created a jam-packed itinerary for the students that included more than mentorship by Drs. Chris and Mairi Burnett at the Niverville Medical Clinic. They also attended a dinner party with medical professionals, toured the GORP production factory, and

visited the Crystal Springs Hutterite Colony with town councillors. They ended their busy week discussing medicine as a possible career choice with the Grade 12 students at Niverville Collegiate.

"The medical professionals, town council, and Chamber of Commerce members were instrumental in making our stay most enjoyable," Workman says. "The Burnetts were incredible mentors and it was amazing to see them work side by side in the clinic... The best part was seeing how they

personally interacted with their patients. I think this is very underrated in medicine today."

"The warmth and sense of welcome was amazing," Van Otterloo says. "As a result of this experience, I am strongly thinking of living and working in a small community."

"I too am grateful," responds Alai, "for the time spent with wonderful doctors, healthcare providers, and the hardworking and innovative leaders, farmers, and business owners of this community."

## Local Businessman Comes Out on Top

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On April 5, Marc Palud of Île-des-Chênes took first place in the Pembina Valley Business Entrepreneur Boot Camp Competition in Winkler. The two-day camp is a promotion of Innovate Manitoba and is designed to help entrepreneurs enhance their business skills, grow their companies, and network with other professionals.

At the end of boot camp, Palud pitched his business plan to a panel of judges in a Dragon's-Den-style competition. Palud's plan won them over, awarding him up to \$6,000 in cash and prizes from camp sponsors.

In 2014, Palud secured exclusive distribution rights in Canada for a multi-functional fuel enhancer called Xp3. The product, invented by Mauricio Deicas in 1989 and manufactured in California, purifies and extracts more energy out of fuels, enhancing engine performance and reducing the polluting effects on the environment.

Xp3 is currently sold all over Manitoba in motorsport, marine, and heavy-truck shops. Palud serves as Vice-President of the Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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Niverville Elementary School.

HANOVER SCHOOL DIVISION

# Hanover Requests New 650-Seat Elementary School for Niverville

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Hanover School Division has placed a new 650-seat elementary school on its five-year capital plan request from the provincial government.

The division is currently in the process of building a five-classroom expansion to the Niverville Elementary School to meet space requirements for the coming year—but those extra classrooms won't be enough in the long-term.

"As we continue to see the growth in Niverville, we're aware that Niverville Elementary School, even with the addition that's being built right now, it's not going to be too long before it just doesn't suffice," says Superintendent Randy Dueck. "And the challenge that we have there is that there's no room for more additions. It's a tiny little lot."

Dueck says that Niverville was, as of the last census, not only one of the fastest communities in Manitoba, but in the country. A 650-seat K-4 school will be needed to meet current demand.

"That's our need," Dueck says. "How the province then chooses to respond to this request, and when they choose to respond to the request, will be interesting."

Every year on April 15, the division submits a five-year capital plan to the province's Public Schools Finance Board, which is charged with reviewing

requests for new capital expenditures, such as schools. Once the Public Schools Finance Board decides which requests to approve, those requests move to the Provincial Treasury Board.

"Those are the folks with the dollars," Dueck says. "The treasury board then makes decisions based on a wide range of things, because they're not just getting requests from Hanover School Division. They're getting requests all

across the province."

The new elementary school isn't the only Niverville school on Hanover's list of priorities. Hanover is also requesting a 400-seat 9-12 school. According to Dueck, the division has been making this request for a number of years already.

"In a perfect world, we will have a brand new 9-12 high school in Niverville, [and] the current NCI could

be converted to a middle school and could accommodate the middle years students of that area. And we would build a brand new 650 seat K-4 school." Dueck then pauses and adds, "Again, in a perfect world."

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca)

## Fundraising Efforts Underway for Multiplex

By Heather Miller

On May 14, the Friends of the Plex hosted a pancake breakfast for the community of Niverville. Despite the chilly temperatures that morning, more than 200 people came out, helping to raise more than \$2,000 for the multiplex.

This success wouldn't have been possible without the help of 35 volunteers made up of community members, town councillors, Friends of the Plex, and the Niverville Fire & EMS team.

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following for their support: Niverville Fire & EMS, D&M Rentals, Bigway, P&H Mills, Happily Ever After Parties, Face Painting by Eileen, and Spiderman. Also, generous donations were provided by Anya's

Hair Studio, Wm. Dyck and Sons, Corner Car Wash, Country Snacks, Bigway, Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern, Subway, Corolla Designs, and Done Hair, Skin & Nails.

The committee's next event will be a kids card design workshop to be held on Tuesday, June 7 at the south end of the arena from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Weather permitting, an earlier workshop will take place on Thursday, June 2 at Hespeler Park in the picnic shelter.

Other fundraising efforts include Bigway Bucks, sold at the town office and the Niverville Credit Union. Bigway Bucks, available in denominations of \$20, can be redeemed at Bigway. Ten percent of the proceeds are donated to the multiplex.

Another fundraising initiative is the

Block Party Wagon, which is available to reserve. The wagon is free to use for all Niverville residents planning a block party. It includes tables, chairs, games, and a barbecue.

The multiplex team will also be selling 50/50 tickets at this year's fair, with a maximum take-home prize of \$5,000 each day.

Starting in June, an official fundraising thermometer will be displayed in front of the town office.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To learn more about volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation to the multiplex, contact [multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca).

The Niverville Citizen is published monthly and distributed through Canada Post to all those with a postal box in Niverville, as well as those who receive flyers in the communities of Ile-des-Chenes, New Bothwell, Ste Agathe, Otterburne, and Tourond. Additional copies are manually distributed to businesses in the aforementioned communities, as well as the towns of Landmark and St Adolphe. The paper is printed in Canada by Derksen Printers Ltd. Republishing of this paper in whole or in part without prior approval is strictly prohibited.

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# Community Builders: Harry McKnight

## He Walks Softly Among Us

By Clarence Braun

While looking at Facebook a few weeks back, I noticed an invitation to an event honouring long-time math teacher Harry McKnight. After some inquiry, I learned that he was packing up and leaving Niverville after having lived here for the past 47 years.

Harry was the youngest of seven children and was born in Rosetown, Saskatchewan in 1938. At the age of seven, the family moved to Manitoba's Interlake region, to the town of Oak Point. He received his early education in a one-room school with children all the way from Grades One through Eight.

His mother had a great value for education, so it is no surprise that after graduating high school he went to Winnipeg and applied for a teaching certificate. In the late 50s and early 60s, you were allowed to apply for a certificate and teach for one year without formal training. After that year, Harry went on to university and earned his degree.

Harry went on to teach in Swan River for a year. It was here that he met Ruth, and they were married in 1967. Afterward he taught in Thompson, Lundar, and Cormorant.

I will never forget the first time I met Harry and Ruth. It was at the Word of Life Church in Niverville in the fall of 1969. I remember being pretty incredulous that we had a teacher in our church. The culture we grew up in really didn't put much emphasis on postsecondary education.



Harry McKnight.

BONNIE SOOKERMANY

To say that Harry was a beloved teacher would be an understatement. He had a patient way with students, and in return the students respected the environment of his classroom.

In the past few weeks, in anticipation of the event honouring him, I talked to many of his former students. Not a one had anything but kind words and respect for him. They spoke of him as a friend—and he also thought of them as friends. He spoke of the value that he had for living in the same community where he taught. He spoke of the trust that parents had for the school, the teachers, and the education system.

Teachers at Niverville Collegiate Institute have wielded tremendous influence, including memorable names like Bob Rempel, Walter Wagner, Charlie McMillan, and Vern Hildebrand. Harry mentioned these as significant friendships. At the end of school days, he played many games of cribbage with these colleagues.

Harry taught for 27 years in Niverville and retired in 1997. It turned out that semiretirement involved a lot of tutoring, which he has continued to do right up until the last two weeks of his living in Niverville.

During the flood of 1997, he volunteered to help out with the flood-fighting efforts. After that was over and he did some

project work for the town, administrative officer Jim Buys offered him a job which ended up lasting for the better part of nine years.

His volunteer impact has been significant. He served for five years as the secretary of the Niverville Health Foundation. He was president of the MCC Thrift Store for two years, and then stayed on as a volunteer for another eight years. He was treasurer of the Golden Friendship Centre for eight years as well.

His beloved wife Ruth passed in 2010, and the initial years were difficult. Harry has two daughters who presently live in Innisfail, Alberta and Petawawa, Ontario. From now on, he'll be splitting his time between Alberta and Ontario to enjoy the last years of his life with his daughters, their husbands, and his four grandchildren.

When I asked him about leaving his home of 47 years, his answer had some emotion connected to it. He described his feelings as bittersweet. He hadn't thought it would be so hard to say goodbye.

Harry walked throughout our lives, and throughout our community. He walks softly among us, and he will not be missed due to his large personality; he will be missed because he lived an understated life. He drew no attention to himself but was involved in so much.

Harry, thank you for the life you have shared with so many of us. May your days with family bring a lightness to your step and a renewed passion for life.

### IN BRIEF



Dr. David Johnson.

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## Five More Years for Providence President

Dr. David Johnson, President of Providence University College, has been reappointed for another five-year term, which will see him lead the university through 2021.

"Our Board of Governors was happy to renew Dr. Johnson's contract as President, and we look forward to his leadership and input over the next five years," says Board Chair Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht. "Dr. Johnson has dedicated himself to tirelessly pursuing the success of Providence."

Primary among Johnson's priorities for the coming years is bolstering the

school's academic offerings. He points to the school's signature business, counselling, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) programs and believes Providence, with increased science offerings, enhanced accessibility through distance education in the Seminary, and a growing Mile Two Discipleship School, is setting itself up well for the future.

Johnson says that Providence is positioning itself as one of the leading Christian universities in Canada.

## Providence Construction Continues

Providence is nearing completion on a major construction and renovation project to add new classroom and courtyard spaces to its campus.

The new space, which is scheduled to be finished in early July, will include

classrooms, seminar hubs, a lecture theatre, and a laboratory. Additional business and science programming is already scheduled for the new space.

The courtyard will be open to all students, faculty, and staff.

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# Bumpy Rollout for Niverville's New Tax Incentive Policy



EVAN  
BRAUN

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On Tuesday, May 10, the Town of Niverville announced a new tax incentive policy, Policy F4-16, to encourage the development of local business. Perhaps counterintuitively, the measure has sparked some frustration and confusion from the business community.

"This is more than just a business development policy," Mayor Myron Dyck said at the May 10 press conference. "It encompasses socioeconomic development as well. In every community, there are growing needs. This policy addresses three important needs here in Niverville."

The three needs addressed by these tax incentives are: (1) the development of private business on Main Street, (2) life lease housing to address the rising baby boomer population, and (3) the encouragement of additional daycare spaces to meet the present shortfall.

"This policy is the result of hours of consulting with other mayors and reeves from other communities," Dyck said. "This policy being announced here today is not the first step that council is making in regards to economic development, nor will it be the last. It is merely another step in moving forward on the business and rec platform that we were elected on some two years ago."

According to documents provided by the town, the tax refunds will be spaced out over a maximum of four years per business and pertain to the percentage of the annual municipal portion of levied taxes. The percentage of the refunds will be dependent on the number of jobs created and the value of the infrastructure built in the community, and decrease by 25 percent per year until the end of the four-year period.

The Chamber of Commerce, however, has some key concerns. In the days following the town's announcement, the Chamber drafted a letter to council.

"We are particularly perturbed



Niverville Town Office.

TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

at the speed of the rollout of this policy," the Chamber wrote, "and the fact that the Niverville Chamber of Commerce was not consulted during the process of developing this policy. We speak for business in the Town of Niverville, yet we had no idea that this policy was being developed... Why was no time expended in consulting with the business of this community before a policy was implemented that directly affects them?"

(For further details of the questions posed by the Chamber's letter, view the sidebar to the right of this page.)

**"We are particularly perturbed at the speed of the rollout of this policy, and the fact that the Niverville Chamber of Commerce was not consulted during the process of developing this policy."**

- The Niverville Chamber of Commerce

"What we've been advocating for a long time is to be this liaison between business and council," says Mel Buhler, President of the Chamber of Commerce. "Unfortunately, once again we thought we've been making progress with some communication that had been going well, and all of a sudden out comes this new policy... [I feel] just genuine disappointment that once again neither the Chamber nor the business community was really asked for input on something that is huge for the community."

Doug Dyck, Vice President of the Chamber, agrees with this assessment. "I think the tax incentive policy is great for bringing in new business, and it's what we've been talking about for a long, long time. Everybody, council included. They've been talking about this for

years," he says. "But had we had talks earlier, roundtable discussions, bringing us to the table, I think this would look different."

In particular, Dyck says there are so many unanswered questions that the Chamber can't effectively advise members of the business community. "The awkwardness would be for anybody who would come to town, or not from this area, they would call someone from the Chamber [about the policy] and we would not know how to direct them."

According to the Chamber, a key source of difficulty is the speed with

Not everyone in the community is displeased with the policy. Gord Daman, board member of Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. (NHHI), which oversees the Heritage Centre, including its current life lease project, made several positive remarks at the May 10 press conference.

"We want to acknowledge and thank council for their efforts in expanding and going beyond the simple business definition and looking more toward social enterprise," Daman said.

According to Mayor Dyck, the Heritage Centre's life lease project, set to open next year, has been grandfathered into the policy and could receive in the range of \$300,000 in tax refunds.

Daman expressed his appreciation. "I think that while the life lease is under construction, and we're certainly committed to working to that, the funds that would be available here will help to normalize and assist over the first three to five years of operations of the life lease, and particularly... the medical centre that we're including with the project on behalf of the community."

Daman points to changing demographics and the need for greater senior housing options in the near future. "This may actually be the tipping point to assist with that, which will ensure that we will have that housing requirement in place for seniors as all communities in the provinces and across the country age."

NHHI is a not-for-profit organization established by the Town of Niverville in 2005 as an arm's length entity to own, develop, and manage assets in the town.

## CLOSER LOOK

### Questions Posed by the Chamber of Commerce

Quoted from a letter from the Chamber to town council. The full letter can be viewed at [www.niverville.com](http://www.niverville.com).

■ Policy F4-16 refers to refunds being granted to any business "establishing a new business or relocating to Niverville." Could council please clarify who will receive the tax refund? The policy states it will be "the business in question." In many cases, developers and contractors build buildings and then lease them to businesses. Under F4-16, it appears that the new businesses will get the refund but not the developer/contractor, so where is the incentive for developers/contractors to build on spec? What if the business taking over new space is an existing business—does that mean no one gets the tax refund?

■ Mayor Dyck, during the media conference, identified the Heritage life lease venture and a private business as being "grandfathered" under this policy because their establishments were not yet occupied. We would like council to explain the following:

■ F4-16 makes no reference to grandfathering of as-yet-to-be-occupied buildings. If a business that is currently in the process of building reviews this policy, there is no indication that they could qualify for a refund. To ensure transparency and fair treatment of all, how does council intend to communicate the "grandfathering" provision?

■ Business ventures that wish to succeed conduct feasibility studies and develop business and financial plans before they put a "shovel in the ground." We would expect that their financial projections would not, and should not, expect tax forgiveness after the fact. That would not be astute business planning. Could council explain why it decided to extend tax forgiveness to entities that should have based their business ventures on sound economic assessment prior to building? Under the circumstances as they have been presented, F4-16 becomes a tax gift rather than a tax incentive. Is this an appropriate use of tax dollars?

■ Policy F4-16 [states], "Council shall have sole discretions in the application of the grids set out above." Could council expand on the exact meaning of this point? Does it mean that council will approve every application for a tax refund? Does it mean that council will look at each application, review the explicit details, determine what line of the grid applies to each applicant, and then make a decision? How does council intend to avoid the potential for real or perceived political favoritism?

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



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# Life Is a Garden

By Annette Fast

If you're anything like me, you've been itching to get in the garden—despite the threat of frost that lasts until the first week in June. I think of myself as something of a connoisseur of gardening, but really I'm a fake. All I know is by trial and error, and I have to admit that sometimes I don't know my weeds from my flowers.

(My apologies to all of you who bought these beautifully potted weeds three years ago at the annual Niverville Heritage Gardens plant sale! There, I've said it: the cleomes weren't really cleomes but imposters that we carefully lifted and repotted.)

My gardening experience comes mainly from whatever bits of valuable information I've been able to glean from Fred Kaita, wonderful relatives, and friends who have the same passion as I do.

At the Niverville Heritage Community Gardens, we've been learning as we go. I like to refer to it as a classroom. I appreciate the wealth of information each volunteer brings. You're never too old to learn something—or plant something.

I have a favourite saying: to plant a garden is to believe in the future. The gladioli bulbs I have carefully overwintered are already poking their heads out of the ground. The cannas I planted turned out to be rhubarb, and these are up. The callas are just waiting for the sun to kiss them out of the earth. And the compost pile is waiting to be distributed.

I've made the rounds of the greenhouses to get my earth fix, and yes, I did leave a few dollars in my wake. Look to Falk Nurseries for Osteospermums and a good selection of trees and shrubs; Glenlea Greenhouse for gaura, grasses, and loads of

succulents; Giz's Greenhouse for wave petunias; and Rita Bartmonovich's greenhouse for the lovely lisianthus.

Gardening is a lot of work with many rewards, and I love it. This year, come join us in the gardens!

### NIVERVILLE GARDENING COMMITTEE: UPCOMING EVENTS

■ Weedless Wednesdays (Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.): Norman Wittick Memorial Gardens and Pioneer Commemorative Gardens. Contact: cgluckwell@yahoo.com

■ Junior Gardeners (Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.)  
Contact: amgateway@yahoo.com

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# A Parent's Guide to the Niverville Fair

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

In our house, the excitement surrounding the Olde Tyme Country Fair is second only to Christmas. The weekend is fun for the entire family, including kids of every age.

But getting out of the house with little ones can be a challenge, as any parent knows.

This year, the fair takes place June 10–11. This usually means the weather is warm enough for shorts and T-shirts, but it can also bring rain. Having an umbrella or rain jacket handy means you won't have to leave if we get a small amount of rain. I also like to bring a sweater for when it gets dark.

On Friday evening, the fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with plenty of food vendors for any picky eater. The street party has live music and plenty of attractions aimed at kids. Also, the evening ends with a bang.

"Assuming all goes well and the weather cooperates, we should have a stellar fireworks show," says Dustin Krahn, the fair's Promotions and Sponsorship Coordinator.

Evenings can get a little chilly, so it helps to bring along a big blanket.



The St. Cyr family at the 2015 fair.

SYLVIA ST. CYR

You can spread it out on the ground for napping kids or watching fireworks. With so many sights to see and a lot of walking, little legs tend to tire quickly. The best solution I've found is to bring a wagon. They hold tired kids as well as a blanket, umbrella, and diaper bag—not to mention, wagons are easy to pull.

"Gate prices are \$15 a day or \$30 for a weekend pass," says Krahn. Prior to June 1, early bird passes were available for a \$5 discount. If you haven't gotten your tickets already, you may want to consider the early bird option for next year. Kids two and under are free.

These passes include more than

just Friday and Saturday street party admission. They also include food on Friday, the Show n' Shine car display, access to the fireworks area, and the headline performances on the mainstage.

A great way to start your Saturday is getting your fill at the pancake breakfast, for only \$2 per person. All the proceeds go to our local fire department. Then at noon, the whole family can enjoy the parade, which includes horses, bagpipes, colourful floats, and (of course) candy.

The Kids Zone includes bouncy castles, miniature horse rides, and silly entertainment sure to make kids laugh. New to the fair this year is a trampoline and acrobatics show that's sure to wow them.

For kids of all ages, the midway rides provide hours of thrills, keeping in mind that the price for rides is separate.

Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, so you can all dance the night away with artists like Brady Kenneth, The Washboard Union, and Gord Bamford.

And if you see me with my wagon full of tired kids, be sure to say hello!

## IN BRIEF



Left to right: Rene de Moissac, Suzette Larochelle, Alana Manaigre, and Patrick Saurette. Children: Tige Larochelle, Kiel Larochelle, Xyza Larochelle, Maia Manaigre, Lucas Manaigre, Kami Saurette, and Zoé Saurette.

BSI INSURANCE

## BSI Donates to Ste. Agathe Park

BSI Insurance has made a donation \$2000 to Park Lemoine in Ste. Agathe. The park had been in need of significant upgrades to provide a safer space for children to enjoy. The donation, part of BSI's Because We Care initiative, will be used to upgrade the landscaping, a walking path, drainage, and turf, as well as build up the park's natural structures.

On March 29, Rene de Moissac, COO of BSI Insurance, gave a cheque to Patrick Saurette, the treasurer of the Park Lemoine Committee.

Through the Because We Care initiative, BSI will invest approximately \$30,000 annually in its communities. BSI currently has 16 locations throughout southern Manitoba.

# Niverville Rejoins Communities in Bloom

By Shirley Hoult

In 2016, Niverville will once again participate in the provincial Communities in Bloom program.

Last year, the combined efforts of the town, business partners, schools, residents, and churches helped Niverville achieve three out of a possible five blooms. As part of the 2015 evaluation, the judges made specific recommendations

for improvement and provided a summary to the business community and town council. The judges particularly felt that the development and implementation of a Main Street improvement plan would benefit the community at large.

Starting on June 12, the committee will again be recognizing Bloomin Businesses on a weekly basis, as well as naming the

residential Green Thumb of the Week. Nominations are welcome (see below for contact details).

If you're interested in joining the committee and have expertise in any of the following areas—history, environmentalism, landscaping, arborist/urban forestry, floral design, and general gardening knowledge—we would love to hear from you.

We also want to thank Growing

Minds Daycare, the Heritage Community Garden Committee, the Girl Guides, participants in the Junior Gardeners program, and residents of the Heritage Centre.

Judging will take place this summer, on a date yet to be confirmed.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Send nominations to Shirley Hoult at 0250shi@gmail.com.

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KatieKnebel@royallepage.ca

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# Council CONNECTIONS

A big welcome back to all of you who will be joining us once again for our annual Olde Tyme Country Fair on June 10-12. If you have never been you really need to come and check out our fair and don't forget to take some time to look around Town to see what's going on.

## **This is just a few things you will see:**

- The new splash pad in Hespeler Park complete with change rooms will be opening in June.
- Five new classrooms are under construction at our elementary school and will be open for start of school this fall.
- Our Hanover School Division announced to the Province that a new high school and elementary school are needed. The high school has been asked for the past couple years but the elementary school is a new ask of this year.
- The life lease condo for 55+ and 5000 sq.ft. attached medical center will be completed in the first half of 2017.
- New multiplex with field house and ice pad. \$16 million dollar project. As a council we have committed \$5 million and fundraising is in full swing!

As you can see we are an intergenerational community. I would tell you more but I was told that there is so much going on that instead of telling you about it I should rather invite you to come check it all out for yourself. So why not grab the kids/grandkids and come to the fair on the June 10th weekend! We'd love to see you!

**Myron Dyck**  
Mayor

## **YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED!**

*Niverville's Animal Control Bylaw 691-10 requires dog owners to not let their pet run "at large". The definition of "at large" means off the owner's property and not on a leash (which is no longer than 6 feet) held by a person able to control the dog. Unfortunately, the Town has received complaints about our citizens walking their dog off leash in Hespeler Park... and with some of these dogs showing aggressive behavior to other dogs and/or citizens using the park.*

*Our experience is that the vast majority of dog owners are very responsible. They keep their dogs on a leash and are picking up after their pet when it poops on property other than their own.*

*We would like to hear from you... help us understand to what extent this is a problem. What has been your experience with dogs running loose in the park? Have you seen dog owners picking up their pet's mess? What are your suggestions of how to encourage pet owners to take responsibility for their pets?*

*Please forward your thoughts to  
[feedback@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:feedback@whereyoubelong.ca).*



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# Inside Look: The Business of Recycling

What happens to your recycling after it gets picked up at the end of your driveway?

**With the recent introduction of larger garbage bins in Niverville, we may be tempted to fill them up and recycle less.**



**BRENDA SAWATZKY**

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Every Thursday morning, without fail, they visit your street, whisk away your undesirables, and make your world a better place. Eastman Recycling Services (ERS) is a non-profit organization with a dual mission: to clean up the planet and support people with disabilities.

The organization got its start over 20 years ago as a way to provide alternative work options for those with intellectual disabilities. They've grown from a small sorting operation in the backyard of Kindale Occupation Centre to a large material recycling facility in Steinbach's industrial park.

On a mission to find out where our recycling goes when it leaves our blue bins, I paid a visit to the facility and received the guided tour by EnVision's Vocational Services Coordinator, Darryl Marsch. I was amazed by the magnitude of what I saw.

The sorting station is the first stop for our recyclables. Trucks enter here and dump their massive loads into a pit, feeding a conveyor belt which transfers materials to a second floor sorting line. A group of 15 sorters takes their positions on either side of the conveyor, each one responsible for a different item—glass, aluminum, paper, cardboard, and a variety of plastics.

Materials are then dropped into



Brian Dyck and Daryl Marsch of Eastman Recycling Services.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

bunkers for paper and cardboard, and closed hoppers for cans and plastics. Once separated, they're moved along another conveyor and fed into a baler, creating mammoth bales of tightly wrapped saleable materials. The bales are stacked several levels high in an adjoining warehouse like colourful skyscrapers. From here, they're shipped out and repurposed into new products.

"The thing that makes anything recyclable is if you have an end use for it and it can be converted into something else," says Marsch.

The demand for new kinds of recyclable materials is growing. Larger, for-profit recycling companies like Emterra in Winnipeg have access to international markets due to volume, while ERS is still a relatively small operation by comparison. Still, markets for much of our recyclable materials abound in North America.

Old aluminum cans become new

aluminum cans at Alcoa in Tennessee. Shaw Clear Path Recycling turns pop and water bottles into carpets in North Carolina. Steel cans head to Winnipeg's General Scrap where they are shredded and smelted into new steel products. Paper and cardboard is trucked to Northstar Fibre in Morden, Manitoba, where it is repulped or turned into fiberfill insulation.

Glass is put to use in landfills close to home. Marsch explains that local landfills crush glass products and use it as part of their gravel base to create roads through their sites.

ERS's access to buyers was recently broadened when they began working with a materials broker. "[Our broker's] interest is to buy as much materials from us as he can and resell it because that is his primary business," says Marsch. "So he's actively looking for markets for anything we can't get rid of."

Marsch is also an active member of

the Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers. Part of the group's mandate is to be constantly on the lookout for new and different recycling initiatives.

"There is a lot of material that is recyclable somewhere in the world, but not here," adds Marsch. He cites Styrofoam and plastic bags, two of the most widely used and disposed of items. Even plastic bags that claim to be recyclable end up in landfills due to the lack of feasible buyers.

So the question begs asking: what can we recycle? The answer is, most things. Paper, cardboard, milk cartons, juice boxes, cans, glass, and most plastics (#1, #2, #4, #5, and #7). If you're unsure of your plastic container, check the bottom for the number displayed inside the recycling symbol.

As for paper, Marsch says that if you can rip it, it's recyclable. That includes glossy catalogue covers. In the case of books with non-tearable covers, Marsch recommends removing the pages

and recycling them separately.

But what about items with food residue? Marsch says that this doesn't affect the recyclability of a container. Cheese on a pizza box or soup on a can gets dealt with somewhere along the process. Some effort by homeowners to remove food does make the sorting process more effective, but it isn't essential.

In terms of food packaging, some of it is recyclable and some of it isn't. Foil or wax-coated inserts in cereal, chip, and cookie boxes aren't recyclable even though the box is. Tissue boxes where plastic is layered into the paper fiber are fully recyclable, as recyclers have a separation process for these items.

Marsch would like to encourage people not to put materials inside other materials, which creates unnecessary work for sorters. For example, putting empty pop cans back in the cardboard box they came in.

But what does recycling cost our community? According to Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck, almost nothing. All of our recyclables are weighed when they arrive at ERS, and they submit a ticket to town council. Council forwards this weigh-ticket to Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM), a non-profit company that charges levies on recyclable materials. MMSM reimburses the community based on the weight of materials recycled.

In the end, there are so many reasons to recycle. From reducing our environmental footprint and encouraging companies to create responsible packaging to creating jobs for people with intellectual disabilities, your participation does it all.

With the recent introduction of larger garbage bins in Niverville, we may be tempted to fill them up and recycle less. Let's not forget how our efforts can change the world now and into the future. Let's do our part.

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# What's Really Going On with Town Water?

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

In early May, residents of The Highlands and Fifth Avenue Estates received repeated notices from town council regarding high levels of water usage. Residents were asked to reduce water consumption by alternating lawn-watering days and by picking up water for their pools from the town's non-treated system.

Six days after the initial notice, council sent out a follow-up letter indicating that, due to noncompliance by residents, council was required to disconnect from the reverse osmosis (RO) filtration system at the Spruce Drive plant and chlorinate the water until levels returned to normal.

This apparent spike in water usage follows quickly on the heels of two other announcements made by council regarding water in the past two months. Residents connected to the plant will see a water rate hike as of July 1, 2016 and consecutive hikes in 2017 and 2018. An announcement was also made in April that the town will need to seek out another water source to improve our current water system.

Water has been at the forefront of issues facing Niverville this year, beginning in January when council announced the first phase of a five- to ten-year plan to integrate the entire town into the treated water system.

The recent sequence of events begs many questions. How is it that a water treatment plant specifically designed for the developments it serves can't keep up? What is council's plan to ensure it will sufficiently manage consumption when Main Street businesses and the balance of residents hook up? What incentive is there for residents currently on wells to buy into a water system that seems flawed?

Mayor Myron Dyck suggests that quantity of water is not the issue.

Currently, the plant has two wells with the potential of a third well dug and ready for use. The aquifer from which we receive our groundwater is immeasurably large and sufficient for our needs.

The problem lies with the amount of micro-sediment in the existing well bank, an underground storage space from which the wells draw water.

"Essentially, [it's] a big sand cavern," says Dyck. "When you take water out of it too fast, the sand caves into the water and it needs to settle out."

According to Dyck, the current RO filtration system can't keep up when this happens. "These microns that it is filtering are 1/100 the width of a human hair. It is so refined. We can't turn it up to its full capacity because it stirs the [ground water], creating more of this [micro-sediment] and essentially it just plugs everything up."

At times like this, the filtration system is turned off and chlorine is added until the water has settled. Chlorine is provincially accepted as a safe means of purifying water for drinking, but it doesn't eliminate the fine minerals responsible for discolouration of faucets and appliances.

Eight years ago, when the plant was originally built, engineers were relied upon to determine an adequately sized pump and filtration system for our rapidly growing community, as well as the best possible location for the well bank. Though the pumps and filtration system can easily handle a greater capacity than they are now, due to sediment they are only able to run at half capacity.

"I'm disappointed [with] the information that we got," says Dyck. "You hire companies that tell you that they

have experience with that type of project. I would have expected more."

According to Dyck, the problem first came to light in August 2014 when consumption jumped from its typical level of 275,000 to 325,000 litres per day, doubling to between 600,000 and 700,000 litres per day. The spike was short-lived but became a wake-up call to council that, in spite of engineers' assurances, the system couldn't handle such demand.

Dyck says that town staff monitor water usage daily. They cannot be

property taxes have skyrocketed."

The resident, who wished not to be named, is concerned that there is more going on than meets the eye. "I don't know a single person who actually watered their lawn this season, let alone in the [short] period the town gave for complying. I am extremely offended that the town is blaming the residents for watering their lawns too often when clearly that is not what is happening. I wish the town would take responsibility and admit that someone has misjudged what is expected of an average family water usage."

The mayor says they will be moving forward with changes to our water services. To do this, they are required to get a license from the province.

Acquiring this license requires a study through the Manitoba Water Services Board. The cost of this

study is \$800,000, half of which the government will subsidize. The first stage involves hiring a hydrologist to help identify better water bank sites. The target date for study completion is January 1, 2017.

Dyck says the plant will stay where it is. The definitive costs, after the license is received and a well bank located, will come from digging new wells and running the line from those wells to the plant. That line may need to run for miles if cleaner well banks can't be found close to home. Enhancements may be necessary to the plant as well. This will be determined by the study. The risk of affecting the water table for private well owners in the process, according to Dyck, is too small to be a concern.

"We want to ensure that we have a master plan for the town and the best

possible water available to the community for the long-term," Dyck says. "What we have to do now will put us forward 20 [to] 50 years. We're going to accept what is and deal with it."

"The [cost of the] study and everything will come from current [water] consumers, not from general taxation," says Eric King, Finance Administration Manager for the town. "We have the power to lend general tax money to water, but it must be repaid. We have not gone down that path, as currently there is sufficient money in water to pay for the study of the wells."

In the interim and into the future, council asks that residents adhere to conservation requests.

"We're somewhat spoiled here in Manitoba," Dyck says. "When we think of places like California, they're not just on water alternates, they're on water bans. There's months when you can't water. Water is another resource that we have to properly manage. I would say that if we had ten times the capacity that we have now, that a policy of council would still be to ask residents to water on alternating days because it's just the right thing to do as far as not being wasteful."

As to the question of non-serviced residents being obligated to hook up to the treatment plant in the future, the mayor answers with a decisive yes. He suggests that the town will not be carrying any of the financial burden for that, unlike the recent agreement negotiated with the Main Street initiative.

"This council has no appetite for doing a project where it's going to create that much controversy [again]," says Dyck. "It's what happens in other communities. To assist with health and water suppression, there's a cost to that."

Dyck adds that many residents will see a drop in their home fire insurance when fire hydrants are installed near their homes, helping to buffer the cost of water hook-up.

**WATER UTILITY PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Public Notice follows notices posted on social media on May 5th, 6th and 7th. Due to non-compliance to Niverville water conservation recommendations, water levels in the Town's water reservoir while at safe operating levels, are approaching the lower limits of acceptability. The Town has deemed it therefore necessary to alter its method of producing potable water at the Spruce Drive Water Treatment Plant so as to increase available daily water volume. This change in production will continue to provide safe drinking water that meets or exceeds Provincial approved standards... however, perhaps not at the high standards we have become accustomed to. While residents may not notice any changes in the water quality, some differ-

Due to non-compliance to Niverville water conservation recommendations, water levels in the Town's water reservoir while at safe operating levels, are approaching the lower limits of acceptability. The Town has deemed it therefore necessary to alter its method of producing potable water at the Spruce Drive Water Treatment Plant so as to increase available daily water

please use water responsibly and conserve.

A friendly reminder that free water for filling of swimming pools is available from the Town. Residents must have their own means of transporting the water from 309 Main Street to their home. Please call 204-388-4600 ext. 111 for more information.

Regards,  
Town of Niverville  
Operations Department  
May 11, 2016

absolutely certain that the recent spike is connected to lawn watering, but staff have been asked to do what they can to determine the cause.

"Our water problems have been increasing for years, not just since last year when [we experienced] a shortage," says a resident who uses treated water. "When my family first moved to town in 2006, our water rates were very reasonable, which is part of the reason we chose Niverville. Over the years, the town keeps increasing water rates and sewer rates, and

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# A Clash Over Human Rights

## BACKGROUND

In this article, we have used the acronym LGBTQ to refer to people of minority sexual orientations and gender identities. LGBTQ is inclusive of, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, and queer persons.

By Evan Braun  
with Brenda Sawatzky

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The thorny question of LGBTQ rights has long been a hotbed for controversy in this country. Though Canada recognized same-sex marriage as a right in July 2005, becoming just the fourth country in the world to do so, legal battles have raged in the ensuing years—and perhaps nowhere has the debate been more intense than in our schools.

For those in the Hanover School Division, the controversy has never been more acute than in the last few years. Throughout the summer of 2013, a very public, and at times very ugly, debate erupted in Manitoba, particularly here in the rural southeast, when the NDP government sought to pass Bill 18, which established a legal framework to deal with bullying. A key measure of the bill proposed that students should have the right to form gay/straight alliances in their schools.

This did not go over well in places like Steinbach, which found itself in the provincial (and national) spotlight. Steinbach is a predominantly Christian community, and the backlash was swift. Fiery sermons were delivered in Sunday services. Prayer vigils were held in school gymnasiums. Protestors took to the streets.

The Hanover School Division (HSD), which Niverville is part of, is headquartered in Steinbach. While parents, pastors, politicians, and prognosticators of all types made their voices heard, Hanover announced it would support and comply with Bill 18. In September, Bill 18 passed into



Michelle McHale makes her presentation to the Hanover School Division.

✉ IAN FROESE, THE CARILLON

law and the public discourse faded to a dull roar.

Flash forward three years, and that roar has once again gained volume. On April 6, a local parent appeared in front of the Hanover School Division board, opening wounds which still hadn't healed.

"In the last number of months, my child was bullied at a Hanover School Division school because of my sexual orientation," Michelle McHale began. "In an attempt to have the bullying stopped, I spoke with the school principal and a division superintendent. These discussions exposed discriminatory practices occurring within the division relating to sexual orientation and family status."

McHale says she was not specifically bringing forward a bullying complaint, but rather challenging

discriminatory practices which she learned about in the process of speaking to school officials about the bullying. The crux of her problem: educators in Hanover have been directed not to discuss or acknowledge sexual orientation in the classroom.

**"Given the turnaround time, there was no possible way they could have reviewed the research that I provided to them."**

-Michelle McHale

"Homosexual practices intentionally not being discussed in sex education, where heterosexual practices are discussed, is discrimination," McHale said.

She also pointed out that different treatment of an individual or group on the basis of any protected characteristic, including homosexuality, is explicitly prohibited by the Manitoba Human Rights Code.

Two weeks later, HSD responded to McHale's request by defending its policies and emphasizing its compliance with the standards set out in the Manitoba Provincial Physical Education/Health Curriculum. They argued that, according to provincial guidelines, sexual orientation is classified as "sensitive curricular content" that can be handled at the discretion of division officials.

"Our Sensitive Content teachers have all been instructed to answer factually when asked any questions about sexual orientation," HSD wrote in their statement. The division gives its educators three options for dealing with such questions: (1) instructing the student to see them after class to pursue the subject, (2) referring the student to a resource teacher or counsellor, or (3) providing the

following explanation: "We live in a diverse world and why a person likes or is attracted to one person and not the other is one of life's great mysteries. We should always be respectful of every person's human rights, diversity, and dignity."

Finally, HSD clarified that teachers are required to inform the student's parent or guardian that their child discussed the subject of sexual orientation with them. "Hanover School Division respects the role of the parents or guardians as the primary educators of their children," the statement reads, "especially in the areas pertaining to family life."

In short, Hanover's decision was to implement no changes.

"I was disappointed," McHale revealed in an interview conducted in May. "They kind of came out and said, 'We feel like we're on solid ground.' But they didn't acknowledge the specific requests or give rationale for why they decided not to change anything... I think one of the things that disappointed me most is that, given the turnaround time, there was no possible way they could have reviewed the research that I provided to them."

This research included fact-based evidence about the value and importance of handling LGBTQ issues with a more open hand. One document in particular, *The Every Teacher Project on LGBTQ-Inclusive Education in Canada's K-12 Schools: Final Report*, published earlier this year by The Manitoba Teachers' Society (see link on next page), provides more than 160 pages of data gathered by leading researchers. Another key document is the 152-page *Every Class in Every School: Final Report on the First National Climate Survey on Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools* (also linked).

Additionally, McHale's research shows that contacting parents and guardians in response to a request about sexual orientation or gender identity can be dangerous and irresponsible. She points to numbers

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which show the high rate of suicide amongst LGBTQ young people, which many researchers attribute to poor acceptance from their families and communities.

She says that other school divisions in Manitoba operate under less restrictive policies than the ones in place in Hanover, and the difference in policies between neighbouring school districts highlights the problem of discriminatory practices.

"[In other divisions,] there's no direction to educators saying, 'Do not discuss homosexuality in classrooms,'" says McHale. She points out that LGBTQ content in the Winnipeg School Division is integrated into the whole curriculum, including in math textbook problems. "There's books in schools that talk about different families, people with two moms, two dads, that kind of thing."

#### COMMUNITY LEADERS REACT

In our communities, opposition to these issues usually comes from a very heartfelt and sincere place, and there can be no question that the recent public discourse is, for the most part, helpful in allowing people to process their points of view.

Though many church leaders differ in how best to respond to the LGBTQ community and legislation that may favour their cause, most still conclude that the issue stands in direct conflict with core biblical principles.

"As Christian leaders, we must train fellow believers that, while we live according to the Bible, someone who is not a Christian cannot be held to those beliefs," says Jason Kehler, youth pastor of the Fourth Avenue Bible Church in Niverville. "While we agree as Christians that these types of lifestyle choices constitute sin... this does not mean that we attack a person, but rather that we continue to love and respect them, without forcing our beliefs onto the other person."

Kehler believes that a good, healthy debate within the Christian community is necessary and that Christians have a moral responsibility to voice their position by attending forums, contacting their MPs, and praying for government leaders. But he warns that sometimes the actions of well-meaning individuals or church groups can have a detrimental effect.

Roger Armbruster, President of Canada Awakening Ministries, holds a similar view. "The church should not be involved in trying to impose its beliefs by the law of the land on those who do not believe the same as Christians," Armbruster says. "[We need to] demonstrate that beliefs which express themselves in loving your enemies are not in the same category as beliefs which advocate loving only those who agree with us, and demonizing them when we disagree."

Southland Church in Steinbach, while declining to be interviewed for this article, has in the past been among the more vocal voices against LGBTQ-friendly policies. In fact, many Southland parishioners now sit on the board of the Hanover School Division.

Other leaders stand firmly in support of LGBTQ rights. Steinbach Neighbours for Community (SNC) is a community-based group of educators, pastors, and civic and church leaders formed in 2014, in

tone of some of the discourse in this area, and are feeling isolated. It is our desire to welcome them into our communities and our churches as full and equal members."

McHale says that she often hears from community members who privately are very sympathetic to LGBTQ issues, but in public they are too often afraid to show their support.

"I've heard a lot of that lately," McHale says. "I support you, I'd like to stand up for you, but I can't because I have a business, or I can't because... lots of reasons. I mean, it's a lonely place to be... I want to be understanding of people's comfort levels. But on the other hand, what is more important to you? What other people think, or standing beside someone who feels completely alone and completely isolated because of who they are? We know the suicide rates among the LGBTQ community are high. There's a pain there."



Students march in Winnipeg Pride Parade.

by AARON SCOTT HILDEBRANDT

the wake of the Bill 18 debate. Their goal is to generate open dialogue on LGBTQ issues and provide resources for members of that community, and their allies, who need support.

"Our goal is to [create] a safe and welcoming place," says Val Hiebert, SNC spokesperson. "We want to help facilitate giving a voice to those who have been voiceless. We are aware of many LGBTQI [I standing for intersex] members in our community who have been deeply harmed by the nature and

#### THE AFTERMATH

In the weeks following McHale's initial request, she has faced a wide array of responses, most of which has been positive. Through Facebook, she has received messages of support from all across the country.

There's also been at least one death threat.

"I was surprised, and maybe naively, about the personal attacks," says McHale. "I naively thought that the majority of the anger would be about the fact that we were trying to do this. But not personally attacking

me. Even though you can think yourself logically out of that, it still impacts. The death threat was interesting. Honestly, there's no area of our lives that this hasn't touched."

Hanover's initial dismissal of McHale's request doesn't seem to have ended the discussion. At an HSD board meeting on May 4, 17-year-old Steinbach-area student Mika Schellenberg appealed for the division to reconsider its position.

In a CBC report, Schellenberg said, "Even after the meeting [in April], right afterwards, I thought it would be good to have a student's perspective if the issue got turned down, and then they turned it down very quickly."

Schellenberg was particularly concerned about the policy stating that teachers must out students to their parents. Her request garnered a standing ovation from the packed boardroom.

HSD has not yet issued a response to Schellenberg. However, they have announced that the subject will be discussed openly at a June 7 meeting of the school board, which will be open to the public.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

McHale suggests that public sentiment is changing, but it's hard to evaluate how much and how fast. "It's hard to know what kind of conversations are happening outside of social media. It's hard to know who's challenging whom."

This shift in sentiment will soon be put to the test. On July 9, Steinbach will have its first Pride event. The sidewalk march for equality down three blocks of Main Street will begin at the Steinbach United Church and move toward city hall, where a rally will be held. The rally will be attended by community leaders.

Steinbach is the fourth community in Manitoba to have its own Pride event, following Winnipeg, Brandon, and Thompson.

"I think it has the potential to be huge," McHale says. "Maybe not. It will be very interesting to see how it all plays out."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Every-Teacher-Project-Final-Report-WEB.pdf](http://www.egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Every-Teacher-Project-Final-Report-WEB.pdf)

■ [www.egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EgaleFinalReportweb.pdf](http://www.egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EgaleFinalReportweb.pdf)

#### CITIZEN POLL

##### THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

**Do you agree with the way Hanover School Division has handled parent Michelle McHale's request?**

- ☐ **YES** - Her request for open discussion of sexual orientation is reasonable.
- ☐ **NO** - Discussion of sexual orientation should be kept out of our schools, and left up to parents.

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##### LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

**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.

**76%**

**NO** - If there is a daycare shortfall, parents are likely to find alternative arrangements.

**24%**

##### YOUR COMMENTS:

"It's a huge problem. The town keeps running campaigns trying to get people from Winnipeg to move here, but we don't have adequate daycare, school, or other services for those of us who already live here. Sustainable growth please."

"This is the main reason my house is up for sale."

"Yes!! If I can't have daycare space, then I either have to quit my job or move."

"About 90% in my decision making process when choosing a place to live. I didn't find a daycare spot in Niverville, I found it in Ile-des-Chenes. Although not far, I'd rather be closer to the daycare."

"I moved to town before I had children. I found it very difficult to find childcare. It still is difficult as I have put off having more children until things change as we are unable to afford daycare."

"Niverville promotes itself as family friendly, and 'where you belong.' I have a friend who is having to move back to the city, because she can't get daycare. This should be priority #1."

# Guardian

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The renovated cheese shop in New Bothwell.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

## Bothwell Cheese Opens New and Improved Shop

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Earlier this year, the Bothwell Cheese Shop closed its doors for extensive renovations. On March 17, the shop reopened, showcasing a clean and modern new look—as well as better product selection.

"The new Cheese Shop was designed with our customers in mind," says Megan Deaust, Manager of Product Marketing. "It's definitely shopper-friendly. The cash desk was moved to the front of the store to help with the flow of foot traffic. We invested in three new open air coolers, which means shoppers don't have to

struggle with the cooler doors anymore."

According to Deaust, they were careful to ensure that the new look and feel was representative of the Bothwell Cheese brand. "You will find a lot of wood grain in the space," she says, "along with vintage lighting and décor, and the ceiling was finished with antique inspired tin."

The shop sells every variety of cheese produced by the company. Fresh white curds are always available Monday afternoons, and coloured curds are available fresh on Tuesdays. Thursdays mark the arrival of fresh blocks of cheddar.

"To cut down on wasted

product, we still occasionally have cheese trim available for purchase," adds Deaust, referring to the odds and ends produced when cheese is sliced into even blocks. "We've also increased the number of other Manitoba-made products in the shop. We now sell Smak Dab Mustard, GORP bars, Elman's Pickles and Sauerkraut, Flora & Farmer spreads, Conscious Fare Ketchup, Adagio Acres Oats, Other Brother Roasters coffee, Perfect Pierogies, and Cornell Creme."

Gift boxes, recipe books, coffee mugs, hats, cutting boards, and cheese paper are also available.

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# A Smart Approach to Behavioural Issues

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is home to a new group of professionals. S.M.A.R.T. Learning and Behaviour Network will be opening its doors at 295 Main Street, providing analysis, training, and tools to parents, teachers, daycare workers, and childcare professionals. The business name represents the many areas they address regarding childhood development: skills, motivation, academics, relationships, and training.

The ownership trio bring with them years of education and experience, equipping them with knowledge and background well-suited to enhancing childhood development. They met as employees of the St. Amant Centre, a not-for-profit organization focusing on developmental disabilities and autism. Aware of the long waitlists faced by children in need, the three decided to venture out on their own.

Leigh-Ann Jones and Corrie Neil have Master's degrees in behaviour analysis and are certified in the Positive Parenting Program, a provincial government initiative. Leigh-Ann also specializes in psychology and special education, having worked in the field for over twenty years. Marissa Levesque has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and has completed graduate coursework in behaviour analysis.



Marissa Levesque, Corrie Neil, and Leigh-Ann Jones.

CREDIT

"The field of behaviour analysis is built on scientific principles which describe behaviour, why we do what we do," says Neil.

Behavioural issues include autism, ADHD, developmental disabilities, struggles with learning, and anxiety. S.M.A.R.T. believes in taking a holistic approach to childhood behaviours. They look at barriers that block a child's abilities, the motivations a child may need, and environmental issues.

S.M.A.R.T.'s new location has a private entrance and will be equipped with consultation and treatment rooms.

Their expertise will also reach beyond the office into homes, classrooms, and daycares, if needed, to observe a child within their different environments, where a more direct analysis can occur. They will have trained therapists on staff to work one-on-one with parents and children.

"You need to know how that child learns and, in a classroom of 30 kids, the teacher doesn't always have that luxury," says Jones. "We can help with that."

Once the child's concern is identified, they can provide tools to teachers and parents, equipping them to understand learning or behavioural issues

and how to better work with the child.

S.M.A.R.T. will also host workshops, the first of which will be dedicated to daycare workers on positive behaviour management.

"Generally, people don't come to us broken. They come to us missing some tools from their toolbox," says Jones. "This is your child. Your child is whole. Let's help this child be the best that they can be."

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# Commentary

## The Double-Edged Sword of Prohibition



By Greg Fehr

As promised, federal and provincial authorities are exploring the legalization of marijuana. This will not be an easy one for many people to digest. Even those individuals who

celebrate April 20 as National Weed Day are curious to see what it will mean—and those who have seen the life challenges of drug use are fearful of the proverbial floodgates opening.

I must admit, I find myself flinching with both edges of this

issue. I have seen the consequences of drug use and its impact on families, yet I acknowledge that some of this impact may be solved through control.

Looking at the current situation, we are a nation in which more than one in 10 people use weed on occasion, with a much higher percentage seen in youth. Unlike many other illicit drugs, it is one of the few which Canada produces enough to export rather than depending on a global network to supply. And with usage as high as 12 percent, chances are that everyone knows someone who smokes pot, casually or

regularly. We have a soft tolerance of marijuana, to the point that Canadians are known for being relatively open to its use.

The most alarming statistic is the prevalence of users in the 15- to 24-year-old age group. One in three of these youths use the drug at an age when their brains are still developing, and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana) has been shown to alter this development. The physical impacts of casual pot use are otherwise minimal, although dependence on the “escape” produced by the high can have a detrimental impact.

What is often cited is the

likelihood of marijuana opening the door to other drugs. Considering that the price of weed hasn't kept pace with inflation, and has indeed dropped over the past few decades, it is only natural that the entrepreneurial network of dealers uses it as a loss leader to upsell more profitable chemicals. Many of these chemicals are cheap to produce and result in a higher and more immediate addiction; they produce loyal and high-volume customers.

Would control and sale by a government agency solve some of these problems? In short, yes. Government controls would remove the interaction between users and the current vendors. On the underground market, pot dealers are often connected with other criminal activities. While the black market for pot wouldn't disappear, a considerable dent would be put in their sales, removing funds for other illicit activities and damaging their distribution network.

Legalization may also take pressure off a broken and overloaded justice system. The current resources dedicated to pot possession and usage could potentially be better directed towards the illicit distribution network. Due to lack of resources and prioritization, police are already exercising discretion in possession charges. Resources to identify and curb those under the influence

will need to be strengthened, but the argument could be made that we need to do that regardless.

Would there be potential problems? Undoubtedly. Access will be easier, depending on the sale model, and this could result in more regular usage, including more experimentation by people who have avoided marijuana until now due to its illegal nature. Strong measures to ensure that it's only sold to adults, and strong penalties for providing the drug to minors, must be in place just as they are for alcohol sales.

How government chooses to word legislation and exercise control will be critical. If they choose a model similar to alcohol, allowing production to remain in private hands with strict controls, they'll both please the “potheads” with good quality weed and reduce the need for users to go underground to get the good stuff.

Ultimately, it's not a question of whether marijuana is legalized; it's the details around the legislation that will determine its impact. Can our governments see their way to direct potential tax resources to solve old problems and the new ones that such a law may create? Given the original intent and actual use of many taxes (including income tax, fuel tax, and others), we should be wary.

## Look on the Bright Side: Now Is a Gift

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Mark Twain once said, “I have known a great many troubles. But most of them never happened.”

Is your thought life consumed by future events, ones that might not even happen? It's important to remind ourselves that life unfolds in the present, yet most often we let the present slip away. We forget to seize the moment, allowing our precious time to rush past, unobserved.

We live in a world full of distractions, yet one of life's most

powerful paradoxes is that our brightest future depends upon our ability to pay attention to the present.

When my daughter Cassandra was two and a half, I was busily putting away the dishes as she rambled on behind me. My thoughts were elsewhere, most likely on my never ending to-do list, or on some extended family issues, when out of the blue she yelled “Mommy, Mommy!” while tugging the back of my shirt. Exasperated, I knelt down in front of her and asked what she wanted. She held my head in her chubby

little hands and said, with profound force, “Mommy! Talk in my face!”

I knew exactly what she meant. She wanted me to show up, pay attention, and be present in the moment with her.

We tend to get lost in what we're doing, mindlessly going through the motions. This is why we can unknowingly eat a whole bag of chips, forget to add the sugar while baking, or arrive at a destination with little remembrance of the journey.

Mindfulness means

consciously taking control of where we place our attention and snapping out of autopilot mode. Maintaining moment-to-moment awareness of our thoughts, feelings, and environment enables us to accomplish more than we might think possible.

When our minds wander, we become stuck in mechanical and conditioned ways of thinking and we often fail to notice the beauty of life. Now is a gift; slowly unwrap it and savour the present.

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# Is Our Retail and Service Sector Stagnant?

By Clare Braun

When I think of Niverville, I think of tremendous opportunity.

Back in 1995 when I was elected mayor, we had a population of 1,400 people. We had three housing developments, and one developer had just walked away. Another wasn't far from handing in his keys as well. Our housing agreements were particularly onerous on developers in a stagnant market.

Upon closer investigation, the market wasn't the only issue. Rather, as council we needed to embrace some uncomfortable change. We had to make it possible for developers to see a return on their investment.

In many ways, the Niverville of today is lightyears from the community I grew up in and was the mayor of from 1995 to 2002. The mayors and councils both before and after have made important contributions, and we're still in the process of developing a vibrant and sustainable community.

Today we face a great challenge. Our residential growth in the past 20 years is unsustainable if we don't also grow the business community, and it is in this area that we need to challenge our thinking. It has been said that it is insanity to continue doing things the same way and expect a different result. As residents, businesses, and members of council, how do we need to change our thinking to make sure we bring about a different result?

Niverville needs to move forward at a basic level when it comes to core retail services. Though our population is nearly 5,000, the past 15 to



Main Street in Niverville.

GOOGLE

20 years has seen the addition of very little new retail. As someone who has sought to bring new retail services to Niverville for the past decade, it's important to note that we are considered by many to be unfriendly to new business. Businesspeople, including those who might have an interest in investing here, have significant confidence issues. Some have already walked away and others are considering that option. I know it because I have heard from them personally.

The question is this: have we settled into bedroom community mode?

Unless our businesses become destinations for the people who already live here, we won't see Main Street grow to its fullest potential. The bottom line is that if we don't see a shift in our tax base, if the business community doesn't share a greater portion of the tax burden, we won't be able to provide the quality of services our residents have come to expect.

A population of 5,000 translates into around 1,800 housing units. In Manitoba, the average household expenses ranges from \$70,000 to \$75,000 per year. This includes all expenses related to running a household,

including housing and transportation. The total amount spent for Niverville is in the range of \$130 million, or about \$72,000 per household. Locally we are not capitalizing on it. We may be missing an opportunity here.

Our proximity to Winnipeg is our greatest gift, yet it remains our greatest weakness. We will never compel people to shop here out of guilt. They will come only if we offer more of what they're looking for.

More people have moved here in the past 15 years than were here when the residential boom began. It is awesome to see the investments that these 3,000-plus people have made to Niverville. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. But how can we benefit more from the gifts and talents that they bring? How can we become more inclusive? From a business perspective, what changes do we need to make in our models to encourage them to do more retail shopping in the community they call home?

For the Chamber of Commerce, this means defining with greater clarity the value we bring. What is our purpose, and how do we need to change and adapt to different times?

To our present council, who ran on a platform of business

growth in the past election, how will you adapt to bring about the growth we all know is crucial to our long-term success?

The present council does not appear to have engaged with the local Chamber and the business community. The recent announcement of a tax incentive for business appears to have been made without any consultation with the Chamber and business community. This is unfortunate, in that it appears that council is making assumptions about what the business community needs rather than directly consulting with them.

The Chamber has stepped up to be a voice for the business community, and that is a very good thing. I am hopeful that a new partnership can be forged in which our council embraces the Chamber as an ally with an ear to listen.

The challenge is for all of us—town council, Chamber of Commerce, businesses, and residents of Niverville. Are we ready to look for some new ways of doing things? When I think of Niverville, what do I see? Many new opportunities, but one thing that is assured is that we will need to embrace change.



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# Sports & Recreation



View of the Red River Co-op Speedway from the stands.

RED RIVER CO-OP SPEEDWAY

## Speedway Unveils Summer Schedule

By Keiron Berndt

The Red River Co-op Speedway, located just west of St. Adolphe, has just kicked off its season. Throughout the month of June, the track opens at 5:00 p.m. each Thursday, with races scheduled to start at 7:00, unless otherwise specified.

There are numerous classes of racing, something for everyone to enjoy whether you're a long-time enthusiast or speedway newbie. Here's a breakdown of the different classes.

**Street Stocks (SS).** These cars must weigh a minimum of 1,451

kilograms, can reach a top speed of 136 kilometres per hour on an oval track, and run up to 10 percent ethanol fuel.

**Midwest Modifieds (MYM).** MWM cars can weigh between 1,180–1,202 kilograms, depending on the engine. They can run on race fuel, pump fuel, or E98 ethanol fuel.

**Late Models (LM).** Similar to MWM, the precise weight of the car (including driver) falls between 1,043–1,100 kilograms, and they must be able to reach speeds of 160 kilometers per hour on the track, using gasoline, ethanol-enriched fuel, or alcohol.

**Modifieds (M).** Reaching speeds of 160 kilometers per hour on the track, these vehicles are allowed to use gasoline, ethanol-enriched fuel, or alcohol. They may sometimes be referred to as A-Mods.

**Super Trucks (ST).** The minimum weight of these trucks is 1,270 kilograms and they reach speeds of 145 kilometers per hour on ethanol-enriched fuel.

**Pure Stock (PS).** These stock cars must weigh 1,452 kilograms or more, have unmodified engines, and use regular gasoline as fuel.

**4-Cylinder (4C).** The 4-cylinder class includes any passenger car

with a maximum wheelbase of 104 inches. They can have manual or automatic transmissions, be more than 10 years old, and run on pump fuel.

### JUNE RACE SCHEDULE

- June 2: SS, MWM, M, LM, PS
- June 9: SS, MWM, M, LM, ST
- June 16: SS, MWM, M, ST, PS
- June 23: SS, MWM, M, ST, 4C
- June 30: SS, MWM, M, LM, PS

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Yoga

Wednesdays, May 4–June 29  
Curling Rink 7:00 p.m. & 8:15 p.m.  
Flow Yoga, Ying Yoga (\$15 drop-in fee)

#### Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Mondays/Wednesdays, May 16–June 22  
South End of Arena, 6:30 p.m. (\$15 drop-in fee)

#### Toastmasters

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

#### Women's Volleyball

(St. Adolphe)  
Fridays, 8:30 p.m., St. Adolphe School, Free.

#### Niverville Rec Summer Camp Information

Registration Opens May 19.  
See page 25 for camp details

#### St. Adolphe Curling Club Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 4  
Cost \$110.

#### New Bothwell Fair

Friday, June 3 & Saturday, June 4  
New Bothwell Community Centre

#### New Bothwell Wine & Cheese Festival

Friday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.  
New Bothwell Community Centre

#### Ritchot Services to Seniors

(Grouille ou Rouille)  
Tuesday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Parc Cartier Park, Ste. Agathe

#### Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair

Friday, June 10 & Saturday, June 11  
Niverville Main Street

#### Blumenort Fun and Fair

June 24–26, Blumenort Park

#### Ritchot Services to Seniors

(Walking Club)  
Wednesdays/Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe

#### Ritchot Services to Seniors

(Open Gym)  
Wednesdays & every second Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 p.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe. Treadmills & Bikes

#### Blue Jays Baseball Camp

July 20–21, Optimist Park, Île-des-Chênes  
Register: [www.bluejays.com/camps](http://www.bluejays.com/camps)

#### For More Information:

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

#### Send your event listing to:

■ [cgradient@nivervillecitizen.com](mailto:cgradient@nivervillecitizen.com)

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## Richert Partners with Clooney's Casamigos

By Keiron Berndt

Local Eurocup Formula Renault driver, and Niverville local, David Richert recently announced a partnership with Casamigos Tequila for events including a race at the famous Monaco Grand Prix.

Casamigos was formed by friends George Clooney; Rande Gerber, founder of Gerber Spirits; and Mike Meldman, CEO and founder of the Discover Land Company with the goal of providing the world's best tasting and smoothest tequila that doesn't need to be disguised with lime or salt.

The name Casamigos is "named after our homes in Cabo called Casamigos, which loosely translated means 'house of friends,'" Gerber said.

Casamigos is the title partner of Richert's car, which reflects the Casamigos Brand.

Richert is enthusiastic to race in Monaco. "Partnering with Casamigos is also very special as it's a great brand to be associated with and I think the design of the Casamigos car looks absolutely stunning!" Richert says.

Casamigos now joins Richert's other corporate partners, including Diabolica



A bottle of Casamigos Tequila.

© RICHERT RACING

Wines, Silver Jeans Co., Loewen, Karma Property Management, and R.R. Dobel Insurance in preparation to the Monaco Grand Prix.

The Monaco Grand Prix began on May 26 and continues through the weekend, with the final race being an opening to the Formula Grand Prix on Sunday, May 29.

Due to a torrential downpour, the event turned into a sort of demolition derby, with Richert emerging unscathed. Due to a quirk of the rules, despite finishing in 17th place, the final posted result placed him 20th.

Richert is one of only four Canadians to finish the Monaco Grand Prix.



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# Accepting the Challenge

**fitville**

**By Chantel Gadiant**

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Ah, the joys of being outdoors on a baseball diamond on a warm spring evening. Nothing gets better than that. Well, sure, I can list some things I like better than baseball, but the social aspect really appeals to me—and the fact that you can joke around with the opposing team.

I played baseball for one year, when I was eight years old, and then I started playing it again 15 years later. There's a reason I didn't play throughout my childhood, though:

I couldn't catch, nor could I hit the ball with the bat.

I'm a soccer player at heart, but last year a coworker asked if I wanted to play on his Adult Slo-pitch team here in Niverville. "Sure, why not?" I said, thinking to myself, *I can run. I can wear a hat. I'll worry about catching and hitting the ball when I get on the diamond.*

Adult Slo-pitch is a local league in Niverville, for players who are just there for the love of baseball. Last year, I had a blast. I was far from a good player, but I tried my hardest. My team was very encouraging, giving me pointers

and telling me where to stand. This year: the same thing! Which I'm fine with, although I'm a very competitive person. When I miss a catch or can't manage to swing the bat at the precise second to hit the ball, I do get frustrated. I have to remember that it's just a fun game. Everyone is here to get outside and have fun.

Since I was mostly a newbie, I had no idea what position to play. In soccer I'm a left wing defence-man. In baseball, the only terms I knew coming in was "pitcher" and "catcher." Everyone else just stood out there. Well, lo and behold, it turns out there are 10 positions!

Pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, third base, rover, short stop, left field, right field, and centre field.

Since I had no clue about the rules and who does what, I was placed as catcher and second base for most of last year. I also had the chance to play short stop and rover once. We'll see about this year!

I encourage you to try out a sport or activity you're not an expert in. Accept the challenge, and always remember to have fun with it.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ nivervilleslopitch@gmail.com

## IN BRIEF



Volunteers clean baseball diamonds in Hespeler Park.

■ JEN MORIN

## Volunteers Take on Baseball Diamonds

This April, a group of volunteers painstakingly cleaned two of the four baseball diamonds in Hespeler Park. The town was tied up making sure the other two diamonds, which needed a makeover, were good to go for baseball season. The volunteers, armed with gloves, rakes, and wheelbarrows and led by the Niverville Youth Baseball Committee, set out to clean up the diamonds, which were overgrown by weeds and grass. They got the job done over the course of a Saturday morning.



An aerial view of the Highlands Park project.

■ PLAIN VIEW AERIALS

## Highlands Park Under Development

**By Chantel Gadiant**

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is home to many beautiful parks, large and small. The newest park is located in The Highlands, west of town. The Highlands Park can be found on Krahn Road, south of Tweed Lane.

Currently the park is being rough-graded, meaning that lots of dirt is being hauled in. This earth will eventually be used to fashion berms and hills, along with a playing field for pickup soccer and football games.

The park will also feature a

natural play area with a climbing wall, hill slide, boulders, log climber, and swings. A walking path through the park will connect Krahn Road with Tweed Lane. Lots of trees will be planted throughout the park, particularly to block the wind from the east and west sides.

Parks don't appear overnight. They take a few years of planning, fundraising, grant applications, and good weather to execute. The town hopes to have the park functional by the end of this summer. However, if the summer turns out to be unusually wet, the park may not be ready until next spring.

## Splash Pad Update

**By Chantel Gadiant**

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is excited to open its new splash pad this summer. The splash pad is currently complete and will be going through a variety of tests in June to make sure that everything is in working order and that all the water features are in good condition to run all summer long.

The canteen and washroom/change room building has had a little delay with the wet weather in early May. The expected finish date is the first week of July.

A grand opening is coming soon, though no date has been set yet. Stay tuned for more details.



## Heading out of country soon?

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## Nolan Parsons

Nolan likes to play hockey and all sorts of sports! Right now he plays in the Rally Caps Baseball league on the 'Blue Jays' Team. He loves to play with lego as well. Nolan's favorite food is pizza and his favorite color is red. He loves the Calgary Flames and Winnipeg Jets. Nolan also enjoys going for bike rides and learning about sharks.

# Rally Caps Off to a Great Season

By Jen Morin

The baseball season has finally arrived, and Mother Nature has been mostly nice—at least, we've been very lucky on Wednesday nights in the Rally Caps League!

Rally Caps, also known as T-ball, is a league for four- to six-year-old children who are just getting into baseball or softball. The program is focused on teaching children basic skills, like how to hold and throw a ball, how to hold and swing a bat, and which direction to run the bases. Instead of just playing games, the children are split up into groups and rotate between playing a game and skill stations. Every so often, the kids are able to earn caps of different colours at evaluations. The colours represent different skill levels.

This year, 38 children are signed up, divided into six teams: the Blue Jays, Raptors, Lady Bugs, Lightning, Ninja Turtles, and Jackhammer.

The Rally Cap program is



The Rally Caps in action.

JEN MORIN

also focused on getting parents involved. It's hard for one assistant coach to make sure their group of little ones are always learning, having fun, and staying safe! Adults and

children are paired up when learning skills, to avoid injuries.

The program relies heavily on parents playing ball with their children. This often brings out a

love of coaching in parents, which helps to keep the program alive in Niverville.



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Tristan Cousineau and Max Dowse celebrate with their first place trophy.

RAY DOWSE

## Manitoba Xtreme Win Big in Minneapolis

Tristan Cousineau from Ste. Agathe and Max Dowse from Niverville are celebrating victory after their team, the Manitoba Xtreme, took first place at the Stars and Stripes AAA hockey tournament in Minneapolis on May 8.

The Manitoba Xtreme is a series of elite teams comprised of some of our province's best players. Cousineau and Dowse played on a team of players all born in 2008.

This was a big win for the Xtreme, as teams from Minnesota had won the tournament in every elite age category for the last two years.

Cousineau and Dowse weren't the only players representing our region. Evan Groening of Niverville also played for the Xtreme, on the 2005 team. Groening's team placed second in their division.

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# Pilots Get Old New Head Coach

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Providence University College in Otterburne has announced the return of a former athlete and head coach to the men's basketball team.

"It feels like I am coming back home again," says Tim Friesen of returning to coach the Pilots program. "It will be great to be involved once again with a program that has already added so much to my life."

Friesen was a former athlete at Providence and at Brandon University, and he previously served as head coach of the Pilots between 2003 and 2006. In 2004–2005, Friesen brought home the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) national championships. He was also named Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (NIAC) coach of the



Tim Friesen.

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

year in 2005.

Friesen was Providence's Assistant Athletic Director from 2003–2005 and the Director of Athletics from 2005–2008. Since 2013, Friesen has produced an impressive 45–29

record for the Varsity boys basketball team at Steinbach Regional Secondary School.

Director of Athletics Scott Masterson is excited to have Tim Friesen back at Providence.



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# Arts & Entertainment



Plain as Ghosts.

JOEY SENFT

## Plain as Ghosts Debuts First Album

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's music scene has always been full of talent from every musical genre. Plain as Ghosts, a grunge/rock band, is headed up by Niverville's own Trevor Lux. Their debut album, *Rendering*, was released online on May 27.

To give fans a taste of their sound, Plain as Ghosts pre-released their hit song "Monday Morning Quarterback" on YouTube at the beginning of May. The album has eight tracks, written and recorded by Lux and the band's bass player, Adam Halstrom, at Halstrom's studio in Winnipeg, Pollution Lake Sound.

The band is made up of four guys with varying backgrounds in music. Lux got his first guitar from his grandpa when he was fifteen and ended up modifying it. He likes to call himself a gear head, which is actually how he met Halstrom in 2014. They both share a love of 90s grunge, as well as modifying music and instruments.

Rodrigo Ramirez, the drummer, was in another band with Lux called *Callida*. The two have chemistry and decided to continue with it. All that was missing was a lead guitarist. The band put out an add on Kijiji—and it was answered by Dan Friesen, who also serves as worship band leader at his church.

Each member brings something

unique and makes up the Plain as Ghosts sound.

"We draw on deep, personal experiences derived through love, loss, and life," Lux says. "The intimate lyrics spark an outlook of hope and integrity which comes as a refreshing take on a genre typically fuelled by anger and aggression. The music is described as heavy and lyrically directed with hints of melodic ambience."

You may have heard them perform already, as last year they played at the Niverville fair and at the Heaps of Dreeps fundraiser.

Their next show will be at Steinbach's annual fair, Summer in the City, on Saturday, June 18. The band loves these types of shows,

as they provide lots of exposure to many different age groups.

So what does the future hold for these rockers? "For now, we would love to get some airplay on the radio," says Lux. "Currently, Mix 96.7 FM will be featuring our track 'Against the Waves.' We have set out to play some summer festival and local shows, and see where things take us from there."

Their album release party is set for July 9 at the Goodwill in Winnipeg, with opening acts The Perms and The Day Traders.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

### IN BRIEF



Brady Kenneth. ✉ DUSTIN KRAHN | EXCEL GRAPHICS

## Brady Kenneth Releases New EP

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Niverville born and bred country artist Brady Kenneth will debut his new EP album, *That's the Way She Goes*, when he takes the stage at this year's Olde Tyme Country Fair.

Growing up on a farm in a rural community, Kenneth began his career by exploring heavier music genres. But eventually he returned to his roots and his love of country music.

"Country music allows and encourages me to tell my story... from my own perspective, experience, and point of view," Kenneth says.

Kenneth has been working on the EP for the last year while taking trips to Nashville with friend, producer, and co-writer Evan St. Cyr, who also operates Arcade Studios.

"I am proud of this project, proud of the work we have done," he adds. "I am honoured and humbled to be asked again to perform at this year's fair, opening for such incredible artists."

Brady Kenneth performs Saturday evening, preceding The Washboard Union and Gord Bamford.

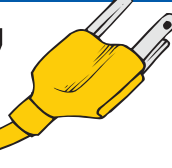


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# Painting the Town Red

Art is alive and well in Niverville. This month, The Citizen turns its attention to a few local painters.



SYLVIA  
ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Since September, this space has highlighted the exceptional talents of local musicians, actors, filmmakers, writers, photographers, dancers, decorators, fashion designers, pillow-makers, and even someone who creates metal sculptures.

This month, The Citizen turns its attention to a few local painters you may not have heard about. From the professional career artist down to the inspired hobbyist, all art is worthy of celebration and acknowledgement.

## ELAINE KRAHN

Elaine Krahn has always been involved greatly in the community by volunteering for the Olde Tyme Country Fair, the Imagine Run, and our annual Remembrance Day services. One thing you may not know about her, though, is her love of drawing and painting.

Since she was a child,

Krahn has loved creating art as a hobby. "I was well into my twenties before I actually purchased a few oil paints," she says. "I attended the odd workshop here and there, but for the most part I just learned by happenstance... and desire."

After raising three boys and realizing her youngest, Dustin, also had a passion for painting, Krahn got back into painting in a grander way. She and Dustin have worked on many projects together, including the mural behind the deli counter at the Niverville Bigway.

Krahn has sold and given away many other works, but it's her passion that fuels her art. "Painting is a great, relaxing, and creative challenge," she says, "and I would rather stay home and paint than go sit on a beach in Mexico!"

Now that she's retired, Krahn hopes to find more free time to paint her endless ideas.

"In painting artwork, you always need the dark to appreciate the lights," she says. "Just as it is in our daily lives!"

## KRISTA GIBSON

Krista Gibson is a mom of two and works full-time. Only in the last six months has she picked up painting—after she attended a painting night with some friends.

"I had so much fun that I decided to try again on my own at home," Gibson adds that she's found time to paint pictures she's seen on the internet, as well as experiment with different colours and techniques.

Although Gibson hasn't sold any paintings yet, she has had inquiries. "It's relaxing and an escape from work, chores, and life. When I'm painting, it's just me and the canvas. Everything else fades away."

Gibson enjoys painting so much that she recently decided to share her passion by hosting a paint night with some family and friends. Although she isn't looking to start a business doing paint parties, she enjoys bringing those around her together with this stress reliever.

For now, most of her paintings hang on her own walls.

"My family jokes that we are running out of wall space, but I think I'll be okay for a while."

## DAWN SCHMIDT

If you attended the Home Inspirations Show in Niverville this past March, you may have noticed a booth full of nature paintings for sale. These were all created by Dawn Schmidt, a mother of four who works part-time at the Heritage Centre.

Schmidt started painting seven years ago. "I was an 'undercover' painter until about a year and a half ago," she says. "I started going to some shows, and I slowly started selling some of my work."

Although she does sell her paintings, Schmidt doesn't put pressure on herself to make it a career. "It's an expression of who I am. I think we all have creativity inside us, but we don't tap into it because of many different reasons. We're afraid we won't be good enough, or we're too old, or nobody will like what we do. These excuses can keep us from exploring the greatness that's inside each of us."



Elaine Krahn.

ELAINE KRAHN



Krista Gibson.

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Dawn Schmidt

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# NES Performs "Rats!"

By Sandra Klassen

What would you do if rats invaded Niverville? That was the question asked each of the three nights before the Grades 3 and 4 students of the Niverville Elementary School (NES) performed the story of the Pied Piper.

The Grade 3 students' exceptional singing and choreography was a highlight each

night they sang. (Their choreography was totally different than the kids in Grade 4.) They sang with enthusiasm and worked as a team, following their conductor closely.

The Grade 4 students wowed the audiences, showing their connection with their characters by being believable and humorous. Who knew rats could be so sneaky and sly? Who knew the town council

could do the tango? Who knew the townspeople could get so upset?

Who knew the Grades 3 and 4 students could present such an awesome performance? Kudos to all the students and staff for another great musical production at Niverville Elementary.



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# Summer Fun & Leisure

## Adventure at Altitude Is About Fulfilling Dreams

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Remember being a kid and imagining you could fly? Or that dream where you're weightless and soaring above the clouds? Adventure at Altitude is in the business of fulfilling those dreams. For 27 years, Barry Morwick has been sharing his love of flight through Ultralight and hang glider aircraft lessons and introductory flights.

Located at the Steinbach North Airport, Adventure at Altitude offers something for the timid, first-time flyer as well as the no-holds-barred thrill seeker.

"Short, gentle flights are 10 to 15 minutes, our mile-high flights are 30 minutes, but often people book cross-country flights to other places around Manitoba, and as far north as Churchill for polar bear and whale-watching tours," says Morwick.

Tandem Ultralights are lightweight, open aircraft outfitted with the most basic and safest flight components: two seats, a motor, and a wing. Though some choose the gentle, sightseeing flight, daredevils can opt for the Fear



Barry Morwick takes a passenger for a tour over Steinbach.

ADVENTURE AT ALTITUDE

Factor SkyRide and lesson, which offers a wild roller-coaster experience. At the right altitude, Morwick can shut off the engine and soar through thermal columns of air, gliding unpowered just like a hang glider.

Morwick also offers hang

gliding lessons, a device even simpler than the Ultralight. Because they're not motorized, Morwick's hang gliders are towed behind a vehicle; the tow rope is released as the glider gains maximum altitude. Unlike the Ultralight, which has seats, the hang glider has

harnesses that position the rider above the instructor, giving them the ultimate feeling of soaring like a bird.

"Most people who come out are just regular people who want to have some fun doing something completely different," says Morwick. His

patrons have included the blind, quadriplegics, and kids. His oldest client was 96.

Adventure at Altitude offers group events for parties and corporate outings. Optional group picnics can be arranged, including a barbecue meal for parties of five or more. Gift

certificates are also available. Flights take place seven days a week by reservation only.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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## Monday Junior Nights

### MONDAY NIGHTS

Junior Lesson Clinic Series of 3 - **\$50**  
Golf after 6PM **\$10**, Juniors **FREE**

## Wednesday Seniors Day

### SENIOR WEDNESDAYS

50+ Golf with cart - **\$40 Per Person**  
Drop in Senior League every Wednesday

## Thursday Ladies League

Golf with cart after 1PM - **\$40**  
after 5PM - **\$25**  
Ladies Only



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## Saturday Junior Clinic Lessons

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## Wednesday Ladies Night

**6:45 LADIES ONLY CLINICS**  
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**SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY** FIND OUT MORE AT [MAPLEWOODGOLFCLUB.COM](http://MAPLEWOODGOLFCLUB.COM) OR [MCGIBBYSGOLF.COM](http://MCGIBBYSGOLF.COM)

## MAPLEWOOD GOLF CLUB

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South Perimeter Highway just east of St.Annes Road



# Splatters Paintball, A Multifaceted Theme Park



Splatters Paintball Field.

SHAUN MCMAHON

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

It's the stuff a *Call of Duty* video game is made of, but it's real life, giving you an adrenaline rush like no video game can. Splatters Paintball is not your ordinary paintball field. 20 acres of gaming area is strategically scattered with a variety of impressive, life-size props including cars, buses, out-buildings, a

48-foot retired rescue helicopter, and a massive multi-story castle and fortress.

What started off as backyard fun for Evan Schroeder quickly developed into his life's dream. According to Schroeder, typical paintball areas were usually located in the bush and for adults only.

"I wanted to have it in the open, with more obstacles to hide behind than just trees,"

Schroeder says.

Kids as young as ten years old can play. Schroeder has placed much emphasis on providing a clean, safe, well-staffed and refereed game area where parents can watch from the sidelines if they choose. Splatters also caters to groups as small as four, but as many as 80 can play at one time. They are equipped with 125 sets of equipment, compressed air for the guns, and plenty of paintballs. Games last anywhere from one to three hours.

"Corporate events at golf courses are groups of four, very segregated," says Schroeder. "But paintball is one big group together, playing in two teams but making memories with all players, which allows conversation to carry over to the supper after and back to work the next week. [Many events] have group-size and tight time restrictions. Splatters is large enough to have a laidback timeline, allowing you to play and rest in between as you please."

In 2008, Schroeder purchased the 40-acre property near New Bothwell and developed it into a multifaceted theme park. Along with the vast paintball gaming field, Splatters also boasts a seven-acre driving range for

golfers to practice their swing, a covered picnic and fire pit area, an outdoor volleyball court, and a play structure and swings for the kids. A skateboard park is in the works for the fall of 2016.

Splatters caters to birthday and stag parties, team windups, corporate and youth groups, or anyone looking to share a good time with friends. The season runs from April to November. Reservations are required from Monday to Thursday. Drop-ins are welcome on weekends.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.splatterspaintball.com

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**Cucumber** \$0.50 each

**Single Tomato** \$0.95 each

Must present coupon. Limit 6 each per coupon.

WHILE QUANTITIES LAST



# Sunday Drives on the Prairies (and Beyond)

## One-day road trips to escape your bustling spring and summer.

By Keiron Berndt

With the buzzing of Manitoba's official bird (a.k.a. the mosquito), the smell of overcooked wieners, freshly sheared grass, and freshly fertilized fields just around the corner, summer fever is setting in. For many, a getaway is long overdue. Our province may not have many physical ups and downs, but it certainly has its treasures. Here are three day trip destinations which anyone can afford to explore.

(377 feet). For reference, this is equivalent to a 35-story apartment block. The lake offers a wide range of activities such as scuba diving, swimming, sailing, cliff jumping, and fishing. A variety of recreational activities and restaurants are accessible on the lakefront.



### KENORA

(2 hours, 10 minutes)

Tucked along the shores of Lake of the Woods, Kenora is a metropolis for summer activity. The drive to Kenora leads you through Whiteshell Provincial Park and down serpentine highways peppered with beautiful rock formations, lakes, and dense forest. Kenora includes tourist attractions ranging from an *M.S. Kenora* dinner cruise to enjoying the festivities of Harbourfest. Whether you're getting your toes sandy on one of the city's five beaches, enjoying a round of golf at one of two courses nearby, or boating on the endless lakes, Kenora has it all.



### SPRUCE WOODS PROVINCIAL PARK

(2 hours, 5 minutes)

With its signature blend of prairie grass, forests, and sand dunes, Spruce Woods is a superb destination. Located to the west, the provincial park offers many clearly marked hiking and horse trails, varying in length and with constantly changing terrains. Additionally, the beach at Kiche Manitou provides visitors and campers access to swimming, fishing, and picnic areas.



### WEST HAWK LAKE

(1 hour, 36 minutes)

West Hawk Lake is located on the easterly cusp of Whiteshell Provincial Park. The lake was smashed into existence by a meteor, leaving behind a crater which eventually became the deepest lake in Manitoba, with a depth of 115 meters

## SplattersPaintball.com

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# Take a Swing at Two Great Golf Venues

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

If you're looking for a round of fun, fast-paced golf this summer, the Maplewood Golf Club (MGC) is one to experience. MGC, formerly the Rat River Golf Course, is located close to home on Highway 59 just north of St. Pierre-Jolys.

Operator and golf director Barry Gibson knows a thing or two about golf. A PGA Canada golf professional for over 30 years, he is also an expert instructor and club fitter. Gibson took over management of the course in 2006, working hard since that time to completely remodel and create a professional 18-hole course on the scenic landscape.

The new design includes vastly improved drainage to help prevent the flooding that plagued the course for years prior. Fairways and greens have been reshaped and modernized, capitalizing on the beautiful rolling river basin on which it lies. The Rat River winds lazily through the course, adding to its uniqueness and beauty. MGC's management takes great pride



The second green at Maplewood Golf Club.

MAPLEWOOD GOLF CLUB

in providing a well-manicured and professionally maintained course all summer long.

This season you'll find new golf

car storage and a tournament patio to accommodate larger groups.

Gibson also manages the St. Vital Golf Centre, which features over

100,000 square feet of Winnipeg's best natural grass range tee areas, as well as putting and chipping greens. It's home to McGibby's Golf, a large,

well-stocked shop specializing in the latest golf equipment, club fitting, and digital video swing analysis. McGibby's is an authorized Ping nFlight fitting centre, using Ping's industry-leading custom-fitting software, backed by radar-based Flight Scope technology for ultimate fitting and teaching.

"Maplewood Golf Club is one of the most fun courses to play in Manitoba," says Gibson. "[It's] challenging but fair for all golfers, and its rolling fairways and greens never leave you bored... St. Vital Golf Centre is a great place to practice, work on your game, take a lesson, get fitted for clubs, and learn to have some fun on the course. Both have qualified staff and we focus on a fun, friendly, service-minded atmosphere."

Combination golf packages are available for practice and play at both locations. Maplewood Golf Club is open for public play, tournaments, and leagues.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.maplewoodgolfclub.com

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Firepit Areas allow  
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Team Windups





# Colouring Contest

## EVERY SUBMISSION WILL RECEIVE A GIFT!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

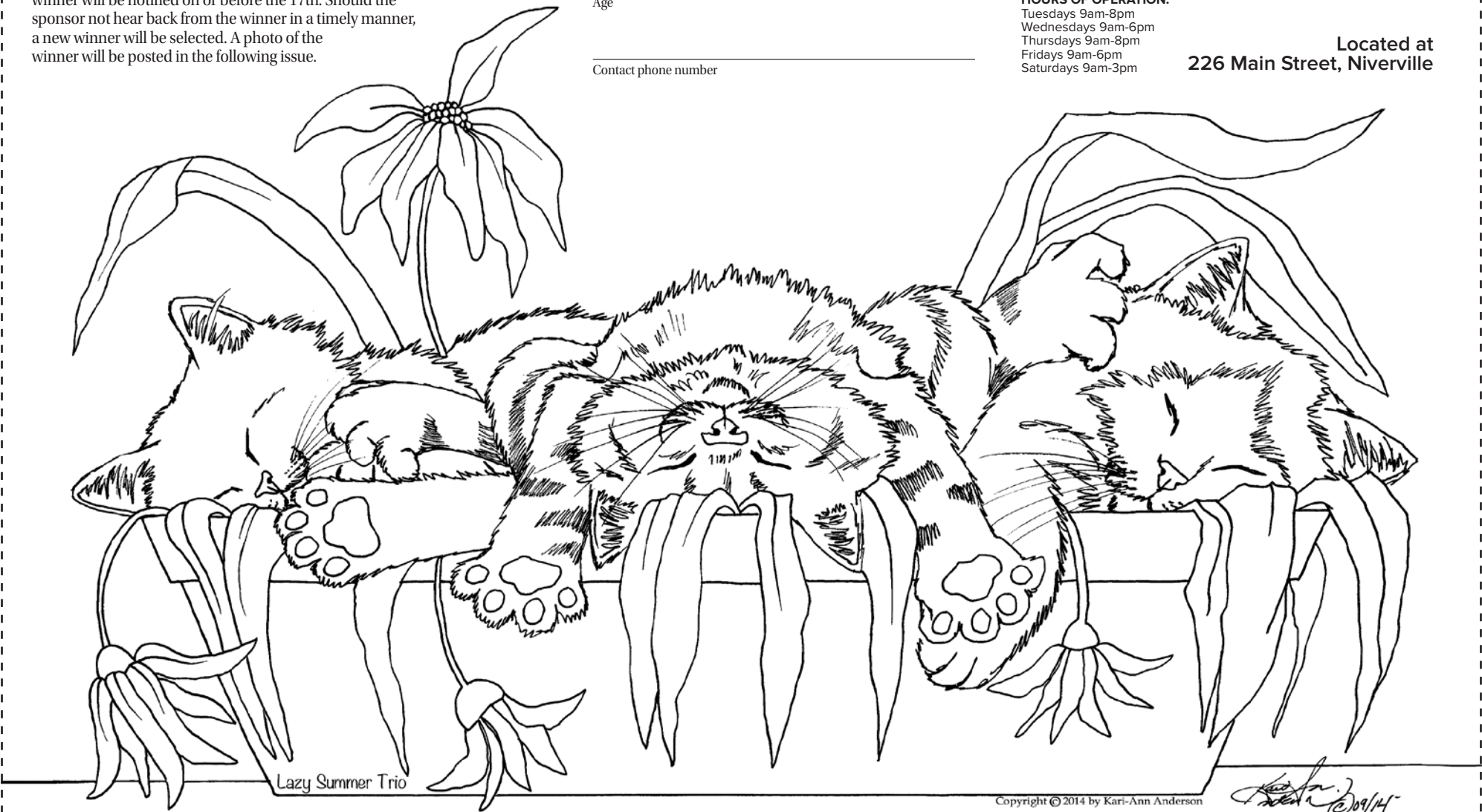
Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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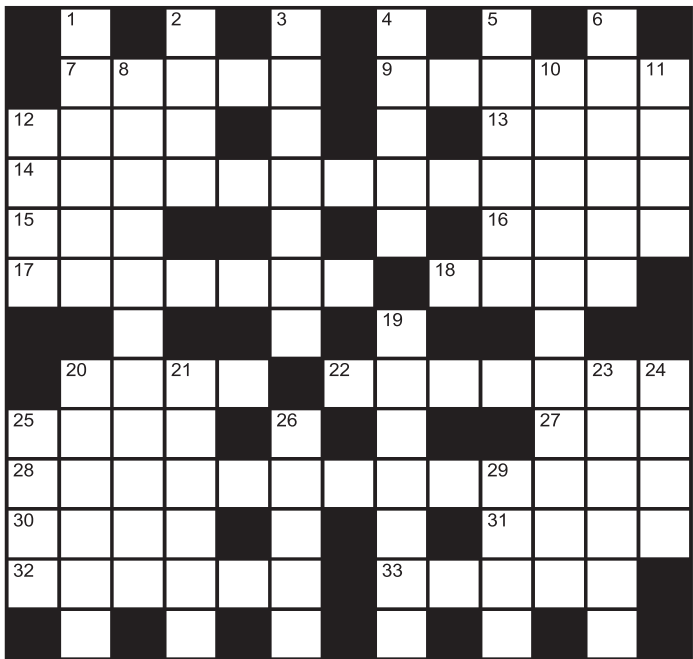
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Fridays 9am-6pm  
Saturdays 9am-3pm

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**Last Month's Winner**  
Jaycee Plessis  
Age: 6

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**Across**

- 7. Devastating weapon
- 9. Avoided
- 12. Fossil fuel
- 13. Prima donna
- 14. Poor performer
- 15. Downwind
- 16. Stench
- 17. One who kills by mob action
- 18. Spoils
- 20. Snug
- 22. Fortified wine
- 25. Stare with the mouth open
- 27. Repair
- 28. Too heedful
- 30. Ill temper
- 31. Last characters
- 32. Remuneration
- 33. Smallest

**Down**

- 1. Fake
- 2. Mouselike rodent
- 3. Sanded
- 4. Indian capital
- 5. California city
- 6. Embankments
- 8. Scouts founder
- 10. Branches out
- 11. Depressing
- 12. Reject
- 19. Kneecap
- 20. Expensive fish food
- 21. Ranch
- 23. Concentrates
- 24. Choppers
- 25. Lumps
- 26. Persists
- 29. Russian emperor

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



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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LIVE IT.**

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Manitoba Games**  
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**We Need You!**

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair has several volunteer positions that need to be filled in the following areas:

- **Liquor Ticket Sales & Serving** (Saturday)
- **Survivor Contest** (Saturday)
- **Lip Sync Contest** (Friday)
- **Admission Booth Closing Shifts** (Friday and Saturday)
- **Food Festival Cleanup** (Friday)

Contact [volunteers@nivervillefair.com](mailto:volunteers@nivervillefair.com) for more details.



## Niverville Gardening Committee

Contact [cgluckwell@yahoo.com](mailto:cgluckwell@yahoo.com)  
or [amgatey@yahoo.com](mailto: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

Help children learn how to grow a garden on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30pm, June to early Sept. (criminal check required)

## JOIN OUR TEAM


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

If you are interested in getting involved, email us at [multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca) or visit [www.niverrillemultiplex.ca](http://www.niverrillemultiplex.ca) for more information.

**Together, we can.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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**BLOOD DONOR CLINIC**  
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Niverville Heritage Centre

## The Niverville Coop Playgroup

The Niverville Coop Playgroup is looking for Substitutes who would enjoy working with children in our Preschool program. For more info, please contact Irene Falk at [ncpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:ncpreschool@gmail.com)

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## AUCTIONS

## Estate Auction

Having received instructions from executors

**Estate Auction for Marilyn Podjan**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 10am

Selling property at 12 Redwood, Niverville, MB,  
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extended cab, 2014 Chevrolet Cruze LTE  
Turbo 4 door white, plus complete household.



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or see Chad at the office between 8am-5pm.

## BIRTHDAYS



**Happy Birthday to an  
amazing man, father,  
and friend!**



**Happy Birthday cB!  
We Love you**

Nikki, Jaxson, Calli and Ryder

## This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers







# LED LIGHTING

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Compare at \$59<sup>97</sup>      Compare at \$69<sup>97</sup>

## LED Retrofit Downlight

- 3000k or 5000k
- 50,000 Hour Life / Dimmable
- White / Opal Lens
- Installs to recessed housings / octagon boxes
- Rated for damp or wet locations

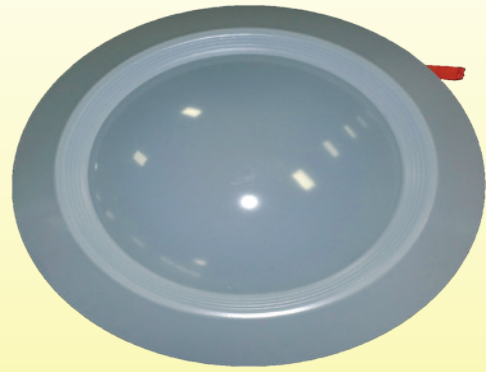


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- White Lens
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