

# The Citizen

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### LOCAL NEWS

## Breaking Down 2016's Property Taxes

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## Tim Hortons



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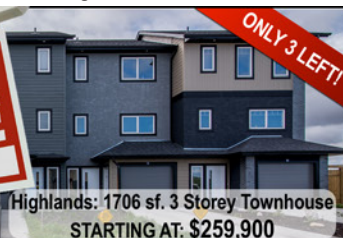
Businessmen Dan Harder, Ray Dowse, and Miguel Forest alongside real estate agent Clare Braun at the site of the new Shell gas bar, Tim Hortons restaurant, and strip mall.

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The Washboard Union play to a large crowd on Niverville's Main Street.

AARON GRAIN | THE WASHBOARD UNION

# Olde Tyme Country Fair Celebrates Big Weekend



SYLVIA ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com



BRIGITTE SIMARD



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**Managing Editor:**

Evan Braun

**Sales Manager:**

Ray Dowse

**Operations Manager:**

Cara Dowse

**Design/Production Manager:**

Dustin Krahn

**Contributors:**

Evan Braun, Brenda Sawatzky, Sylvia St. Cyr, Chantel Gadiet, Clare Braun, Jacqueline Chartrand, Heather Miller, Kayla Noel, Damon Klassen, Jan Kendall St. Cyr, Laura van den Brul, Bonnie Anderson, Keiron Berndt, Susan Thompson, Ron Hiebert

**CONTACT US**

**Letters to the Editor:**  
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

**Advertising Sales:**  
sales@nivervillecitizen.com

**Classifieds/General Information:**  
info@nivervillecitizen.com

**Artwork/Ad Proofs/Graphics:**  
ads@nivervillecitizen.com

The **Citizen** Niverville, Manitoba

Box 266, Niverville, MB R0A 1E0  
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FREE TO SHARE. PLEASE RECYCLE.

The 2016 Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair was one of the best ones yet—in fact, that may be an understatement. The staples that have worked in the past—like stage placement, the motocross bikers, and Wonder Shows—are still a hit, and the new acts this year drew a big crowd. As well, this year's innovation of alcohol sales in the concert area went off without a hitch.

According to the fair committee, roughly 12,000 people attended the fair over the June 10–11 weekend.

“From an organizer’s perspective, one of the main highlights is that we were embraced by the people,” says organizer Jeff Stott. “We had a very strong support at the gate, which was nice to see... they haven’t forgotten about us.”

There was a new addition to the kids section this year. “DJ Brenton was the feature this year and a huge success,” says Christa May, the children’s coordinator. “He orchestrated the kids dance party in front of the main stage on Friday. The dance floor was full with probably 100 kids. He’s already booked to come again next year.”

Kids of all ages stayed busy the entire night, getting their faces painted, jumping in bouncy castles, getting their own balloon animals, and watching The Magic Bean Show.

“Everything ran so smoothly,” May says. “All the acts worked together.”

Archangel Fireworks once again put on a well-received show, though they went off from a new location just north of town.

“Speaking for the committee, it was

great to see that all of the acts that we selected were home-run hits,” says Stott. “There were no tip balls, no strikeouts. There was a Survivor game, Prairie Soul Dance performance, the motocross bikes, the gymnasts on the trampoline. There was The Washboard Union, the main act, the fireworks. I can’t think of one that failed us.”

For the first time, the Saturday night concert was a licensed event. The fair partnered with Big Rock Brewery. According to the MLCC, the area in which fairgoers could have an alcoholic beverage was the biggest in Manitoba that they’ve licensed. Because people respected these rules, it will most likely happen again next year.

On Friday, The Big City All-Star Band once played a lively, dance-worthy show.

On Saturday, local country singer

Brady Kenneth started the night off. His opening act included five songs from his debut EP, *That’s the Way She Goes*.

Next up: The Washboard Union, a trio from British Columbia. “Some of the nicest, down-to-earth professional entertainers we’ve had yet,” Stott says. The band stayed afterward to watch the rest of the show, sign autographs, and take pictures with anyone who wanted.

The main act, Gord Bamford, ended the weekend on a high-calibre note. Music cranked loud as the sun set to a packed street and full stands.

All the mainstage entertainment was possible due to the hard work of organizers Raesha Enns and Elaine Krahn, and many volunteers. This includes the Niverville Ministries team, which cleaned up our streets Friday and Saturday after all had gone to bed.

Even more help is needed to ensure Niverville continues to have an incredible fair.

“The downfall to all fairs is no succession. The fair dies with the organizers and we don’t need that here,” says Stott. “We need fresh organizers. You can join the fair at any level. You can be a lead-up person, a clean-up person, or you could be the organizer to the whole thing if you wanted. Every seat is open and any idea is valid.”

Whether you got your thrill on the midway, enjoyed the annual chicken dinner, danced the night away, were enamoured by any of the world-class acts, or carried your sleeping kids all the way home, chances are you had a good time doing it.

“We want it to be the most thrilling small town fair around,” Stott adds. “Not necessarily the biggest, but the best.”



# Shell and Tim Hortons Setting Up Shop in Niverville



By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

After several years of development, the commercial land along Highway 311, in front of Old Drivers Run golf course, is about to get its first businesses. Construction is set to begin on a new Shell gas bar and Tim Hortons restaurant.

"The town is growing at a fast pace and the infrastructure is not keeping up to it," says Miguel Forest, the Niverville Shell franchisee. "There's for sure a lack of pumps here for a town of 5,000 people."

Forest is no stranger to the gas station game. At the

age of 14, he got a part-time job pumping gas for the Shell station in St-Pierre-Jolys, a business which he later bought with his wife Sylvie.

The Shell station will have seven pumps, including one high-volume diesel pump, and a 2,500-square-foot convenience store. The station will employ about 18 staff.

The 1,500-square-foot Tim Hortons will be attached and contain a drive-thru. While Forest will own the whole building, Tim Hortons will be owned and operated by its own franchisee.

Though Forest is confident the project will move forward,

a few key details need to be resolved before shovels go in the ground. Notably, the land ownership is still being finalized and Tim Hortons is waiting for the results of an environmental site assessment before signing off.

Nonetheless, Forest is gunning to be open for business on December 1.

Town council unanimously approved Forest's application for these two businesses at a special meeting on Wednesday, June 15.

"We are thankful for the employment opportunities and economic spinoffs that these new businesses will

bring to our community," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "We wish everyone involved in these new ventures much success."

## NEW STRIP MALL

A new commercial strip mall is in the works for the lot directly east of the new Shell/Tim Hortons. This project, spearheaded by Dan Harder and Ray Dowse, will be built in phases, starting with either 6,000 or 10,500 square feet.

"We are very excited to start the ball rolling for new commercial development in the community," says Dowse. "We are currently in conversation with several businesses

on the space, and should we come to occupancy terms, the earliest potential start date for construction would be this coming fall."

The full retail strip mall will offer approximately 30,000 square feet of retail space. No construction will begin until they have sufficient lease agreements in place.

Dowse and Harder say they have consulted with Miguel Forest to ensure that the neighbouring businesses have a consistent design.


"We wanted the look to tie in with the surrounding golf course landscape," says Dowse, "which is where we came up

with a stone and exposed timber look."

Harder and Dowse are also part of the ownership group of the commercial property at 295 Main Street, which was formerly occupied by Puratone. Over the past weeks, the red barn on the property was sold, lifted, and moved with the concrete foundation excavated. Although no deals have been finalized, the ownership group is prepared for potential commercial development opportunities at that site as well.



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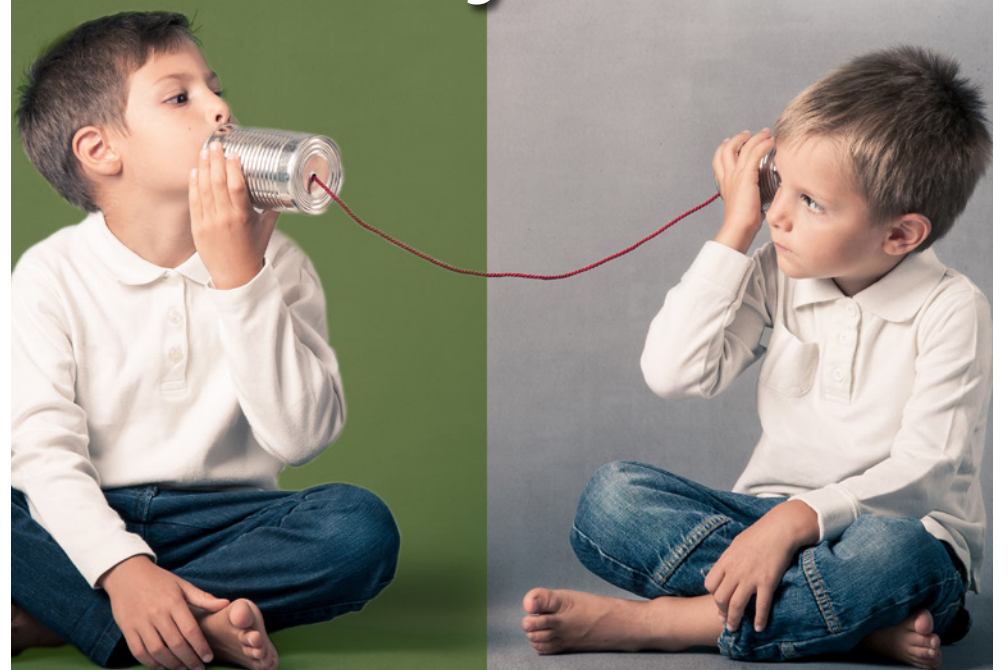
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# The Heritage Centre, Part Three: Forecasting the Future

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The first part of this series, published in February, took us into the history of the Heritage Centre (HC) campus' history, to demystify the confusion about its early development. Part Two, in March, focused on its current benefit to the community, offering a look inside the seniors living and medical components and identifying some of the people who have made it happen.

This month, we'll look at the future of the centre and the forethought that's gone into creating a viable long-term social enterprise.

From today's economic standpoint, the HC is Niverville's largest employer, with over 300 full and part-time staff. The centre also draws over 25,000 visitors every year and provides services for over 50,000 people through its businesses, housing, daycare, and medical clinic.

The HC is also the largest taxpayer in the community, with an annual property tax contribution that will reach \$160,000 when the new life lease facility is complete—though the Town of Niverville has recently announced approximately \$300,000 of tax relief for the life lease over the coming four years.

Upon completion, the centre will have an estimated replacement value of about \$60 million. Any surplus revenue generated above the 25 percent operating reserve will be forwarded to the Niverville Health and Community Foundation. These monies have been designated for community recreation and social amenities. Because the HC is under the community's ownership, the books are open to the public and reports and financials are submitted to the town council annually.

Assuming there are no major setbacks, Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. (NHHI) expects to retire the mortgage in 25 to 30 years. The town will then have the opportunity to buy back all HC assets for \$1. They can choose to run it themselves, allow NHHI to continue to act as a trustee, or find another board.

Without a mortgage, the centre



Ongoing construction on the Heritage Centre's new life lease units.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

should provide a massive direct income stream to the town. Based on today's dollars, this could mean over \$1 million in additional funds annually for the community, or approximately 50 percent of the town's entire budget. The additional funds could be used to invest in infrastructure, roads, or recreation, or used to lower taxes.

Council will, alternatively, have the option to sell the centre to a private company. The result would be the loss of a major ongoing income stream and the potential loss of the atrium and event room to office spaces, changing the dynamic of our community gathering place.

In the event that NHHI should be approached for a private sale before the mortgage is retired, the right of first refusal will be granted to the town. With this clause in place, the town could choose to match the offer, allowing NHHI to pay off the mortgage and transfer the difference to the town. This would ensure the town's continued ownership of the campus.

"In essence, we are building a heritage fund for future generations while benefiting from the significant medical, seniors housing, personal care services, childcare services, and community convention centre today," says Gord Daman, board member of NHHI.

Long-term thinking didn't stop at the financial side of things. The seniors housing plan will prepare us for the rapidly increasing senior population in the coming years.

"The oldest boomers have

recently hit retirement age," wrote Matt Lundy for *The Globe and Mail* on November 11, 2015, "and millions more will join them in the coming 15 years, in what amounts to a massive demographic shift that could have major implications for the country."

Currently, the provincial standard is set at 115 beds for every 1,000 people over 75. In order for the province to maintain the required standard, about 300 new beds will need to be added every year for the next 16 years.

The HC's aging-in-place concept allows for flexibility throughout its various housing components to accommodate the increasing senior population. One example of this is reflected in the design of the coming life lease units. Factored into the plan are additional rooms which, in the interim, will be used for storage. Eventually, when the need arises, the life lease space can act as another assisted-living or supportive-living facility, the extra rooms being utilized as offices for homecare staff.

In 40 to 45 years, when the aging population declines, the life lease units can be turned into condominiums for all ages. Even rooms in the current assisted-living facility can be modified into micro-units, serving as starter homes for newlyweds or singles.

"The Heritage Centre, in so many ways, has become a beacon of hope for other communities," says Daman.

Daman has taken calls from

community leaders in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and the Yukon who are looking to NHHI for advice in constructing similar social enterprises. He is already working with the nearby communities of Carman, Arborg, and Boissevain to develop similar models.

With the purchase of the St. Adolphe personal care home in 2013, NHHI acquired the land it sits on. Because a number of local citizens stepped up to offer NHHI short-term loans, it wasn't necessary to leverage the assets of the Heritage Centre for the purchase. Those lenders were paid back in the first two years of the PCH's opening.

The RM of Ritchot has also expressed interest in an aging-in-place model on the site of the condemned St. Adolphe PCH. NHHI is moving ahead with plans to create an assisted-living facility, affordable housing, senior's life lease, and a daycare on the site. This, too, will be owned by Niverville, without private investors in the mix, creating another income stream.

On May 3, 2016, Minister of Health Kelvin Goertzen received a letter from Premier Brian Pallister instructing him to develop a funding model to "fast-track construction of personal care homes... similar to the Heritage Life personal care home in Niverville."

It's clear that Niverville's Heritage Centre has become an icon. As of yet, no facility quite like it exists in Canada and it stands as a unique model for top-notch seniors' care and community gathering places.

## IN BRIEF

### Annual Bike Repair Day a Hit with the Kids



Ste. Agathe Service BBQ.

RACHEL ROBERT

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Community spirit gets pumped up a notch every June at the annual Ste. Agathe Service Barbecue and Bike Repair Day. For the fifth year running, Ste. Agathe Service's Alain Robert has been instrumental in making this event a success.

Approximately 150 people attended this year's event on June 4, which has grown to include a teddy bear hospital, sponsored by the Centre for Small Children and the local health centre. The RM of Ritchot's fire department was also on hand to demonstrate their equipment for the kids, and the local school staff participated with special family activities. Other sponsors contributed to inflatable bounce houses and a variety of giveaways.

"It's a small event that's big in the eyes of the children," says Robert. "They get to bring their bicycles into the shop, speak with the technicians, and have their bicycles repaired. The whole community benefits from these activities... everyone gets to mingle with their neighbours, have lunch, and we get to interact with people. Since we began the bike repair day, it's a common occurrence to see children drive by, wave, and say hello to our employees by name."

There is no cost to attend. Main Street is blocked off in front of Ste. Agathe Service to keep the entire event in one location.

Robert says that it's become a regular occurrence for parents and children to drop by his shop to have their tires inflated and minor repairs done. So he and staff saw the need and turned it into a family-friendly street party.

On top of hosting a free barbecue, Robert's business donates bicycle bells, reflectors, decorations, water bottles, helmets, and flashing pedal lights to the children who attend. Kids also look forward to the many free draws, including baskets filled with zoo, Children's Museum, and Manitoba Museum passes, as well as stuffed toys and trinkets.

"We always get very positive responses and lots of thanks from everyone that attends," says Robert. "People from the community always mention how they look forward to this day."



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# Seniors Volunteerism Is Everywhere

Seniors volunteerism in Niverville can be described in three words: it is everywhere.

By Jacqueline Chartrand

Today, volunteers are needed more urgently than ever—and seniors appear to have the time.

*Senior Scope*, in its April 2016 edition, quotes a TD Bank study which estimated the economic value of volunteerism in Canada to be “worth more than \$50 billion a year to the Canadian economy, and well over half of that activity is done by seniors” (Vol. 14, No. 11). Those who built this country are still making a significant contribution to its economy and adding rich colour to the fabric of society.

Justina Penner, Resource Coordinator for Niverville Services to Seniors, is always recruiting volunteers. Criminal record and Elder Abuse Registry checks are required before individuals are eligible to assist vulnerable clientele. Drivers are needed to take seniors to and from appointments, and compassionate visitors are urgently needed for shut-ins. Many of these volunteers work at the Adult Day Program at the Golden Friendship Circle as well as at the weekly meal for seniors served every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

Penner recommended I partake one Tuesday in order to meet some of the seniors who volunteer.

At the meal, I sat across from a couple who preferred not to share their names but who are among eight volunteers who start at 7:30 a.m. to prepare the hall to receive from 80 to 120 guests. Tables get set up, chairs put in place, paper tablecloths laid and places set, water pitchers filled, and vegetables prepared. Only the cook receives a stipend for her work. When asked about their motive to volunteer, the woman said it gave her a sense of belonging. Her husband said it was a way to give back to the community.

Bill and Helen Unrau kindly consented to an interview. Their reasons to volunteer are many: a desire to stay active, have valuable interactions with people, serve the Lord with

occasional opportunities to witness, form new friendships with like-hearted people, and enjoy the pleasure and reward of service.

“I especially appreciate that we have the opportunity to serve together as a couple,” Helen said, smiling. Bill added, “It gives me the opportunity to be in touch with people who are older than we are, people I have known all my life.”

Before the meal was finished, I noticed another form of volunteerism in the person of Bill Neufeld, who provided his own background music via MP3 player and sang beautiful songs and hymns. He is one of several volunteers who regularly share their musical talents with this appreciative audience. He spoke about how he could have died in 2006 when he was operated on five times in ten days.

Certain attendees regularly clear the tables after the meal; other volunteers do dishes. Even before diners have departed, tables are dismantled and chairs put away. (Dish duty is particularly arduous for seniors and help from a younger generation would be so welcome.)

Mary Ann Neufeld has often sung at the meal and looks forward to returning to service when she recovers from recent surgery. As part of the Three Amigos trio, she has entertained at the Heritage Life Personal Care Home and other venues. She volunteers her talent directing the Credit Union Manor Choir and has volunteered with the New Bothwell choir.

Amy Hiebert agreed to meet me for a coffee at Chicken Chef. When asked to discuss her volunteer work, she heaved a mighty sigh and said her volunteerism began when her children were young. One gets the impression that the support required by parents for hockey and figure skating programs is pretty much the foundation for a way of life. She credited Fred and Edna Kaita as mentors “who contributed unbelievably to this community” and were

a source of inspiration. Amy currently volunteers at the personal care home in the walking club, driving, and bingo.

Senior volunteers also serve on the Niverville Justice Adult and Youth Committee, and in schools when asked. Many volunteer with Helping Hands every other Thursday. The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair also receives strong senior support.

Penner sees the need for a men's group to address the desperate loneliness of many widowers and spouses of Alzheimer's victims. “If only some men would offer their time to invite some of them out for a coffee and the opportunity to talk,” she says, “it would make such a difference in their lives.”

Visiting seniors may be daunting to some, so I visited Darlene Dueck, whose pastoral care visits are part of her work for the Niverville Community Fellowship church. “Self-awareness and self-care are particularly important for volunteers who do visitations,” Dueck advised.

I contacted Chantal Gadiant, Niverville's Recreation Director, to ask about the Volunteer Network registration form I found in my Welcome to Niverville package when I moved to town. Dozens of volunteer opportunities are identified.

“Most people who offer their time are conscientious, honest, hard-working individuals,” reads the form. “Volunteering your time to help others has a significance all of its own. It is a good thing to do. It makes a vital difference in the lives of so many people. It has meaning.”

Sadly, the Volunteer Network appears to be defunct. Gadiant hasn't had an inquiry in the year and a half she has worked for the town.

The seniors of Niverville, however, display inordinate generosity of time, energy, and character. Their services are interconnected by agencies vital to the health of the community.



# Multiplex Fundraising Thermometer Goes Up



Fundraising thermometer for the Niverville Multiplex.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

## By Heather Miller

In June, a progress thermometer went up in front of the town office, to keep residents of Niverville up to date on fundraising efforts for the multiplex.

The multiplex fundraising committee had a booth set up over the weekend of the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair to answer questions and sell 50/50 raffle tickets. Over \$3,000 in raffle tickets were

sold and there were two lucky winners. Friday night's winner took home \$477.50 and Saturday night's winner received \$1,028.50. Thank you to the 15 volunteers who came out to sell tickets.

The Block Party Wagon has started its summer lunch schedule. Every two weeks, it will be set up at a different location around town. On July 13, the wagon will serve lunch from the Wiens parking lot at

132 Main Street, and on July 27 it will be set up at Wm. Dyck & Sons. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 1:30, weather permitting.

A card-making workshop was held over three nights, and 26 artists came out to design their own greeting cards.

The sale of Bigway Bucks is ongoing. You can purchase Bigway Bucks at the town office or the Niverville Credit Union. They are available in denominations of \$20 and can be used for all your grocery needs. (They are not eligible for lottery, tobacco, or alcohol). 10 percent of the proceeds come back to the Niverville Multiplex.

To keep up to date on what is going on with the Niverville Multiplex, please check out the website ([www.niverrillmultiplex.ca](http://www.niverrillmultiplex.ca)).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

## IN BRIEF

### Reserve the Block Party Wagon

The Block Party Wagon is available for all residents of Niverville to use, free of charge. Inside the trailer you will find tables, chairs, a barbecue, and games—everything you would need for the perfect block party. For more information, or to book the wagon, please contact Recreation Services: [recreation@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:recreation@whereyoubelong.ca).

### Dog Park Grand Reopening

Niverville's unique dog park, billed as Manitoba's first doggy playground, will be hosting a grand reopening on July 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will include fun games, rescues, archery, prizes, food, and displays. Dogs will also be competing in the Doggy Olympic Games. The dog park is located just north of the Niverville Arena.

# Heartworm Disease: Is Your Pet at Risk?

## By Kayla Noel

Registered Animal Health Technologist, Sage Creek Animal Hospital

Heartworm disease is serious and potentially fatal in pets. It is caused by worms that grow up to a foot long and reside in your pet's heart and lungs, as well as the blood vessels in the lungs.

The disease is spread by mosquitoes, but an indoor lifestyle doesn't protect a pet from heartworm infection, because mosquitoes

can easily come indoors. Although dogs can be treated for heartworm infection, heartworms can permanently damage the blood vessels and lungs.

There is no approved treatment for cats, and heartworm disease in cats can lead to chronic respiratory disease or even sudden death.

Prevention is easy, safe, simple, and effective. Preventive medication is available in chewable treats or topical drops that are given monthly, or as an injection given

by your veterinarian every six months. It is inexpensive, at a cost of approximately \$5 to \$25 a month, depending on your pet's size.

In Manitoba, heartworm season is June to November, although if you are traveling with your pet out of this season, be sure to check with your veterinarian in case your pet needs prolonged prevention.

Treatment is hard. It can be life-saving for a dog, but it's dangerous and time-consuming. Owners need to follow their veterinarian's

instructions carefully to help avoid treatment complications. The treatment period is a minimum of three to four months. Throughout treatment, it is essential to keep dogs quiet to avoid serious, or even fatal, complications. This means cage rest and restricting the dog to on-leash trips outside to relieve themselves. Some dogs will also need to spend time in the hospital.

Heartworm treatment in dogs can cost \$2,000 or more in medications and veterinary services.

\$439,900



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# Council CONNECTIONS

On behalf of Council I want to say a huge thank you to the Niverville Fair Committee and to all the volunteers who helped at this year's Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The energy and time you sacrificed so others could have a good time truly exemplifies the "others first" spirit of our community. If you were not able to attend our fair, you really missed out on a weekend packed with all sorts of great activities and entertainment. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year and plan to attend!

In the middle of June municipal leaders from across Manitoba met in Winnipeg for the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I heard speeches from both the Prime Minister and our Premier. There were various workshops available with topics on business, infrastructure, and finance. The Standing Finance Chair, MP Mr. Easter of PEI, let delegates know that phase 2 of the Infrastructure Grant Funding would be announced within the coming year. This phase 2 will include monies for new recreation facilities which of course would be helpful to us in the construction of our multiplex. I also had the chance to sit with and discuss the needs of Niverville with Adam Vaughn who is the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He is the liaison between the municipalities and the Federal Ministers. I got to know MP Vaughn when he was in Niverville two years ago as a member of the Toronto City Council. He was in Niverville as part of a southern Manitoba tour on housing initiatives and I had the privilege of touring him through our Town.

To the grads of NCI 2016 I want to wish each of you congratulations on your graduation. You have put in years of study and hard work and on behalf of Council I want to applaud you for your accomplishment! We wish you well in what lies ahead in the next chapter of your life!

**Myron Dyck**  
Mayor

## ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE

### ADDITIONS TO THE VOTERS LIST AND/OR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION REQUESTS

*In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Board Elections Act (MCSBEA), the Town of Niverville Voters List is open for changes or revisions.*

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the Town of Niverville can have his or her name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter in the Voters List corrected.

- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

*A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.*

*To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:*

Town of Niverville  
Box 267, Niverville, MB R0A 1E0  
Telephone: 204-388-4600 ext. 101  
Fax: 204-388-6110  
Email: [reception@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:reception@whereyoubelong.ca)

*Niverville's By-Election will take place on September 14, 2016.*



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[www.whereyoubelong.ca](http://www.whereyoubelong.ca)



# Big Turnout for Alzheimer's Walk



Melanie Bergen, Wade Kehler, and Carissa Klassen of Wildflower.

SHAYLENE GINTER

By Jacqueline Chartrand

The sun shone for Niverville's first community Walk for Alzheimer's on June 14, hosted by Niverville Senior Services at the Golden Friendship Circle. Wendy Schettler, Chief Executive Officer of the Alzheimer's Society, and Leona Doerksen, Regional Coordinator, were guest speakers.

According to Schettler, these walks are occurring all over the province and she was delighted by the turnout. Niverville was one of five communities walking on June 14.

Doerksen gave her personal testimony of the gradual but escalating impact that the onset of Alzheimer's has on a family, and highlighted the ways in which the Alzheimer's Society assists and supports families every step of the way.

Justina Penner, Resource

Coordinator for Niverville Services to Seniors, read the poem "Two Mothers Remembered" by Joann Snow Duncanson.

Approximately 50 marchers enjoyed a hot dog lunch with a cookie and drink, donated by local businesses. 20 of those who walked were residents and staff of Heritage Life Personal Care Home. 22 Grade Ten students joined the party, including two young boys in cowboy outfits.

The lunch corresponded

with the regular seniors' weekly meal, so the hall was full. A local band called Wildflower provided a half-hour of entertainment.

At the time of this writing, the donor envelopes had not all been submitted, but the tally was already over \$5,000.

"This really exceeded my hope and expectations," Penner says. "Next year, we'll make sure pictures are taken and, hopefully, more groups of people, including children,

can be involved."

In the fall, Niverville Services to Seniors will present a video series to educate the community about dementia and volunteer opportunities. Over 3,000 families have been helped by the Alzheimer's Society and Niverville is a community that prides itself on its support of seniors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.alzheimer.mb.ca

## D&M Rentals Buys A Touch of Glass

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville company D&M Rentals has recently added to their business by buying A Touch of Glass, which specializes in wedding rental business, from Louise Hiebert.

Kevin and Charmain Derksen now own and operate both businesses.

"Instead of construction tool rentals and landscaping products, we are solely renting entertainment pieces such as tents, tables and chairs, stages, kids bouncers, etc.," says Charmain. "And with bringing on A Touch of Glass... our business is now a well-rounded one-stop shop."

A Touch of Glass, which handles rentals of linens,

dishes, tables, and other wedding-themed décor, has proved to be a perfect complement to their business.

When the Derksens bought D&M Rentals in 2007, the business focused on construction tool rentals and landscaping products. In 2012, they expanded to include tents for big outdoor events.

"In 2015, the entertainment side of things surpassed our expectations," Derksen says, "and with our tents, we were able to be involved in our biggest and most notable event: Womens FIFA in Winnipeg."

The couple recently sold their building and land to Southern Comfort.

The one thing they continue to offer aside from entertainment rentals is snow clearing

in the winter months.

Between D&M Rentals and A Touch of Glass, the couple have three full-time employees year round, with an additional 11 full-time seasonal staff and two part-time seasonal staff.

"Our goal is to pace our growth and to be able to expand into new things yet to come," says Derksen. "We want to say a huge thank you to our community for the support it has shown us in the past years. We've certainly enjoyed getting to know so many people."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dandmrentals.com

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# How Do Niverville's Taxes Stack Up?



**BRENDA SAWATZKY**

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

With 2016 property taxes in our hands, we've had an opportunity to see what living in this community will cost this year. Most of you have done a quick analysis of last year's bill to see how it stacks up. But what may be just as important is how we stack up against other communities.

In order to prepare a relatively fair analysis, I searched rural communities in Manitoba with similar-sized populations. Based on the 2011 census, these included Oakbank and Altona. (Officials in Stonewall were unavailable for comment).

In order to adequately compare property taxes, one must understand how they work. This is where it may be helpful to have your tax bill in front of you.

The process begins at the governmental level when a municipal agency studies the property market to determine your home's fair market value. According to the Municipal Assessment Agency's website, they do not decide the market value of your home; buyers and sellers do. It is not a

random number they make up, and they don't strategize with town councils to determine it. These assessment values are available online. Assessments take place every two years. The last one was done in April 2014.

Municipal guidelines state that only a percentage of your home's value can be taxed. For example, homes that fall into the Residential 1 category are only subject to tax on 45 percent of their assessed value. Most business properties are taxed at 65 percent. If you own a home that's been assessed at \$300,000 (resale value), the portion of your home that is taxable would be \$135,000 (\$300,000 times 45 percent). This is called your "portioned assessment."

The local council of every community establishes its own municipal mill rate (MMR). The mill rate may go up or down, depending on that council's budget and the amount of taxes needed to pay for town services. The average property value is taken into consideration when developing Niverville's MMR. Rather than using the average home valuation, Eric King, Niverville's Finance Administration Manager, says they remove from the equation unusually high and extremely low home

values to avoid skewing the average. Based on the 2014 assessment, Niverville's current average home value is at \$291,400.

Once the municipal mill rate has been established by council, your portioned assessment is multiplied against that number to calculate your municipal property taxes. If your portioned estimate is \$135,000 and council's mill rate is set at 10, your general taxes come to \$1,350.00 (\$135,000 divided by 1,000 multiplied by 10).

Niverville's 2016 MMR is set at 12.062, while Altona's is 19.73 and Oakbank's is 9.38. In Niverville, a \$300,000 home would cost you \$1,628 in municipal taxes while in Altona, the same home would cost \$2,664, and in Oakbank it would \$1,266. Though there is a disparity demonstrated here in mill rates, one must take into consideration a town's proximity to a major city and the variety of services available in each respective community when deciding whether the taxes add up to adequate value.

It's important to note the additional fees on your tax bill as well. It is typical for every town council to add levies. Niverville's council adds additional fees for waste collection.

Special services, including policing, fire, EMR (emergency medical response), and street lighting, have their own mill rate which I have included in the 12.062 mill rate shown earlier.

Some residents may also see an LID (land improvement district) fee. These allow the town to recover costs for street improvements and are often spread out over a number of tax bills. According to Mayor Myron Dyck, the current council no longer collects for street improvement in new developments but rather passes these costs on to the developer, who factors them into the purchase price of a lot.

The third item on your tax bill is school taxes. Each school division determines its own mill rate based on the operational needs of the schools within that district. This rate is submitted to town councils, who are expected to collect it on property tax bills. Councils have no control over the school division mill rate (SDMR).

Hanover's 2016 SDMR is set at 14.944 while the Border Land School Division (Altona) is 14.97 and Sunrise School Division (Oakbank) is 13.295. Once again, these taxes are calculated against the portioned assessment of your home.

Within the last number of years, the provincial government introduced an education tax credit. For most homeowners, this amounts to a discount on your tax bill of \$700. This tax credit does not apply to businesses. Instead, businesses see an added Educational Support Levy over and above the school taxes they must pay. This levy is set by the province at 10.5 mills. This means that Niverville businesses actually pay almost four times more in school taxes than homeowners. Businesses in other rural communities would see similar figures.

Keep in mind that businesses are also taxed at a higher percentage of their assessment values. Where a \$300,000 home is calculated at 45 percent to determine the portioned assessment (\$135,000), a business also assessed at \$300,000 is calculated at 65 percent, making their portioned assessment \$195,000. This means they pay much higher municipal taxes across the board.

It is easy to see, then, that a push for industrial and commercial growth in a community, whether existing or new, benefits its residents. Since a town council's budget is set at a specific dollar figure and portioned at different levels to residents and businesses, more businesses, or the expansion of existing businesses, provides extra tax dollars to help cover the budget.

Certain taxes, such as water and sewer, don't show up on our tax bills. They are charged by town council on a quarterly basis. Niverville's water rates as of July 1 are calculated at \$10.54 per 1,000 gallons. Altona's water is at \$12.38 per 1,000 gallons. Oakbank uses a different method of water rate calculation, making an accurate comparison difficult.

On the same note, Niverville's sewer rates are set at \$62.20 per quarter whereas Oakbank's are \$65.67 quarterly. Altona charges sewer rates based on a different model, making a comparison difficult.

It needs to be added that, in terms of taxation, nothing is simple. The overview presented here is generalized and provides some very basic examples of how taxes work and how we stack up against other communities. Certainly, many factors come into play that have not been mentioned here.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

When it comes to questions about your property taxes, town council would like to remind us to reach out with a personal visit to the town office, or email:

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

Take this month's Citizen Poll in regards to property taxes in Niverville. See page 17.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW 60" LATEX PRINTER

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# SUMMER CAMPS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

A minimum number of participants are required to hold classes. When registration is below the minimum amount required by the instructor, Niverville Recreation reserves the right to cancel the program with participants receiving full refund or credit. It is highly recommended that you **pre-register as early as possible** to avoid programs being cancelled due to lack of enrollment. All other refunds will have a minimum \$10 processing charge per cancellation requested.

Refund requests must be completed prior to the registration deadline for the class. There will be NO refunds after the registration deadline. Pre-payment is required for ALL classes prior to the registration deadline date. The Deadline to Register is one week prior to the start date of the camp.

<p>JULY 4-8</p> <p><b>Creativity Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 5-12    <b>\$75</b>    1-5PM</p> <p>Channel your creative juices in creativity camp by experiencing watercolours, acrylics, colour explosions, and many more surprise projects! This camp is exciting for both girls and boys, and pairs well with the Hollywood Acting Camp.</p>	<p>JULY 11-15</p> <p><b>Gymnastics Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 4-10    <b>\$110</b>    12-4PM</p> <p>This camp will develop flexibility, endurance, and musicality in a non-competitive environment. Using hoops, balls, and scarves, we will give beginners an introduction to creative sport of rhythmic gymnastics! Games will encourage movement and teamwork.</p>	<p>JULY 18-22</p> <p><b>Just Girls Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 6-11    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>No boys allowed. In this camp, girls will get to experience the coolness of a mud mask, try their hand at sponge painting, and learn the tricks of the trade in hairstyling. This camp will focus on building self-esteem. We'll even get to create our own fairy gardens!</p>	<p>JULY 18-22</p> <p><b>SAFE Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 12-17    <b>\$200</b>    9AM-5PM</p> <p>This camp will include certification and training in Babysitters Safety, Canadian Red Cross Standard First Aid/ CPR C/AED, Hunter Education, Canadian Firearms Safety Course (non-restricted), Fire Safety, Drug Awareness, ATV Safety, and Text &amp; Drive Simulation.</p>	<p>JULY 25-29</p> <p><b>Hollywood Acting Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 7-11    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>Cue the lights; this camp is for stars. You'll get your picture taken on the red carpet, and will practice your lines to work towards producing an action-packed film. Drama filled week will get you set for the 'gala' at the end of the week!</p>
<p>AUGUST 2-5</p> <p><b>Amazing Race</b></p> <p>AGES 10-13    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>This four day camp will cover the entire span of Niverville as well as go beyond to give you the most thrilling adventure you've had in a long time. This camp is for people who love adventure, risk, and fun. Giant twister and challenging clues will get you to the end.</p>	<p>AUGUST 15-19</p> <p><b>SAFE Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 9-12    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>This camp will include certification in Home Alone Program, Canadian Red Cross First Aid, Fire Safety, Farm &amp; Play Safety, ATV safety, and Bike &amp; Traffic Safety. Try out vision goggles and simulators!</p>	<p>AUGUST 15-19</p> <p><b>Kinder Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 3-6    <b>\$75</b>    8AM-12PM</p> <p>This camp focuses on having fun and engaging kids in learning and growth. In Kinder Camp, campers will be exposed to a variety of games, crafts, music and a special day with the Fire Department! This camp is engaging and a ton of fun, so bring your energy and prepare to get a little wet!</p>	<p>AUGUST 22-26</p> <p><b>CSI Detective Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 7-12    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>Calling all boys! It seems there is a crime in every corner of town and we need your help! This camp will include vigorous mystery solving games, as well as practical small and large scale challenges. We might even get to test what we've learned in a real escape room!</p>	<p>AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 29-2</p> <p><b>Sports Camp</b></p> <p>AGES 8-12    <b>\$150</b>    9AM-4PM</p> <p>In this camp, you'll experience a variety of sports in a fun and positive environment. This camp is for those who love to be active, be outside, and burn energy. It will include a variety of games as well sports such as soccer, baseball, tennis, and volleyball.</p>

TO REGISTER, VISIT

CONTACT

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# Île-des-Chênes' One-Stop Power Sports Shop

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

This summer, Adventure Power Products unveils its brand new store with a brand new look. Located at 1-797 Quest Boulevard in Île-des-Chênes, the new retail outlet is an expansive, more sophisticated version of its former self.

At the recent grand opening on June 25, owners Derek Roth, Frank Cicco, and Ron Skrobutan unveiled the 6,000-square-foot showroom displaying boats, motorcycles, quads, jet skis, pontoons, side-by-sides, and more, shined up and ready for whatever sport customers are in the mood for. Wall displays and racks are lined with clothing and other gear.

Furthering the power products theme, the owners have added a lawn and garden room with outdoor décor, showcasing yardscaping equipment, including zero-turn mowers, chainsaws, blowers and trimmers.



The Adventure Power Products Team.

ADVENTURE POWER PRODUCTS

Adventure Power Products carries quality brands like Kawasaki, Suzuki, Royal Enfield, Legend, Suzuki, Mercury, Yamaha, and Stihl.

"We brand ourselves as your one-stop power sports shop," says Kurt Pepper, general manager. "Whatever

you're looking for, we have it."

The new location has a full parts and service department, with staff certified to do motorcycle safety inspections and technicians certified in Cub Cadet and Stihl repairs. They offer in-house repairs on all small

engines and aren't exclusive to the products they carry.

In their six years of business prior to the new shop, Roth says they've seen a lot of return customers and referrals. They achieve this by making sure every product is pre-assembled

and tested before getting into the hands of their customers. Clients receive personalized instructions on product use before it leaves the store. Staff fill out and send in the manufacturer warranty papers so customers don't have to, and they believe in all-in pricing with no surprise charges.

"We're really trying to supply the experience when you walk in the door," says Roth.

Vintage motorcycle displays and a Capo Di Grande coffee lounge greet you as you browse the showroom. "When you walk through the door... you're going to be looked after. Our prices are very competitive and we have everything under one roof."

During the month of July, Adventure Power Products is offering special financing programs with all their power sport products.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.adventurepowerproducts.com

# Town and Chamber Meet to Resolve Tax Policy Questions

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's town council met with the Chamber of Commerce on June 21 to discuss a series of clarifications to the tax incentive policy (Resolution #142-16) announced last month.

The Chamber had expressed a number of concerns about who would qualify for the tax incentives, on what terms, and how council would go about approving applications. They also asked whether the extension of a significant grant to the Heritage Centre life lease project, the Town of Niverville's own arm's-length corporation, was an appropriate use of

tax dollars. In addition, the Chamber expressed concerns that 142-16 was passed too quickly, too quietly, and without adequate consultation with the business community.

The Chamber requested a written response within three weeks.

On June 3, the town replied. "Council has been thinking about this policy matter for a considerable time," they wrote, addressing the speed of 142-16's rollout. "This has included discussions at various Planning Sessions and informal discussions with other municipal leaders at other board meetings and conferences. As Council recognized the urgency for answers that certain Chamber members were

under, it believed it necessary to act quickly."

The town declined to provide answers to the Chamber's other questions in writing, requesting instead to discuss the various matters in person. "We would like to invite the Chamber to meet with us to discuss how we can both move forward together in building a stronger Niverville. The answers to your questions can be discussed in that forum including socio economic development for daycare and senior housing."

Following that meeting on June 21, the Chamber released the following statement.

*The Board of Directors of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce has had a productive and positive meeting with Niverville Town Council regarding the town's tax incentive policy Resolution #142-16.*

*Chamber met to seek clarification on a number of points related to the policy. We asked both for clarification of wording and intent so that business people in the Town of Niverville could clearly understand how the policy may or may not apply to them. There was open discussion and council agreed that areas of the policy needed rewording and increased detail.*

*The chamber and council will be working together to ensure that the*

*policy meets the needs of both the business community and the town, so that there is transparency in its application and that all businesses are treated equitably.*

*The chamber is very pleased with the outcome of the meeting and the conciliatory approach taken by council in addressing the concerns of business.*

A letter from the Chamber to its members further indicated that the town had agreed to rework the policy in one week's time, and to review it in consultation with the Chamber.



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# Community Builders: William and Anna Dyck

## They Came with a Purpose

By Clare Braun

When I think of William and Anna Dyck, I'm certain that a book should be written to chronicle their lives. This tribute to them is too short by far, and I'm somewhat saddened that I only have about 800 words to tell the story.

Born in early 1903 in Russia, William was the first son born to parents William and Emilie. The family had prospered and been blessed in business. In the season of the Communist takeover of Russia, William Jr. was poised to assume responsibility for the family business. Before long, there would be little to manage; the Red Army soon swooped in and confiscated all of the family's assets. The mills and farms that had produced a good life were taken, and in the midst of this they made the decision to get out while they could.

So it was that on May 6, 1924, the Dyck family arrived in Quebec via the *Empress of Scotland*. They left with the few possessions they had, but unlike those who chose to stay in Russia, they had the opportunity to build a new life.

Anna soon followed, at William's invitation, and arrived in Winnipeg on May 17, 1927. Unknown to Anna, many of her immediate and extended family perished during the ensuing years in the dark and foreboding land of Siberia.

William and Anna were married in Gnadenthal (the Winkler area) on June 25, 1927, and subsequently set out on a one-day honeymoon to Plum Coulee.

Their lives in the following years, as they travelled to Alberta, could be described as very difficult. William worked



William and Anna Dyck.

EMILY FAST

as a ditch digger, potato picker, beet hoer, and road builder. This work was a far cry from the wealth and comfort he and Anna had left behind in Russia. Food was often scarce, but even in the midst of lack William and Anna never ceased to follow their traditions; they spent each evening expressing gratitude to God for this land they had been blessed to come to.

In the spring of 1934, William and Anna received the news that William Sr. was not doing well, and the family applied pressure for them to return to Manitoba, where family members had settled in Niverville. They did return, and in 1936 William Sr. passed on.

William bought some property and decided to start a business in Niverville. With credit from Bronstone's, the local lumber yard, he was able to build a family home. He then bought out Bronstone's and renamed it Wm. Dyck

and Sons, establishing a commercial building construction business in the process. He also started a successful chicken hatchery. The purchase of farmland and chicken barns followed.

Meanwhile, Anna loved children and started a kindergarten. In fact, her love for children was experienced by my own children, as we were backyard neighbours in the last years of her life. She loved having them come over and use the swings in her yard. Whenever she heard the squeaking of swings, she came out with cookies for them.

William also served as a school trustee and as lead minister for what is now known as the Fourth Avenue Bible Church.

Beyond his involvement in these organizations, he deeply loved and cared for people. When local teenagers got in trouble with the law, he

was the one who met them in prison the next morning. When the issue of marriage between cultural groups caused our local Mennonite people great concern, he went to the parish in Ste. Agathe and officiated a wedding together with the Catholic priest, ensuring that the young couple was fully supported.

In the mid-1950s, my family personally experienced the care of William and Anna. My parents had just returned from a very difficult few years in South America and they had little food and no Christmas gifts that first year back. When the Dycks heard about our situation, we were provided for. They never forgot where they came from and the challenges they had faced.

Today, William's grandson Grant and his wife Colleen own Artel Farms and GORP Clean Energy Bars. Another grandson, Carl, and his wife Heather own the family business, Wm. Dyck and Sons. Grandson Alex and his wife Annette started Von Ast Construction, which today is owned and operated by great-grandson Steve and his wife Sherisse. His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have proven to be significant contributors to our world. The blessing of a life well lived follows from one generation to another.

When William and Anna returned to Niverville in 1934, they came with a purpose. They believed that Niverville was their home and their motto for living came from Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV): "[And] seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you..." In Niverville, we are all beneficiaries of their investment as community builders.



### 2016 RACE SCHEDULE

Thursday July 07	SS - MWM - M - LM - ST
Saturday July 09	MUD BOG RACES Plus ST
Thursday July 14	MWM - M - LM - PS - ST
Thursday July 21	SS - MWM - M - LM - 4C
Thursday July 28	MWM - M - LM - ST - PS, SUPER TRUCK HALL OF FAME
Saturday July 30	TRACTOR PULL
Thursday August 04	SS - MWM - M - LM - ST, MID SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP
Thursday August 11	M - MWM - PS DELAINE MEMORIAL
Thursday August 18	SS - MWM - LM - PS - ST - 4C
Thursday August 25	SS - MWM - M - LM, CAN AM LATE MODEL CHALLENGE
Thursday September 01	SS - M - LM - ST - PS
Thursday September 08	SS - MWM - M - 4C - ST
Saturday September 10	DARK CROSS - CYCLOCROSS
Saturday September 17	4C - ST - PS
Sunday September 18	TEEN CHALLENGE DEMO DERBY
Saturday September 24	SS - MWM - M - LM - ST - PS
Friday September 30	SS - MWM - M - LM - ST, PRAIRIE CLASSIC DAY 1
Saturday October 01	ALL CLASSES RACE, PRAIRIE CLASSIC FINALE

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4C - 4 Cylinders  
PS - Pure Stocks  
ST - Super Trucks

SS - Street Stocks  
MWM - Midwest Modifieds  
M - Modifieds  
LM - Late Models

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# Parent Lodges Human Rights Complaint



EVAN  
BRAUN

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On Friday, June 17, parent Michelle McHale filed a human rights complaint alleging discrimination on the part of the Hanover School Division.

This is just the latest development in a story that began more than two months ago and has since gained national attention. On April 5, McHale made a presentation to the HSD board requesting that they review division policies that prohibit discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity issues in the classroom.

In that presentation, McHale identified several specific requests for the division to consider. These included opening the classroom environment to dialogue on LGBTQ issues, giving thought to the difficult climate faced by LGBTQ students in the division, and examining and implementing policies similar to those developed by the Winnipeg School Division. WSD recently approved a comprehensive Diversity and Equity Education Policy to protect LGBTQ students and staff, effective this September.

In a statement, HSD responded by defending its practices, which it says are in full compliance with the Manitoba Provincial Physical Education/Health Curriculum. The division has classified LGBTQ topics as “sensitive curricular content,” and thus restricts their discussion in elementary and middle years classrooms.

After McHale’s request was seconded by Grade 12 student Mika Schellenberg, the division held another board meeting on June 7, open to the public, in which the trustees addressed the concerns directly. At that meeting, six trustees spoke against McHale and Schellenberg’s request, two spoke in favour of it, and one did not express his position. No vote was held, and an official decision was deferred to a future time.

(Remarks from each of the nine trustees are printed in the column to the right.)

In the wake of the trustees’ remarks, some of which have been branded controversial, Minister of Education Ian Wishart extended an offer to provide the board with awareness training on sexual identity issues, as well as other assistance.

“We strongly believe that local school boards have a place in this process,” Wishart said, pointing out that any assistance offered is voluntary on the part of HSD. “We will be working with them.”

Randy Dueck, Superintendent of HSD, says, “We continue to be in conversation with the Minister’s office.”

Following the June 7 meeting, McHale pressed forward with her decision to lodge a complaint with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. The complaint was filed on June 17 by the Public Interest Law Centre on behalf of McHale and her partner Karen Phillips.

“This complaint addresses the fundamental rights of children to a public education free from discrimination,” reads the complaint. “LGBTQ\* students and students with LGBTQ\* parents or family have a right to feel safe, included and supported in their school programs and experiences. The provisions of these services and programs cannot be done in a discriminatory manner. The practices and actions of the Hanover School Division (HSD) and the Hanover School Division Board of Trustees (Board) have effectively excluded sexual orientation and gender identity from discussion in elementary and middle years classrooms. This is discriminatory and a breach of The Human Rights Code. This discrimination is compounded by the inclusion of sexual orientation as a ‘sensitive topic’ in HSD policies and by the disrespectful words and actions of specific Board trustees in dealing with the substantive issues raised in this complaint.”

The complaint further

asserts, “The inclusion of sexual orientation as ‘Sensitive Content’ in the Hanover School Division Guidelines is discrimination under the Code because it amounts to differential treatment of a protected class of individuals or groups in the provision of services and/or programs. Sexual orientation is the only protected characteristic that has been singled out for exclusion in HSD policy... These characteristics are not choices.”

The full text of the complaint is available on the Niverville Citizen website (below).

The Citizen reached out to the Hanover School Division, who provided the following statement: “The Hanover School Division has received official notice from the Manitoba Human Rights Commission of a complaint made against the division on behalf of Ms. McHale and Ms. Phillips. As such, the Hanover School Division is now engaged in a formal complaint process, and will adhere to the required procedures set forth by the Commission. Legal counsel has been obtained. Out of respect for the formal complaint process, no further comments will be issued.”

McHale has indicated that the next step in the process is for the Human Rights Commission to assign an investigator to examine the particulars of the case. “From what I understand, they will try to see whether mediation can be an option,” she says.

## STEINBACH PRIDE

On July 9, Steinbach will host its first Pride event. The side-walk 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.

Those leaders will not include representatives from Steinbach’s three levels of government. Mayor Chris Goertzen, MLA and provincial health minister Kelvin Goertzen, and MP Ted Falk all indicated they will not attend due to other commitments.

Initially Falk had a scheduling conflict due to a planned appearance at the annual Frog Follies festival in St-Pierre-Jolys, but one of the organizers of that event publicly encouraged Falk to change his plans, citing the importance of supporting human rights.

“Even without a scheduling conflict, my decision to not attend would be the same,” Falk then said in a statement. “I’ve been clear on this issue many times, and have made my position public on my values of faith, family and community.”

McHale expressed disappointment that no representatives of Steinbach’s three levels of government would be in attendance at the march.

“First and foremost, I appreciate [Falk’s] honesty. Because that we can deal with, right?” McHale said from the steps of the Manitoba Legislature. “We would have liked to see him take a similar position as [Premier Brian Pallister] did at the Pride that happened not that long ago here in Winnipeg. Unfortunately, he chose not to do that.”

However, NDP interim leader Flor Marcelino will attend the march.

In a statement, the Manitoba Liberals have also pledged to attend: “The Liberal caucus along with [the] interim leader, party members and past candidates are looking forward to participating in celebration of this historical day.”

The Manitoba Teacher’s Society has said they, too, will send representatives.

Due to safety concerns, the RCMP initially declined a street permit to Pride organizers, forcing them to march on the sidewalks along their route. At the time of this writing, RCMP was reconsidering that decision.

In addition to ensuring the safety of all, the Mounties have announced they support the cause and officers will walk alongside participants.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The full text of Michelle McHale’s complaint can be accessed on The Citizen’s website:

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

## CLOSER LOOK

### Remarks Made by HSD Trustees at June 7 Meeting

*“I had a parent approach me in a public venue, surrounded by around 20 people, and boldly tell me that if he had a gay kid, he would take him in the basement and fix that... We would like to believe that all our kids have unconditional love and support from their parents, but the reality is that this isn’t always the case.”*

—Cyndi Friesen, Trustee

*“The parents have entrusted their child or children to the school division for a significant portion of the day, not to raise them but to provide them with a well-rounded educational experience. For the school division to steal a child away from a parent by withholding information is completely unacceptable in my mind... We cannot change the curriculum simply because someone would like us to advance a personal agenda.”*

—Ron Falk, Board Chair

*“I will be labelled as homophobic or transphobic, or biphobic perhaps, and my comment to that is: I am none of these. I do not have fear of them, which is what a phobia is. I simply don’t agree with that lifestyle... Removing the parents, and asking our teachers to not discuss things related to their children is going down the path of residential schools, a mess the government is now starting to work its way out of.”*

—Rick Peters, Vice-Chair

*“The idea of homosexuality, sexual orientation, there’s a lot of different people within our division that have different opinions on that and who live in that lifestyle. I’ll go out and say it: I’m a Christian and I believe that that is not the right lifestyle... I don’t think that any teacher should ever feel like they need to be muzzled. If there’s a student in their class that has same-sex parents, I think those are our families and we can talk about our families. I don’t think that should ever be shut down.”*

—Sarah Dyck, Trustee

*“I speak today as a compassionate healthcare professional... HSD teachers, students and their parents know that our culture is changing. That does not suggest that we must abandon truth... When I saw the sex education that Toronto has out about teaching sex education from kindergarten to Grade Five, and in Grade Five they are being taught anal sex and oral sex, my heart just broke. I just feel that there is enough cancer around and the increase in cancer is phenomenal.”*

—Lynn Barkman, Trustee

*“I know many parents are opposed to offering too much information on LGBTQ subjects, but I really think it’s rational and fair to say that both heterosexuality and homosexuality need to be addressed when human sexuality in general is being studied. It would be unfortunate if educators were essentially not allowed to talk with students about a topic that students themselves are already discussing in the hallways or on social media.”*

—Ruby Wiens, Trustee

*“If we look at the Winnipeg School Division policy, and how they call it a diversity and equity education, yet they continue to pull out just one group of people and emphasize that we must bring that into every single classroom... and put it into a positive light, a belief that not everyone holds. [Those policies are] almost bordering on indoctrination if we are enforcing that in all of our children and putting that in their lives constantly. That’s not fair.”*

—Sue Doerksen, Trustee

*“As for the Winnipeg policy, I don’t think we need to follow that. We’re not Winnipeg. Do we maybe need to look at some changes to our policy? Maybe.”*

—Shannon Friesen, Trustee

*“Obviously there are emotions going on. We’re getting phone calls. We’re getting emails. We’re getting people stopping us in the streets to talk about this. But there’s one thing that’s not happening: the different viewpoints on this are not talking... Let’s facilitate some conversation.”*

—Brad Unger, Trustee



## CITIZEN POLL

## THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

**Do you think Niverville's tax rate is fair when taking into account the services offered here and the tax rates of other towns?**

☐ **YES** - Niverville's property taxes are fair.

☐ **NO** - The tax rate is too high.

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## LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

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

Her request for open discussion of sexual orientation is reasonable.

**43%**

Discussion of sexual orientation should be kept out of our schools, and left up to parents.

**57%**

## YOUR COMMENTS:

HSD should be applauded for their respect of parents in their role as primary educators of their own children.

Educators should not be required to teach something in an affirming way that they may consider to be morally wrong. By the same logic we apply to LGBT sexuality, why would we hesitate to teach children about incestual, polyamorous and polygamous loving committed relationships between consenting adults? Why would we discriminate against these families? Those who hold to an orthodox Biblical view of sexual ethics would be unable to comply with the requirements laid out by [McHale] without giving up their job or compromising their beliefs. Forcing them to do so is a gross violation of fundamental freedoms defined by the charter...

The notion that parents can not be trusted to deal with their own child's questions on these issues in a healthy way is deeply disturbing. Parents are the ones best equipped in the vast majority of cases to decide what does or does not affect the safety of their own children. How long before

those parents who may consider a child's ideas of sexuality to be non-Biblical are forced to surrender their children to the state on the grounds of child abuse or endangerment? The notion that you can force the schools to promote same sex relationships or other anti-Biblical sexuality and not have it lead to people being bullied, intimidated, and silenced in the school for expressing anything but affirmation of these behaviours is naive at best. As someone who was physically threatened for my beliefs in school this seems like the antithesis of tolerance and safety...

**Dylan Davison**

Parents should be educating themselves in how to guide their children through the moral (immoral?) jungles of a seemingly almost-anything-goes society.

**Peter W. Hiebert**

I would prefer to discuss these lifestyle choices with my children at home, not have it discussed in an awkward classroom setting. Whether we agree or not with those choices, it is imperative we teach our children love and compassion in all walks of life.

I'm ashamed at how the HSD is "representing" our area. Its sad that I, as a taxpayer, am paying these people to act in such a way without speaking to the people they are supposed to represent. Rather than educating and learning, HSD prefers forcing or telling people how to think.

To me the big question is... should sex and sexuality (of any kind) be discussed in schools? If the answer is yes, then it should be discussed openly and inclusively. If no, then any and all talks about sex and sexuality should be left to parents.

The disturbing amount of local social media com-

mentary in this regard is a compelling reason as to why open discussion is necessary. We should be making it a goal that our children do not grow up to adopt terms such as "pervert" to describe members of their community on an open forum.

Yep, because it's 2016.

Hanover School Division describes itself as 'inclusive'. It should stand by those words. Disappointing response on their part.

There is a concern that the envelope will not stop with transgender washrooms, but will open the door to a host of identities based upon personal feelings rather than any objective criteria. People use the same arguments to justify polygamy and other polyamorous arrangements as a human right.

To suggest that informing one's parents about a child's request to change their gender identity as being "dangerous" and "irresponsible" cuts to the core of family unity, and leads to a bureaucracy where children are raised by the state, something that the state is not very good at if we look at the broken system with Child and Family Services where decisions are made by-passing the parents. This may be necessary at times, but it is not the answer to a problem where solutions need to be found at the adult level before the children can be permanently helped. Teachers are already overtaxed without taking on the role of substitute parents as well."

# Sponsor Group Gets Ready for Refugees

**By Brenda Sawatzky**

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Open Doors Niverville (ODN) is a collective of local volunteers actively working toward bringing a refugee family to our community. Inspired by Syria's refugee crisis, the idea took hold in early 2016 when a number of church leaders reached out to the community

to probe for interest. The initial meeting at the Niverville Christian Fellowship was followed by two more, which hosted presenters from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Build A Village in Altona.

Since then, a committee of approximately 20 volunteers has formed to mobilize the project. A Niverville home has already been secured for

a refugee family and the group is looking into organizations to provide tax receipts for donations.

At a meeting on June 22, ODN's spokesperson, Josie Fast, indicated that MCC has already contacted her regarding 60 families coming to Canada in the next few weeks. These families are coming from a variety of countries, all

in need of sponsorship and aid.

Fast recommended that ODN consider Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR), a Government-of-Canada-initiated program which matches refugees with private sponsors. In this program, the government provides up to six months of income support while sponsors provide another six months of financial support

and a minimum of a year of social and emotional support to the family.

ODN members have concluded that the family the community sponsors does not need to be of Syrian background. A refugee is a refugee, a need is a need. At this stage, the committee feels that November 1 would be a feasible deadline to prepare for the new

family.

Further details will become available as matters develop. Check out the Open Doors Niverville Facebook page to stay up to date with the progress.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.facebook.com/Open-Doors-Niverville-1015690245185045](https://www.facebook.com/Open-Doors-Niverville-1015690245185045)



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# Commentary

## HSD: Please Acknowledge Our Existence

By Damon Klassen

"He's so gay."

"Dude, I think he just checked you out. That's messed up."

"No girl would go out with him so he probably has to be gay."

"What a faggot."

It's been years since I've heard these words directed towards me, just loud enough that those saying them knew I would hear. I'll admit I don't think about them that often anymore, but every once in a while, some event will trigger the replay button and I'll hear them over and over again like a broken record, causing old wounds I thought were permanently healed to reopen.

The commentary that has come out of the Hanover School Division regarding current LGBTQ policies in its schools has reopened many of those wounds.

I'm a 29-year-old gay man who grew up in Niverville. Years ago, when I walked the halls of Niverville Collegiate Institute, I heard those exact phrases all too often. I knew I was gay then, but wasn't "out." Why would I admit it to anyone? The challenges I faced in school were already hard enough when people only suspected I was gay; how much worse would they get if I confirmed the truth? It was much easier to keep all those hurtful words to myself and go about my studies as if nothing was happening. And

yet, the feelings of isolation and loneliness that followed were drowning me. There was no place to turn to for support. Undoubtedly, the vast majority of LGBTQ students in Hanover today remain "safely" in the closet, avoiding the fear of what might happen if they were to admit anything out loud.

Sadly, little has changed in our schools today. While much of Canadian society has accepted the LGBTQ community's rights to live as all Canadians do, the words spoken by HSD's Board of Trustees demonstrate that southeastern Manitoba is still an area where the concerns of the LGBTQ community remain largely misunderstood. There have been inexcusable connections to cancer and the residential school system. Sexual orientation was naïvely called a "lifestyle." Trustees referred to the entire LGBTQ community in southeastern Manitoba as one person with a personal agenda. Not only do these comments continue to perpetuate the climate of intolerance in our communities, but they've left most students in the LGBTQ community feeling alone and abandoned. I know this because it left me feeling the same, and my high school days are long behind me.

According to the Canadian Climate Survey on Homophobia, 59 percent of LGBTQ students in schools today are verbally harassed, 25 percent are physically harassed, and 31 percent are harassed online.

Only seven to eight percent of their heterosexual peers experience these same forms of harassment. 73 percent of LGBTQ students feel unsafe in schools, and 51 percent feel like they are not accepted, compared to 19 to 20 percent of their heterosexual peers. 48 percent of all students in schools report hearing homophobic slurs daily. According to a 2007 study, 33 percent of LGBTQ students attempt suicide compared to seven percent of their heterosexual peers. Furthermore, according to the National School Climate Survey by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), 28 percent of LGBTQ students will drop out of school because of bullying. In stark contrast, Stats Canada reports that the national drop-out rate is eight percent.

These numbers are staggering. Conservative estimates based on years of professional research would suggest that there are roughly 300 to 400 LGBTQ students currently attending HSD schools. This isn't a concern about just one student, but many. What message are we, as a community, sending these students when we refuse to acknowledge that their experiences in the school system are vastly more challenging than for other students? What message are we sending them when we refuse to listen to the undeniable truths they try and share with us? As a community, do we want to continue to be part of the

problem facing these students, or part of the solution?

Steinbach recently released a statement pertaining to the upcoming pride march in its city, claiming it is "a welcoming community to all" and that "all people, including those who identify as LGBTQ, deserve to be treated with love and respect at all times." Their words sound open and inviting, but their actions that continue to ignore and discriminate against LGBTQ people are louder.

The LGBTQ community is only asking that HSD acknowledge their existence in schools, in a way that brings about mutual respect and an understanding of differences; the same respect Manitoba teachers already instruct students about when discussing other religions, cultures, and people. This is Canada, after all, and we live in an open, multicultural society that not only rejects discrimination against any person for being who they are, but encourages

and embraces the unique differences that make up the fabric of our great country.

So I'll end with what I feel is the most pertinent question as we continue to respectfully discuss this issue: if changing Hanover School Division policies to address topics of inclusion and acceptance of LGBTQ people is not the first step in becoming a more accepting and tolerant community, what is? How can we all work together to move forward?

## Escape to the Outdoors

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

In light of the world's most recent tragedies, our need for peace of mind is greater than ever. Anne Frank believed that nature has a powerful, transformative effect on those who are struggling:

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

When life's stresses close in, I can physically and mentally escape to the outdoors. Being in nature helps to clear

my mind of life's demands and disruptive thoughts. This clarity of thought may lead to answers to life's questions and insight to life's problems.

Our health and wellness, mentally and physically, are impacted when we interact with nature. Nature is a pathway that leads away from our preoccupation with all that is troublesome. Experiencing the sacredness of nature connects us to the stillness within, and within this stillness we can reconnect to what is good and true. Nature has the capacity to engage all our senses at once. The sights, smells, sounds, touches, and even tastes of nature draw us into the moment, allowing us a much needed reprieve from worry and stress. As we take the time to sit or casually stroll in nature,

our souls are fed with awe and wonder.

I meander along Niverville's tranquil walking paths to soothe my soul. Here I can let go of trying to make sense out of senseless acts. Breathing in the fresh air, enjoying the beautiful flowers and smell of freshly cut grass, and watching waterfowl glide in peaceful contentment restores my sense of balance and perspective. This shift enables me to see that there's still plenty of goodness, truth, and love in this world of which I am an integral part.

Although we deeply hurt for those who are hurting, we must keep ourselves from being overwhelmed with sadness, fear, and anxiety. The natural path to peaceful assurance lies just beyond our front doors. Let's step outside and be well!



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# Sports & Recreation

## All in a Tangle

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Now that summer is here and in full force, I'm happy to be outside as much as I can. I love cycling, whether it's for a pleasure cruise on the town trails, biking to work, or heading to a sports game in Hespeler Park. You've probably seen me biking around.

I'm very fortunate to have the convenience of living and working in Niverville. I can bike to work in under ten minutes. Well, except when the wind is blowing against me, moving me backwards faster than I can bike forwards! There are also the extremely hot days when I get pretty hot and sticky. Very sweaty. When I remember, I bring an extra shirt and yoga pants to wear.

I enjoy biking to work most because it gives me some exercise and I save a bit of money on gas. It seems silly not to ride around town and to local events.

Last summer, I tried something new with my dog. Bella's a big, 105-pound chocolate lab-cross-husky. She's high energy and loves to run. Me? I dislike running for fun. I was walking her daily, sometimes twice a day, to tucker her out.

Then I had a brilliant idea! Or



Chantel and Bella.

CHANEL GADIANT

so I thought. I wanted to get Bella really running, so I wondered, why not take her on a bike ride? That way she could run beside me and everything would be great.

Nope.

It was great at first. She stayed running on my left side—it was more of a light jog, really—as I huffed and puffed my way up the street. My plan was to head into

Hespeler Park and give it a try on the trails.

We didn't make it that far.

As we crept up to Fifth Avenue from Hampton South, Bella saw a small white dog on my right side. She cut in front of me... and my arms twisted, my bike went flying, and my legs? Well, they ended up tangled in the bike.

While I was mad that I'd fallen

off my bike, something I hadn't done since I was a child, I had a good laugh with the bystanders. To say the least, we turned around to head back home, and I've never tried biking with Bella since.

I strongly encourage everyone to at least try cycling to work or to Hespeler Park for a sporting game or hanging out. And if you fall over, just get back up!

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Yoga

Wednesdays, July 6–August 24  
Curling Rink, 7:00 p.m. & 8:15 p.m.

#### Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Mondays/Wednesdays, June 27–July 27  
South End of Arena, 6:30 p.m.

#### Ritchot Services to Seniors Walking Club

Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.  
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe

#### Drop-in for Youth (Île-des-Chênes)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 2:00–8:00 p.m.  
Île-des-Chênes Arena

#### Drop-in for Youth (Ste. Agathe)

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Ste. Agathe Arena

#### Drop-in for Youth (St. Adolphe)

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
St. Adolphe Arena

#### Back to Nature Nordic Hiking Program

Mondays, 9:00 a.m. (until August 29)  
Contact Carrie @ 204-320-4604

#### Creativity Camp

July 4–8, 1:00–5:00 p.m.  
Ages 5–12, \$75.

#### Gymnastics Camp

July 11–15, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 & 12:00–4:00 p.m.  
Ages 4–6 & 7–10, \$110.

#### Just Girls Camp

July 18–22, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Ages 6–11, \$150.

#### SAFE Camp

July 18–22, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Ages 12–17, \$200.

#### Hollywood Acting Camp

July 25–29, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Ages 7–11, \$150.

#### Mitchell Fun and Fair Days

July 9–10, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Stahn Field, Mitchell

#### Festival D'Été Cheyenne Festival

July 15–16  
Parc Cartier, Ste. Agathe

#### Blue Jays Baseball Camp

July 20–21  
Optimist Park, Île-des-Chênes

#### Send your event listing to:

■ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

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## Alexis Cassaday

At home she is Lexi, but to her teammates on the soccer pitch she is Llama. Alexis is a huge soccer fan. She loves watching soccer on TV with her dad, but she especially loves playing it. This is Lexi's second year playing soccer. She plays for the Niverville Chargers, one of three U10 girls teams in Niverville. Alexis enjoys being active year round and being outdoors. When it's way too hot out or freezing cold, she kicks the ball in the house. Lexi is a bit of a daredevil and loves to laugh. In her downtime, she enjoys playing video games on the computer, drawing, and watching how-to videos on YouTube.

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# Local Gymnast Flips into Third at Westerns

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com



Isaiah Klassen.

© DAN KLASSEN

Niverville teen Isaiah Klassen, 14, recently competed in the T&T Western Canada Cup in Calgary, a gymnastics competition that took place over the May long weekend. This was Klassen's fourth time competing at the event.

Out of 260 athletes, Klassen placed twelfth overall and was the highest scoring male competitor.

"I always try to have a good time and not worry so much about the competition and try to make sure others are having fun too," Klassen says.

The provinces that compete are British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Manitoba, with a single team of six competitors, has the smallest number of gymnasts overall. Alberta has 11 teams with 141 athletes.

For males competitors, the categories are based on skill level, not age. The

levels are rated one to four, with four being the highest level. Klassen competed at level four in one event with gymnasts as old as 16.

Klassen competed in trampoline, double-mini trampoline, and tumbling.

Once gymnasts reach level four, they can attempt something called mobilizing, which means they can attempt to earn a high enough score to move on to level five in that event. If they succeed, they're able to compete at a national level the following year.

Klassen mobilized on his first attempt on the double-mini trampoline. Next year, he will compete at the national level for that event—an impressive achievement, especially considering the circumstances.

"The day before I left, I got an injury," Klassen says. "I was jumping on the double-mini trampoline, getting ready for a skill, when bam! All my muscles tensed in my upper back

and hurt so much. I wasn't even able to lift my arms up... Turns out I had pulled a triangle of muscles in my upper back."

Team Manitoba travels together and stays together for the duration of the competition.

Klassen's parents and two siblings drove out to watch him compete. "We're always very proud of Isaiah," his mom Michelle says. "He works hard, trains hard, perseveres, and has a talent for it. All those mixed together pay off. It's thrilling to see the joy that comes out of him during competition, and that's win or lose."

Klassen dedicates many hours a week to work his gymnastics skills, and this past year he also served for the first time as a junior coach.

As for his future in gymnastics, Klassen says, "Well, I don't know if I'll end up in the Olympics, but it definitely is an extreme hobby of mine and I hope to get a lot more good years out of it."

# New Gymnastics Program in Niverville

By Chantel Gadiant

✉ cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

Little girls in Niverville were experiencing the art of rhythmic gymnastics earlier this year. The new program was designed for girls ages four to seven and focused on flexibility, grace, musical awareness, and creativity.

Spirals Rhythmic Gymnastics,

out of Île-des-Chênes, started running a ten-week program in Niverville this spring teaching fundamental dance moves and introducing students to rhythmic gymnastics skills with the rope, hoop, ball, ribbons, and scarves. The introductory program had 15 young girls, all of them gaining self-esteem, confidence, and body awareness.

Rhythmic gymnastics helps young children develop total body fitness, including strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance. The sport also builds hand-eye coordination. Rhythmic gymnastics combines the grace of ballet, the athleticism of artistic gymnastics, and the creative movement of dance.

Niverville Recreation will be

hosting a gymnastics camp this summer for ages four to six (in the morning) and ages seven to ten (in the afternoon).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

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# The Chamber Corner



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Co-ordinator: Dawn Harris  
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[www.niverville.com](http://www.niverville.com)

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## Winterfest craft sale and market will be back

Yes it is July, but it is never too early to talk about Winterfest 2016 and the chamber's craft sale and market. After a hugely positive response from vendors and shoppers to the 2015 event, the sale will be back. And in a bigger, roomier venue – the Heritage Centre!

Keep Saturday, November 19 open for the chamber's craft sale and market and all the other Winterfest events.

**Crafters:** applications are now being accepted. Please visit the chamber's website [www.niverville.com](http://www.niverville.com) to download an application. Vendors will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Applications are subject to jury selection. Preference will be given to Chamber members; followed by residents of Niverville and area. **Network marketers:** while our preference is for crafted and locally made items, we will be accepting a limited number of network marketers. Payment must accompany your application.

## Welcome new members

The chamber would like to welcome these new members.

- Chris Ewan, Capo di Grande, Ile des Chenes - coffee lounge
- J.P. Craft, Paul Craft Financial Inc, Steinbach - financial planner
- Taralyn Eddy, Young Living Essential Oils, Niverville

## Volunteers of the month

Mayor Myron Dyck, with chamber director Shirley Hoult, presented Lesley Reimer with the Volunteer Appreciation Award for May, and, with chamber director Jen Bardarson, presented Daniel Melanson with the Volunteer Appreciation Award for June.



## Samantha Schmidt given chamber scholarship



*Samantha Schmidt receives congratulations from Mel Buhler, president, Niverville Chamber of Commerce.*

Samantha Schmidt, Grade 12 graduate from Niverville Collegiate Institute, is the recipient of The Leadership Award, given by the Niverville Chamber of Commerce. The award is given to a student who demonstrates an active role in the community, has exceptional volunteer experience; and has shown leadership in school activities.

Applicants for the scholarship are asked to write an 1,000 word essay outlining what leadership

means to them; the value of volunteerism to the community and themselves; and the leadership roles and the volunteer activities they have taken on.

Samantha wrote about leadership, "The most successful leaders are the ones who listen to those they are leading and find the best way to work together as a whole."

Lesley started with the Girl Guide movement when it came to Niverville four years ago – first with the Brownies and now as Brown Owl with the Girl Guides. She has also been on the board of directors of the Growing Minds Child Care Centre for seven years and serves as its treasurer.

Daniel has been a keen and active volunteer for the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair for eight years. He is happy to do whatever it takes to keep the fair and the town looking good on fair weekend.



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# Panthers Paddle to Third in Dragon Boat Challenge



NCI's dragon boat team.

LAURA VAN DEN BRUL

By Laura van den Brul

The Manitoba School Dragon Boat Challenge, hosted by the Manitoba Paddling Association, is an exciting alternative to traditional school sports.

This year, NCI entered a middle years dragon boat team into the challenge, a first for all but five members. They travelled to Winnipeg for two practices held on the Red River. During their two practices, they learned the steersperson's commands ("Paddles up," "Take it away," "Kill the boat," and "Hold the boat") and how to paddle in synch with each other.

Dragon boating is a very technical sport and paddling in synch is difficult, and much more important than just being big and strong. Each boat has 20 paddlers, a drummer, and a steersperson.

The NCI Panthers placed third in the middle years division. The kids were very happy with their achievement and say they are looking forward to participating again next year.

The Manitoba School Dragon Boat Challenge is an important fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society.

## IN BRIEF



The Niverville Rush.

MICHELLE PASTOOR

## Niverville Boys Win Boston Pizza Players Cup

By Susan Thompson

The Niverville Rush U14 boys soccer team won the Boston Pizza Players Cup on June 5. The team, mostly made up of 13-year-olds, didn't lose a game against the Winnipeg clubs and beat the league-leading Charleswood Lions in the final by a score of 3-1.

Thank you to highly regarded coach Walt McKee, who is in his fiftieth year of coaching and has done a tremendous job coaching teams in our community over the past number of years.

# Soccer Wraps Up Successful Year

By Bonnie Anderson

The Niverville Soccer Club has just completed another successful season. The club had a total of 452 players involved this spring, all between the ages of five and 17.

209 of the players took part in the mini soccer program, which is run as an in-house league on the mini fields in the north section of Hespeler Park. 243 players between the ages of nine and 17 did very well and were competitive against

other towns in the Eastman Youth Soccer League. The U17 girls won the league's silver medal and the U17 boys won bronze.

At the time of this writing, the U10 and U14 age groups hadn't yet completed their seasons and final

tournaments.

If you happened to stroll by or bike through Hespeler Park on any given Monday to Thursday evening this spring, and even some Saturdays, you may have noticed a flurry of activity on all our fields.

The Niverville Soccer Committee would like to send a big thank you to all those who helped make this season possible. If it weren't for coaches, refs, and managers, the committee couldn't have provided all its players with such a great opportunity to develop friendships, participate in physical activity, and learn teamwork.

Some Niverville players are participating on Eastman soccer teams in the Manitoba Summer Games this August in Steinbach. Many will also be competing for our local high school soccer teams in the fall.

## Richert Set to Race on Historic Italian Circuit

Keiron Berndt

After an exciting and wet weekend in Monaco, Niverville native and race car driver David Richert is headed to Monza, a circuit that has a rich history in motor racing, to compete once again in the Euro-cup Formula Renault.

Built in 1922, the Autodromo di Monza—more widely known as the Temple of Speed—was the birthplace of the Italian Formula 1 Grand Prix, which is still held there to this day. Many other racing events are hosted at Monza,

including the International GT Open, the Monza Rally Show, the World Touring Car Championship, and the Suberbike World Championship.

The circuit has undergone several changes over the past 94 years, with few of the original circuit elements and portions left remaining. The current track length is 5.8 kilometres, and holds the record for the highest speed recorded during a Formula 1 race of 370.1 kilometres per hour, set by Kimi Räikkönen during the 2005 Italian Grand Prix.

While Richert won't be reaching Formula 1 speeds this race, he's aiming for the podium with the help of his corporate partners: Diabolica Wines, Silver Jeans Co., Loewen, Karma Property Management, Casamigos, and R.R. Dobel Insurance.

Richert's Eurocup race weekend is set to start on July 1 and continue through the weekend, with the final race being an opening to the Formula Grand Prix on Sunday, July 3.

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## Splash Pad Update

The Niverville splash pad will be opening soon. Once the canteen and washrooms are completed, along with landscaping around the splash pad itself, the Town of Niverville will announce a grand opening date. Stay tuned and watch for information on the town website or in the town newsletter.

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# St. Adolphe Getting a New Park

By Chantel Gadiant

cgadiant@nivervillecitizen.com

The Garden Ridge Park is on the rise in St. Adolphe.

The newly developed area north of Highway 210, known as Forest Ridge and Garden View, is home to over 200 families, and it's still growing. With so many young families needing a play space, a small plot of land has been designated to be developed into a park. The park, located on Leclerc Bay between Kemps Way and Lucille Bay, is also needed to

keep children safe and active within walking distance of their homes.

A group of dedicated residents have come together to form a committee for the Garden Ridge Park. Together they formed a plan, developed the park space, and completed a survey in 2013 with local residents.

Based on the results, the committee has identified two main goals: (1) to develop a community green space that supports safe and engaging play and interactive recreation

that is age-friendly, and (2) to develop a community meeting space that accommodates four seasons of recreation activities and complements the broader community's recreational needs.

The park is to feature a playground with two play structures: one designed for ages two to five, and another designed for ages five to 12. Also included are natural play features, a sandbox, swings, and a pathway running throughout the park. A picnic shelter will be built for use in

spring, summer, and fall. It will serve as a skate shack in the winter months.

There are also plans for an outdoor sports pad, an asphalt surface to be used year round. The plan is to use the pad as an outdoor rink in winter, and as a basketball court and road hockey pad (maybe even pickleball) in the spring, summer, and fall.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

■ gardenridgepark@gmail.com

# Wildcats Season Comes to an End

By Ron Hiebert

The baseball season for the Niverville Wildcats came to an end the week of June 27. Cold temperatures, rain delays, and wet fields did not stop the players from stepping onto the diamonds and showcasing their talents.

It was a successful season with approximately 120 registrants ages four to 15. The program, which is RBI-approved by Baseball Canada, focuses on the athletes' long-term development, aiming to teach the fundamentals of baseball—hitting, throwing, and catching—as well as the rules.

This year, the Wildcats had a girls softball program with U8 Mini-Mites and U10 Mites. Though there were a low number of players, the future looks bright. One need only look at the boys program. The U9 Grand Slam group from the



The Niverville Wildcats.

PEARL HIEBERT

year that Niverville revamped its baseball program is now playing U15 Bantam. Next year, Niverville may field a U18 Midget team for the first time in more than 15 years.

Niverville hosted the U11 Mosquito Provincial play-downs on June 11–12, to determine which communities will represent the local region at the A and AA provincials later this

summer.

The local program would not be a success without the countless, and sometimes thankless, hours of many coaches and volunteers.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Art as a Way of Life

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Local artist Joe Ashwell always has a project or two on the go. Although painting is his favourite artform, his mediums range from walls to vehicles to objects.

"I like taking something boring and dreary and making it into something different and visually appealing," says Ashwell.

Being creative and artistic has always been a part of Ashwell. He has enjoyed drawing and painting even as a child. "The first painting I ever sold was when I was 15 years old, for \$250. I brought it to school in the morning on the bus with a \$250 price tag on it and all the students were laughing at me saying I was crazy. They said, 'No one will pay that much for it.' It sold that day."

Ashwell, who grew up in Canada, moved to New Zealand when he was 15 years old and helped his dad with his painting company. He took it over when his dad passed away.

After the passing of Ashwell's friend Drew Cook a couple of years ago, he decided to move permanently back to Canada. Ashwell bought Cook's 1500 GMC truck and has recently given it an overhaul. Not only did he take care of rust, but



Joe Ashwell poses with his work.

ASHLEY HUMPHREY

he completely repainted it in green, black, and white camouflage, which Cook loved. Now Ashwell drives an embodiment of his artistic skills, can remember his friend, and uses the truck for his own interior painting company, Contract Painting Services.

Painting and drawing were just the beginning for Ashwell. "I do acrylic paintings on canvas,

large murals on drywall, black light reflective glow in the dark art pieces, and more recently I've started to get into automotive airbrushing and painting.

"I love seeing the transformation from nothing to something... and that's what art is," Ashwell adds. "It's what makes every artist different. No matter what form of art, visual or musical, we start with

nothing and create something amazing."

With three or four art projects on the go at all times, Ashwell keeps quite busy. "My last art piece I have been working on is a large 3D forest and mountain scene with a waterfall, all done out of drywall plaster."

With no pressure to sell his art, Ashwell is free to create and express his talents in new ways.

### EVENT GUIDE

#### Creativity Camp (Painting)

July 4–8 | 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:00–5:00 p.m.  
Niverville Arena, \$75 (ages 5–12).

#### Frog Follies

July 7–10  
St. Pierre-Jolys, Free.

#### Jordan St. Cyr

July 7 | 7:00 p.m.  
Jekyll and Hyde's Freehouse, Winnipeg. Free.

#### Plain as Ghosts Album Release

July 9 | 9:00 p.m.  
Goodwill Social Club, Winnipeg. \$12.

#### Mitchell Fun Days

July 9–10  
Mitchell, Free.

#### Painting on the Prairies

July 14 | 7:00 p.m.  
Slice of Life, Niverville. \$35.

#### Cheyenne Summer Fest

July 15–16  
Cartier Park, Ste. Agathe, Free.

#### Morris Stampede

July 21–24  
Morris Stampede Grounds, \$18.75.

#### Pioneer Days

July 29–August 1 | 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Mennonite Heritage Village, Steinbach. \$10.

#### Send your event listing to:

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

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# Music for a Cause

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

If you've been out to local fairs and festivals this summer, you may have heard of The Band RBB, a local group that plays rock and blues. Their most recent show was Summer in the City, Steinbach's annual fair, this past June.

The band has seven musicians, including Lise Peters and Myra Gerbrandt on vocals, Tony Donkersloot on drums, Russ Funk on bass guitar, Ty Neufeld on harmonica, and Brad Buhler and Steve Neufeld on guitar.

This blues band is set apart by their passion for helping out, and their hearts are well invested in the community.

"Here is why we exist," says Steve Neufeld. "We love to give back to our community through planning and participation of appreciation, community celebration, and fundraising events."

The Band RBB, which once stood for "Rocka-by-Blue", plays eight to ten shows a year, such as Rockin' for a Reason in support of Today House, the Everyone Matters Family Street Party in support of Salvation Army and Lighthouse



The Band RBB.

■ LILLY MARTENS-DONKERSLOOT

Mission, and summer festivals in Rosenort, Mitchell, and Steinbach.

"All of our music has a message with it geared for a wide variety of musical styles and audiences," says Neufeld.

They play mostly covers, from Trooper all the way to Collective Soul. But they are currently working on some original material.

Steve and one of the vocalists, Lise Peters, have been playing together since 1987. The two, along with Buhler and Funk, played in the worship band Redwood from 2003 to 2012. This was the basis for The Band RBB. Although members have changed throughout the last few years, the style of music and their collective heart to give back have remained.

The love of music seems to

run in the family. Lise's daughter Mel Bergen has been a special guest at some events. As well, Steve's son, Ty Neufeld, has played the harmonica for the band since 2015.

"We want to continue to play community festivals and fairs to gain notoriety for the band," Neufeld says, "ultimately leading to shows where we can continue to create awareness for causes we believe in."

If you'd like to hear them, their next show is at Mitchell Fun Days on July 9, from 9:00 p.m. until dusk, where it'll end with a fireworks display.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

# Local Artist Thriving in California

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Christian recording artist and Niverville native Amanda (Falk) Cook is alive and well and living with husband Jacob Cook in Redding, California.

Known for her passionate, faith-based singer/songwriter pop music, Amanda first began performing with a local worship team at the age of 16. In 2004, she released her debut self-titled album, winning a Juno award for Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year. Two more well-received albums followed, including 2007's *Beautiful* and 2010's *In Between Now and Then*.

It was around this time that Cook relocated to California, joining the Bethel Music

Community.

Bethel Music is an American group that started making music in 2001. They focus on producing songs and albums that are largely written and recorded by members of their artist collective, which Cook is a part. Bethel Music grew rapidly from being a small local church ministry to becoming a full-fledged record label and publishing company, facilitating and administering the creation and exploration of worship songs, events, teachings, resources, and technology, including an online training course entitled WorshipU.

The Bethel Music Community has proven to be a good fit for Cook. In 2014, she received three Covenant

awards from GMA (Gospel Music Association) Canada. These included Female Vocalist of the Year, Song of the Year, and Praise and Worship Song of the Year for "You Make Me Brave."

In 2015, Cook released her fourth solo album for Bethel Music, *Brave New World*. Her latest song, "You Don't Miss a Thing," is featured on Bethel Music's latest album *We Will Not Be Shaken*.

Cook ministers both in the United States and internationally. Her next solo project is currently underway.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.bethelmusic.com/artists/amanda-cook](http://www.bethelmusic.com/artists/amanda-cook)




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Last Month's Winner  
Liam MacDonald  
Age: 5



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

- Across
- 4. Epoch
  - 9. More chilly
  - 12. Entangle
  - 14. Roof overhang
  - 15. Famous English school
  - 16. Corner of a church for response leaders
  - 17. Female name
  - 18. Mother and father
  - 20. Bird homes
  - 21. Unavoidable
  - 25. Muscular tissue
  - 27. Strong upward air current
  - 31. Bishops' jurisdictions
  - 33. Cut of meat
  - 34. Ammunition
  - 35. Grapefruit/tangerine cross
  - 36. Alleviation of pain
  - 37. Blurs
  - 38. Pop

- Down
- 1. Take or receive
  - 2. Sale to reduce inventory
  - 3. Number of stars in Ursa Major
  - 5. Coral ridge
  - 6. Aerial
  - 7. PA resident
  - 8. Bird
  - 10. Matron
  - 11. Lease
  - 13. Extra
  - 19. In complete confusion
  - 22. Intrigued
  - 23. Exertion
  - 24. Emphasis
  - 26. Semitrailer
  - 28. As well as
  - 29. Prescribed doctrine
  - 30. Irritate
  - 32. Settee

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



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# 2016 Grad Awards & Bursaries

## Niverville Collegiate

### Niverville Chamber of Commerce Award - \$1000

- Sam Schmidt

### Town of Niverville Award - \$1000

- Danica Cuddeford

### Niverville Credit Union Scholarship - \$1000

- Morgan Hiebert

### Niverville Firefighters Scholarship - \$200

- Lance Harder

### Niverville Physiotherapy Athletic Scholarship - 2x \$300

- Female Athlete: Sam Schmidt
- Male Athlete: Christian Giesbrecht

### MCC Thrift Store Bursary - \$500

- Darby Holden

## L'École Gabrielle-Roy

### Bourse de la DSFR

- Josée Rochan
- Tatianna Balcaen

### Bourse Chown

- Josée Rochon

### Bourse AEFM

- Anna Fowler

### Chevaliers de Colomb (Conseil Île-des-Chênes)

- Joseph Danneels

### Chevaliers de Colomb (Conseil St. Norbert)

- Joanne Senécal

### Chevaliers de Colomb (Conseil Jubinville-Lorette)

- Justin Manaigre
- Celina Mailhot

### Chevaliers de Colomb (Conseil Sainte-Agathe)

- Brigitte Courcelles

### Municipalité Taché

- Justin Manaigre

### Municipalité Ritchot

- Julie-Anne Delaquis
- Émelie Roy

### Bob Lagassé Volunteer and Community Service Award

- Zoé Rémillard

### Birco Woodworks

- Nicolas Nordick

### Al Worx

- Noah Grenier

### Île-des-Chênes Country Store

- Serge Bellemare
- Marisa Forest

### Caisse Groupe Financier

- Derrick Sabourin

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### Bold Commerce

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### Capo di Grande

- Anna Fowler

### RE/MAX - Dan Vermette

- Greyson Knelson
- Jessica Gobeil-Lagassé

### Prix TransCanada Pipelines

- Jasmine Tétrault
- Serge Bellemare

### Bourse de Jostens

- Josée Huberdeau

### Bourse Centennial Gravel

- Tatianna Balcaen
- Gabrielle Gagnon

### Bourse du comité scolaire (ÉGR)

- Sylvie Préjet

### Morris Constituency Writers Scholarship - \$225

- Jessica Gugenheimer

### Imagine Award - \$500

- Kaisha Korchinski

### PAC Award - \$250

- Abrielle Fox

### JOY Award - \$1000

- Minhye Lee

### Governer General's Medal

- Morgan Hiebert

### Chown Centennial Scholarship - \$1000

- Hana Stott

### NCI Band Award - \$350

- Joshua Zapp

- Keïta Fournier-Pelletier

### Bourse du comité scolaire (2<sup>e</sup> bourse CRGR)

- Jessica Gobeil-Lagassé
- Kelsey Whittington

### Bourse du comité scolaire (CRGR)

- Cédric Lachance

### Bourse du comité scolaire (Lagimodière)

- Richelle Toews

### Bourse du comité scolaire (Ste-Agathe)

- Brigitte Courcelles

### Bourse du comité scolaire (Noël-Ritchot)

- Anna Fowler

### Comité culturel IDC

- Shaun Saurette

### Bourse du conseil étudiant

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- Anna Fowler

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- Chantelle Morin - \$750
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- Jessica Gobeil-Lagassé - \$1000
- Dannica Moroz - \$1000
- Sylvie Préjet - \$1000
- Derrick Sabourin - \$1000
- Richelle Toews - \$1000
- Tatianna Balcaen - \$1750
- Anna Fowler - \$1750
- Ashley Verhaeghe - \$1750
- Brigitte Courcelles - \$2500
- Julie-Anne Delaquis - \$2500
- Gabrielle Gagnon - \$2500
- Maryse Rouire - \$2500

### Bourse Fréchette-Fredette

- Derrick Sabourin

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- Greyson Knelson

### Bourse du personnel CRGR

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- Annike Everhardus

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- Français: Gabrielle Gagnon
- Effort: Maryse Rouire

### Bourses Danique-Huberdeau

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- Michelle Maheu

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- Mélanie Ritchot

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## JOB POSTINGS



**N&A TRUCKING & LEASING LTD.**

## DIESEL MECHANIC

N&A Trucking & Lsg Ltd is currently seeking diesel mechanic for full time position at very busy shop in Niverville.

Qualified candidates may email resume to: nandatruking@hotmail.com or see Chad at the office between 8am-5pm.

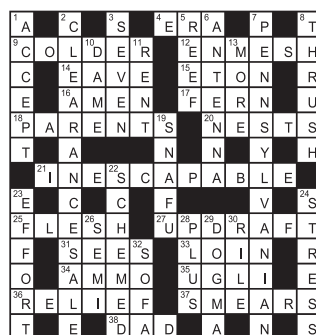
## BIRTHDAYS



### Agatha Braun is turning 95!

Join her for cake/coffee on Saturday, July 16 at the Golden Friendship Centre between 2-5 p.m. to celebrate.

### This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



# Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and made certain that this years Fair was a huge success! Whether you helped set up, volunteered on shifts, or actually joined the committee, nothing would have happened without your effort. We need all of you (plus a friend) again next year, and if you're interested in joining the fair committee, we welcome you.

Planning for 2017 starts in August. We hope to see a few new faces joining us. For more information on how you can help, please email info@nivervillefair.com



# JOIN OUR TEAM

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

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

**Together, we can.**




# DREAM IT. LIVE IT.

**POWER SMART Manitoba Games**  
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**AUGUST 7-13, 2016**

# GET INVOLVED



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join a team dedicated to creating a safe and fun environment for young athletes to participate in.

Learn more at: [POWERSMARTMANITOBAGAMES.CA](http://POWERSMARTMANITOBAGAMES.CA)

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## 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)

## SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE



### 295 Main Street - Niverville

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

### 2 Bedroom Suite For Rent

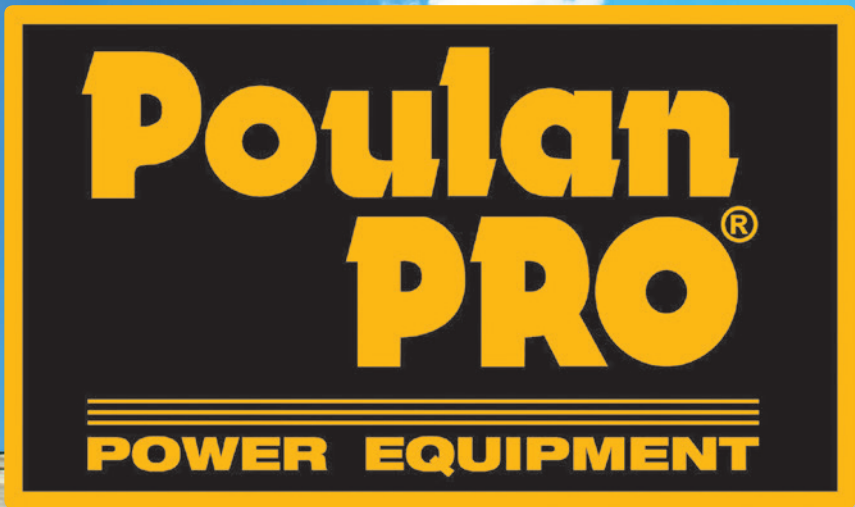
2 bedroom suite on second floor on Main Street in Niverville. Available August 1, 2016. \$795 + utilities/month. Contact (204) 392-5472

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SAT: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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