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LOCAL NEWS

Year in Review

■ Before heading into the new year, take some time to review 2016's biggest developments right here in our region.

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LOCAL NEWS

Facing the Hazards of Winter Driving

■ With one snowstorm after another hitting us, make sure you're ready to hit the roads.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Breaking Down the Jets' Top Line

■ In this month's Jets update, Tim Hiebert breaks down the top line of Scheifele, Laine, and Ehlers to figure out what takes them tick.

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No Two Artists Are the Same

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WEDDING SEASON
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Niverville to Overhaul Recycling Services in 2017

Evan Braun

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Niverville's current recycling contract is set to expire in the summer, and town council has decided to switch providers. Bristol Hauling has been awarded the new four-year contract, meaning that the town's recycling will now be taken to the company's depot in St. Malo.

Of perhaps more interest to locals, the change means that residents will have their current blue bins replaced with much larger curbside carts, similar to the garbage carts that were rolled out in 2016. There will be no cost to residents for the new 95-gallon recycling carts. (For sake of comparison, the garbage carts contain 65 gallons.)

Although both recycling and garbage collection will continue to happen on Thursdays, the recycling will be picked up every other week instead of on a weekly basis.

"Collection will start in June and be every other Thursday," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "It will be the same day as garbage day so that in winter it only impacts snow-clearing one day a week and not two. Also, the service



Recycling is on town council's mind this new year.

ADOBE STOCK

provider may want to have two zones where half the town is collected one Thursday and the other half the other Thursday... The impact of the recycling program will not cost the homeowner any more in taxes."

Eric King, the town's Finance Administration Manager, said near the end of December that Niverville was on pace to pay about \$140,000 for recycling in 2016. "The town approximately recycles 400 metric tonnes a year, so this works out to approximately \$350 per tonne," says King. "Moving down to biweekly

service with Bristol will cost the town just under \$100,000 per year, or \$242.54 per tonne. This includes the cost of Bristol purchasing the carts for all residents within the town."

Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) plays a key role in funding recycling programs like Niverville's. The MMSM collects levies from businesses that supply, distribute, or sell packaged products or printed paper in Manitoba, and those funds are paid to towns and municipalities through rebates to offset the costs of recycling. According to

King, Niverville is set to receive a rebate rate of \$286 per tonne in 2017.

"This additional revenue will be used to potentially purchase the carts outright at the end of this four-year deal with Bristol to further reduce the cost of recycling to the residents of Niverville," says King.

King cautions that the MMSM rebate rate is based on the town's current population. If the 2016 census results, to be announced in February, show that Niverville's population has climbed above 5,000, the town's rebate will decrease to approximately \$213 per tonne.

"The interesting note is that the more the town recycles, the cheaper the program becomes, as each tonne turns a profit on our rebate in 2017," King says. "We can then reinvest these profits into making a better recycling program for the town."

The decision to change providers and introduce

recycling carts has so far been met with enthusiasm. Denise Stratyck, who lives in The Highlands, has often seen the wind pick up loose items from the town's open blue bins. The bulkier new carts, which come with lids, will solve that problem.

"When the high school kids picked up litter in spring, I counted over 25 bags of trash that came from overturned buckets from Krahn Road to the railroad tracks," says Stratyck. "We have used clear recycling bags for this reason. But large buckets are even better and cleaner."

The Stratycks live part of the year in Arizona, where their family easily fills two curbside recycling carts every week. "The recycling is full and we have to make sure we crush boxes to fit it all in," she says.

She adds that because they recycle a lot of shredded paper, they have to place it in clear bags. With the current blue bins, that paper would be "all over the place."

Councillor Nathan Dueck advises residents to be smart about their recycling, and to recycle as much as possible. "Please consider new ways of breaking down your household products and finding better long-term homes for your current waste," he says.

King adds that the contract with Bristol will be finalized in January, so the details are not yet set in stone.

Bristol Hauling has assured council that they will be buying another collection truck in the near future to manage the town's recycling needs in a timely manner.

New Dentist Arrives in Niverville

Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Clients of Niverville Heritage Dental will be seeing a new face at the centre this January. Dr. Sunayna Gupta, who has been practicing in Niverville for one year, is scheduled to take a maternity leave starting in mid-January. Dr. Darci Bonar, a native of Brandon

who currently practices at the Tuxedo Dental Group in Winnipeg, will be stepping into her shoes.

Dr. Bonar has served as an instructor at the University of Manitoba and is a member of the Canadian Dental Association, the Manitoba Dental Association, the Winnipeg Dental Society, and the Academy of General Dentistry. She

practices all aspects of general dentistry, including children's dentistry, restorative and aesthetic dentistry, root canals, dentures, crowns, bridges, and oral surgery.

Dr. Gupta expects to return on a part-time basis in June and resume full-time hours in September.



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2016 Year in Review

A lot happened in our region last year. Before 2017 gets underway, here's a refresher course on 2016's highlights.

Niverville Gets a New Water Main

SUMMARY:

Perhaps no other subject dominated Niverville's coffee shops and water coolers in 2016 than the question of when and how Niverville would begin the transition to town water—and who would pay for it.

In January 2016, Niverville Town Council held a meeting with business owners and residents to discuss the proposed Main Street/Fifth Avenue Water Main Project. Days prior, these businesses and residents had received letters outlining the costs. This was the first many had heard about the project.

In order to take advantage of a \$1.3 million government grant from the Building Canada Fund, council had to act quickly and complete the project no later than March 2017. The original scope of the project was to include



Installation of the new water line on Main Street Niverville.

RAY DOWSE

cross piping, curb stops, and connections that would allow the water grid to be expanded in the future to areas north and south of Main Street.

Responding to some push-back, on March 29 council presented a scaled-down version of the original plan which reduced the costs by

40 percent. Council also gave affected property owners the option to avoid payment of their frontage fee in exchange for bearing the full costs of hookup at some future date. For those who agreed to pay, the frontage fees were reduced from \$53.44 per foot to a more palatable \$34.80.

As of April 8, approximately 50 percent of the property owners had signed up to pay their full frontage fee and council made the decision to go ahead with the project.

Construction was well underway by July. ProStar HDD, a contractor from Steinbach, won the bid and began

digging and assembling pipes at various locations along Main Street and Fifth Avenue. One side effect was that the town's sidewalk replacement project had to be put on hold.

The water main project was completed in late September, coming in 7.8 percent under budget.

Another water infrastructure project was announced in October, for water mains to run along Sixth Avenue from Main Street to Errington Way and along Crown Valley Road to Krahn Road. The town also announced upgrades to the Spruce Drive water treatment plant. These improvements are collectively pegged at \$400,000 and will be largely paid for through cost savings from the Main Street project. ProStar has once again been contracted to carry out the work.

Further Twinning of Highway 59 on the Table

SUMMARY:

In 2006, the Government of Manitoba twinned Highway 59 from Winnipeg until just south of Île-des-Chênes. At the time, a government report cited safety issues and the booming economy in the southeast region.

In the spring of 2015, representatives from five municipalities and the towns of Niverville and St-Pierre-Jolys formed a group called the Highway 59 Partners, whose objective is to address the needs of all communities in the southeast in terms of twinning the highway. Mona Fallis, Mayor of St-Pierre-Jolys and spokesperson for the Partners, said in January 2016 that she anticipated further meetings with the province. No new developments have since come to light.

Larry Halayko, executive director of construction and maintenance for Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT), has said that further twinning of the highway is not currently part of their approved multiyear capital program. He added that the province is planning a functional design study of the stretch of highway from Île-des-Chênes to Highway 52 sometime in 2017.



JENNI MORIN

Local Woman Wins National Award

SUMMARY:

Colleen Dyck, local maker of GORP clean energy bars, received a prestigious national award: Mompreneur of the Year. The award recognizes the achievements of the estimated 17,000 women and mothers

across Canada who run their own businesses. 124 women were nominated this year.

Dyck is no stranger to winning awards, having also received honours from the Great Manitoban Food Fight and Canada's Outstanding

Young Farmers. GORP has been recognized as the Manitoba Food Processors Company of the Year, as well as *Get Outside's* Best Sports Nutrition Food of the Year for 2015 and 2016.

"I was extremely humbled

and honoured to be the one to accept the award on behalf of all the working moms out there," Dyck said. "[It is] a huge honour that has reaffirmed to me how important it is to support and recognize each other."



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Some Things are Best Left to the Professionals!

Niverville Hosts Home Inspirations Show

SUMMARY:

On March 18–20, the Niverville Heritage Centre hosted the annual Southeast Home Inspirations Show, sponsored by the Niverville Credit Union. The event has been held every year since 2013. Exhibitors came from Stein-

bach, Landmark, Lorette, Niverville, and beyond.

The featured presenter this year was Kelsey Kosman of Dollhouse Designs, who focussed on the ways in which interior design plays a role in many aspects of a person's life.

Niverville Faces Water Supply Questions

SUMMARY:

The water main wasn't the only big water-related story in Niverville this year. After homeowners in The Highlands and Fifth Avenue Estates received repeated notices to reduce their water usage, residents began to ask questions about the long-term viability of the town's water supply. Town council also advised residents of water rate hikes for both 2017 and 2018.

Mayor Myron Dyck said that the plant has two wells, with the potential of a third well. The aquifer from which the town receives its groundwater is immeasurably large and sufficient for everyone's needs, but the problem lies with the amount of micro-sediment in the existing well bank, an underground storage space from which the wells draw water.

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

settle out."

According to Dyck, the current filtration system can't keep up when this happens.

An informational open house was held on September 22 at the Niverville Heritage Centre to inform residents about the process of locating a new water supply.

Apart from sandy sinkholes, a second problem lies in the salinity (dissolved salt content) of the underground water directly beneath and to the west of Niverville. The closer you get to the Red River, the higher the salinity of the water. Fresher water appears to the east.

For this reason, a target study area has been established east of Highway 59 and several miles north and south of Highway 311. The study area shows promise based on existing wells in the area that are providing quality water both at low-volume and high-volume demand and without disturbing agriculture. The study is expected to be complete by the fall of 2017.

Provincial Election 2016

SUMMARY:

Although Manitoba's provincial election campaign didn't officially kick off until March 16, Niverville councillor John Falk stepped down from his seat of seven years on February 22 to run in the Morris constituency for the Manitoba Liberals, who at the start of the campaign were polling higher than they had in 20 years. Falk said that many aspects of the Liberal platform strongly resonated with him.

Shannon Martin, who was first elected MLA for Morris in a 2014 by-election, ran for the Progressive Conservatives.

When Manitobans went to the polls on April 19, they resoundingly defeated the incumbent New Democrats, securing a historic 40 seats in the 57-seat legislature. In addition to sweeping victories across rural Manitoba, the PCs also broke new ground in Winnipeg, winning in areas they hadn't competed in for decades.

Key promises from the PCs included rolling back the PST to seven percent, reducing costs by making government more efficient, and addressing



Shannon Martin with Premier Brian Pallister.

SHANNON MARTIN

Manitoba's high debt.

After a disappointing campaign, the Liberals finished in third place, although they increased their seat count to three.

"I think the biggest thing Manitobans want is a responsible government that's going to listen to them," Falk said about the election results. "And they believe the PCs will do

that... You got to give the PCs credit. They ran, for the most part, a very good campaign."

Shannon Martin said he was excited to get back to work. "It's still sinking in, to be honest," he said. "The results are beyond my expectations, that's for sure. I would have never imagined in my wildest dreams that we would get 40 seats. Shocking numbers."



DR. MINA ANTONIOUS

New Doctor Joins Niverville Clinic

SUMMARY:

In the spring, Dr. Kiannaz Kiani moved her practice from the Niverville Medical Clinic to St. Pierre. On April 1, she was replaced by Dr. Mina Antonious, who began a four-year contract with Southern Health-Santé Sud. Antonious had served previously at the Health Sciences Centre, Grace Hospital, and St. Boniface Hospital as part of his family medicine residency. Antonious began his medical training in Egypt, where he was born.

Big Policing Decisions on the Horizon



JOEY VILLANUEVA

SUMMARY:

Over the past few years, there's been a lot of chatter in Niverville about the need for a stronger police presence—and the community Facebook pages were abuzz in 2016 with stories of property theft and damage.

According to the Police

Services Act of Manitoba, once a town reaches a population of 5,000, the level of policing must increase. After the 2011 census, Niverville's population was 3,540. It's anyone's guess whether the current population exceeds 5,000, but we're about to find out. The population data from the 2016 census

is scheduled to be released on February 8.

"If it's found that our population is over 5,000, it's going to tip the threshold and we're going to have to find monies for additional policing, monies that will be taken from other areas," said Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck in January 2016.

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The cast of *Canot Cacassee*. STEVEN K JOHNSON

French Children's Show Films in Niverville

SUMMARY:

From November 2015 until May 2016, a television show filmed at the former church on Third Avenue South. The crew of the French children's series *Canot Cacassee* transformed the church sanctuary into a lush campsite, complete with trees and grass, rocks, split logs, a canoe, and a tent. Behind the rocks and trees, a realistic blue sky presided over the campsite.

The 13-episode series follows the adventures of kids at summer camp with their families. In addition to the live-action footage shot in Niverville, each episode contains animated content produced by a company in New Brunswick.

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

Canot Cacassee will begin airing in January 2017 on UnisTV, a mandatory specialty channel carried across the country, and APTN, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. If a second season materializes, Clément says he would love nothing better than to return to Niverville.

School Division Grapples with Human Rights Complaint

SUMMARY:

On April 6, Michelle McHale appeared in front of the Hanover School Division (HSD) board to discuss its policies relating to the handling of LGBTQ issues. While investigating a bullying incident involving her child, McHale had learned that HSD educators are directed not to discuss or acknowledge sexual orientation in the classroom.

"Homosexual practices intentionally not being discussed in sex education, where heterosexual practices are discussed, is discrimination," McHale said. She also pointed out that different treatment of an individual or group on the basis of a protected characteristic is explicitly prohibited by the Manitoba Human Rights Code. McHale requested that the board review its policies, since other school divisions in Manitoba operate under less restrictive policies.

Two weeks later, HSD responded to McHale's request by defending its policies and emphasizing its compliance with the standards set out in the Manitoba Provincial Physical Education/



Michelle McHale. IAN FROESE, THE CARILLON

Health Curriculum. They implemented no changes.

At a June 7 public meeting of HSD board, McHale's request was seconded by openly gay Grade 12 student Mika Schellenberg. 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.

Several controversial remarks made by HSD trustees at that meeting were widely reported in the national media. One trustee compared allowing in-classroom discussions of LGBTQ subjects to the tragedy of residential schools. Another trustee, a nurse by occupation, linked sex education with an increase in cancer rates.

On June 17, McHale responded by filing a human rights complaint against the division. As of October, McHale said she and her partner were waiting for the case to enter mediation.

The conflict set off a social firestorm across the southeast, culminating with Steinbach's first Pride march on July 9. Though organizers anticipated a modest attendance, the crowd swelled into the thousands. The march was delayed to accommodate miles of bumper-to-bumper traffic trying to make its way into the city. Police and organizers estimate marchers totalled between 3,000 and 5,000.

Niverville Council Annexes Land for Future Development

SUMMARY:

In a deal with the RM of Hanover, Niverville has acquired 340 acres of land in an effort to further council's mandate to promote and grow the business sector. Hanover and Niverville had originally agreed to a much larger 1,100-acre annexation, but the province turned it down, with the Minister of Agriculture not willing to risk losing valuable acres of farmland.

The first annexation includes the roadway of Sixth Avenue North, from ditch to ditch, keeping the farmland outside the boundary but connecting the business park to the community. The second annexation portion would include 80 acres to the north of Third Street North, creating the potential for future residential development there. Finally, an 80-acre parcel south of Highway 311 was included, bordering Sixth Avenue South, to be designated as highway commercial development.

The annexation came into effect on January 1, 2017.

Daycare Crisis Brews, Waiting Lists Remain Long

SUMMARY:

On April 7, Growing Minds Child Care (GMCC) held an informational meeting at the Heritage Centre to relay a sombre message: they weren't certain GMCC would be able to offer school-age care for all of its enrolled children come September. The reason? Not enough space.

This wasn't the first time GMCC had faced problems. In the past, two satellite locations had been

opened on Main Street specifically for school-age care. Jason Moran, GMCC board and strategic planning committee member, said they were searching for a long-term fix.

Shortly after the April meeting, several parties came forward with proposals, all of which were assessed based on licensing regulations, operational requirements, and financial viability.

In June, GMCC accepted a

proposal from the owners of the space at 21 Main Street and signed a lease agreement, effective August 1, 2016. The space, recently vacated by Corolla Designs, was immediately adjacent to their existing centre. Renovations were done to open the wall between the two units, combining them and creating space for 15 extra children.

Despite this solution, GMCC still has a lengthy waiting list. The

GMCC board has not ruled out the possibility of future growth to meet the demand, but only if commercial space should come available that is more financially feasible.

"Now that we have created 15 additional childcare spaces, we plan to continue communicating with the province in regards to receiving priority consideration for operational funding," said Rhonda Kenning, director of GMCC.

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Olde Tyme Country Fair Hosts Big Weekend



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

AARON GRAIN | THE WASHBOARD UNION

SUMMARY:

The 2016 Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair was one of the best yet. According to the fair committee, roughly 12,000 people attended the June 10-11 weekend.

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 alcoholic beverages was the biggest in Manitoba that they've licensed. Because people respected these rules, it will most likely happen again next year.

Acts included headliner Gord Bamford, The Washboard Union, The Big City All-Star Band, local artist Brady Kenneth, and a well-received show by Archangel Fireworks.

Bumpy Rollout for Tax Incentive Policy

SUMMARY:

On Tuesday, May 10, Niverville's council announced a new tax incentive policy, Policy F4-16, to encourage the development of local business.

The three needs addressed by these tax incentives were (1) the development of private business on Main Street, (2) life lease housing to meet the demand of more

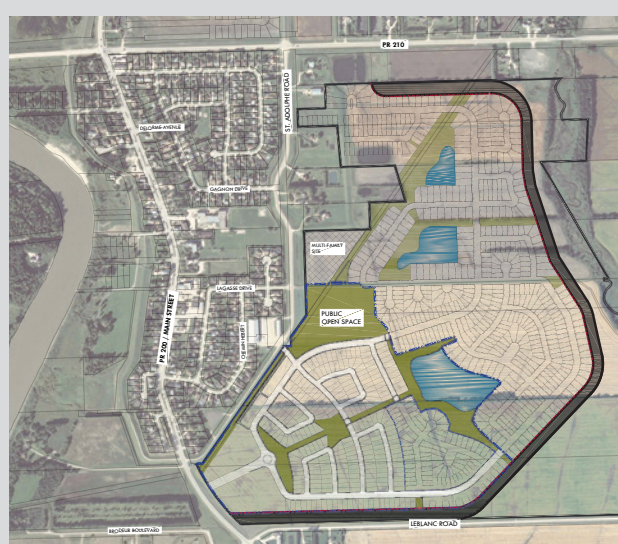
baby boomers, and (3) the encouragement of additional daycare spaces to meet the present shortfall. The tax refunds were to be spaced out over a maximum of four years per business and pertain to the percentage of the annual municipal portion of levied taxes. The percentage of the refunds would be dependent on the number of jobs created and the value of

the infrastructure built, and decrease by 25 percent per year until the end of the four-year period.

Perhaps counterintuitively, the measure sparked some frustration and confusion from the business community. In the days following, the Chamber drafted a letter to council outlining their concerns, which including the speed of the rollout and lack of

consultation with the business community.

Council and Chamber met on June 21 to discuss a series of clarifications, a meeting which ended productively for both parties. A letter from the Chamber to its members further indicated that the town had agreed to rework the policy and to review it in consultation with the Chamber.



Site plan for the East Dike Expansion project.

RM OF RITCHOT

New Development Takes Shape in St. Adolphe

SUMMARY:

The East Dike Expansion project currently underway in St. Adolphe will add over 300 acres of land to the town for development of Tourond Creek, a new residential subdivision. The dike, budgeted at \$6.9 million, extends from the southeast corner of town all the way to Provincial Highway 210 on the town's north side. The dike costs have been shared three ways between the federal and provincial governments and the

developer, the St. Adolphe Land Company (SALC).

SALC's David Palubeski says the area has the potential for 1,400 new residential units. Phase One, already under construction, will initially see 90 new lots. Young families are their primary target demographic.

Six and a half acres have been set aside for commercial development, which the developers hope to get started on in 2017.

Shell and Tim Hortons Come to Niverville

SUMMARY:

Construction began in July on a new Shell gas bar and Tim Hortons restaurant in the commercial strip fronting Old Drovers Run. Town council unanimously approved an application by Miguel Forest to proceed with these two businesses at a special meeting on Wednesday, June 15.

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



Shell gas bar and Tim Hortons restaurant.

RAY DOWSE

After a few delays related to getting power to the site, and a lot of online and in-person speculation, the businesses both opened in late

December. The Shell station has seven pumps, including one high-volume diesel pump, and a 2,500-square-foot convenience store. The Tim

Hortons has seating for roughly 25 people and includes a drive thru.

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

Both businesses have been received with great fanfare from local residents eager to see new brands and franchises set up shop in town.



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Main Street in Île-des-Chênes. DUSTIN KRAHIN

Ritchot Tackles Main Street Revitalization

SUMMARY:

The RM of Ritchot is creating plans to revitalize the main streets of three of its biggest communities: St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Île-des-Chênes. Lesley Gaudry, Ritchot's economic development officer, has said that the goal is to design main streets that serve as vibrant business districts.

"We have three towns that have changed quite a bit demographically as well as geographically over the last ten years, mostly due to residential expansion as well as a bit of commercial expansion in Île-des-Chênes and industrial expansion in Ste. Agathe," Gaudry has said. "We... want to explore design features that enhance walkability and flow for multiple modes of traffic like vehicles and bikes."

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



The 2016 Imagine Run. CARI OLSCHESKI

Imagine Runners Undeterred by Poor Weather

SUMMARY:

For the ninth year running, Imagine Mental Health Matters drew crowds to Hespeler Park for a day of family fun with a sombre theme: there is no shame when it comes to mental health struggles and suicide is preventable. Approximately 300 people of all ages weathered the spats of rain and high humidity to join the Imagine team for a five-kilometre run or walk.

The Imagine event continues to gain notoriety in the southeast as a safe place to talk about hard issues. Year after year people show up in clusters, donning personalized shirts imprinted with the faces of loved ones who died of suicide.



Heather Miller, Eric King, Clayton Smeltz, John Funk, Clare Braun, Myron Dyck, and Libby Hanna raise the multiplex fundraising thermometer outside of the town office. TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

Multiplex Committee Raises Funds

SUMMARY:

The Friends of the Plex, a committee of volunteers committed to realizing Niverville's proposed \$16.5-million sports multiplex, has been busy fundraising throughout 2016.

In mid-August, the committee submitted its first ask to the federal and provincial governments under the Small Communities Fund. This fund was created as a federal-provincial cost-shared program to provide infrastructure improvements, including recreation facilities, to communities with less than 100,000 residents. The project is based on a one-third federal share, one-third

provincial share, and one-third municipal share. The committee's ask from this program was for \$10 million to match the Town of Niverville's \$5 million donation.

In addition to searching for corporate and individual donations, several events were held in the past year, including a spring pancake breakfast, barbecue lunches throughout the summer, a card-design workshop for kids, a fall fundraiser in Hespeler Park, and Supper with Santa at this year's Winterfest. The committee also ran a 50/50 during the fair and provided a block wagon party for the community's use throughout the summer. The

wagon was rented 20 times from May to October.

The committee holds a weekly Chase the Ace event at Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern. Also, Bigway Bucks are available in \$20 denominations, ten percent of which returns to the multiplex. A community auction is planned for 2017.

The multiplex plans include a new 33,000-square-foot arena, a walking/running track around the 36,000-square-foot indoor soccer field, and a mezzanine spectator area with seating for 850. It will also house a playground for kids.



Construction underway at the Niverville Elementary School. JOEY VILLANUEVA

Elementary School Gets Much-Needed Addition

SUMMARY:

Construction was completed in November on a 6,414-square-foot addition to the Niverville Elementary School, including new classrooms for four Grade 4 classes and one Grade 3 class. Since the start of the school year, the Grade 4 classes have been accommodated in existing spaces, including the library, music room, and multipurpose room. The school has worked to

minimize the impact of these disruptions.

Additionally, the Hanover School Division has placed two new Niverville schools on its five-year capital plan, including a 650-seat elementary school. Those requests are currently being reviewed by the provincial government.



EVAN BRAUN

Open Health Niverville Unveiled at Gala

RECAP:

Niverville's innovative new primary care access centre was the focus of the tenth annual Heritage Centre fundraising gala held on November 5. The event proceeds, totalling \$45,000, will help to fund improvements to the new centre, expected to open in the spring of 2017.

"It is my hope, in presenting to you Open Health Niverville, that we tie our healthcare aspirations to those of this town, for whom I am both grateful and proud," said Dr. Chris Burnett of the Niverville Medical Clinic. "We seek to create an environment that offers appropriate care, locally, timely and convenient, open to all regardless of race, religion, social standing, or sexual orientation. [The name] Open Health expresses our desire."

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



Niverville's fire department responds to an emergency call.

NIVERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Services Change for Many Rural Residents

SUMMARY:

Rural residents living outside the Town of Niverville's boundaries on the north, south, and east sides have seen their fire protection services change. The New Bothwell fire department in the RM of Hanover is now the first to be dispatched to calls in these areas.

"The decision was made through the Niverville

annexation discussions between both municipalities back in 2013," said Luc Lahaie, chief administrative officer (CAO) of the RM of Hanover, who acknowledged that this has not been a popular decision for affected residents. "We are extremely confident in our fire protection abilities being the best in the province."

For decades prior, the RM of Hanover and Niverville

worked cooperatively through a fire protection agreement allowing the Niverville fire department to respond to calls outside of town limits. Hanover compensated Niverville \$12,000 per year for these services. While that deal has ended, a new reciprocal fire agreement is now in place so that Hanover can still call Niverville if needed to assist for large fires and motor vehicle

collisions.

Niverville EMR (emergency medical responders) boundaries will continue to extend west of Niverville to Highway 200, north to Highway 210, south to Highway 305, and up to a short section east of Highway 59. Only fire services have been changed.



The splash pad at Hespeler Park.

CHANTEL GADIENT

Splash Pad Opens

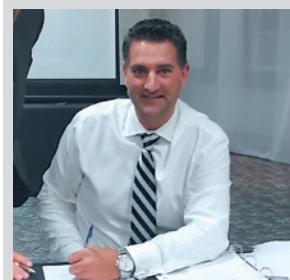
SUMMARY:

The Town of Niverville held a grand opening for the Niverville Community Splash Pad on Tuesday, July 12, in Hespeler Park. Provencier MP Ted Falk and Morris MLA Shannon Martin joined Mayor Myron

Dyck and fellow council members for the ribbon-cutting and a series of speeches. A crowd of 200 was on hand.

The 3,500-square-foot splash pad has two play areas, one intended for toddlers (up to age three) and

another family area for those ages three to 12. South of the pad is a large maintenance building which includes new washrooms, change rooms, and a canteen. The pad itself was completely funded by the Town of Niverville.



EVAN BRAUN

Nathan Dueck Elected to Town Council

SUMMARY:

A vacancy on council was created when John Falk stepped down in February to run in the provincial election. That vacancy was filled by a by-election on September 14. Three candidates threw their hats into the ring: Nathan Dueck, Louise Billows, and John Falk, seeking re-election.

Dueck won the seat with 278 votes. Falk came in second with 174 votes, and Louise Billows fell into third place with 65 votes. Voter turnout was pegged at just 19 percent.

CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Which 2016 story do you think was the most influential in the past year?

- A - Niverville Gets New Water Main
- B - Big Policing Decisions on the Horizon
- C - Provincial Election 2016
- D - Niverville Faces Water Supply Questions
- E - School Division Grapples with Human Rights Complaint
- F - Daycare Crisis Brews, Waiting Lists Remain Long
- G - Fire Services Change for Main Rural Residents

Enter to Win



Take part in our monthly poll for your chance to win a \$10 gift card.

Congratulations to last month's winner:
JASON SCHELLENBERG

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

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

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

5%

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

89%

C - Another opinion.

6%

YOUR COMMENTS:

We are extremely disappointed with the new boundaries. When it comes to saving lives common sense should prevail not the cost involved. The nearest Fire Hall should be sent to a call. We live 3 miles from Niverville Fire Hall, and New Bothwell is more than 8 miles away. We know Hanover's fire departments are all very well trained, however, when minutes matter their response time cannot match Niverville's to mine and most of the homes affected. We pray the day will never come, where our children's lives are worth less than the \$12,000 annual cost."

I am speechless with this change. I think it will have a negative impact for homeowners just outside the Niverville town limits. The Niverville Fire Department is so close, it seems ridiculous that they wouldn't be able to help with a fire just outside of town limits. Especially if it could save a life.

If a fire tragedy with casualties happens were to happen a mile outside of Niverville, and it took New Bothwell 12 minutes longer to respond purely based on driving time, I can just imagine the political finger pointing that will take place. Go back to the original service boundaries to make sure residents in the region have the piece of mind that in the event of a fire emergency they will receive the quickest possible response time. It sounds like dollars and cents are taking over from common sense in Hanover.....



Wishing you a Happy New Year!

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Ken Krahn receives the first cup of coffee at Niverville's new Tim's.

KEN KRAHN

Tim's Serves Up First Cup

In late December, Ken Krahn found himself in the Tim Hortons parking lot and thirsty for a good cup of joe. The lights were on and the lot full of cars, but the sign on the door still read

"Opening Soon."

Nonetheless, Krahn had the good fortune to be in the right place at the right time—in front of the doors just as they were opened for the first time—and

thus had the opportunity to play a small part in Niverville history.

His order? A medium double-double, and two small blacks to take home.

Applications Open for Federal Jobs Program

Applications are now being accepted for the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

"The Canada Summer Jobs Program helps employers create summer job opportunities for students in their communities," says Ted Falk, Member of Parliament for Provencher. "Many young people have difficulty finding valuable work experience. Through this program we are helping them

get the skills and training they need for jobs now and in the future."

The Canada Summer Jobs Program provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create summer job opportunities for students aged 15 to 30.

Last summer, 86 organizations in Provencher received

funding, totalling \$380,624, to hire 105 summer students. The jobs were wide-ranging and included working at daycares, seniors homes, local museums, and the 2016 Manitoba Summer Games.

The application period will run until January 20.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/csj

Niverville Heritage

DENTAL CENTRE

Monday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

To Our Very Valued Patients,

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

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

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

Dr. Bonar was born and raised in Brandon, Manitoba and graduated with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry. She has served the profession locally as an instructor at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry and has also enjoyed being part of the Faculty of Dentistry Student Membership Program. She is a member of the Canadian Dental Association, the Manitoba Dental Association, the Winnipeg Dental Society and the Academy of General Dentistry.

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

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

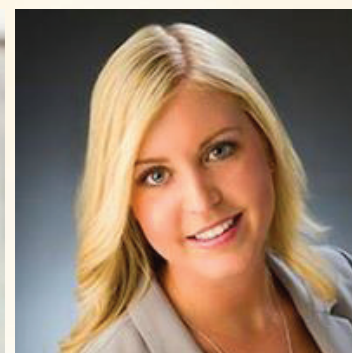
At this time, we would also like to remind you to book any outstanding treatment in order to use up your insurance prior to year end, before it's too late. We are also scheduling appointments for the first 2 weeks of January with Dr. Gupta, before she is away on maternity leave, for any outstanding treatment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

Sincerely,

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



Dr. Sunayna Gupta



Dr. Darci Bonar

*Wishing you a Safe and Happy
New Year!*

www.nivervilledental.com

IN BRIEF



Calysta Guenette poses alongside Sparky the Fire Dog and paramedic firefighter Tara Fehr.

Grade 3 Student Wins Nintendo

Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On December 15, members of Niverville Fire and EMS arrived at the Niverville Elementary School and surprised Grade 3 student Calysta Guenette with a Nintendo DS. Following the fire department's classroom presentations during Fire Safety Week in October, students were encouraged to enter a contest to win the Nintendos. Calysta's contest form was one of several drawn by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Niverville's fire department also held their own draw in November, and a Grade 2 student won a Nintendo DS.

In addition to the Nintendos, the fire department gave out a free pizza party to the class who returned the most homework forms during Fire Safety Week.

"Niverville Fire/EMS has been active in Fire Safety Week in the schools, daycares, and community for over 20 years and we believe this is the best plan to prevent fires and burns," says Niverville Fire Chief Keith Bueckert. "Being proactive versus reactive, we feel we get the message out about fire safety. Year in and year out, we see that students remember the messages and know what to do if asked. As families, please continue to practice and practice. It may save a life."

Cobblestone Brings Growth to New Bothwell

By Eric Peterson

The success of an upstart development in New Bothwell is demonstrating that the southeast region continues to be a destination of choice for new homebuyers.

Fairfield Ridge is a 94-lot development being spearheaded by well-known local builders Cobblestone Homes. It consists of three types of land deals: custom mid-sized lots, duplex lots, and a starter package, which is a home and lot deal. And though the project is still in its relatively early stages, Cobblestone Homes owner Paul Warkentin is pleased with the public's reaction so far.

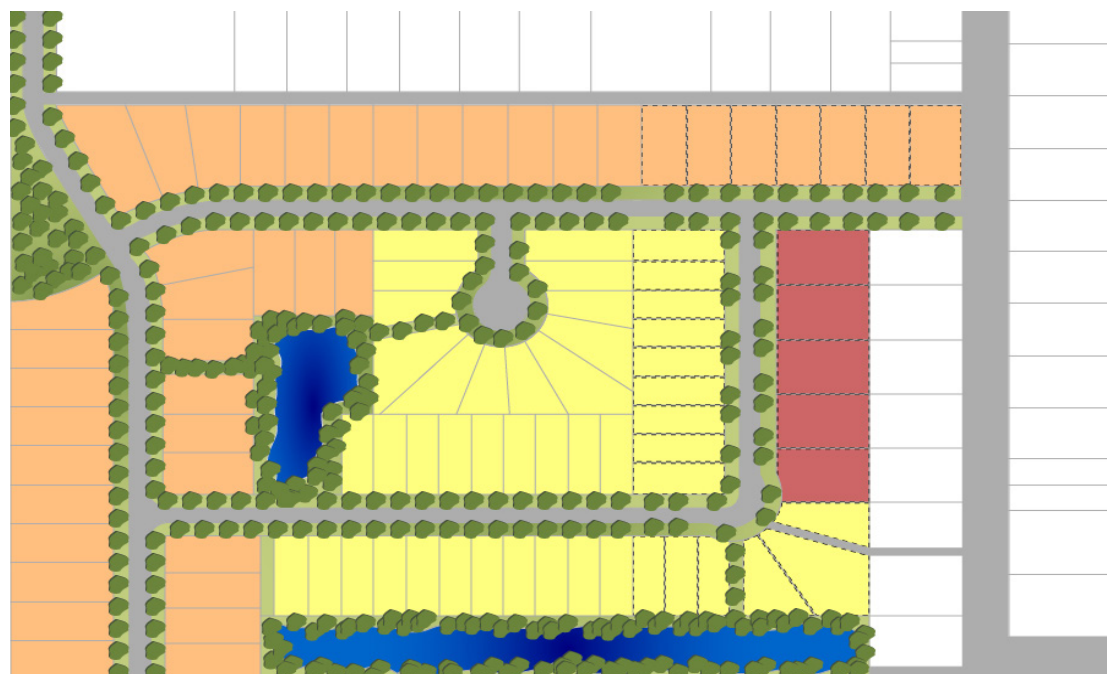
"The response to the development has been positive and encouraging," says Warkentin. "The duplex lots are entirely sold. We've had a good response to the custom lots and we're working on finalizing a few of this size. The people who have seen the home love the layout and the options for selections."

Warkentin adds that they are currently in phase one of sales, having started with a total of 15 entry lots, seven mid-level lots, and five duplex lots.

As for the actual servicing and construction of the development, progress is moving along at a steady pace.

"The roads are paved, hydro is in, and we are waiting to begin construction with one of our display homes shortly," says Warkentin. He adds that a house build can take five to seven months, so people could be moving in by next spring.

As for pricing, Fairfield Ridge offers a variety of options for buyers. The mid-level lots range in



Fairfield Ridge site plan.

COBBLESTONE HOMES

price from \$59,900 to \$64,900. The entry-level lots sell as a home and lot package and start at \$229,000 for a 1,152-square-foot home.

Area residents will be familiar with the work of Cobblestone Homes. They've been building in southeast Manitoba since 2005 and their homes in New Bothwell will be similar in style to what you would find on Cobblestone Court and elsewhere in Niverville.

"We've had huge success with this style of home, the open-concept two-storey," says Warkentin. "We feel it gives the entry-level buyers an excellent quality and value for what they are purchasing."

The trend of Winnipeg families looking at neighbouring communities in which to build is not new.

There's a decent chance if you're reading this paper that you are part of that trend. With towns such as Niverville and Ile-des-Chenes having already grown exponentially, we are now seeing development in other southeast communities.

New Bothwell, located 25 minutes south of Winnipeg and 20 minutes west of Steinbach, is of course best known as the home of the New Bothwell Cheese factory.

Warkentin says the area is especially ripe for growth right now. "We had the opportunity to purchase land here and saw that the market had good potential. Developers and homebuyers are interested in small towns because they have less property taxes and less hurdles to jump through when applying for

permits than larger cities."

He adds that recent decisions made at Winnipeg City Hall will likely increase the flow of city dwellers beyond the Perimeter Highway. "With the advent of the proposed developers' fees that the City of Winnipeg is contemplating, developers and homeowners will start to look outside the city to build that new home—whether entry-level or dream style—and this makes towns like New Bothwell an excellent location to develop, build, or buy."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.cobblestonehomes.ca

Golf Course Rezoned to Protect Space

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

With the big changes happening at the west end of Niverville, residents have reason to be excited. Many residents have been looking forward to the Shell gas station and Tim Hortons since the day of their announcement.

Around the same time, another announcement was made. Niverville residents were pleased to discover that the owners of the Old Drovers Run golf course were working together with council to preserve the long-term integrity of the nine-hole course.

For residents of The Highlands, the development adjoining the



Old Drovers Run golf course.

OLD DROVERS RUN

course, this was especially good news. Many of these property owners purchased their homes with the anticipation of a golf course view. Until now, the golf course's land was zoned Residential

1. Though the current owners of Sunset Estates Ltd. appear to have an interest in maintaining it as a golf course, there remained the risk that, should the property be sold, it could be turned into residential

space.

For this reason, a proposal was made to council to consider rezoning the land to "Parks and Open Space." In December, the second and third reading of the rezoning request was addressed by council and passed with a majority vote.

The rezoning doesn't ensure the permanency of a golf course into the future, but it does ensure that the land will be preserved as public greenspace until and if another rezoning should be requested in the future. At that time, council and residents would have the opportunity to accept or veto the new request.



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- Spaying or neutering your pet increases their lifespan by 3-5 years
- Spaying or neutering reduces the chance of your pet developing certain types of cancer
- Spaying or neutering can reduce undesirable behaviours such as aggression, roaming and territorial marking
- Only 1 out of 10 dogs and 1 out of 12 cats born find permanent homes
- 25% to 30% of pets in shelters are purebred

Did you know...

- Dental disease is the most common clinical condition among our pets
- 80 % of dogs and 70 % of cats have dental disease by 3 years of age
- 1 in 3 pet owners think bad breath is normal in pets
- Infection in your pet's mouth can spread in the blood stream to other organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys, which can lead to more serious health complications.

As we approach our 4th Anniversary, Sage Creek Animal Hospital would like to say THANK YOU to all of our wonderful clients and patients. We strive to provide you with the best possible pet healthcare, whether it is prevention, emergency or maintenance for your special family member. As a token of appreciation, we will be offering some special rates for the months of January, February and March. We are looking forward to seeing you all, as well as meeting new patients in 2017!

Sage Creek would like to say
Thank You
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our Spay and Neuter packages
during the months of
January, February and March

Our Spay and Neuter Packages include:

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- IV Fluids
- Pain Reliever Injection
- Hospitalization
- Humane Society Tattoo
- Nail Trim



We are also extending Dental month to
January, February and March in 2017.

We are offering our clients
25% OFF
our Dental packages

Our Dental Packages include:

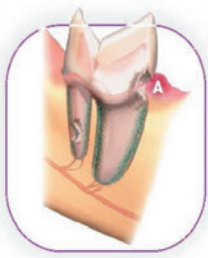
- Dental Cleaning
- Fluoride Treatment
- Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork
- IV Fluids
- Hospitalization
- Nail Trim



Book your pet's free
dental assessment
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What are the signs of dental disease?

- ♦ Bad breath
- ♦ Inflamed (red) gums
- ♦ Plaque and tartar (brown discoloration) along gum line
- ♦ Trouble chewing/eating
- ♦ Drooling
- ♦ Pawing at the mouth

Resorptive Lesion

A Marginal lesion

- B Destructive lesion reaching dental pulp
- C Root fragment

**My Cat Has FORLs!****What are they?**

The feline odontoclastic resorptive lesion (FORL) is a common feline dental problem. These lesions were originally called feline "neck lesions", "cervical line lesions" and cat "cavities" because the lesions were typically observed in the "neck" region of the tooth or cervical area. FORLs are located usually where the gum line meets the tooth. The lesions begin by eroding the enamel of the tooth, eventually moving deeper to the dentin and the tooth pulp cavity. Once the crown of the tooth is eroded the gum tissue may grow over the remaining root fragments resulting in painful, bleeding lesions and may require more extensive treatment.

What causes FORLs?

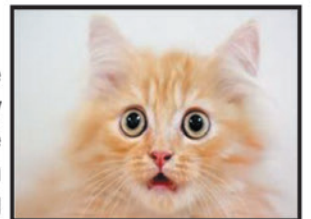
The cause of FORLs is unknown. However, it occurs in 20%-60% of the cat population with estimates of 75% in cats over the age of five. Cats who have had tooth resorption diagnosed, will very likely develop additional lesions in the future.

How is it diagnosed?

Cats are very careful not to demonstrate pain. You might notice more calculus (tartar) or red gums. Patients affected with FORLs may drool, bleed, or have difficulty eating. A portion of affected cats do not show any clinical signs. Most times your veterinarian will diagnose the lesions on oral examination. Dental x-rays are essential for a full, comprehensive diagnosis, as lesions may occur below the gum line.

What is the treatment?

The only treatment is a thorough cleaning and polishing or, depending on the stage of the disease, removing the teeth. Once treated, daily tooth brushing, annual exams and routine cleaning can help to prevent lesions from recurring or progressing.

**Website:**

www.sagecreekanimalhospital.ca

**What Can I Do to Prevent Dental Problems in My Pet?**

- ♦ Tooth brushing and Toothpaste - Regular tooth brushing with a pet toothpaste is the best way to keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy
- ♦ Dental Foods - Your veterinary clinic has food that is specially formulated with a special kibble design and/or added plaque/tartar reducing ingredients
- ♦ Water additives and Rinses - Formulated to prevent plaque
- ♦ Dental chews - Rawhide chews and dental chew sticks with added enzymes to help keep tartar away
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- ♦ Annual oral exams by you veterinary team and regular cleanings



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Happy New Year!

My wish to each and everyone for this coming year is that you would have the experience of creating much Joy and Happiness!



Myron Dyck
Mayor - Town of Niverville

Facing the Realities of Winter Driving

By Keiron Berndt

It's January and winter is here. After the late arrival of snow in December, it's hard to deny that driving has become more risky—and for the adventurers among us, more thrilling. No matter the thrill of the conditions, winter driving has more collisions than any other season. Manitoba Public Insurance's Collision Statistics report for 2015 shows that one-third of all accidents occur in December, January, and February.

Some of you might be saying to yourself, "So what? One-third isn't that high." Indeed, it doesn't sound so bad. Until you break down the numbers.

In these three months, 33 percent of all injury collisions occur, excluding fatal crashes, and 32 percent of all PDO (property damage only) collisions. However, only 16 percent of fatal collisions happen in these months. So winter has the least number of combined fatalities, but the highest numbers of collisions.

(It's important to clarify that these numbers are put together from reported accidents and incidents and don't take into account unreported

accidents.)

These numbers make a lot of sense if you think about them logically. We all hopefully understand that when snow and ice collect on roadways, traction decreases, even when you're equipped with winter tires. Therefore, rear-end collisions and fender benders are more common in winter.

Where do all those PDO collisions come from? Some are fender benders and rear-end crashes, but many are related to cars ending up in ditches or snowbanks due to weather and poor conditions.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND BEING PREPARED

While these statistics may scare some, there are ways to be ready for the wrenches Mother Nature throws at you.

One of the biggest things people underestimate is winter tires and the difference they make. I've written about it before, but it tends to fall on deaf ears. All-season tires are made from a rubber composition designed to become insufficient in temperatures below seven degrees Celsius, rendering them useless in colder weather, never mind when snow blankets the road.

Secondly, it's important to be honest with yourself and consider whether you're comfortable driving in certain conditions. Depending on a person's experience, it may be best to avoid the roads and make other arrangements.

Finally, be sure to have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. A winter emergency kit can be as simple or as thorough as you like, as long as it includes the essentials: gloves or mittens, a good quality tow strap, booster cables, a blanket, a toque, a cell phone charger with compatible cables that can attach to the cigarette lighter, a flashlight, and a collapsible shovel. Other items could include an ice scraper, candles, a lighter, an extra jacket, a booster pack, and extra fluids. Also be sure to write down emergency phone numbers.

A winter emergency kit will not just give you reassurance, it can be useful both to yourself and others who may be in need of assistance.

Before heading out onto the highways this winter, or checking your local Facebook group for road updates, ensure that you're prepared, no matter what the conditions are.

Ritchot Tackles Community Improvements

By Alissa Moffit

As a new year begins, new projects are taking shape in the RM of Ritchot. The municipality and its Community Development Committee (CDC) have determined that its communities are deserving of improvements to infrastructure and programming.

"The projects were started due to the support from the Ritchot CDC," says Lesley Gaudry, Ritchot's community economic development officer.

The CDC has four subcommittees, one each from St. Adolphe, Île-des-Chênes, Grande Pointe, and Ste. Agathe. Each subcommittee applied to the CDC for funding to help with, according to Gaudry, "a community-based project that would make a difference and improve the quality of life for its residents."

In Île-des-Chênes, improvements are being made to D'Auteil Park. The peaceful green space is receiving much-needed upgrades that include additional lighting for pathways, more benches, a natural playground, and a pergola. The project is set to be completed in the spring of 2017.

The Ste. Agathe committee has completed installing a stone fire pit patio at Cartier Park. With a serviced campground, welcome centre with washrooms, baseball fields, large outdoor green space, and event areas available for rent, Cartier Park is a lovely feature. The fire pit patio will be used at the Festival d'Ete Cheyenne Summer Fest.

Main Street in St. Adolphe received a facelift in the fall of 2016 with beautification items that include 33 Victorian brackets and hanging flower baskets,

a wooden pergola, and a sitting area at the Esso station. The St. Adolphe subcommittee is nearly finished with their projects. The last item is a large community heritage mural that will be completed and erected in the spring. According to Gaudry, the mural will feature natural and built heritage icons and be surrounded in a timber-frame structure.

The Grande Pointe Homeowners Association used their allotted funding to support the construction of a garage and warm-up shelter at the outdoor skating rink at Grande Pointe Park. The garage will house all of the park's maintenance equipment and the warm-up shelter will include public washrooms. The building's frame has been finished and the project will be completed in spring.

Wood Burning Safety Through the Winter Months

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

There are few things more satisfying than a warm crackling fire on a chilly winter day. A dog, a hearth, and a lively dancing flame brings to mind an idyllic spot to put your feet up and relax with the family. Christmas traditions also centre around fireplaces. It's the best place to hang stockings and the preferred mode for the Jolly Old Man to deliver his parcels.

For centuries, wood-burning units had practical uses. They were the home's primary source of heat and cooking. Our forefathers and mothers survived many a frigid winter huddled in the warmth that comes from a potbelly stove. Since those days, natural gas and electric furnaces have replaced wood for general heat sources, but burning wood through the winter is still a mainstay in many Manitoba homes. It's a multisensory experience, providing the sounds, smells, cozy feelings, and visuals that speak to our primal needs for comfort and a safe haven.

Wood-burning fireplaces and woodstoves come with a level of risk, though, that should not be ignored. Since the 1980s, strict regulations have been put in place in the manufacturing of these units and they must pass ULC (Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada) certification. Proper installation is also important and

many insurance companies require a post-installation inspection by a professional trained by WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer Inc.), an organization that teaches inspectors how to check for code compliance and safety with wood-burning appliances.

Holly Dibra, an insurance broker with Hub International, says it's important that homeowners make their insurance company aware of the installation of a woodstove or fireplace to ensure coverage of their home in the event of fire loss. Some companies may require proof of a WETT inspection. According to Dibra, many professional installers are WETT-certified and it's a good idea to find one who is. If you're doing the installation yourself, most insurance companies provide the guidelines required for proper installation as well as a WETT-certified inspector after the job is complete.

Dibra warns clients about the ramifications of ignoring an inspection.

"Worst case scenario is that you could be declined insurance," says Dibra. "Just make sure that if you're [installing it yourself] that you get a professional involved."

Before making the decision to install a wood-burning appliance, it's important to know that your insurance costs will be affected by the decision. Depending on the insurance company, home

insurance premiums could increase by about 20 per cent annually. The amount may also fluctuate based on whether the wood-burning unit is installed in your primary or seasonal residence. Typically, insurance premiums would be lower for your cottage.

Other considerations that insurance companies look at are the maintenance of your unit and chimney during the period of use. Annual chimney cleaning is recommended to prevent and remove the build-up of creosote (a chemical mass of carbon created when wood or other substances are burned) on the inner walls of the fireplace and chimney. Creosote is highly combustible and one of the main causes of chimney fires.

Ashes, too, build up on the floor of your wood-burning unit and create a fire hazard without proper care. Burning embers regularly fall into the layer of ash, hiding there, unseen. A simple backdraft down the chimney can cause these embers to blow into your home and onto nearby flammable finishes or furniture. Care should also be given when removing the ashes. Always place them in a heat-resistant container with a lid to prevent embers from blowing out. The container should be removed to the outdoors and dumped or placed well away from your home in case of tipping and releasing embers to the wind.

When a fire claim is made, an insurance claims manager is brought to the scene along with a fire chief to investigate the cause of the fire and assess whether the fireplace was the source. Improper fireplace maintenance can often be detected by these professionals.

"Insurance companies set very high standards because they want to make sure that you are safe as well as prevent any [unnecessary] losses," says Dibra. "There is a risk, but if people do their due diligence then it can be a great source of heat and enjoyment."

Other common tips for maintenance include having annual inspections of your wood-burning unit by a certified inspector, preventing the restriction of the air supply to your unit which can increase the risk of creosote build-up, and keeping the hearth free of debris that can catch fire easily.

Proper fuel burning is a key to safety. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood to avoid creosote build-up. Never use flammable liquids to start a fire, as it can get out of control quickly. Never leave a fire unattended and do have a fire extinguisher mounted near the fire that every family member has been trained to use.

For your family's safety, install smoke detectors on every floor and have a carbon monoxide detector in your sleeping quarters.



Chris Ewen (right) presents award to Alain Robert, owner of Ste Agathe Service (left).

RAY DOWSE

Ritchot Chamber Hands Out Annual Awards

Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Ritchot Chamber of Commerce handed out their 2016 Business Awards at their annual gala on Saturday, December 3 at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes. In addition to the awards, approximately 100 guests were on hand for dinner, casino night, and performances by the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band and South Town. Chamber President Larry Kniebel emceed the evening, which included messages from Bob Lagasse, MLA for Dawson Trail, and Chuck Davidson, President of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce.


This year's Entrepreneur of the Year is Colibri Canada, a company began in 2008 in St. Adolphe. Colibri sells a range of popular eco-friendly products, including waterproof bags, wet bags, and reuseable snack bags, all of which are manufactured locally and can be found in stores across the country. Also nominated were Simply You Photography and St. Adolphe Pharmacy.

The Business of the Year

award went to Ste. Agathe Service. Chris Ewen, owner of last year's winner, Capo Di Grande, presented the award to Ste. Agathe Service owner Alain Robert. The nominees also included Adventure Power Products and Delaquis Antiques. According to the Chamber of Commerce website, the award seeks to honour a business that demonstrates "unique marketing strategy and success, community involvement, and exceptional, informed customer service."

Centennial Gravel & Excavating in Île-des-Chênes was recognized with the Corporate Volunteerism Award. Capo di Grande and George Dyck Autobody were also nominated.


The Chamber also introduced a new award this year, for Most OUTSTANDING Business. The award, which seeks to recognize businesses which have received national or international recognition for their products or services, is sponsored by the OUTSTANDING Chamber Affinity Program. This year's winner was White Cap Distribution, and other nominees were Keystone Western and Titan Environmental Containment.



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Heritage Centre Seeks Board Members

Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Heritage Centre's board of directors has established an independent nomination committee to lead the search for candidates to fill a number of board vacancies.

"With the resignation of George Sawatzky last summer, the current board has five members," says Steve Neufeld, CEO of the Heritage Centre. "According to its bylaws, the board can have up to 12 members if it desires."

Neufeld says their target is to add two or three new members. A further stated goal is to maintain the board's commitment to gender, age, and cultural diversity.

The nomination committee is comprised of four members, each appointed by a local entity chosen for its broad-based community involvement, influence, respect, and credibility. Ken Rempel was appointed by the Niverville Health & Community Foundation, Aaron Redekop by Niverville Services to Seniors, Peter Braun by the Niverville Ministerial, and Andy Anderson by the Niverville Chamber of Commerce.

Upon completion of the process,



Heritage board members Jackie Ens and Nancy Finlayson, Heritage Centre CEO Steve Neufeld, and board member Terry Carruthers at the 2016 fundraising gala. **WADE KEHLER**

the committee expects to provide a list of five candidates for board consideration. A key part of this process involves identifying the skillsets of an ideal board member and comparing it against the skillsets held by existing members.

Throughout January, the committee will be collecting names.

"We recognize that some shoulder-tapping will need to occur," says Neufeld. "We will use [January and February] to do that as well, eventually resulting in the development of a full candidate list."

The board hopes to appoint its new members by the first week of April and announce their names at the April 11 public meeting of Niverville's town council.

These are volunteer positions

with no remuneration, Neufeld clarifies, and the board members will serve on three boards: that of Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc., the Niverville Heritage Personal Care Home Inc., and the Heritage Life Retirement Living Inc. All three are not-for-profit corporations and collectively oversee the operations of the Heritage Centre.

"Meetings are held monthly and as required," says Neufeld. The three boards meet consecutively, one after another, on the same day. "Typically meetings last about four hours and are currently held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning at noon."

Board members have a host of responsibilities, including ensuring sustainable governance, providing

oversight and direction to the CEO, serving as community contacts, assisting with fundraising events (such as the annual gala), and bearing a fiduciary responsibility both to the Town of Niverville and the community at large.

"The Heritage Centre is a very complex operation with many nuances, not the least of which is operating in a very difficult financial environment." Neufeld also cites the growing demand for seniors housing. "It is fun, exciting, challenging, and rewarding."

Neufeld lists many possible activities requiring the attention of the board. "Literally, one day you are meeting with government agencies on funding proposals, the next meeting with neighbouring municipalities to develop partnerships. The next day [you are] meeting with union representatives to discuss collective bargaining agreements talks, or developing fundraising strategies for a new community medical clinic concept, or developing a new housing project—not to mention the \$35 million in development that has already occurred on the campus—all the while managing a professional staff of 200-plus team members."

IN BRIEF

Bothwell Cheese Takes Top Honours at Annual Cheese Show

Bothwell Cheese was awarded top marks for their Monterey Jack and Mild Cheddar cheese offerings at last year's British Empire Cheese Show in Belleville, Ontario. They also took second place honours for their Muenster, and third place for their Parmesan.

"2016 marks the eightieth anniversary of our company and I'm proud to say that Bothwell is still a cheese that stands out in the industry," says Bothwell Cheese President Kevin Thomson. "I'm personally quite pleased with our outcome at this show and that our attention to quality does not go unnoticed by our peers."

Production Manager Nathan Dueck notes that the competition at this year's show was exceptionally tough. "Despite the strong competition, we placed well in the specialty categories," Dueck says. "Our team should be very proud of these accomplishments."

The British Empire Cheese Show has a long and distinguished history and is presented by the Central Ontario Cheese Makers Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.cocma.ca

Niverville Chamber Holds Annual Mixer

Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce held their Jingle and Mingle mixer on December 8 at John Henry's.

"The event is a perfect opportunity for newer members to get acquainted with business people in the community," says Dawn Harris, Chamber of Commerce

Coordinator. "Everyone really seemed to be mixing well... circulating and meeting and chatting with people."

The Chamber holds a mixer every fall. This was the first time the event was held in December. The evening was sponsored by Garry Stratychuk of ITI Financial, who gave a presentation entitled *Our Impending Tax Environment*.

"He strongly advised business

owners to include in their business planning the potential for future tax changes," says Harris. "He suggested they start working with their legal and financial planners now to anticipate how governments starved for funds could adjust tax regulations in the not-too-distant future."

"I acknowledged and honoured the Chamber for challenging town council on certain issues where

they compete with local business and show favouritism to pet projects," says Stratychuk, who adds that this is one reason why Niverville's residential to commercial tax base ratio is out of alignment. "I also encouraged them to get shovel-ready projects ready to go so when the feds or province want to spend money, we can participate."

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Commentary



ADOBE STOCK

Pause Before Sending

No method of communication is wrong or right, but let's be aware of the shortcomings and pitfalls of each.

By Greg Fehr

While the world is, and always has been, in constant change, it's the pace of the change that makes our current reality so unique. Never before in history has the experience of one generation been so dramatically different from the one previous. To combat this gap, both the sunrise and the sunset generations have to learn each other's ways. And nowhere is this gap more prevalent than in the most basic of human interactions: communication.

Past generations depended on face-to-face talks or landline calls, while our youth depend on short bursts of texts. Christmas cards of the past may have communicated non-verbals, but social media now allows us to quickly communicate the intimate details of our lives in real-time. There are advantages to both old and new. The old ways are seen as more relational and personal

and the new ways seem to be quick and efficient. This is not to say that any method of communication is inherently wrong or right, but we must be aware of the shortcomings and pitfalls of each.

While the written word has the ability to be descriptive and eloquent in the hands of a master wordsmith, it lacks the emotional and non-verbal connections that personal conversations convey so well. The crafted word is sufficient for us to receive much of a novelist's intended emotion, but this often requires hundreds of thousands of characters. Even the craftiest author would be challenged to convey the same nuance in less than 150 characters.

If we hear a statement that sounds offensive in personal conversation, we can ask the offending party to repeat himself, in the hope of ascertaining whether the offense was intended or misinterpreted. Unfortunately, this can't be done on

social media. Without a direct connection to a message's author, one is left only to re-read that message and try to interpret it from different perspectives. As social media communicators write their snippets and post them for the world to see, they must be more conscious of this.

So much of our communication is dependent on tone and scenario. Sarcasm, humour, and frustration can be challenging to communicate. In today's online forums, communicators run the serious risk of being misinterpreted. The creation of more complex emoji is proof of this shortcoming. Because texts, emails, and social media messages are designed for speed, their writers are discouraged from stopping to think.

Let's couple this with one more complication: in personal communication, we are aware of the audience. We're speaking to someone whose perspective we know. Online, the audience is often unknown. Even

one-to-one mediums, such as email or texts, can be easily forwarded and end up reaching an unintended audience. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts are global and permanent, and even the best privacy settings aren't enough to protect you.

As we enter this new year, we can be sure that modern communication tools will become a larger part of our interactions. Perhaps it's time to slow down and take the three breathes needed prior to posting something on Facebook. And before commenting or replying, take the time to read it twice and attempt to understand the author's motivations rather than assuming the worst. The verbal diarrhea we've all seen may decrease as a result, and while I would lament the loss of the entertainment value it occasionally provides, I would celebrate the increase in civility.

Look on the Bride Side: Taking out the Trash

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Whether in health, relationships, or finances, we all desire improvement. Our natural tendency is to look back over the year gone by in order to measure our progress and shortcomings, yet sadly our perceived failures grab most of our attention. For many of us, these shortcomings get relegated to an ever-growing pile of disappointments and regrets. Then, with renewed determination, we make a new list of resolutions and vow to try even harder.

While making resolutions should be admirable, the way in which I have personally gone about processing and implementing them has proved to be quite destructive. I used to look upon each new year as an opportunity for a fresh start, a chance to begin again. After a time of berating myself for the previous year's failures, I would muster my resolve and devise a new plan of action, determined that this would be my year to overcome and succeed.

But as the years passed, I began to wonder why I always returned to the starting gate, never crossing the finish line. I was a good starter, but a poor finisher. My weakness frustrated me.

After much soul-searching, I came to realize that I didn't know myself. I had been trying to be someone I was not while striving to attain the things I thought I needed in order to matter. My true identity was buried beneath this garbage heap. When stress and anxiety began to threaten my health, I knew the time had come to take out the trash!

Throwing out past hurts, regrets, and resentments made room for my true self to emerge. No longer plagued with unrealistic and unhealthy aspirations, I found that I could relax, plan, and pursue my goals from an honest and authentic place of peace while going on to experience the victory of crossing the finish line.

Life is too short to be lugging around the trash that keeps us from loving one another and ourselves. Let us resolve to kick this garbage to the curb, thus making room for a peaceful, healthy, and happy 2017.



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Opening My Eyes

By Hilda Barton

Growing up in Niverville in the 60s and 70s, Mennonite families were the majority people group. Some of the Mennonite families were immigrants from Paraguay who had made Niverville their home. Often their children were called "Prugs" and they were harassed because of the old-fashioned hand-me-down clothes they wore to school. Many were not able to speak English, since their first language was Low German. My own family returned to Manitoba after spending almost six years in Paraguay shortly after my birth.

Niverville was also home to families of English descent. In school, we were all together, but on Sunday we were separated, attending either a Mennonite church or the United Church. I can recall at least three or four Mennonite churches and only one United Church. I didn't question why there were so many Mennonite churches and one United Church. Now I can surmise that the Mennonites simply started a new church if they disagreed with the previous one.

As an evangelical Christian, I was pretty vocal in discussing what I felt constituted being a born-again Christian. In my arrogance, I clearly did not accept any other version of salvation but my own. My faith tradition was often fixated on what we didn't do; drinking alcohol, going to socials, and smoking were all signs of the unsaved. My English friends were gracious.

Fast forward through the



ADOBE STOCK

passage of many years living in the U.S. and observing the attitudes of my white evangelical peers regarding racism and discrimination in the African American community. The common view goes like this: "Well, it's much better for them than it used to be." Regarding the large population of incarcerated African Americans, people say, "Well, they wouldn't be in jail if they didn't sell drugs." To the suggestion that we live lives of white privilege, the reply is, "I have problems too." To the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement, my peers might say, "All lives matter."

These pat answers to differences and problems were my pat answers as well. However, 18 months of classes in which the majority of my classmates were African American gave me a glimpse into what being a minority, marginalized group in America feels like on a daily

basis.

Recently at a Bible study dinner with my evangelical peers, I made the comment, "I think we are all a little racist." One of my friends angrily yelled, "I'm not racist!" And no one disagreed with him or asked me what I meant.

A week later, I was at a meeting regarding racism at the Unitarian Church. Unitarians would definitely fit my previous definition of not born-again Christians. Before the speaker started, the Unitarian pastor said to his parishioners, "Let's take a minute to look into our hearts at our own racism." He was assuming that racism lives in all hearts.

The contrast between these two incidents has been seared into my consciousness, causing me to take a deep look inside my own heart. It took me back to high school in Niverville and my own pride and feelings of superiority compared to those

who believed and lived their faith differently than I did.

This leads me to offer a humble apology to my friends from yesteryear in Niverville. If your last name was Wallace, Stott, Limpwright, or Muir, I want to say I'm sorry. Although our discussions were not overtly adversarial, my heart held pride and arrogance.

Today, I see the world very differently. Enjoying alcohol, dancing, and partying are some of the great pleasures of my life. All those English neighbours of ours in Niverville must now wonder if God changed his mind about these activities in the last decade. My faith, and working it out, is still vital in my life. Dialoguing with people who see faith and life differently than I remains a passion of mine, but I respect their journey—whatever it may look like.

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Oh, this time of year! It's right after Christmas and the snow is here to stay. As I sit at home in front of my fireplace, I think to myself, It's too cold and dark to go outside. I'm wrapped in a blanket, consumed by my couch, when not one but two creatures with furry bodies, four legs, and tails run around the house like wild banshees, bouncing off the walls and into kitchen chairs.

Now, a few of you probably have a couple of these furry creatures in

your houses, too. I'm talking about my rambunctious dogs, who go outside for literally 30 seconds to do their thing and come running back to the door.

"They're cold now," I say, thinking out loud. "They're probably too cold to go for a walk."

Oh no, I said the word—the four-letter word: WALK. They run first to me, then to their leashes, to the front door, back to me, to their leashes, the front door. They get even more wild, running around the house like children on Christmas Day.

What's the temperature? Minus-30, of course. Way too cold. And it's

5:30 p.m. and looks like midnight.

But it's too late now. I've said the four-letter word, and now I've got to get bundled up. Sweatpants, ski pants, long-sleeved shirt, sweater, jacket, boots, scarf, hat, mitts... oh darn, forgot to put the leashes on. I've got to take off the mitts and scarf and unzip my jacket to bend down. Then put it all back on. And lastly, the reflective vest. Now we're ready!

Off we go into the winter wonderland of Niverville. As the wind blows my scarf around, my eyelashes freeze over and my nose drips. The dogs are perfectly fine. I think my dogs are secretly scamming me when they go into

the backyard to do their thing and come back in so quick. I must say, though; except for my exposed face, the rest of my body is warm.

My dogs love going for walks in any time of year, and it seems to me that the cold doesn't bother them much. We usually try to go for 30 minutes to an hour, depending on how cold it is outside.

Honestly I do enjoy the winter wonderland we have here, the glistening snow everywhere you go, and the frigid temperatures that make you wear ten layers just to keep warm.

EVENT GUIDE

Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Monday/Wednesdays, January 9–February 15, 6:30 p.m.
South End of Arena, \$150.

Yoga: Flow & Yin

Mondays January 9–February 27
Flow 7:00 p.m.
Yin 8:15 p.m.
Curling Rink Basement, \$84

Couples Curling

Friday, January 27 & Friday, February 17
info@nivervillecurlingclub.com

Novice Hockey Tournament (Niverville Arena)

January 27–29

Cardio Fit (Ritchot Senior Services)

Mondays, January 2–30, 9:30 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Chair Fit (Ritchot Senior Services)

Mondays, January 2–30, 11:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Yoga (Ritchot Senior Services)

Wednesdays, January 4–25, 1:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Muscle Fit (Ritchot Senior Services)

Thursdays, January 5–26, 9:30 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Art Classes (Ritchot Senior Services)

Thursdays, January 24–February 26, 7:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Forever Young Dance Club (Ritchot Senior Services)

Saturday, January 14, 7:00–10:00 p.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Pickle Ball

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

Niverville Bench League (18+)

Wednesdays, January 4–March 15
Niverville Arena, 9:30 p.m., \$8 (drop-in).

Ste. Agathe Ladies Rec Hockey

Sundays, 6:45, Ste. Agathe Arena
cougarsrechockey@gmail.com

Athena Women's Hockey (St. Adolphe)

Sundays, 7:45 p.m., St. Adolphe Arena
bahia@envypaintanddesign.com

Public Skating (Niverville)

Fridays, 3:30–4:30, Free.
Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00–12:00, Free.

Sticks & Pucks (Niverville)

Fridays, 4:30–5:15, Free.
Saturdays & Sundays, 12:15–1:00, Free.

Public Skating (St. Adolphe)

Sundays, 5:30–6:15 p.m., Free.

Free Skate (Île-des-Chênes)

Sundays, 12:45–1:45
Wednesdays, 3:30–4:45

Shinny (Île-des-Chênes)

Mondays, 3:30–4:15 p.m.
Tuesdays, 3:30–4:45 p.m.

Public Skating (Ste. Agathe)

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

Skate-a-Thon (Niverville)

February 4, 2:15 p.m., Niverville Arena.
Pledges are being accepted (lesliebardal@gmail.com)

For More Information:

■ www.nivervillerecreation.com

Send your event listing to:

■ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com



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IN BRIEF

Skate-a-Thon in the Works

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Skating Club is planning their first Skate-a-Thon for Saturday, February 4, 2017. The two-hour event will start at 2:15 p.m. at the Niverville Arena and be filled with music, games, leisure skating, and prizes. The club is asking skaters, hockey players, ringette players, and figure skaters of all ages to collect pledges in support of the Niverville Multiplex and the local CanSkate program.

The CanSkate program helps teach skills to all ages, from two years old to 60. The CanPower program focuses on power, agility, and speed drills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

lesliebardal@gmail.com



The new aluminum snowshoes. NIVERVILLE RECREATION

Snowshoes to Rent

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

During these long winter months, it may seem like sometimes there's nothing to do but stay inside. But there are many fun activities to do outside, either alone or with your family: go for a winter walk, build a snowman or snow fort, or skate on a pond. You could also cross-country ski, toboggan down a hill, or even go snowshoeing.

Don't have snowshoes? No problem. Niverville Recreation recently purchased eight pairs of new aluminum snowshoes, adding to the seven old-school style pairs. The new snowshoes can be rented for the weekend for \$5, and the old-school shoes are free to rent. Both sets require a damage deposit. The goal is get Niverville residents outside and active during the winter and provide affordable opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

204-371-9662

recreation@whereyoubelong.ca



The River Rage U10 A1 team.

CHANTAL WIELER

U10 Rage Move to Top Division

By Chantal Wieler

Amazing things happen when you're challenged to rise to the occasion. This year's Red River Rage U10 A1 team consists of ten hard-working and fun-loving girls who range in experience from five years in ringette to being new to skating. The growth has been remarkable.

The U10 team was recently handed its biggest challenge to date.

"The girls have had a great first half [of the season], and

have played so well that they have been moved up to the top U10 division," says head coach Dave Aitken. "Great job, girls!"

Together with Red River Rage's U10 A2 team, the girls played well and learned some new moves at last month's tournament in Brandon, finishing with a record of 3-1.

Many pieces of a puzzle need to come together to make a good team, from parents being willing to help out with time-keeping, score-keeping, helping on the bench, managing, and even carting around

the game jerseys to coaches giving of their time and experience, all the while positively encouraging the players. Most of all, it comes down to players being willing to listen, learn, and try their best.

This team might have a difficult road ahead, yet their spirit is alive. So as they continue with the second half of the season, you will continue to hear the girls shouting at each halftime, "Three, two, one... go Rage!"



The outdoor rink on Fourth Avenue South in Niverville.

CHANTAL TODD

Outdoor Rinks in Niverville

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

If anyone remembers the temperatures we had last winter around this time, it wasn't nearly as cold—nor was there a lot of snow. For all you winter lovers, you're in luck this year. With the cooler temperatures comes outdoor skating rinks, and a lot sooner than last year.

The proposed locations for

outdoor skating rinks in 2017 are the parking lot south of the Fourth Avenue Bible Church, the grounds south of the Niverville Arena, and the north parking lot at Hespeler Park (the lot near the picnic shelter).

A friendly reminder: please note that the conditions of the rinks are weather-dependant. When the benches and nets are put out on the rinks, that means they're ready to be used. Get

your skates on and your sticks ready!

Don't forget there is also free public skating at the Niverville Arena on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Visit the Niverville Recreation website for details on public skating times.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nivillerecreation.com

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Kirsten Friesen

Kirsten started ringette at age six and now plays for the U19 Lorette Royals. When the snow melts, you'll find her on the basketball court, biking, or crouched behind home plate signaling the pitcher. You may also find her hanging out with her pets or on the ice helping coach future ringette stars.

Kirsten is the talk of Lorette Royals, not only for her athletic attributes or recently helping the U19 team win gold at a tournament, but for her character as a young lady. Lorette would not have been able to host a U19 team this year without a goalie. Although Kirsten hadn't played goalie for a few years, she knew the best thing for her team was to strap on the pads once again. This selfless, kind-hearted gesture serves as an example to young players.

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IN BRIEF



The Clippers Atom A team celebrates their victory.

CHRISTIE SPENCER

Clippers Win Gold at Atom Tourney

On December 2–4, the Niverville Clippers hosted an Atom tournament. A total of 12 teams participated from all three divisions—A, B, and C. After a hard-fought round robin and playoff run, the Clippers Atom A team came in first, beating the Steinbach Millers in the gold medal game with a final score of 4–2.

The team is coached by Stephane Theoret, Scott Wallace, Jeff Spencer, Rod Wolfe, and Andrew Arnal. Jace Woytowich plays in goal. The rest of the players include Ginger Fast, Benjamin Doan, Logan Wolski, Alek Ouimet, Austin Spencer, Brady Arnal, Jack Grantham, Jack Wallace, Joshua Smeltz, Aiden Theoret, Logan Wolfe, William Banman, Landon Nickel, and Mikey Lindsay.

Novice A Clippers Undefeated

By Laura Hudson

The Novice A Clippers continue to roll in league play, sporting a perfect 9–0 record on the season. The team has a 3–0 record since the division realignment that will see the top seven teams in Eastman Novice play each other for the balance of the year.

The Clippers remain tied for first place with the Steinbach Millers, who have also not lost a league game this season. The two undefeated squads are set to play one another twice over the next six weeks.

Breaking Down the Top Line

By Tim Hiebert

What were you doing when you were 21 years old? Pumping gas in your free time while attending university? Living in your parents' basement, playing video games? There's a pretty good chance you weren't leading your NHL team in scoring, that's for sure. But with an average age of 21.1, the Winnipeg Jets' top line of Nikolaj Ehlers, Mark Scheifele, and Patrik Laine are the top three scorers on the team. At the end of 2016, Scheifele leads all Jets with 33 points in 36 games while Ehlers and Laine both have 31 points in 39 games. You can also find them all among the top 25 scoring leaders in the entire league.

Scheifele is the "old guy" on the line, as he'll turn 24 early this year. Ehlers is quickly approaching his twenty-first birthday, while the rookie Laine won't reach his twenties until 2018. The young trio have played the majority of the season on the same line and have developed some nice chemistry. Each bring a different set of talents to the table, and those skills really complement each other.

Ehlers is all about speed and handling the puck. He's great at creating offense, and especially



offensive zone entries. He loves to cross the blue line with speed and quickly curl around to create space from a defender. This move gives him time to find an open teammate or take the puck to the net. Not many players have the speed to keep up with him. He's a natural scorer who put up points in bunches in Junior. He topped the 100-point mark both seasons he played in the QMJHL for the Halifax Mooseheads. He had a fine rookie season last year with 38 points in 72 games for Winnipeg, but he will easily surpass those numbers this year. He's up to ten goals entering 2017, but really he could be closer to 15 or 20 with some better luck. He's been creating a high number of quality scoring chances all season, although he went through a 15-game goalless streak from mid-November to early December. The goals have been coming more easily lately as he finished 2016 with

six goals in his last nine games.

Patrik Laine already has one of the best shots in the NHL. The guy was born to shoot the puck. He's already established himself as one of the most dangerous goal scorers in the league and will only get better. He's shown that he can score in a multitude of ways. He's obviously got the big slap shot and powerful wrist shot, but he's also scored on deflections and has some pretty sweet dekes in the shootouts. It's not all about the shot, though; he's an excellent passer and loves to make the cross-ice pass on the power play. He makes his fair share of poor decisions with the puck, but the things he can do at 18 years of age are remarkable. He'll certainly be in the discussion for Rookie of the Year at the end of the season. He's been a huge part of the Jets' success, or lack of success, this season as the team is 10–2–1 when he scores a goal and 7–17–2 when

he doesn't.

Mark Scheifele didn't make the same splash Ehlers and Laine did so early in their careers, but he's made steady progress every season and is now one of the top centres in the league. He's a tremendous overall player with a great shot and excellent vision. He still has room for improvement, especially when it comes to faceoffs, but he is turning into the number one centre that GM Kevin Cheveldayoff envisioned when he selected him with the seventh pick in the 2011 draft. Scheifele started the season on fire, leading the league in scoring for parts of October and November. An injury put him on the side line for three games in early December and he hasn't been finding the back of the net as much since then, with only two goals in ten games. He's still on pace for his best statistical season, though, as he's averaging 0.92 points per game. He's increased his points per game average in each of the last four seasons.

The Jets may not be having the type of team success most fans want (they continue to sit close to the .500 mark and are out of the playoff picture), but the Ehlers-Scheifele-Laine combination is certainly giving Jets fans a lot to cheer about.

Southwest Jets in Middle of the Pack

The Southwest Jets, a AA hockey club comprised of 13–14-year-old players from the southwest part of Manitoba's Eastman region, have had a good season so far.

"So far the team has exceeded the expectations I had for them at the start of the year," says head coach David Maynard. "We are currently middle of the pack in the

league, which is where I thought we would be considering the number of minor Bantam [players] we have on the roster. Our goal is being competitive in every game we play. Of course, the main goal is to build towards next year when most of the boys will be 14. The maturity gap of that one year in both physical size and ability can be overwhelming at

times."

The Jets' record puts them just under .500, but Maynard points out that most of the team's games have been played against the league's strongest teams. Of ten teams, the Jets are currently in fifth place in the standings.

The team is sending four kids—Rachonne Henry, Matt Egan, Zach

Maynard, and Jayden Catellier—as well as a coach to the upcoming all-star game, to be played on January 22 in Lac du Bonnet.

Also in January, the team will head off to Grand Forks for a tournament. Provincial playdowns will get underway shortly.

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The U19 Royals celebrate their gold medal in Portage la Prairie.

MARK RATZ

Royals Season Off to an Exciting Start

By Mark Ratz

The Lorette Royals' season began with parades, a fundraising barbecue for a new multiplex, and some old-fashioned street ringette to promote the sport.

The U19 Royals captured the gold medal in an exciting overtime win at a recent tournament in Portage la Prairie. The U14 Royals took gold medals home from the Dakota preseason and Southdale Ring Rage tournaments, and played a hard-fought game to take a silver medal in Portage la Prairie.

With all Royals age groups

participating in the Portage la Prairie tournament, the U10 Royals challenged all the Royals teams to raise money for CancerCare Manitoba. Players were challenged to collect sponsors to pledge dollar amounts for each goal their team scored throughout the tournament. A total of \$674 was raised, with the U10 Royals raising the most.

Lorette Ringette had a very successful bottle drive in November and collected blankets as well. 55 blankets were collected and donated to a community outreach program in Steinbach that helps those in need throughout the Eastman region.

To cap off the first half of the season, the Royals attended the annual Christmas Parté. It was a great time for the families and players.

The Lorette Royals Ringette Association is available to players ages three to 19 in the Landmark, Ste. Anne, Dufresne, Île-des-Chênes, Grande Pointe, and Lorette catchment areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.loretteringette.weebly.com
 ■ twitter.com/loretteringette

Pee Wee Clippers See Tournament Action

Clipper Ice Sports hosted a Pee Wee tournament in Niverville on the weekend of December 9–11. A total of eight teams participated from Divisions A and C.

On the Division A side, the hotly contested round robin concluded with a three-way tie. In the final, the

Stony Mountain Flames defeated the Red Lake Rockets. The Transcona Regents took third place, with the Clippers unfortunately ending the tournament in fourth.

The games were just as tight for Division C, where Niverville landed in the final against the Portage

Terriers. Portage ultimately took gold, with Niverville settling for silver. The Macdonald Ice Caps and Île-des-Chênes Elks rounded out the division in third and fourth place respectively.

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Young at Heart: A Night at the Museum

Once we become adults, responsibility can easily take over our lives. When we were children, we pursued fun activities that we enjoyed. If we're not careful, though, adult life and routine can take over. The Young at Heart series continues this month to encourage you to find what you love, or have always wanted to try, and go for it.



SYLVIA
ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Do you remember going to the museum as a kid? Did you enjoy seeing the huge train in the middle of the building and being able to interact with old artifacts as much as I did? Whether it was the Museum of Man and Nature (now known as the Manitoba Museum) or the Children's Museum, time spent there was often educational and fun.

Since I became a parent, I've taken my kids to the Children's Museum. My son and daughter enjoyed the activities as much as I did when I was younger.

Then recently, I found out that four times a year, the Children's Museum hosts a fun night just for adults, called the #SeriouslyAdult series.

Niverville's own comedian, Matt Falk, was a performer at one of these events last year. Falk emceed the night with Big Daddy Tazz and performed his own standup. Chris Funk ended the night with a magic routine.

"Getting to perform in the Children's Museum was really fun," says Falk. "The stage was whimsical and bright. The audience got to eat too, which is a bonus! They did a phenomenal job setting the whole thing up. It looked professional and silly at the same time."

Whether you're a college student in need of a night away from



Matt Falk entertaining the masses at the Children's Museum.

EBONIE KLASSEN

studying, or a married couple wanting a date night away from the kids, Falk says that it's always great to get away.

"It's so important for adults to stop taking themselves so seriously," he says. "Deep down inside, we are all kids just making this whole thing up as we go along. I'm still amazed every time someone treats me like an adult, because I always feel like I'm pretending. I think we all feel that way sometimes. So it's nice to stop pretending once in a while. Go out, be silly, laugh, and have fun!"

The next #SeriouslyAdult night

at the museum takes place Friday, January 27, from 7:00–10:00 p.m. The theme this time around is Trivia Night. If you grew up playing Trivial Pursuit, or if you just happen to love learning random facts of life, this night will be worth your while.

You can go by yourself for \$25 or go with a big group, which brings the cost down to \$20 per person. There will also be a bar and prizes to be won. It's a good price for a night out. Plus, the proceeds help the museum enhance their exhibits, create educational programs, and fund a program that provides free museum visits to under-supported

children in the community.

A previous #SeriouslyAdult event was a restaging of *The Amazing Race*. Teams raced around the museum looking for clues and completing challenges to move on to the next round.

That's what's so great about these nights. They're always changing, and there's always something out of the ordinary. They give adults a chance to have fun, be creative, and act like a kid again.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.childrensmuseum.com

EVENT GUIDE

Creativi-Tea Time

January 11 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Author Reading (Violet Moore & Nina Brandt)

January 17 | 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Painting on the Prairies

January 17 | 7:00 p.m.
Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Intervention: Design in Chaos with Robot Art

January 18 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Steinbach Arts Council, Steinbach. Free.

MunschBusters! (Koncerts 4 Kidz! Series)

January 20 | 6:45–8:00 p.m.
SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$14.

Matt Falk at Annual Fundraiser

January 23 | 6:00 p.m.
Pat Porter Active Living Center, Steinbach. \$50.

Jordan St. Cyr (Night of Worship)

January 25 | 6:30 p.m.
Niverville Community Fellowship, Niverville. Free.

Send your event listing to:

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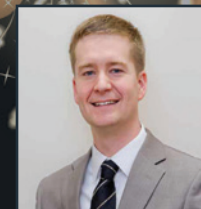


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Gary Tessier and Real Berard sculpting the "Toy Trojan Horse" in Ottawa.

FECKLES

Transforming Snow into Art

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Since 1970, Winnipeg has hosted the largest winter festival in Western Canada: Festival du Voyageur. A big part of this festival is the snow sculptures stationed all over Winnipeg.

One of the people who designs and creates these incredible winter works of art is Gary Tessier. In his time as a snow sculptor, Tessier has created over 250 sculptures.

"I have been sculpting snow as an adult for the past 35-plus years and really began as a 13-year-old making slush figures in a contest," Tessier says.

On top of creating sculptures for Festival each year, Tessier has also shown off his talent in some unique places. "There have been some very interesting locations—Parliament Hill in Ottawa, at the very top of the Whistler Mountain ski resort, and at Churchill."

Tessier often works with a few people, including his wife, Madeleine Vrignon, and

mentor, Real Berard. It can take anywhere from 20 to 120 hours to create one sculpture.

Once the chunk of snow is formed into a square or rectangle, and the design has been thought out, the fun begins.

"I use many different types of tools—mostly homemade cutting and scraping blades and sanders, as well as old-fashioned, large two-handled wood saws or ice saws," Tessier says. "The most important tool would be the sharpened square-headed spade."

Now retired, Tessier used to be a healthcare administrator, and prior to that he worked in various arts and cultural organizations. Art has always been a big part of life for him, and snow is one of his favourite canvases. "There is no other medium in the world where you can sculpt large pieces in so little time—and the material is free, for the most part. It is an awesome way to spend a few weeks of winter and makes the days go by a lot faster."

His design ideas for snow

sculptures are endless, ranging from abstracts to living creatures. Truly whatever you can imagine, you could create. "Probably one of my favourite designs would have to be the very first one I ever did with Real Berard and Jim Tallosi in Ottawa in 1984. It was called 'Les Quatres Vents' (The Four Winds) and it was four stylized birds facing the four cardinal directions. The initial block was 18 feet by 18 feet and 25 feet high. It weighed 70 tons."

The next time you're driving through downtown Winnipeg or in St. Boniface and you're at a red light, take a moment to appreciate the artistry exhibited using nothing but what Mother Nature gives us in abundance.

"Le Festival du Voyageur has been instrumental in keeping this art alive over the years," Tessier says, "promoting snow-sculpting locally, as well as internationally with the International Snow Sculpture Symposium, now in its third decade."



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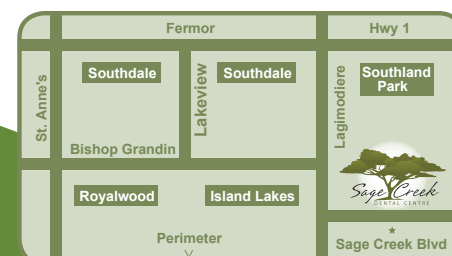
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www.snj.ca



NCI students take the stage in the school's December musical.

DEANNA WIEBE

NCI Students Dazzle in Christmas Musical

Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

NCI's performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* by its Grade 7-8 students was a huge success. The cast entertained for two nights, December 15-16, impressing audiences with song, dance, and enthusiastic acting.

"Isaiah Klassen, who is in Grade 9 and played Charlie Brown, did a fabulous job of portraying the serious and sincere character who is learning

to be confident with who he is," says Deanna Wiebe, the show's director. "Stephanie Zacharias and Janae Wolfe both did an excellent job of bringing to life Lucy and Sally. Hannah Bergen did a great job of being lovable Linus and Jonathan Hiebert was a terrific Schroeder. Marissa Jensen made us all laugh as Snoopy."

A particularly memorable highlight occurred when Shelah Klassen, a Grade 12 student and accomplished ballerina, danced the part of

a kite while her brother Isaiah performed a solo number.

The director says she is very proud of the hard work her students put into this musical. "This is one of the most talented, enthusiastic, and committed groups of actors I have had the pleasure of working with in the past 15 years. I'm looking forward to many more wonderful performances with these students in the years to come."

Local Artisan Creates Chainmail Jewellery

By Sylvia St. Cyr

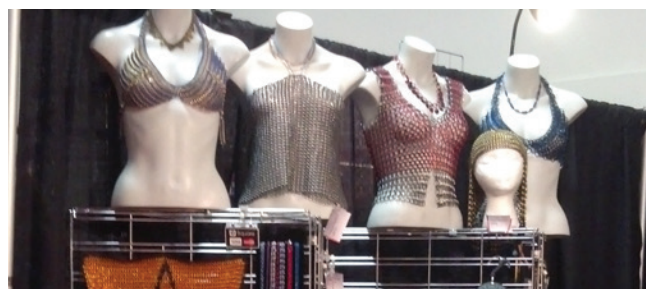
sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

In the Middle Ages, chainmail was a common part of a soldier's day. Nowadays, whether it's for cosplayers or a fashion statement, chainmail has made a comeback. Scott Gilroyed from Niverville has been meticulously handcrafting chainmail pieces since 2006.

Gilroyed makes chainmail jewellery such as bracelets and necklaces. He also creates armour, chainmail bikinis, and dresses.

"I had a friend at my place of work who also made chainmail, so I asked him to teach me, and here I am ten years later," says Gilroyed.

The look of chainmail jewellery is quite unique. Creating it, not surprisingly, is also highly time-consuming. "Most bracelets take me about 30 minutes. However, some can take up



Gilroyed's chainmail products at a trade show display.

SCOTT GILROYED

to eight hours. Necklaces take anywhere from two to ten hours and chainmail armour can take up to 100 hours to complete."

Gilroyed has brought his creations to trade shows in the past, to display all of his talented pieces. "I sell to all types of people, from executives to rock festival attendees, from adults to children, to gamers and little old ladies."

Gilroyed works a full-time job at Custom Interconnect Assemblies creating wire

harnesses for tractors, trailers, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The chainmail, which he makes out of his home, is done in his free time.

"Lucky for me, all I need is a small space in a closet for some storage and a flat surface to work on," Gilroyed says. "I make it in front of the TV, camping, or just hanging out at the mall."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Wedding Season

Flower and Décor Trends for 2017

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

What's new and fashionable is at the forefront of many women's minds all the time, brides notwithstanding. Wedding décor and flower trends change annually as brides pursue their unique wedding look.

According to Peggy Wiebe of the Little Flower Shop, the hot new colour this year is green, specifically kale green and fresh green. "We will see this in décor, centrepieces, long garlands on tables, as well as on canopies and down aisles," she says. "Although the fresh tone of green is coming in, a lot of brides will still want the grey greens or a really good mix of greens for texture. Bridal bouquets are very full with greens."

Wiebe suggests the bride start by scouring Pinterest, bridal magazines, and websites for the styles of bouquets, centrepieces, and types of flowers that attract her. Choosing flowers first goes a long way to completing the look with coordinating linens, dresses, and décor. The variety of flower options is constantly broadening as the floral greenhouse industry expands, making typically out-of-season flowers available any time of year.

Next on the list would be a visit to the florist. A good florist can make many recommendations based on the bride's floral choices and preferred budget.

"When choosing a florist, go



The hot new colour this year is green.

ADOBE STOCK

with experience, creativeness, knowledge, and a good reputation," says Wiebe. "If a florist can provide flowers, décor rentals, and decorating services, you will actually save hundreds of dollars. Bring in photos and ideas and build a relationship with the [florist] planning with you. It should be clear that you are important and your ideas are going to work. [Together],

try to figure out a budget and expect it to fluctuate. A good florist will work with your venue. Ask if they are familiar with the venue, the layout and what can or cannot be done with décor."

For brides on a budget, Wiebe recommends sticking with the flowers that are in season to avoid excess shipping costs. A good florist can

also incorporate the bride's own vases, relics, and photographs into the florals. Though some florists will handle everything, including décor set-up and take-down, doing these things yourself can save you money. This is time-consuming, though, and many bridal couples don't want the bother on the day of their special event.

If you're one of those brides, make sure to ask your florist at the outset whether decorating your venue is among their services. If so, it's one less person you need to hire. They will require plenty of advance notice, though, as florists become very busy during wedding season.

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Your Wedding Photographer and You

By Shelley Samborski

SIMPLY YOU PHOTOGRAPHY

Unlike the other aspects of your wedding, photography is the one thing you can't hear, smell, taste, or see on the day of your big event—but it's one of the only things that remains afterwards. Allowing someone else to have complete control over the quality and quantity of photos taken requires trust and confidence. The stress of choosing the right person can be eased with a few helpful tips.

Begin by doing some research. Look online for local photographers, checking their websites and Facebook pages for the styles that make them unique. Make sure to ask friends or other recently wedded couples for referrals.

Once you've decided on the look and feel that appeals to you, revisit your favourite sites and make a list. The photos in their portfolio should evoke positive emotions from you and your partner. Do your due diligence. Read through testimonials and reviews, making notes of the respective good and bad comments that might matter to you.

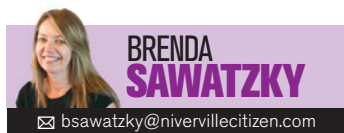
The next step is to meet the potential photographers in person if possible. This is extremely important because you'll spend more time with your photographer on your wedding day than anyone else. You need to like them as well as their work.

Ask to see samples of other events at which they've done photoshoots. Look for samples taken at venues similar to yours. If your wedding is in a dark church, you'll want to be sure your photographer is familiar with taking quality pictures in that type of setting. You will want to see a whole gallery or two, not just the portfolio shots since every photographer only puts their very best in the portfolio. This will show you how the photographer deals with difficult lighting, from dark venues to extreme midday sun. Get a feel for the photographer's experience. Ask how they deal with rain, tight timeframes, or pushy guests. A true professional will have successfully dealt with them all.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, be certain to inquire about the process they use to safeguard your special photos and prevent loss: the backup. Some photographers shoot on more than one memory card and double up on all of the photos within their camera. This is an excellent method of securing the safety of your photos since memory cards can be faulty, lost, or damaged. This will help ensure there is a secondary backup with all the same data. Better still are the photographers who back up their photos onto memory cards from the camera, then onto a computer, an external hard drive, and the cloud. Though that may be extreme, at least two of those systems should be used before they go to sleep on the night of your big day. Yours is a once-in-a-lifetime event that can't be re-enacted in the event of photo loss. Once you've chosen the photographer that feels right for you, relax, trust them to capture every special moment, and enjoy your day. The result should be lasting memories that pull at your heartstrings for years to come.

Southeast Manitoba: A Great Place for Weddings

With so many venues to choose from, the rural southeast will give you a lot to think about.



BRENDA SAWATZKY

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Over the past 30 years, weddings have become big business, and in the southeast this is no exception. Gone are the days of traditional church weddings with a “reception to follow in the lower auditorium.” Bridal couples and their dream events have evolved to include a huge variety of possibilities, from backyard tent weddings to ballrooms to decked-out barns. For many couples, there is a growing trend to get outside the city limits for their special day, retreating to idyllic rural settings with trees and room to move. Others, still looking for glamour and a carefree event, can find those options here too.

Where there is a demand, there are businesses willing to meet that demand. Here in the southeast, we have wedding venues to suit any and all of a bridal couple's wishes.

NIVERVILLE HERITAGE CENTRE

Right in the heart of Niverville is the Heritage Centre, a vast multi-use campus which houses an elegant ballroom, timber-frame atrium, and outdoor gardens. Perfect for the couple wanting a stress-free, all-inclusive classic wedding. Between the ballroom and atrium, couples can host a large group of guests for a ceremony in one room and a reception in the other. The outdoor gardens provide a great place for photo ops and the nearby Hespeler's Tavern is a good place for rehearsal parties. Weddings are held here year-round.

WHITETAIL MEADOW

The newest kid on the block is Whitetail Meadow. Located on the corner of Highways 311 and 200, this venue is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017 and will provide unique options including a honeymoon cottage and a riverside view with plenty of outdoor activities across the grounds. The 70-year-old hip-roof barn onsite is being renovated to create a 6,000-square-foot wedding and event facility, including a mezzanine and outdoor balconies from which to view the rural countryside. This will be a year-round facility.

ASHGROVE ACRES

A few miles south of Niverville along Highway 305 is Ashgrove Acres, a relatively new facility that also caters to couples looking for an attractive indoor and outdoor setting. Here too couples can find a spot set apart from neighbouring buildings with plenty of mature trees providing shelter for the ideal courtyard wedding. The venue includes a brand new, state-of-the-art reception centre with windows all around, creating an outdoor feel but providing protection from the elements. This is also a seasonal facility.

EVERGREEN VILLAGE

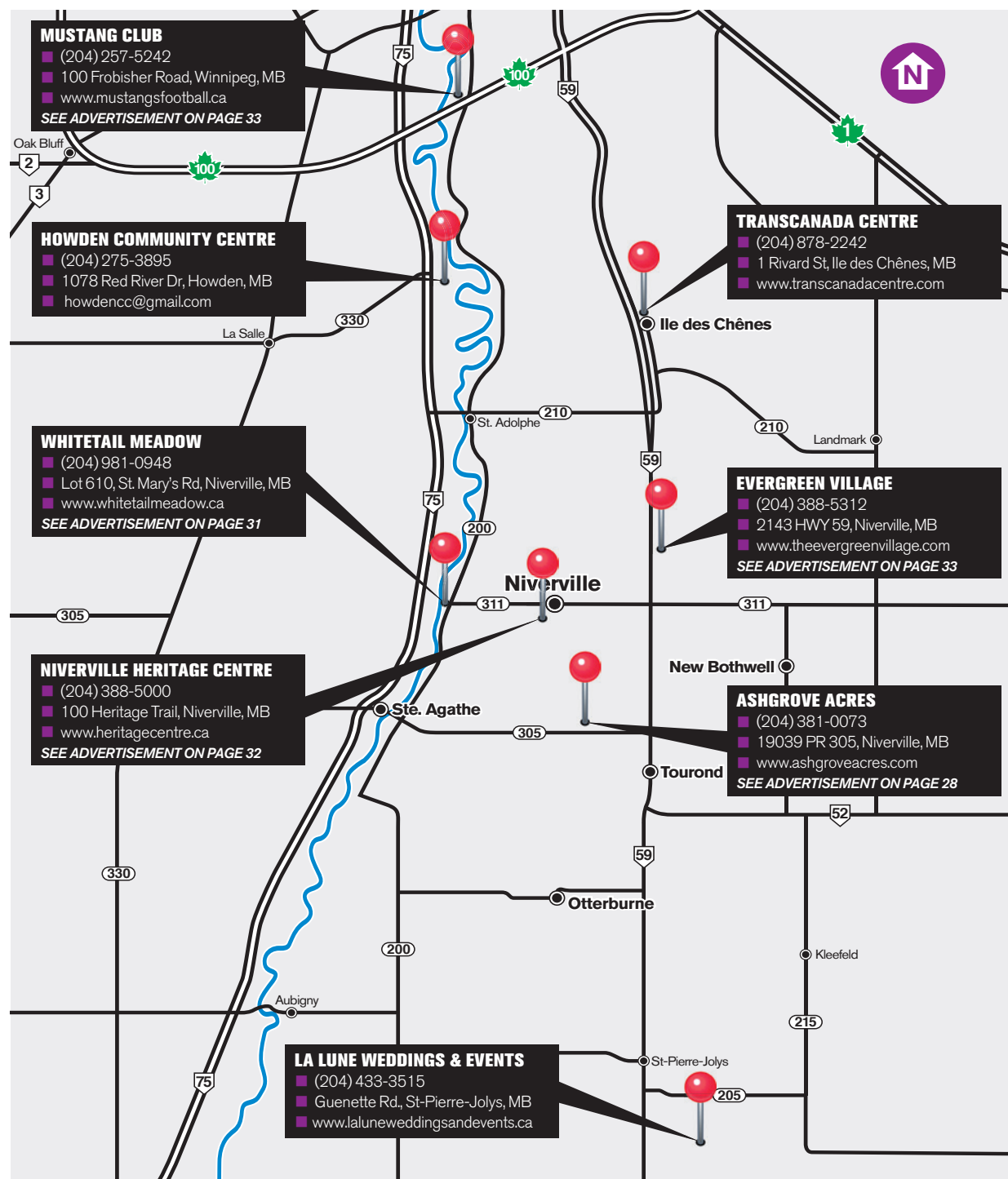
Just a few miles north of Niverville along Highway 59 is the Evergreen Village, a quaint, spacious event centre and former homestead. If a couple desire trees and privacy, this centre has that. A large tent-like structure offers a lovely place for a reception in a relaxed atmosphere and the grounds are ideal for an outdoor ceremony. The renovated home on the grounds is used by brides and their attendants for primping and grand outdoor entries to the nearby courtyard. The owner provides in-house catering. This is a seasonal facility.

MUSTANG CLUB

Just inside Winnipeg's perimeter on St. Mary's Road is the St. Vital Mustangs Football Club. Located on a vast stretch of greenspace with a view of the Red River, this venue offers a rural feel within city limits. The clubhouse provides plenty of natural light with windows overlooking a park-like setting. It's a popular venue for socials and weddings alike, with an indoor capacity of up to 348 guests. The spacious banquet area has plenty of room for a variety of options in décor and seating setup.

HOWDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Howden Community Centre lies just outside city limits along beautiful Red River Drive, between St. Norbert and St. Adolphe. The quaint hall is reminiscent of the old days with its hardwood floor and high ceiling. Though it's been around a while, it has recently undergone a complete transformation with modernized kitchen, washroom facilities, and a large veranda overlooking the wooded countryside. The banquet area also has plenty of space to accommodate a number of different décors and seating plans. They host weddings, socials, and bridal showers all year round.



en, washroom facilities, and a large veranda overlooking the wooded countryside. The banquet area also has plenty of space to accommodate a number of different décors and seating plans. They host weddings, socials, and bridal showers all year round.

LA LUNE

La Lune Weddings & Events is located just outside St. Pierre on Guenette Road off Highway 59. Also a fairly new facility, the event centre took off after the owner's daughter wanted to have an outdoor wedding on their property. The couple worked hard to create a beautiful outdoor atmosphere, calling the re-

sulting look “organic elegance.” The rural grounds include an outdoor courtyard, a barn for receptions with a cedar deck dance floor, and outhouses to round out the organic theme. This is a seasonal facility.

TRANSCANADA CENTRE

The TransCanada Centre is a year-round facility in Île-des-Chênes with a banquet hall that seats 500 guests. The hall's neutral tones and high ceiling provide for almost unlimited décor options and the space is large enough to host both the ceremony and reception in one place. The large modern kitchen with commercial appliances is any caterer's dream.

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Choosing the Wedding Venue that's Right for You

By Noella Andres

NIVERVILLE HERITAGE CENTRE

You've just gotten engaged and you're already dreaming about the perfect wedding. The first thing on your to-do list after choosing a wedding date should be to find the venue that suits you best. Venues can vary widely, from outdoor tent weddings, ballrooms, golf courses, event centres, barns, hotels, and the list goes on.

Your wedding day is a celebration of the love you and your partner share, but it's also a very personal expression of who you are, which is why each wedding is completely unique.

One thing you can be certain of is that venues book up fast, so if you have a date in mind, call your venues of choice for a tour as soon as possible.

Choosing between the many available wedding

venues can be a tough and stressful decision, but a few key considerations can help make the process a little easier.

The most important thing to look for when searching for a venue is whether it fits with your theme and you and your fiancé's personalities. If you want a rustic country wedding, you can narrow your search to barns, timber-frame buildings, outdoor tents, or someone's backyard. For a more classic theme, you'll look to event centres, ballrooms, or high-end hotels. Whatever style or theme you choose, make sure it reflects both of you.

Another important thing to consider is the size of your wedding. Before starting your venue search, it's a good idea to come up with a generalized guest count so that you can focus on venues that can comfortably accommodate your wedding reception. If you're

expecting a large wedding with 200-plus guests, you will be disappointed to find out the venue you love can only hold a maximum of 100. You should calculate a minimum of 21 square feet per guest for a comfortable setting. This includes space for cocktails, seating, dance floor, head table, late night stations, and a bar.

Some venues offer the bare minimum while others cater to everything you'll need to help make your wedding planning go smoothly with the least amount of effort on your part. These can include in-house florists, décor and linens, preferred DJs, photographers, and catering. Every venue will offer a different kind of wedding package. It's important to be realistic about the work and stress load you want to take on, so find a venue with a package that's going to meet your needs accordingly. This

is another key area on which couples must agree.

Pinterest has made it relatively easy for do-it-yourself brides to plan and create their wedding décor, but it can be labour-intensive, stressful, and quickly overwhelming. If your goal is to save money by enlisting relatives and friends to help you create your décor and hiring your own professionals, it's important to keep in mind that venues that offer the entire package deal can oftentimes be less expensive in the end. A lot of due diligence is required to compare the costs of the many individual services that come with all-inclusive package deals.

Wherever your wedding plans take you, be sure to have fun, relax, and enjoy the moment.



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New Event Venue to Open in 2017

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Nestled near the riverbank on the corner of Highways 311 and 200 sits an old red hip-roof barn waiting for its second life as a wedding and event centre. Nearby and across a little hand-crafted bridge sits its companion, Marigold Cottage. For years, many commuters have watched with curiosity, wondering about the purpose of the red barn on the hill. For many of us, our curiosity peaked when the old house moved in next door and slowly began its transformation into a lovely, yellow-sided cottage.

Dave and Lori Neufeld are the inspiration behind the up-and-coming event centre, which they've aptly named Whitetail Meadow for the many deer that graze on its green-space. The Neufelds, who live just a half-mile away, pondered the best use of this land. The idea to launch a wedding venue here was sparked years ago when a barn owned by a Niverville family needed to be moved to make room for the Prairie Crossings development on the northwest side

of town. The Neufelds purchased the 70-year-old barn, moved it to its new location, and began the arduous journey through legal red tape.

Eight years later, in 2016, they finally received the green light to pursue their dream. Dave Neufeld is more than ready for the career change.

"I've done construction for a lot of years. I wanted to mow lawns and take care of flowers for the rest of my life," says Neufeld.

The long wait gave him plenty of time to pursue the second portion of the event centre, Marigold Cottage. The cottage, too, is a repurposed home, which in this case came from a rural residence near Steinbach.

"They keep knocking these things down and I love to save old buildings," says Neufeld.

This is not his first foray into old house revival. He designed a lovely red two-storey that sits on land near Tourond Creek, just east of Whitetail Meadow, a testament to the architectural beauty that can unfold from a vision and an old, unwanted dwelling.

Neufeld anticipates the completion of Marigold Cottage by spring,

at which time he'll begin work on the barn. Together, the two units will eventually be made available to bridal couples as a package deal. The barn will undergo a massive restoration, including additions on the north and south sides. In the end, the barn will cover approximately 6,000 square feet and feature an extensive banquet hall, a large caterer-ready kitchen, and a mezzanine floor for additional seating.

Marigold Cottage will complement the site as a honeymoon cottage for newlyweds. The cottage is currently undergoing a complete interior transformation and will include a main floor with a full kitchen, bathroom with shower, a dining area, and a primping room for the bride and her entourage to prepare for the big day. The second level will have two bedrooms. The master bedroom, or honeymoon suite, has a large window overlooking the river and a raised deck with a double glass door facing the grounds. Its angled-roof ceiling will provide a cozy space for a king-size bed, fireplace, free-standing roll-top tub, and private bathroom.

The Neufelds' goal is to create a year-round facility with a unique grounds design that will provide plenty of entertainment options.

"We want people to come here and spend the day," says Neufeld. "So many times you go to a wedding where you really want to go home because there's not a whole lot to do."

Over the coming summer, the grounds will begin to take shape with a putting green, a horseshoe pitch, walking paths, cross-country ski trails in the winter, and two dug-out ponds which can be converted to outdoor skating rinks. These will be enhanced with plenty of lights and a warm-up shack.

"What we're trying to do is turn this into an events place, not specifically a wedding place," Neufeld says. "We want people to be able to come here and enjoy it for what it is."

Neufeld adds that he's already got tentative bookings for corporate events later this year. His plan is to rent the renovated barn and cottage separately when needed. Either building or both will be available for any type of party or gathering and come with

full accessibility to the grounds. The cottage may also be rented for visiting family and friends who need a place to stay at any time of year.

Once the grounds are complete, Neufeld anticipates that parents may want to bring their kids for a skate in winter. The cross-country ski trails will be groomed regularly. The couple's goal is to see their property busy and enjoyed all year round. Neufeld also likes the idea of hosting community events such as dinners and dances—but for now, these possibilities remain dreams until the facility is open and some time has passed.

At this point, the Neufelds are planning for a September opening and bookings may begin as early as April. The goal is dependent on Mother Nature, though, and the amount of workable weather they get over the coming months. They've already hired an events planner and booking options will be available soon on their website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.whitetailmeadow.ca



The Importance of Wedding Insurance

By Brenda Sawatzky

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There is so much to think about when planning a wedding. It might well be the most stressful event you'll ever plan. But in the chaos of organizing everything from the wedding venue to bridal entourage gifts, many couples fail to realize the importance of liability insurance for their big day, and every related gathering leading up to it.

According to Kris Moffat, an insurance broker for Hub International, weddings, socials, and bridal showers are places where unfortunate or even tragic events can occur and bridal couples or hosting venues may be unprepared to deal with them. These things might include fire damage or vandalism to a rented facility, a wedding being called off resulting in significant losses of deposits, a slip and fall resulting in personal injury, or the many risks related to alcohol consumption. Lawsuits are a realistic possibility when it comes to hosting events where groups are in attendance.

"We highly recommend [insurance] coverage," says Moffat. "These are all fun, life-changing events and people would not want to leave themselves or their assets exposed to liability. Many unforeseen tragic incidents happen and they would not want their special event ruined."

Moffat says there are a variety of liability packages available that provide coverage for bodily



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injury and property damage.

"Many people assume that the hall or facility which they are renting will have automatic coverage," adds Moffat. "Some venues may provide coverage and others may not. Individuals hosting these functions will always want to check with the facility to see if they have coverage. If they do, they will want to obtain a certificate of insurance."

For events where alcohol is served, Host Liquor Liability coverage, a separate policy, is also very important. A lawsuit resulting from an

alcohol-related incident can hold every party responsible, from the venue to the person or persons hosting the event to the liquor license holder.

"Host Liquor Liability offers protection for any liability claims related to alcohol," says Moffat. "An example may be someone leaving a venue very intoxicated and driving, causing damage or injury. The individual hosting the event can be held liable for alcohol-related claims. Some venues that specialize in liquor may include coverage with the rental. If that

is done—which is rare—I would recommend that the individuals renting the facility get a certificate of insurance from the venue and also be added as an 'additional insured' in respects to liability. That way they can be covered and defended under the venue's policy. If the facility cannot extend coverage to the event, [the hosts] will want to purchase their own coverage. If the facility can extend coverage to the event, they can still purchase their own policy in case they are not comfortable with the coverage or limits."

Moffat reminds couples to consider all the different aspects of their wedding, including rehearsal parties, socials, ceremony, and reception if they are taking place at different locations. For this reason, having your own insurance extending to all facilities is ideal.

Some insurance companies offer specially designed policies that provide additional protection beyond just liability. They can include wedding cancellation, honeymoon cancellation, deposit loss, photo and video protection, loss or damage to bridal attire, wedding gifts, rings, wedding cake and flowers, wedding stationary, and rented items. Many of the loss or damage policies include coverage prior to the wedding.

Considering the many risks and the huge financial investment you're making to create the perfect wedding day, insurance may well be the best investment you make.



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9		10	11		12	13	
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	16				17		
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36					37		
		38					

- Across**
- 4. Mountain
 - 9. On fire
 - 12. W California town
 - 14. Swelled
 - 15. Bustle
 - 16. Loathe
 - 17. To yield
 - 18. Earphone
 - 20. Deity
 - 21. Fragments
 - 25. Pal
 - 27. Thuribles
 - 31. Lamp
 - 33. Radio version of L
 - 34. Polynesian rain dance
 - 35. Brush off
 - 36. Spicy seed
 - 37. Person who fishes
 - 38. Part of verb to do

- Down**
- 1. Miry
 - 2. Haughty
 - 3. Sharpens
 - 5. Destiny
 - 6. Official proof of a will
 - 7. Perceptive
 - 8. Instructed
 - 10. Gradient (Math)
 - 11. Affectedly quaint (Brit)
 - 13. Darling
 - 19. Part of a military uniform
 - 22. Inedible
 - 23. Cause
 - 24. State positively
 - 26. Morose
 - 28. Female name
 - 29. Nincompoop
 - 30. Supremely self-confident
 - 32. Zoroastrian priests

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

JOB POSTINGS

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OBITUARIES

Godspeed, Mother



Agatha Wiebe Braun was born in humble circumstances in her family home southeast of Grunthal in Barkfield, Manitoba on August 26, 1921. She passed away in the early morning hours of December 26, 2016.

Agatha was predeceased by her husband Peter K. Braun in 1975 and grandchildren Michael Jon Bergen in 1996, Miguel David Wiens in 2000, and Holly Renee Braun in 1997.

Agatha is survived by her seven children and their spouses: Frieda (John), Andrew (Lorna), Rachel (David), Peter (Agnes), Hilda (Dow), Clarence (Ruth), Judy (Kevin), twenty-four grandchildren, and thirty-one great-grandchildren.

As with many others in the builder generation, times were difficult and her family eked out a living by farming land that was neither rich nor fertile. The Mennonite culture she was born into had little value for education, so she never had the opportunity to expand her horizons in that way. Families of that era were led mostly by strong fathers who were dominant in their approach to life.

She really did have to walk three miles to school every day, and it can probably be said that this created a steely resolve in her to survive the most challenging times. In retrospect, this was a generation of survivors, and we sometimes wonder how different things would have been for Agatha had she been raised in an environment where she could have thrived.

Agatha married Peter K. Braun on August 3, 1943 and in subsequent years they had seven children—four girls and three boys.

Many stories have been told of the challenging times that many today call “the good old days.” From our understanding, they were certainly simpler times but they could only be described as good by those who didn’t have to live them.

Agatha had an early encounter with faith in 1958. It was the beginning of a journey that lasted a lifetime. Though satisfied and assured of heaven as her destination, the reality is that this early encounter still left her with much fear.

Some years after the passing of her husband in 1975, Agatha came to the end of herself. To that point, she had been dutiful in how she lived, but she was not at peace. Fear had been her dominant emotion, and in these difficult years she lost her passion for life and expressed a willingness to die.

After meeting with a counsellor, she was encouraged to consider how she could reach out to others and encourage them in their own journeys. And so began a journey of love and care for others that was a hallmark of her life right to the end.

In the thirty-five years since, you would never meet Agatha without being encouraged with a simple hug and a friendly reminder that you are special. It mattered little if she knew you well or whether you were family; she was aware that everyone had value and she expressed it generously. She was ever grateful for the full and meaningful life God provided her and she always expressed a desire to continue to grow in her love for others.

Agatha lived and loved far beyond the confines of her biological or church family. So many others have been beneficiaries of her love and care.

In late September 2015, Agatha had a stroke, which was followed by two additional strokes. It took weeks of difficult challenges, but her goal of coming back to her home in the Niverville Credit Union Manor was satisfied.

As a family, we were blessed for these last fifteen months during which we got to enjoy her company. For her, though, life had become difficult and many times she expressed the wish that it would have been better if that first stroke had taken her to her eternal destiny.

When family arrived at her apartment on the morning of December 17, we were aware that this was probably the end. Her last nine days were spent in the hospital, and though she could not speak we were aware that she knew more than it seemed.

She expressed to each of her children her desire to go on to be with Jesus. Mother told us all on different occasions, “If I cannot be mobile and active, then I do not want to live.” So, facing the reality of her situation and her request, we had to make the emotional decision to not try and prolong her life.

We were so blessed. We saw her imperfections and we knew of her struggles. But we saw this incredible woman overcome so much and learn how to love and care. We all have felt that and our wish for her is this: “Godspeed, Mother.” We will meet again, but until that time we will hold your memory in our hearts forever.

SPACE FOR RENT/LEASE



25% LEASED

295 Main Street - Niverville

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



Commercial Space For Lease

Commercial building in Niverville, great location on Main Street fronting the arena & across from the golf course. Building offers 1200 sq ft of office space, 2400 sq ft heated shop and 3200 sq ft of cold storage on 1 acre. Could be separated into smaller rental spaces. Call 204-346-3041 for more detail.



970 Sq Ft Commercial Space for Lease – Niverville

Highly visible building at 349 Bronstone Drive in Niverville offers a beautifully finished 2nd floor commercial space for lease, available immediately. Main area is an open 25' x 38' space with warming kitchen for lunch & coffee, plus entrance area. Access to common bathrooms. Gross lease is \$1000/month.

Call 204-346-3041 or e-mail raydowse@icloud.com for more information or to schedule a viewing



NIVERVILLE HERITAGE CENTRE

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Directors for Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. are seeking qualified individuals to serve on the various boards under their purview including Niverville Heritage PCH Inc. and Heritage Life Retirement Living Inc.

An independent Nomination Committee has been established to guide the selection process of qualified candidates for recommendation for 2-3 available board positions. The board positions are exciting and challenging as they deal with the complexities of operating a multifaceted, not for profit social enterprise campus with a staff of over 200 team members. Human Resource and Business Development experience are desired skill sets. This is a volunteer position with no remuneration

If you have questions, or you are interested in serving in this capacity or would like to recommend an individual for consideration please email andynhhi2017@gmail.com

Thank you

Ken Rempel — Committee Chair
On behalf of the Nomination Committee
Andy Anderson, Peter Braun and Aaron Redekop

BIRTHDAYS



Happy 8th Birthday Brynne!
Mom, Dad and Dozer love you very much!



Happy 60th Terry!
Love your family!

This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers

1	M	2	H	3	W	4	A	5	L	6	P	7	K	8	T
9	A	L	I	10	G	11	T	12	O	13	R	14	I	15	N
16	S	17	H	18	A	19	T	20	E	21	O	22	D	23	O
24	R	25	E	26	A	27	D	28	S	29	E	30	T	31	A
32	Y	33	N	34	D	35	S	36	A	37	N	38	D	39	E
40	O	41	D	42	S	43	A	44	N	45	D	46	E	47	N
48	P	49	M	50	P	51	I	52	G	53	A	54	S	55	E
56	A	57	M	58	I	59	G	60	O	61	E	62	N	63	S
64	R	65	G	66	L	67	I	68	M	69	L	70	I	71	M
72	E	73	H	74	U	75	L	76	A	77	S	78	N	79	U
80	N	81	U	82	T	83	M	84	E	85	G	86	A	87	N
88	T	89	Y	90	D	91	I	92	D	93	Y	94	E	95	T

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