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LOCAL NEWS

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Fair

■ The committee is getting ready for another Olde Tyme Country Fair in Niverville. We go behind the scenes to learn more.

Details on Page 12-13

LOCAL NEWS

Bristal Merges with Dry Cleaning Biz

■ Bristal Hauling merges with Steinbach Dry Cleaning and opens new drop-off location.

Details on Page 14

SPORTS & RECREATION

Camaraderie Before Competition

■ *The Citizen* digs deep into the history of curling in Niverville—and paints a picture of what the future holds for the roaring game.

Details on Pages 16-18

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mousetrap Set to Lure Audiences

■ Agatha Christie's classic *The Mousetrap* will be staged at the Niverville Heritage Centre.

Details on Page 25



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The Citizen

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Rising Crime and Niverville's Response

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

Throughout 2016, Niverville saw a rise in break-ins, stolen vehicles, and people rummaging through homeowners' vehicles at night. What has truly caused a stir, though, was a machete assault at a home in Niverville just days into the new year.

Bob and Bonny Fehr have lived on Third Street South in Niverville for 19 years. On the evening of January 3, Bob heard noise coming from his garage and went outside to investigate. In the garage, he confronted three men, all wearing masks. One of them came at him with a machete.

"At first, Bob had no idea that he was injured," Bonny says, remembering the scene as her husband returned to the house after the attack. "I went in to call 911. When asked if we needed an ambulance, Bob said no because he didn't know he had been cut. Just as I declined, Bob noticed... that his hand was dripping with blood."

Bonny says that when the attacker had raised the machete, Bob had put up his arm to defend himself.

"He spent a full day in the hospital and was treated for the gash on his forearm," Bonny says. "Bob has since healed and is doing okay."

But Bonny adds that this wasn't the first time their home was targeted by thieves. "This was our second time being broken into," she says. "Our garage was broken into before Christmas."

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Two days after the incident, a

local man organized a town meeting at the arena. Barry Piasta's objective was to start a public discussion about proactive approaches to dealing with crime. More than a hundred citizens attended. Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck opened the meeting. Staff Sergeant Rheal Gravel of the St. Pierre RCMP detachment also attended to let citizens know about the ongoing investigation.

Several people at the meeting shared about misdemeanours that had happened to them. In most cases, these victims had posted details of the crimes to Facebook.

"There are a lot of times we [the police] cannot do anything, but that kind of info itself that you are supplying to us, whether it's a guy in a red toque or a blue truck with half a license plate, that all goes inside our intelligence banks," Gravel said. "Then we can piece that puzzle together. If you say nothing, we can do nothing."

It was mentioned a few times that evening that no call is too small, whether it's footprints in your backyard or a garage door that's discovered open. The more calls that are made, the more often police will show up.

According to Mayor Dyck, Niverville currently pays between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for policing on an annual basis. When asked what it would take for increased patrolling, Dyck replied that the police budget would have to double—and that would mean an average property tax increase of \$70–120 per home.

No decisions will be made by the town until February 8,

the date when the 2016 census results are expected to be published. If the census shows that Niverville's population has surpassed 5,000 residents, the town is required by law to increase its police presence one way or another.

"We have gathered information from other communities as to the police service they have and the budget they spend," says Dyck. "We will continue to gather information after February 8 once we know which options are or are not available to us as a community. Once we have that information, council will determine the course of action for Niverville in regards to policing and then seek to deliver policing that is appropriate for a community our size both now and into the future."



Machete attack suspect James Thomas Wiebe. RCMP

THREE SUSPECTS ARRESTED

In the meantime, the RCMP have made significant progress in their investigation into the machete attack.

On January 13, Tyler Kenneth Sawatzky and Jonah Daniel Wiens were arrested in Steinbach and charged in connection with the attack. Shortly thereafter, the third suspect, James Thomas Wiebe, was

apprehended in Morden. All three men have been charged with robbery, break and enter, assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public, and disguise with intent.

Bob and Bonny Fehr say they were relieved when they heard that the suspects had been caught.

"We feel such gratitude to the RCMP for working so hard," says Bonny.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

After the arrests, Barry Piasta and fellow Niverville resident Michael Solonius spearheaded two further town meetings to talk with residents about what more can be done to ensure people's safety. Piasta and Solonius have come up with a plan they call "Community Connectivity." One part of this plan calls for people to install Honeywell security systems. Adam Jakab from Guardian Advanced Solutions also attended the second town meeting, held January 17 at the Heritage Centre, to talk about the way these Honeywell security systems work.

"The system messages us in real time and can message to others on the system," Piasta explains. "With the layered net approach that we are creating, we can help law enforcement track and build a case from multiple sources."

Prior to the most recent rounds of meetings, Piasta, Jakab, and a representative of Honeywell had a conference call to discuss how they could proceed. "We had a chance to ask questions from the top. We did not get a sales pitch, but rather a helping hand," says Piasta.

The Honeywell security systems are being offered to residents in Niverville, New Bothwell, Île-des-Chênes,

St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Grande Pointe at a discounted rate. Before the recent spate of break-ins, installing such a system would have cost \$1,500 per home. However, the company is offering a special rate for homeowners in our region, reducing the cost to just \$399. The system also includes a camera. So far, eight residents in Niverville have installed the system.

There will be more town meetings to come, advertised on Facebook and elsewhere. The goal of these meetings is to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to the current need. These meetings have resulted in several helpful tips to homeowners, which include keeping your outside lights on during the night, putting up Neighbourhood Watch signs, getting to know your neighbours, and locking your house and vehicle doors.

In the meantime, the Town of Niverville has reopened its RCMP satellite office as of January 23. The office will be open Monday to Friday from 1:15–5:00 p.m. An employee for this office has been training for the position since December.

"As to greater police presence," Dyck explains, "what the office does is allow the RCMP detachment to have their members use the building as a home office instead of going to St. Pierre to complete what office tasks may need to be completed."

Despite the apparent rise in crime, the Fehrs are still glad to be a part of this community. "It's the people that live here that make a town/community a great place," says Bonny. "We are so touched by all of the well wishes, thoughts, prayers, and help in sending in tips to help end the nightmare that happened. Thank you to everyone who is determined to make Niverville a great place to live."

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Towns Confront Snow-Clearing Challenges

By Eric Peterson

If all the white stuff covering Niverville streets this past December had you seeing red, you're not alone. Snow-clearing, or the lack thereof, has been a big topic of discussion this winter with some claiming the town hasn't been quick or thorough enough to clean the streets after recent snowfalls.

However, Niverville's mayor says that although he hears you, he thinks the town's snow removal plan held up pretty well under some very tough circumstances.

"We need to put this thing in perspective," explains Mayor Myron Dyck. "We had the most snow in December in 100 years."

Indeed, most municipalities in southern Manitoba, both big and small, reported struggling with snow removal after a number of major storms hit the region in the final month of 2016.

That didn't stop angry

residents from airing their grievances to town officials as well as on social media.

Dyck says he understands the frustration. "There's obvious challenges. People want to know how come you're not prepared. They say, why don't you get more equipment, find more people, hire more people?"

For Dyck, town council, and the Public Works Department, the challenge is to do the best job possible without blowing the budget. While snow removal is a big issue right now, recent break-ins have amplified calls for a different and more expensive policing model. Then there's the threat of flooding this spring. When the water starts to rise, some will be asking about drainage. In the end, there just isn't the money for it all—not without raising taxes anyway.

"The work itself has gone on the best we can with the equipment we have and the staff we have. The guys are working



hard and the equipment has operated as it's supposed to," says Dyck.

The snow-clearing strategy in Niverville goes something like this.

The main roads get done first. Though Main Street and Fifth Avenue are technically provincial responsibilities, the town has a contract with the province to remove the piles of snow.

Arterial roads are next. In Niverville, that means Hampton Drive and St. Andrews Way. Next, the crescents are cleared and the mountains of snow are taken away. Then the clearers get to widening the roads, removing the windrows,

and scraping the roads. Somewhere in there, the sidewalks get done too.

Problems arise when more snow falls, or when snow blows into the main roads before the crews get to the rest of the work. Then it's back to square one.

Lindsay Salenius has been living on Ashcroft Cove since moving to Niverville from Calgary three years ago. She says she's noticed a difference in the condition of the streets this year.

"In past years they've cleaned the street to the curb," she says before adding that the lack of drainage has caused her street to be treacherous to walk on. "I pray for my life taking my

dog for a walk."

Salenius gushes about how much she loves living in Niverville and she wouldn't mind a little extra money going into snow-clearing when the situation calls for it.

"You can see that maybe corners were cut to stay within budget," she concludes.

While widening is a big concern for Salenius, windrows were the main source of anger for many others. If hardened chunks of snow and ice at the end of your driveway could be melted with Facebook rage, the streets of Niverville would have been flooded by New Year's Day.

Again, Dyck is sympathetic. "The solution is to have one piece of equipment follow another piece of equipment and clean those windrows as we go," he says. "But how much time does that take? Resident A gets great service, but Resident P down the line might not get his street cleaned."

Dyck points out that if the

ploughs leave a two- or three-foot wall at the end of your driveway, they will come clean it up. Additionally, getting to those windrows is in the public works strategy, but most residents have removed them by the time the town gets there.

Finally, the mayor reminds us that in the end we are the kind of town where people take care of each other.

"We have individuals in this town [volunteering to help] seniors and people who are mobility challenged, helping residents that cannot help themselves." Dyck adds that if you know someone in town who could use some help with snow removal on their property, you can contact the Niverville Ministerial and they will help set up some assistance.

Dyck also wants people to know that the town is listening. They are always looking for ways to improve services, and direct resident feedback is a big part of that process.

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New Professor to Join Prov Psychology Faculty



Brianne Collins. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

In late January, Providence hired a new professor to join its Psychology faculty. Brianne Collins, who currently teaches at Ambrose University in Calgary, will begin her new position on July 1.

"I was drawn to the community and connection that is clearly a vital part of life at Providence," Collins

says. "I also resonated deeply with the emphasis on Christian formation in a liberal arts context."

Cameron McKenzie, Academic Dean of Providence, has described Collins as "the foremost Canadian scholar in her area of research: the history of psychosurgery." McKenzie notes that the psychology program is a popular area of study at Providence and that it often serves as a first step for students pursuing

a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology through the Providence Theological Seminary.

"I am delighted to join the faculty and community at Providence and contribute to the growing psychology program," says Collins. "I am excited to arrive and get to know students, faculty, and staff!"

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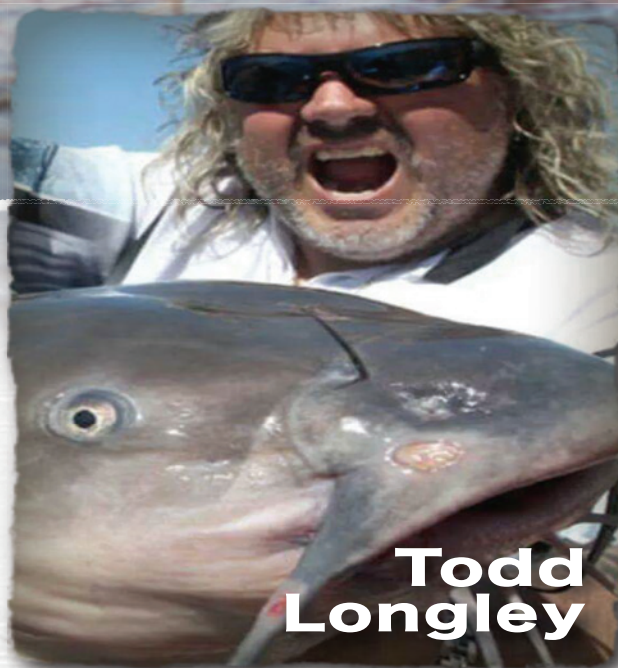
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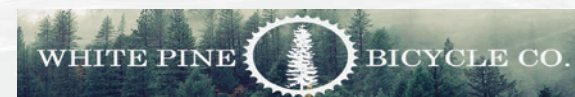
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Niverville Initiatives Await Annual Budget

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's town council has a lot on its plate for 2017, including important decisions about policing, Main Street traffic, and multiplex funding. These are reported elsewhere in this edition of The Citizen. Council is also moving forward on plans to extend the business park.

While these are among the highest priority upcoming initiatives, council's attention also extends to other areas of interest.

"The other big events would include the new well bank the town hopes to see construction begin on this

year," says Mayor Myron Dyck. "It is in the hands of the Manitoba Water Services board and Landmark Group, who are hired by the province and are working to see where the new well bank would be located and the costs that would be associated with it."

As reported in the fall, although the aquifers supplying Niverville's water is immeasurably large, the current wells are not in an ideal location. The filtration system can't keep up with the micro-sediment that gets drawn up with the water. In the fall, a study area was established east of Highway 59 and north of Highway 311, in the hopes of finding a better well site.

"There are public consultations throughout the process, with the end of the process occurring in summer/fall [of 2017]," says Dyck. "At that point, construction could begin later this year."

Other town priorities include the resumption of the sidewalk improvements begun in 2015 and put on hold due to the water main construction this past summer. Council has also targeted improvements to Hespeler Park and local infrastructure, which include improving drainage, roads, and the sewer system.

Dyck cautions that these plans are subject to the budget, and the reality is that many of

the town's large expenses for the coming year are not yet known. For example, policing decisions cannot be made until after the census results are published on February 8.

"Council has lots of ideas and lots of vision and dreams for the community," Dyck says. "However, these have to be prioritized, and that is based on knowing the monies available to council. We prefer to focus on the here and now and will need a couple months before we have our budget ready."

The budget is expected to be unveiled in April.

Multiplex Fundraising Update

By Heather Miller

The Friends of the Plex are hosting a number of fundraising opportunities for the coming month, and beyond.

On February 4, the Niverville Arena will host a skate-a-thon. The event, which kicks off at 2:15 and runs for two hours, is open to all ages and skill levels. Participants are asked to either collect pledges or bring donations to the arena. The theme is superheroes, although costumes are optional. Costumes

will be rewarded, however, as organizers will be giving out prizes for best costume and best group costume. The top-pledged skaters will also receive prizes.

Additionally, the arena is holding a hockey tournament February 19-20. Each game will last one hour and players are guaranteed three games. The cost is \$40 per player. Full equipment is optional, as a sponge puck will be used. Players must register in advance at the Niverville Recreation website (see below).

Tickets are currently on sale for the Black & Gold Community Auction and Dinner, to be held on May 5, 2017 at Evergreen Village. Guests will enjoy a dinner followed by an auction and dance. To purchase your tickets at the early bird price of \$65, see contact below.

A touch-a-truck event is planned for June 24. The Niverville Arena will be transformed into a mecca of vehicles, including construction trucks, emergency vehicles, and farming equipment. You

will be able to climb into and on these vehicles, as well as take pictures. The multiplex trailer will be onsite with a barbecue lunch.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To register for the hockey tournament, visit www.nivervillecreation.com.

■ To purchase auction and dinner tickets, contact multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca.

IN BRIEF



Kianne Prudhomme, Shelah Klassen, and the Hon. Kelvin Goertzen examine a mock-up of a diseased lung.

EVAN BRAUN

Health Minister Visits NCI

Manitoba's Health Minister, the Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, made a visit to Niverville Collegiate on January 19 to meet with the school's SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) team. The students had arranged booths in the gym for the annual health fair, each booth dedicated to exploring the dangers of smoking in creative ways.

Goertzen spoke with students individually and as a group as he toured the booths.

"People are going through cancer—lung cancers, other

cancers—as a result of their lifetime of smoking," Goertzen said to the assembled students. "It's absolutely devastating for them and their families. But what you're doing here is at the grassroots of it, because you are helping to stop young people, at your age and younger, from starting. We can spend all the money in the world on ads and all sorts of things on tobacco cases and cartons, but really what makes the most difference is young people talking to young people."

Police Academy for Seniors


Niverville's Community Resource Coordinator, Justina Penner, is organizing a series of classes to educate seniors on important subjects related to personal safety. The classes, called the Police Academy, will begin on February 15 and run for six consecutive Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The topics will include elder abuse, personal safety,

planning for the future, frauds and scams, safety aid, and medication safety. The classes will be available to all seniors 55 or older.

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■ If you are interested in attending, or seek further information, please contact Justina Penner at 204-388-9945.



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HSD Lobbying for New Niverville High School



Randy Dueck, Superintendent of the Hanover School Division.

HANOVER SCHOOL DIVISION

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

With the population rising in Niverville, talk continues to swirl around the need for a new school. Randy Dueck, Superintendent of the Hanover School Division, says that the division's top priority right now is a new Grades 9–12 school for the community. Last April, the division requested a new 400-seat high school.

In an ideal world, the construction of a high school would allow the current NCI to be converted into a middle school. Since last summer, an addition has already increased the capacity of the elementary school.

Dueck says that the division has been actively lobbying the province to green-light the new high school.

"HSD has followed standard protocol as set forth by the PSFB [Public Schools Finance Board] for requesting new facilities," says Dueck. "The requests were made as part of the five-year Capital Projects

Plan that is reviewed and submitted by HSD each year. That being said, our need for a new Grades 9–12 school in Niverville has been communicated in person to the Minister of Education. HSD has also met with both the Deputy Minister of Education and Chair of the Public Schools Finance Board."

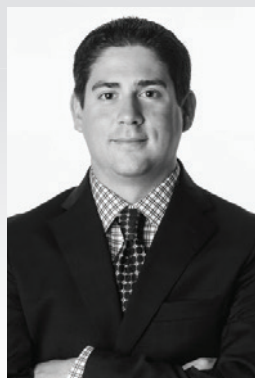
Last summer, HSD hired a consultant to investigate the demand for French immersion options in the division. Although Dueck says he has had preliminary conversations with the PSFB about French immersion, it's not a priority at the moment.

"Any request by HSD for French immersion programming would also require significant accommodating space within our schools," Dueck says. "Given the obvious and pressing need for more space in our schools, the Board of Trustees has chosen to put on hold any further assessment of, or request for, French immersion programming. The issue will be reviewed again by the board at a later date."



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Main Street Beautiful



Community. We all have our own idea about what that is. For some of us, it's the GPS location our car steers towards at the end of the workday. For others, it's the people who make up that place.

Whatever your view, communities happen because a collective of people choose to live in close proximity to amenities that meet their needs, and because they desire interaction with others on a deeper level than Facebook friendships and annual Christmas letters can provide.

Many facets comprise a great community, not the least of which is attractive surroundings. We all want an attractive home on an attractive street near attractive greenspaces. Realtors know this. They call it "curb appeal." It will sell a house faster than anything else. We're also more likely to shop in stores with attractive storefronts and tidy displays than those with low prices and low visual appeal. We're more likely to dine in restaurants with a lovely ambience than one with just an extensive menu.

In the book *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, author and rural development strategist Doug Griffiths, along with co-author Kelly Clemmer, says that people judge most everything by first impressions. It's not vain or shallow to do so. According to Griffiths and Clemmer, we are "genetically encoded" this way.

Though the book carries a facetious title, the authors' goal is to offer a reverse-psychology approach to pinpointing the shortcomings of one's community. One of the chapters is called "Don't Paint," and it specifically addresses a community's aesthetic appeal.

Griffiths and Clemmer say that the appearance of a community's main street, the hub of any town centre, can drive visitors and tourists away or it can draw them in. A lack of aesthetic appeal usually evokes negative emotions in visitors, preventing them from wanting to live, shop, or visit there.

The authors' honest analysis begs several questions. What do first-time visitors think when they visit your



SHUTTERSTOCK

town? Have you lived in a community for so many years that you've begun to overlook the fading paint, the broken signage, the sad storefronts, and the crumbling sidewalks? Do these same negative emotions begin to take hold of you as a resident of your community?

There's a reason that travel blogs and magazines host competitions for the most attractive main streets across North America. A beautiful main street not only pulls you in but keeps you there to enjoy the hustle and bustle, browse through shops and cafes, and spend your money. The first attraction built at Disney World in Florida was called Main Street USA. Walt Disney knew that people feel at home and welcome when they walk down a beautiful street. It evokes a sense of community pride.

Before we start pointing fingers at our local government for not spending money to spruce up Main Street, Griffiths and Clemmer say we need to look at the larger community for success. Municipal councils are given the enormous task of taxing but not overtaxing, spending but not overspending, and trying to wade through the priorities of thousands of residents. Stimulus for change often begins with our leaders, but the onus also falls on the community at large to plan, organize, and carry out a town's beautification.

"Any government could ride into a community on a white horse with a generic plan and some money to execute that plan, and there might be some short-term success within the community," write Griffiths and Clemmer. "However, if the community members themselves don't write their own plan for success, then they won't truly believe in it as a community and there won't be the commitment to follow through with

the plan."

Communities in Bloom (CIB) is a good example of a forward-thinking volunteer organization. Their efforts have brought improvements to communities across Canada and around the world. But it will take the combined efforts of businesses, individuals, and other volunteer groups to pitch in and help.

Mayor Myron Dyck of Niverville says his council has been working alongside the local chapter of CIB as well as the Chamber of Commerce. In December 2014, council spearheaded an information session with local businesspeople to get a feel for what was important to them in terms of Main Street revitalization. Among those suggestions were improvements to business facades, a facelift for the cemetery, improved sidewalks, flags or festive décor, a town square, upgrades to light standards, heritage buildings, and more trees, park benches, and decorative accessories.

Due to the original planning of Niverville's main street, some of these are outside council's control or too costly to consider, such as changing the location of the cemetery, school, feed mill, and homes that still front the street. But some things have already been done to improve the aesthetics, like assisting the Remembrance Day committee in improving the cenotaph and cleaning up the grounds at the cemetery. Council also requested that the Hanover School Division build a better-looking fence along Main Street. In 2015, council began the process of replacing the sidewalks, and in 2016 they installed new signage that points visitors to Niverville's parks and sports facilities.

Mayor Dyck says that the town will see new bike racks along Main Street in 2017. Council is also considering hiring

an arborist for tree care and will be working with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation to look at the feasibility of roundabouts at both Sixth Avenue and Krahn Road.

Councils can bring to bear other tools to initiate a community's creative participation in the process.

"[We] know of one community that developed tax incentives for businesses that invested to beautify their main street business assets," write Griffiths and Clemmer. "The program was a smashing success as most every business took advantage of the offer. They painted and built planters and otherwise improved the aesthetic of the street level and front space that greeted customers. The result was that throughout an entire summer there was an incredible increase in traffic of people from other towns who wanted to see what had been dubbed the prettiest main street in North America."

Shirley Hoult, chairperson for Niverville's chapter of CIB, says that their mandate is to foster civic pride, environmental responsibility, and beautification through community involvement with a focus on enhancing greenspaces in the community. The local committee makes efforts to include as many community organizations as possible.

"In 2016, we worked with and received support from the Remembrance Day committee, both the elementary and high school, the Niverville Heritage Centre and personal care home, the Growing Minds daycare, Main Street businesses, and the Niverville Chamber of Commerce," says Hoult. "I like to think we are inspiring positive changes in the community."

Since Niverville's CIB chapter began in 2015, the town has received two

annual visits from judges, and each year it received three points out of five for its efforts. In both years, the judges recommended that "the town should consider developing a long-term downtown improvement and development plan." Hoult and her co-chair, Annette Fast, have since approached council with ideas that their committee would like to move forward with in respect to Main Street beautification.

"We believe improvement of Main Street is key to enhancing the quality of life for residents, the sustainability of town growth, and creation of a more welcoming community, while helping to create a destination place," says Hoult. "The town's intent to replace the cobblestones with concrete [sidewalks] and add bicycle racks is a good start. Much could be done to create some uniqueness with improvement of businesses, through various signage perhaps reflecting on our agricultural history, building improvements, lighting, and the creation of outdoor meeting areas, historical signage and designations."

The CIB committee has already prepared a list of ideas they are hoping council will assist them in implementing in 2017. Those include the creation of a Main Street improvement master plan, a complete restoration of the cemetery, installation of historical plaques on Main Street businesses, mural paintings on buildings along the railway tracks, increased participation in weed control and tree-planting by Main Street businesses, and the creation of a welcome area at the town's entrances, incorporating signage, heritage perennials, and plant displays that reflect the community's agricultural importance.

"The only way ever to ensure the success of any community is for the community itself to decide it wants to be successful," say Griffiths and Clemmer. "Regardless of the situation, a community's future rests primarily within its own populace and their desire to achieve success."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Doug Griffiths and Kelly Clemmer, *13 Ways to Kill Your Community* (Calgary, AB: Frontenac House Ltd., 2010).

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

A - Niverville Gets New Water Main
5.9%

B - Big Policing Decisions on the Horizon
29.4%

C - Provincial Election 2016
2.9%

D - Niverville Faces Water Supply Questions
11.8%

E - School Division Grapples with Human Rights Complaint
26.5%

F - Daycare Crisis Brews, Waiting Lists Remain Long
2.9%

G - Fire Services Change for Many Rural Residents
20.6%

Niverville Couple Challenges Health Authority on Ambulance Policy

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

When Niverville resident Rob Byers awoke on September 20 with chest pain, he knew he needed to get to a hospital. Byers is 67, has heart disease, angina, a blockage in his heart, and high blood pressure. His wife Marie called 911 at about 7:15 a.m. Niverville Fire and an EMS crew arrived shortly thereafter.

"EMS did their checks, said things looked normal and stable, but [they] were still going to take me to St. Boniface," wrote Byers in a letter to Southern Health, our regional health authority, in the weeks following the episode. "Niverville Fire advised Marie to get dressed, as she would be going in the ambulance."

However, that's when the EMS crew stepped in and made a decision—a decision Byers characterises as devastating and arbitrary—which caused a great deal of anxiety.

"EMS stated that their policy would not allow Marie to come with us," Byers continued. "She would have to find her own way to the hospital."

This, Byers said, was flatly impossible. Marie has her own very serious health problems and was not able to drive. Not only that, but all of the couple's friends and family live in Winnipeg, so Marie didn't have anyone to give her a ride to the hospital.

Despite a lengthy face-off, the ambulance left Marie behind. Fortunately, she was able to find a neighbour to drive her to Winnipeg.



Marie and Rob Byers.

ROB BYERS

"They did not stop and consider us or our situation," Byers says of the hassle. "There was no discussion or questions from them at all, just an outright no and a refusal to take Marie as a passenger. In fact, there was no discussion among the two EMS personnel. It was just the one EMS person who made the decision and statement."

Byers argues that he and his wife serve as each other's advocate and power of attorney in the event of a medical emergencies. They are uniquely aware of each other's health history, medications, surgeries, and allergies.

"The current Non-Medical Escort policy, which has been in place since May 2016, enables our EMS staff to accommodate requests for accompaniment on a case-by-case basis," wrote Kathy McPhail, Chief Executive Officer of Southern Health, in reply to Byers' complaint. "Our EMS staff considered the

potential for an emergency or urgent situation that may involve emergent operation of the EMS vehicle and the potential exposure and subsequent impact such an event might have upon your wife at that. I am sure you will appreciate, an ambulance, unlike a facility, does not offer an environment that affords the ability to support a family member should they become overwhelmed by a situation."

Byers points out, however, that the EMS staff had found Byers to be stable before their departure. The ambulance didn't use lights or sirens on the trip to Winnipeg.

Following the incident, Byers followed up with several other health authorities to compare their policies. The EMS manager at Northern Health said they would have taken Marie under the circumstances presented. The EMS supervisor at Prairie Health indicated that they, too, would have taken Marie, describing

it as a simple "drop and go" situation. Rick Clear, Assistant Chief EMS for the Winnipeg Fire Department, also said his department would have accommodated Marie, as they often find it helpful to have family on hand.

Byers spoke next with Joy Pritchett-Sheridan, an EMS officer for Manitoba Health. "Joy said that she worked previously as the EMS Director of Southern Health, and their crews were told to take the spouse with them but ensure that they were told they would not be giving them a ride home," Byers says. "Joy also confirmed it was important due to the distance [in] rural areas to give a spouse or passenger a ride to the hospital as they may have no other way of getting there."

In a subsequent conversation, a representative from Southern Health cited liability issues for the need for their Non-Medical Escort policy. However, Byers was told by a different representative that Southern Health had adequate liability insurance for such a scenario.

A spokesperson for the province now says that a provincial group is in the process of reviewing all regional EMS transportation policies to ensure that all of Manitoba's health authorities are consistent with each other. In the meantime, Southern Health is sticking by their policy until a provincial standard is instituted.

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Heritage Centre Gears Up for Wedding Showcase

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Heritage Centre in Niverville will be hosting its annual Wedding Showcase on Saturday, February 25.

"We've done this wedding show the same sort of way every year," says Noella Andres, Media Director for the Heritage Centre. "This year, it's a bit different."

The main difference is that unlike previous years, the 2017 Showcase will feature outside vendors for the first time, in addition to highlighting all the amenities and services of the Heritage Centre's own event centre.

"This year, we're bringing in other vendors, preferred vendors," says Andres, referring to the



The Heritage Centre's atrium all lit up for a couple's big day. **RYAN B. PHOTOGRAPHY**

vendors who have close working relationships with the Heritage Centre. "All of those people will be at the wedding show and highlight the wedding trends."

This year's vendors include

Keeks Paper Co., Purple Peony, Planned Perfectly, Platinum Productions, Ryan Bergan Photography, among others.

Guests will be able to compare different table setups, floral

bouquets, and decoration schemes. Alareen Doherty, of the Winnipeg-based Buttercream by Alareen, will be on hand with cookies, cupcakes, and cake samples. In addition, organizers will be serving appetizers and Capo di Grande will operate an espresso cart. They'll even have a deejay in the house.

"People will have the opportunity to mingle with each other, meet our event manager, and meet our vendors in a casual, fun way," Andres says. "We will have a summer corner with lemonade stand, a winter wedding hot chocolate bar, and more."

Andres adds that the Heritage Centre was awarded for best booth at the Wonderful Wedding Show in Winnipeg this January, out of more than a thousand vendors.

IN BRIEF

Application Approved for Funeral Home and Crematorium

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Following the unanimous approval of a conditional use application on January 6, the door has been opened for a funeral home and crematorium to set up shop at 295 Main Street in Niverville.

"I had a funeral home operator come and view the space some time back," says Ray Dowse, spokesperson for the building's ownership group. "He liked the property a lot, as well as the building, and in conversation he mentioned that if the site had the option to do cremation, it would help the viability of a business plan for a funeral home."

It's not hard to see the appeal. The centrally located property offers 2.85 acres of land with plenty of grass and trees.

After speaking to the board members of several funeral homes, it became clear just how important it was to be able to operate a crematorium.

"A crematorium at this site not only has the potential to service the funeral home in Niverville, but potentially provide the service to other funeral homes in southeast and southcentral Manitoba, as well as Winnipeg, that currently do not do their own cremations," says Dowse. "We were pleased to find out that new technology in cremation offers next to no emissions."

Dowse says that the latest cremation machines come equipped with sensors that monitor emission and automatically shut the machinery down in the event of any noticeable emissions.

Although the approval of the conditional use application has created public interest, Dowse clarifies that they do not at this time have a commitment from any particular business.

"We are currently in conversation with several different businesses who have an interest in the property, but this is not a done deal," says Dowse. "We hope to have some more clarity on the property in the near future."

The economic benefits could be substantial. A funeral home and crematorium would create local jobs and provide a service that draws thousands of visitors to the community each year. The facility would also support local businesses like caterers and florists.

Tax Tips for Business Owners

By Claire Berard

Investors Group Financial Services

As an entrepreneur, operating your day-to-day business and planning for the future can consume a lot of your time. Paying less tax, although important, may not always be top of mind.

There's no time like the present to ensure you are taking full advantage of all the tax minimization strategies available to you. As tax season approaches, here are some tips to get you started.

1. Employ your spouse and children. Whether you carry on your business personally or through a corporation, you should consider paying a salary to your spouse and/or children. Paying a salary to

a spouse or child who pays tax at a lower rate than you can create net tax savings. But you must ensure that the salary is reasonable for the services they perform for the business.

2. Incorporate your business. If your business produces more profit than necessary to satisfy your personal cash flow needs, then incorporation could produce a sizeable tax deferral by accessing the lower small business tax rate for active income. This deferral benefit, however, is only available if the profits are left in the company. The longer the profits are left in the company, the larger the tax advantage.

3. Invest excess cash. Since the biggest bang for your tax buck is accomplished by leaving profits


in the company, the question becomes what to do with those profits. If paying down debt or reinvesting in the business isn't an option, then a smart investment plan is your best alternative. This strategy is most effective for active business income, which is subject to the small business deduction.

4. Plan for your retirement. Build your wealth with a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) or a tax-free savings account (TFSA). These strategies can help you achieve balance in your personal investment plan. An investment consultant can help you determine how your contributions will fit within this year's maximum contribution limits.

5. Prepare for the sale of your business. It's never too early to

plan your business exit strategy. If you're planning on selling all or part of your business at some point, confirm with your accountant whether you're eligible for the lifetime capital gain exemption and what steps need to be taken.

Unfortunately, we can't eliminate taxes. But we can use wise business practices to minimize or defer income taxes that would otherwise be payable. These are only a few of the tax-planning opportunities available to you as a business owner. By working with an investment consultant, you can get a complete tax check-up to help identify all the tax-planning strategies available to you.



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Community Builders: Betty Giesbrecht Leaving a Strong Legacy

By Clarence Braun

Betty Giesbrecht and her husband Harold moved to Niverville from Vermillion Bay, Ontario in 1951. Though born and raised in the Rosenfeld area, close to Altona, they had moved to Ontario due to Harold's work in the forestry industry. Betty had attended the Manitoba Teachers College in the late 1940s and taught school in Rosenfeld before her marriage to Harold in 1948.

Their move to Niverville led them to discover a community in which to raise a family, develop their business interests, and ultimately retire. Betty taught kindergarten. Harold assumed a sales position at Enns Garage, which was a John Deere and General Motors dealership.

Their first home in Niverville was a suite above Enns Garage, located across Main Street from the Niverville Credit Union. After a few more moves, they built a new home on the northeast corner of Second Avenue South and First Street South.

That's where my early memories of Harold and Betty begin.

In 1959, Betty was asked to assist the Niverville postmaster, Nick Dyck, with his duties after his wife fell ill. At the time, the post office was located in a house directly behind the current Chicken Chef. Betty soon assumed all the responsibilities of postmaster and her and Harold's home became the new site of the post office. Betty set up shop in their attached garage, where the post office remained until 1969, when a group of businesspeople called the Niverville Promoters constructed a new building on Main Street, where the post office still stands to this day. Betty served as the postmaster until January 10, 1989.

At the same time that Betty became postmaster, she also became Niverville's correspondent for *The Carillon*, a regional newspaper based in Steinbach, along with Anne Krahn. This was volunteer position



Lois Hunt with mother Betty Giesbrecht. OR Betty and Harold Giesbrecht.

LOIS HUNT

involved writing a host of interesting stories on a weekly basis. For 31 years, Betty faithfully compiled the news and told the Niverville story.

Betty was actively involved in the local Woman's Institute, taught 4H, and was a leader in the Explorers and Canada Girls in Training (CGIT), all of which were part of her lifelong commitment to the United Church. She also served on the executive of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce, was secretary treasurer of the Niverville Community Club, and planned bonspiels at the Niverville Curling Club for some 20 years. In addition, Betty served as a clinic registrar for Niverville Blood Donor Clinic for many years.

In the early days of the Niverville Fire Department, her phone received the first call to any fire. Later, she was upgraded to a red phone, which specifically indicated a fire when it rang. When she received a call, she immediately began calling the chain of volunteer firefighters to notify them of the emergency.

As a lifelong member of the Postmasters Heritage Club, she was passionate about her charitable work of knitting for the less fortunate.

Betty's love of sport was focused on baseball. She played from an early

age until after the birth of her children. She loved going to games and watching her children play as well.

Betty and Harold retired together in a condo on Fifth Avenue until her passing on December 29, 2014. She was predeceased by Harold on January 23, 2013.

We so often talk today about the question of significance, about making an impact on the world. Betty was not unlike many in her generation who struggled through challenging times but ended up leaving behind a strong legacy.

The people whose stories I have written about in this column over the last year and a half never really thought their stories needed to, or would be, told—but their stories and contributions are vitally important for us to read today. For those who actually make a difference, it's never about vanity or credit. They leave a legacy because they genuinely care as much for others as they do for themselves.

Betty was the mother to Ross and Carmen Giesbrecht and Lois and Harley Hunt. She left four grandchildren—Lesley, Robyn, Spencer, and Stacey—as well as eight great-grandchildren.

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Keeping the Vision Alive: The Olde Tyme Country Fair



EVAN
BRAUN

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The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair is one of the biggest and most anticipated summertime events in southeastern Manitoba. It wasn't always that way. In the early nineties, the community fair took place in late summer and mostly revolved around horticultural pursuits. Attendance had been dwindling for years.

Jeff Stott had a vision for something potentially much grander, and after considerable preparation, the Olde Tyme Country Fair premiered in 1996 with a brand new concept. The event, which is run entirely by volunteers and not directly affiliated with the town, has steadily grown in scale and ambition ever since. Indeed, the fair was nominated for the first time in 2016 for a Manitoba Country Music Award in the Event of the Year category.

The fair doesn't just appear Friday afternoon out of the ether. An extraordinary amount of manpower and planning goes into ensuring that the weekend goes off smoothly. In this issue of *The Citizen*, we'll examine what goes on behind the scenes—and what you can do to help safeguard the fair's future.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

For sake of reference, the first fair in 1996 cost approximately \$15,000. Although that event seemed to blow the doors off Main Street (at least that's how this writer remembers it), this is a rather quaint figure in retrospect. The 2016 fair cost in the neighbourhood of \$350,000.

Next, let's compare the costs



Fairgoers crowd Main Street Niverville.

✉ DUSTIN KRAHN

of getting through the gate. In 1996, fair entry was supposed to be \$2 per person. (In actuality it turned out to be free, due to a mistake made on the advertising.) Nowadays, the fee has risen to \$15. But the rising cost of entry certainly hasn't been proportional to the rising costs of operating the fair. The fair costs 23 times what it used to, but the price of admission has only increased 7.5 times from the early years.

"The gate does not cover the cost of this event," Jeff Stott explains. "Business, private, and multilevel government sponsorship is the absolute most important thing happening to ensure the cost of this event stays low. Without their support, which can be as much as \$150,000, the cost at the gate would certainly double."

On average, the fair

committee estimates that between 40 and 50 percent of the fair's costs are covered through sponsorships. Truly, the fair wouldn't be possible without support from local businesses, individuals, and government.

It is important to note that

"When you don't take care of things, they usually wither and die. Without more volunteers, so will our community fair. It has happened before."

Jeff Stott

Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair Committee

because the fair is not operated by the town, very few tax dollars help pay for it. Simply paying one's taxes does not support the fair.

So how far do all those \$15 gate fees actually go?

Stott gives us a detailed rundown. "We are required by

law to have a certain amount of security personnel and that works out to about \$2 of each fair pass. Portable washrooms cost another \$1 per pass. Fireworks cost another \$2. Infrastructure required to put on adult and children's shows cost another \$2 per pass. The acts

themselves cost \$5 per pass. These are the big [expenses]. We've just eaten up \$12 of the \$15 pass without the numerous smaller yet equally important costs."

Despite this, it's not uncommon to find locals who hem and haw over the cost of

bringing their families.

"If you are looking at it by a multiple of six because that's what your family is, we get that," Stott concedes. "But in the world of the six-person family, everything that is multiplied by that number gets to be a lot of money. The individual cost is outweighed greatly by the value."

Indeed, let's consider taking a trip to see a movie in Winnipeg. A two-way drive from Niverville to St. Vital Centre, assuming average minivan mileage in Manitoba (55 cents per kilometre, according to the CAA website), will cost \$39.60. General admission for two adults equals \$21, and for four kids under 13 another \$34. That's \$62.15 after tax. Three regular drinks and three regular popcorn will run you another \$27.12. So

for approximately 90 minutes of entertainment, a family of six pays \$128.87—or \$101.75, if you leave off concessions. A family of six can get into the fair for \$90 and enjoy an entire day of activities. No matter how you cut it, it's a better deal.

"\$15 to attend an event like ours is cheap," Stott insists.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2017?

The fair committee is constantly looking for ways to deliver more bang for their buck. Although no announcements about music acts are ready to be made ("We could tell you who and what they are," says Stott, "but then you know what we would have to do to you"), for the first time this year the committee is partnering with Dauphin Country Fest to ensure that they can choose from the best acts available. It's both a practical and economical solution to keep costs under control.

But we'll just have to wait and see which performers they have in mind.

Stott says that another of the committee's goals is to showcase more local talent. "Over the years, we have had many incredible acts, but one thing has remained consistent: like children enjoy the wrapping paper and boxes at Christmas more than the presents, people love to see their friends and neighbours put on a show."

Stott reminds us that well-received acts like the flaming high tower dive and the wakeboarders were all first-of-their-kind performances in Canada. Without offering specifics, he teases that 2017 will be no different in terms of innovation.

He adds that Wondershows

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isn't going anywhere.

"Wondershow is a partner in fun at our fair," Stott says. "They are the best group we could have possibly had join our fair and provide thrills. But they are a private entity. They set their prices, plan their layout, and do a great job. They are fantastic to our community, but they are their own show."

THE LICENSED CONCERT AREA

For the first time last year, the fair committee licensed the concert area so that fairgoers on Saturday night could enjoy a few drinks while taking in the show. Many have asked how this experiment turned out and whether it will be a recurring feature of future events.

"The licensing of the concert area has proved to be less trouble and more positive than we expected," Stott says. "We don't see that getting smaller. It was fairly easy to manage, because we were uber-prepared and it has no financial downside. We will certainly offer it again if the town and province support us and if people respect it."



Volunteers were the driving force behind the licenced concert area.

BRIGITTE SIMARD

fireworks were set off from the golf course. In 2016, the show launched from north of Third Street North, with large trees obscuring the view.

The fair committee isn't happy about it either.

"The fireworks that were the Friday night anchor have been severely handcuffed due to new regulations and guidelines, and that has really hurt us," says Stott. "The committee is totally disillusioned with any location for a fireworks show

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The fair has always depended on an army of volunteers, from the planning stages to setting up, making sure every aspect of the weekend runs smoothly, and then cleaning up afterward. It can be a thankless job, but the fair would collapse without these tireless contributions.

"First we have planning," Stott begins. "This is done by a group of about a dozen people. We get the job done, but would prefer to have twice as many heads and ideas around the table. Second, we have setup. This takes about a hundred people, minimum, to get it all done in the short window that the school division, highways department, and town allows us to take over the community. We have never had too many hands and look forward to having more. Third, operating the event. Ticket booths, food prep and serving, infrastructure setup, scheduling, and disaster control, to name a few... this takes a couple hundred people each day. We never have enough anymore and there is always some good citizen doing the work of two. Fourth, cleaning and tear-down. For such a huge crowd in a small area, the mess is very manageable when everyone uses the refuse and recycle bins. And the stars of the show, the churches of Niverville, organize a mass cleanup and tear-down each evening and remind us what many hands can do together."

Stott adds that the committee is looking for volunteers in all four of these categories—and they're looking for participation from all demographics of the community. Whether young and old, newcomer or long-time resident, the fair belongs to everyone.

"If you are incredibly philanthropic or know how to make people realize they are,

or should be, we need you," he says. "If you don't take no for an answer and think that if we all do a little a lot will get done, ditto. If you know how to make people laugh, know who else can, or can plan an event that is funny and will keep people entertained, you're hired. If you think the present committee is doing a terrible job and want to get rid of them, do something about it. If you think they are doing a fantastic job and want to join them, or that there is just too few of them and want to grab the rope and pull, you're just the person we're looking for."

Volunteering for the fair means truly volunteering—there are no perks or pay, and every volunteer and committee member pays to get into the fair just like everyone else. Also, volunteers tend to be older. But Stott is hoping that younger people will take ownership of the fair in the coming years and get involved to make sure the Old Tyme Country Fair becomes a generational event.

"If you do nothing, that's exactly what you'll eventually get," Stott says. "Because when you don't take care of things, they usually wither and die. Without more volunteers, so will our community fair. It has happened before."

If you're interested in volunteering to help ensure that the fair remains a going concern, the committee is hosting an informational open house on Wednesday, February 8, at 8:00 p.m. at Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern.

"We are hoping to attract more committee members and create interest and awareness," Stott says of the open house, which he says will be casual. "There will be no electing, nominating, or other strong-arm tactics applied."



OPEN HOUSE

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair is hosting an Open House on February 8, at 8:00 p.m. at Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern. We encourage you to stop by and learn a little bit about our committee and your fair!

- Who are we?
- How is the Fair planned, funded and operated.
- What are our biggest struggles?
- What does the future look like?
- Can we improve? Share your ideas with us!

If you are unable to attend, but would still be interested in learning more, please contact us at info@nivervillefair.com



Logistics have forced the committee to look for alternate fireworks sites.

DUSTIN KRAHN

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE FIREWORKS?

For years, Friday night of the fair ended with blackout fireworks set off from the elementary school grounds, within spitting distance of the expectant crowd. Unfortunately, logistics have forced the committee in recent years to look for alternate sites. In 2015, the

other than the school grounds. The only way to experience a good show is up close like we used to do it. It is not, and was not, our choice to change location of the fireworks. There are industry rules and provincial guidelines to follow and this is what caused the change. We are currently trying to strike a new deal that would return the show to where it belongs."

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Bristal Opens Niverville Office, Offers Dry Cleaning



Emanuel Toews at Bristal's new head office..

EVAN BRAUN

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Bristal Hauling has moved their head office from Niverville's industrial park further into town.

"This is a new location," says

Emanuel Toews, Safety Manager and Marketing Associate for Bristal. He clarifies that they have always been located in the Niverville area and continue to operate their transfer station on Sixth Avenue.

The head office move comes

with an added benefit for Niverville residents: Bristal's in-town location also doubles as a drop-off location for Steinbach Dry Cleaners. In fact, the two companies now have a shared ownership under Willy Toews.

"A business [opportunity] came

forward to buy both PurPlus Dry Cleaners and Steinbach Dry Cleaners, both located in Steinbach," says Toews. "We took this leap into a new industry and decided to open a drop-off location in Niverville as we have operations already located in town though Bristal."

The address of the new office is Unit B, 10 Cedar Drive and the hours are 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

"We are also a J.R. Watkins Naturals dealer," Toews adds. J.R. Watkins supplies a wide variety of bath and body, gourmet, health, and homecare products made from natural ingredients.

The Niverville transfer station is open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Garbage is not accepted at the head office on Cedar Drive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.bristalhauling.ca
- www.steinbachdrycleaners.ca
- www.jrwatkins.com

IN BRIEF

Professor Wins Award for Doctoral Thesis

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

An associate professor of biology at Providence University College, Dr. Rebecca Dielschneider, was awarded the Simon and Sarah Israel's Thesis Prize earlier this month for her doctoral thesis, entitled "Targeting Susceptible Signaling Pathways in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia." The annual prize, in the amount of \$2,000, is presented to a graduate student at the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology.

"I discovered weaknesses of human leukemia cells and tested innovative therapies that take advantage of those weaknesses," Dielschneider says, describing the contents of her thesis. Much of her work has already been published in prestigious journals such as *Leukemia*.

Dielschneider also won BIOTEC Canada's Gold Leaf Award for Biotechnology Research in 2015, in addition to claiming an Academic Excellence Award in Immunology from the University of Manitoba. In March 2016, she was named to the CBC's Manitoba Future 40-Under-40 list. She has been teaching at Providence since September.

St. Adolphe Students to Participate in Exchange Program

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For the first time in many years, École St. Adolphe School is participating in a student exchange program. Nine Grades 7–8 students will be travelling to Quebec from February 6–13.

"École St. Norbert Immersion has been doing student exchanges for years," says Francine Lepage-Lemoine,

principal of École St. Norbert Immersion. "It is usually open to Grades 7–8 students who wish to participate. This year I was accepted by the YMCA for a group of 30 and only got 21 students who registered. Therefore, I reached out to École St. Adolphe School to see if nine of their Grade 7–8 French immersion students wanted to participate."

The students' destination is

St-Augustin-des-Desmaures, a city of 18,000 in central Quebec. The community is located just a few kilometres east of Quebec City on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

Lepage-Lemoine concedes that organizing these exchanges takes a lot of work pre- and post-visit, but that it's well worth the effort. "When the students come to visit our wonderful province, they want the

English language experience. Every day we go on outings, showcasing the many features of our province, and when we go to Quebec it's the same idea, except in French."

While the Manitoba students are leaving for Quebec in February, the Quebec students won't be visiting Manitoba until the springtime. They are scheduled to arrive on April 24 and stay until May 1.

"Student exchanges provide students the opportunity to discover Canadian heritage, culture, and language from another part of the country," says Lepage-Lemoine of the character-building experience. "Students are billeted in homes where inevitably they must practice their French-speaking skills. Nothing more authentic than that! For some of these students, it will be their first

time away from home and/or taking a plane. The benefits to travelling with students who are experiencing similar situations is that they can empathize with each other and grow and learn from the experience together."

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Commentary

Are We Building Walls?

By Greg Fehr

In today's world of uncertainty and turmoil, it would seem we are past the age of innocence. If you read and listen to both conventional and social media, you may have noticed that this has united many people. In others it has sparked fear, and not only fear but anger, frustration, and an alarming level of intolerance.

Is the world today so different from the past? If you compare it to the relative peace and prosperity we've enjoyed in the Western world through much of the last quarter-century, then perhaps it is. Historically, we have faced challenges and found our way through them, although we came out different at the end, for better or worse. For example, the FLQ crisis of the 1970s, and the government's reaction to it, had much of Canada worried about the core fabric of our confederation. It brought some underlying frustrations to the surface. These frustrations had to be dealt with and our confederation has been strengthened because of it.

As the saying goes, "Nothing wagered, nothing gained." We tolerate risk every day. Normally we look at the world pragmatically and take reasonable risks without worrying about all the worst-case scenarios and what-ifs. But when we are bombarded with bad news and extremes, we can become afraid—and as our fear grows, we take fewer risks. This is self-preservation. However, by protecting



ADOBE STOCK

ourselves and taking fewer risks, we can limit all sorts of positive outcomes.

We don't have to face these tough questions in times of peace. We skip happily and carefree through the world without fear. In municipal politics, we see very little public engagement when the local economy is doing well. At the height of prosperity and growth, most members of the public remain indifferent. Fast-forward to a time of challenged real estate markets, additional tax pressure, and elevated crime, and suddenly public engagement hits an all-time

high.

It is important to remember that increased public engagement—for example, on the subjects of terrorism, questionable leadership, etc.—is not necessarily the result of people changing their attitudes. It can just as easily be the result of their fear driving them to selfishness, all in the name of protection.

I would suggest, though, that while fear is negative, becoming more engaged is positive. I will take engagement above indifference regardless of our disagreements—with a few exceptions.

The first exception is for those

who choose an extreme position on any issue, either arguing from the moral high ground or shaming those who have any hesitation, or those pessimists who do nothing but build walls around themselves and instill additional fear in others. Very few issues are ever simple enough to have a black-and-white answer, so a moderate and calculated approach is usually the best one.

The second exception is reserved for those who seek to preserve themselves through attacking people personally rather than debating their ideology. Such arrogance also builds walls, not bridges of discussion.

When I talk of "those," I speak of individuals, the media, and world leaders. We see the actions of our leaders through policy and the bias of media through their reporting. These are difficult to control. (Although you can make your voice heard by voting, either on the ballot or with your wallet.) What we can control is ourselves. How are we responding and commenting to others, in person and on social media? Are we keeping it respectful and opening up further dialogue? Or are we building walls?

The challenges we face today will be resolved in one form or another. Having productive conversations on our diverse opinions will always produce the best solutions. But most importantly, such conversations will leave the fewest relationship scars when the dust settles.

Look on the Bright Side: Patience Is a Virtue

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Many of us have thoughtfully reflected upon what dreams and desires we would like to experience in this new year. It's natural to desire positive change, but if you're at all like me, you need to see immediate results if you're going to stay the course. Yet my unwillingness to "patiently wait" has prevented many of my desires from coming to fruition.

When I was a little girl, I loved the flowers in my grandma's garden. Their heady aroma would lure me into her backyard where I would sit and contentedly watch the fat bumblebees buzz around her peonies, daisies, and roses.

One day, she told me I could cut a few to take home. I was so excited! She placed them in a vase with water and sent me on my way. The minute I got home, I took the vase out to the side of our house where there was a patch of mud and began to dig little holes. I was excited to have a garden of my own. Needless to say, I was deeply disappointed when my mom came out and explained that this process wasn't going to work. She offered to help me plant seeds, but as soon as I learned I would have to wait a long time for the flowers to grow, I lost interest.

We can take our cue from nature in understanding the importance of patience. All life must go through a planting and gestation period. Seeds are planted in darkness, hidden under the soil or in the safety of a mother's womb. Even the caterpillar must succumb to a time of silent darkness, wrapped in its chrysalis in order for its intended transformation to occur.

That seeming lack of inactivity can at times be discouraging.

Evangelical speaker Christine Caine once said, "Sometimes when you are in a dark place, you think you have been buried, when in fact you have been planted!" This quote has encouraged me to stay in the game.

Just as nature trusts the growing process, so must we. Our dreams are never buried but planted, protected, and nurtured. We must patiently wait for them to grow, trusting that they will see the light of day at the appointed time.

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Sports & Recreation

Camaraderie Before Competition

Curling is one of Niverville's oldest pastimes, with organized games going back to the mid-1950s. Now, in an aging facility and facing unique challenges, the Niverville Curling Club is entering a renaissance period.

By Eric Peterson

Back before there was a Tim Hortons in Niverville. Before there was a sushi restaurant. Before there were estates off Fifth Avenue. Before you'd even recognize the place if you weren't there to see it. Before the commuters and growing pains, when Niverville was a different town in a different era, there was the Niverville Curling Club. It's still here now, and it hasn't changed as much as everything around it.

In some ways that's good, and in some ways not so much.

Before there was the curling club that came before almost everything else, there was the idea of the curling club. Not surprisingly, many of the names who shared the idea and built the club are the same ones who built the town it's in. And though very few of them are left to tell the tale, their sons and daughters and grandchildren are.

Margaret Stott's father was named Robert Wallace, and if there's a great-grandfather of curling in Niverville, it was her dad.

"We didn't have a curling rink in town," begins Margaret. "All the other towns around us were getting curling rinks but nobody in town knew much about curling. My dad was one and another was a man named John Enns."

She's telling us about days that closely followed the Second World War, but as she's recalling these events, and especially the people, it's clear her memories are vivid. Ask anybody who knows and



John N. Kehler, Jack Stott, Harold Giesbrecht, and Ed P. Friesen.

MARGARET STOTT

they'll tell you that if Niverville has an unofficial historian, it's Margaret Stott.

Before he helped build a curling rink in Niverville, Robert Wallace had been a different kind of athlete in his youth.

"He was a pole-vaulter and high-jumper," says Margaret. "He competed all around Western Canada and was very good."

The community built the first rink where the Niverville Community Fellowship Church now sits on Third Street South. As most things were back then, it was a do-it-yourself project that involved a community of helpers. Local

shopkeepers provided the lumber. Whether they were actually paid, nobody seems to remember. Then the men of the town built the rafters in a nearby barn. Most certainly they were not paid, although the people who took care of the rink sometimes were paid in shares.

So it was that in 1953, the Town of Niverville became home to a brand-new curling club featuring three gleaming sheets of ice under the luxury of a roof.

Margaret recalls that her father had curled with her brothers in Otterburne and won the trophy three years in

a row. So when it came time to bring the roaring game to the people of Niverville, Robert Wallace became not just a rink builder but a teacher of sorts.

The curling rink was a hit from the beginning.

"It was the big thing in winter. Curling was what you heard," she says. "We'd put on bonspiels and people would come from all over."

Not that running a curling rink in the frozen prairies of the mid-1950s was easy. In order to keep the ice flooded, somebody had to take a team of horses and a bunch of empty tanks to a nearby farm to retrieve water. They would



Second Avenue South, looking northeast at Niverville's first curling rink. This site is now home to the Niverville Community Fellowship Church. MARGARET STOTT

bring the water to the rink, pour it on the ice, and then go back for more.

And there were other challenges.

"The roads weren't so good," Margaret adds. "Sometimes you would get to the game and not be able to get back home again."

Margaret points out that it wasn't just the men of town who got in on the action. The women curled, too, though she had to wait for her children to get a bit older before she could start skipping her own team.

One of her father's curling teammates was Margaret's late husband, Jack Stott.

"My husband became a good curler," says Margaret. "He curled with my dad and they won a few contests."

Jack Stott's name runs through this story from beginning to end. He curled in the original rink with his father-in-law. He helped maintain that rink for years with his contemporaries, and later his children. He was a big part of getting the current rink built

and keeping the doors open. His sons have followed in his footsteps and are at the heart of the curling community in this town. His grandchildren as well. The name Stott is all over the trophies they keep in the club. Indeed, there probably aren't many stories you could tell about the history of Niverville without including the legacy of Jack Stott. But if you're talking about curling around here, Jack's name is written especially large.

Jack's son Kevin remembers his dad taking him and his brother Jeff to the old rink when he was about 14. He figures that puts him at about 44 years and counting when it comes to involvement with curling in Niverville. He started helping with the ice when he was 18, and he still does it today. He's held formal titles like Club President and performed about a million informal jobs around the rink.

Kevin learned many things from his dad. About farming and curling, no doubt. But about community, too.

"One thing I always remember my dad said," recalls Kevin, "is if you want something, don't wait for someone else to go build it for you. Go out and build it yourself."

So when a curling rink built in 1953 no longer met the town's needs, Jack Stott and his ilk went out and got a new one built. And that brings us to the building which is still home to the Niverville Curling Club today. The "new rink" opened in 1978.

The club, situated at the north end of the hockey arena parking lot (in case you've never been there) started off as a co-op endeavour. Kevin Stott remembers the names of people who played big roles in those early years of the new club.

"My brother Gary was President. My dad was on the committee. There was Jim Leoppky, Art Krahn, Doug Regeir, George Sawatzky." He pauses before adding, "But you better add in that's only the ones I can remember right now."

The new rink, like the old one, made an impact right away. The grand opening bonspiel saw 60 teams entered. And the club again became a social hub for the people of the town.

The rink originally featured four sheets of ice—a setup Kevin calls "a little crowded." So soon it became a three-sheet facility.

"Back in the day, you either curled or you played hockey," Kevin says. "We had a great league. We had women's, mixed, and men's leagues."

The 1980s brought a new set of challenges. The building had a large mortgage on it and rising interest rates made for some unsettling times for the directors.

"They did the best they could. It took a lot of time and also worked on them psychologically," says Kevin. "I remember them raffling off a brand-new Ford as a fundraiser."

Some of the board of directors were losing interest, and the future of the club was put in doubt. Eventually the Town of Niverville bought the club and the members-only days came to an end.

As times have changed, so have the challenges facing the club. It's now a lot easier to spend a winter's evening in Winnipeg, and even locally there's a lot more to do.

"It used to be baseball, hockey, and curling," Kevin points out. "Now school sports are way bigger than they used to be. We have dance, ballet, and more than 400 kids playing soccer. There's way more to do in town and curling is competing with more than it used to."

Still, the club continues to flourish and offers curlers a unique sort of game.

"It's one of the only natural ice curling clubs still in use today," Kevin says. "It's a different curling



February 4, 1978. Breaking ground for the current Niverville Curling Rink. John Muir, Glen Wilson, Jack Stott, Doug Regeir, Bill Gray, Gil Wiebe, Jake Epp, Bob Banman, Bob Anderson, Wendy Grant, Jim Leppky, Gary Stott, George Sawatzky, and Gerald Enns.

experience."

Negative ice describes a condition in which the player curls the stone in the opposite direction in which the stone is expected to curve. So, for example, if the ice causes all stones to drift sharply to the right, a skip may not only put the broom down far left of the desired location but ask that the stone be curled to the left as well. Negative ice is complicated, and not common. It's a trademark of the Niverville Curling Club.

Because of this, Kevin says there are three teams on the ice every game: "Your team, my team, and the ice conditions."

Brian Harder has been curling in Niverville for five years. Before that, he curled in Winnipeg. He calls it a different game out here.

"It's really different getting used to the natural ice instead of the artificial ice," Harder says. Even five years later, he says he's still learning the ice. "You can really tell the guys who have played there for more than 10 years. They're really good at reading the ice."

Kevin Stott, who has way more than 10 years of experience, doesn't



The Niverville Curling Club's first women's league, 1979. Joan Wiebe, Edna Kaita, Janice Keam, Margaret Stott, Eleanor Sprague, Arlene Hykaway, Pat Carriere, Elaine Krahn, Louise Hiebert, and Deanna Sawatzky.

great-grandson and Margaret Stott's grandson. He's also the past President of the Niverville Curling Club. Like most involved, he's come to take a perverse pleasure in the ice conditions at his own rink.

"It makes it fun," he says with enthusiasm before adding more quietly, "It can be frustrating, though, if you aren't used to it."

"Do you attract more curlers because you have a modern facility or do you only get a better building if you have more curlers? It's hard to see the future of curling in this building."

Dustin Krahn
Niverville Curling Club Past President

disagree. He tells the story of playing an out-of-town bonspiel on a sheet with a slight negative curl. When their opponents expressed admiration for how well the Niverville rink was handling the unusual conditions, Kevin and his teammates just laughed.

"This isn't negative ice," Kevin told his counterpart. "This only curled a few inches. Come to our rink and I'll show you negative ice."

Dustin Krahn is Robert Wallace's

Krahn is part of a group that has helped the club prosper in recent winters. In early January, a new curling season begins in the old rink. The current Club President is Joel Martens, and while there is some debate about whether or not he's ever won the club championship, there's no doubt about the new enthusiasm around the rink.

"About six or seven years ago, we made a commitment to get bigger and better," Martens says.

"We wanted to get more teams and really make a go of it."

The club, with the help of the town's Recreation Director, started applying for grants. That's led to new scoreboards, rings, matting, bumpers, brooms, and even renovated bathrooms.

"Things have definitely improved from 10 years ago," says Krahn. "We had a smaller committee and nobody had time for things like bonspiels and banquets."

This year the club will host leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. They'll have 18 teams in all. Even a waiting list.

Perhaps most importantly, one of those grants brought the club a new set of junior curling rocks. Martens, his wife Heather, and others will be teaching the next generation of Niverville curlers the game. Just as Robert Wallace did more than 60 years ago.

"I have parents come up to me and say they're blown away by how much the kids learn and know about curling by the time they're done," says Martens.

(continued on page 18)

EVENT GUIDE

Tuff-n-up Bootcamp

Mondays/Wednesdays,
January 9–February 15, 6:30 p.m.
Niverville, South End of Arena, \$15 (drop-in)

Yoga: Flow & Yin

Mondays, January 9–February 27
Flow, 7:00 p.m. Yin, 8:15 p.m.
Niverville Curling Rink Basement, \$15 (drop-in)

Baby & Tot Gymnastics

Thursdays, January 12–March 23
Tot Gymnastics - 11:15 a.m., \$12 (drop-in)
Kinder Gymnastics - 12:15 p.m., \$12 (drop-in)
Niverville, South End of Arena

Niverville Hockey Tournament

(Multiplex Fundraiser)
February 19–20, \$40/individual, Niverville Arena.

Couples Curling

Friday, February 17
Contact: info@nivervillecurlingclub.com

Actif Epica (Winter Race)

Saturday, February 18
The race will pass through Niverville and St. Adolphe via the Crow Wing Trail.

Ritchot Senior Services (Cardio Fit)

Cardio Fit: Mondays, February 6–27, 9:30 a.m.
Chair Fit: Mondays, February 6–27, 11:00 a.m.
Yoga: Wednesdays, February 1–22, 1:00 p.m.
Muscle Fit: Thursdays, February 2–23, 9:30 a.m.
Art Classes: Tuesdays, February 7–28, 7:00 p.m.
Alzheimer's Touch Quilts: Tuesdays, starting February 8, 10:00 a.m.
457 Main Street, St. Adolphe.

Seniors Indoor Walking

Tuesdays, 7:30–8:30. Wednesdays, 6:45–7:45.
St. Adolphe School Gym

St. Adolphe Pickle Ball

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

Club Amical Lunches & Bingo

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.
344 Main Street, St. Adolphe

Niverville Hockey Bench League (18+)

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

Ste. Agathe Ladies Rec Hockey

Sundays, 6:45 p.m., Ste Agathe Arena

Athena Women's Hockey

Sundays, 7:45 p.m., St. Adolphe Arena

Public Skating (Niverville)

Fridays, 4:15–5:15.
Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–12:00
Niverville Arena

Sticks & Pucks (Niverville)

Fridays, 3:30–4:15.
Saturdays & Sundays, 12:15–1:00 p.m.
Niverville Arena

Public Skating (St. Adolphe)

Sundays, 5:30–6:15 p.m.
St. Adolphe Arena

Free Skate (Île-des-Chênes)

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

Shinny

Mondays, 3:30–4:15 p.m. Tuesdays 3:30–4:45, p.m.
Île-des-Chênes Arena

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.

St. Adolphe Curling Mixed Bonspiel

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For More Information:

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Send your event listing to:

■ ctodd@nivillercitizen.com

(continued from page 17)

For all involved, its camaraderie before competition.

Harder says he's enjoyed being able to curl without leaving town. "We just got four local guys together. Two of them were brand new to curling and we just picked a night that worked for everyone. It's neat playing with and against people you recognize from in town."

Kevin Stott says that after games, all the teams sit together at a common table enjoying their post-game beverages. And the talk is rarely about curling. The club has teams from Rosenort and Winnipeg, and all cite the spirit and sportsmanship of the local rink as their reason for continuing to curl in Niverville.

Time waits for no man, they say. So it stands to reason that it won't sit idle for recreational facilities either. If a town grows and changes, so must its facilities. You probably know about the proposed multiplex. You probably know about the indoor soccer field and its changing rooms and all its bells and whistles. You probably know that the old arena has been found to be inadequate.



In 2011, the Niverville Curling Club was one of ten clubs across Canada to win Monsanto's Imagine A Better House contest. Andrew Kaminsky from Monsanto presents the prize to Dustin Krahn (past president), Heather Martens, Donna Watts (former Recreation Director), Joel Martens (current president), John Falk (former town councillor), John Stott, and Marc Loeppky. Missing: Kevin Stott.

And maybe you've noticed that none of those beautiful artist's renderings of the multiplex include a new place to curl.

"[It's] disappointing," Krahn says while standing in the foyer of the old barn on a chilly late December afternoon. "We have built it up for the last 20 years. It's a chicken and egg thing. Do you attract more curlers because you have a

modern facility or do you only get a better building if you have more curlers?" He pauses. "It's hard to see the future of curling in this building."

Still, the curling season is short when you play on natural ice and there's no time to waste worrying about the future. On this day, Krahn, Martens, and others are laying down logos under the ice. Kevin will join

them in a few hours. They'll be back day after day until the season ends when the first thaws of spring begin. They may fit in the league playoffs, or they may have to move to St. Adolphe if it gets too warm too quickly.

All they know for sure is that it's curling season, and if you want to have curling in a town like this, sometimes you just have to do the work yourself.

IN BRIEF

Annual Carnival Descends on St. Adolphe

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

The St. Adolphe Winter Carnival, which has been a feature of the community for almost 40 years, took place over the last weekend of January in the community club.

Friday night kicked off with a kids dance for children up to Grade Four, followed by a youth dance for those in Grades Five to Nine. Saturday was filled with carnival games, a cribbage tournament, a hockey game played in the memory of Taylor Christensen, and a riot.

What's a riot? "It's an event for Grades Four to Eight with a variety of team-building games," says Nicole Lindblom, the carnival coordinator. The riot was introduced last year and it was so popular that organizers brought it back. "The kids had a blast."

Saturday evening ended

with the annual social in Pioneer Hall. Sunday morning cooled down with the Family Funspiel at the Curling Club, and family bingo.

"This was a big fundraiser, as well as a community-building weekend," says Lindholm. "Everything ran smoothly. Lots of people stepped up and helped out in many different ways from brainstorming, booking deejays and bouncers, running errands, shopping, donating items, selling tickets, and working it throughout the weekend. It makes coordinating the carnival so much easier!"

Lindholm adds that each St. Adolphe Hawks hockey team designates one parent to assist in organizing one event for the weekend, and minor hockey parents are expected to volunteer.

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Caught Between the Pipes

By Tim Hiebert

The Winnipeg Jets/Atlanta Thrashers franchise has never had consistent goaltending. Ondrej Pavelec is the current franchise leader in games played (375), wins (150), losses (156), overtime/shootout losses (47), and shutouts (17). He also has a 0.907 save percentage and 2.86 goals against average for his career. All of these numbers scream “mediocre,” yet he’s been relied upon as the number one goalie for years.

That all changed last fall when Pavelec was placed on waivers at the end of training camp and demoted to the Manitoba Moose. Even though he had one more year on his contract, the team had finally seen enough and was ready to move on.

With Pavelec playing in the minors, Connor Hellebuyck and Michael Hutchinson were given the opportunity to step into bigger roles. Neither have performed as well as hoped, with the team giving up more goals per game this year than any other year since relocating

to Winnipeg.

Hutchinson has been especially disappointing. During the 2014–15 season, he went 21–10–5 while splitting duties with Pavelec. He posted a 0.914 save percentage and 2.39 goals against average and was a big reason the team made the playoffs. The last two seasons have seen a serious digression. He’s won only four of his 15 starts while posting a 0.894 save percentage and 3.23 goals against average. A strong argument could be made that he’s the worst goalie in the league.

Connor Hellebuyck has seen a lot more success this season, and as a result has seen a lot more playing time. Hellebuyck has posted a respectable record of 17–13–1 with a 0.908 save percentage and 2.82 goals against average. These numbers are still well below league average, but at least he’s giving his team a chance on most nights. Things were looking up after a 2–0 shutout against Calgary on January 9, but he gave up six goals on 13 shots in the next two games versus Montreal and Arizona and didn’t make it out of the first period in either game.

The coaching staff decided to go another route after those poor efforts, resulting in Ondrej Pavelec being summoned back from the minors. The move to call upon the veteran Pavelec was made in an effort to stop the bleeding after the team lost five of six games. It sort of worked. The team won its first two games with Pavelec back in net, but it was more due to solid goal-scoring than good goaltending.

Pavelec got two more starts (both losses) before Hellebuyck finally got a chance to get back into action against Chicago on January 26. Hellebuyck had a very strong 38-save performance in his return to action as the Jets beat the Blackhawks for the fourth time in four tries this season. Hellebuyck has played in all four games versus Chicago this year and has a sparkling 0.961 save percentage and 1.25 goals against average in those matchups.

With the win in Chicago, the Jets enter the all-star break on a small roll. It should be interesting to see how long they keep three goalies on their active roster. Hutchinson has

watched the past five games from the press box and has been the odd man out since Pavelec was recalled. It seems obvious that the team is ready to move on from Pavelec, so there isn’t much use in keeping him around at the NHL level for the rest of the season. They’ll most likely go back to the conventional two-goalie approach soon; it’s just a matter of whether they send Pavelec back or let Hutchinson have some time with the Moose.

Regardless of that decision, Connor Hellebuyck needs to get the majority of starts down the stretch. He’s certainly the best option they have at the moment, and I believe they still think he has the ability to be an above-average NHL goalie in the near future. At 23, Hellebuyck still has plenty of time to prove he can be an elite goaltender. All goalies go through tough stretches; it’s how they bounce back that’s important. Hopefully the win versus Chicago will propel him and his team down the stretch as they make a run at a playoff spot.

IN BRIEF

Niverville's JV Girls Undefeated

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville’s Junior Varsity Panthers girls basketball team has only played four games so far this season, but so far they boast an undefeated record.

“The JV girls team had lots of interested girls wanting to play,” says coach Nathan Dyck. “So many that we unfortunately had to make cuts.”

The team played Immanuel Christian on the morning of Saturday, January 21.

“During the game, one of our players made a great move and scored the basket,” says Dyck of a memorable moment. “Unfortunately, she had taken one too many steps. The ref called her for traveling. That’s when I said, ‘Lebron woulda had that.’ The ref smiled at my reference to how the NBA refs allow players from time to time to take extra steps.”

Although the call stood, the Panthers still won the match.

“The girls played with lots of intensity on defence and continued to work at better distributing the ball,” adds Dyck.

Niverville Skaters Shine at Regionals



Willa Dowse, Zoe Bardal, Elizabeth Huddleston, and Miqaela Olatundun with their bronze ribbons.

✉ CARA DOWSE

By Evan Braun

The Niverville Skating Club participated in the 2017 Eastman/Winnipeg Regional STARSkate Championships on January 28–29 at the Terry Sawchuk Arena in Winnipeg.

Miqaela Olatundun received a gold medal for her STAR2 program, Elizabeth Huddleston received silver honours in STAR2, and Zoe

Bardal received bronze for her STAR1 elements.

In the STAR2 Team Elements category, the Niverville Snowflakes, including Willa Dowse, Zoe Bardal, Elizabeth Huddleston, and Miqaela Olatundun, received bronze honours.

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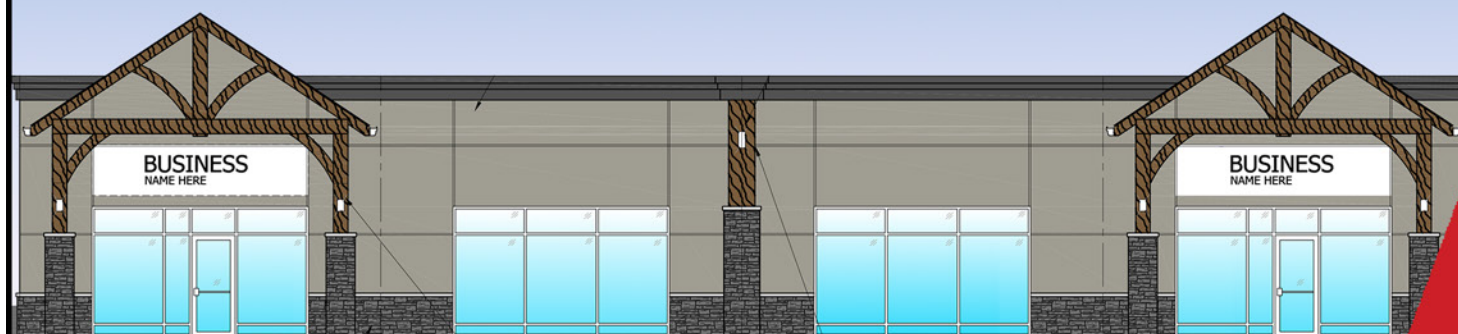
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IN BRIEF

Curling Club Anticipates Busy February

By Joel Martens

It's hard to believe, but Niverville's curling season is already half over. This is the harsh reality when your town's curling rink is made of natural ice.

Staying true to form, Mother Nature once again delayed ice-making at the rink until the second week of December, but through the dedicated work of a number of volunteers, the curling club opened its doors on January 3 for its first league game. This year, Niverville hosts three weeknights of league curling, consisting of men's, ladies, and mixed teams. Upcoming events in the month of February include Couples Curling (February 17) and the league playoffs (February 24-25).

Students from the high school will also use the rink throughout February for gym classes as they learn the basics of the game.

Also back this year is the Junior Curling program, which runs for seven weeks on Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m. It has been great to see a number of kids return to this program year after year and observe the progress they have made over time.

Hockey Initiation: Learning Sportsmanship and Teamwork

By Chantel Todd

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Île-des-Chênes Minor Hockey's youngest players are on the Initiation teams, learning the basics of hockey, sportsmanship, and playing as a team. There are two teams this year—Initiation White and Initiation Black.

After each game, a deserving player is given a game certificate not based on goals but based on effort and progress made.

"It's used to celebrate their achievements and personal growth," says Richmond Beaudoin, head coach of Initiation Black.

Beaudoin recalls a highlight from a game in December. One of the players, Gabbie Reyes, was the only player yet to score her first goal. "I kept telling her that it was going to happen during the game we were currently playing," Beaudoin says. "I kept telling her to drive to the net and wait for a pass. I kept telling the rest of her line mates to



Richmond Beaudoin and Gabbie Reyes.

RENATA WALL

pass her the puck."

With one shift left in the game, Beaudoin pulled her line together for a huddle. "I told them all that

Gabbie would be driving hard to the net and they had to work hard in the corner to come up with the puck and pass it to her for the tap

in. With 1:47 left on the clock, her teammates worked hard to come out with the puck from the corner, passed it to the front of the net, and with a quick one-timer Gabbie buried it deep in the net. When they all came to the bench for a flying high-five, her smile was from ear to ear."

After the game, when Gabbie was handed her first-goal puck, the kids and parents all erupted in cheers.

Both Initiation teams hosted a tournament in Île-des-Chênes on January 14.

"Everyone had fun playing hockey, eating our free hot dogs, and trying to win the chuck-a-puck," says Beaudoin. There were also silent auction prizes and an opportunity to guess how many candies were in the candy jar.

The Initiation White team recently had the opportunity to attend a Manitoba Moose game and play during the intermission.

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Call for Volunteers - NCPP

Interested in helping out with Niverville's Crime Prevention Patrol (NCPP)? Please stop by the Town Office (86 Main Street) to fill out an application.

Note participants do not need to sign up for regularly scheduled shifts—NCPP appreciates any shifts that you are able to volunteer for. NCPP members are there to monitor and report suspicious activity in the community; they are not there to confront criminals.

Questions regarding this program can be directed to ncpp@whereyoubelong.ca.

Recreation Opportunities

Snow Shoe Rentals:

8 pairs of lightweight aluminum snow shoes \$5/pair/3 day rental (damage deposit required)
7 pairs of old school style snow shoes FREE to rent (damage deposit required)
Contact recreation@whereyoubelong.ca to rent

Inservice Day Programming:

February 3 – Kid's Animation 9:00-3:00 \$50 Instructor Danielle King
– Lights, Camera, Animate! Kids explore the world of animation by creating and moving characters, props & sets.
February 24 – Outdoor fun 9:00-4:00 \$35
March 10 – Drama & Games 9:00-4:00 \$35
April 7 – Drama & Games 9:00-4:00 \$35

Aftercare is optional till 5:00 PM for \$5 extra.

Visit www.NivervilleRecreation.com for more information

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Lesley Gaudry speaks at the new playground's ribbon-cutting.

CHANEL TODD

Ribbon-Cutting Marks Completion of St. Adolphe Playground

By Chantel Todd

ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

On January 17, École St. Adolphe School held a ribbon-cutting to mark the completion of a new playground. The school's multipurpose room filled with eager students as they saw the big red ribbon and giant scissors. Among the delegates were Ritchot Mayor Jackie Hunt, Recreation Director Marcel Bazin, and representatives from the Seine River School Division, HTFC Planning and Design, Caisse Financial Group, St. Adolphe Child Care Centre, West Jet, Glenlea Greenhouses, and Valleywest Landscaping.

Lesley Gaudry, Ritchot's economic development officer and a member of the St. Adolphe Community Green Space Committee, spoke about the importance of parks and green space. Namely, it promotes active and healthy children, and also helps foster

community.

"This playground was important to development because the existing structure is quite dated and the play area has major drainage issues," Gaudry said. "The new playground and play space area is a safe, fun, engaging, accessible recreation space for the students and the community. The way it is designed, it also helps assist with some drainage issues at the east end of the school."

At one point, Gaudry specifically addressed the students in attendance. "You guys are all special and we want what is best for you," she said.

The project has been in the works for the past five years, including decisions, planning, fundraising, and building with volunteers on the hottest day of the summer—July 20.

The playground fills a need not only for the school, but the community at large. St. Adolphe used to have a vibrant

community park, but it has since been decommissioned due to riverbank erosion and flooding.

The park is centrally located and accessible for school children, the St. Adolphe Child Care Centre, and families and recreation groups to use in the evenings and on weekends.

After speeches concluded, a quick slideshow presentation was shown. Afterward, a couple of students from each grade handed large thank-you cards to members of the committee, and delegates also received handmade cards for their contributions.

The St. Adolphe Community Green Space Committee is a subcommittee of the École St. Adolphe School Parents Advisory Council and is comprised of Dijana Mutic Ens, Kirsten Quiring, Leslie McKenzie, Michael Hiebert, Susan Zimmerman, Lesley Gaudry, Laird Laluk, Kori Plesiuk, Joelle Sylvestre, and Chris Ens.

Clippers Novice B Take Gold

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Novice Clippers hosted a large home tournament on January 27–29 at the Niverville Arena, with 14 teams registered.

The games proved to be

hard-fought, with all three finals decided by a single goal. The Seven Oaks Raiders beat the Springfield Icehawks 6–5 to win gold in the A division. The Niverville Clippers beat the Lorette Comets 3–2 to win gold in the B division. The exciting C final, between MacDonald

and Garden City, went to overtime with a 3–3 tie after three periods. MacDonald won gold after outscoring Garden City 3–2 in the eventual shootout.

Eight-year-old Marek Goller was recognized as the player of the game for Niverville in the B final.



2017–2018 SCHOOL YEAR

HANOVER SCHOOL DIVISION

KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1 REGISTRATION

Registration for Kindergarten and Grade 1 (Fall 2017) will take place **February 6-10, 2017** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

TO REGISTER, CALL OR VISIT YOUR DESIGNATED SCHOOL

Blumenort.....	204-326-1757	Niverville Elementary.....	204-388-4861
Bothwell.....	204-388-4422	South Oaks, Grunthal.....	204-434-6165
Kleefeld	204-377-4751	Elmdale, Steinbach.....	204-326-3325
Landmark Elementary	204-355-4663	Southwood, Steinbach.....	204-326-3518
Mitchell Elementary	204-326-6622	Woodlawn, Steinbach.....	204-326-6110

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are required to attend the school within the catchment area in which they reside. To confirm your designated catchment, please view catchment maps online at www.hsd.ca, or contact the school nearest to your place of residence. Residents in rural areas should contact the HSD Transportation Department at 204-320-2347 to verify their school.

Kindergarten: Children must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2017.

Grade 1: Children must be 6 years of age on or before December 31, 2017.

Children presently enrolled in HSD Kindergarten classes do not need to be re-registered for Grade 1.

Anmeldung der Kindergarten und Ersten Klasse: 2017 – 2018 Schuljahr

Die Anmeldung der Kindergarten und Ersten Klasse (Herbst 2017) wird am 6-10. Februar, 2017 zwischen 9:00 und 16:00 Uhr stattfinden. Um ihr Kind anzumelden, rufen Sie bitte die entsprechende Schule an oder kommen persönlich vorbei. Schüler des Kindergartens oder der 1. Klasse, müssen in der Schule, die in ihrem designierten Einzugsbereich liegt, registriert werden. Um Ihren Einzugsbereich zu bestätigen, schauen Sie sich bitte die Schul-einzugsbereichskarte im Internet unter www.hsd.ca an oder rufen Sie die zu Ihrem Wohnsitz nächstliegende Schule an. Bewohner, die ausserhalb der Stadt wohnen, werden gebeten die HSD Transportation Abteilung unter 204-320-2347 anzurufen um herauszu-finden welche Schule für ihren Einzugsbereich bestimmt ist.

Kindergarten: Das Kind muss am oder vor dem 31. Dezember, 2017 5 Jahre alt sein.

1.Klasse: Das Kind muss am oder vor dem 31. Dezember, 2017 6 Jahre alt sein.

Kinder, die zur Zeit im Kindergarten in der Hanover School Division angemeldet sind, müssen nicht wieder für die 1.Klasse angemeldet werden.



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FESTIVAL GUIDE

IDC Snowman Festival

Saturday, February 11
10:00 a.m.–midnight
TransCanada Centre

Ste-Agathe Winter Classic

Saturday, February 18
11:45 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Ste. Agathe Arena

Niverville Family Snow Day

Saturday, February 18
12:00–3:00 p.m.
Niverville Arena

Blumenort Winter Carnival

Monday, February 20
Blumenort Park, 73 Park Street

New Bothwell Winter Carnival

February 24–25, Friday
7:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m.
New Bothwell Rec Centre

Festival du Voyageur

Monday, February 17–26
(excluding February 21–22)
Voyageur Park, 233 Provencher Blvd.

For More Information:

■ www.nivervillecreation.com

Send your event listing to:

■ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Winter Festivals Hit Southeast Manitoba

By Chantel Todd

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

As winter reaches the halfway point, communities all over the southeast region are celebrating the season in their own unique ways.

STE. AGATHE WINTER CLASSIC

The second annual Winter Classic in Ste. Agathe will take place Saturday, February 18. The day will begin at 11:45 a.m. with the first of three hockey games from the Ste. Agathe Hockey League (SAHL), plus a children's game of pickup hockey. Hot chocolate, hot dogs, and sleigh rides are sure to warm everyone up. Special guest Boomer from the Blue Bombers will arrive around 3:00 p.m. to stir up some fun.

The planning committee, comprised of seven local residents, views the Winter Classic as a perfect opportunity to highlight the town's new outdoor rink, promote outdoor hockey, and give children the chance to watch their parents play.

"The Winter Classic was a great success last year with over 100 people showing up to play and watch," says committee member



The annual Family Snow Day in Niverville.

■ NIVERVILLE RECREATION

Marc Robert. "Continuing the event only seemed like the logical thing to do."

ÎLE-DES-CHÊNES SNOWMAN FESTIVAL

Île-des-Chênes is starting a new tradition this year with the first ever Snowman Festival (Festival Bonhomme de Neige). The event will be run by Ritchot Chamber of Commerce volunteers.

"The idea of having a community winter festival was Chris Ewen's, owner of Capo di Grande," says Marc Palud, Vice-President of the Chamber. Yvette Bernat, the Chamber's executive director, came up with the idea of the snowman-building competition. Palud says the planning started six months ago.

The day begins at the TransCanada Centre with indoor activities

from 10:00 a.m.–6:00, with local businesses showcasing their products and services. Businesses are also providing bouncy castles, henna tattoos, face-painting, the canteen, and hot chocolate.

The Lorette Ringette Association will host a skills competition in the arena while a variety of activities go on in the great outdoors, including a candy scramble, toboggan run, ATV hayrides, bonfire, and snowmobile showcase. Fireworks will follow at 8:00 p.m., followed by a Valentine's-themed social. A \$10 ticket will buy you a fun night of dancing, eating, drinking, and visiting with neighbours.

NIVERVILLE FAMILY SNOW DAY

As Actif Epica rolls through Niverville on Saturday, February 18,

Niverville Recreation is hosting an event at the arena to promote outdoor winter fun. Starting at noon, activities will include snowshoe races, snowman building, snow painting, tobogganing, and quinzee-building.

Racers from Actif Epica will begin biking and running through town around 1:00 p.m. Revelers are encouraged to cheer them on until the day ends at 3:00 p.m.

NEW BOTHWELL WINTER CARNIVAL

The annual New Bothwell Winter Carnival will take place February 24–25 at the Rec Centre. Friday kicks off with a cribbage tournament at 7:00 p.m. Registration begins at 6:45 p.m. A children's movie and outdoor skating will follow.

Saturday morning begins with a pancake breakfast, followed by indoor and outdoor activities and a colouring contest. The afternoon will include bingo and a silent auction, followed by ice scrambles and skating. The canteen will be open throughout the afternoon and evening with homemade goodies and soups. Fireworks will cap off the day.

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For a long time, I've had this understanding—or maybe lack of understanding—of what yoga actually is. From my point of view, seeing glimpses of yoga on television shows or in movies, I thought yoga was about stretching.

I'm here to testify that I was completely wrong.

I tried a short session of yoga about four years ago. Being my adventurous self, I was seeking out a different activity and it was recommended that I try yoga. I was told I needed to slow my mind down and learn to relax my body. I've always enjoyed high-intensity, highly active fitness, and sports like Zumba and soccer, so I wasn't sure how yoga would fit into my life.

I didn't enjoy it. I could not for the life of me turn my brain off during yoga. I kept thinking of the next 50 things I needed to do that week. I was that person in class who was always falling over or breathing too fast. So I decided not to try yoga again.

Until a couple weeks ago.

I figured I should give yoga another chance. I'm at a different point in my life now, and I was confident that I could turn my brain off for a little while.

I got my yoga mat ready and my water bottle filled—which I then left on the counter at home!—and headed down to the curling rink in Niverville. I had texted a friend who's in the same class to ask what she wore for footwear. Me being me, I was going to bring my runners, but she recommended socks or bare feet. Okay, good! I had that covered.

We get started by sitting on our mats with our legs crossed and



Chantel assumes the lotus position.

CHANEL TODD

palms on top of our knees.

"Focus on your breathing," says Noreen, our yoga instructor. "Clear your mind and just focus on breathing in through your nose and out your mouth, like you're fogging a mirror."

Okay, I can do this.

And then my mind starts thinking, *Oh, what should I plan for dinner tomorrow? What should I do when I'm done this class—do the dishes, take a shower? Breathe! Crap, I'm forgetting to breathe. Am I doing this right?*

Throughout the night, Noreen kept reminding people (probably

mostly me) to keep breathing slowly and to hang our heads instead of holding them up. And she corrected my poses as my knees slipped out of place.

As we progressed through the class, I felt my hips open up and my breathing get slower. I found that my body was handling the class pretty well. I was only shaky after 30 seconds of holding a pose. I took breaks regularly and only toppled over once! A great success.

As the class ended, we laid on our mats for five minutes, focusing on our breathing, clearing our minds, and thinking of nothing. In

which I had to keep repeating nothing in my head so I literally thought of nothing—and it worked.

When I stood up, my legs felt like jello and my shoulders were sore. I couldn't believe it; I felt like I had run a marathon. It felt great, like I'd done a workout, and that's what it was.

Every yoga class ends with a bow, in the lotus position, with one's hands in front of their heart, saying, "Namaste." This means "the light in me sees the light in you."

It was an amazing time and I slept pretty well that night.

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**ATHLETE
OF
THE MONTH**



**Cayden
Meilleur**

Cayden started curling in 2014 when the Niverville Curling Club started the youth curling program. He is in Grade Seven and also takes part in Tae Kwon Do, badminton, and also curls in St. Adolphe, where his team won their league bonspiel last season. His hard work and dedication in curling has paid off—and he has the slide to prove it!

The Niverville Curling Club would like to congratulate Cayden on being chosen as athlete of the month.

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IN BRIEF

IDC Novice: Facing an Uphill Battle

By Chantel Todd

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

Manager Christine Golding of Île-des-Chênes' Novice B hockey team is proud of her players, who have faced an uphill battle of late. The team has yet to win a regular season game, but Golding says the team spirit and sportsmanship has been outstanding.

"The team comes off the ice still smiling, laughing, and dancing up a storm in the change room," Golding says. She also recalls a remark from a player after a losing game: "Even though we lost, we tried hard."

The Novice B team recently travelled to Brandon to participate in the Novice Coaches tournament, where they earned their first win of the season.

Right before the Christmas break, the Novice B coaches decided to host a skills competition. Players competed in six categories—agility,

fastest forward, fastest backward, passing, accuracy, and a two-player chuck-wagon race. "This allowed the kids to showcase some of their individual talents," says Golding. "Our team plans to repeat the skills competition at the end of the season so that they can all see how they have improved."

Marty d'Auteuil, head coach of the Novice C team, is enthusiastic about the upcoming February tournament at the Île-des-Chênes Arena, as it will be their first of the year. The team has been anticipating the tournament with many practices and collecting silent auction prizes. The free hot dogs won't hurt.

As the year progresses, players receive pucks to commemorate their first hat tricks, first shutouts, etc. Along with player-of-the-game awards for those who show excellence, the whole team works hard to apply the skills and techniques they learn in practice.

Eastman Selects Get Ready for Playoff Push

By Chantel Todd

✉ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

The Bantam AAA Eastman Selects are here to stay. The Eastman Selects have 19 players from the Eastman region, including two former Niverville Clippers, Mason Wiebe and Denis Gagnon, along with players from Île-des-Chênes, Lorette, Dominion City, Steinbach, Grunthal, Oakbank, Cook's Creek, and Ste. Anne. The team is comprised of players born between 2002–2003.

Head coach Chuck Edwards and assistant coach Todd Anderson both hail from Niverville. Former Niverville resident Tony Lenchyshyn serves as assistant coach, and trainer Kate Wiens comes from Glenlea.

Currently the team hits the ice four to five times a week



The Eastman Selects.

NEVIN GIESBRECHT

with practices, games, and dryland training.

"Being part of this team is a big commitment from the players, coaches, and the families," says team manager Maurice Gagnon. "The team's home ice is Landmark Arena, [and they travel] across Manitoba and Saskatchewan for games and tournaments."

Currently the Eastman Selects have 14 wins and 11

losses, with nine more games in February before the playoffs begin.

On January 14, four players were selected to be part of the Bantam AAA All-Star Game held at the MTS Iceplex: Ethan McColm, Maddux Mateychuk, Kade Runke, and Denis Gagnon.

During the Christmas break, the team was visited by Tyler Anderson, a former Niverville

Clipper and Eastman Selects player. Anderson currently plays in the British Columbia Hockey League for the Junior A Prince George Spruce Kings. Anderson practiced with the team, sharing tips and tricks with the players.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ View the team's schedule at www.hockeywinnipeg.ca/aaa-team



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Kyle Barrett Friesen, Meg Pfeifer-Brandt, and Michael Dueck in rehearsals.

ALAN FEHR

Mousetrap to Lure Audiences to Niverville

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On February 3–5, Real Live Entertainment is staging a production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* at the Niverville Heritage Centre.

"The play has defined the genre," says Alan Fehr, Creative Director of the Steinbach-based company. "It's this wonderful whodunit featuring a bunch of odd characters

maneuvering around an old English manor house, trying to separate the truth of the murders from the red herrings. And the famous twist ending is still fun and unexpected, even after all these years."

The show will play to audiences each evening at 7:00 p.m., with an additional 1:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are available in advance for \$20 at William Dyck and Sons in Niverville, at the Steinbach Arts Council, or online at the

website below. Tickets at the door will sell for \$25.

A "Table for 2" upgrade option, for those looking to celebrate Valentine's Day early, is available for online purchase. The package includes premium seating at a candlelit table for two, with hand-made chocolate and refreshments served by cast members.

Meg Pfeifer-Brandt, Kyle Barrett Friesen, Michael Dueck, Deb Rogalsky, Trevor Esau, Sherri

Pierce, Jeremy Plett, and Kenton Dyck round out the cast.

The Mousetrap, which first opened 65 years ago to theatre-goers in London, England, has the distinction of being the longest-running play in the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.reallive.ca

EVENT GUIDE

Play: "Last Train to Nibroc"

February 2 | 7:30–9:30 p.m.
SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$12–28.

Play: "The Mousetrap"

February 3–5 | 7:00 p.m. (plus a 1:30 matinee on Sunday)
Heritage Centre, Niverville. \$25.

Author Reading:

Violet Moore & Nina Brandt

February 4 | 8:00–11:45 p.m.
Granite House Lounge, Steinbach. Free.

Creativi-Tea Time

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

Coffee for a Cause with Jordan St. Cyr

February 11 | 7:00 p.m.
Niverville Community Fellowship, Niverville. Free.

Festival du Voyageur

February 17–26
233 Provencher Blvd, Winnipeg. \$20/adult,
\$13/5–17-year-olds.

Fringe Fest

February 20 | 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Steinbach Cultural Arts Center, Steinbach. \$10/show.

Painting on the Prairies

February 21 | 7:00 p.m.
Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Send your event listing to:

■ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

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Uniquely Manitoba: Selling Art in the 21st Century

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

While artists have a knack for creating something from nothing, skills like organization and business development may not come as naturally. Uniquely Manitoba is a company formed to help artists become better at transforming their art into viable businesses, not just hobbies.

The Winnipeg company was formed in 2003. A 1999 study focusing on the training needs of arts and cultural workers in Manitoba found that while our province has talented artists, these artists don't necessarily have the tools they need to make a living creating their art. Uniquely Manitoba has stepped into this void, taking practical steps to create a market for art.

So what types of artists can benefit? Whether you're a painter or musician, a sculptor, jeweller, or even a specialty food producer, almost any type of artist can gain insight to make their business a success.

Uniquely Manitoba offers four different services. First, they offer an assessment on a product's marketability, pricing, packaging, and saleability. Second, they offer training and advice on how to market, export, merchandize, and display the work. Third, they offer exposure through the Uniquely Manitoba virtual gift show. This is an online market anyone can shop at for local art. Lastly, they offer ongoing business development.

Artists who have full-time jobs or a family at home can find it hard to make extra time for classes. While Uniquely Manitoba does offer classroom seminars, they also offer distance education and webinars. That way, artists can learn on their own time about marketing, bookkeeping, producing business plans, and protecting their work through copyright and trademarks. These are just a few examples of the many subjects available.

Becoming a member of Uniquely Manitoba also allows artists to network with others

who work in the same vein and may be struggling with similar issues. Artists receive invitations to participate in special exhibits and trade shows. This provides real opportunities for artists to showcase their art, whether it's photography, fashion design, or glass art.

Every year, Uniquely Manitoba gives out its Rising Star Awards. The awards recognize outstanding artistic achievements, community spirit, and unique creative performances. Recent winning artpieces include jewellery set in metal with glass-blown details, quilts that tell stories, and human-form sculptures.

Memberships start at \$110. Once a member, artists can have their work included in the company's catalogue, which is distributed to professional buyers, specialty markets, and international trade shows.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.uniquelymanitoba.ca

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Festival du Voyageur: A Winter Party Like No Other



SYLVIA
ST. CYR

✉ sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

The Festival du Voyageur has been held annually since 1970. Every February, people gather in what could be called the dead of winter and celebrate a wonderful heritage that helped create the city of Winnipeg—the French fur trade.

This year, Festival runs from February 17–26 (excluding February 21–22). The opening weekend is a long weekend in Manitoba on account of Louis Riel Day, which is quite fitting.

Festival du Voyageur is headquartered at the Voyageur Park at 233 Provencher Boulevard, in the heart of Saint Boniface. The festival employs

thirteen full-time staff year-round, but in February they hire more than 200 employees. In 2013, 97,000 people attended the Festival.

A local family from Île-des-Chênes has been involved for almost 20 years.

“My husband and I, along with our two younger daughters, were the official family that represented the Festival at various other festivals and events in 1998 and '99,” says Agathe Lacroix. “After that, we have remained involved in various capacities, such as helping host visiting festivals from the U.S. My husband, Guy, is a musician and has played at various festival venues over the years.”

There are plenty of things to do when you attend Festival.



Agathe Lacroix takes in the Festival du Voyageur.

■ GUY LACROIX

The Market Days run from February 18–25, in which 10 different artisans set up their tables in a heated 4,800-square-foot tent. For those who love to cook, the festival hosts a pea

soup cook-off. There are also family-friendly, voyageur-themed games, not to mention areas to participate in winter activities like snowshoeing, skating, sledding, and

sleigh rides.

Throughout the event, you can check out the hand-carved snow sculptures that reach up to six meters high. Festival also hosts the International Snow Sculpture Symposium, which brings together artists from all over the world. Teams each get a slab of snow measuring 10 feet by 12 feet. The pieces they create are meant to reflect their experience at the Festival du Voyageur.

Festival features an outdoor bar inside the four walls of Fort Gibraltar. People can visit Bar Gibraltar and enjoy the festive ambiance. A deejay plays music all night alongside a bonfire and fire jugglers.

If you're more of an indoor person, Festival presents dozens of live musical

performances and plenty of French cuisine to enjoy. As the festival is a celebration of a nineteenth-century fur-trading outpost, organizers also throw a period costume ball. The Bal du Gouverneur takes place at the Fort Garry Hotel and includes a five-course meal and dance.

“The Festival is our way of adding warmth to what would otherwise be a long cold spell from Christmas to spring,” says Lacroix. “It adds considerably to the economics of the city through the visitors that it attracts. It is also an excellent way of celebrating Franco-phone, Metis, and Aboriginal history.”

Tickets can be purchased at Safeway/Sobeys or at the Voyageur Park.

The Chamber corner

Do you have a favourite business?

Why not nominate it?

Nominations are now open for the chamber's **annual business awards**:

- Outstanding Business of the Year Award;
- Outstanding Customer Service Award; and
- The Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award, for contribution to the community.

Nomination criteria and forms can be found at the chamber's website: www.niverville.com. Deadline for nominations is **5:00 p.m., February 24**. Awards will be presented at the chamber's annual meeting.

The award for outstanding customer service is voted on by the community once nominations have closed.

Not all awards will necessarily be presented.

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce encourages sustainable economic development through advocacy for and support of local business.

Strategies for growing your business

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Bronstone Meeting Centre, 349 Bronstone Drive
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Join us to learn about cash management solutions to meet your business needs, help your business save money, manage risk and seize opportunities. You'll also hear an economic update for 2017, including what RBC Dominion Securities' portfolio advisory group has projected.

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Investment Advisor
RBC Dominion Securities
Nicole Drysdale
Commercial Account Mgr.
RBC Commercial Markets
Nick Stelmack, Senior
Account Mgr, Small business
and personal
RBC Royal Bank

Open to non-members. Please register by February 22. Contact rejean.beauchemin@rbc.com or 1-204-982-3976 OR Dawn Harris at chamber@niverville.com or 204-388-5340.

President: Mel Buhler
Co-ordinator: Dawn Harris
Email: chamber@niverville.com
www.niverville.com



NIVERVILLE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

New Book Aims to Get You Smiling



Audrey Meisner.

AUDREY MEISNER

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Audrey Meisner, best-selling author and my best friend, has just launched her fourth book, *Wake Up Smiling: 40 Days to a Hope-filled Life*. A native Winniepegger, Meisner may be remembered for her popular local children's television show *Sonshiny Day* and for hosting the long-running television ministry *It's a New Day* with her parents, Betty and Willard Thiessen.

In her first book, *Marriage Under Cover*, co-written with husband Bob, Meisner transparently shares the brokenness and restorative process that her marriage went through after an affair left her with an unwanted pregnancy.

So what led her to write this most recent book?

"Jesus used the many concepts I write about in *Wake Up Smiling* to restore my personal life," says Meisner. "These affected me so much that I started to write them down so I wouldn't forget them. I turned these lessons into a document that I could send to friends and family as a way of offering them encouragement. This

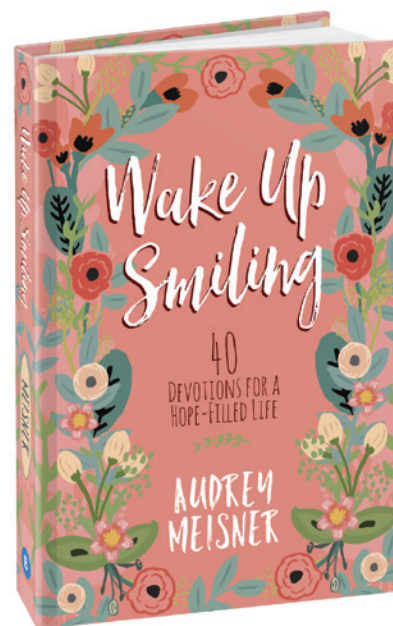
then evolved into a hardcover devotional that Broadstreet asked to publish."

In this four-part devotional, Meisner delves deep into the

the answers she has found both in scripture and in her intimate times with God. She then fashions these answers into a practical plan for restoring lost hope.

Beautifully breaking down wisdom into manageable daily steps, Meisner draws the reader in by gently explaining why joy and peace might be so elusive. This weightier subject matter is perfectly balanced with gentle reminders of the random things that make people smile, and why smiling itself is so beneficial to one's health and wellbeing.

"Restoring our sense of value and worth empowers us to have a fun-loving, happy, and healthy life so that every day we can wake up smiling," Meisner says.



healing process, intimately sharing the truths she has had to face and apply in order to transcend the lies and heartache of her past.

Each chapter begins with an endearing story, a struggle she has gone through, followed by

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.bobandaudrey.com

■ www.amazon.ca/Wake-Up-Smiling-devotions-hope-filled/dp/1424553806



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Big Daddy Tazz earned a world record for his eight-and-a-half-hour comedy show at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival in 2008.

BORIS MINKEVICH

Young at Heart: Stand Up and Make 'Em Laugh

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.

By Sylvia St. Cyr

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Back in high school, most of us fit into some sort of clique. Maybe you were known as the nerd, the jock, the preppy kid, or the punk rocker. Or perhaps you were known as the class clown, the kid who made everyone laugh and also made the teachers say, "Quit fooling around!"

Have you always found it easy to make people laugh? If so, have you continued it into adulthood? Twenty years ago, only two places in Winnipeg offered comedy as an outlet: The Comedy Oasis and Rumors Comedy Club, which is still going strong today. Now, however, you can attend an open mic stand-up comedy night almost every day of the week.

On the first Tuesday of every month, Jekyll and Hyde's Free-house, at the corner of Stradbrook and Osborne, hosts a Women's Open Mic Night. On Thursdays at The Standard Tavern, you can register for your moment on stage at 8:00

p.m., and then the howl is on from 8:30–10:00 p.m. The same idea applies at The Cavern on Sherbrook on Sunday nights.

Don't know if you have what it takes? That's the whole point of an open mic night—to have fun and see if you can make strangers laugh.

Big Daddy Tazz, one of Winnipeg's best-known professional comedians, has been doing stand-up for 25 years. "Having open mic nights makes it easier to get much revered stage time," he says. "It gives everyone, not only amateurs, but the middle acts and well established headliners a place to go and try out new material and play... because it is all about the fun!"

Since childhood, Tazz knew he wanted to be a comedian. But making that dream a reality was difficult, until one fateful night.

"I was a bouncer at a pub in Calgary that had a comedy night," Tazz says. "The opening act didn't show up, so they put me on stage, and the laughter from the audience grabbed me hard. I've never looked back."

Personally, I can get sucked into my daily schedule and to-do list, so I forget to laugh and have fun sometimes. Then, when I watch a comedian, either on TV or live, and laugh hard, I remember how important it is to not take life so seriously.

If you've always wondered if you could succeed on stage, take some time to prepare a routine. It doesn't have to be long, since many open mic spots are only five to ten minutes. Then pick a night and put your name in the hat.

Big Daddy Tazz encourages people to give stand-up a try. "Do it! Afraid is good. Fright creates the same endorphins in your body that excitement does, so just change the word from afraid to excited. They say laughter is the best medicine, that laughing feels good. You cannot imagine how incredible it feels to be the one creating that laughter, taking people away from what is weighing heavy on their shoulders for however long you're on stage."

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Last Month's Winner
Norah Lux
Age: 5



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

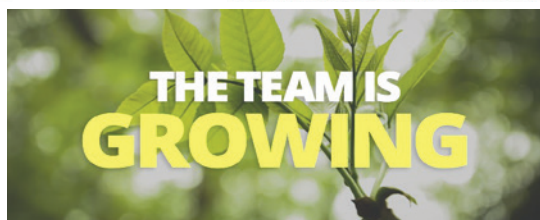
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- Across**
- 1. Yule
 - 5. Saliva
 - 9. Narrow sea channel
 - 11. Native American
 - 12. In a languid manner
 - 13. More barren
 - 14. Knock senseless
 - 15. Retriever
 - 16. Boastful person
 - 17. Cut into small pieces
 - 19. Disease
 - 21. Range of mountains
 - 25. Seize
 - 26. Move
 - 29. Stratford-on-????, Shakespeare home
 - 30. Was able
 - 31. Showing more talent
 - 33. An Australian
 - 34. Delicacy
 - 35. Sly look
 - 36. Divisions of geologic time

- Down**
- 1. Internally illuminating radiation
 - 2. Male head of a household
 - 3. Fall ill
 - 4. Smart
 - 5. Translucent mineral
 - 6. Articles needed for a particular operation
 - 7. Chilled
 - 8. Seat occupied by a sovereign
 - 10. Sharp, nasal tone
 - 11. Abbreviation
 - 18. Fruit beverage
 - 20. Device for applying eyewash
 - 22. Large black birds
 - 23. Stop
 - 24. Manufactured
 - 27. Don't come first
 - 28. Cut
 - 32. Ingot

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

JOB POSTINGS



Niverville Heritage Centre is please to announce we are now accepting applications for the following positions:

Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern – Serving Staff
Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern – Bartender
Event Centre – Server
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It is important that you indicate which position(s) you are applying for on your cover letter.

Resumes with references will be accepted by email only to: jobs@heritagecentre.ca

Only successful applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.



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



Rural Municipality of Ritchot CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Rural Municipality of Ritchot is seeking applications for the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Reporting directly to the Chief Administrative Officer, the CFO oversees the day-to-day accounting requirements of the Municipality. The Municipality is seeking an experienced individual capable of managing the Municipality's operational and capital budget of \$7,500,000. As an experienced manager, the successful candidate will oversee the entire financial management of the Municipality including budgets, financial reporting, financial planning and forecasting, asset management, and revenues.

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- Completed the Municipal Administrator Certificate Program (or willingness to enrol).
- Minimum of three years accounting experience.
- Familiar with fund accounting and PSAB reporting standards.
- The position requires a (i) Criminal Records check (ii) valid, unrestricted Manitoba Driver's license and (iii) must be bondable.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and a comprehensive benefit package is available. Please indicate expected salary level. Interested candidates should submit their resumes with three references in confidence to the address below.

Applications will be received until Friday, February 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

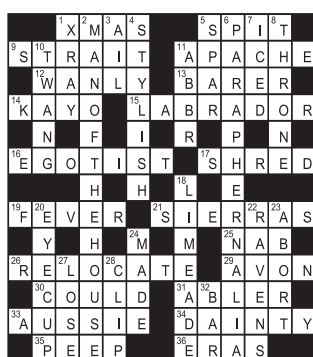
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We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

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This Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Niverville Preschool Board of Directors

Niverville Preschool is looking for a dedicated preschool parent to join our Board of Directors. Contact our President (Katie Knebel) for more information
(204) 392-3030.

Join Our News Team!

The Niverville Citizen is seeking candidates for TWO writing positions: **NEWS WRITER** and **SPORTS WRITER**. Looking for candidates who write cleanly and clearly, are able to meet tight deadlines, and are willing to attend news events or sports games. May require travel to local communities. Previous publishing experience an asset, but not required. Candidates will be asked to provide samples of their writing. Inquire at editor@nivervillecitizen.com for more information and payment rates.

The Citizen

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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

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! BOOK YOURS TODAY! INFO@NIVERVILLECITIZEN.COM

BASEMENT RENOVATION TIME?



Metal T-Bar

• White



12' Main T

2' Cross T

4' Cross T

\$6³⁵

#WMT12

\$1³⁰

#WCT2

\$2⁶⁰

#WCT4

14/2 NMD90 WIRE

• 75m Roll



\$52⁸⁸

Save 30% on Select
Electrical Boxes, Plates,
Decora switches and
receptacles

Empire 3 Pc. Tub/Shower by Mirloin

• White



\$998⁰⁰

#KD52L, #KD52R

10' Metal Wall Angle

• White

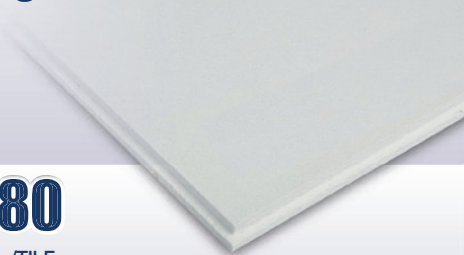


\$3³⁵

#WWA10

2'x2' Artic Rockfon Ceiling Tile

• #660



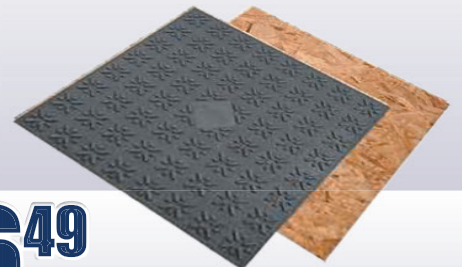
\$3⁸⁰

/TILE

#ROCKFON22RE

2'x2' Subfloor Panels

• White



\$6⁴⁹

/PANEL

#AS78

**FOR ALL YOUR RENOVATION NEEDS, VISIT OUR FLOORING, PLUMBING,
PAINT, ELECTRICAL & LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLY DEPARTMENTS
WHERE THEY CAN TAKE YOUR IDEAS & HELP YOU MAKE THEM A REALITY!**



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