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LOCAL NEWS

New Niverville High School Top Priority

According to the province, building a new high school in Niverville is among its two highest priorities.

Details on Page 9



LOCAL NEWS

Daycare and Seniors Residences Proposed for St. Adolphe

As the old nursing home in St. Adolphe faces demolition, plans are in place to transform the site into seniors residences.

Details on Page 10

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Niverville Fair **Announces Big Acts**

■ The Olde Tyme Country Fair is right around the corner. See inside for details of this year's headliners.

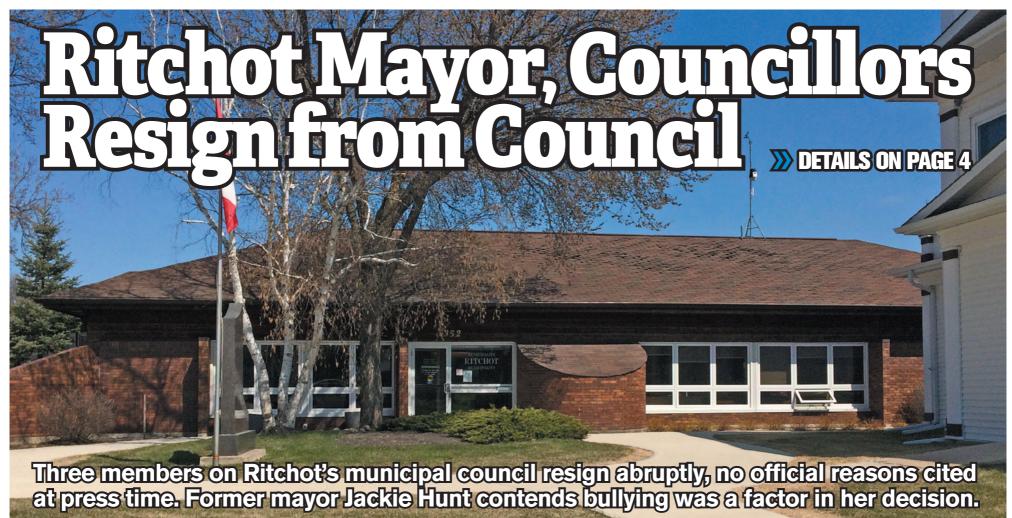
Details on Pages 35-37

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

It's Time to Enjoy the Great Outdoors

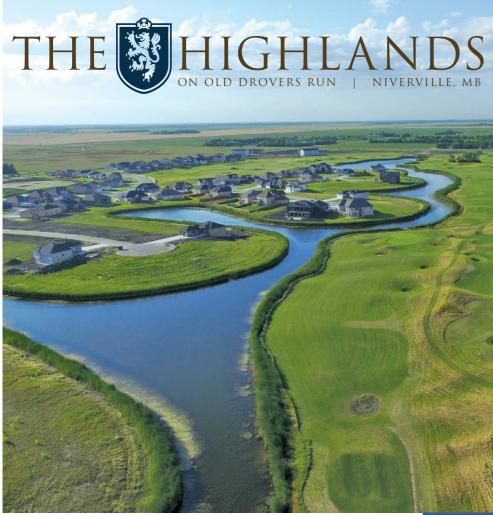
■ In this month's special feature, we look at ways to make the most of the warm weather.

Details on Pages 20-28





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WHAT'S INSIDE Niverville to Host Auction Touch-a-Truck Fundraisers Not So Sleepy Anymore: Niverville Wakes Up to Capo "Sling Sisters" Turn Bags **Niverville School Among Province's Top Two Priorities** Daycare and Seniors Residences Proposed for St. Adolphe **Niverville Chamber Recognizes** 13 Local Business at Annual Awards **Upgrades Coming to Krahn Road** Hydro Funds Flow to Municipalities 15 New Well Site Targeted for Niverville 16 Local Organizers Spearhead **Fast-Growing Local Charity Helps** 19 **Turning Barbecuing Into Art 26** Food, Farms, and Family Fun **28 Working It at Ferrum Fitness 30** Jets Goaltenders Test Fans' Patience 32 Co-Headliners to Light Up the Niverville Fair



Fair Friday to End with a Bang

Elementary Students Go Wild for Jungle Book Musical

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Niverville's upgraded medical facility, scheduled to open its doors in June, will consolidate services and take on a regional focus.



The inauguration of Niverville Open Health is quickly approaching. The new facility, aptly named for its accessibility and open-armed approach, has been under construction through the winter and is now targeting a June

On March 27, a collection of dignitaries and health authorities were given a sneak peek at the new building's interior and treated to a luncheon in the Heritage Centre's atrium. Among those in attendance were provincial Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen, MLA for the Morris riding Shannon Martin, and Southern Health-Sante Sud's Abe Bergen and Kathy McPhail.

Niverville Open Health, located on the east side of the Heritage Life Retirement Living condos, will provide 5,000 square feet of medical space and integrate all of Niverville's current medical practitioners into one uniquely designed clinic.

"The beauty of this model is that you've got [all] providers together, whether it's physicians or alternate practitioners," says Kathy McPhail, chief executive officer of Southern Health-Sante Sud. 'This is moving healthcare way upstream, where we have wanted to be for years and years. Niverville already has done a lot of that. This is just the next step.'

The new facility emphasizes ease of accessibility, unlike the current disjointed points of access in the Heritage Centre. A single entry will take patients to a common waiting room where they will be able to obtain the services of physicians and nurse practitioners, a chronic disease team, dieticians, a laboratory,



Gord Daman, Myron Dyck, Shannon Martin, Nathan Dueck, Kelvin Goertzen, Abe Bergen, Kathy McPhail, and Dr. Chris Burnett at Open Health facility tour

BRENDA SAWATZKY

and mental health, homecare and public healthcare workers.

The clinic already utilizes an advanced computerization system and has plans to stay current with today's technology by allowing people to schedule appointments online from a variety of devices, as well as offer online access to patient health records.

"We're leaning much more toward client engagement in their own health," says Dr.

Chris Burnett, founding physician of the Niverville Medical Clinic. "Being able to contribute to their own health by [electronically sending]

in their own blood pressures and blood sugars, those sort of things."

Though the plan is to eventually add more medical professionals to the team, the real goal is to increase the number of hours the clinic is open by having clinicians run back-toback shifts, thus optimizing the facility's potential for longer periods of the day.

Burnett adds that one clinician might work a morning shift, the next an afternoon shift, and another an evening

The province lauds this clinic's direction in terms of offering healthcare services to a broader region, including much of Ritchot. The government of Manitoba has been encouraging rural communities to work together, sharing their essential services rather than every community aiming to provide its own services.

"Right now, if we continue to grow [as a province] at the rate of 6.5 to 7 percent per year, we'd have two departments left in government: the department of finance and

"This is moving healthcare way upstream, where we have wanted to be for years and years."

Kathy McPhail Chief Executive Officer , Southern Health-Sante Sud

the department of health," says Minister of Health Kelvin Goertzen. "The department that brought the money in and the department that spends it

Goertzen adds that, were government to provide funds to every community for healthcare facilities, little would be left for education, infrastructure, and all the other important services they are responsible for.

Southern Health-Sante Sud agrees with this approach.

"The [Niverville medical] facility has a good relationship with [the local hospitals]," says Abe Bergen, chairperson of

the Southern Health-Sante Sud board. "So, instead of competing and being isolationists, they cultivate good relationships and, I think in the end, you get better patient care and it requires less dollars. We're thinking regionally all of the time, and when we do that. we're trying to save money for the region and the province as a whole. Those are really winwin kinds of scenarios and the more that synergy can be built,

I think the better off we are."

Burnett says that a lot of communication will be necessary to get information out about the services

they provide so that people can quickly get access to the appropriate facility for their need. As for adding 24-hour emergency service, he says they don't feel it's necessary at this point.

"I think that [would] be a step back," says Burnett. "We've got Health Links, we've got Access Health Services, and we've got Emergency [Medical Response] services. Quite frankly, if you're calling a doctor at three in the morning and it can't wait 'til six or seven in the morning, you should be calling 911."

Mayor Myron Dyck and Councillor Nathan Dueck were also in attendance at the sneak-peek event. Both demonstrate excitement for the opportunity this clinic will provide for Niverville and

"The benefit of having an Open Health service in our community is not just the fact that we're getting a better medical facility," says Dueck. "Niverville has close to 5,000 people. Ten years down the road, we're expecting to have close to 7,000 people. [A facility like Open Health] gives our community an edge."

Dueck believes that, as more medical practitioners seek employment at the clinic, they will likewise be looking to relocate to the area. This, together with more families in the region utilizing local healthcare, creates an obvious economic advantage to the region as a whole.

Niverville's council has been actively working towards establishing a medical taskforce to aid and sustain the success of the new clinic. Residents from the region are being encouraged to join the taskforce along with Dueck and the Burnett husband-andwife team.

"We need to stay extremely active and proactive to fill the [medical positions] and also replace them as they retire," savs Dueck.

The provincial health minister is a firm advocate of this philosophy.

"We need to have communities step up and say, 'What can our community do [to add strength to the region]?" says Goertzen. "Niverville is a great leading example of that. I often [tell] people, 'If you're looking for creative ideas or looking for ways to work in partnership, look to Niverville.

CITIZEN POLL

See the poll related to this article on page 4. Enter to win a free gift card.

THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017 **LOCAL NEWS**

(I) CITIZEN POLL

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Do you agree that local public services such as fire, health, and policing should be distributed throughout a region rather than each community funding its own services?

YES – By spreading these services over wider regions, they can be delivered more efficiently.

 $\mbox{\bf NO}$ – Keeping services local means they can remain more narrowly focused.





Congratulations to last month's winner: **DENISE STRATYCHUK**



LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Do you think it's fair for the government to protect Winnipeg from flood events at the expense of rural residents south of the city?

YES-Winnipeg, as the provincial capital and centre of Manitoba's economy, must come first.

57%

 ${\bf NO}$ – Protection measures such as the floodway and the Z-Dike place an unfair burden on rural residents.

43%

YOUR COMMENTS:

It's certainly not ideal, but as long as the government invests in flood mitigation and compensation to those affected in the south, it is likely the best way to protect the greatest number.

Ritchot Mayor, Councillors Resign from Council

Three members of Ritchot's municipal council resign abruptly, no official reasons cited at press time. Former mayor Jackie Hunt contends bullying was a factor in her decision.

By Evan Braun

⊠ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On Monday, May 1, three members of the RM of Ritchot's council abruptly resigned, including the mayor. Mayor Jackie Hunt, Councillor Jeannot Robert, and Councillor Ron Mamchuk all vacated their council seats.

"As a result, the RM of Richot does not have quorum of Council, as per Section 135(3) of the Municipal Act," reads a statement from Mitch Duval, Ritchot CAO. "The CAO has advised the Province of Manitoba of these events and is awaiting further directions."

Section 135 of the Municipal Act states that the quorum of a council is "a majority of the number of members comprising the council, or if a position is vacant, a majority of the remaining members of the council... [but] the minimum number for a quorum of a council is three."

Since the municipality currently has just two elected councillors, Ernie Dumain (Ward 1) and Corinne Webb (Ward 4), council is unable to

sit. Due to the lack of quorum, the regularly scheduled May 2 council meeting had to be cancelled.

The Municipal Act allows for the provincial government to appoint an administrator to ensure that the municipality

continues to handle its day-to-day affairs without any interruption to services. Sources indicate that the province is already in the process of appointing an administrator, but that's only a short-term fix. A spokesperson for the

municipality has said that an emergency

issued a public statement on

"Our job as members of the RM of Ritchot Council was to work together for the betterment of the Municipality. To make decisions that were in the best interest of our residents today and for years to

come," Hunt wrote. "When a Council cannot function as a group, and when mediation does not work. and when name calling and belligerent behaviour become the norm, it is time to re-evaluate your spot at the table."

Although making no would not be tolerated in any

D JACKIE HUNT

might start a conversation at

the Municipal and Provincial levels of government about how to better protect the residents that want to serve our communities," the statement continues. "If I stayed and did nothing, then I became complicit and accepting of the behaviour. We are trying to encourage people to run for public office, and we need to ensure they are protected from bullying and inappropriate behaviour while serving their communities...Iam now a private citizen and this will be my only statement on this matter. I plan to take time to regroup and focus on my family and charitable work."

Hunt concluded by thanking Jeannot Robert and Ron Mamchuk, the other two councillors who resigned Monday, as well as CAO Mitch Duval and the rest of the municipality's staff.

Additional details will be reported on The Citizen's website as the story develops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the full text of Jackie Hunt's statement, visit www.nivervillecitizen.com



Niverville to Host Auction, Touch-a-Truck Fundraisers By Heather Miller of the action will support the Niverville Multiplex project.

The Black and Gold Commun-

of planning and hard work.

The event itself sold out in just

over a month. More than 75

prizes were generously donat-

ed by community members

and businesses. The proceeds

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Another big fundraising ity Auction is right around the corner, on May 5, after months

event is coming up in June: the town's first-ever Toucha-Truck event. The outdoor family friendly experience on June 24 will be filled with food and fun experiences. Children of all ages will be allowed to touch, climb on, explore, and

discover all kinds of vehicles, including construction trucks, farm equipment, tractors, and emergency vehicles. Niverville Touch-a-Truck, held in the parking lot of the arena, will run from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Admission will be \$5 per person, whereas children two and under can attend for free.

Updates will be posted on

the multiplex website and on the event's Facebook page. Volunteers will be needed to make this day a success.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.nivervillemultiplex.ca
- multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca



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Sage Creek **PHYSIOTHERAPY**

AN **inMotion** CLINIC

SAGE CREEK PHYSIOTHERAPY... NOW OPEN!!

Sage Creek Physiotherapy opens as part of the inMotion Network.

Sage Creek Physiotherapy is now open. We are a member of the inMotion Network of physiotherapy clinics and are excited to be part of your neighbourhood and your daily commute! Conveniently located in Sage Creek, we are welcoming new patients from all over south Winnipeg and rural Manitoba. Stop by and see us for a tour of the new facility. Allow our friendly staff to acquaint you with the many services that we offer.

The inMotion Network is a group of well-established, Manitoba-based physiotherapy clinics and other healthcare related service providers. Sage Creek Physio is one of eight clinics within the inMotion Network which are located in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and the Interlake. This network provides a high standard of individualized and respectful care consistently throughout all of our locations. We guarantee that our services will meet or exceed your expectations. We pride ourselves in evidence-based practices and a commitment to effective, preventative programs and services that can expedite injury recovery. Welcome to Sage Creek and our network of clinics..... modern, spacious and state-of-the-art.

Q: What types of services are available at Sage Creek Physiotherapy?

A: We are a multi-disciplinary clinic offering extensive services for all ages. We specialize in physiotherapy, massage occupational therapy, therapy,

We also offer personalized individual or group training.

Our other unique and sought-after services include vestibular therapy and fall-prevention for vertigo sufferers and those with balance disorders. We practice pelvic floor therapy for those with incontinence, prolapse or prostate issues. We provide sports-injury rehabilitation and training, as well as motor vehicle and work-related-injury care, including ergonomics. Our services cater to the post-surgical rehabilitation required after joint replacement, fractures or soft tissue injury such as ACL reconstruction. For seniors or those with mobility concerns, we provide nursing footcare and in-home evaluations by an occupational therapist, ensuring you or your family member will be safe within their home.

Q: What are some of the features of Sage Creek Physiotherapy?

A: Come and experience our relaxing reception area with water fountain, comfortable seating and friendly staff. We pride ourselves in being a green facility, utilizing paperless charting and record-keeping. All of our administrative procedures are patient-friendly and include direct billing to many private insurance companies. We follow up with friendly emails and phone reminders to keep you on track. For many of our clients, individualized exercise programs can be provided with easy-to-follow video instruction accessed from your email.

Our spacious and modern facility features multiple specialized treatment rooms and a large rehabilitation gym within a bright,

acupuncture and custom foot orthotics. natural-light setting which is accessible to all ages and mobility levels. You'll feel at home in our relaxed, open-concept atmosphere. Our experienced clinicians and staff provide helpful and caring support throughout your treatment period. Visit our website at InMotionnetwork.ca and take a virtual tour of our clinic. You won't be disappointed!

Q: Who covers the cost of private practice physiotherapy?

A: Sage Creek Physiotherapy's services, like that of all other private practices, are not covered by Manitoba Health. But many private work insurance policies and personal or government benefit plans cover the cost of physiotherapy services. Examples may include Blue Cross, MPI, WCB, Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA). and the Department of National Defence

Q: Do I need a referral for services at Sage Creek Physiotherapy?

A: While many patients come to us with verbal or written referrals from doctors, physicians or surgeons, many others seek us out based on positive referrals from friends and family. Be sure to read through your private insurance policy as some benefit plans require a professional referral to cover treatment costs. Our knowledgeable staff will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. Book an appointment with us today. We are open Monday through Saturday and offer convenient early-morning and evening treatment





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THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

🗎 IN BRIEF



Providence Honours Former Student

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

As part of its graduation exercises on April 24, Providence University College presented an honorary doctorate degree to a former student who has gone on to achieve big things in the academic world.

Dr. Daniel Falk, a world-renowned expert in the Hebrew Bible and the ongoing study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, graduated from Providence in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts at Regent College and a Ph.D. from Cambridge. Falk is also the author of two books, Daily, Sabbath, and Festival Prayer in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Parabiblical Texts: Strategies for Extending the Scriptures in the Dead Sea

Falk currently serves on the faculty of Pennsylvania State University. Before that, he was Professor of Ancient Judaism and Biblical Studies at the University of Oregon. Falk was also a Kennicott Fellow in Hebrew at the Oriental Institute at the University of Oxford.



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Not So Sleepy Anymore: Niverville Wakes Up to Capo



The coffee bar at Capo's new Niverville location.

By Eric Peterson

It's late evening on a Thursday night in Niverville. The spring concert is long over at the elementary school and it's too cold and wet still for a soccer game or trip to the park. In short, it's the sort of night where traditionally the townspeople would be rolling up the sidewalks.

Most folks would be inside with the curtains drawn well before dark.

But tradition is changing around here, in case you haven't noticed, and spring nights aren't so sleepy anymore.

The Capo Coffee Lounge is still buzzing as the sun sets. Downstairs, customers are lining up for baked goods and specialty coffees

to take home. Others sit in pairs and small groups at the booths and tables that ring the main room.

Upstairs, the atmosphere is even more lively. About 30 men are milling about. Some sip on fancy beers while others enjoy coffee. It's registration night for the local golf course and nobody seems like they're in a rush to get home. You feel like you could just as easily be in Osborne Village or the Exchange District. It's a scene that not only reflects this growing and evolving community, but also its excitement about finally having Capo up and running.

"I was optimistic about the support we'd receive," says Capo co-founder and owner Chris Ewen. "But it's been overwhelming how supporting people are."

Ewen is speaking from his office upstairs on Capo's fifth night of operation in Niverville. The mingling golfers make it tough to talk out in the lounge. Ewen says there were over 600 visitors on the first day, and every night the lounge seems to be hosting a meeting or community event.

The Niverville location is

Capo's second in the region. Their Île-des-Chênes location has been a favourite of local coffee fans for more than two years. Buzz has been building about a potential Niverville location for some time, and when the doors opened the town responded in huge numbers, even though Ewen says the store isn't in full swing yet.

"We've had live music a couple nights already, but we want to do more of that. We will be doing our paint night and cocktail courses." says Ewen, while adding that tableside service will become the norm in the upstairs lounge while the first floor will continue as counter service. He also plans on adding more homemade food and unique drinks.

For Ewen, the most rewarding part of the venture has been the warm reception he and his business have received in Niverville.

"I just can't thank the community enough for their support," he concludes.

You can find Capo Coffee Lounge at 290 Main Street.

No Injuries in Warehouse Fire

By Evan Braun

A fire broke out in a Niverville warehouse during the afternoon of Thursday, April 23. The structure on Heritage Trail, adjacent to the railway tracks and south of Main Street, was deemed a complete loss. Owned by Rod Friesen, the building was used primarily for storage. No one was injured as a result of the fire.

[The fire] was started in the building in a semi that was having work done on it," says Niverville Fire Chief Keith Beuckert, who adds that the fire was intensely hot. "Two more vehicles were in the shop too, which fuelled the fire."

According to Bueckert, the



A warehouse in Niverville burns.

initial 911 dispatcher incorrectly contacted the New Bothwell Fire Department first.

"Not sure why this happened, but New Bothwell corrected the dispatchers and Niverville was called," says Bueckert. He says that the mix-up is being investigated.

"From the time Niverville was called 'til [firefighters were] on the scene was four and a half minutes."

Due to high winds, grass fires started up in the ditches next to the railway tracks. The Ritchot Fire Department assisted in putting those out, in addition to lending manpower to fighting the main fire.

Bueckert reports that the fire was under control in under an hour, although firefighters remained on the scene longer to monitor a gas line break which was caused by the collapse of the building's south wall. Also, because the fire was so intense, priority was immediately given to defend the neighbouring building on the north side.

'We had ten firefighters on scene almost right away from Niverville, so we had an aggressive defensive fire attack." Bueckert adds that the recently installed fire hydrants on Main Street were used for the first time. "[The] water was a huge help and worked great."



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"Sling Sisters" Turn Bags into Big Business

This local company has grown from its small footprint in St. Adolphe to offer its products in hundreds of stores throughout Canada and the U.S.

By Shannon McConechy

Sisters and entrepreneurs Lori Hawkins and Sandra O'Malley have made it their mission to make bagging handy and beneficial for you, your community, and the environment. Their local company, Colibri, manufactures an array of bag products from their small workshop in St. Adolphe. With so many sizes and prints to choose from, they offer a reusable bag for every purpose.

Calling themselves the "sling sisters" in 2008, Hawkins and O'Malley started producing stretchy wraps for mothers to conveniently carry babies, and they started by using their own friends and children as guinea pigs for their designs. By 2010, with the addition of wet bags, the sisters saw the need to expand and change the focus of their business, and Colibri was born.

Why Colibri? The name comes from the scientific term for the genus of hummingbirds often seen throughout North and South America.

In the small workshop located on the top floor of a heritage building near the centre of St. Adolphe, one finds an assortment of snack bags, wet bags, pouches, clutches, totes, and even washcloths—all products available at the Colibri website—but the sky is the limit for what people can actually store in them.

Colibri also offers a fundraising program for schools and daycares, which provides a way for new customers to get their hands on products, while also supporting community organizations.

"We've been pushing our fundraising a lot the last three years," says Hawkins. "The schools get 50 percent back from snack bag sales."

This is a high percentage when compared with other fundraisers. For schools with litter-free lunch programs, a growing trend, the Colibri fundraisers can be an especially good fit.

Because Colibri stands apart from other snack bag manufacturers by focusing on reusable products, they must take food safety into consideration. Third-party product testing is one of the ways that Colibri sets the bar in the industry.

"We do procedure testing for [all] our snack bags," says Hawkins. "The fabric is certified and lab-tested for food safety."

Getting the product on the shelf at the beginning required a lot of footwork, according to Hawkins. "We phoned a lot of businesses... starting out by picking stores we thought would be a good fit."

Approximately 350 retailers currently carry Colibri on their shelves. And with a sales representative and a distributor based out of Toronto, the Colibri brand has

recently branched out into the United States.

If you are considering ditching disposable bags, buying these versatile products from a humming local business might be a good place to start.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.colibricanada.com



INBRIEF



SCU Unveils Mobile Payment App, First in Manitoba

On April 20, the Steinbach Credit Union became the first credit union in the province to launch a Mobile Pay platform for Android phones. The new app allows SCU members to make secure payments from their savings or chequing accounts via their devices at retailers across Canada.

"Integrating technology and creating banking solutions is something we've always strived for at SCU," says Glenn Friesen, CEO of SCU. "This is an award winning, innovative payment solution and we are very proud to be offering it to our members."

The Mobile Pay app is only available to SCU members, and the credit union plans to further expand mobile-based payment options in the future.



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- Orangetheory FitnessPaterson Yard Works
- Prairie Girl Soaps & Candles
- Prairie Soul Dance Studio
- Red River Group
- Reh-Fit Centre
- Residents of Errington Place
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Niverville School Among Province's Top Two Priorities



Like many Manitobans, residents of Niverville have long awaited news that their overcrowded schools will see some relief. For more than a year, a new Grades 9–12 school has been at the top of the Hanover School Division's five-year Capital Projects Plan, making it the highest priority in terms of their requests from the province.

Good news arrived on April 26, when it was revealed that a new school in Niverville is among the provincial government's highest priorities as well.

Education Minister Ian Wishart, speaking to reporters about his department's budget estimates, revealed that the government has identified the province's two highest priority areas for new schools, and both are in rural parts of the province. One is Winkler, and the other is Niverville.

Wishart says that the previous NDP government significantly underinvested when it comes to greenlighting new schools, and that Manitoba schools currently are forced to use more portable classrooms than ever before. The current number sits at 460.

Although just about every one of Manitoba's 37 school divisions have requested new schools, Wishart says that Niverville and Winkler are the communities with the most urgent needs.

Even so, Wishart cannot yet commit to when those needs will finally be met.

"First of all, I want to say how excited we are that the province has indicated that [a Niverville school] is a top priority," says Randy Dueck, Superintendent of the Hanover School Division. "That's great news. That's the first step. But to



Niverville Collegiate will have 13 portable classrooms at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

DUSTIN KRAHN

be clear, that's not yet an official announcement... A remark has been made that it's a top priority, but it's a remark by the education minister, so I think that's a pretty solid remark."

Myron Dyck, mayor of Niverville, says that he is excited to finally have an indication of where the community ranks in terms of the province's priorities.

"This announcement is a product of the Town of Niverville council working together with the Hanover School Division Superintendent Randy Dueck, his board, our school trustees Ruby Wiens and Shannon Friesen, and our MLA Shannon Martin," says Dyck. "Through the due diligence, hard work, and persistence of those mentioned, an announcement such as was given has made the many long years of hard work worth it. A new high school in Niverville is much needed and will provide our ever-growing student population the chance to have enhanced education opportunities."

When a new senior years school is approved for Niverville, Dueck says that will trigger plans to recalibrate the current Niverville Collegiate into a Grades 5–8 middle school.

"The school is old [and] needs a refreshing," Dueck says. "There's some really nice pieces there for a middle school. It has some terrific shops areas that would meet the needs of a middle school very nicely. We'd assess things like the size of the gym and we'd have to address things like science labs to see if they are appropriate."

The Niverville Elementary School, which received a five-class-room expansion in 2016, will remain a K-4 school.

Hanover anticipates that when a new senior years school is announced, it will be for a 400-seat facility. However, Dueck says that the core facilities would be large enough to accommodate at least 500 students.

"That means the gym size, the office spaces, the washroom spaces would all be for 500 students,"

Dueck says. "The idea is that the school would be designed in such a way that we can build an additional bank of classrooms onto that school and it's still right-sized."

While the recent news is certainly cause for excitement, Dueck cautions that the next step in the process is similar to the ones that came before: waiting.

"We know it's a priority for this government, so I anticipate they'll want to get [the school approved] as soon as they can. But it's a new government still. How soon is 'as soon as they can'? I don't know," says Dueck. "But I just want to say that I'm delighted for the community of Niverville. They have waited a long time for this, and so I'm really happy that they will get there. We just don't know how soon."

In the meantime, despite the uncertainty about timetables, it seems certain that residents of Niverville will have good news to anticipate in the near future.

"Ilook forward to the day when construction will be completed," Mayor Dyck says.

INBRIEF

McHale Drops Out of NDP Leadership Bid

Last month, Michelle McHale announced that she was running for the leadership of the Manitoba NDP. However, on April 22, she decided to drop out of the race.

"This was an incredibly difficult decision for me, but after taking some time to reflect and talk to my family, I know I need to put my health first right now," McHale said in a statement. "I hope the party and its current and future members find a leader who will unify and strengthen our party, and help us be a progressive voice for all Manitobans."

Her departure leaves Wab Kinew, MLA for Fort Rouge in Winnipeg, as the sole candidate in the race.

"I wish Wab and anyone else seeking the leadership all the best," McHale said.

McHale, who originally hails from Niverville, is in the midst of a legal action against the Hanover School Division over its policies regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ information in its curriculum. She is also one of the directors of Steinbach Pride.







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1 LOCAL NEWS THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Daycare and Seniors Residences Proposed for St. Adolphe



Out with the old, in with the new. This could well describe the feelings of St. Adolphe's residents as they witness the early stages of demolition of their long-standing convent turned nursing home. Others may indeed be saddened by the loss of a century-old icon nestled in the heart of the community.

The sale of the aging facility to Niverville Heritage Holding Inc. (NHHI) in 2013 was secured with a condition: that the condemned building be removed at the new owners' expense and that NHHI make every effort to redevelop the site for a new seniors housing facility. NHHI has since been working to maintain that promise, holding discussions with the RM of Ritchot, the provincial government, and the local daycare board.

The proposal brought forward by NHHI—a notfor-profit organization also holding the assets to the Niverville Heritage Centre (NHC) campus—includes three stages of senior living. Eight life lease units and 24 assisted living units would be newly constructed, all with indoor parking. NHHI is in discussion with Manitoba Housing to integrate the nearby existing seniors housing, The Chalet, to provide for supportive housing

in the future

"The concept is that nearly 90 percent of seniors will be afforded appropriate housing options in the community," says Gord Daman, spokesperson for NHHI.

Believing firmly in the model of the NHC campus and its multigenerational, all-inclusive components, the current concept plan for St. Adolphe's facility would also include a daycare centre and commercial space for professional support such as a medical clinic, physiotherapy, and other practitioners. Rounding out the aging-in-place concept, Daman says a café and commercial kitchen would be incorporated to provide food services to the seniors.

"This type of facility would be extremely beneficial for the community overall," says former Ritchot mayor Jackie Hunt. "It would help address the growing needs of our expanding community. With the price of housing and rising energy costs, most families do not have the choice but to be two-income families. As such, the need for expanded daycare spots is substantial. Secondly, with the aging population, and the lack of affordable and supportive housing for seniors, having new assisted living units in the community would help with the cycle of care that is required when people age."

Though a personal care home (PCH) is not being pursued for the St. Adolphe



The old convent turned nursing home in St. Adolphe in the early stages of demolition.

BRENDA SAWATZK

facility, Daman says that there will be an easy transition for its residents to the nearby Niverville PCH for seniors at that stage of care.

The proposed daycare facility would be built according to provincial guidelines with approximately 6,000 square feet of space, allowing for the 90 daycare spots already approved by the province. The NHHI is seeking a community partner to manage the daycare facility and is in talks with the St. Adolphe Daycare Board.

Before construction can begin, NHHI will need to see clear evidence of interest in seniors living units. With a level of funding already promised by Manitoba Housing for these units, construction would need to begin by spring of 2018 to meet the deadline for that funding. The availability of these funds would also allow NHHI to provide assisted living units at a reduced rental fee.

Beyond that funding, the facility is intended to be completely self-sustaining. NHHI will require tenant commitments on the life lease and rental commitments on the assisted living portion of the

facility before they proceed. Further to that, there would need to be the guarantee of an experienced daycare operator who is able to lease the space.

"The NHHI board... will not leverage the existing Heritage Centre in any way towards the St. Adolphe development," says Daman. "While NHHI will be the sole member of the not-for-profit company that will operate the St. Adolphe campus, [we are] not in any way utilizing existing capital assets in Niverville as security to allow the project to proceed. The project must be self-sustaining and will not go forward if our due diligence over the next number of months indicates [otherwise]."

Daman adds that local contractor Von Ast Construction is working on a projection of the total capital costs. This, too, will determine its long-term operational viability, as well as NHHI's ability to sustain the necessary mortgage. Should it not prove viable, Daman says the land will be placed on the market for sale. Though he feels it's an unlikely outcome, NHHI will have met its earlier commitment to the RM of Ritchot

"Assuming the project proceeds, the construction period will be approximately 24 months, so the space would be ready in spring of 2020," says Daman. "As such, the daycare would likely be able to begin operating in mid-2020."

With the ongoing shortage

of adequate daycare spots in Niverville, and with 5,000 square feet of space soon to be vacated in the Niverville Heritage Centre upon the medical clinic's move, the question arises as to the reasons why the NHC stakeholders (the NHHI) would pursue daycare spots in St. Adolphe. Daman notes that this impending available space was offered to Growing Minds Child Care (GMCC) of Niverville and it was declined.

"GMCC is [already] one of the largest provincially run daycares in the province," says Jennifer Duff, chairperson for the GMCC board of directors. "We strive to provide the highest quality of childcare and programming to all children in our care."

Duffadds that, as a licensed centre, rates are provincially legislated, making GMCC highly dependent on government funding.

"That funding has now fallen flat," says Duff. "This has definitely played a role in our inability to expand our capacity and keep up with our growing community. It is for that reason that it is just not financially or operationally feasible for GMCC to expand... at this time."

Duff encourages families on a childcare waiting list to reach out to their elected officials in this regard. Should the St. Adolphe daycare plan come to fruition, Daman adds that it may also offer a viable alternative to commuting families.







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19 LOCAL NEWS
THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017



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Waste Cart Reminders

It has now been a year since the Town of Niverville implemented the automated waste cart system. Thank you for your cooperation – it has been an interesting journey. Residents are reminded of the following regulations regarding the use and placement of the carts:

On Collection Day:

Prepare It – All material must fit in the cart and the lid MUST close or the waste will not be picked up. NO EXTRA MATERIAL WILL BE COLLECTED. All waste should be bagged. Do not jam or pack items into your cart. Items must fall freely into the truck when the cart is emptied.

Place It – Place your cart on the street with the wheels against the curb, with at least 3 feet of clearance between the cart and any obstacles. If you do not have a curb, place just off the asphalt roadway on the shoulder. Carts MUST be out by 8:00 am on your collection day to ensure they are emptied.

Park It – After waste has been picked up, remove your cart from the street to its storage location near your building by the end of collection day. Failure to remove carts may result in a \$50 fee as per Bylaw 775-17.

Residents looking to dispose of extra waste may either use the Bristal Hauling Waste Transfer Site located approximately one kilometer north on Sixth Avenue North or the MidCanada Waste Management (RM of Ritchot) Disposal Site located six miles north on Sixth Avenue North (1373 Bernat Rd, lle des Chenes). Please note that Niverville residents using the MidCanada Disposal Site will have their load weighed in/out and be charged the commercial rate for disposal.

For more information regarding waste collection visit the Town's website www.whereyoubelong.ca. THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017 **LOCAL NEWS**

Niverville Chamber Recognizes Local Business at Annual Awards

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On April 13, the Niverville Chamber of Commerce gave out its yearly awards at the annual general meeting. The Chamber has three awards— Outstanding Customer Service, Outstanding Business of the Year, and the Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award.

Niverville Autobody took the honours this year for Outstanding Customer Service. The criteria for the award including having knowledgeable and attentive staff, hours of operation that meet customer needs, consistent inventory levels, a clean and welcoming environment, a customer loyalty program, and innovative and diverse product lines.

'Our business and customer base has been growing every year and we recognize the need to be able to provide a great service in a fair and reasonable amount of time without sacrificing quality," says Ferd Klassen, owner of Niverville Autobody.

In addition to being recognized for excellent customer service, the autobody was nominated in all three categories this year.

Niverville Autobody is currently in the process of completing a 3,850-square-foot expansion to their building on Main Street. The work was first announced in December, and Klassen says the new space should be complete within a few weeks.

Other nominees for the customer service award, nominated and voted by members of the community, were Anya's Hair Studio and Southern Comfort Mechanical. Last year's winner was Done: Hair, Skin, and Nails.

In the Outstanding Business of the Year category, the Chamber recognized Fusion Industries. Fusion, owned by local resident Leon Desmarais, is one of Niverville's largest employers. Custom steel products fabricated at Fusion's 17,000-squarefoot facility in Niverville are shipped across the globe to international markets. The state-of-the-art equipment includes five- and ten-ton cranes, welding stations equipped with jib cranes, and special fixture tables imported from Europe.

"What drives us is delivering quality products on time that meet and exceed customer expectations," says **Desmarais**

To be recognized in this category, businesses must contribute positively to employment in Niverville, demonstrate sustained growth and innovation, offer exemplary customer service, be active in the community, sport a good health and safety record, and make use of quality improvement programs.

Also nominated were Niverville Bigway, Heritage Lane



Chamber Award winners Leon Desmarais, Ferd Klassen, and John Schmitke.

Builders, Niverville Autobody, and Wiens Furniture. In 2016,

the award went to GORP. This year's Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award went to Niverville Bigway. The award, named in honour of one of Niverville's founding businessmen, recognizes a company that promotes employee involvement in community activities, supports community functions, donates time and financial support to the community, and promotes the community to others.

By this description, Niverville Bigway is an ideal choice. Bigway has long been a mainstay in Niverville, involving itself through donations of both product and time to a long list of important community causes and endeavours, including the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair and the annual Imagine Run. Bigway's focus on community-mindedness began with its original owners, Tom and Bonnie Schmitke, and has extended to their son, John

ates the business.

Two other businesses were nominated for the Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award—The Clarence Braun and Wesley Dowse Team and Niverville Autobody. Niverville Credit Union received the honour last year.

The Chamber's annual general meeting was also attended by Niverville mayor Myron Dyck and Progressive Conservative MLA Shannon Martin.

Dyck spoke about some of the town's upcoming priorities, such as the process of identifying a new water source, advancing the multiplex, and looking for new office space. Martin spoke briefly about the recently announced provincial budget, as well as a committee he's chairing to reduce red tape in government.

Chuck Davidson, President and CEO of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, delivered remarks about the business climate throughout the province. Davidson focused on tourism, economic competitiveness, workforce challenges, and the Chamber's advocacy on behalf of Manitoba businesses.

The Chamber also invited special guest speaker Mathieu Manaigre to make a presentation. Manaigre, President of Avenir IT Inc., is an expert on cyber security and had an important message to impart to the local businesses about

Schmitke, who currently oper- protecting themselves from cyber attacks, data breaches, band fraud, and compliance penalties, all issues which have become increasingly prevalent in recent years.

One of the misconceptions Manaigre seeks to dispel is that small business won't be targeted by cyber criminals because they aren't worth the effort. He points out that one in five small businesses falls victim to cyber crime each year, a number that is growing. Indeed, small businesses are the low-hanging fruit because of their loose protection, which is why his business focuses on protection services for small- and medium-sized businesses. Ferd Klassen of Niverville Autobody is one of his many happy customers.

Earlier this year, Manaigre received a Winnipeg Consumer Choice Award for IT Consultant. He was also recognized by the St. Boniface Chamber of Commerce in

Two new board members were elected at the meeting, Kelsev Kosman of Dollhouse Design and Clint Hiebert of Fifth Avenue Estates. The other members of the board include Doug Dyck, Bryan Trottier, Mel Buhler, Karen Albaugh, Andy Anderson, Guy Britten, and John Magri.

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1 LOCAL NEWS

THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017





Upgrades Coming to Krahn Road Intersection

By Evan Braun

□ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Since the arrival of Tim Hortons and Shell, the amount of traffic at the corner of Krahn Road and Highway 311 has skyrocketed. The good news is that new turning lanes are being added to the intersection this spring.

According to Niverville mayor Myron Dyck, responsibility for the turning lanes will fall to Sunset Estates as part of its development agreement with the town. Sunset Estates is the developer of The Highlands and Old Drover's Run.

"Just like installing water and sewer, this intersection improvement is part of the developer's cost," says Dyck.

Len Peters, Vice President of Sunset Estates, says that the development agreement called for a certain number of units to be occupied in The Highlands before a turning lane was built. That number has since been reached.

The upgrades will include

a left-hand turning lane for people traveling west, and a right-hand turning lane for people traveling east. Peters notes that traffic will flow much more smoothly when the upgrades are complete.

According to Peters, construction is slated to begin in mid-May and be finished by mid-June, weather-permitting.

In addition to the current upgrades, the Town of Niverville is consulting with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation about solutions for several hightraffic intersections in town along Highway 311.

"Note that the study that the town is paying for will include [the Krahn Road] intersection and may have additional items, such as lights, that may be recommended to council," says Dyck. "The cost of [future] intersection upgrades and how that will be shared is not known at this time."

Do You Need Insurance for Your Home Business?

By Deb Pearson

Wyatt Dowling Insurance Brokers

Working from a home office or operating a business from your home can be a great way to earn extra income, not to mention the intangible benefits of having less stress, no commute, and additional family time. But it is important to remember that the home business is just that—a business. And it needs to be insured like any other business, because homeowner policies don't typically cover business activities.

Here are some key items to consider. Will your business supply or manufacture a product? Will you have electronic equipment? What products, services, or professional advice will you offer? Will you have business visitors to your home? Focusing on these questions will help identify

what types of coverage you need.

In most instances, your home business will need business property insurance against loss or damage to property used in the business. If a fire occurs and your home office is destroyed, your computer, fax machine, copier, furniture, and printer would not be covered under your homeowners' policy.

Liability insurance protects the business when it is liable for damages caused to another or another's property. This type of insurance is necessary if business visitors will come to the house. Your homeowners' policy will not protect you from claims made by injured business visitors. If a courier slips and falls on your front steps while making a business delivery, you could be found liable for their injury.

Professionals who work from their home need the same professional liability insurance as professionals working out of an office. As straightforward as this may sound, many professionals do not secure professional liability insurance when they work out of their home. Avoid any gaps in coverage. For example, if you are transitioning from a paid position to an in-home business and your prior employer provided professional liability coverage, do your best to secure coverage that will be in place the moment the prior coverage

Product liability coverage protects the business if it is liable for damages to a person or property caused by a product supplied, designed, or manufactured by the company.

Your home business must also comply with all regulations, health codes, laws, regulations, and statutes. A failure to do so may void your coverage. Employment laws must be followed, too. If you have employees, you will need workers compensation coverage.

Regardless if your home business is your main source of income or supplementary, many of the same risks apply. Please contact an insurance specialist to find out more about the many home-based business insurance options that are available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Hydro Funds Flow to Municipalities

For several years, towns and municipalities throughout the southeast region have been receiving funds from Manitoba Hydro's Community Development Initiative. How are they spending it?

By Evan Braun

✓ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Since 2014, communities located along the route of Manitoba Hydro's Bipole III transmission line have been receiving compensation through the Bipole III Community Development Initiative. Niverville, the RM of Ritchot, and the RM of Hanover are all affected by the transmission line's route and thus receive funding.

"Funding started to flow in February 2014," says Eric King, Finance Administration Manager for the Town of Niverville. "It is based on population, proximity to Bipole III, and length of the line."

King says that the funding is scheduled to continue for ten installments, four of which municipalities have already received. Because the amount of funds is tied to the municipalities' population, the compensation is subject to change.

"The amount has changed," says King. "[It] started at \$149,000 [for Niverville] and is up to \$157,195 this year, for instance."

This past February, Ritchot received \$137,000 and used the money to support a host of not-for-profit organizations and community-based projects. Niverville, on the other hand, has allocated the funds for economic development and the development of community infrastructure.

"To date, the funds have been earmarked for the Niverville Business Park, to assist in the purchasing of land and the future development of the park infrastructures," King says.

Recently, Niverville's town council issued an RFP (request for proposal) to encourage private enterprise to assume responsibility for the business park's development. Should that happen, King notes that the accumulated Hydro



Newly placed transmission towers through the RM of Hanover.

EVAN BRAUN

funds would be reallocated to another community infrastructure project. Since 2014, these funds have been included in Niverville's budget under Environmental Development Services.

To date, the RM of Hanover has received four payments totalling \$658.240.

"This money is placed into a reserve and we have developed a policy for how this money is to be spent," says Lisa Baldwin, Hanover's Manager of Recreation and Community Services. "The money has been earmarked for recreation development and allocated equally across our municipality to the different communities and organizations."

Baldwin notes that many communities within Hanover are still in

the planning stages of their capital projects, but \$195,600 has been spent so far, including for a splash pad in Blumenort, a picnic shelter for the Randolph Sports Club, playground fencing for Pansy Park, a new baseball diamond at Friedensfeld Community Centre, and a three-season summer pavilion at the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach.

Manitoba Hydro's Bipole III line has been under construction for several years, with most of the work so far being completed in the north. The high-voltage transmission line, according to Hydro's website, "will deliver renewable energy to southern Manitoba and the United States, helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels... [and] strengthen reliability and [the] security of Manitoba's electricity supply by reducing dependency on existing high-voltage direct current transmission lines."

The project is scheduled to be complete in 2018.

"We have had a number of challenges on this project," says Glenn Penner, Division Manager for Transmission Construction and Line Maintenance, in a January update provided by Manitoba Hydro. "Weather, specifically, has been an issue for us. We've had two winter seasons that have been unseasonably warm. That's caused us problems with access with winter roads, lack of snow, having it melt, and getting us out of the north too soon. This winter has been much colder."

In the closing months of 2016, the project made significant progress, with more than 400 transmission towers being erected through the use of helicopters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipolelll

■ IN BRIEF

Speed Readers Highlight Dangers of Speeding

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For the first week of May, volunteers with Ritchot Citizens on Patrol have been operating speed reader boards in St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Île-des-Chênes. The reader boards, provided by Manitoba Public Insurance, are intended to raise awareness about the dangers of speeding.

"Last year was the deadliest year on Manitoba highways in a decade, and some of those crashes were speed-related," says Ward Keith, MPI's Vice President of Communications and Loss Prevention. "The goal for 2017 is to make our roadways safer for everyone."

Keith adds that the hope is for drivers to use the reader boards as opportunities to self-evaluate their speeds and adjust accordingly.

It is estimated that 21 Manitobans are killed, and 600 injured, each year from speed-related accidents.

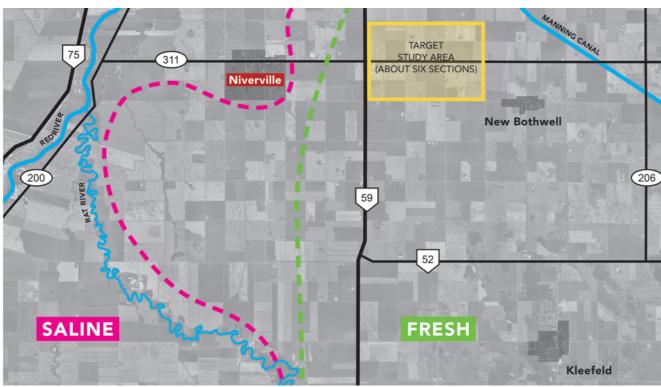
Marianne Curtis, Coordinator of Ritchot COPP, has firsthand knowledge of the dangers of speeding. "Last summer, we lost two family friends in speed-related accidents, and unfortunately we are not alone in this. There is no greater pain than burying someone you love after they've died in a preventable collision, where speed could have made the difference to their survival."





16 LOCAL NEWS
THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

New Well Site Targeted for Niverville



A map of the region's hydrological resources and the target study area for the new well site.

□ TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

By Brenda Sawatzky

□ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

One year ago, Friesen Drillers of Steinbach teamed up with Landmark Planning & Design Inc. (LP&DI) of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Water Services Board to locate a new well site for Niverville, commissioned by the town council. Today, after extensive public consultation, permit applications, research, and test drilling, a new well site has been located approximately one mile west of New Bothwell. A public open house was held at the Niverville Heritage Centre on April 19 to present their findings.

The Town of Niverville

became aware of issues with the existing wells servicing the Spruce Drive water plant in 2016. The wells, located near the plant, were originally constructed in 2002 and were found to be unable to keep up with the demand of the growing community. Due to the higher pump volumes required, the sand within the well had begun to lift, causing treatment and turbidity issues and overtaxing the plant's ability to filter the water adequately.

Recognizing that the town would soon be in need of treated water for businesses along Main Street, and eventually the whole community, council took quick action to address the concern.

The two- to three-year process of locating and constructing a new well site is now well underway.

"These wells were selected... as the most likely and most promising locations for a proposed water supply," says Jeff Bell, hydrogeological engineer for Friesen Drillers. "The preliminary testing revealed a highly fractured bedrock in these locations, and a good connection to the aquifor"

Two wells have been selected and proposed for Niverville's use, one as a backup in the event that the first pump

should fail. Though the site lies approximately 11 kilometres from the town's border, much consideration was given in determining the best possible location.

Sand and saline content is higher in the groundwater west of Highway 59 towards the Red River. Thus, the target study area led the research teams east of the highway, where the water in both aquifers is fresh. Other determining factors included the number of existing wells in the area and the impact a new well would have on agriculture and other communities.

Eight test wells were drilled and a total of 32 wells in the

area were monitored during the testing. Friesen Drillers undertook pump test procedures well beyond what is legally required in order to confirm the viability of the site. They determined that the capacity of the test wells were very high, and adequate flow rates appear to be possible without causing any negative impact.

The results collected from the variety of studies and tests will now be compiled into a report for the provincial government. The resulting provincial review will determine whether a license will be granted or whether new test sites need to be sought out. According to the research companies, the province of Manitoba will not allow any groundwater extraction that is not sustainable.

"The Water Rights Act allows for the province to allocate groundwater use for groups in the province," says Bell. "This is done through a licensing process and review. Their process is well thought-out and extensive, and requires water use to be done sustainably. A new project in an area cannot negatively affect the water rights of another, or affect the domestic uses of the residents in the area."

Bell says that one of the aspects of the Act is a first-in-time, first-in-right clause, which allows those who first gain access and license to a well site to have first rights to it. The province has ultimate authority over all groundwater, similar to minerals located beneath the surface of all provincial property.

"In the southeast, we are all very fortunate with the aquifers that we have available to us," says Bell. "There are two aquifers in the southeast, and these are large regional aquifers that extend beyond the U.S. border, through the Interlake, and past The Pas. There is a limestone aquifer and an underlying sandstone aquifer."

Bell adds that in the past 10 to 20 years, water levels have risen in the southeast, allowing for quick recovery after pumping. Because the aquifer in the test area is protected by low-permeability sediments—a natural buffer for nitrates, coliforms, or elevated chlorides caused by human activity—there is cleaner groundwater from which to pump.

Friesen Drillers and LP&DI pride themselves in the methods they use to educate the public throughout the process. Landowners within the target area were paid personal visits to create awareness and alleviate concerns. To date, two open houses have been held in Niverville to inform the community and likewise allay any unease.

"As far as a water supply project goes, there is no requirement for us to engage in this type of public involvement and public consultation," says Bell. "This type of approach was developed for these projects by our team. We feel it is [important] to increase people's knowledge and understanding of the process, and allow them the chance to see [and] take part in all aspects [of it]."



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Saturday, July 15 - Insect Investigation - Learn about the bugs that are all around us and then wander outside to catch insects buzzing around the Centre.

Saturday, July 22 - Dairy Day - Explore the dairy barn and learn about how we get milk to make cheese and yogurt. Finish by helping to make some fresh ice cream!

Saturday, July 29 - Canola Crush - Tour the centre and learn how to crush canola seeds to make canola oil.

Saturday, August 12 - Ice Cream Party - Come join us at the Discovery Centre and make some homemade ice cream A cold treat to enjoy on a hot summer's day!

Saturday, August 19 - Pizza Party - Mix, Knead and Roll out your own pizza dough before topping it with some delicious local ingredients.



Sunday, September 17 - Open Farm Day - Come to our farm to enjoy activities such as dairy barn tours, ice cream making and explore the Discovery Centre FREE OF CHARGE!

Saturday, October 28 - Pumpkin Carving Party - BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin), do all the carving in the Discovery Centre and leave the mess for us to clean!

For more information or to register:

ffdc.ca

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Local Organizers Spearhead Niverville Scouts Program

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Local organizers are preparing to launch a new Scouts program in Niverville this fall. A recruitment meeting held on April 24 at John Henry's drew a great deal of interest. The goal is to recruit ten full-time leaders for the first three levels of Scouts by September. The three levels are Beavers (ages five to seven), Cubs (ages eight to ten), and Scouts (ages 11 to 14). Each level requires at least two leaders.

"There were about 15 people in attendance," says Lindsay Unrau, a member of the Scouting administration team. "By the end of the evening, we had six full-time leaders ready to start the process of becoming a leader. I was thrilled to meet so many incredibly exciting and passionate members of our community who are looking to help bring more opportunities to Niverville for our kids."

Unrau adds that the group is also looking for adults who may be able to volunteer on a part-time basis.

While it is currently unknown how many families may be interested in participating in the program, interest

has been shown to be high. Unrau says that the group's Facebook page already has more than 100 followers. Registration is not yet open.

"We hope to see a turnout in kids similar to what our Girl Guides programs have here in town," Unrau says. "If we can get between 10 to 20 kids per group, we would be very happy. I should also add that girls are welcome to join Scouts, and moms can be leaders too!"

The next step will be to find a venue. With more than half of the required leaders on board, the administration team is approaching several church boards. They are also planning fundraisers to help cover the costs of establishing the local program.

"It's a lot of work," says Unrau, "but I know that once we get things up and running, the reward will be easily measured by the joy and new opportunities the Scouting program will bring to our kids."

Erika Maguire, Area Support Manager for Scouts Canada, was on hand to present information about the program at the recruitment meeting.

"Scouts programs are designed for ages five to 26 to

help youth develop self-confidence and leadership skills through outdoor activities and youth-led adventure," says Maguire. "Volunteer candidates and parents of prospective members enjoyed getting to know some current volunteers from Morris, Lorette, and Winnipeg."

Scouts Canada is the country's largest youth organization, with more than 400 leaders in Manitoba alone.

Other members of the administration team include Lisa Wiebe, Crystal Schmitke-Dueck, and Ashley Chamberlain.

"It looks like we are going to make Scouts a reality here in Niverville," says Unrau.

In addition to thanking the many people who showed up to lend their support at the recruitment meeting, the administrators also thank John Henry's and Niverville Bigway for their generous contributions to the event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.facebook.com/groups/104716596657558
- To find out more information about volunteer, contact Erika Maguire (erika.maguire@scouts.ca) or Lindsay Unrau (lindsayemunrau@hotmail.ca).

Spring Cleaning in the Air

By Evan Braun

⊠ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

As the temperatures warm and the dust of winter lingers, Niverville is getting ready for its Town Clean-Up Days.

From May 13–14, residents can dispose of large items that would not ordinarily get picked up on garbage days. Between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., residents can bring these items to the Niverville Arena parking lot, where bins will be on hand for steel, wood, branches, electronics, and other miscellaneous items.

Some items will not be accepted, such as liquids and hazardous materials, propane tanks, and appliances with ozone-depleting substances. This includes refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners.

Bristal Hauling accept oils, propane tanks, batteries, and

metal objects for no charge.

In addition, Wm. Dyck & Sons will take old paint, stain, varnish, and water sealant products off people's hands. They remind residents to ensure that these products are dropped off at the store's paint counter in their original containers, complete with lid and label.

The Niverville Collegiate Institute has d one its part as well. Students dispersed throughout town on foot to collect garbage on the afternoon of April 28 as part of its annual Earth Day Clean-Up.

Schools in the RM of Ritchot likewise set aside opportunities for students to assist in spring-cleaning efforts.

Niverville's compost site, north of the Curling Club, is now open for the season. Note that the site only accepts grass clippings and leaves.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The annual community garage sale is scheduled for Friday, May 5 and conclude the following evening. Maps of the garage sales will be made available by the town's recreation department and can be picked up at the town office, Niverville Bigway, Co-op, and Shell.

Sunday, May 7 is marked by the town's Free Giveaway Day. Residents may place free items at the curb of their properties. Be sure to remove objects from the front of one's driveway that are not intended to be given away (for example, children's bikes, toys, etc.).

Residents of St. Adolphe will have their own community garage sale on May 13–14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. Maps of the various homes involved in the sale will be available on the evening of May 12 at the St. Adolphe Esso.

PHONE: 204-392-9626 EMAIL: gjw@live.ca

How about that unfinished yard?

LOCAL NEWS 19 THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Fast-Growing Local Charity Helps New Mothers

By Jacqueline Chartrand

Among the many worthy causes in the southeast is a thriving ministry called Baby Layette Love. Founded in 2011 by Ruth Bergen, it is currently codirected by Niverville locals Jean Harms and Lorna Muir.

What is a "baby layette"? Essentially, it's a baby shower in a bag, providing mothers who have little or nothing with 50 items for their newborns. Recipients must be referred by an agency such as the Crisis Pregnancy Centre or known personally to the directors. The objective is to provide support for new mothers and collect donations of gently used clothing and blankets. These 50 items range from soothers, burp cloths, bibs, face cloths, hooded towels, stuffed toys, and onesies to knitted sweater sets and cards of encouragement.

The original goal of Baby Layette Love was to produce 12 layettes every six weeks. That has since burgeoned to 30 layettes every four weeks. For the last two years, the ministry has averaged 265 layettes per year. As 100 layettes have already been distributed in 2017, a total of 300 is foreseeable and represents a staggering number of items-1,200 onesies, 1,200 sleepers, 1,500 blankets, etc.

To meet this demand, Jean Harms scours the network of local online buy-and-sells to purchase newborn clothing and items-by lots, when possible. Donations are received in bins located at two churches in Niverville, Maranatha Church and the Niverville Community Fellowship, both of which also provide storage space.

Baby Layette Love operates fundraisers such as spring and fall Lavette Sundays at Maranatha. These feature a guest speaker and involvement by the congregation through offerings, sponsorship,



Donations arrive and are sorted at Maranatha Church.

and commitments to purchase specific items urgently needed.

Many other people help keep the ministry afloat. Maranatha also hosts the Snack Shack at the Olde Tyme Country Fair in June, sharing half of the proceeds with Baby Layette Love. A contact in Mitchell scours the Steinbach MCC Thrift Store for blankets and hooded towels as they appear. Steinbach's Southeast Helping Hands donates extra formula and diapers. For the third year in a row, St. Timothy Parish in St. Vital is contributing vans of brand new products specifically collected for Baby Layette Love. The Word of Life Church Sunday School department recently donated \$500 to purchase hooded towels and diapers. Harms collects donations from many locations, including in Steinbach and Winnipeg. Last fall, Southland Church in Steinbach offered the opportunity to collect items at their free Saturday giveaway day. Finally, when inventory and funds

run low, items not essential to the layettes are given to an online consignment consultant. One recent consignment netted \$350.

Volunteers play a huge role, with several local women sewing thousands of bibs and burp cloths. One volunteer, a passionate knitter, creates sweaters, booties, and bonnet sets for each layette. Another faithful volunteer has provided all the toys and stuffies for the past five years. The layettes are assembled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by volunteers ranging from 12 years of age and up.

The ministry partners with many others to disperse the layettes. The Crisis Pregnancy Centre provides ongoing programs and support to clients for two years. Others include the Union Gospel Mission Women's Shelter, local foster parents, the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute. Schroeder Freight, and Family First, Family First is a program of nurses who conduct home visitations of

expectant and new mothers.

"Absolutely nothing gets wasted," says Harms. "What comes in goes out, even down to boxes and bags being recycled to meet local needs."

There are three important ways that people can support Baby Layette Love: either by volunteering in person, donating goods, or offering financial support via Maranatha.

What lies ahead? Baby Layette Love has already fully merged with Niverville-based Baby Blessings and has expanded its service to eligible clients by providing larger items, such as cribs, high chairs, bassinets, play pens, floor play mats, diaper bags, strollers, car seats, and baby carriers.

Harms dreams of sending layettes to nursing stations, or other suitable outlets, in the north. She also hopes to reach out to churches. across Canada to inspire them to establish similar ministries in their regions.

Of the hours spent and miles travelled, Harms just smiles. "It is an honour to be able to serve the least of these! There is an unbelievable demand that continues to grow. Women are so grateful and gracious when we visit them. It has always been a privilege."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- baby.layette.love@gmail.com
- Donation cheques can be made out to Maranatha Church, but with no detail on the memo line. A note stating its purpose should be attached when dropping it off at the church during office hours.
- Baby Layette Love is looking for a capable public relations person who can contact companies that provide baby items. This should also be someone who can handle event-planning.

INBRIEF

June Citizen to Carry **Special Fair Insert**

This year, The Citizen is proud to partner with the Olde Tyme Country Fair to produce the annual fair magazine.

Instead of receiving it as a standalone magazine this year, be sure to look inside the June edition of The Citizen for the fair insert.

As with previous years, the insert will contain all the details about the fair, including information about each act and attraction, schedules, and maps of the fair area.

Heritage Centre Announces its Spring Fling Craft Show

The Heritage Centre in Niverville is set to host their annual Spring Fling Craft & Artisan Boutique on Sunday, May 7. The event will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and take place in the atrium.

More than 40 crafters, makers, and bakers will have booths, featuring a variety of handicrafts, do-it-yourself products, home décor, and food goods. All products and services are offered by local vendors.

With Mother's Day just one week later, the boutique may be the perfect opportunity to find a host of unique, locally sourced gifts.

A canteen will also be open for food and drinks, in addition to fresh floral bouquets.

Although admission is free, the Heritage Centre asks people to bring canned goods in support of Niverville Helping Hands.



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How about that unfinished yard?

22 THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

The Great Outdoors

Flexing Your Green Thumbthis Summer

Yard and gardening tips from the experts.

By Brenda Sawatzky

Some call it spring while others call it gardening season. If you've got a green thumb or you just enjoy the feeling of warm dirt in your hands, gardening can create a thera-peutic release of pent-up winter energy.

But there's a lot to know when attempting to create a beautiful yard-scape that lives up to the image in your head. Thankfully, we have a bounty of nurseries and lawn experts in the southeast with knowledgeable staff who have a unique understanding of plants, shrubs, trees, grass, soil, fertilizers, and pest control.

Tyler Whitley, of Red Valley Landscaping and Plant Market, says that container-gardening is the number-one trend for accessorizing outdoor living space. Garden pots offer flexibility and ease, allowing even small yards to flourish and grow with colourful and edible plants, without the work of a garden. Tomatoes can grow on the deck and flowers in any corner of the yard. Pots can be moved to optimize light and water sources.

WATER WISELY

 $\hbox{``It's best to water when [the soil'}\\$ is] dry to the touch about one knuckle into the top layer," says

Whitley adds that proper watering is also essential when transplanting. The process of removing a plant from its container to a new one creates a shock to the root system. Two light waterings will set the new soil around the roots and



"One of the biggest tips that we give customers is to not overwater their plants," says Arielle Macleod of Glenlea Greenhouses. "Succulents and cacti are very sensitive to having too much water in their soil, which is why a well-draining soilless medium [should be used]. Never use topsoil or a soil used for containers [with these plants] since it contains a gel that holds water. This can cause root-rot or encourage fungus gnat larvae to thrive."

ture longer during the hours of

darkness

NOURISH AND GROOM

 $Next to \ watering, feeding \ and$



grooming are essentials that many gardeners overlook. "Üse an all-purpose plant food... when the soil is halfway dry," says Whitley. "Fertilizing dry plants runs the risk of burning the root system. Fertilizing every 10 to 14 days keeps up with the nutrient demand of the plant. [Also, make sure to] groom the plants. Trim and at night can create root issues as the soil will retain the mois-

According to Lisa Kackenhoff of Kackenhoff Nurseries, manure can be a useful fertilizer in certain applications, but it can sometimes promote disease. Bone meal is a better option for plants such as

ELIMINATE GARDEN PESTS Humans aren't the only ones who'll be enjoying all of the colourful plants in your yard

"One of the biggest tips that we give customers is to not overwater their plants."

Arielle Macleod, Glenlea Greenhouses

shape them every two weeks with scissors. [Literally], give them a 'haircut.' This gives the plants a healthy, luxurious growth that is picture perfect. Deadhead blooms (remove the dying blossoms) as they fade. This encourages more blooms to form."

this summer. Kackenhoff says there are innumerable ways to keep pests from ruining your greenery. If deer or rabbits are a problem, there are many plant shrubs, herbs, and perennials you can use to deter them, such as alyssum, marigold, basil, mint, columbine and red elderberry

Placing crushed eggshells

under and around your newly planted tomatoes will ward off cutworms and add calcium to the soil to help fight against blossom-end rot of the fruit. For fruit trees, roses, and many ornamental shrubs, using Dormant Oil and Lime Sulphur Mix can kill overwintering insects and eggs and prevent a number of diseases. Apply this only when the plant has become dormant.

MacLeod believes all-natural pest control is the best method for edible plants.

"To prevent pesky aphids and other leaf-eating insects from getting into your garden, many gardeners use marigolds to deter both animals and insects," says MacLeod. "Marigolds have a distinct smell similar to skunk spray that helps to ward off anything that might come near the plants."

Lily beetles are a pest that many proud lily growers became familiar with last summer. MacLeod says that the best method of controlling these naturally is by removing

"Go into the garden and squish the beetles that are eating the lily leaves," says Mac-Leod. "In the fall and spring, you can clean the soil around the lilies. Look for the beetle eggs and burn them to prevent them from hatching. These eggs are a reddish-brown colour and should be removed if found. This will help prevent more beetles in the spring. These beetles do travel from garden to garden, so it might be difficult to permanently rid [your plants of them] but they can be managed if one is determined to keep their lilies vear after vear."

ATTRACTING BEES AND **BUTTERFLIES**

Where some insects are considered pests, others make for an exotic and useful addition to our garden beds. Butterflies contribute to the beauty of our backvards with their colourful and fairy-like nature. According to MacLeod, Asclepias otherwise known as butterfly weed—is the perfect plant for attracting butterflies, especially Monarchs. Asclepias provide brilliant blossoms and are an excellent source of food for butterfly caterpillars.

Bees, too, are an important part of the garden ecosystem, pollinating our plants and enriching our harvest of fruits and vegetables.

"Many perennial species will attract bees, especially flowering shrubs like lilacs, says MacLeod. "Having clover in your lawn... also helps to attract bees. Other perennials are bee balm, stone crop, coneflower, and rudbeckia. Bees are THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

very important to the success of many of the foods we eat, so we need to make sure we provide sources of food for them."

PLANNING GARDEN BEDS AND CREATING LUSHER LAWNS

If you're considering adding a new garden bed this year, some planning is essential.

"When planning a new bed, take a few days to determine how much sunlight the area gets," says Kackenhoff. "Go out every two hours from dawn to dusk and snap pictures from three locations around the new site. Compare [them] at the end of the day to see the sun to shade ratio. Then plant shrubs and perennials that require that type of lighting."

For a lusher lawn, Kackenhoff discourages the use of regular soil, which can be laced with weed seeds.

"Use a sterile mixture of vermiculite, peat moss, fertilizer, and lawn seed," says Kackenhoff. "You will have a thick green lawn in no time."

She adds that covering the newly seeded area with natural, untreated burlap helps protect it from birds and the elements.

TenRoc Construction,



ADORE STOCK

specialists in lawn and yard care, offer practical advice for keeping your lawn beautiful all summer long.

"Don't cut your grass too short," says Jacelyn Boone, of TenRoc Construction. "[This makes it more] susceptible to weed invasion, drought and heat damage."

Some other common mistakes, she adds, are regularly bagging grass clippings, which deprives a lawn of nitrogen and nutrients stored in grass, which is a natural fertilizer. She recommends using a mulching mower and occasionally feeding it back to the lawn. Annual aeration of the lawn is also important. An aerator pulls plugs of soil from the ground's surface, allowing the

lawn to breathe and breaking up compacted soil. The process also makes the ground more permeable to water and fertilizers, getting them right down to the roots.

"My lawn has patches that are discoloured from when my dog relieves itself," adds Boone. "Saturate the affected area thoroughly with a hose once a week, or pour a pail of water over the area right after the dog urinates."

While our local nurseries are bursting at the seams this year with all of the yard and garden products you'll need, don't forget to tap into their valuable wealth of knowledge and training, offered at the simple cost of a smile and a thank you.



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24 THE GREAT OUTDOORS THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017







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THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Simple Maintenance for Enjoyable Summer Cycling

By Derek Kitching

Woodcock Cycle Works

Riding our bicycles evokes a therapeutic feeling of freedom. Many of us have memories of what it felt like to grasp the handlebars for the first time and spin our wheels on the street or in a local park. This feeling should happen each and every time you get on the saddle and start riding.

However, this enjoyable experience can quickly deteriorate and turn into frustration if your bike isn't operating the way it should. Expert bike technician Max Robert-Betzold, at Woodcock Cycle Works, offers some tips on how to keep your bike running like new, for longer.

Prevention is a key factor.

Bike maintenance doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, utilizing simple preventative steps will go a long way to ensuring that your bike is performing at its peak. The key is to take the time before or after each ride to make sure everything is running properly.

Keeping your bike clean is one way to protect your investment. Make sure you aren't pushing dirt and dust through your bike's components, as this creates unnecessary wear and tear. Wipe down all dirty and gunked-up components with a rag and degreaser or light soap.

Cleaning your bike with a pressure washer is easily one of the quickest ways to remove heavy dirt and dust. However, this is also a quick way to decrease the lifespan of the



DEREK KITCHING

mechanical components that rely on bearings. When pressure washing your bike, avoid the wheel hubs and bottom bracket, the area at the bottom of the frame that houses the bearings for the pedal crank assembly. By forcing water or air into these components, you will be removing the necessary grease that is essential to their smooth operation. Keeping the chain lubricated is another key detail that a lot of people overlook. The chain is integral to your bike's performance and shouldn't be neglected. Get in the habit of checking to see if your chain is dirty or dry. If it is, clean and dry it before heading out on your ride. When applying lubricant, it is better to apply generously and wipe off the excess.

Flat tires are an annoyance, but you can usually diagnose the reason for the flat tire and prevent it from happening again. When you do get a flat tire, always look for the culprit. After removing the tube, inflate it a little bit to find out where the air is escaping. If you find two holes around the outside of the tube, it was

likely pinched between the rim and the road. This is called a "pinch flat," and is the result of low tire pressure. If you find a single hole, inspect the tire and look for debris like glass or other sharp objects stuck in it. Be thorough with your inspection. Pieces of debris can be small.

Getting into the habit of checking over your bike frequently often means fewer trips to the bike shop for repairs and maintenance. However, some issues require expert attention and specialty tools. If you find something significantly wrong with your bike, or your bike is due for a little extra love, don't hesitate to book an appointment with the experts who really know bicycles.





THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017 THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Turning Barbecuing Into Art

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

What says spring better than the aromatic mingling of grilled meat and warm breezes? Barbecuing is a rite of the new season and sends a mouth-watering signal to the neighbourhood that there's been a culinary shift to the great outdoors.

Most of us will dust off the propane cooker, light the gas, and throw supper on the grate. Barbecuing provides a low-prep means to a tasty meal. But for some, grilling is a craft: purchasing just the right cut of meat, choosing between the rotisserie or grill, flavouring with charcoal or fragrant woodchips, and monitoring meat temperatures carefully for perfect doneness.

Niverville residents Bryan Trottier and Darren Sakwi share a passion for the art of grilling. Their backyard spaces are well-stocked with a variety of grills and smokers, each one providing options for a different cooking experience. While neither can fully explain their devotion to the craft, both agree that the sense of satisfaction they derive from preparing a succulent and savoury dish is worth every ounce of effort.

"I think I'm just a fan of good food," says Trottier. "Every weekend in summer I will either cook for family gatherings or just for whoever is around."

Trottier owns five barbecues. The propane option is for quick weekday meals. The pellet grill is optimal for long cook times as it augers pellets slowly into a burn pot and maintains a set temperature. His vertical smoker is fuelled by charcoal, adding a unique smoky flavour to the meat but requiring constant attention to maintain the right heat. A kettle grill is perfect for charcoal flavouring, and finally, the Big Green Egg which, according to Trottier, is the pinnacle



Darren Sakwi knows his way around a barbecue

of backyard grilling. The Egg is a ceramic-coated upscale version of the charcoal barbecue.

Trottier describes his family and friends as "happy guinea pigs" of his experimental outdoor cooking.

"One of the hardest things to master is the timing," Trottier says. "One time a friend and I did a Turducken—a duck stuffed inside a chicken stuffed inside a turkey with stuffing between each layer—and we were six hours late for dinner. You can't make it go faster, so sometimes patience is the key. When I make brisket, I start it at midnight for supper the next day. Pork ribs take me six hours. I have made food for 10 to 15 people and had to throw it away and order pizza. What can I say? Education isn't free. I do enjoy when my guests rave about the food and then use it as the bar to compare every restaurant we visit from that point on."

Sakwi's prime taste subjects are also his ever-willing family and friends. But he enjoys taking the craft to a higher level, entering barbecue competitions around Manitoba and into the United States, where grilling cook-offs bring out hundreds of competitors and handsome cash prizes.

"There is a definite obsession to this craft," says Sakwi. "Not only to the food but to the cookers used. It's a religion down south and it's moving north. People are fanatical about flavour profiles, cooking techniques, sauces, rubs, and cuts of meat. [Some] go as far as raising their own animals with special feed so they can find any edge possible. I've heard of people spending upwards of \$400 for a brisket. At that price, each bite better be heart-attack-worthy."

He describes the competitions as intense, sleep-deprived weekends of hard work. Some of these events require a variety of categories using different cuts and types of meat.

"If you don't have a game plan, you

don't stand a chance," Sakwi adds. "Our team name is Big O BBQ and we have competed at the Winnipeg Blues and BBQ festival for a number of years. We also competed at the Niverville fair the year they held the event. I distinctly remember [that one], as I only slept two hours in two days. We had blistering winds that wanted to turn our tents and our team into Mary Poppins. It really is a battle of the elements. To date, our best finishes are second place in chicken and a fifth overall. I am proud of these, as it takes many years to perfect recipes and cooking techniques, [not to mention that] the calibre of some teams are top-notch."

Though Sakwi owns a variety of grills and smokers, his personal favourite is a barbecue-smoker designed by his own company, Stainless Concepts. Still in production, he expects they will be available online very soon.

"My suggestion for anyone who only has a gas grill is: don't be cheap on a cut of meat, and buy a rotisserie and a temperature probe," says Sakwi. "Go to a good meat market and spend \$80 on a bone-in prime rib roast."

Even for Sakwi, though, there is a limit to how much one can continually spend on the perfect meal.

"I don't do this enough for the fact that it's costly for me to walk into a meat market," Sawki says. "That, and some cooks are fairly long, sometimes spanning two days. Some people think I'm crazy when they hear I put food on the smoker the evening prior so that it's ready for supper. And people really think I've gone mad when I load up the smoker with 40 or 50 pounds of meat. My thought is if you have the room in the smoker, you might as well load it

Sakwi's wife, a vegetarian, insists on a good portion of grilled vegetables with every cook.

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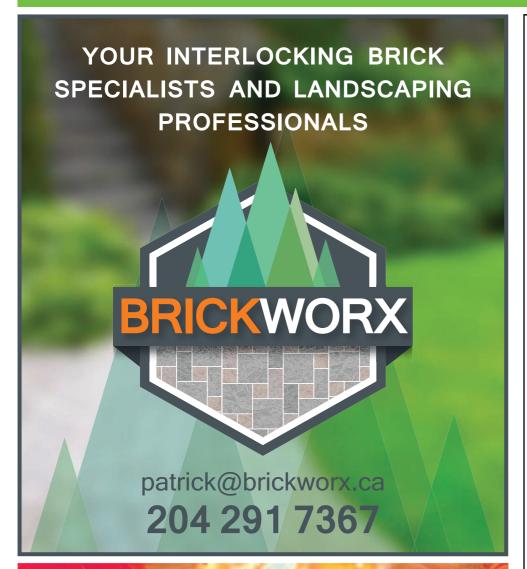
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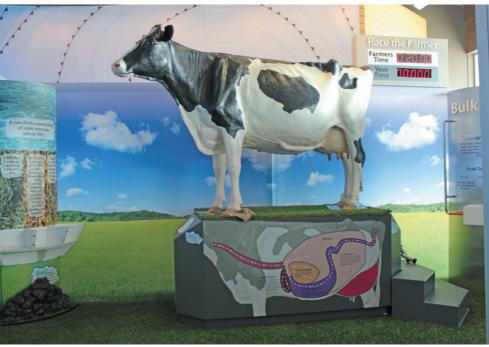
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A display at the Bruce D. Campbell Farm & Food Discovery Centre.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

Food, Farms, and Family Fun

By Brenda Sawatzky

□ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Have you ever wondered where your food comes from? Ever tried to explain to the kids how their supper got from the farm to their plate? The Bruce D. Campbell Farm & Food Discovery Centre (FFDC) is an interactive tour facility created to educate adults and children of all ages about food, farming, and sustainability.

Situated just south of St. Adolphe on Highway 75, the facility is located at the National Centre for Livestock and the Environment, at the University of Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station. Its goal is to provide a fun way to get up close and personal with your food source, whether livestock or crops. Visitors can explore their many exciting exhibits, which provide details of food production from its beginning stages to the grocery store shelves.

Hands-on opportunities allow children to time their speed while attaching milking equipment to a model cow, or test their skills on the PS4 farming game. Large viewing windows overlook the inside of an actual hog production facility, from the birthing centre to the tiny baby piglets wrestling in their pens. Groups can learn about bread-making and taste the freshly baked products right out of the oven.

'We celebrated our fifth anniversary in fall of 2016," says Myrna Grahn, Assistant Operations Manager of the Glenlea Research Station. "Last year we were just shy of [seeing] 7,000 visitors and students. The Glenlea Research Station celebrated 50 years in 2016 [and] our long-term crop rotational study reached its 25-year milestone, better known as our Organic Crop Study."

Working alongside the University of Manitoba, the centre aims to create public awareness through an exploration of modern farming techniques, food production practices, and the science and technology behind modern-day farming. Manitoba is rich with agricultural industry and export. The FFDC's programming helps bring a better understanding to the many ways the industry is providing healthy and sustainable food both locally and globally, while addressing the effect of agricultural practices on the environment.

Their mission statement reads: "Farmers are environmentalists who take good care of the land and take animal welfare seriously. Agriculture and food production make a significant contribution to the economic and social well-being of Canadians [while promoting] the importance of nutrition, healthy eating, and food safety."

The centre is open to the general public during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., from Tuesday to Saturday every week. The cost is a nominal \$5 admission. Children and seniors can spend the day for only \$3.50. Guests can choose the self-guided tour or opt for a guided tour at no extra charge with a group of 12 or more. Guided tours should be prebooked.

They offer year-round tours to school groups, 4-H clubs, Girl Guide and Boy Scout groups, youth groups, daycares, and homeschooling initiatives. They are busy all summer long with family-fun events and workshops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/ discovery_centre/index.html

THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017 29

Commentary

Change Is the Cure

By Greg Fehr

Our health system is on life support, and the prognosis is unknown. Much like with patients themselves, it's not always clear what the problem is. But there is a problem. We are not well, so we ask doctors, nurses, and other professionals to help. Sometimes the answer is straightforward, with a prescription issued and the malady kept at bay. Other times, experimentation and tests are required to determine the cause of our sickness.

The financial woes of our system are not the cause of its problems, but rather the symptom. Gobbling up 50 percent of the provincial budget, the healthcare system cannot function in its current form in the long-term. Rather, it cannot function without serious jeopardy placed on other areas of government—and those cuts may have impacts on the healthcare system itself, since all government programs aim to improve the overall health of the population and reduce the burden on frontline health services.

This is not breaking news. We've seen the writing on the wall for decades. Much like a patient who's told that his life choices are impacting his health, yet he does not change, the public has consistently fought changes to the system.



□ ADOBE STOCK

And our doctors and politicians can only change as much as the public is willing to accept.

As the severity of the illness increases, the patient may be more open to change, however. Doctors may offer blunt suggestions. "Without taking steps to improve your health," the doctor may say, "your condition may reach the point of no return or become incurable."

Health Minister Goertzen has taken the tough stance of telling us that we are reaching that stage. If we are not at the pivot point where the system may fail, then we are at least getting close. Change isn't just

wise, it's necessary. The system is bleeding and endless financial transfusions won't keep it alive unless we find the wounds and begin to repair it.

Plain and simple, this is going to hurt. A little pain is often part of healing. In some cases, the pain may be short, like a Band-Aid being pulled off your arm. In other situations, it may be like stitching a wound without anesthesia.

While not as complex as the human body, our health system is an intricate web of programs, professionals, and policies that must be explored and probed for their function. Created over decades, some pieces may have served a purpose in the past but are no longer relevant, or at least they are not of the same priority level.

I feel for our health minister at this time as he deals with the most uncooperative of patients—the general public. We are the patient who wants our cholesterol controlled while still enjoying a daily rasher of bacon. We want a pill for every pain and a cure for every disease. Healthy solutions, however, must be a collective effort between the caregiver and the patient. Compromise, sacrifice, and change are all required. We may have to give up the "bacon" of having a full ER within steps of our homes in order to enjoy the other services we do—or will—need.

This system can only be fixed with the help of a caregiver who helps us deal with these harsh realities. As patients, we have to agree to cooperate.

Healthcare for all is a right, but all rights come with responsibility. We have to either ante up additional dollars or make some lifestyle changes. Life is full of tradeoffs, and health is no different. Will we cooperate with our proverbial doctor and participate in the changes before the prognosis becomes terminal? The time is now.

Look on the Bright Side: Give Yourself Room to Breathe

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Spring is upon us, and for most our annual spring cleaning is underway. We once again open windows, closet doors, dresser drawers, and storage bins, using the fresh air as motivation to take stock of all the stuff that has accumulated over the past year. We attempt to rid ourselves of the unwanted and unnecessary clutter by sifting through and sorting these into organized piles of what to keep, what to toss, and what to give away.

Many find it difficult to let go of things, even though those things have ceased to have any value. Believing that they might hold some futuristic purpose, we relegate them to the backs of dark closets, taking up space.

Unnecessary possessions equal unnecessary burdens, so disorganization and clutter leaves us feeling overwhelmed and weighed down. Purging our homes of the things that no longer serve us is an empowering step toward feeling renewed, energized, organized, and more in control of our lives.

The same holds true when we take the time to renew our hearts and minds. Opening up the windows of our souls and letting in that fresh spring air can clear away the dusty cobwebs that have dulled our thinking, while

restoring clarity and giving us a brighter outlook.

Just as in the physical realm, when we determine what to toss, keep, and give away in our internal lives, we need to organize everything by what we need to release, what we need to embrace, and what we need to change. Purging our hearts and minds of past grudges, bitterness, and unresolved issues frees our souls, creating space for more positive experiences. Ridding ourselves of toxic relationships and negative self-talk, which only produces stress and robs us of sleep, makes room for peace, contentment, and a renewed desire to care for ourselves.

Dumping social commitments that are no longer enjoyable, and dusting off and disposing of past disappointments, helps us to face the future with renewed hope. We can now organize our time with reverence and wisdom in pursuit of what really matters. We can participate in more activities that advance our dreams and goals instead of depleting them.

By renewing and bringing order to our hearts, as well as our homes, we create the breathing space we need to enjoy a more satisfying and fulfilling life.



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30 THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Sports & Recreation

Working It at Ferrum Fitness





Lately I've been on a fitness craze, going to different classes three or four times during the week, plus walking the dogs every day and doing spring yardwork. To say the least, it has been very busy this

I recently managed to make my way down to Île-des-Chênes, as I heard they have some boot camps and group fitness classes going on at Ferrum Fitness. I aimed to arrive early... well, I always try, but my track record isn't the best.

Amiee Lee was patiently waiting for my arrival, and funnily enough, it turned out that we went to the same high school together! I changed into my workout capris, got my runners on, and then waited for the other participants to arrive.

This was my first time experiencing this style of class. Amiee Lee had written a list of warm-up activities on a whiteboard, as well as two lists of workouts. I and another participant started the warm-up at our own pace while Amiee Lee watched and corrected my formations and gave me pointers.

As I was halfway through the warm-up, another two participants arrived and soon the warm-up routine was in full swing.

Then I was off to the first list of workout exercises. Amiee Lee had



Chantel powers through the ropes

CHANTEL TODD

to show me almost every exercise she had written down.

It's nice to know that there are so many different exercises out there, and that I can always find something I've never done before. (Like the dead bug, for example. Go ahead and google it!)

I quickly found myself completely out of breath. Those step-up high knees killed my cardio, and I had to take a long break before I started doing the second leg. Amiee Lee noticed this right away and reminded me to breathe out when doing the hardest part of the exercise, then breathe in while it was the least hardest.

Then on to the second list! These exercises were more focused on the shoulders and abs, and I was really feeling the heat. I took breaks more frequently and drank the remainder of my water bottle.

My arms burned, my abs stung... and then I got to the last exercise: the ropes.

I gritted my teeth, grabbed the ropes, and sat in a slight squat. I had to power my arms and shoulders as hard as I could to move those ropes. For those who have used these kinds of ropes, you know what I'm talking about! I had to keep going for 30 seconds straight, twice. I fought through the pain (the good kind) as I finally finished the evening.

At last, Amiee Lee showed me how to use a foam roller, which felt amazing against my legs and back. To my surprise, I realize that I had never used a foam roller before to stretch. Boy did I enjoy it!

EVENT GUIDE

Niverville Community Garage Sale

Friday, May 5-Saturday, May 6 Register your address at recreation@whereyoubelong.ca

Niverville Free Giveaway Day

Sunday, May 7

Put your free items at the end of your driveway.

Niverville Town Cleanup Saturday, May 13–Sunday, May 14 Niverville Arena, 8:00 a.m–6:00 p.m.

St. Adolphe Community Garage Sale

Saturday, May 13-Sunday, May 14

Tuff-n-up BootcampMonday/Wednesdays, April 4–May 10, 6:30 p.m.
South End of Arena, \$15 (drop-in)

Yoga: Flow & Yin

Mondays, May 1-June 29 Flow, 7:00 p.m.; Yin, 8:15 p.m. Niverville Curling Club, \$15 (drop-in)

Forever Young Dance Club Saturday, May 13, 7:00–11:00 p.m. St. Adolphe Pioneer Hall, \$15. Call Rae at 204-883-2440 for tickets.

Active Living Facilitator Training (FREE) Friday, May 12, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Cal Chantel 204-371-9662 to register.

Ritchot Senior Services

- Cardio Fit: Mondays, May 1–8, 9:30 a.m.
 Chair Fit: Mondays, May 1–8, 11:00 a.m.
 Yoga: Wednesdays, May 3–10, 1:00 p.m.
 Muscle Fit: Thursdays, May 4–11, 9:30 a.m.
- It's Safe to Ask: Wednesdays, May 17–24, 9:30 a.m.
 Coffee Talk: Monday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.
 Monthly Mood Disorders Meeting:

- Wednesday, May 25, 2:15 p.m. Jour de Plaisir (Walkathon):
- Saturday, May 27, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. 457 Main Street, St. Adolphe 204-883-2880

Zumba

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 p.m. TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes, \$75/10 sessions

Pickle Ball

- Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.
 TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Adolphe School Gym

Indoor Walking

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

Club Amical Lunches & Bingo

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. Club Amical, St. Adolphe. Call 204-883-2491

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Old Drovers Welcomes a New Manager

All nine holes await golfers in Niverville this season.

By Chantel Todd

□ ctodd@nivervillecitizen.com

As the new golf season gets underway, Old Drovers Run (ODR) in Niverville is being seen through fresh eyes. Brendan Baldwin was hired this spring to serve as the course's PGA Professional and Operations Manager.

"We finally have nine holes open for play and we are excited for the season," says Baldwin with a note of excitement in his voice.

Old Drovers Run has a number of programs and leagues ready to be filled, including junior clinics and activities, beginner golf clinics and lessons, as well as lessons for all types of skill development. The men's league is currently full, and the ladies league is beginning to

"We encourage more ladies to gather up some friends and come out," Baldwin notes.

For the rest of the spring and summer, Old Drovers Run will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, weather-permitting. Baldwin also advises locals to keep their eyes open for the first annual

Town of Niverville championship tournament.

"The course is looking good so far," he says. "Greens and fairways wintered nicely, and once we can get some sunshine and warmth hitting the seventh hole, it should begin to grow in [well]."

This year, Baldwin is focusing on developing the course and its member base. "We want to make the course very family-friendly and encourage families to come spend quality time on the range or on the course.'

Memberships are available to

all, with special rates for families, seniors, and juniors. The course also offers corporate memberships. Baldin adds that the best way to keep up to date on deals, course information, closures, and tournaments is through the course's Facebook page (see below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.facebook.com/olddroversrun
- proshop@olddroversrungc.ca



Justin Braun.

Niverville Student Joins the Prov Pilots

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

A graduating Niverville student has been selected to join Providence University College's men's volleyball program in the fall.

"Justin is a great guy who is going to bring a lot of positives to our team," says Pilots head coach Scott Masterson. "He has an uncanny ability to get a lot of touches and blocks. I'm going to enjoy working with him and getting to know him

Braun previously played for the

Pilots' junior team and spent three summers at the university's sports

"Î'm excited to come to Providence to meet, and get to know, the players and the students in the community," says Braun, who stands tall at 6'1". "It's going to be a great place to meet new people and grow in volleyball and in my faith."

Braun has previously won awards both in volleyball and track-and-field during his years at Niverville Collegiate, including an award for Most Spirited Player.



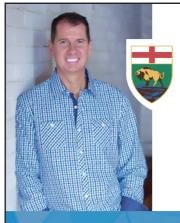
Atticus Bonham

Atticus is in Grade Two at Niverville Elementary School and is part of Prairie Soul Dance Company's competitive program. He trains four days a week in ballet, jazz, tap, Broadway, creative worship, hip hop, musical theatre, and the performing arts. Atticus recently participated in the Southeastern Manitoba Festival, where a number of his routines were awarded the honour of Highest Mark and Adjudicator's Choice. Other hobbies include acrobatics, music, and playing outside.



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29 | SPORTS & RECREATION THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Jets Goaltenders Test Fans' Patience



Goalies are a strange breed of hockey player. They willingly put themselves in front of 100 milesper-hour slapshots and have more idiosyncrasies than any other athlete I can think of. They are creatures of habit and develop strong relationships with their goalposts and crease. There are plenty of good ones out there, but you need to find an elite one if you want to be a Stanley Cup contender. There are many paths on the search for the elite goalie, whether it be by drafting, trading, or free-agent signing. The problem is that goalies are hard to predict and luck is often one of the biggest factors.

It's actually hard to find goalies who were high draft picks and later turned into number one goalies for that franchise. Marc-Andre Fleury (Pittsburgh) and Carey Price (Montreal) are the rare instances where this has occurred. You're just as likely to find late-round picks who stick with their team such as Pekka Rinne (Nashville) and Henrik Lundqvist (New York Rangers). A large portion of the top goalies in the league today were actually midround selections on draft day, and most of them were acquired via trade or free agency.

The Jets have had subpar goaltending throughout their tenure in Winnipeg. Only once have they had numbers above the league average, and it's the only year they made the playoffs. Ondrej Pavelec was given every opportunity to become the elite goalie that management wanted, but it just never materialized. He's likely not returning next season, as he becomes an unrestricted free agent this summer. He may find a job as a backup in the NHL somewhere,



Connor Hellebuyck got the majority of starts this season.

□ DREAMSTIME

but I wouldn't be surprised to see him play overseas.

With Pavelec out of the picture, the spotlight falls on Connor Hellebuyck, Michael Hutchinson, and Eric Comrie. Hellebuyck got the majority of starts this season, but was inconsistent and gave up too many "softies." Hutchinson was awful until a late-season surge made his numbers look at least respectable, but it was too little. too late. Comrie got his first NHL start late in the season and looked pretty good while picking up the win. Comrie is the one to watch going forward. He was selected to play for Team Canada in the world championships this year and probably has the highest ceiling of any goalie in the Jets organization. He was a fairly high draft pick (a second rounder in 2013) and has the most raw talent.

The Jets need to have two goalies under contract for next season when the expansion draft occurs

on June 21. Comrie is too young to be eligible, so that leaves Hellebuyck and Hutchinson. There's no way the Jets are giving up on Hellebuyck, so he will definitely be protected and I highly doubt that Vegas would be interested in Hutchinson.

One of the Jets' biggest offseason needs is acquiring a veteran goalie to provide some much needed stability. I think Hellebuyck will get the majority of starts next year, with Comrie gaining more experience with the Manitoba Moose. It seems unlikely that Hutchinson sticks with the big club, and he should probably be Comrie's backup. That leaves a spot behind Hellebuyck to be filled by a veteran. Some interesting options include Jonathan Bernier (Anaheim), Brian Elliott or Chad Johnson (Calgary), Scott Darling (Carolina), and Mike Condon (Ottawa). Despite Chicago having Cam Ward and Eddie Lack under contract for next season,

they recently traded Darling to Carolina, giving the Hurricanes the best chance to sign the big goalie.

The two biggest free agent goalies are Ryan Miller (Vancouver) and Ben Bishop (Los Angeles), but those guys will be looking for more money and opportunity than the Jets will be willing to provide. If the Jets are interesting in making a trade, other interesting options include Jaroslav Halak (New York Islanders) and Antti Raanta (New York Rangers).

It will be very interesting to see what approach the Jets take to their goaltending situation over the summer. Will they continue to rely on youth and development, or will they actually try to make a big (or small) splash in free agency? Patience with young goalies like Hellebuyck and Comrie is the most likely result, but how much longer will Jets fans be patient?

INBRIEF



Sharon Martel and Reane Philippot from St. Pierre BSI present a cheque to Albert Poirier, Curling Club Director.

□ BS

Otterburne Curling Club Receives BSI Donation

The Otterburne Curling Club has received a donation of \$2,000 from BSI Insurance, money which the club says will be used for needed upgrades. The club, which has operated in the community since the 1950s, will upgrade the washrooms to ensure that they are wheelchair-accessible.

The Otterburne Curling Club is home to three different leagues and several bonspiels each year, providing players of all ages opportunities to stay active.

The BSI donation is part of the company's ongoing "Because We Care" initiative.

Panthers Fields First Baseball Team

Starting this year, Niverville's high school baseball team has joined the Zone 13 High School Baseball League. This is the first time the school has fielded a team, and the season is already underway.

The league now includes eight teams, split into a north and south division. The south division includes Grunthal, Niverville, La Broquerie, and Steinbach, while the north division includes Île-des-Chênes, Lorette, Ste. Anne, and Beausejour.

Niverville will play its games in Mitchell, and île-des-Chênes will play in Blumenort and île-des-Chênes. In the short season, each team play three regular season games against teams in its own division. The top two teams of each division then advance to a playoff draw.

The winners of each zone will meet in the provincial championship, to be played June 1–3 in Altona.



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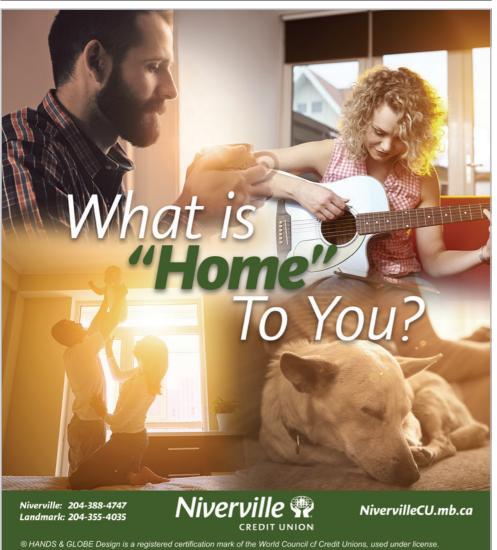
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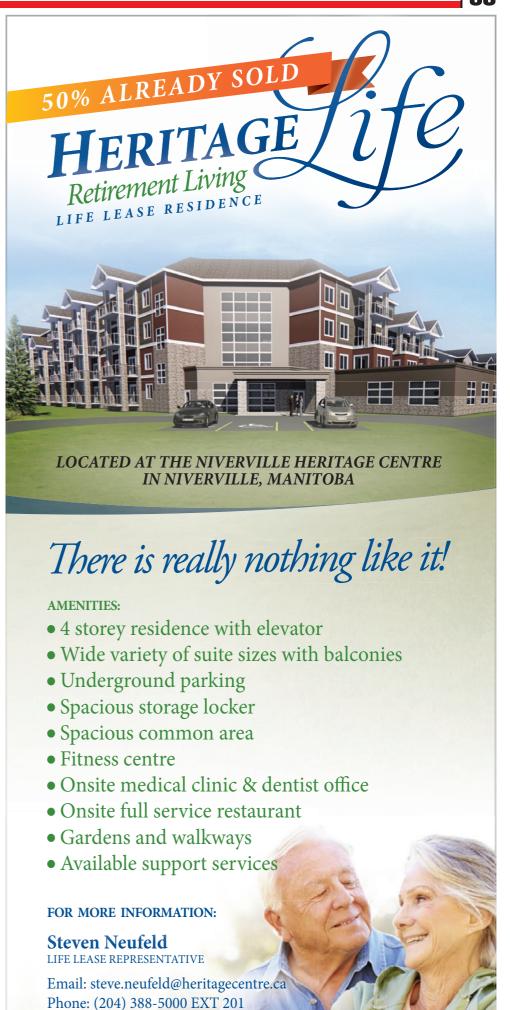
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Co-Headliners to Light Up the Niverville Fair

By Sylvia St. Cyr

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair is doing things a little different this year. Instead of just one Saturday headliner, fairgoers will be treated to a pair of shows. At 9:00 p.m. on June 10, back by popular demand, The Washboard Union will take to the mainstage. Then, at 10:00 p.m., party band Cold Creek Country will make their Niverville

At the 2016 fair, The Washboard Union opened for Gord Bamford. The dynamic trio put on a very entertaining show, and even stuck around to meet fans and sign autographs afterward. They were so well liked that the fair committee asked them back.

The Washboard Union calls Country Music Awards. Vancouver home and is made up of Aaron Grain, Chris Duncombe, and David Roberts. They are known for songs like "Maybe It's the Moonshine" and "Shot of Glory," both of which made it onto topten lists this past year. The band has shared the stage with country legends like the Zac Brown Band, Keith Urban, and Reba McEntire. Their latest EP, In My Bones, was recorded at the legendary RCA Studio A in Nashville, Tennessee.

Each of the men performs vocals as well as instruments varying from the guitar, banjo, and harmonica to (of course) the washboard. In 2017, the band took home many awards, including the Rising Star award and Roots Artist of the Year at the Canadian

After The Washboard Union, Cold Creek County will take the stage. The energetic group focuses on country rock and hails from a few different towns in Ontario. The band is made up of five talented guys, including Brandon Scott as lead vocalist, Doug Oliver on the drums, Josh and Justin Lester who sing backups along with playing bass and guitar, and lead guitarist Trevor MacLeod.

The band was founded in 2013 and released their debut single, "Our Town," in April 2015. The song was the most played debut single by a Canadian country artist. It also reached the top ten on the Billboard Canada country chart.

Cold Creek County has toured with bands like Dallas Smith, Emerson Drive, Kira Isabella, and Jason Blaine. They will be touring throughout the summer, playing multiple festivals.

Last year's beer garden experiment was entirely positive and trouble-free, according to organizer Elaine Krahn. Due to the great success, the beer gardens will return this year to the concert area on both Friday and Saturday night.

Tickets for the fair go on sale May 1. They can be purchased online at www.nivervillefair.com or at the gate on the weekend of the event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nivervillefair.com

EVENT GUIDE

Fiddle Concert

May 1 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. Steinbach Cultural Arts Centre, Steinbach. \$7.

Whiskey TalksMay 5 | 10:00 p.m.
Cowboys Roadhouse, Winnipeg. \$10.

Glow Festival with Jordan St. Cyr

May 5 | 6:45 p.m. Zion Church, Winnipeg. \$15.

Creativi-Tea Time

May 10 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jake Epp Library, Steinbach. Free.

Laughter Is Sacred Space (Play)

May 12 | 7:30 p.m. SRSS Theatre, Steinbach. \$12.

Painting on the Prairies

May 13 | 2:00 p.m. Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern, Niverville. \$35.

Fraser River Band and Dance

May 26 | 7:00-11:00 p.m.
Pat Porter Active Living Centre, Steinbach. \$16.

Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre

Niverville Collegiate Institute, Niverville. \$12.

Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair

June 9 & 10 Main Street Niverville More informatoin at www.nivervillefair.com

Send your event listing to:

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Setting the Stage for Another Friday Night Street Dance Party

By Sylvia St. Cyr

sstcyr@nivervillecitizen.com

At this year's fair, Friday night is once again shaping up to be an energetic and entertaining street dance party for everyone.

The evening will start off with a local band, The Band RBB, which has a rockabilly sound. They will play at 6:30 p.m., entertaining the crowds as they enjoy the food vendors that are part of the admission price. The band has seven musicians, including Lise Peters and Myra Gerbrandt on vocals.

Next up, Prairie Soul Dance Company will showcase some of their talented dancers on the main stage, including the very popular "Dancing Dads" performance that had the crowd on its feet last year.

DJ Brenton, a deejay from Lilac Resort, took to the center stage last June to welcome all kids to the dance floor. It was such a hit that he'll be back to get everyone moving this year. The Kids Dance Party will serve as a precursor to the later street dance.

At 9:00 p.m., The Big City All Star Band will appear once again, for the third year in a row, to play popular dance covers until the sun goes down.

"It was great getting some



The Big City All Star Band performing at last year's fair.

local talent up again and we

want to continue doing that

the Big City All Star Band's keyboardist and director. "Nivthis year," says Carlin Lemon, erville is so musical, and we'd

love to get everyone involved."

The band, which includes as many as 25 musicians for different events, first formed in 2013. Last year, they played at a conference in Denver, Colorado to 20,000 people. To get their big city sound, performers tackle a wide variety of instruments from trumpets and horns to the fiddle.

Lemon says that he wants to make sure people enjoy themselves. "I'd also love to get more feedback from the town as to what they'd like to hear us play. More rock? Country? New top forty?" He encourages people to message him with requests through the band's website

(see below).

After the fireworks, the band will hit the stage one more time to close out the night.

Last year, the fair committee held its first licensed event on Saturday night. For 2017, they are extending liquor sales to Friday night as well.

"Friday night will be a liquor licensed event this year too," says Elaine Krahn, head of the fair committee, "to accommodate the later street dance portion of the evening."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.bigcityallstarband.com

Fair Friday to End with a Bang



By Sylvia St. Cyr

Every Friday night of the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair ends with a bang fireworks-and this year will be no ex-

In the past, these fireworks have been set off from the Niverville Elementary School playground, but that has changed in recent years. Since 2015, the fair committee has tried something different. By setting off the show from a location off Main Street, they have been able to feature bigger fireworks. This year, they are going back to basics, which means having the show nice and close for the crowd to enjoy.

The shows that we have had for the past two years have been about double the budget of the older Main Street shows," says Dustin Krahn, one of the fair's coordinators. "The problem lies

in the show being so far away from the fairgrounds that it is hard to really appreciate what is going on. We put pressure on the fireworks team to come up with a solution that brought the show back to Main Street, and they have done a really good job in working with us and coming up with a plan. This allows us to use some smaller fireworks, but they seem bigger because you are right in front of them, and the crowd can then experience the lights and sounds right in their faces as opposed to half a mile away."

The Friday night show is weather-permitting, of course. If it does rain, the fireworks will simply be pushed back to the Saturday night after the mainstage act.

Archangel Fireworks has been working with the Olde Tyme Country Fair for 15 years. They are the same Winnipeg-based company that puts on the Canada Day fireworks at The Forks.

■ IN BRIEF

Play to Offer Hope and Humour

Steinbach Neighbours for Community is sponsoring a new production this spring, called Laughter Is Sacred Space. The touring production, featuring Ted Swartz, will be performed at the SRSS theatre on Friday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available for \$12 at the Steinbach Arts Council.

"In this gritty and dramatic play, Ted Swartz walks us through his relationship with friend and business partner, Lee Eshleman, who died by suicide in 2007," reads a media statement. "Ted explores the paradox of working with a comedic partner struggling with bipolar disorder, as well as the challenge of writing and performing stories about God while experiencing the absence of God after Lee's death by suicide.'

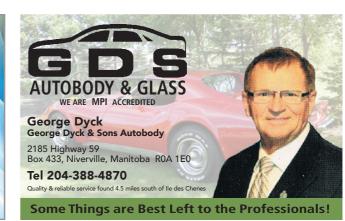
Laughter Is Sacred Space combines live performances and multimedia to offer audiences both hope and humour.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.steinbachneighboursforcommunitv.com
- www.edenhealthcare.ca







THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Author with Local Roots Wins High Acclaim

By Brenda Sawatzky

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One of the pinnacles of any artist's career is their moment of public recognition in the presence of esteemed peers. The Manitoba Book Awards is an annual awards ceremony held in Winnipeg to acknowledge the incredible achievements of our province's many writers, editors, designers, and illustrators of the literary arts.

This year's opulent gala, held at the Fort Garry Hotel on April 22, was hosted by Lara Rae, a Canadian comedian well known for her work as writer and developer of *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. Assisting her was Terry MacLeod, Emmy-nominated journalist and 33-year veteran with CBC radio.

Fourteen awards were presented, but one nominee in particular caught the attention of everyone in the ballroom, successfully taking the award for three different categories. Her name is Angeline Schellenberg, and her award-winning book, *Tell Them It Was Mozart*.

If winning three awards for one book isn't impressive enough, it should be said that *Tell Them It Was Mozart* was Schellenberg's debut book, a feat that sets the bar high for her, and other writers', future endeavours.

I had the fortune of meeting



Angeline Schellenberg at the 2017 Manitoba Book Awards.

ANTHONY MARK SCHELLENBERG

Schellenberg at the gala, surrounded by family and friends there to share in her victory. She's a soft-spoken young mother of two. Her book of poetry is best described by her publisher Brick Books: "Linked poems that uncover the ache and whimsy of raising children on the autism spectrum."

"Tell Them It Was Mozart is about my relationship with my children," says Schellenberg. "It starts with my story of growing up with two younger brothers with an intellectual disability called Fragile X Syndrome. I always wondered what it would be like to someday have a typical family like I saw on TV. At first when my children didn't respond the way I expected, I

thought I was missing the parenting gene. When my son was diagnosed in Grade One with an autism spectrum disorder, it was a relief. But a few years later, when my daughter was diagnosed with autism too, it was a struggle to accept that I'd never have those typical family experiences I'd planned on. I chose to embrace the mess. I've since learned that there is no typical family: we're all messy."

Though she now resides with her family in Winnipeg, Schellenberg spent her formative years on a farm near Niverville, growing up Angeline Falk, attending Niverville Collegiate Institute, and later Providence College. Writing, she says, has always

been a part of her. She's since learned to channel that talent into expressions of motherhood in the face of disabilities.

"Most of the challenges aren't caused by autism, but by autism's incompatibility with the outside world," Schellenberg says. "People misunderstand my children's expressions of pain or confusion as misbehaviour, and my attempts to comfort them as a lack of parental discipline... I know my kids are capable of great things, but I don't knowifthe world is ready to welcome them. That keeps me up at night sometimes."

For Schellenberg, writing is

therapeutic.

"Sometimes in the middle of a difficult experience, I'll think, 'This will make a great poem,' and it helps me see the humour in the moment. And after I've turned a painful memory into art, when I look back, I no longer see the pain; instead, I see the poem. Sharing my experience in a book has connected me to more parents. An understanding community is one of the best forms of therapy."

Schellenberg lists a host of great mentors who have helped pave the way to her recent achievement. Her publisher, Brick Books, nominated her for the three awards: the Lansdowne Prize for Poetry, the Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book, and the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer.

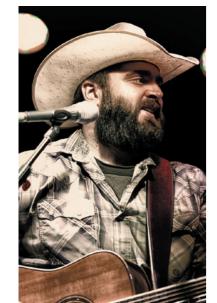
"It was overwhelming that these juries of established writers would affirm my first book," says Schellenberg. "All three times, as they were announcing the names, I was holding hands with my son on one side and my husband on the other, and watching the expression on my parents' and friends' faces around my table. They were all so happy for me."

As any good writer would be, she's already working on a series of other manuscripts.

"While I was writing *Tell Them It Was Mozart*, I also completed a second manuscript of poems about my grandparents, three of whom lived in Niverville. I'm well into my third poetry manuscript and I'm brainstorming ideas for my fourth. I like to always have several projects on the go so that when I lose steam on one, I can switch to the other without losing momentum."

But a debut book will always be close to a writer's heart and it's Schellenberg's hope that this collection of poems will reach other parents struggling in the face of childhood disabilities.

"I'm open about the anxieties and frustrations of raising children on the [autism] spectrum, but humour and joy get the final word," says Schellenberg. "The hope is in the fact that, no matter how different our families may be from what we expected or what we see next door, we enjoy one another. Things may never get easier, but when we have grace for ourselves and for our children, they can get better."



Gettin' the Party Started

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Southern Manitoba's own Quinton Blair will kick things off on Saturday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. on the Olde Tyme Country Fair's main stage. Blair is this year's opening act.

As the Manitoba Country Music Association's Roots Artist of the Year for 2015–16, Blair has been described as a self-ordained troubadour, tale-spinner, and songwriter. His unique brand of strikingly diverse roots/country music, combined with his witty storytelling and relatable songs, has captivated audiences everywhere.

Growing up in southern Manitoba and now residing in Landmark, wrangling horses is in Blair's blood. Horses have been a part of the Blair family for generations, lending credibility to his cowboy style.

Blair's understanding of country music has suited him well when performing with all-stars throughout Canada. He has played the stages of the Dauphin Country Fest, Festival du Voyageur, Canada Day at the Forks, and the CCMAs.

With three albums under his belt buckle, Blair's newest four-song EP, *Cash Crop*, was released in 2016 and produced by friend and award-winning producer Murray Pulver, of Doc Walker fame. This latest album boasts elements of soul, heartland roots, country and rock, and features Blair's signature themes of agriculture, heartache, and redemption.

2017 has already seen Quinton Blair take his music across Canada. He has also been hosting Country 107's Music Minute every Thursday at 8:10 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Blair will continue touring this summer throughout Manitoba, Alberta, the Yukon, and Ontario.

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R ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
THE CITIZEN | MAY 2017

Elementary Students Go Wild for Jungle Book Musical

By Sylvia St. Cyr

The students of Niverville have been busy rehearsing and putting on their end-of-year dramas. Niverville Elementary School already performed their musical on April 26–27. Niverville Collegiate Institute will present a murder mystery dessert theatre on May 31–June 2.

This spring, NES decided to do something new for its Grades Three and Four musical.

"This year it was Disney's *The Jungle Book,*" says music teacher Karli Davidson, who also directed the play. "This is the first year we are doing a Disney Broadway musical! It is very exciting, but it also comes with many challenges, as it contains more singing than most other elementary musicals."

With four classes per grade, the school held four separate performances. This was the first year that NES performed two shows in one night, with one at 6:30 p.m. and another at 8:00 p.m. Each show lasted roughly 40 minutes with Mowgli, Baloo, and Bagheera on centre stage.

The costumes were quite



The cast of Niverville Elementary School's The Jungle Book.

elaborate, as the show contained many animals ranging from elephants to tigers, monkeys, and more. All of the Grade Four students sported face paint by two talented women in the community, Margaret Kyle and Eileen Davage.

Both grades practiced for two months prior to opening night, with

the Grade Four students taking on the lead roles and Grade Three students singing in the chorus.

"We practiced all of the singing and choreography with each class during their music classes," Davidson says. "I also practiced during the lunch hour with the Grade Fours who had solos or small singing ensembles. The

Grade Four teachers were in charge of practicing the script/acting with their classes so that it tied into their ELA curriculum."

Each show was performed to a packed house and went off without a hitch, requiring a lot of behind-the-scenes assistance in the areas of lighting, sound, and stage design.

NCI DESSERT THEATRE

Still to come is NCI's dessert theatre, staged by students from Grades Nine to Twelve. The play is called *But Why Bump off Barnaby?* There will be three evening shows.

The play's setting is deep in Agatha Christie country. Deanna Wiebe, NCI's guidance counsellor, is directing the play.

"While the zany group frantically tries to unmask the murderer, people vanish, poison is found in the sherry, and the police take forever to arrive," says Wiebe, describing the play. "Meanwhile, there's a secret treasure to be found, a mystifying limerick to decode, and all sorts of doom to be avoided before the killer is finally unmasked and destroyed."

Since drama is an extracurricular activity for NCI students, they practice outside of classroom hours. They have been rehearsing since mid-February. Tickets will be sold in advance for \$10, and at the door for \$12.

Wiebe encourages the public to come out and support our local arts. "This dessert theatre promises to be a deliciously entertaining night out and should definitely not be missed!"

Congratulations to our business award winners



Outstanding business members of 2016: (I to r) Leon Desmarais, Fusion Industries, Business of the Year; Ferd Klassen, Niverville Autobody, Customer Service; and John Schmitke, Alex Fast, Sr. Memorial Award for contribution to the community, Niverville Bigway Foods.



President: Mel Buhler Executive director: Dawn Harris Email: chamber@niverville.com www.niverville.com



Welcome to our new members

Blind Shiners, Gord Buczko, custom blinds & draperies, motorization and shutters.

Gehrer Ag Inc., Uli Geher, grain farm.

Little Flower Shop, Peggy Weibe, floral arrangements for all occasions, specializing in weddings & corporate events, also outdoor seasonal container designs for residential and commercial.

Apologies to Earl Rempel, Rusty Acres, who was identified as Eric in the April issue.

\$1,000 Scholarship available

The chamber offers the Leadership and Business Scholarship that is open to any graduating Grade 12 student who is a resident of Niverville.

For application guidelines, please email chamber@niverville.com or visit www.niverville.com.

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

















VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair has several volunteer positions that need to be filled on our

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- Children's Entertainment Coordinator assistant(s)
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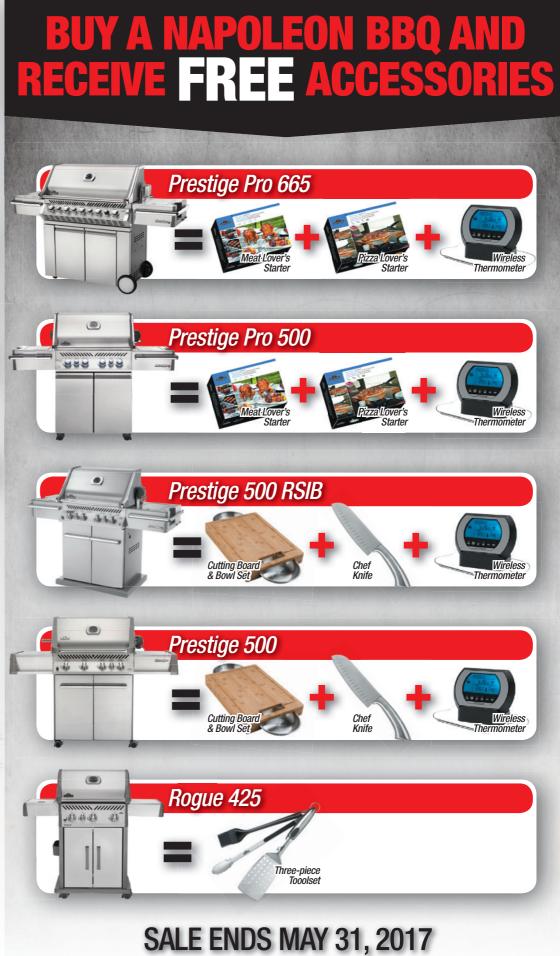
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