

# The Citizen

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Know the Rules About Cannabis

■ How is rural Manitoba dealing with the recent legalization of recreational cannabis?

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Dairy Farmers Concerned About Trade Deal

■ Local dairy operations in southeast Manitoba are raising concerns about the future of their industry in the aftermath of the new North American free trade deal. They say that the latest concessions made to the U.S. will have a lasting impact.

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## SPORTS & RECREATION

### NCI Soccer Squads Reach Provincials

■ Both the girls and boys soccer teams at Niverville Collegiate made it all the way to Provincials this year.

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## ARTS & RECREATION

### Niverville Artist Behind Art Installation

■ Darren Sakwi of Niverville, who designs stainless steel sculptures, is behind a new art installation in Winnipeg's Sage Creek.

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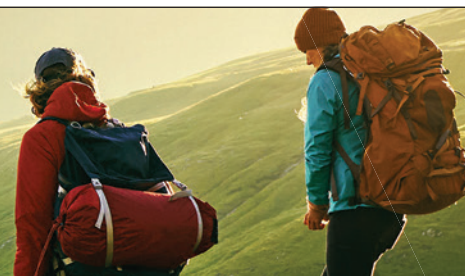
# ATM Thieves Strike Local Businesses in Break-In Spree

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## NIVERVILLE EMERGENCY PLAN

On October 15, 2018, the Town's Municipal Emergency Coordinator held a tabletop emergency exercise with participants from Council, staff, fire department, volunteers, RCMP, Q MEC Net, Southern Health, S. Manitoba ARES and Manitoba EMO. The aim of the exercise was to add to the ability of the Town of Niverville to deal with a major emergency.

The emergency scenario presented was an ice storm (such as the 1998 Ontario-Quebec storm) being superimposed on SE Manitoba. Various problems reviewed included lost services, human impacts, and command and control, with the results of those discussions being used to make improvements to the emergency plan.

The Town is still looking for more volunteers that would be willing to help with the response to and recovery from an emergency event. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in helping your neighbours during emergencies, please contact the Town Office at 204-388-4600 ext. 101 or email [feedback@whereyoubelong.ca](mailto:feedback@whereyoubelong.ca).

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# ATM Thieves Strike Local Businesses in Break-In Spree



**BRENDA SAWATZKY**  
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Within the course of a few short weeks, three local businesses were hit with eerily similar break-ins. In all cases, the method of entry was the same: a pickup truck rammed through the front of the building. Their target also appeared to be the same: ATM machines.

During the night on Thursday, October 18, a neighbour across the street from New B's Café and Store in New Bothwell heard a commotion. She arose to witness a crime underway at the neighbourhood café and called 911. The crime, she told New B's owner Elle Funk, took little more than a minute to carry out before they sped off.

RCMP were on the scene shortly after. They assessed the damage, secured the building, and called Funk. A white truck was recovered that night in a field just west of New Bothwell. The truck's occupants were missing. All that was left of the stolen ATM machine was the outer cage.

In almost five years of business, this was Funk's first break-in. She's shocked at the amount of damage that was caused for a simple cash machine, which appeared to be the vandals' only target. No other merchandise was missing.

Funk says the 24-hour-access ATM machine had been installed in the front of the building with outside access so that residents could use it after store hours.

"That's a service that I like to provide," Funk says. "Up until I owned the place, there was no [public] ATM at all."

To date, she hasn't heard any news of arrests. Her focus since that night has been to clean up the premises and resume business as usual. The cost to repair the extensive damage to her building is still being worked out.

"We have to get a whole



Sylvie Forest, owner of Niverville Shell, surveys damage to her store.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

window, the ATM and the cage all have to get repaired," Funk says. "The awning is completely wrecked and some stucco on the outside will have to get fixed. We're not sure on exact numbers yet."

In spite of the inconvenience, frustration, and impending costs, Funk was immediately encouraged by family, friends, and community residents who arrived early that morning and undertook a massive clean-up effort. By mid-afternoon, she was back in business.

Four days later, on Monday, October 22, Sylvie Forest received a call from her alarm company during the night. The alarm had been tripped at her Shell station in Niverville. For Forest, this was her fifth break-in in less than two years of business.

Based on information shared with Forest, a neighbour living behind the business awoke to the commotion and called the RCMP, providing tips on the type of vehicle and which direction it was headed after the break-in. Police used the evidence to track the vehicle, which had been abandoned with a flat tire on a gravel road a few miles from town. The Police Dog Services unit was called in from Selkirk with the hopes of finding the criminals in the bushes nearby, but the search

came up empty.

"I'm very impressed with the RCMP and how they handled this," says Forest. "They did their job."

Forest and an RCMP officer immediately scanned through the surveillance camera footage, which showed the pickup being backed into the building numerous times until it finally broke through and skidded to a halt inside the building.

"It looks like there were three of them in the truck," Forest says. "Two of them ran in, one of them jumped over my counter, and there was nothing to steal. So they went to the ATM and started trying to break it, but there's no cash there. Then they ran out."

The criminals on camera wore dark clothing, balaclavas, and gloves. While they were in and out fairly quickly, Forest says it was quite evident that they were inexperienced criminals.

The video footage also revealed another interesting fact. The vehicle used to commit the crime belonged to a frequent customer of hers. A phone call to the owner in the middle of the night indicated that he was still unaware, at that point, that his vehicle had been stolen only hours earlier.

Due to the extent of the damage, Forest wasn't able to resume business quite as quickly as Funk was. All of

the wiring for the business's equipment lay within the wall that the vehicle had rammed, leaving the internet, cash machines, and lottery terminals completely down.

"All of our wiring comes out of the corner that they hit," Forest said. "I had three or four techs from Lotteries and Shell [Corporate] coming in. It was like piecing a puzzle back together. We got some stuff back up and running the next day. We weren't fully operational until about Tuesday around noon."

But reconstruction of the interior will still be required and, by the time all is said and done, Forest estimates that she will have lost about three days' worth of sales. In the meantime, Forest is unsure of what more she can do to prevent future break-ins.

"Every break-in was so different," says Forest. "If they want to come in, they're going to find a way to come in. But my cigarettes and my lottery and cash is locked up pretty tight, so good luck getting to those. Basically now it's just trying to stop them from getting in."

Both of these incidents appear to be copycats of a break-in that took place at a Landmark grocery store on September 19. There, too, the front door was smashed in and the ATM machine carried out. Police later located

the pickup in a farmer's field south of Landmark. It was identified as a vehicle that had been stolen from a residence in Niverville.

On the night of October 13, Niverville Bigway had also been struck, but this time under different circumstances. The thieves were successful in breaking through the front door, which tripped the alarm. The RCMP arrived in time to scout the place out, but the thieves were gone. According to video surveillance footage, the criminals were in and out within mere minutes. Their target: cigarettes and liquor. In their haste to exit the building, the liquor was forgotten.

"I was satisfied with the RCMP response time," says John Schmitke, owner of the store.

According to Schmitke's video footage, the thieves parked their vehicle behind the Subway restaurant across the street. Two perpetrators on foot forcefully broke the glass on the front door and let themselves in. They made off with an undisclosed amount of cigarettes, and that's it.

While the damage wasn't nearly as extensive as the other two break-ins, Schmitke wasted no time in installing safeguards to help prevent this kind of product loss in the future. And, he hopes, if criminals take the time to stake out the business in advance, they'll see the impediments that they face.

"I've since bought two safes for all the tobacco, lottery, and petty cash," says Schmitke. "They are bolted to the concrete floor. The amount of time it would take to get access to any of the contents now is most likely longer than it would take for the RCMP to arrive on the scene."

"Forensic Identification Services has been assisting with these investigations," says Corporal Courchaine of the RCMP Media Relations office. "Investigation is ongoing on all incidents."

**The Citizen**

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IN BRIEF

## High School in Niverville Gets Official Name

By Evan Braun

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The Hanover School Division's board of trustees has chosen an official name for the new high school being constructed in Niverville. The school, set to open on schedule in September 2019, will be called, simply, Niverville High School.

"The school name was chosen after receiving community feedback from students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members," reads a statement from the HSD board. "The board-appointed Naming Committee received over 100 name suggestions. The chosen name reflects feedback received, and aligns with the board's desire for the school name to retain its distinct community identity."

Niverville High School will accommodate Grades 9 through 12, whereas the current Niverville Collegiate Institute will be converted into a school for Grades 5 through 8 and be renamed Niverville Middle School.

"The board thanks all those who participated in the naming process," the statement concludes. "We look forward to the opening of Niverville High School."

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# Niverville to Introduce Snow Removal Parking Bans

By Brenda Sawatzky

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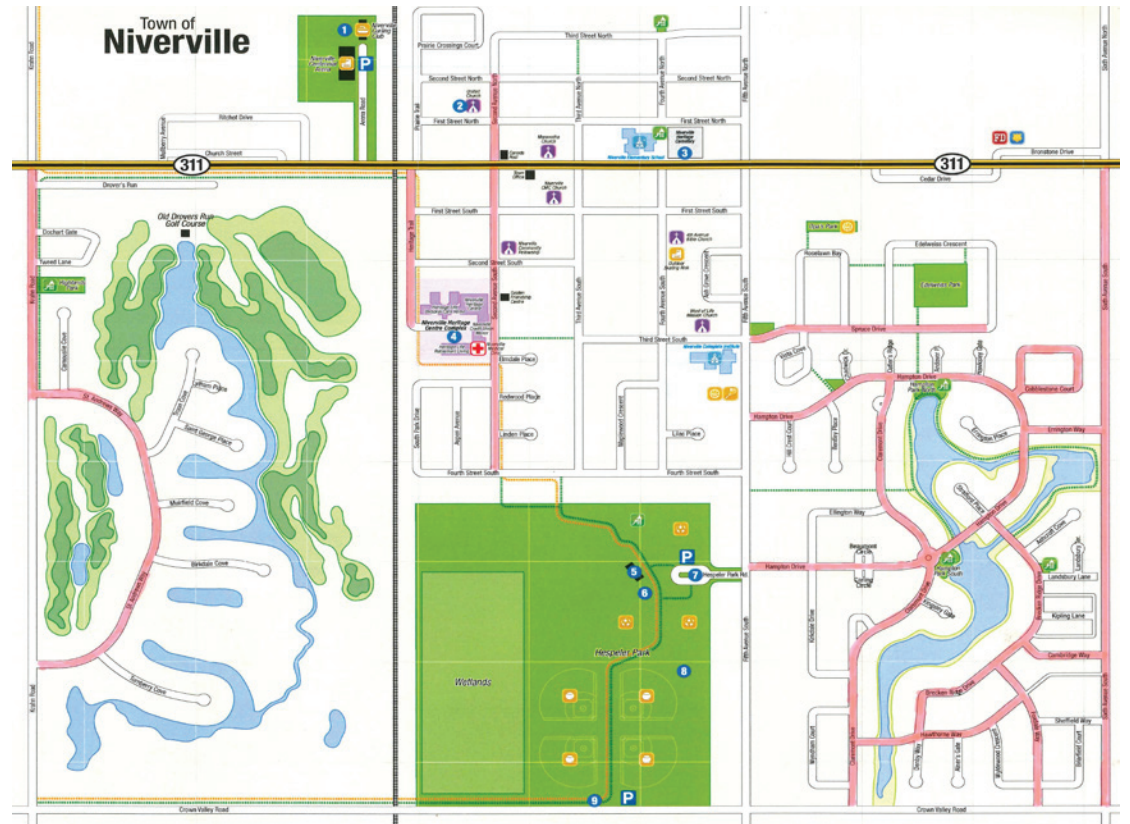
On November 6, Niverville's town council will give third and final reading to a new bylaw designed to make snow removal in the community more efficient and cost-effective. If council votes in favour, the bylaw will come into effect on that date.

The new policy will affect 14 main arteries in town which have been designated as snow routes. During periods of heavy snowfall where snow removal is required by the town's equipment, these streets will be expected to be cleared of parked vehicles until the snow ban is lifted.

"The town is reaching a size where it is a challenge to complete snow-clearing in a manner that meets the needs of residents," says Chief Administrative Officer Eric King. "In order to improve the efficiency of our operations department, the policy will reduce the need to return and clean up when a car moves. In the end, the town hopes the policy will reduce snow-clearing costs to residents and save the need to incur additional costs [of] either staffing or equipment."

King says that the operations department will begin snow-clearing immediately following a heavy snowfall, beginning as early as 5:00 a.m. On the first day, they will simply clear around any parked vehicles on these streets without penalty. The town will also immediately issue a parking ban notification using a variety of mediums such as social media forums, the town's website, as well as signage around the community.

On the second day, and any



The proposed streets to be affected by parking bans are highlighted in red.

TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

subsequent days, the parking ban will be effective from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. until the streets are cleared and the ban has been lifted. Parking will be allowed during the evenings and night-time hours without penalty.

"The ban may continue for multiple days, dependent on the conditions and ability to clear the streets," says King. "If a street has been completed and cleared [down to the] pavement, parking will be allowed. The ban will be lifted by the town and [notification will once again be] sent out on social media and our website."

To enforce the parking ban, the town's bylaw enforcement officer will be called in to monitor the snow route during the parking ban period. Any vehicles parked on a designated snow route will be ticketed and towed to a Niverville compound. Owners will be required to pay the fine and tow bill before their vehicle will be released.

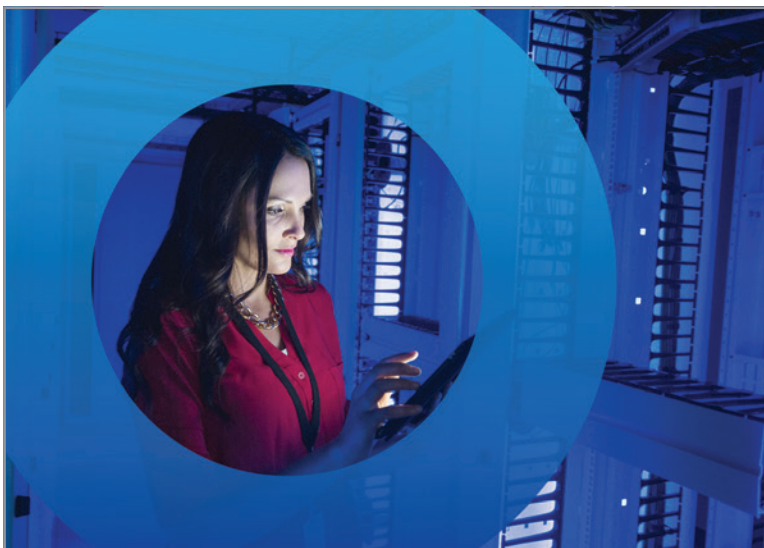
"The ticket revenue goes into the town's general revenue and, depending upon the dollar value collected, would help reduce the cost of having bylaw enforcement in town," King says. "In a perfect

world, we hope all residents follow the ban correctly and that there is no money to be made."

The town has created a map which clearly indicates all streets on the snow route. Residents will find this map in their mailboxes before the parking ban goes into effect.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To sign up to receive email notifications on future parking bans, visit the Town of Niverville's website: [www.wheretheyoubelong.ca](http://www.wheretheyoubelong.ca).



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# Cannabis Legislation: How Rural Manitoba Is Dealing with It

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Like it or not, recreational cannabis use became legal in Canada on October 17. Canada is now one of only two countries to have fully legalized consumption and sales of recreational cannabis nationwide. Uruguay introduced full legalization in 2013.

While it's a monumental decision, and to some degree an experimental one, Canada is not going in completely blind. The sale and consumption of cannabis for medical use has been legal since 2001. Many other countries around the world, and some states in America, have adopted methods of dealing with cannabis through varying levels of decriminalization. Only one state in the U.S., Colorado, has fully legalized recreational cannabis and, like Canada, the state government collects revenues from its sale.

For medical cannabis users, nothing will change. The laws that govern it will still come down from the federal level. In response to legislation for recreational use, the feds have chosen to share the responsibility of governance with provinces, allowing them a certain level of flexibility.

Since the feds have laid the groundwork for legalization, including age minimums for use and maximum amounts for personal public possession, provinces have been given authority to establish their approach to retail sales, distribution, and their own minimum age which can be higher than the federally endorsed 18 years of age.

Provincial governments can also choose the level of autonomy they give to municipalities. Some provinces, like Saskatchewan and British Columbia, are giving their municipal councils the option to opt out of allowing cannabis retail stores in their communities. Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta have no opt-out option. Manitoba lands in the middle, providing an opt-out option only if the municipal council holds a referendum.

Eight municipal councils stated their intent to hold a referendum:

Steinbach, Winkler, Snow Lake, Lac du Bonnet, Riding Mountain West, Stuartburn, Wallace-Woodworth, and Stanley.

In the end, only two jurisdictions came out in favour of allowing cannabis retail stores in their communities: Lac du Bonnet and Snow Lake. In both Winkler and Steinbach, the numbers indicated a rather emphatic result: 60 percent voted no.

The RM of Hanover's council had openly stated their intention to not allow retail cannabis, but they were similarly uninterested in putting it to a public vote. To work around this problem, they've amended their zoning bylaws in such a way as to make it virtually impossible for cannabis retailers to set up shop.

The Town of Niverville, the RM of Ritchot, and the RM of Tache are taking a relatively open-minded approach. These councils will have jurisdiction over zoning and licensing, certain aspects of retail store location, signage, and hours of operation, as well as rules about public consumption.

"In December of 2017, council passed a resolution regarding cannabis," says Ritchot's Chief Administrative Officer, Mitch Duval. "In that resolution, the council supported the growth, distribution, and retail of cannabis, subject that provincial and federal requirements are met."

Duval says that council will consider a number of categories which will affect their zoning bylaws for cannabis production and sales. These will include cultivation of the plant and considerations as to whether to restrict it to indoor facilities. Other categories for consideration will be cannabis processing and retail sales. Decisions will need to be made regarding the specific zones in which these businesses will be allowed to operate.

"[They will] likely all [be considered] conditional use [applications], permitting the RM to look at each application for its merits and

adding references to the provincial and federal laws," Duval says. "Also, we are looking at amending our employee impairment policy to include cannabis, not only alcohol."

Under a conditional use application, public hearings will be required, giving the residents of the RM a voice. Duval says he's not aware of any inquiries from cannabis producers or retailers to date.

The RM of Tache has adopted a similar approach. Zoning bylaws have already been created to ensure that cannabis-related facilities will be required to maintain a 1,000-foot perimeter between their facility and schools and residential areas.

"We've had inquiries, but we've had no serious interest to date," says Tache CAO Christine Hutlet.

*"We have been approached by retailers at a very high level. However, it appears to be people kicking the tires."*

Eric King | Niverville CAO

The Town of Niverville, too, is working on zoning bylaws which should be finalized and voted on by council this fall. Here, cannabis retailers and producers would require conditional use permits in the Commercial Main Street and Commercial Corridor zones. Locations for retail sales will be restricted to 1,000 feet from a school and indoor-outdoor recreation areas.

"This conditional use would allow council to set their conditions as stringent as they deem prudent," says Niverville CAO Eric King. "Cannabis growing is licensed by Health Canada and would only be allowed in industrial spaces. Health Canada requires very tight rules on by-products leaving a facility and security controls of a compound which would be beyond Niverville's authority."

King says that council will not

restrict public use beyond what the province has established. A new provincial law restricts recreational consumption of cannabis products in outdoor public spaces, including streets and sidewalks, parks and beaches, school grounds, restaurant patios, and the grounds of health-care facilities. It also prohibits use in indoor public spaces, including workplaces, with the exception of designated rooms in a hospital's palliative care unit or end-of-life hospices.

"The town will be looking forward to more information coming out from the province and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) with respect to the challenges of cannabis as this change matures," King says. "Council has looked at it more from economic development and jobs specific to production than the social challenges related to retail and consumption. With the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba controlling the environment on retail and consumption, policed by the RCMP, it is out of municipal control to a certain extent."

Council, he adds, has spoken with the acting staff sergeant of the local RCMP detachment and has full faith in their ability to police the matter. So far, costs of policing have not increased because of the new legislation.

"Council has been approached by growers to move into the Niverville Business Park, but no buildings have been constructed yet," King adds. "And we have been approached by retailers at a very high level. However, it appears to be people kicking tires [at this point]."

King speculates that few retail inquiries will materialize due to Niverville's proximity to Winnipeg. The province has allowed for 16 retail locations in Winnipeg. Four companies have been authorized to run those locations.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), together

with the AMM, have been actively championing for municipalities on a national and local level. This past summer, they produced a tool for municipal councils called the Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization, covering all aspects related to the topic.

"The AMM appreciates that the sale of recreational cannabis is not meant to be a revenue generating exercise," the guide states. "However, there will be significant costs associated with the legalization and regulation of cannabis, and these costs must not be downloaded onto municipalities without sufficient funds to address these costs."

No one seems to be clear on just what the costs will be to individual municipalities, outside of administration of new bylaws and licensing, and potential extra policing expenses. Only time will tell. In the meantime, the FCM and AMM are working hard to convince the provincial government to develop a revenue-sharing model.

"Last fall, FCM called for one-third of cannabis excise tax revenues to be allocated to local governments to help support legalization costs," reads the guide. "The federal government responded by releasing half of its excise-tax-revenue-share to provinces—specifically to support municipalities. This gets us closer to achieving that one-third benchmark for municipalities across the country."

Quebec and Ontario have established revenue-sharing models with their municipalities. In Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, the provincial direction is still undecided.

With the dawn of legal recreational cannabis use, Manitobans will need to understand the provincial limitations. In this province, the legal minimum age for purchase and consumption of cannabis products is set at 19. The maximum allowable possession of dried cannabis products in public places is 30 grams per individual. Cannabis can only be purchased from licensed retailers and home cultivation is prohibited except for medical users.

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# Dairy Farmers Worry Over New Trade Deal

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A recent trade deal signed by Prime Minister Trudeau has local dairy farmers concerned. The trade deal between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada—dubbed USMCA by U.S. President Trump—has been signed by the Prime Minister but has yet to be ratified by all three countries. The new deal is intended to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and after 14 months of negotiations the Prime Minister is calling it a good deal for Canada.

“It will be good for Canadian workers, good for Canadian business, and good for Canadian families,” said Trudeau at a recent press conference.<sup>1</sup>

But Canadian dairy farmers don’t agree.

“The announced concessions on dairy in the new USMCA deal demonstrates once again that the Canadian government is willing to sacrifice our domestic dairy production when it comes time to make a deal,” says Pierre Lampron, president of Dairy Farmers of Canada, a lobbyist group. “The government has said repeatedly that it values a strong and vibrant dairy sector—they have once again put that in jeopardy by giving away more concessions.”<sup>2</sup>

Part of the trade deal will directly affect supply management, a system of control that is unique to Canadian producers and which was established to benefit farmers, processors, and consumers alike. While Canadian dairy farmers mainly produce for domestic markets, they have been building on a small but growing export program as well.

Supply management regulates Canadian dairy production, prices, and imports. Introduced in the 1960s, it allows dairy farmers to purchase quota allotments, regulating the amount of dairy products they are allowed to produce and sell. It serves to prevent over-production which can cause large price swings in the market. Essentially, through the oversight of federal and provincial marketing boards, farmers are able to carefully match the supply of milk produced to the demand by Canadian consumers.

In turn, farmers are assured a fair and stable price for their products without having to rely on government funding or subsidies.

“Our model of supply management is weakened every time there is more access given in a trade agreement,” says Dairy Farmers of Manitoba chairperson David Wiens. “That is partly due to the fact that we then have less control over milk supply.”

Wiens says there are three important pillars to supply management



Liz, David, and Jake Stephens of Trehane Holsteins.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

and the trade deal puts them all at risk: regulated pricing of Canadian dairy products, control of tariffs on dairy products, and disciplined production which meets but does not exceed Canadian market demands.

“This agreement means there will be less Canadian milk required for the Canadian markets, which will limit the growth of farms and processing plants,” Wiens says. “It’s important to have continuous growth in any strong industry.”

There will be less Canadian milk required because more tariff-free import milk products will be coming into the country. In the past, Canada has maintained strict control over imported dairy products to provide a fair chance for Canadian farmers to succeed.

In recent years, the Canadian government has been loosening those controls through trade agreements with the European Union and the Pacific Trade Alliance which includes countries in Asia and South America. This USMCA agreement will allow an additional 3.9 percent of the Canadian market to be filled by import products, almost exactly the amount of milk produced by Manitoba dairy farmers. Between all recent trade agreements, the total tariff-free access now comes to a whopping 18 percent of the market share which was once dominated by Canadian farmers for Canadian consumers.

“My biggest concern is how many more trade deals and how much more market share they will keep giving away,” says Jake Stephens of Trehane Holsteins, located near Niverville. “This trade, as well as any more that are made, will affect my life on our dairy farm and whether there will be a dairy market left for another generation to come.”

Another area of grave concern is how the trade agreement will affect Canada’s Class 7 Milk Protein, a classification for a specific milk ingredient derived from raw milk. Milk proteins are used in cheese

production as well as infant formula, energy drinks, and meal replacement products.

With a growing consumer demand for butter, which uses the milk fat ingredient, processors have found themselves with an excess of the remaining milk product but have found unique ways of turning it into a useful milk protein. Canada’s exports of milk protein have been growing due to its highly competitive pricing.

“The U.S. demanded that we abandon our Class 7 Milk Protein class,” says Wiens. “Canadian processors were very successful in competing against their American counterparts and the American government wanted to ensure that we would no longer be able to compete with them in world markets. With USMCA, they will force us to abandon this program and to make sure we can’t compete against them in the future. The Canadian government has agreed to put a surcharge on our dairy exports to help ensure that we will never be able to be competitive against the American dairy industry again.”

Stephens says this new regulation against Class 7 could see his quota cut even further depending on the exact terms of the agreement.

“With the decrease of the market, we will have to reduce production by the percents taken away, but we still have the facilities for the size that we were, which means we still have the cost of the assets to pay for without the income we used to have,” Stephens says.

The new trade deal may also have a direct effect on consumers who will have access to import products that don’t match the high quality and principled standards Canadian dairy producers adhere to.

“Products imported from the U.S. will ultimately have been made from milk produced on large industrialized factory farms where the main focus is bottom line with little care given to sustainable farming, including things like milk quality, food safety, animal care, and care for

the environment,” Wiens says. “Also, there is likely artificial-production hormones used to get greater production from their cows. The use of this hormone is banned in Canada.”

Glendon Graye of Graylane Holsteins and Jerseys Ltd., a dairy farm located southeast of Niverville, says Canada’s model of supply management allows domestic dairy producers to maintain higher standards without cutting corners and lowering milk quality. He’s hopeful that Canada’s model won’t be sacrificed to trade deals.

“Processors that include the 100 percent Canadian or the Dairy Farmers of Canada logos on their products are guaranteeing the milk used came from a farm held accountable to the standards developed by Canadians,” says Graye. “Without these labels, the processor is likely diluting a product that I proudly produced with something that came from a farm that has no connection to our communities or responsibility to its consumer.”

Stephens is not as optimistic. “Since we have had two different governments in power, both have given a fraction of the market away,” Stephens says. “I, unfortunately, wouldn’t be shocked to see them dismantle supply management as time goes on if they keep using our food industry as a bargaining chip when it comes to trade wars. I understand trade deals will always have some give and take, but I would like to see Canada not give up its control and quality of food products.”

Wiens says America’s interest in the Canadian market stems from a surplus of milk being produced on their side of the border. Their surplus is a result of the lack of mechanisms in place to control production.

“The American government wants access to our dairy markets in Canada so that they can dump their surplus dairy products in Canada,” says Wiens. “For example, last year their government paid to dump over 100 million gallons of milk because they produced too much

for their domestic market. They also have programs where they will buy millions of dollars’ worth of cheese simply to remove it from a saturated marketplace. Unfortunately, with the Canadian market being one-tenth the size of the U.S. market, dumping dairy products into Canada will not alleviate the plight of their dairy farmers, but it will be very damaging for our dairy industry in Canada.”

The Canadian government isn’t denying that domestic dairy producers will feel an aftershock. Because of that, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland says Canadian dairy farmers can expect to be compensated for their losses, although the amount and type of compensation has yet to be determined.

“Canadian dairy farmers wanted to continue earning all our revenue from the marketplace where we did not have to rely on subsidies and other compensations like they do in the U.S.,” Wiens says. “A compensation package can never replace what we had. Unfortunately, our pleas fell on deaf ears and we no longer know what the future has in store for us. Our worst fear is that the Canadian government is exposing us to a death by a thousand cuts when they simply view the Canadian dairy industry as a bargaining chip to get other things in different trade agreements. We will continue to push back against these kinds of trade deals. Enough is enough!”

Consumers might also be angered by these government compensation packages. Customers could, in essence, end up paying for their milk products twice—first in the grocery store and again through taxation.

Graye and Wiens are both hopeful that the Canadian consumer will tip the scales in favour of Canadian dairy producers.

“My greatest personal concern is that our consumers will be misled by labelling on the products they put in their grocery carts,” Graye says. “I believe Canadians have faith in the quality and standards which all Canadian dairy farmers are held to, and also the conviction to support local business and the ripple effects of doing so.”

“The support we have received from Canadians across the country has been heart-warming and allows us to dare to hope for a sustainable future,” adds Wiens.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Cormac MacSweeney and the Canadian Press, “Trudeau Praises USMCA, as Government Promises Compensation for Dairy Farmers,” *City/News*, October 1, 2018 (<https://www.citynews1130.com/2018/10/01/supply-managed-farmers-compensation-trade/>).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



## CITIZEN POLL

**With more American dairy products entering our market, will you make an effort to buy Canadian?**

- ☐ Yes. I want to support local and ensure I'm getting a high quality product.
- ☐ No. Competition is good and I will buy based on price.
- ☐ Have another opinion? Share your thoughts in a comment online.

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## LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

**Do you feel that dog-breeding in Manitoba needs to be more tightly controlled?**

I think backyard breeding should be banned altogether.

**19%**

Backyard breeders should have to register with the province, undergo regular inspections, and pay income taxes like any other business.

**48%**

I don't think backyard breeders are a problem.

**33%**

## YOUR COMMENTS:

I think that people should be able to breed their dogs in peace without everybody poking their nose into it.



The new council gets sworn in. Councillor Shane Pelletier, Councillor Curtis Claydon, CAO Mitch Duval, Mayor Chris Ewen, Councillor Janine Boulanger, and Council Ron Mamchuk.

RM OF RITCHOT

# Ritchot Council Gets Ready for Another Term

**By Brenda Sawatzky**

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On October 26, Ritchot's newly elected council gathered for an inauguration ceremony, launching the mayor and four councillors into a new four-year term. This event followed on the heels of a municipal election which concluded with councillors Ron Mamchuk and Shane Pelletier regaining their seats. Mayor Ewen, councillor Janine Boulanger of Ward 4, and new councillor Curtis Claydon of Ward 3 had been previously re-elected by acclamation.

Pelletier took Ward 1 with 78 percent of the vote, obtaining 302 votes over Yves Berard's 87. Ward

2 proved to be a tighter race. Mamchuk won with a smaller margin of 53 percent of the vote. The final tally showed 248 votes for Mamchuk and 222 votes for Keith Pearce. Voter turnout in Ward 1 was 28 percent while Ward 2 was a bit higher at 36 percent.

"I knew the election was going to be very close," says Mamchuk. "As I was out campaigning, I saw indications that it would be. A lot of people were still undecided during that time."

Mamchuk says he worked hard during the weeks preceding election, making as many door-to-door calls as possible and handing out flyers throughout St. Adolphe and area.

"I was pleased with the results," Mamchuk adds. "I have to give Mr. Pearce credit because he put in a strong campaign. I'd like to thank all of the residents in Ward 2 that supported me and voted me in."

Pelletier, too, is thankful that his hard work paid off.

"I was truly humbled by the results," Pelletier says. "The support I received during this campaign has been tremendous. I believe I got my name out there well. I've been fairly involved in the community for a long time and I think that had a lot to do with my success in the election."

As for low voter turnout, Pelletier says some work will need to be done to encourage more people

to participate in future elections.

"We obviously would like to see a bigger turnout at election time," Pelletier concedes. "Other than the by-election last year, 30 percent seems to be average over the years. I'm not sure why there seems to be a shortage of voters at all three levels of government. I'd like to look over the demographics of the people that chose to vote in this election and see what gaps are there and try to work out a plan so that we can reach out to the ones that choose not to vote. [The hope would be to create] opportunities to get more people invested in the community in which they live."

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## IN BRIEF



## Fire Department Announces Annual Perogy Dinner

On Saturday, November 10, the Niverville Fire Department will host their annual perogy dinner, a fundraising event which has become a town staple. The event will take place at the Golden Friendship Centre, with the doors opening at 4:30 p.m. and closing again at 7:00 p.m. There is no set cost for the dinner, but rather diners can leave a donation of their own choosing. This year's funds will go towards the future purchase of training and rescue equipment.

# New Ritchot Councillor Primed for Coming Term

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Curtis Claydon is primed and ready to fill the seat that retired councillor Jeannot Robert recently vacated. In September, Claydon won the Ward 3 seat by acclamation, with no other parties running against him.

The husband and father of three says the timing felt right. He and his wife Lorrie have arrived at a place where family demands aren't as significant as they once were.

"We've gotten much better with managing our time as a family, which allows me to start this new journey," says Claydon. "We're doing it as a team. I owe my wife and three daughters all the credit for sharing me with the community. I raised my hand in interest and was very humbled and overwhelmed with the community support I received. From that point on, I decided to move forward."

He and Lorrie made Ste. Agathe their home 12 years ago. He says they were enamoured with the incredible sense of community they felt here and decided it would be the ideal place to raise a family. Being able to introduce their children to a second language and watch them play in a safe neighbourhood only buoyed their decision.

"Our first visit to Ste. Agathe was in a blinding snowstorm at night," muses Claydon. "We had an appointment with our real estate agent to view the home we eventually bought. After the meeting, we saw a snowy figure walking down the street. It was Jeannot Robert, taking a stroll in his fur hat. 'Bonjour,' he proclaimed. I couldn't believe anyone would be walking in weather like that. I thought to myself, 'These people are a hardy bunch. Sign me up for



Curtis Claydon with wife Lorrie and daughters Hailey, Brooke, and Somer. **BRENDA SAWATZKY**

Ste. Agathe!"

Claydon wasted no time getting involved in his new community. He sat on local committees and coached community sports teams. In less official roles, he's taken the time to prune trees in Cartier Park and cook a turkey for the community's annual fall supper.

For the past six years, Claydon has been actively involved on the Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. (CDI) board. He has since been elected as director of the board and feels that his move to the Ritchot council is a natural progression, enhanced by his exposure to all levels of government while on the board. During his CDI term, Claydon participated in many community projects, including phase three of the Riel Industrial Park. Last year, the Ste. Agathe CDI received the Premier's Volunteer Service Award.

"I love the action behind the scenes," Claydon says. "The whole process fascinates me."

Claydon believes that his career experience will also be of benefit on a municipal council. He

describes himself as a pragmatic decision-maker at work, assessing the needs of businesses and following it up with implementation and improvements from the ground floor workers all the way up to the executive offices.

"It's really important to be an effective communicator at all levels," he adds. "This same skillset will provide practical assistance when gaining consensus on important issues on council."

Once he assumes his seat on October 24, Claydon expects to hit the ground running. His first goal will be to familiarize himself with the position requirements and integrate his skills wherever possible.

"You can expect a high level of engagement from me right across the board," he says. "Our neighbourhood groups, committees, and businesses will know that I am here to support their needs and represent their views at council meetings."

His goals for the municipality already align with council's current strategy: keeping residents informed through tools like Ritchot Connect, working with

the Winnipeg Capital Region on initiatives such as fibre optics for improved internet connectivity, continuing toward revitalization of the communities' main streets, and attracting new businesses to build on the business sectors.

"We need to recognize our potential and keep developing a municipality that continues to be sought after, but not hard to find," says Claydon. "In the same respect, we need to deliver services and ensure we maintain our curb appeal to economic and residential development. I want to ensure that the momentum Ritchot has developed keeps building. The completion of our Recreation Master Plan will lead to lifestyle enhancements as we focus on our stunning green spaces, trails, rinks, and recreation centres."

And if Claydon's off-time is any indicator of the energy and zeal he'll bring to the municipal office, Ritchot should be in good hands.

"I enjoy playing hockey with the dads in town," he says. "It's a great way to blow off some steam and get a few laughs. Each fall I participate in a full-day adventure race in the Whiteshell with two neighbours. It's competitive and I enjoy that aspect."

Claydon and his wife keep their children active, too, taking regular summer trips to the Rockies for white-water rafting excursions and hiking some of the coast's more gruelling mountain trails. For now, though, he's focusing on his latest adventure as councillor representing Ward 3.

"I remember sharing news of the acclamation with my dad," says Claydon. "Aren't you going to congratulate me?" I said. His witty response was, 'Yes, but I should also be congratulating the people of Ste. Agathe.'"



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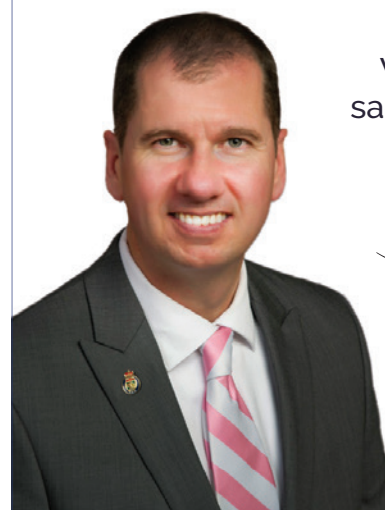
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## New Niverville Shop Owner to Share Passion for Ethiopian Coffee

By Liz Byron

For Henok Negash Gebre, coffee is more than a beverage: it's a passion, and it's one which he is looking forward to sharing with the residents of Niverville. Gebre



# Plenty of Markets to Choose from Before Christmas Arrives

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Pre-Christmas markets will abound in the region over the next four weeks. Local crafters, artisans, and small business owners will be setting up shop in venues around Niverville and Ritchot to bring Christmas shopping a little closer to home. If you're interested in a cozy, stress-free shopping experience this year, be sure to check them out. It also helps support local entrepreneurs, making gift-giving that much more meaningful for everyone.

## SOUTHEAST LIFESTYLES EXPO

November will kick off with the Southeast Lifestyles Expo from November 2-4 at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes. For the sixth year running, the Expo will focus on home, health, and hobbies. While it is much more than just a Christmas market, local artists will be there with ready-to-go, handcrafted works of art for that special someone.

Approximately 50 vendors from around the southeast will be available to answer questions and demonstrate their products and services. It's perhaps one of the best places to show your partner what you'd like to find under the tree this year.

"There are a variety of vendors, so guests attending will get a chance to get information on new products for their home, get design tips, and health and wellness [products and information]," says John Falk of Edge Business Solutions.

Presentations will take place throughout the weekend. Presenters will include Kelsey Kosman of Dollhouse Design, Rawnata founder Natalie Dueck, and world-renowned wildlife photographer Dennis Fast. Plenty of door prizes and raffles are waiting to be won. And for those who come hungry, Bigg Smoak BBQ will be on site providing delicious eats. Beer and wine services will also be available.



Vendors at last year's Winterfest, in the Heritage Centre ballroom in Niverville.

CHANEL TODD

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. Anyone 18 and under will be admitted for free. Free adult admission is also available in advance from all the vendors or by contacting John Falk at 204-898-1343.

## NIVERVILLE WINTERFEST CRAFT SALE AND MARKET

On Saturday, November 17, the fourth annual Niverville Winterfest Craft Sale and Market will once again provide shoppers with everything they need under one roof at the Heritage Centre. The one-day event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and showcase products and services from 75 local vendors.

"I think it is the best mix of offerings that we have had," says organizer Dawn Harris. "I received more requests for space than I could accommodate. I think we are at a spot now where we are recognized as a great place to be."

Harris says 27 of the vendors are new this year, from woodworkers to honey producers to animal-based counselling services for children and youth. Social Clothing, a company founded by a group of high school students from the Niverville Collegiate, will also be there.

"We have a large venue... [with] such variety," says Harris. "You can find home décor, food products and treats, artwork, clothing, body care, decorations, and much more—and

everything from the whimsical to the practical. We're not all crafts and artisanal products. About 15 percent of our vendors are direct marketers because we realize that our shoppers want those products, too. Shoppers will feel great knowing that they are supporting the products of local businesses, crafters, and artisans. It's [keeping our spending] local that helps ensure we have healthy communities."

Admission is \$3 per person. Children 14 and under will be admitted for free.

## HOWDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE CRAFT AND VENDOR SALE

The Howden Community Centre on Red River Drive will host the second annual Howden Community Centre Craft and Vendor Sale on Saturday, November 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In all, 22 crafters and vendors will be on site.

"There will be vendors from Walk-ins, Norwex, Sweet Leggs, Epicure, Mary Kay, Tiber River, and Tupperware," says organizer Kim Glowach. "[Also artisans in] photography, jewellery, wood turning, handmade crafts, and honey."

An activity table will be provided for children to keep them busy while moms and dads shop. A hot lunch will also be on order when those hunger pangs strike, including two kinds of hot soup, muffins, and desserts.

Glowach anticipates that this year will be much like last year, a resounding success.

"The traffic was busy first thing and again just after lunch," Glowach says of the 2017 event. "Being that last year was our first year, we were very happy with the turnout."

Admission will be free for everyone. Lunch can be purchased for the price of a donation. All proceeds will go to towards upkeep of the hall.

## IDC TAEKWONDO CRAFT SALE AND TRADE SHOW

Also on Saturday, November 24, the IDC Taekwondo Craft Sale and Trade Show is an annual event that's been organized by the IDC Taekwondo club since 2013. The TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes will serve as host location for the show which will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Forty vendors have already signed up for the event, but organizer and Taekwondo Master Jackson says there's still room for more.

"There are various crafters from baked goods and hand-crafted items to Avon, Tupperware, and Epicure," says Jackson. "We promote local crafters and trades primarily. However, some are [from] around the province."

A variety of door prize draws will take place during the day and a cartoon will be open and ready to serve guests from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The club will perform a Taekwondo

demonstration in the mid-afternoon.

"We felt this was a good way to give back to the community when we were approached to host this event," Jackson says. "So come do a little shopping and have a snack."

Admission will be a toonie or a donation of a non-perishable food item. All proceeds from admission will go to assist the local food bank. Each attendee will be entered to win a chance at a door prize.

If you're a vendor interested in setting up a table, contact Cathy Jackson at pcta@mymts.net.

## WHITETAIL MEADOW CHRISTMAS MARKET

A first this year, the Whitetail Meadow Christmas Market will bring shoppers some seasonal cheer on Sunday, December 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Whitetail Meadow Event Centre at the corner of Highways 311 and 200. Approximately 50 vendors will be there to help you fill your Christmas shopping list.

"We have a variety of artists and handmade vendors attending, from kids clothing like Quinn & Dot, Lux Baby, Little Pineapple Design to world-renowned wildlife photographer Dennis Fast," says John Falk, event organizer. "In addition, you'll see home décor, original art, and so much more."

For an added bonus, a café will serve baked goods, coffee, hot chocolate, and mulled wine. There will also be plenty of opportunities to win door prizes throughout the day.

"Guests coming to the market will experience the picturesque beauty of the venue and grounds at Whitetail Meadow," says Falk. "With all the lights, live music, home-baked treats, and a huge bonfire, in addition to visits from Santa, this will get everyone in the Christmas spirit."

Admission will be \$5 for adults. Anyone 18 and under will be admitted for free. Two-for-one adult passes will be available from all vendors prior to the event.



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For complete details on the business awards, please visit niverville.com/  
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# New Doggy Daycare Opens in Île-des-Chênes

By Sherry Peters

Doggy daycares help dogs socialize and burn off energy while their owners are at work—and finding the right place, and the right people, to look after your dog just got a little easier. At the end of September, Jane Seath, owner and operator of Tender Touch Dog Grooming in Île-des-Chênes, partnered with Tammy Thomson and Lauris Kleben to operate the Tender Touch Doggy Daycare, attached to the grooming salon.

"I called Jane to see if she needed any help with the daycare and she said, 'How about you two operate it?'" Thomson says of the opportunity to take over the daycare.

For Thomson, having grown up on a farm, this was the opportunity she was looking for to get back to working with animals.

Located at 449 Main Street, Tender Touch Doggy Daycare has clients from throughout Ritchot and South Winnipeg, and it's easy to see why. The moment you walk through the door with your fur baby, the daycare has the feel of a second home. Each dog gets a personalized basket for their leash and food, and the main daycare room is warm, clean, and has couches and little dog beds along the walls. Thomson and Kleben, and their dog Daniel, greet new arrivals with enthusiasm, welcoming their charges as if they were their own.



Tammy Thomson at the Tender Touch Doggy Daycare in Île-des-Chênes.

SHERRY PETERS

Upon arrival, dogs are automatically taken outside to a secure, fenced-in courtyard covered in a few inches of gravel that Kleben rakes daily. Mats and chairs in the courtyard are there for the dogs to explore before and after they've taken care of business, which is instantly cleaned up by staff. The dogs are then brought back into the main room where they

play with each other, toys, and staff, run through tunnels, and sometimes catch a nap from all the fun.

I took my own dog, Ebby, to check out the facilities. She isn't very sociable with other dogs, but she and Daniel got along right away. It didn't take long before Ebby was leaving me behind as she ran around, exploring and begging Kleben for attention, which he was

more than happy to give. In the year and a half that I've had Ebby, this is the most independent I've seen her outside our home.

For the moment, Tender Touch Doggy Daycare is only open two days a week. Tuesdays are for little dogs and Wednesdays are for big dogs. Thomson and Kleben are planning to open on Thursdays to middle-sized dogs, and possibly Fridays for another little dog day, depending on demand. They can take up to 30 little dogs and 12 big dogs.

At \$24 for a single day, \$115 for a five-day pass, or \$200 for a ten-day pass, their rates are comparable to most other daycares. Open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tender Touch's hours are perfect for the working dog-parent to drop their baby off and pick up a tired and happy pup at the end of the day, knowing that they've received care and attention all day, including cuddles and brushing.

Tender Touch has a strict no-aggression policy and all dogs are evaluated by Thomson and Kleben before they are allowed to attend daycare.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Remembrance Day Services Planned for Niverville and Ritchot

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The Remembrance Day committees in Niverville and Ritchot have been actively organizing services for November 11. These are to be part of the ongoing reminder that our current national peace was bought and paid for at a heavy price—through the lives and dedication of our war heroes, past and present. Peacetime isn't something we can ever take for granted.

## RITCHOT SERVICE

"The freedom we experience today to be able to live in a country that respects and celebrates diversity, a country made up of strong and peaceful people that value the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, is directly because of the sacrifices of our service men and women," says Lesley Gaudry, member of the Ritchot Remembrance Day committee. "November 11 is a day that veterans, past and present, are in our hearts and minds. We acknowledge their dedication and service to our country and its people. It is our responsibility as citizens to not forget."

The Ritchot service will take place at 10:40 a.m. at the cenotaph at 344 Main Street in St. Adolphe. Participants in the formal service will include community youth, cadets, Sparks and Brownies, RCMP officers, and a bagpiper. Attendees are reminded to dress according to the weather. Coffee and sweets will follow at the Club Amical.

If residents desire, donations of dainties can be delivered to the Club Amical immediately before

the service. Volunteers are welcome to assist with coffee service and clean-up afterward.

## NIVERVILLE SERVICE

As in previous years, the Niverville Remembrance Day service will be held at the Heritage Centre. The one-hour service will begin at 10:00 a.m., with a luncheon to follow.

The committee expects to include special elements this year to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I. A new feature on this year's agenda will be a series of vignettes performed by Niverville Collegiate drama students. These dramatic readings will draw the audience into the imagined lives of a young WWI soldier writing a letter to his mother from the trenches, a mother with a child serving in the military, a child with a parent serving on a peace-keeping mission, and a soldier recently home from battle and coping with posttraumatic stress disorder.

The hope of every Remembrance Day service is for those in attendance to acknowledge that Canada's involvement in wartime efforts extends right through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and didn't end with the world wars. Two recent events, committee members say, really helped to drive home the reminder that our current peace rests on tenuous ground: the events of 9/11 and the 2014 shootings on Parliament Hill.

"It's an education for people," says committee organizer Elaine Krahn. "We always try to have an educational component as part of the ceremony."

The committee admits that planning this year's event was a bit trickier than previous years.

"We had quite a few difficulties this year," says Krahn. "First of all, it's on Sunday, so we don't know what to expect because church is on at the same time."

Because of this, the committee is unsure whether they will be able to count on the same attendance as they have in previous years, which makes preparation more difficult. In the recent past, attendance has hovered between 700 and 800 people.

Guest speakers are also becoming harder to find as fewer and fewer world war veterans are still with us. The voice of Melanie Bergen, who has long graced the ceremony with renditions of wartime songs, will also not be available due to other important commitments this year. But situations like these only serve to bring out renewed creativity from the committee, who promise that this year's service will be as memorable as any other.

Although Niverville has held ceremonies for more than 20 years, it didn't take long before they were too large to take place at the cenotaph on Main Street. As the event has grown, so have the costs.

"We don't receive any town funding and we don't receive any government funding," says committee organizer Lora Wachtendorf. "The Remembrance Day ceremony is completely reliant on the donations that happen here, right on this day."

The Heritage Centre currently provides the community's best and most spacious facility. While the Heritage Centre has been an

avid supporter of the event, the rental costs still need to be covered through donations.

The expense of the luncheon, too, must be accounted for. Since Health Canada regulations only permit certified Heritage Centre staff into the kitchen, all food must be supplied and served by staff members. The Remembrance Day committee is thankful for their support and gladly takes care of this cost.

Still further expenses include honorariums which are paid out to bagpipers, buglers, and some guest speakers. As well, a sound system must be rented since the in-house system doesn't adequately meet the needs of the event. Thankfully, many local residents and clubs come together to volunteer their time and efforts, helping to keep costs from becoming unmanageable.

"Donations are critical if our event is going to continue," says Krahn. "At least so that we cover our costs. We are not trying to make money."

Krahn and Wachtendorf hope that everyone will see the powerful impact that a well-orchestrated Remembrance Day service has on the community.

"During the course of a normal military day, Reveille is a wake-up call in the morning and Taps signifies the end of a day's activities," says Krahn. "On Remembrance Day, they reverse those two songs. Here, Taps signifies soldiers going to their final rest and the Reveille is waking us up to carry on what they were trying to do: restore and maintain peace."

## IN BRIEF

### Small Fire at Niverville Construction Site Caught Early

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

A small fire broke out on the roof of a new strip mall under construction in Niverville on Drovers Run, fronting the golf course. The owner of the property, Ray Dowse, confirms that the fire occurred on Friday, October 12, but he also said it was caught early by surveillance cameras. The damage, he says, is minimal.

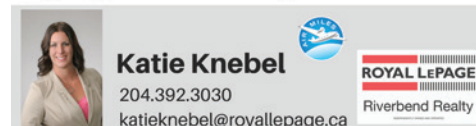
"I spoke to the Three-Way Builders project manager this morning," says Dowse. "He explained that the roofer had completed their work at approximately 4:00 a.m., and the heating process they use must have sparked up some flames around 5:30 a.m. The onsite surveillance caught it early and the fire department was deployed and put it out."

Dowse says the damage is confined to a single ten-foot by ten-foot section. Beyond that, he says construction was able to move forward without delay.

"Everything was caught in time," he adds. "Thanks to the Niverville Fire Department for their quick response!"



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Alexie Lepage.

■ ALEXIE LEPAGE

## Young Ritchot Woman Takes on Youth Councillor Role

By Liz Byron

This past July, Ritchot's council added a new member to its ranks when St. Adolphe resident Alexie Lepage began her one-year term as the municipality's first youth councillor.

The position was created to allow a young resident to attend council meetings both to listen and weigh in, although not to vote on issues. Last October, Ritchot Mayor Chris Ewen announced the intention to add the role, and in the spring applications were made available for any local resident who was a full-time student under the age of 18.

When the council announced the creation of the position, the policy concerning the role stated, "By working with youth, council hopes to develop better communications for existing opportunities, involve and familiarize them with the operations of our municipal government, and listen to suggestions on what the municipality can do to improve its youth-oriented efforts."

Lepage says that when her

mom showed her an advertisement for the post, she was interested right off the bat.

"I was really interested in this opportunity," says Lepage, who is a Grade 11 student at Collège régional Gabrielle-Roy in Île-des-Chênes. "I'm not too sure what I want to do in my future and if it involves politics, but I wanted to do this to learn more about how council works and what's happening in our area."

A few months in, Lepage says her experiences have helped her gain a lot of insight into the political process and her community. She also feels she's been able to offer something to council in return.

"I hope that my opinion can be valuable, since I am from a different generation and so they get to see a different perspective from their own," she says, "and I think that them being able to see a younger person's view on how things might affect us here—that might help them out in making decisions."

Recently, for example, council heard a proposal from Slavjanka Transport Company Ltd to build a

transportation terminal south of Provincial Road 210 on the edge of St. Adolphe. Several residents were concerned about this placement, including the youth councillor.

"I raised my concern that a lot of kids go biking around that area, and that this addition would increase traffic, which would not help safety," she says.

Afterward, council voted unanimously to reject the application.

Lepage says she is looking forward to the rest of her term, and while she isn't sure if politics will play a role in her life after high school, she thinks it is a worthwhile activity and hopes others will be able to take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

"Politics are really interesting and I think it's really cool but also important to be able to understand it better and really see what's going on in the community," she concludes. "When I'm able to vote, I'll understand a bit more how things work and what's going on."



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# Santa for Seniors a Way to Show Care to the Community

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

The people of St. Adolphe have a reputation for rallying around their community, so when Ritchot Senior Services put a call out for donations around the holidays, it was no surprise that the community responded. Now, after the success of their first two years, they're at it again.

Santa for Seniors began two years ago when a local resident, Carla Dayholos, approached Janice Burnett, the coordinator for Ritchot Senior Services, with an idea to deliver Christmas items to a few local seniors.

"[Dayholos] created stockings filled with a variety of goodies and I was Santa going around town to deliver the stockings to about ten seniors," explains Burnett. "The first couple of years we concentrated on residents of The Chalet and then we started expanding from there."

Wanting to expand the experience, the women approached the local pharmacist to see if the store could be the drop-off point for donations. Now that they had a sort of home base, they set off to get the community involved by using social media to garner support and donations. Not only did the stockings grow to gift bags, but the school also provided a donation of fresh produce from their Farm to School fundraiser, and they were soon able to provide almost everyone with a small bag of mixed fresh veggies, according to Burnett.

"We called on the St. Adolphe School also and the Grade Two class handmade a Christmas card that was included in every bag," she says. "The pharmacist's young son also made a small ornament that looked like a wool toque that was included in each bag."

A true community effort, Santa for Seniors really does a wonderful job of spreading joy to all corners of their town. The drive allows



Christmas cards made by Grade Two students in St. Adolphe.

JANICE BURNETT

everyone to get involved, whether it's through donating a non-perishable food item or small gift such as hand lotions, warm socks, or large print crossword puzzle books.

"I have found working with the seniors over the past few years that they are so appreciative of the small things," Burnett says. "They don't need or want those big-ticket items that we sometimes feel the pressure at the holidays to provide to our families."

Although Burnett and Dayholos have taken the initiative to get things rolling, they have a board—"Elves," as they jokingly call themselves—that works with them to put all the gift bags together. After everything is ready to go, Burnett and her daughter drive around the town delivering the packages to the seniors on their list. As Burnett's job puts her in contact with many of the seniors in the community, it gives her the perfect opportunity to find those in need and show them that

they are being thought of during the holiday season.

This year, they are hoping to make 30 gift bags to be delivered to seniors who live alone. Though some may have family close by or even within the town, the still spend a lot of time alone.

"I have one senior in particular that is a very special lady and has lived in St. Adolphe all of her life," says Burnett. "She has been very helpful in sharing the names of some of the other seniors that live in St. Adolphe that I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting or I am sometimes just unaware of their home life. Sometimes it just nice to be remembered during the bustle of the holidays in even just a small way. It is not a charity for low-income [people]. It is a more like a hug from the community that just says, 'Hey, we are aware of you, we care, and everyone can use a hug everyone once in a while.'"

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## IN BRIEF



## Niverville Council Sells Hydro Property to Steinbach Vets

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

The old Hydro building along Main Street in Niverville has been sold to the Steinbach-based Southeast Veterinary Clinic, pending the finalization of a few legalities.

The property had been purchased by the Town of Niverville in May of this year as a possible future location for their new town office.

"[Council] was looking for land to build a new town office," Mayor Myron Dyck explains. "A short while later, the Horizon building came up for sale... and it was already built. The town was never going to move into [the Hydro building]. [We had] wanted the land."

Now that the town has secured the old Horizon building, they decided to sell the Hydro property. Dyck says that they put it to tender so that anyone would

have a fair shot at being able to purchase it. The town received two offers, one of which was by Southeast Veterinary Clinic.

According to their media relations spokesperson, Southeast Veterinary Clinic has declined to comment further until the deal is finalized.

"We are always excited to see businesses come up in our town," says Dyck. "We do have second, third, and fourth generations of businesses in town and they understood and made the sacrifices during the times when we didn't have a lot of traffic, and through the changes we were making. I want to thank those businesses for what they've done for supporting our community... That being said, we are excited to see the businesses grow. We welcome all businesses to our town and wish them the best of luck."

# Election Brings Change to Local School Boards

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The October 24 trustee election will bring change to local residents in the Seine River and Hanover School Divisions.

In Hanover's Ward 1, which includes the communities Niverville, New Bothwell, Kleefeld, and Crystal Springs, Shannon Friesen was re-elected. Carisa Klassen also won a position on board and will take over the seat vacated by outgoing trustee Ruby Wiens.

In Seine River's Ward 1, an area that encompasses St. Adolphe, Île-des-Chênes, Grande Pointe, and Lorette, two trustees were re-elected, Jessalyn Cahill and Christine Roskos. Newcomer Vicky Kiansky will join them, adding a new voice to the board.

### ELECTION DAY

"I spent election day organizing some things at home before I headed to each Ward 1 polling station, spending the last few hours before the polls closed at Niverville Collegiate," says Shannon Friesen. "It was nice seeing familiar and new faces throughout the day, which took my mind off the actual election and helped calm the nerves."

Carisa Klassen says she tried her best to go about her day as though it were no different than any other. "Then we walked into the polling station in the afternoon and there were people there that I knew were supporting me," Klassen says. "That support is energizing, and that is when this whole process felt real and alive to me."

"I was nervous!" says Jessalyn Cahill. "I brought my one-and-a-half-year-old daughter with me to vote... I messaged some people reminding them to vote. Other than that I spent



DEPOSITPHOTOS

the day much like any other day, except with a few more butterflies in my stomach."

As for Christine Roskos, she started her day by voting early—and then she went to work as usual. "I also attended a PAC meeting at Ecole Île-des-Chênes and had some kids activities to attend to in the evening, so I kept busy and didn't have much time to think about being nervous."

Vicky Kiansky says she spent the day at work, feeling both excited and nervous about the election results. "When I found out, I was super excited to realize I had been elected and share the news with family and friends, especially all those who had helped out. I was with my husband at home waiting to hear the late results around 10:30 p.m."

"I was at Hespellers with friends," adds Klassen of how she spent her evening. "We were hitting refresh on the HSD website from the moment the polls closed. It was as nerve-racking as booking a summer campsite."

"I had an overwhelming sense of joy and relief when I realized I would be one of

the elected trustees," she says about learning of the final vote tallies. "After I knew the final numbers from the polling stations in Niverville, I went home to be with my family, without whom I couldn't have done this."

Roskos says that she was in a similar state of mind. "My reaction when I received the results was definitely excitement and elation. My husband and kids were happy for me as well and it was awesome to hear from friends and family throughout the evening with messages of congratulations and support."

### THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

The coming four-year term is bound to bring a host of challenges, both new and old.

"A big challenge facing all of the school boards across the province over the next few years will be to work with our government to stress the importance of keeping decision-making for our kids' education at a local level," says Roskos. "And community engagement plays an important role in this process. I look forward to continue to build upon the many positive things

that our division is working on to achieve success in our board priorities—improving literacy and numeracy, expanding our arts programs, enriching early childhood education, and enhancing our students' emotional, cognitive, physical, and social well-being."

Cahill points to one of her biggest priorities: Seine River's growing enrolment and the full buildings and buses throughout the division. "I think the board will be up to tackle the challenges we will face in the next four years. I really look forward to working with the new trustees and the incumbents."

Friesen foresees some big changes to school divisions throughout the province, specifically in the area of amalgamations.

"During this next term, I think that we could see some school boards being amalgamated, as it is something our provincial government has mentioned, stating that they will be conducting a consultation process in 2019," Friesen says. "It will be interesting to see what will come from that. I also think boards will be facing funding challenges in the future. There always seem to be cuts in provincial funding, and yet the needs within the schools are rising and there are always more challenges and demands placed on the educator and schools."

Friesen also believes a key role for all trustees will be advocating for more classroom space and new buildings, which always seem to be in short supply.

The trustees will be sworn in shortly, with both school boards holding their next meetings on November 6. Kiansky notes that she attended an orientation session on Tuesday, October 30.

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## Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

**The Ritchot Chamber Business Awards Gala**  
**November 10, 5:00 p.m. | TransCanada Centre**

Join over 100 local business leaders for the annual Business Awards Gala.

This semi-formal event includes dinner, live music, awards, dancing, a casino venue, prizes, and surprise entertainment! Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are still available: [www.ritchotchamber.com/gala](http://www.ritchotchamber.com/gala)**Wildlife Haven Open for Business Tour**  
**November 6, 6:30 p.m.**

The evening will feature an assortment of hors d'oeuvres, tea, and beverages.

Guests will enjoy tours of the new facility and learn more about Wildlife Haven's history and exciting new projects. The brand-new state-of-the-art wildlife rehabilitation facility and visitor centre is set to open this December. Learn more about rental opportunities of their new space!

There will also be a few special feathered guests for you to meet! The Raptor Ambassadors love to meet visitors and are available to travel to your place of work, school, or community event!

This event is only for members of the Niverville, Ritchot, and Steinbach Chambers of Commerce and their guests. An RSVP to [info@ritchotchamber.com](mailto:info@ritchotchamber.com) is required to attend.

## Growing Strong

The Ritchot Chamber welcomes agricultural transport specialists By's Transport ([www.bystransport.com](http://www.bystransport.com)). Would you like to find out more about the benefits of becoming a Chamber member? Contact Fiona Robinson, Executive Director at 204-881-2351 or [fiona@ritchotchamber.com](mailto:fiona@ritchotchamber.com)[www.ritchotchamber.com](http://www.ritchotchamber.com)Fuelling Your  
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# Sports & Recreation

## Clippers See Early Success in New Season



**EVAN  
BRAUN**

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Clippers have kicked off their season, and the teams are off to a great start.

This fall has brought some changes to the program. Notably, the Novice squad has started the season under a new set of rules mandated by Hockey Canada. They will play the whole season on a half-ice surface, playing four on four. On the other half, players will participate in a "development zone," rotating in and out of the game.

"The Novice Blue team has started with a 1-1 record," says Travis Mason of Clipper Ice Sports (CIS). "They are playing well as a team and now have shaken off the rust."

After each game, one player is selected to receive Blue and Gold Clippers Hard Hat, a new honour this year to mark the game's hardest-working player. In the first game of the season, Deklan Billey wore the hat. In the second game, the hat went to



The Atom B Clippers, who won first place at this year's Rob West Tournament.

NATALIE SAURETTE

Maddex Mason for his strong play.

"Huge congratulations to the CIS Atom B team, who took home first place in the Atom 10A3 division at the Rob West Tournament that started

October 13 and ended October 26," says Mason. "They came out on top with a huge 5-0 win over St. Vital."

Mason notes that three other teams also participated in the Rob West

tournament—Atom A, Pee Wee A, and Pee Wee B. Pee Wee B also took first place in their division.

The Pee Wee teams will host the first tournament in Niverville this year, from

November 30 to December 2. The following weekend, the Atom players will host teams from around the province. The third tournament, for Novices, will take place January 25-27.

"It's always great to see the community come out and support these players, coaches, and families," says Mason. "Please feel free to come watch and cheer them on. Admission is free!"

The tournaments will all feature an opportunity for someone to win a signed used hockey stick from the Winnipeg Jets, as well as 50/50 draws and various prize packages.

"The CIS Executive would like to thank all coaches and managers for the hard work they have put into making the start of the season so outstanding," Mason adds. "Without our coaches and managers, we wouldn't have such a robust program for the youth in our community."

In particular, Mason highlights the volunteer efforts of Katie Matula, who is serving as assistant coach of the Pee Wee C team.

"She helped fill a huge gap by giving up her time and knowledge for the game," he says. "We're hoping her involvement will encourage more youth to volunteer with CIS."

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# Should Jets Fans Be Worried?

By Nicholas Anderson

As Patrik Laine and the Winnipeg Jets prepare to head to his native country of Finland for their two-day NHL global series against the struggling Florida Panthers, their fans are facing a bit of uncertainty.

In all, the Jets will end the month of October with a record of 7-4-1, a leg up on their 2017 record of 6-3-2. While all this is well and good from a numbers point of view, the fact remains that this isn't quite the team we expected to see this year.

But just how much do Jets fans need to worry? This, of course, is a loaded question.

First things first, it should not be overlooked that the Jets are currently tied for second in the league with 15 points. Much of that can be accredited to their work on the power play, where the Jets have been lethal, converting on 31 per cent of their opportunities. Led by Blake Wheeler, the Jets have one of the best units in the league, with shooters all over the ice that can punish you in an instant. Even when the Jets couldn't call on Byfuglien, Josh Morrissey proved



Players jockey for the puck at Bell MTS Place.

DUSTIN KRAHN

to be a viable option, scoring three points in the short time he saw on the top unit.

The real struggle, however, has been at even strength. This has been well documented in the first month of play, with Laine receiving a demotion to the fourth line due to his inability to score at five on five.

We'll get to Laine and his play in a second, but as a team the Jets rank twentieth in the league with only 18 even-strength goals to date. Factor in 24 even-strength goals against, the Jets have a minus-six ratio—this coming off a season where the Jets were plus-32 at even strength.

What's behind this dip in play? Of course, Laine's inability to score has been a serious blow. The Finnish sniper scored 13.6 percent of the Jets' even-strength goals last season and has yet to score even one in the first 12 games of the season. This may have been what earned him the aforementioned demotion, though Paul Maurice claims the change was just meant to get more production out of Mathieu Perrault, who had averaged less than 10 minutes of ice-time per game.

I personally find that explanation hard to believe. After struggling to score through the first eight games of the season,

Maurice bumped Laine up to the first line, alongside Wheeler and Scheifele, to try and give him a jump. And once that didn't work he sent him to the fourth line as sort of a wake-up call.

Laine isn't the only forward struggling to score at even strength. Nikolaj Ehlers has been horrible through his first 12 games, scoring only one goal and adding three assists. I've found this to be rather strange, especially considering the way the game has been played league-wide this season. There's a bigger emphasis on speed than ever before, and Ehlers is one of the league's better rush leaders.

In the end, these are all good problems for the Jets to be dealing with now. Because of that, I don't think Jets fans should have much to worry about. Laine and Ehlers will eventually start scoring again, and the defence will get better as the season rolls along.

Yes, it's true that Jets have blown two third-period leads, but I didn't mention it because the team will find itself.

The Jets, after all, will be the Jets.

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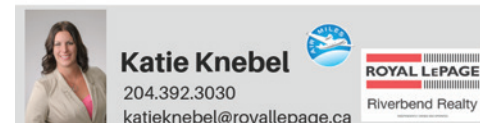
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# GORP WORLD

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



### Carly Mahoney

On October 10, NCI soccer player Carly Mahoney was named the MHSAA Athlete of the Week. Mahoney, a defensive midfielder and team co-captain, helped to lead her Panthers squad to a first-place finish in their zone this year. Her hard work was a big part in keeping the team undefeated in league play this season.

"Carly puts the team first and her individual accomplishments second," says her coach, Gerald Negrave. "She is a fierce defender who makes opposition forwards work for every meter of ground. Carly has prevented many, many shots on net and numerous goals this year. We depend on her for our success."

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Top: Martin Ward (coach), Ethan Tomlinson, Thomas Reimer, Ethan Christ, Marcus Harder, Matthew Dumaine, Adriano Cintrao, Dylan Peters, Andrew Nickel, Joel Dueck, Koleton Peters, Elijah Pastoor, Ryan Friesen, Dwayne Penner (coach), and Conrad Dueck (coach). Bottom: Nathan Rempel, Kress Schmidt, Dawite Krahn, Colin Kehler, Brendan Thompson, Josh Limpricht, Stephen Dueck, Connor Davis, and Lance Olsen. Missing: Tyson Funk.



Top: Hannah Hiebert, Georgia Dyck, Maddie Thompson, Hayley Hiebert, Kezia Heoppner, Sayer Pauls, Hannah Dunn, Sarah Neufeld, Autumn Neufeld, and Gerald Negrave (coach). Bottom: Caitlyn Mahoney, Nyah Hiebert, Melissa Zapp, Kierra Derksen, Hannah Aitken, Shayna Pastoor, and Carly Mahoney. Missing: Diana Laso and Jazmin Farley.

# NCI Girls and Boys Soccer Squads Reach Provincials

By Gerald Negrave  
and Conrad Dueck

Both the boys and girls soccer teams from NCI beat the odds and made it all the way to their respective provincials this fall, held in Swan River from October 12-13.

Although the teams each came up short, both gave great demonstrations of grit and determination.

## GIRLS

This year's edition of Niverville Collegiate's girls soccer team is called the Panthers, of course, but it could just as easily be known as "the little team that could"—and for good reason.

This team of 18 girls had a

small core of veteran players surrounded by a large group of young talent. Seven of the 11 starters were from Grades Nine and Ten. What the team lacked in experience was more than made up for by a lot of hustle and quick learning.

The Panthers finished at the top of their zone in league play and were awarded one of the wildcard spots at the provincial championships held in Swan River on October 12-13.

A nervous NCI squad dropped its first game to Thompson but then rebounded with a decisive 3-0 victory over fifth-ranked Garden Valley (Winkler).

Unfortunately, Niverville lost a hard-fought game versus Morden

by a 1-0 score in their final match of the tournament.

If success can be measured by how far a team has progressed, then the Lady Panthers have been successful by anyone's standard. The team showed its heart this season with wins over both AAA and AAAA schools. They allowed only two goals in six league games while scoring 19. NCI was one of the smallest schools represented at provincials and certainly the youngest.

This "little team that could" showed that they could play with the best of them. Certainly they are a team with a bright future.

## BOYS

The NCI boys also made it to prov-

incials in Swan River, ultimately securing a fourth-place finish.

Although conditions were very challenging, the team played some of its best soccer, overcoming the long road they travelled to get there. Despite a tough battle, they lost 1-0 to Winkler in extra time in their final match.

Coach Martin Ward says he was amazed at the improvement the young and inexperienced squad demonstrated this year. Their improvement and dogged determination all came together at the zone championships where the boys beat the Steinbach Regional Secondary School 2-1 to bring home another banner.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Beauty Is Everywhere You Look



EVAN  
BRAUN

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

A polar bear tiptoes across the polished surface of a frozen northern lake, two cubs trailing behind her on this bright but frigid day, the cold winter wind bending the bare, skittering branches in the forest behind them.

The aurora borealis churns against a star-studded sky in its unrestrained majesty. The lights splash through the heavens, spreading outward in a display of cosmic radiance, the swirl of cascading green and blue luminance leaping to a silent rhythm.

A parade of full-grown elephants swish through the tall stalks of savannah grass, wide-spreading acacia boughs obscuring the horizon behind them. In the foreground, a trio of thick-hided calves send fountains of water shooting up into the air, their trunks raised in exultant salutes.

But you don't have to take my word for it. Local wildlife photographer Dennis Fast has already taken the pictures, and these scant descriptions don't do them justice.

Even if you've never heard the name Dennis Fast, there's a good chance you've been acquainted with his work—you just didn't know it.

"When photos are used for commercial purposes, the photographer's name often doesn't appear on them," Fast says. "If you look closely at the display signs at the new polar bear exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, however, you can find my name on almost 40 of them."

Or maybe you were just standing along the side of the busy street in our nation's capital one sunny afternoon when a bus pulled up covered prow to stern with a polar bear stalking through endless fields of fireweed.

That's Fast, too, as part of an advertising campaign for the National Museum of Canada.

"I sold the images to a



A polar bear lounges in a field of fireweed.

✉ DENNIS FAST

design company with no idea where it was going to be used," he explains, noting that occasionally someone will send him a message about a new photo sighting abroad. "If you walk into the medical centre at Churchill, you will see a wall-sized image of one of my bears in fireweed calming you as you walk in!"

There's also a good chance you've seen his photographs gracing the glossy pages of *National Geographic*. Manitoba Public Insurance has used his images many times, even producing entire calendars with his work on every spread.

Fast can't help but reflect back on that unassuming day when he went out into the northern wilderness and snapped those pictures of the polar bears in the fireweed. These are some of the most reproduced images in his catalogue, for good reason.

"When *My Modern Met* magazine out of New York contacted me for an interview story about those images, the images went viral," he says. "I got hundreds of emails from people and major internet providers from all over the world who wanted prints or to republish the article on their websites. At the end of the year, [*My Modern Met*] identified one of the images as being in the top 50 from around the world that they had published that year. More craziness ensued!"

The Steinbach-based photographer couldn't have foreseen this level of high praise when he was still a child, tagging along as his father

dabbled in the photographic arts. Indeed, his father had begun experimenting with photography when it was still a relatively new artform.

"I was always interested in the medium from a young age because my father was taking photos as a hobby in the early 1900s, in spite of being a farmer and market gardener," Fast says of what first fascinated him about the medium. "He was using an old Kodak bellows camera that produced both glass negatives and the more typical cellulose-based materials. By the time I came along, my father was using 35mm slide film and I always looked forward to his latest roll of images."

Another place you'll find Fast's work is in the bookstore. In 2014, he published a children's book about his most famous subjects—polar bears. The book, entitled *Princess*, was short-listed for Children's Book of the Year.

The seed for the book was planted when his brother's grandkids in South Africa asked him to send over a collection of snow and bear photographs.

"I had several months of lead time and began to mull over the idea of a book," Fast says. "After creating an initial digital show, I tested it out on neighbourhood kids and a friend's grandkids, as well as my own. The response was so positive that I decided to rewrite it in poetry form and create a book that would be inspirational and educational. Today many schools are using it as a classroom resource."

Locals will have the

opportunity to connect with Fast in person at the upcoming Southeast Lifestyles Expo, held from November 2–4 at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes. He'll present three workshops at the event: "Touch the Arctic," on Friday at 6:00 p.m.; "The World in My Backyard," on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.; and "African Safari," at Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5, and anyone 18 or younger will be admitted for free. In addition to Fast, the event will include about 50 vendors as well as presentations by other local businesspeople.

Ultimately, the best way to enjoy a great photograph is to simply gaze at it in appreciation. But for those who may be artistically inclined, or for those Instagram shutterbugs always on the prowl for their next score, it could be helpful to appreciate the underlying philosophy behind Fast's body of work.

"Beauty is everywhere if you look, but it begins first of all in the heart," he says. "Photography has taught me to seek the delicate moments in nature where life is on the edge and where change is a heartbeat away. My goal is to touch people's minds and hearts, to help them reconnect with the earth, and to teach respect and gratitude for all of nature. I hope my photos do that for you."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.dennisfast.com](http://www.dennisfast.com)  
■ [www.groupedge.ca/events/southeast-lifestyle-expo/](http://www.groupedge.ca/events/southeast-lifestyle-expo/)

### IN BRIEF



## CWE Wrestling Returns to St. Adolphe

By Lorelei Leona

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into an event."

The childcare centre has been raising funds for their expansion after a joint venture between the RM of Ritchot and Niverville Heritage Holdings Inc. was dissolved earlier this year, putting the town's promised 90 spots in jeopardy.

The wrestling matchups featured well-known faces around the circuit, such as "Canadian Hercules" Tyler Colton, International Lucha Libre Star and WWE Icon "The Zombie Killer" MENTALLO, as well as many others.

"Our club is the go-to place to people who want to go to the next level. We are where you go to see the development of future wrestling stars," explains Warren. "So maybe you don't recognize anyone right now, but this is the groundwork for the wrestlers that you will be seeing. Some of the WWE stars you see on TV now have been through our doors at some point or another."

Warren acknowledges that wrestling isn't everyone's thing, but he believes in the CWE and knows that the company can make a fan out of just about anyone—especially when their events work to support important community initiatives.

"We have a really good track record of having people to our events that maybe aren't fully invested in wrestling, but they leave having had a good time," Warren says.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Danny Warren has been inside the ring for more than 15 years, and on Wednesday, October 17 he brought the burgeoning Canadian Wrestling's Elite (CWE) to southern Manitoba—specifically, the St. Adolphe Arena—in support of the St. Adolphe Childcare Centre.

Warren, who goes by the name "Hotshot" Danny Duggan, isn't only a CWE champion but also the founder of the company. Having a long history as a pro wrestler, it made sense for him to start a company that would provide a different avenue for wrestlers to compete.

Thus the CWE was born in 2009. Launching at a time when the wrestling market was competitive, and other companies sought to retain talent to their own roster, CWE pushed for wrestlers to match up against a variety of talent, giving them the best opportunities to grow as athletes.

A believer in giving back to the community, Warren and the CWE put on a trial event in St. Adolphe last year, which was well-received. So when the opportunity came to put on another event, on which would support a local fundraising campaign, it was a no-brainer.

Warren says that 50 percent of all the ticket sales went back to the childcare centre.

"We always try to benefit something in the community," he says. "We have a unique vehicle to get people



# Local Artist Behind Sage Creek Art Installation

By Liz Byron

A Niverville artist has recently had a new piece installed in the village centre plaza of Sage Creek. Darren Sakwi's sculpture, "Sky Spirit," was installed on October 15 in the plaza off Highway 59 in southern Winnipeg.

The piece is made entirely of stainless steel, and its rippled form was inspired by the northern lights. At 26 feet long, the large sculpture had to be welded together and assembled using cranes.

Sakwi is the owner/operator of Stainless Concepts, a design and fabrication business in Winnipeg, but he enjoys creating sculptures out of metal in his spare time. When he heard that Qualico Homes in Sage Creek was looking for artist proposals for a sculpture, he jumped on the opportunity.

"There were some ideas they wanted incorporated into the proposed piece," Sakwi recalls. "Aurora Borealis was one suggestion that immediately sparked my imagination. I didn't know exactly what I was going to



The Sky Spirit sculpture in Sage Creek.

DARREN SAKWI

do to represent it, but I knew if I could pull it off it would be jaw-dropping."

The artist began by sketching ideas out on paper, and then produced a one-sixteenth model out of construction paper to conceive of how the final piece would be put together. Once he was informed that his was the winning proposal, he moved on to the build phase.

"The size of the sculpture was definitely one of the hurdles," Sakwi says. His company didn't have enough workspace at that time, so he

had to find another space to use. "Luckily my good friend Leon at Fusion Industries here in [Niverville] was nice enough to let me use some of his space to do the final assembly. This helped me out tremendously with the use of his overhead cranes."

While stainless steel may be a practical choice for an outdoor sculpture in Manitoba, Sakwi says it is also an aesthetic choice.

"What I enjoy about stainless steel is how clean and seamless it is as a final product. It allows for a variety

of different finishes, giving it different looks and features. In this case, it's almost like two different sculptures," he says. "[There's] the daylight sculpture that shows its raw structure, allowing for in-depth examination of all the curves and attention to detail. And then there is the night-time sculpture that transforms into dancing lights along the now-clearer grain pattern."

Sky Spirit is not Sakwi's first sculpture, nor will it be his last. He's planning to create more pieces, with a goal of one day holding a show of his work. He can also foresee one day having one of his pieces displayed in town.

"If Niverville was interested, I would be up for that," he says. "One of the challenges is winning over people to accept art. It has a cost, and based on that not everyone likes art, unfortunately."

Whether or not everyone sees value in what he creates, Sakwi says the artistic process is something he finds immensely rewarding.

"To envision something from nothing and make it come to life is a great feeling."

## IN BRIEF



Plain as Ghosts.

TREVOR LUX

## Plain as Ghosts Re-Emerges After Quiet Year

By Lorelei Leona

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After taking a step back this past year, Niverville-based band Plain as Ghosts is ready to re-emerge onto the music scene.

The four-piece group, which includes Trevor Lux (lead vocals/guitar), Adam Halstrom (bass/vocals), Rodrigo Ramirez (drums), and Daniel Friesen (vocals/guitar), formed in 2014 as a collaborative effort between Lux and Halstrom.

"Rodrigo and I were previously in the punk outfit Callida, and after that folded I was looking for opportunities to collaborate and write," explains Lux. "I always admired Adam's work, so I reached out and we began to write together almost immediately. It was really enjoyable and after a little while we decided to move the project into a full band situation."

Two years after forming, the band released their first album, *Rendering*, which earned them an opening spot for Tom Cochrane in 2017. The group then took a step back from performing, but they have continued to create music together.

"We all see music as a bit of an escape, something creative and fun that we can bury ourselves in," says Lux. "Things are looking much better these days on a personal front, [and] I think the new music we are creating is reflective of that as well. I always write about something I know or have experienced personally. Without trying to sound too cliché, it's a bit therapeutic in a way."

In May, the group got back into the studio, releasing *Rendering Remixed*. Ghosts spent time at Arcade

Studios where producer Evan St. Cyr helped remix their song "Convolution," and Shaun St. Cyr lent his voice to "Empty Halls and Plaster Walls."

"It was great to collaborate with some people outside of our band and it's an honour to have all these talented people involved," says Lux. "I personally found it refreshing to hear the new takes on the songs. It's too easy to not be able to look beyond that original composition as the songwriter, so hearing these new takes was awesome!"

The band also released some new music videos of the remixes on YouTube.

Most recently, Plain as Ghosts competed in the Road to Indie Week competition, where they made it to the finals.

"This was a fun yet humbling experience," Lux says. "We were able to meet a lot of great musicians and bands along the way and make great connections with some booking agencies, so it was an awesome experience."

Good things are on the horizon, including a show on November 23 at the Pyramid Cabaret in Winnipeg, where they will open for Pop Evil & Royal Tusk.

Since stepping out of the spotlight, the quartet has worked diligently to write new material. They hope to release a single with a B-side in the new year, as well as head back to the studio in early spring to recording their sophomore album.

"We have some things in the works for some festival shows for summer 2019, but I can't reveal details about that just yet," says Lux. "We are certainly excited about the prospects on the horizon!"

# St. Cyr Nominated for Eight Covenant Awards

By Lorelei Leona

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Jordan St. Cyr is no stranger to winning awards, but after being recognized in numerous categories at the upcoming GMA Covenant Awards, this may be a new record, even for him.

The Niverville musician was recently nominated for eight awards, including Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Recorded Song of the Year, Radio Single of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, Pop Song of the Year, Video of the Year, and New Artist of the Year at the fortieth annual GMA Covenant awards gala.

"It's pretty crazy," St. Cyr says of all the nominations. "I always find awards are a bit subjective, in the sense of how do you quantify art, how do you say who is best? Being

recognized is really affirming for all the decisions I've made and what I have been doing."

The gala, which takes place in Edmonton on January 24, 2019, will see Manitoba-based artists competing in several categories, with 30 nominations overall.

In addition to his talent, one of the things that perhaps sets St. Cyr apart is his recognition that success is built through a team. St. Cyr is adamant that careers like his can't be built on one's own. He credits the team of people he regularly works with for helping to separate his music from everything else that's getting radio play.

Five years ago, St. Cyr ventured down to Nashville to build relationships and get his music off the ground at a more national level, and now that is where he does all his recording.

"I have a desire to keep progressing and getting better," he says of his success. "It's a God-given desire to keep stewarding my gift, to grow and to learn."

In addition to creating music, recording, and touring, St. Cyr is also part of a kids concert tour this month. Cartoons and Cool Tunes, which is presented by Square One Media, is raising support for Micah's Super Vlog, a Christian cartoon that uses comedy and adventure to teach kids deeper values. According to the show's website, Micah and his friends learn to follow Jesus in everyday school situations. The tour, which kicked off with a show in Morden on October 11, opens with St. Cyr's performance before taking kids on a journey through Micah's cartoon adventures.

"An old music friend was

putting together this tour, and since I'm a dad of three small kids, he thought I would be a good fit," says St. Cyr. "And the rest is history."

On the heels of being recognized at the GMAs, the musician was also just nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award in the Spiritual Artist of the Year category. It looks like his year will end on a high note.

His busy 2019 will kick off with a performance at the GMAs, followed by the release of a new album, and some U.S. tour dates. Not wanting to elaborate too much, St. Cyr also hints at something exciting coming in early 2019, although we'll all have to stay tuned for more details.

"It's been a long and hard journey," he says, "but the reward has been great."



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# ARE YOU READY?

## WINTER IS HERE...

**10 kg Ice Melter**  
 • -31° rated  
 • Fast melting



**SAVE 26%**

**\$8<sup>88</sup>** Limit 2 per customer  
 REG. \$11<sup>99</sup>  
 #1903624

**Back Saver Snow Shovel**  
 • 18" blade  
 • D-grip handle



**SAVE 24%**

**\$22<sup>88</sup>** Limit 2 per customer  
 REG. \$29<sup>99</sup>  
 #8924003

**Lighted Block Heater Cord**  
 • 3m



**SAVE 41%**

**\$5<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$9<sup>99</sup>  
 #4009

**Ceramic Small Area Heater**  
 • 800 watts  
 • Auto shut-off



**SAVE \$35**

**\$29<sup>88</sup>** Limit 1 per customer  
 REG. \$64<sup>99</sup>  
 #2493955

**Sidewalk Scraper**  
 • 5½" x 7" blade



**SAVE 27%**

**\$16<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$22<sup>99</sup>  
 #7070956

**Wood Stove**  
 • Used for fishing, hunting or camping  
 • 14" x 24" x 22"  
 • Manitoba Made



**SAVE \$150**

**\$229<sup>88</sup>** 4 ONLY  
 REG. \$379<sup>99</sup>  
 #B5-0370

**Full Grain Leather Work Glove**  
 • 100 gram thinsulate



**SAVE 44%**

**\$9<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$17<sup>99</sup>  
 #2531THEQ

**Quilted Hi-Vis Parka with Removable Hood**  
 • Assorted sizes



**SAVE \$39**

**\$35<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$74<sup>99</sup>  
 #EN64OLY

**Thermal Insole**



**SAVE 52%**

**\$2<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$5<sup>99</sup>  
 #80074

**Black Thinsulate Toque**  
 • 40 gram



**SAVE 42%**

**\$3<sup>48</sup>** REG. \$5<sup>99</sup>  
 #036TQ2

**Alex Plus White Caulk**  
 • 300 ml



**\$2<sup>28</sup>** /TUBE  
 #9038746

**Standing Buck or Feeding Doe**  
 • 48" 3D prelit decoration



**SAVE \$23**

**\$24<sup>88</sup>** YOUR CHOICE  
 REG. \$47<sup>99</sup>  
 #0682930, #0674168

**Great Stuff Window & Door**  
 • 12 oz.



**SAVE 22%**

**\$6<sup>88</sup>** REG. \$8<sup>79</sup>  
 #175438

**4' Inflatable Snowman or Santa, with Projector**



**SAVE \$25**

**\$44<sup>88</sup>** YOUR CHOICE  
 REG. \$69<sup>99</sup>  
 SNOWMAN #9628736  
 SANTA #9636010

**Ihot Hand Warmer**



**SAVE 50%**

**98¢** /PAIR  
 REG. \$1<sup>99</sup>  
 #30832

**WM. DYCK & SONS (1993)**

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