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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Funeral Aid Set to Dissolve

■ After many decades of operation, the volunteer organization in Niverville comes to the end of its long, winding road.

Details on Pages 14-15



LOCAL NEWS

Tourond Creek Rezoning Proposal Defeated by Ritchot Council Vote

■ At a fractious council meeting on April 3, Ritchot council voted against a proposal by the Tourond Creek developers to rezone a five-acre parcel of land from commercial to multifamily residential.

Details on Page 12

SPORTS & RECREATION

NCI Varsity Girls Tackle Rugby

■ A squad of ten Senior High girls from Niverville Collegiate are preparing to field the school's first-ever rugby team.

Details on Page 31

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local Writer Cooks Up Chicken Soup

■ Local writer, and regular *Citizen* contributor, Jan St. Cyr has made her first professional story sale: to *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Details on Page 34



Chad Brownlee to Headline Niverville Fair

» DETAILS ON PAGE 32




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The Citizen

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Country Snacks Embarks on Significant Expansion

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Country Snacks, partnered with Red River Co-op, is set to embark on some real changes over the course of this coming summer—changes that will see the addition of six new gas pumps, a new entry and egress loop, and an outdoor attached patio for their customers' enjoyment.

On April 3, owners Pete and Rose Friesen appeared before council for a conditional use hearing to rezone their Main Street properties in preparation for the upgrade. Council passed the motion unanimously, subject to compliance with a formal development agreement.

"I am very excited," says Rose. "You have no idea how long we've waited for this. It's a dream coming to reality. We've had a lot of dreams over the years, but this is pretty great because, when you're independent, it's a long process to get [to the place] where you can [afford to] do this. But to have the support of the community, we feel so blessed."

This new expansion will see the demolition of the building at 166 Main Street, the former location of Niverville Chiropractic and the Growing Minds daycare. The existing gas pumps in front of the building will be removed and a contemporary six-pump, six-lane island will be installed in the area of the demolition. This will result in 12 new filling stations, covered with an overhead canopy illuminated by LED lighting.

In an effort to reduce congestion and improve safety for pedestrian traffic, the current egress on Fourth Avenue South will be closed off. A new access will be added on



Rose and Pete Friesen, owners of Country Snacks.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

the west end of the 166 Main Street property, forming a loop that will connect to the current Main Street entry.

"Once we take that traffic away from the front of the building, it's going to alleviate a lot of the congestion out front with the crosswalk," says Pete. "It will completely change the direction of traffic."

In place of the old gas pumps, a large patio is set to be constructed, including picnic tables to encourage ice cream and pizza-lovers to enjoy the Manitoba summer outdoors. Apart from the patio, no big changes are anticipated for the convenience store right now. In recent years the building's interior and exterior has undergone massive renovations, making way for Peppie's Pizza, an indoor dining area with a fireplace, and a grocery and deli meat section.

Pedestrian traffic, the couple agrees, comprises a large portion of their clientele. Situated just blocks from both schools and at the core of Main Street's business district, Country Snacks is perfectly located to accommodate young people and teachers

on lunch breaks, as well as families going for an afternoon stroll for an ice cream treat.

"We have a lot of walk-in traffic," Pete says. "We had discussed [expanding] out of town, because we'd have a lot more space. We'd have all those things, but it would take away that walk-up traffic."

By May, residents should begin to see new things happening on the joined sites. The Friesens have offered up the use of the empty building at 166 Main to local firefighters for training and drills until its demolition. Eventually, the building will come down and the underground tanks will be removed for inspection and reinstallation. The Friesens will continue to work out the details of contracting and sign placement.

FAMILY LEGACY

Rose Friesen comes from a long line of entrepreneurs responsible for building Niverville's business community. Both of her grandfathers were thriving businessmen here.

J.S. Wiens owned and operated the Red and White Store, where Piston Ring

and Niverville Pharmacy are located today. He was the first Niverville businessman to introduce ice cream and candy bars to the lucky residents of the community. Stories have been told of his regular trips to Winnipeg, stocking up on delectable supplies and storing the ice cream in an icehouse near the store. It was a laborious ordeal. He chopped big blocks of ice from the Red River and transported them to a hole beneath the icehouse where beds of sawdust helped slow the melting.

Her other grandfather, John Enns, built and operated a John Deere and Pontiac dealership with an Esso gas station across the street. Eventually, Rose's father Howard started his own business in the location where Country Snacks sits today. It began as a Case dealership and Texaco station, and in time evolved to a Ski-Doo dealership and Shell station.

Rose remembers growing up and spending much of her time there, helping her father in the business. In the same building, her mother managed a hair salon and sold crafts and

fabrics.

"Our family history is a very big part of this place," says Friesen. "Our kids all grew up here and worked here."

In the mid-1990s, Rose succeeded her father in business. Buoyed by a start-up loan from her grandfather, Rose and Pete began the journey to their own business success story, creating changes as the years and demands required. In honour of her Grandpa Wiens's legacy, Country Snacks has made a name for itself by serving some of the best soft ice cream in Manitoba.

"People see the [brand] Red River Co-op, but we are independent," says Friesen. "We are fiercely independent."

And while their independence as business owners allows them to make corporate decisions easily and without interference, it also allows them to give back to the community that supports them. The Friesens have been long-time supporters of the school lunch programs and other community fundraising endeavours, as well as providing the perfect opportunity for local youth to break into their first job experiences.

In their 20-plus years in business, hundreds of young employees who trained under the Friesens' customer service model have gone on to build careers or become entrepreneurs in their own right.

"Our greatest asset is people," says Pete. "The success of this business is just a byproduct of everything else. If we don't have the people who work for us, or the customers [to support us], there is no business."

"It's awesome," agrees Rose. "Employing young people is our greatest gift back to the community."

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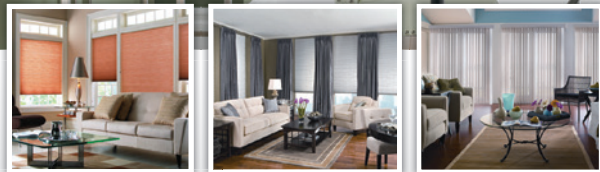
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Market Sets Up Shop at Whitetail Meadow

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The first-ever Whitetail Meadow Market is set for Sunday, May 6. The market, which will feature a wide array of local artisans, food vendors, and pop-up stores, will open at 10:00 a.m. and run through 8:00 p.m. Admission will be \$5 per adult, and those under 18 can enter free of charge. Vendors will be coming from all across Winnipeg and the southeast region. Local buskers will provide entertainment.

Organizer John Falk says that the market will create yet another annual event to showcase our region as a destination. He also adds that, with Mother's Day right around the corner, the market is the perfect opportunity to pick out thoughtful, hand-made,



Whitetail Meadow.

▣ CARA DOWSE

and locally sourced gifts.

He says that spots inside the building have been sold out for weeks, so they've expanded the market into a 4,000-square-foot tent to accommodate demand.

Whitetail Meadow is located along the Red River at the junction of Highways 311 and 200, about five kilometres east of Niverville and eight kilometres south of St. Adolphe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.groupedge.ca/whitetail-meadow-market
- www.facebook.com/whitetail-meadowmarket

Providence Marks Spring Graduation

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Providence University College and Theological Seminary recently held its spring graduation exercises, beginning on Wednesday, April 18 and concluding on Sunday, April 22.

In total, 175 students graduated from the school's programs this year, including 44 Master of Art degrees, 45 Bachelor of Arts degrees, six

Bachelor of Business Administration degrees, and 43 Certificate of TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language).

Although most graduates attended school at the school's main campus in Otterburne, nine students from Finland and one from Greenland earned their Diploma in Biblical Counselling through a Providence program offered in Finland.

Every year, Providence

bestows an honorary Doctorate of Divinity, and the 2018 recipient is Rev. Dr. Samson Hkalam, the top administrator of a 400,000-member Christian denomination in Myanmar.

"Rev. Dr. Samson Hkalam has more to teach me than I have to teach him," remarked Providence President Dr. David Johnson last November at a special ceremony in Myitkyinam, a city in northern

Myanmar. "He is truly an example of who a Christian is and what a Christian does."

This year's speaker at the seminary graduation ceremony on April 21 was Patrick Franklin, an experienced pastor and expert in Trinitarian theology, ecclesiology, ethics, and theology of culture. He is also the editor of Providence's peer-reviewed academic journal, *Didaskalia*.

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Local Businesses Team Up to Celebrate Community

By Liz Byron

Two business owners in Île-des-Chênes are celebrating their community by offering free services on Saturday, May 12.

From 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., LDN Auto Service at 421 Main Street will offer free bicycle tune-ups as well as hot dogs and drinks. Kids will also have a chance to sit in a real race car and have their photos taken.

Meanwhile, at Salon 421 next door, visitors will be offered free consultations on makeup and hair. The salon will be accepting donations of hair products for a women's shelter. Anyone making a donation will receive a 15 percent discount off any new product in the salon.

The timing of the events isn't a coincidence, nor is the fact that the businesses are located right next to each other. Salon 421 is owned by Stacey Thomas-Niebel, while LDN Auto Service is owned by her husband, Larry Niebel.

"When we purchased this property, it was commercial property with a house on it, and we knew full well that the plan was for both of us to open businesses," Stacey explains.

Over the past decade, both businesses got off the ground and expanded. The couple no longer lives on the premises, but they enjoy working side by side and being active members of their community. The events on May 12 are a way for the pair to reach out to the town.

At LDN Auto Service, Larry says that offering bicycle tune-ups in the spring seemed like a good way



Stacey Thomas-Niebel and Larry Niebel at LDN Auto in Île-des-Chênes.

© DON BURNELL

to offer some free help to others.

"A lot of the time kids come by on their bikes and ask if we can put air in the tires, and of course we do, but then as a mechanic I've grown up learning how to fix things, not just cars, so this seemed like a good thing to do," he explains.

When he held this event last spring, Larry says it was mostly kids who came for the tune-up, although adults are welcome too. Shop staff will offer basic maintenance like chain adjustment and oiling, putting air in tires, and handlebar and seat adjustments to make sure bicycles are safe and ready to go for the warmer weather.

As for the race car, that belongs to Larry. "I drive a race car at the speedway, so I'm going to have it parked there so kids can come and sit in the race car, take pictures, and

we'll have a bunch of free tickets for the speedway too."

About 60 feet over, at Salon 421, Stacey will be offering a different sort of service to help people get ready for spring and summer.

"We're doing hair and make-up consults all day, at no charge," she says. "Whether they want to learn a new makeup application technique, like how to do a smoky eye, or they want to learn a new way to style their hair, for example, we'll be doing that. People can bring their own tools or products if they like, so that they can replicate it at home easily."

She also encourages people to bring in extra hair product they aren't using, as a donation.

"Most of us have a collection of stuff sitting around at home that we aren't using, because we didn't like

it or we found something else," says Stacey. "I don't care if it's professional or not, open or not. As long as it isn't expired, we'll take it and give you 15 percent off anything new you might like to buy."

The donated products will be given to the Osborne House Women's Shelter.

"There are a lot of women there who are at a really terrible time in their lives, who are not feeling good about themselves," she adds. "Sometimes something like a new hairstyle can really give you a boost at a moment where you're feeling really unhappy."

"All in all, both events are about our community and how lucky we are to live here," Larry says. "We just want to do something nice for people."

IN BRIEF



© MARGE THIESSEN

New Vice Principal Appointed for NES

Hanover School Division's board of trustees have appointed a new vice principal for Niverville Elementary School. Marge Thiessen will assume her new role at the start of the upcoming school year.

New vice principals were also appointed to Blumenort School and Woodlawn School in Steinbach.

"Each of the newly appointed administrators brings valuable teaching and administrative experience to their roles, having served in our school communities for many years," says a statement from the division. "Hanover School Division wishes each of the appointees all the best in their new roles."



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Chamber News

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4th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament

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Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

4th Ritchot Chamber Golf Tournament June 19, 2018 | 10:30 AM Registration

It's time to hit the green! The fourth annual Ritchot Chamber Golf Tournament is set for June 19, 2018 at Lorette Golf Course.

- Registration: 10:30 AM | Tee off: 11:30 AM

Join us for a full day of business networking, team spirit, and the opportunity to win cool prizes. Everyone is welcome... pros can dominate the green while novice golfers can team up to practice their swing. It's all good!

- Early bird registration (before May 15): \$100 | Regular: \$120

Sponsorship opportunities are available at multiple price points to ensure every business has the opportunity to gain broad exposure.

To sponsor or register, contact fiona@ritchotchamber.com.

Chamber Benefits 101 | May 15, 2018 | 9:00 AM

Would you like to learn how to take advantage of offers from our affiliate partners? If you are a Chamber member, or considering becoming one, there are substantial benefits that effectively get the membership to pay for itself. Join us at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes, in the second floor boardroom at 9:00 a.m. on May 15.

First Aid & CPR Training (EFA-C & AED) | June 14, 2018 | Full Day

Join Trina Brule, CHRP, of Seine River Safety for a full day of first aid and safety training. This popular session fills up fast, so please register early. The training will be hosted at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes.

Register at seineriversafety.ca

Contact: trina@seineriversafety.ca

Growing Strong

We welcomed Rob Dolinski of 3T Systems (3tsystems.ca) and JP Craft of Paul Craft Financial Inc. (paulcraftfinancial.com) to the Ritchot Chamber in April 2018. It's great to see more service experts getting on board.

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.

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Students Make Greenspace Proposal to Ritchot Council



EVAN
BRAUN

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Young people are getting their chance to shine in the RM of Ritchot. As part of a broader effort to increase engagement between Ritchot's youngest residents and their government, a delegation of five students from École St. Adolphe School appeared in front of council at a special meeting, held at the school on the morning of Monday, April 23, to propose some key youth priorities for the community's undeveloped greenspace in the new Tourond Creek neighbourhood.

The ten-acre parcel of land is located directly east of the St. Adolphe Arena, on the other side of the old dike. When the Tourond Creek subdivision is filled in, this park will be located right at the center of town.

"St. Adolphe is a fast growing community and with a rising population, the needs of the town will go up," said 13-year-old Ayub Regehr. "Though St. Adolphe already has a park, because of the Red River it is frequently covered by water in the springtime."

Regehr noted that many new families will soon be moving into the community, including many new Canadians, and better recreation facilities will be needed to accommodate them. Specifically, he cited the lack of adequate soccer pitches in the municipality.

In 14-year-old Ryan Loewen's remarks, he revealed the results of a recent recreation survey conducted among 50 Grade Seven and Eight students from École St. Adolphe School.

"The survey questioned students



Back row: Bentley Stansel, Ryan Loewen, and Ayub Regehr.
Front row: Justis Hellegards, Ritchot Mayor Chris Ewen, and Taylor Audette.

EVAN BRAUN

on what they would like to see in an outdoor recreational facility," Loewen said. "One of the most popular features was a multiuse trail which could include skateboard parkour and bike-friendly additions such as jumps, rails, and ramps. We also believe that a regulation soccer pitch, a toboggan hill, and a playground should be included. As well, at least 40 percent of survey respondents stated they would use each of these features one to three times a week."

Loewen added that these outdoor features could be used for multiple activities, such as ultimate Frisbee, downhill biking, and cross-country skiing, and appeal to all generations.

"Studies show that people who spend more time outside are happier and more able to learn," said Justis Hellegards, a 14-year-old who has lived north of St. Adolphe in the Howden area all his life. "Physical activity helps burn off excess energy and helps prevent disease."

In particular, Hellegards pointed out that because many young people aren't involved in organized sports, the park should contain features beyond soccer pitches and baseball diamonds.

Twelve-year-old Bentley Stansel, the youngest member of the delegation, turned his attention to some of the most practical considerations.

"One consideration for this greenspace would be water accessibility," Stansel noted. "This could be done with some sort of shelter. With that, you would also need to hire a caretaker to take care of the facility. Another consideration would be planting trees throughout the park. We also feel that washrooms are a must."

In addition, Stansel mentioned the need for new fencing and an adjacent parking lot.

After the presentation, all members of council praised the delegation for their thorough work. Councillors

Janine Boulanger and Shane Pelletier were particularly taken with the notion of a multiuse trail system, and Councillor Ron Mamchuk encouraged the students to take a look at similar facilities in other communities, such as the skateboard facility at St. Vital Arena in Winnipeg. Mamchuk also cautioned them that bringing a proposal such as theirs to reality would take some time, but he expressed optimism that council could work alongside them to get something done.

"We have a bylaw where we allow junior councillors on our council, and we've been working on getting that," said Mayor Chris Ewen after the conclusion of the meeting. "I want to think out of the box about how we can include not just one or two students, but how we can get everyone involved. So the rec director Amber Mamchuk and I kind of put our heads together and we thought, 'Why don't we do something in school?' Which I

thought was a genius idea. Amber's been kind of spearheading this whole thing. She got the schools involved, she got the students involved, and then she even got the students to do a delegation."

Ewen adds that he hopes the delegates will take the next steps and come back to council in the near future.

"We have the greenspace in that Tourond Creek area," he says. "They've brought some great points up, such as soccer pitches, which are very limited in the Ritchot area, and skateboard parks, which I don't think we have any permanent ones. We're optimistic about what we can do. I don't know how long it's going to take, because there's quite a process, looking for funding for example, but I hope to hear from them again."

Beyond the specifics of this delegation's requests, Ewen also hopes that by giving students a taste of how a municipal council operates, down the road more young people will be interested in applying for the junior councillor positions.

A second student delegation, this one from Île-des-Chênes, is on the docket for another special council meeting in May. Ewen says that he doesn't know what they're going to bring to the table, and that's the way he likes it.

"I'm going to be surprised," Ewen says. "I did meet with [the St. Adolphe] delegates before council a couple of days before, just to give them an idea on how council meetings are going to run. But they didn't tell me anything about what they were going to present, which I liked, because it puts me on the spot to really think about it."

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IN BRIEF

Helping Hands Schedules Spring Food Drive

Niverville Helping Hands is ready to announce their annual Spring Food Drive. The food drive, supported by local youth groups, is scheduled to take place on May 11. The collectors will be coming through town in the evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

"Please leave donations on your front door step, or have them ready when the youth come around," says Ashley Chamberlain, volunteer coordinator for Helping Hands. "The most needed food items are canned fruit, fruit juice, canned meats, canned veggies, and cereal."

Chamberlain notes that Helping Hands will issue tax receipts for cash or cheque donations of \$20 or more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For more details on how you can help, please visit www.nivervillehelpinghands.org or email info@nivervillehelpinghands.org. If you miss the drive and want to send a donation, cheques can be mailed to Box 1201, Niverville MB, R0A 1E0.

■ For Niverville Credit Union members, donations of \$20 or more can now be made by adding Niverville Helping Hands as a bill payee through online or mobile banking. For more information, contact Rosemary Johnston at 204-371-2665 or johnston.rt@shaw.ca.

Asian Heritage Festival Coming to Niverville



Performers at last year's Asian Canadian Festival in Winnipeg.

ASIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

By Liz Byron

The Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba is on a mission: to increase Canadians' knowledge of diverse Asian cultures and histories. This mission will bring them to the Niverville Heritage Centre on Sunday, May 6 with an afternoon of free entertainment.

The Asian Canadian Festival will take place from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and is open to everyone. It will feature performances of both traditional and contemporary dance, music, and martial arts demonstrations from multiple Asian cultures.

Art Miki, President of the Asian

Heritage Society of Manitoba, feels that events like this one are particularly important these days.

"If you look at the numbers, the highest rates of immigrants are now coming from Asia," Miki says. "So we feel it is important for more Canadians to know who these people are and to learn about those cultures."

According to the 2016 census, seven of the ten top countries of origin for recent immigrants are in Asia. In Manitoba, over half of all immigrants moving to the province come from the Philippines, India, and China.

In May 2002, the Government of Canada signed an official declaration

that designated May as Asian Heritage Month. The declaration states, "The people of this diverse, vibrant, and growing community have contributed to every aspect of life in Canada—from the arts and science to sport, business, and government."

"The term Asian is pretty broad," Miki points out. "It includes over 40 countries, including up to the Middle East. People from Syria, for example, are considered Asian as far as documentation."

In Manitoba, celebratory and educational events for Asian Heritage Month run throughout May, starting with opening ceremonies at the

Manitoba Legislative Building on May 4. Other events include a symposium for high school students, film screenings, performances at The Forks, and a writers showcase.

Most of the events are held at locations across Winnipeg, with the May 6 event in Niverville one of the only events happening beyond the perimeter.

So why Niverville, a town that doesn't have an especially large number of people with Asian heritage?

"One of our main goals is to reach out to people who may not otherwise have a lot of exposure to Asian cultures," explains Miki, who was once a citizenship judge. "To us, reaching non-Asian communities is really important. We want to share our traditions and cultures with others who are curious and would like to learn about something new."

Miki hopes that the Asian Canadian Festival event at the Heritage Centre will be both fun and educational for everyone. He also hopes that people in the Niverville area appreciate the chance to see performances that would normally require a drive to the city.

"The goal, ultimately, is to share and celebrate Canada's multiculturalism with everybody."

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Bothwell cheesemakers Nathan Dueck (centre) and Paul Meyer (right) accept their silver medal. **BOTHWELL CHEESE**

Bothwell Scores Silver at Global Cheese Competition

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

At the World Championship Cheese Competition in early March, Bothwell Cheese entered a host of products as a test run to see how they stack up against top-level international competitors. The result? A silver medal for Bothwell's Habanero with Cracked Black Pepper Monterey Jack.

A total of 26 nations were represented at the Madison, Wisconsin event, with cheese products entered in a

staggering 121 categories.

"To compete with the best cheese producers in the world and be recognized is such an incredible honour and a true testament to our team's dedication to producing quality cheese," says Nathan Dueck, Bothwell's Production Manager. "We really feel that it's our all-natural ingredients, including 100 percent pure Canadian milk, that helps set us apart from the competition. We've always believed that we have some of the best cheese in the world, and these contest

results help demonstrate that."

In addition to their silver honours, Bothwell also placed well in the highly competitive cheddar categories, beating out hundreds of entries to land in fifth place for their Medium White Cheddar and in seventh for their Medium Orange, Mild White, and Sharp White Cheddar.

The winners were recognized at an awards banquet several weeks later, on April 19 at the International Cheese Technology Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It's Time for Spring-Cleaning

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Spring has at last arrived in the southeast, forcing us to come to grips with all the dust and garbage left behind by the melting snow. Before we can hit the beaches this summer, however, we face the annual chore of spring-cleaning.

Île-des-Chênes and St. Adolphe held community spring-cleaning efforts on Tuesday, April 24.

"We had over 60 people come out to clean up St. Adolphe in partnership with the St. Adolphe Bible Fellowship," says Ritchot Recreation Director Amber Mamchuk. "We also had more than 30 people in Île-des-Chênes for the community clean up in partnership with Kang's Taekwondo. École Ste. Agathe

School will be taking the lead on the community cleanup in Ste. Agathe sometime in May."

In Niverville, bins will be placed at the arena for residents to drop off items not suitable for regular garbage pickup. The bins will go up at noon on Friday, May 11 and come down at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The annual Niverville Community Spring Garage Sale will take place one week-end earlier, from Friday, May 4 through Saturday, May 5. Homeowners can set their own hours.

Niverville will also be holding their yearly Free Giveaway Day on Sunday, May 6. On this day, residents can place items at the end of their driveways. The town advises that these items be clearly marked as

free and that residents try to keep their street fronts clear of items that aren't meant for the giveaway, to avoid confusion.

As part of their annual tradition, students from Niverville Collegiate Institute will fan out through the community on Friday, May 11, picking up garbage throughout the community.

St. Adolphe's Community Garage Sale will take place May 26-27.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To be included in the town's Niverville Community Spring Garage Sale map, contact recreation@whereyoubelong.ca by May 1.

■ For more information on the St. Adolphe Community Garage Sale, contact recreation@ritchot.com.



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Niverville Chamber Announces 2018 Award Winners



The Niverville Chamber of Commerce held their annual general meeting on Monday, April 23, at the Heritage Centre. The evening was anchored by the presentation of this year's Business Awards.

The three awards—Outstanding Customer Service, Outstanding Business of the Year, and the Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award—were present by Chamber Vice-President John Magri.

The Customer Service award is based on three criteria: company background, customer votes, and customer comments. A big part of this award comes from public nominations. The nominees this year included a mix of new and established businesses: BSI Insurance Brokers, Country Snacks, Dollhouse Design, done hair, skin & nails, Niverville Family Chiropractic, and Niverville Shell.

The award was given to done hair, skin & nails.

"I wholeheartedly believe in only providing a service if it is safe and healthy for the client," says done owner Karen Albaugh. "If what the client is asking for isn't in their best interest, we do not just take the money."

The salon received several positive customer comments.

"They will go out of their way to help you out," said one voter. "If you are not quite happy about something, they will take care of it."

There were two nominees for Outstanding Business of the Year: *The Citizen* and Wiens Furniture and Appliances. In his presentation, Magri emphasized that both of these businesses have taken considerable risks in light of the current business climate in their respective sectors. *The Citizen* has expanded its operations in the face of a declining print industry, and Wiens has recently expanded their showroom and hired a marketing manager.

This year's award was given to Wiens Furniture and Appliances, one of Niverville's most well-established businesses. The award was accepted by Dylan and Amanda Wiens.



John Magri with Dylan Wiens and Amanda Wiens, accepting the award for Business of the Year.

EVAN BRAUN

"The business environment is changing faster than it ever has before," says a statement from Wiens. "But as a family-owned and operated venture, we have the ability to adapt with greater speed and focus than the giants do."

The evening's third presentation, the Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award, is given every year to a business or businessperson with a long track record of contributing to the community. This year, the Chamber chose to recognize Clarence Braun.

A lifelong resident of Niverville, Braun has served the community in many capacities. In business, he has owned multiple restaurants and currently is one of the region's leading realtors. He also served for two terms as Niverville's mayor, from 1995 through 2002, and has volunteered his time as a sports coach and fundraiser and organizer of many community groups. He has been a key figure in spearheading fundraising efforts to bring to reality the Community Resource Centre.

"Alex Fast Sr. was of a generation before me and a close friend of my father's," says Braun. "He actually spoke the eulogy for my father's funeral service back in 1975. I observed Mr. Fast when I was a child, a teenager, and then into adulthood and became aware of the stories of his giving back to the community in so many ways. He impacted the community at many different levels. I consider it an honour to be so recognized, and my thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for this."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the meeting, the Chamber also reported on their extensive activities throughout the past year. In 2017, the Chamber launched a new website, held a successful golf fundraiser, introduced a bimonthly e-newsletter, hosted a beer-tasting mixer, and worked alongside the Ritchot Chamber to continue their joint Open for Business tours. The Chamber also held the extremely successful third annual Winterfest Market and Craft Sale in November.

In 2018, the Chamber will provide business assistance to new entrepreneurs, organize a consumer survey to better understand the shopping habits of local residents, hold further mixers and networking opportunities for business owners, and host a candidates forum in advance of the fall municipal election.

Guest speaker Josée Lemoine, President of Pivot Performance, spoke about the ways in which small business owners can strategize to maximize their growth potential. Pivot Performance is a bilingual business consulting firm. Although the business operates out of Winnipeg, Lemoine is originally from Ste. Agathe.

Finally, three board members were confirmed to fill vacancies on the Chamber board. Kelsey Kosman returned as an incumbent, and Steve Neufeld and Amanda Wiens replaced departing board members Guy Britten and Mel Buhler, who has just wrapped up his sixth and final year as Chamber President. Other board

members include Bryan Trottier, Clint Hiebert, Andy Anderson, Doug Dyck, Karen Albaugh, and John Magri.

A new Chamber President will be named on May 10.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

As part of the annual general meeting, Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck delivered a report to the business community on behalf of town council.

One of the town's biggest recent accomplishments has been their progress on the Niverville Business Park. Last year, the town annexed 180 acres from the RM of Hanover for this purpose.

"To date, I can let you know that about half of phase one is sold, and phase two planning has begun," Dyck said. "We anticipate in the next year or two that phase one will be sold out."

He also highlighted the new businesses that have sprouted up on Main Street, bringing more jobs and services.

"In the last four years, I can say that the relationship has strengthened between town council and the Chamber of Commerce," said Dyck. "I and my fellow councillors have thoroughly enjoyed having our more regular meetings so that we're more able to engage and discuss topics that are important to businesses and the community."

According to Dyck, the installation of town water along Main Street has led to greater opportunities for existing businesses, and opened the door for new builds in the commercial strip north of The Highlands. This water

line will also service the new high school and Community Resource Centre.

"Other things that have happened is the Business Incentive Grant, to assist new businesses and existing business with tax relief," Dyck continued. "This is part of our strategy of attracting more business to Niverville."

Dyck says that several key initiatives are on the way in 2018. In June, Niverville will be the gold sponsor at Embracing Excellence, an elite manufacturing conference being held at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Boeing will be the platinum sponsor. The town sees this conference as an important opportunity to attract manufacturing companies to Niverville.

Following an intersection impact study to look at the way traffic flows along Main Street, several enhancements will get underway either this year or the next. The two intersections initially impacted will be Fifth and Main and Krahn Road and Highway 311.

Council is also consulting with the province to consider lowering the speed limits along the 311 at both the east and west entrances to town. The hope is for these changes to come into force next year.

Dyck says that council will be working alongside the Chamber to develop a policy for temporary businesses, including seasonal operations and food trucks.

He also delivered an update on the work that's underway on Niverville's connection to the new well. He says that this well will provide the necessary quantity of water to provide for Niverville's continued growth for many years to come.

"In 2014, there was a strong mandate given to council to improve business, and much has been done. But much is yet to be done," Dyck concluded. "As I look back at the four years, I wish to say how privileged I feel to have been able to work with all of you, and all council members, in making Niverville better. I want to thank you for all your hard work and commitment to our great community."

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Samsung Picks Niverville Student Project as Challenge Finalist

A Grade Eight class project in Niverville has gotten the attention of Samsung, whose Solve for Tomorrow Challenge aims to inspire students to discover a passion for science.

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Earlier this month, Samsung Canada announced the 50 regional finalists in its 2018 Solve for Tomorrow Challenge, an annual competition that encourages young people to look for practical uses of science and engineering to solve real-world issues.

This year, five schools in Manitoba were selected to move on to the next stage of the challenge, including Niverville Collegiate (NCI). The other four schools are all in Winnipeg.

"I first heard about this program through our principal, Michael Koester," says NCI teacher Christopher Burns. "As a science teacher, I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to bring some real-life context into my classroom, and offer an opportunity for some really deep and contextual learning to take place."

This isn't the first time a school in the Hanover School Division has made the cut. Last year, the Steinbach Regional Secondary School (SRSS) was selected as a regional finalist. The difference is that there were 150 regional finalists last year, and only 50 this year, which makes NCI's feat all the more impressive.

"When I first heard about trying to solve an issue facing our community, the first thing that popped into my mind was the issues with Niverville's water supply," says Burns. "In September 2016, the town was looking to locate a new water supply, was having issues with the aquifer directly under the town—too much salinity and sediment—and they were having problems trying to filter the water."

Last summer, after extensive public consultation, permit applications, research, and test



NCI students operating video-making gear provided by Samsung. ✎ CHRISTOPHER BURNS



drilling, a new well site was located approximately 11 kilometres west of town, near New Bothwell. Although construction on a pump house at that location was initially expected to be complete early in 2018, the process saw some delays. All these problems have now been resolved and the pump house is underway.

Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck says that construction is expected to be complete within weeks, as opposed to months, and that the town would very much like to get this matter resolved before the spring watering season kicks into high gear.

"Water issues seem to be cropping up more and more often, from our northern communities in Canada to many areas in the southern United States, to many countries across Africa and the Middle East," Burns says. "Looking at science and engineering solutions to these problems is an incredibly valuable use of technology and

could potentially lead to major improvements in the standards of living for people all over the world. I believe that Samsung realized the global nature of our small-town challenge and thought it would be a worthy cause to pursue."

As part of the class's continued work on this project, Burns took his class to visit Niverville's water treatment plant and speak with an environmental engineer. They are also studying various solutions relating to aquifers, ground water, and filtration.

"Luckily," he adds, "this ties in directly with the Grade Eight curriculum in the Water Systems unit!"

As a reward for being selected as a regional finalist, the school has received some cool gear, including a Samsung Galaxy Tab A, a Galaxy S8 smartphone, a Samsung Gear VR virtual reality headset, and a Gear360, which is a video camera with the capability to take 360-degree video.

Now that his class has been

selected as a finalist, Burns says the next step is to use this gear to take on a new challenge. "We are going to be using this to create a video that tracks our progress through the scientific method as we first explore what the problem is, make some educated guesses at possible solutions, go out into the real world and research the issue, and then, if all goes according to plan, we will use what we learned to design an experiment or engineer a type of filter that we could present as a possible solution. I am sure we'll be in a real hurry at the end of April to put all this footage together, but I'm convinced the product will be an excellent indicator of the incredibly deep learning that can happen when a school partners with their community and works together to solve relevant problems."

There's a big prize in store for the best projects and best videos, with four \$20,000 technology grants up for grabs.

For his part, Burns says he hasn't put too much thought towards what the school might be able to accomplish should they win one of those grants.

"I've been so focused on the task at hand and making sure the students get as much out of this as possible that winning the contest would just be icing on the cake," he says. "Whether or not the school wins the actual contest, I believe all the students in the class are the real winners because they have had this incredible opportunity to do real science in the real world."

The winners of the \$20,000 grants will be announced in June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ <http://pages.samsung.com/ca/solve-fortomorrow/English>

IN BRIEF

Municipal Election Candidate Registration

Another municipal election is coming up on October 24, meaning it's time to consider running for office in your local community.

Those who intend to run need to register with their town or municipality's senior election official before accepting contributions, incurring expenses, or fundraising.

The senior election official in Niverville is Audrey Neufeld, and in Ritchot it's Lyse Giesbrecht. They will receive candidate registrations for mayor from May 1 to September 18. For prospective councillors, the registration period is June 30 to September 18. To register, visit either the Town of Niverville Administration Office or the Ritchot Municipal Office during regular business hours.

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Tourond Creek Rezoning Request Denied

Developer had sought to rezone commercial parcel to multifamily residential.

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

April 3 marked a significant day for residents of St. Adolphe, as well as the developers of the community's newest neighbourhood, Tourond Creek. The developer, St. Adolphe Land Company (SALCO), made a two-part request to Ritchot council: to amend their existing residential zoning to include multifamily options, and to rezone a section of land designated commercial to multifamily residential.

The public hearing, held at Pioneer Hall in St. Adolphe, brought out well over a hundred residents interested in voicing their concerns or following the proceedings. After lengthy addresses from SALCO representatives and concerned residents, council voted to defeat the proposal.

"The public hearing was well attended," says Mayor Chris Ewen. "We heard great points from both sides of the table and appreciated the input. As council, we have to consider the feedback from our residents, the validity of the proposals, and the sustainability of those proposals."

"The developer is very disappointed in the outcome of council's decision," says Brandon Powell of Lombard North Group, consultant to SALCO. "We understand that commercial space is viewed passionately by many people in the community. It is also important to acknowledge that not all residents were opposed to the application. We certainly have heard some positive feedback from residents. Even when faced with those in opposition, I truly believe the developer and the community want the same thing—a complete community to live, work, and play."

Objecting residents, on the other hand, were not as convinced that the developers had the community's best interests at heart. A petition with 470 signatures of objection was presented to council.

"In my mind, the main points of concern would be the loss of this commercial space," says St. Adolphe resident Keith Pearce. "A person has to understand that [we are]

in a unique situation. Being enclosed in a dike, St. Adolphe has an extremely limited ability to rezone other property to commercial should it be needed in the future. Losing this space would have been a very risky move. This could have put any ability to develop future commercial businesses in unnecessary jeopardy."

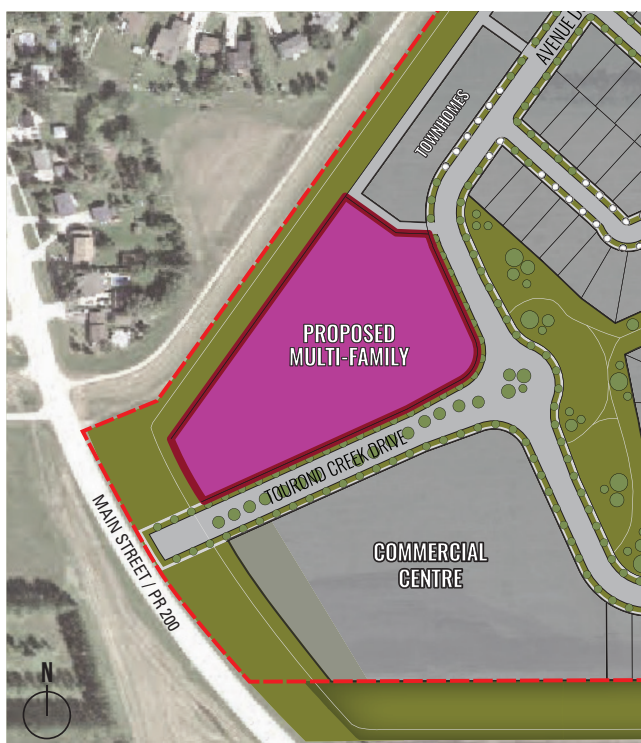
Tourond Creek consists of 300 acres of developable land proposed to be built in six phases. It's the single largest capital investment in the RM's history and, when fully developed and sold, is expected to quadruple St. Adolphe's current population.

While phase one is well underway with new home builds, a section of commercially zoned property at the most westerly corner was under review. This parcel, flanked on one side by Highway 200 and on another by the development's main entry, Tourond Creek Drive, provided the ideal location for retail space: the lots are highly visible from the highway and are easy to access without increasing traffic through residential zones.

This area had been strategically targeted for multifamily units as well. The higher levels of traffic they create wouldn't have had to pass through the single-family residential areas nearby where children are often at play.

The concern, for SALCO, was the inability to justify the amount of commercial space originally set aside based on the lack of demand for retail space in this community.

"Very careful due diligence and assessment suggests that community expectations for business attraction in St. Adolphe are not realistic to the degree that some believe," Powell says. "What those in opposition to our application must understand is that you do not have to convince the developer to build commercial businesses in your community, you have to convince the businesses themselves to establish operations in St. Adolphe. Although we believe some commercial interest will eventually be attracted to St. Adolphe as the local population continues to grow, it will be limited."



Map of Tourond Creek's commercial parcels.

SALCO

Powell and the developer are convinced that losing five out of 11.5 acres of commercially designated space wouldn't have been the reason for a business choosing not to set down roots here, and SALCO went to great length to try proving this point to both council and the community.

the help of leading land economists Urbanics Consultants Ltd to assess St. Adolphe's future commercial land requirements. Their study took into consideration the eventual full build-out of Tourond Creek, effectively bringing the community's population to over 5,000 residents, as well

"As council, we have to consider the feedback from our residents, the validity of the proposals, and the sustainability of those proposals."

Chris Ewen | Mayor of Ritchot

Over the past two years, Powell says, one of Manitoba's leading commercial realtors, Capital Commercial Real Estate, has been marketing Tourond Creek's commercial lands. According to the firm, they've been unable to garner interest. Powell indicates that the two primary barriers to commercial investors are St. Adolphe's close proximity to Winnipeg and the community's limited population, which is further inhibited from dramatic growth due to the ring dike and the Red River.

SALCO says that, following an extensive consultation process with council in the past year, they commissioned

as the larger trade area that St. Adolphe businesses might potentially draw from.

The firm concluded that proximity to the city will continue to be a hindrance even as the community reaches housing capacity. Further to that, the majority of residents who live in the community will continue to commute to Winnipeg for work and do their business there. Based on well-established methods of extracting data, they determined that three acres of land is all the community will require, even at capacity.

From this, SALCO argues that 6.5 acres of dedicated commercial space in the

development would surpass even the experts' expectations for required commercial space. Urbanics's recommendation to their clients was to build on the population base first, which would help attract more business. Providing a wider range of housing options, like multifamily rental units, would do that.

This leads to the second point of contention for those who objected to the proposal.

"St. Adolphe residents [do] not feel that high-density rental apartments fit with the character of the town and what they want for the future," Pearce says. "We should be very careful what is allowed to be built. Rows of three-storey rental apartments are the wrong type of structure in this town. [We are] composed primarily of single-family residences, big lots, dogs, cats, room for kids to play. This is what people moved here for."

According to growth analysts, however, diversity in housing is exactly what towns need to thrive. Providing options for every level of income and age bracket helps to prevent the exodus of young adults and seniors.

Even with council's denial of their rezoning requests, Tourond Creek's current zoning still allows for multifamily housing options in one other location on the development—a parcel the developer is holding for the Seine River School Division, should a new school be proposed in the near future.

"Should the school division proceed with the purchase of land for a new school and the two commercial sites remain commercial, there are no other options for multifamily areas in Tourond Creek," adds Powell. "So, without all or some of these sites zoned as multifamily, Tourond Creek will become a predominantly single-family development and no longer in alignment with the goal of creating a complete community."

He says this will, in turn, impair both residential and commercial growth.

Pearce and other residents see it differently. Long-term residents of St. Adolphe were around to witness a time when the community, then much

smaller, had more amenities than it does today. The floods of 1996 and 1997 saw the loss of the community parks along the river that once provided places for young families to swim in the outdoor pool and for ball teams to host tournaments. St. Adolphe was once a destination, Pearce says, and only in the past few years has the town begun to recover from that.

"La Salle went through this same process but was able to bounce back after gas and water were brought to that town," he says. "This is happening in St. Adolphe and we can look to La Salle to see what the result is likely to be. This process of revitalization is now occurring [here]. Younger families are buying here, sons and daughters are moving back, and these young families are having children. The urban experts did not address any of this."

Mayor Ewen says that it's too soon for him to comment on the community's decline of services over the years. "I truly do not have the data to support if there is decline in St. Adolphe but have started investigating it."

Lesley Gaudry is the community economic development officer (CEDO) for the RM of Ritchot. She has been hard at work developing strategic plans to address business development in the region using the many tools available to her as a CEDO.

"The report that was presented by [Urbanics] is one perspective," Gaudry says. "The residents presented their perspectives. Statistics and data are important, and there is context [there], but there is also qualitative data such as narratives [and] testimonials. We heard both of these at the public hearing. It is important to make decisions based on all information received. It is [also] important, when undertaking business development, retention and expansion, and foreign direct investment initiatives, that there [are] properly zoned land parcels available to service expanding or new businesses. There are many strategies in the toolkit."

Niverville Thrift Store Marks Important Anniversary

By Liz Byron

On Saturday, April 28, the Niverville MCC Thrift Shop held a special event to mark an important moment in their 44-year history. The celebrations included special discounts, prizes, and free food.

Ten years ago, business at the Niverville MCC Thrift Shop was booming so much that they needed a larger space, so the board purchased the much more spacious building next door. A former chicken hatchery, the building at 246 Main Street had to be remodelled before the thrift shop moved in.

As a way to celebrate the anniversary of this move, the shop offered a 25 percent discount to all shoppers, giving away special prizes, and offering hot dogs, cookies, juice, and coffee free of charge.

The goal of the event was both to celebrate and raise funds for local organizations. Shoppers had the option of donating their shopping discount to Helping Hands and Youth for Christ.

Donating to community organizations is a strong part of the thrift shop's history. The Niverville MCC Thrift Shop is affiliated with the Mennonite Central Committee, a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches that works to provide aid.

"We work for peace and justice, education, [and] disaster relief," says store manager Gerald Loeppky. "We're doing a lot of education in terms of healthcare and in terms of getting kids into schools in places where they weren't previously able to get to school."

In provinces like Alberta and Ontario, the MCC owns thrift shops outright. It's a little different in Manitoba, where churches and other community organizations put up the money to start a thrift shop, but they work with MCC.

The Niverville shop is owned by a governing body called the Niverville MCC Community Assistance Centre Inc. It's a non-profit organization with an administrative board that is elected by the general membership.

"We have an agreement with MCC that we will give 50 percent of our proceeds



A crowd of eager shoppers gathers outside the thrift store on a chilly Tuesday morning.

GERALD LOEPPKY

to them," Loeppky says. "And then we also give to local charities. For example, the Niverville grow projects that raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Helping Hands, Niverville Youth for Christ, as well as the Niverville Health Foundation."

The thrift shop has seen a lot of growth over the years, says Loeppky, and that growth can be attributed to all the local support it receives, from the volunteers who work in the shop to the people who donate items.

In the four decades that the Niverville shop has been open, more than just the location and donation size has changed. The role the shop plays has changed, too, as has its mission.

"Initially [MCC] needed money to help people who were in poverty," Loeppky explains. "We sent them clothing and food, but then we realized years later that it would be better to just send the money, because then they could buy their products locally."

Loeppky recalls that someone once made a comment that it would be helpful if they had a machine that could turn all their surplus possessions into cash.

"Some women in Altona then had this idea to run a thrift shop," Loeppky says. "They thought they would run out of stuff after a few months, but that was 1972 and we haven't run out of stuff yet!"

Today, Loeppky says they're facing a new challenge in terms of how international aid is offered, but also in terms

of the environment. "The amount of new clothing we buy has grown 400 percent per person since the 1980s. We've started buying clothes because we can, not because we need to. In some cases, new clothing items only get worn three to five times before being disposed of."

The problem is that nobody wants these clothes once they've been worn a few times. So-called "fast fashion" creates millions of tons of waste per year. In North America, a lot of discarded clothing gets bought for about 10 or 12 cents per pound and sold to poorer countries, where only about ten percent is sold for profit, and the rest is put into landfills

or burnt.

"It's creating an environmental problem," says Loeppky. "But it's also destroying the textile industries in other countries."

In addition to donating money to causes both local and international, thrift shops keep surplus items like clothing and dishes that can't normally be recycled out of landfills.

"We want to help people, but we also want to make the world a better, safer, cleaner place," Loeppky says.

Although the specifics have changed, the thrift shop continues its mission to provide aid both around the world and closer to home.

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- ☐ **YES.** There is plenty of commercial land available in my town, possibly more than will be needed in the foreseeable future.
- ☐ **NO.** Commercial property is at a premium, and all currently zoned commercial land needs to be carefully protected.
- ☐ **UNSURE?** Let us know what you think.

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Do you think single-family homes and multi-family homes should be built in close proximity to each other?

YES. Healthy city planning necessitates that homes of different types be built in proximity to each other. Separating residents by economic status into their own neighbourhoods eventually leads to ghettoization.

61%

NO. Multifamily homes have the potential to endanger the large investments made by some homeowners.

35%

UNSURE? Let us know what you think.

4%

YOUR COMMENTS:

People often buy property based on development plans. If those plans change, the residents should speak up. Things like this do affect home prices and limit buyers. —**Randy Kehler**

There needs to be standards to provide a level of consistency on a specific street or within a specific development area. Changing the standard halfway through a project is not fair to existing homeowners.

I voted no because I feel that the decision is often not based on a healthy community, but rather on property developers' greed. However, the poll's suggestion that not doing so would result in ghettoization implies that the multifamily building value and the type of people renting are likely in a lower economic range can be misleading.

If I buy a home with the expectation that it is surrounded by single-family homes, it should stay that way and rezoning should not be allowed. I have worked hard to buy a single-family home and that is what I want my home surrounded by. There is value in having multifamily housing in town but it should be transparent from the beginning of the development plan where it will be located.

In a new development there is nothing wrong with multi family homes close to single-family homes as long as that was the original development agreement. Changing single-family to multifamily after the fact borders on fraud. For in-fill, then it should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Your options are disappointingly opinionated! I don't believe multi-family belongs beside single-family, however, separating them shouldn't lead to ghettoization. It is the state of mind and actions of the community members that would cause this. What an extremist point of view!

Niverville Funeral Aid Enters its Closing Chapter

One question that remains concerns the ownership of Niverville Heritage Cemetery.



BRENDA
SAWATZKY

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

After nearly 70 years, the Niverville Funeral Aid (NFA) committee is winding to a close. While the organization once filled a deep need in the community, in its latter years the volunteer committee has had to come to terms with the fact that the times are changing.

"[In] the 1960s, the NFA had a membership of 600 and the town was a thousand people," says Gerald Loeppky, chairperson of the NFA. "We're now a town of 5,000 and we have a membership of 400."

The NFA began as a means for the community to organize its efforts to help families through the difficult times associated with the death of loved ones. Its main function was to provide grief care, as well as financial aid by offering a burial plot and the opening and closing of the grave.

HISTORY OF THE NFA

Loeppky says that it has long been the legal requirement of municipalities to provide adequate burial space for its residents. In the mid-1930s, long before Niverville's incorporation, the RM of Hanover made the decision to relieve itself of the responsibility of the many burial sites in its district by transferring all burial lands directly to the townships and villages. In many communities, this responsibility fell to the churches.

In Niverville, the United and Chor-titzer Mennonite (CMC) churches willingly assumed title of what is known today as the Heritage Cemetery on Main Street. After all, most of the community's residents were members of those churches. Each church assumed half of the cemetery site, with the United Church taking the south half and the CMC taking the north.

Because records are hazy and few of those alive at the time are here today to confirm it, it is unclear whether the churches were required to buy the land. A land title search would be needed, and this bears a cost. After having a conversation with Hanover Reeve Stan Toews, Loeppky says that a money transfer is unlikely, as part of the municipality's reasoning



Niverville Heritage Cemetery.

CARA DOWSE

in passing on the land was that communities were better equipped to provide grief care to their own people than the municipality was. It does not seem to Loeppky or Toews that financial interests would have been the motivation.

In those years, mortality rates were much higher. It was commonplace to lose a baby or mother in childbirth, or to bury a child who'd succumbed to a disease we no longer face today. Adults, too, didn't have access to modern health-care and often died at much younger ages.

Simply put, premature death was an unhappy reality.

Finances were also scarce. Families were left with few resources during and following the Great Depression, so the churches naturally functioned as builders of faith, beacons of hope, and purveyors of physical and financial aid. When a grave needed to be dug, men grabbed a shovel and got to work. Women busied themselves with preparing corpses and delivering food to grieving families.

As the community grew, the need arose for a more equitable approach to death and funerals. Some newer residents had no internal church affiliation, yet they faced the same

struggles. So in 1950, the NFA was formed with an oversight committee of community volunteers.

In the first year, 500 members joined the NFA, paying 25 cents per membership and contributing an additional 25 cents with every funeral of a member. By 1965, the fee increased to \$2.50 per member per year and gradually continued to rise until 2015, where it capped at \$15 per year.

"The joint ownership of a cemetery on Main Street will be a great partnership and we will continue to work with the United Church for the overall benefit of the community."

Nathan Dueck | Niverville Councillor

In 1973, a decision was made to move burial sites along Highway 59 to the Heritage Cemetery. The provincial government agreed to assist the NFA in the cost of the move, contributing \$8,250, but they recommended that these funds be used for the purchase of land for a new cemetery when the current one filled up. That money was placed in a reserve fund, collecting interest until 1998 when land was purchased just south of town from a local farmer, creating

the Hespeler Cemetery.

The NFA, at that point, assumed responsibility for both cemeteries.

But while membership fees remained level, early members were dying and new members were not joining up to replace them. At the same time, cemetery costs continued to rise. Graves were now being dug by earth-moving equipment. The Heritage Cemetery was almost full, thus increasing the demands of main-

taining it. In addition to mowing around the many graves, plots needed to be regularly filled and re-supported as land shifted and compacted.

Family economics, longer lifespans, and itinerant lifestyles all played a role.

"We moved from a settlement community where people lived and expected to stay for their entire lives, to a very transient community," says Loeppky. "The reality is that times have changed and those things that have served us very well in the past, at some point in time [need to be] set aside or go through very significant changes to remain relevant."

FINANCIAL STRUGGLE

In the past decade, the NFA has been forced to take a hard look at their continued relevance. With only 403 members left, each paying \$15

per year, their annual collection totalled \$6,045. Even with the sale of non-member plots at \$1,900 each, the NFA was hard-pressed to keep up with the ongoing costs of opening and closing plots and cemetery maintenance. The maintenance costs alone were reaching \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year.

The committee's costs were two and a half times that of their membership fees, and higher still if burials took place on weekends or blustery winter days. This left no surplus for cemetery beautification and improvement, let alone a reserve fund for future cemeteries.

In 2003, the NFA formed an agreement with the Town of Niverville wherein the town provided \$1,000 per year for perpetual care of the two cemeteries. Maintenance was turned over to Niverville's public works department, who billed the NFA for the balance of costs after the grant was applied. The NFA was forced to approach council on numerous occasions for additional financial help.

In 2016, council agreed to waive maintenance fees altogether on the condition that the NFA came up with a better plan for the future of the community's cemeteries. It was also recognized that the Heritage Cemetery was falling into disrepair, a matter that needed prompt attention.

CURRENT REALITY

In 2017, Loeppky and a few new members joined the committee in order to help it find its way to a clearer future. Loeppky was voted in as chairperson, and the team set out to uncover the reasons behind the declining membership. Loeppky himself was a member, along with his wife and all of their children.

"If you look at the membership list, there are a lot of people [like me] who also paid for their children," says Loeppky. "Three of my children now live in Winnipeg. They have spouses and they are not likely going to come back and be buried in Niverville, but I've always paid for them because it was \$15 per year. They tell me, 'Don't bother with us. We'll figure it out when we get there.' Young people think differently than we did. People have more financial resources today."

As members relocate to cities around the nation, the NFA has been

forced to take a hard look at the parameters they apply when deciding on membership payouts. Should they pay the cost of grave plots and open and close fees in the new community where the member lived at the time of their death? Those costs vary significantly from place to place. Would members forfeit their payouts if they chose not to be buried in Niverville?

Then there was the question of cremation. How would fees be applied under those circumstances?

"In 2015, 60 to 65 percent of people had chosen cremation," says Gerald, citing reports from Statistics Canada. "That's a game changer. We're still thinking the old way where everybody gets a six-by-ten plot, but that really isn't necessary [anymore]."

FUTURE OUTLOOK

With all factors considered, the NFA, together with the Town of Niverville, determined that there was only one foreseeable solution: to wind down the committee and transfer all responsibility to the town.

"Upon meeting with [the NFA] it was discovered, based on the information we were told, that [they no longer had] the funds or the abilities to continue to provide the services they provided in the past," says Niverville councillor Nathan Dueck. "We were not wanting to take over the cemetery. However, we were asked by the NFA to step in and help out. The perpetual care of cemeteries does effectively fall as a responsibility of municipal governments under the [Municipal] Act, as funding and efforts lessen over time from institutions and families."

But for this to be a sound financial solution for the entire community, the cemetery land needed to be transferred from the churches to the town in order to allow the town to recoup costs through the sale of plots and grave opening and closing at their own determined rates.

In turn, the town agreed to provide free opening and closing costs to all remaining NFA members. This amounted to \$750 in fees waived per member.

Upon consideration, the NFA decided that the deal was more than fair. If you had been a member from the NFA's beginnings, you would have paid less than \$300 in total fees. Many members joined much later and paid much less.

In previous years, however, the children of paying members were included under their parents' membership fees. Loeppky clarifies that these non-paying children no longer qualify for the \$750 town exemption under the new agreement.

In November 2017, the NFA sent a letter to the United Church and the CMC, indicating the committee's recommended direction and the reasons behind it.

"The Heritage Cemetery is not [the NFA's]," states the letter. "This, therefore, requires a decision from you as to whether you are prepared to transfer the titles of the Heritage Cemetery to the town, or whether you wish to maintain title and manage them independently as a privately-run cemetery; understanding that this would be without any future subsidy from the town."

Letters were also sent out to every paying NFA member, informing them of the discontinuation of fee collection, the eventual dissolution of the committee, and the potential transfer of responsibility to the town should the churches agree to land title transfers.

While there are still plots available in the Heritage Cemetery, those have all been reserved for spouses of those who have passed away. The CMC portion still has about ten available plots while the United Church portion has about 100. If either church chooses to retain title, they could derive nominal revenue from their remaining plots. Once these plots are gone, however, the church would still be saddled with maintenance costs without the revenue to offset it.

Since that time, the CMC has agreed to a full title transfer to the Town of Niverville. The United Church has chosen to retain their half of the cemetery.

"The Niverville United Church congregation voted to retain ownership and assume management of [our] half of the Heritage Cemetery," says Myra Kehler, church trustee. "A committee is in the process of organizing policy as to how we will move forward."

Moving forward may require a tricky balance. The town and church will need to come to terms on how the shared ownership will play out. And with the town's recent effort toward Main Street beautification, questions may also arise as

to who will be responsible for further enhancements to the United Church's side of the cemetery—the side that fronts Main Street.

"The goal of joint ownership of a cemetery on Main Street will be a great partnership and we will continue to work with [the United Church] for the overall benefit to the community," says Dueck. "The town, over the last few years, has been doing a portion of the maintenance for the cemetery [already]. We have been working with our finance department over the last year to make sure there is new and adequate money being put into both of the cemeteries in town."

The NFA, for now, will still play a scaled-back role until all of their funds have been depleted. At this stage, they have \$25,000 in an account which, as per their agreement with the town, will be allocated toward Heritage Cemetery's beautification and renewal.

"We don't want to just give the money to the town," says Loeppky. "That would be the easy way to do it. We want to have a say in how we do it. The town is part of the [discussion] because they're going to manage it going forward. They want to make sure that we don't make [decisions] that make it difficult for them going forward."

The \$25,000 funds break down as follows: a \$5,000 grant from the province, \$7,200 grant from the Town of Niverville, and an approximate \$6,000 in estate donations. All of these grants and donations were provided on the condition that they be used for beautification initiatives. The remaining \$6,000 in membership fees will be applied to this initiative as well.

The NFA's work in this area has already begun. Recently, a new wrought-iron gate was installed on the south side of the cemetery by the cenotaph. Working together with Communities in Bloom, memorial plaques are also underway near the cenotaph.

With half of the funds now spent, the question remains as to how to best use the remaining funds. The committee's options include installing a similar gate on the north side of the cemetery or replacing the unsightly chain-link fence on either side.

The NFA, too, will need to determine what responsibility they have, if any, to the portion of the land still owned by the United Church.

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IN BRIEF



Wildlife Haven Announces Open House Fundraiser

Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre is poised to host its third annual open house fundraiser. The event, to be held from noon until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, will take place at the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes.

The day will be packed with fun for visitors of all ages, including raffles, a bake sale, and special guest speakers. Guided tours of the animal hospital will be available, and all of Wildlife Haven's wildlife ambassadors will be on hand to speak to guests and answer questions about the facility and its mission. Information about the centre's new site will be announced.

General admission is \$12, although children 12 and under are able to enter for free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.wildlifehaven.ca

New Student Residence Announced for Providence

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Construction will begin later this year on a new student residence at Providence University College in Otterburne. The ambitious project will be home to 130 students beginning in September 2019.

The building, currently known as the Living and Learning Centre, a temporary name, will promote a thriving student community in a bright, inviting, home-like atmosphere.

"We believe that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom," reads a statement from the university, "and the Living and Learning Centre has been intentionally designed to be part of the holistic education experience we provide at Providence."

The new facility will be built west of Eichhorst Hall and south of the Reimer Student Life Centre, which houses the campus cafeteria. The three-story Living



Rendering of new student residence at Providence.

PROVIDENCE

and Learning Centre will be fully accessible and house both male and female students on its second and third floors. The residence levels will be divided into four "pods," each of which will include their own lounges and study areas.

On the first floor, plans call for

staff apartments and community spaces such as a kitchen, a lounge, prayer rooms, study rooms, a seminar hub, and a laundry facility. The generous use of glass will allow considerable natural light inside. The south facade of the structure will overlook the Rat River.

To emphasize the campus's mission to foster a Christ-centred student community, the residence will be constructed in the shape of a cross.

"We are looking forward to breaking ground on the future site of the Living and Learning Centre in the coming months and are enthusiastic about serving our students through this facility," the school's statement continues. "The mission of Providence is to teach people to grow in knowledge and character for leadership and service. Our vision is that this mission could be lived out within the Living and Learning Centre as the spiritual, academic, and community life of students is integrated."

The need for this residence arose in the wake a fire last June which destroyed Bergen Hall. Since that time, high-quality temporary housing has been made available to students to address the accommodation shortfall.



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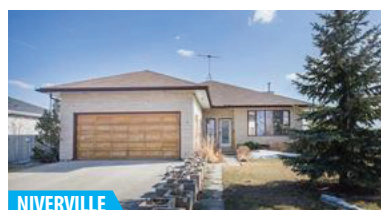


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Commentary

We Are All Guilty

This commentary contains direct quotes from social media that some readers may find offensive.

By Greg Fehr

Not too long ago, I heard about a trainer at the RCMP depot in Regina who had a great lesson for his cadets, one that adds an interesting perspective to what is a very difficult job. While focusing on the various aspects of policing, he reminded the cadets that a large portion of the actions they would be arresting or ticketing citizens for were offences they themselves had committed at one time or another.

While few of us have committed murder, we have all made wrong choices.

I don't know what this trainer's true intent was, but I do know that this perspective would help cadets to feel empathy for others, even while allowing crimes to be viewed for what they are: wrong. Working in a profession that's centred around looking for the wrongdoing of others, empathy is vitally important. It would be all too easy to become jaded and see



people only for the wrongs they commit. It would be all too easy to lose one's faith in humanity. And with the situations our men and women of law enforcement face, it's all too easy to understand.

As citizens, we don't necessary view others through the same lens—through the lens of their worst choices—but we are often exposed to the consequences of people's poor choices. When crime hits our neighbourhood, we are forced to face and focus on these consequences and all the feelings that come with it. Fear, anger, and frustration are understandable reactions to the feelings of invasion, violation, and helplessness that come from being victimized by crime.

But when we step over the line into dehumanizing perpetrators, we lose our empathy. It's easy to cross into dangerous territory, especially when we go online and refer to someone

who's committed a crime as “a little shit” or suggest that “they should have just been put down on the spot.” The roles of the police, the judge, and the jury have been kept separate in our democracy for a very good reason. In fact, the only places where these roles are merged are military dictatorships.

Even more dangerous is the failure for us to see that this is inappropriate on a basic human level. The people committing crimes, whether they're kids or not, are not “assholes.” They're people facing challenges we likely aren't aware of, challenges that are leading them to make poor choices. Poor choices just like the ones we all make in some form every day—period. We are all guilty of indiscretions, although we likely see our own indiscretions as smaller or less significant or impactful.

Many people won't agree with what I just said, but let's try putting it in perspective.

Perhaps your crime is speeding, or tailgating, or failing to use your signal when turning. Are you an “asshole” because of that? Would you appreciate it if the police officer pulling you over referred to you that way? Likely not, and I suspect if they did you would file a formal complaint against that officer, and indeed that officer would be placed on administrative leave.

Your choice to speed, to tailgate, or not to use your turn signal could kill me or kill a member of my family, though. So am I justified in chasing you down to “put you down on the spot”?

Every day we make poor choices that impact others. We may get lucky and our own choices may have a limited impact—this time. But at the root, we are all guilty. We are all “little shits.” When our choices impact others, or have the potential to impact others, we should face a consequence for that. But facing these consequences won't achieve our universal goal as a society to help people change their behaviours. We cannot forget about the people behind these actions.

Next time I witness one of you making a poor choice, I will try to remember that. God willing, you will do the same for me.

Turn Up the Volume!

By Jan Kendall St. Cyr

Why is it that I can recall today, with incredible clarity and detail, where I was and what I was doing over 40 years ago when listening to my favourite song on the radio, and yet I cannot remember just now why I walked into the next room?

Author Jodi Picoult has said that music is the language of memory, and recent research would suggest that this is true. Studies show that the way music makes us feel in a specific moment allows us to retain so much information related to that moment. Over the years, my memory has flowed through the powerful and unobstructed conduit of these feelings.

Listening to the music we love causes our brains to release the hormone dopamine, which leaves us with feelings of happiness, excitement, and joy. These feelings create in us a calmer and more soothing environment through the reduction of stress, enabling our brains to better concentrate and focus and allowing for greater memory retention.

Music therapy is garnering outstanding results in those who suffer from anxiety and depression, especially children. Music can be used as a positive distraction, forcing the brain to respond to its encouraging sounds and secrete those much-needed happiness hormones.

To this end, having a child

listen to uplifting music during study time, tests, and exams has become an effective tool in increasing their grades. Studies have even revealed that a child's participation in music lessons and band programs can raise their IQ and academic performance.

There have also been tremendous breakthroughs with regards to Alzheimer patients. Dr. Oliver Sacks, a neurologist, believed, “The past, which is not recoverable in any other way, is embedded, as if in amber, in the music, and people can regain a sense of identity.”¹

Music and Memory, a non-profit organization, helps people with age-related dementia by having them rediscover who they are through listening to their favourite songs.

If listening to those best-loved songs increases patient recovery and verbal intelligence, improves cognitive function, and enhances daily workouts while lightening our mood and strengthening our ability to learn and retain information... then it's definitely time for us to turn up the volume on our favourite music and enjoy all the many benefits.

CITATION

¹ “Music and the Brain,” *Music and Memory*. Date of access: March 27, 2018 (<https://musicandmemory.org/music-brain-resources/music-and-the-brain>).



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Did you know there are open houses throughout the year? These open houses started a couple years ago. This forum is your opportunity to speak to upcoming projects with council members prior to their annual planning session. These open houses are held annually in the fall and spring and are a great way to be part of the planning and budget process.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

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Ages 6-11. Early Bird Registration is \$200.

Sports Camp: July 16-20, 9:00-4:00
Ages 6-11. Early Bird Registration is \$200.

Kinder Camp: July 23-27, 9:00-12:00
Ages 3-6. Early Bird Registration is \$100.

Wacky Wizard Camp: July 23-27, 1:00-4:00
Ages 3-6. Early Bird Registration is \$100.

Creative Arts Camp: July 30-August 3, 9:00-4:00
Ages 6-11. Early Bird Registration is \$200.

Survivor Camp: August 7-10, 9:00-4:00
Ages 9-14. Early Bird Registration is \$200.

Kinder Gymnastics Camp: August 13-17, 9:30-11:30
Ages 4-5. Registration is \$85 South End

Mythbusters Camp: August 20-24, 9:00-4:00
Ages 6-11. Early Bird Registration is \$200.

Mini-Detectives Camp: August 27-31, 9:00-4:00
Ages 3-6. Early Bird Registration is \$175.

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The Great Outdoors



BRENDA SAWATZKY

Garden and Outdoor Living Show a Success

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On Saturday, April 14, the Heritage Centre atrium was filled with blooming colour and lively anticipation for the summer ahead. The first annual Garden and Outdoor Living Show, organized by Heritage Centre staff and Shirley Hoult of Communities in Bloom, is a fundraising event supporting greenspace initiatives around the community.

This year's goal was to raise funds for the Heritage Gardens pavilion project, a 26-foot diameter structure designed to model Niverville's original grain elevator built in 1879. The pavilion will be a focal point amidst the expansive gardens, providing a place for people to connect with their heritage through the use of storyboards and props such as stained-glass windows depicting Niverville's history and wood salvaged from the

original elevator.

"The pavilion will be used for community events including music, art, and drama in the gardens," says Hoult. "It will be a wonderful addition and should encourage more [of the] community and external visitors to them."

The total build cost of the structure is estimated at \$75,000. Niverville Communities in Bloom has already received a very generous donation for the concrete pad from a local company.

While the Garden Show committee anticipated that they would raise \$2,500 for the project, the final tally exceeded \$4,000.

"The show was a huge success," says Robert Manchulenko, Chief Officer of Hospitality and Support Services of the Niverville Heritage Centre. "[This] show was developed to benefit the community. The pavilion project was selected first, but we hope that the show

continues to grow and future funds can be put back into the community to benefit other greenspace initiatives."

There was no admission to this year's event. Funds for the project were procured through the sale of vendor space, raffles, a silent auction, and food services on site. Around 450 people attended, browsing through a wide range of vendors selling their services and wares from nursery stock to tree services and barbecues to screened enclosures. People came from as far away as Morden and Selkirk for the show.

A huge hit at this year's event were the many workshops held back-to-back throughout the day. Attendees could participate in a gardener's yoga class; learn about orchids, succulents and wild edibles; create their own rain garden; and master the art of backyard composting and tree care.

"We were excited to see the

support of the show," Manchulenko says. "[The workshops went over] better than we anticipated. We had to have extra chairs brought in to the rooms."

Special thanks, he says, go to the Town of Niverville, the Niverville Credit Union, and the Niverville Chamber of

Commerce for their financial support of the event. As well to Shirley Hoult.

"She was instrumental in driving the show and donations," he adds. "She is very community-minded and loved the idea of working to better greenspace in the town."

Hoult says the timeframe

for the pavilion build is dependent on funds raised, but with this fundraising effort they are well underway. Fundraising from the sale of benches, lamps, trees, and life celebration plaques in the gardens provides an ongoing way for people to participate in the project.



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BRICKWORX

Functionality and Beauty in Backyard Designs

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Your backyard should be your escape—a place where you can let your hair down, put your feet up, and enjoy a cold drink and a great view. After eight months of being wrapped up and cooped up, Manitobans are ready to take things outside.

Whether it's cooking, entertaining, or just horsing around with the family, our backyards should reflect the same things our home interiors do: functionality, organization, beauty, and comfort. If it doesn't, then it's no wonder we can't get ourselves off the couch to soak up some summer sun.

This region abounds with amazing and creative backyard professionals. From landscapers to bricklayers and fence builders, we've got it all.

"Hiring a reputable professional gives the homeowner peace of mind that the project will be completed correctly and in a timely fashion," says Cory Friesen of Alcor Construction. "A professional takes care of certain legal requirements, such as building permits and hydro and gas markings. It also [can] save the homeowner time and money since a professional is already

equipped with all the right tools for the job."

Friesen has been a professional carpenter for 14 years. For the past eight, his company has specialized in residential fencing, decks, pergolas, privacy screens, and timberframe porticos. His company has experience with all types of construction materials and can cater to a customer's taste and maintenance preferences. Only high-quality materials are used on his jobs to ensure customer satisfaction when the build is complete.

"One of my favourite products to work with is aluminum handrail because of its low maintenance and ease of installation," Friesen says. "I also enjoy working with composite decking because of its flexibility in design. Cedar is also a favourite because it smells good and has a natural resistance to decay."

If you can dream it, Alcor Construction can build it. Customized packages are what this company excels at. For example, Friesen was recently commissioned to build what he calls an "exotic fence."

"The fence was built out of wood imported specifically from Brazil called Ipe," he says. "It was custom-milled into shiplap here in Canada,



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and we then installed it in a horizontal pattern."

Many of his customers are opting for privacy screens instead of fences. These screens are often installed just inside the fence line to block the view to neighbours' decks and backyards. Alcor Construction customizes these as well, creating their own style of lattice patterns which are perfect for growing vines for added privacy.

Call early for a jumpstart on the summer rush. As the season progresses, the wait times increase.

Brick is another aesthetically pleasing product that's making a big comeback for its incredible versatility.

"There are many uses for bricks: retaining walls, pathways, stepping stones, patios, driveways, outdoor bars and kitchen areas, firepits," says Patrick Smiley of Brickworx. "I have even used the Rosetta blocks to build a children's rock-climbing wall!"

With Brickworx, your imagination is the only thing limiting you. Even so, they can provide plenty of design concepts to help get your creative wheels spinning. With suppliers like Barkman Concrete, Expocrete, and Belgard, there are so many colours, shapes, and sizes of brick available for your unique project.

"I almost always recommend interlocking brick, as it allows so much more freedom for design and colour options," Smiley says. "Interlocking brick is also repairable. If ten years down the line you have had some shifting due to our Manitoba winters, it is very easy to repair a small section. Interlocking brick adds value to a home as well as [increased] curb appeal."

For driveways, too, he says, paving stone can be a better option. Concrete cracking or shifting can be expensive to repair. And oil leaks on a concrete driveway are virtually impossible to remove. Paving stones easily lift out and can be adjusted or replaced.

"We really believe in the saying, 'Leave it to a professional,'" says Smiley. "When you hire a company that is ICPI-certified and has years of experience, it guarantees perfection and takes the manual labour off your hands."

Brickworx underlays all of their brick hardscaping with a commercial-grade woven fabric beneath six inches of compacted base. Polymeric sand fills the joints, helping to prevent shifting and weed growth through the cracks. They also provide a two-year warranty on all of their brickwork.

While hardscaping is their specialty, they also provide other landscaping services such as sod installation, decorative garden bed creation, and tree planting.

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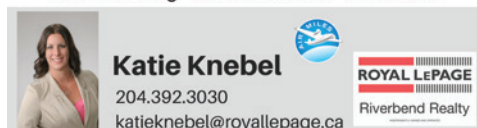


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Shipping Container Pools: A New Concept for Backyard Fun

By Brenda Sawatzky

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In the quest for a more environmentally stable world, repurposing used items isn't just a sound policy... in the twenty-first century, it's become downright trendy. Creative people have been designing elaborate shipping container homes and garages for a few years now.

But one company out of Oakbank, Manitoba discovered quite by accident a whole new purpose for these containers.

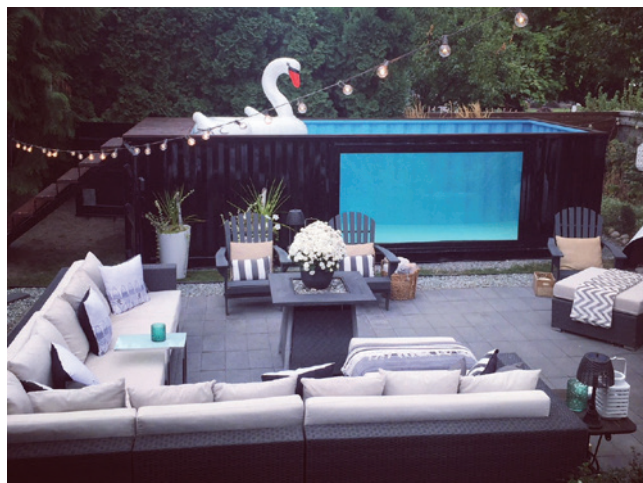
"We first started building shipping container homes," says Kurt Wittin of Kustom Container Builders. "One day we left one of our containers outside and it was an open-top container. It started to rain and the container filled with water.

Once we realized the container held the water to a certain level, we had an idea that we could move forward with."

Since that time, Wittin and his crew have been designing custom container swimming pools. The company website describes them as efficient, durable, and environmentally friendly. The use of Corten steel shipping containers makes them the strongest mobile structures worldwide. They're built to withstand the very toughest of nature's elements.

"Container pools are the best pools to have," Wittin says. "If you ever decide to move, you can take your investment with you."

One of the most unique qualities of this pool is the customizable aspect of it. The pools come in 20, 30, or



■ KUSTOM CONTAINER BUILDS

40-foot lengths as well as three different depths. Personalized options include exterior colour, UV water sanitation, and your preference in chlorine or saltwater systems. Electric or manual child safety covers are

also available.

Just for fun, large viewing windows can be installed into the sides of the pool so you can watch the family at play. Basketball nets and swim jets can be built into the package,

too.

If you want to be the talk of the block or the pool party aficionado, Kustom Container Pools has movie screens and entire audio-visual systems available for you.

Wittin says the maintenance of these pools is similar to any traditional pool. High-performance gas heaters come standard with every pool, as do stairs and a safety door. Ground preparation is simple. Eight inches of compacted gravel or a concrete slab is all that's required.

"At Kustom Container Pools, our mission is to build what others dream about wanting in a pool," says Wittin. "We are a very creative group and well-rounded in all aspects."

In their four years in business, this rural Manitoba

company is beginning to see incredible demand for their container pools south of the border.

"We have built pools for some really unique clients such as Corona, and other clients in southern California," Wittin says.

He adds that every project they take on provides them with an interesting challenge that delivers incredible reward when it's complete.

While Wittin is the owner and brainchild of the business, he quickly recognizes from where his inspiration comes.

"It really started with my dad, who was a draftsman/architect," Wittin says. "I learned a few things from his skills. I lost my dad in 2016 to Parkinson's and I have been driven even more to succeed."

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Sports & Recreation

Jets Show Poise, Pace, and Perseverance

By Nicholas Anderson

During the regular season, many around the hockey community thought that a matchup between the Winnipeg Jets and Nashville Predators would likely determine the winner of the NHL's Western Conference. Unfortunately, due to the current playoff format, those two teams have been forced to face off against each other in the second round, as opposed to the Western Conference finals.

Nonetheless, after two games, the series has lived up to the hype. With the series tied at one game apiece, the action is about to head back to Winnipeg.

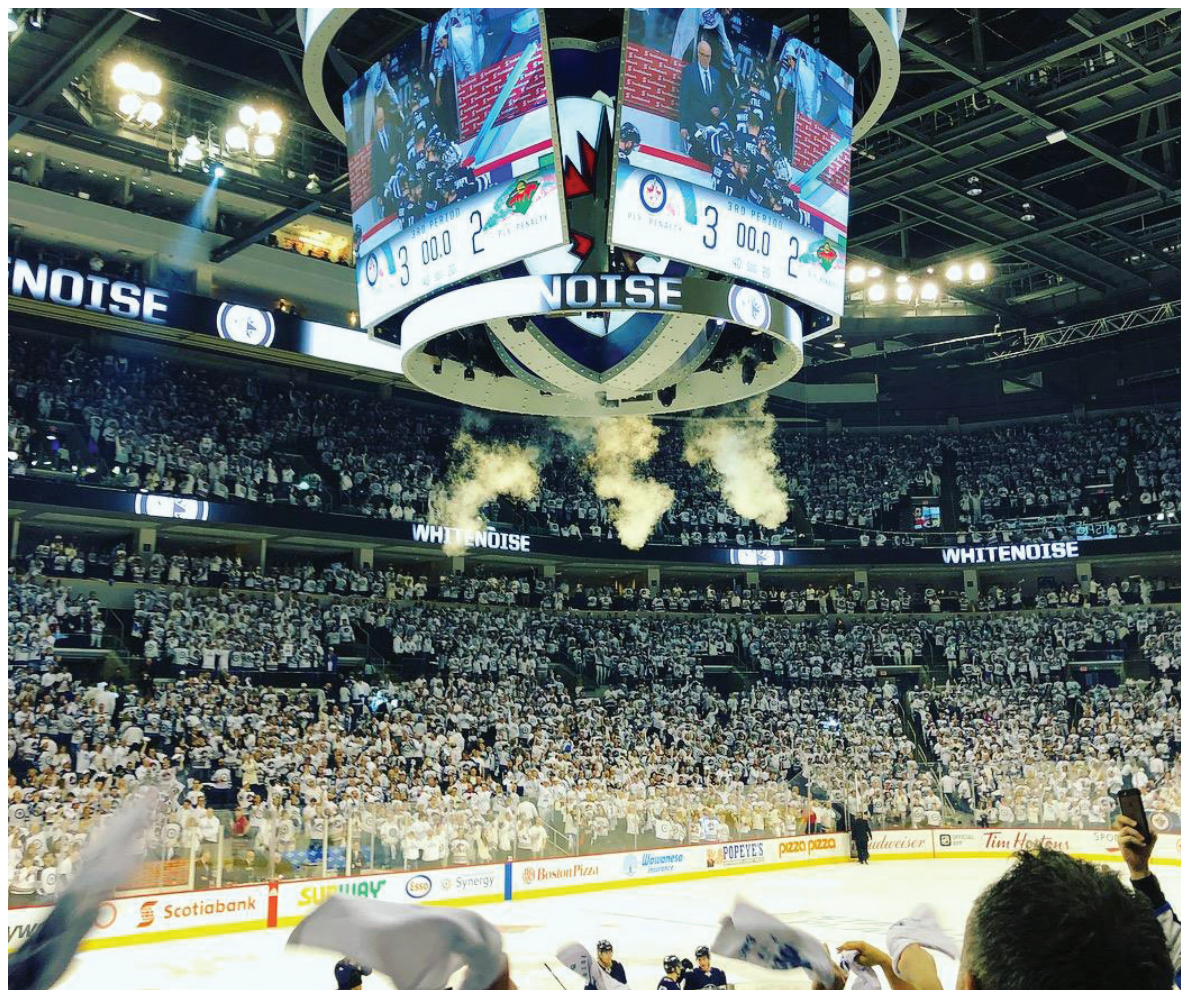
"The game tonight looked the way we thought the series would look," Jets coach Paul Maurice told the media following game two.

In the first game of the second round, Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck stole the show, stopping 47 of the 48 shots he faced and only had his shut-out streak of 163 minutes snapped in the third period. Game two was a different story, with a different vibe in the building. Knowing they were lucky to have come out on top in game one, the Jets knew they would face an uphill climb in game two.

The game surely did not start the way the Jets would have liked. At just 37 seconds into the opening frame, Predators top-line centre Ryan Johansen flew one past the glove side of Hellebuyck to give the Preds the early advantage.

Though the Jets may have lost the overall game, it was the way they reacted in situations like this one that was the real takeaway.

As a young team with little to no



The hometown crowd, in full whiteout mode, celebrates a playoff victory over the Minnesota Wild.

SHAYLIN FENTON

playoff experience, and playing in one of the loudest buildings in the NHL, things could have gone south very quickly for the Jets. Yet, as we've seen time and time again this season, the Jets pushed their way back into the game, and for much of the time after the goal controlled the pace of play.

It is this kind of poise, perseverance, and ability to play at such a high pace that has become a hallmark of Jets hockey.

"You know, it's a sucky way to lose, but I thought we played a better game tonight than we did in game one," said Mark Scheifele, who leads

the Jets in playoff goals this year, with eight through the team's first seven games. None, however, were bigger than the goal he scored with 1:05 to go in regulation to tie the game and send it to overtime.

The game would prove to be the longest in Jets 2.0 franchise history,

lasting a total of 85 minutes and 37 seconds. And though they did lose, the Jets were nothing but positive in the locker room following the game.

"You come into a series, starting on the road, you want to get a win," said team captain Black Wheeler. "We like the spot we're in right now."

And why shouldn't they? After finishing twentieth place in the league last season, few could have predicted the Jets going toe to toe with the 2018 President's Trophy winners the way they have. The Jets outshot the Preds 50-41, and for the most part looked like the better team on the ice through overtime.

Heading back to Bell MTS Place tied at one is a huge step in the right direction for the young franchise, regardless of the final outcome of the series—a step that has very much relied on the foundations of three things: poise, pace, and perseverance.

And it all begins at the top, with management. Even when times were tough, and as fans grew more and more upset with the fact that the team had only played four playoff games in its first six years since returning to Winnipeg, general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff had the poise and perseverance to stick to the plan he had laid out when he first took the position: draft and develop. Now it's paying dividends for a franchise that could possibly take it all this spring and bring a very deserving city its first-ever Stanley Cup.

If there was any thought that the Jets were still an underrated team among those in NHL circles, there shouldn't be anymore. Enjoy every second of it, Jets fans. You may very well be looking at the league's next great dynasty.



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Golf Right Around the Corner at Old Drovers Run

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Old Drovers Run in Niverville is about to swing into action for another season. The nine-hole links-style course is scheduled to open May 4.

For the third year in a row, the course will feature men's and ladies' leagues.

"Men's night will be Wednesday and Thursday nights," says Brendan Baldwin, Old Drovers Run's resident golf pro. "We are also having a registration night May 9 for the league. The league start date will be May 17, so there's lots of time for people to sign up if interested."

Ladies night will take place on Tuesday nights and begin in the first week of June.



Old Drovers Run also has a junior program for the young and aspiring golfers among us. The course will hold clinics throughout the season for different age groups—beginners, intermediate, and advanced. Individual lessons can also be scheduled for one-on-one training. More details will be announced in the next couple of weeks on the course's website.

Baldwin adds that kids will golf

free for the entire month of July.

The clubhouse is licensed and has a patio where customers can have a drink with an expansive view of the lake. While there is no restaurant on site, snack foods are available for purchase.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.odrgolfclub.ca

Park and Ride!

fitville

By Amber Mamchuk

As the weather gets warmer, many adults and children are switching from four wheels to two. Biking is a great way to squeeze in some physical activity and get you from point A to point B, and with so many residents in our region commuting into Winnipeg, one way to include active transportation in your daily commute is to park and ride.

What is park and ride? Simple: you park your vehicle in a designated lot, then hop onto your bike. The City of Winnipeg has designated park and ride locations in Winnipeg along south St. Mary's Road and south Pembina Highway. You can safely leave your vehicle there for the day.

So throw your bike in the back of your vehicle, pack a change of clothes, and hit the road.

The City of Winnipeg has developed an active transportation

map that can help you plan your route along designated bike lanes and streets (see below).

I used to park and ride during the summer months of my commute and it was a great way to start my day and then wind down at the end.

After a long, long—did I say long?—winter, it can be easy to forget some of the rules of the road. Here's a quick reminder to make sure you and your kiddos are staying safe while riding your bikes.

1. First off, invest in a helmet that fits properly—and always wear it while riding your bike. Make sure to remove your child's helmet while they are playing on a playground, though, as it can become a risk for strangulation.

2. Ride on the right-hand side of the road, with traffic. Note that the right side is the same side as your bike chain.

3. If there's more than one of you, remember to ride in single file.

4. If you're cycling down the roads, be sure to obey all traffic rules. That means stop at stop signs, use hand signals when you turn, etc.

5. Do not wear earbuds or headphones while riding your bike, as they can distract you.

6. Be careful when you're riding near parked cars and around intersections.

7. Wear brightly colored clothing so that motorists can see you clearly.

While you're out there, keep in mind that many cycling accidents can be prevented by paying attention to your surroundings and following the rules of the road. Happy riding!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ http://winnipeg.ca/publicworks/pedestriansCycling/pdf/CyclingMap/WinnipegBikeMap6_FULLL.pdf

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Rush players build some sweat equity by sweeping the Wm. Dyck & Sons parking lot in exchange for a generous donation.

■ SUSAN THOMPSON

Niverville Rush Take to the Pitch

By Jason Thompson

The Niverville Rush soccer team is set to begin their second year of play in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association (WYSA). The U15 team had great success in their first season, reaching the semifinals after achieving a regular season record of eight wins, two losses, and two ties, good enough for a fourth place finish of 14 teams.

A major goal of the team is to

once again compete in the annual Tri-Cities tournament, which takes place each June in Fargo, North Dakota. The 2017 tournament was a terrific challenge for the boys, who finished second, coming up short again a polished U16 squad from Minot.

The Rush welcome new coaches Trevor Davis and Jordan Meyer to the fold. They join assistant coach Dustin Wiebe and manager Susan Thompson. The

Rush also wish to thank outgoing coach Walt McKee, who is a legend in the sport of soccer and has been a tremendous coach and mentor to the boys.

The team is sponsored by Wm. Dyck & Sons, Wiens Furniture and Appliances, Brio Insurance, and Sunova Credit Union, whose contributions help to offset some of the field, referee, tournament, and jersey expenses. Chicken Chef will be donating Player of the Game

certificates for each home game.

Joining the Rush this year are the Southeast Strikers, another Niverville-based squad who will be representing the community in the WYSA. Local sports fans are encouraged to come out and cheer the teams at their home games this season.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Instagram: @niverrush

NCI Varsity Girls Tackle Rugby

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville Collegiate is tackling a brand new sport this spring, launching its first rugby team—and none of it would have happened without one student's passion.

"We had a Grade Nine girl who really made things happen," says NCI teacher Tony Clark. "She called Rugby Manitoba and got a great coach, Sarah Duncan. She also rallied the players, and she convinced me I had time to supervise."

Rugby is a very different animal from the school's other sports programs, and from that fundamental difference comes a big opportunity, according to Clark.

"NCI has a great legacy for skilled athletes and teams," he says. "But our traditional sports tend to favour a certain body type. In rugby, all you need is to be able to

run and pass. It fits all shapes and sizes. There's a position for every body type."

Clark says that a high school rugby league has existed for decades in Winnipeg, but only recently has the sport begun to make in-roads in rural Manitoba.

There are two variations of rugby played at the high school level: 15s and 7s. Although there are several rule differences between the two, the main distinction is the size of team—either 15 players per side or seven—and the length of the matches.

The Niverville team will be playing Varsity Sevens. The fairly short games are divided into two halves of about seven minutes each.

"We will drive to Maple Grove Rugby Park for games," says Clark. "There are no home games, because the field needs different posts and lines painted. They play

three teams in one evening."

The games will take place on Wednesdays throughout May, with the playoffs occurring on June 6. Maple Grove Rugby Park is located in south Winnipeg, down Froisher Road near the intersection of St. Mary's Road and the Perimeter Highway.

The Niverville team has ten committed players, and they will be up against 15 teams in the league.

Clark notes that rugby is a very physical game, and that he has a huge amount of respect for the refs, coaches, and players who take it on.

"This is most certainly tackle, just to be clear," he says. "Big hits! I love this game. It's one of the last places of pure gladiatorial competition. Players quickly learn deep lessons on self-control and resilience."

Besides the physical challenge, rugby presents its players with a range of other key benefits. "Winning a game is always a high, but I really value losing a rugby game. It's one thing to lose a game and keep your head up, it's another thing to lose a game and get beat up, as it happens. I love how rugby is a crucible for character development—and for young people, that's a great moment to step in and prepare them for future life experiences."

He adds, "I really hope the girls continue with this and the program grows. It is so good to see the camaraderie, the smiles, the work ethic, the confidence. But any rugby program is only as good as its players, and we are going to need more players to keep things moving."

GORP

WORLD

ATHLETE

OF THE MONTH



Émilie Vachon

Émilie Vachon is in Grade 10 at École Collège Gabrielle-Roy. Émilie is in her ninth year of dance at the Prairie Soul Dance Company. Émilie takes classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary/lyrical, and conditioning, adding up to more than nine hours of dance per week. She recently participated in the Southeastern Manitoba Festival in Steinbach and is looking forward to participating at the Canadian National Dance Championships and Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival, both in Winnipeg. Outside of dance, Émilie enjoys camping, family movie nights, painting, and taking pictures.

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Arts & Entertainment

New and Old Favourites to Headline Niverville Fair

By Eric Peterson

It won't be a status quo kind of year at the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair in 2018, but that doesn't mean you won't find all the fun and entertainment you're used to.

Most notably, the traditional country music concert is a full go for Saturday night. This year's music lineup will be headlined by Canadian country star Chad Brownlee. The Juno Award-nominated Brownlee will play the night of Saturday, June 9 on the Main Street stage.

"He's always been on our radar," says Dustin Krahn, Promotion and General Administration Coordinator for the fair. "He has lots of hits. Everybody knows about him."

Indeed, Brownlee has been a Canadian country music mainstay for most of this decade. His eponymous debut album was released in 2010. He followed that up in 2012 with *Love Me or Leave Me*, which garnered Brownlee a Juno nomination for Country Album of the Year and a Canadian Country Music Association Award nomination for Male Artist of the Year.

In 2014, Brownlee released *The Fighters*, which included hit singles "Where the Party At?", "Fallin' Over You," and "Just Because." Brownlee's most recent release, *Hearts on Fire*, came in 2016, earning him two more CCMA nominations and another Juno nomination for Country Music Album of the Year.

Brownlee has a unique history amongst his guitar-toting cohorts. He was an elite hockey player growing up and was



Brady Kenneth.

drafted by the Vancouver Canucks in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft after playing four years of NCAA hockey for the Minnesota State Mavericks. It wasn't until injuries cut his hockey career short that he turned his attention to music. Brownlee was among the acts that performed at the Humboldt Broncos tribute concert on April 27 in Saskatoon.

Though Brownlee may be the only NHL draftee performing in Niverville that weekend, he won't be the only country music favourite on stage Saturday night. Preceding Brownlee will be a couple of local favourites. David James, out of Winnipeg, is a multiple Manitoba Country Music Association Award nominee. His hit single "Sun Set on It" went Top 20 on Canadian country radio, and his new album, *Down-town Kids*, was released in late April.

Also taking the stage that night will be local boy Brady Kenneth. Featuring more local talent is a goal for the fair committee, but Krahn



David James.

says that it's been a logistical challenge in the past.

"Local is big too," he says. "We've tried to get more local bands. It's just a challenge getting them on the stage. The stage gets full with all the sound checks and performances."

This year, the fair committee will be setting up a tent and second stage adjacent to the main stage. The idea is to give local



West Coast Lumberjacks.

acts more opportunity to perform at their hometown fair as well as give fairgoers more opportunity to grab a beer and enjoy some live music. Organizers see it as bringing a little Festival du Voyageur vibe to Niverville on a hot



Freestyle Motocross.

summer weekend.

"The big tent across the street will feature more local bands and give more opportunity for local acts," explains Krahn. "We've got lots of cover bands. For anyone who sees the fair as all-country, it gives a little diversity."

The night of Friday, June 8 will see fair favourites The Big City All-Star Band headlining the main stage again. They've been regulars in recent years and always bring out a big crowd.

"They are absolute pros," Krahn says. "They never disappoint."

There was a big stir on social media earlier this year when the fair committee announced that, due to a couple of rainy weekends in recent years, 2018's Olde Tyme Country Fair would be operating on a smaller budget. While Krahn maintains that patrons mostly won't notice these changes on fair weekend, the decisions have been tough for organizers.

Still, Krahn says locals have been understanding. "The reaction has been pretty positive. People still recognize what we are trying to do."

He adds that organizers will be looking to the skies and hoping for a little luck this June.

"The big thing is to manage the risk," he explains. "But you have to plan like it's going to be sunny to have a good fair."

In addition to the music, the fair will feature a number of other events and activities.

The popular Motocross Spectacular is back this year. Although this well-known and much-beloved act has performed at the fair many times, they're adding a new element to their show this year: jumps in the evening and after-dark. In addition to being more daring, this new part of the act will have the benefit of avoiding some of the high springtime winds that sometimes show up during on fair weekend. If history is any indication, daytime winds usually subside when the sun goes down.

Local dancers of the Prairie Soul Dance Company will also be performing.

This year, you can catch a live performance of the West Coast Lumberjacks. They've been featured on *The Bachelor Canada* and *Canada's Got Talent*.

Also new this year is the Newlywed Game Show, where local engaged couples will be able to compete for a bunch of cool prizes.

The Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair is launching a new website this year (see below). You can check it out for a complete schedule, as well as to purchase tickets. This year's fair runs June 8-9.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivervillefair.com



Chad Brownlee.



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Drama and Real-Life Collide in NCI's Miss Brooks

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville Collegiate's drama department is getting ready to raise the curtain on their next spring play, *Our Miss Brooks*.

The story revolves around the eponymous Miss Brooks, a high school English teacher who is a bit relieved not to be directing the school play this year, as it means she won't have to clash with the athletic coach for use of the gym for rehearsal space. After all, romance is kindling between the two of them, and she doesn't want anything to get in the way of that.

Of course, the axe falls and the play is thrust upon her, throwing her and the coach into a battle royale. And to complicate matters, the daughter of the school board president, an actress of real talent, is determined to play opposite the coach's star athlete.

Like any good play, romance flourishes and chaos ensues.

"The way we sort of describe the play is that it's our guidance counsellor Mrs. Wiebe's life mixed with *High School Musical*," says Shelah Klassen, the Grade 12 student cast as Miss Brooks. "She used to be an ELA teacher and she was on the play every year all by herself, which is impressive. So the play itself is basically about an ELA teacher who's kind of going crazy putting on the play and getting super stressed out while meanwhile having some awkward



Actress Shelah Klassen and NCI guidance counsellor Deanna Wiebe.

EVAN BRAUN

romance with the gym coach."

Deanna Wiebe, NCI's guidance counsellor, agrees that some of these clashes seem to mirror real life. "The part about having to negotiate for gym space for rehearsals and the drama, that's a huge piece of the play, and that's what we battle here too," Wiebe says. "For a play that was written in the 1940s, *Our Miss Brooks* is still fresh and relevant today."

A ballet dancer in real life, Klassen has been performing in front of audiences since the age of three, so she's no stranger to the spotlight.

"Miss Brooks is probably one of my favourite characters I've ever got to play, just because she's a little bit crazy and super sarcastic all the time," says Klassen. "I really

enjoy my character. I think it's fun to be someone else for the couple of months that we get to. I enjoy being super dramatic!"

Performing romance at the high school level always has the potential for awkwardness. Even more so in this case, potentially, since Klassen's love interest in the play will be performed by her own cousin.

"It actually makes it less awkward, though, because I know him," Klassen insists.

"The Grade 12 performers just go there [in terms of romance]," adds Wiebe. "They're fearless about it. They don't mind. But we don't require any onstage kissing. That would be pushing things too far."

Wiebe says that watching

students cut loose on stage is one of the most fulfilling parts of her job.

"One of the things that I most enjoy is watching the kids come out of themselves and be people that they aren't," she says. "I do a fair bit of type-casting. That helps the process. But we've got some kids who are completely sweethearts and nice and lovely and one of them has to be the mean girl—and it's been the biggest struggle. It's just not in her. But she's finding it. She's finding her inner meanness."

The dessert theatre performance of *Our Miss Brooks* will take place at 7:00 p.m. on May 30, May 31, and June 1. Adult tickets will be \$10 apiece, and those 18 and under can under for free.

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IN BRIEF

Elementary Students Go to “Summer Camp”

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Students presented their annual musical, *Summer Camp*, at the Niverville Elementary School from April 25–26. Grade Four students took the acting roles while Grade Three students comprised the choir.

“I was very pleased with all of the performances,” says Debbie Stewart, the school’s music teacher. “It was inclusive, the songs were catchy, and the summer camp storyline was relatable to their age.”

The story chronicled a group of campers who started out annoyed at their parents. By the end of their week at camp, however, they came to enjoy the great outdoors, make new friends, and learn invaluable life skills.

“Since most of my time was dedicated to rehearsing the music, while the homeroom teachers directed the acting piece, it was a treat to work with the full cast in the days leading up to the performances,” Stewart says. “There were four different casts, and each group had its own part that would make me smile every time. With one cast, it was the knot-tying camper. In another cast, it was the camp director, bear, or the soloists. Although they all had the same songs and script, each cast was unique!”

Stewart adds that there are many benefits to exposing students to drama at a young age. “I think it is a very valuable experience for young people to perform for others, instead of being the ones entertained. The process encourages creative thinking, perseverance, and teamwork.”

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ROYAL LEPAGE
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Local Writer Makes First Professional Sale

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

There are few book series more famous than *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. With more than 250 titles in print (and counting), and sales exceeding 100 million books in more than 40 languages, you’d be hard-pressed to find someone who’s still in the dark about these heart-warming anthologies filled with real-life stories of inspiration and hope.

And this month, a Niverville writer is proud to join the *Chicken Soup* family. Jan Kendall St. Cyr’s story, “Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow,” has been published in the most recent entry in the series: *Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Crazy Family*.

“This is quite surreal for me,” says St. Cyr. “I have to say, though, it’s a hilarious story. The editors kind of gave you a little bit of what they wanted in these stories, some guidelines. Well, I have a crazy family, so I’ve got fodder. I’ve got stuff to write about!”

St. Cyr says that the genesis for the story comes from her husband Gerry’s longing for hair after going prematurely bald.

“He was only in his fifties, and he wanted hair,” she says. “Like, it was just this midlife crisis. So he finally hit on this sort of international men’s hair club or whatever. It didn’t matter that it was seven hours away and in a whole different country and that we had to be there every four weeks and this hair was coming from the temples of India!”

The benefit was that Gerry could obtain a high-quality hairpiece that looked natural. The catch was that they had to attend regular monthly appointments, which entailed a lot of travel.

“The end result is that we lost interest in going to these crazy appointments all the time where they would re-fuse this custom hairpiece on his head. So we were missing appointments, and it was getting a little ratty. We were running out of the special adhesive,



Caption.

■ CREDIT

and the hair was becoming loose. We tried Krazy Glue and all kinds of stuff to get this thing to stay on his head.”

This was getting to be a bit crazy on its own, but to make it even crazier Gerry found himself needing to wear a bald cap overtop of the hairpiece, because he wasn’t happy with the way it looked.

“Well, we were at the mall one day, and we’re coming out into the parking lot,” St. Cyr says. “The wind got a hold of Gerry’s hat, and the hat goes flying in the air. He grabbed the hat, but not until the hair went flying. It was crowded—like, there was a group of people all around—and this hairpiece started rolling like a tumbleweed through the parking lot, and everybody’s standing there, staring. Everyone was just shocked. And I’m like, ‘Oh my god, Gerry. Let it go.’”

St. Cyr says she started running toward the truck, thinking he was going to run with her. But no, when she turned to look back, Gerry was running after the hair.

“I’m crouched down by the truck, ready to pee my pants. I’m dying laughing. And then this big trucker guy just stomps down on the hairpiece, picks it up, and hands it to Gerry. He goes, ‘Shit happens.’ Gerry grabs the hair, shoves it in his jacket, and runs to the truck.”

On the way home, they laughed

so hard that they thought they might throw up.

“We’re on our way back to Niverville and he says to me, ‘I think I need to just let this go,’ and he takes this ratty thing out of his jacket and whips it out the window. I watched through the rear-view mirror as it lands on the side of the road, looking more like a dead animal than something you’d actually wear on your head.”

WAKE-UP CALL

St. Cyr says that it wasn’t easy getting to the point in her writing where she felt confident enough to send out her work.

“I had a bit of a wakeup call in the sense that things were happening with my kids,” she says. “They were making some headway out there [in their creative pursuits]. I had written since I was young. It was my cathartic way of dealing with emotional issues and different things that were going on in my life. But I kind of felt like I wasn’t really being true to myself, and I read this thing one day that said, ‘Your success is necessary.’ I just thought, wow. What does that mean? Am I out here cheerleading for everybody else, and not feeling that doing something that’s successful [for myself] is important? It made me feel like, ‘You know what? I think it is. I have something here and I need to just explore it a little

more.”

Through reading online blogs and writing advice, St. Cyr came across some information in January 2017 about three upcoming *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books—and the editors were looking for submissions. Even better, St. Cyr felt that she could personally relate to all three of those books’ themes. The deadline for submitting stories was the end of the summer, so she immediately got to work.

“I worked all through the summer, and I did it,” she says.

Then, after submitting the stories, she just let it go. She knew that each of these anthologies received thousands and thousands of submissions, so her chances of being chosen were small. One of the books, she found out later, received almost 7,000 stories.

“So I just did this, I sent it out there, and then I went on my merry way.” But St. Cyr adds that when the following January came around, when she knew the editor would be sending out acceptance letters, it was very much at the back of her mind. “Not in any great way, though, where I was panicked about it or feeling nervous or anything like that. I just thought, ‘Well, if this doesn’t happen, then okay, I did my part.’ That’s all I felt I could do.”

In the middle of January, she opened her email one day and found a message from one of the editors, saying that her submission to *My Crazy Family* was being considered. It had made it onto the short list. She signed the attached release forms, still not thinking she would make the final selections.

Two weeks later, she got the good news.

“It still hasn’t really hit me!”

But how does Gerry feel about his midlife crisis being the showpiece of her first published work?

“Oh, he’s good,” St. Cyr reassures. “He’s such a great support system to me, so he’ll take the hit for me to write the story. I mean, it’s just one of those classic stories!”

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- Leading daily activities with children;
- Supervising and providing leadership for children participating in the program; and
- Administrative and other duties as assigned.

A satisfactory Child Abuse Registry check is a condition of employment. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid social insurance number. Preference will be given to Niverville Residents.

To apply please send your cover letter and resume to the attention of:

Town of Niverville
Box 267
Niverville, MB
R0A 1E0
Email: human.resources@whereyoubelong.ca Closing Deadline: May 11th, 4:00 p.m.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for a personal interview will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION

MC. ASIAN LTD.
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Citizen and community input is an important part of the application process.

If you have questions about this application, please call the Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba at 204-474-5619.

If you have questions about zoning by-laws and requirements, please contact your municipality.

If you want to make a formal objection to this application, please send us your objection in writing by 4:00 p.m. **14 DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT**

You can email, mail or fax your objection. Please include your contact information.

Email: licinspect@LGAmnibota.ca

Mail: Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba
P.O. Box 1023
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2X1

Fax: 204-453-5254

- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

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